

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  
  
County Clerk  
Sonoma County  
585 Fiscal Dr #103F  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

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

**Project Title:** Big Sulphur Creek – III Water Extraction Facility Replacement Project (Project)

**Project Applicant:** Geysers Power Company, LLC (GPC)

**Project Location – Specific:** The Project is located on the north side of Big Sulphur Creek adjacent to Big Sulphur Creek Road, approximately six miles west of Highway 175 and 10 miles northwest of Middletown, CA in Sonoma County.

**Project Location – Nearest City:** Middletown

**Project Location – County:** Sonoma

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** GPC is proposing to replace its surface water intake facility on Big Sulphur Creek in the Geysers Geothermal Steam Field in Sonoma County, California. The current diversion includes a screened intake that hangs from a bridge and is lowered into the channel when diverting water. Two pumps sit on the channel bank that pump the diverted water approximately 100 vertical feet uphill to an injection well. The new diversion system will include a new screen installed on the creek bed, pumping facilities on the creek bank, and piping system designed to reduce impacts to multiple aquatic species and improve the overall safety and operations of the diversion.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sonoma County

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** GPC

**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, Existing Facilities, section 15301; Class 3. new construction or conversion of small structures, section 15303; and Class 4, minor alterations to land, section 15304.
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The Project proposes to replace an existing surface water intake along Big Sulphur Creek in the Geysers Geothermal Steam Field to improve efficiency and protect various aquatic species in Sonoma County, California. The Project also includes minor grading and riprap installation along the banks for stabilization purposes. The State Water Board determined that the Project is categorically exempt from CEQA under Class 1, existing facilities (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 15301), Class 3, new construction or conversion of small structures (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 15303), and Class 4, minor alterations to land (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 15304).

**Responsible Agency:** State Water Resources Control Board

**Contact Person:** Bryan Muro

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (916) 327-8702

**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: Parker Thaler Title: Environmental Program Manager Date: 2/22/23

Signed by Responsible 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.