

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

REGION 2  
1701 NIMBUS ROAD, SUITE A  
RANICHO CORDOVA, CA 95670



(916) 355-7020

March 31, 1994

Mr. John P. Hiltz, Manager  
Generation Operations Department  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
6201 S Street  
Sacramento, California 95852-1830

Dear Mr. Hiltz:

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has reviewed Sacramento Municipal Utility District's (SMUD) November 1992 Biological Assessment of the South Fork American River conducted upstream and downstream of Slab Creek Reservoir (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2101), and the 1993 bathymetric survey of the reservoir to determine the amount of sediment impounded in the reservoir. Additionally, the DFG has reviewed the turbidity information collected by your turbidity meters located upstream and downstream of the reservoir.

The aquatic sampling indicated that there were some differences in macroinvertebrate populations downstream of the reservoir when compared to populations upstream of the reservoir. The differences suggested the possibility that sedimentation has shifted the invertebrate populations to less preferable prey species for salmonid fishes. The fisheries component of the sampling indicated no significant differences in species composition upstream versus downstream of the reservoir.

There was an indication that the amount of sediment present in the channel was greater in stream reaches downstream of the dam than in reaches upstream of the reservoir. However, flushing flows during the 1992-93 winter and spring runoff period were large enough to flush the sediment deposits out of the system.

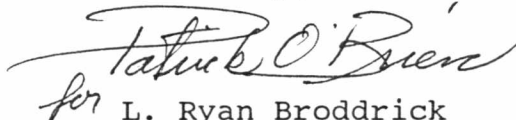
The DFG concurs with proposed reservoir operations limited to within elevations ranging from 1,800 to 1,850 feet. Additionally, the turbidity monitoring and alarm setups are sufficient to ensure protection of downstream aquatic resources. The DFG agrees with the notification procedure whereby SMUD will notify the DFG Oil Spill Prevention and Response dispatchers when a turbidity incident occurs. The DFG requests that SMUD submit turbidity monitoring reports on an annual basis.

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In conclusion, the DFG is satisfied with SMUD's response and actions regarding the 1991 and 1992 turbidity incidents downstream of Slab Creek Reservoir. The DFG would like to thank SMUD for its cooperation and willingness to work with all parties involved to resolve this problem.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact Mr. Stafford Lehr, Fishery Biologist, telephone (916) 647-9827, or Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Senior Fishery Biologist, at (916) 355-7090.

Sincerely,

  
for L. Ryan Broddrick  
Regional Manager

cc: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
901 Market Street, Room 350  
San Francisco, California 94103

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Acting Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1803  
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Mr. Stafford Lehr  
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