Chapter 1.0
Introduction

This Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) describes the potential beneficial and adverse effects of alternatives for a proposed pump station project to replace the seasonal American River pump station near Auburn, California. The EIS/EIR evaluates the potential environmental effects of three alternatives: No Action/No Project, Mid-Channel Diversion, and Upstream Diversion. The Mid-Channel Diversion Alternative is the Proposed Project and includes: (1) construction and operation of a year-round pumping facility for PCWA which would divert water from the North Fork American River in the vicinity of the Auburn Dam construction site near Auburn, California (**Figure 1-1**); (2) closure of the Auburn Dam bypass tunnel; and (3) restoration of the three-quarter mile reach of the river that was dewatered and otherwise impacted by activities associated with Auburn Dam construction. As a project-specific EIS/EIR, the impact analysis addressed the direct and indirect impacts of the alternatives as well as cumulative impacts associated with increased use of American River water supplies and regional service area impacts.

Potential environmental effects resulting from construction and long-term operation, and maintenance of the alternatives are described in this document in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Reclamation is the lead agency under NEPA and PCWA is the lead agency under CEQA.

Public and agency comments on the Draft EIS/EIR and descriptions of how the comments were considered in preparing this Final EIS/EIR also are presented in this document. Revisions to the Draft EIS/EIR have been incorporated into this document and are summarized later in this chapter.

1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is threefold: (1) to provide facilities to allow PCWA to convey its Middle Fork Project (MFP) water entitlement to the Auburn Ravine Tunnel (also referred to locally as the Ophir Tunnel) to meet demands within its service area; (2) to eliminate the safety issue associated with the Auburn Dam bypass tunnel; and (3) to allow for all pre-construction beneficial uses of water in what is now the dewatered river channel, including recreation, navigation, and other instream beneficial uses. Each of these elements is discussed in Section 1.3, Project Needs and Objectives.

1.2 PROJECT HISTORY

In 1965, Congress authorized the construction of Auburn Dam on the North Fork American River near the City of Auburn. Construction began in 1967 and included a cofferdam, a tunnel through a ridge to bypass the river around the construction area (referred to as the bypass tunnel), excavation for the Auburn Dam foundation (also referred to as the keyway), and removal of a permanent

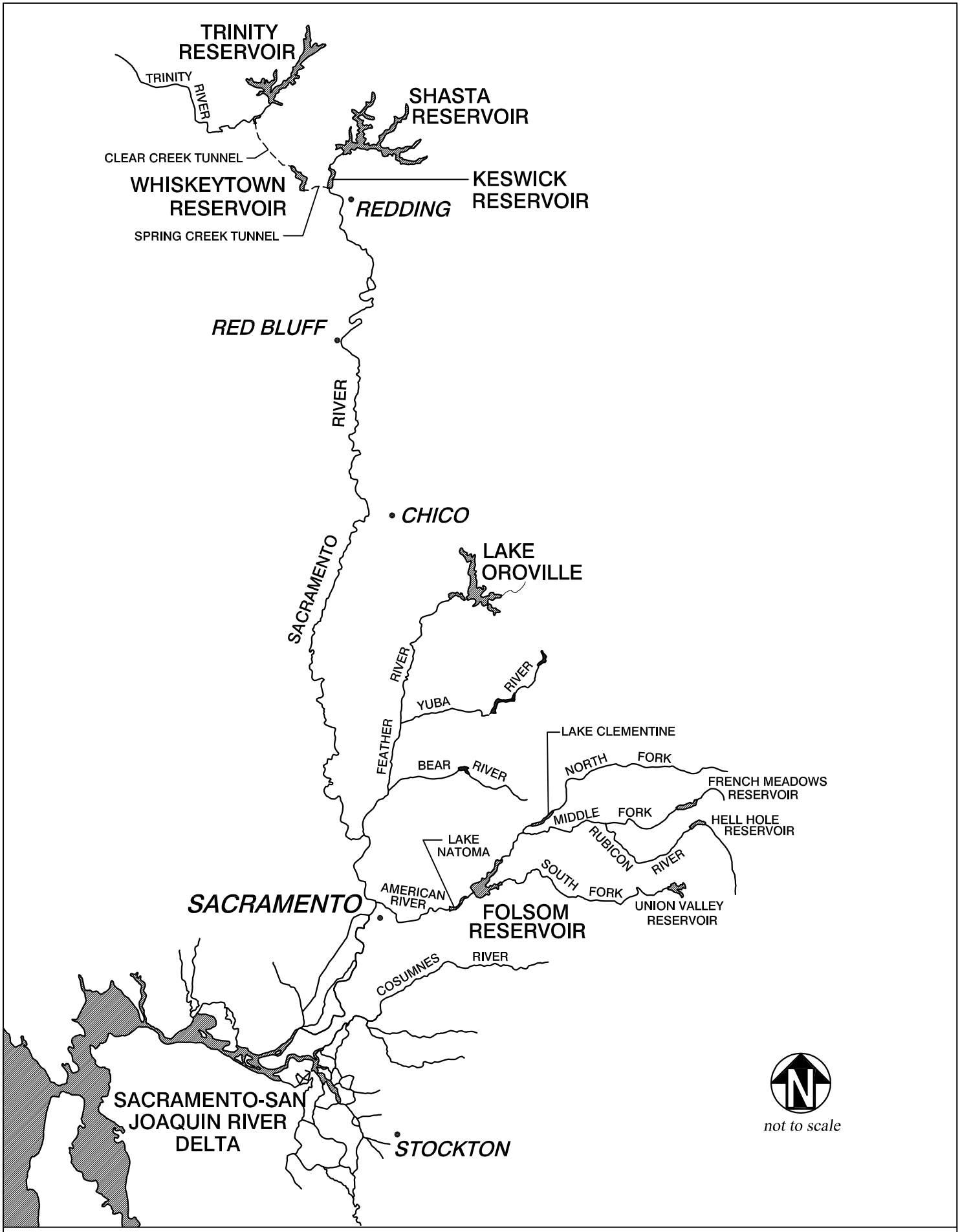

Figure 1-1 Regional Setting

pump station owned by PCWA. Because of concerns over seismic safety, heightened by the 5.7 magnitude (Richter scale) Oroville earthquake of August 1, 1975, construction of Auburn Dam was suspended in 1977.

1.2.1 PCWA ORIGINAL PUMP STATION

Prior to the initiation of construction of Auburn Dam, PCWA built a 50 cubic feet per second (cfs) pump station on the North Fork American River to convey PCWA water supplies from its MFP to the Auburn Ravine Tunnel for delivery to PCWA's service area. However, before PCWA's operations began, the pump station was removed by Reclamation to facilitate construction of Auburn Dam. Pursuant to a Land Purchase Agreement with PCWA described below, Reclamation has since installed a seasonal pump station annually as needed by PCWA to meet water supply demands.

1.2.2 LAND PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Before suspending Auburn Dam construction, Reclamation sought a Land Purchase Agreement with PCWA to acquire canyon lands needed for the Auburn Dam Project. PCWA entered into a Land Purchase Agreement in 1972 with Reclamation under the threat of condemnation. As part of the Land Purchase Agreement, PCWA's 50 cfs pump station was removed to facilitate construction of Auburn Dam subject to Reclamation's provision of an interim pumping facility or alternative water supply until Auburn Dam was completed. As the Auburn Dam Project was designed at that time, water from the reservoir was to flow by gravity into the Auburn Ravine Tunnel to provide PCWA its water entitlements, thereby eliminating the need for a pump station. As stipulated in the Land Purchase Agreement:

> [Article 11] A *"...the United States will provide a temporary pumping facility in the event the Vendor [PCWA] demonstrates a need for water, to be delivered into the existing tunnel intake structure at the intake portal of the Auburn Ravine Tunnel, or at its option, the United States may provide water from an alternative source, provided delivery is made at a point suitable for its intended use."*

The Land Purchase Agreement obligated Reclamation to deliver up to 25,000 acre-feet annually (AFA) at a rate of up to 50 cfs.

1.2.3 OPERATIONS UNDER THE LAND PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Pursuant to the Land Purchase Agreement, the United States, through Reclamation, has delivered water through the installation and removal of a seasonal pump station on an as-needed basis. The first time PCWA required access to its MFP water rights to meet system demands was during the drought of 1977. In response to PCWA's request for water under the Land Purchase Agreement, Reclamation constructed a pump station capable of delivering approximately 50 cfs using pumps salvaged from PCWA's original pump station.

Beginning in 1990, PCWA has required access to its MFP water annually to meet its system demands under a variety of operating conditions. Reclamation has responded with the seasonal re-

installation and removal of PCWA's original pumps at the same location as the 1977 installation. Due to the location of the installation, the pumps have to be removed before winter each year to prevent damage due to inundation from high river flows. As discussed below, the seasonal pumps do not fully meet PCWA's water supply requirements, are not reliable, and have become increasingly expensive to install and maintain.

Reclamation can deliver the MFP water supply to PCWA only from approximately April to November. Late-fall, winter, and spring MFP water supplies are not accessible due to the potential for high river flows that can inundate the seasonal pump station. Further, because of limitations on the pumping capacity of the existing facilities (50 cfs) and the timing of seasonal diversions as compared to the pattern of demands, the maximum annual diversion for the seasonal pump station is approximately 19,300 acre-feet (AF). The seasonal pump station no longer permits Reclamation to provide PCWA with a reliable water supply when and where required to meet PCWA's system demands in accordance with the Land Purchase Agreement.

The annual installation and removal of the seasonal pump station has become increasingly expensive for Reclamation. In recent years, the minimum cost for annual installation and removal has been approximately $250,000. The record high flows of the American River during January 1997 destroyed both the access road to the seasonal pump station and the pipeline connecting the pumps to the Auburn Ravine Tunnel. Reinstallation of the seasonal pump station in the summer of 1997 required new foundation work for the access roads and the pipeline, costing Reclamation nearly $1 million (W. Sanford, pers. comm. 1997).

1.2.4 U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION MANAGEMENT OF AUBURN DAM CONSTRUCTION SITE

Auburn Dam remains an authorized federal project and is considered by some to be feasible. In 1992 and 1996, there were unsuccessful Congressional initiatives to modify and restart the Auburn Dam Project.

