



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR RECIRCULATED INITIAL STUDY AND PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FIRE MOUNTAIN LODGE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT RELICENSING AND DAM SAFETY REPAIRS FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 1992

To: Interested Parties

Mr. Ken Willis (Applicant) applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a Project license renewal for the Fire Mountain Lodge Hydroelectric Project on April 25, 2008. A Clean Water Act, section 401 water quality certification (certification) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is required before FERC can issue a new license for the Project. The Applicant filed an application with the State Water Board for certification under section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for the Fire Mountain Lodge Hydroelectric Project Relicensing and Dam Safety Repairs (Project) on September 15, 2011. The Applicant simultaneously withdrew and re-filed the request for certification on August 16, 2012.

The Project is located on an Unnamed Creek (locally referred to as "Fern Springs Creek"), which is a tributary to Gurnsey Creek, a tributary to Deer Creek. The Project is located in the Deer Creek watershed in Tehama County. The Project impounds water that originates from an Unnamed Spring known locally as "Fern Springs" and a second Unnamed Spring. The Project dam and reservoir are located on United States Forest Service land in the Lassen Volcanic National Forest and on private land owned by Collins Pine Company. The Project is located near Fire Mountain Lodge, which is a private resort that is south of Lassen Volcanic National Park, northwest of Plumas National Forest and west of Lake Almanor.

The existing Fire Mountain Lodge Hydroelectric Project consists of: (1) a 265-foot long by 29-foot high earth and concrete filled dam; (2) a 0.8-acre reservoir; (3) a 38-inch intake tower; (4) a 1,540-foot penstock; (5) a powerhouse with an installed capacity of 60-kilowatts; (6) a 1,000-foot transmission line; and (7) appurtenant facilities. The power generated by the Project is used for commercial and residential purposes solely by the owners of the Fire Mountain Lodge, a self-provider of electricity. On October 24, 2007, FERC Division of Dam Safety and Inspections issued a letter requiring the Applicant to repair the dam and install a spillway. The State Water Board's certification will cover the relicensing of the existing Fire Mountain Lodge Hydroelectric Project and the dam safety repairs ordered by FERC.

The Applicant will be required to comply with the conditions of the certification, which include stabilization of the adjacent Project road, installation of flow measurement devices, and minimum streamflow requirements. A Parshall flume (or similar flow gauge) will be installed to measure streamflows. It is anticipated that the Applicant will be required to measure and document: inflows from Fern Springs and the Unnamed Spring; flow releases into Fern Springs Creek from the Project dam; and flows diverted for domestic and power use.

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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The State Water Board is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and prepared an Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/Proposed MND) for the Project. The public review period for the IS/Proposed MND (State Clearinghouse No. 2012122009) was from December 6, 2012 to January 11, 2013. State Water Board staff also prepared a draft water quality certification that was circulated with the IS/Proposed MND for the Project on December 6, 2012.

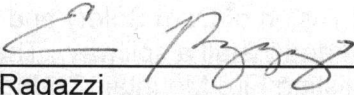
The State Water Board is recirculating the IS/Proposed MND for public review because it is anticipated that the certification will include a condition that requires installation of flow measurement devices and this requirement needed to be analyzed in the IS/Proposed MND. The Recirculated IS/Proposed MND includes new mitigation measures for potential impacts due to the installation of flow measurement devices. **This serves as notice of intent to adopt an MND for issuance of the Project's water quality certification. Comments on the Recirculated IS/Proposed MND must be received by Noon (12:00 PM) on August 8, 2013.** Comments can be submitted electronically or by mail to:

Michelle Lobo
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Water Quality Certification Program
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
or
Email: MLobo@waterboards.ca.gov

The Recirculated IS/Proposed MND is available on the Division of Water Rights (Division) web site at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/ceqa_projects.shtml. If you cannot access the documents online, you may request a paper copy by contacting Michelle Lobo by phone at (916) 327-3117 or via email at MLobo@waterboards.ca.gov. Please make your request promptly to allow enough time to receive and review the document within the comment period.

A copy of the Recirculated IS/Proposed MND will also be available at the State Water Board's office in the Cal/EPA Building, by visiting the Division's Records Unit, located at: 1001 I Street, 2nd Floor, Room 114, Sacramento, CA 95814.


Erin Ragazzi
Manager, Water Quality Certification
and Public Trust Section

7/17/2013
Date

Attachment: Interested Parties List

**FIRE MOUNTAIN LODGE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
RELICENSING AND DAM SAFETY REPAIRS
INTERESTED PARTIES LIST**

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