

MM

Powering forward. Together. WQC/PT

FERC 2101

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

2014 OCT 24 AM 11:24

DIV OF WATER RIGHTS SACRAMENTO



October 22, 2014
DPG 14-227

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: State Water Board Conditional Approval to Suspend Minimum Flow Requirement at Buck Island Dam, FERC Project No. 2101

Dear Ms. Bose:

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) operates the Upper American River Project, FERC Project No. 2101. In a letter dated October 9, 2014, SMUD provided notification of a potential deviation from Condition 1 of the Water Quality Certification. This notification was provided to you as required under Ordering Paragraph (H), Article 401(c), of the July 23, 2014 Order Issuing New License. Also on October 9, 2014, SMUD sent a notification and request for approval to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to "suspend the Buck Island release requirement unless or until future runoff enables SMUD to make or resume making the required release." In a letter dated October 20, 2014, the State Water Board responded to SMUD's notification letter and approved the request under the two following conditions:

- *"An increase in precipitation in the ensuing months may allow for the minimum instream flows outlined in the certification to be resumed. Immediately following measureable precipitation, signified by an increase in storage and inflow to Buck Island Reservoir, SMUD shall make a determination if the storage in Buck Island Reservoir and inflows will allow for the resumption of the required minimum instream flows detailed in the certification. SMUD shall notify the Deputy Director of its determination within 48-hours and resume the certification minimum streamflows as soon as operationally feasible and no later than 72-hours after an affirmative determination to resume flows. Equipment failure that prevents the remote adjustment of the flow release valve at Buck Island Reservoir may require manual operation of the valve by SMUD staff. If it is unsafe for SMUD staff to reach Buck Island Reservoir within 72 hours due to weather conditions at the time SMUD notifies the Deputy Director with an affirmative determination, SMUD shall include in the determination the timeframe in which SMUD can safely make adjustments to the Buck Island Reservoir outlet."*



Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
October 22, 2014
Page 2

- *"The previous notification to the Commission shall be modified and resubmitted to the Commission to reflect the terms of this conditional approval."*

SMUD accepts the conditions of this approval and will comply with all measures therein. Per the second condition above, this filing modifies SMUD's October 9, 2014 filing to the Commission.

If you have any questions or wish additional information, please contact Dudley McFadden, Assistant Chief Dam Safety Engineer at (916) 732-5953 or you can email him at dudley.mcfadden@smud.org.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Moffitt, P.E., Manager
Power Generation Department

TB:vh

cc: ✓ Barbara L. Evoy, Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board

Laurence Crabtree, Forest Supervisor
Eldorado National Forest

Susan K. Moore, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Anna Ewing, Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife