

SCOPING REPORT

Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability, and Asset Protection (WRAP) Project

Prepared for:



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1. Introduction

This scoping report summarizes the public scoping effort conducted for the proposed Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability, and Asset Protection (WRAP) Project (or Proposed Action). In compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the Trinity Public Utilities District (Trinity PUD), the utility district of Trinity County, intend to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the WRAP Project. WAPA is the Federal lead agency under NEPA and Trinity PUD is the CEQA lead agency. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) are cooperating agencies under NEPA.

The EIS/EIR will evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action and will identify mitigation measures to reduce these impacts, where possible. To assist in the development of the scope of the EIS/EIR, WAPA and Trinity PUD held an extended 50-day public scoping period to allow the public and regulatory agencies an opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIS/EIR and to identify issues that should be addressed in the document. This report documents the scoping process and summarizes the comments received from the public, community organizations, and governmental agencies during the public scoping period.

Comments received during the scoping process are part of the public record as documented in this scoping report. The comments received during the scoping process have been reviewed and considered by WAPA and Trinity PUD in determining the appropriate scope of issues to be addressed in the WRAP EIS/EIR.

1.1 Purpose of Scoping

The process of determining the focus and content of the EIS/EIR is known as scoping. Scoping helps to identify significant issues as well as the range of actions, alternatives, environmental effects, and mitigation measures to be analyzed in the EIS/EIR. Scoping also eliminates from detailed study those issues that are not pertinent to the final description of the Proposed Action. The scoping process was not intended to resolve differences of opinion regarding the Proposed Action or evaluate its merits. Instead, the process allows all interested parties to express their views regarding problems, issues, and opportunities associated with the Proposed Action. This ensures that all opinions and comments related to the environmental review process for the Proposed Action are considered in the environmental analysis. Members of the public; Federal, state, regional, and local agencies; and other interested parties participated in the scoping process by providing comments or recommendations regarding issues to be investigated in the EIS/EIR.

The purpose of the scoping process for the WRAP EIS/EIR was to:

- Inform the public and relevant public agencies about the Proposed Action, NEPA and CEQA requirements, and the environmental review process.
- Identify potentially significant issues for consideration in the EIS/EIR.
- Identify possible mitigation measures for consideration in the EIS/EIR.
- Identify alternatives to the Proposed Action for evaluation in the EIS/EIR.
- Compile a mailing list of agencies, organizations, and individuals interested in future WRAP Project meetings and notices.

1.2 Summary of Proposed Action

The following summary of the Proposed Action was included in the public scoping notices, which are discussed further in Sections 2.1 and 2.2 of this report. A presentation that was delivered during the scoping meetings also provided an abbreviated summary of the Proposed Action, as discussed in Section 2.3 of this report.

The areas surrounding Trinity PUD's and WAPA's systems are particularly vulnerable to fire risk due to the dense vegetation and steep terrain. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection classifies this area as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and this risk was manifested in the recent Carr Fire near Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and the 2020 August Complex Fires in southern Trinity County. The Proposed Action would reduce these fire risks by expanding Trinity PUD's and WAPA's existing transmission/distribution right-of-way (ROWs) and implementing a proactive integrated vegetation management program within the expanded ROWs.

The purpose of the WRAP Project is to: (1) reduce the risk of wildfire by proactive vegetation management; (2) enhance protection of the Trinity PUD and WAPA electrical transmission and distribution line systems; (3) improve reliability of delivering power to Trinity PUD under WAPA's contract; (4) improve transmission line access by road improvement or re-alignment; and (5) protect the health and safety of the Trinity-Weaverville community and surrounding biological and natural resources from transmission and distribution related wildfires.

Trinity PUD proposes to expand its utility ROW from 20 feet to up to 130 feet for its overhead transmission and distribution systems (216.8 miles) in high fire risk areas on USFS, BLM, BOR, and private/other lands. The existing ROW easement for the underground distribution lines is 5 feet and would not change under normal operating & maintenance conditions.

WAPA proposes to expand the ROW of its overhead transmission line between Trinity Substation and Weaverville Switchyard (17.5 miles) from 80 feet to up to 130 feet on USFS, BLM, and private lands.

The Proposed Action would also include the improvement of WAPA's existing legal access roads using best management practices for routine access road maintenance and associated rehabilitation. Trinity PUD would maintain their existing local access roads to the standards set by the land managers for those roads.

Vegetation in the ROW may be cleared using a combination of mechanical, manual, and herbicidal control methods. Manual methods may include cutting, girdling, topping and trimming, slash disposal/fuels reduction techniques, and burning (any burning would only occur along Trinity PUD ROWs). Mechanical methods would be used in areas in which vegetation can be removed non-selectively. Most pieces of mechanical equipment are not safe to operate on slopes over 30 to 35 percent; mechanical methods are also constrained where soils are susceptible to compaction or erosion. Herbicidal control is another option that Trinity PUD and WAPA are exploring as another tool to manage vegetation. Only those herbicides that have been approved for use in ROW maintenance based on evaluations of toxicity, solubility, soil adsorption potential, and persistence in water and soil would be used. Additionally, herbicides would only be applied by individuals with applicator licenses/certificates and in accordance with label requirements.

To maintain long-term vegetation clearances along the expanded ROWs, the Proposed Action would include an updated and improved operation and maintenance plan (O&M Plan) and geographic information system (GIS) database of all assets and sensitive resources along the subject ROWs. As part of the updated O&M Plan and GIS database, the Proposed Action would develop Standard Operating Procedures, which would be implemented for all O&M tasks, as well as Project Conservation Measures that would be implemented to protect specific sensitive species in the ROW.

As part of the Proposed Action, Trinity PUD and WAPA would submit applications for ROW authorizations for the expansion of transmission and distribution line ROWs on BLM and USFS administered lands. Trinity PUD would also amend their Interagency Agreement with BOR. In addition, the Proposed Action may include timber sale contracts with the USFS, BLM, BOR, and private landowners for merchantable timber resulting from ROW expansions and vegetation removal.

1.3 Scoping Report Organization

This scoping report includes four main sections and appendices, as described below:

- Section 1 provides an introduction to the report, describes the purpose of scoping, and provides a brief overview of the Proposed Action.
- Section 2 provides information on the scoping meetings and notification materials, including the NEPA Notice of Intent (NOI) and CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP).
- Section 3 summarizes the comments and issues raised during the scoping comment period.
- Section 4 provides the next steps in the EIS/EIR environmental review process.
- Appendices include copies of the NOI, NOP, newspaper advertisement, and postcard notice.

2. Project Scoping

The extended 50-day public scoping comment period began on December 11th, 2020 when the NOI was published in the Federal Register and the NOP was filed with the California State Clearinghouse (SCH# 2020120188). The extended 50-day public scoping comment period ended on January 29th, 2021.

2.1 Notice of Intent

To comply with NEPA (40 CFR section 1501.7), WAPA published a NOI to prepare a joint EIS/EIR for the Proposed Action in the Federal Register on December 11th, 2020 (see Appendix A). The NOI summarized the Proposed Action, as shown in Section 1.2 of this report. Portions of the Proposed Action may affect floodplains and wetlands, so the NOI also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland actions in accordance with DOE floodplain and wetland environmental review requirements in 10 CFR 1022. The NOI initiates public scoping for the EIS/EIR, provides information about the Proposed Action, and invites other agencies and the public to provide comments on the scope and content of the EIS/EIR.

2.2 Notice of Preparation

On December 10th, 2020, Trinity PUD issued a NOP, consistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15082. The NOP summarized the Proposed Action (as shown in Section 1.2 of this report), stated the intention to prepare a joint EIS/EIR, and requested comments from interested parties (see Appendix B). The NOP included information on the date, time, and location of the public scoping meetings. In addition, the NOP included a summary of potential WRAP Project impacts, instructions for obtaining additional WRAP Project information, and information on how to provide comments. Notices were distributed to Federal, state, and local responsible agencies, elected officials, and other key stakeholders.

2.3 Public Scoping Meetings

WAPA, Trinity PUD, USFS, BLM, and BOR held two virtual online public scoping meetings on January 12th and January 14th, 2021 (see Exhibit 1). Each meeting was conducted using Zoom Webinar consistent with statewide restrictions with in-person meetings because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The scoping meetings provided an opportunity for the public and agencies to obtain more information on the Proposed Action, learn more about the NEPA and CEQA environmental review processes, and provide scoping comments.

Exhibit 1 Public Scoping Meetings

| Date and Time | Location/Access Information | Number of People Signed in |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| January 12th, 2021 6:00pm | https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84343935277 | 19 |
| January 14th, 2021 11:00am | https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81016861568 | 21 |

During the meeting, a presentation was delivered by the Project team and included several slides: Meeting Agenda, Zoom Meeting Information/Procedures, Introduction/Stakeholders, Meeting Purpose, Purpose of the WRAP Project, Project Area, Project Description (a general explanation of how vegetation would be cleared from the ROW), NEPA/CEQA Environmental Review, Environmental Issue Areas, Project Schedule, and How to Provide Scoping Comments (oral comments during the meeting, as well as written comments, including contact information – WAPA’s email, address, and website – and the comment deadline).

Outreach

Trinity PUD and WAPA provided several opportunities for the public to obtain information about the Proposed Action and the scoping meetings. The WRAP Project website was updated with Project information during the public comment period, and notification postcards and newspaper advertisements were distributed/published prior to the scoping meetings. More information on these outreach efforts is described below.

Project Website

Information about the Proposed Action is available on WAPA’s website (<https://www.wapa.gov/regions/SN/environment/Pages/WRAP.aspx>). The website provides electronic versions of the WRAP Project documents including the NOP, NOI, and WRAP Project-related maps. The website will remain a public information resource for the Proposed Action and will announce public meetings and document availability.

Notification Postcards

To provide additional notification of the Proposed Action and encourage participation in the scoping process, WAPA and Trinity PUD mailed postcards with Proposed Action information. The postcards announced the start of the public scoping period and provided information on the date, time, and location of each public scoping meeting (see Appendix C). The postcards also provided an overview map of the WRAP Project area, a summary of the Proposed Action, how to provide scoping comments, and how to obtain additional information on the Proposed Action (WAPA’s website). Two sets of 1,085 postcards (2,170 total) were mailed to all landowners within 215 feet of the Proposed Action ROW centerline to

further promote public involvement. The first 1,085 postcards were mailed on December 10, 2020 and the second set of 1,085 postcards were mailed on January 4, 2021.

Newspaper Advertisements

An advertisement announcing the Proposed Action and the scoping comment period was published in two newspapers (see Exhibit 2). The advertisement provided information on the date, time, and location of each public scoping meeting, an overview map of the WRAP Project area, and a summary of the Proposed Action. It also provided information on how to provide scoping comments, and how to obtain information on the Proposed Action (see Appendix D).

Exhibit 2 Newspaper Advertisements

| Publication | Type | Advertisement Dates | Circulation |
|------------------------|-------|---|-----------------------------------|
| The Trinity Journal | Legal | December 16th, 2020 and January 6th, 2021 | Trinity County |
| The Record Searchlight | Legal | December 11th, 2020 and January 6th, 2021 | City of Redding Trinity County |

Scoping Comment Submittal

Trinity PUD and WAPA provided several comment methods to encourage public participation. Comments could be submitted by mail, electronic mail (email), and fax. The following information for comment submittal was included in the NOI, NOP, newspaper advertisement, postcard, and WAPA’s website:

Mail: Ms. Tish Saare, Western Area Power Administration, Sierra Nevada Region, 114 Parkshore Drive Folsom, CA 95630

Electronic Mail (email): Saare@wapa.gov

Fax: (916) 985-1935

2.4 Agency Consultation/Stakeholder Meetings

The NOP was sent to potentially affected agencies and the State Clearinghouse to provide notice of and information about the Proposed Action. WAPA and Trinity PUD have conducted proactive and direct agency consultation/stakeholder meetings with state and Federal agencies since the beginning of the WRAP Project in January 2020, so that agencies could provide their concerns and help shape the WRAP Project (see Exhibit 3). Monthly consultation meetings with agencies will be an on-going process throughout the EIS/EIR preparation, which is scheduled to be completed in Spring of 2022.

Exhibit 3 WRAP Agency Consultation/Stakeholder Meetings

| Meeting Date | Subject | Agency Attendees |
|------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| January 30, 2020 | Meeting to introduce Proposed Action and discuss Transmission Asset Management System implementation, operation and maintenance (O&M) activities such as Project Conservation Measures (PCMs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and sensitive resources in the ROW. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, BLM, and USFS |

Exhibit 3 WRAP Agency Consultation/Stakeholder Meetings

| Meeting Date | Subject | Agency Attendees |
|---------------------|--|---|
| February 27, 2020 | Meeting to discuss scope of development, GIS data, draft of Standard Form (SF) 299, updated project description, bio and cultural surveys, access roads, right of entry status, and regulatory outreach. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, BLM, and USFS |
| March 26, 2020 | Meeting to discuss Covid-19, status of GIS data and project description, bio and cultural survey approach, regulatory agencies, and NEPA/CEQA and permitting effort. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, BLM, and USFS |
| April 30, 2020 | Meeting to discuss Covid-19 update, status of WAPA and Trinity PUD agreement, survey schedule and crews, right of entry status, regulatory agencies, and NEPA/CEQA and permitting effort. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, BLM, and USFS |
| May 21, 2020 | Meeting to discuss agreement between WAPA and Trinity PUD, project description, study area, biological and cultural survey logistics, and engagement of regulatory agencies. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, BLM, and USFS |
| May 21, 2020 | Meeting to introduce the project description, schedule, and county involvement. | Trinity PUD, WAPA, Trinity County |
| June 25, 2020 | Meeting to discuss changes to the study area, survey progress, and upcoming items. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, BLM, and USFS |
| July 22, 2020 | Meeting to introduce the Proposed Action and the involvement of the USACE. | Trinity PUD, WAPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) |
| July 23, 2020 | Meeting to discuss general Proposed Action progress, NEPA/CEQA milestones and action items. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, BLM, USFS, BOR, and Trinity County |
| July 23, 2020 | Meeting to introduce the Proposed Action and survey protocols. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) |
| July 23, 2020 | Meeting to introduce the Proposed Action and survey protocols. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, (National Marine Fisheries Service) NMFS |
| July 24, 2020 | Meeting to introduce the Proposed Action and involvement of agency. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) |
| August 27, 2020 | Meeting to discuss biological and cultural surveys, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106)/Assembly Bill (AB)-52 approach, Class III Report structure, and upcoming schedule. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, BLM, and USFS |
| September 24, 2020 | Meeting to discuss approved schedule of upcoming deliverables. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, BLM, USFS, BOR, Trinity County, USACE, RWQCB, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), CDFW |
| October 29, 2020 | Meeting to discuss scoping status updates and schedule, Section 106/AB-52 status, EIS/EIR schedule, and upcoming deadlines. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, BLM, and USFS |
| November 19, 2020 | Meeting to discuss scoping status updates and schedule, Section 106/AB-52 status, EIS/EIR schedule and upcoming deadlines. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, BLM, USFS, CDFW, NMFS, and RWQCB |

Exhibit 3 WRAP Agency Consultation/Stakeholder Meetings

| Meeting Date | Subject | Agency Attendees |
|-------------------|--|--|
| December 17, 2020 | Meeting to discuss scoping status updates and meeting times, report updates, Section 106/AB-52 status, EIS/EIR schedule, and future tasks. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, BLM, USFS, CDFW, and RWQCB |
| January 21, 2021 | Meeting to discuss scoping status, AB-52 and Section 106 updates, future tasks, and EIS/EIR schedule. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, BLM, USFS, BOR, CDFW, and RWQCB |
| February 25, 2021 | Meeting to discuss scoping status, AB-52 and Section 106 updates, future tasks, and EIS/EIR schedule. | WAPA, Trinity PUD, BLM, USFS, NOAA, CDFW, RWQCB, Trinity County, USFWS, Caltrans |

In addition to holding the Agency Consultation/Stakeholders Meetings listed in Exhibit 3, the WRAP Team proactively and directly reached out to each of the following individual agencies to encourage their involvement in the WRAP Project:

Federal Agencies

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Fisheries
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Forest Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Services

State Agencies

- California Parks and Recreation
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- California Department of Transportation
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Pesticide Regulation
- Department of Toxic Substances Control
- Department of Water Resources
- Native American Heritage Commission
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- State Historic Preservation Officers
- State Lands Commission
- UC Natural Reserve System

Native American Tribes

- Nor-Rel-Muk Nation
- Redding Rancheria
- Round Valley Reservation/Covelo Indian Community
- Wintu Tribe of Northern California

Local Agencies

- Trinity County

3. Summary of Public and Agency Comments

Scoping Meeting Comments

Comments given during the scoping meetings are considered verbal and are categorized by government agency, organization, or individual. As summarized in Exhibit 4, a total of 16 verbal comments (2 agencies, 7 organizations, and 7 individuals) were documented during the two scoping meetings.

