

## 10.2 Land Use Study Plan

The Land Use Study will evaluate the compatibility of Project facilities, transportation systems and operations with existing land uses and federal, state and local planning documents, policies and land use regulations. If the Project would result in land use impacts, mitigation measures would be proposed to protect land uses.

### 10.2.1 Pertinent Issue Questions

This Land Use Study Plan addresses the following Issue Questions:

15. “What are SMUD’s management plans on lands they use?” (TR-15)
17. “What are the existing land use regulations and compliance plans (comprehensive plans) and is the Project consistent with these regulations and plans?” (S-17, LU-2)
18. “How does the project affect existing land uses and management.” (S-18, LU-3)
16. “What is the SMUD land ownership in the project area including easements, use agreements, and right-of-ways?” (S-16, LU-1)
19. “What land management actions relate or are associated with Project operations (e.g. high river flow creates boating, creates access, etc.)?” (S-19, LU-5)
23. “Are there spoil sites (e.g., tunnel muck) that are no longer needed or that need maintenance?” (S-23, LU-11)
37. “Are there impacts from roads or transmission lines and their maintenance [e.g., erosion and sedimentation]?” (TR-37, LU-7)
22. “Is the current design and maintenance of Project roads adequate for Project function?” Note: This is an information request that is related to the Project Roads Assessment. (S-22, LU-10)
39. “Is there access to SMUD’s transmission lines (e.g., for mobile biomass generation)?” Note: This issue question is on hold pending discussion on its relevance and intent. (TR-39, LU-12)
13. What are the effects on the Forest Service associated with maintenance and public use management of (a) lands located below the high water mark, (b) areas close to dams and (c) powerline corridors? (LU-13)
14. What are the effects to private landowners and/or local governments associated with maintenance, unauthorized public use and security of Project access roads? (LU-14)

### 10.2.2 Background

The study will comply with the CEQA guidelines, and FERC Regulations (18 CFR Section 4.51) requiring an applicant for a new license to include a description of existing development and use of project lands and other lands abutting project impoundments, and a description of wetlands or floodplains within, or adjacent to, the project boundary. Under the Alternative Licensing Process (ALP) the land use study will also address appropriate issue questions raised by ALP participants.

### 10.2.3 Study Objectives

The objectives of this Land Use Study are:

1. Identify existing land ownership categories and land use/management in the Project vicinity, including descriptions of zoning, easements and use agreements. This objective will address Issue Questions 15 and 16, and FERC Regulations.
2. Assess the compatibility of Project facilities and operations with existing land uses within the Project vicinity. This objective will address Issue Questions 17 and 18.
3. Evaluate the consistency of Project facilities and operations with applicable federal, state, and local planning documents including land use policies and regulations, and land management designations, including fuels management and watershed protection. This objective will address Issue Question 17, 18 and 19.
4. Identify the location and condition of (including type of material) and potential uses for the Project spoil piles and historic borrow sites. This objective will address Issue Question 23.
5. Identify the location of any wetlands and floodplains within or adjacent to the FERC Project Boundary. This objective will address FERC Regulations.
6. Review and evaluate the road and transmission line systems and SMUD maintenance practices relative to impacts and project function. This objective will address Issue Questions 22 and 37.
7. Identify and evaluate the effects to the Forest Service, local governments and private landowners associated with management and maintenance of Project lands and access roads, as described in Issue Questions 13 and 14.

### 10.2.4 Study Area

The study area for land use will consist of three study areas that are dependent on the study objective to be addressed. For Objectives 1, 2, 6 and 7 (Issue Questions 16, 17 18, 22, 37, 13 and 14, and FERC Regulations), the study area is defined as the Project vicinity and will consist of the land parcels that are within and/or abutting the FERC Project Boundary, as well as other lands related to the project. For Objective 3 Issue Questions 17, 18 and 19), the consistency review of the Project will consider comprehensive and resource plans applicable to the Project from the Project region, which is defined as El Dorado County, and the northeastern portion of Sacramento County (the latter for the transmission line only). To address Objective 4 and 5 (Issue Question 23 and FERC Regulations), the study area will be confined to the site boundaries of the spoil piles, historical borrow sites, wetland areas and floodplains within the Project vicinity.

