

#### TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT - INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: KEVIN SMITH, GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: LIBERTY ENERGY UTILITY EASEMENT PROPOSAL

**DATE:** 07/24/15

Staff met with Liberty Utilities on Thursday July 23, 2015 in a conference call to seek additional detail about their project based on questions raised at the Board Meeting. Liberty Utilities related that the main focus of this project was to secure additional project working space but more importantly to secure additional easement width providing an enhanced safety area along the pole alignment, providing additional protection for the line from interference and encroachment. While they can complete the project within their current easement, Liberty Utilities understands the Board's desire to gather more information and is still interested in pursuing the expanded easement request at the August 26<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. The Contractor is already required to work within a 20 foot wide area within the existing 25 foot easement. As most of the poles on Waddle Ranch are within a few feet if not on the Cal Trans Highway 267 right of way easement, they can replace them without any real disturbance on our property and completely within their existing easement. The last 3 poles before the Jones property are between 20 to 50 feet from Highway 267.

Liberty Utilities will be starting the project on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Northstar substation and then moving toward our property. You may see men and equipment working in their existing easement in Northstar by the golf course and moving toward Highway 267. Depending on speed of the work and the contractor's timeline you may see them on their existing easement on Waddle Ranch.

The following is additional information regarding the project along with answers to questions raised at the Board Meeting.

Question 1 - About the Project – Is it maintenance, capacity expansion, upgrade? (From the project website and teleconference) Liberty Utilities owns, maintains and operates two major electric lines known as the 625 and 650 Electric Lines. These two power lines are configured as part of a continuous loop that primarily serves the areas of Lahontan, Martis

Valley, Northstar, Kings Beach, Brockway, Tahoe Vista, Carnelian Bay, Dollar Point, south to Homewood, Tahoe City, Alpine Meadows, and Squaw Valley. The project would upgrade these major power lines to improve reliability to Liberty's North Tahoe customers.

The 625 and 650 power lines are some of the oldest lines in the State of California, some constructed as far back as the 1950s. Currently, if part of the existing closed loop is adversely affected—such as a snow-laden tree branch falling on a portion of the line—the entire system in the North Tahoe area is affected and can result in outages. Also, during past winter peaks the system has operated at its maximum capacity which stresses the infrastructure and can cause subsequent damage. Currently, Liberty relies on supplemental power from its emergency diesel generators to reduce the demand on the aging system. (It is my understanding that these diesel generators are in Tahoe City in the Lake Tahoe Basin)

By upgrading the existing 625 and 650 power lines and associated substations from 60 kilovolts (kV) to 120 kV, the entire North Tahoe electrical loop would operate at 120 kV (poles, wire, insulators will be changed out) and, as a result, improve reliability. Also, if part of the loop system is damaged, the upgrade would allow greater flexibility to transfer load and enhance switching ability reducing both the frequency and duration of outages.

It should be noted that the upgrade from 60 kV to 120 kV is a standard industry increment. While the substations and the power lines would be upgraded to allow 120 kV capacity, the system may not always operate at that higher voltage. Operating at the higher voltage will be necessary near peak demand as well as during an adverse event which would require load transfer or switching along the closed loop system.

Even without projected expansion from any commercial or residential development, this upgrade is needed as the system is currently at maximum operating capacity during winter peaks. Moreover, the system is extremely susceptible to outages caused by adverse conditions since it does not have sufficient load transfer and switching capabilities.

As far back as the mid-1990s, the need to upgrade the 625 and 650 lines was identified by Sierra Pacific Power Company (the electric provider at the time). These power lines were not originally designed to provide a loop system (which improves reliability). They also were not designed to carry the current peak loads (capacity).

As a utility, Liberty does not have the authority to encourage or even approve growth. However, it does have the legal responsibility under California Public Utilities Code section 399 and other statutory provisions to provide reliable, safe electricity to its existing and future customers. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is charged with regulating

Liberty to ensure that Liberty complies fully with this statutory directive. Liberty also adheres to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Reliability Standard TPL-0020-0b

# <u>Question 2 – What are the planned mitigation measures regarding habitat, vegetation, and restoration of the property?</u>

The EIR has detailed sections on mitigation and remediation throughout the project. They will have regular site inspections and onsite monitors in the way of a Biologist, Archeologist, and Engineer to assure measures outlined in the EIR are completed. The Airport District will also closely monitor their project. There is no grading on our property. The Contractor is required to work in entirely within a 20 foot project area independent if we give them the additional 15 feet. They will be digging holes and place poles on our property and then running new lines mostly from the Highway 267 right of way area. They do not need the 15 feet extra as requested to complete the project but would like to have extra buffer space for protection of the system.

