



**Pacific Gas and  
Electric Company®**

STATE WATER RESOURCES  
CONTROL BOARD  
2014 APR 22 PM 1:13  
DIV OF WATER RIGHTS  
SACRAMENTO

Power Generation

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April 21, 2014

Ms. Barbara Evoy  
Deputy Director, Division of Water Rights  
California State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project; FERC No. 2687  
§401 Water Quality Certification, Condition 13: Request for Temporary  
Cessation of Flushing Flows in 2014**

Dear Ms. Evoy:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project<sup>1</sup> license (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2687) includes a California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) §401 Water Quality Certification (Certification). Condition 13 of the Certification requires PG&E to release flushing flows to control nuisance aquatic vegetation and mosquito production in Fall River Pond.

On May 26, 2009, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) sent a letter to FERC and the State Water Board expressing concern regarding a decline in the federally and state-endangered Shasta crayfish (*Pacifastacus fortis*). USFWS's letter requested suspension of summer flushing flows at PG&E's Pit 1 Project.

On August 28, 2009, the State Water Board sent a letter to PG&E indicating that amending the License was a discretionary action that required the State Water Board to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The State Water Board issued orders in 2010<sup>2</sup>, 2012<sup>3</sup> and 2013<sup>4</sup> that temporarily suspended these flushing flows from 2010 through 2013, while a CEQA process is implemented to analyze the effects of permanently suspending the flushing flow

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<sup>1</sup> See 102 FERC ¶ 61,309 Order Issuing New License (Issued March 19, 2003).

<sup>2</sup> State of California State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2010-0009-EXEC. *Order Approving Temporary Suspension of Flushing Flow Requirements* (State Water Board 2010 Order, issued July 6, 2010).

<sup>3</sup> State of California State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2012-0008-EXEC. *Order Approving Extension of the Temporary Suspension of Flushing Flow Requirements* (State Water Board 2012 Order, issued June 14, 2012).

<sup>4</sup> State of California State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2013-0024-EXEC. *Order Approving Extension of the Temporary Suspension of Flushing Flow Requirements* (State Water Board 2013 Order, issued June 20, 2013).