

**In The Matter Of:**  
*PIT 1 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT*  
*REDDING, CA*

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*June 11, 2013*

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SCOPING MEETING FOR  
PIT 1 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT  
401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AMENDMENT

Tuesday, June 11, 2013  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205  
Redding, California  
9:00 a.m.

Meeting Presented by:

PETER W. BARNES, Environmental Scientist,  
State Water Resources Control Board

Also Present:

Susan Monheit, Senior Environmental Scientist,  
State Water Resources Control Board

Shruti Ramaker, Senior Project Scientist,  
Cardno ENTRIX

Steve Youge, Cardno ENTRIX

Cheryl K. Smith, CSR

License No. 5257

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State Water Resources Control Board 3

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- June 11, 2013

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR PIT 1 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

2 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AMENDMENT

3 Tuesday, June 11, 2013

4 9:00 a.m.

5 ---o0o---

6 MR. BARNES: I guess we'll get started. I think  
7 everybody who is going to show up has shown up already.

8 My name is Peter Barnes. I'm the project manager  
9 for this project, the Pit 1 Water Quality Certification  
10 Amendment on the Pit River. This is Susan Monheit, my  
11 supervisor.

12 MS. MONHEIT: Hi.

13 MR. BARNES: So the objective of this meeting is  
14 to solicit comments on potential impacts of the proposed  
15 Amendment of Pit 1, the Hydroelectric Project 401 Water  
16 Quality Certification. We have a pretty short and  
17 straightforward agenda. We're going to go over some ground  
18 rules, do a presentation which will go over the background  
19 and overview of the proposed Project. And we'll have a  
20 comment period in which you can submit verbal comments. And  
21 then we'll just have a little closing. I also will be able  
22 to answer any general questions you might have regarding the  
23 Project.

24 If you don't wish to submit verbal comments today,  
25 you can submit written comments up until noon on June 24th,

3

1 so that's about a week and a half from today. I know I've  
2 already gotten a substantial number of comments from the  
3 general public via email, so my email address is up there.  
4 It's also on the notice of preparation. I believe there's a  
5 stack of my cards in the back of the room. So if you have  
6 any questions regarding this Project, feel free to shoot me  
7 an email or a phone call.

8 I want to go over the ground rules real quick.  
9 Just makes the meeting go a little easier if everybody  
10 follows these rules.

11 First, concerns regarding the Project and  
12 suggestions regarding alternative project solutions should  
13 be raised during the public comment period so that they can  
14 be appropriately addressed when analyzing the facts of the  
15 Project in the Environmental Impact Report.

16 Comments may be limited to a set amount of time  
17 based on the number of people wishing to speak. I don't  
18 think we're going to have that problem today.

19 The purpose of the meeting is not to discuss  
20 comments, but we will answer general questions.

21 Please respect all speakers. All points of view  
22 are valid.

23 No decisions will be made today.

24 Everyone should agree to make a strong effort to  
25 stay on track with the agenda and move the discussion

1 forward.

2 Questions of clarification are encouraged.

3 Disparaging comments are discouraged.

4 And as you can see, we don't really have a  
5 microphone set up here, so if you can't hear me tell me to  
6 speak up. Also when you're giving your comments, please  
7 speak loudly and clearly and state your name.

8 So I'm going to start with the presentation.

9 ---o0o---

10 SLIDE SHOW IS PRESENTED ALONG

11 WITH THE FOLLOWING ORAL PRESENTATION

12 ---o0o---

13 So we're here for the Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project  
14 401 Water Quality Certification Amendment Public Scoping  
15 Meetings. All right. We're holding one here this morning  
16 in Redding, and we're going to hold one this evening up in  
17 McArthur near where the Project is located. And if anybody  
18 wants to attend that one, it's at the Intermountain  
19 Fairgrounds and should be starting at 6:00.

20 So the meeting is set up. We have a sign-in sheet  
21 in the back with speaker cards. Please fill out a speaker  
22 card and bring it up here if you'd like to speak. As we  
23 said before, comments may be limited to a set amount of  
24 time. We're not here to discuss comments, but I will answer  
25 general questions. No decisions will be made today. Please

1 respect all speakers. And all points of view are valid.

