State Water Resources Control Board

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

SCH #:

Project Title: Helms Uprate Project

Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board
Contact Person: Jessica Dyke
Phone: (916) 341-5448
Mailing Address (include city, zip, and county): 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Location

County: Fresno
City/Nearest Community: Wishon Village RV Park
Cross Streets: Powerhouse Road and Hall Meadow Lane
Zip Code: 93664
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes, seconds): 37° 0’ 45” N / -118° 58’ 28” W
Total Acres:
Assessor’s Parcel No.: 133-080-04U, 133-080-07T, 133-080-20U, 143-030-12T, 133-180-02U
Section/Township/Range/Base: Section 34 and 36, Township 10, Range 27
Within 2 miles:

- State Hwy #:
- Waterway(s): Wishon Reservoir
- Airport(s):
- Railway(s):
- School(s):

Document Type:

CEQA: Neg Dec
NEPA: N/A
Other: N/A

Local Action Type: Other: Clean Water Act 401 water quality certification

Development Type: Power; Type: Hydroelectric; MW: 1,392

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

x	Aesthetic/Visual		Agricultural Land	x	Air Quality	x	Archeological/ Historical
x	Biological Resources		Coastal Zone		Drainage Absorption		Economic/Jobs
	Fiscal	x	Flood Plain/ Flooding	x	Forest Land/ Fire Hazard	x	Geologic/Seismic
x	Greenhouse Gases		Minerals	x	Noise		Population/ Housing Balance
x	Public Services/ Facilities	x	Recreation/ Parks		Schools/ Universities		Septic Systems
	Sewer Capacity	x	Soil Erosion/ Compaction/ Grading	x	Solid Waste	x	Toxic/Hazardous
x	Traffic/Circulation	x	Vegetation	x	Water Quality	x	Water Supply/ Groundwater
x	Wetland/Riparian		Growth Inducement		Land Use		Cumulative Effects
x	Other: Cultural Resources, Energy, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems						

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation: R-C (Resource and Conservation)

Project Description:

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 (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 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 in the Helms Pumped Storage Project's normal operating capacity of 180,000 kilowatts (a 14.9 percent increase) and a maximum hydraulic capacity increase of about1,550 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.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist:

x	Air Resources Board	x	Office of Historic Preservation
	Boating & Waterways, Department of		Office of Public School Construction
	California Emergency Management Agency	x	Parks & Recreation, Department of
	California Highway Patrol		Pesticide Regulation, Department of
x	Caltrans District #6		Public Utilities Commission
	Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	x	Regional WQCB #5, Fresno
	Caltrans Planning		Resources Agency
	Central Valley Flood Protection Board		Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
	Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy		S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
	Coastal Commission		San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
	Colorado River Board		San Joaquin River Conservancy
	Conservation, Department of		Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
	Corrections, Department of	x	State Lands Commission
	Delta Protection Commission		SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
	Education, Department of		SWRCB: Water Quality
	Energy Commission		SWRCB: Water Rights
x	Fish & Game Region #4		Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
	Food & Agriculture, Department of		Toxic Substances Control, Department of
	Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	x	Water Resources, Department of
	General Services, Department of	x	Other: University of California Natural Reserve System
	Health Services, Department of		
	Housing & Community Development		
x	Native American Heritage Commission		

Local Public Review Period: Starting Date: November 6, 2026; Ending Date: December 7, 2026

Lead Agency Complete if Applicable:

Consulting Firm: Stillwater Sciences
Address (include city/state/zip): 622 20th Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95811
Contact: Katherine Ayres
Phone: (916) 964-9173

Applicant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Address (include city/state/zip): 300 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA 94612
Contact: Alex Tessier
Phone: (628) 444-0610

Jessica Dyke

Jessica Dyke
Environmental Scientist

November 4, 2026

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.