

Yuba County Water Agency

Yuba River Development Project

(FERC Project No. 2246)

- Proposed Study Plan Meeting -

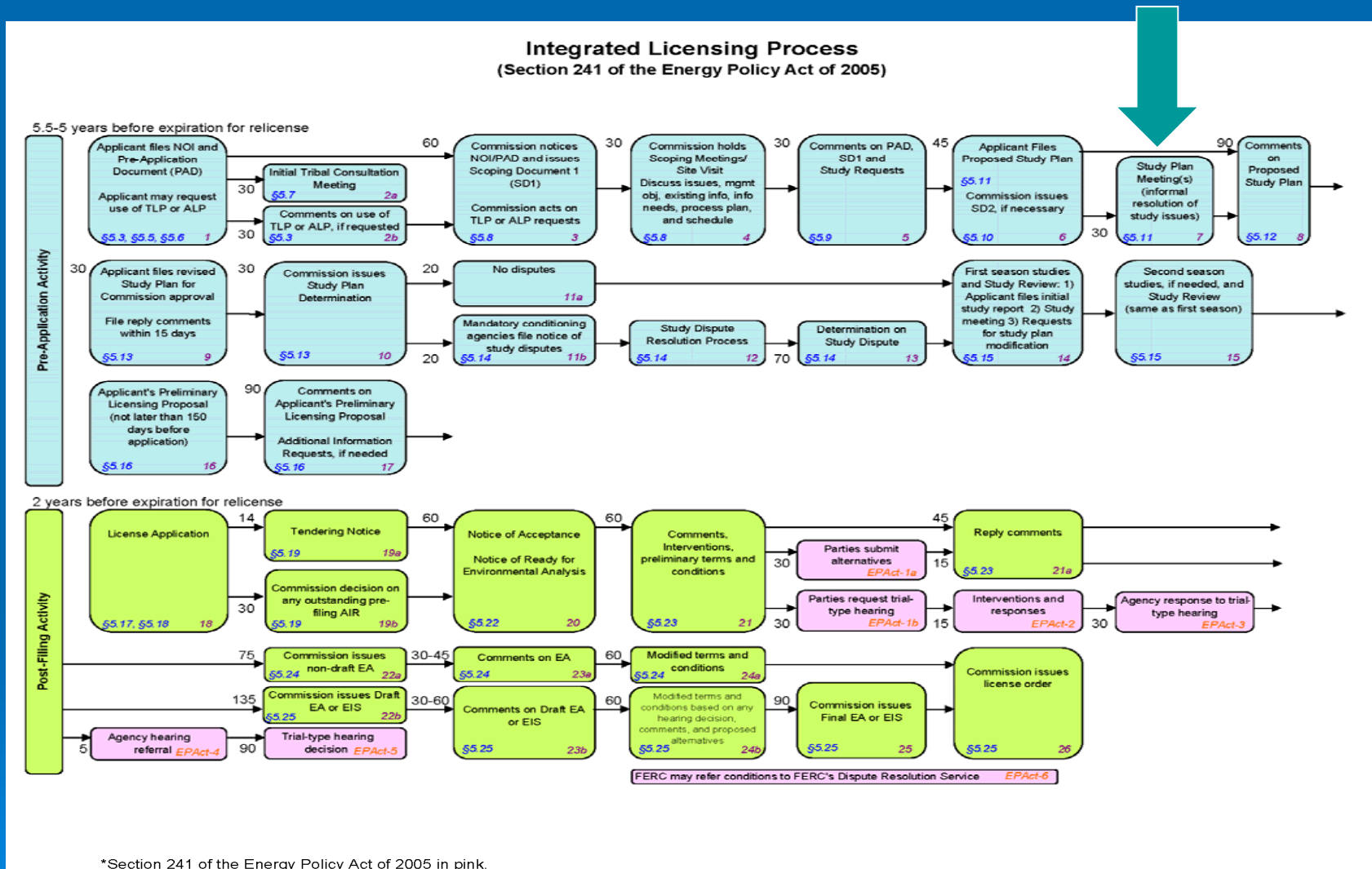
**May 11, 2011
Bonanza Inn, Yuba City, California**



Purpose of Presentation

- Describe Yuba County Water Agency's (YCWA) Proposed Study Plan
- Meet 18 CFR § 5(11)(e) Requirement For An Initial Meeting Within 30 Days Of Filing Proposed Study Plan

Overall Schedule Context



Proposed Study Plan Content

- Required By FERC Regulations To Be Filed And Distributed For 120-Day Comment Period Within 45 Days Following Filing Deadline For Comments On Pre-Application Document (PAD)
 - Proposed Study Plan filed and distributed on April 19, 2011. Organized in 5 main sections
- Section 1: Provided Summary Of Relicensing Activities To Date
- Section 2: Provided YCWA's Proposed Studies
- Section 3: Provided YCWA's Replies To Comments On PAD, Specifically Regarding Requests For Study Modifications And New Studies
- Section 4: Described YCWA's Proposed Meetings, Data Availability And Reports
 - Expressed YCWA's commitment to continue to work with Relicensing Participants
- Section 5: Provided Status Of Enhancement Evaluations

Relicensing Activities To Date

- YCWA Held About 30 Meetings, Mostly Focused On Study Development, And Conducted Site Visits
- YCWA Issued Preliminary Information Package On September 29, 2009 And Issued 40 “Straw Man” Study Proposals
- YCWA Filed Notice Of Intent To File An Application For A New License And PAD On November 5, 2010. Thirty Comments Letters Filed By March 10, 2011
- FERC Conducted Site Visit And Held NEPA Scoping Meetings In February 2011
- YCWA Continued To Hold Study Development Meetings And Filed 10 Redline Study Plans With FERC On February 11, 2011
- YCWA , At Its Own Risk, Agreed To Initiate Work On 5 Studies Prior To FERC’s Determination

