

## **3.2.8 Socioeconomic Resources**

This section discusses existing socioeconomics resources.

### **3.2.8.1 Affected Environment**

This section is divided into two parts. The first part describes existing socioeconomic conditions in Nevada County, California, the county in which the Project is located. The second part describes socioeconomic considerations for the Project.

#### **3.2.8.1.1 Nevada County Socioeconomic Conditions**

##### **Population Size**

The population of Nevada County was estimated at 98,114 people in January 2020 (CDOF 2020). Between 2010 and 2020, Nevada County's population showed a net decrease, shrinking from 98,764 to 98,114. A drop off of .66 percent, vastly different from the state's approximate growth of 7 percent over the same time frame (CDOF 2020). Nevada County has not exhibited linear growth in the last decade. Between 2018 and 2020, it is estimated that the population of Nevada County decreased 0.08 percent, in contrast to California's growth of 0.5 percent (CDOF 2020). The population increased between 2019 and 2020, by an estimated 0.3 percent from 97,820 to 98,114 (CDOF 2020). In the last decade, the lowest population of Nevada County was in 2014, with an estimated population of 97,764 (CDOF 2020).

##### **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. In 2019, the estimated population of Truckee was 16,136 and in 2020, it grew to 16,228, increasing by 0.58 percent (CDOF 2020). Grass Valley and Nevada City experienced essentially no change in population during the same time. From 2019 to 2010 Grass Valley increased from 12,851 to 12,865 and Nevada City decreased from 3,160 to 3,140 (CDOF 2020). 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 98,114 residents, 54,164 housing units, and a land area of 958 sq mi, Nevada County has an estimated 102.4 residents and 56.5 housing units per sq mi for 2020 (CDOF 2020). From 1990 to 2000, 2000 to 2010, and 2010 to 2020, the population of Nevada County increased by 17.2 percent, and 7.3 percent, and -.66 percent, respectively. During those same periods, the number of housing units increased at a rate of 18.6 percent, 18.8 percent, and 3.0 percent respectively (Table 3.2.8-1).

**Table 3.2.8-1. Summary of Nevada County population and housing units, 1960 – 2010, 2019, and 2020.**

County	2020	2019	2015	2010	2000	1990
Population	98,114	97,820	98,162	98,764	92,033	78,510
Housing Units	54,164	53,984	53,182	52,590	44,282	37,352

Source: CDOF 2020, 2007

Table 3.2.8-2 shows that most (54,865 or 54.6%) of the Nevada County population falls between the ages of 18 and 65. Nevada County’s population is older than that of the State of California.

**Table 3.2.8-2. Summary of population in Nevada County and California by age group, 2019.**

Population: Age	Nevada County	California
Population under 5 years old	4,190	2,370,733
Persons under 5 years old, percent	4.2%	6.0%
Persons under 18 years old	16,958	8,890,250
Persons under 18 years old, percent	17.0%	22.5%
Persons 65 years old and over	28,330	5,847,809
Persons 65 years old and over, percent	28.4%	14.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020

\*Estimates provided with data from the U.S. Census Bureau are not comparable to other geographic levels due to methodology and differences that exist between different data sources.

## Households/Family Distribution and Income

Table 3.2.8-3 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 3.2.8-3. Summary of household units, homeownership, home value, and income in Nevada County and the State of California.**

Household Information	Nevada County	California
Housing units, 2019	53,984 <sup>1</sup>	14,366,336
Homeownership rate, 2014-2018, percent	74.3%	54.6%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2014- 2018	\$400,000	\$475,900
Households, 2014-2018	40,904	12,965,435
Persons per household, 2014-2018	2.39	2.96
Median household income, 2014-2018	\$63,240	\$71,228
Per capita income in the past 12 months, 2014-2018	\$37,145	\$35,021
Persons in poverty, 2019	10.3%	11.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020, 2020a, <sup>1</sup>CDOF 2020

\*Estimates provided with data from the U.S. Census Bureau are not comparable to other geographic levels due to methodology and differences that exist between different data sources

## 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 3.2.8-4 provides a summary of population estimates by race for Nevada County and the State of California for the year 2019.

**Table 3.2.8-4. Summary of population estimates by gender and race in Nevada County and the State of California for 2019.**

Population: Gender/Race	Nevada County	California
White persons <sup>1</sup>	93,071	28,409,288
Black or African American persons <sup>1</sup>	599	2,568,294
American Indian and Alaska Native persons <sup>1</sup>	1,297	632,196
Asian persons <sup>1</sup>	1,496	6,124,394
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander persons <sup>1</sup>	200	197,561
Persons reporting two or more races	3,092	1,580,489
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin <sup>2</sup>	9,776	15,567,816
Female persons, percent	50.9%	50.3%
White persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	93.3%	71.9%
Black or African American persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	0.6%	6.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	1.3%	1.6%
Asian persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	1.5%	15.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent <sup>1</sup>	0.2%	0.5%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent	3.1%	4.0%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent <sup>2</sup>	9.8%	39.4%
Language other than English spoken at home, age 5+, percent	8.3%	44.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020, 2020a

<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

It's estimated that 94.2 percent of Nevada County's population is educated through high school with 36.6 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 2020, 2020a).

## 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 California Employment Development Department (EDD), in 2019 the annual average unemployment rate was 3.3 percent for Nevada County (EDD 2020). Comparatively, the average unemployment rates for 2010 and 2015 were, respectively, 11.7 percent and 5.4 percent (EDD 2020). These rates are comparable to those for the State of California, which had an unemployment rate of approximately 12.2, 6.2, and 4 percent in the years 2010, 2015, and 2019 (EDD 2020).

## Industry

Table 3.2.8-5 shows that in 2020, service providing was the largest employment sector in Nevada County. The second largest employment sector was government (EDD 2020a).

**Table 3.2.8-5. Summary of industry statistics for Nevada County, August 2020.**

Industry	Number of Employees
Manufacturing	1,050
Wholesale Trade	420
Retail Trade	3,480
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	4,350
Information	220
Financial Activities	1,250
Natural Resources, Mining, Construction	3,300
Professional and Business Services	2,400
Education and Health Services	4,990
Leisure and Hospitality	3,360
Other Services	1,430
Federal Government	450
State Government	420
Local Government	5,380

Source: EDD 2020a

### 3.2.8.1.2 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 2013). YCWA is part of the “government” employment sector shown in Table 3.2.8-5.

YCWA is headquartered in Marysville, California, and has about 89 full-time employees. Approximately 47 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 \$110,000.00 each year to FERC in administrative fees and 8.2% of USACE’s annual O&M costs at Englebright Reservoir as part of the current license’s required “storage agreement”. In addition, YCWA pays sales tax for all equipment and supplies.