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In Reply Refer To: EOL0214-052

February 6, 2014

VIA FED-EX AND E-FILE

Honorable Kimberly D. Bose  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

SUBJECT: El Dorado Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 184  
Article 404 Notification of Minimum Streamflow Modifications

Dear Secretary Bose:

The El Dorado Irrigation District (District) is providing notification of instream flow modifications in accordance with Article 404 of the Project No. 184 license, which states:

*Any minimum flow requirements for this license, as specified in Appendices A and B, may be temporarily modified if required by operating emergencies beyond the control of the licensee, or for short periods upon agreement between the licensee, the U.S. Forest Service (FS), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFW), and the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). If the flow is so modified, the licensee shall notify the Commission, the Forest Service, the Cal Fish and Game, and the Water Board as soon as possible, but no later than 10 days, after each such incident.*

On February 4, 2014, the District Board of Directors convened a special meeting to consider measures to respond to the unprecedented drought conditions that currently exist in the Sierra Nevada and throughout California. At this meeting, the District Board of Directors approved a resolution implementing a Stage 2 Water Supply Warning, calling for a 30% reduction in water usage in accordance with the District's Drought Plan (enclosed). The Board also found and declared that the drought conditions constitute an emergency beyond the District's control within the meaning of Article 404 of the Project No. 184 FERC license. The objectives of the resolution are to protect existing water supplies and minimize water usage to ensure that District customers have adequate water supplies in both 2014 and 2015.

The resolution includes operational modifications and other measures aimed at conserving water for consumptive uses, and to sustain Project No. 184's ability to maintain some level of instream flows through the latter half of 2014. The unprecedented drought conditions had already prompted the District to cease all project power production, except temporarily during storm events, and we anticipate no change to that posture unless the drought eases significantly.

The operational modifications include temporary modification to the Project No. 184 instream flow requirements, while the District consults with Project No. 184 stakeholders on a longer-term variance proposal to be submitted to the Commission and the SWRCB for approval.

The District began implementing operational modifications on February 5, 2014. The temporary instream flow modifications are: maintaining existing flows of 15 cfs below Kyburz diversion dam, maintaining existing 2 cfs or natural flow below the Lake Aloha main dam; reducing flows below the Caples Lake main dam from 5 cfs to 2 cfs (as was approved and implemented January - May 2009), reducing flows below Silver Lake dam from 4 cfs or natural flow to 2 cfs or natural flow, and reducing flows below the Echo Lake dam from 6 cfs or natural flow to 2 cfs or natural flow. These modifications are consistent with the provision of Article 404 that authorizes the District to temporarily modify any minimum flow requirements for the license if required by operating emergencies beyond the control of the District. The District has implemented these actions solely as interim measures while consultations occur.

The District notified the FS, SWRCB, CDFW, and the Project No. 184 Ecological Resources Committee (ERC) of the temporary flow modifications via emails on February 3, 2014 and February 5, 2014 (enclosed). The District is committed to work expeditiously in consultation with the FS, SWRCB, CDFW, and ERC to develop a proposed stream flow regime to remain in effect throughout the duration of the drought. This topic will be the subject of the upcoming ERC meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Deason, Hydroelectric Compliance Analyst, at (530) 642-4064 or at [bdeason@eid.org](mailto:bdeason@eid.org).

Sincerely,



Tom McKinney  
Director of Operations

TM/BD:lk

Enclosures:

Resolution of the Board of Directors of El Dorado Irrigation District Declaring a Stage 2  
Water Warning and the Existence of an Emergency  
February 3 and 5, 2014 emails from the District to FS, SWRCB, CDFW, and ERC

cc w/enclosures:

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