Exhibit 4 Scoping Meetings Comment Summary

| Date | From | Summary of Comments |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Government Agencies | | |
| January 14, 2021 | USFS, Fire Management Specialist, Lara Graham | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested more specifics about the plan to reduce vegetation and fuels. ▪ Expressed concern with large diameter fuels and increasing fuel loads. ▪ Expressed concern with herbicide use increasing fuel loading. ▪ Suggested WAPA should consider vegetation fuel burning. |
| January 14, 2021 | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Andy Zellinger | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested calculation of total acres along ROW to be included in EIS. ▪ Requested points of contact from cooperating agencies and stakeholders. |
| Organizations | | |
| January 12, 2021 | Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment (S.A.F.E.) and Citizens for Better Forestry, Joseph Bauer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern with the lack of description of Proposed Action specifics. ▪ Expressed opposition to 130-foot clear cut on private properties as it would create brush field. ▪ Requested consideration of 30- to 40-foot easement. ▪ Requested the removal of hazard trees that could potentially come down. ▪ Indicated that Trinity County has policies for herbicide use. ▪ Suggested modification of prescription and eliminate use of herbicides. ▪ Requested consideration of goats as alternative for brush management. |
| January 12, 2021 | S.A.F.E., Larry Glass | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern with clear cutting and short length of scoping period. ▪ Requested extension of scoping period now that it is clear to the public that clear cutting is preferable method of tree removal. |
| January 14, 2021 | County Board of Supervisors, Roger Jaegel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suggested focus on how fuels management within these ROWs will improve forest resilience. ▪ Expressed support of the Proposed Action. |

Exhibit 4 Scoping Meetings Comment Summary

| Date | From | Summary of Comments |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| January 14, 2021 | Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) and Executive Director for Klamath Forest Alliance, Kimberly Baker | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested the lead contact information for USFS, USFWS, and CDFW. ▪ Requested the number of acres for the proposed expanded ROW area. ▪ Inquired if improving access roads includes adding roads to the Forest Service transportation system. ▪ Expressed concern with wildlife or fisheries under listed concerns. ▪ Requested RWQCB contact information. ▪ Inquired which tribes are being consulted with. ▪ Inquired if Trinity PUD lines have ever started a fire. ▪ Inquired what types of herbicides are proposed, the distribution and timing of application. ▪ Inquired whether the WRAP Project area falls within Shasta-Trinity National Forest or parts of Six Rivers National Forest. ▪ Requested which land allocations are within the WRAP Project area. ▪ Inquired how many activity centers there will be and what stage of vegetation they are. ▪ Requested current stage of vegetation and suggested discussion of this in analysis. |
| January 14, 2021 | EPIC, Legal Fellow, Matt Simmons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inquired what past similar projects are the guiding forces for this project. |
| January 14, 2021 | Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC), Amanda Barragar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inquired what chemicals will be in the herbicides and pesticides used. ▪ Inquired whether there will be a discussion of alternatives to using herbicides and pesticides. |
| January 14, 2021 | NEC, Caroline Griffith | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested 2014 USFS Study justifying 130-foot easement. |
| Individuals | | |
| January 12, 2020 and 14, 2021 | Carol Fall | <p>January 12, 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indicated the description of Proposed Action is vague, there is no real description of the prescription to be followed. Concerned this may impact the usefulness of the comments received during the scoping period. ▪ Advised to extend scoping period. ▪ Prefers shaded fuel breaks, opposed to clear cutting. ▪ Requested the consideration of large logging operations (grading, stream crossing and log landings) to be addressed in discussion of impacts. ▪ Requested the discussion of slash disposal on air quality impacts. ▪ Inquired if cost is considered when weighing alternative options. ▪ Expressed concern that timber harvest for private owners is not included in the Proposed Action. <p>January 14, 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested 2014 USFS Study that gives rationale for 130-foot easement. ▪ Inquired how we obtained and notified landowners of scoping period. ▪ Expressed concern with only landowners receiving the scoping notification postcard, because customers may be impacted more by higher rates. |

Exhibit 4 Scoping Meetings Comment Summary

| Date | From | Summary of Comments |
|------------------|---------------|--|
| January 12, 2021 | Michael Quail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern with groundwater pollution and upkeep of roads. ▪ Indicated Trinity PUD cannot currently access roads that WAPA maintains due to brush buildup. Inquired who is liable. ▪ Expressed concern with 130-foot easement, would make his property parcel unusable. ▪ Expressed concern with insufficient payments and high property taxes. |
| January 12, 2021 | Pamela Olson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed that there is not enough information on the Proposed Action. ▪ Expressed concern with desertification on her land, degradation of soil, and quality of regrowth of shrubs. ▪ Inquired how much agencies are willing to work with property owners who oppose clear cutting. ▪ Expressed opposition to 130-foot easement, too much for residential property. |
| January 12, 2021 | Pat Frost | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indicated in the introduction of the NOP, the location of Trinity County is misidentified, not part of the southern Cascade Range, but part of the Klamath Mountains. ▪ Suggested that the 50-day scoping period is not enough. ▪ Recommended extension of scoping period for another 30 days. ▪ Requested the range of alternatives to be analyzed. |
| January 12, 2021 | Rick Tippett | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concerns with 130-foot easement and inquires how this length was determined. ▪ Requested a map showing the easement width at each location of proposed expansion. ▪ Expressed concern with hazard trees, and what is being done to reduce hazard trees beyond easement. ▪ Requested maximum burn that will occur on burn piles. ▪ Requested visual analysis be done along lakes and roads. ▪ Expressed interest in underground utilities. |
| January 12, 2021 | Tom Throe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested more specifics on the Proposed Action. ▪ Inquired who has the ultimate decision power in a negotiation. ▪ Expressed his concern with chemical poisoning of the groundwater with the use of pesticides. ▪ Suggested clear cut causes brush to grow horribly. Prefers shaded fuel breaks. ▪ Inquired if utility lines have started fires in past. ▪ Expressed concern regarding the Roundup application and the effects on groundwater. |
| January 12, 2021 | Tom Walls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern if federal agencies are unable to complete timber sale projects in a timely manner; timber and vegetation would be left in the ROW. ▪ Indicated there needs to be timber sale contracts with both federal agencies in a timely manner. Requested these contracts in writing. |

Written Comments

Written comments received via email or mail are categorized by government agency, organization, or individual. As summarized in Exhibit 5, a total of 50 written comments (11 agencies, 7 organizations, and 32 individuals) were submitted.

Exhibit 5 Written Comments Summary

| Date | From | Summary of Comments |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Government Agencies | | |
| December 18, 2020 | Native American Heritage Commission, Cultural Resources Analyst, Nancy Gonzalez-Lopez | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommended consultation with California Native American tribes. ▪ Provided brief summaries for AB-52 and Senate Bill (SB)-18 and recommended specific actions for Cultural Resources Assessments. ▪ Provided examples of Mitigation Measures for cultural resources. |
| January 4, 2021 | Department of California Highway Patrol, Lieutenant Commander, B. Lale | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Declared that the potential traffic effects from the Proposed Action are acceptable to the agency. ▪ Expressed support for the Proposed Action and stated the Proposed Action will provide a clear public safety benefit to Trinity County. |
| January 7, 2021 | USEPA, NEPA Reviewer, Andrew Zellinger | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested the preliminary biological and cultural resource survey reports of the WRAP Project area. |
| January 13, 2021 | Caltrans, Landscape Specialist, Thomas March | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emphasized the importance of vegetation with total control using herbicides. ▪ Provided photos of a vehicle fire |
| January 13, 2021 | USFS, Public Services Staff Officer and Forest Lands Officer, Brenda Tracy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acknowledged and recognized a need for utility companies to manage vegetation within their ROW to protect infrastructure and ensure reliability. ▪ Expressed that the USFS does not consider clear cuts a sustainable forest management activity and does not support clear cuts on National Forest System lands. ▪ Expressed support for professionally managed vegetation removal activities that promote sustainable landscapes. |
| January 14, 2021 | USFS, Fire Management Specialist- Prescribed Fire & Fuels, Lara Graham | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern regarding removal of dry vegetation post herbicide application. ▪ Requested information on size of trees being cut, and desired fuel loads. ▪ Requested fuel load information be included in the EIS/EIR. ▪ Suggested that WAPA should allow pile burning. ▪ Requested specifics regarding proposed actions (manual, mechanical, herbicides). ▪ Suggested dead vegetation be cut down/removed post herbicide usage. |
| January 27, 2021 | CDFW, Habitat Conservation Program Manager, Curt Babcock | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suggested a complete assessment of the flora and fauna within and adjacent to WRAP Project area. ▪ Suggested a thorough discussion of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to biological resources with measures to offset said impacts. ▪ Suggested a range of alternatives to the Proposed Action be assessed to ensure all alternatives are fully considered/evaluated. ▪ Suggested Mitigation Measures for adverse impacts to sensitive plants, animals, and habitats be fully developed and thoroughly discussed. ▪ Expressed take of plants or animals that are listed as endangered or threatened is unlawful without California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permits – CDFW needs to be consulted. ▪ Expressed discouragement for any development in wetland and riparian habitats. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement may be needed when affecting these habitats, and the EIS/EIR should |

Exhibit 5 Written Comments Summary

| Date | From | Summary of Comments |
|------------------|--|--|
| | | <p>demonstrate that the Proposed Action will not result in a net loss of wetland habitat values or acres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested that information used/used for the Proposed Action be uploaded to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) for future consultation and/or use. ▪ Expressed that anticipated long-term maintenance and operational activities be examined in the EIS/EIR, especially for any new transmission or distribution line segments. |
| January 27, 2021 | USEPA, NEPA Reviewer, Andy Zellinger | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suggested analysis of the Proposed Action and all reasonable alternatives be included in the EIS/EIR. ▪ Requested maps in the EIS/EIR that show actual distances of clearance through the WRAP Project area. ▪ Recommended including Best Management Practices for road maintenance in EIS/EIR. ▪ Recommended using existing environmental conditions as the baseline for comparing impacts across all alternatives. ▪ Suggested verifying historical data, consider future climate trends on vegetation, and addressing primary and secondary impacts. ▪ Recommended including analysis of impacts to all petitioned and listed species, as well as invasive species. ▪ Recommended assessing direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts to wetlands. ▪ Recommend the EIS/EIR consider hydrological models to consider water quality impacts to WRAP Project area surface waters. ▪ Recommend examining the potential for changes in the volume, storage, flow, and quality of groundwater using available characterization of groundwater resources and groundwater use. ▪ Recommend considering impacts of changing precipitation patterns and depth of overland flows using a 500-year flood event model compared to a 100-year flood event model. ▪ Suggest working with the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District to minimize air quality impacts. ▪ Recommended considering alternatives to pile burning such as portable gasification and pyrolysis production systems. ▪ Recommended including a discussion in the EIS/EIR of climate changes in the WRAP Project area. ▪ Recommended summarizing the process and outcome of tribal consultation. ▪ Recommended using the EPA's EJSCREEN tool to identify potential environmental justice populations near the WRAP Project area. ▪ Suggested including a description of mitigation monitoring in the EIS/EIR. ▪ Recommended identifying aggregate impacts in the EIS/EIR. |
| January 28, 2021 | Shasta County, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner, Carl Yingst | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indicated that to be effective, mechanical removal of brush, and removal of timber must be followed by a pesticide application to suppress the regrowth of vegetation. ▪ Emphasized the importance of a Pest Control Advisor, licensed by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, to ensure pesticides will be used safely, and adhere to California laws and regulations. |
| January 29, 2021 | Caltrans, Deputy District Director, Michael Webb | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed support of the Proposed Action. ▪ Requested the Proposed Action follow the Pesticide Use Regulations of Title 3 of the Food & Agricultural Code when using herbicides. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested the Proposed Action follow Title 14 of the Natural Resource Code and the California Forest Practice Rules, when harvesting timber. ▪ Requested the Proposed Action follow California State Highway Code and obtain an encroachment permit when expanding the ROW within the State ROW. ▪ Requested the Proposed Action follow California Public Resources Code for the preservation of environmental and cultural assets. |
| Organizations | | |
| January 14, 2021 | EPIC, Legal Fellow, Matt Simmons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested 2014 USFS Study, mentioned during scoping meeting, that was used as the basis for the 130-foot ROW width in Proposed Action. ▪ Requested the voltage of the power lines in the WRAP Project area. |
| January 15, 2021 | EPIC, Public Land Advocate, Kimberly Baker | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested information on Proposed Action acreage, lead contacts at each agency, tribes consulted, herbicide types and timing of application, and the 2014 USFS Study justifying 130-foot ROW. ▪ Requested documents/information analyzing cumulative impacts to wildlife, fisheries, and water quality. ▪ Inquired about an analysis for the northern spotted owl and archaeological surveys. ▪ Inquired about timeline of scoping report. |
| January 20, 2021 | Environmental Review, Inc., Environmental Reviewer, Aubrey Glynn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indicated that the WRAP Project area maps on the website are unreadable. ▪ Requested that the EIS/EIR address how the increased vegetation clearing would impact soil erosion, sediment runoff, water quality of nearby waterways, and regional flooding. ▪ Recommended the O&M plan be made available for public review and comment. ▪ Requested any Project-related Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans be made available for public review and comment. |
| January 28, 2021 | S.A.F.E., Larry Glass | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern associated with herbicide usage. ▪ Suggested the county position is against herbicides and government agencies have respected this in the past. ▪ Listed several “Active County Resolutions” regarding herbicide use. ▪ Supported a ROW expansion but indicated 130 feet is “overkill”. ▪ Suggested alternative 40-foot shaded fuel break, removal of hazard trees, and eventual undergrounding of powerlines. ▪ Supported use of goat and sheep grazing, mechanical mastication, fire, and hand-clearing methods. |
| January 28, 2021 | Sierra Club Redwood Chapter, North Group Chair, Gregg Gold | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed an understanding in managing ROW vegetation and acknowledged increased fire risks. ▪ Suggested management plan needs to be flexible and risk based, instead of a flat standard. ▪ Suggested baseline proposal parameters are over simplified and need significant improvement. ▪ Recommend shaded fuel breaks and related measures. ▪ Expressed concern with herbicide impacts. ▪ Suggested considerations for impacts to recreational value, illegal cannabis activity potential in expanded ROW, impacts on salmonids/other endangered species, and Native American sites/resources. |

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| January 29, 2021 | EPIC, Public Land Advocate, Kimberly Baker | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concerns and made comments on Economic and Ecological cost. ▪ Expressed concern with the Trinity River’s designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and impacts to Trinity River’s anadromous fisheries. ▪ Suggested that the current Proposed Action would contradict the improvements identified as necessary to restore the water quality of the Mainstem of the Trinity River (river listed by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board on the Section 303(d) List for impairment or threat of impairment to water quality associated with sediment). ▪ Suggested the WRAP Project threatens water quality of the North Fork of the Trinity River (via erosion/sedimentation into river). ▪ Suggested that the current Proposed Action would contradict the improvements identified as necessary to restore the water quality of the South Fork of the Trinity River (river listed by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board on the 303(d) List for impairment or threat of impairment to water quality associated with sediment). ▪ Expressed concern with the Trinity Scenic Byway and Trinity Heritage Scenic Byway impacts from the WRAP Project. ▪ Expressed concern with Late Successional Reserves and habitat connectivity impacts from the WRAP Project. ▪ Expressed concern with Key Watersheds (Upper South Fork Trinity River, North Fork Trinity River, and Canyon Creek), requested EIS/EIR analyze and disclose how the Proposed Action will abide by the Northwest Forest Plan (USFS and BLM, 1994; addresses lands within the range of the northern spotted owl) and the Shasta-Trinity National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (USFS, 1995) and follow the recommendation in the watershed analysis. ▪ Requested that each of the Watershed Analyses be analyzed and disclosed in the EIS/EIR, and a discussion be included on how the recommendations are being followed. ▪ Expressed extreme concern with impacts to Riparian Reserves (RR) along the ROW, requested that any activity in RR’s be explained site specifically in the EIS/EIR, including location, specific conditions, age class, and vegetation type. Also requested that the Proposed Action be consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan (USFS and BLM, 1994). ▪ Requested how WRAP Project will fit into the established Watershed Condition Framework. ▪ Requested that the EIS/EIR analyze and disclose the amounts, locations, and proposed activities for each of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (USFS, 1995) Management Prescription areas in specific and readable detail. ▪ Expressed great concern with impacts to the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area and requested that the EIS/EIR analyze and disclose, better yet avoid impacts to the well-loved area. ▪ Expressed concern with impacts on access roads, sedimentation, and mitigation for sediment sites on the forest to comply with Clean Water Act. ▪ Expressed great concern with impacts on overall water quality and fisheries impacts and requested that the EIS/EIR analyze and |

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| | | <p>disclose the cumulative effects of past, current, and future projects as well as the amount of treatment proposed, including commercial logging, activities within RRs, road use, road maintenance, skid trails and landing construction throughout the vast landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed great concern with the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) (US Department of the Interior, 2000) and inquired about the amount the WRAP Project would set back and interact with current efforts by the TRRP. ▪ Requested that the EIS/EIR analyze and disclose effects the WRAP Project will have on the northern spotted owl, Pacific fishers, western pond turtle, willow flycatcher, bald eagle, northern goshawk, and all their habitats. ▪ Expressed concern with impacts on deer herds and requested that the EIS/EIR analyze and disclose how the Proposed Action would affect deer herds, including the Weaverville herd. ▪ Requested that the EIS/EIR analyze the effects the Proposed Action would impose upon migratory birds and its compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. ▪ Expressed concern with the botany being impacted from the WRAP Project and requested that the EIS/EIR analyze and disclose the WRAP Project’s impacts to each of the sensitive species present throughout the survey area. ▪ Expressed concern with impacts related to invasive plant species from the Proposed Action; what steps would the Proposed Action include to avoid the introduction, spread, and negative environmental effects associated with exotic species of concern. ▪ Suggested alternatives of maintaining ample forest canopy and manual control methods. ▪ Expressed concern with soil, hydrology, and slopes, and requested that the EIS/EIR include a detailed map of transportation system roads proposed for use but most importantly a detailed silvicultural systems map. ▪ Expressed concern with cost analysis and requested that the EIS/EIR disclose what factors were considered with regards to cost analysis for the Proposed Action. ▪ Expressed concern with the WRAP Project’s impacts to increased access and illegal marijuana grows, and increased fire risk due to increased motorized activity. ▪ Expressed concern associated with connected actions and cumulative impacts and requested that the EIS/EIR give serious and careful consideration of the cumulative effects of the Proposed Action (and alternatives) on soils, hydrologic function, habitat, and wildlife in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the region. ▪ Suggested fire risk is uncontrollable, and that WAPA and Trinity PUD should be working with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, the Trinity County Resource Conservation District, the Trinity County Fire Safe Council, the Trinity Collaborative and interested stakeholders on strategic fire planning and prescribed burning to create fire safe communities and maintain recent fire footprints. ▪ Expressed concern with tribal consultation. ▪ Expressed concern associated with climate and biodiversity crisis and requested that the EIS/EIR incorporate the National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adoption Strategy (National Fish, |

