

Study 2.3

## **WATER QUALITY STUDY**

February 2016

### **1.0 Project Nexus**

South Sutter Water District's (SSWD) continued operation and maintenance (O&M) of the Camp Far West Hydroelectric Project (Project) and associated recreation use have the potential to affect water quality.

This Water Quality Study (Study) addresses all pertinent water quality parameters except for water temperature, which is addressed in two separate relicensing studies: Study 2.1, *Water Temperature Monitoring*, and Study 2.2, *Water Temperature Modeling*.

### **2.0 Study Goals and Objectives**

The goal of this Study is to provide information to determine whether continued Project O&M and associated recreational use have an adverse effect on water quality.

The objective of the study is to collect information to meet the Study goal.

The Study does not include the development of potential requirements in the new license.

### **3.0 Existing Information and Need for Additional Information**

The primary comprehensive plan that addresses water quality in the Project Vicinity is the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) *Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers* (CVRWQCB 1998). The Basin Plan, including designated Beneficial Uses in the Project Area,<sup>1</sup> is described in Section 1.3.8 of SSWD's Pre-Application Document (PAD). The Basin Plan designated Water Quality Objectives in the Project Area are provided in Table 3.2.2-5 of the PAD. In addition, Section 1.3.8 of the PAD describes Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments in the Project Area and associated Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) plans.

Existing, relevant and reasonably available information regarding water quality in the Project Vicinity<sup>2</sup> is provided in Section 3.2.2.9.2 of the PAD. This existing and available information indicates that upstream of the Project, all Water Quality Objectives were met for the parameters available. In Camp Far West Reservoir, Water Quality Objectives were not met during one sampling event for dissolved oxygen (DO), pH and specific conductivity. In most instances,

<sup>1</sup> In this Study, "Project Area" refers to the area within and immediately adjacent to the existing FERC Project Boundary, and the Bear River downstream of the Project.

<sup>2</sup> In this Study, "Project Vicinity" refers to the area surrounding the Project on the order of USGS 1:24,000 topographic quadrangle.

these values occurred near the bottom of the reservoir. No information is available for the Bear River between Camp Far West Dam and the non-Project diversion dam. Downstream of the non-Project diversion dam, existing and available information indicates that Water Quality Objectives are not met for pH; alkalinity; DO; aluminum (total); arsenic (total); copper (total and dissolved); iron (total); manganese (total); and lead (total and dissolved).

Additional information, which will be provided by this Study, is needed to address the Study goal regarding the specific water quality parameters not met by the Basin Plan and the Project O&M activities and associated recreation that affect these parameters.

## **4.0 Study Methods and Analysis**

### **4.1 Study Area**

For the purpose of this Study, the Study Area includes: 1) the Bear River, approximately 1.5 miles upstream from Camp Far West Reservoir; 2) Camp Far West Reservoir; 3) the 1.3-mile-(mi)-long segment of the Bear River from Camp Far West Dam to the non-Project diversion dam; and 4) the 16.9-mi-long segment of the Bear River from the diversion dam to the Feather River confluence (lower Bear River). Figure 4.1-1 shows the Study Area.

If SSWD proposes an addition to the Project, the Study Area will be expanded if necessary to include areas potentially affected by the addition.



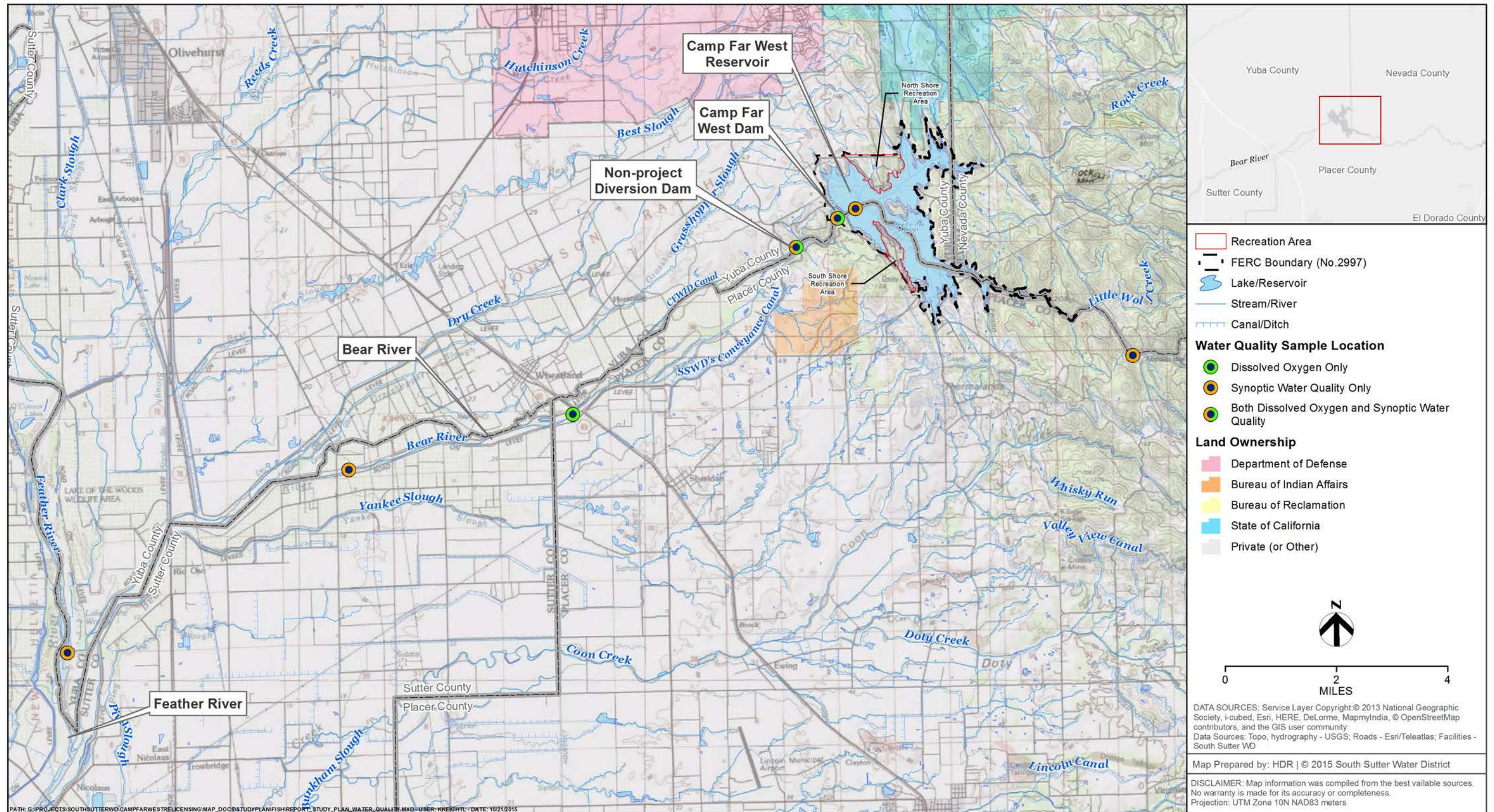


Figure 4.1-1. Water Quality Study Area and sample locations.



Page Left Blank

## 4.2 General Concepts and Procedures

The following general concepts and practices apply to all SSWD relicensing studies:

- Personal safety is the most important consideration of each fieldwork team.
- If required for the performance of the study, SSWD will make a good faith effort to obtain permission to access private property well in advance of initiating the study. SSWD will only enter private property if such permission has been provided by the landowner.
- SSWD will acquire all necessary agency permits and approvals prior to beginning fieldwork for a study that requires them.
- Field crews may make variances to the study plan in the field to accommodate actual field conditions and unforeseen problems. When a variance is made, the field crew will follow to the extent applicable the protocols in and intent of the study plan.
- When SSWD becomes aware of a variance to the study plan, SSWD will issue an e-mail to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service; United States Fish and Wildlife Service; California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Cal Fish and Wildlife) and the SWRCB describing the variance and reason for the variance. SSWD will summarize in its Draft Application for New License (DLA) and in its Final Application for New License (FLA) all study plan variances.
- SSWD's performance of the study does not presume that SSWD is responsible in whole or in part for measures that may arise from the study.
- If Global Positioning System (GPS) data are required by a study plan, they will be collected using either a Map Grade Trimble GPS (i.e., sub-meter data collection accuracy under ideal conditions), a Recreation Grade Garmin GPS unit (i.e., 3-meter data collection accuracy under ideal conditions), or similar units. GPS data will be post-processed and exported from the GPS unit into Geographic Information System (GIS) compatible file format in an appropriate coordinate system using desktop software. The resulting GIS file will then be reviewed by both field staff and SSWD's consultant's relicensing GIS analyst. Metadata will be developed for deliverable GIS data sets. Upon request, GIS maps will be provided to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service; United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Cal Fish and Wildlife or SWRCB in a form, such as ESRI Shapefiles, GeoDatabases, or Coverage with appropriate metadata. Metadata will be Federal Geographic Data Committee compliant.
- SSWD's field crews conducting relicensing studies will record incidental records of aquatic, botanical and wildlife species observed during the performance of a study. All incidental observations will be reported in the DLA and FLA. The purpose of this effort is not to conduct a focused study (i.e., no effort in addition to the specific field tasks identified for the specific study plan) or to make all field crews experts in identifying all species, but only to opportunistically gather data during the performance of a relicensing

study. Species included for incidental observation will include, but are not limited to: bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*); any bats or positive sign of bats; Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and steelhead (*O. mykiss*), including redds and carcasses; northern western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*); foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*); American bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*), and aquatic invasive species.

