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## State Water Resources Control Board

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A RECIRCULATED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR TIGER CREEK REGULATOR DAM SPILLWAY REPLACEMENT PROJECT FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 137**

To: Trustee Agencies, Amador County Clerk, and Interested Parties

On November 22, 2023, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) 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 Tiger Creek Regulator Dam Spillway Replacement Project (Proposed Project). The Tiger Creek Regulator Dam (Dam) and Tiger Creek Regulator Reservoir (Reservoir) are a part of PG&E's Mokelumne River Hydroelectric Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 137). The Proposed Project requires a FERC license amendment and Federal Clean Water Act section 404 permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). PG&E is seeking to obtain coverage under USACE's Regional General Permit 2 for reservoir maintenance activities.

The State Water Board, as the California Environmental Quality Act 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 recirculated draft mitigated negative declaration (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15072, 15073.5). Notice is hereby given that the State Water Board is accepting comments on the Proposed Project's recirculated draft IS/MND.

#### *Proposed Project Description*

The Proposed Project is located in Amador County, California. Construction will take place at the Reservoir on Tiger Creek, approximately 24 miles northeast of Jackson. The Proposed Project includes three staging/disposal sites located: approximately 1/4 mile south of the Reservoir; approximately 1 mile southwest of the Reservoir; and along State Route 88 in the community of Pioneer, approximately 8.5 miles west-southwest of the Reservoir.

The Proposed Project includes constructing a new spillway along the Dam's right abutment and abandoning-in-place the old spillway infrastructure along the Dam's left abutment. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to update the Dam to safely pass a flood event of up to 6,000 cubic feet per second. The new spillway includes construction of the following elements: a new spillway intake (crest structure), new notch through the existing Dam, new concrete chute, new flip bucket splitter blocks, and new plunge pool.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Other associated features of the Proposed Project include a permanent access road to the new spillway, a temporary construction access road with four temporary bridges across Tiger Creek, a temporary 240-foot-long cofferdam in the Reservoir to facilitate new spillway construction, a new 450-foot single span log boom and anchor blocks, and new lighting on the Dam.

Recirculation

The State Water Board circulated a draft IS/MND for public and agency comment between January 19, 2024, and February 23, 2024. Comments were received from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California Department of Transportation, and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Comments informed changes to several mitigation measures. Additionally, on May 9, 2024, PG&E revised the Proposed Project description to move the concrete batch plant from the Cedar Mill staging area to the Spur 1 staging area, which required new analyses and changes to several mitigation measures. PG&E's best management practices were also converted into mitigation measures. Accordingly, the State Water Board is recirculating a revised draft IS/MND pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15073.5.

Comment Submittal and Deadline

The State Water Board is accepting comments on the recirculated draft IS/MND for the Proposed Project. The comment period is from the date of this notice through Monday, October 28, 2024. **Comments must be received by 5:00 pm on Monday, October 28, 2024.** Comments can be submitted as follows:

**Email (preferred):** [wr401program@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:wr401program@waterboards.ca.gov)

or

**Mail:**

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

The recirculated draft IS/MND is available on the [State Water Board's Mokelumne River Hydroelectric Project webpage](#)<sup>1</sup>.

If you cannot access the document online, hardcopies of the recirculated draft IS/MND will be available at the locations<sup>2</sup> below:

**Pioneer Branch Library**  
25070 Buckhorn Ridge Road  
Pioneer, CA 95666

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/water\\_quality\\_cert/mokelumne-river-ferc137.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/mokelumne-river-ferc137.html)

<sup>2</sup> The hours of operation are provided as a courtesy and may vary for holidays or other reasons.

(209) 295-7330

Open Thursday and Friday from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**State Water Resources Control Board/CalEPA Building**

1001 I Street,

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Records Room, Room 2-114

**Sacramento, CA 95814**

(916) 341-5300

Open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Appointment preferred. Schedule an appointment by emailing:

[dwr@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dwr@waterboards.ca.gov)

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact Eric Bradbury by email to: [wr401program@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:wr401program@waterboards.ca.gov) or by phone call to: (916) 327-9401.

**STAY INFORMED**

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 [State Water Board's Email Subscriptions 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](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, go to "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 Eric Bradbury at the phone number listed above to request notices for the Proposed Project by mail. You can enroll or unenroll from the email notification service at any time.

*Parker Thaler*

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Parker Thaler  
Water Quality Certification Program Manager  
Division of Water Rights

September 27, 2024

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Date