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| | | <p>Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Partnership, 2012). Suggested the currently Proposed Action is contrary to the Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suggested the EIS/EIR analyze the WRAP Project’s impacts on areas in H.R.2250 <i>Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act</i> (reported in the U.S. House of Representatives on February 4th, 2020). ▪ Expressed concern with a lack of information being available to the public: ecological and archaeological surveys, and current vegetation management plans for WAPA and Trinity PUD. Suggested Trinity PUD and WAPA conduct more outreach to the public than what has been completed for the current scoping period. ▪ Suggested many different alternatives to the Proposed Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pursuing the LiDAR aerial inspection pilot project fully. – Developing Trinity PUD’s outage management system. – Using Power Quality Data Analytics to detect equipment failures early. – Developing modern solutions such as microgrids and storage capacity. – Investing in home hardening and defensible space. – Downsizing the Proposed Action, creating shaded fuel breaks, and treating understory brush through manual, non-toxic means. |
| January 29, 2021 | NEC, S.A.F.E., Amanda Barragar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed opposition to 130-foot ROW, recommended 40-foot buffer with another 60-foot shaded fuel break. ▪ Expressed concern with the impact of clearcutting on threatened fish populations. ▪ Expressed strong opposition to the use of any herbicides and pesticides. Indicated Glyphosate, an herbicide, is carcinogenic and will harm humans, pets, and wildlife and contaminate waterways. ▪ Indicated herbicides are only good for noxious weeds. ▪ Indicated there is no evidence that using herbicides and pesticides decrease fire risk. ▪ Recommended laying down gravel to minimize the growth of plants with fire risk, and prescribed burns as alternatives to spraying chemicals. ▪ Inquired what alternatives have been discussed in lieu of using toxic herbicides and pesticides. ▪ Inquired how both customers and landowners will be notified of the progress on the Proposed Action. ▪ Inquired the ability to put the funding for this Proposed Action into better infrastructure, such as underground power lines. ▪ Inquired when and how Trinity PUD and WAPA will provide the herbicides and pesticides chemical list to the public. ▪ Refuted Paul Hauser’s claims about receiving support for this Proposed Action from the environmental community. |
| Individuals | | |
| January 6, 2021 | James Munro | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inquired if any new restrictions to building applications might apply within the intended expanded ROWs. |
| January 12, 2021 | Michael Quail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed strong concern with ROW easement on his property being expanded and expressed concern with property taxes associated with the easement. |

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| January 14, 2021 | Michael Millerick | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed support of the expansion of ROW and WRAP Project. ▪ Expressed support of WAPA’s consideration to sell additional fiber optic line to Trinity PUD. |
| January 14, 2021 | Patricia Mortensen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed opposition to clear cutting 130-foot ROW, and herbicides. ▪ Expressed support for the maximum of 40 feet of clear cutting for ROW. |
| January 14, 2021 | Stan Ehler | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern with ROW expansion, visual degradation, removal of trees from tree plantation, maintenance of low-growing fuels from decrease in tree canopy, compensation of merchantable trees taken from property, and impacts of erosion on streams and salmonid spawning habitat. |
| January 18, 2021 | Larry Winter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested recordings of Zoom scoping meetings. |
| January 22, 2021 | Bryan Potter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern and strong opposition to the use of herbicides due to harm to human health. |
| January 22, 2021 | Pat and Lindy McCaslin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern with herbicide use. ▪ Suggested alternatives of using a masticator and manual removal methods. ▪ Mentioned recent court settlements regarding herbicide use in Trinity County. |
| January 24, 2021 | Eileen Stocum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested clarification regarding maintaining the ROW as a clear cut or shaded fuel break. |
| January 25, 2021 | David Rosenstein | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern and opposition to herbicides and emphasized the need for alternatives. ▪ Expressed concern regarding too large of a ROW and the impacts on water quality, salmon, wildlife, and visual quality. ▪ Requested analysis of impacts from logging/clearing activities on habitat connectivity. ▪ Expressed concern with logging impacts on erosion and sedimentation to the Trinity River system. ▪ Suggested alternatives of home hardening and defensible space rather than the Proposed Action. |
| January 25, 2021 | Joel Ziegler | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional comments above and beyond what is provided in the form letter in Exhibit 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expressed opposition to herbicide use and logging of 130-foot ROW. – Expressed that agencies need to provide documentation of actual fire damage to their facilities with an assessment of what actions would have spared the damage. – Expressed that targeted protections are better than sterile zones and suggested it likely costs less. |
| January 25, 2021 | Marilyn Renaker | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed opposition to herbicide use. ▪ Suggested entire county needs to discuss viability first. ▪ Inquired about the Proposed Action timeline, and who decides the WRAP Project viability. ▪ Expressed concern with loss in land from ROW expansion, erosion, clear cutting, water quality, and air pollution. ▪ Expressed concern with Trinity PUD board members listening to residents of the county. ▪ Expressed concern with \$3 million being spent on Proposed Action. |

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| January 25, 2021 | Michael McLaughlin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional comments above and beyond what is provided in the form letter in Exhibit 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expressed concern that the WRAP Project will increase ground-level temperatures destroying larger fire-resistant trees. – Suggested herbicide use will create toxic carcinogenic and immunological harm to people and wildlife. – Suggested recovery and restoration efforts by tribes will be undermined. – Suggested forest canopy reduces temperature, diminishes understory vegetation, reduces chance of wildfire. – Suggested a Project alternative to not widen the ROW to 130 feet on steep slopes, second growth, or mature forest. – Suggested a Project alternative to replace wooden transmission poles with fire-resistant steel alloys. – Suggested a Project alternative to install local rooftop solar arrays with battery storage. – Suggested a Project alternative to clear areas around private residences and reduce brush in current ROW. |
| January 25, 2021 | Noah Levy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern that proposed WRAP Project is too extreme in severity, and suggested actions within the Proposed Action violate laws designed to protect the National Forest from emergency management actions. ▪ Requested that the Proposed Action be scaled back. |
| January 25, 2021 | Nuri Pierce | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional comments above and beyond what is provided in the form letter in Exhibit 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expressed concern with the destruction of the plant and wildlife ecosystem as a result of the Proposed Action. |
| January 25, 2021 | Roberta Hill | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional comments above and beyond what is provided in the form letter in Exhibit 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Suggested the Project team look to indigenous forest management practices, as well as smarter energy sources. |
| January 25, 2021 | Wendy Fetzer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional comments above and beyond what is provided in the form letter in Exhibit 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expressed concern that WRAP Project would cost millions of dollars and still not prevent future wildfires. |
| January 26, 2021 | Bonnie MacRaith | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional comments above and beyond what is provided in the form letter in Exhibit 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expressed concern with impacts from clear cuts on habitats for fish, mammals, plants, and habitat connectivity. – Expressed concern with impacts from herbicides and clear cuts on water quality and salmonid health. |
| January 26, 2021 | Krista Miller | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed opposition to the 130-foot-wide clear cuts in the ROW. ▪ Expressed concern with impacts downstream of the Proposed Action from logging and herbicides. |
| January 26, 2021 | Scott Kravitz | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested that WAPA oppose Trinity PUD's plan to further logging along their electric transmission ROW. ▪ Expressed concern with the increase in the use of herbicides in this important wildlife habitat area. |
| January 27, 2021 | Carol Fall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern about the costs of the Proposed Action. ▪ Expressed concern with impacts of clearcutting on wildlife, hydrology, sediment transport, air quality, and visual resources, |

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| | | <p>specifically the Trinity Heritage National Scenic Byway and Trinity Lake.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indicated that 130-foot clearance is not justified. The 2014 USFS Study is focused on preventing failure of transmission lines during fire, not preventing fire altogether. ▪ Suggested four alternatives to 130-foot ROW clearance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adopt less stringent Power Supply Shutdown Program criteria, combined with aggressive hazard tree removal. – Provide shaded fuel break. – Include combination of clear cut and shaded fuel break, dependent on vegetation type and slope. – Underground lines in select locations. ▪ Inquired if additional access roads, skid trails, grading, log landings, stream crossings or facilities will be required and if so, maintained for future maintenance activities. Requested information on the environmental impact and proposed mitigation for these ancillary activities. ▪ Inquired what the plan is for sub-merchantable timber during initial clearance efforts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inquired if it is feasible to obtain a smoke management plan and burn permits. – Inquired if chipping, tub grinders, air curtain burners or hauling biomass to cogeneration facilities has been considered as an alternative to burning. ▪ Inquired how clear cutting will be maintained if herbicides are not an option. ▪ Inquired how to deal with restrictions on burning slash piles due to weather and air quality permit criteria and how the impacts will be mitigated. ▪ Indicated topping, girdling, or trimming of trees accelerates their decay. ▪ Indicated importance of coordinating with federal agencies to develop and request bids on timber sales in a timely fashion, so that trees retain their value. Inquired how this will be accomplished. ▪ Inquired if the higher expected costs of logging along a linear feature, adjacent to a power line, have been considered. ▪ Requested that the scoping period be extended. |
| January 27, 2021 | Jennifer Lance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed strong opposition to the use of pesticides/herbicides due to drinking water contamination and the contamination of their organic farm (both near ROW). ▪ Requested clarity on WRAP Project area maps and specific treatment applications. ▪ Suggested alternative vegetation management methods such as manual removal. ▪ Recommended chipping of material instead of burn piles. ▪ Expressed concern with overall water quality due to use of pesticides/herbicides. |
| January 27, 2021 | Sandra Truluck | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional comments above and beyond what is provided in the form letter in Exhibit 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Emphasized impacts of herbicides to water quality and public use of water. |
| January 28, 2021 | Chad Swimmer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional comments above and beyond what is provided in the form letter in Exhibit 6: |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expressed opposition to the Proposed Action and suggested its cancellation. |
| January 28, 2021 | Pamela Olsen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern with 130-foot ROW clear cut expansion, degradation of soil, non-native invasive vegetation regrowth, and native tree health. ▪ Expressed opposition to clear cut in Valdor Road vicinity (previously burned area), and chemical herbicide use with concern associated with water quality. ▪ Suggested a more nuanced approach instead of clear cutting everything. |
| January 28, 2021 | Patrick Frost | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requested an extension to the public comment period. ▪ Requested more widespread postcard distribution to all Trinity PUD customers. ▪ Pointed out geographical mishap in project description: Trinity County is mostly within Klamath Mountains and Interior Coast Range, not “lower reaches of Cascade mountain range”. ▪ Suggested 2014 USFS Study does not adequately support the proposed ROW expansion with intent to reduce fire risk. ▪ Suggested alternatives to clearcutting ROW: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shaded fuel breaks - Variable treatment based on site conditions - No Project alternative - Underground lines in some locations ▪ Inquired if additional access roads, skid trails, grading, log landings, stream crossings or facilities will be required and if so, maintained for future maintenance activities. Requested information on the environmental impact and proposed mitigation for these ancillary activities. ▪ Inquired what the plan is to deal with sub-merchantable timber during initial clearance efforts. Requested consideration of chipping, hauling biomass off site, and air curtain burners. ▪ Inquired how clear cutting will be maintained if herbicides are not an option. ▪ Inquired how the Proposed Action would mitigate permanent loss of habitat. ▪ Inquired if mitigation measures will be phased with the Proposed Action. |
| January 28, 2021 | Rhoby Cook | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed opposition to WRAP Project. ▪ Analyzed the Proposed Action with the Holistic Decision Making Framework and suggests the technical analysts do the same to test alternatives to the Proposed Action. ▪ Suggested that the cause of potential fire is from humans/power lines and not the forest itself. ▪ Expressed concern with impacts to Trinity River, from clear cutting, and from herbicides. |
| January 28, 2021 | Robin and Eileen Stocum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern and opposition to the use of herbicides and their effect on water quality. ▪ Suggested low-growing vegetation is not a threat to ROW. |
| January 29, 2021 | Josh Brown | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed strong opposition to herbicides and logging of 130-foot ROW. ▪ Emphasized the informal herbicide ban in Trinity County since 1979. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed concern with impacts to organic farms, drinking water, aquatic species, salmon, habitat connectivity, visual impacts, and water quality. ▪ Suggested several different alternatives for ROW maintenance and reducing fire risk for Trinity County residents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No expansion on steep slopes or areas with mature forest. – Manual removal of small diameter vegetation and selective removal of hazard trees. – Wood poles replaced with fire-resistant steel alloy poles. – Implementation of microgrids, solar generation, and storage capacity. – Home hardening and defensible space. |
| January 29, 2021 | Karla Avila | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional comments above and beyond what is provided in the form letter in Exhibit 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Indicated the Proposed Action will have numerous significant and potentially catastrophic impacts, and it is not likely that these impacts could be mitigated to a level below significant. – Indicated the size of the Proposed Action dwarfs the County’s commercial cannabis program in size of acreage. |
| January 29, 2021 | Ullcott | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expressed strong opposition to WRAP Project, including clear cut and herbicides. |
| January 29, 2021 | William Huber | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stated that PG&E’s larger ROW in Trinity County has never worked as a fire break. ▪ Expressed opposition to expansion of ROW and use of herbicides. ▪ Expressed concern with impacts of herbicide pollution on land and waterways. ▪ Expressed concern with the WRAP Project’s impacts on surrounding fisheries, and sedimentation to surrounding waterways. ▪ Inquired as to how 130-foot ROW would stop fire in steep terrain. ▪ Suggested alternative to WRAP Project and ROW expansion, would support a variable clearing approach. |

Form Letter Comments

In addition to the verbal and written comments received on the WRAP Project, Trinity PUD and WAPA also received a total of 614 form letters from the public. Exhibit 6 provides the form letter that was submitted by each member of the public listed in Exhibit 7. It should be noted that only 22 (3.5%) of the 614 form letters received were from members of the public in Trinity County. The remaining form letters were submitted by residents of other counties or states.

Exhibit 6 Form Letter Example

Dear LaTisha Saare,

I value the Wild and Scenic Trinity River, natural landscapes and remarkable recreation opportunities on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. I am strongly opposed to the use of herbicides on public lands and the logging 130 foot wide clearings spanning over 200 miles as proposed in the project.

This project would have significant environmental impacts. First, it would reduce habitat connectivity across a broad forested area. Clearing trees and vegetation creates gaps in forest canopy that make wildlife vulnerable to predation, act as barriers, and exacerbate stressors on numerous species. Avoid harm to wildlife by maintaining connectivity across the landscape.

Second, the project would affect water quality and fisheries. The Wild and Scenic Trinity River Watershed is listed as impaired due to high levels of sedimentation. The proposed logging would increase the levels of sedimentation, which fills streambed pools that are essential habitat for salmon and depletes the oxygen supply, decreasing the survival of salmonid eggs. Herbicides are harmful to people and toxic to aquatic life. Nearly all of the transmission lines are on steep mountain hillsides that run parallel to rivers and streams, which the Trinity River Restoration Program has worked to restore.

Third, the project would have significant visual impacts for recreationists and visitors to Trinity County. These ROWs run parallel to or intersect heavily used areas like the Canyon Creek trail. These clearings may also be visible to people driving along Scenic Byway of Highway 299 or kayaking the Wild and Scenic Trinity River. The EIS/EIR must include all impacts to the visual quality of these landscapes.

Please consider alternative means to reduce fire risk. The first alternative to consider is not expanding the ROW to a width of 130 feet, particularly on steep slopes or mature forest areas. Maintaining forest canopy, where it exists, will lessen the fire risk as it diminishes undergrowth, smaller brush and vegetation. Please consider manual small diameter vegetation removal only. Wooden transmission poles should be replaced with fire resistant steel alloys. Another alternative is the development of modern solutions to rural electric infrastructure reliability issues such as microgrids and storage capacity. Distributed energy resources can allow rural electric grids to maintain electricity if power lines are damaged by natural disasters and are invaluable during safety shutoffs.

This project cannot claim to prevent future wildfires in Trinity County because fires are a natural part of the landscape that have been made more destructive by climate change and poor forest management. Resources are best spent helping homeowners harden their homes and create defensible space. If Trinity PUD and WAPA want to reduce the risk of wildfires, they should implement defensive strategies focused on protecting people's homes.

Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Exhibit 7 Members of the Public that Provided the Form Letter

| Date | Commenter | Location | Date | Commenter | Location |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1/25/21 | Abraham Ramirez | Ft Lupton, CO | 1/25/21 | Brezlyn Drake | Ferndale, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Aghaghia Rahimzadeh | Kentfield, CA | 1/25/21 | Brian Baltin | Seattle, WA |
| 1/25/21 | Alan Gurvey | San Clemente, CA | 1/25/21 | Brian Florian | Beverly Hills, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Alex Ross | Palo Alto, CA | 1/25/21 | Brian Wilson | Coral Gables, FL |
| 1/25/21 | Alexandra Lamb | Eureka, CA | 1/25/21 | Bronwen Evans | Seattle, WA |
| 1/25/21 | Alicia Adrian | Blue Lake, CA | 1/25/21 | Bruce Donnell | Santa Fe, NM |
| 1/25/21 | Aline Faben | Fortuna, CA | 1/25/21 | Bruce Hlodnicki | Indianapolis, IN |
| 1/25/21 | Amal Amoor | Angwin, CA | 1/25/21 | Bryna Pizzo | Saint Louis, MO |
| 1/25/21 | Amber Coverdale Sumrall | Soquel, CA | 1/25/21 | Carla Davis | Corte Madera, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Amber Jamieson | Arcata, CA | 1/25/21 | Carla Dimondstein | Fort Bragg, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Amy Dozier | Jefferson, WI | 1/25/21 | Carla Durkin | San Francisco, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Amy Harlib | New York, NY | 1/25/21 | Carol Becker | Fort Bragg, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Anastasia Antimony | Eureka, CA | 1/25/21 | Carol Fusco | Berkeley, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Andrea Bustos | Trinidad, CA | 1/25/21 | Carol Jurczewski | Riverside, IL |
| 1/25/21 | Andrea McClure | Kneeland, CA | 1/25/21 | Carol Lawson | Sacramento, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Andy Lupenko | Lemon Grove, CA | 1/25/21 | Carol Taggart | Menlo Park, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Angela Black | Long Beach, CA | 1/25/21 | Carol Vallejo | San Leandro, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Anita Wisch | Valencia, CA | 1/25/21 | Carrie West | Muncie, IN |
| 1/25/21 | Ann Bein | Los Angeles, CA | 1/25/21 | Cary Frazee | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Anna Brewer | Phoenix, AZ | 1/25/21 | Caryn Graves | Berkeley, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Anne Bekkers | Deurne, Netherlands | 1/25/21 | Casey Pittman | Coppell, TX |
| 1/25/21 | Anne Kessler | Point Arena, CA | 1/25/21 | Celeste Anacker | Santa Barbara, CA |
| 1/25/21 | AnneMarie Weibel | Albion, CA | 1/25/21 | Charlene Woodcock | Berkeley, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Annie McCann | Venice, FL | 1/25/21 | Charles Ivor | Gualala, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Anthony Silvaggio | Mckinleyville, CA | 1/25/21 | Charles Phillips | Boonville, MO |
| 1/25/21 | Antonia Chianis | Blue Jay, CA | 1/25/21 | Cheryl Fontaine | Lancaster, PA |
| 1/25/21 | April Quigley | Crescent City, CA | 1/25/21 | Chris Drumright | Murfreesboro, TN |
| 1/25/21 | April Sprunger | Arcata, CA | 1/25/21 | Chris Withrow | Los Angeles, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Asano Fertig | Berkeley, CA | 1/25/21 | Christa Neuber | West Hollywood, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Ava Torre-Bueno | San Diego, CA | 1/25/21 | Christa Whittington | Roseville, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Barbara Bennigson | Palo Alto, CA | 1/25/21 | Christina Babst | W Hollywood, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Barbara Frances | Aromas, CA | 1/25/21 | Christine Doyka | Garberville, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Barbara Goodell | Boonville, CA | 1/25/21 | Christine Hassler | Hyampom, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Barbara Graham | San Diego, CA | 1/25/21 | Christine Stewart | Escondido, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Barbara Greenwood | Walnut Creek, CA | 1/25/21 | Christopher Belko | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Barbara Reisman | Arcata, CA | 1/25/21 | Cindy Belleau | Forestville, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Barbara Rich | Bayside, CA | 1/25/21 | Clifford Anderson | Sacramento, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Béatrice Rufin | Langonnet, France | 1/25/21 | Clifford Provost | New York, NY |
| 1/25/21 | Bente Jansen | Arcata, CA | 1/25/21 | Connie Lindgren | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Bernard Hochendoner | Patterson, CA | 1/25/21 | Corinne Lambden | Alameda, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Bernard Richter | Hyampom, CA | 1/25/21 | Cynthia Fernandez | Richmond, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Bette Goldfarb | Mendocino, CA | 1/25/21 | Dale Riehart | San Francisco, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Bill Butler | Evergreen, CO | 1/25/21 | Dan Buckley | Weimar, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Bill Gardner | Forest Ranch, CA | 1/25/21 | Dana Bleckinger | Yachats, OR |
| 1/25/21 | Bob Lorentzen | Fort Bragg, CA | 1/25/21 | Dave Grant | Petrolia, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Bobbie Flowers | New York, NY | 1/25/21 | David Beard | Eureka, UM |
| 1/25/21 | Bradley Jones | Sebastopol, CA | 1/25/21 | David Beaulieu | Los Angeles, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Brandie Deal | Bothell, WA | 1/25/21 | David Burtis | Calistoga, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Brenda Troup | Bolton, MA | 1/25/21 | David Rosenstein | Hyampom, CA |

Exhibit 7 Form Letter, cont.

| Date | Commenter | Location |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1/25/21 | David Ulbarri | Chicago, IL |
| 1/25/21 | Dawn Suppo | Boca Raton, FL |
| 1/25/21 | Denise Thompson | Pacifica, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Dennis Dougherty | San Rafael, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Dennis Fritzingier | Berkeley, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Dennis Tapley | Las Cruces, NM |
| 1/25/21 | Dennis Trembly | Los Angeles, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Derek Gendvil | Las Vegas, NV |
| 1/25/21 | Destiny Preston | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Diana Williams | Lacey, WA |
| 1/25/21 | Diane Clouse | Mendocino, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Diane Kent | Scottsdale, AZ |
| 1/25/21 | Dirk Rogers | Wichita Falls, TX |
| 1/25/21 | Dominic Libby | Milton, NH |
| 1/25/21 | Don Swall | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Donald Williams | Somerville, MA |
| 1/25/21 | Donna Thompson | Crescent City, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Donna Warshaw | Sonoma, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Dori Cole | Wheaton, IL |
| 1/25/21 | Drew Martin | Lake Worth Beach, FL |
| 1/25/21 | Earl Frounfelter | Santa Maria, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Eberhard Schneider | Hyampom, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Eileen Jennis-Sauppe | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Eileen Mitro | Ukiah, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Elaine Alfaro | Felton, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Elaine Fischer | Roanoke, VA |
| 1/25/21 | Eleanor Dowson | Mill Creek, WA |
| 1/25/21 | Eliot Tigerlily | Garberville, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Elizabeth Darovic | Riverside, IL |
| 1/25/21 | Elizabeth Grainger | Claremont, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Ella Villamor | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Ellen Hall | Pacifica, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Elliott Linn | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Emmy Abrahams | Auburn, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Eric Howard | Seattle, WA |
| 1/25/21 | Erin Rowe | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Ethan Arutunian | Stewarts Point, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Fay Forman | New York, NY |
| 1/25/21 | Forest Shomer | Port Townsend, WA |
| 1/25/21 | Francis Mangels | Mt Shasta, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Francois De La Giroday | Sandy, UT |
| 1/25/21 | Gabriel Rosenstein | Hyampom, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Gabriel Steinfeld | Oakland, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Gareth Loy | Corte Madera, CA |
| 1/25/21 | George Inotowok | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | George Lewis | Los Osos, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Geraldine May | Creston, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Geraldine West | Fort Bragg, CA |

| Date | Commenter | Location |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1/25/21 | Gisèle Albertine | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Gloria Picchetti | Chicago, IL |
| 1/25/21 | Graciela Barajas | San Diego, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Greg Movsesyan | Mckinleyville, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Gretchen Whisenand | Santa Rosa, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Gudrun Dennis | Gainesville, FL |
| 1/25/21 | Guy Zahller | Aptos, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Harry Blumenthal | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Harry Knapp | Riverside, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Herman Waetjen | San Anselmo, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Hugh Scollan | New Almaden, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Ian Scarfe | San Francisco, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Isamar Urena | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | J G | Tacoma, WA |
| 1/25/21 | J H | Orting, WA |
| 1/25/21 | J. David Scott | Cottage Grove, OR |
| 1/25/21 | J.T. Smith | Sellersville, PA |
| 1/25/21 | James Kimball | Castroville, CA |
| 1/25/21 | James Klein | Corpus Christi, TX |
| 1/25/21 | James Koch | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | James Maurer | Milwaukee, WI |
| 1/25/21 | James Monroe | Concord, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Jamie Sandberg | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Jan Modjeski | Murrells Inlet, SC |
| 1/25/21 | Janet Aguilar | Mendocino, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Janet Cameron | Calgary, AB |
| 1/25/21 | Janet Robinson | Jacksonville, FL |
| 1/25/21 | Janet Thew | Loomis, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Jaremy Lynch | Brownfield, ME |
| 1/25/21 | Jason Brousalis | Argos, Greece |
| 1/25/21 | Jeanie Harvey | St Clair Shores, MI |
| 1/25/21 | Jeannie Park | Seattle, WA |
| 1/25/21 | Jeffrey Kline | San Francisco, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Jeffrey Stone | Yreka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Jeffrey Tischler | Monterey, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Jennifer Hayes | Crescent City, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Jennifer Stone | Seattle, WA |
| 1/25/21 | Jesse Williams | Cincinnati, OH |
| 1/25/21 | Jessica Heiden | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Jewell Batway | Apache Junction, AZ |
| 1/25/21 | JL Angell | Rescue, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Jo Anne Godinho | Fortuna, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Jo Harvey | Pacific, WA |
| 1/25/21 | Joan Wager | Berkeley, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Joann Koch | Lebanon, CT |
| 1/25/21 | Joanna Welch | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Joe Salazar | Santa Rosa, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Joel Ziegler | Eureka, CA |

Exhibit 7 Form Letter, cont.

| Date | Commenter | Location | Date | Commenter | Location |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1/25/21 | John Essman | Healdsburg, CA | 1/25/21 | Kelly Lanspa | Redding, CA |
| 1/25/21 | John Kirchner | Fort Wayne, IN | 1/25/21 | Ken Martin | Newtown, CT |
| 1/25/21 | John Lamb | Sierra Madre, CA | 1/25/21 | Kevin Oldham | East Jewett, NY |
| 1/25/21 | John Livingston | Redding, CA | 1/25/21 | Kiana Bowlds | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | John Martinez | Lomita, CA | 1/25/21 | Kimberly Leeds | Aliso Viejo, CA |
| 1/25/21 | John Maybury | Moss Beach, CA | 1/25/21 | Kris Blakely | Pleasanton, CA |
| 1/25/21 | John Rogerson | Blue Lake, CA | 1/25/21 | Kristin Womack | San Anselmo, CA |
| 1/25/21 | John Walton | Gualala, CA | 1/25/21 | Kurt Harvey | Sunnyvale, CA |
| 1/25/21 | John Webb | Trinidad, CA | 1/25/21 | L. Krausz | Clarksville, MD |
| 1/25/21 | John Zuehlke | Sherman Oaks, CA | 1/25/21 | Lacey Hicks | Fremont, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Jonnell Covault | Crescent City, CA | 1/25/21 | Lacey Levitt | San Diego, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Jose De Arteaga | Washington, DC | 1/25/21 | Lance Parker | Willits, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Joseph Shulman | San Diego, CA | 1/25/21 | Lanelle Lovelace | Columbia, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Josine Smits | Los Gatos, CA | 1/25/21 | Larry Francis | Jacksonville, OR |
| 1/25/21 | Joyce Hough Neighbor | Arcata, CA | 1/25/21 | Larry Murray | Hyampom, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Judi Calvi | Holiday, FL | 1/25/21 | Laura Chariton | Mill Valley, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Judith Hazelton | Bennington, VT | 1/25/21 | Laura Kirton | Belmont, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Judy Rees | North Hartland, VT | 1/25/21 | Lauren Schiffman | El Cerrito, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Julian Battersby | Bloomington, IN | 1/25/21 | Lauri DesMarais | St Charles, MO |
| 1/25/21 | Julie Carville | Nevada City, CA | 1/25/21 | Laurie Fraker | El Centro, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Julie Higgins | Mendocino, CA | 1/25/21 | Lawrence Jimenez | Franklyn, KY |
| 1/25/21 | Julie Smith | Los Osos, CA | 1/25/21 | Lawrence Thompson | Livermore, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Juliet Pearson | Grass Valley, CA | 1/25/21 | L.D. Pratt | Berkeley, CA |
| 1/25/21 | K R | San Francisco, CA | 1/25/21 | Leann Gill | Portland, OH |
| 1/25/21 | Karen Cappa | Rohnert Park, CA | 1/25/21 | Len Greenwood | Selma, OR |
| 1/25/21 | Karen Crum | Poulsbo, WA | 1/25/21 | Lenore Reeves | Mokena, IL |
| 1/25/21 | Karen DeBraal | Springfield, OR | 1/25/21 | Leonard Perry | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Karen Isa | Eureka, CA | 1/25/21 | Les Roberts | Serafina, NM |
| 1/25/21 | Karen Ratzlaff | Santa Rosa, CA | 1/25/21 | Lesley Stansfield | San Francisco, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Karen Taylor | Redwood City, CA | 1/25/21 | Leslie Hassett | Castro Valley, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Karl Koessel | Mckinleyville, CA | 1/25/21 | Leslie Johns-Cardone | Covelo, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Karla Devine | Manhattan Beach, CA | 1/25/21 | Leslie Smith | San Marcos, TX |
| 1/25/21 | Karla Taylor | Olympia, WA | 1/25/21 | Lina Carro | Eureka, AP |
| 1/25/21 | Karpani Burns | Bayside, CA | 1/25/21 | Linda Bescrypt | Langhorne, PA |
| 1/25/21 | Karynn Merkel | Eureka, CA | 1/25/21 | Linda Doerflinger | Mckinleyville, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Katarina Spelter | Madison, WI | 1/25/21 | Linda Morgan | San Pablo, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Kate Kenner | Guilford, VT | 1/25/21 | Linda Muntner | Raleigh, NC |
| 1/25/21 | Kate McClain | Mckinleyville, CA | 1/25/21 | Linda Winchester | Norristown, PA |
| 1/25/21 | Kate Robinson | Phoenix, AZ | 1/25/21 | Lisa Bettendorf | Redwood City, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Katharina Welsch | Mayen, Germany | 1/25/21 | Lisa Butterfield | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Katherine Bettis | Eureka, CA | 1/25/21 | Lisa Daloia | Elkton, MD |
| 1/25/21 | Katherine Patterson | Ukiah, CA | 1/25/21 | Lorenz Steininger | Stafford, VA |
| 1/25/21 | Kathy Grissom | Anderson, CA | 1/25/21 | Lorraine Lowry | Vacaville, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Kathy Ruopp | Chicago, IL | 1/25/21 | Louise Lieb | Sebastopol, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Katrina Child | San Francisco, CA | 1/25/21 | Lucy Bogus | Portland, OR |
| 1/25/21 | Kay Kaylor | Pagosa Springs, CO | 1/25/21 | Lynn Galonski | Junction City, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Keiko Barrett | National City, CA | 1/25/21 | Lynn Walton | Gualala, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Kellen Dunn | Manhattan Beach, CA | 1/25/21 | Lynne Preston | San Francisco, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Kelly Brannigan | Oceanside, CA | 1/25/21 | M Kincer | Shelby, MI |

Exhibit 7 Form Letter, cont.

| Date | Commenter | Location | Date | Commenter | Location |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1/25/21 | Madison Johnson | Davis, CA | 1/25/21 | Nat Pennington | Mckinleyville, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Madrone Shelton | Eureka, CA | 1/25/21 | Nathan Vogel | San Francisco, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Magaly Léger | Callian, ID | 1/25/21 | Nicholas Merry | Johnson City, NY |
| 1/25/21 | Marco Pardi | Lawrenceville, GA | 1/25/21 | Nicolas Duon | Santa Ana, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Margaret Goodman | Pacific Grove, CA | 1/25/21 | Noah Levy | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Margaret Hague | Mckinleyville, CA | 1/25/21 | Noah Schillo | Reno, NV |
| 1/25/21 | Marguerite Shuster | Sierra Madre, CA | 1/25/21 | Nora Davidson | Bremerton, WA |
| 1/25/21 | Mari Dominguez | Linden, CA | 1/25/21 | Nuri Pierce | La Mesa, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Marianne Brucker | Oroville, CA | 1/25/21 | Pablo Bobe | New York, NY |
| 1/25/21 | Marianne Frusteri | Rocky River, OH | 1/25/21 | Paige Harrison | New York, NY |
| 1/25/21 | Marie Elaina Rago | Northampton, PA | 1/25/21 | Pat Hanbury | Reno, NV |
| 1/25/21 | Marie Michl | Chesapeake, VA | 1/25/21 | Pat Lind | Shasta Lake City, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Marie-José Chobert | St Jean De Braye, France | 1/25/21 | Pat Locks | Sonoma, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Marijane Poulton | Trinidad, CA | 1/25/21 | Patricia Blackwell-Marchant | Castro Valley, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Marilyn Page | Arcata, CA | 1/25/21 | Patricia Browne | Brookfield, IL |
| 1/25/21 | Maris Bennett | Antioch, CA | 1/25/21 | Patricia Dougherty | Mckinleyville, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Marjorie Angelo | Bunnell, FL | 1/25/21 | Patricia Kephart | Pacifica, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Marjorie Hass | Hartshorne, OK | 1/25/21 | Patricia Morey | Mckinleyville, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Mark Giese | Racine, WI | 1/25/21 | Patricia Nazzaro | Union, KY |
| 1/25/21 | Mark Gotvald | Pleasant Hill, CA | 1/25/21 | Patricia Puterbaugh | Chico, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Mark Kennedy | Mount Shasta, CA | 1/25/21 | Patricia Vineski | So, Colton, NY |
| 1/25/21 | Mark Mazhnyy | Fresno, CA | 1/25/21 | Paul Belz | Chico, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Mark Reback | Los Angeles, CA | 1/25/21 | Paul Jacobson | Willits, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Mark Winkler | Ukiah, CA | 1/25/21 | Paul Kalka | Binghamton, NY |
| 1/25/21 | Marsha Lowry | El Sobrante, CA | 1/25/21 | Paul Lufkin | San Francisco, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Martha Strother | Little Rock, AR | 1/25/21 | Paula Dugin | Lafayette, LA |
| 1/25/21 | Martin Horwitz | San Francisco, CA | 1/25/21 | Peggy Leviton | Jacksonville, OR |
| 1/25/21 | Martin Marcus | San Diego, CA | 1/25/21 | Peter Galvin | Whitethorn, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Mary Dederer | Menlo Park, CA | 1/25/21 | Peter Lee | San Francisco, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Mary Eastman | Toledo, OR | 1/25/21 | Peter Sieck | Santa Rosa, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Mary Johannsen | Minneapolis, MN | 1/25/21 | Petra Bingham | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Mary Shabbott | Punta Gorda, FL | 1/25/21 | Phil Fisher | Hyampom, CA |
| 1/25/21 | MaryAnne Glazar | Berkeley, CA | 1/25/21 | Philip Ratcliff | Salem, OR |
| 1/25/21 | Maureen O'Neal | Portland, OR | 1/25/21 | R Tippens | Colrain, MA |
| 1/25/21 | Maxine Litwak | Novato, CA | 1/25/21 | R.G. Tuomi | Thousand Oaks, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Megan Berberich | Arcata, CA | 1/25/21 | Randy Compton | Round Mountain, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Melissa Hastings | Newport, NC | 1/25/21 | Randy Harrison | Eugene, OR |
| 1/25/21 | Michael Kavanaugh | San Francisco, CA | 1/25/21 | Randy Sailer | Beulah, ND |
| 1/25/21 | Michael LeClair | Campbell, CA | 1/25/21 | Rea Freedom | Los Gatos, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Michael McLaughlin | Eureka, CA | 1/25/21 | Régine Ruelle | San Rafael, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Michael Splain | Scotts Valley, CA | 1/25/21 | Rena Kay | San Rafael, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Michael Wardle | Springville, UT | 1/25/21 | Rev. Elizabeth Zenker | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Michael White | Los Angeles, CA | 1/25/21 | Rhonda Bradley | Crossville, TN |
| 1/25/21 | Michele Villeneuve | Kingsport, TN | 1/25/21 | Richard Kite | Boston, DC |
| 1/25/21 | Michelle Waters | Los Gatos, CA | 1/25/21 | Richard Schmidt | San Luis Obispo, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Monica Coyne | Redway, CA | 1/25/21 | Richard Stern | New York, NY |
| 1/25/21 | Nancy Chismar | Edison, NJ | 1/25/21 | Richard Stewart | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Nancy Hiestand | Davis, CA | 1/25/21 | Richard Zoah-Henderson | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Nandita Shah | Highland, MD | 1/25/21 | Rick Rebman | Felton, CA |

