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## 14.0 TRIBAL RESOURCES

This section describes the tribal resources associated with the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP or Project). The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC's or Commission's) content requirements for this section are specified in Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Chapter I § 5.6(d)(3)(xii).

This section identifies Indian tribes that are known to have cultural ties or other interests associated with the MFP, and discusses the relationship of the MFP to tribal lands. Potential impacts to tribal resources and/or interests have not been identified at this time but will be addressed as the cultural resources studies proceed, in consultation with the resource agencies and Indian tribes.

No federally recognized tribal lands are within or near the FERC Project boundary. However, the Middle Fork American River and Rubicon River watersheds were part of the aboriginal culture area of Nisenan and Washoe people.

### 14.1 INDIAN TRIBES

A "federally recognized tribe" is any tribe, band, nation, or other organized Indian group or community of Indians, including any Alaska Native Village or corporation as defined in or established by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 USC 1601 *et seq.*), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians (see e.g., 43 CFR Part 10.2(b)(2)). A list of such tribes is maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. For the purposes of this discussion "tribe" also refers to federally unrecognized Indian groups, communities, or organizations.

To date, the following Indian tribes have expressed interest in the MFP. Federally recognized tribes are indicated by an asterisk (\*).

- Colfax-Todd Valley Consolidated Tribe
- El Dorado County Indian Council
- Shingle Springs Rancheria\*
- Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation
- Tsi-Akim Maidu
- United Auburn Indian Community\*
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California\*
- Miwok Tribe of the El Dorado Rancheria

### 14.2 TRIBAL LANDS

Tribal lands are defined as all lands within the boundaries of an Indian reservation and all dependent Indian communities (36 CFR Part 800.16(x)) and any lands held in trust

for any tribe by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). No federally recognized tribal lands are within or near the FERC Project boundary.

### **14.3 TRIBAL INTERESTS**

Members of Indian tribes have indicated that archaeological sites with Native American artifacts, deposits and features, and certain plant and animal resources in the MFP vicinity may be of cultural significance. To date, specific resources of tribal interest in the Project vicinity have not been identified but may be identified through on-going consultation. There are no known agreements between federally recognized Indian tribes and other agencies that have a connection to the operation and maintenance of the MFP apart from the trust responsibilities accorded to tribes acknowledged by agencies of the United States.