2 Just a little outline of the presentation. I'm  
3 going to go through a background and discuss the State Water  
4 Board's Mission, the original Pit 1 Water Quality  
5 Certification, and then PG&E's request for the Water Quality  
6 Certification Amendment. And then we're going to go talk  
7 about CEQA and the State Water Board's role, the CEQA  
8 process, the public input process, and then the next the  
9 step is moving forward.

10 State Water Board Mission Statement. The Mission  
11 of the State Water Board is to preserve, enhance, and  
12 restore the quality of California's water resources, and  
13 ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the  
14 benefit of present and future generations.

15 And as always, more information will be found on  
16 our website at [waterboards.ca.gov](http://waterboards.ca.gov). You can always contact  
17 me by phone or email.

18 The State Water Board is a joint authority over  
19 water rights and water quality in order to protect --  
20 provide for protection of California's waters. And they  
21 basically -- we protect, enforce and balance the many  
22 beneficial uses of water. And some of these beneficials --  
23 beneficial uses include, but are not limited to, irrigation,  
24 power, recreation, municipal, whitewater boating, fish and  
25 wildlife preservation or enhancement. Additionally the

1 State Water Board is charged with preventing waste and  
2 unreasonable use of water.

3 So here's some background on the Pit 1 Water  
4 Quality Certification. It was issued December 4th, 2001 as  
5 a result of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
6 relicensing of the Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project which is  
7 owned and operated by PG&E.

8 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC,  
9 issued their license on March 19th, 2003. And the Water  
10 Quality Certification was a part of that license.

11 In this Water Quality Certification there are two  
12 conditions which we're discussing today, it's Condition 13  
13 and 14.

14 Condition 13 requires PG&E to release flushing  
15 flows through Fall River Pond for two consecutive days, a  
16 Saturday and a Sunday three times per year. And those are  
17 to occur in May or June, and then July and August. And the  
18 flushing flows were put in place to control aquatic  
19 vegetation and mosquito production in Fall River Pond.

20 Condition 14 requires PG&E to monitor the  
21 effectiveness of flushing flows in controlling aquatic  
22 vegetation and mosquito production at Fall River Pond.  
23 Initial monitoring required for five years after the  
24 issuance of a new license. And after a five-year monitoring  
25 report, the State Water Board may modify it or terminate



1 the -- the flushing flow monitoring program as it sees  
2 necessary.

3 So PG&E has requested an amendment to that Water  
4 Quality Certification to eliminate those conditions. And  
5 this came about, it started first on May 21st, 2009 when the  
6 State Water Board received a letter from the United States  
7 Fish and Wildlife Service requesting the suspension of  
8 flushing flows due to concerns that the flows were  
9 contributing to the decline of the Shasta crayfish.

10 The Shasta crayfish is listed as endangered under  
11 both the California and Federal Endangered Species Acts.  
12 And they were listed in 1988.

13 On June 14th, 2009, PG&E submitted a request to  
14 the State Water Board to amend the Pit 1 Water Quality  
15 Certification to remove Conditions 13 and 14. And this  
16 request was based on monitoring results which indicate  
17 higher base flow of 150 cubic feet per second may be more  
18 effective in controlling aquatic vegetation and mosquito  
19 production than flushing flows; that fact, coupled with the  
20 belief that the flows were harming the endangered Shasta  
21 crayfish.

22 So CEQA and the State Water Board's role. In  
23 order to take action on a Water Quality Certification  
24 Amendment request, the State Water Board must comply with  
25 CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act.

1           And although flushing flows provide an incidental  
2 whitewater recreational opportunity, the State Water Board  
3 has temporarily suspended flushing flows out of an abundance  
4 of caution for endangered species protection while CEQA  
5 process is completed. And those are orders that have been  
6 issued and they're available on our website. They've all  
7 been posted there.

8           And CEQA, or the California Environmental Quality  
9 Act. The Amendment of the Water Quality Certification to  
10 eliminate or modify flushing flows is a discretionary  
11 action. Since PG&E is not a public agency, the State Water  
12 Resources Control Board is the CEQA lead agency. Therefore,  
13 that means the State Water Board determines the type of  
14 document that must be completed in order to satisfy CEQA  
15 requirements. And this document must represent State Water  
16 Board's independent judgment.

17           The objectives of CEQA. To disclose significant  
18 environmental effects of proposed activities. Identify ways  
19 to avoid or reduce environmental damage. Prevent  
20 environmental damage by requiring implementation of feasible  
21 alternatives or mitigation. Disclose reasons for agency  
22 approval of projects with significant environmental effects.  
23 Foster interagency coordination in review of projects. And  
24 enhance public participation in the planning process.

