



AGENDA ITEM NO.

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: May 15, 2018

Date: May 10, 2018

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Estelle Fennell

Subject: The Future of the PG&E Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors consider potential participation in a regional Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project (PVP) entity and appoint an Ad-Hoc committee of Supervisor Fennell and Supervisor Rex Bohn to address the project's future.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: On May 10, 2018, PG&E issues a letter to the Eel-Russian River Commission in regards to the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project. It states that PG&E is putting the project up for action this fall. Humboldt County is a clear stake holder given that the project was formed by the diversion of Eel River Headwaters into the Russian River. Therefore, Humboldt County should consider an active role should a regional entity entrusted with managing this resource be created. Supervisor Estelle Fennell is currently the Chair to the Eel Russian River Commission (ERRC), a Joint Powers Authority of Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma and Lake Counties. The ERRC will meet in Ukiah on June 8 and Supervisor Fennell would like to express at that meeting Humboldt County's intent.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter from PG&E dated May 10, 2018

Prepared by Tracy Damico

Signature

REVIEW:

Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:

_____ Consent
 _____ Departmental
 _____ Public Hearing
XX _____ Other Board Initiated (10 min)

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
 Upon motion of Supervisor _____ Seconded by Supervisor _____

Ayes
 Nays
 Abstain
 Absent

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: _____

By: _____

Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board



Power Generation

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San Francisco, CA 94105

Mailing Address
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P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, CA 94177

May 10, 2018

Eel-Russian River Commission
501 Low Gap Road, Suite 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Eel-Russian River Commissioners:

During my February 23, 2018 presentation to the Eel-Russian River Commission, I informed you that Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) was evaluating several options for the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project. I'm writing to let you know that after very careful consideration, PG&E has decided to put the project up for auction this fall.

This decision to begin the auction process ultimately reflects that continuing to operate the facility is not in the long-term best interests of PG&E's electric customers. However, PG&E fully realizes that the project has key environmental attributes and provides important regional benefits including recreation opportunities and a significant contribution to the Russian River water supply.

With this in mind, as we prepare for the auction PG&E is open to exploring with local, county and/or state governmental entities that have an interest in the continued operation of the project the possibility of transferring it to a local or regional entity as an alternative to the auction. PG&E will assess the progress of such transfer negotiations as they proceed, and based on meaningful progress, will either continue direct negotiations or proceed with the auction.

Participation in the auction will be open to any qualified entity. Qualifications will include being able to meet the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) requirements for a hydroelectric project licensee. We anticipate interest in acquiring the project by electric power interests, water supply interests, potential combinations of these two groups and possibly by others. Transfer of the project will require approval of both the FERC and the California Public Utilities Commission. The entire process could take one-and-a-half to two years to complete.

PG&E plans to continue the ongoing FERC relicensing proceeding throughout the auction process with the expectation that the new project owner will "step into PG&E's shoes" relative to the relicensing once regulatory approval of project transfer has been obtained.

Due to its relatively small electric generation capacity, divesting the Potter Valley Project will not impact PG&E's delivery of safe, clean, affordable and reliable electricity to our customers. The divestiture is expected to have a negligible impact on PG&E's overall portfolio of renewable power.

Throughout the divestiture process, PG&E will continue to operate the Potter Valley Project as a hydroelectric facility in full compliance with our FERC license and all applicable environmental laws and regulations.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Moller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Moller" clearly distinguishable.

David Moller
Director, Power Generation