#### Question 3 - Can they go underground?

(From Liberty Energy Project website and teleconference) - Undergrounding utility lines is approximately 4-5 times more expensive than traditional overhead power line construction. While undergrounding is to best protect power lines from the elements, maintenance and repairs of underground lines is more difficult and costly, especially if the electrical lines are buried under several feet of snow. Also, while undergrounding improves the visual impact of power lines, it may have a detrimental impact on environmental concerns such as vegetation, wetlands and cultural resources. Liberty also indicated that do not have local staffing that can work on underground transmission lines as there are very few of them in the area. Crews have to be brought in from out of the area which affects their ability to respond to outages. Another item of note is that there is an existing large gas line running parallel to the overhead power lines on Highway 267.

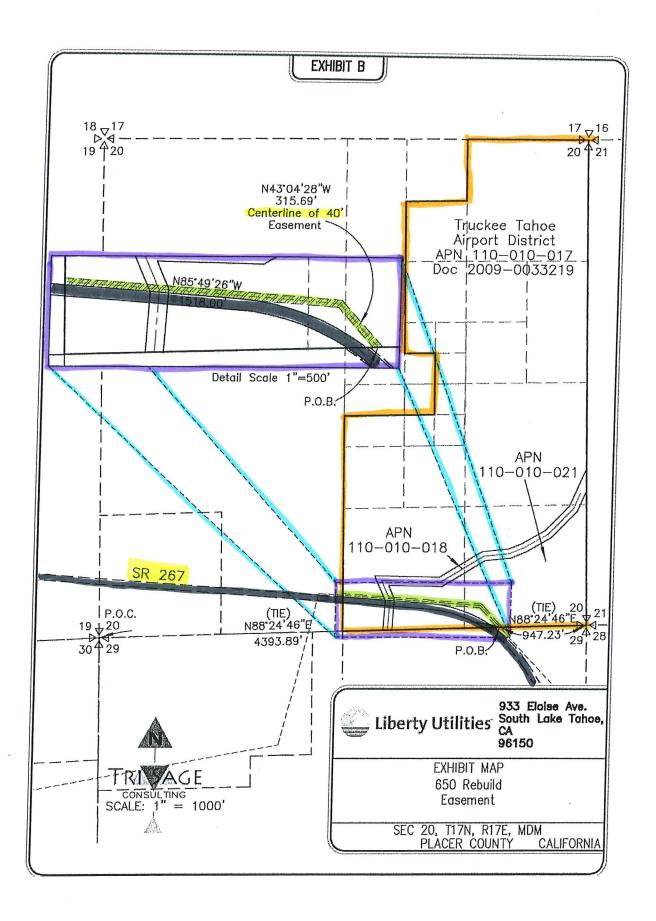
# <u>Question 4 – Do they need wider easements on the Jones property and Martis Valley Estates</u> and will they be coming back to us?

