Appendix A

List of Environmental Commitments

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Appendix A: List of Environmental Commitments

A.1 Environmental Commitments

A.1.1 Avoidance and Minimization Measures

PG&E would implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce or eliminate potential minor adverse construction impacts. These measures are beyond the design features incorporated into the proposed action, such as conducting the removal at low streamflow. These measures are summarized below and described in greater detail in Chapter 3.

A.1.1.1 Air Quality

Fugitive dust control measures would be installed in compliance with the SWPPP.

A.1.1.2 Biological Resources

After placing the water-fill diversion dams, and before and during dewatering, a qualified biologist will capture any stranded fish with dip nets and move them to an area downstream of the dam. Workers would be trained regarding the potential presence of special-status species and how to move fish to downstream areas, if encountered.

The area used for the temporary access road from the spur road to the riverbed would be restored to preconstruction conditions.

Native trees and shrubs would be flagged and avoided to the extent practicable, trimmed back as needed, and removed, if necessary. Portions of removed willow trees would be salvaged to make willow stakes to re-establish the species in disturbed areas.

To prevent the introduction of non-native species, construction equipment would be cleaned prior to mobilization to the site. Disturbed areas would be reseeded with a certified weed-free native seed mix, and willow stakes would be used to re-establish trees in the disturbed riparian areas.

A.1.1.3 Cultural Resources

To ensure protection of existing cultural resources, PG&E cultural resources specialists or a qualified archaeological consultant would train construction crews prior to initiating construction to ensure avoidance of cultural resources and respond appropriately in the event of an unanticipated discovery.

The contractor would avoid impacts on the hand-laid rock walls associated with the former Old Camp Nine Bridge. This area would be fenced, marked on the construction drawings and avoided during dam removal.

A.1.1.4 Surface Water

The contractor would install stormwater and fugitive dust control BMPs, according to the SWPPP, to minimize erosion and protect water quality. The only regrading required would be on the river banks in the area occupied by the wing walls. This area would be restored to its original grade and revegetated consistent with the SWPPP to minimize potential erosion.

A silt curtain and oil containment boom would be installed downstream of the dam prior to construction to minimize migration of any turbidity or fuel leaks from construction equipment.

Any surface water or extracted groundwater from above the dam would be diverted to a sedimentation pond, treated at the site using a sand filter to meet regulatory standards, and released to the downstream side of the dam. Flows discharged to the downstream side of the dam would be dissipated using riprap gathered on site to minimize turbidity according to action-specific permit conditions.

A.1.1.5 Traffic

Signage regarding truck traffic would be placed on Camp Nine Road and a Traffic Control Plan would be prepared to facilitate trucking of excavated materials and debris. On-site traffic would be limited to the dam and construction storage areas.

During the demolition period, warning signs would be posted near the site access road and any staging areas to alert passing traffic of demolition activities and associated traffic. During material hauling, a sentry or flagger

would be placed at the bridge near the job site and at the intersection of Camp 9 Road and Parrot's Ferry Road to alert oncoming traffic.

A.1.1.6 Wildfire

The contractor would provide fire suppression equipment and shutdown devices to work crews and a no smoking policy would be implemented to minimize fire risk.

A.1.1.7 Health and Safety

Access by recreationists who may boat or walk into the construction area would be controlled by posting signs upstream and downstream of the dam, depending on lake elevation and the level of public use of the area at the time of the demolition.

Safety "tailgate" meetings would be held at the start of each workday to discuss potential hazards that might be encountered for that day and lessons learned from previous days. A site-specific Health and Safety Plan (HASP) would be developed and all workers would be required to read and acknowledge their understanding of the HASP.

Workers would be protected with air-purifying respirators or supplied air respirators in accordance with the HASP when performing torch cutting and waste collection activities that could result in exposure to toxic fumes.

When heavy equipment is used to move large structures, alarms would be sounded to ensure that all workers vacate these areas and move to designated safe areas.

A.1.1.8 Waste Management

Any fine-grained material remaining in the sedimentation pond, as well as the sand filter medium would be disposed offsite.

A.1.1.9 Fire Prevention

Site preparation and construction would not take place during the normal fire season. Further, conditions adjacent to the site are not conducive to fire. However, the contractor would prepare a Fire Prevention Plan for validation by

the local fire control agency. During dam removal, potential sources of fire would include construction vehicles and sparks. Separation of steel, wood and concrete components may require torches and saws. The construction contractor would provide fire suppression equipment and shutdown devices, and a no smoking policy would be implemented during construction to minimize fire risk.

