

IS - INITIAL STATEMENT

1.0 APPLICANT

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is a political subdivision of the state of California formed pursuant to the Municipal Utility District Act (California Public Utility Code §811501 *et seq.*). SMUD intends to apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a new license for the Upper American River Project (Project), FERC Project No. 2101, as described in this document. SMUD is the existing licensee, and current owner and operator of the Project. The initial license for the Project, issued to SMUD, was effective on August 28, 1957, for a term ending July 31, 2007.

2.0 LOCATION OF THE PROJECT

The location of the Project is:

State:	California
Nearby cities:	Placerville, South Lake Tahoe, Folsom, Sacramento
Counties:	El Dorado and Sacramento
Stream or other body of water:	Rubicon River, Silver Creek, and South Fork of the American River

3.0 SMUD'S ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER

The physical address, mail address and telephone number of SMUD is:

Physical Address:	Mailing Address:
Sacramento Municipal Utility District 6201 S Street Sacramento, CA 95817-1899 Telephone: (888) 742-7683	Sacramento Municipal Utility District P.O. Box 15830, MS A352 Sacramento, CA 95852-1830

4.0 SMUD'S AUTHORIZED AGENT

The name and mail address of the person authorized to act as SMUD's agent for this application is:

Mr. David Hanson
Hydro Relicensing Project Manager
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
P. O. Box 15830 MS A352
Sacramento, CA 95852-1830

5.0 SMUD'S ORGANIZATIONAL STATUS

Municipalities, such as SMUD, are not granted a preference in relicensing proceedings by existing law, except for the limited preference available in Section 808 of Federal Power Act to all existing licenses in the event of insignificant differences in competing applications.

6.0 PERTINENT CALIFORNIA STATUTORY AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The statutory or regulatory requirements of California, the state in which the Project is located, that affect the Project with respect to: 1) bed and banks; 2) appropriation, diversion, and use of water for power purposes; 3) right to engage in the business of developing, transmitting, and distributing power; and 4) any other business necessary to accomplish the purposes of the license under the Federal Power Act (FPA), are:

1. *California Fish and Game Code §1601* – Requires that parties notify the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) prior to conducting any work in a streambed.
2. *California Water Code §101* - Allows for appropriation and use of water for power purposes.
3. *California Water Code §3160; Title 23 California Code of Regulations §3855* - Regulates the filing and issuance of water quality certificates to applicants otherwise required to obtain such a certificate under federal law.
4. *California Water Code §6102* – Requires owners of dams to cooperate with the California Division of Safety of Dams (CDSOD) in the inspection and maintenance of dams.

The steps that SMUD has taken or plans to take to comply with each of the laws cited above are:

1. SMUD has and will continue to submit a 1601 notification to CDFG, whenever work in a streambed is required.
2. SMUD has acquired the water rights necessary to operate the Project.
3. SMUD will file an application for a water quality certificate with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) prior to filing a license application.
4. SMUD complies with CDSOD on dam safety requirements at all Project dams.
5. SMUD has demonstrated its ability to engage in the business of developing, transmitting, and distributing power under the appropriate California statute.

Additional statutes, regulations, and comprehensive plans are discussed throughout this document as appropriate.

7.0 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The Project was constructed primarily in the late 1950s and early 1960s. It is located in the Silver Creek, Rubicon River, and South Fork American River basins, on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, in El Dorado and Sacramento counties. The Project is composed of seven separate developments, each of which is described below with reference to how water passes through the Project system to generate power:

1. The Loon Lake Development consists of three dams and reservoirs, three tunnels, and a powerhouse. The first dam lies on the Rubicon River, and captures inflowing river water to create the 1,450 acre foot (ac-ft) Rubicon Reservoir at an elevation of 6,545 feet above sea level. Water stored in the reservoir is transported via a tunnel to Rockbound Lake (a non-Project facility), from which it naturally flows into the 1,070 ac-ft Buck Island Reservoir, which is created by a second dam on the Little Rubicon River. The water is transported from Buck Island Reservoir to Loon Lake Reservoir via a tunnel. With a storage capacity of 76,200 ac-ft, the Loon Lake Reservoir at elevation 6,410 feet, is the highest and first of the three major storage reservoirs of the Project. Loon Lake Reservoir is created by a dam on Gerle Creek and captures water from the creek as well as from other smaller tributaries feeding directly into the reservoir. From Loon Lake Reservoir, the water drops into a subterranean powerhouse 1,100 feet below the surface of the reservoir. Tailrace water exiting the 82 MW Loon Lake Powerhouse travels through a 3.8-mile-long tunnel before entering Gerle Creek Reservoir. Water is also released from the base of each of the three dams into the respective natural streambeds (Rubicon River, Little Rubicon River, and Gerle Creek) to preserve and protect downstream aquatic resources.
2. The Robbs Peak Development consists of two dams, two reservoirs, a canal, tunnel, penstock, and powerhouse. The first dam lies on Gerle Creek, and captures the tailrace water of the Loon Lake Powerhouse and inflowing water of the creek to create the 1,260 ac-ft Gerle Creek Reservoir at elevation 5,231 feet. Water from the reservoir is transported 1.9 miles via a canal to the small (30 ac-ft) Robbs Peak Reservoir, created by a dam on the South Fork Rubicon River. From this reservoir, water is transported via a tunnel and penstock to the 29 MW Robbs Peak Powerhouse, located on the northeast shore of the Union Valley Reservoir. Water is also released from the base of each dam into the respective streambeds (Gerle Creek and South Fork Rubicon River) to preserve and protect downstream aquatic resources.
3. The Jones Fork Development consists of a dam, reservoir, tunnel, penstock, and powerhouse. The dam lies on the South Fork Silver Creek, and captures inflowing creek water to create Ice House Reservoir, at elevation 5,450 feet. With a storage capacity of 45,960 ac-ft, Ice House Reservoir represents the second major storage reservoir of the Project. From Ice House Reservoir, water is transported via a tunnel and penstock to the 11.5 MW Jones Fork Powerhouse, located on the southeast shore of Union Valley Reservoir, adjacent to Jones Fork Silver Creek. Water is also released from base of the dam into South Fork Silver Creek to preserve and protect downstream aquatic resources.

