

**PRE-APPLICATION DOCUMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) is preparing to relicense the Yuba River Development Project (FERC Project No. 2246). The Project is located in Yuba, Sierra and Nevada counties, California, on the main stem Yuba River, the North Yuba River and the Middle Yuba River, including Oregon Creek, a tributary to the Middle Yuba River. A portion of the FERC Project Boundary is located on United States-owned land managed as the Plumas and Tahoe national forests by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service. The Project includes three developments – New Colgate, New Bullards Bar Fish Release, and Narrows 2. In total, the Project includes one storage reservoir (New Bullards Bar Reservoir with a maximum storage of 966,103 acre-feet on North Yuba River), two diversion facilities (Our House Diversion Dam on the Middle Yuba River with a maximum capacity of 860 cfs, and Log Cabin Diversion Dam on Oregon Creek with a maximum diversion capacity of 1,100 cfs), three powerhouses (New Colgate, Fish Release and Narrows 2, with capacities of 340, 0.150 and 55 megawatts, respectively), and four tunnels (Lohman Ridge, Camptonville, New Colgate, and Narrows 2). The Project does not include any transmission lines. The existing FERC license for the Project expires on April 30, 2016.

YCWA plans to use FERC's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) to relicense its Project. Under the ILP regulations, YCWA is preparing a Pre-Application Document (PAD) that provides FERC and other potentially interested parties with existing, relevant and reasonably available information pertaining to the Project to help identify issues and related information needs, develop study requests and study proposals, and prepare documents analyzing potential project impacts.

YCWA respectfully requests that you complete this PAD Questionnaire to the best of your ability to help identify: 1) sources of existing, relevant and reasonably available information; 2) known or potential adverse impacts or issues associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project; and 3) the potential need for information gathering and/or studies.

1. Information about person completing the PAD Questionnaire:

Name & Title: Matt S. Mentink citizen  
 Organization: Sutter County resident Yuba Co property owner  
 Address: 1393 Southwood Drive  
Yuba City CA 95991  
 Bus. Phone: 530 755-1715  
 Cell Phone: 530 719-8895  
 Email Address: mentinksm@comcast.net

2. Do you or your organization know of existing, relevant and reasonably available information that describes the existing environment or potential impacts of the Yuba River Development Project?

Yes (If yes, please complete 2a thru 2f.)  No (If no, please go to 3.)

a. If yes to Question 2, please check the box(es) to indicate the specific resource areas(s) that the information relates to:

<input type="checkbox"/> Geology and soils	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water quantity and quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land use
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish and aquatic resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic resources

Yuba County Water Agency  
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- Wildlife resources
- Botanical resources
- Wetlands, riparian and littoral habitat
- Species Protected under the Endangered Species Act

- Cultural resources
- Socio-economic resources
- Tribal resources
- Other resource information

b. Please briefly describe the information or list available documents: *(Additional information may be provided on sheet 5 of this questionnaire.)*

Article 46 section 63.1.5 Adherence to USACE Flood Control

The contract between the United States and Licensee entered into on May 9, 1964, Licensee agreed to reserve 170,000 ac-ft. flood storage. At the time it was assumed Marysville Dam would be built and add additional flood protection on the Yuba River. USACE has never asked to increase flood storage space in absence of Marysville Dam and should be done during relicensing.

c. Where can YCWA obtain this information?

Already has information as stated in Article 46 of FERC Project # 2246 Yuba River Development Project

This PAD is requesting USACE to require studies to determine what addition Flood Storage space should be required to prevent unimpared runoff into the Yuba/Feather Levee system ie 144,000 cfs Dec. 1964, 142,000 cfs Feb. 1986, 161,000 Jan 1997

d. Please indicate whether there is a specific representative you wish to designate for a potential follow-up contact by a YCWA representative for the resource area(s) checked above: *(Additional information may be provided on sheet 5 of this questionnaire.)*

**Representative Contact Information**

Name & Title: Matt Mentink  
 Organization: Sutter County Citizen and Yuba County property owner  
 Address: 1393 Southwind Drive  
 Yuba City, CA 95991  
 Bus. Phone: (530) 755-1715 ext 477 Home Depot  
 Cell Phone: (530) 713-8895  
 Email Address: mentinkm@comcast.net  
 Resource Area(s):