The work would be conducted so that potential sources of ignition (e.g., hot surfaces and/or exhaust vents from equipment, tools, vehicles and other sources) do not contact potentially combustible materials (e.g., dry vegetation, combustible demolition debris and other on-site flammable materials). Smoking on site would be restricted to a designated area. Fire extinguishers would be installed in all areas with potential sources of ignition. Because the site is located next to a river, a sump pump equipped with a fire hose with an adequate extension would be available to be used as the primary fire suppression and control equipment. During fire hazard conditions, workers would use fire-proof blankets and work areas would be sprayed with water to minimize fire hazards. Prior to mobilization, the contractor would train crews in fire prevention, and construction crews and vehicles would have the following equipment:

- One shovel, one axe and one or more UL-rated 4BC extinguisher on each pickup truck, crew truck and personal vehicle.
- One shovel with each tractor, backhoe or other heavy equipment.
- One shovel and one five-gallon water-filled backpack pump with each welder.
- One shovel and one fully charged chemical fire extinguisher at a point not greater than 25 feet from the work site for each gasoline-powered tool, including chain saws and rock drills. Fire extinguishers would be of the type and size set forth in the California Public Resources Code, Section 4431 and the California Administrative Code, Title 14, Section 1234.
- Shovels would be a type “O,” with an overall length of not less than 46 inches. Axes or pulaskis would have a 2.5-pound or larger head and an overall length of not less than 28 inches.

A.1.1.10 Hazardous Material Management

PG&E would maintain material safety data sheets for all substances (e.g., fuels, hydraulic fluids) used on site and at the job headquarters in Angels Camp, as required by the Hazard Communication Law, General Industry Safety Orders, Sec. 5194. Hazardous wastes, such as grease cartridges and oil absorbents, would be placed in proper containers and transported from the site to an authorized hazardous waste collection site.

Trucks and equipment would be refueled as required from 110-gallon-capacity diesel tanks carried in the back of pickup trucks or from a lube truck that would visit the site daily. Fuel transfer areas would be protected (e.g., 10 mil plastic buried below 4 inches of soil). No fuel storage tanks would be placed on site.

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Appendix B

Correspondence and
Background Information

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Region
Central California Area Office
7794 Folsom Dam Road
Folsom, CA 95630-1799

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CC-418
ENV-6.00

APR 25 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Central Files

From: Robert L. Schroeder ROBERT L. SCHROEDER
Chief, Resources Management Division

Subject: No Effect Determination- Removal of the Stanislaus Afterbay Dam

The Bureau of Reclamation is proposing to work with Pacific Gas and Electric as part of their Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing, to remove the obsolete Afterbay Dam, where New Melones Reservoir transitions into the North Fork of the Upper Stanislaus River. This project is located in both Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. Reclamation has determined that there will be no effect on listed, proposed, or candidate threatened or endangered species or on designated critical habitat. This determination is based on the following information:

1. No known occurrences of listed, proposed, or candidate threatened or endangered species exist in or near the project footprint including Valley elderberry longhorn beetle *(Desmocerus californicus dimorphus)* (VELB) or red legged frog *(Rana aurora)*.

2. Habitat immediately adjacent to the Stanislaus Afterbay Dam has been degraded after years of traffic in the area due to the old Camp Nine Bridge, which was removed in 2007. The habitat surrounding this area is not suitable for red legged frog especially considering there is ample permanent water throughout the year in New Melones Reservoir, little emergent vegetation to provide cover, and healthy populations of both carnivorous warm water fishes and bull frogs. The river bank substrate at the Afterbay Dam consists of exposed bedrock and large river boulders. There is no suitable habitat for the frog in the area surrounding the Afterbay Dam.

3. The project footprint and areas adjacent to the project footprint have been surveyed for elderberry *(Sambucus sp.)* and no elderberry was observed. Consequently, there is no habitat for VELB.

4. The Fisher (*Martes pennanti*) is an uncommon permanent resident of the Sierra Nevada. Although there are conifers in the project area, canopy cover is low, and tree density is

sparse. The project area and surrounding vicinity are not considered suitable habitat for the Fisher.

5. No critical habitat has been designated within or near the project footprint.

For these reasons, Reclamation has determined the proposed project, removal of the Afterbay Dam, will have no effect on any federally listed, proposed, or candidate, threatened, or endangered species or on designated critical habitat, thus consultation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act is not required.

Several avoidance measures and best management practices will be implemented.

1. All demolition and debris removal activities will be completed prior to the start of the Bald Eagle nest building period (December/January). This will be done to ensure the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act are adhered to.

2. Debris barriers will be placed on the lake to catch all floating debris and prevent such material from floating into a known nesting area approximately 1 mile downstream.

3. Use of non-hazardous expansive compound and hydraulic splitting techniques will be utilized for removal of concrete minimizing noise and disruption in the project area.

4. Fire suppression equipment will be on site, a no smoking policy and equipment equipped with shut-down devices will be utilized to prevent wildfire hazards.

5. If special status species are identified during construction, additional consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service will be done prior to the continuation of construction.

Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact Ms. Melissa Vignau at 916-989-7182 or e-mail mvignau@usbr.gov.

cc: CC-400, CC-410, CC-460

WBR:MVignau:jtaylor:4/21/11:916-989-7182
H:\Public\Typing\Vignau\ FWS consultation

Appendix C

Draft Environmental
Assessment Distribution List

Information for this appendix will be added in the Final EA

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