

Slab Creek Recreation Streamflow Parking and Access Plan Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Hydro License Implementation – December 2018

Upper American River Project

FERC Project No. 2101

Resource Agency Draft

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1 Background

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) has prepared this Slab Creek Recreation Streamflow Parking and Access Plan (Plan) to describe how SMUD intends to provide access and parking for a suitable whitewater boating take-out (Project) along the South Fork American River in El Dorado County, California. The Project would be developed to support whitewater boating use associated with Recreation Streamflow releases below Slab Creek Reservoir dam. This Plan, and the subsequent Project, are requirements of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) 4(e) Condition 50 of the Upper American River Project (UARP), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) Project No. 2101 license (License), issued to SMUD for operation of the UARP dated July 23, 2014, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 4(e) Specific Condition 1 of the Commission's Order Amending License dated November 9, 2016 (Amendment).

USFS 4(e) Condition 50 of the License requires SMUD to prepare a Plan to provide a long-term whitewater boating take-out location for whitewater boating use associated with Recreation Streamflow releases below Slab Creek Reservoir dam, also required under Condition 50. The Condition stipulates that *"The licensee shall, in cooperation with FS, SWRCB, BLM, and the Consultation Group, prepare, implement, and update as necessary, a plan that will provide easement for access and parking in the immediate vicinity of White Rock Powerhouse for recreational streamflows..."*. Furthermore, this Condition requires SMUD *"... to make a good faith effort to purchase at fair market value suitable real property as such property becomes available or to obtain a long-term lease or easement for use of such property, if necessary for these facilities "*. Lastly, it states that *"... If easements cannot be obtained, licensee shall consult with FS (USFS), SWRCB (California State Water Resources Control Board), BLM, and the Consultation Group to determine an alternate location for access."*

BLM 4(e) Condition 1 of the Amendment states *"If the Licensee finds a suitable location to build a whitewater boating takeout on BLM lands the Licensee shall fund and conduct the NEPA analysis, and construct and maintain the boating takeout(s) within three years."* Further it states, *"The take-out needs to include vehicular access, parking, onsite water gage sign, and a Kiosk sign that is acceptable and approved by BLM."*

Prior to license issuance, SMUD began contacting private property owners in regard to obtaining long-term easements for public access to the White Rock Powerhouse, the initial take-out location identified through the relicensing process. The vast majority of affected parcel owners were opposed to granting such easements. Due to lack of public access to the White Rock Powerhouse site in the foreseeable future, SMUD does not consider the site a suitable location for the Project.

Subsequent to the private property owner outreach efforts, SMUD has worked with the agencies and the Consultation Group to identify and evaluate the suitability of potential alternative sites. During this iterative process, SMUD has requested, and the Commission has granted, three

separate extensions to the filing date for this Plan. Extension documentation is presented in Appendix A.

Following evaluation of all identified alternatives, SMUD has proposed the Rock Creek Powerhouse site to develop river access and parking amenities for the public to use during License required Recreation Streamflow releases below Slab Creek Dam.

2 Plan Objective

This Plan presents the preliminary “concept-level” approach for development of a suitable whitewater boating take-out to support whitewater boating use associated with Recreation Streamflow releases below Slab Creek Reservoir dam. It has been developed after conducting the evaluation of multiple alternative potential take-out locations, including the White Rock Powerhouse location. This good faith effort included extensive consultation with agencies and stakeholders, landowner outreach efforts, and the physical assessment of potential take-out locations.

This Plan describes the existing physical conditions at the Rock Creek Powerhouse Site and proposed improvements to develop a suitable whitewater boating take-out. The Plan also outlines the process for development of final design plans and construction of the Project. Upon approval of this Plan, Project design will be initiated, and a Project implementation schedule developed as described in section 4, Project Implementation.

3 Rock Creek Powerhouse Site

As noted above, the Rock Creek Powerhouse site was selected as the most suitable alternate location for Project development.

Suitable aspects of the Rock Creek Powerhouse site are:

- Site is located on public land administered by the BLM;
- Site of the Rock Creek Powerhouse, a Commission-licensed hydroelectric facility (FERC Project No. 3189) and public recreation access is provided under this license;
- Existing infrastructure such as road access and space for parking;
- Sufficient developable land;
- Limited environmental impact associated with Project development;
- Site could be developed for use in a short period of time and open to the public.

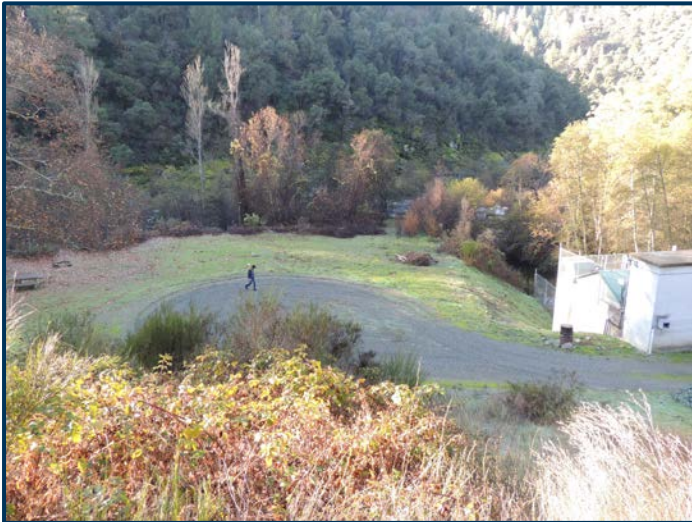
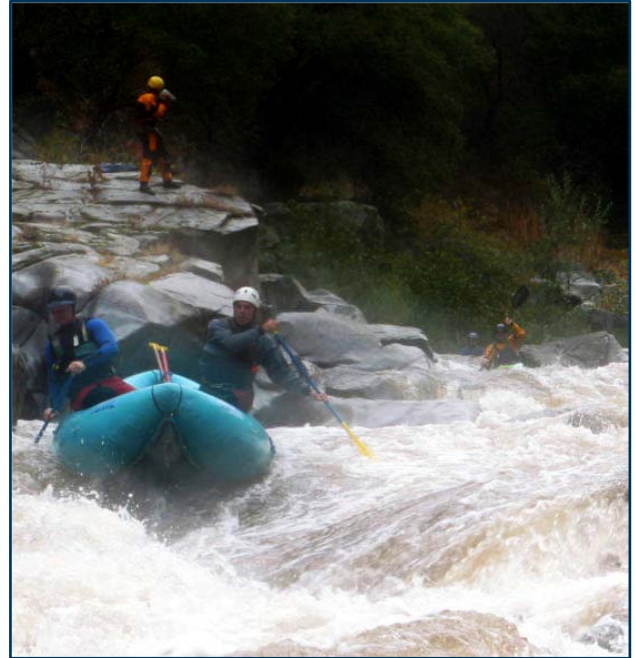
Site Conditions

The Project will be developed to provide take-out facilities for whitewater boating on the South Fork American River between Slab Creek Dam and Rock Creek (Figure 1). The run is rated a class IV/V (advanced/expert) in difficulty on the International Scale of River Difficulty (American Whitewater,

2018). The run begins with several class IV+ rapids, and the rapids in the remaining reach are fairly continuous, long, and require good class IV skills (SMUD 2004).

Rock Creek enters the South Fork American River on river right 5.7 miles downstream of Slab Creek Dam. This location is the site of the Rock Creek Powerhouse (Enel North America Inc.) and the proposed Project. Access to this site is by a gravel surfaced road off of Rock Creek Road where it is gated. This gate is closed and locked by the licensee of the Rock Creek Powerhouse at all times to restrict public vehicular access to the river. It should be noted that the site is open to public pedestrian access every day from dawn to dusk; however, no overnight camping is allowed at the site.

The road is approximately three-quarters of a mile in length and it terminates near the shoreline of the South Fork American River. The width of the road varies from single lane to widened areas suitable for vehicle turnouts (Figure 2).



The Rock Creek Powerhouse parking area is a large flat area adjacent to the powerhouse. Facilities associated with the powerhouse include the powerhouse, powerhouse tailrace, transformer, switchyard, fencing, and associated transmission lines. The road and the powerhouse are located on public land managed by the BLM.

There are two concrete picnic tables and stone fireplaces located at the upstream end of the site. Also located at the upstream end of the site are rock walls and a stone bridge abutment; it is assumed these features are associated with an earlier hydropower development.

Two user-created trails that access the river are located at the upstream end of the site. Along the tailrace there is also a wide path that leads to the river. It has been estimated that the site could accommodate between 50 to 70 vehicles (SMUD, 2012).

Figure 3 is an aerial view of the site and Appendix B contains photographs of the existing Project site conditions.

Site Development

The Rock Creek Powerhouse site will be improved to accommodate whitewater boating take-out activities during Recreation Streamflows from Slab Creek Reservoir dam. A primary site development objective is to limit new ground disturbing activities to minimize potential impacts to terrestrial and aquatic resources. The existing conditions are well suited for this purpose, with large areas already at grades suitable for parking and road access. In addition to site improvements supporting whitewater boating activities SMUD will work with Enel, at their discretion, to install security improvements to the Rock Creek Powerhouse facilities intended to protect and screen the existing powerhouse and associated facilities, and to enhance public safety.

The following proposed improvements will accommodate whitewater boating take-out activities and ensure Rock Creek Powerhouse operational considerations are addressed. The proposed improvements are shown on Figure 4: Rock Creek Whitewater Take-Out Site Development Plan.

Proposed Project improvements include:

- Access road Improvements
 - Expansion of existing road turn-outs
 - Development of additional road turn-outs, as feasible
- Parking areas
 - Parking Area A: 10 spaces
 - Parking Area B: 2 spaces reserved for Rock Creek Powerhouse staff
 - Parking Area C: 13 spaces
- Bus turnout/parking: 10' by 45'
- Take-out staging loading and area: 10' by 45'
- Restroom and trash disposal area
- Information kiosk
- Picnic area
 - Relocate existing two picnic tables
- River access pathway
 - Sufficient width and surface to accommodate hand-transport of rafts and associated rafting equipment
- Streambank landing improvements to facilitate take-out activities
 - The type and extent of improvement will be determined during the engineering design and may include one or more of the following:
 - Vegetative clearing

- Streambank contouring to provide staging area
- Streambank modification to provide slow-water landing area
- Streambank signage to identify take-out and landing area
 - Signage location and content will be determined during engineering design and will be based on BLM standards if available
 - Sign upstream of Rock Creek take-out to notice downstream take-out location
 - Sign at take-out and landing location
- Fencing of Rock Creek Powerhouse tailrace
- Fencing of Rock Creek Powerhouse switchyard area
- Visual screening
 - Rock Creek Powerhouse
 - Transformer
 - Switch boxes
- Installation of vehicle barriers
 - Roadside culvert inlet
 - Rock Creek Powerhouse
 - Rock Creek Powerhouse Transformer
- Installation of security cameras at Rock Creek Powerhouse

4 Project Implementation

Following the Commission's approval of this Plan, SMUD will work with the BLM and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), California Outdoors, and American Whitewater on Project design. The final Project design will be approved by both the BLM and SWRCB prior to Project implementation.

In accordance with BLM 4(e) Condition 1 (November 2016), Project implementation is scheduled for 2019, prior to the 2020 Recreation Streamflows. However, this scheduling target can only be met with timely approval of this Plan, all subsequent design phases, environmental documentation, and permitting required for Project development and construction. With this in mind, it is unlikely that Project construction in 2019 is an attainable target. A more realistic target for implementation is Project construction in 2020.

The Project will be implemented in a manner consistent with the process outlined in SMUD's Recreation Implementation Plan (SMUD 2015) where applicable. Following is a summary of the process for Project design and construction.

The first step in Project development will be the preparation of a Project implementation schedule. This schedule will detail the tasks and associated timelines for completion, including review and comment of plans and documents. This schedule will be approved by BLM and the SWRCB.

Upon acceptance of the Project schedule, a Project Conceptual Design will be developed. The Conceptual Design will provide a graphic presentation and narrative description of Project elements and layout. The engineering feasibility of the proposed improvements, such as turning radiuses, need for cut/fill slopes, parking stall widths and lengths, will be field-evaluated to ensure they will meet the intended purposes and can be constructed within Project constraints; a primary design objective will be minimization of excavation and fill activities. Any needed topographical survey required for engineering design will be conducted during the development of the Conceptual Design. The final Project Conceptual Design will be approved by BLM and the SWRCB prior to development of Project engineering design plans,

Following approval of the Project Conceptual Design, engineering design will be initiated. Project Conceptual Design elements and layout will be integrated into engineering plans suitable for both Agency approval and solicitation for construction. Final Project Construction Drawings will be approved by BLM and SWRCB.

At the discretion of BLM and the SWRCB, SMUD, BLM, California Outdoors, and American Whitewater will meet at the Project location for a site visit to review Project scope and to discuss the extent to which any further environmental review or permits may be needed. Subsequent site visits may be needed to refine engineering details, or for environmental and/or cultural resources assessment and survey.

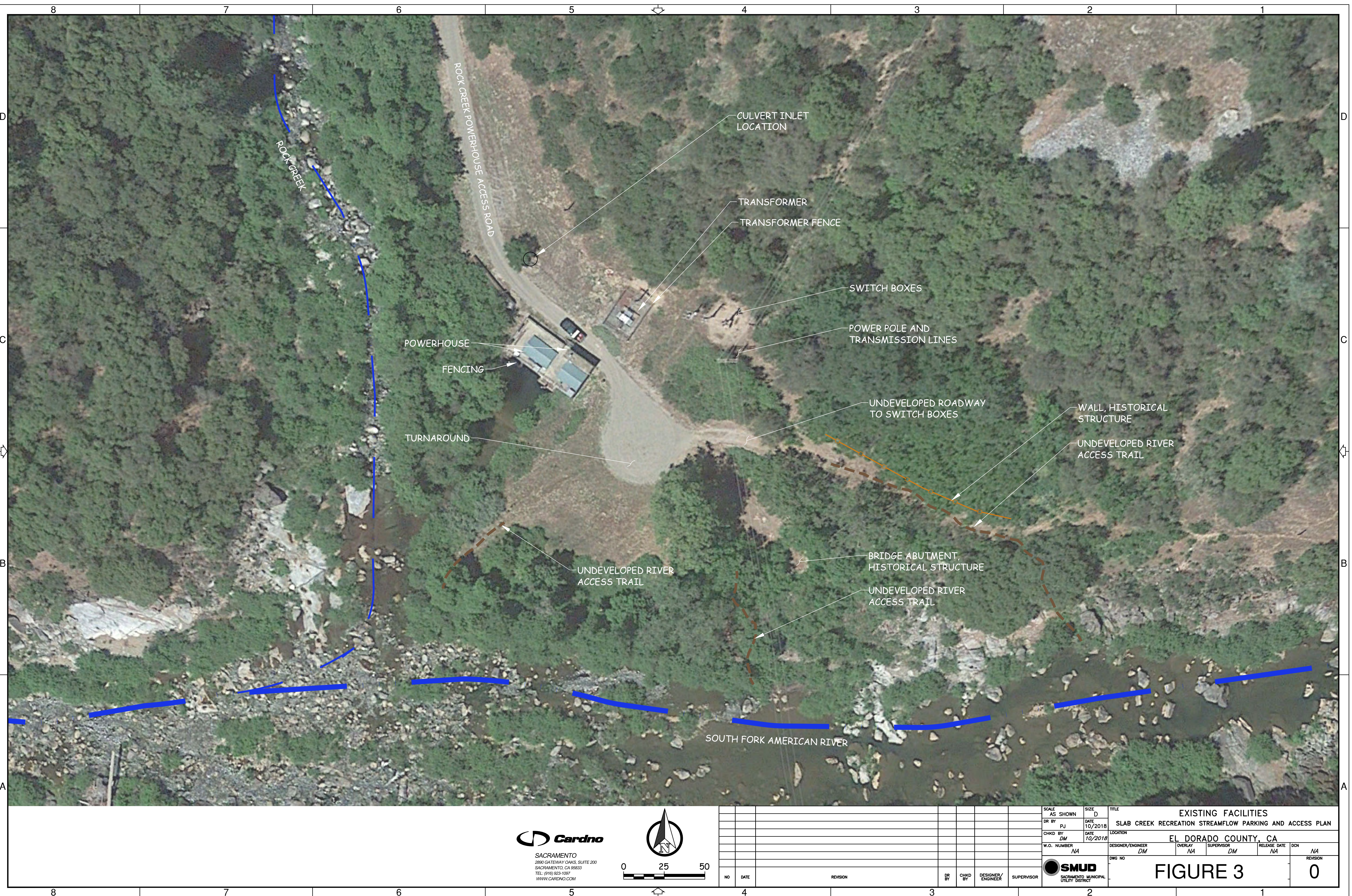
Concurrent with the engineering design process, environmental assessments or cultural resource evaluations required for Project implementation will be identified and completed, including any necessary surveys to assess the potential effects of construction. Any permitting required for Project implementation will be identified during the engineering design phase, and the required permits will be prepared and submitted. All required Best Management Practices (BMPs) and/or Avoidance and Protection (AP) measures required to protect specific resources, or site-specific concerns, will be identified and incorporated into applicable engineering design drawings, environmental documentation, and/or applicable permits.

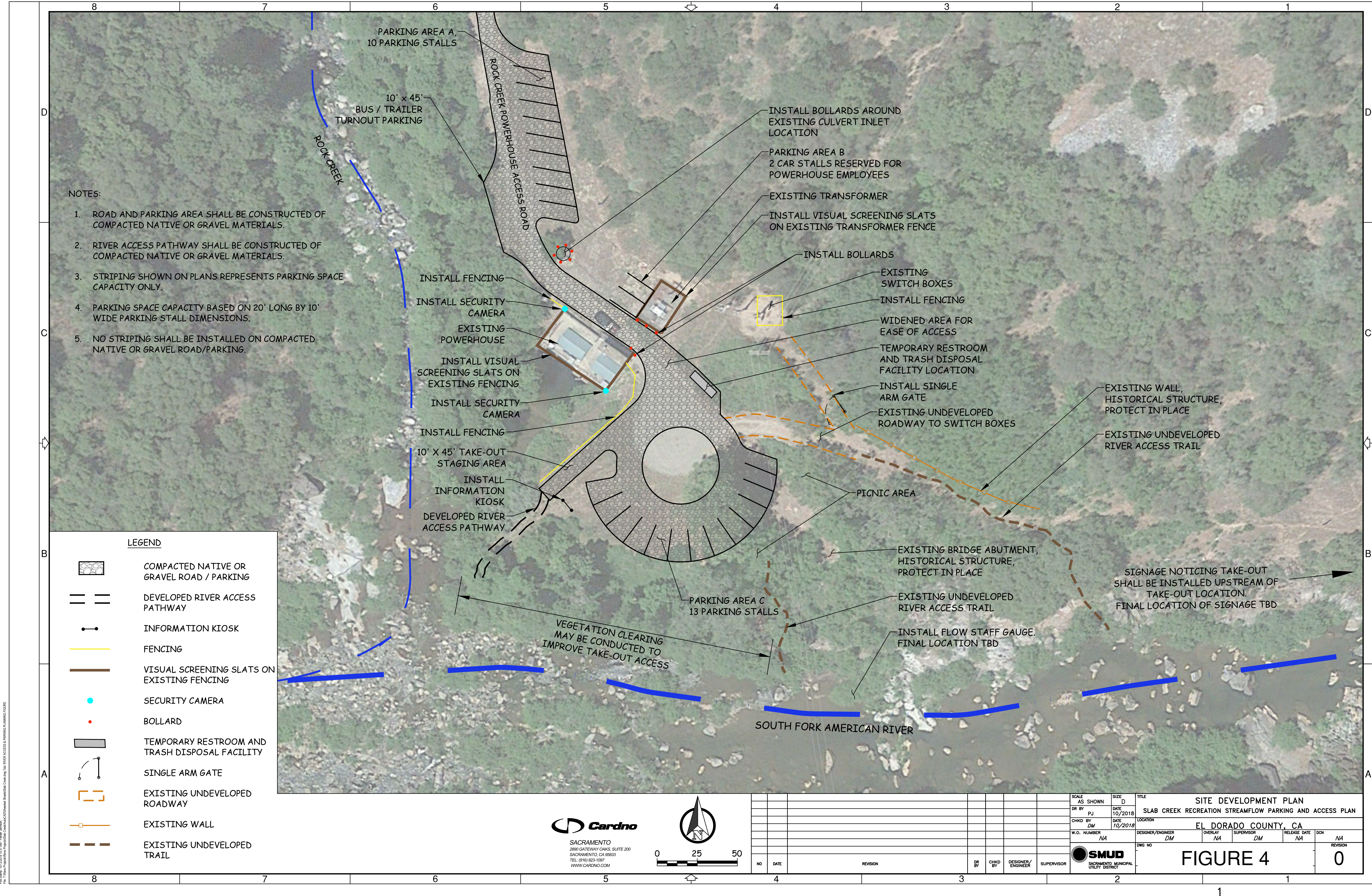
Upon approval of the Project Construction Drawings by BLM and the SWRCB, all required environmental and/or cultural resource documentation and survey, and issuance of required permits, SMUD will prepare and administer the contract for Project construction. SMUD will be responsible for management of the Project site during Project construction, as well as construction management. Project as-built plans will be prepared and provided to the BLM and Project site plans submitted to the Commission. Upon completion of Project construction BLM will approve and accept the facility. SMUD will develop an agreement with the BLM to provide funding for BLM's involvement in managing the activities associated with this facility. This will include both the design/construction process, and during SMUD's License-required Recreation Streamflow release.

