

**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

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

RECEIVED:	July 3, 2025
PROJECT:	Balch Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 175)
APPLICANT:	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
CONTACT:	Alexander Tessier
COUNTY:	Fresno
PUBLIC NOTICE:	July 30, 2025

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is requesting a water quality certification (certification) for the Balch Hydroelectric Project (Project; FERC Project No. 175). The 131.52-megawatt project is located on the North Fork Kings River. The Project includes Black Rock Reservoir, Balch Afterbay, two powerhouses, a transmission line, and three developed recreation sites, and associated facilities. PG&E has applied for a new FERC license, under which it proposes to: (1) replace and rehabilitate existing recreation facilities; (2) designate 14.15 miles of existing vehicular roads and 2.49 miles of existing trails as Project roads and trails; (3) decommission the defunct Black Rock Creek and Weir Creek feeder facilities; (4) modify the Project boundary to more accurately define lands and waters necessary for Project operation and maintenance activities; and (5) implement new protection, mitigation, and enhancement plans and measures.