**Representative Contact Information**

Name & Title:  
 Organization:  
 Address:  
 Phone:  
 Cell Phone:  
 Email Address:  
 Resource Area(s):

e. Based on the specific resources listed in 2a, are you aware of any specific issues pertaining to the identified resource area(s)? *(Additional information may be provided on sheet 5 of this questionnaire.)*

Yes *(Please list specific issues below.)*  No

Resource Area	Project	Specific Issue
		As a result of unimpared runoff of 142,000 cfs in the Yuba River ( <del>Dec</del> Feb 1986) combining with 217,000 cfs in the Feather River, the levee system failed resulting in major flooding in Yuba County California settled flood claims for \$464 million.

		In Jan. 1997 unimpared runoff of 161,000 cfs in Yuba and 298,000 cfs in Feather caused levee failure in less populated south Yuba County resulting in California settlements of \$45 million.
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		With Yuba County levee improvements complete the next levee failure will be in Sutter County / Yuba City with \$ Billion or more damages.
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f. Based on the resource issues identified in 2e, are you aware of any potential studies or information needs associated with the identified issues? *(Additional information may be provided on sheet 5 of this questionnaire.)*

Yes *(Please list potential studies or information needs below.)*  No

Resource Area	Project	Potential Studies or Information Needs
		All the studies I've seen associated with the Yuba River Development project and the Yuba Accord agreement have not taken Flood Control protection of Sutter County, Yuba City or Natamas Area of Sacramento in consideration

		The focus of available studies has been focused on how to retain more water in New Bullards Bar for the Sale and Transfer of water south of the Delta. Levees are the last resort of flood protection and should not be tested by flows reaching "Flood Stage" let alone system capacity when current flood storage space is at 18% of New Bullards compared to 68% at Folsom Dam, 29% Shasta, 21% Oroville Dam
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3. Do you or your organization plan to participate in YCWA's Yuba River Development Project relicensing proceeding?

Yes  No

4. We are interested in your comments. If you have comments and/or questions regarding YCWA's Yuba River Development Project relicensing please add below. *(Additional information may be provided on sheet 5 of this questionnaire.)*

**Comments** There are many well organized and financed water agencies south of the delta that have been looking at the water storage in New Bullards Bar and the groundwater in Yuba County as areas to increase water transfer.

These south of delta water interest along with the current Governor of California were successful in passing state legislation that will transfer available water to farms and new subdivisions housing that currently don't have water rights.

The relicensing of Bullards Bar is the last chance residents of Yuba, Sutter and Sacramento have to increase flood protection of levee systems already identified by the USACE of not meeting 100 year flood protection standards.

To allow for any follow-up contacts that may be needed by a YCWA representative, within 45 days please return this completed PAD Questionnaire in the enclosed, stamped envelop to:

**HDR|DTA**  
**ATTN: Jim Lynch**  
2720 Gateway Oaks Drive  
Suite 140  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Alternatively, you may fax this completed PAD Questionnaire to:

ATTN: Jim Lynch  
HDR|DTA  
Fax: (916) 564-4203

or email a pdf. copy of the completed PAD Questionnaire to:

[james.lynch@hdrinc.com](mailto:james.lynch@hdrinc.com)

Not responding within 45 days will indicate that you are not aware of any existing, relevant, and reasonably available information that describes that existing environment or known potential impacts of YCWA's Yuba River Development Project.

