Water Quality Certification for Upper American River Hydroelectric Project

Attachment A

California Environmental Quality Act Findings and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Upper American River Hydroelectric Project
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2101

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for purposes of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) relicensing of the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2101, UARP). The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), charged with issuing a water quality certification (certification) for the UARP, is a responsible agency under CEQA. CEQA prohibits an agency from approving a project for which significant effects have been identified, unless the agency can make one or more of a set of three findings set forth in Public Resources Code section 21081, subdivision (a):

(1) Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which mitigate or avoid the significant effects on the environment.

(2) Those changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and have been, or can and should be, adopted by that other agency.

(3) Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or alternatives identified in the environmental impact report. (See also Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15091.)

When significant effects are subject to a finding under paragraph (3) of subdivision (a), the public agency must find that specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the project outweigh the significant effects on the environment, if the agency approves the project. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21081, subd. (b).)

CEQA requires public agencies to prepare a program for monitoring or reporting on the revisions which it requires in the project and the measures it has imposed to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15097, subd. (a).)

SMUD relied on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared jointly by the Commission and the United States Forest Service (USFS) together with a supplemental analysis that augmented the NEPA document to ensure consistency with CEQA. Under Public Resources Code section 21002.1, subdivision (d), when issuing an approval for an aspect of a project for which a lead agency has performed CEQA review, a responsible agency considers only the aspects of the project that the agency is required by law to carry out or approve. The State Water Board therefore provides the following CEQA findings and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) that concern potentially significant impacts to water resources identified by SMUD as part of the CEQA review.

Geology and Soil Resources

Impact G-1: The reduction in streamflow associated with current UARP operations has led to an accumulation of sediment and poor geomorphic conditions in the following stream reaches: Rubicon River below Rubicon Reservoir Dam; Gerle Creek below Loon Lake Reservoir Dam; and South Fork Silver Creek below Ice House Reservoir Dam.

Compliance with the requirement to implement pulse flows as described in Condition 2, the sediment management portion of the adaptive management program in Condition 9-F and the requirement to develop and implement a stabilization plan for the Gerle Creek channel below Loon Lake Dam in Condition 8-G will reduce the impacts to a less-than-significant level. Under Conditions 2, 9-F, and 8-G the geomorphic conditions and sediment load of the affected stream reaches will improve compared to existing conditions.

Implementation of the geomorphology monitoring program required in Condition 8-H throughout the term of the new license and any extensions will ensure that any potential UARP impacts on geology and soil resources are less than significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Water Resources

Impact WR-1: Potential impacts to water quality may occur due to upland erosion and/or sediment deposition into rivers and streams affected by UARP operations or maintenance. Implementation of the UARP includes construction activities associated with the reconstruction, restoration and development of new and existing recreation facilities as well as the use, maintenance and enhancement of roads in the vicinity of the UARP facilities.

Condition 14 of the certification requires that SMUD develop and implement a Recreation Implementation Plan that includes consultation with the State Water Board and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) to determine water quality permitting requirements and obtain coverage, if required, under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ and NPDES No. CAS000002, as amended by Order No. 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-006-DWQ, and amendments thereto) (Construction General Permit). Compliance with Condition 14 will ensure that adequate measures are implemented to reduce or avoid impacts to water quality from construction activities related to recreation facilities.

In addition, Condition 15 requires that SMUD prepare and implement a Transportation System Management Plan that identifies water quality permits required for road maintenance and construction activities and includes measures to control UARP-related erosion associated with road usage and maintenance. Condition 15 requires that all road maintenance and construction activities meet USFS and Army Corps of Engineers specifications and that construction and maintenance activities maintain natural fluvial and colluvial sediment transport to the UARP reaches, as feasible. The requirement to update the plan every five years and provide the USFS-approved plan to the Deputy Director for Water Rights (Deputy Director) provides a means to monitor implementation of the Transportation System Management Plan and to address changes in conditions through the license term and any extensions.

Implementation of Conditions 14 and 15 will ensure that any potential impacts to water resources associated with erosion or sediment deposition are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact WR-2: Construction and operation of the Iowa Hill Development may cause water quality impairments in Slab Creek Reservoir, such as turbidity due to sediment deposition, erosion or mobilization associated with both construction activities and pump-storage operations.

