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January 5, 2012

### VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

**Re: Turlock Irrigation District's Response to December 14, 2011 Letter  
from the National Marine Fisheries Service Regarding the La Grange  
Project; Docket No. UL11-1-000**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Pursuant to Rule 213 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 C.F.R. § 385.213), Turlock Irrigation District ("TID") hereby submits its answer to the December 14, 2011 letter (filed December 15, 2011) of the National Marine Fisheries Service ("NMFS") in the above-referenced docket ("NMFS Letter"). The NMFS Letter, which supplements a previous NMFS letter in this docket filed October 18, 2011, has attached thereto an undated topographical map of the Tuolumne River area upstream of the La Grange Project upon which NMFS recently "projected" the crest elevation of La Grange Dam upstream.<sup>1</sup> According to NMFS, the "results of this analysis explicitly define the upstream extent of the reservoir and thus the lands inundated by the La Grange Project." According to that map, the La Grange Reservoir inundates Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") property.

Contrary to the contention in the NMFS Letter, neither NMFS' "analysis" nor its simplistic and crude "project[ion]" on an undated topographical map, consisting of an apparently hand-drawn continuation of a contour line on the map ostensibly showing the La Grange Reservoir as extending onto BLM land, demonstrates that the La Grange Reservoir inundates BLM land. As explained in TID's November 17, 2011 answer to NMFS' October 18, 2011 letter, TID performed a water elevation survey from La Grange Dam to Don Pedro Dam and a

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<sup>1</sup> While the file name for Appendix 1 to NMFS' December 14, 2011 letter reflects that the projection was generated in 2011, there is no indication that the underlying topographical information is up-to-date.

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary

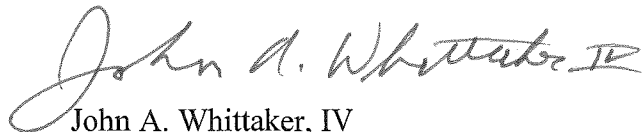
January 5, 2012

Page 2

backwater analysis for the specific purpose of providing current information on the upstream extent of the La Grange Reservoir. These analyses were described in TID's Report on the La Grange Project filed with the Commission on October 11, 2011. Both the water elevation survey, which was based on recent on-site field measurements collected on August 16 and 17, 2011, and the backwater analysis, which was based on similarly recent on-site bathymetric surveys, a geodetic survey, and contemporaneous sophisticated computer analyses of hydraulic conditions upstream of La Grange Dam, demonstrate that the La Grange Reservoir does *not* inundate any BLM land. Specifically, the water elevation survey indicated that there was an abrupt change in gradient in the Tuolumne River from about 1.5 feet/mile to 7 to 8 feet/mile, signifying the upstream limit of the reservoir, approximately 5,400 feet above La Grange Dam. The backwater analysis showed that the transition from reservoir to river occurs generally between 4,700 and 5,300 feet upstream of La Grange Dam. The BLM lands, at their closest point, are about 5,800 feet above La Grange Dam and therefore are at least 500 feet upstream of the end of the La Grange Reservoir. By letter dated December 15, 2011, TID provided the Commission with a detailed report on the backwater analysis (including computer input and output data); by letter dated December 22, 2011, TID provided the Commission with a CD containing the computer data and model runs in electronic format.

TID has thus provided the Commission with fully supported and detailed analyses based on on-site surveys and sophisticated computer analyses demonstrating that the La Grange Reservoir does *not* inundate BLM lands but ends at least 500 feet *downstream* of the BLM lands. Despite the fact that all of the information provided by TID is on file with the Commission and thus publicly available, NMFS has not attempted to refute either of these analyses. Instead, NMFS continues to try to demonstrate that La Grange Reservoir inundates BLM lands by submitting an undated topographical map and Google map manipulated with simplistic and apparently hand-drawn elevations and projections. These unreliable and unsupported NMFS efforts neither demonstrate that the La Grange Reservoir inundates BLM lands nor undermine the scientific and data-supported analyses provided by TID.

Respectfully submitted,



John A. Whittaker, IV

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Document Content(s)

TID Response to NMFS.PDF.....1-2