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January 17, 2013
File No. 01030A
Electronically Filed

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

SUBJECT: Clarification Regarding Placer County Water Agency's Middle Fork American River Project (FERC Project No. 2079-069) Proposed Action

Dear Secretary Bose:

On January 9, 2013, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) participated in a telephone call with Ms. Carolyn Templeton of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission), resource specialists from Louis Berger Group (FERC's consultant), and representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service (USDA-FS or Forest Service) to discuss the Forest Service's Final 4(e) Conditions for PCWA's Middle Fork American River Project (MFP or Project). During the call, FERC requested that PCWA provide a summary of the Proposed Action for the relicensing of the MFP, based on negotiations with the relicensing participants that occurred subsequent to submittal of PCWA's Application for New License. Further, FERC requested that PCWA provide a list of the most current management and monitoring plans that should be considered in the Proposed Action evaluated by the Commission in its environmental document for the MFP relicensing. This letter provides the requested information.

Proposed Action

In general, the Proposed Action that should be analyzed in the Commission's environmental document includes:

- Addition, removal, and modification of Project components;
- Revisions to the existing FERC Project boundary;

- Changes in Project operations;
- Modification of testing and routine Project maintenance activities;
- New environmental programs, measures, and facilities designed to protect, maintain, or enhance environmental and cultural resources; and
- Construction or modification of Project facilities.

Specifically, PCWA does not object to certain terms and conditions (listed in Attachment C, Table 1) that were filed by the Forest Service on December 3, 2012, pursuant to Section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act. These terms and conditions represent the consensus that was ultimately reached between PCWA, the Forest Service, and other stakeholders following PCWA's submittal of its Application for New License and supplemental filing of Alternative 1, and the Forest Service's filing of its preliminary terms and conditions. As such, PCWA supports including those terms and conditions as part of the Proposed Action analyzed in the Commission's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the MFP relicensing. Attachment C, Table 2 is a list of the specific management and monitoring plans associated with the Final Section 4(e) Conditions identified in Table 1.

Implementation of Forest Service Final 4(e) Condition No. 34 (Recreation Plan) requires changes to existing Project recreation facilities and the construction of new Project recreation facilities and features. As PCWA stated in its November 1, 2012 response to comments on the Draft EIS, these activities, which are summarized in Table 3 (Attachment C), should be analyzed in the Commission's FEIS; PCWA supports analyzing them as part of the Proposed Action. Similarly, implementation of Forest Service Final 4(e) Conditions 22, 23, 24, 32, 34, and 46 requires the modification of existing Project facilities and/or the construction of new Project facilities. These construction projects identified in Table 4 (Attachment C) should be analyzed in the Commission's FEIS.

PCWA's Supplemental Filing (filed with FERC on November 30, 2011) includes a comprehensive assessment of impacts associated with modification of existing and construction of new Project facilities and Project recreation facilities and features. PCWA recommends that the FERC utilize (either directly or by reference) the information presented in the following sections of PCWA's Supplemental Filing (November 30, 2011) in the Commission's analysis of the Proposed Action in the FEIS:

- Section 3.0 – Environmental Effects Analysis; identifies impacts to all resource areas from modification of existing and construction of new Project facilities and Project recreation facilities and features to be implemented.
- Appendix A – Modified or New Facility Construction Activities and Concept Designs; includes a description of construction activities, as well as avoidance and protection measures and best management practices to be implemented.

- Appendix E – Construction Air Quality Emissions Model; includes the air quality emission model output for construction projects to be implemented.

Other sources of information that should be utilized either directly or by reference to assess construction-related impacts include:

- The Recreation Plan (November 2012) and Transportation System Management Plan (November 2012), both of which include avoidance and protection measures and best management practices to be implemented during modification and enhancement of existing Project recreation facilities and water supplies, new Project recreation facilities, improvements to select dispersed use areas, and road and trail improvements.
- Information/analysis presented in PCWA's Draft California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Supplement, which was filed with FERC on December 6, 2012.

PCWA eFiled this letter with the Commission's Secretary, utilizing the Commission's eFiling system. Courtesy copies of this letter (1 paper copy and 1 electronic copy) have also been mailed via courier service (concurrent with this filing) to the Commission's Office of Energy Projects. In addition, PCWA provided a copy of this filing to each party designated on the attached distribution list via eService, or by mailing paper/electronic copies (refer to Attachments A and B).

