



SOUTH FEATHER WATER & POWER

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Kathy Petersen, Power Division Manager

DATE: August 17, 2005

RE: General Information (regarding matters not scheduled on agenda)
August 23, 2005 Board of Directors Meeting

Operations

Attached for your information is the Storage and Generation Report for July 2005. Also attached are charts showing the elevations of Little Grass Valley and Sly Creek reservoirs. The draft from Little Grass Valley is currently set at 150 cfs.

Forbestown Diversion Valve Operation

On August 17 we operated the 60-inch valve at Forbestown Diversion Dam for the first time since the late 1980's. We began the permit process for this activity in 2003, noting that because the valve has not been operated in such a long time, it was likely that some sediment had accumulated behind it. We finally received all of the necessary permits this summer and, now that the critical breeding and emerging season for foothill yellow legged frog has passed, we prepared to operate the valve up to 150 cfs for an hour, while spilling an additional 450 cfs.

We started trying to operate the valve at around 8:30 am, but with the volume of spill were not sure we could determine if the valve was opened. We reduced spill to about 200 cfs and again attempted to operate the valve using the hydraulic pump. It still appeared that the valve was not operating, so the crew hand pumped the valve open and shut twice to break it free. After that it operated properly using the pump. It remained open for an hour and then was closed. A small amount of sediment was released when the valve was initially opened, but it cleared up right away. The spill continued for 12 hours after the valve closed to provide flushing downstream, and water quality monitoring continued throughout the day.

An engineer from the Division of Safety of Dams was present for the valve exercise. In conjunction with the valve exercise, members of the whitewater boating study team (Dave Steindorf, Eric Petlock and Scott Wilcox) flew the river to determine the suitability for a boating flow study later this fall. Also in conjunction with the high flows on the river, Eric Theiss from NOAA Fisheries visited sites along the river.

Maintenance Projects

Slate Creek Excavation Work

We have received amendments to our permits for the Slate Creek Sediment Pass-Through project to mechanically remove up to 500 cubic yards of material this summer. We will clean out the material in front of the intake in order to make it easier to mobilize the material during a future high flow event. This will also give us the chance to inspect the condition of the grizzly and make any necessary repairs. The flow in Slate Creek will be diverted through a length of culvert pipe so that we can do the work out of the water. This project is starting August 22.

Sly Creek Dam Crest Monuments

In order to monitor both horizontal and vertical movement on Sly Creek Dam, John Christofferson of GDA Engineering requested that we set new monuments along the downstream edge of the dam crest and at control points adjacent to the dam. Norm Williams and Denny Lewis completed this project July 26.

General Information

National Energy Policy Bill Passed

The federal government finally passed a compromise version of the National Energy Policy bill that provides minor reforms to the hydro relicensing process, and provides incentives to build additional hydroelectric facilities. On the relicensing side, the bill allows licensees and other parties to "offer less costly alternatives to the mandatory conditions resource agencies impose on licensees." (*Hydrowire*, Aug. 1, 2005)

The incentives portion of the bill authorizes \$800 million in "clean energy" bonds for construction of renewable projects, including new hydropower at existing dams, by not-for-profit utilities (such as SFWPA). This provision balances the \$9 per megawatt-hour tax credit that the taxable utilities qualify for if they add incremental hydropower.

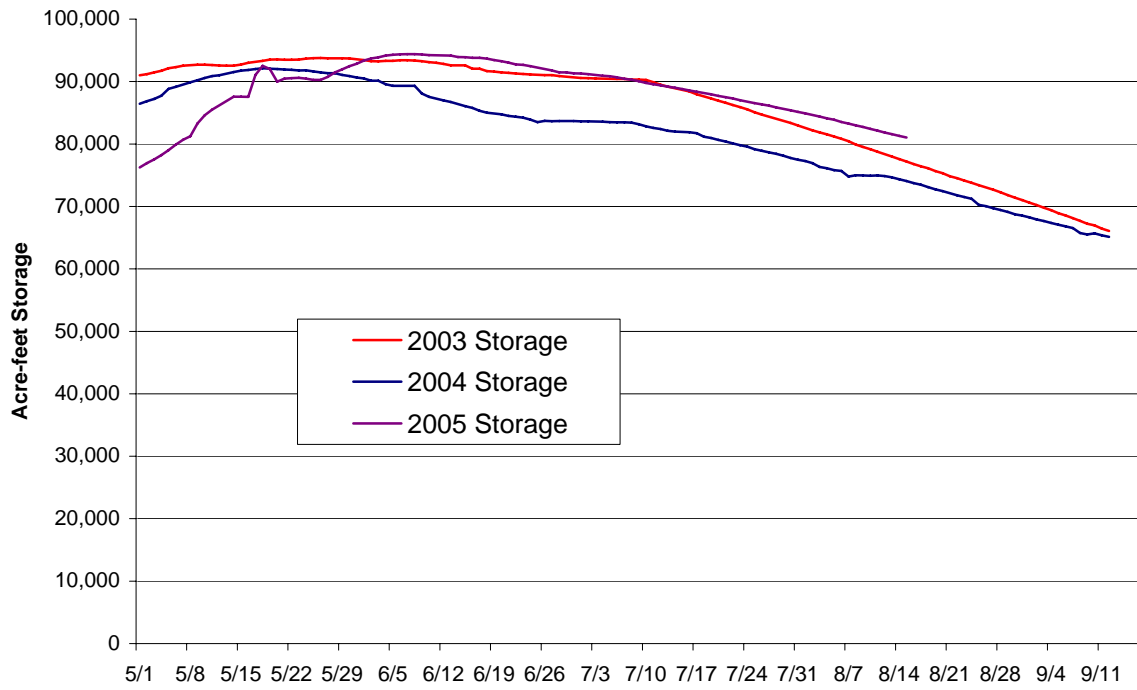
Davis-Grunsky Inspection at Little Grass Valley

The Department of Water Resources conducted its annual inspection of the recreation facilities at Little Grass Valley Reservoir on August 11. The facilities were in good shape, with only minor repair items noted. The peninsula facilities have been closed all summer due to Forest Service hazard tree removal, so the other sites were receiving more use. We conducted informal surveys at Blue Water Beach and Maidu Boat Launch to find out whether people were passing through or staying in the area. The people we talked to were either camping at one of the campgrounds for the week or were staying at the privately owned cabins. Except for comments on the small size of the fish they were catching, we heard no complaints. As you can see from the photo on the next page, several families were making use of the beach while we were conducting the inspection.

Blue Water Beach at
1 pm, August 11, 2005



Little Grass Valley Storage



Sly Creek Storage

