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February 23, 2011

File No. 01030A

**Subject: Middle Fork American River Project (FERC Project No. 2079)
Application for New License – Volumes 1 and 3**

Dear Relicensing Participant:

Pursuant to 18 CFR § 5.18, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), as owner and operator of the Middle Fork American River Project, FERC Project No. 2079, (MFP or Project), filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) an Application for New License (License Application). This letter notifies resource agencies, Native American Tribes, and other interested parties (relicensing participants) of the submittal of the License Application by PCWA to FERC (see enclosed Distribution List) and provides copies of Volumes 1 and 3 of the License Application.

The MFP operates under a 50-year license, which was issued on March 13, 1963, by the Federal Power Commission, predecessor of the current FERC. The current license expires on February 28, 2013. Through submittal of this License Application, PCWA is requesting renewal of its license to continue operation and maintenance of the MFP with a license term of 50 years (expiring on February 28, 2063). The new license term is based on the substantial costs associated with relicensing of the MFP; capital improvements; new environmental measures, programs, and facilities; and extensive monitoring and on-going resource agency consultation to ensure continued resource protection over the term of the new license.

The License Application is comprised of five volumes, including public, critical energy infrastructure (CEII), confidential, and privileged information. Enclosed is an outline of the material contained in each volume. Volume 1 and 3 of the License Application, containing public information, are enclosed (one electronic copy on Compact Disk (CD)). In addition, all entities that received paper copies of the Draft License Application are receiving paper copies of Volume 1 (Initial Statement and Exhibits A, B, C, D, G, and H) and Volume 3 (Exhibit E and Supporting Document A [Books 1–4]). Volume 3, Supporting Document B (Books 5–12) contains the Technical Study Reports (TSR). The only change in the Final Application was the inclusion of three new TSRs including: AQ 5 Bioenergetics, AQ 7 Entrainment Contingency Study, and AQ 8 Reservoir Fish Habitat. Therefore, enclosed are replacement pages and

detailed instructions to convert the Draft Application into a Final Application. The intent of this environmentally-friendly approach is to save paper and reduce mailing/delivery efforts.

Volumes 2 and 5, which contain CEII and privileged cultural information, are not provided. Volume 4 containing confidential biological resource information is only provided to state and Federal agencies with stewardship over those resources. Volume 5 contains the Exhibit E and associated Supporting Documents D and E (privileged information) that provides information regarding the location(s) of sensitive cultural resources, and the Draft Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP). The disclosure of this information could be harmful to these resources. A copy of Volume 5 has been provided to the FERC's Secretary; the FERC's Archaeologist assigned to the relicensing of the MFP; U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service (Tahoe National Forest and the Eldorado National Forest) cultural resource specialists; the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO); and Native American Tribes.

The License Application, with the exception of materials with CEII, confidential, and privileged designations (Volumes 2, 4, and 5), is available on PCWA's Middle Fork American River Project Relicensing website at <http://relicensing.pcwa.net/>; at the Resource Library, located at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, Auburn, California; at the Placer County Library, 350 Nevada Street, Auburn, California; and at the El Dorado County Library, 345 Fair Lane Drive, Placerville, California. Any other interested party may request an electronic copy of Volumes 1 or 3 (public information) by contacting Beverly Bell, PCWA Administrative Aide, at (530) 823-4973 or by e-mail at bbell@pcwa.net.

PCWA looks forward to working with FERC, resource agencies, Native American Tribes, and other interested parties on the Middle Fork American River Project relicensing. If you have any questions regarding the License Application, please contact Andrew Fecko, PCWA Resource Planning Administrator at (530) 823-4889 or by e-mail at afecko@pcwa.net.

Sincerely,

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY



Andrew Fecko
Resource Planning Administrator

Relicensing Participant

February 23, 2011

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Enclosures:

Cover Letter to the FERC's Secretary

Cover Letter to the FERC's Archaeologist

Cover Letter to Tribal Representatives

Distribution List

License Application Outline

License Application Detailed Replacement Page Instructions (Exhibit E, Volume 3 Book 5-12)

Volume 1: Initial Statement, Exhibit A, B, C, D, G, and H (Public Information)

Volume 3: Exhibit E and Supporting Documents A, B, and C [Books 1 through 4]
(Public Information)

Volume 3: Exhibit E and Supporting Documents A, B, and C [Books 5 through 12] (Public
Information) – replacement pages