5 Literature Cited

- American Whitewater. 2018. International Scale of River Difficulty
(<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/safety:start>)
- SMUD. 2004. Whitewater Boating Flow Study for Slab Creek Reach Technical Report - UARP
License Application
- SMUD. 2012. Assessment of Preliminary Take-Out Options for the 3.0 Rock Creek Powerhouse,
Slab Creek Dam Reach Final Report
- SMUD. 2015. FERC Project No. 2101 Recreation Implementation Plan
- FERC. 2014. Upper American River Project, FERC Project No. 2101 License

FIGURES





File Path: P:\Projects\River Access\Slab Creek\Map\10. River Access & Parking Plan.dwg
Date: 10/20/2018 10:31 AM
User: jphillips

APPENDIX A

FERC Extensions

Slab Creek Recreation Streamflow Parking and Access Plan

Powering forward. Together.



January 22, 2016
DPG 16-016

Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

SUBJECT: Extension Request Related to USFS 4(e) Condition 50 (Recreation Streamflows) for the Upper American River Project (UARP), FERC Project No. 2101 - CA

Dear Secretary Bose:

The United States Forest Service (USFS) 4(e) Condition 50 (Recreation Streamflows), located in Appendix B of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Order Issuing New License for Project No. 2101, dated July 23rd, 2014, requires the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) to develop, among other items, a plan for providing access and parking in the immediate vicinity of White Rock powerhouse (Plan). The purpose of this Plan is to select and secure an appropriate long-term takeout location for the whitewater boating activities required below Slab Creek Dam in the same Condition. This could include the acquisition of easements or real fee title for private parcels if necessary, to develop this location. Condition 50 requires the Plan to be developed in cooperation with, and approved by, the USFS, State Water Resources Control Board, Bureau of Land Management, and the Consultation Group for the UARP. The Plan is required to be filed with the Commission no later than, January 23rd, 2016.

SMUD initiated investigations into this requirement in 2010 with feasibility studies for various locations in an attempt to meet this Condition. This has included presentations to, and site visits with, members of the Consultation Group including staff from the agencies listed above. On November 5th, 2015, SMUD met with these individuals to summarize SMUD's efforts to date and to discuss the requirements of the License as well as a plan for going forward. In general, the discussion revealed that several options have been removed from consideration and the investigation is ongoing. Given there is no resolution on the final location at this time, it was agreed that this Plan should be extended to February 23rd, 2017 to allow time for SMUD to provide a plan containing more certainty. SMUD requested concurrence from the USFS for this extension on November 13th, 2015 (see enclosure). As of this filing, SMUD is still working with the USFS to acquire their respective concurrence and will file such with the Commission once received.



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Given the history and events described above, the work yet to be completed on development of the Plan, and the lack of schedule remaining in the Plan development process required in the License, SMUD is requesting the Commission filing date for the White Rock Easement and Parking Access Plan be extended to February 23rd, 2017.

If you have any questions, please contact Darold Perry, Supervisor, Hydro License Implementation at (530) 647-5010 or Darold.Perry@smud.org.

Sincerely,

Jon Bertolino
FOR Jon Bertolino, Manager
Hydro Generation Assets

JB/le

Enclosures:

SMUD letter to the USFS requesting their Concurrence of an Extension for Submittal of the White Rock Easement and Parking Access Plan

Cc (electronic):

Katy Parr
Public Services Staff Officer
Eldorado National Forest
100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667

Richard Thornburgh
Pacific District Ranger
Eldorado National Forest
7887 Highway 50
Pollock Pines, CA 95726



November 13, 2015
DPG 14-274

Mr. Laurence Crabtree
Forest Supervisor
Eldorado National Forest
100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667

SUBJECT: Extension Request Related to USFS 4(e) Condition 50 (Recreation Streamflows) for the Upper American River Project (UARP), FERC Project No. 2101 - CA

Dear Mr. Crabtree:

The United States Forest Service (USFS) 4(e) Condition 50 (Recreation Streamflows), located in Appendix B of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Order Issuing New License for Project No. 2101, dated July 23rd, 2014, requires the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) to develop, among other items, a plan for providing access and parking in the immediate vicinity of White Rock powerhouse (Plan). The purpose of this Plan is to select and secure an appropriate long-term takeout location for the whitewater boating activities required below Slab Creek Dam in the same Condition. This could include the acquisition of easements or real fee title for private parcels if necessary, to develop this location. Condition 50 requires the Plan to be developed in cooperation with, and approved by, the USFS, State Water Resources Control Board, Bureau of Land Management, and the Consultation Group for the UARP. The Plan is required to be filed with FERC no later than January 23, 2016.

