

## *Chapter 6*

# ***PUBLIC SERVICE ELEMENT***

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The public service element is a supplement to the Public Service Element of the TRPA Goals and Policies Plan and the El Dorado County General Plan. It contains an inventory of the existing public services within the plan area. Further, it establishes Plan policies addressing public service and identifies anticipated public service improvements within the plan area.

### **A. EXISTING PUBLIC SERVICE FACILITIES**

As the primary commercial and light industrial area in the El Dorado County portion of the Tahoe Basin, Meyers contains nearly all the offices, facilities and maintenance yards of local and sub-regional public service providers. It includes the Meyers post office, state and local government services as well as regulated utilities. The plan envisions Meyers to continue to be the primary location for public services in the county. Public service improvements contemplated by the plan are based on proposed projects contained on TRPA's Five Year List of Additional Public Service Facilities or on discussions with public service providers. Public transportation policies and proposed improvements are found in Chapter 3. The following inventory identifies public service providers presently located in the plan area. See Figure 6-1.

U.S. Postal Service. The Postal Service presently operates the Tahoe Paradise Station in the Meyers Downtown Cafe building on U.S. 50. It contains a full service counter, general delivery service and approximately 768 individual post boxes.

California Highway Patrol (CHP). The CHP's Area Command Facility is located on Navahoe Drive along the eastern edge of the plan area. The facility houses approximately fifteen officers and staff. It is responsible for patrols in the southern end of the Tahoe Basin and from Twin Bridges on U.S. 50 to the Amador County line on California 88. The facility, which is owned by the CHP, has been in operation for over twenty five years in Meyers.

California Department of Transportation. The Caltrans Meyers Maintenance Station is located along California 89 near the Cornelian Drive intersection. The station is approximately ten acres in size and contains vehicle storage, maintenance and repair garages, and dormitory and cafeteria facilities for winter snow removal crews. It provides road maintenance and construction, snow removal and communications services to nearby areas within and outside the basin.

California Department of Food and Agriculture, Division of Pest Exclusion. The Department of Food and Agriculture maintains the Meyers Inspection Station along U.S. 50 near the center of the plan area. The inspection station's role is to prevent unwanted pests, hosts or other organisms from entering the state which may threaten the state's agricultural crops.

California Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC is presently housed in an existing thirty seven unit motel behind Yank's Station on Apache Avenue. The site is used as a residential dormitory for up to eighty five members and includes food service and administrative offices in the nearby Yank's Station complex. The Corps' mission is to develop California's youth between the ages of 18 and 23 and enhance the state's natural resources. It engages in erosion control and timber stand maintenance projects on a year round basis.

Lake Valley Fire Protection District. The district maintains the Lake Valley fire station and training center on a one and one-half acre site located on Keetak Street near California 89. The site houses a three bay fire station, living quarters, a practice burn tower and district administrative offices.

El Dorado County Department of Transportation (DOT). El Dorado County's road maintenance and snow removal facility is located on a two acre site on Shakori Street in the Industrial Tract. The facility also houses erosion control engineering, vehicle storage and repair and storage of construction materials. DOT recently developed the first phase of the Pat Lowe Memorial Bike Trail along the south side of U.S. 50. The trail is a Class I facility meaning it is physically separated from the nearby highway, and has a certain minimum width.

El Dorado County Department of Animal Control. El Dorado County's animal control facility and shelter is located on Shakori Street in the Industrial Tract. The facility provides animal control, pet adoption and shelter services. It formerly shared space there with the South Lake Tahoe Humane Society which now is located in the West Meyers area.

South Lake Tahoe Humane Society. The society operates out of a recently acquired site on Magua Street in West Meyers.

South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD). STPUD's main sewage export transmission pipeline serving the south shore runs along U.S. 50 and California 89 through the plan area. STPUD provides water and sewer service to developed uses in the plan area. In 1989, the District purchased the Tahoe Paradise Water Company including two parcels of land and two older buildings on Santa Fe Street. One parcel contains the two structures one of which is leased to Simmons Cable Television, while the second serves as a lunchroom and materials storage. The second parcel is vacant.