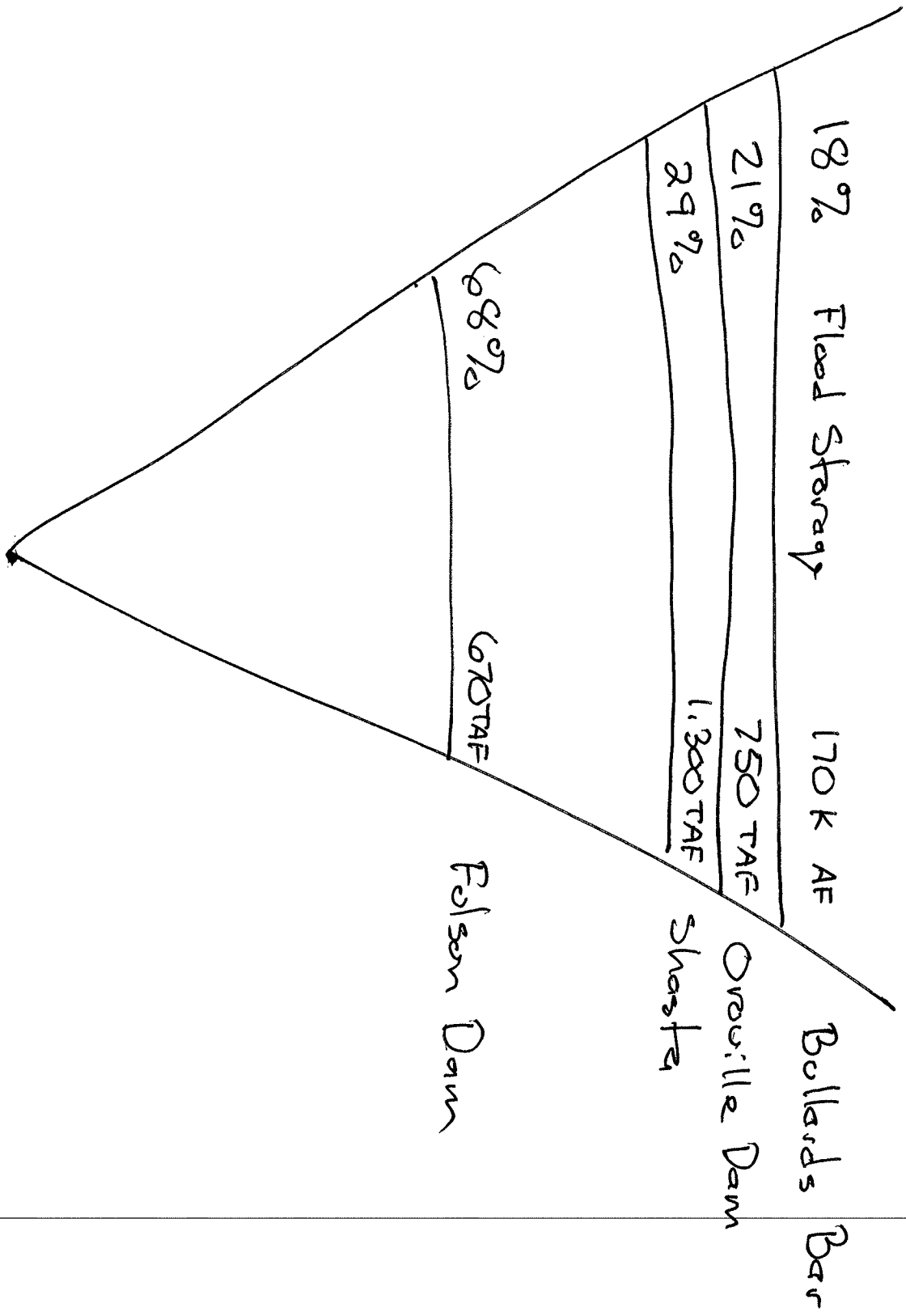
**Additional Information or Comments:** (Please indicate applicable section.)

Since New Bullards Bar Flood Storage only controls the North Fork of the Yuba River Drainage, it only supplies  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the unimpacted flows in the Yuba Levee system, or 50,000 cfs.

Yet 50,000 cfs less flow down the Yuba/Feather Levee system which has a capacity of 300,000 cfs would result in 15% decrease in flows.

Assuming the levees are 40' height, water levels would have been 6 ft further down on the Levee. Dropping flow 6 ft further down would have a huge effect on the hydrological pressure and seepage of the top narrow portion of levees.

Currently Bullards Bar has not completed the construction of low level release system that allows quick draw down of lake in advance of storms that compromise lake's flood pool. Funding and studies have been done but a mandate to complete project has not occurred and should be as part of the relicensing by FERC and A USACE.



If during the floods of 1986 & 1997 Bullards Bar could have released in advance of storm, then having flood pool space enough to not have 50,000 cfs coming down the North Fork, The combine flows in the Feather / Yuba levee system would have lowered 15%. Not only would the hydrological pressure would have been reduced proportionally, but water level would have lowered 6'-8', keeping levels below the flood stage and narrow peak of the levee.