Since suspension of Auburn Dam construction in 1977, Reclamation has been managing the Auburn Dam site on an interim basis. Existing site conditions present Reclamation with several resource management issues and opportunities, including public safety, access, and recreation management.[1] In 1994, Reclamation undertook a study to address these issues, together with the installation of a year-round pump station for PCWA. The results were published in a report entitled *Preliminary Concept Plan, Restoration and Management of the Auburn Dam Site* (Reclamation 1996) (1996 Concept Plan).

Reclamation's 1996 Concept Plan identified several interests and options related to improving public safety, access, and recreation at the Auburn Dam construction site. The options identified included closure of the bypass tunnel, restoration of the river through the dewatered channel, and recreational access at the site. Upon completion of the 1996 Concept Plan, Reclamation initiated a concerted engineering and environmental planning effort to implement the findings of the report.

[1] California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), through an agreement with Reclamation, provides management of Auburn State Recreation Area (Auburn SRA) activities, including the project area.

Early in the planning effort, members of the public and certain interest groups supported inclusion of the 1996 Concept Plan site restoration and river bypass tunnel closure measures. In late 1997, Reclamation (1997) undertook a Value Planning Study to further evaluate the options for a year-round pump station, restoration of the Auburn Dam construction site, and tunnel safety consistent with the 1996 Concept Report. However, following publication of the results of the 1997 study, it appeared that critical Congressional support for the project would not be forthcoming if the project included blocking the bypass tunnel or restoring the river channel. Therefore, during 1998 and into 1999, Reclamation and PCWA concentrated on designing a pump station that would not require the bypass tunnel to be closed or the channel restored.

1.2.5 STATE OF CALIFORNIA INTEREST

In September 1999, the State of California's Attorney General sent the Secretary of the Interior a letter indicating legal obligations by the United States to close the diversion tunnel and restore the American River to its natural channel. In March 2000, Reclamation replied that it was ready to address the issues of tunnel closure and river restoration and was willing to enter into a more formal partnership with California to explore alternatives. The Attorney General responded affirmatively and Reclamation and the state entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in January 2001 (California Resources Agency and Reclamation 2001) (Appendix A of the Draft EIS/EIR).

The MOA obligates the state to provide funding towards the work needed to complete the EIS/EIR and design plans and specifications in connection with efforts to restore the dewatered portion of the North Fork American River. The MOA also obligates Reclamation to include incidental public access to the river in the vicinity of the Auburn Dam construction site for public health and safety, resource protection and emergency purposes, and any other purposes necessary as a foreseeable result to returning water to the dewatered portion of the river under the Proposed Project. Reclamation's agreement with California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) for management of the Auburn State Recreation Area (Auburn SRA) would be updated to reflect responsibilities associated with river access at the Auburn site and at Oregon Bar.

1.3 PROJECT NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES

1.3.1 PCWA NEEDS FOR WATER SUPPLY AND CONVEYANCE

1.3.1.1 PCWA Existing Water Entitlements

Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Drum-Spaulding Project on the Yuba and Bear rivers and PCWA's MFP on the American River are two sources of water currently available to PCWA to serve areas in western Placer County. PCWA has a contract with PG&E for 100,400 AFA of Drum-Spaulding Project water, at a maximum delivery rate of 244 cfs, to serve Zone 1, encompassing the communities of Auburn, Loomis, Rocklin, Lincoln, Newcastle, Penryn, and parts of Roseville. PCWA also holds existing appropriative rights to divert 120,000 AFA from the MFP under Water Right Permits numbers 13856 and 13858, as authorized by the State Water

Resources Control Board (SWRCB). PCWA uses Drum-Spaulding Project water supplies first to meet service area demands. PCWA then uses MFP water supplies from the American River to satisfy demands not met by the Drum-Spaulding Project, or as needed to provide back-up supplies when the Drum-Spaulding Project is not operating.

A third PCWA water entitlement is through a water service contract most recently amended in February 2002 with Reclamation. The February 2002 amendment to the contract modified the original maximum water allotment of 117,000 AFA and limits the amount of water available to PCWA to 35,000 AFA prior to completion of Auburn Dam.

The project evaluated in this EIS/EIR involves only PCWA's proposed increased diversion of its existing American River MFP water entitlement at the pump station site near Auburn. Separate environmental documentation will be required to evaluate the effects of PCWA's diversion of water under its CVP water service contract with Reclamation.

1.3.1.2 PCWA Water and Conveyance Needs

Since the mid 1980s, Placer County has been one of the fastest growing regions in California. The resulting increased water demands have steadily pushed the limits of PG&E's Drum-Spaulding Project to meet the needs of PCWA customers adequately.

Since 1990, PCWA has needed to rely on the seasonal pump station to supplement the Drum-Spaulding Project water supply with PCWA's MFP supplies during scheduled maintenance outages. Since 1994, PCWA's service area needs for water have exceeded the maximum delivery rate and annual supply available from the Drum-Spaulding Project; again, requiring use of the seasonal pump station to meet the total demand of PCWA's system. In 2000, PCWA's service area demands exceeded the current available delivery amounts from the combined Drum-Spaulding Project and seasonal pump station and PCWA obtained approximately 5,000 AF of surplus surface water through a contract with South Sutter Water District for Nevada Irrigation District (NID) water. However, this surplus supply is only temporarily available until needed within the NID service area and would not be available to PCWA in the future. The present procedure of installing and removing the seasonal pumps does not allow Reclamation to meet its full obligations under the Land Purchase Agreement to fulfill PCWA's needs, nor does it allow PCWA to meet its need for a reliable back-up water supply.