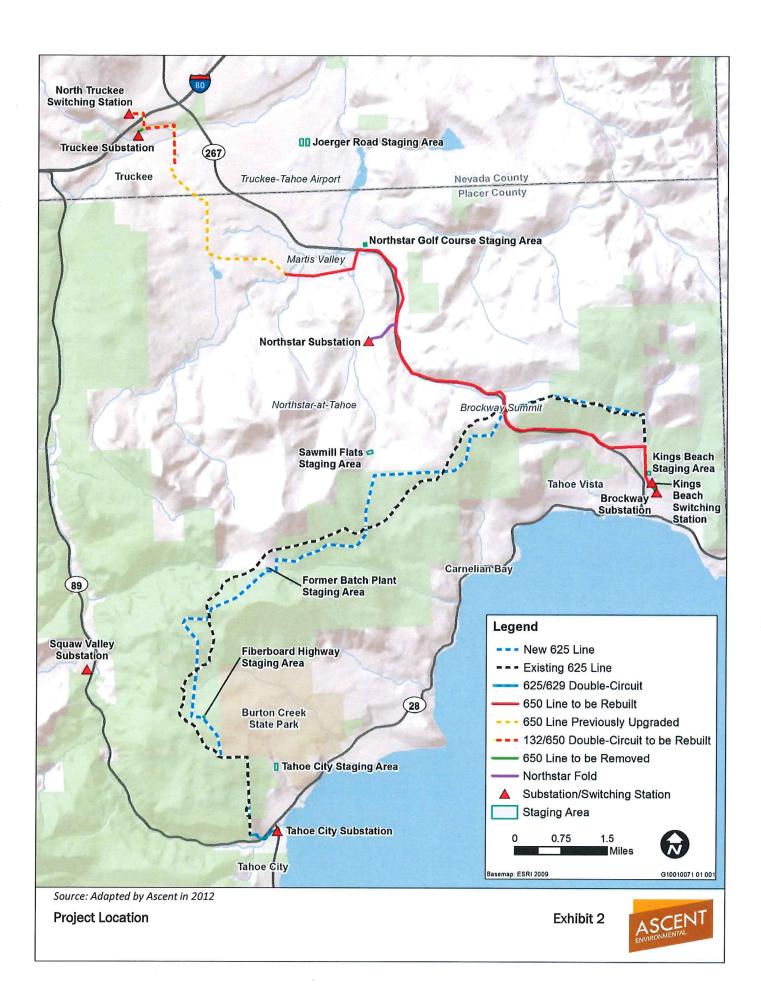
No. Per Liberty Utilities teleconference, they have the width they need to work on the Jones Property and Martis Valley Estates. The easement is wider in those sections. I am in the process of confirming this with the Land Trust. I will let you know if they indicate anything different.

ATTACHMENT - PROJECT LOCATION

PROJECT WEBSITE:

HTTP://WWW.LIBERTYUTILITIES.COM/WEST/COMMUNITY/RELIABILITY 625-650 FAQS.HTML







**Existing View** 



Simulated View

Simulated View Source: Sierra Pacific 2010

Exhibit 4.4-11

SR 267, VP 4, All Action Alternatives, Segment 650-3

Amendment to Conservation Easement

# RECORDING REQUESTED BY AND WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO:

Perry Norris C/O Truckee Donner Land Trust P.O. Box 8816 10069 West River Street Truckee, CA 96162

## AMENDMENT TO GRANT DEED OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT

This Amendment to the "Grant Deed of Conservation Easement" (this "Amendment") is entered into on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, by and between TAHOE TRUCKEE AIRPORT DISTRICT, a California Airport District organized and existing pursuant to the provisions of California Public Utilities Code Sections 22001 and following ("TTAD" or "Grantor"), TRUCKEE DONNER LAND TRUST, a 501(c)(3) non-profit California Corporation ("TDLT" or "Grantee") and COUNTY OF PLACER, a political subdivision of the State of California ("Placer County" or "Original Grantee"), collectively referred to herein as the "Parties."

#### **RECITALS:**

- A. TTAD, TDLT and Placer County are parties to the "Grant Deed of Conservation Easement" dated for reference purposes as of October 26, 2007 (the "Conservation Easement"), which agreement was recorded in the Office of the Placer County Recorder on October 29, 2007, as Document No. 2007-0102420-00, and in the Office of the Nevada County Recorder on October 29, 2007, as Document No. 2007-0033300-00.
- B. The Conservation Easement was initially conveyed to Placer County, as original Grantee, over certain land owned by TDLT, as original Grantor, and as legally described in Exhibit 1 to the Conservation Easement (the "Property"), before mandatory transfer of fee title by TDLT, as original Grantor, to TTAD, as subsequent Grantor, and mandatory transfer of the Conservation Easement from Placer County, as original Grantee, to TDLT, as subsequent Grantee.
- C. The Conservation Easement recognizes that the Property possesses significant natural, ecological, and aesthetic values for conservation purposes as well as scenic, open space, and non-motorized recreational values which are of importance to all Parties, to the people of Placer County, and to the people of the State of California. These values further include, but are not limited to, wildlife

- and plant resources of value as habitat, food sources and migratory routes; open space for scenic enjoyment of the general public; and public recreational access.
- D. The Conservation Easement recognizes certain Easement Purposes, including that all Parties intend the use of the Property to be managed and maintained in a manner that is consistent with the preservation, protection, and maintenance in perpetuity of the Conservation Values of the Property, and the enhancement of those Conservation Values, while allowing the continuation of certain compatible existing uses at the Property, subject to the terms of the Conservation Easement.
- E. The Conservation Easement provides that it may be modified through an Amendment executed by all Parties, provided that any Amendment shall enhance or be neutral with regard to the Easement Purposes.
- F. The Conservation Easement recognizes the possibility of condemnation by eminent domain, and provides that Parties shall cooperate in appropriate action at the time of such taking to recover the full value of the taking and all incidental or direct damages resulting from the taking, it being expressly agreed that the Conservation Easement constitutes a compensable property right.
- G. California Pacific Electric Company (d/b/a Liberty Utilities) ("Liberty") currently holds a 25-foot wide easement across the southern portion of the Property bordering State Route 267 to accommodate its 60kV transmission line, which utility easement was in existence prior to execution of the Conservation Easement (the "Existing Utility Easement").
- H. Liberty is a public utility which in some circumstances may employ the power of eminent domain.
- I. Liberty was granted a Permit to Construct certain transmission line upgrades by the California Public Utilities Commission in Decision 15-03-020 on March 26, 2015, which upgrades require an overhead easement over an additional 15 feet of land along the existing 25-foot wide easement. Liberty advised via written letter to TTAD dated November 20, 2014 that it "may have no other avenue than to act upon its power of eminent domain to acquire the property interest" if an agreement in lieu of formal condemnation could not be reached.
- J. The Final EIS/EIS/EIR prepared for the approved transmission line upgrade, "California Pacific Electricity Company 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project: Final EIS/EIS/EIR, SCH# 2012032066," provides that Liberty will, amongst other measures, establish an exclusion zone around any identified special-status botanical species; use self-weathering dark brown steel poles for the power lines to reduce potential visual contrast; preserve trees and vegetation

within the "clear zone" that do not pose a risk to power lines; retain qualified environmental monitors to be present with each crew during all vegetation-removal activities to help ensure that impacts to biological resources are minimized; develop, prior to construction, a Restoration Plan that will address final clean-up, stabilization, and revegetation procedures for areas disturbed by the project; and, to the extent feasible, restore areas of temporary disturbance around each pole, as well as areas used for conductor stringing and staging, to preconstruction conditions.

K. Liberty offered fair market value in exchange for its proposed easement expansion in compliance with Section 1240.055(g) of the California Code of Civil Procedure, has agreed to recognize, support, and comply with all Conservation Values and Conservation Purposes contained in the Conservation Easement, and has agreed to adhere to and implement all applicable mitigation measures and applicant proposed measures in the "California Pacific Electricity Company 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project: Final EIS/EIS/EIR, SCH# 2012032066" incorporated or described therein.

### NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

- 1. The Recitals above are true and correct and are included as part of the agreement of the Parties.
- 2. Capitalized terms that are not defined in this Amendment have the meanings given to them in the Conservation Easement.
- 3. The Conservation Easement is amended to recognize as permissible an additional 15 foot wide right-of-way alongside the Existing Utility Easement for the purposes of constructing, repairing, and maintaining electric transmission lines (the "Expanded Utility Easement"), provided any Expanded Utility Easement contains the commitments and limitations described in Section K. The legal description of the proposed Expanded Utility Easement is attached as Exhibit A.
- 4. Considering all the circumstances, Liberty could file a condemnation action in superior court seeking to acquire the Expanded Utility Easement, the litigation of which would be costly, inefficient, and uncertain for all stakeholders.
- 5. Liberty has offered fair market value in exchange for the Expanded Utility Easement in compliance with Section 1240.055(g) of the California Code of Civil Procedure.
- 6. This Amendment will be neutral with respect to the Conservation Easement and will not affect the Conservation Easement's perpetual duration.

