State Water Resources Control Board

December 11, 2025

Ms. Janet Walther
Director, Hydro Licensing
Pacific Gas and Electricity Company
Sent via Email: janet.walther@pge.com

Bucks Creek Hydroelectric Project
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 619
Plumas County
Bucks Creek, Grizzly Creek, Milk Ranch Creek, and Unnamed Milk Ranch Creek Tributaries

AMENDMENT OF THE BUCKS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION RELATED TO CONDITION 1 FOR TEMPORARY MINIMUM INSTREAM FLOW VARIANCES AND ANNUAL REPORT TIMING

Dear Janet Walther:

On December 12, 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) received a request from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) for an amendment to the Bucks Creek Hydroelectric Project (Project) water quality certification (certification). PG&E's amendment request is to change *Condition 1: Minimum Instream Flows* (Condition 1) of the Project certification to: (1) allow for temporary changes to minimum instream flows (MIFs) for planned maintenance and repairs of Project facilities; and (2) change the *Annual Reporting on Minimum Instream Flow Compliance* from December 15 to January 31 to align with United States Forest Service (Forest Service) 4(e) reporting requirement for *Condition No. 31: Instream Flows*.

Background

PG&E and the City of Santa Clara own and operate the Project, which is located in the North Fork Feather River watershed in Plumas County. The Project has an authorized installed capacity of 84.8 megawatts and is comprised of two developments: (1) Bucks Creek Development; and (2) Grizzly Development. The major components of the Bucks Creek Development include: Bucks Lake Dam, Bucks Lake Reservoir, Bucks Creek Penstocks, Bucks Powerhouse and Switchyard, Three Lakes Dam, Three Lakes (i.e., Lower Lake, Middle Lake, and Upper Lake), Milk Ranch Conduit, Lower Bucks Lake Dam, Lower Bucks Lake, Grizzly Forebay, Grizzly Forebay Dam, and Grizzly Forebay Tunnel. The major components of the Grizzly Development include the Grizzly Powerhouse Tunnel and the Grizzly Powerhouse.

On October 22, 2020, the State Water Board's Executive Director issued the original Project certification. On November 20, 2020, PG&E filed a *Petition for Reconsideration of the Water Quality Certification for the Bucks Creek Hydroelectric Project* (Petition). PG&E's Petition is currently pending before the State Water Board. This certification amendment does not constitute an action on PG&E's pending Petition.

Condition 1: Minimum Instream Flows Amendment Discussion

Condition 1 establishes MIFs in the following Project reaches: (1) Bucks Creek below Bucks Lake Dam; (2) Bucks Creek below Lower Bucks Lake; (3) Grizzly Creek below Grizzly Forebay; (4) Milk Ranch Creek below Three Lakes; (5) Milk Ranch Creek at Milk Ranch Conduit Diversion No. 1; and (6) South Fork Grouse Hollow Creek at Milk Ranch Conduit Diversion No. 3.

Condition 1 also allows temporary changes to MIFs for planned maintenance and repairs in reaches 1, 4, 5, and 6, but does not allow for temporary changes to MIFs in reach 2 (Bucks Creek below Lower Bucks Lake Dam) and reach 3 (Grizzly Creek below Grizzly Forebay). Additionally, Condition 1 allows for changes to MIFs for emergency situations and requires PG&E to submit an annual report to the Deputy Director for the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights (Deputy Director) that summarizes compliance with MIFs during the prior water year. The annual report is due to the Deputy Director by December 15 of each year.

PG&E's December 12, 2024 certification amendment requests: (1) adding reaches 2 and 3 to the reaches where changes to MIFs are allowed for planned maintenance and repairs; and (2) changing the annual report due date from December 15 to January 31 consistent with the timing of reporting required by Forest Service 4(e) Condition 31: *Instream Flows*.

