

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
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December 22, 2010

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2079-061 – California
Middle Fork American Hydroelectric Project
Placer County Water Agency

Andrew Fecko, Resource Planning Administrator
Placer County Water Agency
144 Ferguson Road
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: Comments on Draft License Application for the Middle Fork American Hydroelectric Project

Dear Mr. Fecko:

Pursuant to 18 CFR § 5.16(e), this letter contains Commission staff's comments on your draft license application (DLA) for the Middle Fork American Hydroelectric Project, filed on September 29, 2010.

We reviewed the DLA and determined that, in general, your DLA includes the necessary contents for a license application. In some instances, however, the description and analysis of your proposal lacks sufficient detail for Commission staff to conduct its required environmental analysis; and therefore, additional information requests and clarification questions are necessary.

Our additional information requests and clarification questions on the DLA are included in Appendix A.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Carolyn Templeton at (202) 502-8785, or via email at carolyn.templeton@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Welch, Chief
West Branch
Division of Hydropower Licensing

cc: Mailing List
Public Files

Appendix A Comments on the Draft License Application

Commission staff has identified that your draft license application (DLA) requires additional information and clarification regarding your licensing proposal. In our comments, we note the areas of the DLA where additional information will be needed in order for Commission staff to conduct its required environmental analysis.

Exhibit D

- On Page D-4 of your DLA, please add text or a footnote explaining how the depreciation expense was calculated, including the book value you used and rate of financing.
- On Page D-5 of your DLA, please include an estimate of the value of the project's power based on your existing power sales contract with Pacific Gas and Electric. Be sure to break out both the energy value and any capacity value.
- Please clarify if your estimates of project power shown on page D-5 of your DLA include capacity value.

Exhibit H

- On Page H-16 of your DLA, please clarify whether Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) serves any end-use customers and say how PCWA plans to sell the output of the project.

Historic Properties Management Plan

- In sections 2.2 and 5.6 of your Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP), you cite an area of potential effects (APE) map and a map 6; respectively. However, these maps do not appear in the HPMP. Please provide these and all other maps and figures cited in the HPMP.