Surface water supply projections through 2030 indicate demand for an additional 92,100 AFA to serve planned buildout of Placer County and other communities within the Auburn pump station service area of PCWA Zones 1 and 5 (PCWA 2001). The determination of these demands assumed continued commitment and implementation of water use efficiency measures throughout the service area. While PCWA has sufficient water entitlements to meet these increasing demands, they require the ability to access the MFP supply beyond the historic seasonal pump station operating period and capacity. This supply also would serve as a critical year-round back-up source to the Drum-Spaulding Project. PCWA has determined that 35,500 AF would provide the necessary back-up supply reliability and meet increasing service area demands for the immediate and near-term (up to 10-year) timeframe.

If the existing seasonal pumps could operate year-round, the 50 cfs capacity would provide an annual diversion of about 35,500 AFA of water. However, PCWA's MFP is a multi-purpose project designed to conserve and control water for irrigation, domestic and commercial purposes, and for hydroelectric generation. To meet these multiple objectives, PCWA's annual diversion pattern is seasonally limited according to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydroelectric power generation license (Federal Power Commission 1963) and PG&E water contract (PG&E 1968) conditions. These restrictions, in effect until 2013, include specified minimum and maximum monthly diversions as shown in **Table 1-1**.

Table 1-1
Minimum and Maximum Monthly Diversions of Middle Fork Project Water Supplies
(Percent of Total Annual Diversions)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Minimum	0	0	2	5	9	12	13	13	12	4	0	0
Maximum	5	5	6	10	16	19	19	16	13	8	6	5

The net effect of the above is that, even though a year-round 50 cfs diversion could physically provide about 35,500 AFA, operational limitations of the FERC license and PG&E water contract conditions make this annual diversion unattainable. Furthermore, even if a continuous 50 cfs diversion were possible, PCWA's customer demands require that the majority of supplies be delivered in the late-spring through late-fall. Consequently, a larger capacity pump station is needed that would comply with FERC license and PG&E contract conditions, and deliver water to PCWA's customers on its demand pattern. PCWA has determined that a 100 cfs capacity pump station would meet these needs into the 2005 to 2010 period. Water supply needs beyond 2010 would be met through a combination of sources, including PCWA's CVP water contract recently negotiated with Reclamation, by a reduction over time in the amount of MFP water supplied to Sacramento Suburban Water District (formerly Northridge Water District), and/or the potential expansion of the Auburn pump station (see Section 1.3.6, Expandable Conveyance Facility). These conditions and agreements are described further in Chapter 3.0, Section 3.4, Water Supply and Hydrology.

1.3.2 AUBURN DAM BYPASS TUNNEL SAFETY

As part of the original Auburn Dam construction work, a 257-foot high cofferdam and 33-foot diameter bypass tunnel were constructed. The cofferdam was breached by high flows in 1986, depositing millions of cubic yards of debris in the downstream channel. The bypass tunnel remains open and passes the entire flow of the American River at normal flow rates. Due in part to the sediment deposition from the eroded cofferdam, it is common for the downstream end of the tunnel to be submerged while the upper end is open. Although the river portion of the construction site is officially closed to the public, it is known that some people enter the area, and could be seriously injured or killed if they enter the bypass tunnel. Both Reclamation and the state believe this safety issue needs to be corrected.

1.3.3 RIVER RESTORATION

Reclamation and the State of California wish to restore the dewatered reach of the river channel, and to manage the site in a safe and environmentally sound way. Their objectives include restoring the river to a condition that would provide the same biological, hydrologic, and recreation functions, including public use, as it did prior to Auburn Dam construction.

1.3.4 PUBLIC RIVER ACCESS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY, RESOURCE PROTECTION, AND EMERGENCY PURPOSES

Presently, there is public vehicular access to the North Fork American River at the North/Middle fork confluence on Highway 49 in the Auburn SRA and at Rattlesnake Bar in the Folsom State Recreation Area (Folsom SRA). When Folsom Reservoir is full, the nine-mile reach between these two points is comprised of four miles of moving water and five miles of still water in Folsom Reservoir. When the reservoir is drawn-down for flood control in the winter, the reach of moving water is increased to six miles, or more depending on flood control operations. PG&E will continue to release flows from MFP facilities to provide adequate river conditions for whitewater boating in the Middle Fork American River, as is currently done under agreement with PCWA. Morning release of such flows provides an opportunity for mid- to late-afternoon boating upstream of the project area. Under the Proposed Project, these conditions could result in use of the river in such a way that boaters may become stranded either in the project area, or downstream closer to Rattlesnake Bar, because of the flat water conditions described above. From the perspective of public health and safety, the state believes that the public needs vehicular access to the river near the Folsom Reservoir high-water location to prevent people from being stranded in the canyon and for providing emergency services and resource protection. The provision of public river access features in the project area also would reduce the potential for non-motorized boating use in Folsom Reservoir where motorized boating activity occurs.

