**DATE**

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Washington,

D.C. 20426.

**RE: Potter Valley Project (P-77-285)**

Dear Secretary Bose,

I am writing in support of the continuation of the operation of the PG&E Hydroelectric facilities known as the Potter Valley Project (Project) which is in the beginning phases of a FERC relicensing process.

The Project is important for local power and water supply in Mendocino County. The water diverted through the Project is used for agricultural, domestic, municipal, industrial and recreational purposes in the areas of Potter Valley, Redwood Valley, Calpella, Talmage, Ukiah, Hopland and south to the county line. Water from the Project that is stored in Lake Mendocino provides the water supply for thousands of people in the Russian River watershed as well as mandated water releases for ESA listed salmonid species.

The development of water resources through the Project and Lake Mendocino have allowed for the creation of a substantial agricultural economy in Mendocino County. The economic value of water stored in Lake Mendocino that is used for farming and ranching within the Russian River basin in Mendocino County was calculated by Dr. Robert Eyler (January 2016; submitted to FERC) to be over $740 million dollars per year. Impacts to the agricultural industry that benefit from Project water, from the powerhouse to the confluence at Dry Creek, needs to be fully vetted in any alternative that is considered during this re-licensing process.

Reductions in flows at the Project that may be considered in any alternative for this re-licensing process need to accurately assess the impacts to water right holders in the Russian River watershed. As a result of the last license amendment process, described in the FERC Final Order in 2004, the diverted flows at the project were significantly reduced. The cumulative impacts from this previous flow reduction and any proposed future flow reductions on the hundreds of water right holders in the Russian River watershed deserves full analysis.

The continued operation of the Project is critical to a large number of Mendocino County residents, their families, their businesses and their communities. For this reason, FERC is encouraged to fully consider the impacts to those who benefit from the power and water provided by the Project in the Russian River Watershed during the scoping process, Environmental Impact Statement development and recommended actions related to the relicensing of the Potter Valley Project (P-77-285).

Sincerely,

NAME