

Jane Farwell - Reclamation Comments on April 2011 2nd RDEIR for Water Rights Permits

From: "Gruenhagen, Ned M" <NGruenhagen@usbr.gov>
To: "JFarwell@waterboards.ca.gov" <JFarwell@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 5/31/2011 5:06 PM
Subject: Reclamation Comments on April 2011 2nd RDEIR for Water Rights Permits
CC: "Woodley, Richard J" <RWoodley@usbr.gov>, "Jackson, Michael P." <MJackson@usbr.gov>, "Colella, Robert F" <RColella@usbr.gov>
Attachments: Comments Revised Environmental Impact Report.pdf

Greetings,

Reclamation has attached a copy of the document with comments that were previously submitted. No further comments have been added during the extension.

Thank you,

Ned

Ned M. Gruenhagen, Ph.D.
Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
South-Central California Area Office
1243 N Street
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel. (559) 487-5227
Mobile (559) 284-2735
Fax (559) 487-5397



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MAY 16 2011

MP-460
WTR-4.10

Ms. Jane Farwell
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Subject: Comments on Second Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report Prepared in Connection with Consideration of Modifications to 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 (SCH #1999051051), Cachuma Project, California

Dear Ms. Farwell:

The Bureau of Reclamation appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the State Water Board on the subject revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (2011 DEIR). Reclamation has reviewed the 2011 DEIR and hereby submits comments on the document pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.


Comments

Reclamation concurs with the State Water Board that alternative 3C (existing Cachuma Project operations) is the environmentally superior alternative that meets the project objectives, and Reclamation supports this alternative as the preferred alternative and proposed project.

Reclamation further agrees that Alternative 4B (State Water Project Discharge to Lompoc Forebay) is no longer a viable alternative because the City of Lompoc has twice rejected State Water Project water as a new supply and the City of Lompoc has entered into a Settlement Agreement with the downstream water right interests and the Member Units that resolves their water quality issues. The Settlement Agreement is incorporated into Alternative 3C and current Cachuma Project operations, as is the National Marine Fisheries Service's biological opinion for southern California steelhead.

Please refer any questions regarding these comments to Mr. Bob Colella of our Water Rights staff at 916-978-5256, or to Ms. Rena Ballew of Reclamation's South-Central California Area Office at 559-487-5504.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard J. Woodley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" being the most prominent part.

Richard J. Woodley
Regional Resources Manager