

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposed Action

In December 2013, the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA or Licensee) filed an Application for a New License Major Project – Existing Dam - (Application for New License) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) to operate and maintain the Yuba River Development Project (Project), FERC Project Number 2246. The Project's licensed capacity would not change. The Project includes three developments located on the Yuba River, North Yuba River, Middle Yuba River and Oregon Creek, which is a tributary to the Middle Yuba River, in Yuba, Nevada and Sierra counties, California. The Project occupies 4,432.8 acres of federal land: 4,416.7 acres (ac) managed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service) as parts of the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) and Plumas National Forest (PNF); and 16.1 ac administered by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as part of Englebright Dam and Reservoir. YCWA requests a new license with a term of 50 years.

Project Description

The Project's developments include: 1) New Colgate (315 megawatts (MW) installed capacity); 2) New Bullards Bar Minimum Flow (0.15 MW); 3) Narrows 2 (46.7 MW). Among these three developments, there are: one main dam and storage reservoir; two diversion dams and associated impoundments; four water tunnels; one above-ground penstock; three powerhouses with associated switchyards with a combined authorized installed capacity of 361.1 MW; and appurtenant facilities and structures, including recreation facilities, gages and roads. Each of the developments is described in Section 2.1.1 of this Exhibit E.

Proposed Facilities

YCWA proposes to construct a new Tailwater Depression System (TDS) at the New Colgate Powerhouse and a new flood control outlet on New Bullards Bar Dam. Both facilities would be located within the existing FERC Project Boundary on YCWA land. Neither facility would increase the Project's licensed installed capacity.

In addition, YCWA proposes to build new facilities and rehabilitate existing facilities at recreation areas surrounding New Bullards Bar Reservoir.

Finally, YCWA proposes to modify the existing FERC Project Boundary.

Proposed Operations

YCWA proposes to modify Project operations affecting minimum streamflows and the rate of flow recession following spills from dams to provide environmental benefits to Project affected resources. In conjunction with the proposed new minimum streamflows, YCWA proposes upgrades to the following release facilities and flow monitoring facilities:

- Our House Diversion Dam fish release
- New Bullards Bar Dam release
- Modify flow gage below Our House Diversion Dam, Log Cabin Diversion Dam and New Bullards Bar Dam

Proposed Environmental Conditions

YCWA proposes 40 operations and management activities as conditions of the new license for the Project for the purpose of protecting or mitigating impacts that would otherwise result from YCWA's proposed Project, or for the purpose of enhancing resources that would be affected by the proposed Project. These conditions are listed in Table ES-1, and provided in Appendix E2 to this Exhibit E.

Table ES-1. Conditions included in YCWA in its proposed Yuba River Development Project.

YCWA's Proposed Condition	Description
GENERAL	
GEN1	Consult with the Forest Service Annually Regarding Project Effects on NFS Land
GEN2	Consult with the Forest Service Regarding New Ground Disturbing Activities on NFS Land
GEN3	Consult with the Forest Service Regarding New Facilities on NFS Land
GEN4	Consult with Forest Service Regarding Pesticide Use on NFS Land
GEN5	Review Special-status Species Lists and Assess Newly-listed Species Annually
GEN6	Provide Environmental Training to Employees
GEN7	Develop and Implement a Coordinated Operations Plan for Yuba River Development Project and Narrows Project
GEN8	Right to Use Englebright Dam and Reservoir
GEOLOGY AND SOILS	
GS1	Implement Erosion and Sediment Control Plan ¹
GS2	Implement Our House and Log Cabin Diversion Dams Sediment Removal Plan ¹
GS3	Pass Sediment at Our House and Log Cabin Diversion Dams
GS4	Monitor Channel Morphology Downstream of Our House and Log Cabin Diversion Dams
GS5	Pass Large Woody Material at Our House and Log Cabin Diversion Dams
GS6	Implement New Bullards Bar Reservoir Floating Material Management Plan ¹
WATER RESOURCES	
WR1	Implement Hazardous Substances Plan ¹
WR2	Determine Water Year Types for Measures Pertaining to Our House Diversion Dam, Log Cabin Diversion Dam and New Bullards Bar Dam
WR3	Determine Water Year Types for Measures Pertaining to Narrows 2 Powerhouse and Narrows 2 Full Bypass
WR4	Implement Streamflow and Reservoir Level Monitoring Plan ¹
WR5	Maintain New Bullards Bar Reservoir Minimum Pool
WR6	Operate New Bullards Bar Reservoir for Flood Control
AQUATIC RESOURCES	
AR1	Maintain Minimum Streamflows below Our House Diversion Dam, Log Cabin Diversion Dam and New Bullards Bar Dam
AR2	Control Project Spills at Our House Diversion Dam
AR3	Maintain Minimum Streamflows at Narrows 2 Powerhouse and Narrows 2 Full Bypass
AR4	Control Project Spills at New Bullards Bar Dam
AR5	Implement Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan ¹

Table ES-1. (continued)

YCWA's Proposed Condition	Description
AQUATIC RESOURCES (continued)	
AR6	Implement New Bullards Bar Reservoir Fish Stocking Plan ¹
TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES	
TR1	Implement Integrated Vegetation Management Plan ¹
TR2	Implement Bald Eagle and American Peregrine Falcon Management Plan ¹
TR3	Implement Ringtail Management Plan ¹
TR4	Manage Bats at Project Facilities
ESA-LISTED SPECIES	
TE1	Monitor Water Temperature Downstream of Narrows 2 Powerhouse
TE2	Monitor Chinook Salmon Downstream of Narrows 2 Powerhouse
TE3	Establish Lower Yuba River Anadromous Fish Ecological Group
TE4	Control Project Ramping and Flow Fluctuations Downstream of Englebright Dam
RECREATION RESOURCES	
RR1	Implement Recreation Facilities Management Plan ¹
RR2	Provide Recreation Flow Information
LAND USE	
LU1	Implement Transportation System Management Plan ¹
LU2	Implement Fire Prevention and Response Plan ¹
CULTURAL RESOURCES	
CR1	Implement Historic Properties Management Plan ²
AESTHETIC RESOURCES	
VR1	Implement Visual Resource Management Plan ¹

¹ Plan included in Appendix E3 of Exhibit E of Application for New License.

² Plan included in Volume IV of Application for New License, and is considered Privileged.

Alternatives Considered

This Exhibit E analyzes the effects of the continued Project operation under two alternatives: 1) YCWA's proposed Project; and 2) the No Action Alternative – continued operation with no changes.

Public Involvement and Areas of Concern

Before filing its Application for New License, YCWA conducted over 150 pre-filing consultations under FERC's Integrated Licensing Process. The intent of the consultation meetings were to familiarize interested parties with the Project and its operations; discuss process; identify issues; to collaboratively develop study proposals; and to discuss potential environmental and recreation conditions for inclusion in the new license. Consultation participants have included federal, state and local agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations and unaffiliated members of the public.

The primary issues associated with relicensing of the Project are: flow regimes in Project-affected reaches, especially for native fish, frogs and anadromous fishes; recreation opportunities, especially at New Bullards Bar Reservoir and for whitewater boating; protection of special-status terrestrial species, including plants; control of non-native invasive species; and protection of cultural resources.

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