



State Water Resources Control Board

JUL 10 2014

Mr. Richard Doble
Hydro Licensing
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Mail Code N11C
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, CA 94177

Dear Mr. Doble:

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY VARIANCE OF THE MINIMUM WATER SURFACE ELEVATION OF PINECREST RESERVOIR; SPRING GAP-STANISLAUS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 2130; TUOLUMNE COUNTY

On July 10, 2014, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) received a letter from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) requesting a temporary variance to the minimum water surface elevation of Pinecrest Reservoir prior to Labor Day. The minimum water surface elevation of Pinecrest Reservoir is required by the water quality certification (certification) issued by the State Water Board under Order WR 2009-0039 for the Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project (Project). PG&E is required to maintain a Labor Day water surface elevation of 5,608 feet in Pinecrest Reservoir. PG&E's request states that because of the drought conditions, PG&E cannot provide supplemental water to maintain Tuolumne Utility District's (TUD) consumptive water supply demands and satisfy the minimum water surface elevation for Pinecrest Reservoir. Therefore, PG&E, on the behalf of TUD, requests to lower the minimum water surface elevation for Pinecrest Reservoir to 5,606 feet up to and including Labor Day in 2014.

The State Water Board hereby approves the request for a temporary variance to the minimum water surface elevation for Pinecrest Reservoir under the following conditions:

1. The variance will allow PG&E a minimum water surface elevation of 5,606 feet in Pinecrest Reservoir up to and including Labor Day in 2014;
2. PG&E will provide the State Water Board with a report on the actual daily drawdown of Pinecrest Reservoir and instream flows below the reservoir, from June 1 to September 1, 2014, by November 30, 2014;
3. The temporary variance expires effective September 2, 2014 (day after Labor Day);
4. TUD continues their mandatory 25% water conservation requirement for the remainder of the 2013/2014 water year (through September 30, 2014); and

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5. All other conditions and requirements of State Water Board Order WR 2009-0039 remain in effect and are unchanged¹.

The State Water Board intends to act within the next year on PG&E's request to permanently modify the certification's required minimum water surface elevation for Pinecrest Reservoir based on PG&E's Pinecrest Lake Level Study.² Public notice and an opportunity to comment will be given before a final action is taken by the State Water Board. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Jeffrey Parks at (916) 341-5319 or at Jeff.Parks@waterboards.ca.gov Written correspondence can be directed to: State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, Attention: Mr. Jeffrey Parks, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000.

Sincerely,



Barbara Evoy, Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights

cc: Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Mr. Adam Laputz
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Mr. Tom Scesa
General Manager
Tuolumne Utilities District
18885 Nugget Blvd
Sonora, CA 95370

ec: Ms. Beth Martinez
United States Forest Service
Email: bethmartinez@fs.fed.us

Ms. Deborah Giglio
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Email: Deborah_Giglio@fws.gov

Ms. Linda Connolly
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Email: Linda.Connolly@wildlife.ca.gov

¹ With the exception of certification condition No. 2, minimum instream flow in Summit Creek below Relief Dam. FERC granted a variance on April 28, 2014 that remains in effect until December 31, 2014.

² Copies of requests and comments received by the State Water Board regarding this Project are available online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/ceqa_projects.shtml#ferc2130

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