

FILE: 2079 SFRO.
License

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

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NOV 28 2004

Project No. 2079-053 - CA
Middle Fork American River Project
Placer County Water Agency

Mr. Stephen J. Jones
Power System Manager
Placer County Water Agency
PO Box 667
Foresthill CA 95631

<u>Yamashita</u>		
<u>Scott</u>	<u>AA</u>	<u>Arhya</u>
<u>Rick</u>		
<u>Avil</u>	<u>Lee</u>	<u>O'Rou</u>
<u>Chew</u>	<u>Li</u>	<u>Orum</u>
<u>Doub</u>	<u>Malo</u>	<u>Paja</u>
<u>Eich</u>	<u>Mike</u>	<u>Robl</u>
<u>Hold</u>	<u>✓ Onda</u>	<u>Wieg</u>
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<u>_____</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
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<u>_____</u>		<u>✓ DHAC</u>
<u>_____</u>		<u>DATE</u>

Subject: New Nameplate Capacity

Dear Mr. Jones:

This is in regard to your submittal filed November 3, 2004, pursuant to ordering paragraph (E) of the Order Amending License, Revising Annual Charges, and Approving a Revised Exhibit M,¹ issued on September 8, 2004, for the Middle Fork American River Project, FERC No. 2079.

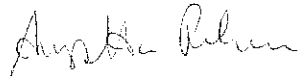
The September 8, 2004 order, revised the installed capacity of the project's Middle Fork Powerhouse from 54,900 kW to 61,200 kW. Ordering paragraph (E), of the September 8 order, requires the licensee to affix a new generator nameplate with the increased rating of 61,200 kW to Unit No. 2 at the Middle Fork Powerhouse, and provide a photograph of the nameplate for the Commission, with a copy to the Commission's San Francisco Regional Office, for verification.

108 FERC ¶ 62, 218. (2004)

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
DEC 6 2004
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Your submittal includes a photograph of the new generator nameplate rating showing the revised capacity of the unit as authorized in the license. Your submittal adequately fulfills the requirements of ordering paragraph (E) of the license. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (202) 502-6191, or by e-mail at anumzziatta.purchiaroni@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,



Anumzziatta Purchiaroni
Engineering and Jurisdiction Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance

OEP/DHAC Purchiaroni, A.:anp November 29, 2004

cc: SFRO DHAC Purchiaroni K04

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Placer County Water Agency

Project No. 2079-052

ORDER AMENDING LICENSE, REVISING ANNUAL CHARGES, AND
APPROVING A REVISED EXHIBIT M

(Issued September 08, 2004)

On June 15, 2004, Placer County Water Agency (Placer), licensee for the Middle Fork American River Project, FERC No. 2079, filed a revised exhibit M for approval with the Commission. Placer is proposing to revise the installed capacity at the Middle Fork Powerhouse. The project is located on the Middle Fork American and Rubicon Rivers in Placer County, California.

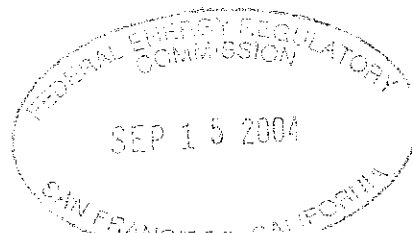
BACKGROUND

The Middle Fork American River Project consists of the following five developments: Ralston; Middle Fork; Oxbow; French Meadows; and Hell Hole. The license, as last amended in 1999,¹ authorized the Middle Fork Powerhouse to contain two 82,000-horsepower (hp) impulse turbines, one connected to a 61,200-kilowatt (kW) generator, and the other connected to a 54,900-kW generator (Unit No. 2), for a total installed capacity of 116,100 kW. The total installed capacity of the Middle Fork American River Project was revised from 211,153 kW to 217,453 kW.

REVIEW

In its filing, Placer reports that Unit No. 2 at the Middle Fork Powerhouse was rewound during the last fall and winter seasons. The installation of the new winding was completed, and the unit returned to service on February 12, 2004. The new winding on the unit resulted in an increased capacity of Unit No. 2 from 54,900 kW to 61,200 kW. The new winding of the unit was necessary due to normal wear and tear over the past 39 years of operation. The installation of the new winding did not affect the authorized hydraulic capacity of the powerhouse, nor changed the project's operation.

¹ See, Order Amending License and Revising Annual Charges, issued September 13, 1999.



