

**OD-ORDER, 71 FERC ¶62,084, Yuba County Water Agency, Project No. 2246-028 - California, (May 01, 1995)**

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**Yuba County Water Agency, Project No. 2246-028 - California**

**[64,120]**

**[¶62,084]**

**Yuba County Water Agency, Project No. 2246-028 - California**

**Order Approving Recreation Use Survey**

**(Issued May 1, 1995)**

**J. Mark Robinson, Dir., Division of Project Compliance and Administration.**

On February 21, 1995, Yuba County Water Agency, licensee for the Yuba River Development Project, FERC Project No. 2246, filed the results of a recreation use study conducted at Our House and Log Cabin diversion dams, as required by Ordering Paragraph (B) of the Commission's order issued on March 25, 1994. <sup>1</sup> Supplemental information was filed by the licensee on March 16, 1995.

#### *Background*

Pursuant to Ordering Paragraph (B) of the Commission's

March 25, 1994 order, the licensee was required to file the results of a recreation use study, including comments from the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (FS), and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), by December 15, 1994. A plan to study recreation use at the diversion dams was required by Ordering Paragraph (B) of the Commission's order issued on August 19, 1993. <sup>2</sup> The study was intended to show the recreational use of Our House and Log Cabin diversion dams as well as, determine the need for additional recreation facilities/ amenities at these sites. On December 27, 1994, the licensee filed a request for an extension of time to file the study results and pursuant to the Commission's January 9, 1995 order, the licensee was granted an extension until March 15, 1995 to file the required material.

#### *Filed Material*

The study results filed on February 21, 1995, indicate that the Our House and Log Cabin diversion dam areas incur a minimal amount of recreational use. The licensee's summary states additional facilities are not considered necessary at this time because of the low use levels. Specifically, the results indicate that 18 and 400 user groups visited Log Cabin and Our House diversion dams, respectively, during the 198-day recreation season in 1994. This level of use results in an average of .05 groups per day at the Log Cabin site and approximately 2 groups per day at Our House. The average group size at each site is estimated to be 3 people per group. Thus, use is rare at the Log Cabin site (approximately 1 person per week), while the Our House location receives an average of 6 people per day during the recreation season.

Holiday weekends at each site were the busiest periods. However, even on holiday weekends use levels amounted to an average of only 1.3 groups, or 3.9 people per weekend day at Log Cabin, and 4 groups, or 13 people per holiday weekend day at Our House. A questionnaire was distributed at Our House with only 14 respondents returning the mailback survey. Results of this survey suggest that visitors to Our House are satisfied with the facilities provided at the site, as more than 90% of the respondents gave the site an "overall satisfaction" rating of "very satisfied to satisfied."

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With regard to the types of activities participated in at each of the areas, swimming was the primary activity at each site. Fishing and swimming were designated as the main activities occurring at the Log Cabin diversion dam, while swimming, hiking, fishing, and sightseeing were reported to occur at Our House.

The material filed on March 16, 1995, includes documentation of agency consultation. As required by Ordering Paragraph (B) of the Commission's March 25, 1994 order, the licensee, by letters dated December 28, 1994, requested comments on the survey results and conclusions from the NPS, FS, and CDFG. No comments were filed by any of the agencies consulted.

*Discussion*

Given that use levels at Our House and Log Cabin diversion dams is minimal, Commission staff concur with the licensee's conclusion that additional recreation facilities are not necessary at this time. In order to provide the appropriate facilities should recreational use at these sites increase in the future, however, the Commission should reserve the right to require additional facilities when use levels warrant additional development. With the acknowledgment that use levels might not remain at such low levels, and additional development could be required in the future, the study results and conclusion for Our House and Log Cabin diversion dam recreational use should be approved.

*The Director orders:*

(A) The results of the 1994 recreation use study conducted at Our House and Log Cabin diversion dams of the Yuba River Development Project, FERC Project No. 2246, filed on February 21, 1995, are approved.

(B) The Commission reserves the right to require additional recreation facilities should such development be considered necessary for meeting recreational demand at the project.

(C) This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §385.713.

**-- Footnotes --****[64,120]**

<sup>1</sup> *Order Approving Recreation Study and Boating Speed Restriction Plans*, 66 FERC ¶62,182 (1994).

<sup>2</sup> *Order Approving Recreation Plan With Modification*, 64 FERC ¶62,117 (1993).

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