- Field crews will be trained on, provided with, and use materials (e.g., Quat disinfectant) for decontaminating their boots, waders, and other equipment between water-based study sites. Major concerns are amphibian chytrid fungus, and invasive invertebrates (e.g., zebra mussel, *Dreissena polymorpha*).
- If in the performance of a study, SSWD observes an ESA-listed or special-status species, within 30 days of the observation SSWD will submit to Cal Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Database a record, on the appropriate form, of the observation.
- If a study plan requires collection and reporting of time series data, the data will be provided at a minimum in Excel (\*.xls) or HEC-DSS (\*.dss) format. A viewer for \*.dss files (HEC-DSSVue) can be obtained from the United States Army Corps of Engineers at the following website as of October 2015: <http://www.hec.usace.army.mil/software/hec-dssvue/>.
- If a field crew encounters human remains during field work, all work within a 100-foot radius of the discovery will stop immediately. The field crew will not disturb the remains in any way, secure the area to the best of its ability, mark the location with flagging tape in such a way as to not draw attention to the remains, and record the location using a GPS unit or plot the location by hand on a map if no GPS unit is available. As soon as possible thereafter, the field crew will contact SSWD and the relicensing Cultural Resources Lead to report the discovery. SSWD will report the finding and initiate the appropriate steps required under State of California and federal law to address the discovery. Any human remains encountered will be treated with respect, and the field crew members will keep the location confidential and will not disclose the location of the discovery to the public or to any other study crews. The field crew will keep a log of all calls/contacts it makes regarding the discovery and that details the event. Work will not proceed in the secured area of the discovery until provided clearance by SSWD.

### 4.3 Methods

The Study consists of two elements. Element 1 consists of synoptic grab sampling over three events. Element 2 consists of continuous DO monitoring over two events. The Study will be performed in seven steps: 1) select water quality parameters; 2) select sampling locations; 3) collect water samples; 4) perform laboratory analyses using standard methods adequately sensitive to determine consistency with state and federal water quality standards; 5) prepare quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) review; 6) determine consistency with Basin Plan Objectives and designated Beneficial Use protection needs; and 7) prepare report. Each of these steps is described below.

### 4.3.1 Step 1 – Select Water Quality Parameters

#### 4.3.1.1 Element 1 Parameters

For the purpose of this Study, the water quality parameters and constituents to be measured in Element 1 are divided into six categories: 1) basic water quality – *in situ*; 2) basic water quality – laboratory; 3) inorganic ions; 4) nutrients; 5) metals; and 6) herbicides and pesticides. The parameters included in each Element 1 category and associated information is listed in Table 4.3-1.

**Table 4.3-1. Water quality parameters and constituents to be measured and methods, reporting limits and laboratory holding times for each.**

Parameter		Method	Target Reporting Limit µg/L (or other)	Hold Time
<b>BASIC WATER QUALITY – IN SITU</b>				
Dissolved Oxygen	DO	SM 4500-O	0.1 mg/L	Field ( <i>in situ</i> )
Specific conductance	--	SM 2510A	0.001 µmhos	Field ( <i>in situ</i> )
pH	--	SM 4500-H	0.1 su	Field ( <i>in situ</i> )
Turbidity	--	SM 2130 B	0.1 NTU	Field ( <i>in situ</i> )
Secchi Disc	--	--	--	Field ( <i>in situ</i> )
<b>BASIC WATER QUALITY – LABORATORY</b>				
Total Organic Carbon	TOC	SM 5310	0.2 mg/L	28 d
Dissolved Organic Carbon	DOC	EPA 415.1 D	0.5/0.1	28 d
Total Dissolved Solids	TDS	EPA 2540 C SM 2340 C	1 mg/L	7d
Total Suspended Solids	TSS	EPA 2520 D SM 2340 D	1 mg/L	7d
<b>INORGANIC IONS</b>				
Total Alkalinity	--	SM 2340 B	2000	14 d
Calcium	Ca	EPA 6010 B	30	180 d
Chloride	Cl	EPA 300.0	20	28 d
Hardness (measured value)	--	EPA 2340 B SM 2340 C	1 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	14 d
Magnesium	Mg	EPA 6010 B	1	180 d
Potassium	K	EPA 6010 B	500	180 d
Sodium	Na	EPA 6010 B	29	180 d
Sulfate	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	EPA 300.0	1.0 mg/L	28 d
Sulfide	S <sup>2-</sup>	SM 4500 S2 – D	0.05 mg/L	28 d
<b>NUTRIENTS</b>				
Nitrate-Nitrite	--	EPA 300.0	2	28 d <pH 2
Total Ammonia as N	--	EPA 4500-NH3 SM 4500-NH3	0.02	28 d <pH 2
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen as N	TKN	SM 4500 N	100	28 d <pH 2
Total phosphorus	TP	SM4500 P	20	28 d <pH 2
Dissolved Orthophosphate	PO <sub>4</sub>	EPA 365.1 EPA 300.0	0.01	48 h at 4 °C
<b>METALS (total and dissolved)</b>				
Aluminum (total and dissolved)	Al	EPA 200.8/EPA 1638	4.0/ 0.4	180 d
Arsenic (total and dissolved)	As	EPA 200.8/1638	0.15/0.04	180 d
Cadmium (total and dissolved)	Cd	EPA 200.8/1638	0.020/0.004	180 d
Chromium, Total (total and dissolved)	Cr	EPA 200.8/1638	0.010/0.03	180 d
Copper (total and dissolved)	Cu	EPA 200.8/1638	0.10/0.01	180 d
Iron (total and dissolved)	Fe	EPA 200.8/1638	10.0/3.2	180 d

