| IOWA HILL JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC COMMENT TRACKING SPREADSHEET - IHJAC (adopted as of 08/08/2007) | | | | | |
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| **ITEM #** | **COMMENT CATEGORY** | **COMMENT** | **SCOPING MITIGATION MEASURE** | **STATUS OF COMMENT** | **COMMENT RESOLUTION** |
| 1 | Visual | Minimize the introduction of new landscape features: the project places primary facilities subsurface (i.e., not visible), including the Slab Creek Reservoir intake and discharge structure, water conveyance system (e.g., penstock) and the powerhouse. | Technical Report, Section 5.1 | Recommend | |
| 2 | Visual | Relocate facilities to minimize visual effects: the switchyard was relocated from the lower site at Slab Creek Reservoir and placed next to the upper reservoir berm. This eliminates the visual disturbance of placing the switchyard in the canyon near the powerhouse tunnel portal entrance, and eliminates the need for the transmission line going up the canyon slope. | Technical Report, Section 5.1 | Recommend | |
| 3 | Visual | Eliminate the need for new landscape features: the project uses tunnel spoil material to construct the upper reservoir berm which eliminates the need for a permanent spoil pile. The project also uses existing facilities: Slab Creek Reservoir and the UARP transmission line as part of the project to reduce the number of new features associated with the Iowa Hill Development. | Technical Report, Section 5.1 | Recommend | |

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| 4 | Visual | Reduce color contrasts of the upper reservoir berm: the outer embankments of the upper reservoir berm will be revegetated with shallow-rooted, native grasses, forbs and shrubs which will soften the visual contrast of the berm with the surrounding landscape | Technical Report, Section 5.1<br>SMUD should explore from a geological standpoint the feasibility of putting topsoil on berm to vegetate dam.<br>SMUD should create an additional "screening mechanism": introduce early forestation around the outside of the berm, creating a dense forest to soften visual effect for residents to the north and west.<br>SMUD should only use shallow root system plants on berm (no Mountain Misery). | Recommend | ***Agreement with USFS stipulates that outside the footprint of the berm, as many trees as possible will remain. Request from SMUD to provide names of hydro projects that use native plants on dams. SMUD has investigated existing US facilities and found no comparable examples. SMUD has initiated discussions with California Dept. of Dam Safety (DSOD) who has agreed to consider the proposed mitigation. All design features including any planting must be reviewed and approved by FERC, DSOD, and other regulatory agencies.*** |
| 4a | Visual | Integrate the visual appearance of the berm with the surrounding landscape by developing a revegetation plan that includes a revegetation planting scheme that mimics a chaparral hillside characteristic to the region. The design would integrate the placement of boulders and plant species to create a variety of colors and textures in a manner that is similar to other open hillsides in the surrounding characteristic landscape. | Technical Report, Section 5.2<br>SMUD should replace: "mimics a chaparral hillside characteristic to the region", and replace with "that utilizes plants that are native to the environment."<br>SMUD to provide examples of this type of revegetation from other projects. | Recommend | SMUD reports that there is no way to mask the spillway from the view of residents in the northeast. |
| 4b | Visual | Want to know more about what kinds of plants (green or brown?) will actually be planted - will it match existing plants during all the seasons? | Shallow root plants should be used (no Mountain Misery). | Recommend | |

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| 5 | Visual | Reduce color contrasts of the transmission line: the transmission and switchyard towers will be of COR_TEN® steel which naturally colors to a dark brown. The dark brown of the towers will blend into the surrounding forested landscape. | Technical Report, Section 5.1<br>Recommend that transmission poles will be octagon-shaped monopoles.<br>Recommend that transmission lines will run down the side of the mountain to Cable Point Road, not across the top of the hill, thus limiting visibility from west, north of reservoir. | Recommend | COR-TEN steel towers would blend in with the surrounding forested landscape better if they were designed to look like high sight timber similar in design to those of cell phone antenna towers along Highway 50. |
| 6 | Visual | Relocate the switchyard to the north side of the berm, near the potential equipment staging/laydown area, to minimize the visual effects. This would result in the elimination of the first 3 transmission towers that cross in front of the north side of the berm, and result in eliminating the visibility of the switchyard and transmission line from areas to the west and significantly reduce the visibility from areas to the northwest of the upper reservoir berm. | Technical Report, Section 5.2 | Recommend | |

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| 7 | Visual | Integrate the visual appearance of the upper reservoir berm with the surrounding landscape: place boulder-size rocks on the outer embankment of the berm in a manner that mimics natural land forms found in the surrounding characteristic landscape. The placement of the boulders would be designed and would include clustering of boulders on the outer embankment of the berm to break up the visual mass. Boulders would be placed at and near the top of the berm to break up the horizontal line of the berm. The placement of boulders would add texture to the embankment face that is more characteristic of the surrounding landscape. | Technical Report, Section 5.2 SMUD should consider using boulders to break-up contour and in the concrete structural design, SMUD should consider using undulation rather than a straight line. | Recommend | |
| 7a | Visual | Could the Project have natural topographic contoured variation? | SMUD should discuss with engineers and determine the feasibilitiy of natural contoured variation for project design. | Recommend | |
| 8 | Visual | Reduce the visual appearance of the powerhouse tunnel portal site: at the lower Iowa Hill Development site, concrete would be used for the exterior framing of the powerhouse tunnel portal and the retaining wall for the portal entrance area. This concrete would be colored to a dark brown or other color that best matches the surrounding colors in the natural landscape. | Technical Report, Section 5.2 | Recommend | |

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| 9 | Visual | What are the visual impacts during construction since it is a 5-7 year process? (Clarification: Construction period estimated 4-5 years. Details of construction schedule will be outlined during 4-year planning process following relicensing.) | During the planning process, SMUD should keep the community informed of scheduling timelines (estimated standard procedures) for each phase of the project (i.e., clearing land, construction of berm, construction of tunnel). Visible during construction of upper site: equipment, vehicles, trailers, staging areas, traffic in and out of the area, and geneal activities associated with the construction of the upper reservoir and berm. The effects will be softened by trees left in place and early reforestation ("screen" in Item #4 above) and place trailers and staging areas where seen by fewest number of residents. | Recommend | Visible during construction of lower site: Visible from west and north: Entrance to tunnel (portal) at the lower end of Chute Camp Road (20-30' above the Boat Ramp Road).<br>Note: Boat Ramp Road will be improved as part of the new UARP license, regardless of Iowa Hill.<br>Technical study does not deal with impacts during construction. Footprint of reservoir will be clear-cut; however, more trees will be left standing than were previously anticipated. Plan has been modified accordingly. |
| 9a | Visual | Storage area, field offices, soil piles, and equipment staging areas will also be visible during construction. What about the lower Slab Creek site - tunnel? Were there flow impacts that were taken into account for visual? | During construction, field offices and equipment staging areas should be positioned to soften visual effects for the majority of residences. | Recommend | Tunnel at lower site will be visible from west and north.<br>Fluctuations to the reservoir will remain within the current range, but be more frequent.<br>Iowa Hill will create more flexibility to control rafting flows out of Slab Creek. |

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| 10 | Visual | Maps in the original report and recent update show who can see what of the project from where (including during construction). No matter what is done to make it look better, it is still visible from many locations in the community. | SMUD should conduct a new 3-D simulation to help the community understand the visual effects of the project from their properties. The new 3-D visual model should allow for any residence or location in the surrounding area to evaluate the visibility of all project features. | Recommend | SMUD will develop a 3-dimensional simulation of the Iowa Hill Project that demonstrates the overall visibility of all above-ground project features. A general simulation will be completed in the 4th quarter 2007. At that time, the Visual Subcommittee will be reconvened to discuss how to move forward with individual simulations from specific properties. |
| 10a | Visual | There is only one reference point from the south side of the river. Would like to see reference points from any direction not already covered. | With new 3-D simulation, SMUD will accept requests from residents for simulations from properties not already covered in initial report. | Recommend | See Item No. 10 above. |
| 10b | Visual | How accurate are SMUD's simulations? | SMUD should use simulation with balloon placement to validate. | Recommend | Balloon mitigation measure replaced by 3-D simulation proposal (see Item No. 10 above). However, if 3-D simulation is considered insufficient, then the balloon placement will be conducted as well. |
| 11 | Visual | Are there plans to replant trees on the berm? | Trees cannot be planted on berm, but trees will be planted on the toe of the berm, and existing trees will remain on the toe of the berm. | Recommend | |

