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April 2, 2008
File No. 01030A

Re: Invitation to Participate in a Whitewater Boating Focused Discussion Group
Middle Fork American River Project (FERC Project No. 2079)

Dear Stakeholder:

The Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) invites you to participate in a focus group to identify and characterize potential whitewater boating runs on the river and stream reaches associated with the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP or Project). These river and stream reaches are shown on Figure 1 (Attachment A).

The Whitewater Focus Group session will be held from 6:00 – 9:00 PM on April 23, 2008 in PCWA's American River Room located at 144 Ferguson Road, Auburn, California. Resource maps and other materials will be provided during the meeting to aide the discussion. A brief overview of the MFP and the relicensing process is provided in Attachment B.

Your participation is being requested due to your specific knowledge about the whitewater resources in the Middle Fork American River Watershed (Watershed). The Whitewater Boating Focus Group participants are identified on the attached invitation list (Attachment C). The Whitewater Boating Focus Group participants were selected to represent a broad range of experience, skill levels, and interests. The specific topics to be covered are summarized in Attachment D. We encourage you to bring any additional information you think may help us characterize individual boating runs, for example, your old boating logs noting the dates and locations of your previous runs, flow conditions, and experience in the Watershed.

PCWA appreciates your participation in the Whitewater Boating Focus Group. If you have any questions regarding this focus group or need any additional information, please contact Mal Toy, MFP Relicensing Manager, at (530) 823-4889.

Sincerely,
PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mal Toy'.

Mal Toy
Director of Resource Development

Attachments:

- A- Figure 1 (Map)
- B- Overview of the MFP and the Relicensing Process
- C- Whitewater Boating Focus Group Invitation List
- D- Whitewater Boating Focus Group Topics

Whitewater Focus Group Invitation..doc

Attachment A
Figure

Attachment B

Overview of the MFP and the Relicensing Process

PCWA owns and operates the MFP, a multi-purpose water supply and hydro-generation project. The MFP facilities are situated in the foothills and mountainous uplands of the western slope of the central Sierra Nevada, within the Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests. The MFP facilities are located on the Middle Fork American River, the Rubicon River, Duncan Creek, and the North and South Forks of Long Canyon Creek. The MFP began operating in 1967 and supplies water for homes, industry, and agriculture within western Placer County and clean renewable energy to the California electric grid.

The MFP operates under a 50-year license, which was issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 1963. The current license will expire on March 1, 2013. Accordingly, PCWA has initiated a process to the relicense the Project. PCWA formally began the relicensing process when it filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Pre-Application Document (PAD) with the FERC on December 13, 2007. The NOI and PAD are available in their entirety on PCWA's relicensing website at <http://relicensing.pcwa.net/pad.htm>.

In May and April of 2006, PCWA conducted several Introductory Stakeholder Meetings, organized a Plenary Group to facilitate communication and decision making activities, and formed Technical Working Groups (TWGs). A major accomplishment of the Plenary and TWGs was the collaborative development and approval of 28 separate Technical Study Plans (TSPs), of which five are recreation-related. These five TSPs were included in the PAD and are identified as follows:

- REC 1 – Recreation Use and Facilities Assessment TSP
- REC 2 – Recreation Visitor Surveys TSP
- REC 3 – Reservoir Recreation Opportunities TSP
- REC 4 – Stream-based Recreation Opportunities TSP
- REC 5 – Visual Quality Assessment Technical Study Plan

All of the TSPs are available on PCWA's website at http://relicensing.pcwa.net/pad_SDH.htm. The five recreation-related TSPs can be accessed by clicking on the Appendix A - Recreation Technical Study Plans link.

PCWA began implementing select elements of the Plenary-approved TSPs in May 2007. These included: selection of instream flow modeling transects; fish, amphibian, and macroinvertebrate surveys; water quality sampling; recreation user counts; cultural resources inventories; vegetation community and wildlife habitat mapping; and bat surveys. The remainder of the technical studies presented in the PAD will be completed in 2008 and 2009. The focus groups are an element of the REC 4 – Stream Based Opportunities TSP and will be conducted in 2008.

Attachment C

Whitewater Boating Focus Group Invitation List

Scott Armstrong	All Outdoors
Mike Bean	Private Boater
Dan Buckley	Tributary Whitewater Tours
Bryant Burkhardt	California Canoe & Kayak
Bill Center	American River Recreation Association
Charlie Center	Private Boater
Dan Crandall	Current Adventures
Bill Deitchman	Auburn State Recreation Area
Rod Hall	American Red Cross
Roger Lee	Wilderness Adventures
Steve Liles	WET River Trips
Eric Peach	Protect American River Canyons (PARC)
Nate Rangel	Adventure Connection
Hilde Schweitzer	Private Boater
Theresa Simsiman	Private Boater
Todd Stanley	Private Boater
Dave Steindorf	American Whitewater
Scott Underwood	Mother Lode River Center

Attachment D

Whitewater Boating Focus Group Discussion Topics

Overview by PCWA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of Meeting Objectives
3. Overview of Middle Fork American River Project (MFP) and Relicensing Process
4. Summary of Recreation Technical Studies

Group Discussion

1. Discuss Background and Experience of Participants
 - Skill level
 - Primary watercraft
 - Affiliation(s)
 - Commercial or private
 - Specific experience boating the river reaches in the Middle Fork American River Watershed (years of experience, locations)
 - Interests
2. Identify Specific Runs to be Discussed Further, based on Background and Experience of Participants and Project Nexus
3. Characterize Each Run Identified Above
 - Identify access points (put-ins and take-outs) and adequacy
 - Adequacy of support facilities
 - Typical boating season
 - Length of run (time)
 - Suitable watercraft
 - Difficulty of run
 - Portages
 - Boatable flow ranges
 - Flow information sources (adequacy of information sources, needs)
 - Safety concerns
 - Identify sources of other pertinent information for each run (e.g. guide books, boaters, web sites)
 - Conflicts with other users