

ORIGINAL

**The Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426**

FILED
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

2009 JUL -6 P 3:54

Re: Kilarc/Cow Creek Hydroelectric Project, FERC No.606

Dear Secretary Bose:

PG&E has submitted their License Surrender Application (LSA) for the decommissioning/destruction of the Kilarc/Cow Creek Power Stations. This destruction flies in the face of current needs and conditions. These facilities have been operating for over 100 years with no detrimental effects on the local ecology or habitat. It has not contributed to fluctuations in anadromous fish numbers as evident by data from several fish biologists, including NOAA scientists and a California Division of Fish and Game biologist. The power generation is small in contribution to a utility the size of PG&E, but is considered economically viable by several smaller hydroelectric companies. The energy produced adds to meeting the stress of energy needs of Northern California and meets these needs with clean, renewable energy.

The tragedy of loosing the Kilarc forebay comes at a time when many State Parks are being considered as expendable in the current economy and budget crisis. PG&E has been approved by the California Public Utilities Commission to spend \$10.4M to now \$14.5M of ratepayer money for elimination when there is no possible mitigation of the unique attributes of the Kilarc forebay/reservoir even for an equivalent expenditure. The loss to the area is not only the recreational attributes, but the effect on a community that has grown up around the amenities over the years. The loss would impact property values, the quality of life, and quite possibly effect the ground water levels; which a study in 1984 deemed marginal.

Families have taught their children and grand children a relationship to nature and to fish in the waters of the reservoir. These are conditions that the Pacific Forest and Lands Stewardship Council is chartered to achieve for all the PG&E land released to the State in their 2001 bankruptcy settlement.

You are respectfully requested to consider licensing Project No. 606 to a suitable power entity that will maintain the Kilarc/South Cow Creek Power stations, status quo, for the power and recreation

so important to the citizens of California. The beneficial users are the youths through seniors and the handicapped (Kilarc is compatible with ADA and ABA).

Signed Paul & Marie Burham
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