

Proposed Negative Declaration

Project Title: Construction and Operation of the Britton Powerhouse and Pit 3, Pit 4, and Pit 5 Dam Instream Flow Release Facilities

Date:

Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Contact Person: Russ Kanz, Division of Water Rights

Project Description

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) to amend the license for the Pit 3, 4, and 5 Hydroelectric Project to add the Britton Powerhouse at the Pit 3 Dam. PG&E has also applied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) for Nationwide Permits (NWP) for the Britton Powerhouse and for construction of Instream Flow Release Structures at the Pit 3, Pit 4, and Pit 5 Dams (Projects). Before the Commission can amend the license for the Pit 3, 4, and 5 Hydroelectric Project, and before the ACOE can issue NWP, PG&E must obtain water quality certification under section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the State Water Resources Control Board (33 U.S.C. § 1341).

Location

The Projects are located on the Pit River in Shasta County near the towns of Burney and Big Bend and are located at the Pit 3, Pit 4, and Pit 5 Dams, which are part of the Pit 3, 4, and 5 Hydroelectric Project.

Findings

The State Water Resources Control Board, as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, has determined that the proposed Projects could not have a significant effect on the environment and a Negative Declaration will be prepared. This determination is based on the attached Initial Study and Environmental Checklist and the following findings:

1. The Projects include all commitments identified in the Initial Study.
2. There is no substantial evidence that any aspects of the Projects, either individually or cumulatively, may cause a significant effect on the environment.

3. All phases of the Projects were considered.
4. The Projects will not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse impacts on human beings, either directly or indirectly.
5. The Projects will not degrade the environmental quality, substantially reduce habitat, cause a wildlife population to drop below self sustaining levels, reduce the number or restrict the range of a special status species, or eliminate important examples of California history or prehistory.
6. This Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the lead agency.

Initial Study

A copy of the initial study/environmental checklist is attached.

APPROVED:

Victoria A. Whitney
Deputy Director for Water Rights

Date