



August 15, 2011

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Re: Tuolumne River Instream Flow Study — Schedule Extension Request

Dear Fishery Agency Representative:

As you are aware, Stillwater Sciences is currently conducting separate instream flow (IFIM) and overbank (High Flow) studies on the lower Tuolumne River on behalf of the Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District (Districts) in accordance with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) July 16, 2009 order (128 FERC ¶61,035), as modified by the Commission's May 12, 2010 order Modifying and Approving Instream Flow and Water Temperature Model Study Plans (131 FERC ¶ 62,110).

As outlined in the Study Plan filed with FERC on October 14, 2009 and detailed in six planning and field meetings conducted with agency representatives between August 26, 2010 and February 3, 2011, Stillwater Sciences is surveying Tuolumne River conditions at 40 transect locations between La Grange Dam, at river mile (RM 52), and downstream of the Hickman Bridge (RM 29). Each survey location is being evaluated under flow conditions of approximately 600 cfs, 250 cfs, and 100 cfs for purposes of calibrating a Physical Habitat Simulation (PHABSIM) model of flow and habitat relationships.

Pursuant to the operating license for the Don Pedro Project (FERC No. 2299), the Districts are required to maintain minimum flow releases from Don Pedro reservoir to the lower Tuolumne River; based on this year's high runoff conditions, minimum summer flows are currently 250 cfs (as described in an April 14, 2011 flow coordination letter addressed to your attention). Since the 100 cfs study parameter (which is normally available in below normal or drier years) is not available this year, the Districts intend to request a 1-year study extension from FERC in order to complete the collection of 100 cfs field data next year.

We request any comments you may have on the Districts' intention to request this 1-year study extension by September 15, 2011.

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Should you have any questions please contact me at Stillwater Sciences
(scott@stillwatersci.com or 530-756-7550 ext. 230).

Sincerely,

Scott D. Wilcox
Principal

cc:
Casey Hashimoto – TID
Robert Nees – TID
Allen Short – MID
Greg Dias – MID
Noah Hume – Stillwater
FERC Secretary

