



State Water Resources Control Board



Linda S. Adams

Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Division of Water Rights

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION Pursuant to Section 21108 Public Resources Code

To: Office of Planning & Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

PROJECT TITLE: Lower Bucks Lake Dam Outlet Valve Retrofit Project

APPLICANT: Pacific Gas and Electric Company
c/o Melissa Brosnan
77 Beale Street, Mail Code: N10A
San Francisco, CA 94177

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), proposes to retrofit the outlet valve on Lower Bucks Lake Dam to facilitate compliance with streamflow release increases required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order issued January 11, 2006, amending the Bucks Creek Project license (FERC No. 619). The project is located on lands within the Plumas National Forest, where PG&E owns and operates the hydroelectric project under special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service.

Project retrofit work will include modifications to the outlet valve at Lower Bucks Lake Dam to increase capacity, allowing for flow release equal to or greater than 8 cubic feet per second (cfs) as seasonally required. Work consists of closing an upstream gate on the low level outlet to allow replacement of the existing downstream valve with a pressure reducing valve and hood assembly. Additionally, the existing in-line flow meter will be replaced, requiring new conduits for power and signal wiring and access improvements are proposed in the immediate area of the dam face. Streamflow releases will be maintained throughout the work phase, and the affected area will be restored after completion of construction activities.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The purpose of the project is to enlarge the facility outlet valve and upgrade metering devices and access to the outlet valve area of the dam.

WATER SOURCES: Bucks Creek (within the SW ¼ of section 29, T24N, R 7E MDBM) in Plumas County, and Milk Ranch Creek (POD within the NW ¼ of section 5, T24N, R7E, MDBM) transferred through the Milk Ranch Conduit in Plumas County.

California Environmental Protection Agency

EXEMPT STATUS: Categorical Exemption for repair, maintenance and restoration of existing facilities, in accordance with title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15301(b) and (d). CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

1. This project will not cause significant adverse impacts on any sensitive environment and will not result in significant cumulative impacts.
2. There are no state or federal threatened or endangered species known within a two-mile radius from the project site. As a precaution, construction activity will be delayed until after all fledging has been completed at the occupied Bald Eagle nest approximately two and one-half miles from the site.
3. The project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.
4. There are no known hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed.
5. No long-term impacts to water quality or beneficial uses will result from this project.
6. There are no known cultural resource sites at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed.
7. It appears that there is no possibility that this project may have a significant effect on the environment.

Contact Person: Sharon Stohrer Environmental Scientist Division of Water Rights	Telephone: (916) 341-5397 e-mail: sstohrer@waterboards.ca.gov
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APPROVAL OF THE ABOVE IS RECOMMENDED BY:

Sharon Stohrer 6-6-07
 Sharon Stohrer Date
 Environmental Scientist

[Signature] 6-6-07
 Les Grober, Chief Date
 Hearings and Special Projects Section

APPROVED:

for James W. Kassel 6/7/07
 Victoria A. Whitney, Chief Date
 Division of Water Rights