

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

An application for water quality 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 at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application. Written questions and/or comments regarding the application should be directed to:

Amber Villalobos
Water Quality Certification Program
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

RECEIVED: May 21, 2014
PROJECT: Merced River Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2179
APPLICANT: Merced Irrigation District
CONTACT: Bryan Kelly
COUNTIES: Merced and Mariposa
PUBLIC NOTICE: June 24, 2014
PROJECT STATUS: Pending

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Merced Irrigation District (MID) is seeking to relicense its existing 103.5 megawatt Merced River Hydroelectric Project (Project), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2179. The Project is located on the Merced River and Deadman Creek in Mariposa and Merced counties, near the City of Merced in the San Joaquin River Basin. This multipurpose Project diverts water from the Merced River for various beneficial uses. MID primarily operates the Project for agricultural irrigation, however, other beneficial uses include: hydropower, groundwater recharge, municipal and industrial use, landscape irrigation, and environmental. Project facilities and features include two existing dams (New Exchequer and McSwain) and associated reservoirs with a combined storage of 1,034,330 acre-feet (Lake McClure and McSwain Reservoir); two powerhouses (New Exchequer and McSwain); and five recreation areas. In addition, the existing license includes eight minor facilities (e.g., culverts and small structures) along MID's existing water supply system. The minor facilities are associated with the delivery of water to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Merced National Wildlife Refuge.

Downstream of the Project is the Merced Falls Hydroelectric Project (a run-of-the-river facility owned and operated by Pacific Gas and Electric Company) and the Crocker-Huffman Diversion Dam (MID's diversion structure for its main canal). MID diversions also occur at the Merced Falls dam.

MID is the lead agency and the State Water Board is a responsible agency for the purpose of the California Environmental Quality Act.