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## **8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**

This section follows the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) content requirements at Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 5.18(b)(5)(ii)(B), which specify that "the applicant must present the results of its studies conducted under the approved study plan by resource area and use the data generated by the studies to evaluate the beneficial and adverse environmental effects of its proposed project. This section must also include, if applicable, a description of any anticipated continuing environmental impacts of continued operation of the project, and the incremental impact of proposed new development of projects works or changes in project operation. This analysis must be based on the information filed in the Pre-Application Document (PAD) provided for in § 5.6, developed under the applicant's approved study plan, and other appropriate information, and otherwise developed or obtained by the Applicant." In addition, as required under § 5.18(b), this section follows the Commission's "Preparing Environmental Documents: Guidelines for Applicants, Contractors, and Staff."

The environmental analysis is based on information included in Placer County Water Agency's PAD and collected during implementation of 28 FERC-approved Technical Study Plans (TSP) developed for the relicensing of the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP or Project). Results of these studies are provided in Technical Study Reports (TSR) included in Supporting Document (SD) B. In this analysis, environmental conditions under the Proposed Action are compared to the baseline environmental conditions in the No-Action Alternative. The baseline environmental conditions are those that would exist for each resource area if the Middle Fork American River Project were to continue operating under the current FERC license.

This section is organized as follows:

- 8.1 – Analytical Approach
- 8.2 – Geology and Soils Environmental Effects
- 8.3 – Water Use Environmental Effects
- 8.4 – Water Quality Environmental Effects
- 8.5 – Fish and Aquatic Resources Environmental Effects
- 8.6 – Botanical and Wildlife Resources Environmental Effects
- 8.7 – Geomorphology Environmental Effects
- 8.8 – Riparian Resources Environmental Effects
- 8.9 – Recreation Resources Environmental Effects
- 8.10 – Land Use Environmental Effects
- 8.11 – Aesthetic Resources Environmental Effects
- 8.12 – Cultural Resources Environmental Effects
- 8.13 – Tribal Resources Environmental Effects
- 8.14 – Socioeconomics Environmental Effects
- 8.15 – Air Quality Environmental Effects