State Water Resources Control Board

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

SCH #:

Project Title: Helms Uprate Project

Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board

Contact Name: Jessica Dyke

Email: jessica.dyke@waterboards.ca.gov

Phone Number: (916) 341-5448

Project Location (City, County): Wishon Reservoir, Fresno County, 37° 0’ 45” N / -118° 58’ 28” W

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences):

The Proposed Project, located in Fresno County, California, is associated with a pending non-capacity license amendment for PG&E’s Helms Pumped Storage Project (FERC Project No. 2735) that transfers water to and from Courtright Lake and Wishon Reservoir for power generation. Courtright Lake (upper reservoir) is impounded by Courtright Dam on Helms Creek and Wishon Reservoir (lower reservoir) is impounded by Wishon Dam on the North Fork Kings River.

The Proposed Project would replace the three existing pump-turbine generator units in Helms Powerhouse with more efficient, higher-capacity units that would result in an increase of the Helms Pumped Storage Project’s normal operating capacity by 180,000 kilowatts (a 14.9 percent increase) and maximum hydraulic capacity by about 1,550 cubic feet per second (a 14.8 percent increase). The Proposed Project would include the use and improvement of existing staging areas, construction of a warehouse with utilities, limited tree removal, grading, utility extensions, equipment transport, and related construction support activities within existing PG&E property. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2029 and last for approximately three years.

Identify the project’s significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect:

All impacts identified in the CEQA analysis were less than significant or no impact; therefore, no mitigation measures are proposed and a draft IS/ND was prepared.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public:

There are no known areas of controversy.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project:

Trustee agencies: Air Resources Board, Caltrans District #6, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Region #4, Native American Heritage Commission, Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Parks and Recreation, Regional Water Quality Control Board #5 Fresno, State Lands Commission, Department of Water Resources, University of California Natural Reserve System