

Advocacy & Water Protection in Native California

Eel River Dam Removal

What's happening

What's next

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The Plan now on the Table

- Picking up PG&E's abandoned relicensing effort
 - But PG&E still owns whole PVP
- 5-party Planning Agreement Group / 2 basin partnership
 - Mendocino County W Commission
 - Sonoma Water
 - CalTrout
 - Humboldt County
 - Round Valley Tribes
- Feasibility Study Report filed May 13 2020
 - Defines project as Scott Dam removal
 - Regional Entity would take over whole PVP, remove Scott Dam, modify Cape Horn, diversion etc
 - And then there's a pipeline to take water back to Potter Valley from Lake Mendocino that the PVID wants someone else to pay for

Problems with that plan

- It's easy to solve problems if other people pay the costs
- (Relatively) high price tag for this vision
- Public money a lot harder than in 2019
- Punts on Cape Horn Dam/ Van Arsdale fish ladder
- Who controls Regional Entity?
- Worst Case Scenario: Regional Entity Keeps Scott Dam
- Water users don't want to pay
- Water users won't even agree to take out Scott Dam

Plan B? FERC's Surrender Process

- If this plan fails entirely
- Next step would be for PG&E to go to FERC in that agency's Surrender process
 - PG&E could fight dam removal
 - We think they won't
 - And they'll lose anyway
- With FERC Dam Removal order in hand, PG&E goes to California Public Utilities Commission
 - Can recover costs of dam removal + standard profit = \$\$\$
- Potential upsides
 - PG&E will get it done, because that's how they get paid
- And downsides

Plan A version 2.0?

- Still trying for that Two Basin Solution
- Redraw Potter Valley Project boundaries
 - exclude Scott Dam
 - PGE keeps it
 - goes to FERC for surrender process & dam removal by agreement
 - Regional Entity buys the rest
 - After figuring out
 - how to provide volitional passage at Cape Horn Dam
 - How to pay for it
 - Capital costs
 - Operations & maintenance

Bottom Lines

- Scott Dam will be removed
 - RVIT water rights & fishing rights must be secured
 - Beneficiaries of water diversion must bear the costs
 - Hydropower is incidental, no real revenue, so burden is on water
 - More transparency
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- Cooperative Agreement will be key development
 - Funding for Study Plans & relicensing even more consequential