SMUD initiated investigations into this requirement in 2010 with feasibility studies for various locations in an attempt to meet this Condition. This has included presentations to, and site visits with, members of the Consultation Group including staff from the agencies listed above. On November 5, 2015, SMUD met with these individuals to summarize SMUD's efforts to date, and to discuss the requirements of the License and a plan for going forward. In general, the discussion revealed that several options have been removed from consideration and the investigation is ongoing. Given there is no resolution on the final location at this time, it was agreed that this Plan should be extended to February 23, 2017 to allow time for SMUD to provide a plan containing more certainty.

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Given the history and events described above, the work yet to be completed on development of the Plan and the lack of schedule remaining in the Plan development process required in the License, SMUD is requesting that the USFS support an extension for the FERC submittal deadline to February 23, 2017. SMUD is seeking a letter of concurrence from the USFS to include in our extension request to FERC.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (530) 647-5010 or Darold.Perry@smud.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "DPerry".

Darold Perry, Supervisor
Hydro License Implementation, Power Generation

DP/le

Cc (electronic):

Beth Livingston
Hydroelectric Coordinator
Eldorado National Forest
100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667

Richard Thornburgh
Pacific District Ranger
Eldorado National Forest
7887 Highway 50
Pollock Pines, CA 95726

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Project No. 2101-084

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE AN ACCESS AND PARKING
PLAN UNDER USFS 4(e) CONDITION 50

(Issued February 12, 2016)

1. On January 25, 2016, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, licensee for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2101), filed an extension of time request to file a plan for providing access and parking in the immediate vicinity of White Rock powerhouse (plan). The plan is required under the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) section 4(e) Condition No. 50; Appendix B to the project license.¹ The Upper American River Project consists of eight developments located on the Rubicon River, Silver Creek, and South Fork American River in El Dorado and Sacramento counties in central California.
2. The purpose of the plan is to select and secure an appropriate long-term takeout location for the whitewater boating activities required below Slab Creek Dam in the same section 4(e) Condition No. 50. Condition 50 requires the plan to be developed in cooperation with, and approved by, the USFS, State Water Resources Control Board, Bureau of Land Management, and the Consultation Group for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project.
3. The licensee reported that it initiated feasibility studies for various locations in an attempt to meet this Condition. This has included presentations to, and site visits with, members of the Consultation Group including staff from the Federal and State agencies. On November 5, 2015, the licensee met with the groups to summarize their efforts and to discuss the requirements of the plan as well as ideas for going forward. In general, the discussion revealed that several options have been removed from consideration and the investigation is ongoing. Given there is no resolution on the final location at this time, it was agreed that the deadline for the plan should be extended to February 23, 2017, to allow time for the licensee to work with all the required parties to provide a plan containing more certainty.

¹ Order Issuing New License, issued July 23, 2014 (148 FERC ¶ 62,070).

4. The licensee's request to extend the deadline to file a plan for providing access and parking in the immediate vicinity of White Rock powerhouse, until February 23, 2017, should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) Sacramento Municipal Utility District's January 25, 2016 request for an extension of time to file a plan for providing access and parking in the immediate vicinity of White Rock powerhouse Plan, pursuant to U.S. Forest Service's section 4(e) Condition No. 50 of the license for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2101), to February 23, 2017, is granted.

(B) This order constitutes final agency action. Any party may file a request for rehearing of this order within 30 days from the date of its issuance, as provided in section 313(a) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 825l (2012), and the Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. § 385.713 (2015). The filing of a request for rehearing does not operate as a stay of the effective date of this order, or of any other date specified in this order. The licensee's failure to file a request for rehearing shall constitute acceptance of this order.

Robert J. Fletcher
Chief, Land Resources Branch
Division of Hydropower
Administration and Compliance



February 17, 2017
DPG 17-033

Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

SUBJECT: Second Request of Extension Related to USFS 4(e) Condition 50 (Recreation Stream flows) for the Upper American River Project (UARP), FERC Project No. 2101 – CA

Dear Ms. Bose:

On January 25, 2016, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) filed an extension request of one year (to February 23, 2017) for developing a plan to provide access and parking in the immediate vicinity of White Rock powerhouse. This plan is required as part of USFS 4(e) Condition 50 (Recreation Stream flows) located in Appendix B of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Order Issuing New License for Project No. 2101, dated July 23, 2014. Condition 50 requires the plan to be developed in cooperation with, and approved by, the USFS, State Water Resources Control Board, Bureau of Land Management, and the Consultation Group for the Upper American River Project (Parties). The purpose of this plan is to select and secure a suitable, long-term whitewater boating takeout location for the recreational stream flows required below Slab Creek Reservoir dam in the same Condition. This Condition requires SMUD "to make a good faith effort to purchase at fair market value suitable real property as such property becomes available or to obtain a long-term lease or easement for use of such property, if necessary for these facilities¹". Further the Conditions states "If easements cannot be obtained, licensee shall consult with FS, SWRCB, BLM, and the Consultation Group to determine an alternate location for access²". The Commission approved the extension request on February 12, 2016.

At the time of the filing, SMUD noted that various feasibility studies had been completed, several options had been removed from consideration, and the investigation was ongoing. Since that time, SMUD has informed the Parties that the investigation had been narrowed to two locations which provided elements suitable to developing the whitewater boating take-out. SMUD's preferred option at that time

¹ Order Issuing New License, 148 FERC ¶ 62,070, July 23, 2014, Appendix B, Condition 50, p. 211

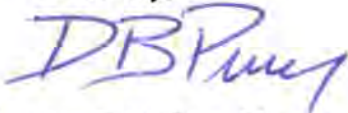
² Ibid., p. 212

was to revisit the original White Rock powerhouse location, which would require easements through 38 parcels (37 private), in addition to onsite improvements. An additional outreach effort was made, including two separate attempts, to obtain long-term easements for public access to this location during whitewater releases from Slab Creek Reservoir dam. The majority of responses received from parcel owners were opposed to granting such easements.

The second option was located at the confluence of Rock Creek and South Fork American River, approximately 2.25 miles upstream of White Rock powerhouse. This site is located on federal reservation administered by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. It is also the site of the Rock Creek powerhouse, a Commission-licensed hydroelectric facility (FERC Project No. 3189). Aside from the fact this site is located on public land, other favorable elements include existing infrastructure such as road access and space for parking. The Rock Creek location was presented as SMUD's alternative preferred option to the Parties during SMUD's monthly License Implementation meeting on January 26, 2017. At that time the Parties voiced concerns with the Rock Creek location, and requested we revisit the process and information which led to this being SMUD's preferred option over locations previously considered and rejected. SMUD agreed to file this extension request with the Commission, and provide the requested information to the Parties at the next License Implementation meeting scheduled for February 28, 2017.

