

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of Fresno
2221 Kern Street
Fresno, CA 93721

From (Public Agency):
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Attention: Garrett Long
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812

Project Title: Jeff L. Taylor – Pine Flat Hydroelectric Project License Amendment

Project Applicant: Kings River Conservation District (KRCD)

Project Location – Specific: The Jeff L. Taylor – Pine Flat Hydroelectric Project is located 200 feet downstream of United States Army Corp of Engineers’ Pine Flat Dam on the Kings River, approximately three miles north of Florence Lake. The Jeff L. Taylor – Pine Flat Hydroelectric Project area is located approximately 92 miles east of the city of Fresno in Fresno County, California.

Project Location – City: Lakeshore

Project Location – County: Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: KRCD owns and operates the Jeff L. Taylor – Pine Flat Hydroelectric Project, which generates 373.32 megawatts of energy from three powerhouse turbines fed by water released from Pine Flat Dam on the Kings River. KRCD seeks to construct a new low-flow powerhouse on an existing bypass pipe that will increase the nameplate generation capacity of the Jeff L. Taylor – Pine Flat Hydroelectric Project by 3.8 percent from flows that are currently too low for the existing generators. The new powerhouse will not increase the diversion capacity or hydraulic capacity of the existing Jeff L. Taylor – Pine Flat Hydroelectric Project. On December 21, 2021, KRCD applied for an amendment of its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license and an associated water quality certification from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for the proposed work. KRCD filed a Notice of Exemption as lead agency on May 18, 2022. This Notice of Exemption is for the State Water Board’s approval, as a responsible agency, of the water quality certification for the license amendment.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: State Water Resources Control Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: KRCD

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Small Structure Construction, §15303
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project construction is categorically exempt from the requirements to prepare environmental documents under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15303 (New Construction of Small Structures). Construction will only consist of a small powerhouse outbuilding and installation of a small generator in a previously graded and paved area with no in-water work. None of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions apply.

Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board

Contact Person: Garrett Long

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 327-8555

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  Title: Assistant Deputy Director Date: December 19, 2022

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.