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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

TO: ENCLOSED CACHUMA HEARING SERVICE AND GENERAL MAILING LISTS

RELEASE OF SECOND REVISED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PREPARED IN CONNECTION WITH CONSIDERATION OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S WATER RIGHT PERMITS 11308 AND 11310 (APPLICATIONS 11331 AND 11332) TO PROTECT PUBLIC TRUST VALUES AND DOWNSTREAM WATER RIGHTS ON THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER BELOW BRADBURY DAM (CACHUMA RESERVOIR) (SCH#1999051051)

The above-referenced second revised draft Environmental Impact Report (2nd RDEIR) is available for public review. The proposed project analyzed in the 2nd RDEIR consists of potential modifications to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) water right permits for the Cachuma Project in order to provide appropriate protection of downstream water rights and public trust resources on the Santa Ynez River. The Cachuma Project includes Bradbury Dam, which impounds water on the Santa Ynez River in northern Santa Barbara County, forming Cachuma Lake. The Cachuma Project provides water to the Cachuma Project Member Units (Member Units) for irrigation, domestic, municipal, and industrial uses. The Member Units consist of the City of Santa Barbara, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District — Improvement District #1.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) prepared a previous RDEIR for this Project and circulated it for public comment in July 2007 (2007 RDEIR). Additionally, the State Water Board prepared the original DEIR and circulated it for comment in August 2003 (2003 DEIR).

In response to comments on the 2007 RDEIR, the State Water Board updated information on water supply, biological resources, oak trees, and recreation. In addition, the 2nd RDEIR has been updated to reflect a number of changes that have occurred since the 2007 RDEIR was prepared. Finally, the 2nd RDEIR makes some changes and corrections in response to comments on the 2007 RDEIR. The 2nd RDEIR does not contain a complete response to comments. Pursuant to the state California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQA) Section 15088.5(a), a lead agency is required to recirculate an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) when significant new information is added to an EIR after public notice of the availability of the draft EIR but before certification. New information is not "significant" unless the EIR is changed in a way that deprives the public of a meaningful opportunity to comment upon a substantial adverse environmental effect of the project or a feasible way to mitigate or avoid such an effect (including a feasible project alternative) that the project's proponents have declined to implement. Further, pursuant to the state CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(b), recirculation is not required where the new information added to the EIR merely clarifies or amplifies or makes insignificant modifications in an adequate EIR.

California Environmental Protection Agency

Consistent with the 2007 RDEIR, the 2nd RDEIR finds that Alternatives 3B, 3C, 4B, 5B, and 5C, which entail raising Bradbury Dam to create additional storage capacity, could have significant environmental impacts (Class I) to oak trees at Lake Cachuma. In addition, the 2nd RDEIR finds significant but mitigable impacts (Class II) could occur to sensitive wildlife under Alternative 4B; and to cultural resources under Alternatives 3B, 3C, 4B, 5B, and 5C.

The 2nd RDEIR also finds adverse but not significant impacts (Class III) could occur to surface water hydrology under Alternatives 3B, 3C, 4B, 5B, and 5C.

The 2nd RDEIR finds that three of the alternatives analyzed (Alternatives 3B, 5B and 5C) could result in shortages to Member Units' water supply in critical drought years. This could have significant, unavoidable indirect environmental impact (Class I) if the Member Units make up for the shortages by increasing groundwater pumping, implementing a temporary water transfer, or desalinating seawater. The 2007 RDEIR only identified significant unavoidable impacts (Class I) with respect to water supply for Alternative 5B.

The 2nd RDEIR also finds that both Alternatives 3C and 4B are environmentally superior (fewest significant impacts). However, because Alternative 3C is the No Project Alternative, in that it provides for the continuation of operations at Bradbury Dam as currently being implemented, Alternative 4B is determined to be the environmentally superior alternative under CEQA. As stated above, the Guidelines Section 15088.5(a)(1) requires that an EIR be re-circulated if a new significant environmental impact would result from the project or from a new mitigation measure proposed to be implemented. When revising a DEIR, the lead agency may recirculate only those portions of the document that have been revised, and request that reviewers limit their comments to the revised chapters or portions of the document. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15088.5, subds. (c) & (f)(2).) Although a complete copy of the 2nd RDEIR is available for public review, only Sections 4.3 and 6.0 are being recirculated for comment, and the State Water Board requests that reviewers limit their comments to those revised portions.

