



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

JARED BLUMENFELD
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE AGENCIES REGARDING AN ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FOR WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

KERCKHOFF HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 96

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies,

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) plans to prepare an environmental document for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Kerckhoff Hydroelectric Project (Project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.). The Project is located on the San Joaquin River in Fresno and Madera Counties, California and has an installed capacity of 162.72 megawatts. The Project consists of Kerckhoff Reservoir (formed by Kerckhoff Dam), Kerckhoff 1 (K1) and Kerckhoff 2 (K2) powerhouses, appurtenant facilities and access roads, and Smalley Cove Recreation Area. Project facilities are depicted in the attached map.

In general, water enters two intake structures located in Kerckhoff Reservoir and flows into two tunnels that convey water from the reservoir to the powerhouses. Water passing through the K1 and K2 powerhouses flows into the San Joaquin River and is captured in Millerton Lake, which is located approximately 12 miles downstream of the K2 Powerhouse. The existing FERC boundary encompasses 531.7 acres, including 328.1 acres of federal land, 162.5 acres of PGE-owned land and 41.1 of private land.

The Project, which is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), is identified as FERC Project No. 96. FERC issues licenses for the operation of projects for 40 to 50 years. PG&E applied for a new license on November 20, 2020. The existing license expires on November 30, 2022. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FERC will prepare a scoping document and will conduct an environmental assessment of the Project.

In accordance with section 401 of the Clean Water Act, PG&E must apply for a water quality certification (certification) for the Project. PG&E plans to apply for certification within 60-days of FERC Ready for Environmental Analysis which is anticipated to be in late 2021.

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

NOTICE OF INFORMAL CONSULTATION

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15063, subdivision (g), notice is hereby given that the State Water Board is conducting informal consultation with the responsible and trustee agencies (Agencies) to solicit input on the Project's CEQA process. Recipients of this notice are encouraged to inform other responsible and trustee agency representatives who are interested in this Project about this notice. While it is not required by CEQA, the State Water Board will accept similar input and supporting information from other interested entities and persons.

The purpose of this consultation is to seek input from the Agencies responsible for resources affected by the Project. The State Water Board would like to obtain recommendations, rationale, and supporting information regarding whether an Environmental Impact Report or a Negative Declaration should be prepared.

Recommendations and supporting information should be provided by the deadline in the *Consultation Deadline and Contact* section of this notice.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PG&E's existing Project has an installed capacity of 162.72 megawatts. In addition to continued operations, PG&E proposes to modify components of the Project, as follows:

- Project boundary:
 - PGE proposes to reduce the Project's FERC boundary by 25 percent, from 531.7 acres to 400.1 acres.
- Project facilities:
 - PG&E is not proposing new facilities for this Project; however, it does propose to retire the K1 Powerhouse.
- Project power generation:
 - With retirement of K1 Powerhouse, PG&E estimates that the Project's power generation will decrease by approximately 22,720 kilowatts per year with a new installed capacity of 140 megawatts.

The State Water Board will use the CEQA analysis to support an informed decision whether to issue certification and if so, under what conditions. Certification issuance of requires analysis of a project's overall effect on water quality and an analysis of whether the designated beneficial uses identified in the appropriate water quality control plan(s) are adequately protected.

CONSULTATION DEADLINE AND CONTACT

The State Water Board will accept written input until 5:00 p.m. on August 16, 2021. Written input should specifically identify that it is provided as part of the “Kerckhoff CEQA Section 15063(g) Informal Consultation” and include recommendations as to the CEQA document type as well as the rationale and supporting information for the CEQA document type recommendation. Written input may be submitted electronically or by mail to:

Email: andrea.sellers@waterboards.ca.gov

or

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights – Water Quality Certification Program
Attn: Andrea Sellers
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

If you have questions regarding this notice the best means of contact is by email to andrea.sellers@waterboards.ca.gov.

Ann Marie Ore

 Digitally signed by Ann Marie Ore
Date: 2021.07.16 11:26:29 -07'00'

