

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

Requests for water quality certification (certification) for the Merced River Hydroelectric Project and Merced Falls Hydroelectric Project, were filed on May 15, 2025, with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). 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 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:	May 15, 2025
PROJECT:	Merced River Hydroelectric Project & Merced Falls Hydroelectric Project
APPLICANT:	Merced Irrigation District
CONTACT:	Bryan Kelly
COUNTIES:	Mariposa and Merced
PUBLIC NOTICE:	August 4, 2025

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Merced Irrigation District (Merced ID) is proposing to continue operating its existing 101.25-megawatt Merced River Hydroelectric Project and 3.4-megawatt Merced Falls Hydroelectric Project (collectively Projects), which are located on the Merced River in Mariposa and Merced counties, near the City of Merced in the San Joaquin River Basin. To continue operation of the Projects, Merced ID needs new federal licenses from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Merced River Hydroelectric Project facilities and features include two existing dams (New Exchequer and McSwain) and associated reservoirs (Lake McClure and McSwain Reservoir) with a combined storage of 1,034,330 acre-feet; two powerhouses (New Exchequer and McSwain); and five recreation areas. In addition, the existing license includes eight minor facilities (e.g., culverts and small structures) along Merced ID's existing consumptive water system. The Merced Falls Hydroelectric Project is operated in a run-of-river mode dependent on water outflow from the upstream Merced River Hydroelectric Project and consists of one power generating development with a 65-acre impoundment with an approximate usable storage capacity of 579 acre-feet of water; one powerhouse; appurtenant facilities; and recreational facilities.