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State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Rights

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Gray Davis
Governor

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Ms. Billie C. Blanchard
California Public Utilities Commission
Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD COMMENTS ON THE NEGATIVE
DECLARATION REGARDING THE DIVESTITURE OF PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC
LANDS IN SHASTA COUNTY (APPLICATION NO. 00-05-029 AND 00-05-030)
SCH# 2001102138

Thank you for the opportunity for the State Water Resources Control Board staff (SWRCB) to review and comment on the Negative Declaration (ND) prepared by the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC). The ND addresses the applications by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) to divest and transfer certain lands in Shasta County to the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the California Waterfowl Association (CWA).

SWRCB staff concurs with the CPUC's determination that the Projects as described and conditioned in ND will have less than a significant impact to water quality and aquatic resources. We believe that the proposed conservation easement is an important element of the McArthur Swamp Management Plan. The CWA should consult with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding the type of permits that may be required as a result of the proposed actions in the McArthur Swamp Management Plan. SWRCB staff believes that the divestitures/transfers are in the public interest and should be approved.

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SWRCB staff appreciates work conducted by the CPUC in their review of the applications and commends PG&E for the opportunity to protect and enhance public resources and recreation. If you have any questions, I may be reached by calling (916) 341-5308.

Sincerely,

Jim Canaday
Senior Environmental Scientist

California Environmental Protection Agency

"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of energy conservation tips, see the Website at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>."