

Memorandum

Date: June 26, 2018

To: Michelle Siebal
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Water Quality Certification Program
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812

From: Neil Manji, Regional Manager
Northern Region



Subject: **Klamath River Renewal Corporation Lower Klamath Project Draft Water Quality Certification for Federal Permit or License (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 14803) Klamath River, Siskiyou County**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) considers the implementation of the Lower Klamath Project the single most important project necessary to improve water quality conditions in the Lower Klamath River. In addition, the project is critical for restoring anadromous fish populations in the Klamath River watershed. We have reviewed the subject document, and we are in support of the conditions as proposed.

Based on our review of the Draft Water Quality Certification the Klamath River Renewal Corporation will be required to submit a number of plans to the State Water Resources Control Board prior to implementing the project, and in most cases, no later than six months following the issuance of a license surrender order by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

A number of the plans require coordination with the Department, and possibly our project partners, during their development. We list below the plans that require coordination with the Department. Deadlines for plans not due within six months of the FERC surrender order are identified in parentheses:

1. Water Quality Monitoring Plan
2. Fish Presence Monitoring Plan (due 24 months following FERC Order)
3. Tributary-Mainstem Connectivity Plan
4. Spawning Habitat Availability Report and Plan (due no later than December 31 of the year drawdown is completed)
5. Juvenile Salmonid Rescue and Relocation Plan

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6. Hatcheries Management and Operations Plan
7. Restoration Plan
8. Amphibian and Reptile Rescue and Relocation Plan (due three months following FERC Order)
9. Recreation Facilities Plan
10. Hydropower Operations Plan (due 24 months following FERC Order)

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the documents listed above and we support the adoption of the draft Water Quality Certification as proposed. If you have any questions regarding our comments please contact Caitlin Bean Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) at (530) 841-2562 or caitlin.bean@wildlife.ca.gov.

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