

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
 Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

FERC No. 2079 – 055
 Middle Fork American River Project
 Placer County Water Agency

Mr. Steve Jones
 Power Systems Manager
 Placer County Water Agency
 P. O. Box 667
 Foresthill, CA 95631

NOV 04 2005

Subject: Minimum Streamflow Deviation

Dear Mr. Jones:

We received your August 26, 2005, report of a deviation from the required minimum streamflow below Interbay Dam on July 19, 2005. The dam is located on the Middle Fork American River. You provided the following data from the stream gage located downstream of the dam. This data shows that the streamflow fell below the required release of 23 cubic feet per second (cfs) between 0845 and 0915 hours:

Time	Flow, in cfs
0830	23.79
0845	24.49
0900	8.03
0915	28.84
0930	24.04

You reported the deviation was caused by a worker reducing flow to allow access for maintenance to a water temperature sensor and data logger located downstream of the dam. The worker reestablished the required flow as soon as possible after access to the sensor was accomplished.

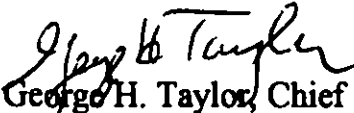
You reported you informed the worker that the minimum flow release requirements, although sometimes reported as average daily values, are an instantaneous

requirement, and that the worker should have better communicated his intentions to the senior operator on duty at the downstream Ralston Powerhouse. You also reported that access to the temperature sensor location will be better coordinated in the future to avoid another flow deviation.

We find that the short duration of the flow deviation is unlikely to have had a measurable impact on the aquatic resources of the Middle Fork American River downstream of Interbay Dam, and that your staff made a reasonable effort to prevent the deviation. You have also reviewed the procedure to access the temperature sensor and have modified it to avoid a similar occurrence.

The July 19, 2005, flow deviation will not be considered a violation of your license. If you have any additional information or questions about this matter, contact Mr. Philip Scordelis at (415) 369-3335.

Sincerely,


George H. Taylor, Chief
Biological Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance