

**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 25, 2025
PROJECT:	Helms Pumped Storage Project (FERC Project No. 2735)
APPLICANT:	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
CONTACT:	Alexander Tessier
COUNTIES:	Fresno and Madera
PUBLIC NOTICE:	July 30, 2025

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is requesting a water quality certification (certification) for the Helms Pumped Storage Project (Project; FERC Project No. 2735). The 1,212-megawatt project is located on the North Fork Kings River and Helms Creek. The Project transfers water to and from Courtright Lake and Lake Wishon for power generation and water storage. Courtright Lake (upper reservoir) and Lake Wishon (lower reservoir), impounded by Courtright Dam and Wishon Dam, respectively, are licensed facilities of the Haas-Kings River Hydroelectric Project. The Project includes Helms Powerhouse, a transmission line, several 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 36.45 miles of existing vehicular roads and 1.08 miles of existing trails and Project roads and trails; (3) modify the Project boundary to more accurately define lands necessary for Project operation and maintenance activities; and (4) implement new protection, mitigation, and enhancement plans and measures.