

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

A request for a water quality certification (certification) for the Hell Hole Low-Level Outlet (LLO) Valve and Channel Modification 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 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
Wilhelmina Chon:

By email:

Wilhelmina.Chon@waterboards.ca.gov

or

By mail:

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

RECEIVED:	December 3, 2025
PROJECT:	Hell Hole LLO Valve and Channel Modification Project
APPLICANT:	Placer County Water Agency
CONTACT:	Ben Ransom (bransom@pcwa.net)
COUNTY:	Placer
PUBLIC NOTICE:	December 22, 2025

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Hell Hole LLO Valve and Channel Modification 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 LLO and Rubicon River channel to implement pulse flows in wet water and above normal water years as required under the Middle Fork Project FERC License Order. Project modifications include: (1) replacing the existing 48-inch Howell-Bunger (HB) valve; (2) replacement of the existing 12-inch HB valve on the adjacent stream maintenance conduit; (3) modification of the stilling basin at the base of the LLO valve to provide scour protection at higher discharges; (4) and modification to the Rubicon River channel for approximately 450 feet downstream of the LLO valve to prevent flooding of the Hell Hole Powerhouse.