

**Final
Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement
for the
Proposed Lower Yuba River Accord**

(State Clearinghouse (SCH) No: 2005062111)

CEQA Lead Agency: Yuba County Water Agency

NEPA Lead Agency: United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation

CEQA Responsible Agencies: California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Game, the State Water Resources Control Board, Brophy Water District, Browns Valley Irrigation District, Ramirez Water District, South Yuba Water District, and Wheatland Water District

NEPA Cooperating Agencies: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs

The Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) and the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) have jointly prepared this Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Proposed Lower Yuba River Accord (Proposed Yuba Accord). The Proposed Yuba Accord represents an effort on the part of Yuba River stakeholders to find a solution to the challenges of competing interests by providing water for fisheries, developing new tools to ensure local water supply reliability, crafting a revenue stream to pay for the Yuba Accord Alternative, and providing additional water for out-of-county environmental and consumptive uses. These various objectives would be met through implementation of the Yuba Accord Alternative, which includes the "*Principles of Agreement for Proposed Lower Yuba River Fisheries Agreement*" (Fisheries Agreement), the "*Principles of Agreement for Proposed Conjunctive Use Agreements*" (Conjunctive Use Agreements), and the "*Principles of Agreement for Proposed Long-term Transfer Agreement*" (Water Purchase Agreement).

The EIR/EIS analyzes the potential impacts of implementing the Proposed Project/Action or an alternative that would be expected to occur on various resources, including: surface water supply and management, groundwater resources, power production and energy consumption, flood control, water quality, fisheries and aquatic resources, terrestrial resources, recreation, visual resources, cultural resources, air quality, land use, socioeconomics, growth inducement, environmental justice and Indian Trust Assets. Alternatives evaluated in the EIR/EIS include the No Action Alternative, the No Project Alternative, the Proposed Project/Action (Yuba Accord Alternative), and the Modified Flow Alternative. The EIR/EIS also addresses the potential effects of implementing the Proposed Yuba Accord in conjunction with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, thus analyzing cumulative impacts.

For CEQA purposes, YCWA will consider certifying this document as an EIR on October 23, 2007. If YCWA certifies this document as an EIR, then this document will be a final, certified EIR under CEQA.

For NEPA purposes, the closing date for comments on this document will be 30 days after the date of publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. Please send any written comments on this document for NEPA purposes to Ms. Dianne Simodynes, HDR|Surface Water Resources, Inc., 1610 Arden Way, Suite 175, Sacramento, CA 95815-4041. Reclamation will consider making a decision on the alternatives evaluated in this EIR/EIS, and, if it decides to approve an alternative, Reclamation will issue a Record of Decision some time after this closing date for comments under NEPA.

For Further Information Contact:

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