

POTENTIAL RESOURCE ISSUES:

Fire prevention and response.

PROJECT NEXUS:

Project operations and maintenance activities could increase fire risk.

POTENTIAL LICENSE CONDITION:

- Fire Prevention and Response Plan

STUDY OBJECTIVES:

- Characterize existing fire prevention and management plans and programs relevant to the MFP.
- Characterize fuel conditions in the immediate vicinity of the MFP.
- Characterize PCWA's existing fire prevention measures associated with the MFP.
- Describe PCWA's fire plan and fire response procedures.

EXTENT OF STUDY AREA:

The study area will include areas within the existing or proposed FERC Project boundary associated with Project facilities, developed Project recreation facilities, and potential Project betterments.

STUDY APPROACH:

Characterize Existing Fire Prevention and Management Plans Relevant to the MFP

- Identify and describe applicable federal, and State, and local fire prevention and management regulations, fuels treatments plans, and cooperative agreements relevant to fire prevention on lands within the existing or proposed FERC Project boundary.
- Identify and describe federal, State, and local fire prevention and management plans and programs in the Watershed that are relevant to the MFP. Applicable plans and/or programs may include, but are not limited, to the following:
 - Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs);
 - Foresthill Fire Safe Program;
 - Fire Plans prepared by the USDA-FS;
 - The California State Fire Plan;
 - Placer County Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan, which was prepared pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000).

Characterize Fuel Conditions in the Immediate Vicinity of the MFP

- Identify and map, through field surveys, fuel conditions in the existing or proposed FERC Project boundary.
- In consultation with the USDA-FS, identify and map existing defense zones (fuels treatment areas) around Project facilities (including Project roads and trails), developed Project recreation facilities, and potential Project betterments.

Characterize PCWA's Existing Fire Prevention Measures

- Describe current vegetation management practices and fuel reduction measures implemented at Project facilities and developed Project recreation facilities, including clearance distances around facilities and power poles. Preliminary information is available in the Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2079) Draft Project Description (PCWA 2006).

Describe PCWA's Fire Plan and Fire Response Procedures

- Rank Project facilities, developed Project recreation facilities, and potential Project betterments according to high, moderate, or low vulnerability to catastrophic wildfire.
- Summarize fire response resources and procedures contained in PCWA's Existing Fire Plan including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Process and schedule for updating the Fire Plan;
 - Response and communication procedures in the event of a catastrophic fire in the Watershed;
 - Procedures for responding or notifying agencies of fires at a Project facility;
 - PCWA dedicated radio frequencies that could potentially be used by the County and fire response personnel for emergency communications, and;
 - Designated shared radio frequencies that are or can be used during emergency situations.

SCHEDULE:

To be developed in early 2007.

REFERENCES:

Placer County Water Agency (PCWA). 2006. Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2079) Draft Project Description.