25           For this proposed project, the State Water Board

1 has decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Report, or  
2 an EIR. An EIR is designed to identify significant impacts  
3 and mitigation measures to reduce those significant  
4 impacts. Excuse me. Alternatives will be evaluated with  
5 regards to how they meet project objectives and overall  
6 feasibility. Final feasibility of alternatives will be  
7 determined when the State Water Board adopts the findings  
8 based on the final EIR.

9 For the development of the CEQA documents, the  
10 State Water Board has entered a three party Memorandum of  
11 Understanding, or MOU, with PG&E and Cardno ENTRIX.  
12 Cardno ENTRIX is the environmental consultant and they will  
13 develop the environmental documents under the sole direction  
14 of the State Water Board. Cardno ENTRIX is compensated for  
15 its work by PG&E, but PG&E is not allowed to direct any of  
16 the work done by Cardno ENTRIX.

17 And then finally we have public input. In  
18 addition to this meeting, we'll -- we're accepting comments  
19 regarding the Notice of Preparation until noon of June 24th,  
20 2013. And the draft EIR will also be released for public  
21 review and comment. We'll take all those comments into  
22 consideration and review them carefully.

23 Additional information can be found on the  
24 website. The link is kind of long. I don't expect you to  
25 write it down, but it is available in the Notice of

1 Preparation.

2           And if you would like to receive future updates  
3 you can sign up for our emails online at this email address.  
4 You select "State Water Resources Control Board," enter  
5 email address and full name. Under category select "Water  
6 Rights," and then select box for "Water Rights Water Quality  
7 Certification," and click "subscribe" button at the bottom  
8 and that will put you on the email list and then you will  
9 get updates on all of our Water Quality Certification  
10 projects.

11           So I'm here to take any general questions you  
12 might have regarding the Project. And following those  
13 questions, we'll proceed with the public comment period.  
14 Any questions?

15           MR. STEINDORF: My name is Dave Steindorf,  
16 S-T-E-I-N-D-O-R-F.

17           So Peter, could you describe in a little more  
18 detail the -- what is on the Water Board's plate in terms of  
19 what is the actual amendment that you're evaluating.

20           MR. BARNES: Yes. Under CEQA, the scope of our  
21 project is we're looking at the removal of those two  
22 conditions from the Water Quality Certification, what are  
23 the impacts of doing that. So that's what our sole focus is  
24 on, and how do we mitigate any impacts that might come about  
25 from doing that, what would those impacts be and how do we

1 do that. So the removal of the flushing flows and the  
2 monitoring of those flushing flows, that's the focus of this  
3 EIR.

4 Any other questions?

5 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is George Williams.

6 Oh, at what time would the flushing flows be  
7 removed during the year?

8 MR. BARNES: They're -- right now they're  
9 required for one weekend in either May or June, July and  
10 August, and those are the ones we're looking at. We're not  
11 looking at any -- removing any of the fall flushing flows,  
12 just the summer ones that are used to control -- that were  
13 put in place to control aquatic vegetation and mosquito  
14 production in the fall.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: So the flows that would normally be  
16 seasonally flushing the river if the dam wasn't there would,  
17 generally speaking, still be done in the fall?

18 MR. BARNES: The fall flows that are in place now  
19 would remain. And then the base flows that are in place now  
20 would remain. It's just the -- the elimination of the  
21 flushing flows.

22 MR. WILLIAMS: And PG&E wants to increase the  
23 flows to 150 CFS?

24 MR. BARNES: It's already been increased to 150  
25 CFS.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Continuously throughout the year?

2 MR. BARNES: As directed in the Water Quality  
3 Certification. But I believe in the summer months the 150  
4 CFS is being maintained, and that's what they're -- that is  
5 what is believed to be controlling aquatic vegetation and  
6 mosquito production.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife has made  
8 that determination?

9 MR. BARNES: No, PG&E is monitoring the  
10 situation. As they have been doing monitoring for five  
11 years after implementation of the Water Quality  
12 Certification, they saw that it was most likely the -- it  
13 was the higher base flows are controlling the vegetation.  
14 They've continued to monitor -- as we've temporarily  
15 suspended flushing flows, they've continued to monitor  
16 vegetation, and it's my belief that -- excuse me -- 150 CFS  
17 has been adequately maintained.

