

State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE LASSEN LODGE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 12496

To: Interested Parties Mailing List

Notice is hereby given that a *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project* (Draft EIR) is available for public review and comment.

Background

On April 21, 2014, Rugraw, LLC (Rugraw) filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for an original license for a new hydropower project, the Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project (Proposed Project; FERC Project No. 12496). As part of this licensing process, Rugraw filed an application for a water quality certification (certification) under section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board).

When the State Water Board considers issuing a certification for a project, it evaluates whether the project will comply with applicable water quality standards and other requirements of state law and determines conditions necessary to protect water quality. In California, water quality standards are established in regional water quality control plans (basin plans). Regional Water Quality Control Boards prepare basin plans that designate the beneficial uses of waters to be protected and establish the water quality objectives necessary to protect those uses, as required under section 303 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1313) and sections 13240 and 13241 of the California Water Code.

Additionally, in issuing a certification, the State Water Board must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.). The State Water Board, as lead agency under CEQA, directed the preparation of a Draft EIR for the Proposed Project.

The following information is provided in satisfaction of the formal written notice requirements for the public review of a Draft EIR (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15087).

Applicant: Rugraw, LLC

Project Name: Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project

Date of Certification**Application:** November 14, 2019**Project Location:** Tehama County, California**Project Description:**

Rugraw proposes to construct the Proposed Project on the upper South Fork Battle Creek, in Tehama County. The Proposed Project would be located on the western slopes of the Cascade Range approximately 1.5 miles west of the town of Mineral, an unincorporated community in Tehama County. The Proposed Project would be a run-of-the-river facility with a generating capacity of five megawatts.

Project Proposed facilities include: 1) an eight-foot-tall diversion dam and associated intake and fish control/fish screen structure; 2) five-megawatt powerhouse with associated 5,230-foot-long high pressure penstock, transition structure, and 7,565-foot-long of low pressure pipeline; and 3) 12-miles of transmission lines with associated switchyard and substation.

Overview of Draft EIR:

The Draft EIR evaluates the Proposed Project as well as four alternatives: 1) No Project; 2) Minimum Instream Flow; 3) Ramping Rates; and 4) Temperature Shutdown Thresholds. The alternatives are described in detail in Chapter 3 of the Draft EIR.

The Draft EIR identifies significant impacts for the following resources, for which there are mitigation measures that will be implemented to prevent or avoid significant environmental impacts:

- Air Quality
- Energy
- Green House Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Noise
- Terrestrial Resources
- Wildfire

The Draft EIR identifies significant and unavoidable impacts for the following resources:

- Aesthetics
- Terrestrial Biological Resources
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Aquatic Biological Resources

Public Review Period:

The comment period for the Draft EIR is from the date of this notice until **November 9, 2020**. **Comments on the Draft EIR must be received by 5:00 pm on November 9, 2020**, and can be submitted electronically or by mail as follows:

Email:

WR401Program@waterboards.ca.gov

or

Mail:

Ms. Savannah Downey
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights – Water Quality Certification Program
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

The Draft EIR and associated appendices, along with additional information regarding the State Water Board's certification process are available on the [Project webpage](#), which is located at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/assen_lodge_ferc12496/

Document Availability:

If you cannot access the documents online, you can review hardcopies of the Draft EIR and associated appendices at the following locations. Please note the days the locations are open are provided for convenience; locations may be closed on the indicated days for holidays or other reasons. **We encourage you to call and make an appointment to ensure the location is open and appropriate social distancing can be accommodated during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Redding Library

1100 Parkview Avenue
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 245-7250
Open Monday - Sunday

**Central Valley Regional
Water Quality Control
Board**

364 Knollcrest Drive,
Suite 205
Redding, CA 96002
(530) 224-4845
Open Monday – Friday

Tehama County Library

545 Diamond Avenue
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 527-0604
Open Tuesday – Friday

The Draft EIR and associated appendices are also available at the **State Water Board's office**, which is located at 1001 I Street, 2nd Floor (Room 2-114), **Sacramento**, CA 95814. The document is available at this location Wednesday and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., by appointment only. Please email dwr@waterboards.ca.gov to schedule an appointment.

KEEP INFORMED OF PROPOSED PROJECT MILESTONES

To receive emails related to the Lassen Lodge Hydroelectric Project, 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:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.html

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 Ms. Savannah Downey by phone at (916) 322-1585 to request to receive notices 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 State Water Board staff by email at: WR401Program@waterboards.ca.gov, or Ms. Savannah Downey by phone at (916) 322-1585.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Ore
Environmental Program Manager
Division of Water Rights

Date