

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

**January 12 & 14, 2021  
Virtual Scoping Meeting**

**Western Area Power Administration  
Trinity Public Utilities District**



# Meeting Agenda

- Meeting Participation
- Introduction/Stakeholders
- Meeting Purpose
- WRAP Project Presentation
- Public Comments on the WRAP Project



# Meeting Participation

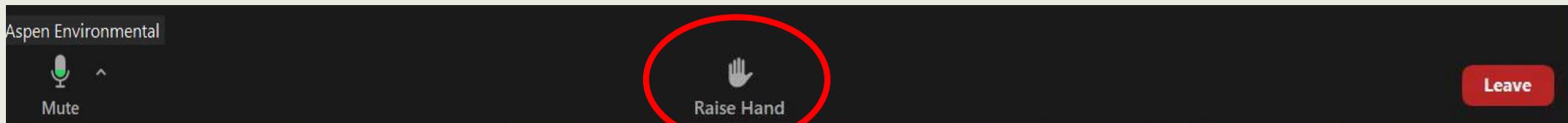
- Zoom meeting information/procedures
  - No video for meeting participants
  - This meeting is being recorded via Zoom
  - All attendees will be muted during the presentation and public comment period until called upon



# Meeting Participation via Zoom

## On-Line Zoom Scoping Meeting:

- Oral Scoping Comments: Use the **RAISE HAND** Zoom feature to be put into a queue to provide oral scoping comments
- The meeting organizer will select you based on the order you raised your hand – meeting organizer will also unmute you to speak





# Meeting Participation via Zoom

## Call-in to Zoom Scoping Meeting:

- Oral Comments: push **\*9** (Raise Hand) to use the [RAISE HAND](#) Zoom feature to be put into a queue to provide oral scoping comments
- Push **\*6** to [UNMUTE](#) yourself once you are called upon
- We will ask you to please state your name and affiliation before presenting your question or comment



# Introductions/Stakeholders

## **Lead Agency:**

- Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) – Federal Lead Agency
- Trinity Public Utilities District (Trinity PUD) – State Lead Agency

## **Land Managers (Cooperating Agencies):**

- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

## **Environmental Contractor:**

- Aspen Environmental Group



# Introduction/Stakeholders

## Other Agencies:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)
- Regional Water Quality Control (RWQCB)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries
- Trinity County



# Meeting Purpose

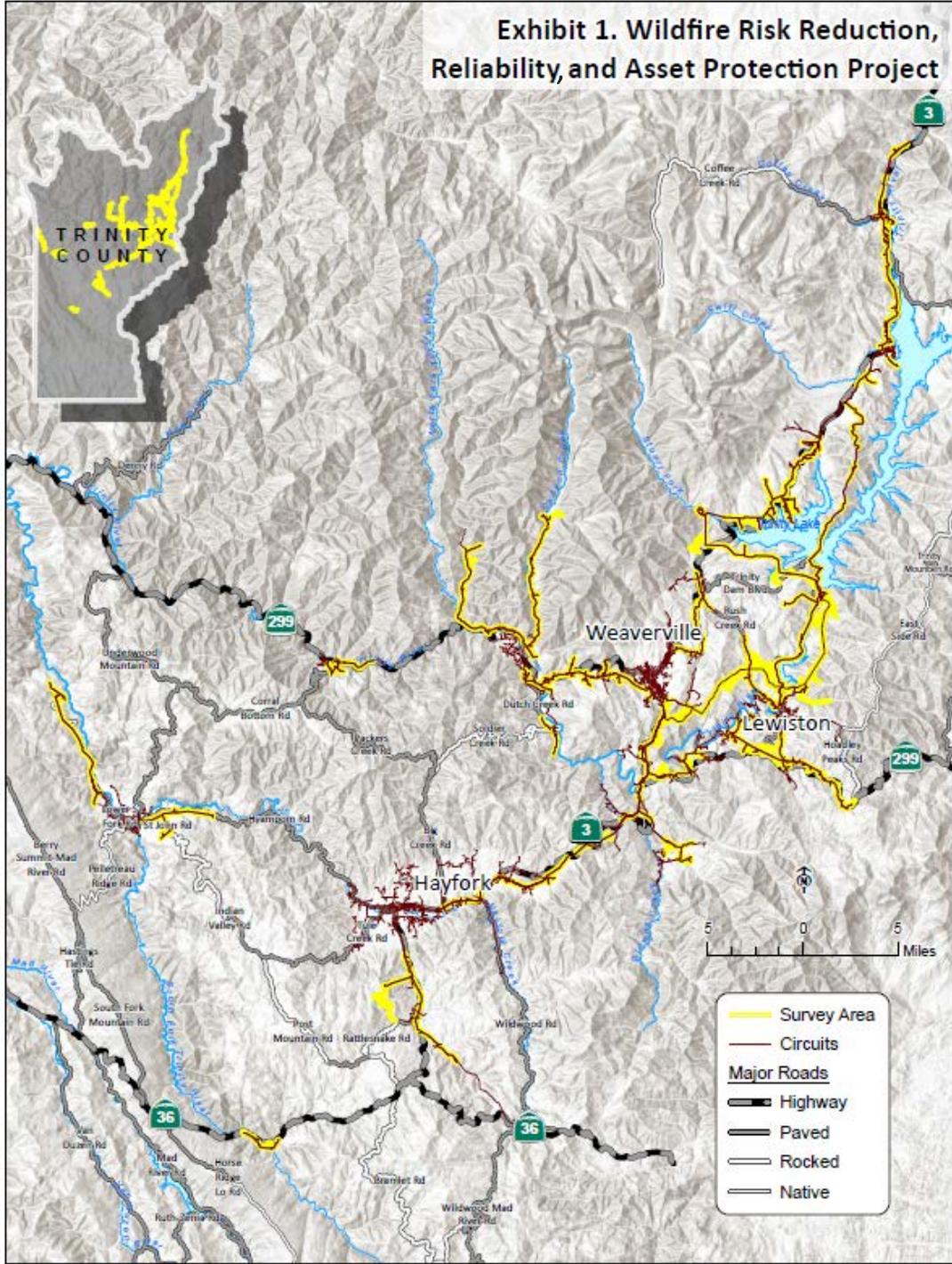
- To obtain agency and public input and comment on the scope of the issues and analysis that WAPA and Trinity PUD should consider in the preparation of an EIS/EIR
- To ensure that all oral comments presented today are recorded and considered in the preparation of the EIS/EIR



# The Purpose of the WRAP Project

- Reduce the risk of wildfire by proactive right-of-way (ROW) expansion and vegetation management
- Enhance protection of the WAPA and Trinity PUD electrical transmission and distribution line systems
- Improve reliability of delivering power from WAPA to Trinity PUD
- Improve transmission line ROW access by road improvements
- Protect the health and safety of the Trinity-Weaverville community and surrounding biological and natural resources from wildfire

**Exhibit 1. Wildfire Risk Reduction,  
Reliability, and Asset Protection Project**



# WRAP Project Area



# Proposed WRAP Project

## Short-term ROW Maintenance:

- Expand Trinity PUD's ~217-mile utility ROW from 20 feet to up to 130 feet in high fire risk areas on USFS, BLM, BOR, State and private lands.
- Expand WAPA's ~18-mile utility ROW 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.
- Vary clearance distance on either side of the centerline based on topography, land use conflicts, sensitive resources, and other factors.



# Proposed WRAP Project

## Short-term ROW Maintenance (continued):

- Improve 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.
- Clear vegetation in the ROW using a combination of mechanical, manual, and herbicidal control methods.
- Use of controlled burns of cut vegetation piles as a tool used to remove wildfire fuels from expanded ROWs (burning for Trinity PUD only).



# Proposed WRAP Project

## Short-term ROW Maintenance (continued):

- Timber sale contracts with the USFS, BLM, BOR, State and private landowners to facilitate vegetation removal.
- WAPA and Trinity PUD 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 and ROW authorizations with State Lands Commission.
- WAPA and Trinity PUD would also acquire expanded ROW/easements on private lands.



# Proposed WRAP Project

## Long-term ROW Maintenance:

- Prepare comprehensive operation and maintenance (O&M) plans for long-term maintenance of WAPA and Trinity PUD's transmission and distribution systems, including:
  - Inspection/system management
  - Vegetation management
  - Access road maintenance
  - Equipment/system upgrades
- Include long-term O&M activities and sensitive environmental resources in a GIS database - information will be shared with applicable agencies



