

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE
PIT 1 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 2687

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) proposes the following amendments to the water quality certification (certification) for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E or Licensee) Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project (Project)¹. Text from the December 4, 2001 certification is referenced in *italicized* text. Proposed deletions are shown in ~~strike-out~~. Proposed additions are shown as **bold**, *italicized*, and underlined text:

13. ~~The Licensee shall control growth of aquatic vegetation and mosquito production in the Fall River Pond by releasing a continuous minimum fish/aquatic habitat release as described in Condition 6 **Condition 8**, and by releasing flushing flows through Fall River Pond for two consecutive days (Saturday and Sunday) three times per year. Flushing flows are defined as 1,250 cfs or the natural flow to the Pit 1 Forebay, whichever is less. The flushing flow will be released in May or June when warranted by vegetation growth in the Fall River Pond. The second flushing flow will be released in July, and the third flushing flow will be released at the end of August, prior to the Labor Day weekend. The releases will be made from approximately 2a.m. Saturday morning and continue until approximately 3p.m. the following Sunday afternoon and then be ramped down over a period of time. PG&E shall develop vegetation flushing flow ramping plan in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game and the SWRCB and obtain written approval of the plan by the Chief of the Division of Water Rights. The Licensee shall implement the flushing program as soon as practicable after issuance of the new license.~~

~~The Licenses shall provide as much advanced notice as possible of a proposed flushing flow release but no less than 48 hours through a boat-a-phone or existing PG&E website.~~

For the purpose of whitewater boating recreation, the Licensee shall release through Fall River Pond 1,250 cfs [cubic feet per second], or the natural inflow to the Pit 1 Forebay, whichever is less, for four consecutive days (Friday through Monday) over Columbus Day weekend, or for two weekends (Saturday and Sunday) in October on or before October 30 of each year. The whitewater boating flows shall begin at approximately 2:00 A.M. on the first day and ramp up at a rate that is protective of fish and wildlife resources. The whitewater boating flows shall be maintained until approximately 3:00 P.M. on the final day of recreation releases, and then be ramped down in a manner and over a period of time that is protective of fish and wildlife resources. The Licensee shall provide notice of the October whitewater boating flow schedule at least seven days prior to the first day of October whitewater boating flows. The Deputy Director for Water Rights (Deputy Director)² may approve modifications to the October whitewater boating flows.

14. **Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director,** the Licensee shall monitor the effectiveness of **the minimum instream flow regime at** ~~releasing flushing flows to control~~ **controlling** aquatic vegetation and mosquito production in Fall River Pond. **The Licensee shall use the established monitoring program (Flushing Flow Effectiveness**

¹ The Project is also known as Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2687.

² **Formerly the "Chief of the Division of Water Rights." All references to the "Chief of the Division of Water Rights" refer to the "Deputy Director for Water Rights" or "Deputy Director."**

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Monitoring Plan, as amended by the FERC on April 11, 2006³ or subsequent amendments) to monitor the effectiveness of summer flushing flows. ~~The initial monitoring shall be for 5 years after the issuance of the new license. The Licensee shall develop a vegetation flushing monitoring program in consultation with the Fall River Mills Community Services District, Fall River Chamber of Commerce, the Pine Grove Mosquito Abatement District, and the Department of Fish and Game, and obtain written approval of the program by the Chief of the Division of Water Rights. The Chief of the Division of Water Rights may modify or terminate the flushing flow monitoring program after review of the 5-year monitoring report prepared by the licensee.~~ **Within one year following issuance of the FERC license amendment incorporating this certification amendment, the Licensee shall develop a comprehensive report summarizing and evaluating the monitoring results for the previous years in which the State Water Board suspended the flushing flow requirements (commencing in 2010 with Order WQ 2010-0009-EXEC). At a minimum, the comprehensive report shall include an assessment of the effectiveness of the minimum instream flow regime at controlling vegetation and mosquito production in the Fall River Pond. Additionally, the Licensee shall include a recommendation regarding the need for future monitoring efforts or changes to the flow regime. The Deputy Director may modify or terminate the effectiveness monitoring program after review of the comprehensive report.**

The State Water Board reserves the authority to modify the conditions of the amended certification if monitoring results indicate that continued operation of the Pit 1 Project could impact water quality standards or in response to new information regarding the Shasta crayfish.

³ See 115 FERC ¶ 62,050 Order Modifying and Approving Flushing Flow Ramping Plan and Flushing Flow Effectiveness Monitoring Plan Pursuant to Article 401 and Appendix A Condition 13 and 14 (April 11, 2006).