

considerations, the Bureau should include specific language which indicates these findings; e.g., that the potential environmental impacts of this program are minimal or too small to formally deal with. This would remove the incorrect impression that there is zero socio-economic or environmental costs as a result of using CVP hydroelectric power for this new electric load.

Moreover, in the Bureau's response to the December 7, 1992, letter from the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) (included in Appendix B of the subject EA), you state that electric power for the pilot pumping plant will be supplied from existing CVP resources. While this may be a true statement, it is also true that the proposed pumps will be a new project load. Increasing project load has potential environmental consequences beyond the immediate area of Tehama County. Other parameters remaining equal, the power used for the pumps will be provided by another resource (very probably from fossil fuel sources) with commensurate monetary and environmental costs.

Conclusion and Recommendation

We think that the written material on pages 34-35 of the EA should include specific language about the existence of potential impacts on existing air quality and socio-economic issues, even if they are judged to be relatively small. To accomplish this, we suggest the following insertion on page 35 under the heading Affected Environment:

"The new pilot project pumping loads will necessitate incremental power generation for federal CVP power customers. We estimate this impact to be small."

We also suggest the following be added on page 35 under the heading Environmental Consequences:

"For the proposed alternative, there will be a small risk of potential impact on environmental quality due to incremental fossil fuel power generation."

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the EA. If you have questions or comments on our letter, please call me at 916-781-4203.

Sincerely,

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT CUSTOMER
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



Roger A. Fontes
Chairman

RAF:HM:jm (DA1257C.070)

- c: Mr. Roger Patterson
- Mr. Jim Feider
- Mr. Michael W. McDonald

- bc: CVP Customer Technical Committee
- Mr. Pat Fulton