

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

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:

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

RECEIVED:	June 20, 2016
PROJECT:	Rio Bravo Hydro Sediment Management Project
APPLICANT:	Olcese Water District
CONTACT:	James L. Nickel
COUNTY:	Kern
PUBLIC NOTICE:	July 19, 2016
PROJECT STATUS:	Pending

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Rio Bravo Hydro Sediment Management Project (Project) will manage sediment accumulation at the impoundment and diversion canal for the Rio Bravo Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 4129). Olcese Water District (OWD) is proposing a sediment management strategy that consists of mechanical sediment removal and sediment sluicing.

Mechanical sediment removal involves dredging in the impoundment every 1-5 years and the use of excavators to remove sediment from the canal every 5-10 years. It is estimated that during each dredging event 10,000-34,000 cubic yards of sediment would be removed from the impoundment and 5,000-10,000 cubic yards of sediment would be removed from the canal. Dredged material would be stored in designated disposal areas on Rio Bravo property.

Sediment sluicing through the dam drain gate would be triggered by flow criteria, upstream sediment transport, and/or turbid flow conditions, and may occur more than once annually. Sluicing triggers were designed to maximize sediment mobility while limiting impacts to biological resources. Approximately 1,000-1,500 cubic yards of sediment would be displaced downstream during each sluicing event.