

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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August 25, 2016

In reply refer to: FERC_2016_0701_001

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426
(submitted via FERC efile)

RE: Camp Far West Hydroelectric Project Pre-Application Document, Cultural Resources, FERC Project No. 2997

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Office of Historic Preservation has received the Pre-Application Document (PAD) in support of the South Sutter Water District's (SSWD) intent to file an application for a new license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Camp Far West Hydroelectric Project relicensing (project). As you are aware Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR § 800 require that any federal undertaking take into account the effects of the undertaking on historic properties and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation the reasonable opportunity to comment on the undertaking. As the Project would receive a license from FERC to continue its operation, it meets the definition of an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y).

The PAD includes Section 3.2.10, Cultural Resources, and Section 3.2.11, Tribal Interests, which outline the methods in which SSWD plans to identify historic properties for the purposes of Section 106 consultation and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, as well as California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. The Study Plans for both sections are included in Appendix H of the PAD.


Following review of these sections, I offer the following comment:

- Study 10.1, Cultural Resources Study, Section 4.3.4, Step 3—Identify and Assess Potential Project Effects on Cultural Resources. The evaluation of all identified cultural resources appears to be missing from the study plan. All cultural resources must be evaluated in order to determine whether there are any potential historic properties (NHPA) or historical resources (CEQA) before effects can be identified or assessed. If the identified cultural resources do not meet the eligibility thresholds the project will not affect historic properties/resources. SSWD would not be required to manage ineligible cultural resources as historic properties/resources or conduct any mitigation unless they meet the eligibility requirements. It behooves the applicant to first determine which properties are eligible prior to proceeding with the assessment of effects. The cultural resources

study will be used as documentation for the NHPA Section 106 consultation process, and evaluation of resources for their eligibility is required per 36 CFR Part 800.4(c)(2). Only when this step is complete and historic properties have been adequately identified, may the consultation then proceed to the assessment of effects (36 CFR Part 800.5). A similar process is required in order to determine appropriate mitigation under CEQA. I encourage FERC and SSWD to complete evaluations of all identified cultural resources for both the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources as part of the identification efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I look forward to consulting with FERC and SSWD on this undertaking. Please direct any questions or concerns that you may have to Kathleen Forrest, Historian, at 916-445-7022 or kathleen.forrest@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer