

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR
CLEAN WATER ACT 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
BEFORE THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

A request for a water quality certification (certification) for the Hell Hole Seasonal Storage Increase Project, was filed with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). Certifications are issued under section 401 of the Clean Water Act. California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858 requires the Executive Director of the State Water Board to provide public notice of an application for certification at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application. The typical notice period may be shortened in an emergency.

Written questions and/or comments regarding the application should be directed to Bryan Muro:

By email:

Bryan.Muro@Waterboards.ca.gov

or

By mail:

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights – Water Quality Certification Program
Attn: Bryan Muro
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

RECEIVED:	October 4, 2024
PROJECT:	Hell Hole Seasonal Storage Increase Project
APPLICANT:	Placer County Water Agency
CONTACT:	Ben Ransom
COUNTY:	Placer
PUBLIC NOTICE:	February 4, 2025

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Hell Hole Seasonal Storage Increase Project (Project) is part of the Middle Fork American River Project (MFP, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2079) which is owned and operated by Placer County Water Agency (PCWA). The MFP includes two major storage reservoirs (French Meadows and Hell Hole) that have a combined capacity of approximately 342,000 acre-feet, five smaller regulating reservoirs and diversion pools, and five powerhouses with a combined capacity of approximately 224 megawatts. The MFP seasonally stores and releases water to meet consumptive demands within Placer County and to generate power. The Project consists of modifications to the existing Hell Hole Spillway to allow for storage of additional water in the Hell Hole Reservoir during spring and summer after the peak of the runoff period. Modifications to Hell Hole Dam include: (1) removal of the upper six inches of the existing ogee to construct new overflow gates; (2) construction of two concrete end abutments on the crest structure; and (3) construction of a 1.5-foot-wide concrete pier to separate regulating and non-regulating overflow gates. The Project also includes the construction of a new control building, transformer, propane tank, and security fence associated with the Hell Hole Dam modifications.