Given the ongoing status of this process, SMUD respectfully requests a second filing extension of one year to February 23, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Darold Perry, Supervisor, Hydro License Implementation at (530) 647-5010 or Darold.Perry@smud.org.

Sincerely,



FOR

Jon Bertolino, Manager
Hydro Generation Assets

JB/db

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Project No. 2101-084

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME TO DEVELOP ACCESS AND
PARKING PLAN UNDER USFS 4(e) CONDITION 50

(Issued March 15, 2017)

1. On February 21, 2017, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), licensee for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project No. 2101, filed an extension of time request to develop a plan for providing access and parking for whitewater boating activities in the vicinity of White Rock Powerhouse, as required by the U.S. Forest Service's (Forest Service) Section 4(e) Condition No. 50 of the project license.¹ The Upper American River Project consists of eight developments located on the Rubicon River, Silver Creek, and South Fork American River in El Dorado and Sacramento counties in central California. The project occupies, in part, federal lands within the Eldorado National Forest, managed by the Forest Service, and federal lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
2. In pertinent part, Condition 50 requires that within two years of license issuance, SMUD develop a plan that will provide for access and parking for recreational streamflows in the vicinity of White Rock Powerhouse. SMUD must make a good faith effort to purchase property, or to secure long-term use of property, to provide the access and parking. If property cannot be obtained, SMUD must determine an alternate location for access. The plan must be developed in cooperation with, and approved by, the Forest Service, State Water Resources Control Board, BLM, and the consultation group for the project.
3. SMUD reports that various feasibility studies have been completed, and two suitable locations for developing the whitewater boating access have been identified. These options are the White Rock Powerhouse location, which would require easements through 38 parcels (37 private) in addition to onsite improvements, and SMUD's preferred option at the confluence of Rock Creek and South Fork American River, upstream of the White Rock Powerhouse. At SMUD's monthly license implementation meeting on January 26, 2017, the consultation group for the project voiced concerns with

¹ Order Issuing New License, issued July 23, 2014 (148 FERC ¶ 62,070).

the Rock Creek location, and requested revisiting the process and information which led to this being SMUD's preferred option. Given the ongoing status, SMUD agreed to request an extension until February 23, 2018, and provide the requested information to the consultation group at the February 28, 2017 license implementation meeting.

4. This is SMUD's second extension of time request for this requirement. The first request, to extend the deadline to February 23, 2017, was granted on February 12, 2016. SMUD filed the extension of time request prior to the deadline and provided adequate justification for the extension of time. SMUD's request to extend the deadline to develop a plan for providing access and parking for whitewater boating activities in the vicinity of White Rock Powerhouse, until February 23, 2018, should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) Sacramento Municipal Utility District's February 17, 2017 request for an extension of time to develop a plan for providing access and parking for whitewater boating activities in the vicinity of White Rock Powerhouse, pursuant to U.S. Forest Service's section 4(e) Condition No. 50 of the license for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project No. 2101, to February 23, 2018, is granted.

(B) This order constitutes final agency action. Any party may file a request for rehearing of this order within 30 days from the date of its issuance, as provided in section 313(a) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 825l (2012), and the Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. § 385.713 (2016). The filing of a request for rehearing does not operate as a stay of the effective date of this order, or of any other date specified in this order. The licensee's failure to file a request for rehearing shall constitute acceptance of this order.

Shana C. High
Environmental Biologist
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance

Powering forward. Together.



February 16, 2018
DPG 18-032

Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

SUBJECT: Request of Extension Related to USFS 4(e) Condition 50 (Recreation Streamflows) for the Upper American River Project (UARP), FERC Project No. 2101 – CA

Dear Ms. Bose:

On February 20, 2017 the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) filed an extension request of one year (to February 23, 2018) for developing a plan to provide access and parking in the immediate vicinity of White Rock powerhouse. This plan is required as part of USFS 4(e) Condition 50 (Recreation Streamflows) located in Appendix B of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Order Issuing New License for Project No. 2101, dated July 23, 2014. Condition 50 requires the plan to be developed in cooperation with, and approved by, the USFS, State Water Resources Control Board, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Consultation Group for the Upper American River Project (Parties). The purpose of this plan is to select and secure a suitable, long-term whitewater boating takeout location for the recreational streamflows required below Slab Creek Reservoir dam in the same Condition. This Condition requires SMUD "to make a good faith effort to purchase at fair market value suitable real property as such property becomes available or to obtain a long-term lease or easement for use of such property, if necessary for these facilities¹". Further the Conditions states "If easements cannot be obtained, licensee shall consult with FS, SWRCB, BLM, and the Consultation Group to determine an alternate location for access²". The Commission approved the extension request on March 15, 2017.

At the time of the 2017 filing, SMUD noted that various locations had been evaluated and removed from consideration, and SMUD had proposed a site located at the confluence of Rock Creek and South Fork American River, approximately 2.25 miles upstream of White Rock powerhouse, as suitable. This site is on federal reservation administered by the Department of the Interior, BLM. It is also the site of the Rock Creek powerhouse, a Commission-licensed hydroelectric facility (FERC Project No. 3189). Aside from the fact this site is located on public land, other favorable elements include existing infrastructure such as road access and space for parking. It should be noted that this site is the current interim take-out location for the Slab Creek recreational releases as a long-term, suitable location is pursued. The Parties had requested we revisit the process and information

¹ Order Issuing New License, 148 FERC ¶ 62,070, July 23, 2014, Appendix B, Condition 50, p. 211

² Ibid., p. 212

which led to this being SMUD's preferred option over locations previously considered and rejected, and supported this request for extension.

Following the 2017 filing, SMUD provided the requested information to the Parties during meetings held in February and May 2017, including the feasibility studies that led to removing several locations from further consideration. The Parties then requested a Technical Working Group meeting to explore other options. This meeting was held on July 27, 2017. During that TWG meeting, the BLM stated that the Rock Creek location will not be an acceptable long-term parking and access solution. Reasons stated by the BLM for this position include 1) concerns regarding insufficient landing and approach areas to support multiple rafts at the same time, 2) use of the site will exclude the lower 2.5 miles (30%) of the Slab Creek Run, 3) boaters continuing past the site (intentionally or accidentally) will not have a legal or safe means to exit the river canyon, and 4) administrative complexities of a SMUD License-required recreation facility co-located within another Licensee's (Enel) FERC Project Area may be insurmountable.