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. But there hasn't been any  
19 studies done by Cal. Fish and Game -- there hasn't been any  
20 studies done by Cal. Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
21 on the Pit?

22 MR. BARNES: They've done substantial amount of  
23 studies, just nothing regarding --

24 MR. WILLIAMS: The crayfish.

25 MR. BARNES: No, the vegetation. They've studied

1 the crayfish to the best of their abilities which is allowed  
2 by law. Certain studies aren't allowed because it's  
3 believed that it would be too harmful to the crayfish.

4 Any other questions?

5 All right. We'll open up for public comment.

6 Prior to speaking, please state and spell your name for the  
7 recorder. Pretty straightforward. I know a couple of you  
8 have done this before, very similar.

9 We'll start off with Dave Steindorf.

10 MR. STEINDORF: I think I was going to let Matt go  
11 first.

12 MR. BARNES: All right. Well, Matt can go first  
13 and then Dave.

14 MR. MYERS: Do you want us to come up there or  
15 just --

16 MR. BARNES: Yeah, just the closer you can get  
17 would be the better. She does have a little microphone.

18

19 PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERS

20 ---o0o---

21 MR. MYERS: Okay. I'm Matt Myers, M-Y-E-R-S, from  
22 California Department of Fish and Wildlife. I'm the Region  
23 1 FERC Coordinator. So I just have a couple of comments.

24 First one, the California Department of Fish and  
25 Wildlife believes that a new survey for Shasta crayfish and

1 non-native crayfish in the Pit 1 Project is needed in order  
2 for the EIR to evaluate the potential effects. It is our  
3 understanding that the last survey was conducted in 2009 in  
4 the Pit 1 Bypass Reach, and that very few Shasta crayfish  
5 were found.

6 According to CEQA guidelines, Section 15125  
7 Environmental Setting, an EIR must include the description  
8 of the physical and environmental conditions in the vicinity  
9 of the Project as they exist at the time the Notice of  
10 Preparation is published.

11 It further states this environmental setting will  
12 normally constitute the baseline physical conditions by  
13 which a lead agency determines whether an impact is  
14 significant.

15 The Department believes the 2009 survey results  
16 are outdated and new surveys are needed in order for the EIR  
17 to accurately define the current baseline conditions.

18 The Department also believes that the entire  
19 Project's flow regime should be evaluated and compared to  
20 the baseline conditions in order to avoid or minimize  
21 potential effects to Shasta crayfish within the Project  
22 area.

23 Other interested parties have expressed a need for  
24 a single table to summarize all the historic Pit 1 Project  
25 surveys and results which have been conducted for the Shasta



1 crayfish and non-native crayfish. The Department supports  
2 the need for this table, and it should be included in the  
3 EIR.

4 We have no other further comments. We will submit  
5 written comments if something else comes up by the June 24th  
6 deadline.

7 Thanks for your time.

8 ---o0o---

9  
10 MR. BARNES: Thank you.

11 Dave.

12  
13 PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMITTED BY DAVE STEINDORF

14 ---o0o---

15 MR. STEINDORF: My name is Dave Steindorf,  
16 S-T-E-I-N-D-O-R-F. I'm the California Stewardship Director  
17 for American Whitewater.

18 So 17 years ago American Whitewater began working  
19 on the Hydroelectric Project and its relicensing. Over the  
20 next seven years we attended numerous meetings and spent  
21 countless hours working on this Project for a variety of  
22 interests, including whitewater recreation.

23 The State Water Resources Control Board has an  
24 agency that had mandatory conditioning authority  
25 fortunately recognizing that whitewater recreation was a

1 beneficial use that needed to be considered. In fact, just  
2 last week I spoke with Jim Canaday, who wrote the 401  
3 Certification for this Project. C-A-N-A-D-A-Y.  
4 And Jim was very explicit that the flushing flows for this  
5 Project were there for a dual purpose.

6 One is that the purpose it was stated for flushing  
7 aquatic vegetation. The other one was that it was there  
8 specifically for the purpose of -- of providing for  
9 whitewater recreation. He said that the PG&E Project  
10 manager, Jim Holman, H-O-L-M-A-N I believe, he also  
11 corroborated that -- that version of events.