### 10.2.5 Information Needed from Other Studies

Information needed from other relicensing studies includes: 1) from the Recreation Studies, information on the distribution of Project-related recreation use; 2) from the Terrestrial Resources Study and the Wetland Information Synthesis, the location of any wetlands within and adjacent to the FERC Project Boundary; 3) from the Cultural Resources Study, any land use or Tribal rights issues raised in consultation with Indian Tribes; and 4) from the Water Quality Study and Project Sources of Sediment Study, a description of the condition of spoil piles and historic borrow sites associated with the Project.

### 10.2.6 Study Methods and Schedule

Study methods for land use will consist of seven separate tasks. Each task is cross-referenced to the Study Objectives and Issue Questions.

### Task 1. Land Use and Ownership Description

Task 1 will address Study Objective 1, Issue Questions 15 and 16, and FERC Regulations. This task will identify the existing land uses and types of ownership of land parcels that are within and/or abutting the FERC Project Boundary. Information on land use and ownership will be compiled and verified with the appropriate land management agency. Land uses will be depicted on a map and described according to the general plans and land management plans of the appropriate jurisdiction.

Land ownership will be depicted on a map and described in terms of major property owners such as state, county and corporate land ownership boundaries. The list of agencies to be contacted and/or visited includes, but is not limited to: El Dorado County Planning Department, Sacramento County Planning Department, Eldorado National Forest and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Land ownership and land use maps will be developed from GIS coverages and will show township, range and section lines. Task 1 will also include a review of easements, use agreements and permits associated with land use of Project lands within the FERC Project Boundary.

SMUD will also identify the land use practices associated with the Project. This includes an evaluation of such practices on lands within the project boundary, as well as lands used by SMUD outside the project boundary.

### Task 2. Land Use Compatibility Assessment

Task 2 will address Study Objective 2 and Issue Questions 17 and 18. Task 2 will address the physical compatibility of existing Project facilities and operations with adjacent land uses. Compatibility will be assessed based on traditional land use practice where adjacent land uses that could result in harm or nuisance are considered incompatible. If incompatible land uses are identified, reasonable measures that could mitigate the incompatibility will be proposed.

### Task 3. Plan Consistency Review

Task 3 will address Study Objective 3 and Issue Questions 17, 18 and 19. This task will focus on the consistency of the existing Project with land management direction of agencies with jurisdiction in the Project Region. Task 3 differs from Task 2 in that it is an assessment of compatibility with management direction, as compared to the physical land use assessment in Task 2. Consistency with land management direction will be assessed by reviewing adopted plans, including relevant designations, policies, and regulations, and by interviewing land managers. All resources areas in the plans will be reviewed including fuels management and watershed protection. Note that some of these plans are identified and discussed in SMUD's Initial Information Package.

Land and resource plans to be reviewed are:

- Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan
- Rubicon River Wild Trout Management Plan
- Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California
- Recreation Needs in California
- California Water Plan Update
- Water Quality Control Plans and Policies Adopted as Part of the State Comprehensive Plan
- Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment
- Desolation Wilderness Management Guidelines
- El Dorado County General Plan
- El Dorado County River Management Plan
- El Dorado County Trails Master Plan
- El Dorado County Water Agency Water Resource Development and Management Plan
- Bureau of Land Management SFAR Plan
- Bureau of Land Management Federal Land Policy and Management Act Area Plan
- Resource Conservation District Watershed Plan
- Sacramento County General Plan

- Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan for California
- California State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Sierra Pacific Industries Timber Harvest Plan
- Water Forum Agreement
- California Department of Transportation applicable plans
- California Department of Safety of Dams applicable plans
- Sacramento Flood Control Agency applicable plans
- Federal Emergency Management Agency applicable plans

Note: pursuant to section 2.19 (State and Federal Comprehensive Plans) of the relicensing regulations, the first six plans in the list above have been filed with the FERC and are recognized by FERC as either a state or federal comprehensive plan.

