



## Notice of Intent To Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

Re: New Slab Creek Powerhouse and Boating Flow Release Valve Project

To Whom It May Concern:

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) has prepared a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) addressing the potential environmental effects of constructing and operating the New Slab Creek Powerhouse and Boating Flow Release Valve Project (Proposed Project), located in El Dorado County, California. The proposed project would require site preparation, construction of a connection to White Rock Tunnel, a new powerhouse, an electrical connection, and a boating flow release valve on the southern banks of the South Fork American River (SFAR). During operations, boating flows would be released from the new valve, rather than from spilling water over Slab Creek Dam. The proposed project also would include reconfiguring the mouth of Iowa Canyon Creek and completing habitat improvements along the SFAR (i.e., moving boulders in the riverbed to create a low flow channel in a ¼ mile stretch of SFAR immediately downstream from Slab Creek Dam and placing gravel into SFAR to enhance habitat for fish).

The New Slab Creek Powerhouse and Boating Flow Release Valve would be located adjacent to the SFAR in El Dorado County, California, approximately 50 miles east of Sacramento and 3 miles north of the town of Camino (Figure 1). The new powerhouse would be part of the Slab Creek/White Rock Development (Figure 2), which consists of Slab Creek Dam and Reservoir, Slab Creek Powerhouse (at the base of the dam), White Rock Tunnel and Penstock, and White Rock Powerhouse at the upper end of Chili Bar Reservoir. Slab Creek Dam is located on land owned by the USFS's Eldorado National Forest.

As lead agency, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), SMUD is distributing the Draft IS/MND to interested public and regulatory authorities for review and comment. SMUD will receive public/agency comments on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for a 30-day period beginning July 10, 2015 and ending August 9, 2015. The Draft IS/MND is available on SMUD's web page at <https://www.smud.org/en/about-smud/company-information/document-library/CEQA-reports.htm> and hardcopies may be reviewed at the following locations: SMUD Headquarters Building, 6201 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95817; SMUD East Campus



Operations Center, 4401 Bradshaw Road, Sacramento, CA 95827; and State Clearinghouse, 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

To present the results of the Draft IS/MND evaluation and to answer questions regarding the proposed project, SMUD will hold a two public meetings: one on July 21, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the Apple Mountain Golf Resort, 3455 Carson Road, Camino, CA and another on July 22, 2015 at 5:00 pm at the Mosquito Fire Station, 8801 Rock Creek Road, Placerville, CA. The public is invited to attend both meetings to provide input on the Draft CEQA analysis. Written comments should be submitted by mail to Jose Bodipo-Memba, SMUD, P.O. Box 15830, MS H203, Sacramento, CA, 95852-1830, by email to [Jose.Bodipo-Memba@smud.org](mailto:Jose.Bodipo-Memba@smud.org), or by fax (916) 732-6890 before 5 p.m., August 7, 2015. If you have questions please contact Jose Bodipo-Memba at (916) 732-6493 or at [Jose.Bodipo-Memba@smud.org](mailto:Jose.Bodipo-Memba@smud.org).

The SMUD Board of Directors will consider adoption of the IS/MND for this project at two meetings at which the public may make oral comments. The Board will take no action at the Energy Resources and Customer Service Committee meeting. Both public meetings will be held at the SMUD Headquarters Building, 6201 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95817.

We appreciate your time and effort to review the Draft IS/MND. Your comments regarding this project will be considered as part of future decisions to be made by SMUD.



Jose Bodipo-Memba, CEQA Project Manager  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Date  
July 10, 2015