July 16, 2021

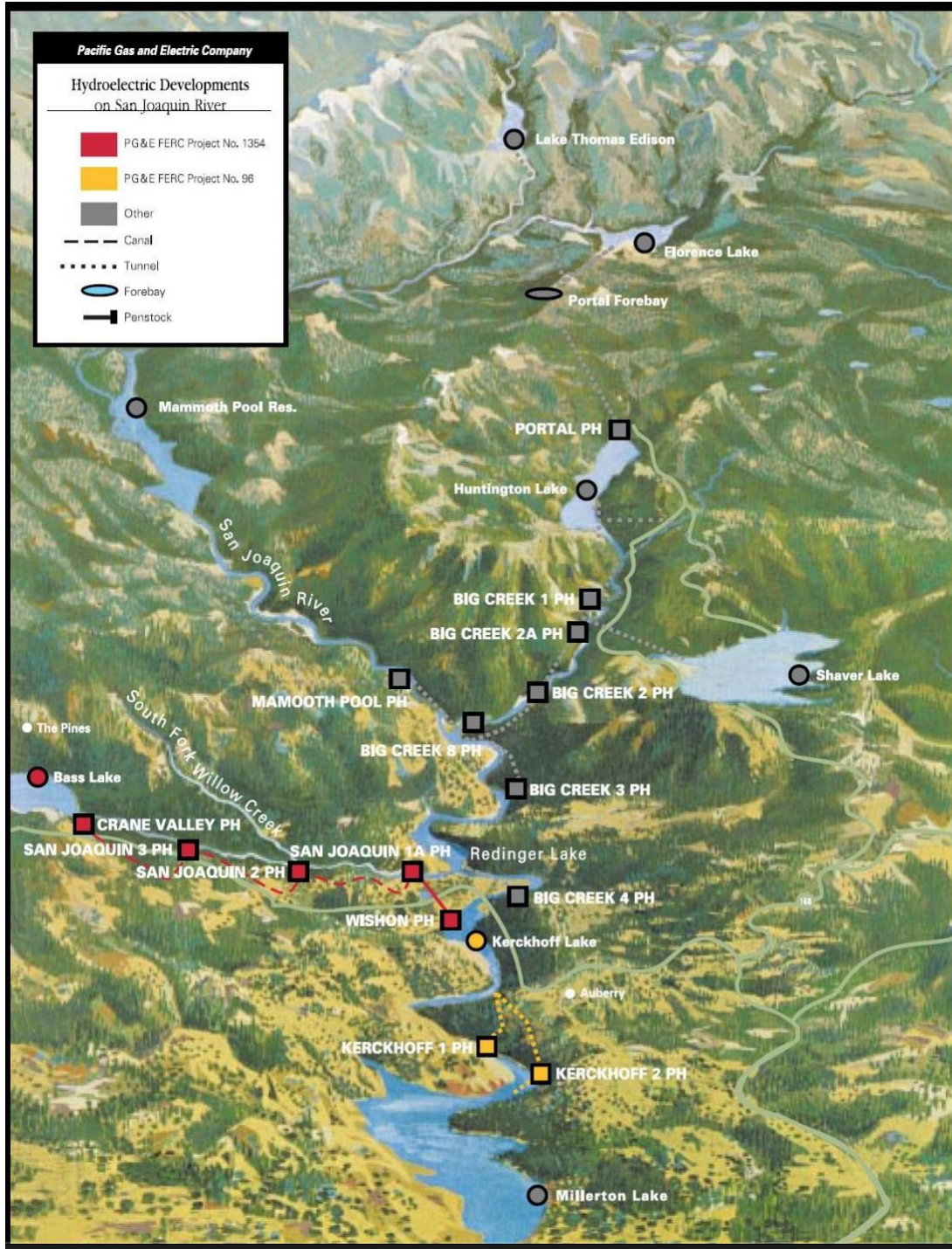
Ann Marie Ore
Water Quality Certification Program Manager

Date

Enclosures: Kerckhoff Hydroelectric Project Location Map

Distribution List

Kerckhoff Hydroelectric Project Location Map¹



¹ Submitted by PG&E with the Final License Application on November 20, 2020.

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

DISTRIBUTION LIST

cc:

<p>United States Fish and Wildlife Service Field Supervisor 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605 Sacramento, CA 95825-1846</p>	<p>Debra Mahnke Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board 1685 E Street Fresno, CA 93706</p>
<p>California Air Resources Board PO Box 2815 Sacramento, CA 95812-2815</p>	<p>United States Bureau of Land Management 2800 Cottage Way Ste W1834 Sacramento, CA 95825-1886</p>
<p>Chief United States Army Corps of Engineers 333 Market Street, Room 1112 San Francisco, CA 94105-2197</p>	<p>District Chief United States Geological Survey Placer Hall- 6000 J Street, Ste 2012 Sacramento, CA 95819-6129</p>
<p>Caltrans, District 6 1352 W Olive Ave Fresno, CA 93728</p>	<p>Chief of Planning and Environmental Analysis Department of Toxic Substances Control 1001 I Street P.O. Box 806 MS: 11A Sacramento, CA 95812-0806</p>
<p>Denise Peterson Boating and Waterways 1 Capitol Mall, Suite 500 Sacramento, CA 95814</p>	<p>John Sanders, PH.D Department of Pesticide Regulation 1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015 Sacramento, CA 95812-4015</p>
<p>Eric Knight, Environmental Protection Officer California Energy Commission 1516 Ninth Street, MS-40 Sacramento, CA 95814</p>	<p>CEQA Analyst Department of Conservation 801 K Street, MS-24-02 Sacramento, CA 95814</p>
<p>Sue O'Leary California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery 1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95812-4025</p>	<p>Ron Parsons Office of Historic Preservation P.O. Box 942896 Sacramento, CA 94296-0001</p>
<p>Chris Browder, Environmental Coordinator Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention 1416 Ninth Street, Mail Stop A45 Sacramento, CA 95814</p>	<p>Department of Parks and Recreation Environmental Stewardship Section P.O. Box 942896 Sacramento, CA 94296-001</p>
<p>Central Valley Flood Protection Board CEQA Coordinator Division of Flood Management 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite LL60 Sacramento, CA 95821</p>	<p>Nadell Gayou, Senior Engineer Department of Water Resources 901 P Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814</p>

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Public Utilities Commission, Supervisor 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102	Steve Edmondson National Marine Fisheries Service 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325 Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Scott Morgan Governor's Office of Planning and Research 1400 10 th Street, P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	Monique Wilber Office of Emergency Services 3650 Schriever Avenue Mather, CA 95655-4203
Debbie Treadway Native American Heritage Commission 1556 Harbor Blvd. West Sacramento, CA 95691	

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