



February 2, 2016

Filed via Electronic Submittal (E-File)

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

Subject: La Grange Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 14581
Initial Study Report

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 Initial Study Report (ISR) in accordance with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) regulations at 18 CFR § 5.15(c).

Pursuant to 18 CFR § 5.13(a), on January 5, 2015, the Districts filed a Revised Study Plan containing three study plans: (1) Cultural Resources Study Plan; (2) Recreation Access and Safety Assessment Study Plan; and (3) Fish Passage Assessment Study Plan. The Fish Passage Assessment Study Plan contained a number of individual, but related, study elements. On February 2, 2015, FERC issued its Study Plan Determination for the La Grange Hydroelectric Project, approving or approving with modifications six studies addressing cultural resources, recreation resources, and water and aquatic resources.

The Districts' ISR includes four technical memorandums, four progress reports, and one study report which summarize results from the first year of the Fish Passage Assessment and the results of the Effects of the Project and Related Activities on the Losses of Marine-Derived Nutrients in the Tuolumne River, which has been completed. Given the significance of and the numerous complexities inherent in implementing the Fish Passage Assessment, the Districts focused their efforts in 2015 on this study. The meeting notes from the three workshops held as part of the Fish Passage Assessment, included as part of this ISR, provide insight into considerable efforts expended by all licensing participants on this multi-faceted study. The Districts will complete the Cultural Resources Study and the Recreation Access and Safety

Kimberly D. Bose

Page 2

February 2, 2016

Assessment in 2016 and the results of both studies will be reported in the Updated Study Report. The Districts will make the ISR available to federal and state agencies, Indian tribes, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and members of the public likely to be interested in the proceeding.

It is noteworthy that the Districts and licensing participants held another workshop, Workshop No. 4, on the subject of fish reintroduction/fish passage on January 27, 2016, and in that workshop, the parties generally agreed to an overall approach, plan, and schedule for undertaking additional necessary studies to fill information gaps related to the feasibility of fish reintroduction and fish passage at the La Grange and Don Pedro projects. The Districts plan to present and discuss specific additional studies for 2016 in the ISR meeting.

FERC regulations at 18 CFR 5.15(c)(2) require license applicants to hold a meeting with licensing participants and FERC staff within 15 days following ISR filing. On December 2, 2015, the Districts filed a letter with FERC requesting a waiver from 18 CFR 5.15(c)(2) and proposing to hold the ISR meeting on February 25, 2016. On December 16, 2015, FERC approved the Districts' waiver request and proposed meeting date.

The Districts will hold an ISR meeting on February 25, 2016, with licensing participants and Commission staff to discuss study findings, variances, and any proposed study modifications. The meeting will be held from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel, located at 1150 9th Street in Modesto, California.

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

Sincerely,



Steve Boyd
Turlock Irrigation District
P.O. Box 949
Turlock, CA 95381
(209) 883-8364
seboyd@tid.org



Greg Dias
Modesto Irrigation District
P.O. Box 4060
Modesto, CA 95352
(209) 526-7566
gregd@mid.org

cc: Licensing Participants List

Enclosure: La Grange Hydroelectric Project Initial Study Report