



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

In reply refer to:

OCT 1 2007

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

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MATTHEW A. FOGELSON

Subject: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Comments on "A Scoping Paper on the Kilarc and South Cow License Surrender Study Plans: Suggested Alternatives and Derived Recommended Studies, July 30, 2007," from Davis Hydro, regarding Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Kilarc-Cow Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 606, Shasta County, California

Dear Secretary Bose:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received a copy of "*A Scoping Paper on the Kilarc and South Cow License Surrender Study Plans: Suggested Alternatives and Derived Recommended Studies, July 30, 2007*," (Scoping Paper) from Davis Hydro on August 1, 2007, regarding the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (Applicant) Kilarc-Cow Hydroelectric Project (Project), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 606.

The Scoping Paper presents four alternatives to the Applicant's plan to decommission the Project. These alternatives propose conditions or actions that may benefit anadromous or resident salmonids by providing cold water to the bypassed stream reaches, steelhead nursery habitat in the Project's Kilarc Canal, and by establishing a mitigation trust fund to be used for other potential restoration measures. In addition, while the Scoping Paper states that the potential benefits to anadromous salmonids from the proposed actions and conditions are unknown, it also proposes studies to determine the potential benefits to anadromous salmonids from these proposed actions and conditions.

The Service has reviewed the Scoping Paper and has consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Park Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and the California State Water Resources Control Board regarding the alternatives and associated studies that are being proposed by Davis Hydro. The Service concurs with the assessments and comments made by the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding the Scoping Paper in their letter filed with FERC on September 25, 2007.

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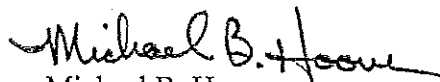
The Service supports the National Marine Fisheries Service's assertions that the Scoping Paper does not provide a substantial basis, sufficient analysis, nor adequate evidence that would support any of its four proposed alternatives to the Applicant's plans for decommissioning the Project nor support any of the Scoping Paper's proposed studies. In addition, any potential thermal benefits accrued by retaining the Project's forebays are likely to be minimal and outweighed by reduced instream flows through the bypassed stream reaches, which would lead to degraded instream aquatic and riparian habitats in the bypassed stream reaches.

The Service is committed to the Kilarc-Cow Project Agreement (Agreement) which we signed along with the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Park Service, California Department of Fish and Game, California State Water Resources Control Board, Trout Unlimited, Friends of the River, and the Applicant. The Agreement established a sound framework for the eventual decommissioning of the Project and guidelines for restoration of the aquatic habitats affected by the Project. The parties to the Agreement spent over a year preparing the Agreement and its supplementary description of desired conditions. The Service remains fully supportive of the Agreement and we believe that the Agreement is the most viable alternative for maximizing benefits for anadromous and resident salmonids.

The Service looks forward to working collaboratively with all interested parties to develop a comprehensive surrender application and decommissioning schedule that will protect, mitigate, and enhance fish, wildlife, and other resources currently affected by the Project.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to comment during this stage of the Project. If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Mr. William Foster of my staff at (916) 414-6600.

Sincerely,


Michael B. Hoover
Acting Field Supervisor

cc:

Original and eight hardcopies filed FERC
FERC #606 Service list, Kilarc-Cow Creek Project