



## DISTRICTS START LA GRANGE LICENSING PROCESS

### *FERC finds that La Grange Project needs license to continue operation*

La Grange Diversion Dam is co-owned by the Modesto Irrigation District (MID) and Turlock Irrigation District (TID), and is located downstream of the Don Pedro Project on the Tuolumne River. La Grange Diversion Dam was completed in 1893 and predates the original Don Pedro dam and powerhouse.

La Grange Diversion Dam serves as a diversion dam, meaning it raises the water level to allow MID and TID to divert water into canals on our respective sides of the River for agricultural and urban uses.

In 1924, TID constructed a small hydroelectric facility near the main canal. The powerhouse receives water diverted from the upper end of the TID canal.

In 2011, FERC received an inquiry from the National Marine Fisheries

Service (NMFS) about the jurisdictional status of the La Grange Project under the Federal Power Act (FPA).

Under the FPA, a hydroelectric project may require a FERC license if it (1) is on a navigable river, (2) encompasses federal lands, (3) uses surplus water from a government dam, or (4) is located on a non-navigable stream, affects interstate commerce and is constructed or enlarged after 1935.

In 2012, FERC found that the La Grange Project met criteria 1, 2 and 4, and would require a license.

MID and TID filed a petition for rehearing arguing that FERC's findings are faulty and asking FERC not to require a license. On May 15, 2015, the D.C. Court of Appeals affirmed FERC's decision that the La Grange Project needs to be licensed.

For more information, visit the La Grange Project licensing website at [www.lagrange-licensing.com](http://www.lagrange-licensing.com).

# LA GRANGE

October 2015

Modesto Irrigation District | Turlock Irrigation District

*A newsletter covering the licensing of the La Grange Project*



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# LA GRANGE

October 2015 Newsletter

**Next fish passage workshop will be Nov. 19 at MID.**

Name  
Address line 1  
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## COLLABORATIVE FISH PASSAGE WORKSHOPS

In FERC’s Study Plan Determination, MID and TID were directed to undertake an assessment of fish passage at the La Grange and Don Pedro Projects.

The costs of upstream and downstream fish passage at high head dams, such as La Grange Diversion Dam, can exceed \$100 million. These costs would ultimately be paid for by MID and TID’s customers.

Fish passage has become one of the key issues for discussion in the La Grange licensing process.

To encourage a collaborative process, MID and TID are hosting a series of workshops to identify, collect and share information, as well as receive public input.

The first workshop was held on May 20, 2015 and reviewed what fish passage is

and examples of fish passage at other dams.

At the second workshop, held on September 17, 2015, attendees discussed a potential decision framework for determining if it would be appropriate to reintroduce spring-run Chinook salmon and/or steelhead to the Upper Tuolumne River, which would require constructing fish passage facilities at La Grange Diversion Dam and Don Pedro.

The first two workshops laid the groundwork for future public input and collaboration. Meeting notes and presentations from these workshops are available online at [www.lagrange-licensing.com](http://www.lagrange-licensing.com).

The next workshop will be held on Nov. 19, 2015 at 10 a.m. at MID’s downtown office - 1231 11th Street, Modesto.

## KEY DATES

**November 19, 2015** - MID and TID to hold fish passage workshop #3

**February 2016** - MID and TID will file an Initial Study Report that will summarize progress on the studies to date.

**February 2017** - MID and TID to file Updated Study Report

All dates subject to change.