

### **3.3.10 Socioeconomics Resources**

The discussion of socioeconomics resources is divided into three sections. The affected environment is discussed in Section 3.3.10.1; environmental effects of the Project are discussed in Section 3.3.10.2; proposed conditions are discussed in Section 3.3.10.3; and unavoidable adverse effects are addressed in Section 3.3.10.4.

Existing, relevant, and reasonably available information from YCWA's PAD was sufficient to determine the potential effects of the Project on socioeconomic resources. Accordingly, FERC's study determination, as amended, did not require that YCWA perform any studies related to socioeconomics.

#### **3.3.10.1 Affected Environment**

This section is divided into five parts. The first three parts describe existing socioeconomic conditions in Yuba, Sierra and Nevada counties, California, the counties in which the Project is located. The fourth and fifth parts are a brief description of socioeconomic conditions related to the TNF and the PNF. The last part describes socioeconomic considerations for the Project.

##### **3.3.10.1.1 Socioeconomic Conditions in Yuba County**

The Project Area is located approximately 45 mi northeast of the city of Marysville in eastern Yuba County. Project facilities are easily accessed from Marysville by California State Highway 20 via County Road 8 (Marysville Road) and State Route 49 to Camptonville. Population patterns of Yuba County are summarized below.

#### **Population Size**

The population of Yuba County was 72,578 people in 2011 (U.S. Census Bureau 2011). Data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the California Department of Finance (CDOF 2012a) indicate that the 2005 and 2012 population in Yuba County, respectively, was 67,221 and 72,615. Between 1990 and 2000, Yuba County's population grew by approximately 3.3 percent, which was lower than the 12.1 percent population increase experienced in the State of California for the same period (CDOF 2012b). The population increase between 2000 and 2010 in Yuba County was approximately 16.5 percent, much higher than the 9 percent for the State of California (CDOF 2012b). However, since 2010, the population has decreased by about a percent (CDOF 2012a). CDOF has forecasted that by the year 2020, Yuba County's population will reach close to 84,520 residents (CDOF 2012c).

#### **Towns and Cities**

The City of Marysville is the county seat of Yuba County. Marysville is the largest community in the County with a population of 12,304 in 2000 (CDOF 2012b) and 12,104 in 2012 (CDOF 2012a); a decrease of about 1.3 percent. The nearest major population center outside the area is

Sacramento (2012 population estimated at 470,960), located about 40 mi to the south (CDOF 2012a).

First settled in 1849, Dobbins is a town of 624 people southwest of New Bullards Bar, approximately 26 mi from Marysville (Gudde 1975, U.S. Census Bureau 2013a). Dobbins was not founded as a gold town, but as a farming area, though there was mining nearby (Gudde 1975). The median age of residents is 48, and the majority (56.4%) of residents have a high school degree or higher. Median household income is around \$76,000 (U.S. Census Bureau 2013a).

Camptonville was named in 1852 for the blacksmith, Robert Campton, when miners drew up resolutions to form the Camptonville Mining District (Gudde 1975). Camptonville is located between the Middle and North Fork Yuba River, some 36 mi from Marysville (Gudde 1975). Currently, Camptonville has a population of 158 with a median age of 44 years. Median household income is around \$17,000 (U.S. Census Bureau 2013a).

### Population Density and Housing Distribution

With an estimated 72,615 residents, 27,684 housing units, and a land area of 630 sq mi, Yuba County has 115 residents and 44 housing units per sq mi (CDOF 2012a, d and U.S. Census Bureau 2013c). From 1980 to 1990, 1990 to 2000, and 2000 to 2010, the population of Yuba County increased by 17.1, 3.3, and 22 percent, respectively (CDOF 2012b). During these three periods, the number of housing units increased 11.1 percent, 6.5 percent, and 25 percent, respectively. From 1960 to 2010, Yuba County experienced a housing unit increase of approximately 122 percent. However, from 2010 to 2012, the population decreased by a little over one percent, and housing units dropped by approximately the same percentage (CDOF 2012a, d). These numbers are summarized in Table 3.3.10-1.

**Table 3.3.10-1. Summary of Yuba County population and housing units, 1960-2010 and 2012.**

County	2012	2010	2000	1990	1980	1970	1960
Population	72,615	73,380	60,219	58,228	49,733	44,736	33,859
Housing Units	27,684	28,244	22,636	21,245	19,128	14,135	12,724

Source: CDOF 2012a, d, U.S. Census Bureau 2000

As shown in Table 3.3.10-2, most (38,242, or 53 percent) of the Yuba County population is between the ages of 18 and 65. Age groups within the county have similar distributions to the State of California.

**Table 3.3.10-2. Summary of Yuba County by age group, 2011.**

Population: Age	Yuba County	California
Persons under 5 years old	6,061	2,524,823
Persons under 5 years old, percent	8.4%	6.7%
Persons under 18 years old	20,780	9,270,247
Persons under 18 years old, percent	28.8%	24.6%
Persons 65 years old and over	7,360	4,409,020
Persons 65 years old and over, percent	10.2%	11.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2013c

## Households/Family Distribution and Income

Table 3.3.10-3 summarizes household units, homeownership rate, median home value, income, and poverty for Yuba County. County data are also compared to the same data available for the State of California.

**Table 3.3.10-3. Summary of household units and income in Yuba County and the State of California.**

Household Information	Yuba County	California
Housing units, 2011	27,527	13,720,462
Homeownership rate, 2007-2011	59.3	56.7
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2007-2011	\$194,200	\$421,600
Households, 2007-2011	23,885	12,433,172
Persons per household, 2007-2011	2.95	2.91
Median household income, 2007-2011	\$46,617	\$61,632
Per capita income, 2007-2011	\$20,046	\$29,634
Persons below poverty, 2007-2011	14,647	5,426,486
Persons below poverty, percent, 2007-2011	20.3%	14.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2013c

## Ethnicity

Yuba County is generally less ethnically diverse than the State of California. The county is predominantly White, with persons of Hispanic or Latino origin being the second largest group. Table 3.3.10-4 provides a summary of population by race for Yuba County and the State of California for the year 2011.

**Table 3.3.10-4. Summary of population by gender and race in Yuba County and the State of California, 2011.**

Population: Gender/Race	Yuba County	California
Female persons, percent	49.6%	50.3%
White persons <sup>1</sup>	57,700	27,886,110
Black or African American persons <sup>1</sup>	2,830	2,487,139
American Indian and Alaska Native persons <sup>1</sup>	1,569	640,626
Asian persons <sup>1</sup>	5,225	5,125,014
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander persons <sup>1</sup>	362	188,419
Persons reporting two or more races	4,282	1,356,621
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin <sup>2</sup>	10,449	14,357,578
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,578</b>	<b>37,683,933</b>
White persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	79.5%	74.0%
Black or African American persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	3.9%	6.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	3.1%	1.7%
Asian persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	7.2%	13.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent <sup>1</sup>	0.5%	0.5%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent	5.9%	3.6%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent <sup>2</sup>	25.9%	38.1%
Language other than English spoken at home, age 5+, percent	24.9%	43.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2013c

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons reporting only one race.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanics may be of any race; therefore, Hispanics are also included in applicable race categories.

## Education

A total of 78.3 percent of Yuba County’s population is educated through high school, with 12.7 percent of the population having obtained a Bachelor’s degree or higher. When compared to the State of California, Yuba County has lower percentages of high school graduates and individuals with a Bachelors degree or higher (U.S. Census Bureau 2013c).<sup>1</sup>

## Labor Force

Initially, all of Yuba County’s settlements and economy were based on the discovery of gold in the middle 1800s. Today, Yuba County has a diverse economic base and labor force that includes agriculture, mining, manufacturing, transportation, utilities, trade, finance, insurance, real estate services and government (including military). According to the California Employment Development Department (EDD), the annual average unemployment rate for Yuba County in 2012 was about 15.8 percent. Comparatively, the average unemployment rates for 2005 and 2009 were, respectively, about 9 percent and 19 percent (EDD 2013b). These rates are higher than those for the State of California, which had an approximately 5 percent unemployment rate for the year 2005, 11 percent for the year 2009, and 10 percent for 2012 (EDD 2013c).

## Industry

Yuba County is located at the northern end of California’s famed Mother Lode, which shaped the region’s economy in the mid to late 1800s. Since the end of the California gold rush, the economic base has grown to include timber and tourism, with mining playing a greatly reduced role in the county’s economic viability. In 2011, the largest employment sectors in Yuba County were: 1) Government; 2) Trade, Transportation and Public Utilities; 3) Education and Health Services; and 4) Natural Resources and Mining (EDD 2013b) (Table 3.3.10-5).

