

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. 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: Philip Meyer
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812

Project Title: Temporary Flow Variance for Pacific Gas & Electric Company’s Pit 3, 4, and 5 Hydroelectric Project

Project Applicant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)

Project Location - Specific: The Pit 3, 4, and 5 Hydroelectric Project (Project) includes three hydroelectric developments located on the Pit River. The Pit 3 dam is located approximately 10 miles north of the city of Burney. The Pit 5 diversion dam is located approximately three miles south east of the city of Big Bend.

Project Location - City: Not Applicable **Project Location – County:** Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: PG&E is proposing to temporarily lower the minimum instream flows below the Pit 3 dam and Pit 5 diversion dam to 75 cubic feet per second (cfs) in order to perform dive inspections of its Pit 3 dam and Pit 5 diversion dam facilities. Flows will be reduced from 280 cfs at the Pit 3 dam and 350 cfs at the Pit 5 diversion dam. Dive inspections are required as a result of flood events that occurred from February 3-21, 2017, in accordance with the Pit 3 Dam Safety Surveillance Monitoring Program and the Pit 5 standard operating procedures.

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 1, §15301
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt: The Class 1 exemption applies because the Project involves minor operational alterations to an existing facility with no construction or expansion of use. Temporary reduction of instream flows at the Pit 3 dam and Pit 5 diversion dam will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. The lower instream flows are required so divers can safely enter the water to inspect the dams. There is no reasonable possibility that the Project will have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

Lead Agency State Water Resources Control Board

Contact Person: Philip Meyer **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (916) 341-5369

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: ORIGINAL SIGNED BY EILEEN SOBECK **Date:** AUG 5 2019 **Title:** Executive Director

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant