



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

JUL 13 2012

Mr. Victor Gonella
President
Golden Gate Salmon Association
1370 Auto Center Drive
Petaluma, CA 94952

Mr. Bill Jennings, Chairman
Executive Director
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
3536 Rainier Avenue
Stockton, CA 95204

Dear Mr. Gonella and Mr. Jennings:

PETITION TO REOPEN AND AMEND OROVILLE FACILITIES HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT'S WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION (FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 2100)

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) would like to thank Golden Gate Salmon Association and California Sportfishing Protection Alliance for the information presented regarding the presence and spawning of North American green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*) in the Feather River. Currently, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is in the process of completing a biological opinion for the Oroville Facilities Hydroelectric Project (Project). Until the biological opinion is issued, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) cannot issue a new license, and the Project continues to operate under annual renewal of the existing license and existing license conditions. The water quality certification, adopted by the State Water Board on December 15, 2010, will not go into effect until the new license is issued by the FERC.

According to the NMFS letter dated June 22, 2012, the biological opinion for the Project will be issued within a few months. State Water Board staff plan to review the biological opinion before making a recommendation whether or not to reopen and amend the water quality certification.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Michelle Lobo, at (916) 327-3117 or by email at MLobo@waterboards.ca.gov. Written correspondence should be directed to: State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, Attn: Michelle Lobo, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95814-2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BEVOY".

Barbara Evoy
Deputy Director

CHARLES R. HOPPIN, CHAIRMAN | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JUL 13 2012

cc: Ms. Maria Rea
Supervisor, Central Valley Office
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Region
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814-4700

Mr. Kent Smith
Regional Manager
California Department of Fish and Game
North Central Region
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Mr. Ted Craddock
Acting Chief
Department of Water Resources
Hydro License Planning and Compliance
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Mr. Peter Cross
Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
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