**Table 4.3-1. (continued)**

Parameter		Method	Target Reporting Limit µg/L (or other)	Hold Time
<b>METALS (total and dissolved) (continued)</b>				
Lead (total and dissolved)	Pb	EPA 200.8/EPA 1638	0.040/0.003	180 d
Mercury (total)	Hg	EPA 1631	0.0005/0.00008	28 d
Methylmercury (total and dissolved)	CH <sub>3</sub> Hg	EPA 1630	0.00005/0.000019	90 d
Nickel (total and dissolved)	Ni	EPA 200.8/1638	0.10/0.01	180 d
Selenium (total)	Se	EPA 200.8/1638	0.60/0.19	180 d
Silver (total and dissolved)	Ag	EPA 200.8/1638	0.20/0.006	180 d
Zinc (total and dissolved)	Zn	EPA 200.8/1638	0.2/0.1	180 d
Chlorpyrifos	--	EPA 8081A	0.005/0.0024 mg/L	7d
Diazinon	--	EPA 8141A	0.005/0.0029 mg/L	7d

Key:

- EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency
- CaCO<sub>3</sub> = Calcium carbonate
- d = days
- h = hours
- µmhos = micro-ohms
- µg/L = micrograms per liter (equals parts per billion)
- mg/L = milligrams per liter (equals parts per million)
- MPN = Most Probable Number
- NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- SM = Standard Method
- su = Standard Unit

#### 4.3.1.2 Element 2 Parameters

Element 2 consists of measuring two parameters, DO concentration and water temperature. While DO is the parameter of interest in this Study, water temperature is often tied to DO results and will be incorporated into the analysis, through SSWD will conduct a separate *Water Temperature Monitoring Study* (Study 2.1).

### 4.3.2 Step 2 – Select Sampling Locations

#### 4.3.2.1 Element 1 – Synoptic Water Quality Sample Locations

Synoptic water quality samples will be collected upstream, within and downstream of the Project. Water chemistry samples in the Bear River will be grab samples collected for laboratory analysis from the flowing water. In Camp Far West Reservoir, general water chemistry samples will be collected for laboratory analysis at two depths: within the hypolimnion and just below the surface in the epilimnion. In the event the reservoir is mixed at the time of sampling (as seen from the reservoir profile near the dam), samples will be collected from just below the surface and approximately 5 feet from the bottom. (Table 4.3-2.)



**Table 4.3-2. Synoptic water quality sample locations.**

Location	River Mile	Sample Depth	Notes
Bear River upstream of Camp Far West Reservoir	25.1	Surface	Co-located with Study 2.1, <i>Water Temperature Monitoring</i> , sampling location
Camp Far West Reservoir; near Dam	18.4	Surface	
		Bottom	
Bear River below Camp Far West Dam	18.0	Surface	
Bear River below non-Project Diversion Dam	16.9	Surface	
Bear River near Pleasant Grove Road Bridge	7.1	Surface	
Bear River upstream of the Feather River Confluence	0.1	Surface	

#### 4.3.2.2 Element 2 – Continuous DO Monitoring Locations

To better understand DO concentration dynamics, continuous DO monitors will be installed at three locations: 1) in the Bear River downstream of the Camp Far West Powerhouse and low-level outlet (RM 18.0); 2) in the Bear River downstream of the non-Project diversion dam (RM 16.9); and 3) in the lower Bear River near the Highway 65 bridge (RM 11.4). Each monitor will be placed in flowing water near the surface.

#### 4.3.3 Step 3 – Collect Samples

All data will be acquired in accordance with standard quality assurance practices.

##### 4.3.3.1 Element 1 – Synoptic Water Quality Reservoir and Stream Sampling

Water chemistry samples will be collected from all locations three times: 1) in the spring, when the powerhouse is operational and irrigation deliveries are occurring; 2) in the late summer, when the powerhouse is operational and irrigation deliveries are occurring; and 3) in the fall, when the powerhouse is off-line and releases from Camp Far West Dam are made exclusively by the low-level outlet.

##### 4.3.3.1.1 In Situ Sampling

*In situ* water quality measurements will be made at the sample depths described in Table 4.3-2 with a Hydrolab DataSonde 5 (Hydrolab), or other instrument with similar precision and accuracy. Water temperature ( $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$ ), DO ( $\pm 0.2$  mg/L), pH ( $\pm 0.2$  standard unit, or su), specific conductance ( $\pm 0.001$  micromhos per centimeter [ $\mu\text{omhos/cm}$ ]), and turbidity ( $\pm 1$  NTU) will be measured at each location. Prior to and after each use, the instrument will be calibrated using the manufacturer’s recommended calibration methods. Any calibration variances will be noted on the field data sheet and in the Study report, and recalibration or repair done as necessary. SSWD will note relevant conditions during each sampling event on the field data sheet (e.g., air temperature; flow, if available at a nearby gage; description of sampling location; floating material; evidence of oil and grease; and activities in the vicinity of the sampling site that could cause short-or long-term alterations to water quality, such as dredging).