**Table 3.3.10-5. Summary of industry statistics for Yuba County, 2011.**

Industry	Number of Employees
Natural Resources and Mining	100
Construction	500
Manufacturing	400
Trade, Transportation and Public Utilities	2,000
Information Services	200
Financial Activities Professional	300
Professional and Business Services	1,000
Education and Health Services	2,000
Leisure and Hospitality	1,300
Other Services	300
Government (Federal, State and Local)	5,900

Source: EDD 2013b

<sup>1</sup> A total of 80.8 percent of the State of California’s population is educated through high school with 30.2 percent of the population having obtained a Bachelor’s degree or higher.

### 3.3.10.1.2 Socioeconomic Conditions in Sierra County

The Project Area is located approximately 20 mi southwest of the town of Downieville in Sierra County. Population patterns of Sierra County are summarized below.

#### Population Size

The population of Sierra County was 3,152 people in 2012 (CDOF 2012a). Data from the U.S. Census Bureau (2011) and the CDOF (2012a) indicate that the 2005 and 2012 population in Sierra County, respectively, was 3,434 and 3,152. Between 1990 and 2000, Sierra County’s population grew by approximately 6.7 percent, which was lower than the 12.1 percent population increase experienced in the State of California for the same period (CDOF 2012b). The population decrease between 2000 and 2010 in Sierra County was approximately 8.9 percent, almost the exact opposite of the 9 percent increase for the State of California (CDOF 2012b). Since 2011, the population has decreased by about a percent (CDOF 2012a). The CDOF has forecasted that by the year 2020, Sierra County’s population will reach close to 3,034 residents (CDOF 2012a).

#### Towns and Cities

Sierra County is a rural county. There is one incorporated town in Sierra County, Loyalton, and one unincorporated town, Downieville. Downieville is the county seat and is located at an elevation of 2,900 ft.

Loyalton had a population of 862 in year 2000 (U.S. Census Bureau 2011) and 743 in 2012 (CDOF 2012a), a decrease of about 14 percent. Downieville was reported to have a population of 391 in 2000 and 282 in 2010, a decrease of about 28 percent (U.S. Census Bureau 2010). The nearest major population center outside the county is Sacramento, located about 60 mi to the southwest.

#### Population Density and Housing Distribution

With a population of 3,152 residents, 2,333 housing units, and a land area of 953 sq mi, Sierra County had 3.3 residents and 2.4 housing units per sq mi in 2012 (CDOF 2012d). From 1980 to 1990, 1990 to 2000, and 2000 to 2010, the population of Sierra County increased by 7.4 and then 7.0 percent, before decreasing 7.0 percent, respectively. During those same periods, the number of housing units increased at a rate of 12.7, 1.7 percent and 4 percent, respectively. From 1960 to 2000, Sierra County experienced a population and housing unit increase of greater than 30 percent (Table 3.3.10-6).

**Table 3.3.10-6. Summary of Sierra County population and housing units, 1960 – 2010 and 2012.**

County	2012	2010	2000	1990	1980	1970	1960
Population	3,152	3,303	3,555	3,318	3,073	2,365	2,247
Housing Units	2,333	2,296	2,202	2,166	1,893	1,551	1,495

Source: CDOF 2012a, d; U.S. Census Bureau 2000

Table 3.3.10-7 shows that most (1,825, or 58 percent) of the Sierra County population falls between the ages of 18 and 65. Sierra County’s population is a bit older than that of the State of California.

**Table 3.3.10-7. Summary of population in Sierra County by age group, 2011.**

Population: Age	Sierra County	California
Population under 5 years old	120	2,524,823
Persons under 5 years old, percent	3.8%	6.7%
Persons under 18 years old	517	9,270,247
Persons under 18 years old, percent	16.4%	24.6%
Persons 65 years old and over	690	4,409,020
Persons 65 years old and over, percent	21.9%	11.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2013b

### Households/Family Distribution and Income

Table 3.3.10-8 summarizes household units (i.e., number of units, net change for a given period, and percent change for a given period), homeownership rate, median home value, income, and poverty for Sierra County. County data are comparable to that for the State of California.

