

Placer County Water Agency Interests in Relicensing the Middle Fork Project

Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) is renewing its FERC license to operate the Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project (MFP). As a guide to undertaking the relicensing process PCWA must define its interests in the outcome, which is a new license with conditions for future project operations. PCWA is a countywide agency established to provide water supply to residents and businesses within the County of Placer. The MFP was constructed to provide water supplies while at the same time generating power and providing recreation opportunities as a multi-purpose project. To operate the MFP, public land and water resources are made available to PCWA by permits and licenses issued by state and federal agencies. Use of some of these resources by the MFP to provide water and power benefits limit their availability to meet other interests. Since the land and water resources used by the MFP are public resources managed for the benefit of all, balancing their use between the PCWA's interests and the interests of others must occur. As a first step in the balancing process PCWA has found that it has four clearly defined interests.

PCWA's interests in relicensing the MFP are to:

- Provide a reliable and high quality water supply for the County of Placer.
- Protect the value of the MFP's power generation capabilities for the benefit of the people of the County of Placer.
- Protect environmental, recreational and cultural resources influenced by the Middle Fork Project.
- Work cooperatively with Agencies, Tribes and other Stakeholders.

Water Supply:

Provide a reliable and high quality water supply for the County of Placer.

The following factors are key to this interest:

- **Existing water rights and entitlements.**
- **Operational flexibility and storage capacity to meet consumptive demands over a broad range of hydrologic and climate conditions.**
- **Reliability of facilities to ensure water delivery.**
- **Watershed management practices to protect water quantity and quality.**

Power Supply:

Protect the value of the MFP's power generation capabilities for the benefit of the people of the County of Placer.

The following factors are key to this interest:

- **Maximum operational flexibility to vary the pattern (seasonal, weekly, daily, etc.) of water releases through MFP facilities.**
- **Reliability of facilities to protect generation value.**
- **Maximize water flow through MFP power generation facilities.**

Environmental, Recreational and Cultural Values

Protect environmental, recreational and cultural resources influenced by the Middle Fork Project.

The following factors are key to this interest:

- **Identification of project effects on resources.**
- **Effective measures that protect, mitigate effects to, or enhance resources.**

Work Cooperatively

Work cooperatively with Agencies, Tribes and other Stakeholders.

The following factors are key to this interest:

- **Open and transparent collaboration with agencies, tribes and stakeholders during relicensing and beyond.**
- **Identify, communicate and respect interests.**
- **Focus on resource management.**