Updating Condition 1 to allow for variances to MIFs for facility maintenance or repairs in reaches 2 and 3 will provide PG&E with the flexibility to conduct maintenance and safety related work in these reaches throughout the Project's existing Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license term. This amendment requires that PG&E request review and approval of proposed MIF variances in advance implementation of changes to the MIFs and notice of Deputy Director approved changes to MIFs. The noticing and Deputy Director approval provisions ensure planned MIF variances are protective of water quality and beneficial uses and is consistent with similar provisions in recent hydroelectric project certifications.

Aligning the annual report due date with Forest Service requirements will streamline PG&E's reporting requirements without impacting the State Water Board's oversight of the Project certification. Additionally, this amendment corrects an incomplete statement related to bypass flow requirements in Table 5 of Condition 1.

California Environmental Quality Act

Issuance of a certification amendment is a discretionary action that requires the State Water Board to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The State Water Board reviewed the proposed amendment and determined that the request meets the criteria for a Class 1 categorical exemption – Existing Facilities (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15301, subd. (m)) and that there is no reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

The State Water Board will file a Notice of Exemption with the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation within five working days of issuance of this Project certification amendment. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15062.)

Noticing

On January 10, 2025, the State Water Board provided public notice of PG&E's request for an amendment to the Project certification, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858, by posting information describing the amendment request on the Division of Water Rights' Water Quality Certification Program Public Notices webpage and noticing the "Water Rights Water Quality Certification" email subscription list. The State Water Board received no comments in response to the notice. Additionally, on November 24, 2025, State Water Board staff shared the certification amendment application with staff at the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and received no comments.

Certification Amendment

The State Water Board finds that the Board's amendment of Condition 1 will comply with state water quality standards and other appropriate requirements of state law. Amended Condition 1 is provided in Attachment A: *Bucks Creek Hydroelectric Project Water Quality Certification Amendment to Condition 1 (Strikethrough/Underline Version)* and Attachment B: Bucks Creek Hydroelectric Project Water Quality Certification Amendment to Condition 1 (Clean Version).

Notwithstanding the amendment request, maintenance activities may still be subject to *Condition 23: Dewatering and Diversion* of the Project certification, which requires PG&E to submit a Dewatering and Diversion Plan to the Deputy Director for review and approval for any activity that requires water diversion or in-water work below the maximum water surface elevation or high-water mark.

The State Water Board hereby amends the Project certification with the changes presented in Attachment A of this Project certification amendment and as noted in this letter. This Project certification amendment is granted with the following additional conditions:

(1) This certification amendment is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Water Code section 13330 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 28, article 6 (commencing with section 3867).

(2) This certification amendment is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a FERC license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3855, subdivision (b) and that application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

(3) This certification amendment is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 28 and owed by the applicant.

If you have questions regarding this amendment, please contact Bryan Muro, Project Manager, by email to: Bryan.Muro@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone call to: (916) 327-8702.

Sincerely,

Eric Oppenheimer
Executive Director

Attachment A: Bucks Creek Hydroelectric Project Water Quality Certification Amendment to Condition 1 (Strikethrough/Underline Version)

Attachment B: Bucks Creek Hydroelectric Project Water Quality Certification Amendment to Condition 1 (Clean Version)

ec: Debbie Anne-Reese, Secretary
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Via e-filing to FERC Project Docket No. 619

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ATTACHMENT A: BUCKS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AMENDMENT TO CONDITION 1 (STRIKETHOUGH/UNDERLINE VERSION)

This attachment shows the changes to *Conditions 1: Minimum Instream Flows* of the water quality certification (certification) for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Bucks Creek Hydroelectric Project, issued on October 22, 2020. Text from the certification is shown as regular text. Additions are shown in the **bold, underlined** text, and deletions are shown in red ~~strikethrough~~ text.

Condition 1. Minimum Instream Flows

The Licensees shall provide instream flow releases at the following locations:

- Bucks Creek below Bucks Lake Dam;
- Bucks Creek below Lower Bucks Lake Dam;
- Grizzly Creek below Grizzly Forebay;
- Milk Ranch Creek below Three Lakes;
- Milk Ranch Creek at Milk Ranch Conduit Diversion No. 1; and
- South Fork Grouse Hollow Creek at Milk Ranch Conduit Diversion No. 3.

