

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426
July 24, 2012

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2079-069 - California
Middle Fork American River
Hydroelectric Project
Placer County Water Agency

Federal Express

Chief, Division of Endangered Species
Attn: Jeremiah Karuzas
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2606
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

Reference: Request for concurrence with endangered species determinations

Dear Mr. Karuzas:

The Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project is located on the Middle Fork American River, Rubicon River, and tributaries thereof in Placer and El Dorado counties, California. We address the project's effects on threatened and endangered species and/or critical habitat in our draft environmental impact statement.¹ The preferred alternative (the applicant's proposal with staff's modifications) is described on pages 30 through 32 (section 2.4). A description of threatened and endangered species potentially affected by the project is found on pages 189 through 190 (section 3.3.4.1), and a discussion of effects is found on pages 191 and 193 (section 3.3.4.2). Finally, our determinations of effect are found on pages 6 and 7 (section 1.3.3).

We conclude that operating and maintaining the proposed Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project, with our recommended measures, is not likely to adversely affect Layne's ragwort. Therefore, we do not believe that formal consultation is required. Please tell us in writing within 30 days from the date of receipt if you do or do not concur

¹ The draft environmental impact statement is available at the following link: http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20120723-4002. A hard copy will be mailed to you shortly.

P-2079-069

2

with our assessment.

If you need to informally discuss concerns before making your determination, please contact Carolyn Templeton at (201) 502-8785 to indicate your interest in initiating a teleconference with all parties on this issue.

Please file your response electronically via the Internet. See 18 C.F.R. 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>). For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov; call toll-free at (866) 208-3676; or, for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, your response may also be paper-filed. To paper-file, mail an original and seven copies to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426. Please put the docket number, P-2079-069 on the first page of your response.

If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Templeton at (202) 502-8785, or by e-mail at carolyn.templeton@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Welch, Chief
West Branch
Division of Hydropower Licensing

cc: Public Files
Service List

Document Content(s)

P-2079-069Letter.DOC.....1-2