The BLM requested, and SMUD agreed, to revisit the opportunity to locate a take-out on, or in the vicinity of, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Chili Bar Project (FERC Project No. 2155) located immediately downstream of SMUD's White Rock powerhouse. One of the previously considered and rejected options included a similar discussion with PG&E. Additionally, the BLM asked that SMUD further investigate the El Dorado County design standards for access on another of the options, which previously considered and rejected based on the extent of environmental impact and cost. Lastly, in the event neither of these requests proved viable, BLM asked SMUD to continue its efforts to acquire easements or real fee title to the road access to the White Rock powerhouse location, previously rejected by the landowners, over the life of the License or until another suitable location is identified.

Subsequently, PG&E has reaffirmed its opposition to the concept of co-locating a take-out on or near the Chili Bar Project, and this is no longer being considered. Discussions with El Dorado County confirmed that their access design standards are to conform to the emergency access provisions of the California Fire Safe Regulations; as such SMUD has no interest in deviating from those to reduce environmental impacts and costs. SMUD is still formulating an approach to the continued outreach to the private landowners adjacent to the White Rock powerhouse.

Given the ongoing status of this process, SMUD respectfully requests another filing extension of one year to February 23, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact Darold Perry, Supervisor, Hydro License Implementation at (530) 647-5010 or Darold.Perry@smud.org.

Sincerely,



Timothy Talbert, Manager
Hydro Generation Assets
TT/db

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Project No. 2101-084

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION

(Issued March 22, 2018)

1. On February 20, 2018, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), licensee for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project No. 2101, filed an extension of time request to develop a plan for providing access and parking for whitewater boating activities in the vicinity of White Rock Powerhouse, as required by the U.S. Forest Service's (Forest Service) Section 4(e) Condition No. 50 of the project license.¹ The Upper American River Project consists of eight developments located on the Rubicon River, Silver Creek, and South Fork American River in El Dorado and Sacramento counties in central California. The project occupies, in part, federal lands within the Eldorado National Forest, managed by the Forest Service, and federal lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

2. In pertinent part, Condition 50 requires that within two years of license issuance, SMUD develop a plan that will provide for access and parking for recreational streamflows in the vicinity of White Rock Powerhouse.² SMUD must make a good faith effort to purchase property, or to secure long-term use of property, to provide the access and parking. If property cannot be obtained, SMUD must determine an alternate location for access. The plan must be developed in cooperation with, and approved by, the Forest Service, State Water Resources Control Board, BLM, and the consultation group for the project.

3. SMUD's 2017 extension of time request noted that various locations had been evaluated and removed from consideration. Following the 2017 filing, SMUD continued working with the consulting parties; SMUD is still formulating an approach to the continued outreach to the private landowners adjacent to the White Rock powerhouse.

¹ Order Issuing New License, issued July 23, 2014 (148 FERC ¶ 62,070).

² This is SMUD's third extension of time request for this requirement. SMUD filed extension of time requests to extend the deadline for this requirement on January 25, 2016 and February 20, 2017; the requests were granted on February 12, 2016 and March 15, 2017, respectively.

Given the ongoing status of this process, SMUD requests another one year extension, to February 23, 2019, to file plan that will provide for access and parking for recreational streamflows in the vicinity of White Rock Powerhouse.

4. SMUD filed the extension of time request prior to the deadline and provided adequate justification for the extension of time. SMUD's request to extend the deadline to develop a plan for providing access and parking for whitewater boating activities in the vicinity of White Rock Powerhouse, until February 23, 2019, should be approved.

The Director orders:

(A) Sacramento Municipal Utility District's February 20, 2018 request for an extension of time to develop a plan for providing access and parking for whitewater boating activities in the vicinity of White Rock Powerhouse, pursuant to U.S. Forest Service's section 4(e) Condition No. 50 of the license for the Upper American River Hydroelectric Project No. 2101, to February 23, 2019, is granted.

(B) This order constitutes final agency action. Any party may file a request for rehearing of this order within 30 days from the date of its issuance, as provided in section 313(a) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 825l (2012), and the Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. § 385.713 (2017). The filing of a request for rehearing does not operate as a stay of the effective date of this order, or of any other date specified in this order. The licensee's failure to file a request for rehearing shall constitute acceptance of this order.

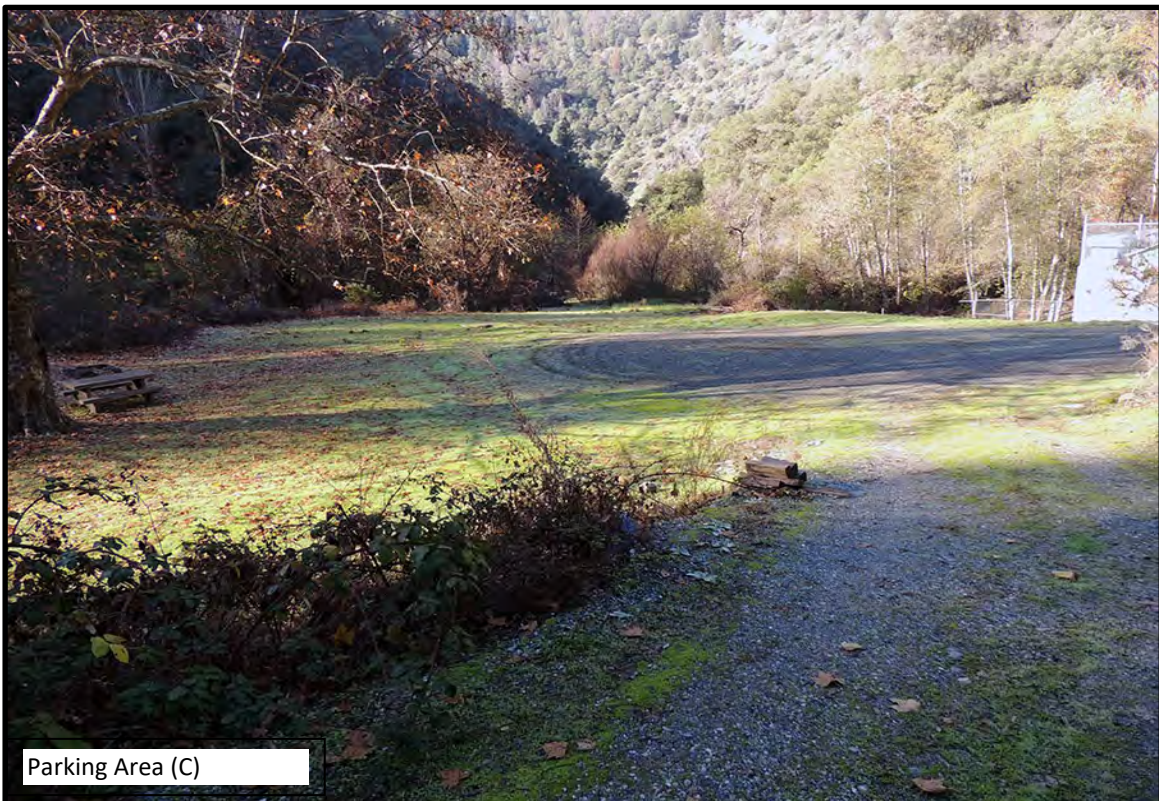
Shana C. High
Environmental Biologist
Division of Hydropower Administration
and Compliance