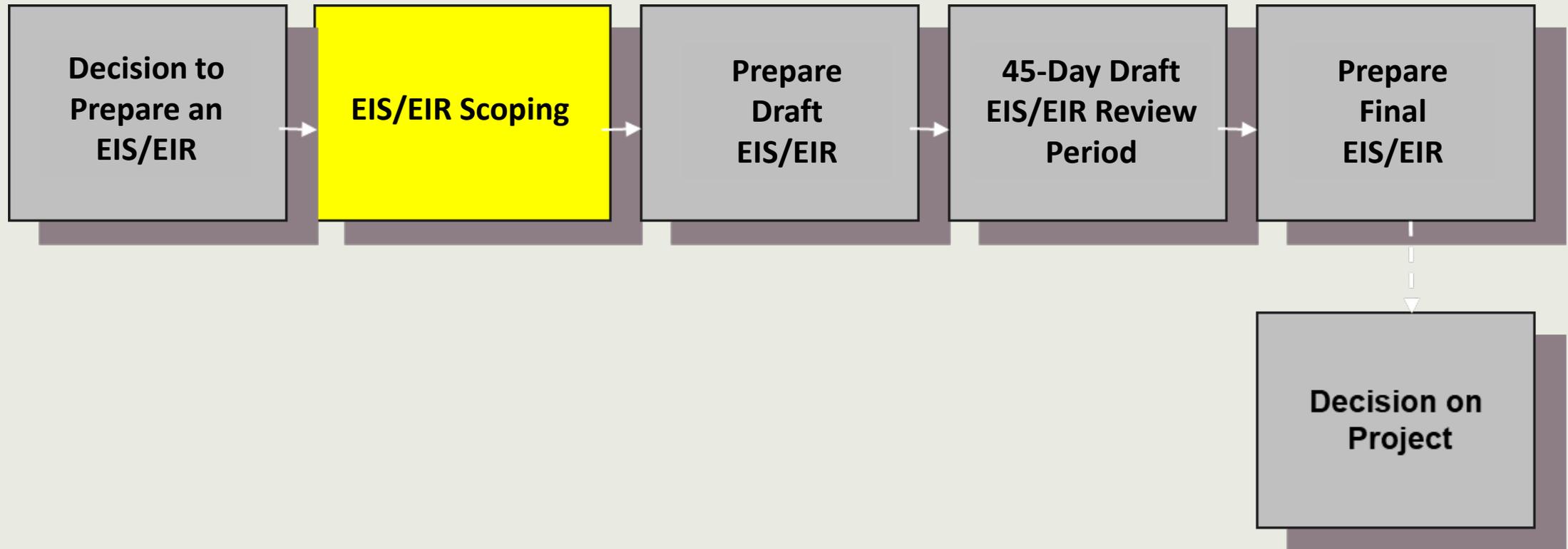
# NEPA/CEQA Environmental Review

## Objectives:

- Assess potential impacts of the Proposed Project
- Identify ways to avoid or reduce impacts (e.g., alternatives, mitigation)
- Disclose potential impacts to the public
- Provide environmental information to decision makers



# NEPA/CEQA Process





# Environmental Issue Areas

- 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



# WRAP Project Schedule (tentative)

- NOI/NOP (extended 50-day public review) December 11, 2020
- Scoping Meeting #1 January 12, 2021
- Scoping Meeting #2 January 14, 2021
- Scoping Comments Due January 29, 2021
- Release of Draft EIS/EIR & Public Meeting August/Sept. 2021
- Release of Final EIS/EIR April 2022



# Helpful Scoping Comments Include:

- Identify the location and extent of environmental impacts
- Recommend issues to be addressed in the EIS/EIR
- Recommend alternatives that would avoid or reduce impacts of the proposed project



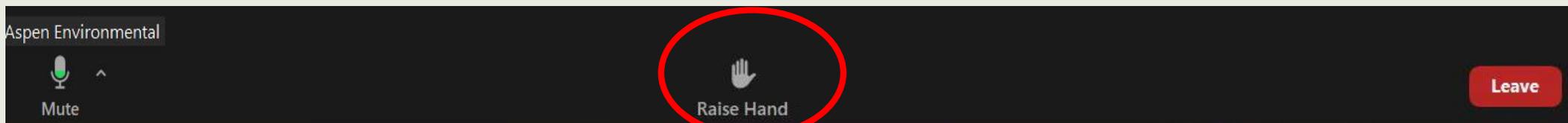
# Scoping Comments via Zoom

- Attendees will be muted until we unmute you.
- **Oral Scoping Comments:** If you would like to make a scoping comment, please use the [RAISE HAND](#) feature and we will unmute you and call on you to speak.
- You can also email or mail comments.
- Comments are due: **January 29, 2021.**

## [If joining via telephone ONLY:](#)

- Press \*9 to raise your hand
- When called on: Press \*6 to unmute

*Please limit comments to 3 minutes or less  
(you may also submit written comments)*





# Written comments must be received or postmarked by **January 29, 2021**

Email comments to:

**Saare@wapa.gov**  
(preferred option)\*

- Please write ***“Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability, and Asset Protection Project”*** in the email subject line.
- Please be sure to include your name, address, and phone number on all comments.

Or send via mail to:

**Western Area Power Administration**  
Attn: **LaTisha Saare**  
Environmental Supervisor  
114 Parkshore Drive  
Folsom, CA 95630

***You are strongly encouraged to submit written comments!***



# Thank You for Your Participation!

- For more information:
- **Project Website:** Detailed documents, updates on the project schedule, and comment deadlines.
  - <https://www.wapa.gov/regions/SN/environment/Pages/WRAP.aspx>.
  - **E-mail:** Saare@WAPA.gov

*Please make sure to provide us with your e-mail address for future notifications!*