Pacific Bell Telephone. Pacific Bell operates the Meyers Central Office, an unmanned switching station at a site near the intersection of U.S. 50 and Apache Avenue.

Simmons Cable Television. Business offices and receiving/ transmitting facilities for the Simmons cable television system are located on Santa Fe Street at a site presently owned by the South Tahoe Public Utility District.

USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU). The LTBMU operates the existing Meyers Work Center located along U.S. 50 in the Lake Valley land use district. It provides several services and facilities to the LTBMU throughout the Region. It contains dormitory space to house temporary or detail staff, a maintenance shop and laboratory.

Other Public Service Providers. Natural gas service is provided in the plan area by Washington Power Natural Gas (WPNG). Electrical service is provided by Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPP). In 1986 and 87, over head electrical lines located along U.S. 50 through portions of the plan area were converted to underground facilities. Telephone and cable television lines which were on SPP's overhead poles were also converted to underground service at the same time. Existing overhead utility lines run along U.S. 50 west of the California 89 intersection and along Keetak Street near the Industrial Tract.

## **B. COMMUNITY PLAN PUBLIC SERVICE OBJECTIVES AND SPECIAL POLICIES**

Utilizing the community plan goals established in Chapter 1, the following objectives and special policies shall be implemented as part of the plan. Objectives represent desired ends or results. Policies are implemented as the means to achieve objectives.

### **θ Public Service Goal**

Support development of public service projects within the plan area which support the community.

#### Objectives and Special Policies:

1. Ensure all public service projects implement the Community Design program.

*Policy: Public service projects shall be designed consistent with the Community Design Plan and Design Review Guidelines.*

*Policy: The California Department of Transportation is requested to remove and consolidate existing highway directional signs within the plan area wherever feasible.*

*Policy: Sierra Pacific Power Company and other utility providers with overhead utility lines along designated scenic highway corridors are requested to convert the lines to underground facilities within the plan area.*

2. Incorporate the post office as an anchor in one of the commercial land use districts.

*Policy: The U.S. Postal Service is requested to develop its new facility as one which does not require the allocation of additional commercial floor area in either the Yank's Station or West Meyers land use cluster. It is further requested use the name of Meyers for the new facility.*

3. Encourage the Department of Food and Agriculture to consider, in its long range facilities planning, to relocate the existing inspection station outside of the community plan area. Until such relocation, encourage it to retrofit the existing station consistent with the Community Plan Design Review Guidelines.

*Policy: <sup>§</sup>The Department of Food and Agriculture is requested to implement Community Design improvements at its existing inspection station. The Department is further requested to work with the California Tahoe Conservancy, El Dorado County, TRPA, and transit service providers to develop the site adjacent to the existing inspection station into a community*

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<sup>§</sup> Amended 12/20/95

*facility including park and ride and community events uses.*

4. Encourage the California Highway Patrol to remain within the community plan area.

*Policy: The plan supports development of new or expanded California Highway Patrol offices in the plan area.*

5. §Identify a building or site for a Meyers Town Hall for town meetings and other community functions.

*Policy: The South Tahoe Public Utility District is requested to consider providing shared public meeting space at its existing Santa Fe Street site.*

6. Encourage new and expanding public service uses to be developed in such a manner as to not need additional commercial floor area which may be allocated through the community plan.

*Policy: New and expanding public service uses shall not utilize additional commercial floor area allocated by the community plan.*

7. Support development of a preschool/day care facility in or adjacent to the community plan in a location which is safe and would not conflict with residential uses.

8. Encourage the California Conservation Corps to retrofit its existing facilities consistent with the Community Plan Design Review Guidelines.

