

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, California 95814

From:

California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Contact: Gwen Knittweis
Phone: (916) 557-4554

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code

State Clearinghouse Number: 2021030471

Project Title: South SWP Hydropower Relicensing, FERC Project No. 2426

Project Applicant: California Department of Water Resources

Project Location: Along the West Branch of the State Water Project, between the towns of Castaic and Gorman, in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

Project Description: The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (collectively Licensees) operate South SWP Hydropower under an existing Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license that is an existing power recovery project consisting of hydroelectric facilities, access roads, maintenance areas, recreation areas, rights-of-way, and other supporting facilities. The FERC license is scheduled to expire in 2022 and the Licensees used the Integrated Licensing Process in seeking a new license from FERC pursuant to the Federal Power Act and FERC's implementing regulations at 18 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 4 and 5.

The proposed Project is the continued operation of South SWP Hydropower under a new FERC license in accordance with the terms and conditions as proposed by the Licensees in the Final License Application, as amended. Under the proposed Project, the Licensees' proposed changes to the existing South SWP Hydropower include an administrative modification to the existing project boundary, resulting in an overall reduction in land area designated in the license that encompasses all existing facilities and lands necessary for operations of South SWP Hydropower; administrative designation of Primary Project Roads currently maintained by the Licensees that are used exclusively for accessing South SWP Hydropower facilities; administrative addition of an existing lake level gage, Quail Detention Embankment, and Los Alamos Campground into the license and proposed Project boundary; administrative removal of the Southern California Edison-owned Warne Transmission Line from the license Project description; and implementation of potential FERC-required protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures, which are environmental enhancement measures that include such measures as upgrades to existing recreation facilities, vegetation management, protections for plant, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species, cultural resources protection and management, and other environmental measures.

This is to advise that the California Department of Water Resources, as the Lead Agency, has approved the above described Project on 6/24/2021 and has made the following determinations regarding the above describe Project.

1. The Project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this Project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the Project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was adopted for this Project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this Project.
6. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final Mitigated Negative Declaration, with comments and responses and record of Project approval are available to the General Public at:

California Department of Water Resources
2033 Howe Avenue, Suite 220
Sacramento, California 95825

Signature: Jed Craddock Title: Deputy Director

Date: 6/24/2021 Date Received for filing at OPR: _____