

State Water Resources Control Board

Notice of Determination

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
Contact: Chase McCormick
Email: Chase.McCormick@Waterboards.ca.gov
Phone: 916-323-9390

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Address:
Contact:
Email:
Phone:

Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code

State Clearinghouse Number: 2023050702

Project Title: Kerckhoff Hydroelectric Project Relicensing

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

Project Location (include county): Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes, seconds): 37°07'41"N, 119°31'31"W. On the San Joaquin River, on the border of Fresno and Madera counties. Nearest City is Auberry CA.

Project Description: The Kerckhoff Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project (FERC) No. 96 (Project) is owned and operated by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). The Project is located in Fresno and Madera Counties on the San Joaquin River with an installed capacity of 162.72 megawatts (MW). The Kerckhoff Hydroelectric Project is comprised of Kerckhoff Dam, Kerckhoff Reservoir, Kerckhoff 1 Powerhouse and associated facilities, Kerckhoff 2 Powerhouse and associated facilities, the Smalley Cove Recreation Area, helicopter landing zones, roads, and gages. In

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

addition to continued operations, the Project evaluated in the EIR includes :

- 1) retirement of the Kerckhoff 1 Powerhouse and modifying associated facilities;
- 2) construction of a new day use area; 3) Project boundary updates; and
- 4) implementation of new environmental management plans and measures. The EIR analyzed two alternatives examining alternative flow management measures along with the no project alternative.

The Project is undergoing relicensing before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The existing FERC license for the Project expired on November 30, 2022. Since then, the Project has operated under annual licenses issued by FERC. The EIR evaluates potential impacts associated with the Project's relicensing. This is to advise that the State Water Resources Control Board, as Lead Agency, has approved the above-described project on 07/15/2026 and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project.

1. The Project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures **were** made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan **was** adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations **was** adopted for this project.
6. Findings **were** made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final Environmental Impact Report with comments and responses and record of project approval, is available to the General Public at: 1001 I Street, 2nd Floor, Room 2-114, Sacramento, CA 95814 and https://waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/.

Parker Thaler

Parker Thaler, Environmental Program Manager

7/16/26

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.

Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

