

Kerckhoff Hydroelectric Project Relicensing

Public Scoping Meeting
Division of Water Rights
Presented by: Andrea Sellers



June 15, 2023

Meeting Logistics

- Please remain on mute
- Please turn off camera
- Meeting will be recorded
- Presentation will be available on the Project webpage:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/kerckhoff_hydroelectric_ferc96.html
- Save questions and comments until the end of the presentation

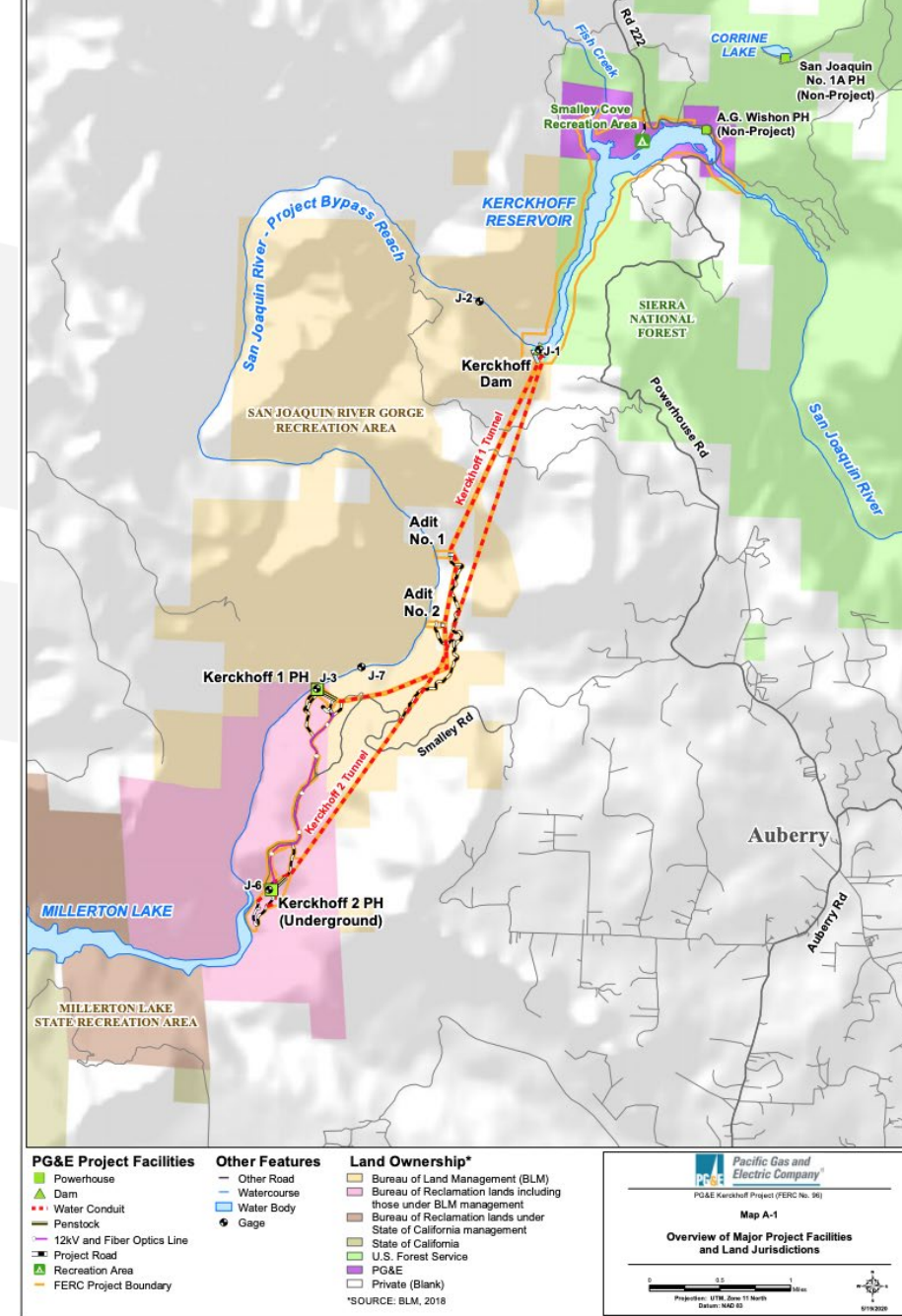
Presentation Outline

- Kerckhoff Project Overview
- State Water Board Background
- Water Quality Certification
- CEQA Process
- Next Steps
- Verbal Comment Period



Kerckhoff Project Overview

- Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)
- Location: San Joaquin River in Fresno and Medera Counties
- Existing Project



Kerckhoff Project Overview Cont.