The State Water Board will combine comments made on the previous EIRs (August 2003 DEIR and July 2007 RDEIR) and comments made on this 2nd RDEIR, and include a complete response to all comments in the Final EIR that the State Water Board will prepare after circulating this document.

A copy of the 2nd RDEIR is being provided on compact disk (CD) to the parties to the State Water Board hearing for this project under cover of this letter. Copies are also available upon request and may be obtained by calling Jane Farwell at (916) 341-5349. Copies on CD are available free of charge; hard copies are available for the cost of reproduction. Copies of the 2nd RDEIR and documents referenced in the 2nd RDEIR are available for public review from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday in the Records Unit of the State Water Board, Division of Water Rights (Division), which is located on the Second Floor of the Joe Serna Jr./CalEPA Headquarters Building, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California. A copy of the 2nd RDEIR also has been posted on the Division's website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/hearings/cachuma/

Comments on the 2nd RDEIR must be received by close of business on May 16, 2011. **Again, comments should be confined to information provided in Section 4.3, Water Supply, or Section 6.0, Comparison of Alternatives that is new or has been changed from the 2007 RDEIR.**


Comments should be addressed to:

Ms. Jane Farwell
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
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Comments may be hand delivered to the same addressee at 1001 I Street, Second Floor, Division of Water Rights — Records Unit during the office hours referenced above. In addition, comments may be, and are encouraged to be, submitted via electronic mail to JFarwell@waterboards.ca.gov via fax to (916) 341-5400, but must be followed by an original hard copy.

If you have any questions regarding the 2nd RDEIR, please contact Jane Farwell at JFarwell@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 341-5349.

Sincerely,


Charles L. Lindsay,
Chief, Hearings Unit
Division of Water Rights

Enclosure: Service Lists

Cachuma Project Phase 2 Hearing
Final Service List
(updated 01/20/2011)

(Based on 01/05/2004 list, updated 07/26/2007, updated 06/08/2010, updated 01/20/2011)

The parties whose email addresses are listed below agreed to accept electronic service, pursuant to the rules specified in the hearing notice.

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| <p>Cachuma Conservation Release Board Mr. Kevin O'Brien Downey Brand LLP 621 Capitol Mall, Floor 18 Sacramento, CA 95814 kobrien@downeybrand.com tkuntz@downeybrand.com</p> <p><i>updated 01/20/2011</i></p> | <p>City of Solvang Mr. Christopher L. Campbell Baker, Manock & Jensen 5260 N. Palm Avenue, Suite 421 Fresno, CA 93704 clc@bmj-law.com</p> |
| <p>Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 Mr. Gregory K. Wilkinson Best, Best & Krieger, LLP 3750 University Avenue, Suite 400 Riverside, CA 92501 gkwilkinson@bbklaw.com</p> | <p>City of Lompoc Ms. Sandra K. Dunn Somach, Simmons & Dunn 500 Capitol Mall Suite 1000 Sacramento CA 95814 sdunn@somachlaw.com</p> <p><i>updated 06/08/2010)</i></p> |
| <p>Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Mr. Ernest A. Conant Law Offices of Young Wooldridge 1800 – 30th Street, Fourth Floor Bakersfield, CA 93301 econant@youngwooldridge.com</p> | <p>California Trout, Inc. c/o Ms Karen Krause Environmental Defense Center 906 Garden Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 kkraus@edc.net.org</p> |

Cachuma Project Phase 2 Hearing
Final Service List
(updated 01/20/2011)

(Based on 01/05/2004 list, updated 07/26/2007, updated 06/08/2010, updated 01/20/2011)

The parties listed below did not agree to accept electronic service, pursuant to the rules specified by this hearing notice.

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