

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 Draft 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 stakeholders 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. Further, 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 and 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 stakeholders) acquired during extensive consultation activities completed for the relicensing of the MFP. However, the Proposed Action represents only PCWA’s recommended protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures. To date, no formal alternatives have been proposed by the MFP stakeholders for consideration in the Draft Application for New License. Consideration of any future alternatives formally proposed by the MFP stakeholders will be analyzed in the Final Application for New License.

The proposed protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures included in the Proposed Action are documented in draft license measures and draft management and monitoring plans. As required by the Commission, in their Additional Information Request (AIR) to PCWA dated April 11, 2008, the Draft Application for New License includes a Recreation Plan and a 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).