ISSUE STATEMENT DEVELOPMENT

The Work Group is tasked with developing a series of issue statements for inclusion in the Scoping Document. The Scoping Document identifies issues associated with the relicensing of the Oroville Facilities and guides the development of studies necessary to address each issue. An issue is a clear statement of adverse cause and effect relationships that either are occurring at present and need to be resolved by the plan or might occur as a result of other activities associated with relicensing. The Work Group has identified a number of like issues that can be grouped into categories. Once grouped, one or more issue statements can then be written that describes:

- ✓ Existing conditions of resource
- ✓ Specific actions that would affect resource
- ✓ Locations and timing of actions/impacts
- ✓ Who would be affected and what their concerns are
- ✓ What will happen if you do nothing

EXAMPLE ISSUE STATEMENT: Recreational Facilities

The Oroville Facilities currently provide camping, boating, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, biking, hunting, picnicking, and swimming opportunities. The area's natural topography, vegetation, fish, wildlife, and the availability of various recreational opportunities enhance the overall experience at Lake Oroville. Recreational use of the available facilities is expected to increase, resulting in potential crowding, user conflicts and degradation of the natural environment. Recreational users want assured access and appropriate facilities to maintain existing opportunities, provide an expanded range of opportunities and enhance future use with additional facilities appropriate to keep pace with demands.

RECREATION ISSUES GROUPED INTO CATEGORIES FOR ISSUE STATEMENT DEVELOPMENT:

1. EXISTING LICENSE COMPLIANCE

- ❑ Various recreational and public use facilities were designated as mitigation measures to minimize impacts resulting from the original Oroville Project construction. The Licensee should provide a complete inventory of recreational mitigation obligations required by Articles of the existing FERC License, and should clearly disclose the current status of compliance with those measures.
- ❑ Has DWR completed or met all its obligations for recreation mitigation (wildlife habitat and fishing) under the existing FERC license?

2. EFFECTS OF FACILITIES OPERATIONS ON RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

- ❑ Lake Oroville releases made for power generation may cause dramatic fluctuations in lake level. What are the potential impacts of fluctuation zone and surface elevation change on recreation opportunities and on fish and wildlife habitat?

3. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

GENERAL STATEMENTS OF FACILITIES NEEDED

- ❑ Existing recreational facilities are not adequate to meet demand
- ❑ Upgrade all facilities and develop more areas for recreation

- Increase parking facilities
- Upgrade portable restrooms to permanent ones

CAMPING

- Increase camping facilities
- At Lime Saddle Memorial Park, build it out and extend it to capacity to which it was originally designed. Up to 250 campsites and boat ramp, swimming beach.
- Develop campground at the afterbay
- Develop smaller, primitive style campgrounds (tent) particularly around Enterprise boat ramp
- RV parking lot – forebay, better use of
- Improve Loafer Creek facilities (in progress)
- More parking at Bidwell Canyon (in progress)

SWIMMING

- Create swimming lake (year-round) at Loafer Creek to replace swimming lost when Bidwell Bar was inundated.
- Develop first class swimming facilities within the lake that is state of the art, that's innovative, to replace swimming opportunities lost
- North forebay development and visibility of swimming opportunities – sand beach surround
- Water temperature below dam (too cold for swimming) warm it up

BOATING

- Increase marinas
- Establish and locate area for bass tournaments on the lake and include stands, parking, water, electricity, vendors, boats, etc.
- Develop facilities at the south forebay to support competitive powerboat events including grandstands, flush toilets, and campgrounds
- Include a marina and launching of boats along with many recreational activities at the afterbay, with the entrance to the facilities off Hwy 99
- Dry storage for boats on trailers at Lake Oroville and north forebay
- Develop a management structure and funding for aquatic center programs at the north forebay to bring boating safety and handling to the public
- Water boat training (like Butte Sailing Club offers)
- Lake levels sink too low in the summer – suggested level for boaters between 890-895 feet elevation
- Expand uses of forebay for boating education – boating safety
- Tournament water skiing (economic draw)
- Loss of whitewater recreation opportunities and potential mitigation for loss (whitewater park)
- Rebuild Feather River flash dam.
- Floating campsites – convert for winter use
- House boat anchor sites
- Open forks of lake for activity
- Gate the log booms – like at Shasta
- Private catering and floating restaurant
- New lake depth charts and all rivers.

