

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
July 24, 2012

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2079-069 – California
Middle Fork American River
Hydroelectric Project
Placer County Water Agency

Mr. Mark Delaplaine
Federal Consistency Manager
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Reference: Request for concurrence that a Coastal Zone Management Act federal consistency determination is not needed for the Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project No. 2079-069

Dear Mr. Delaplaine:

On February 23, 2011, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a new major license for its existing 223,753 kilowatt Middle Fork American River Project No. 2079-069, located on the Middle Fork of the American and Rubicon Rivers and Duncan and North and South Fork Long Canyon Creeks in Placer and El Dorado Counties, California. The project consists of five hydroelectric developments: French Meadows, located on the Middle Fork American River and a tributary, Duncan Creek; Hell Hole on the Rubicon River; Middle Fork on the Middle Fork American River and on two tributaries (North Fork and South Fork) of Long Canyon Creek (a tributary of the Rubicon River); Ralston located on the Rubicon River and the Middle Fork American River; and Oxbow on the Middle Fork American River.

In our draft environmental impact statement issued on July 23, 2012¹, we concluded that the project is not located within the State of California's coastal zone and would not affect coastal zone resources. We, therefore, conclude that a Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) federal consistency determination and associated review by

¹ The draft environmental impact statement is available at the following link: http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20120723-4002. A hard copy will be mailed to you shortly.

California Coastal Commission is not needed for PCWA's proposed relicensing of the Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project.

Within 15 days of the date of this letter, please let us know whether or not you agree with us that a CZMA federal consistency determination and associated review is not needed for the project. Please file an original and eight copies of your response with:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.,
Washington, D.C. 20426

The first page of the response should clearly show the project number, P-2079-069. Your response may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov>) under the "eFiling" link.

If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Templeton at (202) 502-8785, or by e-mail at carolyn.templeton@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Service List
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Document Content(s)

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