12 We do have a problem that is not explicitly stated  
13 within the 401; however, Jim is certainly willing to sign an  
14 affidavit to that point. The main thing there is looking at  
15 the fact that there were dual purpose for this, so just  
16 simply looking at the -- the aquatic vegetation component of  
17 the flushing flows we believe is inadequate, and we need to  
18 evaluate both of those. But also as -- as the Board has  
19 acknowledged under CEQA, you know, the baseline for this is  
20 with those recreational flows, flushing flows in place, that  
21 needs to be evaluated.

22 And in going to relicensing, we did come to this  
23 balancing where the six days of summer flushing flows was  
24 going to meet our interest. We determined that that was an  
25 acceptable balance, even though under the unimpaired flow

1 regime there would have been 365 days of flows on this  
2 particular Project. We did not contest the license, we said  
3 that that was acceptable, and our assumption was that these  
4 flows would be in place for the duration of the license.

5 And we also recognize that even though those were  
6 in the license, this proposed amendment would significantly  
7 reduce the amount of whitewater recreation on the Project,  
8 and that's something that -- that needs to be evaluated not  
9 only for the effect of removing that opportunity, but also  
10 it fundamentally changes the license and it changes the  
11 reason why we actually engaged in this relicensing in the  
12 first place.

13 Looking at the stated reason for this proposed  
14 amendment is that they're saying that the flushing flows via  
15 water temperature are actually causing harm to the Shasta  
16 crayfish.

17 Over Memorial Day weekend, a little thing of what  
18 I did on my summer vacation, I just had the chance to go  
19 paddle up to AjeMaui Springs, which is the headwaters for  
20 the Fall River. Pristine spring creek, the largest spring  
21 creek in California. Some of the best Shasta crayfish  
22 habitat that is still in existence. That water comes down  
23 the Fall River and eventually enters the -- the Pit 1  
24 Forebay. At this point the water enters the Forebay and is  
25 warmed substantially as it crosses the Forebay, then it's

1 mixed with the water from the Pit River which is warmer yet.  
2 And then because of the small minimum in-stream flows that  
3 are required to go in the channel, those flows go through  
4 the Pit River ponds adding additional thermal loading or  
5 warming of the water. In the summertime this reaches up  
6 to -- up to nine degrees during summer months, and it  
7 averages anywhere from three degrees Celsius to five degrees  
8 Celsius.

9           So the concept that the flushing flows are  
10 actually causing the harm to the Shasta crayfish we think  
11 is -- is completely erroneous. Clearly the Project is what  
12 is warming the water. The release of the actual natural  
13 flow from the Fall River back into the river system is just  
14 a short term conveyance of that warm water pulse. If you  
15 allow that pulse to continue, it will eventually drop water  
16 temperatures and the river would be returned to its natural  
17 condition, which again we know that the Shasta crayfish  
18 existed throughout this system when it was in its natural  
19 condition.

20           So we recommend that the Board conduct the  
21 modeling necessary to evaluate what would happen if you  
22 release that full flow of the Pit River back -- back into  
23 the Bypass Reach.

24           Additionally there is -- there is a provision  
25 within the 401 to evaluate 50 CFS flow increments to see

1 what those effects would be on not only Shasta crayfish, but  
2 other aquatic species all the way up to a minimum in-stream  
3 flow of 400 CFS. That recommendation was not adopted upon  
4 review, but we recommend that the Board revisit that  
5 particular certification requirement.

6           Unfortunately the water temperature effects on  
7 Shasta crayfish were not assessed when this -- the 401 was  
8 issued for this Project. In order to meet the water quality  
9 standards that are required, as we pointed out earlier, we  
10 feel that those temperature effects need to be assessed in  
11 this amendment process.

12           So the correct scope under CEQA should be for the  
13 protection of Shasta crayfish, not to evaluate the -- just  
14 the narrow effects of flushing flows. The real purpose for  
15 the debates, plans and standards, and really the mandate of  
16 the Water Board is to protect the water quality conditions.

17           Several weeks ago I actually went and spoke  
18 before the Board protecting -- or trying to support the  
19 Board in their ability to actually exercise their reserved  
20 authority for changing conditions just such as this -- this  
21 situation requires.

