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April 4, 2008  
File No. 01030A

Re:      Invitation to Participate in an Angler Focused Discussion Group  
         Middle Fork American River Project (FERC Project No. 2079)

Dear Stakeholder -

The Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) invites you to participate in a focus group to develop information regarding fishing opportunities on the river and stream reaches associated with the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP or Project). These river and stream reaches are shown on the Figure 1 (Attachment A).

The Angler Focus Group session will be held from 6:00 – 9:00 PM on May 20, 2008 in PCWA's American River Room located at 144 Ferguson Road, Auburn, California. Resource maps and other materials will be provided during the meeting to aide the discussion. A brief overview of the MFP and the relicensing process is provided in Attachment B.

Your participation is being requested due to your specific knowledge about the fishing opportunities and resources in the Middle Fork American River Watershed (Watershed). The Angler Focus Group participants are identified on the attached invitation list (Attachment C). The Angler Focus Group participants were selected to represent a broad range of experience, skill levels, and interests. The specific topics to be covered are summarized in Attachment D. We encourage you to bring any additional information you think may help us characterize the fishing opportunities on the stream and river reaches associated with the MFP.

PCWA appreciates your participation in the Angler Focus Group. If you have any questions regarding this focus group or need any additional information, please contact Mal Toy, MFP Relicensing Manager, at (530) 823-4889.

Sincerely,  
PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mal Toy'.

Mal Toy  
Director of Resource Development

Attachments:

- A- Figure 1 (Map)
- B- Overview of the MFP and the Relicensing Process
- C- Angler Focus Group Invitation List
- D- Angler Focus Group Topics

April 4, 2008 Invitation..doc

**Attachment A**

**Figure**

## Attachment B

### Overview of the MFP and the Relicensing Process

PCWA owns and operates the MFP, a multi-purpose water supply and hydro-generation project. The MFP facilities are situated in the foothills and mountainous uplands of the western slope of the central Sierra Nevada, within the Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests. The MFP facilities are located on the Middle Fork American River, the Rubicon River, Duncan Creek, and the North and South Forks of Long Canyon Creek. The MFP began operating in 1967 and supplies water for homes, industry, and agriculture within western Placer County and clean renewable energy to the California electric grid.

The MFP operates under a 50-year license, which was issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 1963. The current license will expire on March 1, 2013. Accordingly, PCWA has initiated a process to relicense the Project. PCWA formally began the relicensing process when it filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Pre-Application Document (PAD) with the FERC on December 13, 2007. The NOI and PAD are available in their entirety on PCWA's relicensing website at <http://relicensing.pcwa.net/pad.htm>.

In April and May of 2006, PCWA conducted several Introductory Stakeholder Meetings, organized a Plenary Group to facilitate communication and decision making activities, and formed Technical Working Groups (TWGs). A major accomplishment of the Plenary and TWGs was the collaborative development and approval of 28 separate Technical Study Plans (TSPs), of which five are recreation-related. These five TSPs were included in the PAD and are identified as follows:

- REC 1 – Recreation Use and Facilities Assessment TSP
- REC 2 – Recreation Visitor Surveys TSP
- REC 3 – Reservoir Recreation Opportunities TSP
- REC 4 – Stream-based Recreation Opportunities TSP
- REC 5 – Visual Quality Assessment Technical Study Plan

All of the TSPs are available on PCWA's website at [http://relicensing.pcwa.net/pad\\_SDH.htm](http://relicensing.pcwa.net/pad_SDH.htm). The five recreation-related TSPs can be accessed by clicking on the Appendix A - Recreation Technical Study Plans link.

PCWA began implementing select elements of the Plenary-approved TSPs in May 2007. These included: selection of instream flow modeling transects; fish, amphibian, and macroinvertebrate surveys; water quality sampling; recreation user counts; cultural resources inventories; vegetation community and wildlife habitat mapping; and bat surveys. The remainder of the technical studies presented in the PAD will be completed in 2008 and 2009. The focus groups are an element of the REC 4 – Stream Based Opportunities TSP and will be conducted in 2008.

## Attachment C

### Angler Focus Group Invitation List

Gray Allen	Public Relations Consultant
Dan Bacher	Upper American River Foundation (UARF) Fish Sniffer
Tom G.M. Bartos	Horseshoe Bar Fish and Game Preserve Member - Granite Bay Flycasters
Karl Brustad	Trout Unlimited Granite Bay Flycasters
Joe Byrne	General Public
Bill Carnazzo	UARF Spring Creek Guide Service
Brad Cavallo	Fisheries Scientist
Sam Davidson	Trout Unlimited
Gary Flanagan	Horseshoe Bar Fish and Game Preserve Member - Granite Bay Flycasters
Damian Forsythe	Hooked Up Anglers
Grant Fraser	UARF
Larry Goodell	CA Inland Fisheries
Monte Hendricks	Angler
Roger Lee	Wilderness Adventures
Ronald F. Otto	General Public
Bart Petrini	UARF
Bill Templin	UARF
Ed Wahl	Flyfisher
Heath Wakelee	Sierra Foothills Audubon
Robert Weygandt	Placer County Supervisor, District 2

## Attachment D

### Angler Focus Group Discussion Topics

#### Overview by PCWA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of Meeting Objectives
3. Overview of Middle Fork American River Project (MFP) and Relicensing Process
4. Summary of Recreation Technical Studies

#### Group Discussion

1. Discuss Background and Experience of Participants
  - o Primary fishing method
  - o Affiliation(s)
  - o Commercial or private
  - o Specific experience fishing the river reaches in the Middle Fork American River Watershed (years of experience, locations)
  - o Interests
2. Identify Specific Reaches to be Discussed Further, based on Background and Experience of Participants and Project Nexus
3. Characterize Each Reach Identified Above
  - o Identify fishing locations, including access points and adequacy (private and public access)
  - o Typical fishing season
  - o Typical fishing method
  - o Fishing quality (success, fish size)
  - o Flow related effects on fishability
  - o Safety concerns
  - o Comparable regional fishing streams
  - o Identify sources for other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, anglers, web sites)
  - o Adequacy of support facilities
  - o Conflicts with other users