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United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825

Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Mail Code: DHAC, PJ-12.3
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

JUL 18 2007

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SECRETARY

**THE COMMISSION STAFF'S PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF
THE TUOLUMNE RIVER FISHERIES STUDY PLAN
FOR THE NEW DON PEDRO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. P-2299-060)**

Dear Madam Secretary:

On June 15, 2007, the Commission's staff issued a preliminary analysis of the Tuolumne River Fisheries Study Plan submitted by the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts (Districts) on March 20, 2007. The Commission gave 30 days from the date of the letter to provide the Commission with comments and recommendations.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) requests that the Commission extend the review period to 45 days. The agency staff involved with the New Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project from the Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and California Department of Fish and Game staff did not receive a hard copy of the Commission's letter and were not aware of the letter until July 2, 2007. The letter was not served on the Project Service List. The Service needs this additional time to fully analyze the staff report and to coordinate our response with the National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and the Non-Governmental Organizations. Our comments will be provided by July 30, 2007. The additional time requested will not prejudice any party to this proceeding, nor will it unduly delay the process.

Please contact Kim Webb at (209) 946-6400 extension 311 with any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Hoover
Michael B. Hoover
Acting Field Supervisor

cc:
FERC Service List, P-2299



PROOF OF SERVICE

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Project No.: FERC #2299, Don Pedro Project

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SECRETARY

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I hereby certify that I have this day served by regular mail, the foregoing letter, Subject: Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District Don Pedro Project, FERC no. 2299, to each person designated on the official FERC Service list.

Dated at Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, Sacramento, CA this 13th of July, 2007.

S. Douglas

Sharon Douglas
Office Assistant
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