

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2153-045
Santa Felicia Project
United Water Conservation District

May 20, 2014

Mr. E. Michael Solomon
General Manager
United Water Conservation District
106 N. 8th Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Subject: April 15, 2014 letter regarding quagga mussels in Lake Piru and Piru Creek

Dear Mr. Solomon:

This letter addresses your April 15, 2014 letter concerning the detection of quagga mussels in Lake Piru and Piru Creek at the Santa Felicia Project No. 2153. In your letter, you provided an update on the status of the quagga mussel population at the project and your efforts to monitor and control the spread of this invasive species. Specifically, you provided a summary of historical events preceding, and following the detection of quagga mussels. You explained that due to the flashy nature of the Santa Clara River system, it is unlikely that mussels will populate the entire watershed. You also explained that high salinity levels would prevent their establishment in the Santa Clara River estuary or adjacent watersheds through the Pacific Ocean. Consequently, you stated that it is unreasonable to require the cessation of water releases from the project.

Since the discovery of quagga mussels at the project, you have undertaken numerous measures to control the spread of quagga mussels, including: cessation of a joint boat tagging program; dissemination of educational materials to boaters; posting signage at the Lake; disseminating public information on your website; and providing press releases to local news outlets. You provided an account of early efforts to determine the extent of mussel distribution and to physically remove colonies of quagga mussels from Lake Piru. You also stated that you would prepare a Quagga Mussel Monitoring and Control Plan, which would be filed with the Commission for informational purposes. Finally, you committed to provide quarterly updates on your efforts, which may then be scaled back to annual reports, based on the success of your control program.

Review of your letter indicates that you are proactively working to combat quagga

mussels at the project. We are satisfied with your efforts and thank you for keeping us apprised of the situation. We also anticipate the completion and filing of your Quagga Mussel Monitoring and Control Plan and subsequent reports.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. John Aedo at (415) 369-3335.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. LoVullo
Chief, Aquatic Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower Administration and
Compliance

c: Mr. Bill Hicks, President
Casitas Municipal Water District
1055 Ventura Ave.
Oak View, CA 93022