

Frequently Asked Questions- East Slope Transmission Main Project

Project Overview

The East Slope Transmission Main is a critical component of the Marlette Lake Water System (MLWS), which supplies drinking water to Storey County and Carson City via seven (7) spring catchments. The pipeline was installed in 1967 and 1968, using a combination of 8-inch and 12-inch diameter steel pipe along a 2.7-mile alignment. Four existing spring catchments were previously improved by MLWS in 2014. This project includes upgrades for an additional three (3) spring catchments, as well as upgrading the existing pipeline to a 20-inch buried HDPE pipeline. Construction started in September 2024, with a brief hold during winter months due to site accessibility. Construction resumes May 2025 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

Project-Specific Questions

- How long will this project take?
 - The project started in September 2024, with a brief hold beginning in November 2024. The project resumes May 2025 is estimated to be complete by the end of 2025.
- I saw the news on the Marlette lake closure, which says “through 2026”. Does that mean the closures are anticipated to last until the start of 2026? Or for the 2026 calendar year as well?
 - Trail closures are anticipated until the end of the Marlette Dam construction in October 2026. However, many of the trails on the east side of the slope related to the East Slope Project, will re-open following the completion of construction at the end of 2025.
- Was there public participation and involvement throughout the design and environmental permitting process?
 - Local stakeholders were consulted during the process, including State Parks and Division of Forestry. Local property owners were notified of the project during design and at the beginning of construction.
- How will Virginia City get its water?
 - Construction phasing will include temporary bypassing the East Slope Transmission facilities to ensure the continuous, uninterrupted, and undiminished supply of water to Storey County.
- Was the gas main break in October 2024 because of this project?
 - The gas main break did occur as a result of site activities associated with this project. Nobody was injured as a result of this incident and the break was repaired in a timely manner in coordination with Great Basin Gas Company

with no loss of service. Further coordination and planning has occurred for construction activities planned for this season between the project stakeholders, state public works, and the gas company to ensure additional safeguards and mitigations are in place.

Trail Access and Closures

- Will closures put additional pressure on Ash Canyon and has this been evaluated?
 - Alternate routes have been reviewed by State Parks to provide access to open portions of the park while maintaining prudent closures for the safety of recreational users and construction staff.
- How do inholders access their property with trail closures?
 - Inholder access will be coordinated through State Parks.
- Why do the trails need to be closed?
 - Upgrade of the East Slope Transmission Main and Additional Catchments will require large trucks to mobilize to the site along a mountainous single lane road with many blind spots. Trucks will access the East Slope via the Pipeline Road from Hobart Road. To ensure the safety of trail users and construction workers, trails will be closed during construction.
- Who is in charge of determining decisions to close bike access in the area while the East Slope Transmission Main is being worked on?
 - Recreational access to the park is managed by State Parks, see trail closures for the most up to date information.
- Will the Lakeview Road (North Carson City) that leads to Hobart Reservoir and eventually to Marlette Lake also be closed?
 - Yes, the Lakeview Road will be closed from the Lakeview Gate up to Hobart Reservoir. The road will be closed from April to the completion of construction activities, planned for the end of 2025.
- As of now, East Slope and the surrounding areas are still under snow. It is impossible for heavy equipment to move up North Canyon and Lakeview Roads until the snow has largely melted. Why close off so many trails and roads so far in advance of the work at East Slope and Marlette?
 - Recreational access to backcountry is managed by State Parks, but the contractors have been given the notice to proceed with construction and are now clearing snow off the roads in preparation for the construction season.