
State Water Resources Control Board

August 22, 2013

Danielle Vigil-Masten, Chair
Hoopa Valley Tribal Council
P.O. Box 1348
Hoopa, CA 95546

Dear Chair Vigil-Masten:

SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATION FOR KLAMATH HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 2082.

Thank you for your July 10, 2013, letter concerning the Klamath Hydroelectric Project's (Project) water quality certification process. We appreciate the Hoopa Valley Tribal Council's (Council) input and look forward to collaborating with the Council on our shared goal of improving water quality in the Klamath River. The State Water Board did not receive any requests to extend the water quality certification abeyance per State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Resolution No. 2012-0039. Processing of the Project's water quality certification; therefore, resumed on July 1, 2013.

From April 14 through April 17, 2013, State Water Board Chairperson Felicia Marcus and Board Member Steven Moore, along with staff from the State Water Board and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board visited with each of the five California tribes located near the Project. The purpose of the meetings was to listen to each tribe's concerns regarding water quality in the region. Several of the tribes discussed water quality issues related to the Klamath River and their views regarding the 401 water quality certification abeyance. The State Water Board members considered this information and staff will continue to accept information regarding the Project from interested parties.

On June 13, 2013, PacifiCorp Energy (PacifiCorp) sent a letter to the State Water Board proposing the tasks and timeline for updating the Project's water quality certification application. On June 28, 2013, the State Water Board responded to the letter stating that staff would review the proposed work plan and schedule a meeting to discuss the proposal. State Water Board staff met with PacifiCorp on July 29, 2013, to discuss the proposed work plan. During the meeting, State Water Board and PacifiCorp staff generally discussed what new information should be integrated into the updated water quality certification application. It is expected that PacifiCorp will update its water quality certification application in accordance with the schedule outlined in its June 13, 2013 letter.

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There are many parties interested in improving the water quality of the Klamath River, with varying thoughts on the best path forward. The State Water Board is compiling information that already exists from multiple forums in order to have the most up-to-date and useable information for the State Water Board's compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the Clean Water Act. The State Water Board considers input from all parties when making its decisions. As PacifiCorp's Project progresses through the water quality certification process we invite the Council and other interested parties to share thoughts and information that will be used to inform future decisions.

PacifiCorp's September 26, 2008 water quality certification application, annual withdrawal and resubmittals of this application, State Water Board Resolution No. 2012-0039, and recent correspondence between PacifiCorp and the State Water Board are available on the Project webpage at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/klamath_ferc2082.shtml

The June 13, 2013 letter can be accessed directly at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/docs/klamath_ferc2082/pacificorpltr.pdf

If you have questions related to the Project, please contact Mr. Parker Thaler, Project Manager, at parker.thaler@waterboards.ca.gov, or 916-341-5321. Written correspondence should be addressed as follows:

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Attn: Parker Thaler
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812

Sincerely,



Felicia Marcus
Chair