Exhibit 7 Form Letter, cont.

| Date | Commenter | Location | Date | Commenter | Location |
|---------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1/25/21 | Rita Carlson | Eureka, CA | 1/25/21 | Theo Rosenstein | Hyampom, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Rita Clonts | Concord, NC | 1/25/21 | Thomas Welte | Castro Valley, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Rob Seltzer | Malibu, CA | 1/25/21 | Tia Ja | San Jose, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Robert Kessler | Oakland, CA | 1/25/21 | Tim Barrington | San Jose, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Robert Mitch | Arvada, CO | 1/25/21 | Timothy Larkin | San Francisco, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Roberta Hill | Austin, TX | 1/25/21 | Tina Colafranceschi | Whitethorn, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Robin Applegarth | Gualala, CA | 1/25/21 | Tina Garsen | Eureka, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Robin Gray-Stewart | Eureka, CA | 1/25/21 | Tina Shurtleff | Murphy, NC |
| 1/25/21 | Robert Foley Jr | Attleboro, MA | 1/25/21 | Toni Adisano | Brooklyn, NY |
| 1/25/21 | Robin Hamlin | Mckinleyville, CA | 1/25/21 | Tori Nourafchan | Hyampom, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Roger Pritchard | Berkeley, CA | 1/25/21 | Trudy Rich | Barling, AR |
| 1/25/21 | Roger Schmidt | Sun Prairie, WI | 1/25/21 | Twyla Meyer | Pomona, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Ron Hansel | West Covina, CA | 1/25/21 | Una FitzSimons | San Francisco, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Ron Tragni | The Colony, TX | 1/25/21 | Urmila Padmanabhan | Fremont, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Ronald Warren | Glendale, CA | 1/25/21 | Ursula Schilg | Mayen, VA |
| 1/25/21 | Roth Woods | Ann Arbor, MI | 1/25/21 | Vic Bostock | Altadena, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Ryan Dexter | Oakland, CA | 1/25/21 | Vincent Rubino | Albany, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Sally Madigan | Meadow Vista, CA | 1/25/21 | Virgene Link-New | Anacortes, WA |
| 1/25/21 | Sarah Stewart | Watertown, MA | 1/25/21 | Virginia Allen | Hayfork, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Sandra Holloway | El Cajon, CA | 1/25/21 | Viviana Soto | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Scott Finamore | Dunnellon, FL | 1/25/21 | Wally Sykes | Joseph, OR |
| 1/25/21 | Scott Ireland | Willits, CA | 1/25/21 | Wendy Fetzer | Hopland, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Shalom Doran | Hoopa, CA | 1/25/21 | Xavier Petit | — |
| 1/25/21 | Sharon Fennell | Manila, CA | 1/25/21 | Yancette Halverson | Portland, OR |
| 1/25/21 | Sharon Hollis | Nevada City, CA | 1/25/21 | Yvonne Fisher | Playa Del Rey, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Sharon Jerge | Shingletown, CA | 1/25/21 | Zina Tibbetts | Fairfield, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Sharyn Dreyer | Denver, CO | 1/26/21 | Almond Dodge | West Linn, OR |
| 1/25/21 | Shawn Peters | Hyampom, CA | 1/26/21 | Amberlee Gustafson | Santa Cruz, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Shelley Cerasaro | Mount Shasta, CA | 1/26/21 | Angie Baker | Brentwood, TN |
| 1/25/21 | Shelley Hartz | Littleton, MA | 1/26/21 | Bonnie Faith-Smith | Cambridge, MA |
| 1/25/21 | Shelly Peddicord | Minneapolis, MN | 1/26/21 | Bonnie MacRaith | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Sherrill Futrell | Davis, CA | 1/26/21 | Britt Welin | Mount Shasta, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Silvana Villarreal | Doral, FL | 1/26/21 | Caroline Sévilla | Champs, NY |
| 1/25/21 | Sonja Chan | Kankakee, IL | 1/26/21 | Caroline Sévilla | Schenectady, NY |
| 1/25/21 | Sophia Roberts | Willow Creek, CA | 1/26/21 | Catrina Lessley | Pollock Pines, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Stacy Lupi | Los Angeles, CA | 1/26/21 | Charity Freitas | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Stephen Scalmanini | Ukiah, CA | 1/26/21 | Cheryl Watters | Daytona Beach, FL |
| 1/25/21 | Steven Carpenter | Woodhaven, MI | 1/26/21 | Danica Avina | Arcata, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Stevie Sugarman | Malibu, CA | 1/26/21 | Danielle L'Ecuyer | Jacksonville, FL |
| 1/25/21 | Sue Davies | Philo, CA | 1/26/21 | Daphne Martin | Albion, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Sue Ghilotti | Colfax, CA | 1/26/21 | David Sandifer | Santa Rosa, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Susan Dorchin | Delray Beach, FL | 1/26/21 | David Wiley | Philadelphia, PA |
| 1/25/21 | Susan Lessin | Foster City, CA | 1/26/21 | Deborah Spencer | Billerica, MA |
| 1/25/21 | Susan Ponchot | Sunrise, FL | 1/26/21 | Demetrio Papadopoulos | Hayfork, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Susan Thurairatnam | N Olmsted, OH | 1/26/21 | Denia Tsiriba | Thessaloniki, Greece |
| 1/25/21 | Susan Whitney | Trinidad, CA | 1/26/21 | Dennis Ledden | Sequim, WA |
| 1/25/21 | Suzanne Marcella Camarillo | Los Angeles, CA | 1/26/21 | Diana Bohn | Berkeley, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Teri Smith | Oakland, CA | 1/26/21 | Diana Kunce | Volcano, CA |
| 1/25/21 | Thallia Bird | Willits, CA | 1/26/21 | Dini Schipper | Den Haag, Netherlands |

Exhibit 7 Form Letter, cont.

| Date | Commenter | Location |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1/26/21 | F Hammer | San Francisco, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Finn Daniel | San Jose, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Heidi Ahlstrand | Owatonna, MN |
| 1/26/21 | Heidi Parvela | Helsinki, Finland |
| 1/26/21 | Isis Brenner | Ukiah, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Jane Maxwell | Berkeley, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Janet Forman | New York, NY |
| 1/26/21 | Janna Caughron | Reno, NV |
| 1/26/21 | Jean Standard | Fort Bragg, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Jennifer Sellers | Concord, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Jesse Allen | Mckinnleyville, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Jessica Wodinsky | Los Angeles, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Jim Finn | Cazadero, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Jody Gibson | Des Moines, IA |
| 1/26/21 | John Ann Carlile | Hyampom, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Jon Spitz | Laytonville, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Josef Grosch | Berkeley, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Joyce Sortland | Grass Valley, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Julie Andrews | Woodland, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Krista Miller | Eureka, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Kyra Rice | Willits, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Larissa Matthews | New York, NY |
| 1/26/21 | Larry Sheehy | Ukiah, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Leslie S Anderson | Arcata, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Lilyanne Price | Mckinleyville, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Loren Fennell | Myrtle Point, OR |
| 1/26/21 | Lynn Howard | San Diego, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Maia Van Pelt | Longmont, CO |
| 1/26/21 | Maica Folch | Point Reyes Station, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Marie Bobo-Smith | Fort Bragg, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Mark Takaro | Berkeley, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Marly Wexler | San Diego, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Mary Foley | El Dorado Hills, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Mary Lampkin | Veguita, NM |
| 1/26/21 | Maryann Staron | Evergreen Park, IL |
| 1/26/21 | Marybeth Arago | Fort Bragg, CA |
| 1/26/21 | May Xiao | Los Angeles, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Melinda Roddick | Telluride, CO |
| 1/26/21 | Michael Sarabia | Stockton, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Molly Boyes | Inverness, CA |
| 1/26/21 | M.S. Epstein | Los Angeles, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Natalya Bero | Santa Cruz, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Olivia Slaby | Los Angeles, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Pamela Llewellyn | Berkeley, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Patricia Nairn | Yorkville, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Paul Nelson | Camarillo, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Paul Verzosa | Temple Terrace, FL |
| 1/26/21 | Philip Purpuri | Santa Cruz, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Pilar Barranco | Madrid, Spain |

| Date | Commenter | Location |
|---------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1/26/21 | Rairaja Cohen | San Luis Obispo, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Ralph Penfield | San Diego, UM |
| 1/26/21 | Randall Longnecker | Atwater, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Rene Wallace | Weaverville, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Rhiannon Lewis-Stephenson | Arcata, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Robert Cobb | Knoxville, TN |
| 1/26/21 | Robyn Reichert | Lake Worth, FL |
| 1/26/21 | Rosada Martin | Arcata, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Sandra Materi | Casper, WY |
| 1/26/21 | Savannah Mercer | Georgetown, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Scott Kravitz | San Francisco, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Sharon Blume | Penn Valley, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Sharon Reeve | La Mesa, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Silvia Bertano | Torino, Italy |
| 1/26/21 | Teresa Brady | Moorpark, CA |
| 1/26/21 | Vernon Batty | Pagosa Springs, CO |
| 1/26/21 | Whitney Watters | St Augustine, FL |
| 1/27/21 | Alexis Aschenbrenner | San Francisco, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Andrew Franklin | Weaverville, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Christopher Cisper | Fort Bragg, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Deborah McMurray | Rohnert Park, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Dogan Ozkan | Fairbanks, AK |
| 1/27/21 | Don Wattenbarger | Eureka, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Elizabeth Uemura | Arcata, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Hannah Bartholomew | South Lake Tahoe, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Isabel Cervera | Salisbury, NC |
| 1/27/21 | Jacquelyn Cisper | Fort Bragg, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Jennifer Lance | Hyampom, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Karen Wilson | Vallejo, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Karin Anderson | Hayfork, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Katherine White | Arcata, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Lara Garrett | Chico, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Linda Jordan | Oakland, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Mary Niski | Crescent City, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Melody Hamilton | Trinidad, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Michele Palazzo | Redway, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Michelle Berditshevsky | Mount Shasta, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Michelle MacKenzie | Menlo Park, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Misael Ramos | Arcata, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Myphon Hunt | Yuba City, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Robert Chirpin | Northridge, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Sandra Truluck | Weaverville, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Shubra Sachdev | Powell, OH |
| 1/27/21 | Steve Hylton | Lake Isabella, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Steve Ongerth | Richmond, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Steve S | Washington, DC |
| 1/27/21 | Susan Navidad | Little Rock, AR |
| 1/27/21 | Terry Vickers | Jonesborough, TN |
| 1/27/21 | Tina Brewster | Los Angeles, CA |

Exhibit 7 Form Letter, cont.

| Date | Commenter | Location | Date | Commenter | Location |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1/27/21 | Trisha Lotus | Eureka, CA | 1/28/21 | Judith Gilkey | Mckinleyville, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Valerie Face | Santa Clara, CA | 1/28/21 | Lisa Taylor | Los Angeles, CA |
| 1/27/21 | Yael Shimshon | Jerusalem, Israel | 1/28/21 | Max Brotman | Eureka, CA |
| 1/28/21 | Alice Firestone | Garberville, CA | 1/28/21 | Steven Phenicie | Athelstane, WI |
| 1/28/21 | Autumn Faber | Mendocino, CA | 1/28/21 | Terrie Phenicie | Athelstane, WI |
| 1/28/21 | Chad Swimmer | Fort Bragg, CA | 1/29/21 | Claudia Held | Nevada City, CA |
| 1/28/21 | Chelsea Obeidy | Eugene, OR | 1/29/21 | Cornelia Herschel | Borkum, Germany |
| 1/28/21 | Cynthia Winter | Hyampom, CA | 1/29/21 | George Krigas | Sacramento, CA |
| 1/28/21 | Eva Herzer | Berkeley, CA | 1/29/21 | Janine Vinton | Albany, NY |
| 1/28/21 | Freya Harris | Atlanta, GA | 1/29/21 | Karla Avila | Hyampom, CA |
| 1/28/21 | Glenn Muhr | Warren, MI | 1/29/21 | Linden Mullins | Hyampom, CA |
| 1/28/21 | Jean Andrews | Eureka, CA | 1/29/21 | Marko Pavlovic | Sacramento, CA |
| 1/28/21 | Jessie Bunkley | Trinidad, CA | 1/29/21 | Richard Hoard | Weaverville, CA |
| 1/28/21 | Juanita Arellanes | Weaverville, CA | 1/29/21 | Rob Hastings | Westminster, CA |

4. Next Steps in EIS/EIR Process

While scoping is the initial step in the environmental review process, additional opportunities to comment on the EIS/EIR will be provided once the document has been completed and distributed for public review. The public will have an opportunity to review and submit comments on the Draft EIS/EIR, and Trinity PUD and WAPA will hold public meetings on the Draft EIS/EIR. Exhibit 8 presents the anticipated schedule for the EIS/EIR, and identifies where in the process the public and agencies can provide additional input into the environmental review process. The public can also submit comments on the Proposed Action at any time during the NEPA/CEQA process and does not need to wait for a formal comment period.

Exhibit 8 EIS/EIR Events/Documents

| Document/Event | Purpose | Approximate Date |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Draft EIS/EIR | | |
| Release of Draft EIS/EIR | Presents impacts and mitigation for the Proposed Action | August 2021 |
| Public Review Period | 45-day public review period on the Draft EIS/EIR | August through October 2021 |
| Draft EIS/EIR Public Hearings | Allows for public comment on the draft document | September 2021 |
| Final EIS/EIR | | |
| Release of Final EIR | Presents revisions to the Draft EIS/EIR and responses to comments on the Draft EIS/EIR | April 2022 |
| Record of Decision | WAPA approves the EIS and issues a Decision on the Proposed Action | June 2022 |
| Notice of Decision | The Trinity PUD certifies EIS/EIR and issues a Decision on the Proposed Action | June 2022 |

Appendix A

Notice of Intent

and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). Anyone filing a motion to intervene or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing protests with regard to the applicant's request for blanket authorization, under 18 CFR part 34, of future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability, is December 28, 2020.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper, using the FERC Online links at <http://www.ferc.gov>. To facilitate electronic service, persons with internet access who will eFile a document and/or be listed as a contact for an intervenor must create and validate an eRegistration account using the eRegistration link. Select the eFiling link to log on and submit the intervention or protests.

Persons unable to file electronically may mail similar pleadings to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. Hand delivered submissions in docketed proceedings should be delivered to Health and Human Services, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. At this time, the Commission has suspended access to the Commission's Public Reference Room, due to the proclamation declaring a National Emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), issued by the President on March 13, 2020. For assistance, contact the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call toll-free, (886) 208-3676 or TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Dated: December 7, 2020.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-27265 Filed 12-10-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Western Area Power Administration

Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability, and Asset Protection (WRAP) Project, Trinity County, California (DOE/EIS-0548)

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report and to conduct scoping meetings; Notice of Floodplain and Wetlands Involvement.

SUMMARY: The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and Trinity Public Utility District (Trinity PUD) are proposing a proactive Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability, and Asset Protection (WRAP) Project to reduce fire risk to the surrounding communities and public lands, as well as to increase electric reliability to maintain critical services in local communities. WAPA and Trinity PUD will prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) NEPA Implementing Procedures, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as codified in California's Public Resource Code, and the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines) in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. Portions of the proposed action may affect floodplains or wetlands, so this Notice of Intent (NOI) also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetlands action in accordance with DOE floodplain and wetlands review requirements.

DATES: WAPA invites public comments on the scope of the WRAP EIS/EIR during a 45-day public scoping period. WAPA will provide a notice in local media outlets of the dates of the scoping period and scoping meetings. Public notice of the date and time of the public scoping meetings will also be posted on the Project website at <https://www.wapa.gov/regions/SN/environment/Pages/WRAP.aspx>.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR and requests to be added to the EIS/EIR distribution list may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Electronic comments via the Project website at: <https://www.wapa.gov/>

[regions/SN/environment/Pages/WRAP.aspx](https://www.wapa.gov/regions/SN/environment/Pages/WRAP.aspx).

- Email: saare@wapa.gov.
- U.S. Mail: Tish Saare, Western Area Power Administration, 114 Parkshore Dr., Folsom, CA 95630.

WAPA will consider all comments on the scope of the EIS received or postmarked by the end of the scoping period. The public is invited to submit comments on the proposed WRAP Project for WAPA's consideration at any time during the EIS process.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Tish Saare, Western Area Power Administration, 114 Parkshore Dr., Folsom, CA 95630, telephone (916) 847-3608, email at saare@wapa.gov.

For general information on DOE's NEPA review process, contact Brian Costner, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC-54, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585-0119, email AskNEPA@hq.doe.gov, telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756, facsimile (202) 586-7031.

For more information related to Trinity PUD's participation, contact Mr. Andy Lethbridge, Electric Superintendent, 26 Ponderosa Ln, Weaverville, CA 96093, telephone (530) 623-5537, email alethbridge@trinitypud.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: WAPA is a power marketing administration within DOE. WAPA has a statutory responsibility to make the necessary arrangements to deliver Federal power to Federally authorized water projects and to market and deliver cost-based Federal power in excess of that needed to meet Federal load to wholesale preference customers in regions within the central and western United States. WAPA's preference customers include Federal and State agencies, Native American tribes, electric cooperatives, municipal utilities, public utility districts, irrigation districts, and water districts. Trinity PUD receives the majority of its power from WAPA's Trinity Interconnect 60-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line.

