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August 14, 2025

Via Electronic Submittal (E-File)

CEQAnet
State Clearinghouse
Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
state.clearinghouse@lci.ca.gov

Subject: **Yuba River Development Project and the Narrows Hydroelectric Project FERC Relicensings SCH# 2024101277**

Dear State Clearinghouse:

On August 1, 2025, Yuba Water Agency (YWA) uploaded the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to CEQAnet for the Yuba River Development Project and the Narrows Hydroelectric Project FERC Relicensings (SCH# 2024101277), with the anticipated review period beginning on that date. The upload was not ultimately approved until August 7, 2025, and as a result, the state review period was updated to begin on August 7 instead of on August 1. This updated Notice of Availability (NOA) was circulated to extend the public review and comment period as well as to align it with the state review period, which is now from August 7, 2025 to September 22, 2025.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me.

Sincerely,

John James
Director of Resource Planning

Attachment A – Updated Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

DATE: August 7, 2025

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report

PROJECT: Yuba River Development Project (YRDP) and Narrows Project Relicensing

REVIEW PERIOD: August 7, 2025 to September 22, 2025

This Notice of Availability has been prepared to notify responsible and trustee agencies, interested organizations, and interested parties that the Yuba County Water Agency (Yuba Water), as the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed YRDP and Narrows Project Relicensing projects (Proposed Projects) that is available for review and comment. The Draft EIR was prepared to comply with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines to provide agencies and the public with information on the potential significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Projects, recommended feasible mitigation measures to reduce or avoid those significant environmental impacts, and the analysis of alternatives to the Proposed Projects.

PROJECT LOCATION AND OVERVIEW: The YRDP is located in Yuba, Sierra and Nevada Counties, on the main stems of the Yuba River, the North Yuba River and the Middle Yuba River, and on Oregon Creek, a tributary to the Middle Yuba River (**Figure 1**). YRDP facilities include New Bullards Bar Dam, which impounds waters of the North Yuba River to form New Bullards Bar Reservoir. The YRDP also includes the Our House Diversion Dam on the Middle Yuba River, the Log Cabin Diversion Dam on Oregon Creek, the New Colgate Powerhouse downstream of New Bullards Bar Dam, and the Narrows 2 Powerhouse near Englebright Dam. YRDP manages several recreational facilities at New Bullards Bar Reservoir, including campgrounds and boat launches.

The Narrows Project is located near Englebright Dam in unincorporated Nevada County (**Figure 2**). This project consists of the Narrows 1 Powerhouse, formerly owned and operated by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) but now owned and operated by Yuba Water, and ancillary facilities. Englebright Dam is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is not part of either the YRDP or the Narrows Project. The operations of the Narrows 1 Powerhouse are coordinated with those of the Narrows 2 Powerhouse.

Yuba Water has applied for relicensing of both the YRDP and the Narrows Project to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for hydropower production, in which both

projects have historically been and are currently engaged. The licenses for both projects would each run for a 50-year term. Both licenses would allow for the continued operations and maintenance of the existing YRDP and Narrows Project facilities.

As part of the new license, the YRDP proposes to construct a new Tailwater Depression System at the New Colgate Powerhouse, install outlet pipes at the Our House and Log Cabin Diversion Dams, and replace an existing gate at the Lohman Ridge Diversion Tunnel connecting the two diversion dams. The YRDP also proposes to improve existing recreation facilities at New Bullards Bar Reservoir, plus add two new campground areas, a picnic site, and a trail. Changes are proposed for the existing FERC Project Boundary for the YRDP that would reduce the area within the boundary by 1,591.8 acres. The FERC recommended several modifications to Yuba Water's proposed changes to license conditions related to YRDP operations pertaining to drought management, aquatic and terrestrial resources, and cultural resources, which Yuba Water has accepted. Also accepted by Yuba Water are several license conditions proposed by the U.S. Forest Service, in accordance with Federal Power Act (FPA) Section 4(e), for protection and utilization of National Forest lands and resources such as special-status species, vegetation management, visual resources, and historic properties.

For the Narrows Project relicensing, Yuba Water proposes to include, with some updates, four conditions in the new license that would replace existing articles addressing supplemental flows, ramping rates, fish stocking, and consultation with Native American tribes. Yuba Water also proposes three new conditions regarding water surface elevation in Englebright Reservoir, nesting peregrine falcon protection, and bat management. Yuba Water does not propose any changes to the existing Narrows Project works or facilities, and no new facilities are proposed. Yuba Water does not propose any changes to the existing FERC Project Boundary for the Narrows Project. No FERC-recommended modifications or additional measures to Yuba Water's proposal have been identified, and no FPA Section 4(e) conditions have been recommended by other agencies.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The Draft EIR evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Projects. For most environmental issues, potential impacts were analyzed against existing environmental conditions. However, for some impacts associated with stream flows, potential impacts were analyzed against a Future Baseline that considers future stream flows resulting from the relicensing of other projects in the Yuba River watershed upstream of the Proposed Projects.

Significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Projects have been identified for fisheries resources, non-fisheries biological resources, visual resources, cultural resources, air quality, wildfire, transportation, noise, land use and planning, and utilities

and service systems. For most of these significant impacts, mitigation measures are recommended that would reduce these impacts to a level that is less than significant. However, some impacts related to air quality, transportation, and land use and planning are considered significant and unavoidable. The Proposed Projects are not on sites that are included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

DOCUMENT AVAILBILITY: The Notice of Availability and Draft EIR may be downloaded from the Yuba Water website: https://www.yubawater.org. Copies of the EIR are available for review at the following County offices:

- Yuba County, 915 8th Street, Marysville, CA 95901, 530-749-7851
- Nevada County, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA 95959, 530-265-1221
- Sierra County, 100 Courthouse Square, Downieville, CA 95936, 530-289-3295

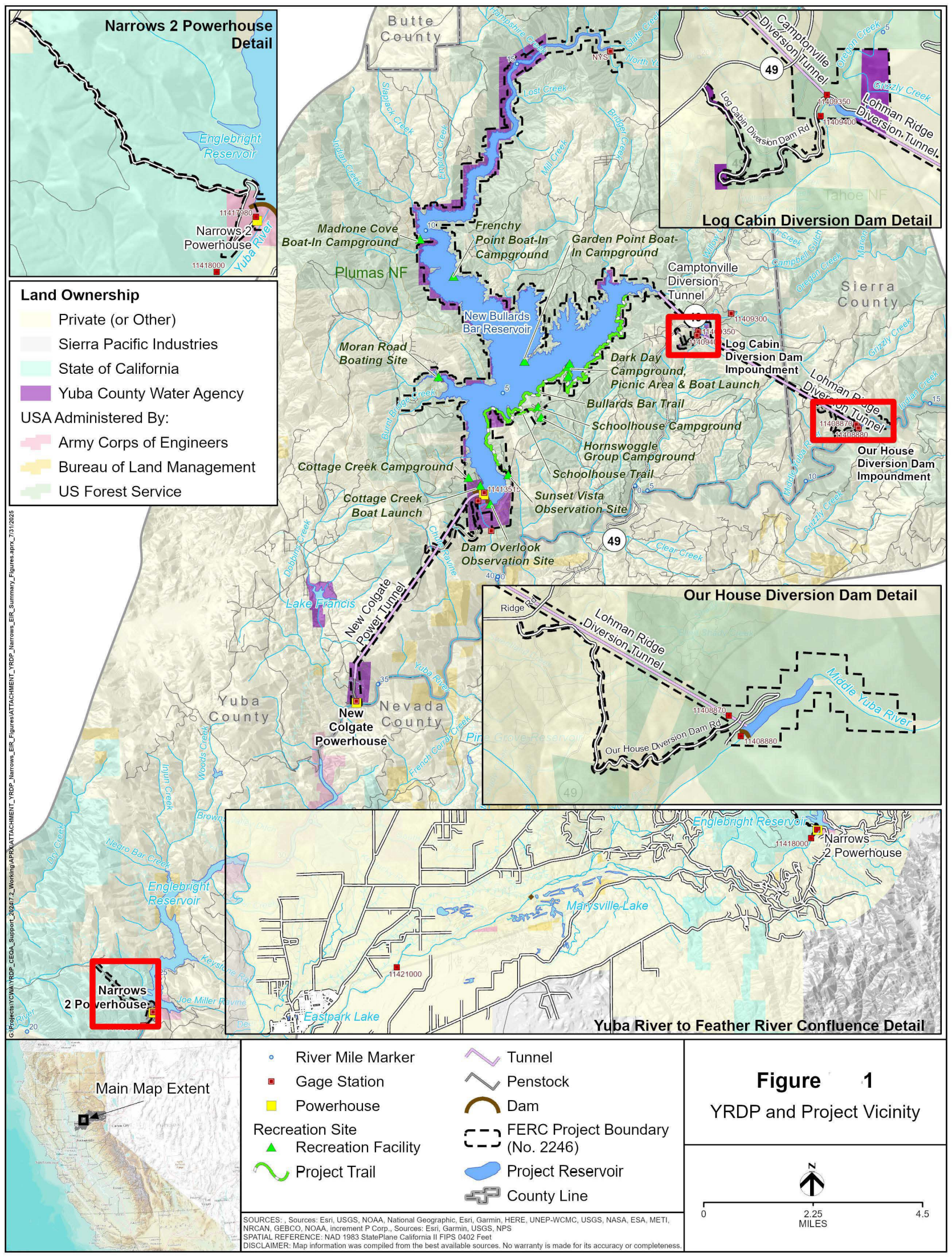
Copies of the Draft EIR are also available for public review at the following locations:

- Yuba County Library, 915 8th Street Suite 113, Marysville, CA, 95901
- Grass Valley Library, 207 Mill Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945
- Yuba Water office, 1220 F Street, Marysville, CA 95901

Members of the public who seek to review a copy at these locations should call in advance to determine if they are open.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS: Yuba Water is soliciting comments from the public regarding the content of the environmental information provided in the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR is now available for a 45-day public review and comment period from **August 7, 2025** to **September 22, 2025**. Written comments on the Draft EIR must be received by the YCWA at the address provided below, **NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M.** on **September 22, 2025**, when the public counter closes. Comments should be addressed to:

John James, Director of Resource Planning
Yuba County Water Agency
1220 F Street
Marysville, CA 95901
Email: jjames@yubawater.org


Narrows 2 Powerhouse Detail
Englebright Reservoir
11417980
Narrows 2 Powerhouse
11418000
Yuba River
Land Ownership
Private (or Other)
Sierra Pacific Industries
State of California
Yuba County Water Agency
USA Administered By:
Army Corps of Engineers
Bureau of Land Management
US Forest Service
Butte County
Plumas NF
Sierra County
Yuba County
Nevada County
Tahoe NF
Log Cabin Diversion Dam Detail
Camptonville Diversion Tunnel
Lohman Ridge Diversion Tunnel
Log Cabin Diversion Dam Rd
11409350
11409400
Grizzly Creek
Oregon Creek
Madrone Cove Boat-In Campground
Frenchy Point Boat-In Campground
Garden Point Boat-In Campground
Camptonville Diversion Tunnel
New Bullards Bar Reservoir
Moran Road Boating Site
Dark Day Campground, Picnic Area & Boat Launch
Log Cabin Diversion Dam Impoundment
Bullards Bar Trail
Schoolhouse Campground
Hornswoggle Group Campground
Schoolhouse Trail
Our House Diversion Dam Impoundment
Cottage Creek Campground
Cottage Creek Boat Launch
Sunset Vista Observation Site
Dam Overlook Observation Site
Lake Francis
New Colgate Power Tunnel
New Colgate Powerhouse
Our House Diversion Dam Detail
Ridge Rd
Lohman Ridge Diversion Tunnel
Middle Yuba River
11408870
Our House Diversion Dam Rd
11408880
Englebright Reservoir
Narrows 2 Powerhouse
11418000
Marysville Lake
11421000
Eastpark Lake
Yuba River to Feather River Confluence Detail
Main Map Extent
River Mile Marker
Gage Station
Powerhouse
Recreation Site
Recreation Facility
Project Trail
Tunnel
Penstock
Dam
FERC Project Boundary (No. 2246)
Project Reservoir
County Line
Figure 1
YRDP and Project Vicinity
N
0
2.25
4.5
MILES
SOURCES: , Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA, National Geographic, Esri, Garmin, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, increment P Corp., Sources: Esri, Garmin, USGS, NPS
SPATIAL REFERENCE: NAD 1983 StatePlane California II FIPS 0402 Feet
DISCLAIMER: Map information was compiled from the best available sources. No warranty is made for its accuracy or completeness.
G:\Projects\YCWA\YRDP_CEQA_Support_2024\7.2_Working\APRX\ATTACHMENT_YRDP_Narrows_EIR_Figures\ATTACHMENT_YRDP_Narrows_EIR_Summary_Figures.aprx_7/31/2025





Distribution Line
Transmission Line
Telecom Line
FERC Boundary (No.1403)
County Line

P-2246 = YCWA's Yuba River Development Project
P-2678 = PG&E's Narrows No. 1 and Narrows No. 2 Transmission Line Project

SOURCES: , National Geographic, Esri, Garmin, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, increment P Corp , Maxar, Esri, HERE, Garmin, NGA, USGS, NPS
SPATIAL REFERENCE: NAD 1983 StatePlane California II FIPS 0402 Feet
DISCLAIMER: Map information was compiled from the best available sources. No warranty is made for its accuracy or completeness.

Figure 2

Narrows Projects and Project Vicinity

N

0 350 700
FEET