- 7. Upon execution, TDLT shall promptly record this Amendment in the official records of Placer County and Nevada County and shall thereafter promptly provide a copy of the recorded Amendment to TTAD and to Placer County.
- 8. The Conservation Easement shall remain in full force and effect, and nothing in this Amendment shall be construed to abrogate or otherwise affect its terms except as herein recognized.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Amendment to be executed this \_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015. **GRANTEE GRANTOR** Truckee Donner Land Trust, Truckee Tahoe Airport District, a a California non-profit corporation California Airport District Signature Signature Print Name Print Name Title Title Date Date ORIGINAL GRANTEE County of Placer, a political subdivision of the State of California Signature Print Name Title

Date

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California County of	)
On	before me, (insert name and title of the officer)
proved to me on the basis of satisfac the within instrument and acknowled authorized capacity(ies), and that by entity upon behalf of which the person	, who story evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to diged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the on(s) acted, executed the instrument.  URY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing
WITNESS my hand and official seal	
Signature	(Seal)

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State of California County of	)	
On	before me, (insert name and title of the officer)	
	(insert name and title of the officer)	
personally appeared	, whose name(s) is/are subscribed	10
the within instrument and acknowledg	ged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the	to
I certify under PENALTY OF PERJU paragraph is true and correct.	JRY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing	
WITNESS my hand and official seal.		
Signature	(Seal)	



W.O. 650-Rebuild:

Truckee Tahoe Airport District APN: 110-010-017, 018 & 021

### EXHIBIT "A" EASEMENT-LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A portion of the Southeast quarter of Section 20, Township 17 North, Range 17 East, M.D.M., Placer County, California; situated within that Parcel of land described as in document 2009-0033219, recorded on April 23, 2009, Official Records of Placer County, California.

An easement, 40 feet in width, lying 20 feet on each side of the following described centerline:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of said Section 20;

Thence along the south line of said section North 88°24'46" East, 4393.89 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING from which the southeast corner of said section 20 bears North 88°24'46" East, 947.23 feet;

Thence North 43°04'28" West, 315.69 feet;

Thence North 85°49'26" West, 1518.00 feet to the westerly boundary of said parcel and the terminus of this description.

Excepting that portion over the Cal Trans Right of Way of State Route 267.

The sidelines of said easement are to be extended or truncated as to terminate on the southerly and westerly boundary line of the Grantor.

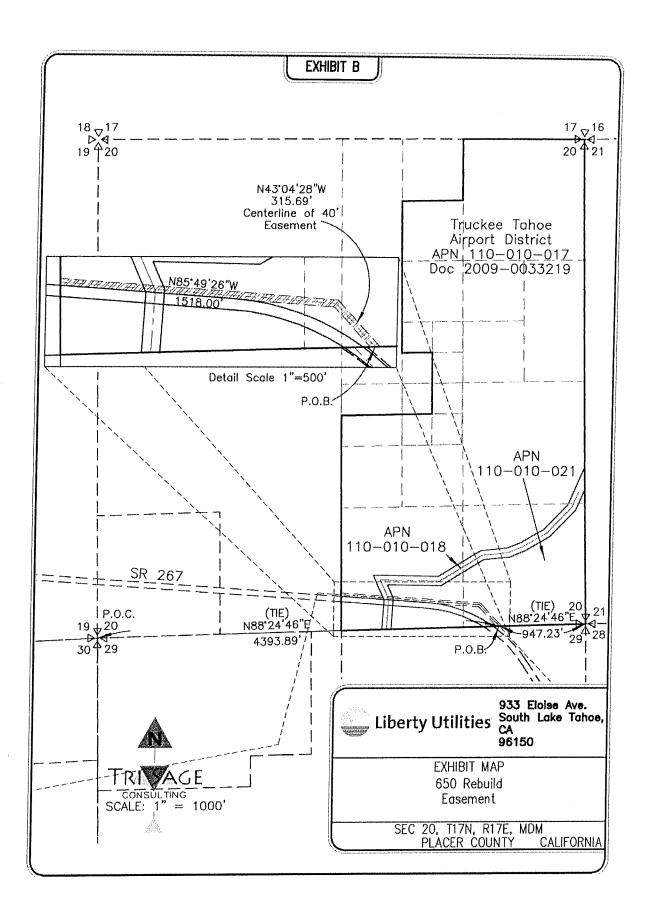
Together with the right to install guy and anchor facilities at poles required, to support said poles. Said facilities to extend not more than 60 feet from poles so supported.

Said Easement contains 73,348 square feet more or less.

See Exhibit "B" attached hereto and made a part thereof.

The Basis of Bearings for this Exhibit is the south line of said section.

