
State Water Resources Control Board

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR REMOVAL AND DECOMMISSIONING OF THE KANAKA POWERHOUSE FOR THE KANAKA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT LICENSE SURRENDER (FERC NO. 7242)

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

On July 15, 2024, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Executive Director received a water quality certification (certification) application from STS Hydropower, LLC for the Removal and Decommissioning of the Kanaka Powerhouse for the Kanaka Hydroelectric Project License Surrender (Proposed Project; also known as Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 7242) pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341). Implementation of the Proposed Project will require FERC authorization and water quality certification from the State Water Board.

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 draft 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 draft IS/MND.

Proposed Project Description

The Proposed Project is located in Butte County, California. The Proposed Project involves the surrender of the Kanaka Hydroelectric Project's FERC license and decommissioning and abandonment-in-place of Kanaka Hydroelectric Project facilities. Construction will take place along Sucker Run Creek, approximately 3.1 miles north of the Census Designated Place of Forbestown on privately owned lands.

The Proposed Project includes: (1) removal of the Kanaka Powerhouse and substation structures along with site regrading; (2) capping and abandoning-in-place the Kanaka Hydroelectric Project's penstock; (3) installing a sand and gravel plug in the wet well; (4) filling and grading the tailrace with native material and then abandoning-in-place the tailrace; (5) repairing any failed culvert systems within the FERC boundary to reduce sediment transport associated with Kanaka Hydroelectric Project roads; and (6) abandoning-in-place the diversion dam. Once decommissioned, the diversion dam gates will be left open will become the responsibility of the private landowner, and natural stream flows (average flow is approximately 10 cubic feet per second) will top the diversion dam.

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

Comment Submittal and Deadline

The State Water Board is accepting comments on the circulation of the draft IS/MND for the Proposed Project. The comment period is from the date of this notice through Monday June 2, 2025. **Comments must be received by 5:00 pm on Monday, June 2, 2025.** Comments can be submitted as follows:

Email (preferred): Glenn.Hoffmann@waterboards.ca.gov

Mail:

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

The draft IS/MND is available on the State Water Board's [Kanaka Hydroelectric Project webpage](#)¹.

If you cannot access the document online, hardcopies of the draft IS/MND will be available at the locations² below:

Butte County Library, Oroville Branch

1820 Mitchell Ave
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 552-5652

Open Wednesday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
and

Thursday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

State Water Resources Control Board/CalEPA Building

1001 I Street,
2nd 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

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

364 Knollcrest Drive, #205
Redding, CA 96002
(530) 224-4857

Open Monday to Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Appointment preferred. Schedule an appointment by emailing:

¹ https://waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/kanaka.html

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

info5@waterboards.ca.gov

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact Glenn Hoffmann by email to: Glenn.Hoffmann@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone call to: (916) 319-9943.

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.
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 Glenn Hoffmann 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

Parker Thaler
Water Quality Certification Program Manager
Division of Water Rights

May 1, 2025

Date