4. The Union Valley Development consists of a dam, reservoir, tunnel, penstock, and powerhouse. The dam lies on Silver Creek, and captures inflowing water of several sources to create the 277,290 ac-ft Union Valley Reservoir – the third and largest storage reservoir of the Project, at elevation 4,870 feet. The sources of water flowing into the reservoir include the direct outflows of both Robbs Peak and Jones Fork powerhouses, as well as the inflow of Big Silver Creek, Jones Fork Silver Creek, Tells Creek, and Wench Creek. Water is transported from Union Valley Reservoir, via a penstock through the dam, to the 46.7 MW Union Valley Powerhouse, lying at the base of the dam. Water exiting the powerhouse flows directly into Junction Reservoir.
5. The Jaybird Development consists of a dam, reservoir, tunnel, penstock, and powerhouse. The dam lies on Silver Creek and captures water exiting Union Valley Powerhouse and flowing down South Fork Silver Creek, creating the 3,250 ac-ft Junction Reservoir, at elevation 4,450 feet. Water is transported from the reservoir to the 144 MW Jaybird Powerhouse via a 4.4-mile-long tunnel and 0.5-mile-long penstock. Water exiting the powerhouse immediately enters Camino Reservoir. Water is also released from the base of the dam into Silver Creek to preserve and protect downstream aquatic resources.
6. The Camino Development consists of two dams, reservoirs, and tunnels, with one penstock and powerhouse. The first dam lies on Silver Creek and captures inflowing water from the creek and water exiting the Jaybird Powerhouse to create the 825 ac-ft Camino Reservoir at elevation 2,915 feet. Water is released from the reservoir into a 5-mile-long Camino Tunnel leading to the 150 MW Camino Powerhouse. The tunnel is joined by a second tunnel bringing water from Brush Creek Reservoir, a 1,530 ac-ft reservoir created by a dam on Brush Creek. The combined water drops through a penstock into the Camino Powerhouse, which lies along the South Fork American River. Water exiting the powerhouse immediately enters the Slab Creek Reservoir. Water is released from the base of both dams into the respective streambeds (Silver Creek and Brush Creek) to preserve and protect downstream aquatic resources.
7. The Slab Creek/White Rock Development consists of one dam and reservoir, two penstocks, and two powerhouses. The dam lies on the South Fork American River and captures inflowing creek river water and tailrace water from Camino Powerhouse to create the 16,600 ac-ft Slab Creek Reservoir at elevation 1,850 feet. Water is released from the reservoir through a 36-inch pipe which passes through the dam into the small (400 kW) Slab Creek Powerhouse. Water released from the powerhouse immediately enters the natural streambed of the South Fork American River to protect and preserve downstream aquatic resources. Water is also released from the Slab Creek Reservoir into a 4.9-mile-long tunnel and 0.3-mile-long penstock leading to the 224 MW White Rock Powerhouse, at elevation 993 feet. Water released from the powerhouse immediately enters Chili Bar Reservoir, part of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Chili Bar Project.

As presently configured, the Project also includes over 180 miles of overhead transmission lines, numerous access roads, and various recreation facilities including campgrounds, day use areas, boat launches and trails.

8.0 UNITED STATES-OWNED LANDS AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT

The FERC Project Boundary, as shown on Exhibits F, G and K of the existing license, encompasses 4,913.2 acres of United States-owned land which includes 359.8 acres held in transmission line easements. Except for a 40-acre parcel administered by the United States Bureau of Land Management at the White Rock Tunnel Adit No. 2, all of the United States-owned land is administered by the United States Forest Service. No other United States-owned lands are affected by the Project.

