

**UPDATED NOTICE OF PREPARATION
OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
(STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2016042066)**

Date: September 2, 2016
To: Agencies and Interested Parties
From: Placer County
Subject: Updated Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows Base-to-Base Gondola Project
Review Period: September 2, 2016 to October 3, 2016 (additional 30-day period)

Squaw Valley Ski Holdings, LLC (project applicant) is proposing the Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows Base-to-Base Gondola Project (project or B2B), which would include installation, operation, and maintenance of a winter operations only gondola connecting the Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows ski areas. The project would also include installation, operation, and maintenance of an avalanche control system within proximity to the Alpine Meadows portion of the gondola alignment. The project requires analysis pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

PREVIOUS NOTICES

On April 22, 2016, Placer County (County) issued the original Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the proposed B2B project. The NOP was issued in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 15082) with the intent of informing agencies and interested parties that an environmental impact report (EIR) would be prepared for the above-referenced project.

Concurrent with posting of the original NOP in support of the EIR, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) published a separate Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant NEPA to evaluate the environmental effects resulting from the USFS amending the existing Special Use Permit issued for the operation and maintenance of Alpine Meadows to allow construction and operation of the proposed B2B project.

The NOP and NOI indicated that the EIR and EIS would each be prepared and considered for approval separately by Placer County and the USFS, respectively.

SCOPING PROCESS

The NOP was issued on April 22, 2016 and comments were accepted through May 23, 2016. The NOI was issued on April 29, 2016 and comments were accepted through May 31, 2016. Two public scoping meetings were held on May 9, 2016 (2:00-4:00 p.m. and 6:00-8:00 p.m.) to inform interested parties about the project, and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide comments on the scope and content of the environmental documents. During the scoping meeting it was explained that the County and USFS intended to prepare separate environmental review documents, an EIR for the County and an EIS for the USFS.

In part, as a response to public and agency comments received during the scoping process, as well as other factors, the County and USFS have decided to prepare a single joint EIS/EIR rather than two separate documents as originally indicated. As such, the County and the USFS have prepared this updated NOP to

inform the public of the joint EIS/EIR and to invite further input on the scope and content of the environmental analysis in the context of the single joint EIS/EIR.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

No elements of the project description have changed. Please refer to the project description in the original NOP, which is available for public review on Placer County's website:

<http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/EnvCoordSvcs/EIR.aspx>.

PROVIDING COMMENTS

An additional 30-day period is being provided during which agencies and interested parties may submit additional comments on topics to be addressed in the EIS/EIR. All comments previously submitted to the County and the USFS during the original scoping process will be considered in the EIS/EIR and there is no need to resubmit those comments.

Comments should be provided no later than 5:00 p.m. on **October 3, 2016** to: Shirlee Herrington, Environmental Coordination Services, Community Development Resource Agency, 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190, Auburn, CA 95603 or cdraecs@placer.ca.gov.

All comments on environmental issues received during the public comment period will be considered and addressed in the Draft EIS/EIR, which is anticipated to be available for public review in summer 2017.