



BUTTE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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August 21, 2007

Ms. Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N. E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Costs Incurred by Butte County in Responding to Recent Incidents at Lake Oroville, Project No. 2100

Dear Ms. Salas:

The County of Butte, California ("Butte County" or the "County"), is writing to document continuing responses to incidents within the Oroville Facilities Project ("Oroville Project" or "Project") area. This letter is specific to recent incidents at Lake Oroville in connection with the Project. These incidents are meant as examples and are not meant to be a complete list of all responses to the Project area. It is important to note that the County is not claiming it is the sole responder to these incidents; in fact, many times the County is working in conjunction with State departments on these incidents. Nevertheless, County resources are committed and providing services to a State owned project without any consideration of the fiscal and coverage implications the responses have on the residents of unincorporated Butte County.

In previous filings, the County has demonstrated that it provides services each time an accident, fatality, homicide, or other incident requiring public safety response occurs at the Project. The most recent incidents again highlight the fact that the taxpayers of Butte County provide exceptional public safety and emergency response services to the Oroville Project, but are not reimbursed for those expenditures by the owner of the Project.

May 25, 2007

On May 25, 2007, a fire occurred on a boat owned by a non-County resident from Grass Valley, California, that caused a release of gasoline into Bidwell Marina. Seven (7) personnel, a hazmat unit, one (1) utility vehicle, and two (2) fire engines from the Butte County Fire Department responded to the incident. Personnel and local resources were at the incident up to two hours, leaving local communities potentially uncovered due to the "move up and cover" requirements for priority stations.



June 2, 2007

On June 2, 2007, a suicidal man from Oroville drove a car into Lake Oroville at the Spillway Launch Ramp. This incident led to both a rescue response and a hazardous material response by personnel from the Butte County Fire Department and the Butte County Sheriff's Office.

The response by the Butte County Sheriff's Office included five (5) Deputies, two (2) Sergeants, and three (3) Dispatchers, as well as mortuary and autopsy expenses due to the death of the subject.

The response by the Butte County Fire Department included eleven (11) personnel, seven (7) pieces of equipment, one (1) hazmat unit, and three (3) volunteer firefighters. Two of the fire engines were at the incident for three hours, once again, leaving other local communities uncovered for that period of time.

June 11, 2007

On June 11, 2007, a male subject was struck in the head by a jet ski after he fell off the tube he was riding on that was being towed by a boat. The Butte County Fire Department responded with two (2) fire engines and five (5) personnel for approximately one hour.

June 24, 2007

On June 24, 2007, a young man was injured when he fell from a rope swing near Bidwell Bar Bridge on Lake Oroville. The incident required a response from the Butte County Fire Department of two (2) fire engines and five (5) personnel for approximately one hour.

July 4, 2007

On July 4, 2007, the Butte County Fire Department, in partnership with the California Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) and Cal Fire (CDF) formed a self-contained emergency response agency at Lake Oroville for the seven-hour period, from 5 PM – 12 PM. The Butte County Fire Department, as a part of the self-contained agency, responded to eight incidents at Lake Oroville during that period. The eight incidents do not include any incidents at other areas of the Project, such as the Forebay, Afterbay, or Oroville Wildlife Area. The eight incidents included six (6) calls for medical aid, one (1) call related to fireworks, and one (1) call regarding a possible fire near the Dam. The following Butte County resources were dedicated to the Lake for seven hours on the 4th of July:

- 1 Butte County fire engine with 3 fire fighters
- 2 Butte County fire squads with 4 volunteer fire fighters
- 2 Butte County water tenders with 2 volunteer fire fighters
- 1 Butte County Fire Polaris Ranger with 2 fire fighters

July 5, 2007

On July 5th, there were two incidents at Lake Oroville requiring assistance from the Butte County Fire Department. A boating accident, involving a head injury, occurred at Bidwell Canyon Marina, requiring a Butte County Fire Department response of one (1) engine and two (2) personnel for less than one hour. There was also a smoke check at McCabe Cove off Lumpkin Road, Enterprise Boat Launch, where the Butte County Fire Department assisted DPR. This incident required one (1) engine, one (1) utility vehicle, and four (4) personnel for approximately two hours.

July 7, 2007

A medical assistance call at Bidwell Canyon Marina required Butte County Fire Department resources consisting of one (1) engine and two (2) personnel for less than one hour.

July 14, 2007

Two incidents required responses from the Butte County Fire Department. The first involved a fireworks complaint at the Enterprise Boat Launch ramp. The response utilized one (1) engine and two (2) personnel for less than one hour. The second incident involved illegal debris burning on an island in McCabe Cove. The area was inaccessible, but still required one (1) engine and two (2) personnel for less than one hour.

August 14, 2007

A vegetation fire off the bike path along the Diversion Pool required Butte County Fire Department resources that included six (6) fire engines and two (2) water tenders. The incident lasted over three hours.

August 19, 2007

A vegetation fire on an island in Lake Oroville, below Bell Ranch Road, required a response by the Butte County Fire Department. The response was a joint effort between County and State resources, and included the following County resources: two (2) Battalion Chiefs, three (3) fire engines, one (1) Fire Investigator, one (1) Safety Officer, two (2) water tenders, six (6) personnel on the engines, two (2) volunteers on the water tenders, and the Berry Creek and Kelly Ridge Volunteer firefighters. The County resources were utilized for approximately 1.5 hours.

Conclusion

In addition to the direct costs incurred by the taxpayers of Butte County for the local resources utilized to provide services to the Project, there is a peripheral effect on local communities whenever law enforcement and/or fire equipment and personnel are called to the Project, given the current level of resources available in the County. In short, for incidents on the Project that take longer than 30 minutes, a minimum of one local community is left uncovered by its County resources. This effect has been called out in previous filings by the

County. The County respectfully requests that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission take this additional information into consideration and require the licensee to pay its share of costs required to keep visitors to the Project safe.

Sincerely,

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