The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering authorizing the expenditure of funds awarded to the Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power. The proposed project consists of the construction and installation of a combination of new wells and conveyance facilities consisting of new and replacement transmission and distribution system pipelines. The Department intends to drill and/or equip a total of six wells within the Big Bear Lake, Moonridge, and Fawnskin areas. The proposed project also includes the installation of approximately 37,121 linear feet of pipeline throughout the Department's service area.

The proposed project includes the testing, development and equipping of six water production wells within the Department's Big Bear Lake/Moonridge and Fawnskin water systems. The drilling and development of each production well will take approximately 3 to 4 weeks. The area around the well sites will be disturbed to the least extent possible (typically 100' x 100') and, after the well installation is completed, the temporarily disturbed areas will be returned to present conditions. The wells will be drilled using the fluid reverse circulation rotary drilling method and will require at least two separate drilling passes. A submersible pump will be located inside the wells when completed. The wells will be enclosed in a 15-foot by 20-foot wood frame building designed and painted to blend with the surrounding buildings.

Additionally, the proposed project includes the installation of approximately 37,121 linear feet of water distribution pipeline. The proposed pipelines will range in size from 8 to 12-inches in diameter. The pipeline will be installed by opening a trench about 60-inches wide and up to 10-feet deep along the proposed alignments; installing the new water pipeline; and then closing the trench, including compacting the soil cover to meet compaction requirements needed to protect the pipeline. Construction equipment required for pipe installation would include, but not be limited to the following: two excavators, two loaders, one crane, one dozer, one air compressor, one welder, one water pump, one water truck, and one generator. The estimated number of construction personnel present at any given time is 12. The estimated length of pipeline to be installed each day is 300 feet per team. Two teams laying pipeline at the same time would install 600 feet per day which equates to about 80 days of construction. At this time it is not clear whether all of the pipe would be installed in sequence (about 4 months), or whether pipeline installation would be spread out over a longer period.

In compliance with the NEPA, The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (USDA RUS) as the lead agency for the Initial Study/ Environmental has prepared an Initial Study (IS)/Environmental Assessment (EA), which examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives along with the no action alternative. EPA will adopt the IS/EA. As a result of the IS/EA, the EPA has determined the proposed action will not have a significant impact on the

quality of the human environment.

Interested persons, including those who disagree with this proposal may submit comments to EPA Region 9 within 30 calendar days from the date the IS/EA is issued. No administrative action will be taken on this proposed project prior to the expiration of the comment period which ends on April XX, 2010. Comments, via letter, fax or email, should be sent to Howard Kahan at the address listed below. The comments will be forwarded to the USDA RUS.

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