Draft Summary of the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group Meeting
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)
July 31, 2003

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted a meeting for the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group (RSWG) on July 31, 2003 in Oroville.

A summary of the discussion, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present a summary for interested parties who could not attend the meeting. The following are attachments to this summary:

Attachment 1	Meeting Agenda
Attachment 2	Meeting Attendees
Attachment 3	Flip Chart Notes
Attachment 4	Trails-Related Resource Action Matrix
Attachment 5	Recreation and Socioeconomic Resource Action Matrix
Attachment 6	Recreation and Socioeconomic Resource Action Matrix – "Cheat Sheet"

Introduction

Attendees were welcomed to the RSWG meeting; several people participated via teleconference. Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations and the desired outcomes of the meeting were discussed. The meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. Meeting flip chart notes are included as Attachment 3.

Action Items – June 26, 2003 RSWG Meeting

A summary of the June 26, 2003 RSWG meeting is posted on the relicensing web site. The Facilitator reviewed the status of action items from that meeting as follows:

Action Item #R72: Confirm what the cutoff date is for inclusion of resource action proposals in the Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment.

Status: The Facilitator informed the RSWG that there is no official cut-off date for inclusion of resource action proposals in the Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA). However, there is a concerted effort to get the resource actions to the PDEA Team by fall and beginning in September 2003 in order to maintain the overall schedule. The earlier resource actions are moved forward, the more time there is for analysis. The PDEA is tentatively scheduled to be completed internally in April 2004 and submitted to FERC in January 2005. Resource actions that are evaluated in the PDEA may carry more weight in the license application but not necessarily in the settlement negotiations.

Action Item #R73: Confirm that all resource actions are included in the matrix, confirm the descriptions are consistent with visions, and prioritize top five resource actions by geographic area for analysis in the PDEA.

Status: This was an assignment from the last RSWG meeting, which is assumed to be completed by RSWG participants. A revised resource action matrix has been developed, which incorporates most of the edits provided by the RSWG. Discussion of the resource action matrix is a subsequent agenda item; please refer to the appropriate section below for more information.

Action Item #R74: Research activities pertaining to road cut and fence in the Diversion Pool area and report back to the RSWG at the next meeting.

Status:	The gate that is installed blocks access to the Thermalito Diversion Dam, but does not block access to the trail. Some participants expressed uncertainty whether the trail is (officially) a mountain bike trail or whether it is multi-use, but it is reportedly used by all types of users and managed as multi-use.
Action Item #R75:	Check into potential alternative meeting locations and event insurance.
Status:	There is no longer a need to check alternative meeting locations.

Proposed Resource Action Discussion

The RSWG discussed the issue of grouping proposed resource actions (RA) pertaining to trails. Doug Rischbieter, DWR's Resource Area Manager (RAM), laid out three options related to pursuing the trails issue: (1) re-visit the task force concept; (2) discuss a re-sorted list of trails-related resource actions (see Attachment 4); and (3) discuss the Trails Plan proposed by the Dangermond Group that was developed by the JPA early in the process. DWR has recommended that the initiation of a task force be reevaluated because several participants with expertise in trail development indicated that they could not participate. Doug suggested that the RSWG could review the Dangermond Trails Plan and submit it in its entirety as a RA. Another option is to have the original task force revise the Trails Plan and then submit it as a RA.

The Dangermond Group expressed concern about funding for future trails-related work. The Facilitator suggested reviewing the Trails Plan against the Resource Action Matrix to see how they correlate. Several RSWG participants expressed the desire to open up the Diversion Pool area by expansion of the trail system. The RSWG agreed that the most appropriate action would be for the Dangermond Group to review their plan relative to the Resource Action Matrix and, working through the JPA, prepare a revised plan in the form of a PRA to bring to the RSWG for consideration. The JPA will report back to the RSWG at the next meeting.

The RSWG subsequently focused on the entire list of resource actions. The revised Resource Action Matrix was distributed to the RSWG (see Attachment 5). It is organized by geographic area, color-coded to indicate which resource actions have a Resource Action Information Form submitted, and edits made since the last RSWG meeting are represented in italics. This matrix and consolidated "cheat sheet" (see Attachment 6) were used as the basis for a prioritization process where RSWG participants identified their top five RAs from each geographic area. It was stated that some items not selected as high-priority by stakeholders may still be moved forward in the process by DWR.