Review of the land and resource plans will first identify where, how and to what extent the existing Project affects land management actions identified in plans. Secondly, this review will evaluate whether this effect is incompatible with the land management direction of the plan. Where these affects are considered to be incompatible, reasonable protection, enhancement and/or mitigation measures will be proposed.

#### Task 4. Spoil Piles and Historical Borrow Sites

Task 4 will address Objective 4 and Issue Question 23. The Project Sources of Sediment Study will provide baseline information on the location, content, and condition of Project spoil piles and historic borrow sites. Land use and management information will be collected from appropriate planning documents and permits, and from interviews with the appropriate land management agency, including SMUD staff and land managers. Potential uses of the material will be researched through interviews with potential users and opportunities and constraints to future use of the material identified.

Future disposal sites for both on-site woody debris and rock/sediment will be identified to ensure compatibility with USFS Land and Resource Management Plan. This will be achieved by SMUD working with the USFS to identify potential sites, then evaluating those sites within the appropriate TWG meetings.

#### Task 5. Wetlands and Floodplains

Task 5 will address Objective 5 and FERC Regulations. Information on wetlands within the FERC Project Boundary will be summarized from the wetland study to be conducted as part of the terrestrial resource studies. For the identification of floodplains, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be contacted and maps of the hundred year floodplains in the Project area requested. If alternative mapping of a more detailed nature is available, it will be utilized.

#### Task 6. Road and Transmission Line System

Task 6 will address Objective 6 and Issue Questions 37 and 22. This task will delineate the road and transmission systems that are used by SMUD in operation of the UARP and roads used for project-induced recreation. Different levels of usage will be identified for the many roads used by SMUD and project-induced recreation. Maintenance practices will be evaluated to determine impacts on resources such as erosion and sedimentation. SMUD will also consider whether the existing road system is adequate to carry out project-related functions.

#### Task 7. Effects associated with management of Project lands and access roads

Task 7 will address Objective 7 and Issue Questions 13 and 14. This task will identify and document the effects to the Forest Service, local governments and private landowners associated with management and maintenance of Project lands and access roads. Representative of the Forest Service, El Dorado County Sheriff's Department, El Dorado County Department of Transportation, Sierra Pacific Industries and other private landowners will be

interviewed and the effects identified will be documented. Information from the recreation studies concerning the distribution of Project-related recreation will be considered in evaluation of the effects.

The preliminary results of the study will be presented to the Land Use TWG in the fall of 2003. The results of Task 6 will be presented to the Land Use TWG in May 2003.

#### 10.2.7 Analysis

Integration of qualitative and quantitative information to identify potential impacts of Project operations and facilities, and development of protection, mitigation and/or enhancement (PM&E) measures for impacts that are significant.

#### 10.2.8 Study Output

A presentation on the study will be made to the Land Use TWG and Plenary Group. The ultimate study output will be a written report that includes the issues addressed, objectives, study area including sampling locations, methods, analysis, results, discussion and conclusions. The report will be prepared in a format so that it can easily be incorporated into the Licensee's draft environmental assessment that will be submitted to FERC with the Licensee's application for a new license. The report will include maps depicting land use and ownership categories within the FERC Project Boundary.

#### 10.2.9 TWG and Plenary Group Endorsement

The Land Use TWG approved the draft study plan on February 13, 2003. The participants at the meeting who said they could "live with" the plan were U.S. Forest Service, El Dorado County Citizens for Water and SMUD. None of the participants at the meeting said they could not "live with" the draft study plan.

The Plenary Group approved this plan on March 5, 2003. The participants at the meeting who said they could "live with" this study plan were the U.S. Forest Service, El Dorado Irrigation District, El Dorado County Citizens for Water, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, National Park Service, Taxpayers' Association of El Dorado County, Friends of El Dorado County, American River Recreation Association & Camp Lotus, El Dorado County Water Agency, City of Sacramento and SMUD. None of the participants at the meeting said they could not "live with" this study plan.

#### 10.2.10 Literature Cited

Hydropower Internet Home Page, <http://www.ferc.fed.us/hydro/hydro2.htm>