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GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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## State Water Resources Control Board

September 13, 2013

Terry Swofford, Chair  
Plumas County Board of Supervisors  
520 Main Street, Room 309  
Quincy, CA 95971

Dear Chair Swofford:

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR THE UPPER NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 2105; PLUMAS COUNTY

Thank you for your August 13, 2013 letter regarding the pending release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project's (Project) Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification (certification). The certification is necessary for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the Project. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) anticipates that the Draft EIR will be released for public review and comment in fall 2013. Due to the size of the document and requests from stakeholders, the State Water Board anticipates the comment period will be extended beyond the 45-day time frame required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). State Water Board staff received a copy of the August 13, 2013 letter Plumas County (County) submitted to the State Clearinghouse requesting a 120-day comment period for the Project's Draft EIR. The State Water Board will take this request into consideration when establishing the comment period for the Project's Draft EIR.

The Draft EIR is being developed to comply with CEQA and to include discussion of possible effects on the cold water in Lake Almanor and climate change. Per CEQA, the Draft EIR must evaluate the proposed project as well as a range of alternatives. At this time, a preferred alternative has not been identified. Additional information regarding the Project and the development of the Draft EIR can be found on the State Water Board's Project webpage at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_cert/ceqa\\_projects.shtml#feather](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/ceqa_projects.shtml#feather).

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The State Water Board appreciates the County's interest in the State Water Board's process and looks forward to working with the County on the Project. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Peter Barnes, Project Manager, at (916) 445-9989 or by email at Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov. Written correspondence should be addressed as follows:

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights – Water Quality Certification Program  
Attn: Peter Barnes  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Sincerely,



Thomas Howard  
Executive Director

cc: Plumas County Board of Supervisors:

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