The Licensees shall provide minimum instream flows as specified in Tables 1 through 6. For compliance purposes, the point of measurement for each required minimum instream flow is described in the Streamflow and Reservoir Level Gaging Plan (Condition 13) and Tables 1 through 6.

The Licensees shall implement specified minimum instream flows within the first 90 days of the new license term, as required in Tables 1 through 6.[9] Where an instream flow release structure must be modified or newly constructed (refer to the Streamflow and Reservoir Level Gaging Plan – Condition 13), the Licensees shall complete the work as soon as reasonably practicable, and within two years after receiving all required permits and approvals for the work.

Flows shall be measured at the gage or Project location referenced in this condition unless otherwise approved by the **Deputy Director of the Division of Water Rights (**Deputy Director**)**. The Licensees shall comply with applicable California laws and regulations regarding measuring and monitoring water diversions, including California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 933, and amendments thereto, and State Water Board

[9] Releases made through manually operated valves may be subject to weather and road conditions affecting access or operability, and they shall be made as soon as reasonably practicable given the circumstances.

requirements to provide telemetered diversion data on a public website.[10] The Licensees shall post all gaged flow and other data to the California Data Exchange Center website, within 24-hours of flow measurement, unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director. The Licensee**s** shall publicly notice at an easily accessible location on the internet all known events that will affect minimum flow releases (e.g., powerhouse outages, construction, etc.) a minimum of 30 days in advance.

Flow Measurements and Reporting for Locations with Continuous Measurements (Table 2 and Table 3). At locations with continuous instream flow measurements (see Tables 2 and 3), minimum instream flows shall be measured as an average hourly flow calculated at the top of each hour. At a minimum, the Licensees shall calculate the average hourly flow by taking the mean of four instantaneous measurements at 15-minute intervals, as specified by United States Geological Survey (USGS) standards. The average hourly instream flow shall be at least 90 percent of the applicable minimum instream flow requirement set forth in Tables 2 and 3. If the average hourly flow temporarily falls below the applicable minimum instream flow requirement (due to unforeseen circumstances such as debris blocking the intake, ice conditions on the measurement weir, etc.) the Licensees shall restore the required minimum instream flow as soon as reasonably practicable and notify the ~~Deputy Director of the Division of Water Rights (~~Deputy Director~~)~~ within 24 hours of the temporary hourly flow deviation. For any temporary average hourly instream flow decreases, the Licensee shall be document the following items in the annual report: (a) duration of decreased flow; (b) cause of decreased flow; and (c) actions the Licensees propose to take or have taken to prevent such a decrease in flows in the future or a description of why such actions are not feasible.

The average daily flow shall meet the applicable minimum instream flow requirement. If the average daily flow deviates below the applicable minimum instream flow requirement, the Licensees shall file a report with: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service); United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW); and **the** Deputy Director within 30 days of the incident. The report shall identify, to the extent possible, the cause, magnitude (i.e., instream flows measured versus instream flow requirement), duration of the deviation, any observed or reported adverse environmental impacts resulting from the deviation, all corrective actions taken, and actions the Licensees propose to take to prevent such a decrease in flows in the future.

The Deputy Director may require the Licensee**s** to implement corrective actions to prevent similar future deviations in instream flows.

Flow Measurements and Reporting for Locations with Manual Data Collection (Table 1, Table 4, Table 5, and Table 6). At locations with manual data collection, the release valve shall be

[10] Information regarding telemetered requirements are available at the State Water Board's **Telemetry Requirements webpage**, which is available online at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/measurement_regulation/telemetry_requirements.html. (Last Accessed October 21, 2020)

inspected and maintained at least once in each of the spring, summer, and fall of each year. Seasonal inspection, maintenance, and documentation of valve settings will constitute compliance with flow requirements at these locations. Adjustments to the valves during seasonal inspections may be needed to comply with the prescribed minimum instream flows in Tables 1, 4, 5, and 6, and adjustments to the valves shall be documented in the annual report described below.