9.0 POTENTIAL PROJECT MODIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONS

During the course of the relicensing process, SMUD will evaluate the potential for additions and/or modifications to Project facilities. Based on these evaluations, SMUD may choose to propose modifications in its license application. At this point, SMUD has identified the following potential changes:

1. Modification of Project transmission lines – SMUD plans to delete certain transmission lines beyond Folsom Junction from the Project license, since these lines are an integral part of SMUD’s transmission system necessary to serve the electrical needs of SMUD’s customers and therefore are not “primary line” facilities. Consequently, these facilities are not jurisdictional under Section 3(11) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. Section 796(11), and will be deleted from the license.
2. Potential addition of a pumped storage facility – SMUD plans to conduct feasibility studies for the addition of a pumped storage facility located at Iowa Hill utilizing the existing Slab Creek Reservoir as the lower reservoir.

A map of the Project including these proposed changes are shown in Figure A1.0-3.

10.0 COUNTIES, CITIES AND INDIAN TRIBES AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT

The name and mailing address of the counties in which the Project is located is:

El Dorado County
Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667-4103

Sacramento County
Board of Supervisors
700 H Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Project transmission line is also located within the following cities:

City of Folsom
Mayor
50 Natoma Street
Folsom, CA 95630

City of Citrus Heights
Mayor
6237 Fountain Square Drive
Citrus Heights, CA 95621

Project facilities are located within 15 miles of the following five incorporated cities having a population of 5,000 or more persons:

City of Placerville
Mayor
487 Main Street
Placerville, CA 95667

City of South Lake Tahoe
Mayor
1052 Tata Lane
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

City of Elk Grove
Mayor
8400 Laguna Palms Dr.
Elk Grove, CA 95758

City of Citrus Heights
Mayor
6237 Fountain Square Drive
Citrus Heights, CA 95621

City of Folsom
Mayor
50 Natoma Street
Folsom, CA 95630

The Project dams are also located within 15 miles of Shingle Springs/Cameron Park, El Dorado Hills, and Pollock Pines. Each of these communities has a population of 5,000 or more persons, but all are unincorporated. Information on the relicensing of the Project will be provided to the communities via the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and periodic public information meetings or workshops.

The Project is not located within any irrigation district, drainage district, or similar special purpose political subdivisions. In addition to the county, cities, and town noted above, SMUD is aware of the following political subdivisions or other entities in the general area of the Project that would likely be interested in or affected by this document:

Placer County
Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603-4543

El Dorado County Water Agency
General Manager
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

City of Sacramento
Mayor
9151 I Street, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

El Dorado Irrigation District
General Manager
2890 Mosquito Road
Placerville, CA 95667

Indian Tribes recognized and not recognized by the Federal government that may be affected by the Project are:

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
Tribal Chairperson
919 US 395 South
Gardnerville, NV 89410

Shingle Springs Rancheria
Tribal Chairperson
P.O. Box 1340
Shingle Springs, CA 95682

SMUD has provided a copy of this document to each of the parties listed above.

11.0 FEDERAL AND STATE RESOURCE AGENCIES CONSULTED

SMUD plans to consult with the following federal and state resource agencies regarding relicensing of the Project:

Eldorado National Forest
Forest Supervisor
100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Branch Chief – Energy and Power
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

US Bureau of Reclamation
Regional Director
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

US Army Corps of Engineers
Chief – Regulatory Branch
Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Manager, Northern California
777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

National Parks Service
Outdoor Recreation Planner
600 Harrison Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94107

California Department of Fish and Game
Manager – Central Sierra Region
1701 Nimbus Avenue
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

California Department of Parks
and Recreation
State Historic Preservation Officer
P. O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296

Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Upper American River Project
FERC Project No. 2101

Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
Executive Officer
3443 Routier Road
Sacramento, CA 95827

State Water Resources Control Board
Section 401 Coordinator
901 P Street
P. O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812

California Department of Boating
and Waterways
2000 Evergreen Street
Sacramento, CA 95815

US Forest Service
Regional Hydropower Assistance Team
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 7524
Sacramento, CA 95814-4706

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Folsom Resource Area
63 Natoma Street
Folsom, CA 95630

SMUD provided a copy of this document to each of the parties listed above.

12.0 INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

SMUD is making the following information available to the public:

1. Complete copy of this document
2. Complete copy of the current license, including all exhibits, appendices, and any amendments
3. Comments, pleadings, and supplementary or additional information received regarding the current license
4. Correspondence served, filed, and received by SMUD in connection with the current license and the application for new license

The above information is available to the public during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday) at SMUD's place of business. That is:

Sacramento Municipal Utility District
6201 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95817-1899

The public is invited to contact SMUD's Hydro Relicensing Project by telephone at (916) 732-5838 to make an appointment to review the information.

A copy of this document is also available at the following public libraries:

El Dorado County Main Library
345 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Sacramento Public Library
828 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2589

Mon-Wed: 10-8
Thur-Fri: 10-5
Sat-Sun: Closed

Mon, Fri: 10-6
Tues, Wed, Thur: 10-9
Sat: 10-5
Sun: 12-5

Members of the public may purchase a copy of all or some of this document at their own expense at:

Copy Corner
906 G Street, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 443-0229

13.0 NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENT

SMUD notified all parties listed on the UARP Relicensing mailing list of the availability of this document, and placed the document on its relicensing web page on SMUD's website (www.smud.org). A copy of the UARP Relicensing mailing list can be obtained from the relicensing web page or by calling the SMUD Hydro Relicensing Project at (916) 732-5838.