3.3 WATER USE, WATER RIGHTS AND GROUNDWATER

Chapter 4.3, page 4.3-6, of the 1995 Draft EIR/EIS/EIS (95 Draft EIR/EIS/EIS) for the original Master Plan (MP 96) provides a detailed account of water diverted and used for snowmaking and commercial facilities, the locations of water use, and the timing of water diversions and use. Additionally, Chapter 5 of the Master Plan Amendment (MPA 07) outlines the amended plan for water supply and use for snowmaking at Heavenly Mountain Resort. Existing snowmaking facilities are outlined in Table 5-3 and MPA 07 proposed snowmaking facilities are outlined in Table 5-4 of Chapter 5 of the MPA 07.

The Heavenly Mountain Resort Master Plan Amendment Final EIR/EIS/EIS certified in 2007 discussed water use, water rights, and groundwater, particularly in regard to the five wells proposed and approved under the MPA 07. The 2007 Master Plan Amendment EIR/EIS/EIS analyzed potential decreased flow in Mott Canyon Creek, the South Fork of Daggett Creek, Bijou Park Creek, decreased levels of East Peak Lake and potential drawdown of the groundwater table near the proposed wells.

As discussed in Chapter 1, the Epic Discovery Project does not propose any expansion of or change to existing water services, use, or supply beyond what was identified in the previous Master Plan documents. Proposed water use for the Epic Discovery Project would not exceed the use levels analyzed in the previous EIR/EIS/EIS documents for winter operations, which are substantially higher than summer water demand. No additional services, demand or storage beyond what has been previously analyzed is proposed or required by the Epic Discovery Project components; therefore, no additional environmental analysis is necessary.