Cachuma Hearing Project - Possible Drought Off-Ramp Alternatives

Alternative 1

Right holder may request that the Executive Director temporarily modify the inflow level at which Table 2 Flows are required from an above normal water year trigger with minimum annual inflows of 33,707 acre-feet to 70,000 acre-feet immediately following a Qualifying Drought Event (defined below). Any such request shall be supported by substantial evidence that, absent the change and in light of all water supplies available to the Member Units, including conservation, the Member Units will be unable to ensure a safe and adequate supply of water for human consumption, sanitary purposes, fire prevention and suppression. The Executive Director may approve or deny the request after notice and the opportunity for comment, and may include conditions of approval necessary to protect human health, the fishery, and the environment. Any temporary adjustment to the inflow trigger shall expire when inflows for any water year (measured from October 1 through September 30 of the following calendar year) exceed 70,000 acre-feet.

3/27/19

For the purposes of this term, a "Qualifying Drought Event" is when both:

- a. The total volume of water stored in Lake Cachuma is less than 30,000 acre-feet; and
- b. A water year in which there has been any sequential combination of a dry or critically dry year and a below normal, dry, or critically dry year.

Alternative 2:

The inflow level at which Table 2 Flows are required from an above normal water year trigger shall automatically change from minimum annual inflows of 33,707 acre-feet to 70,000 acre-feet immediately following a Qualifying Drought Event (defined below). Any adjustment to the inflow trigger under this term shall automatically expire when water year inflows exceed 70,000 acre-feet.

For the purposes of this term, a "Qualifying Drought Event" is when both:

- The total volume of water stored in Lake Cachuma is less than 30,000 acre-feet; and
- b. A water year in which there has been any sequential combination of a dry or critically dry year and a below normal, dry, or critically dry year.