22           So we ask that the Board use that authority in  
23 this case to reevaluate this particular Project of whether  
24 it's meeting water quality conditions. If you do determine  
25 ultimately that limiting the flushing flows are necessary in

1 order to protect the Shasta crayfish, we're prepared to work  
2 with the Board to find other alternative mitigations in  
3 order to make up for lost whitewater opportunities on this  
4 Project.

5 Thank you.

6 ---o0o---

7 MR. BARNES: Thank you.

8 Any volunteers next? Charlie Guilbault.

9

10 PUBLIC COMMENT PRESENTED BY CHARLIE GUILBAULT

11 ---o0o---

12 G-U-I-L-B-A-U-L-T.

13 I'm Charlie Guilbault. I've known about the  
14 Project for probably ten years or more due to my association  
15 with Dave, and have been boating up there and bringing my  
16 family up there to recreate for at least seven years or so,  
17 and it's a wonderful, wonderful place. It started out as a  
18 beginner slash intermediate boater, and it's since grown my  
19 bag of tricks into at least advanced/intermediate so that I  
20 can go from foraging some of the rapids on the river to  
21 running just about everything except for the big falls,  
22 that's not in my interest.

23 But anyways, I'm concerned that, as Dave said,  
24 that if the Board decides to take this -- or -- or use  
25 science to investigate why the crayfish are declining, in

1 the same sense it seems like they should investigate the  
2 recreational uses as well in the same scope that were  
3 valued, and if this -- if this pulse flow is stopped do we  
4 get, you know, do we get recreation some other way. Is  
5 there a way that that can be channeled around in some other  
6 way, because obviously our recreational needs are best  
7 fitted by removing all the dams, but that's not, you know,  
8 we're not asking for that, we just want to consider if there  
9 is a loss of it, then can we regain that in some way.

10 So, thank you.

11 ---o0o---

12 MR. BARNES: Thank you.

13  
14 PUBLIC COMMENT PRESENTED BY MIKE MARTINI

15 ---o0o---

16 Mike Martini, M-A-R-T-I-N-I.

17 My name is Mike Martini. I've been going to the  
18 Pit Project for eight years, I believe, and it's just a  
19 really good recreational opportunity. It started off with  
20 the summer pulses, if I'm correct, in the very beginning. I  
21 didn't move to the fall until later on. And have gone from  
22 going up there by myself to go boating with friends to now  
23 my daughters have utilized the same resource, and have been  
24 able to do the Class 2 Reach, which is down below the  
25 campground. So you've got everything from Class 4, 5 down

1 to family fun, which is Class 2. And that's in the  
2 summertime when my daughters are off the same time these  
3 pulses are -- could be taken away.

4 So once again, we just want mitigation as far as  
5 if you're removing these recreational opportunities for an  
6 entire family, how do they get moved to another time. But  
7 don't just remove them because they're such a valuable  
8 resource for -- not just for whitewater boating, but for  
9 families and a myriad of people who are recreating on the  
10 river. So looking at the pulses and, you know, the removal  
11 of them, how is that going to be not removed, but mitigated  
12 to another time, or whatever. So that's what I would like  
13 to see.

14 So thank you.

15 ---o0o---

16 MR. BARNES: Thank you.

17 We got our last speaker. If anybody else would  
18 like to speak, you can still submit cards. But last we have  
19 Ronald Rogers.

20

21 PUBLIC COMMENT PRESENTED BY RON ROGERS

22 ---o0o---

23 MR. ROGERS: Hi, my name is Ron Rogers, that's  
24 R-O-G-E-R-S.

25 I've lived in Shasta County since 1981, and I've



1 enjoyed boating the rivers in the North State, including the  
2 Pit River since 1981, so I'm very familiar with the river.  
3 It's an outstanding boating resource. The upper stretch  
4 that we're referring to, the Pit 1 stretch unfortunately has  
5 a major diversion on it that PG&E operates. As an avid  
6 whitewater kayaker we -- or I recognize the necessity for  
7 cheap hydroelectric power, and I'm all in favor of the  
8 operation of the power plant in an environmentally sensitive  
9 manner, and also in a manner that acknowledges that there  
10 are other competing uses of that water, including fishing,  
11 kayaking, nature study, the -- the environment of the river  
12 system itself, and the health of the river system itself.  
13 So I'm not in favor of precluding other uses just for the  
14 sake of whitewater.

