STATE OF CALIFORNIA-THE RESOURCES AGENCY GRAY DAVIS, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
176 Nelson Avenue
Oroville, California 95965
(530) 538-7111

April 11, 2003

Kim Cotto
Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street, Room 1115-16
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Oroville Facilities Relicensing (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2100) SCH# 2001 102011

Dear Mr. Cotto:

We have reviewed the above project and we have one comment that has some concern with fire protection and public safety. Each year there are a few boat fires and a number of water rescues on Lake Oroville. Public agencies are not adequately equipped with proper boats for necessary emergency response. Numerous houseboats are moored offshore and are not easily accessible. The boats owned by the Department of Parks and Recreation do not carry pumps and hose; nor are those boats designed for performance of rescue operations.

Lake Oroville needs two fireboats capable of water rescue. Such boats can be reasonably small to carry a crew of four or five personnel, and the boats should have a low side or opening to allow patients on backboards to be floated partway into the boat. Some inflatable type boats are quite adequate and are reasonably priced. They also have water pumps for fire suppression. We recommend that such boats be kept at the Lime Saddle and the Bidwell Marinas.

Sincerely,
William R. Sager
Unit Chief

By: Dan R. Dyer
Battalion Chief