Prepared by Bob Fong, LSI. Tri Sage Consulting, 5418 Longley Lane, Suite A, Reno, NV 89511





#### AGREEMENT FOR ACQUISITION OF EASEMENT

This is an agreement between Liberty Utilities (Liberty) and Truckee Tahoe Airport District referred to herein as Grantor.

It is agreed between the parties as follows:

#### 1. Delivery of Easement.

The original of the Easement, attached hereto as Exhibit A, in the form of an easement has been executed and delivered by Grantor to Liberty Utilities for the purpose of conveying to Liberty, the easement described in the document.

#### 2. Purchase Price & Title

Liberty shall pay Grantor the sum of \$6,850 for the easement conveyed in the Document when the easement is recorded free and clear of all liens, encumbrances, taxes, assessments or leases recorded or unrecorded, except for any liens, encumbrances, taxes, assessment or leases that Liberty, in its reasonable judgment after a reasonable title search, believes will not impair or otherwise interfere with Liberty's full, free and complete use and enjoyment of the easement, as set forth in the Document. In the event Liberty believes that any such interest impairs Liberty's full and free right to use the easement in the manner contemplated in the easement document, Liberty shall not be required to proceed with the acquisition of the easement based on the terms set forth herein will return the original easement document to Owner, and retains the right to proceed in any manner permitted by law, including exercising its rights of eminent domain.

#### 3. Payments Due Mortgage or Deed of Trust

All money payable under this agreement that is due or payable to any mortgagee or trustee under any mortgage or deed of trust shall be paid to such mortgagee or trustee on demand and on the condition that mortgagee or trustee shall furnish Grantor with good and sufficient receipt showing the money paid as credited against any indebtedness secured by the mortgage or deed of trust or in such manner as required by any mortgage or deed of trust.

#### 4. Lease Warranty

Grantor warrants that there are no oral or written leases, or licenses to use, on any portion of the property covered by or to be encumbered by the Easement, and Grantor further agrees to hold Liberty harmless and reimburse Liberty for any and all losses and expenses occasioned by reason of any lease or licenses of the property held by any tenant of Grantor.

Grantor shall retain full use and posstime as the easement is recorded at vights as are permitted by the easement	session of all property covered by this easement until such which time Grantor shall retain only such use and possessory ent document.
LIBERTY UTILITIES	GRANTOR
DATE	GRANTOR
	DATE

5.

Possession

APN: 110-010-017, 018 & 021 Project Number: 650 Rebuild

Recording Requested by and When Recorded Return To: ATTN: Bob Fong Tri Sage Consulting 5418 Longley Lane, Suite A Reno, NV 89511

# GRANT OF EASEMENT FOR OVERHEAD ELECTRIC AND COMMUNICATIONS

#### WITNESSETH:

GRANTOR, for and in consideration of the sum of \$6,850, in hand paid by Grantee, and other good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby grant to Grantee, its successors, assigns and agents, permanent and exclusive easements and rights of way to construct, alter, maintain, inspect, repair, reconstruct, add to, upgrade, improve, increase the voltage and or capacity of, and operate one or more overhead electric and communication facilities, consisting of one or more circuits, together with poles, guys and anchors, supporting structures, insulators and cross-arms, wires, fibers and cables, fixtures, and appurtenances connected therewith, (hereinafter called "Utility Facilities"), across, upon, over, and through the following described property situated in the County of PLACER, State of CALIFORNIA, to-wit:

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF.

#### IT IS FURTHER AGREED:

- 1. Grantee shall have at all times ingress and egress to the above-described land, and reasonable use of the land, including the larger parcel over which the easement is located or situated, for the purpose of constructing, altering, maintaining, inspecting, repairing, reconstructing, upgrading, improving and operating said Utility Facilities, including increasing the voltage and capacity.
- 2. Grantee shall be responsible for any damage to personal property or improvements, suffered by Grantor by reason of constructing, altering, maintaining, inspecting, repairing, reconstructing and operating said Utility Facilities by Grantee.

