



October 11, 2017  
E-Filing

La Grange Hydroelectric Project  
FERC Project No. 14581 - California

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

Subject: La Grange Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 14581  
Final License Application

Dear Secretary Bose:

Turlock Irrigation District (TID) and Modesto Irrigation District (MID) (collectively, the Districts), co-owners of the La Grange Diversion Dam located on the Tuolumne River, herewith file their Final License Application (FLA) for an original license for the La Grange Hydroelectric Project (Project) in accordance with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) regulations at 18 CFR § 4.61 (Contents of Application for License for Minor Water Power Projects and Major Water Power Projects 5 Megawatts or Less).

This FLA is the culmination of a multi-year, comprehensive effort by the Districts in consultation with numerous federal and state resource agencies, Indian tribes, and members of the public, working under the Commission's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), to identify and assess the effects of ongoing Project operations on environmental resources. As part of this effort, the Districts worked closely with licensing participants to compile and review existing information. The Districts have also held numerous public workshops, meetings, and site visits during the licensing process, well beyond the requirements of the ILP.

This FLA filing includes the following:

- Exhibit A – Project Description describes the Project location and all Project facilities.
- Exhibit E – Environmental Report summarizes the existing affected environment and integrates study information from each resource area to provide a description of the resources associated with the Project.

- Exhibit F – General Design Drawings contains general arrangement drawings of the existing Project structures and facilities. These drawings adhere to the current FERC drawing guidelines. Exhibit F also contains a Supporting Design Report (SDR) that includes the Seismic and Geologic Assessment, Dam Failure and Hazard Potential Analysis, Initial Part 12 Safety Assessment, and other related engineering studies. Project drawings and the SDR are being filed under separate cover as Controlled Unclassified Information//Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CUI//CEII). The Districts have also provided to FERC two compact discs each containing electronic copies of the SDR.
- Exhibit G – Project Boundary Map contains a map depicting the Project Boundary for the La Grange Hydroelectric Project, land ownership in the Project vicinity, and Project facilities. The Districts have also provided to FERC three compact discs that each contain the Project Boundary map, Geographic Information System (GIS) shapefiles, and associated metadata.
- Attachments, including a draft Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP), final study reports and technical memoranda, District’s responses to Draft License Application (DLA) comments, and a full Project consultation record. The Districts have also prepared a draft Biological Assessment for California Central Valley Steelhead (*O. mykiss*) Distinct Population Segment and provided it as an attachment to the FLA.

Additionally, the Districts note that the draft HPMP contains sensitive information regarding the specific location of cultural resources and historic properties which is not to be disclosed to the public. See 18 C.F.R. § 5.6(d)(3)(x)(C); 36 C.F.R. § 800.11(c). Accordingly, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 388.112(b), the Districts hereby request that the HPMP be accorded Controlled Unclassified Information//Privileged treatment (CUI//Privileged) and placed within the Commission’s non-public file. See 5 U.S.C. § 552; 18 C.F.R. § 388.107; 18 C.F.R. § 388.113.

By this FLA, the Districts are seeking that FERC issue an original 50-year license for the operation of the La Grange Hydroelectric Project. This FLA is being filed in accordance with the revised schedule for FLA filing approved by FERC on September 1, 2017, in its response to the Districts’ Request for Extension of Time. The Project DLA was previously filed with FERC on April 24, 2017, and comments on the DLA were provided by NMFS on May 12, 2017, by FERC on July 18, 2017, and by CDFW on August 18, 2017. The Districts have responded to all comments provided on the DLA in the FLA, and have attached a comment response table to the FLA.

FERC has indicated its intent to prepare a single environmental document for the Don Pedro and the La Grange licensing proceedings. Because of this, and for ease of reference for the Commission and all other licensing participants, the Districts are filing the applications and supporting materials for each project in the eLibrary dockets for both license proceedings. While the projects are operationally distinct, as is the case with many FERC projects located in proximity within a single river basin, many of the studies and technical materials prepared for the separate applications for each apply generally to the shared river – in this case the Tuolumne River – and the resources located therein, and are pertinent to assessing the projects’ cumulative impacts.

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Pursuant to Section 5.19(a) of the Commission's regulations, the Districts request that the Commission issue a public notice of the tendering of the Application for filing.

The Districts will make the information from this FLA, with the exception of the CEII and Privileged materials, available by posting on the Project licensing website ([www.lagrange-licensing.com](http://www.lagrange-licensing.com)) in the DOCUMENTS section of the website. Licensing Participants will receive email notification of the availability of FLA documents on the Project licensing website. In addition, the Districts will publish notice of the filing in the counties in which the Project is located, and promptly provide the Commission with proof of publication of the notice. The Districts will be making copies available to the public and interested parties as required by FERC regulations. The Districts will also send, via certified mail, copies of the FERC e-filing notice and Exhibit G Project Maps to the owners of lands proposed for inclusion in the FERC Project Boundary.

The Districts look forward to continuing to work with Commission staff and all interested parties towards an original license for the La Grange Hydroelectric Project.

If you have any questions about this filing, please contact the undersigned at the addresses or telephone numbers listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: La Grange Hydroelectric Project Final License Application