Notice of Determination

Appendix D

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

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
1001 I Street, 14th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Kristen Gangl, Project Manager
(916) 323-9389 or
kristen.gangl@waterboards.ca.gov

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) 732-6703

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): 2015072021

Project Title: New Slab Creek Powerhouse and Boating Flow Release Valve Upper American River Hydroelectric Project (UARP), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2101

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

Project Description: Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) proposes to construct and operate the New Slab Creek Powerhouse and Boating Release Valve Project (Project). The Project is located just below Slab Creek Dam on the South Fork American River, in El Dorado County, approximately 50 miles east of Sacramento, and three miles north of the town of Camino. The Project involves the addition of a new powerhouse and boating flow release valve to comply with the minimum instream and recreation flow requirements specified in the UARP water quality certification issued by the State Water Board on October 4, 2013. The Project also intends to increase SMUD's overall renewable energy production. With a proposed capacity of 2.7 megawatts (MW), the new powerhouse will, on average, generate approximately 10.5 gigawatt-hours of hydroelectric power per year. The new powerhouse will be located at the base of Slab Creek Dam. Additionally, the Project includes three environmental measures. The lower Iowa Canyon Creek will be returned to a more natural grade to allow surface flow and connectivity to assist unimpeded movement of aquatic species between Iowa Canyon Creek and the South Fork American River. Habitat improvements will also help ensure minimum streamflow releases express as surface flow and provide riffle habitat. Gravel augmentation in the 0.25-mile reach just below Slab Creek Dam will enhance trout spawning habitat.

This is to advise that the State Water Resources Control Board (Responsible Agency) has approved the above-described project on _____(Date) and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The Project [☐ will ☑ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
   ☑ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☐ were ☑ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project as the proposed mitigation measures identified in the mitigated negative declaration are outside of the purview of the State Water Board.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☐ was ☑ was not] adopted for this Project by the State Water Board.
5. As no unmitigated significant impacts were identified that fall within the State Water Board's approval authority, the State Water Board [☐ has ☑ has not] adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations for this project.
6. Findings [☑ were ☐ were not] made by the Lead Agency pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

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) Thomas Howard Title Executive Director

Date 7/11/16 Date received for filing at OPR Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUL 12 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code. Revised 2005
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.