



State Water Resources Control Board

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR DRAFT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON'S KAWEAH PROJECT FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 298

To: Interested Parties Mailing List

Pursuant to section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has released a draft water quality certification (certification) for the Kaweah Project (Project), which is located on the Kaweah River and East Fork Kaweah River in Tulare County, California. The State Water Board is providing this opportunity for public review and comment on the draft certification.

Project Background

On December 23, 2019, Southern California Edison Company (SCE) applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to renew its license for continued operation and maintenance of the Project. On April 15, 2020, FERC issued a *Notice Of Application Accepted For Filing, Soliciting Motions To Intervene And Protests, Ready For Environmental Analysis, And Soliciting Comments, Recommendations, Preliminary Terms And Conditions, And Preliminary Fishway Prescriptions* for the Project (REA). Following FERC's REA, on June 5, 2020, SCE applied to the State Water Board for a Project certification.

Project Description

The Project consists of three developments (Kaweah No. 1, Kaweah No. 2, and Kaweah No. 3) which include two diversion dams, three flowlines, and three powerhouses. The Project has a total storage capacity of 11.93 acre-feet (ac-ft) with a dependable generating capacity of 8.85 megawatts (MW). Water diverted at SCE diversion structures (Kaweah No. 1 Diversion Dam, Kaweah No. 2 Diversion Dam, and Middle Fork Diversion Dam (non-Project facility)) is transported through connecting flowlines and penstocks to each powerhouse (Kaweah No. 1 Powerhouse, Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse, and Kaweah No. 3 Powerhouse) for non-consumptive hydroelectric energy generation and water deliveries to local users. Water diverted for hydroelectric energy generation is returned to the Kaweah River through each powerhouse tailrace.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Water Quality Certification

In California, the State Water Board is responsible for protecting the State's water quality, including through issuance of certification. Certification must ensure compliance with water quality standards and other appropriate requirements of state law, such as water quality control plan standards. A certification is required before FERC can issue a project license. If the State denies certification, FERC cannot issue the license. If the State issues a certification with conditions, those conditions become conditions of the federal license.

Opportunity for Public Comment

This draft certification does not constitute a final action by the State Water Board. The State Water Board is releasing this draft certification to provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on draft conditions developed to protect water quality and beneficial uses.

The comment period for the draft certification is from the date of this notice until May 17, 2021. **Comments on the draft certification must be received by 5:00 pm on May 17, 2021**, and can be submitted electronically or by mail as follows:

Email: WR401Program@waterboards.ca.gov

or

Mail:

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights – Water Quality Certification Program
Attn. Chase Hildeburn
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

The **draft certification and additional information** regarding the State Water Board's process are available on the [Project webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/kaweah_ferc298.html), which is located online at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/kaweah_ferc298.html

KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES

To receive emails related to the Projects, interested persons should enroll in the “Water Rights Water Quality Certification” e-mail notification service. Instructions on how to sign up for the [State Water Board’s Email Subscription List](#) are outlined below:

1. Visit:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml
2. Provide your name and email in the required fields.
3. In the categories below the email and name fields, select “Water Rights,” then “Water Rights Water Quality Certification.”
4. Click the "Subscribe" button.
5. An email will be sent to you. You must respond to the email message to confirm your membership on the selected list(s).

By enrolling in this email list, you will receive notices for Division of Water Rights’ Water Quality Certification Program pertaining to the Projects’ certification process. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the email subscription list, you may contact Mr. Chase Hildeburn by phone at (916) 323-0358 to request to receive notices by mail. You can enroll or un-enroll from the email subscription service at any time.

During the current Coronavirus emergency, most State Water Board staff are working from home. Accordingly, if you have questions concerning this notice, the best means of contact is by email. If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact State Water Board staff by email at: WR401Program@waterboards.ca.gov.

Ann Marie Ore  Digitally signed by Ann Marie Ore
Date: 2021.04.26 08:32:59 -07'00'

Ann Marie Ore
Water Quality Certification Program Manager
Division of Water Rights

April 26, 2021

Date

Enclosures: (1) Water Quality Certification for the Kaweah Project

cc (with enclosures):

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cc (without enclosures): Interested Parties List