Trinity PUD is the local electric utility provider for Trinity County, California. It provides most of the customers in Trinity County with 100-percent renewable hydroelectric energy from the Trinity Dam. Trinity PUD supplies power through its 604 miles of power lines that are located in rugged and mountainous terrain. Its service area covers approximately 2,100 square miles in Trinity County and is sparsely

populated, with fewer than 12 customers per mile of line.

The areas surrounding WAPA's and Trinity PUD's electric transmission and distribution systems in Trinity County are particularly vulnerable to fire risk due to the dense vegetation and steep terrain. The proposed WRAP Project would reduce these fire risks by expanding WAPA's and Trinity PUD's existing transmission/distribution rights-of-way (ROWs) and implementing a proactive, integrated vegetation management program within the expanded ROWs.

WAPA has determined that an EIS is the appropriate level of review under NEPA. WAPA will prepare the EIS in accordance with NEPA, DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, and the CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA. WAPA will be the lead Federal agency for the NEPA EIS review process, and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) will be cooperating agencies. WAPA intends to prepare a joint EIS/EIR for the proposed WRAP Project. Trinity PUD will be the lead agency for the CEQA EIR review process. As portions of the proposed action may affect floodplains and wetlands, this NOI also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland action in accordance with DOE floodplain and wetland environmental review requirements (10 CFR parts 1021 and 1022).

Purpose and Need for Agency Action: The purpose of WRAP is to: (1) Reduce the risk of wildfire by proactive vegetation management; (2) enhance protection of the WAPA and Trinity PUD electrical transmission and distribution line systems; (3) improve the reliability of power delivery to Trinity PUD under WAPA's contract; (4) improve transmission line access by road improvement; and (5) protect the health and safety of the Trinity County community and surrounding biological and natural resources from transmission- and distribution-related wildfires.

Proposed Action and Alternatives: In accordance with the proposed Project purpose and need, WAPA and Trinity PUD propose the WRAP Project.

WAPA proposes to expand the width of its ROW for its 17.5-mile, 60-kV transmission line between Trinity Substation and Weaverville Switchyard from 80 feet to up to 130 feet on USFS, BLM, and private lands. This transmission line provides the majority of the electricity to the Trinity PUD system.

Trinity PUD proposes to expand its utility ROW width from 20 feet to up to

130 feet for its overhead transmission and distribution system (216.8 miles) in high-fire risk areas on USFS, BLM, BOR, and private or other lands. The existing ROW easement for the underground distribution lines would not change.

The proposed Project would also include the improvement of WAPA's existing legal access roads using best management practices for routine access road maintenance and associated rehabilitation. Trinity PUD would maintain their existing local access roads to the standards set by the land managers.

Vegetation in the ROW may be cleared using a combination of mechanical, manual, and herbicidal control methods. Manual methods may include cutting, girdling, topping and trimming, slash disposal/fuels reduction techniques, and burning. Mechanical methods would be used in areas in which vegetation can be removed non-selectively. Most pieces of mechanical equipment are not safe to operate on slopes over 30-to 35-percent; mechanical methods are also constrained where soils are susceptible to compaction or erosion. Herbicidal control is another option that WAPA and Trinity PUD are exploring as an option to manage vegetation. Only those herbicides that have been approved for use in ROW maintenance based on evaluations of toxicity, solubility, soil adsorption potential, and persistence in water and soil would be used. Additionally, herbicides would only be applied by individuals with applicator licenses/certificates and in accordance with label requirements.

In order to maintain long-term vegetation clearances along the expanded ROWs, the proposed Project would include an updated and improved operation and maintenance plan (O&M Plan) and GIS database of all assets and sensitive resources along the subject ROWs. As part of the updated O&M Plan and GIS database, the proposed Project would develop Standard Operating Procedures, which would be implemented for all O&M tasks, as well as Project Conservation Measures that would be implemented to protect specific sensitive species in the ROW.

As part of the proposed Project, WAPA and Trinity PUD would submit applications for ROW authorizations for the expansion of transmission and distribution line ROWs on BLM and USFS administered lands. Trinity PUD would also amend its Interagency Agreement with BOR. In addition, the proposed Project may include timber sale contracts with the USFS, BLM, BOR, and private landowners for

merchantable timber resulting from ROW expansions and vegetation removal.

No Action Alternative: NEPA requires WAPA to consider a no action alternative. The no action alternative serves as a baseline to measure the environmental impacts of action alternatives. No action does not mean no change; the no action alternative would include current vegetation management, access road maintenance, and other ongoing O&M activities within existing ROWs. There would be no ROW expansion under the no action alternative. As part of the EIS/EIR process, WAPA will consider a no action alternative.

Notice of Floodplain or Wetlands Involvement: Floodplains and wetlands may be present in the Project area. As the proposal may involve action in floodplains or wetlands, this NOI serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland action. The EIS/EIR will include an assessment of impacts to floodplains and wetlands. If needed, WAPA will prepare a floodplain statement of findings following DOE regulations for compliance with floodplains and wetlands environmental review requirements and include that statement in the EIS/EIR.

Preliminary Identification of Environmental Issues: WAPA proposes to analyze potential short-term environmental impacts, such as those from implementation, and potential long-term environmental impacts of maintaining the expanded ROW. DOE's guidance for the preparation of an EIS/EIR recommends the use of a sliding-scale approach when evaluating environmental impacts. This approach would focus the analysis and discussion of impacts on significant environmental issues in proportion to the level of the potential impacts. WAPA identified the following preliminary list of impact areas for evaluation in the EIS/EIR:

- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Tribal Resources
- Energy
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Recreation
- Noise and Vibration
- Population and Housing
- Soils and Mineral Resources
- Transportation
- Utilities/Service Systems/Public Services
- Visual Resources
- Wildfire and Forestry Resources

This list is not intended to be all-inclusive or to imply a predetermination

of impacts. WAPA invites interested stakeholders to suggest specific issues, including possible mitigation measures, within these general categories, or other categories not included above, to be considered in the EIS/EIR.

Public Participation: The purpose of the scoping process is to identify issues, concerns, possible alternatives, and potential environmental impacts that WAPA should analyze in the EIS/EIR. There will be two scoping meetings, one in the morning and one in the evening on the date determined, to accommodate and encourage public participation. Each meeting will use Zoom Webinar and will be virtual or online consistent with statewide restrictions with in-person meetings because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

WAPA will also announce the public scoping meetings in local news media and by posting on the Project environmental website at <https://www.wapa.gov/regions/SN/environment/Pages/WRAP.aspx> at least 14 days before the meetings.

The public will have the opportunity to learn about the Project, view maps, and present comments on the scope of the WRAP EIS/EIR. Representatives from WAPA and Trinity PUD will be available to answer questions and provide additional information to meeting attendees.

In addition to providing comments at the webinar public scoping meetings, stakeholders may submit written comments as described in the **ADDRESSES** section above. WAPA will consider all comments postmarked or received during the public scoping period identified in the **DATES** section above. The public is also invited to submit comments on the proposed Project for WAPA's consideration at any time during the EIS process.

WAPA will coordinate with appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and potentially affected Native American tribes during the preparation of the EIS/EIR. Agencies with legal jurisdiction or special expertise are invited to participate as cooperating agencies in preparation of the EIS, as defined in 40 CFR 1501.8(a).¹ Designated cooperating agencies have responsibilities to support the NEPA process, as specified in 40 CFR 1501.8(b).² WAPA will contact tribes and inform them of the planned EIS/EIR. Government-to-government consultations will be conducted in

accordance with Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments (65 FR 67249); the President's memorandum of April 29, 1994, Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments (59 FR 22951); DOE-specific guidance on tribal interactions; and other applicable Federal and State natural and cultural resources laws and regulations.

Upon completion of the scoping period, WAPA will draft an EIS/EIR. A Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS/EIR will be published in the **Federal Register**, which will begin a minimum 45-day public comment period. WAPA will announce how to comment on the Draft EIS/EIR and will hold two public hearings during the comment period. People who would like to receive a copy of the Draft EIS/EIR should submit a request as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section above. For those requesting to be added to the distribution list, you are encouraged to download the EIS/EIR and other documents from the above website; however, if you prefer to be mailed a copy, please specify the format of the EIS/EIR that you would like to receive (CD or printed) and a preference for either the complete EIS/EIR or the Summary only. WAPA will maintain information about the process, including documents, meeting information, and important dates, on the Project website given above. The EIS/EIR, along with other Project information, will be available for download from the Project website. Please visit the Project website for current information.

Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on December 1, 2020, by Mark A. Gabriel, Administrator, Western Area Power Administration, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document, with the original signature and date, is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on December 7, 2020

Treena V. Garrett,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 2020-27147 Filed 12-10-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-9054-3]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information 202-564-5632 or <https://www.epa.gov/nepa>. Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)

Filed November 30, 2020 10 a.m. EST
Through December 7, 2020 10 a.m. EST

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

Notice Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act requires that EPA make public its comments on EISs issued by other Federal agencies. EPA's comment letters on EISs are available at: <https://cdxnodengn.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-public/action/eis/search>.

EIS No. 20200249, Final Supplement, USFS, WV, Mountain Valley Pipeline and Equitrans Expansion Project, Review Period Ends: 01/11/2021, Contact: Ken Arney, Regional Forester 888-603-0261.

EIS No. 20200250, Draft Supplement, USN, AK, Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities, Comment Period Ends: 02/16/2021, Contact: Kimberly Kler 360-315-5103.

EIS No. 20200251, Final, USCG, GU, ADOPTION—Mariana Islands Training and Testing Final EIS—OEIS, Contact: Maile Norman 808-535-3264.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) has adopted the United States Navy Final EIS No. 20150136, filed 5/15/2015 with EPA. USCG was a cooperating agency on this project. Therefore, republication of the document is not necessary under Section 1506.3(b)(2) of the CEQ regulations.

EIS No. 20200252, Final Supplement, USCG, GU, ADOPTION—Mariana Islands Training and Testing, Contact: Maile Norman 808-535-3264.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) has adopted the United States Navy Final Supplemental EIS No. 20200155, filed 5/29/2020 with EPA. USCG was a cooperating agency on this project. Therefore, republication of the

¹ CEQ revised its NEPA implementing regulations, effective September 14, 2020. *Update to the Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act*, 85 FR 43304, 43361 (July 16, 2020).

² See *id.* at 85 FR 43361-43362.

Appendix B

Notice of Preparation

Notice of Preparation

Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability, and Asset Protection (WRAP) Project

December 11, 2020

To: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

Introduction

Trinity Public Utilities District (Trinity PUD) and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) intend to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) referred to as an EIR/EIS for the Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability, and Asset Protection (WRAP) Project. Trinity PUD is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency and WAPA is the Federal lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Trinity PUD and WAPA will prepare the Draft and Final EIR/EIS to comply with both the CEQA and NEPA. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are cooperating agencies.

Trinity PUD and WAPA are proposing a proactive right-of-way (ROW) expansion and vegetation management project to reduce fire risk from their transmission and distribution power lines to the surrounding communities and public lands, as well as to increase electrical reliability to maintain critical services in the local communities (see attached map).

This NOP of an EIR/EIS provides:

- a brief description of the proposed WRAP Project;
- a summary of potential Project impacts;
- the times and locations of public scoping meetings;
- information on how to provide comments; and
- instructions for obtaining additional Project information.

Concurrent with publication of this NOP, WAPA will publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the WRAP Project in the *Federal Register*. Trinity PUD and WAPA will conduct an extended 50-day scoping comment period. The comment period starts on December 11, 2020 and ends on January 29, 2021. During the public comment period, agencies, organizations, and interested parties may submit comments on the scope and content of the EIR/EIS (e.g., the proposed action, alternatives, and environmental issues, as examples). The lead agencies will consider all comments received in the preparation of the EIR/EIS.

Project Description and Location

Trinity County is located in northwestern California, midway between Redding in Shasta County and the Northern Redwood Coast, in the lower reaches of the Cascade mountain range. The Project consists of existing transmission and distribution power line ROWs and access roads that extend throughout the entirety of Trinity County. The center of the Project is approximately the town of Weaverville. The northern boundary of the Project is approximately the intersection of Coffee Creek and Highway 3 (just north of Trinity Center); the eastern boundary of the Project is at the intersection of Highway 299 and the

county line (just east of Lewiston); the southern boundary of the Project is the community of Forest Glen; and the western boundary is Hyampom Valley.

The areas surrounding Trinity PUD's and WAPA's transmission and distribution systems are particularly vulnerable to fire risk due to the dense vegetation and steep terrain. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection classifies this area as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and this risk was manifested in the recent 2018 Carr Fire near Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and the 2020 August Complex Fires in southern Trinity County. The proposed WRAP Project would reduce these fire risks by expanding Trinity PUD's and WAPA's existing transmission/distribution ROWs and implementing a proactive integrated vegetation management program within the expanded ROWs.

The purpose of WRAP is to: (1) reduce the risk of wildfire by proactive vegetation management; (2) enhance protection of the WAPA and Trinity PUD electrical transmission and distribution line systems; (3) improve reliability of delivering power to Trinity PUD under WAPA's contract; (4) improve transmission line access by road improvement; and (5) protect the health and safety of the Trinity County community and surrounding biological and natural resources from transmission and distribution related wildfires.

Trinity PUD proposes to expand its utility ROW from 20 feet to up to 130 feet for its overhead transmission and distribution systems (216.8 miles) in high-fire risk areas on USFS, BLM, BOR, and private/other lands. The existing ROW easement for the underground distribution lines is 5 feet and would not change.

WAPA proposes to expand the ROW of its overhead transmission line between Trinity Substation and Weaverville Switchyard (17.5 miles) from 80 feet to up to 130 feet on USFS, BLM, and private lands. This transmission line provides the majority of the electricity to the Trinity PUD system.

The proposed Project would also include the improvement of WAPA's existing legal access roads using best management practices for routine access road maintenance and associated rehabilitation. Trinity PUD would maintain their existing local access roads to the standards set by the land managers.

Vegetation in the ROW may be cleared using a combination of mechanical, manual, and herbicidal control methods. Manual methods may include cutting, girdling, topping and trimming, slash disposal/fuels reduction techniques, and burning (burning for Trinity PUD only). Mechanical methods would be used in areas in which vegetation can be removed non-selectively. Most pieces of mechanical equipment are not safe to operate on slopes over 30 to 35 percent; mechanical methods are also constrained where soils are susceptible to compaction or erosion. Herbicidal control is another option that Trinity PUD and WAPA are exploring as an option to manage vegetation. Only those herbicides that have been approved for use in ROW maintenance based on evaluations of toxicity, solubility, soil adsorption potential, and persistence in water and soil would be used. Additionally, herbicides would only be applied by individuals with applicator licenses/certificates and in accordance with label requirements.

In order to maintain long-term vegetation clearances along the expanded ROWs, the proposed Project would include an updated and improved operation and maintenance plan (O&M Plan) and GIS database of all assets and sensitive resources along the subject ROWs. As part of the updated O&M Plan and GIS database, the proposed Project would develop Standard Operating Procedures, which would be implemented for all O&M tasks, as well as Project Conservation Measures that would be implemented to protect specific sensitive resources in the ROW.

As part of the proposed Project, Trinity PUD and WAPA will submit applications for ROW authorizations for the expansion of transmission and distribution line ROWs on BLM- and USFS-administered lands. Trinity PUD would also amend their Interagency Agreement with BOR. In addition, the proposed Project may include timber sale contracts with the USFS, BLM, BOR, and private landowners for merchantable timber resulting from ROW expansions and vegetation removal.

Potential Environmental Effects

The EIR/EIS will discuss the potential environmental effects of the proposed WRAP Project and will identify mitigation measures to avoid or substantially reduce any potentially significant adverse effects, to the extent feasible. The Trinity PUD and WAPA have not yet identified alternatives to the Project but will identify and consider feasible alternatives in the EIR/EIS analysis. Based on preliminary analysis, implementation of the proposed WRAP Project will consider the following environmental effects:

- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Recreation
- Noise and Vibration
- Population and Housing
- Soils and Mineral Resources
- Transportation
- Utilities/Service Systems/Public Services
- Visual Resources
- Wildfire and Forestry Resources

This list is not intended to be all-inclusive or to imply a predetermination of impacts. Trinity PUD and WAPA invite interested stakeholders to suggest specific issues, including possible mitigation measures, within these general categories, or other categories not included above, to be considered in the EIR/EIS.

Public Scoping

Pursuant to both CEQA and NEPA, scoping is the process of soliciting input from affected governmental agencies, organizations, and the public on the scope and content of the environmental document (i.e., the joint EIR/EIS). Public scoping helps to identify the range of actions, alternatives, environmental effects, and mitigation measures to be analyzed in depth in the EIR/EIS, and helps to identify those issues that can be eliminated from detailed study.

Members of the public, affected Federal, State, and local agencies, interest groups, and other interested parties may participate in the scoping process by providing written comments or recommendations concerning the issues to be analyzed in the EIR/EIS. Interested parties may also provide oral comments during the public scoping meetings discussed below.

Project Scoping Meetings

Virtual public scoping meetings will be held on January 12, 2021 and January 14, 2021 (see specific dates, times and access in the table below). The purpose of the scoping meetings is to provide information about the proposed WRAP Project, review Project maps, answer questions, and take oral comments from interested parties.

There will be two scoping meetings, one in the morning and one in the evening, to accommodate and encourage public participation. Each meeting will use Zoom Webinar and will be virtual or online consistent with statewide restrictions with in-person meetings because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

| Meeting Dates and Times | Meeting Access Information |
|---|---|
| <p><u>Virtual Meeting #1</u> Tuesday, January 12, 2021 6:00 pm-7:30 pm PT</p> | <p>Zoom Webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84343935277 By Phone: 1-669-900-6833 Webinar ID: 843 4393 5277</p> |
| <p><u>Virtual Meeting #2</u> Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:00 am-12:30 pm PT</p> | <p>Zoom Webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81016861568 By Phone: 1-669-900-6833 Webinar ID: 810 1686 1568</p> |

Scoping Comments

At this time, Trinity PUD and WAPA are soliciting comments regarding any issues and alternatives that should be considered in the preparation of the EIR/EIS. Suggestions for submitting scoping comments are presented at the end of this section. Written comments must be postmarked no later than **January 29, 2021**. Written comments may be submitted in a variety of ways: (1) by mail, (2) by electronic mail (email), or (3) by fax. You can also present oral comments by attending a Public Scoping Meeting (see times and locations above). Instructions for submitting written comments are provided below.