Mitigation Measure WR-2: Mitigation measures are needed to ensure that the final design of the intake/outlet structure incorporates features that prevent sediment mobilization or deleterious turbidity within Slab Creek Reservoir during operation of Iowa Hill. Condition 17 requires that SMUD consult with the State Water Board to ensure that features that minimize sediment mobilization within Slab Creek Reservoir are incorporated into the final design during the intake/outlet structure design process, and reserves authority for the Deputy Director to reject or require modification of design plans that do not adequately address sediment mobilization and turbidity concerns.

In addition, Condition 18 requires SMUD to obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit prior to initiating construction activities and requires implementation of best management practices, including those identified in the required Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. Conditions 32, 33, and 39 require compliance with applicable requirements of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins* (Basin Plan) and provide the ability for the State Water Board to add to or modify the water quality certification as appropriate to ensure compliance with the certification in response to any violation of certification conditions.

Water quality monitoring described in Condition 17 will allow verification that water quality standards are being met during and after construction of Iowa Hill. Condition 8-J requires in situ measurement of turbidity downstream of Slab Creek Dam four times each year after issuance of the new UARP license throughout the license term and any extensions.

Implementation of Conditions 17, 18, 32, 33 and 39 will ensure that any potential impacts to water resources associated with the construction and operation of Iowa Hill are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact WR-3: Tunnel construction for the Iowa Hill development may lead to adverse impacts to groundwater quantity or quality.

Condition 20 requires that SMUD develop and implement a plan, subject to Deputy Director approval, to manage groundwater inflow during construction, minimize groundwater loss, and to monitor groundwater quality and quantity, including creeks and springs in the vicinity of Iowa Hill, for five years once construction is complete. As described in Condition 20, the plan must identify corrective measures to be taken if the tunnel boring operation encounters more groundwater than originally predicted or the completed tunnel seeps more than expected. The plan must also include identification of corrective measures that would be taken if the tunnel boring operation encounters more groundwater than originally predicted in the environmental assessment for Iowa Hill or the completed tunnel seeps more than expected.

Monitoring and implementation of corrective measures, if necessary, required in Condition 20 will ensure that potential impacts to groundwater resources are mitigated.

Implementation of Condition 20 will ensure that any potential impacts to groundwater resources associated with tunnel construction for the Iowa Hill development are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact WR-4: UARP operations may cause potentially significant impacts to water quantity due to the manipulation of reservoir levels and the timing or quantity of instream flows in UARP-affected stream reaches.

Condition 1 specifies minimum instream flows in UARP-affected stream reaches, and Condition 5 requires that SMUD maintain specified reservoir elevations. Condition 2 requires SMUD to release pulse flows in certain stream reaches. Condition 3 requires SMUD to adhere to certain ramping rates for controlled releases.

Condition 6 requires SMUD to develop and implement a Streamflow and Reservoir Elevation Gaging Plan that specifies the monitoring and reporting required to measure compliance with Conditions 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Implementation of Conditions 1, 2, 3, and 5 will ensure that any potential impacts to water resources associated with UARP operations are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact WR-5: UARP operations may cause potentially significant impacts to water quality by altering streamflow in a manner that violates water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plan.

Condition 1 (minimum instream flows) is expected to maintain adequate water temperatures under most water year types and climatic conditions. Condition 1 also provides for the release of additional water in Silver Creek below Junction and Camino Dams in wet years if the flow requirements do not maintain adequate water temperatures. Condition 23 reserves the authority of the State Water Board to require the Licensee to develop a mercury management plan if research and/or water quality and metals bioaccumulation monitoring specified in Conditions 8-J and 9-H indicate that the reservoirs, operations of Iowa Hill or other aspects of UARP operations increase the mobilization or methylation of mercury.

Monitoring and reporting required in Condition 8-J will provide a means to assess compliance with water quality standards for the list of constituents shown in Table 23 in the water quality certification. Condition 8-I specifies requirements for water temperature monitoring.

Implementation of Conditions 1 and 23 will ensure that any potential impacts to water quality associated with the alteration of streamflow are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact WR-6: Recreational activity within and near UARP reservoirs may increase the concentration of human pathogens, which could lead to a violation of water quality objectives for bacteria.

Monitoring and reporting to assess compliance with water quality standards is required under Condition 8-J for popular swim beaches located within UARP impoundments. Condition 39 allows the State Water Board to add to or modify the water quality certification conditions in response to a violation of the certification conditions. Conditions 32 and 33 require SMUD to comply with applicable requirements of the Basin Plan and to take all reasonable measures to protect the beneficial uses of the South Fork American River (SF American River) and Middle Fork American River watersheds. Condition 14 requires recreation improvements, including sanitation and toilet facility improvements at specific sites.

