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## State Water Resources Control Board

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY'S PHOENIX HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**

To Interested Parties:

On August 26, 2021, the 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) pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) for the Phoenix Hydroelectric Project (Project) (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 1061).

The State Water Board, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), intends to adopt a Negative Declaration and an Initial Study (IS/ND) for the Project. This information is provided to satisfy the formal written notice requirements for public review of a proposed Negative Declaration (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15072). Notice is hereby given that the State Water Board is accepting comments on the Project's IS/ND.

#### *Project Description:*

The Project is located along the South Fork Stanislaus River (SFSR) in Tuolumne County, California approximately 10 miles northeast of the town of Sonora. The Project provides water to the Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD), generates power, and is required to meet streamflow requirements for the SFSR.

The major components of the Project include: Lyons Dam and Reservoir; a cushion dam about 80 feet downstream of Lyons Dam; the Main Tuolumne Canal (MTC); Phoenix Header Box (forebay to the powerhouse); a penstock; and the Phoenix Powerhouse. Water enters the Project from the SFSR, and is released from Lyons Dam (the uppermost Project component), either through the low-level outlet or radial gates, from which water flows into the cushion dam approximately 80 feet downstream of Lyons Dam. From the cushion dam, water is diverted into the MTC or discharged to the SFSR to meet instream flow requirements. The SFSR downstream of the cushion dam flows from an elevation of about 4,200 feet above mean sea level (msl) to approximately 1,110 feet above msl at New Melones Reservoir. Some of the water diverted into the MTC is delivered to TUD at multiple locations along the MTC. Water that is not delivered to TUD along the MTC ultimately reaches the Phoenix Powerhouse penstock and thereby the Phoenix Powerhouse. From the Phoenix Powerhouse, water

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

is discharged to Powerhouse Creek and ultimately to TUD's Phoenix Reservoir for consumptive use. Public recreational opportunities in the Project boundary include day use areas with fishing opportunities at Lyons Reservoir and the MTC section 4 ditch as well as various hiking trails.

The Phoenix Powerhouse is located at the upper end of the Tuolumne Water System, a domestic water supply system owned by TUD. The Phoenix Powerhouse has an installed generation capacity of 1.6 megawatts. PG&E is not proposing new developments; however, PG&E is proposing to modify the existing Project boundary to encompass all facilities necessary for operation and maintenance of the Project.

Comment Submittal and Deadline:

The State Water Board is accepting comments on the IS/ND for the Proposed Project. The comment period is from the date of this notice through July 29, 2022. **Comments must be received by 5:00 pm on July 29, 2022.** Comments can be submitted electronically or by mail to:

Mr. Eric Bradbury  
State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Water Rights  
Water Quality Certification Program  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000  
or

Email: [wr401program@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:wr401program@waterboards.ca.gov)

The IS/ND is available on the State Water Board's [Phoenix Hydroelectric Project webpage](#):

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_cert/phoenix\\_ferc1061.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/phoenix_ferc1061.html)

If you cannot access the document online, hardcopies of the IS/ND will be available at the location listed below. Please call the location for appointment information.

**State Water Resources Control  
Board/CalEPA Office**  
1001 "I" Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Room 2-114  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 341-5300  
Open Wednesday and Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
by appointment only

**KEEP INFORMED OF PROPOSED PROJECT MILESTONES**

To receive emails related to the Proposed 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](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 Proposed Project. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the email subscription list, you may contact Mr. Eric Bradbury at the email or phone number listed below to request to receive notices for the Proposed 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. Eric Bradbury by phone at (916) 327-9401 or by email at [Eric.Bradbury@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Eric.Bradbury@waterboards.ca.gov).

Ann Marie Ore \_\_\_\_\_ 6/27/2022 \_\_\_\_\_  
Ann Marie Ore Date  
Program Manager  
Division of Water Rights