



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY'S RELIEF REACH-KENNEDY MEADOWS RIPARIAN RESTORATION AND STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT

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

To: Interested Parties Mailing List

On April 8, 2016, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) filed an application with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for water quality certification (certification) under section 401 of the Clean Water Act for the *Relief Reach-Kennedy Meadows Riparian Restoration and Streambank Stabilization Project* (Project). The Project is a requirement of PG&E's license for the Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2130.

Prior to issuance of 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. As lead agency, in accordance with CEQA, the State Water Board is proposing to adopt a Negative Declaration (ND) for the Project. This information is provided in satisfaction of the formal written notice requirements for public review of a ND (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15072). The State Water Board is accepting comments on the Initial Study (IS)/ND.

Project Description:

The Project is located on the Middle Fork Stanislaus River in Tuolumne County, California. The Project proposes streambank stabilization and enhancement of riparian and aquatic habitats within the Project Reach¹. The streambank stabilization and riparian restoration measures are proposed along a 3,000-linear-foot reach of the Middle Fork Stanislaus River. The proposed measures include a combination of various bioengineering techniques, including streambank grading, wood and rock placement, and native vegetation planting. Toe rock addition and root wad placement are proposed in areas with more recent and severe active streambank erosion, and where flow velocities are higher during high flows compared to other treatment areas. Split rail fencing will also be installed in two segments at the downstream end of the Project Reach to protect the restored vegetation and banks. To focus access to the river during Project implementation, a river access area that is used by recreationists and cattle will remain open.

¹ Per the FERC license for the Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2130) (issued April 24, 2009) PG&E is required by to evaluate riparian and streambank conditions in upper Kennedy Meadows (Project Reach) on the Middle Fork Stanislaus River below Relief Dam and to develop and implement vegetation restoration and streambank stabilization measures. These requirements derive from Article 401 of the FERC license, which implements the United State Forest Service Condition 4(e) and Condition 9 of the State Water Board's 401 water quality certification.

Comment Submittal and Deadline:

The State Water Board is accepting comments on the IS/ND for the Project. The IS/ND comment period is from the date of this notice through July 11, 2017. **Comments on the IS/ND must be received by 12:00 pm (noon) on Friday, July 11, 2017.** Comments can be submitted electronically or by mail to:

Mr. Allan Laca
State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Water Rights
Water Quality Certification Program
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
or
Email: allan.laca@waterboards.ca.gov

The IS/ND is available on the Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project webpage, which is located online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/springgap_fer_c2130.shtml

If you cannot access the document online, you can review a hard copy of the IS/ND at the locations listed below.

State Water Resources Control Board 1001 I Street, 2 nd Floor, Room 2-114 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 341-5300	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board - Sacramento Office 11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114 (916) 464-3291	Tuolumne County Library 480 Greenley Road Sonora, CA 95370 (209) 533-5507
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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. Instructions on how to sign up for the State Water Board's Email Subscription List are outlined below:

1. Visit: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml#rights
2. Provide your name and email in the required fields.
3. In the categories below the email and name fields, select "Water Rights," then "Water Rights Water Quality Certification."
4. Click the "Subscribe" button.
5. An email will be sent to you. You must respond to the email message to confirm your membership on the selected list(s).

By enrolling in this email list, you will receive notices for other current projects in the Division of Water Rights' Water Quality Certification Program, including the Project. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the email subscription list, you may contact Mr. Allan Laca at the phone number listed below to request to receive notices for the Project by mail. You can enroll or un-enroll from the email subscription service at any time.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact Mr. Allan Laca by phone at (916) 322-8469 or by email at allan.laca@waterboards.ca.gov.



Erin Ragazzi
Assistant Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights

JUN 07 2017

Date