EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – APPLICATION FOR NEW LICENSE

YCWA's Final Application for a New License (FLA) is a balanced, comprehensive recommendation for a new 50-year license for its Yuba River Development Project (Project). When the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) issues the new license, YCWA will begin to implement over 40 different actions to enhance this Project's operations, creating and improving a range of benefits for the watershed. These actions represent a compilation of ideas from local, state and federal agencies, conservation and recreation interests, and community stakeholders, received in over 150 meetings conducted since 2009. When approved, this new license will carefully balance hydropower generation, public safety, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Located northeast of the historic City of Marysville, California, the Project is a state of the art hydropower facility capable of producing an average of 1.4 million megawatt-hours of clean, renewable electricity annually. The Project's dams, reservoirs and hydropower facilities, including the New Colgate Powerhouse, can provide power for approximately 220,000 people, roughly three times the population of Yuba County - without the consumption of any carbon-based fuel or the emission of green house gases. The FLA includes smart recommendations to preserve the Project's operational integrity as one of the most important peak generating systems in California.

To ensure the Project continues to provide the highest level of public safety from flooding, the FLA recommends a significant flood risk reduction measure. A new spillway at New Bullards Bar Dam will improve the ability to create more floodwater space behind the dam early in a flood event so that more of the peak flood flow can be stored, reducing peak downstream flood flows. This advanced capability, coupled with the successful local, state and federal "Forecast-Coordinated Operations Program" will further reduce the risk of catastrophic flooding in this region and downstream.

The FLA is based on YCWA's commitment to improve fisheries habitat. It builds on the awardwinning Lower Yuba River Accord, a 2009 settlement agreement developed by local, state and federal agencies, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under this program, YCWA meets higher instream flow requirements that are optimal for salmon and steelhead in nearly 80 percent of all year types. A multi-agency "River Management Team" has spent nearly \$6 million so far in conducting extensive studies that show support for continuation of the Yuba Accord instream flow requirements. The FLA also proposes the implementation of management plans for the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, ringtail, bats and other species.

The FLA recommends a series of actions to enhance recreational pursuits. The complete overhaul and rebuilding of existing campgrounds is recommended, at an estimated capital cost of \$14 million, with an annual operation and maintenance cost of approximately \$900,000. Improved boat ramps, refurbished and accessible camping sites, upgraded interpretive displays and trails, new restrooms, a modernized water system and resurfaced roads will greatly improve the recreational experience for the thousands of families and individuals who recreate at New Bullards Bar Reservoir and its surrounding areas.

Yuba County Water Agency Yuba River Development Project FERC Project No. 2246

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