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at (530) 823-4889 or by e-mail at bransom@pcwa.net.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Ransom
Environmental Scientist

Attachments

Attachment A – Certificate of Service
Attachment B – Distribution List
Attachment C – Tables

Attachment A
Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of the Clarification Regarding Placer County Water Agency's Middle Fork American River Project (FERC Project No. 2079-069) Proposed Action to each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated at Auburn, CA this 17th day of January 2013.



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Attachment C

Tables

Table 1. United States Forest Service Final 4(e) Conditions to be Implemented by PCWA under the Proposed Action.^{1, 2}

No.	Title
22	Minimum Streamflows
23	Pulse Flows
24	Ramping Rates
25	Outages
26	Spawning Habitat Improvement Plan for the Middle Fork American River below Ralston Afterbay Dam
27	Wildlife and Plant Protection Measures
28	Monitoring Program
29	Entrainment Study at the Ralston Powerhouse and Oxbow Powerhouse Intakes
30	Large Woody Debris
31	Annual Review of Ecological Conditions
32	Streamflow and Reservoir Elevation Gaging Plan
33	Penstock and Other Drainage Structure Emergency and Maintenance Release Points
34	Recreation Plan
35	Recreation Operation, Maintenance, and Administration
36	Specific Improvements at Dispersed Recreation Sites
37	Recreation Work Station and Storage Facility
38	Reservoir Minimum Pool Elevations and Reservoir Levels Recreation Objectives
39	Reservoir Fish Stocking Program
40	Recreation Streamflows in the Middle Fork American River Below Oxbow Powerhouse
41	Visual Resource Management Plan
42	Historic Properties Management Plan
43	Cultural Resource Discovery
44	Transportation System Management Plan
45	Fire Prevention and Suppression Plan
46	Erosion and Sediment Control and Management
47	Vegetation and Integrated Pest Management Plan
48	Aquatic Invasive Species Management

¹ Source: Forest Service Final Conditions and Recommendations Provided Under 18 CFR § 4.34 (b)(1) in Connection with the Application for Relicensing for the Middle [Fork] American River Project (FERC No. 2079) dated 29 November 2012, filed with FERC on December 3, 2012.

² PCWA reserves the right to disagree with conditions that are not identified on this table.

Table 2. Management and Monitoring Plans to be Implemented by PCWA under the Proposed Action.¹

Management and Monitoring Plans	Date of Plan ²	USDA-FS Final 4(e) Condition No.
Water and Aquatic Resources		
Spawning Habitat Improvement Plan for the Middle Fork American River below Ralston Afterbay Dam	TBD ³	26
Water Temperature Monitoring Plan	Nov. 2012	28
Fish Population Monitoring Plan	Nov. 2012	28
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog Monitoring Plan	Nov. 2012	28
Geomorphology/Riparian Monitoring Plan	Nov. 2012	28
Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Plan	Nov. 2012	28
Mercury Bioaccumulation Monitoring Plan	Nov. 2012	28
Water Quality Monitoring Plan	Nov. 2012	28
Western Pond Turtle Monitoring Plan	Nov. 2012	28
Entrainment Study [Plan]	TBD ³	29
Large Woody Debris [Plan]	TBD ³	30
Streamflow and Reservoir Elevation Gaging Plan	Nov. 2012	32
Penstock and Other Drainage Structure Emergency and Maintenance Release Points [Plan]	TBD ³	33
Sediment Management Plan	Feb. 2011	46
Erosion and Sediment Control and Management [Plan]	TBD ³	46
Aquatic and Invasive Species Management [Plan]	TBD ⁴	48
Terrestrial Resources		
Bald Eagle Management Plan	Feb. 2011	27
Bear Management Plan	TBD ³	28
Vegetation and Integrated Pest Management Plan	Nov. 2011	47
Recreation Resources		
Recreation Plan	Nov. 2012	34
Visual Resource Management Plan	Feb. 2011	41
Land Management		
Transportation System Management Plan	Nov. 2012	44
Fire Prevention and Suppression Plan	Sep. 2011	45
Cultural Resources		
Final Historic Properties Management Plan	Sep. 2012	42

¹ The plans and measures identified on this table supersede all previous versions of the same name, including those referenced in the text of any management or monitoring plan or measure submitted during the relicensing proceeding to date, and those referenced in PCWA's License Application (filed February 23, 2011) and in PCWA's Supplemental Filing (filed November 30, 2011).

PCWA reserves the right to disagree with provisions that may be added to these plans or measures in the future as a result of required periodic updates.

Upon license issuance, the FERC-approved version of specific management and monitoring plans will supersede all previous versions.

