Print Form

Form F

Sample Summary for Electronic Document Submittal

15 copies of this document may be included when a Lead Agency is submitting electronic copies of environmental impact reports, negative declarations, mitigated negative declarations, or notices of preparation to the SCH. The SCH will still accept other summaries, such as an EIR summary prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123, attached to the electronic copies of the document.

SCH # _____

Lead Agency: City and County of San Francisco Planning Department

Project Title: Mountain Tunnel Improvements Project

Project Location: Various (*City*) Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties (*County*)

Please provide a Project Decription (Proposed Actions, location, and/or consequences).

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is proposing the Mountain Tunnel Improvements Project (project) to improve the condition of the existing Mountain Tunnel, and to ensure the tunnel's continued ability to reliably convey water to its customers in the Sierra foothills and San Francisco Bay Area. The project is in the central Sierra Nevada Mountain Range near the town of Groveland in Tuolumne County. The tunnel begins at Early Intake Reservoir on the Tuolumne River and extends approximately 19 miles west to Priest Reservoir, near the town of Groveland. Conditions in the tunnel interior vary along the alignment, with unlined sections on the east and concrete-lined sections on the west.

Currently, the tunnel has deficiencies that diminish its ability to reliably convey water to the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System and increase the difficulty of performing maintenance in the tunnel during normal operation. These deficiencies include deteriorating tunnel lining, accumulation of debris in the tunnel, and increased groundwater infiltration; and reduced operational flexibility, caused by the inaccessibility of the tunnel in certain locations and flow fluctuations or unregulated flow in the tunnel.

To address these deficiencies, the following improvements are proposed:

- Remove debris that has settled on the bottom of the tunnel and that contributes to turbidity and is impeding hydraulic flow
- Address deterioration by repairing defects in the 11 miles of existing tunnel lining
- Improve maintenance access by paving currently unlined portions of the tunnel
- Reduce river water infiltration and protect tunnel water quality by constructing a bypass tunnel (siphon extension) at South Fork Siphon

Please identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Cultural Resources - potential disturbance to currently unknown, buried archeological deposits

- Mitigation Measure M-CR-2a: Accidental Discovery (Environmental Planning Archeological Mitigation Measure I)
- Mitigation Measure M-CR-2b: Archeological Monitoring (Environmental Planning Archeological Mitigation Measure II)
- Mitigation Measure M-CR-4. Tribal Cultural Resources, Tribal Consultation and Implementation of Tribal Cultural Resources Treatment Plan

Noise - construction noise for nearby residences

- Mitigation Measure M-NO-4: Implement Noise Control Measures for Construction Activities at the Big Creek Shaft and Second Garrote Areas

Air Quality - Construction particulate matter emissions and health risks for nearby residences

- Mitigation Measure M-AQ-2: Minimize Off-Road Construction Equipment Emissions at the Big Creek Shaft Area

Biological Resources - disturbance to nesting birds, impacts to bats, and removal of oak trees

- Mitigation Measure M-BI-1a: Worker Environmental Awareness Training for Construction
- Mitigation Measure M-BI-1b: Raptors (including the California Spotted Owl) and Migratory Bird Nesting Survey and Protection during Construction
- Mitigation Measure M-BI-1c: Maternity Roosts and Special-Status Bats Day Roosts
- Mitigation Measure M-BI-2: Oak Woodland Mitigation

Agricultural and Forest Resources - loss of oak woodlands

- Mitigation Measure M-BI-2: Oak Woodland Mitigation

If applicable, please describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Disturbance to biological and cultural resources during construction
Tree removal during construction
Operational effects of the project in terms of diversions of water released to the Tuolumne River

The following public and/or agency comments were received:
• Caltrans. Requested to review all project-related documentation. Also requested notification in the event of any change in use or scope of work concerning the Caltrans-owned Staging Area A8/9-S6, which would be shared by the SFPUC and Caltrans during construction. (Section A, Project Description)
• Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Commented that the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is responsible for protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state. Also provided information on various regulatory and permitting requirements for the SFPUC to consider. (Section C, Compatibility with Existing Zoning and Plans; and Section E. 15, Hydrology and Water Quality)
• Camp Tawonga. Commented that the organization is concerned that the project may disrupt the use of roads and recreational areas in the vicinity of the camp. (Section E.5, Transportation and Circulation; and Section E.10, Recreation)
• Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center. Requested to be added to the notification list for future project documents. Recommended that the environmental review document include information about the effects of construction and operation of this project on the following subjects: water waste quantities, efficiency of water transport, watershed levels, sediment loading, and sensitive plants and wildlife within the project boundary. (Section E.13, Biological Resources; and Section E.15, Hydrology and Water Quality)

Please provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

CA Fish and Game Region 4
Regional Water Quality Control Board Region 5