PUBLIC NOTICE FOR CLEAN WATER ACT 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION BEFORE THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

A request 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). California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858 requires the Executive Director of the State Water Board to provide public notice of an application before taking certification action on the application. Written questions and/or comments regarding the application should be directed to:

Michael Maher
Water Quality Certification Program
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

RECEIVED: April 10, 2015

PROJECT: El Dorado Hydroelectric Project - Request for Temporary Streamflow

Variance During Extreme Drought Conditions

APPLICANT: El Dorado Irrigation District

CONTACT: Mr. Brian Mueller, El Dorado Irrigation District El Dorado, Alpine, and Amador Counties

PUBLIC NOTICE: April 15, 2015

PROJECT STATUS: Pending

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The El Dorado Irrigation District (District) is requesting State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approval to supplement a temporary streamflow variance to conserve and manage the El Dorado Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 184 (Project), reservoir storage and maintain consumptive water supplies in response to extreme drought conditions in the Project area. The proposed streamflow variance request includes supplementing the existing temporary streamflow variance as follows:

- Reduce minimum streamflows below the Echo Lake dam from 6 cubic feet per second (cfs) or natural flow to 2 cfs or natural flow in April and May (no change from the March 13, 2015 Streamflow Variance Request approved by the State Water Board on April 9, 2015.)
- Reduce minimum streamflows at South Fork American River (SFAR) below Kyburz (gage A-12) from 60 cfs to 45 cfs from May 1- 15, from 60 cfs to 30 cfs from May 16-31, from 60 cfs to 18 cfs in June, from 40 cfs to 15 cfs in July, and from 18 cfs to 15 cfs in August.

The April 10, 2015 streamflow variance request is not intended to replace the existing streamflow variance request approved by the State Water Board on April 9, 2015. EID is requesting to retain authorization to implement the streamflow modifications approved on April 9, 2015 in order to be able to respond quickly in the event that hydrologic conditions continue to change and these modifications again become effective mechanisms to conserve water.