

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of Shasta
1643 Market Street
Redding, CA 96001-1022

From (Public Agency):
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Attention: Meiling Roddam
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812

Project Title: Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2687 - 401 Water Quality Certification, Condition 13 - Request for Temporary Cessation of Flushing Flow Requirements in 2017.

Project Applicant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Project Location - Specific: The Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project is located on the Pit and Fall Rivers near the communities of Fall River Mills and McArthur in the northeastern portion of Shasta County, California. Summer flushing flows are released from the Pit 1 Forebay Dam located on the Pit River immediately upstream of the Fall River Pond. The Pit 1 forebay is a 222-acre impoundment immediately above the 0.7-mile long Fall River Pond.

Project Location - City: Fall River Mills

Project Location - County: Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) owns and operates the Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project as a peaking operation which generates 65.5 megawatts of energy from the Pit 1 Powerhouse on the Pit River. On March 19, 2003, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a renewed operating license for the Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project. The FERC license incorporates the 401 water quality certification (certification), issued by the State Water Resources Control Board on December 4, 2001, as part of the terms and conditions of the new FERC license. Per Condition 13 of the certification, PG&E is required to release summer flushing flows from the Pit 1 Forebay Dam to control nuisance aquatic vegetation and mosquito production in Fall River Pond. In this instance, the "Project" constitutes the temporary suspension of summer flushing flows required per Condition 13 of the Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project certification. The temporary suspension of summer flushing flows requested by PG&E and supported by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, is needed to reduce impacts to the Shasta crayfish, which is listed as endangered under both the California and Federal Endangered Species Acts.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: State Water Resources Control Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 7, §15307
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
JUN 28 2017
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Reasons why project is exempt: The temporary suspension of summer flushing flows for one additional year will not have a significant adverse effect and is categorically exempt from the requirements to prepare environmental documents under California Code of Regulations section 15307 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources). The continued suspension of summer flushing flows is being implemented to protect the endangered Shasta crayfish (*Pacifastacus fortis*).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Meiling Roddam

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 341-5369

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: [Signature] Date: 6/27/2017 Title: Acting Executive Director

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant