

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20426  
February 5, 2015

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 12496-002—California  
Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project  
Rugraw, LLC

Mr. Charlie Kuffner  
Rugraw, LLC  
70 Paseo Mirasol  
Tiburon, CA 94920

**Reference: Study Plan Approval and Additional Study Needs**

Dear Mr. Kuffner:

On October 3, 2014, the Commission issued a letter requiring Rugraw, LLC (Rugraw) to develop study plans for the Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project (Lassen Lodge Project or project) to model water temperature in the project bypassed reach and sediment transport in South Fork Battle Creek.<sup>1</sup> Rugraw submitted the required study plans and documentation of consultation on December 3, 2014.

On January 8, 2015, Commission staff participated by teleconference<sup>2</sup> in a meeting with the Water Board, Cal Fish and Wildlife, the Service, Tehama County, NMFS, and Rugraw to discuss the Unit Characteristic and Hydraulic Geometry methods

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<sup>1</sup> The letter specified that the study plans be developed in consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service), California State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Cal Fish and Wildlife).

<sup>2</sup> A Memo of Teleconference was filed on January 22, 2015.

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that Rugraw used to quantify fish habitat in South Fork Battle Creek.<sup>3</sup> The status of Panther Grade Falls as a barrier to anadromous fish also was discussed at this meeting.<sup>4</sup>

Additional consultation between NMFS and Rugraw occurred on January 13 and 14, 2015, to discuss the modeling method to be used in the water temperature study. On January 21, 2015, NMFS filed comments on Rugraw's proposed study plans requesting that Rugraw use a different modeling method than what is proposed in the Water Temperature Modeling Study Plan. On January 27, 2015, Rugraw filed additional justification for the use of its proposed water temperature modeling method.

In the attached Schedule A, we request additional information regarding passage at Panther Grade Falls and the use of the Hydraulic Geometry Method, and approve the proposed study plans, as modified by Commission staff. Some comments were received that do not address the proposed study plans nor do they propose new studies. We do not address those comments, but rather address only comments that recommended changes in the proposed studies pursuant to section 4.32(b)(7) and 4.32(g) of the Commission's regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact Adam Beeco at (202) 502-8655, or via email at [adam.beeco@ferc.gov](mailto:adam.beeco@ferc.gov).

Sincerely,

Timothy Konnert, Chief  
West Branch  
Division of Hydropower Licensing

Enclosure: Schedule A

*on file in Room 102 - Courthouse*

cc: Mailing List  
Public Files

<sup>3</sup> Appendix B: Salmonid Habitat Assessment for Upper South Fork Battle Creek was filed as part of the Lassen Lodge Final License Application on April 21, 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Rugraw provided the Panther Grade Falls Barrier Analysis in Supplemental Information for Final License Application Responses to Agency Comments filed on September 11, 2014.