9. Encourage new and relocated public service corporation yards and storage facilities to locate in the Industrial Tract land use district.

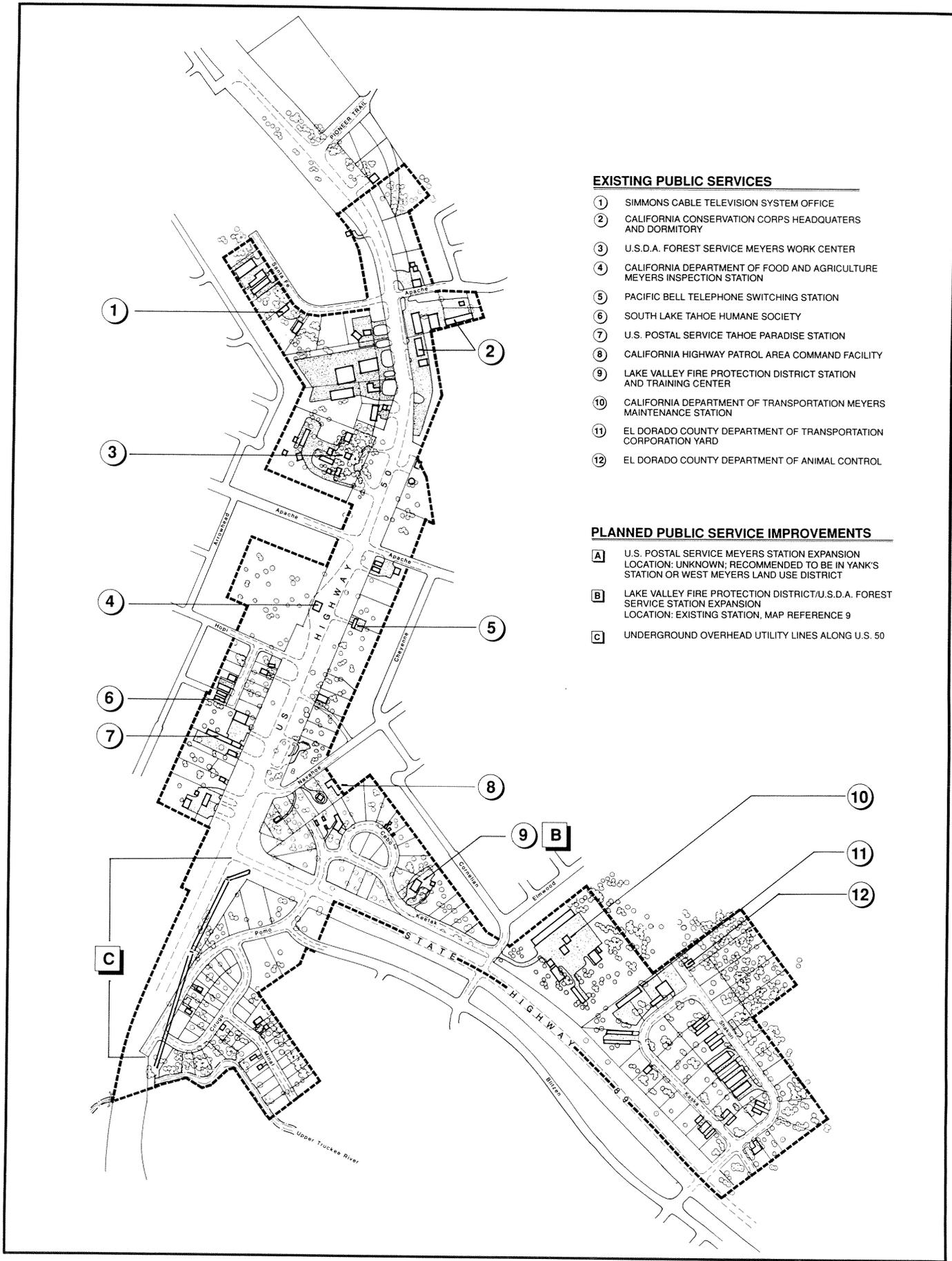
### **C. COMMUNITY PLAN PUBLIC SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS**

The plan envisions the following public service improvements to implement the goal and objectives and to maintain or improve service capacities. Several of the identified improvements appear on TRPA's Five Year List of Additional Public Services. See Figure 6-1.

