

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: County Clerk
County of Calaveras
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

Office of Planning & Research
P. O. Box 3044 – Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

FROM: Northern California Power Agency
477 Bret Harte Drive
Murphys, CA 95247

PROJECT TITLE: North Fork Stanislaus River Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 2409, Upper Utica Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 11563, and the Transmission Line FERC Project No. 11197.

PROJECT LOCATION - SPECIFIC: Along the North Fork of the Stanislaus River and its tributaries in Alpine, Tuolumne, and Calaveras Counties and transmission lines in Calaveras, San Joaquin, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus Counties.

PROJECT LOCATION – CITY: Spread out as noted above

COUNTY: Alpine, Calaveras, Tuolumne, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus.

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT: Operation and maintenance of hydroelectric projects, including minor modification of existing equipment and negligible expansion of facilities and energy generation capacity. NCPA proposes to implement the following activities for the remainder of the current FERC licenses (No. 2409, No. 11563, and No. 11197) and for any renewal terms thereof. Maps identifying the location and activities are located at NCPA's Hydroelectric office, 477 Bret Harte Drive, Murphys, CA.

1. Maintain turbine generating units, auxiliary systems, dams, water retention and conveyance structures, and electrical transmission systems through routine cleaning, repairing, and replacing of defective equipment. Class 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 11, 31; 23 CCR 504(a)(7)
2. Trenching in existing project areas. Class 1, 2, 3, 4, 11.
3. Repairs/replacements of power and communication equipment, structures, and lines in conduit that may or may not be in a trench including but not limited to power poles, towers, conductors. Class 1, 2, 3, 4, 11.
4. Clean out drainage ditches and drain inlets by removing debris including brush, logs, leaves, and sediments using hand held equipment such as shovels, supported by light equipment such as a back-hoe. This needs to be done frequently in the winter following storms. Class 1, 4.

5. Maintenance and replacement of drainage culverts. Class 1, 2, 4, 11.
6. Repair drainage damage on slopes and roads caused from storms and use. This can occur frequently in the winter. Class 1, 2, 4, 11.
7. Stripe the existing roads and repair potholes. Snow plow the roads. Maintenance grading of power line easements and roads to maintain access and clearance. Class 1, 2, 4, 11.
8. Weed mitigation and brush clearing using weed-wacker, spraying, and hand clearing of shrubs on existing right-of-ways. This usually occurs in the spring. Class 1, 4.
9. Tree and brush removal from existing facilities, camp sites, power line easements, existing fire breaks, dams, spillways, powerhouses, tailraces and other public areas using weed whackers, hand tools, and equipment. Class 1, 4.
10. Clean, repair, and replace pipelines and related equipment. Class 1, 2, 4, 9.
11. Debris removal and maintenance sluicing from reservoirs. Class 1, 4.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT:

Northern California Power Agency
651 Commerce Dr.
Roseville, CA 95678

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT:

Northern California Power Agency
477 Bret Harte Drive
Murphys, CA 95247

EXEMPT STATUS: The above lists correlates the particular activity to the classes of categorical exemptions that apply to each activity; they are Categorical Exemptions Title 14 CCR Sections 15301(a), (b), (c), (d), (g), (h) (i), (m); 15302(c); 15303(d), (e); 15304(a), (c), (f), (g), (i); 15309; and 15311.

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Work will be done to an existing, publicly owned Hydro facilities on the North Fork Stanislaus River to operate and maintain electric power generation, transmission and associated facilities. The project will not have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment as a result of “unusual circumstances” or any of the exceptions listed in Title 14 CCR Section 15300.2.

ACTIVITIES AND CLASS OF EXEMPTION:

1. Maintain turbine generating units, water pipelines, and electrical transmission systems is categorically exempt under Class 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 11. This activity consists of (Class 1) the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use; (Class 2), replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; (Class 3) installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; (Class 4) minor alterations in the condition of the land; (Class 9) inspections, to check for performance of an operation; (Class 11)

construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to existing facilities; (Class 31) maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historic resources; 23 CCR 504(a)(7) Dams subject to the jurisdiction of the Department's Division of Safety of Dams.

2. Digging trenches. Class 1, 2, 3, 4, 11. This activity consists of (Class 1) the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use; (Class 2), replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; (Class 3) installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; (Class 4) minor alterations in the condition of the land; (Class 11) construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to existing facilities.
3. Repair power and communication lines. Class 1, 2, 3, 4, 11. This activity consists of (Class 1) the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use; (Class 2), replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; (Class 3) installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; (Class 4) minor alterations in the condition of the land; (Class 11) construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to existing facilities.
4. Clean out drainage ditches and drain inlets. Class 1, 2, 4. This activity consists of (Class 1) the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use; (Class 2), replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; (Class 4) minor alterations in the condition of the land.
5. Maintenance and replacement of drainage culverts. Class 1, 2, 4, 11. This activity consists of (Class 1) the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use; (Class 2), replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; (Class 4) minor alterations in the condition of the land; (Class 11) construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to existing facilities.
6. Repair drainage damage on slopes and roads. Class 1, 2, 4, 11. This activity consists of (Class 1) the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use; (Class 2), replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; (Class 4) minor alterations in the condition of the land; and (Class 11) construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to existing facilities.

7. Snow plow the roads and repair existing roads and easements. Class 1, 2, 4, 11. This activity consists of (Class 1) the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use; (Class 2), replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; (Class 4) minor alterations in the condition of the land; and (Class 11) construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to existing facilities.
8. Weed mitigation and brush clearing Class 1, 4. This activity consists of (Class 1) the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use; (Class 4) minor alterations in the condition of the land.
9. Tree removal for public safety Class 1, 4. This activity consists of (Class 1) the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use; (Class 4) minor alterations in the condition of the land.
10. Clean, repair, or replace pipelines and related equipment. Class 1, 2, 4, 9. This activity consists of (Class 1) the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use; (Class 2) replacement or reconstruction of existing structures or facilities; (Class 4) minor alterations in the condition of the land; (Class 9) inspections, to check for performance of an operation.
11. Removal of debris and accumulated sediment from reservoir. Class 1, 4. This activity consists of (Class 1) the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use. The activity qualifies as a Class 1 Exemption as the dams and sluiceways are existing facilities and sluicing involves no expansion of use. Debris removal and sluicing activity is restoration of a previous condition and necessary for safe operation. The activities qualify as a Class 4 Exemption as maintenance sluicing is a minor alteration to land and water.

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Jake Eymann
 TELEPHONE NUMBER: 209-728-1387

Signature: _____

Date: 11/7/2024 _____

Jake Eymann

Title Manager Hydro Facilities, NCPA

Signed by Lead Agency