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| 12 | Visual | As soon as the project is done, it needs to be hydro-seeded so that it is starting to revegetate immediately. Would like to see more attention paid to the interim mitigations such as this. | Revegetation should be ongoing during the construction of the project (not "as soon as project is done"). | Recommend | |
| 13 | Visual | It would be interesting to compare a visual simulation of what the project site looks like today against what the area would look like without the project in 10 years. | SMUD should provide a visual simulation to show what the project site would look like in 10 years if the project were not constructed. | Recommend | |
| 14 | Visual | Could the Project be lowered by 18 feet? | Lowering the project by 18' would necessitate much smaller reservoir. SMUD has calculated the current size of the reservoir to fit its operational and economic needs. Lowering the project by 18' and keeping the same size reservoir would result in more surface blasting into solid rock. SMUD should examine the feasibility and impacts (time, noise factors) involved in blasting 18' deeper in order to lower the project and retain same size reservoir. | Recommend | |

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| 15 | Visual | Could it have a skirt that could be vegetated? | SMUD should evaluate construction of a secondary berm to hide the face of the primary berm and place trees on this secondary berm for screening. SMUD should consult engineers on feasibility, and if feasible, produce a visual simulation. | Recommend | |
| 16 | Visual | What will be done to stop erosion on the berm and will it be visible? Do not want ugly concrete. Correction: Instead of "no concrete items are currently planned", it is noted that the spillway will be constructed of concrete. | Details addressing erosion control on the berm have not been finalized. SMUD should address questions about visibility of erosion control after completion of final design. SMUD should address questions about visibility of erosion control including the spillway and below after completion of final design. | Recommend | |

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| 17 | Visual | What about visual impacts from widening of roads? | To the extent roads are widened, there will be visual impacts.<br>SMUD should provide a description of "cut" in hillside when access road at the bottom of project is constructed and the visual impact on residences to the west and north.<br>SMUD should also evaluate visual impacts if Slab Creek Road is widened. | Recommend | |
| 18 | Visual | What temporary erosion control procedures will prevent washout of areas during construction, and what are the visual impacts? | Best Management Practices (BMP) should be used. | Recommend | |
| 19 | Visual | When will the underbrush be cleared around the project site to minimize fire danger to the Camino area? How big of an area will be cleared? How will that change the visual look of the area? (SMUD identified that the area between the Camino Powerhouse and White Rock Powerhouse as an EXTREME FIRE RISK and that maintenance will be performed to clear underbrush.) | SMUD will clear underbrush and clear-cut the high sight timber on the footprint before the project begins.<br>Since SMUD does not intend to clear outside the footprint, the community should work with Fire Safe Council and USFS to create a fire safe project, with the goal of constructing a fire break to protect the community. | Recommend | USFS has completed underbrush clearing.<br>SPI is scheduled to clear underbrush before the project begins.<br>The visual impact varies in accordance with the viewshed of individual residences. Underbrush will be cleared around project, trees will stay (see Item #4). |

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| 20 | Visual | How will SMUD minimize the visual impacts of burning weeds, brush, trees, etc or the visual impact of dust in the air emanating from the construction zone? | High sight timber on footprint will be harvested.<br>All else will be cleared and either chipped/hauled/burned. USFS to be consulted.<br>Noise Subcommittee to consider this item (chipping).<br>SMUD should explore the possibility of using the green waste from the project in an alternative energy facility to benefit the Camino Community.<br>A water source should be provided at the upper site for dust control. | Recommend | |
| 21 | Visual | If a large scale fire results from activity related to the project and long term scarring of the area occurs (huge visual impact for residents), will SMUD compensate residents for this visual impact? If so, when would the compensation be provided and would will it be limited to the $2 million in the entire Socioeconomic Fund? | Fire and Socioeconomic subcommittees will study this item. | | |
| 21a | Visual | Will there be compensation for visual impacts from project-induced fire other than the socioeconomic fund? | Fire and Socioeconomic subcommittees will study this item. | | |

