

## State Water Resources Control Board

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY'S POE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 2107**

To: Interested Parties Mailing List

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) filed an application for a new major license (relicensing) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Poe Hydroelectric Project (Project). The Project is located on the North Fork Feather River in Butte County, California. As part of the Project relicensing process, PG&E filed its most recent application for water quality certification (WQC) under section 401 of the Clean Water Act with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on June 20, 2017. Prior to issuance of WQC, the State Water Board must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The State Water Board is the lead agency under CEQA.

As lead agency, in accordance with CEQA, the State Water Board is proposing to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project. This information is provided in satisfaction of the formal written notice requirements for public review of a MND (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15072). The State Water Board is accepting comments on the Initial Study (IS)/MND.

#### Project Description:

PG&E owns and operates the Project, which encompasses approximately 340 acres in the vicinity of the community of Pulga. Project land is owned by various parties including: 182 acres of PG&E-owned land; approximately 145 acres of National Forest System land; approximately 12 acres of privately-owned land; and one acre of California Department of Transportation land.

The Project primarily consists of Poe Dam, Poe Reservoir, Poe Powerhouse, Big Bend Dam and Reservoir, and recreation facilities<sup>1</sup>. North Fork Feather River flows are diverted at Poe Dam into the 19-foot diameter Poe Bypass Tunnel, which is approximately 6.25 miles long. The Poe Bypass Tunnel terminates at an underground steel penstock that is approximately 1,000-feet long and 14-feet in diameter. Water from the penstock discharges into the North Fork Feather River at the Poe Powerhouse.

<sup>1</sup> Recreation facilities at Poe Powerhouse, Poe Beach, Bardees Bar and Sandy Beach are not included in the existing FERC license but have been proposed to be included in a new license by PG&E, FERC, and other relicensing participants.

The comment period is from the date of this notice until October 11, 2017. **Comments on the IS/MND must be received by 12:00 pm (noon) on October 11, 2017.** Comments can be submitted electronically or by mail to:

Nathan Fisch  
 State Water Resources Control Board - Division of Water Rights  
 Water Quality Certification Program  
 P.O. Box 2000  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-2000  
 or  
 Email: [Nathan.Fisch@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Nathan.Fisch@waterboards.ca.gov)

The IS/MND is available on the Poe Hydroelectric Project webpage, which is online at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_cert/poe\\_ferc\\_2107.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/poe_ferc_2107.shtml)

If you cannot access the document online, you can review a hard copy of the IS/MND at the locations below.

State Water Resources Control Board 1001 I Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 2-114 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 341-5300	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board - Redding 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 2015 Redding, CA 96002 (530) 224-4845	Butte County Library-Chico 1108 Sherman Avenue Chico, CA 95926 (530) 891-2762
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**KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES**

To receive emails related to the Project and other projects pursuing certifications managed by the Division of Water Rights, interested persons should enroll in the "Water Rights Water Quality Certification" e-mail notification service. Click the "Subscribe" button at the bottom of the Division of Water Rights' Water Quality Certification Program webpage at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_cert/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/)

By enrolling in this email list, you will receive notices for current projects in the Division of Water Rights' Water Quality Certification Program, including the Project. You will need a valid email address to use this service. You can enroll or withdraw from the email subscription service at any time. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the email subscription list, you may contact Mr. Nathan Fisch, Project Manager, at (916) 322- 6796 and request to receive notices by mail.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact Mr. Nathan Fisch by phone at (916) 322-6796 or by email at [Nathan.Fisch@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Nathan.Fisch@waterboards.ca.gov).

  
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 Ann Marie Ore  
 Water Quality Certification & Public Trust Program Manager  
 Division of Water Rights

9/6/17  
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 Date

Enclosure: Interested Parties Mailing List