



TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT
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May 20, 2005

Mr. Dean Marston
California Dept. of Fish and Game
1234 E. Shaw Ave.
Fresno, CA 93710

Ms. Deborah Giglio
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825

RE: Tuolumne River 2005-2006 FERC Article 37 Flow Schedule for P-2299

Dear Fishery Agency representatives:

This letter is in reply to the April 20 letter of California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).

The District has not heard from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the FERC fish flow schedule this year, so at this point we assume there is no objection to the initial schedule in my letter of April 8. With regard to the schedule provided by CDFG, we have the following observations:

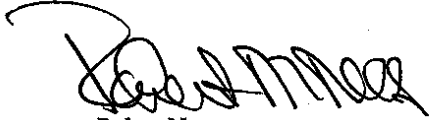
1. The CDFG "Revised Tuolumne River Flow Schedule" for the 2005-2006 Fish Flow Year includes "flood release" values that are not part of the FERC flow schedule process and do not represent our anticipated operations. As we have indicated to CDFG, USFWS, and other parties for Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan (VAMP) planning purposes, we have provisionally projected a total river flow during May on the order of 3,200 cfs, an amount that includes the FERC spring pulse flow (there are no additional VAMP flows this year).
2. The CDFG spring pulse has no multi-day rampdown that the Districts feel should be included, as was done for our initial schedule of April 8. We also note that the CDFG schedule later contains a projected one-day drop in river flow from 2000 cfs to 250 cfs. We continue our longstanding efforts to avoid these types of rapid changes, and do not agree to them being contained within the schedules.

In view of the forgoing comments and considerations, the Districts think their April 8 FERC fish flow schedule through the spring pulse flow period of April 30 to June 4 is preferred for fishery purposes. We are amenable to appropriate adjustments to the FERC fall pulse schedule and suggest that subject be revisited closer to that time. I note that you did not include my April 8 letter and schedule as part of your correspondence that you sent to an expanded distribution list (but not to FERC). As a consequence, we are distributing this letter and the April 8 letter to that larger distribution list (by e-mail where possible).

If you have any questions, please contact Wes Monier at 209-883-8321.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Nees", written over a large, sweeping flourish that starts under the word "Sincerely," and extends to the left.

Robert Nees
Assistant General Manager
Water Resources and Regulatory Affairs Administration

C: Larry Weis - TID
Allen Short - MID
Magalie Salas - FERC Secretary
CDFG April 20 letter distribution list