

DRAFT

May 18, 2020 WAC/TAC Mtg
Agenda Item #6.b.2

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

May 19, 2020

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

Re: FERC Project No. 77-285; Feasibility Study Report for the Potter Valley Project

Dear Secretary Bose:

This support letter is submitted by the eight Water Agency Contractors and Marin Municipal Water District who purchase water from the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) in accordance with various existing contractual agreements. The Agency is one of the Notice of Intent (NOI) parties that submitted the above referenced Report to FERC on May 13, 2020. The eight Water Agency Contractors include the Cities of Cotati, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Town of Windsor, and the North Marin and Valley of the Moon Water Districts. For ease of reference, the eight Water Agency Contractors and Marin Municipal Water District are collectively referred to here as the “water contractors.”

We would like to express our ongoing appreciation to the Agency for the opportunities that have been offered to provide input in this process. The water contractors are committed to supporting the Agency in its cooperative efforts with the other NOI Parties in working towards mutually beneficial FERC License terms, based on the Shared Objectives of a Two-Basin Solution for the mutual benefit of the Eel River and Russian River basins. Those Shared Objectives were developed over many months through a comprehensive and broadly based multi-party effort concerning the future of the Potter Valley Project (PVP) led by Congressman Jared Huffman, and the water contractors fully support them. Furthermore, we continue to be committed to the Agency's efforts to retain water supply resiliency for the water contractors and for the fisheries in both River basins, and we understand and acknowledge the high degree of complexity and difficulty faced by the NOI Parties in completing the Feasibility Study Report and related work required by the FERC Process in a timely manner.

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The Feasibility Study Report includes the following sections: Regional Entity, Project Plan, Fisheries Restoration Plan, Application Study Plan, and Financial Plan. With respect to Regional Entity formation, the Water Contractors support the concept but need to know more about the boundaries, mission and governance. The water contractors also support "Water Supply Scenario 2" (Scott Dam removed, seasonal PVP diversions from Van Arsdale Reservoir) identified in the Report, recognizing that to the extent a new FERC License results in operational changes in water available to the Agency from Lake Mendocino, the Agency can draw on water stored in Lake Sonoma to fully meet its contractual water supply obligations to the water contractors. We also recognize the inherent financial uncertainties identified in the Financial Plan, but fully support the development of a Financial Plan which includes specific sources of initial capital funding and subsequent revenue streams adequate for long term sustainable operations of the PVP; and which ensure that water contractors will not be obligated to pay any cost that is disproportionate to the benefit received by the water contractors and their customers.

In closing, the water contractors support the Feasibility Study Report submitted to FERC by the NOI parties and respectfully urge FERC to approve their pre-filing process plan in advance of a formal License Application in May, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Harvey, City of Cotati Council Member
Chair
Water Advisory Committee

Cc: Service List, P-77-285