

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D.C. 20426
April 7, 2016

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2997-031 – California
Camp Far West Hydroelectric Project
South Sutter Water District

Dennis Ramirez, Chair
Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Ranch
125 Mission Ranch Road
Chico, CA 95926

Reference: Project Consultation with the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Ranch

Dear Mr. Ramirez:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) invites your participation in the relicensing process for the Camp Far West Hydroelectric Project (Camp Far West). The project is located on the Bear River in Yuba, Nevada, and Placer Counties, California. South Sutter Water District (SSWD) owns and operates the project under a license issued by the Commission and has requested to use the Commission's Traditional Licensing Process to relicense the project. SSWD's current license for the Camp Far West Project expires June 30, 2021, and an application for a new license must be filed by June 30, 2019.

SSWD proposes no changes to existing project operations, facilities, or features, with one exception. SSWD proposes to modify its existing FERC project boundary to remove lands surrounding the 1.92-mile-long, 60-kilovolt primary transmission line for the project. The transmission line, which is owned and maintained by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), was originally included as a project facility in the Camp Far West Project license, issued July 2, 1981. However, upon the request of SSWD and PG&E, on April 19, 1991, the Commission issued orders removing the transmission line from the Camp Far West Project license authorizing it under a separate transmission line-only license issued to PG&E for the Camp Far West Transmission Line Project No. 10821. SSWD did not amend the Camp Far West Project boundary at that time and now proposes to do so as part of the project's relicensing process.

To ensure that issues of concern to you are being addressed in the current pre-filing phase of the process, it may be appropriate for Commission staff to meet with you at this time. Any such meeting can be limited to members of our respective staff, or it

can include other tribes,¹ SSWD, or any other stakeholder(s) you wish.

Please note that once a license application is filed with the Commission, our rules generally prohibit off-the-record communications between Commission employees and those outside of the Commission, where such communications are relevant to the merits of a contested on-the-record proceeding.²

If at all possible, we would appreciate your response by May 9, 2016. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file your response using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-2997-031.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Quinn Emmering at (202) 502-6382 or quinn.emmering@ferc.gov. Commission staff will contact your office shortly to follow-up on this letter.

Sincerely,

Timothy Konnert, Chief
West Branch
Division of Hydropower Licensing

cc: Licensee
Mailing List
Public Files

¹ Commission staff is also inviting the United Auburn Indian Community, the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, the Greenville Ranch Tribe of Maidu Indians, Shingle Springs Rancheria, Enterprise Rancheria, and Mooretown Rancheria to participate in the relicensing process.

² 18 C.F.R. § 385.2201.