



February 6, 2026

**Electronically Submitted Via E-Mail**  
**[Eric.Oppenheimer@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Eric.Oppenheimer@Waterboards.ca.gov)**

Mr. Eric Oppenheimer, Executive Director  
CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
Division of Water Rights  
1001 I Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Subject: Merced River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2179-020  
Merced Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2467-043  
Withdrawal of Applications for Clean Water Act § 401 Water Quality  
Certification**

Dear Mr. Oppenheimer:

This letter formally withdraws Merced Irrigation District's (Merced ID) May 15, 2025, requests to the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for water quality certifications (WQC) under Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, or simply the Clean Water Act (CWA). Merced ID submitted the WQC applications to the State Water Board in support of Merced ID's relicensings of its Merced River Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project Number 2179 (subdocket number P-2179-043), and Merced Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project Number 2467 (subdocket number P-2467-020).

The withdrawals are necessitated by the need for additional time for Merced ID to complete preparation and adoption of a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) so that the State Water Board has ample time to review the Final EIR prior to the statutory mandated WQC action date.

If you have any questions regarding this request for WQC, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Kelly".

Bryan Kelly  
Deputy General Manager, Water Resources

*Mr. Eric Oppenheimer, Executive Director*

*February 6, 2026*

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cc: Bryan Muro – State Water Board  
Parker Thaler – State Water Board  
Oscar Biondi – State Water Board