1.3.5 LAND PURCHASE AGREEMENT

An overall objective specific to Reclamation is to completely satisfy its obligations to PCWA under the Land Purchase Agreement. This would include alleviating Reclamation of any and all obligations for water delivery, management, operation and maintenance activities of the intake, pumps, and pump station site following completion of construction and start-up of the Proposed Project. PCWA proposes to enter into a contract accepting ownership of such new facilities, and operate them for water supply purposes, thereby relieving Reclamation of its obligation under the Land Purchase Agreement.

1.3.6 EXPANDABLE CONVEYANCE FACILITY

Demand projections for PCWA water supplies into the future show a need for an additional 35,000 AFA, above the capacity of the proposed year-round alternatives, by 2030. To maintain an option to meet this projected demand by diverting water from the American River at Auburn, PCWA has identified the objective of designing the project so that it could be expanded from 100 cfs to 200

cfs when, and if, needed in the future. Consistent with its negotiations within the Water Forum[2], PCWA is currently engaged in various engineering studies and contract negotiations designed to advance the option of diverting water from the Sacramento River to meet a portion of its projected future demands as an alternative to the expansion of the pump station. However, since a Sacramento River diversion alternative is not currently consistent with PCWA's water rights or CVP entitlements, preserving the opportunity to expand this project (which would be consistent with PCWA's existing water rights) with minimal local environmental disruption appears to be prudent planning. Any future expansion (from 35,500 AFA to about 70,500 AFA) would require prerequisite environmental regulatory review and approvals before PCWA could modify the facilities and operate at that level.

An additional future water demand consideration for the project involves the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District (GDPUD). Public Law (P.L.) 101-514 authorizes and directs Reclamation to enter into a long-term water service contract with the El Dorado County Water Agency (EDCWA) for up to 15,000 AFA, of which up to 7,500 AFA is planned to be subcontracted to GDPUD. Planning efforts have been initiated and public notices have been issued for the water service contract with EDCWA (*Federal Register* Notice dated June 14, 1998). Although GDPUD will not need additional water supplies for many years, it has requested that PCWA design its intake and pump station so its capacity could be expanded by up to 25 cfs to accommodate GDPUD's future needs. Additionally, GDPUD requested construction of water delivery facilities (pipelines) to allow transmission of water to the El Dorado County side of the river without further construction in the river.

1.4 USES OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Final EIS/EIR, and information and analyses contained herein, will be used to meet the statutory requirements for environmental review prior to constructing, operating, and maintaining the pump station; to execute a contract between Reclamation and PCWA to transfer certain facilities to PCWA, to provide PCWA easements for use of federal lands, and to delineate the responsibilities of the two agencies; and to secure necessary approvals and permits from responsible federal and state agencies. The laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards applicable to this project, as well as permits and approvals that are required from responsible federal and state agencies, are identified in Chapter 2.0, Description of Alternatives, Section 2.6, Table 2-9 and described within the resource discussions in Chapter 3.0, Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.

Following lead agency consideration of the comments received during public review of the Draft EIS/EIR, a decision will be made as to whether or not to approve the Proposed Project or an alternative. PCWA's Board will hold a meeting to consider certification of the Final EIR and

[2] The Sacramento Area Water Forum is a diverse group of business and agricultural leaders, citizen groups, water managers, and local governments in Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado counties. The Water Forum Agreement includes provisions for each of the participating agencies to achieve the plan's two coequal objectives -- provide a reliable and safe water supply for the region's economic health and planned development to 2030; and to preserve the fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the lower American River. The elements of the Water Forum Agreement address key regional issues including surface water diversions, groundwater management, dry year water supplies, water conservation, and protection of lower American River resources.

make a decision whether to approve a project alternative and adopt Findings of Fact, a Statement of Overriding Considerations, and the Mitigation Plan.

Reclamation will accept additional public and agency comments on the Final EIS prior to taking action on the project and publishing its Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will identify the agency's decision regarding the project and address substantive comments received on the Final EIS. The public and agencies have 30 days from the release of the Final EIS to provide their comments to Reclamation.

1.4.1 DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

This Final EIS/EIR includes the Draft EIS/EIR and its appendices, an Executive Summary, and the Mitigation Plan. The complete list of environmental compliance documents prepared for this project is provided below:

Draft EIS/EIR

- Executive Summary
- Draft EIS/EIR
- Technical Appendices to the Draft EIS/EIR

Appendix A	Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of California and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Appendix B	Notice of Intent and Notice of Preparation
Appendix C	Draft Negotiated Agreement Between U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Placer County Water Agency
Appendix D	American River Basin Cumulative Impact Report
Appendix E	Hydrologic Modeling Technical Memorandum
Appendix F	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coordination and Consultation
Appendix G	National Marine Fisheries Service Coordination and Consultation
Appendix H	Figures and Tables Cited in Chapter 3.0
Appendix I	Modeling Output (CD)

Final EIS/EIR

- *Executive Summary* provides an overview of the project background, purpose and objectives, and identifies resource issues and impacts. The Executive Summary is a separate document distributed to individuals, parties, and agencies expressing an interest in the project.

- *Chapter 1.0* describes the pump station history, PCWA water entitlements, the Land Purchase Agreement between PCWA and Reclamation, the purpose of and need for the project and project objectives identified by the lead agencies, and provides a summary of public involvement and scoping conducted for the EIS/EIR.

