

Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes

SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY
AT UC SAN DIEGO

CF/49-4.1-11 Coyote Valley Dam &
Lake Mendocino Operations (ID 1414)

November 2, 2017

Lieutenant Colonel Travis J. Rayfield
Commander, San Francisco District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Re: WY 2018 Deviation Request, Lake Mendocino

Members of the Lake Mendocino Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) Steering Committee¹ submit this request for a major planned deviation to the Coyote Valley Dam – Lake Mendocino Water Control Manual (WCM). The purpose of this request is to improve water supply reliability and environmental conditions while maintaining flood management capacity of Lake Mendocino.

This major deviation request represents the culmination of a three-year effort, led by the FIRO Steering Committee. Since 2014, the Steering Committee has collaborated to produce a significant body of technical and scientific work including watershed and atmospheric observations, atmospheric and hydrologic forecast analyses, and parallel modeling applications. This work has been conducted in cooperation with USACE San Francisco District, Sacramento District, Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) and the South Pacific Division (SPD). The Lake Mendocino FIRO Preliminary Viability Assessment (<http://cw3e.ucsd.edu/firo-preliminary-viability-assessment-for-lake-mendocino/#TOP>), published August 2017, provides the details of this work, and serves as the technical underpinning of this request.

The attached document describes the basis for the requested deviation; the details of the requested deviation; and a description of the FIRO Steering Committee evaluation process. In it, we respectfully request USACE approval of a planned major deviation, which would make the following adjustments to the rule curve:

- Increase conservation pool storage by 11,650 acre-feet (November 1 - February 28)

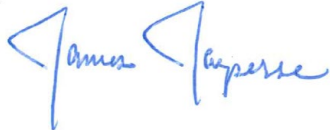
¹ The Lake Mendocino FIRO Steering Committee consists of representatives from the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), Scripps Institute of Oceanography (Scripps), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources. This deviation request is being submitted on behalf of steering committee members representing the following organizations: SCWA, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USACE, NOAA, and California Department of Water Resources.

- Decrease the conservation pool by 1,030 acre-feet per day if storage is above 80,050 acre-feet (starting October 1)
- Increase the conservation pool by 436 acre-feet per day (starting March 1)

SCWA is currently working with the USACE to prepare a summary of identified environmental effects of the proposed deviation and the proposal's compliance with pertinent environmental requirements, including the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It is anticipated that NEPA compliance requirements will be met by preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed action, concluding with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The EA is anticipated to be submitted by December 31, 2017.

Thank you for considering this request. We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have, or provide any additional information if needed.

Sincerely,



James Jasperse, P.E., Chief Engineer, Sonoma County Water Agency



Dr. F. Marty Ralph, Director, Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, U.C. San Diego

cc:

Captain Antony Billes, San Francisco District
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