UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

SEP 14 2015

David Murillo, Regional Director
Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Cottage Way, MP-700
Sacramento, CA 95825

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation, California (CEQ# 20150222)

Dear Mr. Murillo:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation. Our comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. EPA submitted comments on the Draft EIS for this project on September 30, 2013. We appreciate the thorough responses to our comments that are provided in the Final EIS.

As a crucial storage facility for the Central Valley Project, Shasta Lake is a vital part of California's water supply and economy, and a major influence on the beneficial uses of the Sacramento River. We understand that the Final EIS, along with the Bureau of Reclamation's "Final Feasibility Report" regarding the enlargement of Shasta dam, is intended to be used by the U.S. Congress to determine the type and extent of Federal interest in enlarging Shasta dam and reservoir.

We note that Reclamation has clarified in the Final EIS that the proposed project is tiering from the CALFED Record of Decision (2000). The CALFED PEIS/EIR established collaboration and decisionmaking processes, which were intended to enhance expedited interagency coordination on choosing and implementing actual projects in furtherance of the broad CALFED program. The CALFED ROD also required that all of the four program areas (water quality, ecosystem quality, water supply reliability, and levee integrity) move forward together to ensure effectiveness. The CALFED collaboration and decisionmaking processes were incorporated into the Implementation Agreement and several associated documents, such as the Clean Water Act Section 404 Memorandum of Understanding; but their implementation was largely abandoned in the mid 2000's as funding and other support for the CALFED Program waned. If Reclamation intends to rely on those CALFED processes (for example, the 404 MOU), as indicated in the Final EIS, we recommend that the Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation ROD explain how this project meets all of the requirements of the CALFED ROD.

The Final EIS states that, "if a project is authorized by Congress, Reclamation will develop Section 404 permit applications packages and complete the permitting process." Should that come to pass, EPA looks forward to working with Reclamation and the Corps during that process.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-972-3521, or contact Stephanie Skophammer, the lead reviewer for this project. Stephanie can be reached at 415-972-3098 or skophammer.stephanie@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office

cc: Michael Nepstad, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Matthew P. Kelley, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers