

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

Requests for amendments to the existing water quality certifications (certifications) for the Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project and the Beardsley/Donnells Hydroelectric Project were filed with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). Water quality certifications are issued under section 401 of the Clean Water Act. California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858, subdivision (a) 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 requests should be directed to:

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

RECEIVED: April 3, 2014
PROJECT: Middle Fork Stanislaus River Supplemental Flows Variance (part of Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project and Beardsley/Donnells Hydroelectric Project, collectively Projects)
APPLICANTS: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Tri-Dam Project
CONTACTS: Mr. Richard Doble (PG&E), Mr. Ron Berry (Tri-Dam Project)
COUNTY: Tuolumne
PUBLIC NOTICE: April 4, 2014
PROJECT STATUS: Pending

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: PG&E and the Tri-Dam Project have jointly requested a variance from providing recreational boating flows and supplemental spring flows in the Middle Fork Stanislaus River (MFSR) as required under the water quality certifications (certifications) issued by the State Water Board for the Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project and Beardsley/Donnells Project, respectively. PG&E's Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2130 was issued certification on June 16, 2009, while the Tri-Dam Project's Beardsley/Donnells Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2005, was issued certification on September 14, 2005. Both Projects are required to provide a supplemental spring flow and recreational boating flows in the MFSR. Due to the ongoing California drought, both PG&E and Tri-Dam Project have requested to forego the supplemental spring flow condition in 2014 because of the magnitude and volume of water that would be required. Additionally, PG&E's biologists have expressed concerns that the current dry conditions and warm water temperatures in the MFSR have allowed the Foothill Yellow-legged Frog (*Rana boylei*) (FYLF) to begin breeding in the reaches where the supplemental flows would occur. An increase in flows as prescribed for the supplemental flows after FYLF breeding has occurred could scour egg masses from the MFSR. The Tri-Dam Project has also conveyed the minimum recreational boating flows cannot be achieved based on Beardsley Reservoir's stored water and associated reservoir elevation.

More information on the Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project can be found at the [Project Page](#) maintained by the State Water Board. The certification for the Beardsley Project can also be found [here](#).