

Placer County Water Agency

Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project Relicensing Stakeholder Meeting

June 20, 2006
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Canyon View Community Center
Sierra Room
471 Maidu Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

Meeting Summary

Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) hosted a stakeholder meeting for the Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project (MFP). The key agenda items for this meeting included Technical Working Groups (TWG), stakeholder resource interest statements, operations model, communication protocols, existing resource information reports, and the project description. A handout packet containing copies of the meeting presentation materials (referenced by handout number) was provided to the meeting participants.

Meeting Summary

The meeting summary is organized by agenda item. Each agenda item includes a brief overview of the agenda topic followed by a summary of key decisions or action items, if any.

Introductions/Review Agenda - The meeting was opened with a round of introductions and review of the agenda (Handout #1).

Administrative Issues and Announcements – The following summarizes a number of MFP relicensing administrative issues and announcements.

- May 16, 2006 Meeting Minutes (Handout No. 2). No stakeholder comments were provided and the meeting minutes were approved as final.
- May 16, 2006 Plenary Action Item Summary (Handout No. 3). A tracking matrix of the Plenary action items was developed. This matrix tracks for each action item the responsible party, the status and the completion date. Once an action item is completed it will remain on the matrix for one additional month to demonstrate that it was completed. After that the completed action item will be removed from the list.
- Evaluation Summary: A summary of the May 16, 2006 Plenary meeting evaluation responses was distributed. Stakeholders were encouraged to provide specific comments for improving aspects of the meeting they found to be less than satisfactory. The feedback will be used to improve future meetings.

- Project Site Visit Dates: Stakeholders were asked to indicate available dates to participate in a site visit. Based on stakeholder input two dates were identified as potential dates for the site visit. The dates and a recommended itinerary are:
 - Wednesday August 30, 2006 - visit the lower portion of the Project
 - Wednesday September 27, 2006 - visit the upper portion of the Project.

Technical Working Groups

The stakeholder group discussed and agreed to establishing and scheduling Technical Working Groups (TWG). The goal of the discussion was to identify resource areas that will need focused technical attention. TWGs will then be established to address these resource areas. A preliminary list of proposed TWGs includes:

- Aquatic Resources
- Terrestrial (includes Botanical and Wildlife)
- Recreation
- Land Management
- Cultural/Historical

The TWGs will focus on the major resource areas and will identify the need to establish resource specific subgroups, if necessary.

The TWGs will begin to meet in August. The proposed TWG kickoff dates and schedule is:

- Monday August 14, 2006
 - Aquatic Resources 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
 - Recreation 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Tuesday August 15, 2006
 - Terrestrial 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
 - Land Management 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
 - Cultural/Historical 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Decisions/Action Items

- Action Item No. 1: Email to the Plenary information regarding the TWG's and proposed kickoff meeting schedule and location (including directions to meeting location).
- Action Item No. 2: Stakeholders were asked to sign up for the TWG's in which they want to participate based on their resource interest.

Stakeholder Interest Statement and Resource Agency Regulatory Authority

Stakeholder Interest Statements

To date five stakeholders (including PCWA) have provided their written "Stakeholder Interest Statements" (Handout No. 4). Stakeholders were encouraged to provide their written resource Interest Statement to PCWA by emailing them to: Relicensing@pcwa.net.

Decisions/Action Items

- Action Item No. 3: Include Stakeholder Interest Statements on the agenda for next Plenary meeting in July.
- Action Item No. 4: Continue to track and compile any new Stakeholder Interest Statements that come for distribution to the Plenary stakeholder group.

Regulatory Authority

Stakeholder from the Forest Service (FS), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB), and California State Parks provided a brief overview of their regulatory authority in the relicensing process.

Forest Service has mandatory conditioning authority under Section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA). The FS also described their technical team of resource specialists from the Tahoe National Forest and the Eldorado National Forest.

CDFG is the trustee agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CDFG has recommendation authority under Section 10(j) of the FPA.

