

From: Staples, Rose
BCC To: Don Pedro Relicensing Participants Email Group
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 4:37 PM
Cc: Staples, Rose
Subject: Districts E-File W-AR-11 Final Otolith Study Report

The Districts e-filed yesterday the final study report for W&AR-11, the Chinook Salmon Otolith Study. A copy of the report is available on FERC's e-library at www.ferc.gov or on the Don Pedro relicensing website at www.donpedro-relicensing.com, in the Updated Study Report folder under the DOCUMENTS tab.

If you have any difficulty locating and/or accessing the report, please let me know.

Thank you.

Rose Staples, CAP-OM, MOS
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From: Staples, Rose

BCC To: Don Pedro Relicensing Participants Email Group

Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 9:04 PM

Subject: Don Pedro Newsletter Volume 5 Issue 1 Available on Don Pedro Relicensing Website

The Districts have published Volume 5 Issue 1 of the *Don Pedro Relicensing Newsletter*, a copy of which has been uploaded to the Don Pedro Relicensing website (www.donpedro-relicensing.com). You can access the document via the COMMUNICATIONS tab—please note you will need to scroll down the page to the bottom section, where you will find the newest issue at the top of the list of all Don Pedro Relicensing newsletters published to date. Thank you.

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**MID** Modesto
Irrigation
District
Water and Power

Don Pedro

**TID** WATER & POWER
Serving Central California since 1887

A newsletter about the relicensing of the Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project

Volume 5 | Issue 1

April 2016

Don Pedro Relicensing - Where We've Been

Relicensing of the Don Pedro Project follows the Integrated Licensing Process as designated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Modesto Irrigation District (MID) and Turlock Irrigation District (TID) took the first step in this multi-year process by filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Pre-Application Document (PAD) in February 2011, which summarized existing information relevant to the relicensing process.

Following this filing, FERC conducted a pair of scoping meetings in May 2011. Many local public figures attended and spoke at these meetings as the purpose of the meetings was to identify relevant issues of public interest involving the Don Pedro Project. Information gathered at these scoping meetings proved helpful to MID and TID in the development of the Proposed Study Plan (PSP). There were 130 study requests, which were all carefully considered. The PSP was filed in July 2011 and outlined 30 studies proposed by MID and TID.

In December 2011, FERC issued its 140-page Study Plan Determination (SPD). With FERC's SPD issued, MID and TID immediately planned to undertake the approved studies in accordance with FERC's directive. Most of the studies involved extensive field

work; considerable coordination and logistics needed to be worked out to execute the studies efficiently and consistent with the study plans approved by FERC.

As directed by FERC, MID and TID conducted more than 35 studies to examine the Project's potential to affect resources in the lower Tuolumne River and within and adjacent to Don Pedro Reservoir. Results from the studies were presented at the Initial Study Report meeting in January 2013 and the Updated Study Report meeting in January 2014.

The Districts filed the Draft License Application (DLA) in November 2013. The purpose of the DLA is to provide an opportunity for public review and comment on the application prior to filing the Final License Application (FLA).

MID and TID filed the FLA for the Don Pedro Project with FERC in April 2014. The FLA contains a number of new proposed measures to protect the environment and promote recreational use of the Project area. The FLA may be modified in 2017, or sooner, awaiting completion of the last of the studies.

MID and TID may propose additional future protection, mitigation and enhancement measures, including potential river flow proposals.

Relicensing Milestones

1. Districts filed Pre-Application Document and Notice of Intent in 2011.
2. FERC conducts scoping in May 2011.
3. Interested parties discuss issues and develop study requests.
4. Districts file Proposed Study Plan in July 2011 and undertake a series of meetings with relicensing participants to discuss study plans.
5. FERC issues Study Plan Determination in December 2011.
6. Studies begin in 2012.
7. Initial Study Report issued for review and comment in January 2013.
8. Districts file Draft License Application with FERC in November 2013.
9. Districts filed Updated Study Report in January 2014.
10. Districts filed Final License Application in April 2014.

License Set to Expire in April 2016

The current Don Pedro Project FERC license will expire April 30, 2016. Upon license expiration, FERC will begin issuing annual licenses for the Project until the relicensing process is complete. It's not unusual for larger projects to have their existing license expire while the relicensing proceeding is still underway.

The annual license will most likely have the same terms and conditions as the expired license, although FERC reserves its authority to incorporate additional or revised conditions. MID and TID don't anticipate that FERC will add any new license conditions while it considers the issuance of a new license for the Don Pedro Project.

Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

Federal law requires that MID and TID obtain a Water Quality Certificate from the State attesting that the Don Pedro Project, as proposed, complies with water quality objectives applicable to the Tuolumne River. Through this process, the State can impose requirements on MID and TID to increase river flows or implement non-flow measures beyond those ordered by FERC. Currently, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) is considering a proposal to amend the current Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) which would require that the Merced, Tuolumne and Stanislaus rivers dedicate up to 60% of unimpaired flow from February through June annually. Those flows would be in addition to what is already required to be released during warmer summer months.

The Don Pedro Project was constructed as a water storage project and is operated to provide a safe, reliable source of water. It supplies water to approximately 300,000 acres of Central Valley farmland, which is among the most productive in the world. The water stored behind Don Pedro also supplements the drinking water supply for the City of Modesto, La Grange and, through a "water banking" arrangement with the City and County of San Francisco, supports the Bay Area's water supply for more than two million people. If the Water Board approves this proposal, known as the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, it will undoubtedly have significant and unavoidable impacts on Don Pedro's water supply and, ultimately, all those who benefit from that water.

Chinook Salmon Otolith Study (W&AR-11) Update

MID and TID filed the final Chinook Salmon Otolith Study report with FERC on February 8, 2016. The purpose of this study was to understand the interaction between operations of the Don Pedro Project, hydrology and Chinook salmon emigration patterns from the Tuolumne River.

The study examined the microstructure and microchemistry of fish “earstones,” or otoliths, to identify (1) whether returning adults originated from hatcheries or other rivers and (2) the age and size of “wild” fish when they moved from their river of origin into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and when they moved from the Delta into the ocean.

The results of this study indicated relatively high straying of hatchery fish into the Tuolumne River. Results also showed that fish emigrating as fry were very unlikely to return to the river as adults. Consistent with other San Joaquin River basin studies, larger outmigrants represented the vast majority of returning adults, which implies a survival advantage for larger emigrants.

History of Don Pedro Relevant as Project's Future Weighed by FERC

As we continue the relicensing process, it is important to reflect on how Don Pedro came to be.

Formed in 1887, the Modesto Irrigation District and Turlock Irrigation District are the oldest irrigation districts in California. They were created by a vote of the people in accordance with the laws of California to provide irrigation water for agricultural purposes in their respective irrigation service areas which today total approximately 300,000 acres of trees, vines and forage crops.

Soon after formation, the Districts acquired a water diversion site on the Tuolumne River located downstream of the Don Pedro site along with “pre-1914” water rights; MID and TID have added other water rights to these over time.

An original Don Pedro Reservoir with approximately 290,400 acre-feet of storage and its associated powerhouse were brought online in 1923 to improve water availability for the long growing season of the Central Valley and to bring electricity to a portion of this rural area. MID and TID have been providing retail electricity to the communities’ farms, homes, municipalities, business and industry since that time. Today, the Districts serve approximately 200,000 customers in a 1,000 square mile area.

The Tuolumne River has a long history of cooperative water planning. The need to provide a reliable water supply to a growing Bay Area and concerns over the need to withstand multiple dry years and the growing demand for electricity resulted in MID, TID, and City and County of San Francisco developing the current Don Pedro Project.

The New Don Pedro Project inundated the original dam and impoundment, and the resulting current Don Pedro Reservoir has a storage capacity of 2,030,000 acre-feet, over seven times that of its predecessor; the new Don Pedro Powerhouse constructed with the dam has a generating capacity of 203 megawatts.



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Name
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From: Staples, Rose
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 8:38 PM
To: Leon, Abimael@Wildlife <Abimael.Leon@wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Request to be added to the FERC (TID/MID) mailing list

I have added your email address to both my Don Pedro Relicensing and La Grange Licensing email groups. Hopefully you are already aware of the two websites (www.donpedro-relicensing.com and www.lagrange-licensing.com) as well as the fact that there is a La Grange Workshop No. 5 being held tomorrow (10:00 a.m. to Noon) at the MID Offices in Modesto. Workshop agenda and advance materials are on the La Grange website under the DOCUMENTS and the CALENDAR TAB for May 19.

Thank you.

Rose Staples, CAP-OM, MOS
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From: Leon, Abimael@Wildlife [<mailto:Abimael.Leon@wildlife.ca.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 8:09 PM
To: Staples, Rose
Subject: Request to be added to the FERC (TID/MID) mailing list

Hello Rose,

I would like to be included on the mailing list for the Tuolumne FERC meetings (TID/MID). I will be overseeing and leading FERC licensing and review activities for FERC projects undergoing review within the California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Central Region (Region 4), among other responsibilities.

