Narrows Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 1403

Joint Agency and Public Meeting
May 12, 2021
Introductions
Purposes of Meeting

- Yuba Water Agency (YWA or YCWA) is satisfying requirements of 18 C.F.R. 16.8(b)(3)(i)(B)(4) for a joint agency and public meeting.

- Provide agencies, Native American tribes and members of the public an opportunity to discuss the information in YCWA’s Pre-Application Document (PAD) and to express their opinions regarding additional data needs and resource issues that should be addressed in YCWA’s application for new license.

- *This joint meeting is being recorded*
Agenda

- Overview of the Narrows Hydroelectric Project (Project)
- Overview of the relicensing process
- Overview of information in the PAD, YCWA’s identification of resource issues to be addressed in YCWA’s application for new license, and YCWA’s conclusion that additional data gathering is not needed
- Adjourn
Narrows Hydroelectric Project
Narrows Project

• YCWA obtained license and took ownership from PG&E on March 31, 2020

• Project composed of:
  ✓ 1,077-ft-long tunnel
  ✓ 266-ft-long, 8-ft-diameter penstock
  ✓ 227-ft-long, 24-in-diameter standpipe
  ✓ powerhouse access tram
  ✓ powerhouse with one 12 MW unit with a maximum flow capacity of 730 cfs & one bypass with a maximum capacity of 550 cfs
  ✓ 2.9-ac Boundary: 2.5 ac owned by YWA and 0.4 ac on USACE lands

• Existing license expires on January 31, 2026
Typical Current Operations

- YCWA coordinates operations with the Narrows Project with operations of its Yuba River Development Project

- In general, when making downstream releases to meet flow requirements, provide water deliveries, or generate power:
  - When Narrows Powerhouse is available, YCWA releases the first 700 cfs of needed water through the powerhouse
  - If Narrows Powerhouse is not available, the water is released through Yuba River Development Project facilities
  - If more than 700 cfs is needed, the remaining balance above 700 cfs is released through Yuba River Development Project facilities
YCWA’s Proposed Changes

- None
Relicensing Process
• January 28, 2021. YCWA filed a Notice of Intent to File an Application for a New License (NOI), a PAD, and a letter requesting FERC’s approval for YCWA to use FERC’s traditional licensing process (TLP). YCWA provided a copy of the letter to agencies and advised them they had 30 days to file comments on YCWA’s request to use the TLP. Prior to January 28, YCWA placed notices in local newspapers regarding the availability of YCWA’s NOI, PAD and TLP request

• February 25, 2021. FERC invited tribes to participate in the relicensing

• March 24, 2021. FERC issued an Authorization to Use Traditional Licensing Process, noting YCWA’s timely filing of a Notice of Intent to File License Application, Pre-Application Document, and Request for Use of the Traditional Licensing Process

  ✓ FERC’s notice included FERC delegating YCWA as FERC’s non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

• April 8, 2021. YCWA provided FERC, agencies, Native American tribes and the public a written notice of and an agenda for the joint agency and public meeting. Prior to April 25, 2021, YCWA placed notices of the joint agency and public meeting in local newspapers
May 12, 2021. YCWA-scheduled site visit for interested agencies, and joint agency and public meeting.
Relicensing Milestone Dates

- Future -

- By July 12, 2021. Agencies, Native American tribes and members of the public to provide comments on YCWA’s PAD, especially with regards to additional issue identification and data needs
- Late 2021. YCWA attempts to resolve any disagreements regarding additional data needs
- 2022. YCWA develops data and information to be included in its application
- First Half of 2023. YCWA collaborates with agencies, Native American tribes and members of the public regarding possible conditions to be included in the new license and YCWA prepares Draft License Application (DLA)
- July 2023. YCWA makes DLA available to agencies, Native American tribes and members of the public for review
- October 2023. Agencies, Native American tribes and members of the public may provide written comments to YCWA on DLA
- November and December 2023. YCWA attempts to resolve any substantive disagreements regarding YCWA’s conclusions on resource impacts and proposed conditions in the DLA, and prepares Final License Application (FLA)
- January 2024. YCWA files FLA with FERC
Information in PAD, YCWA’s Identification of Resource Issues, and Additional Data Gathering
1. INTRODUCTION
   1.1 YCWA’s Intent to Apply for a New License
   1.2 Description of YCWA
   1.3 Brief Description of the Project
   1.4 Purpose of the Pre-Application Document
   1.5 Acquisition of Information
   1.6 YCWA’s Relicensing Process Plan and Schedule
   1.7 Relicensing Communication Guidelines

2. EXISTING AND PROPOSED PROJECT
   2.1 Existing Project
   2.2 YCWA’s Proposed Changes to Project Facilities and Operations

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
   3.1 General Description of the River Basin
   3.2 Existing Environment
4. ISSUES AND PROPOSED STUDIES
   4.2 Data Gap Analysis
   4.3 YCWA’S Proposed Measures
   4.4 Relevant Qualifying Plans

5. REFERENCES CITED

APPENDICES
   A. Consultation Correspondence
   B. Preliminary Draft Exhibit A, Project Description
   C. Preliminary Draft Exhibit B, Project Operations
   D. Preliminary Draft Exhibit F, Design Drawings
   E. Preliminary Draft Exhibit G, Project Maps
1. Effects of the proposed Project on downstream channel morphology
2. Effects of the proposed Project on downstream large woody material
3. Effects of the proposed Project on soil erosion within the Project Boundary
4. Effects of the proposed Project on downstream water quantity and flow regime
5. Effects of the proposed Project on water quality
6. Effects of the proposed Project on water temperature
7. Effects of the proposed Project on fishes in Englebright Reservoir
8. Effects of the proposed Project on downstream non-anadromous fishes/aquatic resources
9. Effects of the proposed Project on downstream riparian habitat
10. Effects of the proposed Project on the special-status plant species
11. Effects of the proposed Project on the spread of invasive plant species
12. Effects of the proposed Project on special-status wildlife species
13. Effects of the proposed Project on special-status bats
14. Effects of the proposed Project on ESA-listed plants
15. Effects of the proposed Project on ESA-wildlife species and their critical habitat
16. Effects of the proposed Project on ESA-listed fishes and their critical habitat
17. Effects of the proposed Project on recreation in Englebright Reservoir
18. Effects of the proposed Project on recreation downstream of the Project
19. Effects of the proposed Project on land use
20. Effects of the proposed Project on visual resources
21. Effects of the proposed Project on cultural resources
22. Effects of the proposed Project on tribal resources
YCWA’s Proposed Additional Data Gathering

• YCWA believes existing information is adequate to assess the effects of the proposed Project and to inform requirements in the new license (refer to Table 4.1-1 in PAD for a data gap analysis), and YCWA does not propose additional data gathering.

• Attachment B-1 of the PAD includes a Narrows Water Balance and Operations Model configured to the environmental baseline (period of record from WY 1976 through WY 2008).
Discussion of PAD, Resource Issues, and Additional Data Gathering
Action Items
Adjourn