

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20426
January 24, 2017

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2997-000--California
Camp Far West Hydroelectric Project
City of Wheatland, California

Steve Edmondson
FERC Hydropower Branch Supervisor
NMFS, WCR, Central Valley Area Office
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Reference: Request for study plan meeting

Dear Mr. Edmondson:

On May 13, 2016, Commission staff granted South Sutter Water District's (SSWD) request to use the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP) in preparing a relicense application for its existing 6.8-megawatt Camp Far West Hydroelectric Project. On June 27, 2016, SSWD held a joint agency meeting in Sacramento, California with pertinent agencies and Indian tribes to discuss their pre-application document and potential study needs. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) filed timely comments and study requests on August 25, 2016. SSWD responded to NMFS' and other relicensing participants' comments and study requests on October 13, 2016.

On December 20, 2016, NMFS filed a letter noting that they are in disagreement with SSWD regarding the studies that need to be conducted to inform the project's relicensing proceeding. In the letter, NMFS suggested a meeting to discuss the studies needed for the project, including the appropriate environmental baseline.

Under the TLP, Commission staff do not typically participate in pre-filing discussions on study requests, and your letter indicates that NMFS and the licensee may be at an impasse. However, under the Commission's regulations, you have the option of referring such disputes to the Commission for resolution. If you choose this option, please file the request pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §16.8(b)(6)(i)-(vi).

If you have any questions, please contact Quinn Emmering at (202) 502-6382 or via email at quinn.emmering@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

Vince Yearick
Director
Division of Hydropower Licensing