

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
Submitted via California State Clearinghouse CEQAnet

From: State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
Contact: Jessica Dyke
Email: jessica.dyke@waterboards.ca.gov
Phone: (916) 341-5448

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2025110961

Project Title: Balch Hydroelectric Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 175

Project Applicant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Project Location (include county): Fresno County, North Fork Kings River,
36° 54' 32.9" N / 119° 5' 15.7" W

Project Description: The Proposed Project covered by this Notice of Determination involves the FERC relicensing of the 131.52-megawatt Balch Hydroelectric Project (Project). PG&E has applied for a new FERC license for the Proposed Project, under which it proposes to: (1) continue to operate the Project; (2) replace and rehabilitate existing recreation facilities; (3) designate approximately 14 miles of existing roads and approximately 2.5 miles of existing trails as Project roads and trails; (4) decommission the defunct Black Rock Creek and Weir Creek feeder facilities; (5) modify the FERC Project boundary to more accurately define lands and waters necessary for Project operation and maintenance activities under a new FERC Project license; and (6) implement new protection, mitigation, and enhancement plans and measures.

The Project includes Black Rock Reservoir, Balch Diversion Dam, Balch Afterbay, Balch Afterbay Dam, two powerhouses (Balch No. 1 and Balch No. 2), approximately 28 miles

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

of transmission and distribution lines, and three developed recreation sites around Black Rock Reservoir. It is primarily operated as a peaking facility to meet power demand and for irrigation purposes. Project operation is coordinated with the Haas-Kings River Hydroelectric Project because releases from Lake Wishon largely control inflow to Black Rock Reservoir, which is the water source for the Project.

This is to advise that the State Water Resources Control Board, as Lead Agency, has approved the above-described project on July 1, 2026, and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project.

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

This is to certify that the final Mitigated Negative Declaration is available to the General Public at: 1001 I Street, 2nd Floor, Room 2-114, Sacramento, CA 95814. The Mitigated Negative Declaration is also available on the [Board's Project webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/balch.html) at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/balch.html.



Erin Ragazzi
Assistant Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights

July 2, 2026

*Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.*