

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section describes the environmental effects of the Agency Alternative on each major resource area. These environmental effects consist of the difference between the Agency Alternative as compared to the baseline environmental conditions and the Proposed Action. The baseline environmental conditions are those that would exist for each major resource area if the UARP were to continue operating under the current FERC license. The environmental conditions under the Proposed Action are those that would exist if the Proposed Action were implemented in its entirety under the new license for the UARP. In the PDEA, SMUD identified the pertinent technical reports for each major resource area and described the Affected Environment, which is considered the baseline condition for identifying effects. In this SPDEA, SMUD analyzes the environmental effects of implementing the Agency Alternative as compared to baseline conditions and to the Proposed Action.

5.1 General Description of the River Basin

The description of the river basin is unchanged from the PDEA submitted in July 2005.

5.2 Types of Effects (Impacts)

The approach to evaluating the effects of the Agency Alternative used in this document is identical to that presented in the PDEA.

5.3 Agency Alternative

This section discusses the anticipated environmental consequences should the Agency Alternative be implemented, as compared to baseline conditions and the Proposed Action. Cumulative effects are discussed in Section 7.3.