- Proposed Project
- Continued operations with the following changes:
 - Proposed Project Boundary Updates
 - Proposed Updates to Project Facilities
 - Proposed Project Measures



Kerckhoff Proposed Plans and Measures

- American Shad Spawning Season Flow Release Regime Measure
- Aquatic Resources Plan
- Water Temperature Measure
- End-of-Spill Flow Recession and Whitewater Flow Releases Measure
- Subsequent Spill Ramp Down Measure
- Spill Season Flow Measure
- Planned Outage Measure
- Flow Notification Measure
- San Joaquin River Above Kerckhoff Reservoir Inflow Gage Measure
- Modification of Infrastructure and Procedures Measure
- Wildlife Management Plan
- Vegetation Management and Pest Control Plan
- Project Road and Trail Maintenance Plan
- Recreation Management Plan
- Whitewater Notification and Access Measure
- Historic Properties Management Plan



State Water Board: Background

- Authority over water rights and water quality to provide protection of California's waters
- Protect and enforce many water uses including the needs of industry, agriculture, municipal districts, and the environment
- Protect the various beneficial uses of water

Why is the State Water Board Involved?

- State Water Board conditions federally licensed Projects via issuance of water quality certifications (Section 401 of Clean Water Act)
- In 2020, PG&E submitted its Final License Application for FERC No. 96
- On May 26, 2022 and March 31, 2023 PG&E submitted an updated FLA with additional protection, mitigation and enhancement measures

Water Quality Certification

- If a water quality certification is issued, its conditions become a mandatory part of the FERC license
- Water Quality Certifications ensure that a project will adhere to water quality objectives and beneficial uses as outlined in the Regional Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans)
- Water Quality Certifications require the State Water Board to comply with CEQA