The RSWG discussed the lack of criteria used in evaluating the resource actions, the need to consolidate resource actions, and issues with identifying priorities before RAs are grouped in logical units that are considered critical components of a larger development. The RSWG continued the tallying process with most RSWG participants providing their input. After all of the participants finished prioritizing the resource actions, the RSWG reviewed a tallied version of the resource matrix to get a preliminary indication of which resource actions seem to reflect the most interest.

The Facilitator described the categorization system developed by the Environmental Work Group, which was presented at the recent Plenary Group meeting and was intended to be used by all of the work groups. The following categories were proposed:

- **Category 1**: Complete; ready for detailed analysis
- **Category 2**: Waiting for results or information from the study plans
- **Category 3**: Needs new information; potential adaptive management; requires new analysis not in study plans; or requires basic science development

- **Category 4**: Not recommended for further analysis; not realistic concept; redundant; or not quantifiable problem

Evaluation of resource actions in the PDEA will be an iterative process, with the PDEA Team seeking clarification from the work groups as needed. One future issue is determining whether a particular resource action has achieved success or not. The RSWG discussed concerns that proponents of resource actions will not know what additional information is needed by the PDEA Team for their proposal to be adequately evaluated. DWR confirmed that the process is iterative with the RSWG providing guidance to the PDEA Team.

A next step in the process is for DWR and the RSWG to add a column to the Matrix and place the RAs into categories as described above. This task needs to be completed by September 2003. The tally process will help guide what subset of RAs move forward to the PDEA analysis.

The RSWG decided that the Oroville geographic area needed to be broken up into roughly three or four sub-areas and the matrix recirculated so participants can identify their priorities and the results recalculated. Doug Rischbieter will revise the matrix and distribute to the participants prior to the next RSWG meeting.

It was clarified that the study plan results will be considered in conjunction with the prioritization to make sure that PRAs that address identified needs are analyzed. There is also a need to identify resource actions that are not applicable to the RSWG and move them to the appropriate work group; this will require coordination from the various resource area managers (RAMs).

Next Steps

The Facilitator informed the RSWG that the Riverbend Park Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is available from Bob Sharkey representing Feather River Recreation and Parks District. The EIR will also be posted on the Parks District web site.

The RSWG discussed the potential need to extend the duration of the RSWG meetings to meet the September 2003 deadline to move resource actions to the PDEA team for analysis. The RSWG discussed the use of breakout groups to focus discussion on specific groups of PRAs and also the option of scheduling specific areas or interests so that stakeholders could plan their attendance based on the time their issue is scheduled for discussion. The RSWG agreed on the following meeting date/time with the potential to expand the time if warranted:

Date: Thursday, August 28, 2003
Time: 6:00 to 10:00 PM
Location: Kelly Ridge Meeting Room, Oroville

Action Items

The following list of action items identified by the RSWG includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action, and item status.

Action Item #R76: Report back to the RSWG on the trails planning effort.
Responsible: JPA
Due Date: August 28, 2003

Action Item #R77: Determine how much and what information is needed for the evaluation of potential resource actions.
Responsible: DWR
Due Date: August 28, 2003

Action Item #R78:	Divide resource actions pertaining to the Lake Oroville geographic area into sub-areas and redistribute to the RSWG with map and/or description.
Responsible:	DWR
Due Date:	August 6, 2003

Action Item #R79:	Send tally on resource actions priority identification process (from July RSWG meeting) to requesting parties. Distribute revised resource action matrix to RSWG.
Responsible:	DWR
Due Date:	August 28, 2003

Action Item #R80:	Consolidate resource action matrix by identifying redundancies and similarities and by re-directing resource actions that are not applicable to the RSWG. Consider moving language from non-prioritized resource actions to complimentary ones. First cut at organizing the potential resource actions into four categories (recommended by Plenary Group) for PDEA.
Responsible:	DWR
Due Date:	August 28, 2003