

Jennifer Watts - Re: EDITED FINAL - 401 Water Quality Certification Upper American River Hydroelectric FERC Project 2101

From: <bostwo@edcgov.us>
To: <jwatts@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 11/14/2011 6:18 PM
Subject: Re: EDITED FINAL - 401 Water Quality Certification Upper American River Hydroelectric FERC Project 2101

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) has hydro operations within our county, the County of El Dorado. The value of SMUD's assets in the County of El Dorado is approximately One Billion Dollars. The monetary income generated from these assets in our County is approximately One Hundred Million Dollars.

SMUD operations depend on proper upland watershed management and are of great importance for SMUD and the County of El Dorado. Many citizens and organizations are dependent on these watershed areas to be properly managed.

In the released EIS for SMUD's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing document, page 63 states that the communities of Pollock Pines and Camino are at risk of catastrophic fire. I agree, and as one of the representatives of these communities I am compelled to address this comment in the EIS as follows:

SMUD should be required to participate in the ongoing discussions and contribute as a partner in a solution to reduce catastrophic fire within their watersheds ie; El Dorado County and the Pollock Pines Fire Safe Councils and others.

Why? Properly managed watersheds will save the tax payer and the water user's money. Moreover, SMUD will benefit with the reduced fuel loads on these watersheds and will protect water quality and increase water quantity. Untreated areas experienced the most severe fire effects and vegetation mortality. Watershed land contributes vastly to soil condition adverse effects on watersheds and our states water quality. The deep canyons in the South Fork of the American River are extremely vulnerable to catastrophic crown fires which put those that live in the Pollock Pines and Camino at risk.

In conclusion, my goal is to keep SMUD at the table with the others that are trying to get to the solution of reducing catastrophic fire.

Sincerely,

El Dorado County Supervisor, District II
Raymond J. Nutting
(530) 621-5651

Thank you,

Ray Nutting, Chairman
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
530) 621-5651