- *Chapter 2.0* describes the Proposed Project and alternatives considered in the EIS/EIR, the alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed study, and provides a summary comparison of alternatives and environmental impacts.

- *Chapter 3.0* describes the affected environment and analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of each alternative considered in detail.

- *Chapter 4.0* describes public involvement, coordination, and consultation efforts with interested members of the public, federal, state, and local agencies and private organizations that occurred during preparation of the EIS/EIR, and provides the document distribution list.

- *Chapter 5.0* lists the individuals involved in preparation of the EIS/EIR, their expertise and education, and role on the project.

- *Chapter 6.0* provides a list of references and personal communications.

The appendices to this Final EIS/EIR include:

- *Appendix A* Auburn State Recreation Area Prefire Management Plan

- *Appendix B* Contract Between the United States and Placer County Water Agency Related to American River Pumping Plant and Associated Facilities

- *Appendix C* Responses to Comments on the Draft EIS/EIR

- *Appendix D* Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program/Environmental Commitments Plan

1.4.2 SCOPING SUMMARY

Reclamation and PCWA have been involved in ongoing environmental evaluation of the Proposed Project and alternatives, including numerous agency and public involvement opportunities, since July 1995. These activities included five public and agency stakeholder meetings and a formal public scoping meeting for the Draft EIS/EIR which are described below and in Chapter 4.0, Consultation and Coordination, Section 4.2, Public Involvement.

Formal scoping for the EIS/EIR began with publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS and notice of a public scoping meeting in the June 18, 1999 *Federal Register*. Concurrently, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR was filed with the California State Clearinghouse, distributed, and a corresponding news release was published. Copies of the NOI and NOP are included in Appendix B of the Draft EIS/EIR.

A scoping meeting was held the evening of July 8, 1999 at PCWA's offices in Auburn to receive public input on the appropriate scope of the EIS/EIR, consistent with NEPA and CEQA requirements and implementing regulations. Attendees were encouraged to prepare written comments for consideration in the EIS/EIR scoping process.

The public comment period for the NOI and NOP extended from June 18, 1999 through July 30, 1999. The lead agencies received comment letters from 89 interested parties during this period. In response to these comments, the lead agencies prepared a Scoping Summary Report. The Scoping Summary Report identifies all comments received during the public comment period. The Scoping Summary Report is available at the lead agency offices (refer to the Cover Page for agency contact information).

1.4.2.1 Summary of Public Concerns

During all public and agency stakeholder meetings, participants were provided with a brief presentation concerning the project and particular challenges associated with each of the project alternatives, including a No Action/No Project Alternative. A summary listing of issues and comments identified by the public, resource agencies, and project proponents is presented below. These comments, consultations with agencies, and professional judgment of the preparers of this document defined the impact issues that are addressed in Chapter 3.0.

Water Supply and Hydrology

- Commitment to Water Forum purveyor-specific agreement elements
- River channel stability – cofferdam debris movement
- Long-term stability of the diversion structure
- Backwater effect at Tamaroo Bar
- Flood event effects on project facilities
- Meet increased demand by conservation or water exchanges with other purveyors
- Instream flow/diversion effect
- Discuss possible use of pump station facilities by GDPUD, identify any rate increase associated with facility construction
- Consistency of this project with the Central Valley Project Improvement Act PROSIM 99 model
- Groundwater supplies

Fish Resources and Aquatic Habitat

- Special-status species – chinook salmon, steelhead (flow, diversion structure)
- Instream flow requirements for fisheries
- Water chemistry changes – effects on special-status fish species migration (Auburn Ravine)
- Restoration of coho salmon to the north and middle forks of the river (otters and eagles)
- Restore the river channel
- Restore fish runs upstream of Folsom Dam
- Protection of fish from injury at the pump station
- Auburn Ravine impacts from increased flows

Terrestrial Resources

- Wildlife migration corridors and flyways
- Riparian habitat protection/enhancement
- Restore the river channel to improve the ecosystem

Water Quality

- Sedimentation/turbidity
- Water temperature
- Auburn Ravine – when the water leaves the Auburn Ravine Tunnel – where does it go?
- Groundwater quality

Recreation

- Public access – hiking, equestrian, bicycle trails, and access to the river for water-based activities
- Public use of roads constructed by the project
- Project consistency with the Auburn SRA Interim Resource Management Plan
- Cost-benefit comparison of recreation opportunities between alternatives
- Diversion tunnel safety hazard to recreation
- Restore the river channel for water-based activities
- Attract Olympic events

Visual Resources

- Pump station aesthetics

Land Use

- Growth-inducement aspects of increased diversion/water supply (traffic, loss of habitats, public service burden)
- Agriculture impacts
- Placer County General Plan – what does "build-out" look like; will the project serve build-out; and will other facilities need to be constructed?
- Public utilities and services – energy consumption by pump station

Air Quality

- Short-term construction emissions
- Long-term operational emissions

Public Health and Worker Safety

- Diversion tunnel safety
- Structures as potential attractive nuisance (safety issue)
- Fire safety