#### 4.3.3.1.2 Laboratory Samples

Each sample to be delivered to a laboratory will be collected into laboratory-supplied clean containers. Water samples to be analyzed for metals will be taken using “clean hands” methods consistent with the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Method 1669 sampling protocol *Sampling Ambient Water for Trace Metals at EPA Water Quality Criteria* (EPA 1995). Samples requiring filtration before metals analysis will be filtered in accordance with standard protocols in the field. Certification of filter cleanliness will be obtained from the vendor and kept in the Project files.

All sample containers will be labeled with the date and time that the sample is collected, sampling site or identification label and handled in a manner consistent with appropriate chain-of-custody protocols. The sample container will be preserved as appropriate, stored and delivered to a State of California-certified water quality laboratory for analyses of the parameters listed in Table 4.3-1 in accordance with maximum holding periods for each parameter. A chain-of-custody record will be maintained with the samples at all times. The sampling site location will be recorded using a GPS unit.

As part of the field QA program, one field blank and one equipment rinsate will be collected and submitted to the laboratory, with a target of one for every ten analyses. A field blank is a sample of analyte-free water poured into the container in the field, preserved and shipped to the laboratory with samples. A field blank for filtered samples will be similarly created, but filtered using field techniques before pouring into the container. A field blank assesses the contamination from field conditions during sampling. A rinsate is a sample of analyte-free water poured over or through decontaminated field sampling equipment prior to the collection of samples and assesses the adequacy of the decontamination processes. Two duplicate samples will also be collected to confirm the laboratory’s QA process.

#### 4.3.3.1.3 Secchi Depth Readings in Reservoirs

Prior to collecting reservoir samples, a Secchi disk will be slowly lowered into the water on the shady side of the boat until it is no longer visible, and the depth recorded. Then, the Secchi disc will be slowly raised until it just becomes visible once again and this depth will be recorded a second time. The average of the two depths will be considered the Secchi depth and recorded.

#### 4.3.3.2 Element 2 – Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring

Continuous DO monitors will be deployed for a minimum of 14 days during two periods: 1) in the summer when the Camp Far West Powerhouse is operational and irrigation deliveries from Camp Far West Dam are occurring; and 2) in the fall when the powerhouse is off-line and releases from Camp Far West Dam are made exclusively by the Camp Far West Dam low-level outlet.

DO monitoring will generally follow the United States Geological Survey (USGS) published method for the operation of continuous water quality stations (Wagner et al. 2006). The DO

( $\pm 0.3$  mg/L or less) will be measured *in situ* at 1-hour intervals using an Onset sonde or similar device with the appropriate precision and accuracy.

Each DO monitor will be contained in a durable protective housing that permits the active flow of water in and around the unit. The protective housing will be secured by a cable to a stable root mass, tree trunk or man-made structure, or secured using embedded rebar where necessary such that the monitor will be secured in flowing water in the channel during high flow periods. The DO monitors will be installed in flowing water, and the housing and cable will be disguised as much as possible while ensuring the ability to retrieve the unit for future downloads. A GPS coordinate will be taken and recorded at each installation point, along with any waypoints that may prove valuable for future retrieval, especially where there is not a defined trail leading to the access point. Photographs of the sampling site, including installation configuration, will be taken. Prior to installation, each recorder will be numbered and calibrated to manufacturer's recommended specifications.

Redundant recorders will be located as close as possible to the primary recorders. Where a redundant recorder occurs, the primary recorder will be labeled with the recorder number for the site (e.g., "BR1") with the suffix "a" and the redundant recorder with the number for the site with the suffix "b". Data from both recorders will be downloaded during each scheduled visit.

During each visit, SSWD will download data into an optic shuttle or directly to a personal computer. Immediately after the data are safely downloaded, back-ups will be recorded on portable memory devices (i.e., USB "thumb drive"). Only after the raw water temperature data are safely backed-up will the optic shuttle be cleared or the data manipulated. In addition, during each site visit, SSWD will be prepared to replace or fix a recorder installation. Should a recorder need to be replaced because it is missing or has failed, SSWD will be able to do so immediately to reduce the potential for additional data loss. Any recorder or optic shuttle that fails to download will be returned to the manufacturer for possible data recovery.

The data will be downloaded and the loggers inspected/maintained weekly during the deployment periods.

#### **4.3.4 Step 4 – Perform Laboratory Analyses**

##### **4.3.4.1 Chemical Analyses**

All laboratory analyses will be conducted using EPA Standard Methods or the equivalent sufficiently sensitive to detect and report at levels necessary for evaluation against State and federal water quality standards. A State of California-certified laboratory will prepare and analyze water samples for the following surface water analytical parameters:

- Basic Water Chemistry - Laboratory
- Inorganic Ions
- Metals

- Nutrients
- Petroleum Hydrocarbons

The analytes and target reporting limits associated with each parameter are listed in Table 4.3-1.

#### 4.3.5 Step 5 – QA/QC Review

All data will be verified and/or validated as appropriate. In brief, following the field sampling and laboratory analyses, which includes the laboratories’ own QA/QC analysis, SSWD will subject all data to QA/QC procedures including, but not limited to: spot-checks of transcription; review of electronic data submissions for completeness; comparison of results to field blank and rinsate results; and, identification of any data that seem inconsistent. If any inconsistencies are found, SSWD will consult with the laboratory to identify any potential sources of error before concluding that the data is correct.

All verified chemical detections, including data whose results are “J” qualified<sup>3</sup> will be used for this assessment. Should the laboratory need to re-extract samples and re-run the sample under different calibration conditions, the data identified by the laboratory, as the most certain, will be used. If field-sampling conditions, as measured by the field blank and the rinsate sample results, indicate that samples have been corrupted, SSWD will identify the data accordingly.

#### 4.3.6 Step 6 – Determine Consistency with Basin Plan Water Quality Objectives

Table 4.3-3 shows the standards, criteria and benchmark values that will be used to assist with in the assessment of sample results and their consistency with the Basin Plan Objectives. The selected values primarily consist of the Title 22 drinking water standards, which are incorporated by reference into the Basin Plan itself, and the California Toxics Rule (CTR) (EPA 2000). However, when a Study analyte does not have a compliance threshold (i.e., benchmark) in one these preferred sources, benchmarks will be applied from *A Compilation of Water Quality Goals* (Marshack 2015, as amended through October 2011 – August 2014); and others as cited.

**Table 4.3-3. Standards, criteria and benchmarks used for determining consistency with Basin Plan Water Quality Objectives and designated Beneficial Uses.<sup>1</sup>**

Analyte	Symbol or Abbreviation	Standard, Criteria or Benchmark Value	Reference	Notes
<b>BIOSTIMULATORY SUBSTANCES (COLD, SPAWN)</b>				
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	TKN	None	--	--
Total Phosphorous	TP	None	--	--
<b>CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS (MUN)</b>				
Alkalinity	--	20 mg/L	Marshack 2015	EPA AWQC; less than 20 mg/L can affect water treatment
Aluminum	Al	1 mg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64431 Primary MCL
Arsenic	As	0.01 mg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64431 Primary MCL

<sup>3</sup> Results with a “J” qualifier are results where the chemical was detected, but there is uncertainty in the quantity. The quantity is above the method detection limit, but below the reporting limit.



**Table 4.3-3. (continued)**

Analyte	Symbol or Abbreviation	Standard, Criteria or Benchmark Value	Reference	Notes
<b>CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS (MUN) (continued)</b>				
Cadmium	Cd	5 µg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64431 Primary MCL
Calcium	Ca	None	--	--
Chromium (total)	Cr (total)	50 µg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64431 Primary MCL
Chlorophyifos	--	2 µg/L	Marshack 2015	USEPA drinking water source
Copper	Cu	1.3 mg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64431 Primary MCL
Diazinon	--	1.2 µg/L	Marshack 2015	California Department of Public Health notification
Lead	Pb	15 µg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64431 Primary MCL
Mercury (inorganic)	Hg	2 µg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64431 Primary MCL
Nickel	Ni	100 µg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64431 Primary MCL
Nitrate	NO <sub>3</sub> -N	10 mg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64431 Primary MCL
Nitrite	NO <sub>2</sub> -N	1 mg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64431 Primary MCL
Nitrate + Nitrite	NO <sub>3</sub> -N+NO <sub>2</sub> -N	10 mg/L (combined total)	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64431 Primary MCL
Selenium	Se	50 µg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64431 Primary MCL
Sodium	Na	20 mg/L	Marshack 2015	Sodium Restricted Diet <sup>2</sup>
<b>DISSOLVED OXYGEN (COLD, SPAWN)</b>				
Dissolved Oxygen	DO	> 7 mg/L (minimum)	CVRWQCB 1998	Aquatic life protection
<b>FLOATING MATERIAL (REC-1, REC-2)</b>				
Floating Material	--	Narrative Criteria	CVRWQCB 1998	Aesthetics – Absent by visual observation
<b>pH (MUN, COLD, SPAWN, WILD)</b>				
pH	--	6.5-8.5	CVRWQCB 1998	Aquatic life protection
<b>TASTES &amp; ODOR (MUN)</b>				
Aluminum	Al	0.2 mg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64449 Secondary MCL
Chloride	Cl	250 mg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64449 Secondary MCL
Copper	Cu	1.0 mg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64449 Secondary MCL
Iron	Fe	0.3 mg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64449 Secondary MCL
Silver	Ag	0.1 mg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64449 Secondary MCL
Specific conductance	--	900 µS/cm	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64449 Secondary MCL
Sulfate	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	250 mg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64449 Secondary MCL
Total Dissolved Solids	TDS	500 mg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64449 Secondary MCL
Zinc	Zn	5 mg/L	DDW 2015	22 CCR §64449 Secondary MCL
<b>TEMPERATURE (COLD, SPAWN)</b>				
Temperature	--	Narrative	CVRWQCB 1998	See Water Temperature Study
<b>TOXICITY (COLD, SPAWN, MUN)</b>				
Alkalinity	--	20 mg/L	Marshack 2015	EPA AWQC; buffering capacity
Aluminum	Al	87 µg/L	Marshack 2015	EPA AWQC; aquatic life protective <sup>3</sup>

