

0351
00 MERC 62,163

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Placer County Water Agency

Project No. 2079-016
California

ORDER GRANTING WAIVER FROM STREAM GAGE MAINTENANCE

AUG 31 1992

On March 16, 1992, the Placer County Water Agency (licensee) filed a request to remove a stream gage, in reference to article 6 of the license for the Middle Fork American River Project. Article 6 requires the licensee to install and maintain adequate streamflow gaging equipment to monitor stage and streamflow of the South and North Forks of Long Canyon Creek. Article 6 also requires the licensee to maintain accurate and sufficient records of the gaging data. Currently, a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gage continuously measures the combined required minimum flows at the confluence of the South and North Forks. Article 37 requires maintenance of a minimum flow of 5 cubic feet per second (cfs) and 2 cfs, in the North and South Forks, respectively, when diverting water for project use, or the natural flow, whichever is less.

The licensee requested permission to remove USGS stream-gaging station #11433100 located at the confluence of the North and South Forks of Long Canyon Creek. The licensee said that this gage is obsolete since the installation of USGS gages #11433065 and #11433085, located at the South and North Fork diversion dams, respectively. The licensee presently uses these gages to directly measure the flows from each diversion dam through the respective release pipes required by article 37. The two gages only operate when the dams are diverting water to Hell Hole Reservoir through the respective diversion tunnels; otherwise, the natural flow is released.

The licensee did not supply any evidence of consultation with the USGS, California Department of Fish and Game, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the request to remove the gage.

The removal of USGS stream gage #11433100 would no longer allow the licensee to gage stream stage and streamflow at the confluence of the North and South Forks of Long Canyon Creek. The data derived from the operation of this gage is not important to ensure compliance with the minimum flow requirements of article 37. The gages installed in the diversions of the North and South Forks would adequately monitor streamflow to comply with article 37 requirements. Therefore, the Commission grants the licensee a waiver of article 6 concerning their maintenance of USGS gage #11433100. The licensee should not, however, remove the gage, but instead, should allow the USGS to assume the responsibility

FERC-DOCKETED

FF
AUG 31 1992

9209030137

for the continued operation and maintenance of the gage. The Commission should reserve the right to rescind this waiver and require the licensee to reactivate and maintain a gaging station at the confluence of the North and South Forks of Long Canyon Creek, if a future need is demonstrated.

The Director orders:

(A) The licensee may not remove the U.S. Geological Survey stream gage #11433100 located at the confluence of the North and South Forks of Long Canyon Creek. The Commission grants the licensee a waiver from the requirement of standard article 6 to maintain this gage and relief from the responsibility for the maintenance of stream gage #11433100.

(B) The Commission reserves the right to have the licensee assume responsibility for, or reinstall, stream gaging at the confluence of the North and South Forks of Long Canyon Creek, if a future need is demonstrated.

(C) This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days from the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 385.713.



J. Mark Robinson
Director, Division of Project
Compliance and Administration