15           Due to numerous summer diversions -- or diversions  
16 of other rivers in the state, the whitewater boating  
17 community depends on releases on -- from some of these  
18 hydroelectric facilities such as Pit 1. And we look forward  
19 to those releases when the rest of the rivers are dry either  
20 due to natural conditions or to dams. So it was very  
21 disappointing to hear that -- that our the summer releases  
22 are being curtailed.

23           American Whitewater spent a lot of time and effort  
24 working with the -- the FERC and the -- and the rest of the  
25 stakeholders with coming up with what we felt was a very

1 fair solution to the competing uses of -- of the Project.  
2 So I don't feel that the curtailments of that agreement  
3 should be taken very lightheartedly or without a lot of due  
4 consideration.

5 The -- it's questionable whether or not the Shasta  
6 crayfish even are in existence on that Pit 1 stretch. I --  
7 I agree with the previous speaker that better studies need  
8 to be conducted and to see if there are in fact any  
9 remaining populations down there. The water is generally  
10 just too warm due to the diversion of the Fall River to  
11 support a healthy population of crayfish in there.

12 Any threatened endangered protection standards  
13 should also apply across the board to other users such as  
14 PG&E. Maybe we should be looking at more -- at a higher  
15 base flow release continuously into the Pit River to -- to  
16 establish or maintain any -- any crayfish populations that  
17 are in there.

18 And lastly, if these releases are taken away, then  
19 other mitigations need to be considered such as better  
20 access for whitewater boating on that stretch.

21 Thank you.

22 ---o0o---

23 MR. BARNES: Thank you.

24 Are there any other people who wish to submit  
25 verbal comments at this time? All right, yes.

1 FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT BY DAVE STEINDORF

2 ---o0o---

3 MR. STEINDORF: If I could just make one quick  
4 addendum. Is there anyone here from Fish and Wildlife  
5 Service?

6 MR. BARNES: No.

7 MR. STEINDORF: No. Okay. I would make the same  
8 comment either way. One, I appreciate the State Board  
9 providing this forum for people to express their concerns in  
10 having an open and transparent process whereby we can go  
11 through this amendment process and develop the necessary  
12 information.

13 The fact that the Fish and Wildlife Service, who  
14 is the entity that recommended this amendment has not showed  
15 up to explain their concerns, in my opinion as somebody who  
16 spends a lot of time protecting endangered species and  
17 fighting for resource agencies, I find their actions  
18 completely shameful. And they absolutely should be here to  
19 explain what their rationale is for making this amendment.

20 I appreciate the fact that both of our State  
21 agencies have showed up here to provide comment and provide  
22 this forum. The fact that both FERC and the Fish and  
23 Wildlife Service that we have requested meetings with them  
24 even under threat of lawsuit, and they refused to meet and  
25 discuss this topic.

1           So thank you to our State agencies. And a big  
2 pile of shame for our Federal agencies on this one.

3           Thank you.

4                           ---o0o---

5           MR. BARNES: Thank you. All right. Well, that  
6 wraps up our meeting. I'll be available in the back to  
7 answer any questions you might have regarding the rest of  
8 this process, how we're going to move through this.

9           Also if you know of anybody who couldn't attend  
10 this morning, we're having another Scoping Meeting up in  
11 McArthur at the Intermountain Fairgrounds this evening at  
12 6:00, so you can tell them to head up there if they would  
13 like to.

14           Also you can submit written comments until June  
15 24th - noon, June 24th. So please feel free to do so. I've  
16 already received a substantial number of comments, and I  
17 really appreciate it.

18           I appreciate those who came out today, this  
19 morning, because having collaboration makes this a better  
20 process. So thank you. Have a nice day. Thank you.

21           (The scoping meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.)  
22  
23  
24  
25

1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
2 ) ss.  
3 COUNTY OF SHASTA )  
4  
5  
6

7 I, CHERYL K. SMITH, Certified Shorthand Reporter,  
8 do hereby certify:

9

10 That I acted as such Shorthand Reporter in the  
11 above-entitled scoping meeting; that I took down in  
12 shorthand notes the proceedings given and had at said time  
13 and place;

14

15 That I thereupon caused my stenographic notes to  
16 be transcribed by computer-assisted transcribing, and that  
17 the foregoing 27 pages constitute a full, true and correct  
18 transcript thereof to the best of my ability.

19

20 DATED: June 20, 2013.

21

22

23

24

25

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CHERYL K. SMITH, CSR 5257

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