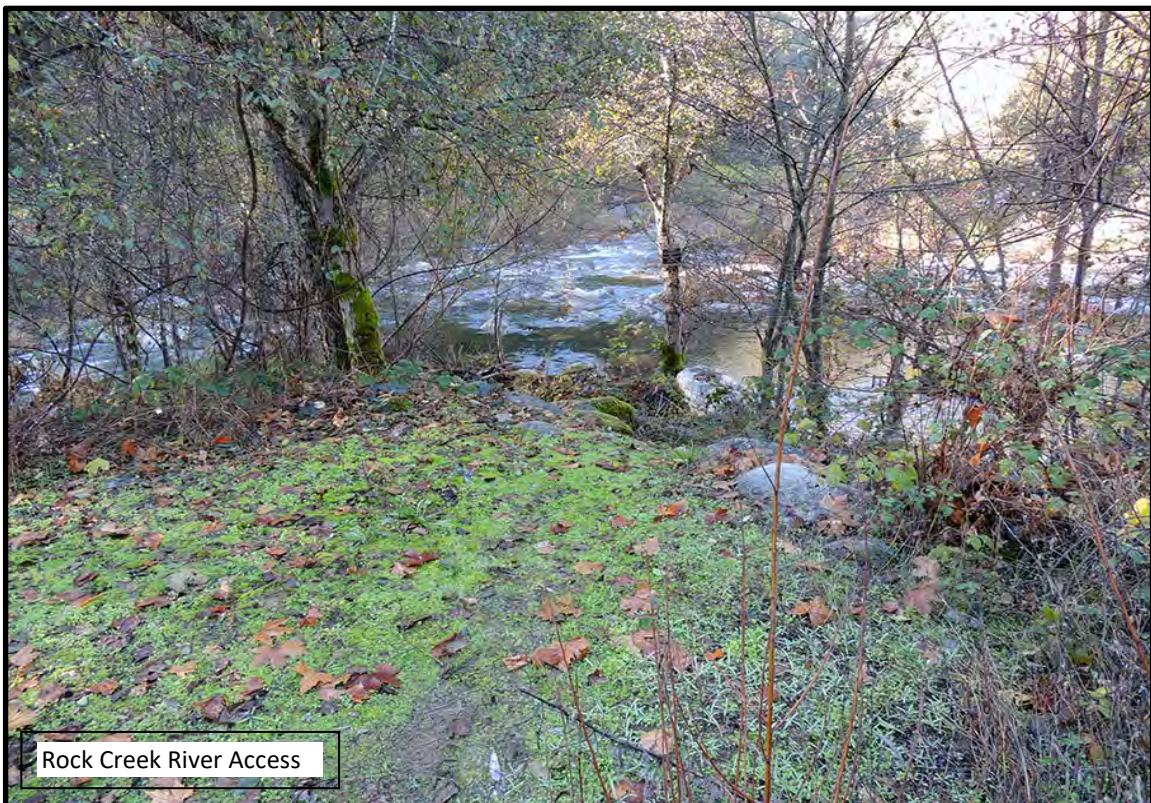
APPENDIX B

Rock Creek Powerhouse Site Photographs

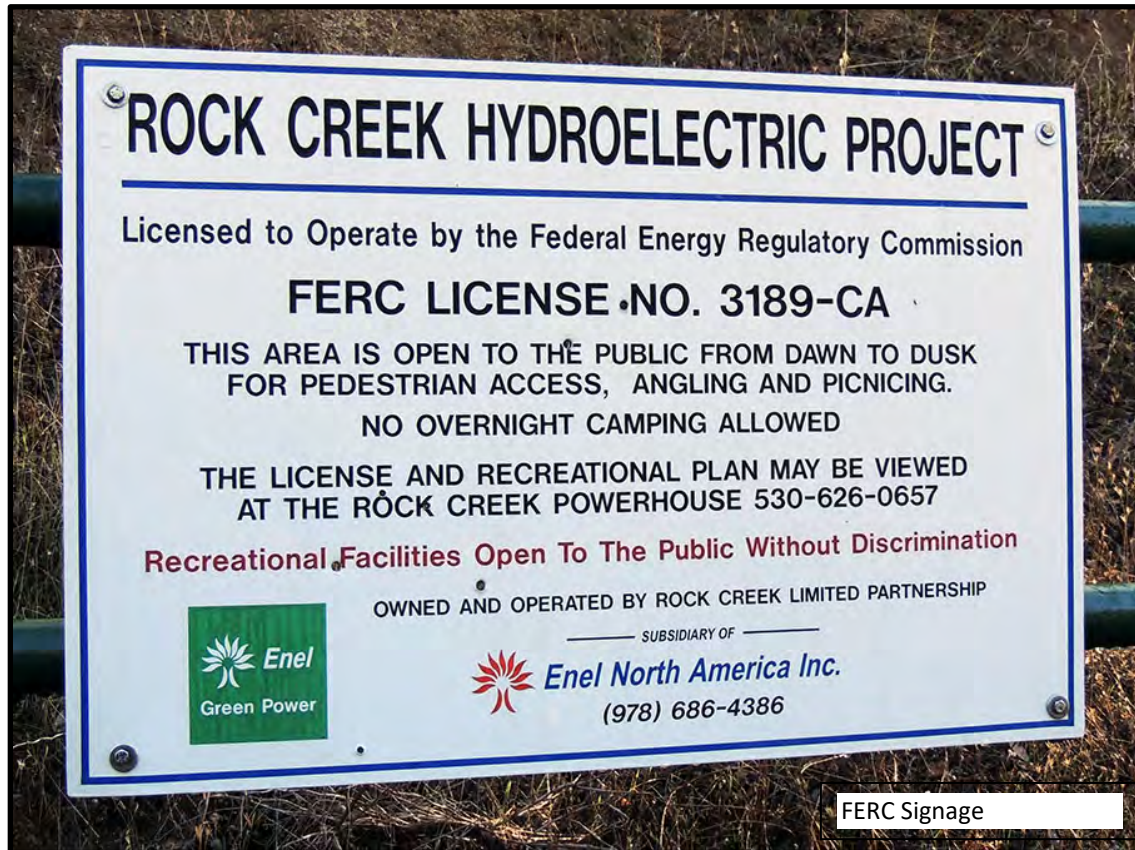












FERC Signage



Mining Claim Signage