FISHING

- Develop balanced fishery
- Consider changes in flow rates on recreational fishing
- More emphasis on steelhead and less on salmon

- Evaluate salmon numbers
- Rearing bass (plants) barbless hooks for steelhead catch / release of females
- Shooting carp – at Oroville – investigate use at Oroville for this activity
- Bank fishing sites, cutaways used as fish habitat
- Restrooms upgraded at fish cleaning stations

EQUESTRIAN

- Finish building the CA riding and hiking trail from Oroville Trail to Pacific Crest Trail.
- Develop an endurance trail around the lake perhaps connecting to Pacific Crest Trail and preserve existing hiking and equestrian trail (in particular, preserve the Dan Beebe Trail as a historical equestrian and hiking trail)
- Develop equestrian center(s) accessible to established trails at Lake Oroville recreation area, to include a good arena and rental and boarding stable
- Preserve unpaved status of RR grade multi-use trail
- Cover the pathway across the west face of the dam with wood chips to make it usable for an equestrian route for the LOVER annual ride. Wood chips would be donated.
- Temporarily rough clear/grade some sections of the trail used for the annual LOVER equestrian event, including an alternate route, parallel to the bike route, up the south side of the dam for horses to use during LOVER ride.

TRAILS

- Increase hiking trails
- Bike trails
- Develop more bike trails that are separate from hiking and equestrian trails
- Open diversion dam as trail linkage. Create trail linkage from diversion dam to old railroad grade at the railroad trestle. Open west side of river from fish barrier dam to Burma Road as recreation area. Move fence back from riverbank at fish hatchery and develop trail from Table Mountain Bridge past the Hwy 70 bridge on north side of river.
- Multi-use trails
- Pave existing RR grade Build a trail starting at the Feather River Hatchery and continuing down river to access the proposed Hwy 70-bike/pedestrian crossing. Create picnic and river access areas on this stretch of the Feather River.
- Open Diversion Dam for trails – Frontage Rd – River Bend Park to Georgia Pacific Way.
- Open west side of the Diversion Dam to public trails
- Create trail links from: Diversion Dam to past the Railroad trestle and Burma Road to fish hatchery (move fence from the fish hatchery riverbank). Green Bridge to Hwy 70 Bridge (Carl Durling re: restaurant)
- Thompsons Flat Road Access – Good Diversion Pool and trail access as well as great historical importance on the West Side of the Diversion Dam.
- Move the security fence off the trail access at the Feather River Hatchery.
- Feather River trails – as proposed by the Bike Pathway Project, links of this access will be created under the Upper Thermalito Bridge and between the Diversion Dam and the old Feather River Railroad.

OTHER LAND-BASED RECREATION FACILITIES

- Site improvements to existing flying site for model airplanes
- Improve the Off Hwy Vehicle Recreation Area (SVRA) at the Oroville complex. This would include and not be limited to 4x4 areas for training, safety, but also moto-cross type tracks also.
- Mining display visible from Hwy (dredge equipment, etc.)
- Heritage Village

- Upgrade and extend concessionaire contract. Open up some areas for concessions (Horse, Heritage Village, Overlook, etc.)
- Day use park: restrooms and day use area improvements needed.
- Clean up old 'City' park adjacent to the north side of the Fish Barrier Dam, just north of the Fish Hatchery. Taken over by DWR when SWP was constructed, never re-opened. Provide picnic areas and restroom facilities. Turn over to City of Oroville.
- Berry Creek needs public facilities lakeside.
- Larkin Road Shooting Range owned and maintained by the state off Larkin Road south of the Oroville Airport. The access road, parking area, drainage, and overall condition of the facility is deficient.