**Table 4.3-3. (continued)**

Analyte	Symbol or Abbreviation	Standard, Criteria or Benchmark Value	Reference	Notes
<b>TOXICITY (COLD, SPAWN, MUN) (continued)</b>				
Ammonia as N (pH and Temp dependent)	NH <sub>3</sub> -N	24.1 mg/L (CMC); 4.1-5.9 mg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR criteria over 0-20°C assuming pH 7.0
		5.6 mg/L (CMC); 1.7-2.4 mg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR criteria over 0-20°C assuming pH 8.0
		0.9 mg/L (CMC); 0.3-0.5 mg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR criteria over 0-20°C assuming pH 9.0
Arsenic	As	0.34 mg/L (CMC); 0.15 mg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR criteria
Cadmium (hardness dependent)	Cd	0.16 µg/L (CMC); 0.25 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 5 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		0.35 µg/L (CMC); 0.41 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 10 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		0.54 µg/L (CMC); 0.56 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 15 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		0.95 µg/L (CMC); 0.81 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 25 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
Chloride	Cl-	860 mg/L (CMC); 230 mg/L (CCC)	Marshack 2015	EPA AWQC; aquatic life protective
Chromium (hardness dependent)	Cr	47.19 µg/L (CMC); 15.31 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 5 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		83.25 µg/L (CMC); 27.0 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 10 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		116.03 µg/L (CMC); 37.64 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 15 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		176.31 µg/L (CMC); 57.19 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 25 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
Chlorpyrifos	--	0.02 µg/L (CMC); 0.014µg/L (CCC)	Marshack 2015	CDFW water quality criteria
Copper (hardness dependent)	Cu	0.8 µg/L (CMC); 0.69 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 5 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		1.54 µg/L (CMC); 1.25 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 10 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		2.25 µg/L (CMC); 1.77 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 15 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
			3.64 µg/L (CMC); 2.74 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000
Diazinon	--	0.16 µg/L (CMC); 0.1 µg/L (CCC)	Marshack 2015	CDFW water quality criteria
Iron	Fe	1 mg/L (CCC)	Marshack 2015	EPA AWQC; aquatic life protective
Mercury (total)	Hg	0.050 µg/L	EPA 2000 40 C.F.R. 131.38	CTR/Federal Register 5/18/00

**Table 4.3-3. (continued)**

Analyte	Symbol or Abbreviation	Standard, Criteria or Benchmark Value	Reference	Notes
<b>TOXICITY (COLD, SPAWN, MUN) (continued)</b>				
Nickel (hardness dependent)	Ni	37.2 µg/L (CMC); 4.1 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 5 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		66.9 µg/L (CMC); 7.4 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 10 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		94.3 µg/L (CMC); 10.5 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 15 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		145.2 µg/L (CMC); 16.1 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 25 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
Selenium (total)	Se	20 µg/L (CMC) 5 µg/L (CCC)	Marshack 2015	EPA AWQC; aquatic life protective
Silver (hardness dependent)	Ag	0.02 µg/L (CMC) Instantaneous	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 5 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		0.07 µg/L (CMC) instantaneous	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 10 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
Silver (hardness dependent)	Ag	0.13 µg/L (CMC) instantaneous	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 15 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		0.32 µg/L (CMC) instantaneous	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 25 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
Lead (hardness dependent)	Pb	2 µg/L (CMC) 0.086 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 5 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		5 µg/L (CMC) 0.191 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 10 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		8 µg/L (CMC) 0.303 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 15 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		14 µg/L (CMC) 0.54 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 25 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
Specific conductance	--	150 µmhos	CVRWQCB 1998	Aquatic Life Protection
Zinc (hardness dependent)	Zn	9.26 µg/L (CMC) 9.33 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 5 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		16.66 µg/L (CMC) 16.79 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 10 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		23.48 µg/L (CMC) 23.68 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 15 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>
		36.20 µg/L (CMC) 36.50 µg/L (CCC)	EPA 2000	CTR for dissolved sample assuming hardness of 25 mg/L as CaCO <sub>3</sub>

**Table 4.3-3. (continued)**

Analyte	Symbol or Abbreviation	Standard, Criteria or Benchmark Value	Reference	Notes
<b>TOXICITY (COLD, SPAWN, MUN) (continued)</b>				
Turbidity	NTU	increase < 1 NTU for 1-5 NTU background; increase < 20% for 5-50 NTU background; increase < 10 NTU for 50-100 NTU background	CVRWQCB 1998	Aesthetics, disinfection

- 1 Note: a constituent may be listed under more than one beneficial use. When a standard or criterion was not available, benchmarks were excerpted from EPA (2003) and Marshack (2015).  
 2 Guidance level to protect those individuals restricted to a total sodium intake of 500 mg/day (Marshack 2015).  
 3 Benchmark is likely overly protective, as EPA is aware of field data indicating that many high quality waters in the U.S. contain more than 87 µg aluminum/L, when either total recoverable or dissolved is measured (Marshack 2015)

Key:

- AWQC = Ambient Water Quality Criteria
- EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency
- CaCO<sub>3</sub> = Calcium carbonate
- CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- CMC = Criterion Maximum Concentration (1-hour acute exposure) for aquatic toxicity as defined by EPA (2000)
- CCC = Criterion Continuous Concentration (4-day chronic exposure) for aquatic toxicity as defined by EPA (2000)
- CCR = California Code of Regulations
- CTR = California Toxics Rule
- MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
- µmhos = micromhos
- µg/L = micrograms per liter
- mg/L = milligrams per liter
- MPN = Most Probable Number
- NTU = Nephelometric turbidity units
- SM = Standard Method
- su = standard unit

