

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Located northeast of the City of Marysville, California, Yuba County Water Agency's (YCWA) Yuba River Development Project (Project) is a contemporary, multi-purpose water project. As a hydropower facility, the Project is 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 sustainably provide power for approximately 220,000 people, roughly three times the population of Yuba County – without consuming any carbon-based fuels or emitting any greenhouse gases. The Project also provides flood control to a multi-county region, consumptive water supplies for farmers and ranchers, and enjoyable recreational opportunities.

YCWA's Amended Final License Application (Amended FLA) is a balanced, comprehensive document that provides the details of YCWA's application for a new 50-year license for the Project. When the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issues the new license, YCWA will begin to enhance the Project's operations, creating and improving a range of benefits and values throughout the watershed that will carefully balance hydropower generation, public safety, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat considerations.

YCWA takes seriously its primary responsibility of providing the highest level of public safety from flooding as shown by YCWA's recommendation to add – at a cost of approximately \$159,000,000 - a new Auxiliary Flood Control Outlet at New Bullards Bar Dam. This auxiliary outlet will be a significant flood risk reduction measure because it will improve the ability to create more flood storage space behind New Bullards Bar 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 YCWA's involvement in the successful local, state and federal "Forecast-Coordinated Operations Program" will further reduce the risk of catastrophic flooding in this region.

The electricity generation improvements include a new Tailwater Depression System (TDS) at New Colgate Powerhouse, at an estimated cost of over \$14,500,000, to enhance flexibility of one of the most important peak generating systems in California. The new TDS will have an added benefit in that it will allow New Colgate Powerhouse to operate, which it cannot do now, during flood flows, further enhancing YCWA's flood control operations.

YCWA proposes to implement with the new license over 40 different environmental and recreation enhancement conditions. Nearly all of these conditions were collaboratively developed with stakeholders in over 200 meetings since 2009 and have been agreed to by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service; California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Cal Fish and Wildlife); and Foothills Water Networks. Collectively, these collaboratively-developed, science-based, environmental and recreation conditions represent a commitment by YCWA of over \$140,000,000 for capital improvements and operations and maintenance of the conditions.

In addition to capital and O&M costs, implementation of YCWA's environmental and recreation enhancement conditions would reduce average annual Project generation by 3.1 percent, which equates to approximately \$39,000,000 over 30 years.

YCWA's proposed environmental enhancements reaffirm its commitment to improve fisheries habitats in the Yuba River watershed. The proposed conditions complement the award-winning Lower Yuba River Accord, a 2009 settlement agreement developed by YCWA, local, state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations, including the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service; USFWS; Cal Fish and Wildlife; California Department of Water Resources; Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Trout Unlimited; Friends of the River; The Bay Institute; and the South Yuba River Citizens League. Under this program, YCWA meets state-approved instream flow requirements designed to be optimal for Chinook salmon and steelhead in nearly 80 percent of all water year types. A multi-agency stakeholder "River Management Team" has spent nearly \$6,000,000, funded by YCWA, conducting extensive studies that support continuation of the Lower Yuba River Accord instream flow requirements. The Amended FLA includes extensive environmental training and monitoring plans to evaluate natural resources and water management throughout the term of the new license. YCWA's recommended environmental conditions also include monitoring and maintaining transportation resources in the Project vicinity to ensure public access and reliable Project operation.

Finally, the Amended FLA affirms YCWA's commitment to providing high quality recreation experiences for the county and region. The Amended FLA envisions a significant program of rebuilding, enlarging and improving developed recreation facilities around the Project's main reservoir - New Bullards Bar, enhancing opportunities for the public's recreational use and enjoyment of lands and water resources used by the Project.

In summary, over 30 years YCWA proposed Project represents a financial commitment of \$313,000,000 in new capital and operation and maintenance costs. With \$39,000,000 of lost generation added in, YCWA's total financial commitment is over \$352,000,000.