

**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) under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for the following project was filed 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 Jessica Dyke:

By email:

Jessica.Dyke@Waterboards.ca.gov

or

By mail:

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

RECEIVED:	January 16, 2026
PROJECT:	Helms Uprate Project
APPLICANT:	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
APPLICANT CONTACT:	Alexander Tessier, Alexander.tessier@pge.com
COUNTIES:	Fresno and Madera
PUBLIC NOTICE:	February 13, 2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: On January 16, 2026, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) submitted a request for water quality certification for the Helms Uprate Project (Project), associated with a pending license amendment for the Helms Pumped Storage Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2735) that transfers water to and from Courtright Lake and Lake Wishon. The Project proposes replacing generating Units 1, 2, and 3 in the Helms Powerhouse with more efficient and higher capacity units that would result in an increase in the Helms Pumped Storage Project's normal operating capacity by 180,000 kilowatts. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2029 and last for a period of approximately three years.