SHORELINE/RIVER CORRIDOR RECREATION FACILITIES

- Restore and improve recreation resource along the river corridor from the dam, downstream to the wildlife area
- Create, enhance and preserve Craig Access Park
- Finish Feather River enhancement project.

4. CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES

- Clean-up garbage and construction debris
- Fire issue – CCC assistance for clean-up
- *Debris program established on regular schedule*
- Remove old Rail Road trestle and other debris from river.
- Remove concrete and construction debris in Feather River including below the Fish Barrier dam, below the Table Mountain Bridge, below the Hwy 70 bridge.
- Clean up shoreline, particularly adjacent to camping and public access areas. Use county prisoner-release programs if necessary, to maintain clean shorelines.
- Dump areas used by DWR need to be removed.

5. ACCESS/HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT

- Improve access from the north
- Open spillway road to Potters Ravine for recreation development.
- Upgrade roads to facilities
- The access road from Berry Creek needs improvement.
- Open Lakeland Blvd. access.
- Develop land access to far north side of lake
- Develop an alternative route to and from Lake Oroville area. From east to west, Miners Ranch Road, converging with Foothill Boulevard, and out Ophir Road to Hwy 70.
- Widen Hwy 162 as originally planned and encourage all levels of government to widen Hwy 70 to Oroville.
- Build bridge from Nelson Ave Sports Complex to North Forebay and supply gas to site.
- Build pedestrian bridge adjacent to Hwy. 70 bridge. (Possibly in conjunction with train bridge – multipurpose)
- If there is going to be paving, consider Burma Road (more cost effective with no conflict of use)
- Widen Hwy 162 to Miners Ranch Road
- Widen Hwy 70 to Oroville
- Hwy 70 bridge should be rebuilt to include pedestrian/bike crossing on this bridge.
- Develop monorail system to Butte County

6. AESTHETICS/VEGETATION

- Water primrose invasive to shallow areas – waterfowl nesting areas lost (environmental?)

- Day use park: water lines in the south side of the river between the Fish Barrier Dam and the Diversion Dam need to be installed to irrigate plantings.
- Replace landscaping at the Feather River Fish Hatchery and adjacent river areas.
- Create work team to remove invasive, non-native plants from State Water Project and DWR areas.
- Re-seed Oroville Dam.
- Land at West End of the Diversion Dam has invasive species such as Star Thistle. Clean up vegetation and return to public use.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY

- Install warning system for water releases.
- Emergency boat for CDF
- Land at West End of the Diversion Dam has dangerous fuel loads
- Dangerous accumulations of fuel-load exist in areas along the Feather River, particularly below Oroville Dam on the south side of the Feather River through the Long Bar area. Work with GOAFSC and PG&E on plans to reduce loading throughout this area.
- Lake security and fines

8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ELECTRICAL AND WATER RATES

- DWR could show good will to community by creating an arrangement with the local business community and industry so they could pay lower rates for water and electricity from Oroville Dam. Would like locals to get favorable, Southern California rates. Use that as a tool to lure more industry to the area.

COMMON GOAL STATEMENTS

- DWR should continue its active involvement in the community to develop recreation concurrently with the relicensing process.
- Look at future and reliable funding sources for recreational development
- Develop a plan that has a local structure that will ensure the plan is carried out.
- Assurances
- Private enterprise contracts in recreational planning
- Opportunities for expanded commercialization – barriers infrastructure needed to bring dollars into system
- Review what was promised 30 years ago and what was actually delivered. Ensure that this process will fulfill needs of the community
- Hold to commitments made over 30 years ago
- All future recreation development plans including all State Agencies, to notice all members of the public (no more secret meetings)
- No new development should impact established recreation sites and use of cultural sites
- Work collaboratively and cooperatively with property owner to develop recreation along the river.

AESTHETICS

- Power lines – camouflage them

NOT A PART OF THIS RELICENSING

- Establish another dam on the west branch of the Feather River, to provide more electricity, and another recreation area, and provide Paradise with more water supply. Make another multi-purpose dam.