

2017092021

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Poe Hydroelectric Project

Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board Contact Person: Nathan Fisch
Mailing Address: PO Box 2000 Phone: 916-322-6796
City: Sacramento Zip: 95812-2000 County: Sacramento

Project Location: County: Butte City/Nearest Community: Pulga

Cross Streets: Highway 70 / Poe Powerhouse Road / Bardees Bar Road Zip Code: 95965

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 39 ° 48 ' 34.28" N / 121 ° 25 ' 56.94" W Total Acres: 340

Assessor's Parcel No.: NA Section: 27-32,5 Twp.: 23N Range: 5E Base: MDBM

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: SR 70 Waterways: North Fork Feather River

Airports: NA Railways: Union Pacific Schools: NA

Document Type:

- | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|--|
| CEQA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOP | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIR | NEPA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOI | Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Cons | <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental EIR | <input type="checkbox"/> EA | <input type="checkbox"/> Final Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dec | (Prior SCH No.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mit Neg Dec | Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> FONSI | |

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Local Action Type:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Update | <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Rezone | <input type="checkbox"/> Annexation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Prezone | <input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Element | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Unit Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Use Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>C.W.A. 401</u> |

Development Type:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation: Type _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining: Mineral _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Power: Type _____ MW _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste: Type _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____ | |

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic/Visual | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Parks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vegetation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood Plain/Flooding | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools/Universities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Land/Fire Hazard | <input type="checkbox"/> Septic Systems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Supply/Groundwater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archeological/Historical | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Capacity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Riparian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minerals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Growth Inducement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Zone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drainage/Absorption | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing Balance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic/Hazardous | <input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative Effects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic/Jobs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Facilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Circulation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Utilities & Svc. Sys.</u> |

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

TPZ Exclusive/ foothill area residential

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)
See Attachment A

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District #3	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB #5R
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 9/8/17 Ending Date 10/11/17

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>StillwaterSciences</u>	Applicant: <u>Pacific Gas and Electric Company</u>
Address: <u>2855 Telegraph Avenue</u>	Address: <u>Mail Code N 11 C, PO Box 770000</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Berkeley, CA 94705</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>San Francisco, CA 94177</u>
Contact: <u>Megan Keever</u>	Phone: <u>NA</u>
Phone: <u>510-848-8098</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Diane Riddle for Date: 9/6/17
M. E. G. G. G.

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
POE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 2107**

Project Description

On December 16, 2003, 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. 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. 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.

When issuing a certification, the State Water Board Resources Control Board (State Water Board) must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The State Water Board is the CEQA lead agency and is required to evaluate PG&E's Proposed Project and its effects before taking action on PG&E's request for certification.

For purposes of the CEQA analysis, the Mitigated Negative Declaration evaluates PG&E's Proposed Project under a new FERC license in accordance with PG&E's application to FERC, conditions proposed by the National Marine Fisheries Service and United States Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to section 18 of the Federal Power Act, conditions proposed by the United States Forest Service pursuant to section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act, FERC's Staff Alternative and potential water quality certification conditions. Under the Proposed Project, minimum instream flows in the North Fork Feather River would generally increase, ramping rates would be developed/implemented to protect special status amphibians, habitat for cold freshwater fish would improve and many existing informal recreational facilities would be improved and included in a new FERC license.