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April 7, 2008  
File No. 01030A

Re: Invitation to Participate in a Trail User/Stream Crossing Focused Discussion Group for the 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 the stream crossings associated with the trails that intersect the river and stream reaches associated with the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP or Project), including those used by equestrians, hikers, mountain bikers, and those used for the Western States and Tevis Cup endurance races. The river and stream reaches associated with the MFP are shown on Figure 1 and the trails that cross these river and stream reaches are shown on Figures 2 and 3 (Attachment A).

The Focus Group session will be held from 6:00 – 9:00 PM on May 12, 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 trails and stream crossings in the Middle Fork American River Watershed (Watershed). The Trail User/Stream Crossing Focus Group participants are identified on the attached invitation list (Attachment C). The participants on this list were selected to represent a broad range of experience, skill levels, and interests. The focus of this group will be to develop or expand upon information about preferred stream crossing conditions, coordination efforts with PCWA, and safety concerns. The specific topics to be covered are summarized in Attachment D.

PCWA appreciates your participation in the Trail User/Stream Crossing 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- Figures 1, 2 and 3 (Maps)
- B- Overview of the MFP and the Relicensing Process
- C- Trail User/Stream Crossing Focus Group Invitation List
- D- Trail User/Stream Crossing Focus Group Topics

Trail User Focus Group Invitation Letter..doc

**Attachment A**  
**Figures**

## 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

### Trail User/Stream Crossing Focus Group Invitation List

#### **Equestrians**

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Ms. Rho Bailey	Member of the Public
Ms. Linda Costello	Member of the Public
Gene Freeland	Western States Trails Foundation
Patricia Gibbs	Loomis Basin Horsemens Association
Jim Haagensmit	Member of the Public
Rod Hall	American Red Cross
Bill Johnson	Western States Trails Foundation
Joe Larkin	Member of the Public
Cindy Larkin	Member of the Public
Chuck Mather	Western States Trails Foundation
Ms. Debbie Murphy	Loomis Basin Horsemens Association
Kathie Perry	Western States Trails Foundation
Penny Scribner	El Dorado Equestrian Trails Foundation
Lynn Seeley	Member of the Public

#### **Hikers/Runners**

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Gordon Ainsleigh	Member of the Public
Bill Deitchman*	California State Parks
Sue Geisler	Lincoln Hills Hiker Group
Eric Peach	Protect American River Canyons (PARC)
Greg Soderland	Member of the Public
Tim Tweitmeyer	Member of the Public

#### **Mountain Bikers**

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Mary Allen	Member of the Public
Sean Allen	Member of the Public
Glen Meeth	Member of the Public

\* Also represents other types of users.

## Attachment D

### Trail User/Stream Crossing 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
  - Primary trail activity
  - Affiliation(s)
  - Commercial or private
  - Specific experience with river trail crossings in the Middle Fork American River Watershed (years of experience, locations)
  - Interests
2. Identify Trail Stream Crossing Locations for Each Activity Type
3. Characterize Each Stream Crossing Identified Above, based on Background and Experience of Participants and Project Nexus
  - Identify trail stream crossing locations, including access points
  - Typical season of use and time of day
  - Characterize adequacy, functionality, and safety of trail crossings at different water depths
  - Activity-specific factors that influence trail crossing
  - Site-specific factors that influence trail crossing
  - Safety concerns
  - Identify sources for other pertinent information (e.g. guide books, people, web sites)
  - Adequacy of support facilities
  - Adequacy of publicly available flow information
  - Conflicts with other users