Implementation of Conditions 8-J, 32, 33, and 39 will ensure that any potential impacts to water quality associated with bacteria related to recreational activity are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact WR-7: Operation of the Iowa Hill Development may lead to potentially significant impacts by reducing water temperature within Slab Creek Reservoir and downstream in the SF American River that could adversely affect hardhead (within Slab Creek Reservoir) and foothill yellow-legged frogs (in the SF American River downstream of Slab Creek Reservoir).

Condition 21, subparts A – C, requires that SMUD develop and implement a hardhead monitoring plan, which includes a requirement to monitor water temperatures in shallow water edge habitat in Slab Creek Reservoir. If temperatures are not supportive of hardhead, the Deputy Director has reserved jurisdiction to require additional measures that will be developed when Iowa Hill becomes operational. Condition 21-D prohibits the operation of Iowa Hill from causing reductions of water temperatures below 12ºC in the SF American River downstream of Mosquito Bridge.

Temperature monitoring and reporting to assess compliance with Condition 21-D is required in Condition 8-I.

Implementation of Conditions 21 and 8-I will ensure that any potential impacts to sensitive native aquatic species associated with the operation of the Iowa Hill Development are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact WR-8: UARP operations may lead to conditions that promote the growth of nuisance algae in UARP-affected stream reaches.

Condition 1, which requires a new streamflow regime throughout the UARP area, is expected to reduce the growth of nuisance algae, which can adversely affect water quality, in the two areas where it is most likely to occur: Silver Creek below Junction Reservoir Dam; and South Fork Rubicon River below Robbs Peak Reservoir Dam. If the flows do not address the problem completely, or if nuisance algae becomes established at levels that adversely affects water quality in any other UARP areas, Condition 9-G requires that SMUD control or eliminate excessive algae growth in any UARP-affected stream reach using a method approved by the Deputy Director.

Monitoring required in Condition 8-F will be used to verify that the new flows are effective at preventing nuisance algae from adversely affecting water quality in the UARP vicinity.

Implementation of Conditions 1 and 9-G will ensure that any potential impacts of UARP operations to water resources associated with the growth of nuisance algae are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Aquatic Resources

Impact AR-1: UARP operations and associated impacts on instream flow have the potential to significantly affect resident fish communities (rainbow trout, hardhead and brown trout) by altering the quantity or quality of habitat, and/or interfering with fish movement into or out of UARP impoundments.

Condition 1 specifies minimum streamflows that have been developed to benefit resident fish communities in UARP-affected stream reaches. Condition 5 requires that SMUD maintain specified reservoir elevations in UARP impoundments and that Gerle Creek Reservoir levels allow upstream fish passage between August and October. The new reservoir level requirements will provide for improved fish movement into and out of UARP impoundments.

Monitoring specified in Condition 6, which requires SMUD to develop and implement a streamflow and reservoir elevation gaging plan, will allow for an assessment of compliance with Conditions 1 and 5. Monitoring required in Condition 8-A for rainbow trout, hardhead and brown trout will provide information to assess the status of fish populations in UARP-affected streams and impoundments to determine whether resource objectives are being met.

Implementation of Conditions 1 and 5 will ensure that any potential impacts to aquatic resources associated with resident fish communities due to UARP operations are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact AR-2: UARP operations require that instream flows be periodically adjusted to provide pulse flows, recreation flows or other flow adjustments that are necessary based on water year type and monthly requirements. Rapid adjustments of instream flow may cause stranding or other adverse impacts to aquatic species.

Condition 3 specifies ramping rates for certain stream reaches. Condition 6, which specifies gaging requirements for streamflow and reservoir elevations, will provide monitoring information to verify compliance with Condition 3.

Compliance with Conditions 3 and 6 will ensure that any potential impacts to aquatic species associated with rapid flow adjustments are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact AR-3: UARP dams and impoundments can hinder the downstream movement of large woody debris, which may lead to adverse impacts to aquatic species due to the reduction in habitat complexity that occurs when large woody debris is absent from the stream channel.

Condition 10 requires that mobile instream large woody debris that accumulates upstream of UARP dams be deposited downstream of the dams when conditions are safe enough to allow the debris to be moved. Condition 10 also requires SMUD to report annually on the efforts made during the year to deposit large woody debris below the dams, which will provide monitoring information to ensure compliance with Condition 10.

