ORIGINAL

# **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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COLLEGE COLLEG

February 21, 2003

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Re: FERC Project Number 2105

Upper North Fork Feather River Project

Dear Secretary Salas:

Enclosed herewith is a Motion to Intervene of Plumas County and the Flood Control and Water Conservation District in connection with the captioned project.

Sincerely.

Nancy DaForno

Clerk to the Plumas County Board of Supervisors

CC: Attached Service List

Members, Board of Supervisors County Administrative Officer

Public Works Director, Plumas Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Planning and Building Services

2105 Committee

520 MAIN ST., ROOM 309 + QUINCY, CALIFORNIA 95971 + (530) 283-6170 + FAX (530) 283-6288

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Licensee Upper North Fork Feather River Project	) Project-2105-(089)	C. MIN.
MOTION TO INT	TERVENE ON	5104

#### APPLICATION FOR NEW MAJOR LICENSE

# BY PLUMAS COUNTY . PLUMAS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Phumas County (hereinafter, "the County", which includes it Flood Control & Water Conservation District) by this motion respectfully requests the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to allow it to join as an intervener in the above-captioned proceeding. Intervention by the County is in the public interest for the following reasons:

The Upper North Fork Feather River Project is located within Plumas County, California. The Project, including Lake Almanor, is crucial to the economic well-being of the County. Over the past decade the County has experienced a significant decline in forestry and mining employment. Fortunately during this same period, the public has discovered Lake Almanor as a great place to vacation and recreate. Visitation and usage of the lake has grown considerably since the project was originally constructed in 1914. At that time, there was barely a road to serve the area, now Lake Almanor is surrounded by two California state highways and a county road.

Today Lake Almanor provides a significant economic benefit to the local community, and the County general plan references 3,000 new home sites to be built in the near-shore area within 15 years. In neighboring Lassen County a 3,000 home ski resort has been approved by the voters. All of these home-owners will demand access to the privately owned Lake for boating, swimming and fishing.

As stated in the licensee's application on page 43 of the Project Resource Summary, "These benefits are realized through great increases in property values, along with increased annual Plumas County tax revenue. In addition, Lake Almanor, Butt Valley Reservoir, and, to a lesser extent, some of the other Project developments are recreation attractions that bring tens of thousands of visits annually leading to significant annual recreation expenditures within Plumas County." In fact, the Project has become pivotal to the economic health of the County given the declines experienced in other employment sectors within the County.

On January 8, 2002 the 2105 Committee; formally appointed by the Board of Supervisors, presented their goals and objectives to PG&E for inclusion in the Application. The Committee has always maintained consistency in relation the core values:

- Water Level Operations Agreement
- Water Quality Monitoring Program
- Comprehensive Recreation Plan
- Public Access
- Erosion
- Public Safety
- Incremental Improvements Plan

Lake Almanor water levels are of vital interest to the citizens of Plumas County as the lake levels affect recreational usage, shoreline erosion, public safety, lake access and shoreline property values. Water quality degradation has the potential to affect aquatic life in the Lake Almanor, Butt Valley Reservoir and the Feather River, which in turn could affect recreational usage due to reduced angling opportunities and a less desirable destination. Changes in Lake Almanor water levels, particularly during the recreation season (i.e., Memorial Day weekend through mid-September), could adversely affect the aquatic habitat, the recreational experience, and property values around the lake.

As the representatives of the local public, including property owners, residents, visitors, recreation dependent businesses, Plumas County and it's Flood Control District, requests status as an intervener in this proceeding; requests copies of all filings made as a part of this proceeding, and requests the opportunity to be heard before decisions are made regarding any issue which would change the manner in which the project is operated.

Notices and Service of Documents may be made to: Plumas County Counsel 520 W. main St., Room 302 Quincy, CA 95971 (530) 283-6240 phone (530) 283-6116 fax

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Shulman

Robert Shulman

Plumas County Counsel and Counsel for Plumas Flood Control and Water Conservation District both governed by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors

Date 2/20/03

#### Service List for P-2105

#### ATTACHMENT A

## Principal/Party Name/Address

## Representative Name/Address

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# **Declaration of Service by Mail**

I, Christi L. Goodman, employed by the Plumas County and the Flood Control and Water Conservation District, did deposit by FED-EX Mail an original and eight copies of a Motion to Intervene in Project 2105 on February 21, 2003.

I declare under the penalties of perjury of the laws of the State of California that this statement is true and correct.

Christi L. Goodman

Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District