~~The minimum instream flow requirements listed in Tables 1, 4, 5, and 6 may be temporarily modified as required for maintenance or repair of a dam, outlet facility, and minimum flow release facility. The Licensees shall notify FERC, the Forest Service, CDFW, USFWS, and the Deputy Director at least five business days prior to any such modification. The notification shall include: a description of the temporary flow modification; reason for the temporary flow modification; any potential impacts that may result from the temporary flow modification; and anticipated duration of the temporary flow modification. The Deputy Director may require the Licensees to defer the temporary flow modification or implement other actions as part of the temporary flow modification.~~

The Licensees may request temporary minimum instream flow variances for planned and/or non-emergency work including facility construction, modification, or maintenance activities. Requests for temporary variance to the minimum instream flows for non-emergency work shall be submitted to the Deputy Director for review and consideration of approval as far in advance as practicable and no less than four months in advance of the desired effective date. The Licensees shall notify the Forest Service, CDFW and USFWS of the proposed temporary variance to minimum instream flows. The request shall include: a description of the proposed work that necessitates the variance, including a schedule for the proposed work; a description of the proposed variance to minimum instream flows, including the planned duration and magnitude of the variance; documentation of notification to the Forest Service, CDFW, USFWS and any comments received; and proposed measures that will be implemented to protect water quality and beneficial uses during the proposed minimum instream flow variance. The Deputy Director may deny the request or require changes as part of any approval. Upon Deputy Director approval of the variance, the Licensees shall provide public notice of the planned variance on the Licensees' Project webpage(s) and FERC docket a minimum of 30 days in advance of the planned variance. The Licensees shall file with the FERC any Deputy Director-approved variances to minimum instream flows and any Deputy Director-approved amendments thereto.

The Licensees shall notify FERC, Forest Service, CDFW, USFWS, and the Deputy Director within two business days after any modification of the minimum instream flows due to operational emergencies beyond the control of the Licensees, or in the interest of public safety. For the purposes of this condition, an "emergency" is defined as an event that is reasonably out of the control of the Licensees and requires Licensees to take immediate action, either unilaterally or under instruction by law enforcement or other regulatory agency staff, to prevent imminent loss of human life or substantial property damage. An emergency may include but is not limited to: natural events such as landslides, storms or wildfires; malfunction or failure of Project works; and recreation accidents. Extremely dry conditions, including a drought for

which the Governor of the State of California declares a drought emergency for Plumas County, shall not be considered an emergency for purposes of this condition.

ATTACHMENT A: BUCKS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AMENDMENT TO CONDITION 1 (STRIKETHOUGH/UNDERLINE VERSION)

Annual Reporting on Minimum Instream Flow Compliance. After consulting with and incorporating any comments from the Forest Service, CDFW, USFWS, and State Water Board staff, the Licensees shall submit the final annual report to the Deputy Director that summarizes compliance with the minimum instream flow requirements during the prior water year[11] as specified in Condition 25. The annual report shall be submitted to the Deputy Director no later than ~~December 15~~**January 31** and shall include the items referenced below and in this condition.

Continuous Monitoring: For all continuously gaged locations, daily mean data shall be included in the report.

Manual Monitoring: At locations with flow releases based on manual valve settings, the Licensees shall provide an annual report that includes:

- The dates the Licensees checked the outlet works/valves at each site from the beginning of spring through fall;
- The estimated flow released at the time the valve was checked, along with a comparison to the applicable minimum instream flow requirement;
- Documentation of any adjustments made at each site at the time the outlet works/valves were checked and the estimated flow released following any adjustments; and
- The date the valves were adjusted to the Winter Setting (WS) at Milk Ranch Creek below Three Lakes (Table 4) and at Milk Ranch Conduit Division No. 1 (Table 5), respectively. If the valve(s) was set to the WS prior to November 1, the Licensees shall describe the conditions that required the early adjustment.

Deviations from Minimum Instream Flows: Any deviations from the minimum instream flows outlined in this condition shall be summarized in the report, including all information referenced earlier in this condition.