Compliance with Condition 10 will ensure that any potential impacts to aquatic species associated with a lack of large woody debris are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact AR-4: Operation of the Iowa Hill Development may cause potentially adverse impacts to aquatic species within Slab Creek Reservoir due to entrainment into the intake/outlet structure that will be located within the reservoir.

Condition 17 requires SMUD to consult with the State Water Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) during the intake/outlet structure design process, to ensure that the final design incorporates features that minimize or prevent fish entrainment into the structure. Condition 17 allows the Deputy Director to reject or require modifications of the design, construction and operations plans if the plans do not adequately address water quality, sediment mobilization, turbidity, fish entrainment risk and the creation of dangerous hydraulic conditions in Slab Creek Reservoir.

Fish community monitoring and reporting for Slab Creek Reservoir as required in Condition 21-A and Condition 21-C will provide information to assess whether entrainment is being successfully prevented or minimized.

Compliance with Condition 17 will ensure that any potential impacts to aquatic species associated with entrainment in Slab Creek Reservoir are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Terrestrial Resources

Impact TR-1: UARP operations affect reservoir levels and instream flows, which may cause potentially-significant impacts to riparian vegetation or wetlands along UARP-affected stream reaches or in the vicinity of UARP impoundments. Diverting flows or reducing the intensity of peak flows may alter riparian vegetation composition, lead to channel encroachment, or decrease riparian cover. Reservoir fluctuation may reduce wetland abundance and species diversity.

Monitoring required by Condition 8-E will provide information to periodically assess the status of the riparian plant community at established study sites throughout the license term and any extensions. Condition 6, which specifies gaging requirements for streamflow and reservoir elevations, will provide monitoring information to verify compliance with Conditions 1 (minimum instream flows), 2 (pulse flows) and 5 (reservoir elevations).

Compliance with Conditions 1, 2 and 5 will ensure that any potential impacts to riparian vegetation and/or wetlands associated with UARP operations are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact TR-2: UARP operations may adversely affect sensitive amphibian species due to flow fluctuations and/or altered water temperature conditions associated with required flow releases.

Condition 3 specifies ramping rates for specific reaches, which are designed to avoid significant impacts on sensitive amphibian species. Conditions 9-A, 9-B, 9-C and 9-D identify adaptive management measures for flow requirements to avoid spill events at times that would negatively impact sensitive amphibians and to establish the appropriate water temperature trigger associated with foothill yellow-legged frog breeding activity. Condition 21-D prohibits the operation of Iowa Hill from further reducing water temperatures below 12ºC in the SF American River downstream of Mosquito Bridge.

Amphibian monitoring and reporting required in Conditions 8-C and 8-D, together with water temperature monitoring required in Condition 8-I, will provide a means to monitor UARP impacts to sensitive amphibian species.

Implementation of Conditions 3, 9-A, 9-B, 9-C, 9-D, and 21-D will ensure that any potential impacts to sensitive amphibian species associated with UARP operation are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact TR-3: UARP operations may adversely impact bald eagles due to the potential for disturbance of bald eagle nesting sites.

Condition 8-L requires that SMUD develop and implement a bald eagle monitoring plan subject to approval by the Deputy Director that identifies bald eagle nesting sites located in the vicinity of the UARP in order to avoid impacts to bald eagles from UARP-related activities. This is consistent with the *Rationale Report for Relicensing Settlement Agreement* (January 29, 2007), which states “populations of threatened and endangered wildlife and plant species shall be maintained or enhanced, and viable populations of sensitive species shall be maintained.”

Compliance with Condition 8-L will ensure that any potential impacts on bald eagles due to UARP operations are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Threatened and Endangered Species Resources

Impact TE-1: UARP operations and facilities have the potential to adversely impact California red-legged frogs, which are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Although California red-legged frogs have not been found in or near UARP impoundments or UARP-affected stream reaches, they have been observed in the vicinity (less than five miles) of the UARP as recently as 2003.

Compliance with Condition 8-C, which requires SMUD to develop and implement a monitoring program for sensitive amphibian species, will provide information on the presence of red-legged frogs in the immediate vicinity of the UARP. If monitoring indicates that California red-legged frogs are present in the immediate vicinity of the UARP, Condition 8-C requires that SMUD consult with the State Water Board to determine whether additional measures are necessary to conserve California red-legged frogs. Compliance with Condition 34 disallows any act that will result in take without proper authorization.

