

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

December 19, 2005

Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Place, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Upper North Fork Feather River Project (FERC No. 2105-089), Plumas County, California (CEQ #20050485)

Dear Ms. Salas:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Upper North Fork Feather River Project and provided comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on November 29, 2004. We rated the DEIS as Environmental Concerns - Insufficient Information (EC-2). We raised several issues to FERC about the analysis of the no-action alternative, and water and air quality impacts. We also requested additional information regarding consultation with tribal governments, environmental justice issues, and the analysis of cumulative impacts.

EPA concurs that the issues identified in our review of the DEIS have been addressed in the FEIS. In response to comments from EPA and other agencies, FERC clarified and/or provided additional information on water and air quality impacts, tribal consultation, environmental justice impacts and cumulative effects.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. When the Record of Decision is signed, please send one copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me or David Schmidt, the lead reviewer for this project. My number is (415) 972-3988, and David can be reached at (415) 972-3792 or schmidt.davidp@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Duane James, Manager
Environmental Review Office
Communities and Ecosystems Division