- 3. Grantee will at all times save and hold harmless Grantor with respect to any and all loss, damage or liability suffered or sustained by reason of any injury or damage to any person or property, caused by the constructing, altering, maintaining, inspecting, repairing, reconstructing and operating of said Utility Facilities by Grantee.
- 4. Grantor shall not erect or construct, nor permit to be erected or constructed any buildings, fences or structures, nor permit any activity, which in the reasonable judgment of Grantee, is inconsistent with or would otherwise impair the Grantee's reasonable and safe use of said easement.
- 5. Grantee shall have the right to remove or clear any and all buildings, fences, structures, combustible materials, trees, brush, debris, or any other obstruction from said easement, which in the reasonable judgment of Grantee, may interfere with or endanger the constructing, altering, maintaining, inspecting, repairing, reconstructing and operating of said Utility Facilities.
- 6. Grantee shall have the right to cut down or trim all trees and other vegetation within said easement, which may in the reasonable judgment of Grantee, endanger the constructing, altering, maintaining, inspecting, repairing, reconstructing and operating of said Utility Facilities, or which may exceed or violate any industry or governmental standards applicable to such easements. Grantee shall have the right to cut down or trim all trees and other vegetation adjacent to or outside of said easement meeting the definition of "danger tree" under Section 895.1, Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations and as directed by section 4293 of the Public Resources Code, and any subsequent amendments thereto.
- 7. Grantee shall adhere to and implement all applicable mitigation measures and applicant proposed measures incorporated or described in the "California Pacific Electricity Company 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project: Final EIS/EIS/EIR, SCH# 2012032066," within said easement and surrounding property, and such mitigation measures and applicant proposed measures are hereby incorporated by reference into, and made a part of, this Grant of Easement.
- 8. Grantee recognizes and shall support and comply with all Conservation Values and Conservation Purposes contained in the "Grant Deed of Conservation Easement" dated for reference purposes as of October 26, 2007 that was recorded in the Office of the Placer County Recorder on October 29, 2007, as Document No. 2007-0102420-00, within said easement and surrounding property, and such Conservation Values and Conservation Purposes are incorporated by reference into, and made a part of, this Grant of Easement.
- 9. Truckee Donner Land Trust and the County of Placer are express third party beneficiaries to this Grant of Easement, particularly with respect to enforcing Sections 6, 7 and 8 and Grantor represents and warrants that it has properly notified Truckee Donner Land Trust and County of Placer of this easement and all of its terms and conditions and that Truckee Donner Land Trust and County of Placer have consented to this Grant and all of its terms and conditions.

THIS GRANT OF EASEMENT and the terms contained herein shall be binding upon the successors, agents and assigns of Grantor and Grantee, and all rights herein granted may be assigned.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the said premises, granted together with the appurtenances, unto said Grantee, its successors, agents and assigns forever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Grantor has caused these presents duly to be executed the day and year first above written.

(GRANTOR) Truckee Tahoe Airport District, a California Airport District	(GRANTEE) Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) LLC
Signature	Signature
Print Name	Print Name
Title	Title

### GRANTOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document, to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California	
County of	)
On	before me, (insert name and title of the officer)
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•	ged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their nis/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the n(s) acted, executed the instrument.
I certify under PENALTY OF PERJU paragraph is true and correct.	JRY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing
WITNESS my hand and official seal.	
Signature	(Seal)

### GRANTEE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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State of California County of	)	
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Signature	(Seal)	



W.O. 650-Rebuild:

Truckee Tahoe Airport District APN: 110-010-017, 018 & 021

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Commencing at the Southwest corner of said Section 20;

Thence along the south line of said section North 88°24'46" East, 4393.89 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING from which the southeast corner of said section 20 bears North 88°24'46" East, 947.23 feet;

Thence North 43°04'28" West, 315.69 feet;

Thence North 85°49'26" West, 1518.00 feet to the westerly boundary of said parcel and the terminus of this description.

Excepting that portion over the Cal Trans Right of Way of State Route 267.

The sidelines of said easement are to be extended or truncated as to terminate on the southerly and westerly boundary line of the Grantor.

Together with the right to install guy and anchor facilities at poles required, to support said poles. Said facilities to extend not more than 60 feet from poles so supported.

Said Easement contains 73,348 square feet more or less.

See Exhibit "B" attached hereto and made a part thereof.

The Basis of Bearings for this Exhibit is the south line of said section.

Prepared by Bob Fong, LSI. Tri Sage Consulting, 5418 Longley Lane, Suite A, Reno, NV 89511