Compliance with Conditions 8-C and 34 will ensure that any potential impacts to threatened and endangered species associated with California red-legged frogs due to UARP operations and facilities are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact TE-2: UARP operations have the potential to adversely affect the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, a species that is listed as threatened under the federal ESA. Elderberry plants, which serve as the habitat for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, were found within the UARP area at locations associated with transmissions lines.

Compliance with Condition 26, which requires SMUD to develop and implement a vegetation and invasive weed management plan that incorporates the USFWS' Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Conservation Guidelines[1], will ensure that measures are taken to protect and conserve the habitat of the beetle. Compliance with Condition 34 disallows any act that will result in take without proper authorization.

Compliance with Conditions 26 and 34 will ensure that any potential impacts to threatened and endangered species associated with the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle due to UARP operations are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Recreation Resources

Impact RR-1: Construction and operation of the Iowa Hill Development may prevent or alter recreational access to Slab Creek Reservoir.

Compliance with Condition 22, which requires SMUD to develop, receive Deputy Director approval, and implement a plan that addresses recreational access during and after construction of the Iowa Hill Development, will ensure that any potential impacts to recreation resources associated with recreation access are less-than significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact RR-2: UARP operations affect reservoir elevations in the impoundments, which may significantly affect recreational opportunities. For example, reservoir elevations that are too low may prevent the use of recreational facilities such as boat ramps.

Compliance with Condition 5, which requires that SMUD maintain specified reservoir elevations during the summer recreation season will ensure that any potential impacts to recreation resources associated with recreational opportunities are less-than-significant. Monitoring and reporting of reservoir levels required in Conditions 6 and 7 will provide a means to assess compliance. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact RR-3: UARP operations affect instream flow in UARP-affected stream reaches, which can affect recreational boating opportunities in the UARP vicinity.

[1] United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office Conservation Guidelines for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, July 1999.

Condition 4 requires SMUD to provide specified recreation flows in certain stream reaches, which will increase recreational boating opportunities. Monitoring and reporting of instream flow required in Conditions 6 and 7 will provide a means to assess compliance.

Compliance with Condition 4 will ensure that any potential impacts to recreation resources associated with recreational boating opportunities are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact RR-4: Operation of the Iowa Hill Development may lead to potentially hazardous hydraulic conditions in Slab Creek Reservoir in the vicinity of the intake/outlet structure that may adversely impact recreational activities.

Condition 17 requires that SMUD consult with the CDFW, USFWS and the State Water Board during the intake/outlet structure design process to ensure that the final design minimizes any potentially hazardous hydraulic conditions in Slab Creek Reservoir that may affect recreational activity. The design must include safety features, including boat restraining barriers, warning signs, and other guidance to the public as needed, and must follow the FERC *Guidelines for Public Safety at Hydropower Projects*. The Deputy Director may require changes in the plan to address recreational impacts.

Compliance with Condition 17 will ensure that any potential impacts to recreation resources associated with hydraulic conditions in Slab Creek Reservoir are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Impact RR-5: Operation of the UARP may cause impacts to recreational fishing opportunities in UARP-affected stream reaches and/or UARP impoundments.

Condition 16 requires that SMUD match the type and amount of fish stocked by CDFW at Loon Lake, Union Valley, and Ice House Reservoirs, with up to a total of 50,000 pounds of fish provided by SMUD per year, to be distributed as determined by CDFW. However, in no case shall the amount of fish provided by SMUD be less than 25,000 pounds per year. Condition 16 requires that SMUD provide annual notification to the Deputy Director by July 1 regarding the fish stocking arrangements for that year, which will allow the State Water Board to monitor that the fish stocking requirement is being met.

Compliance with Condition 16 will ensure that any potential impacts to recreation resources associated with recreational fishing opportunities are less-than-significant. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.

Aesthetic Resources

Impact AE-1: UARP operations affect reservoir elevations in the impoundments, which may alter the aesthetic quality for visitors to the UARP.

Compliance with Condition 5, which requires SMUD to maintain specified reservoir elevations, will ensure that any potential impacts to aesthetic resources associated with reservoir elevations are less-than-significant and will improve the aesthetic quality for visitors to the UARP compared to the existing condition. Monitoring and reporting requirements that address reservoir

elevations are contained in Conditions 6 and 7, and will be used to assess compliance with Condition 5. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the UARP which mitigate or avoid any significant effects on the environment.