The Licensees shall review the instream flow annual report at the annual Ecological Consulting Group (ECG) meeting (Condition 22).

[11] A water year refers to the 12-month time period from October 1 to September 30.

ATTACHMENT A: BUCKS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AMENDMENT TO CONDITION 1
(STRIKETHOUGH/UNDERLINE VERSION)

Table 1. Bucks Creek Minimum Instream Flow Requirements Below Bucks Lake by Water Year Type (in cubic feet per second [cfs]), as measured at Project ID BUCKS2

Water Year Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
All	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Table 2. Bucks Creek Minimum Instream Flow Requirements Below Lower Bucks Lake by Water Year Type (in cfs), as measured at USGS Gage No. 11403530 (also referred to as Project ID NF82)

Water Year Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Critically Dry	6	4	4	4	6	7	7	7	6	6	6	6
Dry	6	5	5	5	6	8	8	8	8	6	6	6
Normal	6	6	6	6	8	12	12	12	9	8	8	7
Wet	8	8	8	8	10	15	15	15	11	10	8	8

Table 3. Grizzly Creek Minimum Instream Flow Requirements Below Grizzly Forebay by Water Year Type (in cfs), as measured at USGS Gage No. 11404300 (also referred to as Project ID NF22)

Water Year Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Critically Dry	6	4	4	4	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Dry	6	6	6	6	6	8	8	8	8	8	8	6
Normal	8	8	8	8	8	10	10	10	9	9	9	8
Wet	9	9	9	9	10	13	13	13	11	10	10	9

ATTACHMENT A: BUCKS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AMENDMENT TO CONDITION 1 (STRIKETHOUGH/UNDERLINE VERSION)

Table 4. Milk Ranch Creek Minimum Instream Flow Requirements Below Three Lakes by Water Year Type (in cfs), as measured at Project ID MR2

Water Year Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Critically Dry	0.25	WS[1]	WS	WS	WS	WS	0.25[2]	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Dry	0.5	WS	WS	WS	WS	WS	0.5[2]	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Normal	1	WS	WS	WS	WS	WS	1[2]	1	1	1	1	1
Wet	2	WS	WS	WS	WS	WS	2[2]	2	2	2	2	2

[1] WS: "Winter Setting" refers to when the low-level outlet valve is fully-opened and the natural inflow equals the outflow of the reservoir. The Licensees may open the outlet to the WS prior to November 1 if weather is predicted that may restrict safe access to the valve house.

[2] The Licensees shall adjust the valve within two business days, or as soon thereafter as accessible, following the publication of California Department of Water Resources water year forecast of unimpaired runoff in the Feather River at Oroville as set forth in Bulletin 120.

Table 5. Milk Ranch Creek Minimum Instream Flow Requirements at Milk Ranch Conduit Diversion No. 1 by Water Year Type (in cfs), as measured at Project ID MRC1

Water Year Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Critically Dry	0.25	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[2]	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Dry	0.5	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.5[2]	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Normal	1	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	1[2]	1	1	1	1	1
Wet	2	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	2[2,3]	2[3]	2[3]	2[3]	2[3]	2

[1] 0.25 or natural inflow, whichever is less. The Licensees may set the outlet to 0.25 cfs prior to November 1 if weather is predicted that may restrict safe access to the diversion.

[2] The Licensees shall adjust the valve within two business days, or as soon thereafter as accessible, following the publication of the California Department of Water Resources water year forecast of unimpaired runoff in the Feather River at Oroville as set forth in Bulletin 120.

[3] If conditions are met in accordance with Condition 9 – Milk Ranch Conduit Closure, bypass flows shall be implemented from April through August 15 in **wet water years**.

ATTACHMENT A: BUCKS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AMENDMENT TO CONDITION 1 (STRIKETHOUGH/UNDERLINE VERSION)

Table 6. South Fork Grouse Hollow Creek Minimum Instream Flow Requirements at Milk Ranch Conduit Diversion No. 3 by Water Year Type (in cfs), as measured at Project ID MRC2

WY Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
All	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]

[1] 0.5 or natural inflow, whichever is less.