**Table 3.3.10-8. Summary of household units, homeownership, home value, and income in Sierra County and the State of California.**

Household Information	Sierra County	California
Housing units, 2011	2,331	13,720,462
Homeownership rate, 2011	76.8	56.7
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2011	\$304,700	\$421,600
Households, 2011	1,328	12,433,172
Persons per household, 2011	2.42	2.91
Median household income, 2011	\$50,308	\$61,632
Per capita income, 2011	\$26,137	\$29,634
Persons below poverty, 2011	523	5,426,486
Persons below poverty, percent, 2011	16.6%	14.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2013b

### Ethnicity

When compared to the State of California, Sierra County is relatively homogeneous with respect to ethnic diversity. The County is predominantly White, with persons of Hispanic or Latino origin being the second largest group. Table 3.3.10-9 provides a summary of population by race for Sierra County and the State of California for the year 2011.

**Table 3.3.10-9. Summary of population by gender and race in Sierra County and the State of California for 2011.**

Population: Gender/Race	Sierra County	California
Female persons, percent	49.7%	50.3%
White persons <sup>1</sup>	3,000	27,886,110
Black or African American persons <sup>1</sup>	5	2,487,139
American Indian and Alaska Native persons <sup>1</sup>	50	640,626
Asian persons <sup>1</sup>	12	5,125,014
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander persons <sup>1</sup>	3	188,419

**Table 3.3.10-9. (continued)**

Population: Gender/Race	Sierra County	California
Persons reporting two or more races	69	1,356,621
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin <sup>2</sup>	213	14,357,578
White persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	95.2%	62%
Black or African American persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	0.4%	74.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	1.6%	6.6%
Asian persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	0.4%	1.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent <sup>1</sup>	0.1%	13.6%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent	2.2%	0.5%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent <sup>2</sup>	8.9%	3.6%
Language other than English spoken at home, age 5+, percent	6.8%	38.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2013b

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons reporting only one race.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanics may be of any race; therefore, Hispanics are also included in applicable race categories.

## Education

A total of 88.2 percent of Sierra County’s population is educated through high school with 18.6 percent of the population having obtained a Bachelor’s degree or higher. When compared to the State of California, Sierra County has a higher percentage of high school graduates and a lower percentage of individuals with a Bachelor’s degree or higher (U.S. Census Bureau 2013b).

## Labor Force

Initially, all of Sierra County’s settlements and economy were based on the discovery of gold in the mid-1800s. Today, the county has a small, yet diverse, economic base and labor force that includes construction, mining, manufacturing, transportation, utilities, trade, finance, insurance, real estate services and government. According to the EDD, the annual average unemployment rate was 14.3 percent for Sierra County during 2012 (EDD 2013a). Comparatively, the average unemployment rates for 2005 and 2009 were, respectively, about 8.4 percent and 15.2 percent (EDD 2013a). These rates are higher than those for the State of California, which had an approximately 5 percent unemployment rate for the year 2005, 11 percent for the year 2009, and 10 percent for 2012 (EDD 2013c).

## Industry

Table 3.3.10-10 shows that in 2012, service providing was the largest employment sector in Sierra County. The second largest employer was government (EDD 2013a).

**Table 3.3.10-10. Summary of industry statistics for Sierra County, 2012.**

Industry	Number of Employees
Goods Producing	20
Service Providing	680
Government (State, Federal, Local)	360

Source: EDD 2013a

### 3.3.10.1.3 Socioeconomic Conditions in Nevada County

The Project Area is located approximately 12 mi north of the town of Nevada City in Nevada County. Population patterns of Nevada County are summarized, below.

#### Population Size

The population of Nevada County was 97,366 people in 2012 (CDOF 2012a). Between 1990 and 2000, Nevada County’s population grew by approximately 17.9 percent, which was higher than the 12.1 percent population increase experienced in the State of California for the same period (CDOF 2012d). Between 2000 and 2010, Nevada County’s population grew 6.7 percent, slightly lagging behind the 9 percent increase for the State of California (CDOF 2012d). Between 2010 and 2012, it is estimated that the population of Nevada County decreased 0.5 percent, in contrast to California’s growth of 2.1 percent (U.S. Census Bureau 2013d). Between 2012 and 2013, it is further estimated that the population has decreased 0.4 percent from 97,366 to 97,019 (CDOF 2012a).