According to 18 CFR §11.1 (2) (i), the authorized installed capacity means the lesser of the ratings of the generator or turbine units. Staff review of the revised Exhibit M determined that the authorized installed capacity of the project is limited by the generator nameplate at each power plant, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Power Plant	Turbine Nameplate		Generator Nameplate (kW)	Authorized Capacity (kW)
	HP	kW		
French Meadows	24,000	18,000	15,300	15,300
Hell Hole	1,086	814	725	725
Oxbow	8,800	6,600	6,128	6,128
Ralston	106,000	79,500	79,200	79,200
Middle Fork	82,000	61,500	61,200	61,200
	82,000	61,500	61,200	61,200
Total		227,914	223,753	223,753

Accordingly, the total authorized installed capacity for the Middle Fork Development will be revised from 116,100 kW to 122,400 kW. This order will amend the project description in the license to reflect the as-built capacity of the Middle Fork Powerhouse. This order will also revise article 41(i) of the license, regarding the annual charges for the purpose of reimbursement to the United States Government for the costs of administration of Part I of the Federal Power Act. The annual charges for the Middle Fork American River Project will be revised from 217,453 kW to 223,753 kW, effective as of February 12, 2004, which is the date that the increased capacity went on-line. The licensee will be required to install a new nameplate on Unit No. 2 at the Middle Fork Powerhouse, as directed in ordering paragraph (C) of this order.

The Director orders:

(A) The license for the Middle Fork American River Project, FERC No. 2079, is amended as provided in this order, effective the first day of the month in which this order is issued.

(B) The revised exhibit M, describing the major equipment at the Middle Fork American River Project, filed on June 14, 2004, conforms to the Commission's rules and regulations, and is approved and made part of the license. The revised exhibit M supersedes, in part, the existing exhibit M.

(C) The project description in ordering paragraph (B)(ii) of the license is revised, in part, as follows:

(ii) All project works consisting principally of the following described development: "...Middle Fork Powerhouse, containing two 82,000-horsepower (hp) impulse turbines, connected to two 61,200-kilowatt (kW) generators, for a total installed capacity of 122,400 kW;....."

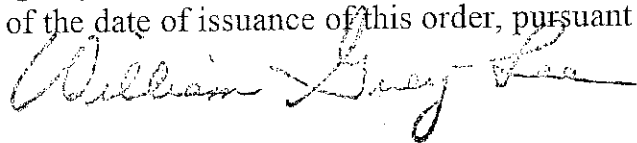
(D) Article 41(i) of the license is revised to read:

(i) For the purpose of reimbursing the United States for the Commission costs, pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986, a reasonable amount as determined in accordance with the provisions of the Commission's regulations in effect from time to time. The authorized existing installed capacity for that purpose is 223,753 kW, effective as of February 12, 2004, which is the date the unit with the revised capacity went on-line.

(E) Within 60 days of the issuance of this order, the licensee shall affix a new generator nameplate with a rating of 61,200 kW to Unit No. 2 at the Middle Fork Powerhouse, and provide a photograph of the nameplate to the Commission, with a copy to the Commission's San Francisco Regional Office, for verification.

(F) The licensee shall report to the Commission any future/proposed changes to the project prior to implementing them.

(G) This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for a rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 385.713.



Mohamad Fayyad
Engineering Team Lead
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance

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File P. 2079 Formal

Project No. 2079-041

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Placer County Water Agency Project No. 2079-041

ORDER APPROVING RESERVOIR DRAWDOWN

(Issued September 21, 2000)

Placer County Water Agency (licensee) filed on August 7, 2000, and supplemented on August 23, 2000, a request to draw down the Interbay Reservoir in order to remove a large accumulation of sediment from the reservoir. The project is located on the Middle Fork American and Rubicon Rivers, in Placer and El Dorado Counties, California. The project occupies lands of the Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests.

LICENSEE'S PROPOSAL

The licensee requests approval to draw down the Interbay Reservoir and remove about 70,000 cubic yards of sediment from the reservoir during September-October 2000. The Interbay Reservoir is located on the Middle Fork American River. The sediment was deposited during high flows in January 1997. The licensee plans to maintain the required minimum flow during the maintenance work.

AGENCY CONSULTATION

By letter dated March 23, 2000, the licensee notified various agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service (FS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The licensee has received a streambed alteration agreement from CDFG, dated August 15, 2000; a water quality certification from the California State Water Resources Control Board, dated August 10, 2000; and a special use permit, dated August 18, 2000, from the FS for the proposed work. By separate letter dated May 12, 2000, the FS recommended that all heavy equipment be washed down prior to arrival on site to prevent or minimize the spread of noxious plants.

