
State Water Resources Control Board

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
ISABELLA PARTNERS'
LAKE ISABELLA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT LICENSE AMENDMENT**

To: Interested Parties

On February 13, 2023, Isabella Partners filed a request with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for a water quality certification (certification) pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) for the Lake Isabella Hydroelectric Project License Amendment (Proposed Project).

The State Water Board, as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for the Proposed Project, intends to adopt an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Proposed Project. This information is provided to satisfy the formal written notice requirements for public review of a proposed mitigated negative declaration (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15072). Notice is hereby given that the State Water Board is accepting comments on the Proposed Project's IS/MND.

Proposed Project Description:

The Proposed Project involves a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license amendment to the existing Lake Isabella Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 8377) that generates energy from water releases from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Lake Isabella main dam. The Lake Isabella Hydroelectric Project is located on the Kern River below Lake Isabella main dam.

The Proposed Project includes the addition of a fourth generating unit at the Lake Isabella Hydroelectric Project that will generate hydroelectric energy at flows between 100 and 500 cubic feet per second. The fourth generating unit will be a 5-megawatt Francis turbine that will be installed at an existing water distribution pipeline and housed in a reinforced concrete structure. Flow releases associated with USACE's operations of Lake Isabella main dam will not change as a result of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project's location is not on any of the lists enumerated under Government Code section 65962.5¹.

¹ Lists in Government Code section 65962.5 include hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property, and hazardous waste disposal sites.

Comment Submittal and Deadline:

The State Water Board is accepting comments on the IS/MND for the Proposed Project. The comment period is from the date of this notice through Wednesday, May 17, 2023. **Comments must be received by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 17, 2023.** Comments can be submitted as follows:

Email: andrea.sellers@waterboards.ca.gov

or

Mail to:

State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Water Rights
Water Quality Certification Program – Attention: Andrea Sellers
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

The IS/MND is available on the State Water Board's **[Lake Isabella Hydroelectric Project webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/lake-isabella.html)** (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/lake-isabella.html)

If you cannot access the document online, hardcopies of the IS/MND will be available at the locations below:

**Central Valley Regional
Water Quality Control
Board Office**
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706
(559) 445-5910
Open Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Kern River Valley Branch
Library**
7054 Lake Isabella Blvd
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
(760) 549-2083
Open Wednesday – Thursday
11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Open Friday
11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Open Saturday
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**State Water Resources Control
Board/CalEPA Building**
1001 I Street,
2nd Floor Room 2-114
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 341-5300
Open Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
appointment preferred

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact Andrea Sellers by email to: **Andrea.Sellers@waterboards.ca.gov**, or by phone call to: (916) 327-8449.

KEEP INFORMED OF PROPOSED PROJECT MILESTONES

To receive emails related to the Proposed Project and other projects pursuing certifications managed by the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights, interested persons should enroll in the "Water Rights Water Quality Certification" email notification service. Instructions on how to sign up for the State Water Board's email notification service are outlined below:

1. Visit the [Email Subscription Updates webpage](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml#rights) at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml#rights
2. Provide your email in the required field, then click the "Submit" button.
3. In the next page, below Subscription Topics, select "Water Rights", then "Water Rights Water Quality Certification."
4. Click the "Submit" button.
5. An email will be sent to you. You must respond to the email message to confirm your membership on the selected Topic(s).

By enrolling in this email notification service, you will receive notices for other current projects overseen by 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 notification service, you may contact Andrea Sellers at the phone number listed above to request to receive notices for the Proposed Project by mail. You can enroll or un-enroll from the email notification service at any time.

Parker Thaler

Parker Thaler
Water Quality Certification Program Manager
Division of Water Rights

4/14/2023

Date