ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
5997 PARKSIDE DRIVE • PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA 94588-5127 • PHONE (925) 484-2600 FAX (925) 462-3914

NEPA PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS
OROVILLE FACILITIES RELICENSING
FERC PROJECT No. 2100

COMMENTS OF THE ZONE 7 OF
ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Vincent D. Wong, Assistant General Manager
October 30, 2001

Thank you for hearing my comments on the Oroville Facilities Relicensing. I'm here to express the importance of retaining or enhancing the current water supply and power generation from the Oroville Facilities because it is essential for maintaining a reliable and affordable water supply for the 23 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland served by the State Water Project (SWP).

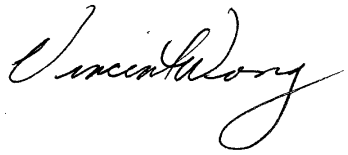
Background Zone 7 of Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (also known as the Zone 7 Water Agency, or Zone 7) is a contractor with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), for a water supply from the State Water Project. Zone 7 serves 180,000 people in eastern Alameda County, including the Cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin. Zone 7 provides water to four major Municipal & Industrial retailers and to agricultural users, primarily for viticulture. The SWP supply meets approximately 70 percent of our local water demand, and is vital to the economic well being of our community. Zone 7 is one of three major water suppliers to eastern and southern portions of the Bay Area which depend of the SWP.

The Oroville Facilities As a SWP contractor, Zone 7 is responsible for its portion of costs related to water supply development and power generation at the Oroville Facilities. Operational changes that might result in reducing the power generation capability and flexibility of the facilities will result in increased costs to Zone 7 and other SWP contractors. These increased costs will be passed on to much of the state's population depending on the SWP. Of greater concern to Zone 7 and the other contractors is the possibility that operational changes will erode the water supply available to the SWP.

Zone 7 appreciates the need to protect California's environment, however we are very concerned about the potential for duplication of efforts between the Oroville relicensing process, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. In particular, the CALFED program is attempting to strike a delicate balance between water supply improvements and the environment. The

impacts of CALFED programs will stretch well beyond the Bay-Delta, and include the Feather River in the CALFED "solution" area. The Oroville Facilities relicensing process must recognize the overall CALFED program, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and other ecosystem restoration initiatives. State Water Project water supplies are already contributing to CALFED's success. The environmental studies undertaken in the relicensing process need to be tightly and strictly focused within the project boundary. Any options considered in the relicensing process must be complementary to the CALFED program and not result in losses to State Water Project water supplies.

The restructuring of the California power market has highlighted the importance of hydroelectric projects beyond their traditional capacity and energy production values. Maintaining or increasing the flexibility in releases is required to continue the beneficial use of the Oroville Facility for providing regulation, spinning reserves, non-spinning reserves, replacement reserves and voltage control needed for reliable operation of the SWP and the California power grid.

Zone 7 recognizes that the FERC relicensing process involves the balancing of power and water supply benefits with environmental, recreational and flood management needs. We urge that this process seek innovative and creative solutions to meet these needs – solutions that do not sacrifice precious water and power resources.

We ask and thank you for your consideration of our comments not only on behalf of Zone 7, but also on behalf of all the people in the State of California.