By Electronic Mail: E-mail communications are the preferred method; however, please remember to include your name and return address in the email message. Email messages must be sent to saare@wapa.gov.

By Mail: If you send comments by mail, please use first-class mail and be sure to include your name, return address, and email address (please write legibly). All written comments on the scope of the WRAP Project EIR/EIS must be sent to:

Tish Saare

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Western Area Power Administration

114 Parkshore Dr.

Folsom, CA 95630

By Fax: Faxed comments must be sent to 916-985-1935. Your name and return address must be included in the fax.

Suggestions for Effective Participation in Scoping. Following are some suggestions for preparing and providing the most useful information for the WRAP Project EIR/EIS scoping process:

- Review the description of the proposed WRAP Project.
- Review the potential environmental effects.

- Participate in the virtual scoping meetings.
- Submit written comments; explain important issues that the EIR/EIS should address.
- Suggest specific mitigation measures that could reduce impacts from the proposed Project.
- Suggest possible alternatives that could avoid or reduce impacts.

Agency Comments

We are seeking comments from all Responsible and Trustee Agencies and all other public agencies with jurisdiction by law with respect to the Project as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR/EIS. Agency responses should identify the issues to be considered in the EIR/EIS, including significant environmental issues, alternatives, mitigation measures, and whether the responding agency will be a responsible or trustee agency, and the basis for that determination. Your response should be sent at the earliest possible date but must be postmarked by no later than **January 29, 2021**. Please send your comments to the electronic mail or mailing addresses above.

Additional Project Information

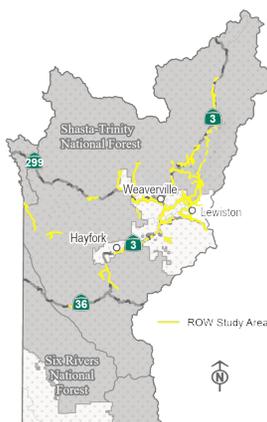
Project Website: Information about the environmental review process will be posted on the Project website at: <https://www.wapa.gov/regions/SN/environment/Pages/WRAP.aspx>. This site will be used to post all public documents during the environmental review process and to announce upcoming document releases and public meetings.

Appendix C

Postcard Notices

Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability, and Asset Protection (WRAP) Project VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

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- WAPA utility ROW expansion between Trinity Substation and Weaverville Switchyard from 80 feet to up to 130 feet (17.5 miles).
- The improvement of WAPA's existing legal access roads using Best Management Practices for routine access road maintenance and associated rehabilitation. Trinity PUD would maintain their existing local access roads to the standards set by the land managers.
- In order to maintain long-term vegetation clearances along the expanded ROWs, the proposed Project would include a detailed Operation and Maintenance Plan and GIS database of all assets and sensitive resources along the subject ROWs.

Trinity PUD and WAPA intend to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the WRAP Project. Trinity PUD is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, and WAPA is the Federal lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Trinity PUD and WAPA will prepare the Draft and Final EIR/EIS to comply with both the CEQA and NEPA. The Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service are cooperating agencies. Your input is sought to help Trinity PUD and WAPA identify potential impacts and alternatives to be analyzed in the EIR/EIS.

Provide your
comments at the
Zoom Webinar,
by email,
or by mail.

Please attend the Zoom Webinar public scoping meetings:

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 6:00pm

Zoom Webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84343935277>

By Phone: +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 843 4393 5277

Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 11:00am

Zoom Webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81016861568>

Call in to Webinar: 1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 810 1686 1568

Should you not have access to a computer, please use the call-in numbers to participate in the Zoom Webinar via phone.

You can also email Tish Saare at saare@wapa.gov and request hardcopies of the Scoping Meeting material.

Trinity PUD and WAPA will mail you all the Scoping Meeting material in an expeditious manner.

Send comments by
January 29, 2021 to

Tish Saare

Western Area Power
Administration

114 Parkshore Dr.

Folsom, CA 95630

Email: saare@wapa.gov

Fax: 916-985-1935

For more information, visit: <https://www.wapa.gov/regions/SN/environment/Pages/WRAP.aspx>.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS
Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability, and Asset Protection (WRAP) Project



Appendix D

Newspaper Advertisements

Winter-like weather has arrived, but is it not winter yet?

We are seeing more rain, some snow, and the rivers are finally showing some changes. The Trinity did not come up a lot but enough to see a difference and possibly start the winter run of steelhead moving. At least I hope so. I was down to the river this morning and there is some color to it but not a lot. There are some higher water flows, but again not what I think we should be seeing at this time. With the restrictions on the Hoopa Reservation, it is hard to find out what the fishing is like down there. Usually by Christmas I can find an adult steelie or two in front of my house but it has been hard to get a hookup.

Westlands is at it again! "The Department of Interior may shift federal projects to a former client of the Secretary of Interior Bernhard" (from the internet news). The Trump administration is working to transfer ownership of federal water infrastructure of California's water storage to the Westlands Water District, the country's largest irrigation provider in the state. Westlands Water District is a former client of the Secretary of Interior David Bernhardt. The Bureau of Reclamation has confirmed it is moving forward with the transfer! "Westland's Water District made this request and Reclamation has begun the process to transfer the title." Do you think there is some collusion here? What about conflict of interest? I can just see the water storage of California draining down the river to Southern California if this is allowed to go through. Farmers are going to get their share of water and then some, but at what price? Will they have water for the next crop? Where will the water come from?

Willow Creek weir was removed Nov. 16. Somehow, I have not been able access or locate the Redds website location so I have not been able to get the recorded counts of the

FISHING REPORT



E.B. Duggan
'D' Fishing
530-629-3554
yen2fish@yahoo.com

different locations on Trinity River.

Fishing: The Willow Creek area is kind of in between the fall run steelhead and the winter run of steelhead. Upriver is another story. The river is up and working clear and cold. The problem is there are fishermen working the good stretches of water so it makes it difficult to drift by them and still have some water to fish. I have noticed that river etiquette is not being used when it comes to drift boats and fishermen in the river. This is sad because when I was a fishing guide there was always consideration for the fisherman who walked in to fish. We do have a new storm coming in just before Christmas so I am hoping that the fishing will pick up then.

Mid-Klamath to Happy Camp: The Klamath River at Weitchpec is flowing at 4,432 cfs, an increase of 1,978 cfs from last week. Iron Gate Dam is releasing 992 cfs as of 11 a.m. Monday. The Weitchpec area is still closed to the general public because of the COVID-19 pandemic but the Orleans area up to Happy Camp is open to the public with plenty of places for fishing and fish in the river.

Lake Conditions: Whiskeytown is 85 percent of capacity (no change) with inflows of 622 cfs and releasing 295 cfs on to Keswick. Shasta Lake is 44 percent of capacity (plus 7 feet) with inflows of 4,046 cfs and releasing 3,096 cfs into Keswick. Keswick is 98 percent with inflows of 3,356 cfs and releasing 3,511 cfs into the Sacramento River. Lake Oroville

is 36 percent of capacity (minus 3 feet) with inflows of 1,612 cfs with releases of 253 cfs into the Feather River. Folsom Lake is 31 percent of capacity (a decrease of 1 percent, minus 2 feet) with inflows of 1,199 cfs with releases of 1,550 cfs into the American River.

Trinity Lake: The lake is 88 feet below the overflow (a decrease of 1 foot) and 52 percent of capacity with inflows of 571 cfs and releasing 608 cfs into Lewiston Lake with 297 cfs being diverted to Whiskeytown Lake and on to Keswick Power Plant.

Trinity River flows and conditions: Lewiston Lake is 96 percent of capacity (a decrease of 3 percent) and water releases are 311 cfs into the Trinity River, with water temperature of 44.8 degrees as of 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 14. Limekiln Gulch is 4.75ft at 302 cfs. Douglas City is 6.34ft with flows of 366 cfs with water temperature of 44.0 degrees. Junction City is 1.78ft at 385 cfs. Helena is 8.30ft at 445 cfs with water temp of 41.8 degrees. Cedar Flat (Burnt Ranch) is 2.82ft at 564 cfs. South Fork of the Trinity near Hyampom is 2.62ft at 200 cfs. Willow Creek is estimated at 764 cfs and water at 43 degrees. Hoopa is 12.32ft at 1,362 cfs and water is 44.4 degrees. Water flows at the mouth of the Trinity River at the Klamath in Weitchpec are estimated to be 4,432 cfs, an increase of 1,978 cfs.

Klamath River flows and conditions: Iron Gate is releasing 992 cfs. Seiad Valley is 2.25ft at 1,291 cfs. Happy Camp is estimated at 1,464 cfs. Some Bar is estimated to be 2,444 cfs. The Salmon River is 2.49ft at 624 cfs. Orleans is 3.65ft at 3,070 cfs, the Klamath River at Terwer Creek is 10.70ft with 7,904 cfs and water temp is 45.2 degrees. Flows for the Smith River at Jedediah Smith are 9.41ft with flows of 5,075 cfs, and flows at Dr. Fine Bridge are at 15.87ft.

SPORTS BRIEFS

TAGA results

Trinity Alps Golf Course, Dec. 11
1st: Don Woodworth, 59
2nd: Rich Gilmore, 62
3rd: Earl Frank, 63
Closest to the pin (#5): Steve Hagen, 6'10"

FWS, NMFS finalize regulatory definition of 'habitat' under ESA

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service have finalized a regulatory definition of the term "habitat" that will be used for designating critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act. The definition is part of what the groups say are the efforts of the Trump Administration to balance effective, science-based conservation with common-sense policy designed to bring the ESA into the 21st century.

"Given that this will improve implementation of the Endangered Species Act and how stakeholders engage with it, we are very happy to announce this final definition of habitat," said Fish and Wildlife Service Director Aurelia Skipwith. "We look forward to continuing to improve and streamline regulations that support more effective conservation and inspired partnerships."

The final definition of habitat is, "For the purposes of designating critical habitat only, habitat is the abiotic and biotic setting that currently or periodically contains the resources and conditions necessary to support one or more life processes of a species." This definition explicitly limits the term habitat to apply only to critical habitat designations under the ESA, and no previously finalized critical habitat designations will be re-evaluated as a result of its establishment.

More than three years ago, the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce began considering improvements to the regulations the federal government uses to implement the ESA to make them more efficient and effective. Last year, the Service finalized regulatory changes to section 4 of the ESA dealing with the listing, delisting and critical habitat, and to section 7 consultation processes. Working with Western water managers and attorneys, the Family Farm Alliance developed formal comments for each of these rulemaking efforts.

"Given the nature of water storage and delivery, Western farmers and ranchers are often directly impacted by the implementation of the ESA and other federal laws," said Alliance executive director Dan Keppen. "We strongly support this administration's efforts to reform the ESA and its implementing regulations to provide clearer direction to the agencies in applying and enforcing the law."

Today's final definition of habitat will continue to improve implementation of the ESA, which defines critical habitat and establishes separate criteria depending on whether the area is within or outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time of listing. It does not define the broader term "habitat," however, and the Services have not previously defined this term in implementing regulations.

The final regulations can be found in the Federal Register Reading Room at www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/current.

Seeking Bigfoot info

Author Tom Morris has been studying Bigfoot for years. Morris asks hikers and hunters that if any incidents involving Bigfoot come up, to notify him on his landline at 925-930-8123; send him an email at tommorris@msn.com and put BIGFOOT in subject line; or send a report in to the Bigfoot Field Research Organization, www.bfro.net/GDB/submitfm.asp.

The organization has sightings in Trinity County dating back as far as the 1960s and into the 2000s. The most recent sighting in Trinity County was in 2009 at Big Bear Lake. In this sighting, a man claimed he encountered a strange animal outside of his tent while camping. The witness saw only a silhouette but smelled "a horrible animal stench."

Also, check out the Tom Morris experience on YouTube.

Sportswriter sought

The Trinity Journal is seeking a freelance sportswriter to start Jan. 1 or soon thereafter.

The position would provide coverage of Trinity High School and/or Hayfork High School sporting events and may include other sports coverage and features, and some webpage work, depending on experience.

Photographic and/or video skills are helpful but not required. Prior media experience helpful but not required.

Interested parties should provide a letter of interest to Wayne Agner, editor and publisher, The Trinity Journal, P.O. Box 340, Weaverville, CA 96093-0340; by email to editor@trinityjournal.com; or bring it by our office at 500 Main St., Weaverville.

Celebrate Christmas at one of these local houses of worship

Weaverville Church of the Nazarene
Celebrate Christmas with us online, Sunday, December 20th at 11:15am. Find us on Facebook at "Weaverville Church of the Nazarene"
Contact the church office at 623-6154. Website: Nazarenes.net

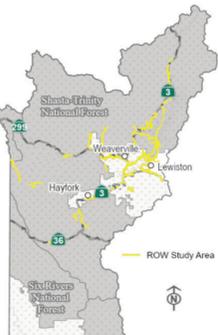
the Outpost Church
A CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE CHURCH

Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24, 7PM-Online
pre-Christmas Sunday Service, Dec. 20, 10:30AM-Online

A YouTube link will be provided at the website below
www.theoutpostchurch.cc

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Provide your comments at the Zoom Webinar, by email, or by mail.

Please attend the Zoom Webinar public scoping meetings:

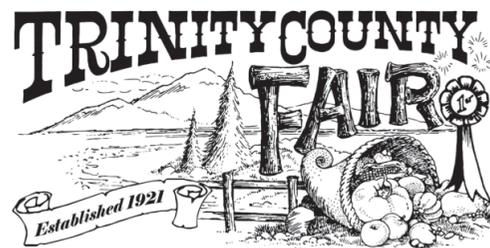
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Western Area Power Administration
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Folsom, CA 95630
Email: saare@wapa.gov
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For more information, visit: <https://www.wapa.gov/regions/SN/environment/Pages/WRAP.aspx>.



The Trinity County Fair Board of Directors has one opening (a 4 year term = January 2021 - January 2025) which will be filled at the Virtual Annual Board Meeting, January 21, 2021 at 6:00pm. These are volunteer positions and you must become an Association Member to be eligible for election.

Anyone interested in serving on the Board of Directors in this position should call the Fair Office at 628-5223 for more information, or you can mail your Letter of Interest to:

Trinity County Fair Association
PO Box 880, Hayfork, CA 96041,
or drop it off at the Fair Office
Monday-Thursday from 10am-3pm.

All letters must be received in our office by Wednesday, January 13, 2021 to be included in the TCFA Board Agenda Packet.



TONY REED | THE TRINITY JOURNAL

Bad moon rising

Through rain clouds on the horizon behind Junction City School, the full moon appeared colorless last weekend as the last full moon of a tumultuous year.

Planners' terms come to an end

BY SALLY MORRIS
THE TRINITY JOURNAL

The terms of three Trinity County planning commissioners ended at the close of 2020 along with those of the three Trinity County supervisors who originally nominated them to represent their districts.

In recognition, the board closed out its year with the adoption of three proclamations of appreciation to Graham Matthews, Diana Stewart and Dan Frasier for their years of volunteer service on the commission.

The most senior among them is Graham Matthews of Weaverville who was nominated by District 2 Sup. Judy Morris to serve in September 2011. Diana Stewart of Hayfork and Michael "Dan" Frasier of Hettenshaw were each appointed to the commission in February 2013. Stewart was nominated by former Sup. Karl Fisher to represent District 3 and Frasier was nominated by Sup. John Fenley to represent District 5.

All nominations to the planning commission are subject to board approval and Stewart was reappointed after Bobbi Chadwick was elected to the District 3 seat on the Board of Supervisors.

As three new county supervisors, Jill Cox (District 2), Liam Gogan (District 3) and Frasier (District 5), take their seats in January, one of their first tasks will be to nominate a planning commissioner to represent their districts and obtain board approval.

Stewart said she had been asked by Gogan to retain her seat until a replacement has been named, and she agreed.

The other two planning commissioners retaining their seats are Mike McHugh from Trinity Center for District 1 and Duncan McIntosh of Junction City for District 4.

Weaverville Community Forest planning meeting Friday

TRINITY JOURNAL STAFF

Development of an eight-year update of the Weaverville Community Forest Strategic Plan is currently underway by the Trinity County Resource Conservation District with the next in a series of community input meetings scheduled for this Friday, Jan. 8, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Members of the Weaverville Community Forest steering committee will conduct the meeting via Zoom to discuss and hear public input on the RCD's progress on the 2021-2018 strategic plan update and Community Forest management objectives. A meeting agenda will be published on social media sites by Thursday.

In general, the steering committee hopes to wrap up the theme of forest management at Friday's meeting. Future meetings will cover education/outreach, recreation and likely finances/funding. These themes are to provide structure to the conversations to focus on related topics in one meeting. Input on additional topics is also welcome.

The Zoom link and other meeting information can be found online at www.tcrd.net/wcf and Facebook event page named Weaverville Community Forest Strategic Plan Meeting. To call in from any telephone, the number is +1-669-900-9128. Meeting ID is 859 4281 3336; passcode is 866387.

The Weaverville Community Forest steering committee is a group of local interested parties, volunteers and agency partner representatives. Anyone interested in the WCF may join at any time for any length. There are no required commitments or participation.

The Weaverville Community Forest is an award-winning stewardship partnership between the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and Trinity County Resource Conservation District to manage 14,963 acres of federal land in the Weaverville basin for forest health objectives.

It supports a variety of activities including public use trails, firewood sales, fuels reduction projects, forest thinning and logging with the overarching goals of high visual quality, fire resiliency and improved forest health. The purpose of the strategic plan update is to identify and prioritize future projects and possible funding sources within the eight-year planning timeframe.

Countywide wildfire protection meeting Thursday evening

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District and Trinity County Fire Safe Council invite all interested parties to attend the Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, via Zoom.

Event details and the Zoom link can be found on the Trinity County Fire Safe Council Facebook.