ATTACHMENT B: BUCKS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AMENDMENTS TO CONDITION 1 (CLEAN VERSION)

This attachment shows the clean version of *Condition 1: Minimum Instream Flows* of the water quality certification (certification) for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Bucks Creek Hydroelectric Project), issued on October 22, 2020. Text from the certification is shown as regular text.

Condition 1. Minimum Instream Flows

The Licensees shall provide instream flow releases at the following locations:

- Bucks Creek below Bucks Lake Dam;
- Bucks Creek below Lower Bucks Lake Dam;
- Grizzly Creek below Grizzly Forebay;
- Milk Ranch Creek below Three Lakes;
- Milk Ranch Creek at Milk Ranch Conduit Diversion No. 1; and
- South Fork Grouse Hollow Creek at Milk Ranch Conduit Diversion No. 3.

The Licensees shall provide minimum instream flows as specified in Tables 1 through 6. For compliance purposes, the point of measurement for each required minimum instream flow is described in the Streamflow and Reservoir Level Gaging Plan (Condition 13) and Tables 1 through 6.

The Licensees shall implement specified minimum instream flows within the first 90 days of the new license term, as required in Tables 1 through 6.[9] Where an instream flow release structure must be modified or newly constructed (refer to the Streamflow and Reservoir Level Gaging Plan – Condition 13), the Licensees shall complete the work as soon as reasonably practicable, and within two years after receiving all required permits and approvals for the work.

Flows shall be measured at the gage or Project location referenced in this condition unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director of the Division of Water Rights (Deputy Director). The Licensees shall comply with applicable California laws and regulations regarding measuring and monitoring water diversions, including California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 933, and amendments thereto, and State Water Board requirements to provide telemetered diversion data on a public website.[10] The Licensees shall post all gaged flow and

[9] Releases made through manually operated valves may be subject to weather and road conditions affecting access or operability, and they shall be made as soon as reasonably practicable given the circumstances.

[10] Information regarding telemetered requirements are available at the State Water Board's **Telemetry Requirements webpage**, which is available online at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/measurement_regulation/telemetry_requirements.html. (Last Accessed October 21, 2020)

other data to the California Data Exchange Center website, within 24-hours of flow measurement, unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director. The Licensees shall publicly notice at an easily accessible location on the internet all known events that will affect minimum flow releases (e.g., powerhouse outages, construction, etc.) a minimum of 30 days in advance.

Flow Measurements and Reporting for Locations with Continuous Measurements (Table 2 and Table 3). At locations with continuous instream flow measurements (see Tables 2 and 3), minimum instream flows shall be measured as an average hourly flow calculated at the top of each hour. At a minimum, the Licensees shall calculate the average hourly flow by taking the mean of four instantaneous measurements at 15-minute intervals, as specified by United States Geological Survey (USGS) standards. The average hourly instream flow shall be at least 90 percent of the applicable minimum instream flow requirement set forth in Tables 2 and 3. If the average hourly flow temporarily falls below the applicable minimum instream flow requirement (due to unforeseen circumstances such as debris blocking the intake, ice conditions on the measurement weir, etc.) the Licensees shall restore the required minimum instream flow as soon as reasonably practicable and notify the Deputy Director within 24 hours of the temporary hourly flow deviation. For any temporary average hourly instream flow decreases, the Licensee shall be document the following items in the annual report: (a) duration of decreased flow; (b) cause of decreased flow; and (c) actions the Licensees propose to take or have taken to prevent such a decrease in flows in the future or a description of why such actions are not feasible.

The average daily flow shall meet the applicable minimum instream flow requirement. If the average daily flow deviates below the applicable minimum instream flow requirement, the Licensees shall file a report with: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service); United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW); and the Deputy Director within 30 days of the incident. The report shall identify, to the extent possible, the cause, magnitude (i.e., instream flows measured versus instream flow requirement), duration of the deviation, any observed or reported adverse environmental impacts resulting from the deviation, all corrective actions taken, and actions the Licensees propose to take to prevent such a decrease in flows in the future.

