

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk
County of: Shasta
1643 Market Street
Redding, CA. 96001-1022

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

Project Title: Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2687: 401 Water Quality Certification, Condition 13: Request for Temporary Cessation of Flushing Flow in 2012 (Project)

Project Applicant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Project Location - Specific: The Pit 1 Hydroelectric Project (Pit 1 Project) is located on the Pit and Fall Rivers near the communities of Fall River Mills and McArthur in the northeastern portion of Shasta County, California. The Pit 1 Forebay Dam from which the flushing flows are released, is located on the Pit River immediately upstream of the Fall River Pond.

Project Location - City: Fall River Mills

Project Location - County: Shasta

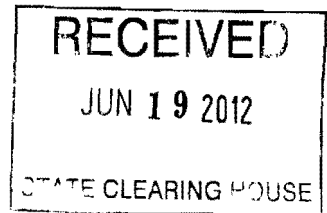
Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) operates the Pit 1 Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) No. 2687, for which FERC issued a new operating license on March 19, 2003. The FERC license for the Pit 1 Project includes the State Water Resources Control Board's 401 water quality certification that requires PG&E to release flushing flows from the Pit 1 Forebay Dam to control nuisance aquatic vegetation and mosquito production in Fall River Pond. This Project is for the temporary suspension of flushing flows required under Condition 13 of the Pit 1 Project's water quality certification in order to protect the Shasta crayfish, which was listed as endangered under both the California and Federal Endangered Species Acts in 1988. The Pit 1 Project impounds water to feed the Pit 1 powerhouse, which operates as a peaking plant to help PG&E meet daily load swings. The Pit 1 forebay is a 222-acre impoundment immediately above the 0.7 mile long Fall River Pond.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

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: Class 7, §15307
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____



Reasons why project is exempt: The temporary suspension of flushing flows for one additional year will not have a significant adverse effect and is categorically exempt from the requirements to prepare environmental documents under California Code of Regulations section 15307 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources). The continued suspension of flushing flows is being implemented to protect the endangered Shasta crayfish.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Peter Barnes

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 445-9989

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: *[Handwritten Signature]* Date: 6/18/12 Title: Deputy Director

- 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.