



FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

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CALIFORNIA'S
STATEWIDE RIVER
CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION

October 13, 2005

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State of California
State Capital 1st floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Friends of the River would like to recognize the outstanding work of the California State Water Resources Control Board and acknowledge the contribution of SWRCB's hydropower relicensing staff to the protection of California's natural resources.

As mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), hydropower projects are required to go through a lengthy process of relicensing. Throughout this process, governmental as well as non-governmental agencies work tirelessly to ensure all areas of possible impact upon the public and rivers are reviewed. They require participants to review vast numbers of documents including study plans and data reports, then to negotiate appropriate protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures for the project.

For over 20 years, Friends of the River has worked with SWRCB staff on the licensing and relicensing of hydropower facilities in California. In this time, we have come to know SWRCB staff as tireless champions of California's natural resources and some of the most effective advocates for sound science and policy.

Under the guidance of Jim Canaday, the very capable staff of Sharon Stohrer and Russ Kanz has demonstrated incredible professionalism and competence. Their diligence in protecting the public resources in their charge is most commendable. This is demonstrated by their insistence on using the best available science, their own extensive knowledge and dedicated consistency in their participation in these processes. Their consistent attendance at these meetings, given their demanding schedules, further demonstrates their dedication to ensuring the best for the environment and guarantying that the public trust interest is truly protected.

Recently, the SWRCB has come under attack for its efforts to find solutions to temperature problems in the North Fork Feather River. Friends of the River would like to express support for the SWRCB's actions to find solutions to restoration of cold water to the North Fork Feather River canyon. Friends of the River is a member of the Rock Creek Cresta (FERC #1962) Ecological Resources Committee that is tasked with identifying temperature control measures in the North Fork Feather River. We think this analysis needs to take into account the entire North Fork Feather River system including Lake Almanor.



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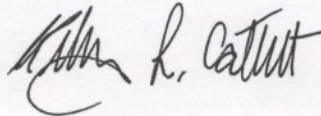


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Friends of the River supports the work SWRCB staff is doing and their adherence to the 20 degree C temperature standard established by the SWRCB under state and federal law and required as part of the Sacramento River Basin Plan. Friends of the River looks forward to the objective review of temperature alternatives as part of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review of all reasonable temperature control measures for the NF Feather River as part of the FERC Project #2105. Flow restoration and adherence to the 20 degree C temperature standard will provide significant benefits in restoration of these socially and economically valuable resources.

Sincerely,



Kelly L. Catlett
Hydropower Reform Policy Advocate
Friends of the River

cc: Jim Canaday, SWRCB
Russ Kanz, SWRCB
Sharon Stohrer, SWRCB
Celeste Cantu, SWRCB
Tam Doduc, Chair, SWRCB