



State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF STAFF WORKSHOP AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON MODIFICATION TO WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS

PINECREST RESERVOIR LAKE LEVEL ELEVATION CONDITIONS FOR THE SPRING GAP-STANISLAUS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold a staff workshop about the Pinecrest Reservoir Lake Level Elevation Conditions (Pinecrest Conditions) in the water quality certification (certification) for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Spring Gap-Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project (Project), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2130. Additionally, State Water Board staff has recommended changes to the certification based on a request from PG&E and subsequent Project correspondence. Recipients of this notice are encouraged to inform others who are interested in Project issues about this workshop.

STAFF WORKSHOP

The purpose of the staff workshop is for State Water Board staff to answer questions and receive oral comments from public agencies and members of the public on PG&E's request for modification of Pinecrest Conditions, and the State Water Board staff's proposed amendment to the certification. The State Water Board will not take any action during the staff workshop. The location and time of the staff workshop is provided below.

Staff Workshop on Pinecrest Conditions
Thursday, October 4, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.
Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors Chambers
2 South Green Street, 4th Floor
Sonora, CA 95370

BACKGROUND

Order WR 2009-0039 (Order) modified the Project certification and changed the target Labor Day water surface elevation for Pinecrest Reservoir from 5,610 feet to 5,608 feet. The Order also directed PG&E to complete a Lake Level Study (Lake Study) to determine if a lower alternative

water surface elevation would protect recreational uses. The Order required PG&E to complete the Lake Study on reservoir elevations and recreational uses, and allowed PG&E to request the State Water Board modify the target elevation after completion of the Lake Study. The Final *Pinecrest Reservoir Lake Level Study Report* issued by PG&E in April 2011 was followed by a request from PG&E in December 2011 to modify the target Labor Day lake level elevation based on water year type as follows:

- 5,606 feet in wet years;
- 5,604 feet in normal-wet years; and
- 5,600 feet in normal-dry and dry years.

Based on the information provided, State Water Board staff recommends the Project certification be amended to update the target Labor Day lake level elevation as follows:

- The Pinecrest Reservoir draw down curve, which is due by April 15 of each year, must be revised following the last spill¹ of the season or by July 1, whichever occurs first.
- The target lake level elevation will remain at 5,608 feet regardless of water-year type, if spills occur on or past July 1.
- If spills cease before July 1 and the water year type is dry, then the Labor Day target lake level elevation may go as low as 5,606 feet.

It is also recommended that the certification contain a condition allowing the State Water Board to make changes to the Pinecrest lake level conditions if action is taken on the waste and unreasonable use complaint. (See the attached Fact Sheet.)

The certification requires that the State Water Board provide notice to affected parties prior to modification of the target lake level. This document serves as notice.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

PG&E's request for modification to the Pinecrest Conditions and other Project correspondence may be found online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/ceqa_projects.shtml#ferc2130

Paper copies are available upon request by writing to: Jeffrey Parks, State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812, by calling (916) 341-5319 or by emailing your request to jparks@waterboards.ca.gov. A copy of PG&E's request and other correspondence will also be available at the State Water Board's office located in the Cal/EPA Building, by visiting the Division of Water Rights Records Unit, located at: 1001 I Street, 2nd Floor, Room 114, Sacramento, CA 95814.

¹ Pinecrest Lake spills are considered to have ceased when the water surface elevation drops below 5,717 feet and inflows to Pinecrest Reservoir are not expected to increase.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

Written comments on the Pinecrest Conditions are due by **Noon (12:00 PM) on Thursday, October 18, 2012**, and should be addressed to Mr. Jeffrey Parks at the address above. Oral comments must be made at the staff workshop.

Comment letters may be submitted electronically, in pdf text format (if less than 15 megabytes in total size), to Jeffrey Parks via email at jparks@waterboards.ca.gov. If the file is greater than 15 megabytes in total size, then the comment letter may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5400. Please indicate the subject line: “**Comment Letter – Pinecrest Conditions Workshop.**” Couriers delivering hard copies of comment letters must check in with Cal/EPA Building lobby security personnel, who can contact Mr. Parks at (916) 341-5319.

EMAIL LIST SERVICE

Interested persons are encouraged to subscribe to an email list serve for future notices about the Water Rights Water Quality Certification program at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml, under Water Rights Topics choose “*Water Rights Water Quality Certifications.*” The email list service will be the primary method for providing future notices related to the Pinecrest Conditions and other notices pertaining to PG&E’s Project Certification. Persons without access to email may request paper copies of future notices by mailing such request to the above address.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Attached with this notice is a Fact Sheet about the current process for this Project.

Please direct questions about this notice to Mr. Jeffrey Parks at (916) 341-5319, by email to jparks@waterboards.ca.gov. Written correspondence should be addressed as follows:

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Attn: Jeffrey Parks
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812