March 16, 2015

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY’S
PINECREST LAKE LEVEL MODIFICATION PROJECT

SPRING GAP-STANISLAUS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT,
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 2130

To: Interested Parties Mailing List

On December 16, 2011, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) filed a request with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to modify the existing Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification (certification) condition pertaining to the minimum Pinecrest Lake level. Pinecrest Lake is part of PG&E’s Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2130. Pinecrest Lake is located on the South Fork Stanislaus River in Tuolumne County, California. Prior to making a modification to the certification, the State Water Board must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The State Water Board is the lead agency under CEQA.

PG&E’s Pinecrest Lake Level Modification Project (Project) proposes that PG&E be allowed to lower the surface elevation of Pinecrest Lake, until and including Labor Day each year, from the current minimum elevation of 5,608 feet to a range of minimum elevations between 5,606 feet and 5,600 feet, depending on the water year type as defined in the existing certification. Other activities proposed with the Project include the removal of underwater boating hazards such as tree stumps and boulders to facilitate boating and other recreation activities at lower lake elevations, and modification of shoreline sediment to enhance the quality of shoreline-based recreation at lower lake elevations.

As lead agency, in accordance with CEQA, the State Water Board is proposing to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project. This information is provided in satisfaction of the formal written notice requirements for public review of a MND (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15072). The State Water Board is accepting comments on the Initial Study (IS)/MND. The comment period is from the date of this notice until April 15, 2015. Comments on the IS/MND must be received by 12:00 pm (noon) on April 15, 2015. Comments can be submitted electronically or by mail to:

1 The entire Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project was evaluated under CEQA prior to issuance of the certification in 2009; however that CEQA document did not consider Pinecrest Lake levels below 5,608 feet before Labor Day.
Jeffrey Parks  
State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Water Rights  
Water Quality Certification Program  
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or  
Email: jeff.parks@waterboards.ca.gov

The MND may be obtained, or reviewed during normal business hours, by contacting Mr. Jeffrey Parks at (916) 341-5319 or Jeff.Parks@waterboards.ca.gov, or by visiting the State Water Board webpage for the Spring Gap – Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project at:  

The MND will be available for review at the following locations:

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<th>Contact Information</th>
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**KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES**

To receive emails related to the Project and other projects pursuing certifications managed by the Division of Water Rights, interested persons should enroll in the "Water Rights Water Quality Certification" e-mail notification service. Click the “Subscribe” button at the bottom of the Division of Water Rights’ Water Quality Certification Program webpage at:  
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/

By enrolling in this email list, you will receive notices for all current projects in the Division of Water Rights’ Water Quality Certification Program, including the Project. You will need a valid email address to use this service. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the email subscription list, you may contact Mr. Jeffrey Parks, Project Manager, at (916) 341-5319 and request to receive notices by mail. You can enroll or un-enroll from the email subscription service at any time.

The State Water Board will consider the IS/MND, along with the Project and associated Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project records, before making a decision on PG&E’s request. If the State Water Board decides to make changes to the existing certification based on PG&E’s request, the State Water Board will issue an amended certification for the Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project.

Sincerely,

Erin Ragazzi  
Water Quality Certification Program Manager

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