² With the exception of entries identified as TBD, copies of these management and monitoring plans were included in the following document filed by the USDA-Forest Service on December 3, 2012: Forest Service Final Conditions and Recommendations Provided Under 18 CFR § 4.34 (b)(1) in Connection with the Application for Relicensing for the Middle [Fork] American River Project (FERC No. 2079) dated 29 November 2012.

³ TBD = To be Developed after License Issuance

⁴ PCWA currently implements an Invasive Mussel Protection Plan that was developed in September 2010 in compliance with State of California Fish and Wildlife regulations. This plan was not included in the Forest Service Final 4(e) Conditions.

Table 3. Changes to Project Recreation Facilities and Features to be Implemented Under the Proposed Action.¹

Duncan Creek Area
Duncan Creek Diversion Primitive Recreation Site (new)
Duncan Creek Gage below Diversion Dam Access Trail (13E33) (existing Project trail to be upgraded for public pedestrian use)
French Meadows Area
Ahart Campground (reduce, enhance)
Coyote Group Campground (enhance)
Poppy Campground (reduce, enhance)
French Meadows Campground (reduce, enhance)
Gates Group Campground (enhance)
Lewis Campground (reduce, enhance)
French Meadows Picnic Area (reduce, enhance)
French Meadows Boat Ramp (enhance)
French Meadows RV Dump Station (enhance) ²
McGuire Picnic Area and Beach (convert) ³
McGuire Group Campground (new)
McGuire Boat Ramp and Associated Parking (enhance, consolidate)
Poppy Trail (existing trail, added to MFP)
French Meadows Reservoir Trail (new)
Hell Hole Area
Big Meadows Campground (enhance)
Hell Hole Campground (enhance, potentially convert, potentially reduce)
Upper Hell Hole Campground (remove)
Hell Hole Vista (enhance)
Hell Hole Boat Ramp (enhance)
Hell Hole General Parking Area and Hell Hole Boat Ramp Parking Area (enhance)
Ellicott Bridge Parking Area (new)
Hell Hole Reservoir Trail (existing, added to MFP)
Long Canyon Area
Middle Meadows Group Campground
Middle Fork Interbay Area
Public Access around Middle Fork Powerhouse (new)
Ralston Afterbay Area
Ralston Picnic Area (reduce, enhance)
Ralston Afterbay Sediment Removal Access Point Boat Ramp (existing MFP facility to be upgraded for public use) ⁴
Indian Bar River Access (enhance)
Middle Fork American River Gage above Ralston Afterbay Access Trail (existing unimproved trail, added to MFP) ²
Project Recreation Facility Water Supplies
French Meadows Reservoir North Shore Water Supply (Dolly Creek Water Supply) (replace)
French Meadows Reservoir South Shore Water Supply (French Meadows Campground Water Supply) (replace)
Big Meadows Campground Water Supply
Middle Meadows Group Campground Water Supply

¹ Refer to Recreation Plan (November 2012) for specific requirements related to recreation facilities.

² This facility was maintained under the current license, but was not listed as a MFP facility.

³ This facility will be converted to the McGuire Group Campground.

⁴ This facility replaces the Ralston Afterbay Sediment Removal Access Point.

Table 4. Construction Projects Related to MFP Facilities to be Implemented under the Proposed Action.¹

Hell Hole Reservoir Seasonal Storage Increase Improvement
Hell Hole Reservoir Seasonal Storage Increase Improvement
Small Diversion Dam Modifications
Duncan Creek Diversion Dam Modification
North Fork Long Canyon Diversion Dam Modification
South Fork Long Canyon Diversion Dam Modification
Outlet Works Modifications
French Meadows Reservoir Outlet Works Modification
Hell Hole Reservoir Outlet Works Modification
Middle Fork Interbay Outlet Works Modification
New Gages
North Fork Long Canyon Creek Gage below Diversion Dam
South Fork Long Canyon Creek Gage below Diversion Dam
Middle Fork American River Gage below Interbay Dam
North Fork American River Gage above American River Pump Station
New Recreation Facilities
Ellicott Bridge Parking Area
French Meadows Reservoir Trail
Water Supply Replacements
French Meadows Reservoir North Shore Water Supply (Dolly Creek Water Supply)
French Meadows Reservoir South Shore Water Supply (French Meadows Campground Water Supply)

¹ Includes construction and installation of all features and ancillary structures associated with each construction project, including construction work and staging areas, access roads and trails, photovoltaic poles, etc. identified in Appendix A of PCWA's Supplemental Filing filed with FERC on November 30, 2011.