PLACER COUNTY



Community Development Resource Agency Environmental Coordination Services 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190 Auburn, CA 95603

Phone: (530) 745-3132 Fax: (530) 745-3080 cdraecs@placer.ca.gov

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT EIR FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Placer County has released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project listed below:

PROPOSED PROJECT: Cabin Creek Biomass Facility Project (PCPJ 20110376, State Clearinghouse# 2011122032)

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: July 27, 2012 – September 10, 2012

PROJECT LOCATION: The site is located at the Eastern Regional Materials Recovery Facility and Transfer Station, 900 Cabin Creek Road, within the unincorporated portion of Placer County, California. The site is approximately two miles south of Interstate 80 (I-80) at 0.30 miles west of State Route (SR) 89. The site is in Section 28, Township 17 North, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian. Site access is via Cabin Creek Road, off of SR 89.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Placer County is proposing to construct a two-megawatt (MW) wood-to-energy biomass facility that would use a gasification technology at the Eastern Regional Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and Landfill. The proposed project would be located on a 3.7-acre site in the southernmost area of the property. The proposed project would include construction of an approximately 11,000 square-foot, two-story structure to house the power generating and emissions control equipment, an approximately one-acre material storage area including a 7,000 square-foot open air pole barn structure, and additional onsite improvements to support operations at the facility. Biomass materials (fuel for the plant) would be processed (ground and screened) at the locations from which they are removed (such as U.S. Forest Service [USFS] fuels reduction sites) and delivered via haul truck to the project site. Objectives for the Cabin Creek Biomass Facility Project include improving regional air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with open burning of biomass waste; supporting healthy forest management practices that improve watershed health and wildlife habitat through already planned forest thinning operations designed to reduce catastrophic wildfire risks; and contributing to California's renewable energy production goals through the operation of a woody biomass power plant.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ANTICIPATED: The Draft EIR identified significant or potentially significant effects associated with biological resources, cultural resources, light and glare, seismic hazards, geology, hydrology, water quality, hazardous materials, and wildland fire. With the implementation of recommended mitigation measures, all impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

A copy of the Draft EIR is available for review during normal business hours at the County offices (Community Development Resource Agency at 3091 County Center Drive in Auburn, and Tahoe Office at 775 North Lake Boulevard, Tahoe City); Tahoe City Library at 740 North Lake Boulevard, Tahoe City; and Truckee Library at 10031 Levone Avenue, Truckee. Electronic copies of the EIR can be downloaded from the County's website at: http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/EnvCoordSvcs/EIR/CabinCreekBiomass.aspx

A public hearing on the Draft EIR will be held on **Thursday, August 30, 2012**, at **1:00 pm** in the Granlibakken Resort at 725 Granlibakken Road, Tahoe City. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the Draft EIR for the project. Comments related to the merits of the project will be considered at a later hearing on the entitlements for the project.

Comments on the adequacy of information with the EIR should be submitted in writing at the earliest possible date, but no later than 5:00 pm on September 10, 2012 to Maywan Krach, Placer County Community Development Resource Agency, Environmental Coordination Services, 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190, Auburn, CA 95603, fax (530)745-3080 or email cdraecs@placer.ca.gov. Comments regarding the adequacy of the Draft EIR not presented during the public review period may not be considered at subsequent hearings. For more information regarding the project, please contact Project Planner, Gerry Haas, (530)745-3084.

