

SECTION 7

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

This section describes the existing environment in the general vicinity¹ of Yuba County Water Agency's (YCWA or Licensee) Yuba River Development Project (Project). The section is organized by the following major resources:

- Geology and Soils
- Water Resources
- Aquatic Resources
- Wildlife Resources
- Botanical Resources
- Wetland, Riparian and Littoral Habitats
- Threatened, Endangered and Fully Protected Species
- Recreation Resources
- Land Use Resources
- Aesthetic Resources
- Socio-economic Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Tribal Interests

In general, and with some exceptions where appropriate, each major resource section is organized by geographic relationship to the Project. These sections are generally organized thus: 1) resources upstream of the Project; 2) resources in the Project Area;² and 3) resources downstream of the Project.

In addition, where appropriate, existing information is noted as either a source document (i.e., contains original data collected by the author) or anecdotal information. The amount of detail included in the description of each existing resource is commensurate with the importance of the resource in the relicensing.

¹ For the purposes of this document, Project Vicinity is defined as the area surrounding the Project on the order of a United States Geological Survey (USGS) 1:24,000 topographic quadrangle.

² For the purposes of this document, Project Area is defined as the area within the existing Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project Boundary and the land immediately surrounding the FERC Project Boundary (i.e., within about 0.25 mile of the FERC Project Boundary) and includes Project-affected reaches between facilities and downstream to the next major water controlling feature or structure.

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