



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802- 4213

JUN 01 2010

In response, refer to:
SWR/F/SWR3: RW

Dean F. Messer, Chief
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Environmental Services
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236

David W. Moller, Director of Hydro Licensing
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Power Generation
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, California 94177

Re: Six-Month Time Extension for Completion of a Final Habitat Expansion Plan under the
Habitat Expansion Agreement for Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon and California
Central Valley Steelhead

Dear Mr. Messer and Mr. Moller:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is writing this letter in response to your (Licensees') letter dated May 18, 2010, regarding "Request for a Six-Month Time Extension for Completion of a Final Habitat Expansion Plan under the Habitat Expansion Agreement for Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon and California Central Valley Steelhead." In your letter, you requested an extension of the deadline to complete the Final Habitat Expansion Plan (HEP) under the Habitat Expansion Agreement (HEA) for a six-month period until November 20, 2010. Good cause exists for the requested extension under the circumstances that you described in your letter, including the need for additional time to: (1) address significant concerns expressed by NMFS, other parties to the HEA, and directly affected third parties in comments on the Draft HEP; (2) further develop the habitat expansion actions that the Licensees recommended in the Draft HEP in response to comments received on the Draft HEP and new information obtained since issuance of the Draft HEP; and (3) evaluate new information on and re-evaluate a habitat expansion action proposed by NMFS in the Upper Yuba River watershed. Therefore, NMFS confirms that the requested extension is granted in accordance with HEA section 5.



We look forward to productive actions and discussions as outlined in your letter toward development of a Final HEP that NMFS can approve. If you have any questions about this response, please contact Mr. Rick Wantuck, NMFS Regional Hydropower Program Supervisor, at (707) 575-6063.

Sincerely,



Rodney R. McInnis
Regional Administrator

cc: Bob Hoffman, HCD, NMFS, Long Beach, CA
Chris Yates, PRD, NMFS, Long Beach, CA
Steve Edmondson, HCD, NMFS, Santa Rosa, CA
Maria Rea, Howard Brown, Brian Ellrott, Larry Thompson, NMFS, Sacramento, CA
HEA Steering Committee
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