November 14, 1994

The Secretary  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
825 North Capitol Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: Project No. 2079 - Recreation Facilities

Dear Sir or Madam:

In accordance with paragraph D on page 6 of the ORDER APPROVING REVISED RECREATION PLAN WITH MODIFICATION AND AMENDING LICENSE issued April 27, 1992, we are submitting Site Plan drawings and documentation of our consultation with the Forest Service (FS) and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The site drawings, showing the proposed improvements to be made at the recreation facilities and campgrounds, consist of 24 drawings. We have had extensive consultation with the FS concerning the site specific plans. Enclosed is a letter dated September 15, 1994 from the El Dorado National Forest, Forest Supervisor, approving the plans for the Big Meadows Campground, with minor modifications. We agree to these modifications, and the plans for the Big Meadows Campground have been modified to show the requested changes.

Concerning all the campgrounds and recreation facilities in the French Meadows area, enclosed is a letter dated October 11, 1994 from the Tahoe National Forest, Acting Forest Supervisor, approving the site drawings for the French Meadows, Lewis, Gates, Coyote, Black Bear, and McGuire facilities.

Regarding consultation with the SHPO, in accordance with Federal law (Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act), and Regulation (36 CFR, Part 800), the FS consulted with the SHPO concerning potential impacts on cultural resources at two of the campgrounds where cultural resources had been identified.
Concerning the Big Meadows Campground, enclosed is a letter dated November 29, 1993 from the SHPO to John Phipps, the El Dorado National Forest, Forest Supervisor, concurring that the proposed improvements could be carried out at the Big Meadows Campground with No Adverse Effect. Also enclosed is a letter dated February 7, 1994, from the Advisory Council On Historic Preservation to Robert E. Harris, the Acting Forest Supervisor, El Dorado National Forest, agreeing with the SHPO's conclusion.

Concerning the proposed improvements to the campgrounds in the French Meadows area, enclosed is a letter dated October 6, 1994, from Judie L. Tartaglia, the Tahoe National Forest Acting Forest Supervisor, transmitting to me a copy of a letter dated August 31, 1994 from the SHPO to John Skinner, the Tahoe National Forest Supervisor, concurring that an archaeological deposit that FS archaeologists had discovered at one of the campgrounds proposed to be improved, is ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The ORDER APPROVING REVISED RECREATION PLAN WITH MODIFICATION AND AMENDING LICENSE, issued April 27, 1992, required that we make the enclosed submittals to you at least 180 days before beginning construction. We are presently finalizing the construction specification and, in cooperation with the FS, are planning to begin construction early next Summer if the Commission approves the Site Plan drawings and documentation of our consultation.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (916) 885-6917.

Sincerely,

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

Stephen J. Jones
Power System Manager

SJ:lk

Enclosures (8 sets)
cc: David Breninger w/correspondence
    Noel Folsom, P.E., FERC Regional Director - S.F. w/1 set of enclosures
    Edward Tiedemann w/correspondence
Mr. Stephen Jones, Power System Manager
Placer County Water Agency
P.O. Box 667
Foresthill, CA. 95631

Dear Mr. Jones:

Bob Logan and Arthur Allen have reviewed the third edition showing the proposed improvements to be made at Big Meadows Campground.

The plans consisting of the eight drawings are approved with the understanding that the details for Sites #35 and #41 on drawings 214222 and 214223 will be changed to indicate the contractor is to carefully remove pavement. Archaeological monitoring will be required at each site. The barrier posts will also be cut off as close to the ground as possible with a chainsaw.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

JOHN PHIPPS,
Forest Supervisor

cc:
District Ranger, Georgetown
Art Allen, Georgetown
Recreation
Bob Logan
Mr. Stephen J. Jones  
Power Systems Manager  
Placer County Water Agency  
P.O. Box 667  
Foresthill, CA 95631

Dear Mr. Jones:

This letter is in response to your letter of August 31, 1994 requesting a letter from the Forest Service indicating approval of the 19 drawings which show the proposed improvements to be made to the campgrounds in the French Meadows Reservoir area, in accordance with the Revised Recreation Plan dated May, 1989, for the Middle Fork American River Project, FERC No. 2079.

First allow me to thank you, Placer County Water Agency, and your Consultant Larry Takahashi, for your efforts to coordinate and complete these professional drawings with input from several of our staff. The third set of drawings that my staff reviewed reflect numerous comments and ideas developed during a summer field review of earlier drawings. These previous changes will certainly enhance the recreation improvements being planned. Several additional items for change in the final drawings have been identified and agreed to in this last round of review. With this in mind I recommend that you provide a "reviewed by" space in the final set of drawings for the Forest Supervisor, Forest Engineer, and Forest Landscape Architect's signature to assure your Agency that there will not be any last minute questions or changes to your plans for next season implementation.