The licensee's proposal was public noticed on August 25, 2000, with a comment period ending on September 20, 2000. No comments or requests for intervention were received.

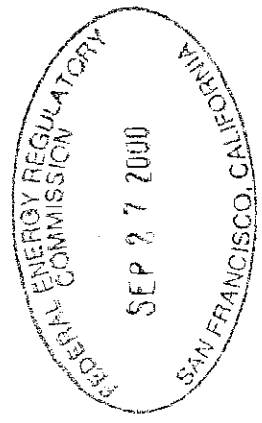
Further by letter dated August 21, 2000, the Commission requested concurrence from the California Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO) that no cultural or historic properties are expected to be found within the area of the reservoir and therefore the licensee's planned activities will have no effect on cultural or historic resources. No written comments from SHPO were received within the 30 day comment period.

DISCUSSION

The licensee proposes to remove sediment deposited in the Interbay Reservoir during high flows in January 1997. A temporary drawdown of the reservoir is necessary to facilitate removal of the sediment. The licensee plans to comply with the permits issued by the various agencies to minimize any potential for impacts and plans to maintain the required minimum flow during the work. Commission staff found that no cultural or historic properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are in the area around the reservoir and determined that the proposed dredging would have no effect on cultural or historic properties. However, if any previously unidentified historic or cultural items are found during the maintenance activities, the licensee should cease work and consult with the SHPO to determine the need for additional cultural resource management measures. If needed, the licensee should prepare a cultural resource management plan. The plan should include, but not be limited to, a description of each discovered property, a description of the potential effect, the proposed measures for avoiding or mitigating the effects, documentation of consultation with SHPO, and a schedule for mitigating the impacts. The licensee should file its plan and evidence of consultation with SHPO with the Commission for approval. The Commission should reserve the right to require changes to the plan based upon the comments. The licensee should not resume work in the area until informed by the Commission that these requirements have been fulfilled. As recommended by the FS, the licensee should clean any equipment to prevent the spread of invasive plants. Based on our review, we conclude that the reservoir drawdown and sediment removal process, with the modifications discussed, should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) The licensee's request to drawdown the Interbay Reservoir and remove approximately 70,000 cubic yards of sediment, as modified in paragraph (B) and (C), is approved.



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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NOTICE OF RESERVOIR DRAWDOWN AND SOLICITING COMMENTS,
MOTIONS TO INTERVENE, AND PROTESTS

(August 24, 2000)

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

- a. Application Type: Request for approval of maintenance activities including reservoir drawdown and sediment removal from Interbay Reservoir during September and October 2000.
- b. Project No. 2079-041
- c. Date Filed: August 3, 2000
- d. Applicant: Placer County Water Agency
- e. Name of Project: Middle Fork American River
- f. Location: The project is located on the Middle Fork American and Rubicon Rivers, in Placer and El Dorado Counties, California. The project occupies lands of the Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests.
- g. Filed Pursuant to: Section 12 of the Commission's Regulations
- h. Applicant Contact: Mr. Stephen J. Jones, Placer County Water Agency, P.O. Box 667, Foresthill, California 95631

- i. FERC Contact: Any questions on this notice should be addressed to Diana Shannon at 202-208-7774, or e-mail address diana.shannon@ferc.fed.us
 - j. Deadline for filing comments and or motions: September 30, 2000
- All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with Mr. David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

File P. 2079
Formal

Project No. 2079-041

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Please reference the following number, P-2079-041, on any comments or motions filed.

- k. Description of Proposal: The licensee requests approval to remove about 70,000 cubic yards of sediment from the small 7-acre Interbay Reservoir during September-October 2000. The sediment was deposited during high flows in January 1997. The licensee plans to maintain the required minimum flow during the maintenance work and will take necessary actions to minimize impacts to water quality. The licensee has consulted with the resource agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, regarding the proposed maintenance work.

- l. Locations of the Application: A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, at 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling 202-208-1371. The application may be viewed on-line at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

- m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene -- Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

Filing and Service of Responsive Documents -- Any filings must bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS", "PROTEST", OR "MOTION TO INTERVENE", as applicable, and the Project Number of the particular application to which the filing refers. Any of the above-named documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies provided by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. A copy of any motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

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