Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

NOTICE OF INTENT

TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Title: Lower Blue Lake Dam Seepage Mitigation and Weir Replacement Project

Project Location: The proposed project is located at Lower Blue Lake, which is approximately 9.7 miles southwest of Markleeville and 6.7 miles southeast of Carson Pass in Alpine County. Township 9 North, Range 19 East, Section 30 (latitude 38.6089, longitude -119.9259).

Project Description: The Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) is proposing to construct the Lower Blue Lake Dam Seepage Mitigation and Weir Replacement Project at Lower Blue Lake reservoir in Alpine County. In summer 2018, PG&E observed evidence of adverse seepage conditions developing on the downstream embankment face of the Lower Blue Lake Dam. One purpose of the proposed project is to reduce the risk of instability and internal erosion/piping associated with seepage through the installation of a filter, seepage collection system, and rock fill buttress along the downstream earthen embankment portion of the dam. As part of the project, PG&E would also raise the dam crest by approximately 2 feet to increase the available freeboard above the maximum water surface elevation, replace the existing reservoir staff gauge, and install a public safety railing along the steeper rock wall portion of the dam. The Lower Blue Lake Dam is operated by PG&E as part of the Mokelumne River FERC No. 137 Project, which is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. An instream flow release (IFR) weir built of concrete that has degraded over time is located downstream of the Lower Blue Lake Dam. The gauging station at the IFR weir has remote telemetry that alerts PG&E in the event of a sudden flow increase or decrease. In order to maintain calibration of the weir, the degraded concrete would be replaced as part of the proposed project. The project area consists of the dam crest, the downstream face and toe of the embankment section of the dam, upper and lower laydown areas, an equipment and construction staging area, a temporary material and equipment offload area, access road, IFR weir, temporary IFR weir cofferdam and flow bypass, access path to the IFR weir, and an IFR weir staging area.

The public review period for the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration based on Initial Study IS 20-46 will begin on March 2, 2023, and end on April 11, 2023. You are encouraged to submit written comments regarding the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. You may do so by submitting written comments to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board prior to the end of the review period. The proposed Negative Declaration and Initial Study is available for review at: https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2023030107. Copies of the environmental documents and all reference documents associated with the project are also available for review through the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, telephone (916) 464-4710. Written comments may be submitted to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, 11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 or via email at sara.gevorgyan@waterboards.ca.gov.