The Deputy Director may require the Licensees to implement corrective actions to prevent similar future deviations in instream flows.

Flow Measurements and Reporting for Locations with Manual Data Collection (Table 1, Table 4, Table 5, and Table 6). At locations with manual data collection, the release valve shall be inspected and maintained at least once in each of the spring, summer, and fall of each year. Seasonal inspection, maintenance, and documentation of valve settings will constitute compliance with flow requirements at these locations. Adjustments to the valves during seasonal inspections may be needed to comply with the prescribed minimum instream flows in Tables 1, 4, 5, and 6, and adjustments to the valves shall be documented in the annual report described below.

ATTACHMENT B: BUCKS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AMENDMENTS TO CONDITION 1 (CLEAN VERSION)

The Licensees may request temporary minimum instream flow variances for planned and/or non-emergency work including facility construction, modification, or maintenance activities. Requests for temporary variance to the minimum instream flows for non-emergency work shall be submitted to the Deputy Director for review and consideration of approval as far in advance as practicable and no less than four months in advance of the desired effective date. The Licensees shall notify the Forest Service, CDFW and USFWS of the proposed temporary variance to minimum instream flows. The request shall include: a description of the proposed work that necessitates the variance, including a schedule for the proposed work; a description of the proposed variance to minimum instream flows, including the planned duration and magnitude of the variance; documentation of notification to the Forest Service, CDFW, USFWS and any comments received; and proposed measures that will be implemented to protect water quality and beneficial uses during the proposed minimum instream flow variance. The Deputy Director may deny the request or require changes as part of any approval. Upon Deputy Director approval of the variance, the Licensees shall provide public notice of the planned variance on the Licensees' Project webpage(s) and FERC docket a minimum of 30 days in advance of the planned variance. The Licensees shall file with the FERC any Deputy Director-approved variances to minimum instream flows and any Deputy Director-approved amendments thereto.

The Licensees shall notify FERC, Forest Service, CDFW, USFWS, and the Deputy Director within two business days after any modification of the minimum instream flows due to operational emergencies beyond the control of the Licensees, or in the interest of public safety. For the purposes of this condition, an "emergency" is defined as an event that is reasonably out of the control of the Licensees and requires Licensees to take immediate action, either unilaterally or under instruction by law enforcement or other regulatory agency staff, to prevent imminent loss of human life or substantial property damage. An emergency may include but is not limited to: natural events such as landslides, storms or wildfires; malfunction or failure of Project works; and recreation accidents. Extremely dry conditions, including a drought for which the Governor of the State of California declares a drought emergency for Plumas County, shall not be considered an emergency for purposes of this condition.

Annual Reporting on Minimum Instream Flow Compliance. After consulting with and incorporating any comments from the Forest Service, CDFW, USFWS, and State Water Board staff, the Licensees shall submit the final annual report to the Deputy Director that summarizes compliance with the minimum instream flow requirements during the prior water year[11] as specified in Condition 25. The annual report shall be submitted to the Deputy Director no later than January 31 and shall include the items referenced below and in this condition.

Continuous Monitoring: For all continuously gaged locations, daily mean data shall be included in the report.

Manual Monitoring: At locations with flow releases based on manual valve settings, the Licensees shall provide an annual report that includes:

[11] A water year refers to the 12-month time period from October 1 to September 30.

- The dates the Licensees checked the outlet works/valves at each site from the beginning of spring through fall;
- The estimated flow released at the time the valve was checked, along with a comparison to the applicable minimum instream flow requirement;
- Documentation of any adjustments made at each site at the time the outlet works/valves were checked and the estimated flow released following any adjustments; and
- The date the valves were adjusted to the Winter Setting (WS) at Milk Ranch Creek below Three Lakes (Table 4) and at Milk Ranch Conduit Division No. 1 (Table 5), respectively. If the valve(s) was set to the WS prior to November 1, the Licensees shall describe the conditions that required the early adjustment.

