



VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

November 1, 2021

DRAFT

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

**Re: FERC Project No. 77-285; Support for Abeyance Request in
Relicensing of the Potter Valley Project**

Dear Secretary Bose:

This comment letter is submitted by the eight Water Agency Contractors and Marin Municipal Water District (Water Contractors) 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 filed a request with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on September 2, 2021 to place the Potter Valley Project (PVP) Integrated Licensing Process in abeyance until May 31, 2022. The Water Contractors include the Cities of Cotati, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Town of Windsor, the North Marin and Valley of the Moon Water Districts and the Marin Municipal Water District. The Water Contractors are collectively responsible for providing drinking water service to over 600,000 people in Marin and Sonoma Counties.

The Water Contractors have continued to support the Agency in its cooperative efforts with the other NOI Parties in working towards a beneficial FERC License based on the shared objectives of a Two-Basin Solution for the mutual benefit of the Eel River and Russian River basins, for the people who reside there, and for the critical fisheries and other natural resources interests at stake. More specifically, while Lake Sonoma is the primary source of drinking water delivered by the Agency to the Water Contractors, we fully support the Two-Basin Solution efforts to retain water supply resiliency and power production, and to provide benefits to fisheries in both River basins. We understand and acknowledge the high degree of complexity and difficulty faced by the NOI Parties with implementing the Two-Basin Solution, especially related to funding, and are committed to continue to support

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the NOI Parties' efforts to the extent that any future cost is proportional to the benefit received by the Water Contractors and their customers.

To this end, the Water Contractors would like to express our strong support of FERC's approval of the requested abeyance through April 14, 2022. Although the NOI Parties had requested abeyance through May 31, 2022, the shortened abeyance period will still provide an important benefit by allowing time for the NOI Parties to further evaluate how to meet the goals of the Two-Basin Solution. Now is not the time to accelerate any potential FERC surrender process as it relates to the Potter Valley Project.

Respectfully submitted,

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

cc: Service List, P-77-285