

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR A NOTICE OF INTENT TO RELY ON FERC
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT WITH MANDATORY
CONDITIONS, IN COMBINATION WITH A SUPPLEMENTAL ANALYSIS, TO
SATISFY CEQA FOR THE RELICENSING OF THE DON PEDRO
HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AND AN ORIGINAL LICENSE FOR THE LA
GRANGE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**

SCH# TBD

September 16, 2024

The Turlock Irrigation District (TID) and Modesto Irrigation District (MID; collectively referred to as “the Districts”) own and operate the Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project (Don Pedro Project) and TID operates and maintains hydropower facilities at the Districts’ La Grange Diversion Dam (La Grange Project), which are located on the Tuolumne River in Tuolumne and Stanislaus counties, California.

The Districts operate and maintain the Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project pursuant to a license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC; FERC Project No. 2299-082) under the Federal Power Act; the La Grange Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 14581-002) is not currently licensed by FERC.

The Districts are local government agencies and subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). TID is the Districts’ representative to act as CEQA Lead Agency; both Districts will determine if they will accept the new FERC licenses when proposed, and if so, would be required to carry out and implement the terms and conditions in the new licenses.

TID announces the availability of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to rely on the FERC Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) with Mandatory Conditions, in combination with a Supplemental Analysis, to satisfy CEQA.

PUBLIC REVIEW & COMMENT PERIOD:

September 16, 2024 to 5:00 PM, October 16, 2024

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Districts filed an application with the FERC for a new license to continue to operate and maintain the 206-megawatt (MW) Don Pedro Project. Separately, the Districts filed an application for an original license to continue to operate and maintain the 4.7-MW La Grange Project. The new licenses will protect and enhance the water supply, flood control, recreation, environmental, and hydropower benefits of the projects. The Districts requested licenses with 50-year terms for both projects. Acceptance and implementation of the new FERC license with continued operation and maintenance of the Don Pedro Project, and acceptance and implementation of a new license with continued operation and maintenance of the La Grange Project, are collectively referred to as the “proposed Project.”

Under the FERC Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions, as described in the FEIS, no new

generation-related project facilities would be added to the projects. The Districts would continue operating and maintaining the existing recreation facilities associated with the Don Pedro Project with certain enhancements, as described in the Recreation Resource Management Plan, filed as appendix E-7 of the Don Pedro Project Amended Final License Application (AFLA). The existing FERC Project boundaries would be slightly modified.

For Don Pedro Project operations, the FERC Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions would substantially increase and add both flow and non-flow measures to enhance aquatic and recreational resources. Related to water supply purposes, the Districts propose to operate the Don Pedro Project consistent with existing operations.

For La Grange Project operations, other than the minimum flow release of 5 to 10 cfs to the plunge pool downstream of the La Grange Diversion Dam, the FERC Staff Alternative with Mandatory Conditions does not propose substantive changes to operations.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The CEQA Supplemental Analysis will assess potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project on the physical, social, and natural environments. A wide variety of resource areas will be studied during the environmental review to identify such impacts, including, but not limited to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology, greenhouse gas emissions, hazardous materials, hydrology, water quality, mineral resources, recreation, and wildfire. Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate any potential adverse impacts will be identified and evaluated in the CEQA Supplemental Analysis. An Initial Study format and the CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G Environmental Checklist will be used to assess the potential for impacts to environmental factors.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS

This Notice of Availability (NOA), consistent with CEQA guidelines, starts a 30-calendar day review period of the NOI. Any responsible and trustee agencies, involved federal agencies, interest groups, and members of the public are invited to provide input on the NOI and TID's intent to prepare a CEQA Supplemental Analysis. All input received will be documented and considered in the development of the Supplemental Analysis, anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2025.

THE TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT NOTICE OF INTENT TO RELY ON FERC FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT WITH MANDATORY CONDITIONS, IN COMBINATION WITH A SUPPLEMENTAL ANALYSIS, TO SATISFY CEQA FOR THE RELICENSING OF THE DON PEDRO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AND AN ORIGINAL LICENSE FOR THE LA GRANGE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT is available for public review at <https://tid.org/> and <https://mid.org/>, as well as on the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse Unit website, via CEQAnet (<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/>). Given this is not an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process, no public meetings will be held at release of NOI or upon release of draft Supplemental Analysis documentation, as public meetings and agency outreach was completed as part of FERC's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

TID will be accepting written comments and suggestions concerning the proposed Project until 5:00pm on October 16, 2024.

Comments may be submitted via the following communication methods:

- E-mail to micooke@tid.org
- Postal Mail Direct to:
Michael Cooke
Director of Water Resources and Regulatory Affairs
Turlock Irrigation District
PO Box 949, Tuolumne, CA 95381