

LOWER YUBA RIVER ACCORD

RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM



April 8, 2013

RE: **Lower Yuba River Accord, River Management Team Interim Monitoring & Evaluation Report**

The Lower Yuba River Accord (Accord) River Management Team (RMT) has been engaged in a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) program since 2006. The RMT includes representatives of the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the non-governmental organizations (NGOs – Friends of the River, The Bay Institute, the South Yuba River Citizens League, and Trout Unlimited) that are parties to the Lower Yuba River Accord Fisheries Agreement (Fisheries Agreement). Pursuant to the Fisheries Agreement, the Accord M&E program was designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the Lower Yuba River Accord in protecting anadromous salmonids, evaluate the condition of fish resources in the Lower Yuba River, and evaluate the viability of Lower Yuba River fall-run Chinook salmon and any subpopulations of the Central Valley steelhead Distinct Population Segment (DPS) and spring-run Chinook salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) that may exist in the Lower Yuba River.

The RMT's M&E program is scheduled and funded to run through at least 2015. However, the RMT elected to produce this Interim M&E Report both as a 'report card' on the program results regarding the implementation of the Yuba Accord for regulators, stakeholders and the broader scientific community, and to help inform the relicensing process before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) currently underway for YCWA facilities in the Yuba River Watershed (the Yuba River Development Project, FERC Project No. 2246).

The RMT, in collaboration with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and the University of California, Davis is pleased to issue this Interim M&E Report as a Review Draft. The RMT is interested in soliciting comment and input from readers of this report, prior to issuing a final draft. Comments should be routed to the RMT via any of the RMT

representatives listed below. The RMT is hoping to have received all comments by July 12, 2013.

The RMT's Interim M&E Report can be accessed at:

<http://www.yubaaccordermt.com/Interim%20ME%20Report/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

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