

## **3.2.7 Aesthetic Resources**

This section discusses aesthetic resources potentially affected by the Project.

### **3.2.7.1 Affected Environment**

This section is divided into two subsections. Regulatory context is discussed in Section 3.2.7.1.1 and visual character is discussed in Section 3.2.7.1.2.

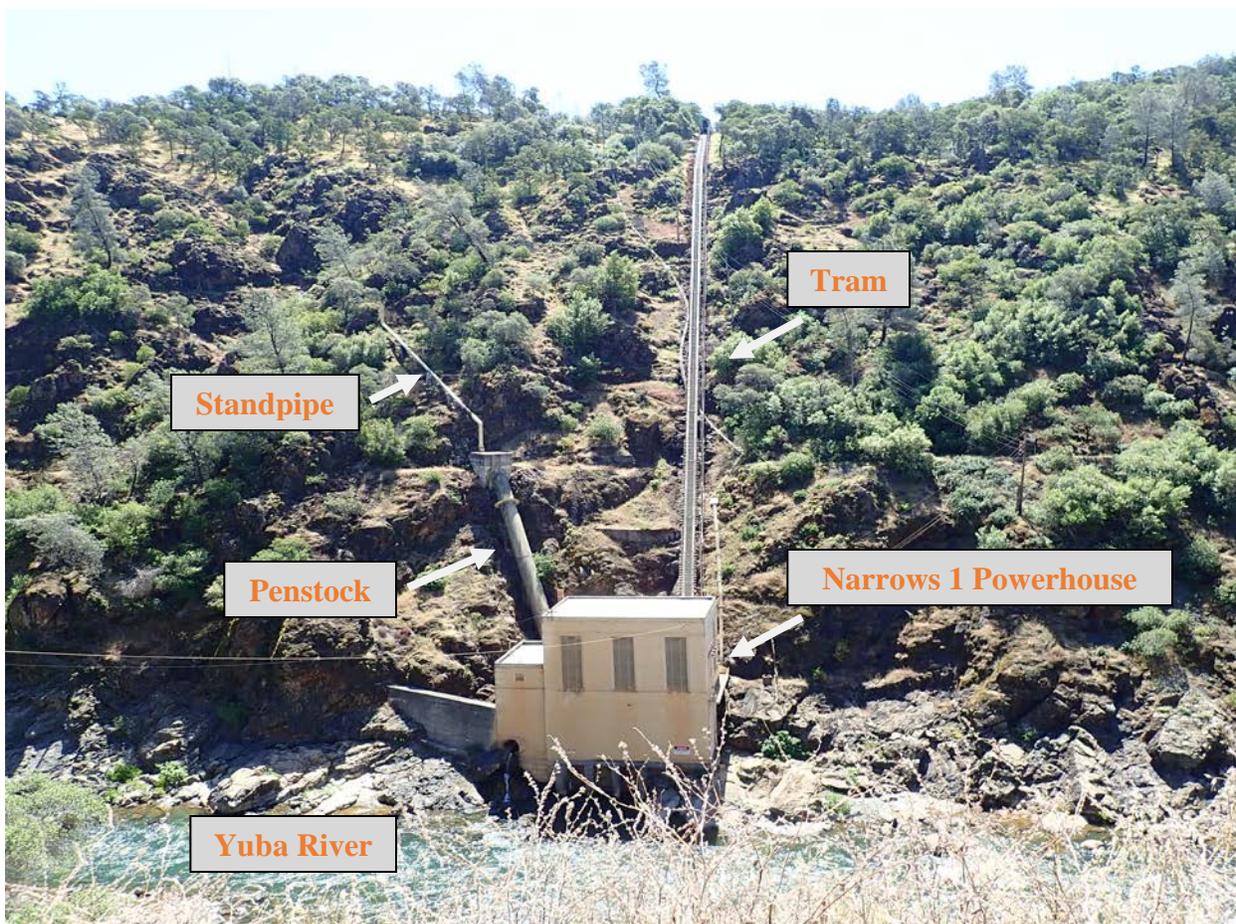
#### **3.2.7.1.1 Regulatory Context**

All the Project above-ground facilities are located on YCWA-owned lands in Nevada County. The Nevada County General Plan (Nevada County 2014) identifies the following aesthetic goals for county lands:

- To promote and provide for aesthetic design in new development that reflects existing character.
- To protect and preserve important scenic resources.

#### **3.2.7.1.2 Visual Character**

The Project is located in the narrow canyon transition zone between the Central Valley ecoregion to the lower elevations of the Sierra Foothills ecoregion, characterized by open rolling terrain, with vegetation dominated by grasslands, interspersed with oak woodlands, and chaparral, and outcrops. Elevations of lands within the Project's FERC Boundary range from approximately 300 ft at the Narrows Powerhouse on the river to approximately 849 ft at the top of the tram and limit the viewscape. Dominant visual elements in the Project area are USACE's 280-ft-high Englebright Dam, the Yuba River Development Project's Narrows 2 facilities, and the Yuba River canyon. No notable important scenic resources occur. The canyon wall on which the Project sits is moderately vegetated with chaparral and other brushy plant species, except for near the Project's facilities (i.e., powerhouse, penstock, and tram) where vegetation is cleared for Project safety purposes, and along a PG&E-owned transmission line. Project facilities are not visible from any public viewpoints. The powerhouse and penstock are located at the bottom of the river canyon, and the top of the tram is not viewable from any public viewpoints. The slope across from the Project has no residences or roads. Figure 3.2.7-1 shows the Project facilities on the slope.



**Figure 3.2.7-1. View of Project facilities from across the Yuba River.**