

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

A request for water quality certification (certification) for the below 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 Derek Wadsworth:

By email:

[Derek.Wadsworth@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Derek.Wadsworth@Waterboards.ca.gov)

or

By mail:

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

<b>RECEIVED:</b>	February 20, 2025
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Potter Valley Project Article 52 Amendment Project
<b>APPLICANT:</b>	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
<b>CONTACT:</b>	Chadwick McCready
<b>COUNTIES:</b>	Lake and Mendocino
<b>PUBLIC NOTICE:</b>	March 21, 2025

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is requesting a water quality certification (certification) for the Potter Valley Project Article 52 Amendment Project (Project). PG&E proposes two changes to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license Article No. 52 minimum instream flow requirements for the Eel River (below Lake Pillsbury) and East Branch Russian River (below Potter Valley Powerhouse). Specifically, PG&E seeks to: (1) limit the minimum instream flows in the East Branch Russian River to the lowest flows set forth in the Project FERC license; and (2) reduce minimum instream flows below Lake Pillsbury. The flow modifications would allow PG&E to conserve storage in Lake Pillsbury throughout the spring and summer to maintain facility safety and to support cooler water temperature flow releases from Scott Dam during the late summer for salmonids listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. In 2023, PG&E implemented a reservoir level restriction to reduce the seismic risk to Scott Dam, which reduced storage capacity by approximately 20,000 acre-feet. Since 2023, temporary flow variances have been approved by FERC due to insufficient reservoir storage. The Project proposes minimum instream flows similar to those of recent temporary flow variances.