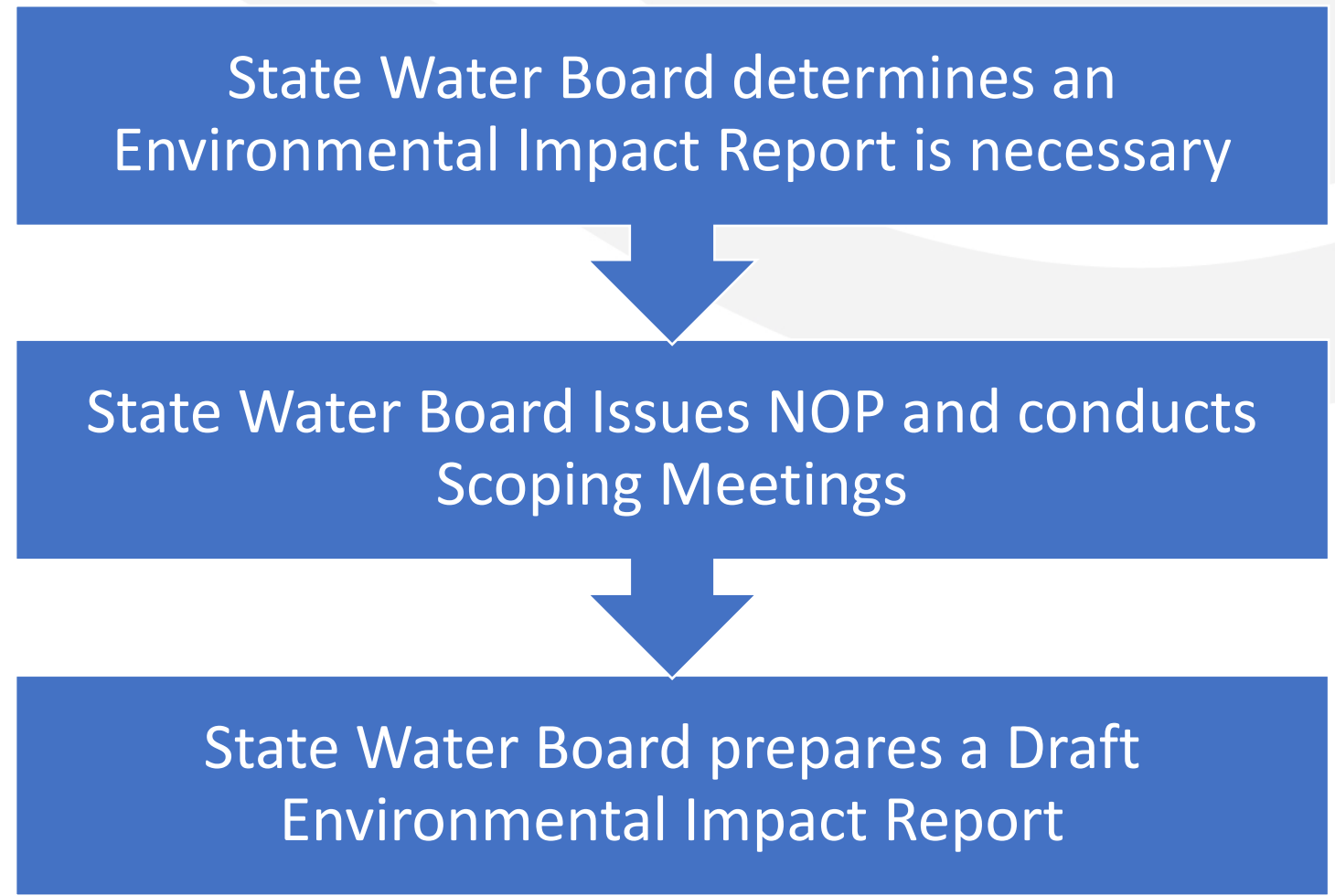


The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- CEQA informs State Water Board and the Public about the Project's significant environmental effects and ways to reduce those impacts
- Since PG&E is not a public agency, State Water Board is lead agency for CEQA



Order of CEQA Process



Order of CEQA Process Cont.

State Water Board issues Draft Environmental Impact Report



State Water Board reviews and responds to comments and prepares a Final Environmental Impact Report



State Water Board issues the Final Environmental Impact Report

Potentially Significant Affected Resources

- Environmental Resources
 - Biological Resources
 - Hydrology/Water Quality
 - Recreation
 - Greenhouse Gases



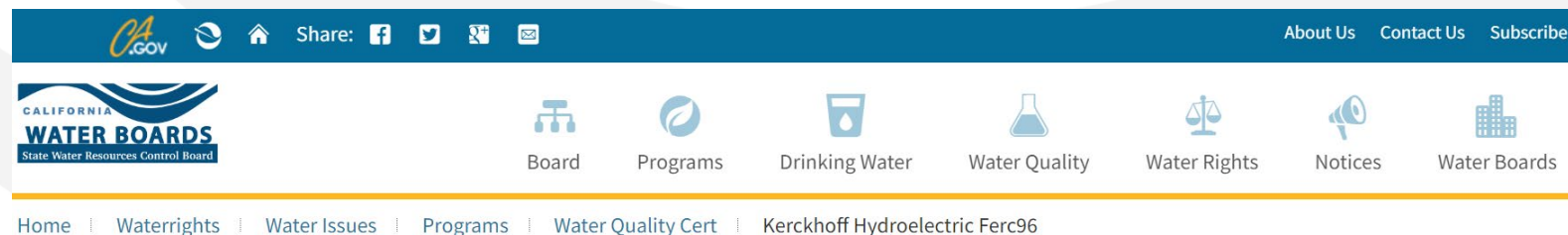
Public Input

- State Water Board is seeking comments on:
 - Project alternatives
 - Potential significant impacts
 - Mitigation measures
 - Any comments related to the Project
- All scoping comments are due July 3, 2023, at 5:00pm
- The Draft EIR and Draft WQC will also have public review and comment periods

How to Stay Informed

- Kerckhoff Hydroelectric Project Webpage:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/waterissues/programs/waterqualitycert/kerckhoff_hydroelectric_ferc96.html



Kerckhoff Hydroelectric Project

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 96



Applicant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Inc. (PG&E)
County: Fresno and Madera
License Expiration Date: November 30, 2022
Water Quality Certification Status: Awaiting Application
Waterbody: San Joaquin River
FERC Licensing Process: Integrated Licensing Process

Related Documents

- Notice of Preparation
 - Gov Deliver

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meetings for an Environmental Impact Report for the Kerckhoff Hydroelectric Project Relicensing – May 30, 2023
 - Notice of Informal Consultation with Responsible and Trustee Agencies Regarding an Environmental Document for Water Quality Certification for Kerckhoff Hydroelectric Project – July 16, 2021
 - Joint Scoping Meeting Presentation - February 13, 2018
 - Notice of Joint Scoping Meeting with FERC - January 16, 2018
 - Determining appropriate CEQA document
 - Water Quality Certification
 - Awaiting Application

How to Make a Comment

- Use the “Raise Hand” feature to indicate you would like to ask your question verbally
- Please wait to be called on and then unmute your microphone
 - Introduce yourself (name and affiliation) prior to speaking
- Please stay on topic
- Please speak clearly
- Please respect the time limit



Next Steps

- Accepting written comments until 5:00 pm (Pacific Standard time on July 3, 2023)
- Send comments to: Andrea Sellers
 - Email: Andrea.Sellers@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Mail: State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Water Quality Certification Program
Attn: Andrea Sellers
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000