SWRCB has mandatory conditioning authority under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The SWRCB is responsible for issuing the water quality certification for the Project.

California State Parks has recommendation authority under Section 10(j) of the FPA.

Ed Bianchi (ENTRIX) provided an overview of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) authority. The USFWS is responsible for the Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Biological Opinion for the MFP. The USFWS may provide mandatory conditions and/or recommendations in the relicensing.

Decisions/Action Items

- Action Item No. 5. Forest Service will provide an organizational chart of their project team for the MFP relicensing.

Operations Model and Subgroup

Jeff Meyers (ECORP) provided an overview of the Operations Model for the MFP. The presentation provided information on how the model is structured, the data needed to operate the model, the operational rules of the model, and the model output. A copy of the presentation slides is provided as Handout No. 5. The key discussion topics following the presentation are:

- The model runs in acre-feet but has the ability to provide output in other units.
- Although PCWA has begun development of the model, the final development of the model will be done by the collaborative stakeholder group.
- The model can be made available to interested stakeholders by a variety of methods including server based availability, individual licenses, working sessions, or training.
- Historical hydrology data is being used to determine the unimpaired flow.

[Note: The group agreed to reorder the meeting agenda by moving up the presentation on the Project Description]

Project Description

A presentation was made on the Project Description. The presentation provided an overview of the Project including existing facilities, potential Project betterments, Project operations, and maintenance activities. A copy of the presentation slides is presented as Handout No. 8.

The stakeholder group discussed the potential Project betterments. The presentation only provided a basic overview of the potential Project betterments. The collaborative group requested that the betterment discussion continue at the next Plenary meeting and asked that additional information be provided.

Decisions/Action Items

- Action Item No. 6: Include Project betterment discussion at the next Plenary meeting in July.

Communication and Participation Protocols Subcommittee Update

Julie Leimbach (Foothills Water Network) provided an overview of the “Draft Communication and Participation Protocols (Handout No. 6). The draft document was developed by the subcommittee based on a review and adaptation of protocols from other relicensings. The protocols in the draft document only apply to the collaborative up until the start of settlement negotiations when the protocols may be revised or re-written to address the settlement process.

A few key comments on the draft protocols during the meeting included:

- Add glossary in back to define terms within the document.
- Add a section on the Exparta Communication.
- Add a section on the formal Study Dispute Resolution process from the FERC regulations pertaining to the study plans following submittal of the Pre-Application Document (PAD).
- Add a section on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process.

Decisions/Action Items

- Action Item No. 7. Stakeholders to review the draft communication and participation protocols and provide comments by July 5, 2006. These comments will be incorporated for review before the July Plenary meeting with a goal of protocol approval at the meeting.

Existing Resource Information Reports

A brief presentation was made on the Existing Resource Information Reports. A copy of the presentation slides was provided as Handout No. 7. The presentation provided: an overview of the relationship of the reports to the PAD; a schedule for the distribution of the reports; and an outline for the review process and schedule. Stakeholders at the meeting received “Existing

Resource Information Reports” (First Series) and the Project Description in electronic format with the maps in hard copy and electronic format. This distribution of the reports at today’s meeting contained the first half of the Existing Resource Information Reports; the remainder of the reports will be distributed in July 2006.

Decisions/Action Items

- Action Item No. 8. Distribute/mail the Existing Resource Information and Project Description Reports to stakeholders not present at today’s meeting.

Check Out and July 18 Agenda Topics

A brief discussion on the aspects from today’s meeting identified the following key thoughts:

- Generally everyone liked the new room layout/table configuration.
- Need to enforce break time and be sensitive to the schedule.
- Like to have copies of the handouts before the meeting for time to review and respond.
- Generally everyone felt that there was good discussion during the meeting and liked the openness of the discussion.

It was identified that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will if requested host an Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) workshop to educate stakeholders on the FERC process.

Decisions/Action Items

- Action Item No. 9. PCWA to inquire with FERC regarding coordination of an ILP workshop and report back to the collaborative group the status on if and when this may occur.