

INTRODUCTION

This Exhibit E – Environmental Exhibit (Exhibit E) is being filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) by Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) as part of the Application for New License for the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP or Project) (FERC Project No. 2079). As required in Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 5.16(c), PCWA notified the Commission and the participants involved in the relicensing of the MFP of its intent to file a Draft Application for New License in the Updated Study Report filed with the Commission on January 21, 2010. On September 28, 2010, PCWA filed its Draft Application for New License with FERC and requested comments from interested parties prior to the comment period closing date of December 27, 2010. All comments received on the Draft Application for New License are addressed in this Application for New License (refer to Appendix D).

As specified in the Commission's regulations in 18 CFR § 5.18(b), this Exhibit E addresses the resources listed in the Pre-Application Document (PAD) provided for in 18 CFR § 5.6; follows the Commission's guidelines in "Preparing Environmental Documents: Guidelines for Applicants, Contractors, and Staff"; and meets the format and content requirements specified by the Commission.

This Exhibit E provides the necessary technical information and analyses to identify and evaluate potential impacts of operation and maintenance of the MFP under the Proposed Action compared to the No-Action Alternative. In addition, the Exhibit E specifies new programs, measures, and facilities under the Proposed Action to protect, maintain, or enhance environmental and cultural resources. The Proposed Action in this Exhibit E considers input from state and federal resource agencies, Native American Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and members of the public (collectively referred to as MFP relicensing participants) acquired during extensive consultation activities completed for the relicensing of the MFP. However, the Proposed Action represents PCWA's recommended protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures.

The proposed protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures included in the Proposed Action are documented in license measures and management and monitoring plans. As required by the Commission, in their Additional Information Request (AIR) to PCWA dated April 11, 2008, the Application for New License includes a Recreation Plan and a Draft Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP). Further, as allowed for under 18 CFR § 5.16(d), this Exhibit E also includes a Draft Biological Assessment and Biological Evaluation (BA/BE).