

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

[X] Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113 Sacramento, CA 95814

[] County Clerk
County of:
Address:

From:

Public Agency: SWRCB Division of Water Rights
Address: 1001 I Street, 14th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Nathan Fisch
Phone: (916) 322-6796

Lead Agency (if different from above):

Address:

Contact:

Phone:

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2017092021

Project Title: Poe Hydroelectric Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2107)

Project Applicant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Project Location (include county): North Fork Feather River, Butte County

Project Description:
Please see Attachment A for the project description.

This is to advise that the State Water Resources Control Board has approved the above (X) Lead Agency or () Responsible Agency

described project on 12/28/2017 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project. (date)

- 1. The project [] will [X] will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. [] An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. [X] A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [X] were [] were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [X] was [] was not adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [] was [X] was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings [] were [X] were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, 1001 I Street, 14th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Signature (Public Agency): [Signature] Title: Deputy Director

Date: 12/28/2017 Date Received for filing at OPR: Governor's Office of Planning & Research

DEC 28 2017

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Attachment A
Project Description for Notice of Determination
Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Poe Hydroelectric Project
(Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2107)

Project Description:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) owns and operates the Poe Hydroelectric Project, which encompasses approximately 313 acres in the vicinity of the community of Pulga. Project land is owned by various parties including: 157 acres of PG&E-owned land; approximately 144 acres of National Forest System land; and approximately 12 acres of privately-owned land. The Poe Hydroelectric Project primarily consists of Poe Dam, Poe Reservoir, and Poe Powerhouse. North Fork Feather River flows are diverted at Poe Dam into the 19-foot diameter Poe Bypass Tunnel, which is approximately 6.25 miles long. The Poe Bypass Tunnel terminates at an underground steel penstock that is approximately 1,000-feet long and 14-feet in diameter. Water from the penstock discharges into the North Fork Feather River at the Poe Powerhouse.

When issuing a certification, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The State Water Board is the CEQA lead agency and is required to evaluate PG&E's Proposed Project and its effects before taking action on PG&E's request for water quality certification. Under the Proposed Project, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) boundary would expand to 340 acres and, in addition to the above-referenced facilities, include Big Bend Dam, Big Bend Reservoir, and many existing informal recreational facilities.

For purposes of the CEQA analysis, the Mitigated Negative Declaration evaluates PG&E's Proposed Project in accordance with PG&E's application to FERC, conditions proposed by the National Marine Fisheries Service and United States Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to section 18 of the Federal Power Act, conditions proposed by the United States Forest Service pursuant to section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act, FERC's Staff Alternative, and water quality certification conditions. The Proposed Project includes measures for the protection and enhancement of environmental resources, including: increased minimum instream flows in the North Fork Feather River, measures to improve aquatic habitat and protect sensitive species, and measures to maintain and enhance recreational opportunities.