

Fisch, Nathan@Waterboards

From: Bartoo, Aondrea <aondrea_bartoo@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 8:59 AM
To: Fisch, Nathan@Waterboards
Subject: Poe IS/MND USFWS comments

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Initial Study Document/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) dated September 8, 2017 for the Poe Hydroelectric Project (FERC # p-2107). In general, the USFWS supports the Proposed Measures. Regarding effects of the project on the foothill yellow-legged frog, we support and endorse the comments submitted by the Forest Service on July 17, 2017 and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on July 26, 2017. These comments and recommendations were largely incorporated into the IS/MND by SWRCB staff. The USFWS expects that the minimum instream flows, pulse flow schedule, ramping rate plan, and associated monitoring plans (pages 26-29 of the IS/MND) are likely to improve habitat conditions for foothill yellow-legged frogs and native fish species within the Poe reach of the North Fork Feather River.

The only addition requested is including USFWS in communications regarding federally-listed species. For any federally-listed species, or federal candidate species present where work is anticipated to occur or where species may be affected by flows, we request consultation with USFWS pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). A list of potentially affected species can be obtained at https://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es_species/lists/es_species_lists-overview.htm.

The need for ESA consultation should be included in the following sections of the MND:

4.4.2.3--Condition No. 35 and 36

5.4.5--All Special-Status Species

We look forward to assisting with your ESA consultation needs.

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