#### Towns and Cities

Nevada County is a rural county. There are three towns in Nevada County with populations over 3,000: Truckee, Grass Valley and Nevada City.

Truckee had a population of 16,180 in 2010 and 15,918 in 2013 (CDOF 2012d) for a decrease of 2 percent. Grass Valley had a population of 12,860 in 2010 and 12,657 in 2013 (CDOF 2012d) for a decrease of 2 percent. Nevada City had a population of 3,068 in 2010 and 3,069 in 2013 (CDOF 2012d), essential no change. Major population centers around Nevada County are Sacramento, 56 mi southwest of Grass Valley, and Reno, 32 mi northeast of Truckee.

#### Population Density and Housing Distribution

With a population of 97,019 residents, 52,879 housing units, and a land area of 958 sq mi, Nevada County had 101.3 residents and 55.2 housing units per sq mi in 2012 (CDOF 2012a). From 1980 to 1990, 1990 to 2000, and 2000 to 2010, the population of Nevada County increased by 52.0 percent, 17.9 percent, and 6.7 percent respectively. During those same periods, the number of housing units increased at a rate of 50.9 percent, 18.6 percent and -6.2 percent, respectively (Table 3.3.10-11).

**Table 3.3.10-11. Summary of Nevada County population and housing units, 1960 – 2010, 2012, and 2013.**

County	2013	2012	2010	2000	1990	1980	1970	1960
Population	97,019	97,366	98,764	92,537	78,510	51,645	26,346	20,911
Housing Units	52,879	52,766	41,527	44,282	37,352	24,759	11,960	9,184

Source: CDOF 2012a, d; U.S. Census Bureau 2006, 2010, 2011



Table 3.3.10-12 shows that most (55,999, or 56.7%) of the Nevada County population falls between the ages of 18 and 65. Nevada County’s population is a bit older than that of the State of California.

**Table 3.3.10-12. Summary of population in Nevada County and California by age group, 2011.**

Population: Age	Nevada County	California
Population under 5 years old	4,246	2,524,823
Persons under 5 years old, percent	4.3%	6.7%
Persons under 18 years old	18,567	9,270,247
Persons under 18 years old, percent	18.8%	24.6%
Persons 65 years old and over	19,950	4,409,020
Persons 65 years old and over, percent	20.2%	11.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2013d

### Households/Family Distribution and Income

Table 3.3.10-13 summarizes household units (i.e., number of units, net change for a given period, and percent change for a given period), homeownership rate, median home value, income, and poverty for Nevada County. County data are comparable to that for the State of California.

**Table 3.3.10-13. Summary of household units, homeownership, home value, and income in Nevada County and the State of California.**

Household Information	Nevada County	California
Housing units, 2011	52,895	13,720,462
Homeownership rate, 2007-2011, percent	73.3%	56.7%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2007- 2011	\$412,600	\$421,600
Households, 2007-2011	41,561	12,433,172
Persons per household, 2007-2011	2.35	2.91
Median household income, 2007-2011	\$58,077	\$61,632
Per capita income in the past 12 months, 2007-2011	\$31,607	\$29,634
Persons below poverty, 2011	10,172	5,426,486
Persons below poverty, percent, 2011	10.3%	14.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2013d

### Ethnicity

When compared to the State of California, Nevada County is relatively homogeneous with respect to ethnic diversity. The County is predominantly White, with persons of Hispanic or Latino origin being the second largest group. Table 3.3.10-14 provides a summary of population by race for Nevada County and the State of California for the year 2011.

**Table 3.3.10-14. Summary of population by gender and race in Nevada County and the State of California for 2011.**

Population: Gender/Race	Nevada County	California
White persons <sup>1</sup>	92,739	27,886,110
Black or African American persons <sup>1</sup>	494	2,487,139
American Indian and Alaska Native persons <sup>1</sup>	1,185	640,626
Asian persons <sup>1</sup>	1,284	5,125,014
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander persons <sup>1</sup>	99	188,419

**Table 3.3.10-14. (continued)**

<b>Population: Gender/Race</b>	<b>Nevada County</b>	<b>California</b>
Persons reporting two or more races	2,864	1,356,621
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin <sup>2</sup>	8,790	14,357,578
Female persons, percent	50.6%	50.3%
White persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	93.9%	62%
Black or African American persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	0.5%	74.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	1.2%	6.6%
Asian persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	1.3%	1.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent <sup>1</sup>	0.1%	13.6%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent	2.9%	0.5%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent <sup>2</sup>	8.9%	3.6%
Language other than English spoken at home, age 5+, percent	7.0%	38.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2013d

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons reporting only one race.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanics may be of any race; therefore, Hispanics are also included in applicable race categories.