Based on input from the Foresthill Ranger District, the Forest Landscape Architect, and the Forest Engineer, I am in agreement with the third set of drawings along with the several changes already identified and agreed to. I look forward to the implementation of these recreation improvements next season. Again thank you for your time and efforts in regards to this project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

JUDIE L. TARTAGLIA  
Acting Forest Supervisor
Subject: BIG MEADOW CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Dear Mr. Phipps:

Thank you for your letter requesting my concurrence that the archaeological site FS-05-03-53-65 is eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion D.

FS-05-03-53-65 is a large, complex, multi-component site. Occupied for millennia, it apparently served as an "oasis" along the prehistoric Trans Sierra travel corridor. Because of its size (approx. 96,000 square meters in area by 130 centimeters deep), richness, and depositional complexity, FS-05-03-53-65 has defied complete recordation for decades, despite repeated site visits and two scientific excavations.

Your archaeological report, however, does an excellent job of identifying and defining the site while providing sufficient information to confirm that FS-05-03-53-65 is capable of answering a multitude of important research questions and of refining our understanding of prehistoric Sierran chronology, subsistence, exchange patterns, and the effects of climatic change on prehistoric peoples. I therefore concur with your determination that FS-05-03-53-65 is eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

The proposed improvements to the existing campground will affect areas already affected during past campground construction and within previously mixed and disturbed strata. Undisturbed areas of the site or those which have not yet been studied will be avoided. I therefore agree with your determination of No Adverse Effect. A copy of your documentation should be forwarded to the Advisory Council.

The Eldorado National Forest is to be complimented on its plan to employ a program of security monitoring, preservation, and interpretation of this important archaeological resource to
educate the general public and encourage an appreciation of California's prehistoric heritage. Congratulations on a job well done!

If you have any questions, please telephone Nicholas Del Cioppo of my staff at (916) 653-9696.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steade R. Craigo, AIA, Acting State Historic Preservation Officer
February 7, 1994

Robert E. Harris
Acting Forest Supervisor
Eldorado National Forest
100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667

REF: No Adverse Effect determination for the improvements to the Big Meadow Campground, Georgetown Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest, California

Dear Mr. Harris:

We have reviewed the documentation regarding your no adverse effect determination for the above referenced undertaking. Under procedures set forth in 36 CFR Section 800.5(d)(2), the Council does not object to the finding of no adverse effect. This letter evidences that the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Council’s regulations have been met for this project. It should be retained with all supporting documentation in your agency’s environmental or project file.

If you have any questions or require the further assistance of the Council, please contact the Western Office at (303) 231-5320.

Sincerely,

Claudia Nissley
Director, Western Office of Review
Mr. Steven J. Jones  
Power Systems Manager  
Placer County Water Agency  
P.O. Box 667  
Foresthill, CA 95631

Dear Mr. Jones:

I have enclosed a copy of correspondence that we have received from SHPO responding to the Placer County Water Agency Development, Phase II project that you requested in your letter of September 29, 1994. If you have any questions or need further information concerning heritage resources in this project please contact Dick Markley, Forest Archaeologist at 916-478-6213.

Sincerely,

JUDIE L. TARTAGLIA  
Acting Forest Supervisor
John Skinner, Supervisor
Tahoe National Forest
Post Office Box 6003
Nevada City, CA 95959-6003

Subject: PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY DEVELOPMENT, PHASE II

Dear Mr. Skinner:

Thank you for consulting with me in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR, Part 800.

You have requested that I review the materials you prepared in support of your determination that the archaeological deposit designated CA-PLA-784 is ineligible for inclusion in the National Register. Based upon my review of your documentation, I believe that efforts to identify historic properties meet with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Identification and with the requirements of 36 CFR 800.4. Therefore, I concur that CA-PLA-784 is ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Accordingly, you have fulfilled federal agency responsibilities pursuant to 36 CFR 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Please note that your agency may have additional responsibilities under 36 CFR 800 under any of the following circumstances:

(1) If any person requests that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation review your findings in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6(e);

(2) If this undertaking changes in ways that could affect historic properties [36 CFR 800.5(c)];

(3) If previously undocumented properties are discovered during the implementation of this undertaking or if a known historic property will be affected in an unanticipated manner [36 CFR 800.11];

(4) If a property that was to be avoided has been inadvertently or otherwise affected [36 CFR 800.4(c);800.5]; or
(5) If any condition of the undertaking, such as a delay in implementation or implementation in phases over time, may justify reconsideration of the current National Register status of properties within the undertaking's Area of potential Effects [36 CFR 800.4(c)].

Thank you for considering historic properties during project planning. If you have any questions, please call staff archaeologist Nicholas Del Cioppo at (916) 653-9696.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ms. Cherilyn Widell
State Historic Preservation Officer