October 12, 2011

Nadia Parker
Department of Water and Power
City of Los Angeles
731 Ball Road, Suite 100
Anaheim, California 92805

Government Code Section 63455.1, Review of 15-KR-30, Proposal to Expand the Existing Barren Ridge Switching Station and Construct Additional 12 Miles of New 230 kV Circuit to the Castaic Power Plant, Near California Aqueduct Milepost 25.82, West Branch, Southern Field Division, Town of Castaic, Northwestern Los Angeles County

Dear Ms. Parker:

The Division of Operations and Maintenance has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement for the proposed Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Project (BRRTP). The proposed BRRTP includes expansion of existing Barren Ridge Switching Station and the addition of 12 miles of new 230 kV circuit on the existing double-circuit structures from Haskell Canyon to the Castaic Power Plant. Alternative routes for transmission lines for the Barren Ridge Switching Station will cross the California Aqueduct near the community of Neenach and the city of Palmdale. In addition the construction of the 230 kV circuit from Haskell Canyon to the Castaic Power Plant will cross Department of Water Resources (DWR) right of way near Castaic Lake, a DWR reservoir.

DWR has reviewed the submitted materials with a requested response date of October 12, 2011, and has the following comments:

1. Any utility crossings over State Water Project facilities or construction work within DWR right of way will require an encroachment permit issued by DWR.

Information regarding guidelines and forms for submitting an application for an encroachment permit to DWR can be found at:

http://www.water.ca.gov/engineering/Services/Real_Estate/Encroach_Rel/

2. Please provide DWR with any updates to this project and send all future correspondence related to this project to:

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Operations and Maintenance
Attn: Leroy Ellinghouse, Chief
SWP Encroachments Section
1416 8th Street, Room 641-2
Sacramento, California 95814

Response E-1: The Department of Water Resources (DWR) requirements for an encroachment permits have been added to the permit requirements for Project implementation in Table 1-1 in Chapter 1 of the Final EIS/EIR.

Response E-2: DWR will be provided Project updates at the address listed.
Ms. Nadia Parker  
October 12, 2011  
Page 2

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Jonathan Canuela of my staff at (916) 653-5095.

Sincerely,

Leroy Ellingham, Chief  
State Water Project Encroachments Section  
Division of Operations and Maintenance
LETTER F: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Response F: Please refer to the responses to Letter E.
Mr. Charles C. Holloway  
October 21, 2011  
Page 2  

In accordance with Government Code Section 66455.1, DWR has also reviewed the DEIR/S and provided comments on a separate letter to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power on October 12, 2011.  

If you have any questions, please contact Leroy Ellinghouse, Jr., Chief, State Water Project Encroachments Section, at (916) 653-7168 or Jonathan Canuela at (916) 653-5095.  

Sincerely,  

David M. Samson, Chief  
State Water Project Operations Support Office  
Division of Operations and Maintenance  

cc: State Clearinghouse  
Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, California 95814  

Attachment
LETTER F(2): CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Response F(2): Please refer to the responses to Letter E.
Mr. Holloway  
October 26, 2011  
Page 2

In accordance with Government Code Section 66455.1, DWR has also reviewed the DEIR/S and provided comments on a separate letter to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power on October 12, 2011.

If you have any questions, please contact Leroy Ellinghouse, Jr., Chief, State Water Project Encroachments Section, at (916) 653-7168 or Jonathan Canuela at (916) 653-5095.

Sincerely,

David M. Samson  
Chief  
State Water Project Operations Support Office  
Division of Operations and Maintenance

Attachment

cc: State Clearinghouse  
Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, California 95814
October 12, 2011

Nadia Parker
Department of Water and Power
City of Los Angeles
731 Ball Road, Suite 100
Anaheim, California 92805

Government Code Section 66455.1, Review of 15-KR-30, Proposal to Expand the Existing Barren Ridge Switching Station and Construct Additional 12 Miles of New 230 kV Circuit to the Castaic Power Plant, Near California Aqueduct Milepost 25.82, West Branch, Southern Field Division, Town of Castaic, Northwestern Los Angeles County