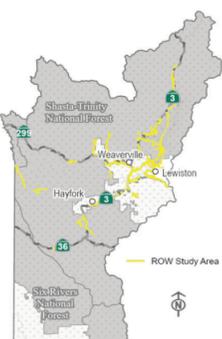
The Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan projects that were proposed in the 2019 community meetings have been ranked based on wildfire history, ingress/egress access, proximity to the wildland urban interface, and proximity to essential infrastructure. The goal of this meeting is to discuss the prioritization of these projects and collect input for the 2020 CWPP update.

Current maps and descriptions of projects can be found on the Trinity County Fire Safe Council website under the "Projects" tab.

The Trinity County RCD and FSC have been a part of developing the County's CWPP since the first drafting in 1999, signed in 2001. This will be the project's fourth update. This project is funded by Cal Fire.

Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability, and Asset Protection (WRAP) Project VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

The Trinity Public Utilities District (Trinity PUD) and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) are proposing a proactive right-of-way (ROW) expansion and vegetation management project to **reduce fire risk** to the surrounding communities and public lands, as well as to **increase electrical reliability** to maintain critical services in the local communities.



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- 5 p.m. Friday for legal & display advertising.
- Noon Monday for classified ads.
- 4 p.m. Friday for Press Releases.
- Letters and Editorial copy.





BP agreed to \$100 million settlement after the Gulf of Mexico oil spill in 2010 killed some 100,000 birds. GERALD HERBERT/AP FILE

Trump administration scales back wild bird protections

Critics say billions could die

Matthew Brown
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS, Mont. — The Trump administration on Tuesday finalized changes that weaken the government's enforcement powers under a century-old law protecting most American wild bird species, brushing aside warnings that billions of birds could die as a result.

Federal wildlife officials have acknowledged the move could result in more deaths of birds that land in oil pits or fly into power lines or other structures.

A federal judge in August had blocked the administration's prior attempt to change how the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is enforced.

But urged on by industry groups, the Trump administration has remained adamant that the act has been wielded inappropriately for decades, to penalize companies and other entities that kill birds accidentally.

More than 1,000 species are covered under the migratory bird law, and the move to lessen enforcement standards has drawn a sharp backlash from organizations that advocate on behalf of an estimated 46 million U.S. birdwatchers.

Conservationists said Tuesday they would push President-elect Joe Biden to reverse the Interior Department rule, which blocks officials from bringing criminal charges unless birds are specifically targeted for death or injury.

Former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe and independent scientists have said the change could cause a huge spike in bird deaths — potentially billions of birds in coming decades — at a time when species across North America already are in steep decline.

Industry sources kill an estimated 450 million to 1.1 billion birds annually, out of an overall 7.2 billion birds in North America, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and recent studies. Many companies have sought to reduce bird deaths in recent decades by working in cooperation with wildlife officials, but the incentive to participate in such efforts drops without the threat of criminal liability.

The 1918 migratory bird law came after many U.S. bird populations had been decimated by hunting and poaching — much of it for feathers for wom-



Dan Ashe, former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, says the Migratory Bird Treaty Act's threat of prosecution served as "a brake on industry" that had likely saved billions of birds. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP FILE

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will not prosecute landowners, industry and other individuals for accidentally killing a migratory bird."

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt

en's hats.

The highest-profile enforcement case bought under the migratory bird act resulted in a \$100 million settlement by BP, after the Gulf of Mexico oil spill in 2010 killed some 100,000 birds.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials said the latest proposal was meant to match up with a 2017 legal decision that effectively ended criminal enforcement under the act during most of Trump's presidency. In the August court ruling that struck down that legal opinion, U.S. District Judge Valerie Caproni in New York said the law applies to all bird deaths, not just those that were intentional.

Over the decades, federal courts have been split on whether companies can be prosecuted under the migratory bird law, with appeals courts ruling in favor of industry three times and siding against companies twice.

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt said the change finalized Tuesday "simply reaffirms the original meaning and intent of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act."

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will not prosecute landowners, industry and other individuals for accidentally killing a migratory bird," he said.

Noah Greenwald, of the Center for Biological Diversity, said Trump officials were giving oil companies and other industries "a license to kill birds."

"Vast numbers of birds will be electrocuted by power lines, drowned in oil waste pits and killed in other easily preventable ways," Greenwald said.

EPA curbs use of health studies in forming policy

Critics say rule loosens standards, endangers lives

Ellen Knickmeyer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Environmental Protection Agency released one of its last major rollbacks under the Trump administration on Tuesday, limiting what evidence it will consider about risks of pollutants in a way that opponents say could cripple future public health regulation.

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said the new rule, which restricts what findings from public health studies the agency can consider in crafting health protections, was made in the name of transparency about government decision-making. "We're going to take all this information and shine light on it," Wheeler said Tuesday, in unveiling the terms of the new rule in a virtual appearance hosted by a conservative think tank.

"I don't think we get enough credit as an administration about wanting to open up ... to sunlight and scrutiny," Wheeler said of the Trump administration, which has already rolled back dozens of public health and environmental protections.

Opponents say the latest rule would threaten patient confidentiality and privacy of individuals in public health studies, and call the requirement an overall ruse to handicap future regulation.

The kind of research findings that appear targeted in the new rule "present the most direct and persuasive evidence of pollution's adverse health effects," said Richard Revesz, an expert in pollution law at the New York University School of Law.

"Ignoring them will lead to uninformed and insufficiently stringent standards, causing avoidable deaths and illnesses," Revesz said in a statement.

Wheeler said the rule will go into effect Wednesday, just one day after its final terms were made public, an unusually brief period. The change comes after hundreds of thousands of earlier objections from scientists, public-health experts, regulators, academics, environmental advocates and others in public hearings and written remarks, in some of the strongest protests of recent years to a proposed EPA rule change.

Wheeler signed the rule last Wednesday. EPA declined requests to release it until Tuesday.

The new regulation would restrict regulators' consideration of findings from public health studies unless the underlying data from them are made public. The rule deals with so-called dose response findings, which look at harm suffered at varying exposures to a pollutant or other toxic agent.

Some industry and conservative groups have pushed for the change for decades, calling public health studies that hold confidential potentially identifying data about the test subjects "secret science."

The change could limit not only future public health protections, but "force the agency to revoke decades of clean air protections," Chris Zarba, former head of the EPA's Science Advisory Board, said in a statement.

Wheeler said Wednesday that the increased requirement for public disclosure would only increase public acceptance of EPA regulation.

Public health studies — such as Harvard's 1990s Six Cities study, which drew on anonymous, confidential health data from thousands of people to better establish links between air pollution and higher mortality — have been instrumental in crafting health and environmental rules. The Six Cities study led to new limits on air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

Wheeler was equivocal Tuesday on tossing out that pivotal study in particular as a basis for health rules. "It can still be used and probably will be used," he said. "It could still pass muster."

The EPA's final rule also deleted a section from its original proposal that would have specifically required regulators to consider a questioned scientific model backed by proponents of a theory that radiation and similar threats are not harmful at low doses, and can be beneficial. The scientific community for decades has held that all exposure to the most damaging form of radiation has risks.

The Associated Press first reported on expert concerns about that part of the rule. The EPA at the time denied any link to the controversial theory. However, the Los Angeles Times, citing emails obtained under open records laws, later reported that the theory's most prominent backer, a toxicologist named Edward Calabrese, had worked with EPA officials in crafting that section of the rule.

The EPA final rule released Tuesday cited "significant comment" in opposition in saying it had removed those specific mentions.

The EPA has been one of the most active agencies in carrying out President Donald Trump's mandate to roll back regulations that conservative groups have identified as being unnecessary and burdensome to industry.

Many of the changes face court challenges and can be reversed by executive action or by lengthier bureaucratic process. But undoing them would take time and effort by the incoming Biden administration, which also has ambitious goals to fight climate-damaging fossil fuel emissions and lessen the impact of pollutants on lower-income and minority communities.

Kenosha officer who shot Blake won't face charges

Todd Richmond and Michael Tarm
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KENOSHA, Wis. — A Wisconsin prosecutor announced Tuesday that he will not file criminal charges against a white police officer who shot a Black man in the back in Kenosha last summer, leaving him paralyzed and setting off sometimes violent protests in the city.

Officer Rusten Sheskey's shooting of Jacob Blake on Aug. 23, captured on bystander video, turned the nation's spotlight on Wisconsin during a summer marked by protests over police brutality and racism. More than 250 people were arrested in the days that followed, including 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse, who is charged in the fatal shootings of two men and the wounding of a third.

Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Graveley said Tuesday that he "would have to disprove the clear expression of these officers that they had to fire a weapon to defend themselves."

He added: "I do not believe the state ... would be able to prove that the privilege of self-defense is not available."

Ben Crump, an attorney for Blake's family, expressed disappointment with the decision, saying it "further destroys trust in our justice system" and sends a message that it is OK for police to abuse their power. He said he will continue to move forward with a lawsuit and fight for systemic change in policing.

"We feel this decision failed not only Jacob and his family, but the community that protested and demanded justice," Crump and his co-counsel said in a statement, adding: "We urge Americans to continue to raise their voices and demand change in peaceful and positive ways during this emotional

time."

The Blake shooting happened three months after George Floyd died while being restrained by police officers in Minneapolis, a death that was captured on bystander video and sparked outrage and protests that spread across the United States and beyond.

Kenosha, a city of 100,000 on the Wisconsin-Illinois line about 60 miles north of Chicago, was braced for renewed protests ahead of the decision on charges against Sheskey, with concrete barricades and metal fencing surrounding the Kenosha County Courthouse and plywood protecting many businesses. The Common Council on Monday night unanimously approved an emergency resolution giving the mayor the power to impose curfews, among other things, and Gov. Tony Evers activated 500 National Guard troops to assist.

Sheskey was among officers responding to a woman who had reported her boyfriend was not supposed to be around. Cellphone video shows Blake walking to the driver-side door of an SUV as officers follow him with guns drawn, shouting. As Blake opens the door and leans into the SUV, Sheskey grabs his shirt from behind and fires.

The Kenosha police union said Blake was armed with a knife, and Sheskey ordered him several times to drop it but he would not. Sheskey's attorney, Brendan Matthews, said Sheskey fired because Blake started turning toward the officer while holding a knife.

Not charging the officer "continues the cycle of enabling police violence and evading accountability when they seriously injure and harm a Black person," said Chris Ott, executive director of the ACLU of Wisconsin.

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Pfizer

Continued from Page 1A

to recommend the vaccine made by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech called BNT162b2.

Members found the benefits of the vaccine outweighed the risks for most people 16 years old and older.

The companies are requesting an “emergency use authorization,” a more rapid review just shy of a full vaccine approval. While they have compiled as much short-term safety and effectiveness data as is typical with any vaccine, the process has been compressed, and it’s not clear how long the vaccine will continue to be effective.

Committee members also brought up other knowledge gaps they hope are filled in coming months, including how safe and effective the vaccine will be in pregnant and nursing women, in people with severe allergies, and in those who are immunocompromised from conditions such as HIV.

With the vote made, the committee’s recommendation now goes to the FDA, which could authorize the vaccine for emergency use as early as Friday. Once it’s authorized, vials of the vaccine will begin shipping to all 50 states.

One last important meeting will take place Sunday, when an advisory committee to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention meets to make a final recommendation on who should get the vaccine first when it is in very short supply.

While the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices doesn’t have regulatory power, providers receiving COVID-19 vaccine sign agreements to comply with committee guidelines. If that committee gives its thumbs up, mass vaccination could start Monday.

Thursday’s meeting of VRBPAC (pronounced verb-pack) came a day after the U.S. set a new daily record for COVID-19 deaths, topping 3,000 – nearly as many as died on 9/11.

Overall, the committee was satisfied with the safety and effectiveness data provided by Pfizer/BioNTech.

But Dr. Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, raised concerns about the allergic reactions in two British people who got the vaccine when it first became available there on Tuesday and had a strong allergic reaction.

He said he is not personally concerned about the safety of the vaccine and supports authorization but wants the companies to run a separate study of people with egg or peanut allergies to reassure them that the vaccine is safe. “This issue is not going to die until we have better data,” Offit said.

He also pointed out that it will be difficult for people with severe allergies to know if they are allergic to the ingredients in the vaccine. People who are allergic to any of its ingredients have been told to avoid vaccination, he said, but “if you look at the components of that vaccine, which has probably the longest chemical name of any vaccine I’ve ever seen, nobody’s going to look at that name and say ‘I’m allergic to that.’”

Dr. Arnold Monto, the committee’s chair and an epidemiologist at the University of Michigan’s School of Public Health agreed that more information on allergic reactions is warranted.

“Facts may be important, but perception drives a lot of decisions,” he said.

Layers of monitoring for problems

Watching for any adverse reactions among people who’ve gotten the vaccine is a major concern.

During the morning portion of the meeting, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Dr. Nancy Messonnier outlined the multiple systems that will monitor possible problems.

New to the vaccine world is V-SAFE, a smartphone-based after-vaccination health checker that people who get CO-



In a 17-4 vote with one abstention, a government panel concluded that the COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech appears safe and effective for emergency use.

AP IMAGES

VID-19 vaccine can sign up for if they choose.

It will send text messages and web surveys to those who do, and feed information about any health problems directly back to CDC. Anyone who reports a medically significant adverse event will get a telephone call from a CDC staffer to find out more.

Another monitoring system is VAERS, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. This is a joint CDC and FDA system established in 1990. It collects reports about adverse events from vaccines from health care professionals, vaccine manufacturers and the public.

Any adverse events that are unexpected, appear to happen more often than expected or have unusual patterns are followed up with specific studies.

The Department of Defense also has its own system for following adverse events among its personnel, as does the Indian Health Service.

Finally, there’s the Vaccine Safety Datalink, a network of nine large integrated health care organizations across the United States that conduct active surveillance and research on vaccine side effects. Because these health systems have access to their members’ medical records, they can often see patterns that might not immediately be visible to other networks.

Ethical considerations of ongoing trials

The group also discussed the ethics of how to deal with trial participants who received a placebo rather than an active vaccine.

So far, all the COVID-19 vaccine trials have provided half of their participants an active vaccine and half a placebo or a vaccine against another condition.

When people signed onto the Pfizer trial, they agreed to remain “blinded” for two years, not knowing whether they received the active vaccine or placebo.

But once there is a safe, effective vaccine reaching the public, experts are concerned about the ethics of leaving half the volunteers unprotected. They also are worried that many participants, who believe they got the placebo because they did not react to their shots, will drop out of the trial, compromising its longer-term results.

To avoid that, Dr. Steven Goodman, an associate dean and professor of medicine at the Stanford University School of Medicine, urged the group to consider changing the trial design.

He suggested that companies not tell trial participants whether they received vaccine or placebo earlier in the trial but give them whichever they didn’t get before whenever they would normally become eligible for the vaccine.

That way, they would remain “blinded” to which arm of the study they were in, maintaining the integrity of the scientific study, Goodman said.

He also suggested putting them at the head of the line among their peers, so that a healthy young person, who

would typically not be eligible to get a vaccine until April or May, would not jump ahead of an older person at high risk of serious COVID-19 disease. Instead, they would be among the first of the young, healthy people to be offered a vaccine.

That would remove the incentive they would otherwise have to drop out of the trial, Goodman said, and provide them a reward of sorts for volunteering to help with the research.

This “deferred randomization” design, he argued, requires ethical and scientific compromise, but is fair and justifiable.

At a certain point, he said, maybe in about a year when vaccines are widely available, trials will no longer be ethically able to justify including a placebo group but will have to compare vaccines against each other.

Public concerns expressed

In the early afternoon, the committee heard from members of the public, including speakers who expressed concern that the trials hadn’t yet included young children, pregnant or nursing women, or large numbers of people with HIV and other immunocompromising conditions – all groups Pfizer has promised to study in the future.

Several questioned the speed of the research and others demanded more Black people and senior citizens be included in the research before the vaccine is authorized. They also asked for continued research after the vaccine is authorized, which the company and the government plan to conduct.

Vaccine hesitancy also came up several times.

Dr. Peter Lurie, president of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a consumer advocacy organization, told committee members he was impressed by the apparent safety and effectiveness of the vaccine and urged them to sign off on it.

But he said he is worried that not enough public attention has been directed to the vaccine’s side effects, which appear to be extensive, including pain at the injection site, headaches, fever, muscles aches and chills.

“We are already facing significant levels of vaccine hesitancy,” he said, “and if patients are not forewarned about these potential events, word will surely spread rapidly potentially exacerbating that hesitancy problem.”

Lurie, a former FDA associate commissioner, also expressed concern about trial participants who received a placebo instead of an active vaccine.

“No (study) subject who has put their

body on the line in a vaccine study should be at a disadvantage in terms of vaccine accessibility as a result of their participation,” he said, adding that he supports the idea of vaccinating placebo recipients as soon as their peer group becomes eligible.

“I believe this will facilitate the collection of essential data while honoring the contributions of the tens of thousands of people whose altruistic efforts have brought us to where we are today,” he said.

Evan Fein, a New Yorker who participated in an early trial of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, described his experience with the vaccine, hoping, he said, to reassure people of its safety.

He had passing chills, fever and arm pain, he said, but no lasting effects. “It’s been more than 5 months now since my first shot and I can happily report that there were none,” Fein said.

This vaccine has not been rushed, he said, rather other medical innovations move too slowly. “Pfizer has just set the gold standard for future clinical trials. Let’s live up to that,” Fein said.

He urged the panel to recommend authorizing the vaccine.

“The skepticism of some does not justify delay for others who desperately want to take it,” he said. “The burden of proof is on those who don’t want to authorize the vaccine. Absent a compelling reason not to authorize it, it is simple immoral and unethical to deny the vaccine to healthcare workers and first responders who want it.”

After the public presentations, Pfizer and BioNTech executives presented data on their vaccine and the FDA followed with its findings.

The New England Journal of Medicine Thursday published a peer-reviewed version of the data from the late-stage Pfizer/BioNTech trial. The study confirmed numbers that the companies and the FDA have already made public and found that the vaccine was safe and highly effective.

“The results demonstrate that COVID-19 can be prevented by immunization, provide proof of concept that RNA-based vaccines are a promising new approach for protecting humans against infectious diseases, and demonstrate the speed with which an RNA-based vaccine can be developed with a sufficient investment of resources,” the study concluded.

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