



Item 10: Peer-Hydro: Enhancement and Environmental Research for Hydropower Generation – GFO-22-306

January 24, 2024 Business Meeting

Joe O'Hagan
Energy Research and Development Division
Sustainability and Health Unit



Objectives

- Unique opportunity under the FERC relicensing process.
- Balance hydropower operations with ecosystem needs.
- Research funding for information and tools to reduce the environmental effects of hydropower operations.



Benefit to Californians

- Reduce the environmental effects of a zero-carbon renewable resource
- Contribute to a sustainable hydropower system in California



Source: Library of Congress



UC Davis Project

- EPC-23-021
- California Environmental Flows Framework (CEFF).
- Research and develop resources for managing instream flows to improve downstream ecological conditions of hydropower dams through the relicensing process.
- Case study as part of McCloud-Pit Hydroelectric project relicensing amendment.



UC Merced Project

- EPC-23-022
- Research and enhance a decision support system for comprehensive analysis of interactions between hydropower operations, environmental flows, and freshwater species.
- Energy grid demand and hydropower vulnerability assessment modules.
- User-friendly tool to inform FERC relicensing processes.



Staff Recommendation

- Adopt staff's determination that the agreements are exempt from CEQA
- Approve grant agreement EPC-23-021 with UC Davis for a \$494,711
- Approve grant agreement EPC-23-022 with UC Merced for a \$500,000