

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

[X] Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113 Sacramento, CA 95814

[] County Clerk
County of:
Address:

From:

Public Agency: SWRCB Division of Water Rights
Address: 1001 I Street, 14th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Allan Laca
Phone: (916) 322-8469

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Address:

Contact:
Phone:

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2017062016

Project Title: Relief Reach-Kennedy Meadows Riparian Restoration and Streambank Stabilization

Project Applicant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Project Location (include county): Middle Fork Stanislaus River in Tuolumne County

Project Description:
Please see Attachment A for the project description.

This is to advise that the State Water Resources Control Board has approved the above (X Lead Agency or [Responsible Agency)

described project on (date) and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

- 1. The project [] will [X] will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. [] An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. [X] A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [] were [X] were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [] was [X] was not adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [] was [X] was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings [] were [X] were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, 1001 I Street, 14th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Signature (Public Agency): Title: Deputy Director

Date: 9/1/17 Date Received for filing at OPR:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
SEP 01 2017
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
Revised 2011

Attachment A
Attachment to Notice of Determination for a Negative Declaration for
the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Relief Reach-Kennedy Meadows Riparian Restoration and
Streambank Stabilization Project

Project Description

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

PG&E is required by the Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project's FERC license, issued on April 24, 2009, 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 States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service 4(e) conditions and Condition 9 of the State Water Board certification.

The Project proposes streambank stabilization and enhancement of riparian and aquatic habitats within the Project Reach. The streambank stabilization and riparian restoration measures are proposed along a 3,000-linear foot reach along 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 the 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. A river access area used by recreationists and cattle will remain open to allow focused access to the river.

The primary purpose of the certification is to protect water quality standards of the Middle Fork Stanislaus River. The beneficial uses and water quality objectives that are contained in the water quality control plans (basin plans) together with state and federal anti-degradation requirements constitute California's water quality standards. The basin plans designate the beneficial uses of waters within each watershed basin, and water quality objectives designed to protect those uses pursuant to Section 303 of the Clean Water Act.