

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR
CLEAN WATER ACT 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
BEFORE THE 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), Division of Water Rights (Division). The Division has reviewed the application and finds it complete pursuant to the requirements specified in California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856. 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:

Water Quality Certification Unit
Division of Water Rights
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

RECEIVED: March 3, 2009
PROJECTS: Big Creek Nos. 2A, 8 and Eastwood (FERC Project No. 67);
Big Creek Nos. 1 and 2 (FERC Project No. 2175);
Mammoth Pool (FERC Project No. 2085);
Big Creek No. 3 (FERC Project No. 120);
Portal (FERC Project No. 2174);
Vermilion Valley (FERC Project No. 2086)

APPLICANT: Southern California Edison
COUNTY: Madera and Fresno Counties
RECEIVING WATER: Mono Creek, Big Creek, Stevenson Creek, San Joaquin River
PUBLIC NOTICE: June 2, 2009
PROJECT STATUS: Under Traditional and Alternative FERC Licensing Processes

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Southern California Edison (SCE) owns and operates the six hydroelectric projects listed above and is seeking new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licenses for these projects, which are all located in the upper San Joaquin River watershed. The individual projects together comprise the Big Creek Hydroelectric System which is managed from both a watershed-wide perspective and on an individual project-by-project basis. It is the intention of the State Water Board to issue a single Section 401 Water Quality Certification that will cover all six of the Big Creek licensed projects.

SCE's proposed project reflects the Settlement Agreement that was negotiated with agencies and interested stakeholders during the Big Creek Alternative Licensing Process (ALP) and finalized in February 2007. Four of the six Big Creek projects were included in the ALP, while the remaining two projects (Portal, FERC Project No. 2174 and Vermilion Valley, FERC Project No. 2086) have undergone the Traditional Licensing Process. The Settlement Agreement includes a set of specific conditions that the settling parties request be incorporated into the new project licenses that includes environmental protection and enhancement measures for all six of the Big Creek projects. The State Water Board is lead agency for the purpose of the California Environmental Quality Act.