

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION  
OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS FOR THE**

**Yuba River Development Project FERC Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2246)  
and the  
Narrows Hydroelectric Project FERC Relicensing (FERC Project No. 1403)**

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**OVERVIEW**

The Yuba County Water Agency (Yuba Water) owns and operates the Yuba River Development Project (YRDP) and the Narrows Hydroelectric Project (Narrows Project), which are hydroelectric projects that independently operate pursuant to licenses issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under the Federal Power Act (FPA). Yuba Water is seeking renewal of its FERC licenses to continue operation and maintenance of both projects and has applied for new licenses with a 50-year term. Yuba Water is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for consideration of acceptance of the FERC license renewals for both projects (“Relicensings”) (CEQA Guidelines section 15051). Acceptance and implementation of the new FERC licenses and continued operation and maintenance of the YRDP and Narrows Project pursuant to the new FERC licenses, respectively, are collectively referred to in this Notice of Preparation (NOP) as the “Relicensings” or the “Proposed Project”. This notice informs responsible and trustee agencies and other interested parties about Yuba Water’s CEQA compliance approach for the Relicensings and its intention to prepare a joint environmental impact report (EIR) and hold related scoping meetings for the Relicensings (CEQA Guidelines section 15165).

**PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE OF PREPARATION**

In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines, Yuba Water has prepared an NOP to inform agencies and interested parties that an EIR will be prepared for the above-referenced Relicensings. The purpose of an NOP is to provide sufficient information about the proposed project and its potential environmental impacts to allow agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other interested parties the opportunity to provide a meaningful response regarding the scope and content of the EIR (CEQA Guidelines section 15082).

Yuba Water previously issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to rely on the 2019 FERC and USACE Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), in combination with a Supplemental Analysis, to satisfy CEQA for the YRDP Relicensing (State Clearinghouse Number 2022110118) and held CEQA public scoping meetings during the NOI public comment period. FERC subsequently informed Yuba Water that it identified additional information required for the YRDP that was needed to support FERC’s preparation of a supplemental EIS (SEIS). To date, FERC has not issued a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental compliance document for the Narrows Project or public noticing related to the preparation of a supplement to the 2019 FEIS for the YRDP. As a result, Yuba Water no longer intends to rely on the FEIS and a Supplemental Analysis for CEQA compliance for the YRDP Relicensing.

Because FERC is preparing a supplement to the 2019 FEIS for the YRDP and has not yet issued a NEPA environmental compliance document for the Narrows Project, Yuba Water has elected to prepare a new, standalone EIR for both the YRDP and the Narrows Project to comply with CEQA.

The Draft EIR will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed renewal of Yuba Water's FERC licenses for both the YRDP and the Narrows Project, respectively.

## **SCOPING AND PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD**

This NOP is being circulated for agency and public review and comment for a period of 32 days from **November 1, 2024, through December 2, 2024**. To supplement the extensive scoping that has occurred during the FERC relicensing process, Yuba Water will hold two CEQA public scoping meetings during the NOP public comment period to inform interested parties about the project and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide comments on the scope and content of the Draft EIR. The meeting times and locations are as follows:

**November 13, 2024**  
**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Yuba Water**  
**1220 F Street, Marysville, CA 95901**

**November 14, 2024**  
**5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Goldminers Inn**  
**121 Bank Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945**

The public scoping meetings will have an open house format and will allow agencies and individuals an opportunity to submit written comments to Yuba Water officials, which will be included in the administrative record. There will be no formal agenda nor formal presentation; alternatively, posterboards presenting proposed project features will be available for public review. Yuba Water and their consultants will be available during the open house to discuss the physical footprint and features, proposed operations, and the CEQA process for the Proposed Project. Participants of the open house will be requested to document comments or questions on the Proposed Project and submit during the scoping meeting, or via mail or email by the end of the public scoping period to the addresses noted below.

*If you plan on attending one of these meetings and need a translator or for additional accessibility preferences, please contact John James at [jjames@yubawater.org](mailto:jjames@yubawater.org).*

## **DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY**

Copies of the full NOP may be reviewed during normal business hours at Yuba Water, 1220 F Street, Marysville, CA 95901-4740; or online at:

<https://www.yubawater.org/217/Yuba-River-Development-Project-Relicensi>

<https://www.yubawater.org/357/Narrows-Relicensing>

## **PROVIDING COMMENTS**

Written and/or email comments on the NOP should be provided at the earliest possible date but must be received by **no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 2, 2024**. To be considered, all comments on the NOP must be written and received by Yuba Water's designated contact person for the YRDP and the Narrows Project Relicensings, at the mailing or e-mail address listed below.

John James  
Yuba County Water Agency  
1220 F Street  
Marysville, CA 95901-4740  
[jjames@yubawater.org](mailto:jjames@yubawater.org)

Comments provided by email should include the name and mailing address of the commenter in the body of the email. If the commenter is a California state or local government agency that will need to consider the EIR when deciding whether to issue permits or other approvals for the project, comments should address: (1) whether the agency will be a Responsible Agency or a Trustee Agency, as those terms are used in CEQA, for the Proposed Project; and (2) if the agency is a Responsible Agency, the significant environmental issues and reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures which the Responsible Agency will need to have explored in the EIR.