
State Water Resources Control Board

Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment and Board Consideration of Adoption of an Order Acting on Petitions for Reconsideration for the McCloud-Pit Hydroelectric Project Water Quality Certification

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) staff will accept comments from the date of this Notice until 12:00 pm (noon) on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, on a Draft Order Granting In Part and Denying In Part Petitions for Reconsideration and Certifying a Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (Draft Order) for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) McCloud-Pit Hydroelectric Project (Project) water quality certification (certification) issued on November 8, 2019. Additionally, the State Water Board will conduct a Board Meeting on June 17, 2026, to consider, among other items, adopting the Draft Order and final subsequent environmental impact report (SEIR). Additional information about the Project and how to provide comments on the Draft Order is provided below.

Participation Options

As noted below in this section, participation options include commenting on the Draft Order in writing or attending the public meeting at which the Board will consider adoption of a Proposed Order that considers any written comments on the Draft Order.

Review and Comment on the Available Documents

Review and comment on the Draft Order through the following [link](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/docs/mccloud_ferc2106/mccloud-draft-order.pdf): https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/docs/mccloud_ferc2106/mccloud-draft-order.pdf. **Please refer to the *Submit Written Comments* section below for information on how to provide comments on the Draft Order.**

Alternatively, physical copies of the Draft Order may be mailed to you upon request by contacting staff as described in *Contact Information* section below.

Attend the Public Meeting

A Board Meeting agenda will be available 10 days before the meeting at the following [link](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/): www.waterboards.ca.gov/. You can participate in the Board meeting as follows:

- *In person*. Participate in person to observe or provide a comment. The Board meeting will be held at the California Environmental Protection (CalEPA) Building in Sacramento (1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814)
- *Virtually*. Submit an online speaker card if you wish to provide a public comment at the Board meeting in person or remotely: bit.ly/speaker-card-form. The form accepts responses a few days prior to the Board meeting. The Board Clerk will provide instructions to join Zoom

in advance of the meeting. For more information about participating remotely at a Board meeting, please visit: bit.ly/providingcomments.

- *View the Board meeting remotely.* For those who only wish to watch the meeting online, the webcast remains available at either youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport or video.calepa.ca.gov (closed captioning available). This option should be used UNLESS you intend to comment.

Submit Written Comments

Written comments on the Draft Order must be received by **12:00pm (noon) on Wednesday, May 13, 2026**. Comments received after this time and date may not be considered. Comments can be emailed (preferred), mailed, or hand delivered as follows:

- Email: Please email your written comments in PDF format to: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov and include “**McCloud-Pit Hydroelectric Project Draft Order**” in the subject line.
- Mail or Hand Delivery: You may mail or hand-deliver your written comments to the following address:
State Water Resources Control Board
Attention: Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 (by mail)
1001 I Street, 24th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 (hand delivery)

Language Services

This meeting will be offered in English. To request translation of a written document, interpretation services for the meeting, or sign language services please use one of the following options at least ten (10) business days before the meeting, if possible:

- Submit an online request to: bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm
- Call: (916) 341-5254
- Email: languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov

Contact us to request information in your language.

Contáctenos para solicitar información en su idioma.

Liên hệ chúng tôi để yêu cầu thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị.

귀하의 언어로 작성된 정보를 요청하려면 저희에게 문의하십시오.

ਆਪਣੇ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਭ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਬੰਧ ਕਰੋ।

Makipag-ugnayan sa amin para humiling ng impormasyon sa iyong wika.

请联系我们，以您的语言获取相关信息。

Accessibility & Reasonable Accommodations

Users of a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may contact the California Relay Service at: (800) 735-2929 or the teletype (TTY) voice line at: (800) 735-2922.

Any person who requires reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should email: contact@waterboards.ca.gov or call: (916) 341-5254, at least ten (10) business days prior to the meeting. Learn more about accessibility within Zoom at: www.zoom.com/en/accessibility.

Building and Parking Information

- Directions to the Joe Serna, Jr. (CalEPA) Building and public parking information: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/headquarters-sacramento/location/>.
- Visitors to the CalEPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located just inside the main entrance on 10th Street.
- Please allow 5 to 10 minutes to receive security clearance.

Ex Parte Disclosure Requirements

Reconsideration of the Project certification is subject to the prohibition on ex parte communications, as described in a [Memo from the State Water Board's Office of the Chief Counsel](#).¹ In general, communications about certain pending matters, such as reconsideration of the Project certification, in the absence of other parties and without notice and opportunity for all parties to participate in the communication are prohibited. Any communications regarding reconsideration of the Project certification (except for non-controversial procedural matters) must occur at a publicly noticed meeting or workshop or be submitted to the Clerk to the Board in writing.

Background

PG&E owns and operates the Project, which is located on the McCloud and Pit Rivers in Shasta and Siskiyou Counties. The Project is undergoing relicensing before the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission (FERC). The original FERC license for the Project expired on July 31, 2011. Since then, the Project has operated under annual licenses issued by FERC.

PG&E applied to the State Water Board for a Project certification on November 9, 2018. (33 U.S.C. § 1341.) The State Water Board prepared an initial study and negative declaration for the Project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to inform and support its decision regarding PG&E's certification application for the Project's FERC relicensing. The State Water Board, acting through its Executive Director, issued a final initial study and negative declaration and a certification for the Project on November 8, 2019.

On December 6, 2019, PG&E (separately) and the Winnemem Wintu Tribe and North Coast Rivers Alliance (NCRA) (jointly) filed the petitions for reconsideration (Petitions) with the State Water Board. Each petition requests changes to the Project certification, and the Winnemem Wintu Tribe and NCRA's petition additionally challenges the CEQA analysis prepared for the Project certification. In response to the Petitions, the Executive Director directed staff to reinitiate consultation with California Native American tribes affiliated with the geographic area of the Project to inform whether, and if so, what additional CEQA work may be necessary ([Order WQ 2020-0041-EXEC](#)²). In 2021, the Board reinitiated consultation with the Winnemem Wintu Tribe and staff determined that preparation of a SEIR would be appropriate to analyze impacts to tribal cultural resources that were unknown during the original CEQA process.

¹ Available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/exparte.pdf

² Available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2020/wqo2020_0041_exec.pdf

A [Notice of Preparation](#)³ for the SEIR was issued on March 10, 2022. The [Draft SEIR](#)⁴ was released on April 7, 2026.

Stay Informed

To remain informed about this item, you can receive email notifications by [subscribing online](#)⁵ to the “Water Rights Water Quality Certification” email list under “State Water Resources Control Board” and “Water Rights.” Enter your email address and password (if applicable) and select the submit button. If this is your first time subscribing to a Water Boards email subscription list, you may create a password if desired.

Any person interested in receiving additional information about this Draft Order, including any change to the date, time, or meeting location in this public notice, should subscribe to the “Water Rights Water Quality Certification” email distribution list.

Contact Information

- Staff Contact: Savannah Downey, email: Savannah.Downey@waterboards.ca.gov; phone: (916) 322-1585
- Program Email: WR401Program@waterboards.ca.gov
- Program Page:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/mccloudpit_ferc2106.html

April 23, 2026

Date


Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board

³ Available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/docs/2022/mccloud-pit-nop.pdf

⁴ Available at: https://waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/docs/2026/mccloud-dseir.pdf

⁵ Available at: https://waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/