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| 22 | Visual | Roadwork will be done in concert with saving trees and scenery. | If roads are widened, tree corridors should be maintained (i.e., Cable Road).<br>Transportation Subcommittee will also consider this item. | Recommend | |
| 23 | Visual | Consider the feasibility of building a smaller reservoir. | SMUD should review for the committee details of the alternatives and should be considered when determining the size of the reservoir.<br>SMUD should provide information so the committee has a better understanding of SMUD's logic in constructing a reservoir of the planned size. | Recommend | |
| 24 | Visual | The Iowa Hill Development needs to conform with visual resource requirements and standards of the U.S. Forest Service. | SMUD should consider U.S. Forest Service standards in the design of the Iowa Hill Development. | Recommend | |
| 25 | Visual | How much lighting will be used during nighttime construction and will lighting create a visual impact to nearby residences and residences in the Mosquito/Swansboro neighborhoods? | SMUD should consider nighttime light pollution during construction and operation of the project, and include measures to reduce the number of lights and lighted areas that can be seen from nearby residences. | Recommend | |

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| 26 | Visual | Will security fencing at powerhouse tunnel portal entrance and around berm create visual impacts for residents and recreators? | SMUD should consider reducing the visibility of fencing at both locations. | Recommend | |
| 27 | Visual | SMUD should direct engineers on visual design considerations. | SMUD should direct its engineers that the design of the berm should incorporate natural terrain features (e.g., plantings, coloring, screening, natural contours, etc.) to the extent possible. | Recommend | |
| 28 | Visual | Will there be changes to existing transmission lines? | Not aware of any changes aside from the new tie-in (approximately 2 miles) about ten new poles. Poles from switchyard to existing line will be screened from residences across reservoir. | COMPLETE | |
| 29 | Visual | When will underbrush be cleared for the Project (for fire control)? What are visual impacts associated with that? | Underbrush on the footprint of the project will be cleared at the very beginning of the project. When clearing begins, residents in north and west will have visual impact. | COMPLETE | |
| 30 | Visual | Are there any properties that can look down inside the project? | No, it is on the top of a hill. The most anyone can see is the edge of the berm. | COMPLETE | |

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| 31 | Visual | Will there be a road to access the berm, and will it be visible? | Visual monitoring will be utilized for routine inspection. Minimal official traffic should use road on top of berm for maintenance and emergencies. | COMPLETE | |
| 32 | Visual | What is the height of the water when the reservoir is full? | 3,073 feet when full, which is 8 feet below the top of the dam. | COMPLETE | |
| 33 | Visual | Approximately how long a time period will it be before the Project will look like it did before? | Depending on a resident's view, the project site may never look the same as it did before the construction, or it may have no visual impact. | COMPLETE | |
| 34 | Visual | Can rocks be incorporated into the face of the plan? | Yes, it is part of the plan. | COMPLETE | |
| 35 | Visual | How much and how quickly will the water drop in Slab Creek? | The water could fluctuate about 15 feet daily, however the full cycle could be as much as 50 feet over a week.<br>The water will drop as frequently as once a day, most frequently in summer months. | COMPLETE | |
| 36 | Visual | How far away is the reservoir from Slab Creek? | Approximately a 1,200 ft. vertically and 1,800 ft. horizontally. | COMPLETE | |

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| 37 | Visual | What about the visual impacts on powerlines at Sky View and Copperton? Especially Cable Road. | Sky View can see existing power lines.<br>New poles (10) will not be seen from Copperton.<br>Far end of Cable Road (where lines cross) would see power lines. | COMPLETE | |