



December 31, 2013

**Filed via Electronic Submittal (E-File)**

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
888 – 1st Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426-0001

**SUBJECT:** Yuba River Development Project  
FERC Project No. 2246-058 - CA  
Updated Study Report Meeting Summary

Dear Secretary Bose:

In accordance with 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 5.15(f), the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) hereby files with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) this Updated Study Report meeting summary for relicensing of YCWA's Yuba River Development Project (FERC Project Number 2246).

On December 2, 2013, YCWA filed with the FERC and distributed to Relicensing Participants YCWA's Updated Study Report, which covered the period from initiation of the various relicensing studies through November 30, 2013, and provided for each study a description of YCWA's progress in implementing the study plan and schedule, the data collected, and an explanation of any variances to the FERC-approved study. The report also included a description of YCWA's proposed modifications to ongoing studies and new studies.

### **UPDATED STUDY REPORT MEETING SUMMARY**

From 9:30 AM to noon on December 17, 2013, YCWA held an Updated Study Report meeting for YCWA's Yuba River Development Project. The meeting was held at YCWA's office in Marysville, California, and was scheduled in consultation with Relicensing Participants. A detailed agenda for the meeting was included in Section 4 of YCWA's Updated Study Report. YCWA provided a condensed agenda at the meeting (Attachment 1). A reminder of the meeting was e-mailed to Relicensing Participants on December 2, 2013. A call-in number was provided for those who could not attend the meeting in person.

The meeting was attended by 20 people: 14 participated in-person and six participated by telephone. Agencies and organizations represented included: FERC; United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB); California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW); Foothills Water Network (FWN); South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL); and Gold Country Flyfishers. A copy of the meeting sign-in sheet is attached (Attachment 2).



After introductions, YCWA made a brief presentation that included:

- A description of the Updated Study Report meeting summary, which would capture major discussion items, but would not be a transcript of the meeting or present the position of any party.
- The purpose of the meeting.
- A review of the relicensing schedule including the specific schedule regarding the Updated Study Report process (e.g., filing of Updated Study Report meeting summary, comments on the summary, reply to comments, and FERC's resolution of differences). YCWA said, in light of the holidays, YCWA would not file the Updated Study Report meeting summary until December 31, 2013, and referred participants to the Event Calendar on YCWA's relicensing Website ([www.ycwa-relicensing.com](http://www.ycwa-relicensing.com)) for confirming filing dates. YCWA also discussed the overall relicensing schedule, especially as it relates to the Draft License Application (DLA), which was filed with FERC by YCWA on December 2, 2013. Meeting participants asked the FERC if the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) included a provision for Additional Information Requests (AIR). FERC said it did, and suggested Relicensing Participants focus their Updated Study Report comment letters on anything they wished FERC to resolve regarding studies.
- A review of study progress, including that FERC ordered 48 studies and YCWA completed 43 of them by the time the Updated Study Report was filed. YCWA expected two of the studies in progress to be complete before the Final License Application (FLA) is filed. These are: 1) *Study 6.1, Riparian Habitat Upstream of Englebright Reservoir*, which YCWA expects to complete by January 15, 2014; and 2) *Study 7.13, Fish Stranding Associated with Shutdown of Narrows 2 Powerhouse Partial Bypass*, which YCWA expects to complete by February 28, 2014. The other three in-progress studies are: 1) *Study 8.2, Recreational Flow*, which YCWA expects to complete by June 30, 2014; 2) *Study 7.11, Fish Behavior and Hydraulics Near Narrows 2 Powerhouse*; and 3) *Study 7.11a, Radio Telemetry Study of Spring- and Fall-run Chinook Salmon Downstream of Narrows 2 Powerhouse*. YCWA expects to issue a joint interim technical memorandum for Studies 7.11 and 7.11a by January 31, 2014 and a joint final technical memorandum for the two studies by March 15, 2015, as required in the FERC-approved studies.
- YCWA said, at this time, it does not propose any modifications to the five ongoing studies, or new studies.

