



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

State Water Resources Control Board



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Executive Office

Charles R. Hoppin, Chairman
1001 I Street • Sacramento, California • 95814 • 916.341.5615
P.O. Box 100 • Sacramento, California • 95812-0100
Fax 916.341.5621 • www.waterboards.ca.gov

MAY 10 2010

To: FERC Service List

REQUEST TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND FLUSHING FLOWS, PIT 1 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, FERC No. 2687

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) received a request from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) to temporarily suspend the flushing flow requirements in the water quality certification issued on December 4, 2001, for the Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2687). The water quality certification conditions are incorporated into the new license issued by the Commission on March 19, 2003. Condition 13 of the water quality certification requires Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to release flushing flows during three weekends in May or June, July, and August. The flows are designed to reduce nuisance vegetation and control mosquito populations in the Fall River Pond. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) staff state in a letter dated December 17, 2009, they believe that flushing flows are likely resulting in take and are facilitating the decline of the endangered Shasta crayfish in the Pit 1 Bypass Reach.

On June 24, 2009, PG&E submitted a request to the State Water Board to amend the water quality certification to remove Condition 13 (flushing flows) and 14 (flushing flow effectiveness monitoring). By letter dated August 28, 2009, State Water Board staff notified PG&E that before an amendment of the water quality certification can be considered, the State Water Board must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3838 authorizes the Executive Director of the State Water Board to take all actions associated with applications for water quality certification. This letter serves as notice pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858, that the State Water Board intends to take action on the request for temporary suspension of the flushing flow requirements no sooner than 21 days from the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

Russ J. Kanz
Staff Environmental Scientist

Enclosure

cc: See next page.

California Environmental Protection Agency

MAY 10 2010

cc: Heather E. Campbell, Acting Director
Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Charles White
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
P.O. Box 770000, Mail Code N11C
San Francisco, CA 94177

Kim Squires
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

Matt Myers
California Department of Fish and Game
601 Locust Street
Sacramento, CA 96001

Dave Steindorf
American Whitewater
4 Baroni Drive
Chico, CA 95928