Dear Ms. Parker:

The Division of Operations and Maintenance has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement for the proposed Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Project (BR RTP). The proposed BR RTP includes expansion of existing Barren Ridge Switching Station and the addition of 12 miles of new 230 kV circuit on the existing double-circuit structures from Haskell Canyon to the Castaic Power Plant. Alternative routes for transmission lines for the Barren Ridge Switching Station will cross the California Aqueduct near the community of Newhall and the city of Palmdale. In addition the construction of the 230 kV circuit from Haskell Canyon to the Castaic Power Plant will cross Department of Water Resources’ (DWR) right of way near Castaic Lake, a DWR reservoir.

DWR has reviewed the submitted materials with a requested response date of October 12, 2011, and has the following comments:

1. Any utility crossings over State Water Project facilities or construction work within DWR right of way will require an encroachment permit issued by DWR.

Information regarding guidelines and forms for submitting an application for an encroachment permit to DWR can be found at:

http://www.water.ca.gov/engineering/Services/Real_Estate/Encroach_Rel/

2. Please provide DWR with any updates to this project and send all future correspondence related to this project to:

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Operations and Maintenance
Attn: Leroy Ellinghouse, Chief
SWP Encroachments Section
1416 9th Street, Room 641-2
Sacramento, California 95814
Ms. Nadia Parker
October 12, 2011
Page 2

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Jonathan Canuela of my staff at (916) 653-5005.

Sincerely,

Leroy Ellinghouse, Chief
State Water Project Encroachments Section
Division of Operations and Maintenance
LETTER G: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

October 25, 2011

BRRTP Forest Service/BLM/LADWP
PO BOX 3136
PASADENA, CA 91101


The U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) have prepared a joint Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Project (BRRTP). The proposed BRRTP includes addition of 12 miles of new 230 kilovolt (kV) circuit on the existing double circuit structures from Haskel Canyon to Castaic Powerplant. The South State Water Project (SWP) Hydropower Project (formerly known as the California Aqueduct) is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and includes Elderberry Forebay, Castaic Powerplant, and Pyramid Lake. These facilities are also part of the West Branch of the SWP. Castaic Powerplant was developed, and is operated, under a cooperative agreement between the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and LADWP. DWR and LADWP are co-owners for the South SWP Hydropower Project (FERC Project No. 2426).

One of the primary purposes of the BRRTP is to help LADWP meet the 2020 Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goals that require increased generation and use of renewable energy sources. LADWP has an RPS Policy to use 35% renewables by the year 2020. The BRRTP will help achieve this goal by allowing the transmission of wind and solar resources to the Los Angeles Basin, and contribute approximately 22% renewables into LADWP’s resource mix. DWR supports the RPS goals mandated by State legislation to increase use of renewable energy resources and reduce the generation of greenhouse gases.

Under the Project Purpose and Need, Section 1.2.5, the Draft EIS/EIR states that matching wind and solar energy production profiles to consumer demand is a challenge for utilities. LADWP requires increased operating flexibility to utilize both wind and solar energy in its power system. The pumped-storage capability of Castaic Powerplant could be used for load balancing when transfer of renewable resources exceeds electrical demand. During periods of high renewable resource generation and low demand, electricity can be used to pump water from Elderberry Forebay to Pyramid Lake. When electrical demand increases, water from Pyramid Lake can be used to generate power at Castaic Powerplant.
Response G-1: The integration of the Castaic Power Plant that would occur with the implementation of BRRTP would occur within the existing operational parameters of the Power Plant and would not change or modify the pumping and generating operation at Castaic Power Plant or the agreements with the State Water Project (SWP) for the conveyance and transfer of water. Therefore, the implementation of BRRTP would not have undocumented or undisclosed impacts on the recreation, water quality, shoreline erosion, fisheries, and sedimentation of the current, or baseline, level. Therefore, no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts are expected.

Response G-2: Please refer to Response G-1. Castaic operations will continue within the licensed and permitted operating parameters and, as such, no impacts to recreation, water resources, or aquatic resources have been identified.