

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of Fresno
2221 Kern Street
Fresno, CA 93721

From (Public Agency):
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Attention: Garrett Long
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812

Project Title: Hooper Creek Diversion Debris Removal Project (Project)

Project Applicant: Southern California Edison Company (SCE)

Project Location - Specific: The Hooper Creek Diversion Debris Removal Project (Project) is located at Hooper Creek Dam on Hooper Creek, a tributary to the South Fork of the San Joaquin River, approximately 3 miles north of Florence Lake. The Project area is located approximately 92 miles from the city of Fresno in Fresno County, California. Hooper Creek Diversion is a 3-acre foot impoundment behind Hooper Creek Dam.

Project Location - City: Lakeshore

Project Location – County: Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: SCE owns and operates the Big Creek No. 2A, 8, and Eastwood Hydroelectric Project, which generates 373.32 megawatts from three powerhouses fed by 15 dams on waterbodies, including Hooper Creek Diversion Dam (Dam) on Hooper Creek. The Dam is 30-feet-tall and impounds three acre-feet of water that is diverted to Florence Lake. On May 20, 2022, SCE applied for Nationwide Permit Number 3(a) with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and a water quality certification from the State Water Resource Control Board for the Project. The Project involves the temporary diversion of Hooper Creek around the Dam and subsequent dewatering of the impoundment, followed by excavation of 350 cubic yards of accumulated sediment and debris from behind the Dam. The Project is needed to ensure continued low level valve operation in order to maintain minimum instream flows below the Dam.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: State Water Resources Control Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: SCE

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1, §15301
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt: Temporary dewatering, diversion, and excavation of the impoundment behind the Dam will not have a significant adverse effect due to the low inflows into Hooper Creek expected during the work months (i.e., less than two cubic feet per second, which would be bypassed to the foot of the dam regardless of work), and is categorically exempt from the requirements to prepare environmental documents under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 (Existing Facilities). The Project is being conducted as maintenance of existing facilities used to provide electric power and other public utility services with no expansion of use.

Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board

Contact Person: Garrett Long

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 327-8555

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  Title: Assistant Deputy Director Date: August 17, 2022

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.