Notice of Determination

To: Office of Planning and Research
   For U. S. Mail:
   P.O. Box 3044
   Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: State Water Resources Control Board
   Division of Water Rights
   1001 I Street, 14th Floor
   Sacramento, CA 95814
   Michael Maher, Project Manager
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Lead Agency (if different than above):
   Sacramento Municipal Utility District
   Address: P.O. Box 15830, Mail Stop K203
   Sacramento, CA 95852-0830
   Contact: Mr. David Hanson
   Phone: (916) 732-8703

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2008052009

Project Title: Upper American River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2101

Project Title: Issuance of water quality certification for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project (UARP)

Project Location (include county): The UARP is located in El Dorado and Sacramento Counties in the South Fork (SF) of the American River, Silver Creek and Rubicon River watersheds.

Project Description: The project is issuance of water quality certification for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the UARP, which is owned and operated by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). SMUD, as lead agency, prepared a Final California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Supplemental Analysis to the FERC/United States Forest Service Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final CEQA Supplement) for the UARP and filed a Notice of Determination on July 24, 2012. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) considered the Final CEQA Supplement during the development of its water quality certification for the UARP.

The UARP has been operating pursuant to its current FERC license since operations began in 1961 and consists of seven hydroelectric developments with a total of 11 reservoirs and eight powerhouses that together can generate up to 688 megawatts (MW) of electrical power. The UARP also includes 11 transmission lines with a combined length of 180 miles, about 28 miles of power tunnels/penstocks, one-1.9 mile long canal and about 700 developed public-use campsites. The UARP FERC boundary encompasses 6,375.2 acres of United States-owned land administered by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service as part of the Eldorado National Forest, and 53.9 acres of United States-owned land administered by the United States Bureau of Land Management. SMUD’s FERC license application also includes the proposed Iowa Hill Development, a pumped-storage development that will entail the construction of an off-channel upper reservoir and underground powerhouse above the UARP’s existing Slab Creek Reservoir, located on the SF American River near Camino.

SMUD, as part of a Settlement Agreement signed by resource agencies, conservation groups and other stakeholders, proposes to implement a set of environmental measures to minimize impacts and improve existing conditions in the vicinity of the UARP. These measures include, but are not limited to: increased instream flows; ramping rates; resource monitoring; adaptive management; streamflow and reservoir gaging; public information services; recreational streamflow requirements; improvements to recreation facilities; and measures that address the design and operation of the Iowa Hill development. While the water quality certification includes conditions that cover the operation of the Iowa Hill development, should the project be approved by SMUD, Iowa Hill construction activities may require additional environmental review and permitting.

This is to advise that the State Water Resources Control Board has approved the above-described project on ____________

[ ] Lead Agency [ ] Responsible Agency

(Date)

October 4, 2013

This is to certify that the [ ] Final CEQA Supplement with comments and responses [ ] Initial Study/Negative Declaration and record of project approval is available to the General Public at: State Water Board, Division of Water Rights, 1001 I Street, 14th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Signature (Public Agency) ________________________________ Title ________________

Date October 4, 2013

Date received for filing at OPR ________________

OCT 04 2013

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

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