



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

Sacramento Valley - Central Sierra Region

1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

(916) 358-2900



OCT 5 - 2005

October 3, 2005

Mr. Peter Brundage  
Sacramento Local Agency  
Formation Commission  
1112 J Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr.Brundage:

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation of a draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) for the Amendment of the Sphere of Influence for the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) and Annexation of the Cities of West Sacramento, Davis, and Woodland, and portions of the Unincorporated Area of Yolo County (project). The project consists of a plan to expand the sphere of influence of SMUD to include the area noted above and to use existing PG&E facilities as well as, construct new electrical facilities in the annexed area. The project is located in the cities of Sacramento, West Sacramento, Davis, and Woodland as well as the intervening unincorporated area Yolo County.

Wildlife habitat resources consist of a mixture of urban, rural, agricultural, and natural habitats. Significant natural resources of the project include habitat for sensitive species. The American River and other important wetland habitats occur within the project area.

The Program EIR should discuss and provide mitigation for the following:

1. The project's impact upon fish and wildlife and their habitat. The Program EIR should identify habitat loss related to facilities construction, re-conductoring, etc. as well as any disturbance impacts to fish and wildlife. Additionally, the program EIR should discuss impacts, such as vegetation management, bird strikes on transmission lines, etc, which are related to the ongoing operation and maintenance of the project
2. The project's impact upon significant habitat such as wetlands including vernal pools and riparian areas. The project should be designed so that impacts to wetlands are avoided. Mitigation should be provided for unavoidable impacts based upon the concept of no net loss of wetland habitat values or acreage.

3. The project's impact to special status species including species which are state and federal listed as threatened and endangered . Records contained in the California Natural Diversity Database indicate the presence of a number of sensitive plants and animals in the project area. The program EIR should identify and discuss the potential for impacts to sensitive species. If potential impacts are identified, the program EIR should provide either a means of avoiding the impacts or provide mitigation that off-sets them.
4. The project's growth-inducing and cumulative impacts upon fish, wildlife, water quality and vegetative resources.
5. The DEIR should provide an analysis of specific alternatives which reduce impacts to fish, wildlife, water quality and vegetative resources.
6. The DEIR should contain an evaluation of the proposed project's consistency with the applicable land use plans, such as General Plans, Specific Plans, Watershed Master Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans, etc for the area. .

The DEIR should consider and analyze whether implementation of the proposed project will result in reasonably foreseeable potentially significant impacts subject to regulation by the DFG under section 1600 et seq. of the Fish and Game Code. In general, such impacts result whenever a proposed project involves work undertaken in or near a river, stream, or lake that flows at least intermittently through a bed or channel, including ephemeral streams and water courses. Impacts triggering regulation by the DFG under these provisions of the Fish and Game Code typically result from activities that:

- Divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow or the bed, channel or bank of any river, stream, or lake;
- Use material from a streambed; or
- Result in the disposal or deposition of debris, waste, or other material where it may pass into any river stream, or lake.

In the event implementation of the proposed project involves such activities, and those activities will result in reasonably foreseeable substantial adverse effects on fish or wildlife, a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) will be required by the DFG. Because issuance of a LSAA is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the DEIR should analyze whether the potentially feasible mitigation measures set forth below will avoid or substantially reduce impacts requiring a LSAA from the DFG.

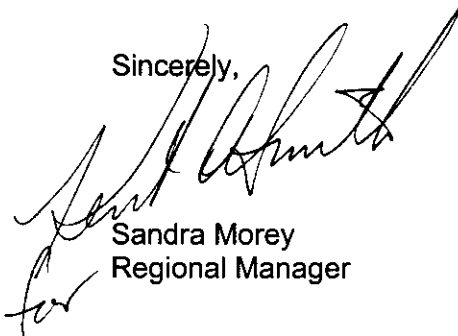
Mr. Peter Brundage  
October 3, 2005  
Page Three

This project will have an impact to fish and/or wildlife habitat. Assessment of fees under Public Resources Code Section 21089 and as defined by Fish and Game Code Section 711.4 is necessary. Fees are payable by the project applicant upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the lead agency.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 21092 and 21092.2, the DFG requests written notification of proposed actions and pending decisions regarding this project. Written notifications should be directed to this office.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If the DFG can be of further assistance, please contact Mr. Dan Gifford, Senior Wildlife Biologist, telephone (209) 369-8851 or Mr. Kent Smith, Acting Assistant Regional Manager, telephone (916) 358-2382.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Morey', written over a printed name and title.

Sandra Morey  
Regional Manager

cc. Susan Jones  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W2605  
Sacramento, CA 92825-1888

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Mr. Kent Smith  
Department of Fish and Game  
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