Meeting participants expressed a concern that FERC might issue the Ready for Environmental Analysis (REA Notice), before all the studies, especially Study 7.11a, which will not be done until March 2015, were done. FERC said it will evaluate all the information when the FLA is filed and then decide when to schedule issuance of the REA Notice. Meeting participants discussed what activities are triggered by the REA notice, including YCWA filing of an amended FLA, if it chose to do so; YCWA applying for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certificate; comments on the FLA; and filing of preliminary Federal Power Act (FPA) Section 4(e) conditions and preliminary FPA Section 18 fishway prescriptions. The latter could potentially trigger requests for evidentiary hearings and filing of alternative conditions.

The Forest Service asked which study criteria it should use if it asks for studies related to YCWA's proposed Project modifications, which the Forest Service said were not proposed when studies were first requested. FERC said everyone should follow the most recent study criteria. YCWA mentioned that it had included these criteria in Section 3 of its Updated Study Report.

The USFWS said it would likely ask for modifications related to *Study 6.2, Riparian Habitat Downstream of Englebright Dam*, and *Study 7.10, Instream Flow Study Downstream of Englebright Dam*, though they did not offer specifics at the meeting.

Cal Fish and Wildlife reminded FERC that it had already filed a request for a new study related to entrainment at Narrows 2 Powerhouse. YCWA mentioned that it had filed with FERC a reply to Cal Fish and Wildlife's request. FERC said it had not forgotten the study request or reply, and it was not necessary to re-file these, though the parties may want to remind FERC or summarize their request and reply. FERC said it would address the new study request in its Updated Study Report study decision.

The SWRCB, FWN and SYRCL said they may or may not request study modifications or new studies; they were not sure yet.

**YCWA's PROPOSED CHANGES TO  
STUDY MODIFICATIONS AND NEW STUDIES IN ITS UPDATED STUDY EPORT**

Based on the Updated Study Report meeting, YCWA has not changed its proposal in the Updated Study Report – YCWA does not propose any modifications to the five ongoing studies, or new studies.

If you have any questions regarding this Updated Study Report meeting summary, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Curt Aikens  
General Manager

Attachments: Updated Study Report Meeting Agenda  
Updated Study Report Meeting Sign-in Sheet

cc: Alan Mitchnick – FERC, DC  
Ken Hogan – FERC, DC  
Relicensing Participants on YCWA's Yuba River Development Project's Relicensing E-Mail Contact List (via e-mail)

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

### **YUBA RIVER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT RELICENSING**

#### **Updated Study Report Meeting**

(9:30 AM to Noon on Tuesday, December 17, 2013  
at Yuba County Water Agency, 1220 F Street, Marysville, CA)

#### **Agenda**

- Introductions
- Purpose of Meeting
- Review of Relicensing Schedule
- Brief Overview of Study Progress
- Discussion of Study Status and Relicensing Participant's Proposals Regarding Study Modifications/New Studies
  - YCWA's Plan to Prepare and File an USR Meeting Summary
  - Adjourn

## ATTACHMENT 2

### Updated Study Report Meeting Sign-in Sheet




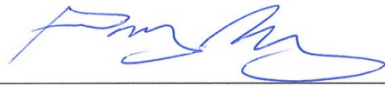

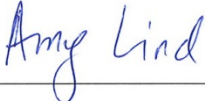
Yuba County Water Agency  
Yuba River Development Project  
FERC Project No. 2246

## YUBA RIVER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT RELICENSING

### Updated Study Report Meeting

(9:30 AM to Noon on Tuesday, December 17, 2013  
at Yuba County Water Agency, 1220 F Street, Marysville, CA)

### Sign-in Sheet

	HOR
	YCWA
 <del>SWRCB</del>	SWRCB
	SYRCL
	FFF
Justin Wood	Sierra Streams Institute
CLAY HASH	GOLD COUNTRY FLY FISHERS
Peter A. Burnes	SYRCL ALTERNATE
	USFS



Yuba County Water Agency  
 Yuba River Development Project  
 FERC Project No. 2246

Carol Purchase	USFS
Anna Ewing	ODFW
Cheryl Mulder	USFS
ALISON WILLY	USFWS
Traci VanTholl	FWN Foothills Water Network
Alan Mitomnick	PERC (enpire)
Ku Hogan	PERC (enpire)
Shanna Murry	PERC (enpire)
Joe Henke	PERC (enpire)
Ruth Louwer	CDRW ( <del>PERC</del> (enpire))
Sean Hebbler	CDRW ( <del>PERC</del> (enpire))