The CVRWQCB has adopted, by reference, California Title 22 maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for drinking water as Basin Plan objectives (CVRWQCB 1998), with the exception that more stringent criteria may apply as necessary for protection of specific designated Beneficial Uses. Hence, these values are adopted as the drinking water standard herein. It should be noted, however, that chemical concentrations that were originally intended to apply to finished tap-water, rather than to untreated sources of drinking water, will be applied to the untreated reservoir or river water.

For Basin Plan Water Quality Objectives related to aquatic toxicity for ammonia and trace metals, the CTR (EPA 2000) is the preferred benchmark source. Part 40 C.F.R. Section 131.38 established Criterion Maximum Concentrations (CMC) as the highest concentrations to which aquatic life can be exposed for a short period<sup>4</sup> (1 hour) without deleterious effects, and Criterion Continuous Concentrations (CCC) as the highest concentration to which aquatic life can be exposed for an extended period of time (4 days) without deleterious effects. When single grab samples are collected, as will be the case for this Study, it is assumed that constituent concentrations are representative of the continuous ambient condition, and CCC values are therefore used as the appropriate criteria to compare against environmental sample results.

Because of differences in acute and chronic toxicity to aquatic organisms of many elements and compounds, as well as variations with ambient water quality such as pH or hardness, several

<sup>4</sup> Based on extended sample collection and 1-hour averaging.



entries in Table 4.3-3 have multiple benchmarks to illustrate this range. The benchmarks for seven of the metals (i.e., cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, nickel, silver, and zinc) addressed in this Study are reported for dissolved metals from the CTR (EPA 2000). In Table 4.3-3, benchmarks for these metals are calculated in 5 mg/L increments of hardness since the aquatic toxicity of these metals reportedly increases as hardness decreases. Similarly, the CMC and CCC levels for ammonia are a function of both pH and temperature and are presented for the temperature range of 0°-20°C in pH increments of 1.0 su in Table 4.3-3.

**4.3.7 Step 7 – Prepare Report**

SSWD will prepare a report that includes the following sections: 1) Study Goals and Objectives; 2) Methods; 3) Results; 4) Discussion; and 5) Description of Variances from the Study plan, if any. The report will include a complete water quality dataset in Microsoft® Excel format. Also, the report will include a table that will show for each parameter measured the results of the sampling sorted by sampling location. Data that are greater than the benchmarks provided in Table 4.3-3 will be highlighted. The table will be appended to report and available in its Microsoft® Excel format.

**5.0 Consistency of Methodology with Generally Accepted Scientific Practices**

This Study is consistent with the goals, objectives, and methods outlined for most recent FERC hydroelectric relicensing efforts in California, including for the Don Pedro Project (FERC No. 2299), Yuba River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2246) and Merced River Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2179) relicensings. The study uses standard water quality monitoring methods. Laboratory analyses are based on the recommended methods by EPA or the State of California.

**6.0 Schedule**

SSWD anticipates the schedule to complete the Study as follows:

Planning .....	March 2016
Collect WQ Data – powerhouse on, diverting .....	April/May 2016
Collect WQ/DO Data – powerhouse on, diverting .....	August 2016
Collect WQ/DO Data – low-level outlet operations only .....	October 2016
QA/QC Review .....	November/December 2016
Study Report Preparation .....	January 2017

The Study report will be included in SSWD’s DLA and FLA. If SSWD completes the Study report before preparation of the DLA, SSWD will post the report on SSWD’s Relicensing Website and issue an e-mail to Relicensing Participants advising them that the report is available.

## **7.0 Level of Effort and Cost**

SSWD estimates the cost to complete this Study in 2015 dollars is between \$60,000 and \$80,000.

## **8.0 References Cited**

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). 1998. Basin Plan. Fourth Edition, The Sacramento River Basin and the San Joaquin River Basin. State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region. Revised in October 2011 with the Approved Amendments

Marshack, J. 2015. A compilation of water quality goals. California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region.  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_goals/#data\\_downloads](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_goals/#data_downloads)

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW). 2015. Maximum Contaminant Levels. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 15, Domestic Water Quality and Monitoring. Last update: September 23, 2015. Website accessed 10/16/15.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2000. Water Quality Standards; Establishment of Numeric Criteria for Priority Toxic Pollutants for the State of California, 40 C.F.R. 131. May 18.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1995. Method 1669: Sampling ambient water for trace metals at United States Environmental Protection Agency water quality criteria levels. EPA 821-R-95-034, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

Wagner, R.J., R.W. Boulger, Jr., C.J. Oblinger, and , B.A. Smith. 2006. Guidelines and standard procedures for continuous water-quality monitors—Station operation, record computation, and data reporting: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods 1–D3, 51 p. + 8 attachments; accessed April 10, 2006, at <http://pubs.water.usgs.gov/tm1d3>.