Alternatives Analysis

- Upstream location poor choice – silt settling basin requires frequent dredging or special effort to maintain
- Cost-benefit analysis between alternatives – particularly related to recreation opportunities

Other Issues

- Political support
- Funding/use of tax dollars
- Auburn Dam – future construction/waste of resources
- Future planned changes to Folsom Dam (height)
- Relationship of project to other local and regional projects (cumulative analysis)
- Public Trust Doctrine
- Unreasonable methods of diverting water prohibited by Article X, Section 2 of the California Constitution and Section 100 of the California Water Code

1.4.3 PUBLIC REVIEW OF DRAFT EIS/EIR

Reclamation and PCWA distributed the Draft EIS/EIR to federal and state resource and regulatory agencies, legislative representatives, water districts, environmental organizations, and other interested parties on September 10, 2001. Reclamation's NEPA policy requires a 60-day review period for the Draft EIS and CEQA Guidelines Section 15205(d) requires a 45-day review period for the Draft EIR. The Draft EIS/EIR was available for review and comment 63 days following filing of the Notice of Availability (NOA) of the EIS with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Notice of Completion (NOC) of the EIR with the California State Clearinghouse. The NOA and notice of public hearing on the EIS were published in the *Federal Register* on September 10, 2001. The NOC was filed with the California State Clearinghouse and posted at the Placer, El Dorado, and Sacramento county clerk offices. In response to public comments and other requests, the public comment period was extended another 30 days and closed on December 13, 2001. The lead agencies provided public notice of the review period extension as required by CEQA and NEPA. In summary, the Draft EIS/EIR public review comment period, therefore, extended for a total of 93 days, from September 10, 2001 to December 13, 2001.

1.4.4 FINAL EIS/EIR

The purpose of public review of the Draft EIS/EIR was to receive comments from interested parties on its completeness and adequacy in disclosing the environmental impacts of the Proposed Project. Following the close of the Draft EIS/EIR public review period, this Final EIS/EIR has been prepared containing the comments received on the Draft EIS/EIR and responses to those

comments, and clarifications or further explanations of information provided in the Draft EIS/EIR. Reclamation is responsible for determining that the EIS is adequate and in compliance with NEPA and PCWA is responsible for certifying the EIR as adequate in compliance with CEQA. After making this determination and certification, the agencies will use the EIS/EIR in making their decisions on whether to approve a year-round pump station project.

The Draft EIS/EIR (September 2001) has been modified to reflect revisions and corrections made in response to public and agency comments received during the public review and comment period. These changes to the document do not alter the impact conclusions that were presented in the Draft EIS/EIR. **Table 1-2** presents a summary of these revisions. These changes to the report are presented in the Final EIS/EIR to clarify project design, construction and operation features, incorporate additional detail regarding proposed project features or mitigation measures and to correct typographical errors found during preparation of the final documents. The revisions and corrections included in the Final EIS/EIR have also been incorporated into the material presented in this Executive Summary, as appropriate to the level of detail in each section.

Table 1-2
Revisions and Corrections Made to the Draft EIS/EIR

List of Acronyms

- ❑ Updated and corrected list of acronyms to include all acronyms used in Final EIS/EIR and supporting documentation

Chapter 1.0 - Introduction

- ❑ Updated discussion of Public Review of Draft EIS/EIR to reflect extended public review comment period
- ❑ Added List of Revisions and Corrections to the Draft EIS/EIR
- ❑ Added section regarding Final EIS/EIR Process

Chapter 2.0 - Description of Alternatives

- ❑ Expanded discussion regarding selection of alternatives explaining infeasibility of land conservation easements
- ❑ Updated Table 2-2 to correct summary of major features of the alternatives
- ❑ Added new figure depicting major features of the No Action/No Project Alternative
- ❑ Provided cost estimate breakdown for the Proposed Project pump station, bypass tunnel closure, and river channel excavation and public river access features
- ❑ Revised reference to fish screen to reflect change to California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)-approved design, not Coanda-based design
- ❑ Removed references to use of a standby diesel generator which is no longer proposed
- ❑ Revised description of Public River Access Features to indicate modifications of riverside parking area to include only a turnaround and 3 handicap-accessible spaces, not 20 spaces
- ❑ Revised references to total number of public river access parking area spaces from 70 to 53
- ❑ Provided revised Public River Access Features graphic to show parking area changes
- ❑ Updated description of No Action/No Project Alternative, Proposed Project, and Upstream Diversion Alternative operation and maintenance to explain proposed double-pump operations using the Auburn Ravine Tunnel pump station to avoid potential impacts to Auburn Ravine fish and terrestrial resources
- ❑ Revised discussion of Ralston Afterbay reoperation to clarify nature of activity
- ❑ Made corrections to Table 2-8, Summary of Alternatives Considered and Eliminated from Further Analysis to explain infeasibility of land conservation easements and other suggested alternatives
- ❑ Updated Table 2-9, Anticipated Permits and Approvals for the Proposed Project to reflect project permitting needs based upon coordination with regulatory agencies since release of Draft EIS/EIR

