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Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Stanislaus National Forest

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File Code: 2770

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Date: May 30, 2012		HYDRO LICENSING	
ORIG.		CC:	
	JUN 05 2012		
FERC NO.	2130	TRACK NO:	2872220
FILE NO.		ACTION:	

Dear Mr. Doble:

Thank you for your letter of May 18, 2012, providing the revised drawdown curve for Pinecrest Lake. Your package also included the original data and drawdown curve for the Relief Reach of the Middle Fork of the Stanislaus River. Both drawdown curves are required under Forest Service 4e condition No. 34 of the Spring Gap-Stanislaus Project, FERC License #2130.

As you know, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) originally submitted the proposed drawdown curves for both Pinecrest Lake and the Relief Reach on April 13, 2012, prior to the 4e condition timing requirement of April 15 annually. A copy of the submittal was also provided to other interested Agencies including Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD), the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and CA Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G). As a result of our review – along with concerns expressed by TUD - informal discussions with representatives of the Forest Service, PG&E and TUD took place on April 26, 2012. It was recognized at that time that due to limited snow pack and an overall dry year, TUD's customer consumptive needs (including irrigation) would be difficult to meet at the proposed Pinecrest drawdown of 5,608 feet at lake level elevation at Labor Day.

As a result of the April 26 meeting, TUD subsequently requested a variance (letter dated May 11, 2012) from the SWRCB's Water Quality Certification (Condition No. 4) which required the 5,608 feet. Forest Service staff has reviewed the request for variance pertaining to the Pinecrest Lake drawdown curve. Based on the 2011 lake level study completed for Pinecrest Lake, we concur with your determination that a lake level of 5,606 feet would not impact recreation at Pinecrest Lake. Therefore, by way of this letter, we are approving the revised Pinecrest Lake drawdown curve along with the original drawdown curve submitted for the Relief Reach on April 13, 2102.

Thank you for your quick and efficient response to concerns regarding the initial 2012 drawdown curve for Pinecrest Lake. If you have any questions regarding this approval, please contact Stanislaus National Forest Lands Officer Beth Martinez at (209) 532-3671 ext. 320. Thank you very much.

SINCERELY,

SUSAN SKALSKI  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Tracy L Weddle, Beth H Martinez

