

SOUTH SUTTER WATER DISTRICT

2464 Pacific Avenue • Trowbridge, CA 95659 • Office (530) 656-2242 • FAX (530) 656-2416



April 29, 2019

Via Electronic Submittal (eFile)

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

**Subject: Camp Far West Hydroelectric Project
FERC Project No. 2997-031
Notice and Agenda for Meeting to Resolve Differences Regarding PM&E
Measures**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Pursuant to Section 4.38(c)(6)(iii) of Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), this letter notifies the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that South Sutter Water District (SSWD), in consultation with interested agencies, has scheduled a meeting with agencies and interested parties to resolve differences between protection, mitigation and enhancement (PM&E) measures proposed by SSWD in its January 2019 Draft Application for New License (DLA) Major Project - Existing Dam - for SSWD's Camp Far West Hydroelectric Project, FERC Number 2997, (Project) and measures suggested in written comments on SSWD's DLA. The Project is located on the main stem of the Bear River in Nevada, Yuba and Placer counties, California.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 AM on Monday, May 13, 2019, at HDR Engineering's office located at 2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200, in Sacramento, California. Interested parties are encouraged to participate in person, but those who cannot attend in person may participate via telephone by calling (866) 583-7984 and using the following passcode when prompted: 2924178#. An agenda for the meeting is attached, though meeting participants may revise the agenda at the meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Arnold".

Brad Arnold
General Manager/Secretary
SOUTH SUTTER WATER DISTRICT

Attachment: Agenda for May 13, 2019, Meeting

cc: Quinn Emmering, FERC
Steve Edmondson, NMFS
Tom Holley, NMFS
Kaylee Allen, USFWS
A. Leigh Bartoo, USFWS
Kevin Thomas, CDFW
Sarah Lose, CDFW
Karmina Padgett, SWRCB
Traci Sheehan Van Thull, FWN
Chandra Ferrari, TU
Chris Shutes, CSPA
Allan Eberhart, Sierra Club
Melinda Booth, SYRCL
Parties on SSWD's E-Mail Contact List for Relicensing of the Camp Far West
Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2997

CAMP FAR WEST HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Meeting to Resolve Differences on PM&E Measures¹

When: Beginning at 9:30 AM on Monday, May 13, 2019

Where: HDR Engineering Office, Suite 200, 2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA. Interested parties are encouraged to participate in person, but those who cannot attend in person may participate via telephone by calling (866) 583-7984 and using the following passcode when prompted: 2924178#.

Purpose of Meeting: South Sutter Water District (SSWD), as applicant for a new license for its Camp Far West Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project Number 2997, is holding this meeting to comply with the requirements of 18 C.F.R.² Section 4.38(c)(6), which states that if an applicant for a new license concludes a written comment on its Draft License Application (DLA) indicates an agency or Indian tribe has a substantive disagreement with the applicant's conclusions regarding resource impacts or its proposed protection, mitigation and enhancement (PM&E) measures, the applicant will, in consultation with the agency or Indian tribe, schedule and hold a meeting with the disagreeing agency or tribe, and invite to the meeting other agencies or Indian tribes with an interest in the issue, no later than 60 days from the date of the comment letter to discuss and attempt to reach agreement of the applicant's plan for PM&E measures. The applicant will include documentation of the meeting, including any agreements, in its final license application (FLA).

AGENDA³

A. Introduction

1. Round-table introductions
2. Safety moment
3. Relicensing schedule review
4. Meeting purpose, procedure and objectives

B. Overview

1. Excluding a letter from FERC, four comment letters/e-mails were received from agencies and one comment letter was received from a non-governmental organization.
 - a. USFWS letter dated April 10, 2019
 - b. SWRCB e-mail dated April 12, 2019

¹ SSWD filed with FERC a notice of the meeting and a copy of the agenda on April 29, 2019.

² SSWD consulted with agencies regarding the meeting and agenda.

³ If all meeting participants agree, the agenda may be revised at the meeting.

- c. CDFW letter dated April 14, 2019
 - d. NMFS letter dated April 15, 2019
 - e. Foothill Water Network letter dated April 15, 2019
2. No comment letters were received from Indian tribes.
 3. USFWS, NMFS, CDFW and FWN did not suggest specific PM&E measures related to water year types, minimum flows, pulse flows, ramping rates and bald eagles, but encouraged SSWD to continue to collaborate with the agencies regarding these measures.

C. PM&E Measure Differences

1. USFWS and CDFW suggest SSWD include in its FLA a Camp Far West Reservoir Aquatic Invasive Species Management plan.
2. USFWS and CDFW suggest SSWD include in its FLA an Integrated Pest Management Plan regarding use of rodenticide.
3. USFWS and CDFW suggest SSWD include in its FLA a PM&E measure to implement a 0.25-mile-wide limited operating period buffer at the existing great blue heron rookery on the south shore of Camp Far West Reservoir from March 15 to July 31 each year.
4. USFWS suggests USFWS be included in the planning of using exclusion devices for bats. CDFW suggests SSWD add language to Condition TR2 regarding inspections and avoidance of bat winter hibernacula.
5. CDFW and FWN suggest SSWD modify its Recreation Facilities Plan to include the South Shore Recreation Area be open longer and the SSRA Boat Ramp be improved. CDFW also suggests including a permanent fish cleaning station and replacement of existing trash receptacles with wildlife-resistant trash receptacles.
6. CDFW suggests SSWD include in its FLA a lower Bear River Aquatic Monitoring Plan for stream fish, benthic macroinvertebrates, water temperature and water quality. USFWS and FWN suggest monitoring for salmonids.
7. NMFS suggests SSWD include in its FLA a PM&E measure to augment large wood and sediment in the lower Bear River, and to monitor for effectiveness.

D. Other

1. USFWS and CDFW suggest SSWD conduct additional eDNA sampling in the lower Bear River for green sturgeon and white sturgeon.
2. USFWS suggests SSWD's FLA more thoroughly address the Central Valley Project Improvement Act / Anadromous Fish Restoration Plan doubling goal for the Bear River.
3. USFWS requests FERC or SSWD complete ESA consultation for Endangered Species Act-listed California red-legged frog and vernal pool fairy shrimp. USFWS requests informal discussion with SSWD regarding potential adjustments to maintenance practices at two sewage ponds and potential enhancement actions to benefit California red-legged frog at the sewage ponds.

4. CDFW, NMFS and FWN suggest SSWD consider in its FLA Nevada Irrigation District's Centennial Reservoir as a reasonably foreseeable future condition.
5. CDFW and FWN suggest SSWD request in its FLA a new license term of 40 years.

E. Summarize Resolutions / Agreements

F. Adjourn