## Education

A total of 94.9 percent of Nevada County’s population is educated through high school with 32.4 percent of the population having obtained a Bachelor’s degree or higher. When compared to the State of California, Nevada County has a higher percentage of both high school graduates and individuals with a Bachelor’s degree or higher (U.S. Census Bureau 2013d).

## Labor Force

Initially, all of Nevada County’s settlements and economy were based on the discovery of gold in the mid-1800s. Today, the county has a small, yet diverse, economic base and labor force that includes construction, mining, manufacturing, transportation, utilities, trade, finance, insurance, real estate services and government. According to the EDD, the annual average unemployment rate was 9.4 percent for Nevada County during 2012 (EDD 2013d). Comparatively, the average unemployment rates for 2005 and 2009 were, respectively, about 4.8 percent and 10.5 percent (EDD 2013d). These rates are comparable than those for the State of California, which had an approximately 5 percent unemployment rate for the year 2005, 11 percent for the year 2009, and 10 percent for 2012 (EDD 2013c).

## Industry

Table 3.3.10-15 shows that in 2012, service providing was the largest employment sector in Nevada County. The second largest employment sector was government (EDD 2013d).

**Table 3.3.10-15. Summary of industry statistics for Nevada County, March 2013.**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Number of Employees</b>
Mining, Logging, and Construction	2010
Manufacturing	1700
Wholesale Trade	440
Retail Trade	3690
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	480
Information	270
Financial Activities	1410

**Table 3.3.10-15. (continued)**

Industry	Number of Employees
Professional and Business Services	2000
Education and Health Services	4280
Leisure and Hospitality	5030
Other Services	1250
Federal Government	330
State Government	460
Local Government	5200

Source: EDD 2013d

#### 3.3.10.1.4 Tahoe National Forest

The TNF is managed by the Forest Service and is the 95<sup>th</sup> largest, by area, of the 155 national forests in the United States. The TNF was initially established in 1891 as a 136,335-ac area within the Sierra Reserve formed by President Benjamin Harrison. With the addition of the Yuba Forest Reserve in 1904 and the Tahoe Forest Reserve in 1905, the TNF encompasses 831,000 ac (1,250 sq mi) of public land interspersed with 373,000 ac of private land in a checkerboard ownership pattern.

The TNF has an annual budget of approximately \$20 million, and has around 300 employees. The TNF manages public lands within the TNF boundary under a policy of multiple uses which includes timber, mining, grazing, water and recreation. The timber program provides jobs through timber sales that accomplish forest thinning, fuels reduction, and salvage operations for insect, disease, and fire impacted stands. The mining program, through permits, manages many small gold dredging operations and some hard rock mines. In addition, mineral material sales by the Forest Service include landscaping rock and aggregate for road maintenance and construction. The grazing program authorizes livestock grazing for local ranchers.

The TNF manages water on the west side of the Sierra Nevada through four FERC approved projects including the Yuba River Development Project. In addition, on the eastside of the forest, the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR) manages several reservoirs.

The TNF provides recreation opportunities for the public through 160 developed recreation sites, 1,300 mi of motorized and non-motorized trails, numerous lakes and reservoirs, and permits for six ski areas.

#### 3.3.10.1.5 Plumas National Forest

The PNF is managed by the Forest Service and is the 64<sup>th</sup> largest, by area, of the 155 national forests in the United States. PNF was established as the Plumas Forest Reserve by the General Land Office (GLO) in 1905. In 1906, the forest was transferred to the Forest Service, and in 1907, it became a national forest. In 1908, a portion of Diamond Mountain National Forest was added. Today, the PNF comprises 1,146,000 ac (1,791 sq mi) of which 62,402 ac (92.5 sq mi) are found in northern Sierra and northeastern Yuba counties. The PNF specific management

area in the Project Area is the Challenge Management Area, managed by the Feather River Ranger District.

The PNF manages public lands within the PNF boundary under a policy of multiple uses which includes timber, mining, grazing, water and recreation. The timber program provides jobs through timber sales that accomplish forest thinning, fuels reduction, and salvage operations for insect, disease, and fire impacted stands. The mining program, through permits, manages many small gold dredging operations and some hard rock mines. In addition, mineral material sales by the Forest Service include landscaping rock and aggregate for road maintenance and construction. The grazing program authorizes livestock grazing for local ranchers.

The PNF manages water in the Sierra Nevada through five FERC approved projects including the Yuba River Development Project.

The PNF provides recreation opportunities for the public through developed recreation sites, hundreds of miles of motorized and non-motorized trails, and numerous lakes and reservoirs.

### 3.3.10.1.6 Project-Specific Information

YCWA is a public agency formed under the Yuba County Water Agency Act (California Water Code App. §§ 84-1 – 84-28) with the goals of providing water supplies to and flood protection for Yuba County. Currently, YCWA’s primary functions are development and sale of hydropower, flood control, fisheries enhancement, recreation, conservation and storage of water, wholesale of water to member districts, and water transfers (YCWA 2013gg). As shown in Table 3.3.10-5, YCWA is part of Yuba County’s “government” employment sector.

YCWA is headquartered in Marysville, California and has about 40 full-time employees. Approximately 25 employees work directly on the Project on a day-to-day basis, and are dispatched from an office located near the Project in Dobbins, California. The Dobbins’ office includes administrative offices, warehouses and machine shop facilities.

YCWA pays over \$1.7 million each year to federal, State, and local governments for Project-related support services. Table 3.3.10-16 provides a list of these annual fees.

**Table 3.3.10-16. Federal, State, and local agencies YCWA pays annually for Project-related services.**

Agency	Description	Approximate Annual Payment (2013 U.S. Dollars)
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Use of Federal Land	\$303,000
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Administration	\$772,000
United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service	Recreation Collection Agreement	\$300,000
United States Army Corps of Engineers	Use of USACE’s Englebright Reservoir	\$100,000
United States Geological Survey	Stream Gaging	\$30,000
California Division of Safety of Dams	Dam Safety	\$121,000
California State Water Resources Control Board	Water Rights	\$80,000
Yuba County Sheriff’s Department	Law Enforcement	\$30,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,736,000</b>

In addition, YCWA pays sales tax for all equipment and supplies.

### **3.3.10.2 Environmental Effects**

YCWA's proposed Project would have a less than significant effect on socioeconomic conditions. The proposed Project would be operated in substantially the same manner in which the Project has been historically operated, and would preserve flood control and water supply, which are critical for the socioeconomic health of the region. The Project employs about 40 people who reside in the Project Area, and provides economic benefits (e.g., taxes and services) to the area. The demand for county, Forest Service and other services related to the proposed Project is not unusual for facilities of this size, has been ongoing for over 45 years, and YCWA pays fees to the federal government for use of public lands.

### **3.3.10.3 Proposed Conditions**

#### **3.3.10.3.1 Conditions Recommended by YCWA**

Because the proposed Project would have a less than significant, if not a beneficial effect on socioeconomic resources, YCWA does not propose any conditions related to socioeconomic resources.

#### **3.3.10.3.2 Proposed Measures Recommended by Agencies or Other Relicensing Participants That Were Not Adopted by YCWA**

None of the comments that were filed on YCWA's DLA included proposed measures or additional studies regarding socioeconomic resources.

### **3.3.10.4 Unavoidable Adverse Impacts**

Continued O&M of the Project, including Project-related recreation, would require some commitment of local law enforcement and fire protection resources. While there have been few if any Project-related wildfires, should a fire occur, local fire response services would be needed. These impacts are considered short-term because they are only needed in cases of emergencies. YCWA facilities provide sources of water for fighting fires. YCWA also contributes funding and cooperates with local communities in various projects related to YCWA's fundamental purposes, such as the installation of five concrete 10,000 gallon water tanks for use by the Camptonville Volunteer Fire Department in fighting fires, which could adversely affect water quality. Also, when compared to the overall economic benefit of the Project in terms of employment, tourism and fees YCWA pays to federal, state and local agencies, these impacts are minor.

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