1. U.S. Postal Service. The Postal Service is planning to occupy a new facility within the community plan area. The proposed facility is expected to be larger and offer more services, including home mail delivery, than the existing station located in West Meyers.
2. California Highway Patrol. The CHP has identified the need for larger offices. It is considering moving out of the plan area to accommodate its needs. It may be possible to expand the existing site to meet space needs. If they move, the existing site may be a potential public meeting space.
3. California Department of Food and Agriculture, Division of Pest Exclusion. The Department of Food and Agriculture has no immediate plans to change the existing Meyers Inspection Station. Its long range objectives include the possibility of

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§ Amended 12/20/95



**EXISTING PUBLIC SERVICES**

- ① SIMMONS CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM OFFICE
- ② CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS HEADQUARTERS AND DORMITORY
- ③ U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE MEYERS WORK CENTER
- ④ CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE MEYERS INSPECTION STATION
- ⑤ PACIFIC BELL TELEPHONE SWITCHING STATION
- ⑥ SOUTH LAKE TAHOE HUMANE SOCIETY
- ⑦ U.S. POSTAL SERVICE TAHOE PARADISE STATION
- ⑧ CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL AREA COMMAND FACILITY
- ⑨ LAKE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STATION AND TRAINING CENTER
- ⑩ CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MEYERS MAINTENANCE STATION
- ⑪ EL DORADO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION YARD
- ⑫ EL DORADO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CONTROL

**PLANNED PUBLIC SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS**

- A U.S. POSTAL SERVICE MEYERS STATION EXPANSION  
LOCATION: UNKNOWN; RECOMMENDED TO BE IN YANK'S STATION OR WEST MEYERS LAND USE DISTRICT
- B LAKE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT/U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE STATION EXPANSION  
LOCATION: EXISTING STATION, MAP REFERENCE 9
- C UNDERGROUND OVERHEAD UTILITY LINES ALONG U.S. 50



Meyers Community Plan  
PUBLIC SERVICES

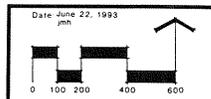


Figure 6-1. Public Services

relocating the inspection station to a point further west past the intersection of U.S. 50 and California 89. The community plan envisions the state-owned parcels adjacent to the station to be developed with the department's assistance to a community park and ride and temporary events site.

4. California Conservation Corps. The Corps plans to maintain its presence in the Tahoe Basin and may seek to develop a more permanent facility in the future outside of Meyers. This may have secondary or spin-off benefits to Meyers by returning the site to its original motel use.
5. Lake Valley Fire Protection District. The district proposes to expand the existing station cooperatively with the USDA Forest Service. Their proposal includes additional vehicle bays and barracks. Additionally, it proposes to add a new storage building for firefighting and snow removal equipment and construct a physical agility course on the existing site.
6. El Dorado County Department of Transportation. DOT has recently completed the addition of a meeting room and additional office space. The second phase of the Pat Lowe Memorial Bike Trail is planned for construction in 1994.
7. Place Existing Overhead Utility Lines Underground. Sierra Pacific Power Company and other utility providers using overhead facilities which are located along U.S. 50 (a state and regional designated scenic highway corridor) are requested to convert those systems to underground facilities within the plan area. Statewide undergrounding conversion funds are available to make the conversion. See Chapter 4 for additional discussion.
8. USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU). The LTBMU has identified no specific changes to the Work Center, although the site may be considered as a potential site for a relocated supervisor's office.

No other planned public service improvements are known at this time.