Table 1-2 (Continued)
Revisions and Corrections Made to the Draft EIS/EIR

Chapter 3.0 - Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

General Revisions and Corrections

- Updated references to Northridge Water District (NWD) to reflect recent name change to Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD)
- Updated references to Citizen's Utilities Water Company to reflect recent name change to California-American Water Company (CAWC)
- Corrected discussion of SSWD (formerly NWD) water supply sources
- Updated discussion of Auburn Recreation District proposed American River campground area
- Provided additional explanation regarding placement of model output table and graphic results in Appendix H to the Draft EIS/EIR (also provided in all resource sections containing diversion-related analyses)

Water Supply and Hydrology

- Updated information pertaining to PCWA's Water Conservation Program

Fish Resources and Aquatic Habitat

- Revised description and evaluation of Auburn Ravine fish resources
- Deleted references to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) critical habitat designations for Central Valley steelhead and spring-run chinook salmon due to recent withdrawal of such designations by NMFS
- Updated discussion of backwater effects at Tamaroo Bar
- Updated and revised mitigation measures to reflect individual agency responsibilities and in response to changes related to (1) project construction no longer requires use of cofferdam, therefore related measures would not be needed; and (2) updated method to evaluate fish screen performance based on further consultation with CDFG fish screen experts

Terrestrial Resources

- Provided additional information regarding non-listed species at the project site, per request of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Draft Coordination Act Report recommendations
- Added account of potential areas of habitat affected by the Proposed Project, per request of USFWS Draft Coordination Act Report recommendations
- Incorporated findings of recent Red-Legged Frog Habitat Assessment and Site Survey performed at request of USFWS as part of federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation
- Updated and revised mitigation measures to reflect individual agency responsibilities

Recreation

- Included additional detail regarding existing project area recreation uses as supplied by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR)
- Revised description and analyses related to modification of the Public River Access Features incorporated into the Proposed Project by the lead agencies and CDPR
- Developed revised recreation trail map for project area
- Updated discussion of recreation trail access impact during construction due to changed approach in mitigation
- Revised discussion of Auburn-to-Cool Trail impact and responsibilities for mitigation of impact under Proposed Project
- Incorporated additional information related to backwater effects at Tamaroo Bar rapid
- Provided further clarification of the Middle Fork American River whitewater boating impact under all alternatives
- Updated and revised mitigation measures to identify individual agency responsibilities and in response to changes in project features

Table 1-2 (Continued)
Revisions and Corrections Made to the Draft EIS/EIR

Visual Resources

- Updated impact discussion in response to changes in Public River Access Features
- Revised mitigation measures to identify individual agency responsibilities and to reflect change in construction materials of pump station housing

Cultural Resources

- Updated discussion of cultural resources laws and regulations applicable to the project to reflect priority of federal laws
- Updated mitigation measures to identify individual agency responsibilities and in response to recent efforts related to Programmatic Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Power Supply

- Corrected errors in text in response to comments

Land Use

- Incorporated discussion of growth issues and description of lead agencies responsibilities

Geology and Soils

- Updated discussion of mitigation measures to incorporate recommended measures under Public Health and Worker Safety program

Transportation and Circulation

- Incorporated information from supplemental Traffic Study and additional coordination with City of Auburn Public Works Department to evaluate potential impacts at Maidu Drive/Burlin Way intersection
- Updated discussion of mitigation measures to identify individual agency responsibilities and incorporate recommendations for Construction Traffic Management Plan and payment of mitigation fees to City of Auburn

Air Quality

- Updated analysis of public river access-related traffic based on new emission evaluation information from Placer County and El Dorado County air pollution control districts
- Added information describing particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size ($PM_{2.5}$), as requested by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Provided discussion of project alternatives' compliance with federal general conformity requirements, as requested by U.S. EPA
- Incorporated additional information and explanation of analysis approach of sensitive receptors related to El Dorado County and the community of Cool, as requested by El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and others
- Removed references to diesel generator as one is no longer included in project alternative activities
- Updated and revised discussion of mitigation measures to identify individual agency responsibilities

Noise

- Updated discussion of public river access traffic-related noise sources
- Revised mitigation measures to identify individual agency responsibilities

Table 1-2 (Continued)
Revisions and Corrections Made to the Draft EIS/EIR

Public Health and Worker Safety

- Added new information relative to Fire Management
- Incorporated geology and soils mitigation measures relative to slope stability, worker safety during construction and public safety during use of project area under Proposed Project
- Revised mitigation measures to identify individual agency responsibilities

Other Impact Considerations

- Corrected information presented under Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) to more specifically identify discussion relative to fall-run chinook salmon
- Expanded discussion of Short-term Uses of the Environment Versus Long-Term Productivity
- Added discussion of Climate Change, per request of U.S. EPA
- Revised ESA Compliance section to reflect (1) NMFS retraction of steelhead and spring-run chinook salmon critical habitat designations; (2) correction of inadvertent reference to incidental take; (3) update to summary of consultation to date; (4) addition of PCWA's proposed Auburn Ravine monitoring program as a conservation measure; and (5) incorporation of corrections to conclusion and determination

Chapter 4.0 - Consultation and Coordination

- Updated discussions of resource agency ESA consultations and other coordination

Chapter 5.0 - List of Preparers

- Added additional names and updated area of participation to reflect efforts undertaken to complete the Final EIS/EIR and related activities

Chapter 6.0 - References

- Incorporated additional references cited and personal communications held during preparation of the Final EIS/EIR