Thanks,

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Abimael (Abi) León

Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
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Central Region (Region 4)
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Environmental Planning and Review
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From: Staples, Rose
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 9:22 AM
To: John Buckley <johnb@cserc.org>
Subject: RE: FERC meetings

You are correct!

1. No meeting scheduled for Thursday May 26th.
2. The next scheduled session is the DPRSG session on June 9th.

Thank you for checking.

Rose Staples, CAP-OM, MOS
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From: John Buckley [<mailto:johnb@cserc.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 7:09 PM
To: Staples, Rose
Subject: Re: FERC meetings

Rose:

At one point I penciled in a possible TID/MID FERC meeting for this coming Thursday (May 26th), but I see no notice of any scheduled meeting.

Am I correct that the next scheduled session is a DPRSG negotiation session on June 9th, and nothing prior to that time for the Don Pedro/LaGrange FERC process?

John Buckley
CSERC
johnb@cserc.org

From: Staples, Rose

BCC To: Don Pedro Relicensing Participants Email Group

Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 6:39 PM

Subject: Don Pedro Project Predation Study Letter E-Filed with FERC Today

The Districts have e-filed with FERC today a letter regarding Don Pedro's Predation Study. A copy of the filing is available from FERC's E-Library (www.ferc.gov – Docket P-2299-075). In addition, a copy was also uploaded to the relicensing website at www.donpedro-relicensing.com, as an attachment to today's date on the website CALENDAR.

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From: Barnes, Peter@Waterboards [mailto:Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 8:03 PM

To: Devine, John <John.Devine@hdrinc.com>; James.Hastreiter@FERC.gov; zachary_jackson@fws.gov; Hughes, Robert@Wildlife <Robert.Hughes@wildlife.ca.gov>; Murphey, Gretchen@Wildlife <Gretchen.Murphey@wildlife.ca.gov>; John Wooster <john.wooster@noaa.gov>; Larry Thompson <larry.thompson@noaa.gov>; Heyne, Tim@Wildlife <Tim.Heyne@wildlife.ca.gov>; Staples, Rose <Rose.Staples@hdrinc.com>

Cc: Wetzel, Jeff@Waterboards <Jeff.Wetzel@waterboards.ca.gov>

Subject: New State Water Board Point of Contact - Don Pedro and La Grange Relicensings

All,

I have accepted a new position with the Cannabis Interim Instream Flow group within the Division of Water Rights. The transfer is effective July 11th. My current supervisor, Jeff Wetzel, will act as the State Water Board point of contact for both the Don Pedro and La Grange Relicensings. I cc'd him on this email and provided his contact information below. Since I will still be within the Division I will do my best to make sure the transfer is as smooth as possible. Please let me know if you have any questions. It was a pleasure working with you on these projects. Feel free to pass this information along to anyone that I may have missed.

Contact Information

Jeff Wetzel

916-323-9390

Jeff.Wetzel@waterboards.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Peter Barnes

Engineering Geologist

Water Quality Certification Program

Division of Water Rights

State Water Resources Control Board

Phone: (916) 445-9989

Email: Peter.Barnes@waterboards.ca.gov



From: Bob Hackamack
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2016 11:58 PM
To: Staples, Rose <Rose.Staples@hdrinc.com>
Subject: RE: Need help with Tuolumne WY UF

Rose: Thanks for your help. Dan Steiner provided even more data than I needed. Best wishes, Bob H

From: Staples, Rose [<mailto:Rose.Staples@hdrinc.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2016 10:49 AM
To: BHackamack
Subject: RE: Need help with Tuolumne WY UF

I'm back! Would recommend you contact Dan Steiner and request the data from him, like the data that was provided, I believe, with the USR. If I can assist you with anything further, please do get back in contact. Thank you.

Rose Staples, CAP-OM, MOS
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From: Bob Hackamack
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2016 6:15 PM
To: Staples, Rose <Rose.Staples@hdrinc.com>
Subject: Need help with Tuolumne WY UF

Rose: thanks for keeping me advised of all the work HDR is doing for La Grange and Don Pedro relicensing.

I made an error in my water database for one water year of Unimpaired Flow for the Tuolumne watershed. Could you refer me to a person that could fill in my data for UF for WY 2010 through 2014 (and 2015 if available). I tried your Don Pedro web site, but I only has text for WAR-2. Many thanks and hello to John. Bob Hackamack