Deviations from Minimum Instream Flows: Any deviations from the minimum instream flows outlined in this condition shall be summarized in the report, including all information referenced earlier in this condition.

The Licensees shall review the instream flow annual report at the annual Ecological Consulting Group (ECG) meeting (Condition 22).

ATTACHMENT B: BUCKS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AMENDMENTS TO CONDITION 1 (CLEAN VERSION)

Table 1. Bucks Creek Minimum Instream Flow Requirements Below Bucks Lake by Water Year Type (in cubic feet per second [cfs]), as measured at Project ID BUCKS2

Water Year Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
All	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Table 2. Bucks Creek Minimum Instream Flow Requirements Below Lower Bucks Lake by Water Year Type (in cfs), as measured at USGS Gage No. 11403530 (also referred to as Project ID NF82)

Water Year Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Critically Dry	6	4	4	4	6	7	7	7	6	6	6	6
Dry	6	5	5	5	6	8	8	8	8	6	6	6
Normal	6	6	6	6	8	12	12	12	9	8	8	7
Wet	8	8	8	8	10	15	15	15	11	10	8	8

Table 3. Grizzly Creek Minimum Instream Flow Requirements Below Grizzly Forebay by Water Year Type (in cfs), as measured at USGS Gage No. 11404300 (also referred to as Project ID NF22)

Water Year Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Critically Dry	6	4	4	4	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Dry	6	6	6	6	6	8	8	8	8	8	8	6
Normal	8	8	8	8	8	10	10	10	9	9	9	8
Wet	9	9	9	9	10	13	13	13	11	10	10	9

ATTACHMENT B: BUCKS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AMENDMENTS TO CONDITION 1 (CLEAN VERSION)

Table 4. Milk Ranch Creek Minimum Instream Flow Requirements Below Three Lakes by Water Year Type (in cfs), as measured at Project ID MR2

Water Year Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Critically Dry	0.25	WS[1]	WS	WS	WS	WS	0.25[2]	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Dry	0.5	WS	WS	WS	WS	WS	0.5[2]	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Normal	1	WS	WS	WS	WS	WS	1[2]	1	1	1	1	1
Wet	2	WS	WS	WS	WS	WS	2[2]	2	2	2	2	2

[1] WS: "Winter Setting" refers to when the low-level outlet valve is fully-opened and the natural inflow equals the outflow of the reservoir. The Licensees may open the outlet to the WS prior to November 1 if weather is predicted that may restrict safe access to the valve house.

[2] The Licensees shall adjust the valve within two business days, or as soon thereafter as accessible, following the publication of California Department of Water Resources water year forecast of unimpaired runoff in the Feather River at Oroville as set forth in Bulletin 120.

Table 5. Milk Ranch Creek Minimum Instream Flow Requirements at Milk Ranch Conduit Diversion No. 1 by Water Year Type (in cfs), as measured at Project ID MRC1

Water Year Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Critically Dry	0.25	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[2]	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Dry	0.5	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.5[2]	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Normal	1	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	1[2]	1	1	1	1	1
Wet	2	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	0.25[1]	2[2,3]	2[3]	2[3]	2[3]	2[3]	2

[1] 0.25 or natural inflow, whichever is less. The Licensees may set the outlet to 0.25 cfs prior to November 1 if weather is predicted that may restrict safe access to the diversion.

[2] The Licensees shall adjust the valve within two business days, or as soon thereafter as accessible, following the publication of the California Department of Water Resources water year forecast of unimpaired runoff in the Feather River at Oroville as set forth in Bulletin 120.

[3] If conditions are met in accordance with Condition 9 – Milk Ranch Conduit Closure, bypass flows shall be implemented from April through August 15 in wet water years.

ATTACHMENT B: BUCKS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AMENDMENTS TO CONDITION 1 (CLEAN VERSION)

Table 6. South Fork Grouse Hollow Creek Minimum Instream Flow Requirements at Milk Ranch Conduit Diversion No. 3 by Water Year Type (in cfs), as measured at Project ID MRC2

WY Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
All	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]	0.5[1]

[1] 0.5 or natural inflow, whichever is less