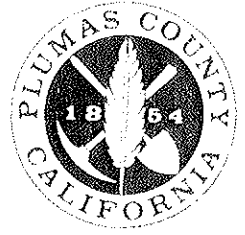


BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TERRY SWOFFORD, DISTRICT 1
ROBERT A. MEACHER, DISTRICT 2
SHERRIE THRALL, DISTRICT 3
LORI SIMPSON, DISTRICT 4
OLE OLSEN, DISTRICT 5



October 27, 2009

Dorothy R. Rice
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Re: Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the
Upper North Fork Feather River Project (FERC Project 2105)
Public Review Period for Draft EIR

Dear Ms. Rice:

It is our understanding that the State Water Resources Control Board will soon release the draft EIR for the water quality certification in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's relicensing of the Upper North Fork Feather River Project. *We would like to request that the State Clearinghouse provide a public review period for the draft EIR of no less than 120 days.*

Preparation of this EIR was initiated in August 2005; special studies to supplement PG&E's relicensing application were conducted in the summer of 2006; and a Level 1 and 2 Report screening project alternatives was issued in October 2007. A Level 3 screening report and the draft EIR itself have been in development over the past two years. We appreciate the complexity of the issues involved in the Upper North Fork relicensing and understand the State Board's need to be thorough in an analysis that will be closely scrutinized by many different interests. We hope the State Board and the State Clearinghouse will be equally understanding in providing the public with a reasonable period of time to review the draft EIR.

In addition to governing the operations of the Upper North Fork project, the 401 certification for Project 2105 will establish significant parameters for two other PG&E projects downstream on the North Fork Feather River. Project 2107 (Poe) is also currently in relicensing and the 401 process is expected to follow the Upper North Fork's certification. A stakeholder group is renewing settlement discussions as that license moves toward completion. Project 1962 (Rock Creek/Cresta) is operating under a license issued in 2000 with ongoing input and decisions from an adaptive management committee of local, state, and federal resource agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Project 1962 license includes millions of dollars in funding for cold water enhancement measures that await the outcome of the Upper North Fork license.

Dorothy R. Rice
October 27, 2009
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Given the complexity of the issues in the Upper North Fork relicensing, as well as the interconnection of that license with the downstream projects and their stakeholder processes, we do not believe the minimum 45-day public review period for an EIR will be sufficient. Interested parties should be afforded time to adequately review the analysis in the EIR and develop a complete understanding of its conclusions. In developing such understanding, there will likely be benefit in collaborative review by the Project 1962 adaptive management committee as well as the Project 2107 stakeholders.

Providing an extended public review period will facilitate collaborative review and increase agencies' and the public's understanding of any water quality measures that are being proposed for Project 2105. An extended review period seems very reasonable in the context of an EIR that is now in its fifth year of development.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon J. Thrall". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sharon Thrall
Chair, Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TERRY SWOFFORD, DISTRICT 1
ROBERT A. MEACHER, DISTRICT 2
SHERRIE THRALL, DISTRICT 3
LORI SIMPSON, DISTRICT 4
OLE OLSEN, DISTRICT 5



October 27, 2009

Cynthia Bryant
Director
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Re: Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the
Upper North Fork Feather River Project (FERC Project 2105)
Public Review Period for Draft EIR

Dear Ms. Bryant:

It is our understanding that the State Water Resources Control Board will soon release the draft EIR for the water quality certification in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's relicensing of the Upper North Fork Feather River Project. ***We would like to request that the State Clearinghouse provide a public review period for the draft EIR of no less than 120 days.***

Preparation of this EIR was initiated in August 2005; special studies to supplement PG&E's relicensing application were conducted in the summer of 2006; and a Level 1 and 2 Report screening project alternatives was issued in October 2007. A Level 3 screening report and the draft EIR itself have been in development over the past two years. We appreciate the complexity of the issues involved in the Upper North Fork relicensing and understand the State Board's need to be thorough in an analysis that will be closely scrutinized by many different interests. We hope the State Board and the State Clearinghouse will be equally understanding in providing the public with a reasonable period of time to review the draft EIR.

In addition to governing the operations of the Upper North Fork project, the 401 certification for Project 2105 will establish significant parameters for two other PG&E projects downstream on the North Fork Feather River. Project 2107 (Poe) is also currently in relicensing and the 401 process is expected to follow the Upper North Fork's certification. A stakeholder group is renewing settlement discussions as that license moves toward completion. Project 1962 (Rock Creek/Cresta) is operating under a license issued in 2000 with ongoing input and decisions from an adaptive management committee of local, state, and federal resource agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Project 1962 license includes millions of dollars in funding for cold water enhancement measures that await the outcome of the Upper North Fork license.

Cynthia Bryant
October 27, 2009
Page Two

Given the complexity of the issues in the Upper North Fork relicensing, as well as the interconnection of that license with the downstream projects and their stakeholder processes, we do not believe the minimum 45-day public review period for an EIR will be sufficient. Interested parties should be afforded time to adequately review the analysis in the EIR and develop a complete understanding of its conclusions. In developing such understanding, there will likely be benefit in collaborative review by the Project 1962 adaptive management committee as well as the Project 2107 stakeholders.

Providing an extended public review period will facilitate collaborative review and increase agencies' and the public's understanding of any water quality measures that are being proposed for Project 2105. An extended review period seems very reasonable in the context of an EIR that is now in its fifth year of development.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sharon J. Thrall".

Sharon Thrall
Chair, Board of Supervisors