

Northern California Power Agency

180 Kirby Way, Roseville California 95678

MICHAEL W. McDONALD

General Manager
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December 3, 1992

Mr. Dan M. Fults
Assistant Regional Director
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Subject: Pilot Pumping Plant at Red Bluff Diversion Dam

Dear Mr. Fults:

Please accept these written comments on the Bureau's Environmental Assessment for the above subject. A copy of the assessment was forwarded to NCPA this week by the City Clerk in Redding, California. To the best of my knowledge, NCPA was not provided previously with a copy of the 11/4/92 Environmental document.

NCPA is pleased that the Bureau is continuing its program to protect endangered species affected by the CVP. However, we are very concerned that this energy intensive pumping option has not been evaluated for CVP electric power impacts. As you know, the Western Area Power Administration (Western) has contracts to sell the entire CVP power output, after allowance for project power loads, to non-profit federal preference entities in northern California. A significant new project load - such as a new Red Bluff Pumping Plant - would therefore increase Western's prices and reduce power availability. That lost federal power must then be made up by Western's customers.

For these reasons, we believe that the environmental assessment must clearly state the electric power requirements of the proposed pumping plant, and must then evaluate the environmental effects of that increased power usage. Although NCPA has not had sufficient time to review the assessment in detail, we note that an estimate of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant electrical load is not included. Nor does the environmental assessment make any attempt at evaluating the potential negative impacts of significant new loads at Red Bluff, including the potential need for new or expanded electric transmission lines to serve the pumping plant.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this subject. If you have any questions or comments on this letter, please contact me at the above phone number.

Sincerely,

Roger A. Fontes /KB

ROGER A. FONTES
Assistant General Manager

RAF/kb

cc: Roger Patterson
Dave Coleman
Bob Clark (Glenn Colusa Irrigation District)

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OFFICIAL FILE COPY RECEIVED		
DEC 07 1992		
CODE	ACTIVITY	START/END DATE
100	CAPV	
700		
50		11/5/92
200		
400		

12/8

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