



August 15, 2018

Via Electronic Submittal (eFile)

SHPO Reference Number: FERC120321A

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

**Subject: Yuba River Development Project (FERC Project No. 2246) FERC Relicensing;
Transmittal of National Register of Historic Places Evaluation of Archaeological
Site CA-YUB-1736H/P-58-2736
PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION ENCLOSED**

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA), as owner and operator of the Yuba River Development Project (Project), hereby files with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or the Commission) a cultural resources evaluation report entitled *National Register of Historic Places Evaluation of Archaeological Site CA-YUB-1736H/P-58-2736 for the Yuba River Development Project (FERC Project No. 2246) in Yuba, Sierra, and Nevada Counties, California (PRIVILEGED/CONFIDENTIAL)* (Attachment 1) and a copy of the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurrence letter regarding the findings of the evaluation report (Attachment 2).

Since expiration of the initial FERC license for the Project on April 30, 2016, YCWA has continued operating the Project under an annual FERC license, and will continue to do so until a new license is issued. FERC relicensing of the Project is a federal undertaking subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Section 106), as amended. Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertaking on historic properties (i.e., cultural resources listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]). Previous cultural resources inventory efforts conducted for the relicensing, pursuant to Section 106 compliance requirements, identified archaeological site CA-YUB-1736H / P-58-2736 within the Project relicensing area of potential effects (APE). At the time of initial documentation, it was noted that this site has been disturbed from logging, vegetation removal, and Project operations and maintenance (O&M) activities. Though unevaluated for the NRHP, YCWA was treating the site as if it was eligible for listing on the NRHP through avoidance, until such time that it could be evaluated.

YCWA recently identified a need for erosion control measures for an existing paved road that traverses through site CA-YUB-1736H / P-58-2736, as portions of the bluff that border the road are eroding and must be stabilized. Though there are no design plans for the erosion control measures at this time, YCWA anticipates this work will be done in the near future. YCWA has also determined that future Project O&M activities will likely occur in the vicinity of the site under the new FERC license which could adversely affect site CA-YUB-1736H / P-58-2736. These considerations necessitated the evaluation of the site's eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP to determine if this site is an historic property that would require further consideration under Section 106. Accordingly, YCWA contracted

HDR, Inc. (HDR) to conduct a NRHP evaluation of site CA-YUB-1736H / P-58-2736. The site was determined to be ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP. The evaluation efforts and results are documented in the enclosed report which was provided to tribes and agencies on May 23, 2018, for review and comment. No comments were received. The report was then submitted to the SHPO on July 5, 2018 for review and concurrence. The SHPO provided its concurrence in a letter dated August 6, 2018 (Attachment 2). In this letter the SHPO concurs with the determination that archaeological site CA-YUB-1736H / P-58-2736 is not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

The enclosed inventory report is being filed at this time in the Commission's non-public, PRIVILEGED files. The enclosed SHPO concurrence letter is being filed at this time in the Commission's Public files.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Danielle Risse, Senior Cultural Resources Specialist with HDR, Inc. at 916-679-8796 or by email at Danielle.Risse@hdrinc.com.

Sincerely,



Curt Aikens
General Manager
Yuba County Water Agency
530-741-5015

- Attachments:
- 1) *National Register of Historic Places Evaluation of Archaeological Site CA-YUB-1736H/P-58-2736 for the Yuba River Development Project (FERC Project No. 2246) in Yuba, Sierra, and Nevada Counties, California (PRIVILEGED/CONFIDENTIAL)*
 - 2) SHPO concurrence letter dated May 22, 2018 (Public)

Cc w/Attachments: Frank Winchell, FERC
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Cc w/Attachment 2 only: Distribution List

Cc w/o Attachments: Parties on FERC's Official List for the Yuba River Development Project Relicensing, FERC Project No. 2246
Relicensing Participants on YCWA's Yuba River Development Project's Relicensing E-Mail Contact List (via e-mail)

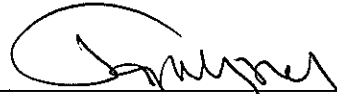
DISTRIBUTION LIST

<p>Guy Taylor, Director Environmental Protection Office Concow Maidu Tribe of Mooretown Rancheria Feather Falls Casino #1 Alverda Dr. Oroville, CA 95966</p>	<p>Kyle Self, Chair Greenville Rancheria Tribe of Maidu Indians PO Box 279 410 Main Street Greenville, CA 95947</p>
<p>Dennis Ramirez, Chair Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria 125 Mission Ranch Road Chico, CA 95926</p>	<p>Richard Johnson, Chair Shelly Covert, Secretary Nevada City Rancheria 641 S. Auburn Street Grass Valley, CA 95945</p>
<p>Gene Whitehouse, Chair Marcos Guerrero, Cultural Representative United Auburn Indian Community 10720 Indian Hill Rd Auburn, CA 95603</p>	<p>Nicholas Fonseca, Chair Shingle Springs Rancheria PO Box 1340 Shingle Springs, CA 95682</p>
<p>Cathy Bishop, Chair Strawberry Valley Rancheria PO Box 984 Marysville, CA 95901</p>	<p>Grayson Coney, Representative For Don Ryberg, Chair Tsi Akim Maidu PO Box 510 Browns Valley, CA 95918</p>
<p>Darrel Cruz, THPO Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California 919 U S Hwy 395 South Gardnerville, N V 89410</p>	<p>Dan Elliott, Forest Archaeologist United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Plumas National Forest 159 Lawrence St., PO Box 11500 Quincy, CA 95971</p>
<p>Jamie Moore, District Archaeologist United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Plumas National Forest Feather River Ranger District 875 Mitchell Ave Oroville, CA 95965</p>	<p>Carrie Smith, Forest Archeologist United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Tahoe National Forest 10811 Stockrest Springs Rd Truckee, CA 96161</p>

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Secretary of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in this proceeding (Yuba River Development Project, FERC Project No. 2246).

Dated in Sacramento, CA this 15th day of August, 2018.



James Lynch, Senior Vice President
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