YCWA's Proposed Studies Both Above/Below Englebright

1. Hydrologic Alteration
2. Water Balance/Operations Model
3. Water Quality
4. Water Temperature Monitoring¹
5. Water Temperature Model
6. Special-Status Turtles – Western Pond Turtle
7. Special-Status Wildlife – California Wildlife Habitat Relationships
8. Special-Status Wildlife – Bats
9. Special-Status Plants
10. Wetlands
11. ESA-Listed Plants
12. ESA-Listed Wildlife – Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle
13. CESA-Listed Plants
14. CESA-Listed and Fully Protected Wildlife – California Wildlife Habitat Relationships
15. CESA-Listed and Fully Protected Wildlife – Bald Eagle
16. Primary Project Roads and Trails
17. Historic Properties²
18. Native American Traditional Cultural Properties²

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YCWA's Proposed Studies Only Above Englebright

1. Channel Morphology Upstream of Englebright¹
2. Bioaccumulation¹
3. Aquatic Macroinvertebrates Upstream of Englebright
4. Special-Status Aquatic Mollusks
5. Special-Status Amphibians – Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog Surveys¹
6. Special-Status Amphibians – Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog Habitat Modeling
7. Reservoir Fish Populations
8. Stream Fish Populations Upstream of Englebright
9. Instream Flow Upstream of Englebright
10. Fish Entrainment
11. Riparian Habitat Upstream of Englebright¹
12. ESA-Listed Amphibians – California Red-Legged Frog
13. Recreation Use and Visitor Surveys
14. Recreational Flow
15. Visual Quality on Federal Land

YCWA's Proposed Studies Only Below Englebright

1. Channel Morphology Downstream of Englebright
2. Aquatic Macroinvertebrates Downstream of Englebright
3. Non-ESA-Listed Fish Populations Downstream of Englebright
4. Riparian Habitat Downstream of Englebright
5. Potential Narrows 2 Powerhouse Intake Extension
6. ESA/CESA-Listed Salmonids Downstream of Englebright
7. North American Green Sturgeon Downstream of Englebright
8. Instream Flow Downstream of Englebright

Reply to Study Requests (1 of 2)

- 30 Comment Letters Filed With FERC
- 20 Comment Letters Did Not Request Modification To YCWA's "Straw Man" Study Proposals Or Request Studies Not Listed In PAD
 - 15 from recreationists who use houseboats on New Bullards Bar Reservoir
 - 1 from YCWA's Emerald Cove Marina concessionaire
 - 1 from the Camptonville Community Partnership
 - 1 from Feather River Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 - 1 from Gold County Fly Fishers
 - 1 from SWRCB (but expressed support for CDFG's requests)
- Forest Service, NPS, USFWS, NMFS, FERC, CDFG, UAIC and FWN Collectively Requested Modifications to 28 of YCWA's "Straw Man" Study Proposals, Excluding Those Related to Anadromous Fish
 - About 33% requested modifications adopted, 33% adopted with some modification, and 33% not adopted

Reply to Study Requests (2 of 2)

- USFWS, NMFS and FWN Collectively Requested Modifications To 3 Of YCWA's "Straw Man" Study Proposals And Requested 10 New Studies - All The Requests Pertained, At Least In Part, To Anadromous Fish Upstream Of Englebright Dam
 - Not adopted by YCWA

- Forest Service Requested A New Study For Aquatic Invasive Species
 - Adopted with Modification (included in YCWA's Special-Status Plants Study)

- Yuba County Fish and Game (YCFG) Requested A New Study For Mule Deer Migration Corridors
 - Not adopted by YCWA

- Camptonville Community Services District (CCSD) Requested A New Study For Recreation Adverse Effects on Camptonville Local Economy
 - Not adopted by YCWA

Scheduled Meetings, Data Availability and Reports

- 13 Meetings Scheduled Through August 2011 To Try To Reach Agreement With As Many Relicensing Participants As Possible On As Many Study Differences As Possible
 - YCWA willing to schedule additional meetings if needed
- YCWA Plans To Periodically Meet With Relicensing Participants Throughout Relicensing As Needed
- Initial And Updated Study Reports
- Periodic Progress Reports

Status Of Enhancements

- YCWA Continuing To Evaluate Potential Project Enhancements, And Believes Proposed Studies Adequate To Address Any Enhancements Under Consideration Now
- Status Of Enhancements To Be Provided In Revised Study Plan

What's Next This Year?

- Prior to FERC's Determination, YCWA Begin 7 Studies YCWA Has Agreed to Begin.
- July 18 – Relicensing Participants File Comments On Proposed Study Plan
- August 17 – YCWA File Revised Study Plan
- September 1 - Relicensing Participants File Comments On Revised Study Plan
- September 16 – FERC Issue Study Determination
- October 6 – If No Disputes Filed By Mandatory Conditioning Agencies, Determination Final. YCWA begin studies not in dispute. If A Mandatory Conditioning Agency Files A Dispute, FERC Implement Dispute Resolution Process
- December 15 – If A Mandatory Conditioning Agency Files A Dispute, FERC Issue Director's Determination To Decide Dispute. YCWA begin studies resolved by FERC.

Questions?

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Thank You

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