

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2153-031--California
Santa Felicia Project
United Water Conservation District

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

March 6, 2012

Subject: Report for empirical determination of the relationship between discharge, depth, and velocity

Dear Mr. Solomon:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your report for the empirical determination of the relationship between discharge, depth, and velocity for the Santa Felicia Project No. 2153, filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) on February 21, 2012. The Commission's November 22, 2011 Order Modifying and Approving Ramping Rate Discharge, Depth, and Velocity Relationship Evaluation Plan under Article 401(a) and Amending License¹ requires that you file a report on monitoring conducted under the plan by February 22, 2012.

Your report contains an analysis of data collected from 2009 to 2011, which was intended to classify the relationship between depth and discharge in lower Piru Creek. The information gathered in the report resulted in the development of a ramping rate schedule to ensure compliance with the 2-inch/hour ramping rate requirement of the National Marine Fisheries Service's Term and Condition (T&C) 1(a) and your project license.² You stated that the information gathered in your report was inadequate to appropriately calculate water velocities or to determine Manning's "n." However, you stated that water velocities would be measured in lower Piru Creek during the implementation of the monitoring and adaptive management plans for the Water Release Schedule. Review of your report indicates that it satisfies the reporting requirements of the aforementioned order.

¹ See 137 FERC ¶ 62,168.

² See 124 FERC ¶ 62,193. Order Issuing New License (issued September 12, 2008).

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In your report, we also noted several deviations from the ramping rate requirements of T&C 1(a). In particular, your report noted ramping rate deviations during 2010 and 2011, with the deviations becoming less frequent in 2011. Because the purpose of your study during the three monitoring years was to characterize the relationship between project operations and water depth in lower Piru Creek, the ramping rate deviations presented in your report will not be considered violations of your project license. However, similar future instances may be considered violations of your project license. Please ensure that future project operations ensure compliance with the ramping rates of your project license.

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

Sincerely,



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

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