Placer County Water Agency

Power System: 24625 Harrison St. • Mail: P.O. Box 667 • Foresthill, California 95631 (530) 367-2291 (530) 885-6917 FAX (530) 367-4440

A Public Agency

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November 30, 2005

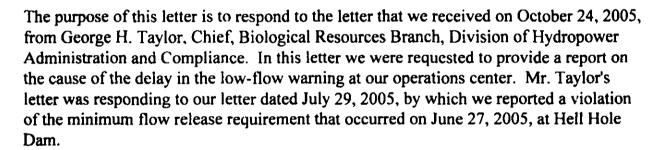
Office of the Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, Northeast Washington D.C. 20426

RE: Project No. 2079-054

Middle Fork American River Project

Placer County Water Agency

Dear Secretary:



Even though the violation began sometime between 7:45 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., the low flow alarm did not come in at our main powerhouse, Ralston Powerhouse, which is normally staffed during the day, until about 10:31 a.m. The minimum required release on June 27, 2005, was 20 cfs. However, the alarm was not transmitted to Ralston Powerhouse until the stream stage at the gauging station below Hell Hole Dam had dropped to 4.07 feet which corresponded to a flow of 17.7 feet. A stage of 4.11 feet corresponds to a flow of 20.1 cfs, while 4.10 feet indicates 19.5 cfs. During tests conducted on August 25, 2005 at this gauging station, the low flow alarm came in at 19.5 cfs. The technician who performed the tests was not able to identify the reason the alarm did not occur at 19.5 cfs on June 27, 2005.

The existing mechanism that is used to detect a low flow condition and initiate an alarm at this particular station is a shaft with a lobe that rotates as the stage changes. The lobe operates a microswitch to indicate that a low flow condition is present. It has been



reported to me that the shaft - lobe - microswitch combination is difficult to set to the desired precision. We are presently planning to replace the water level transmitter at this gauging station in 2006 with a new transmitter that will allow more precise alarming of a low flow condition.

If you have any questions, please call me at (530) 885-6917, or you may send me an email at siones@pcwa.net.

Sincerely,

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

Stephen J. Jones

Power System Manager

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Enclosure: Seven copies of letter

David Breninger cc: Larry Corsini Philip Scordelis Edward Tiedemann Mal Toy