

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #2005082122

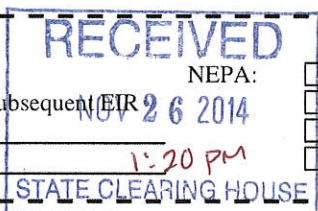
Project Title: Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project

Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board Contact Person: Peter Barnes
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2000 Phone: 916-445-9989
 City: Sacramento Zip: 95814 County: USA

Project Location: County: Plumas City/Nearest Community: Chester
 Cross Streets: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____ " N / _____ " W Total Acres: ~30,000
 Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____
 Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 89 Waterways: Lake Almanor, Butt Valley Res., N. Fork Feather River
 Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR NEPA: NOI Other: Joint Document
 Early Cons Supplement/Subsequent EIR EA Final Document
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) Draft EIS Other: _____
 Mit Neg Dec Other: _____



Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other: 401 WQC

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Educational: _____
 Recreational: _____
 Water Facilities: Type Hydroelectric MGD _____
 Transportation: Type _____
 Mining: Mineral _____
 Power: Type _____ MW _____
 Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

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

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

See separate attached page.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB #5 _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region #2 _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date November 26, 2014 Ending Date March 26, 2015

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

| | |
|--|--|
| Consulting Firm: <u>North State Resources, Inc</u> | Applicant: <u>Pacific Gas and Electric Company</u> |
| Address: <u>5000 Bechelli Lane, Suite 203</u> | Address: <u>Mail Code N11C P.O. Box 770000</u> |
| City/State/Zip: <u>Redding, CA 96002</u> | City/State/Zip: <u>San Francisco, CA 94177</u> |
| Contact: <u>Paul Uncapher</u> | Phone: <u>530-335-5653</u> |
| Phone: <u>530-222-5347</u> | |

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 11/26/2014

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

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
UPPER NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT NO. 2105**

Project Description

The Upper North Fork Feather River Hydroelectric Project (UNFFR Project) involves the issuance of a water quality certification (certification) as part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) existing UNFFR Project located on the North Fork Feather River in Plumas County, California. The purpose of the certification is to ensure the UNFFR Project complies with the water quality standards of the North Fork Feather River and its tributaries, as identified in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins* (Basin Plan). The water quality standards are comprised of the beneficial uses and water quality objectives identified in the Basin Plan, as well as state and federal anti-degradation requirements.

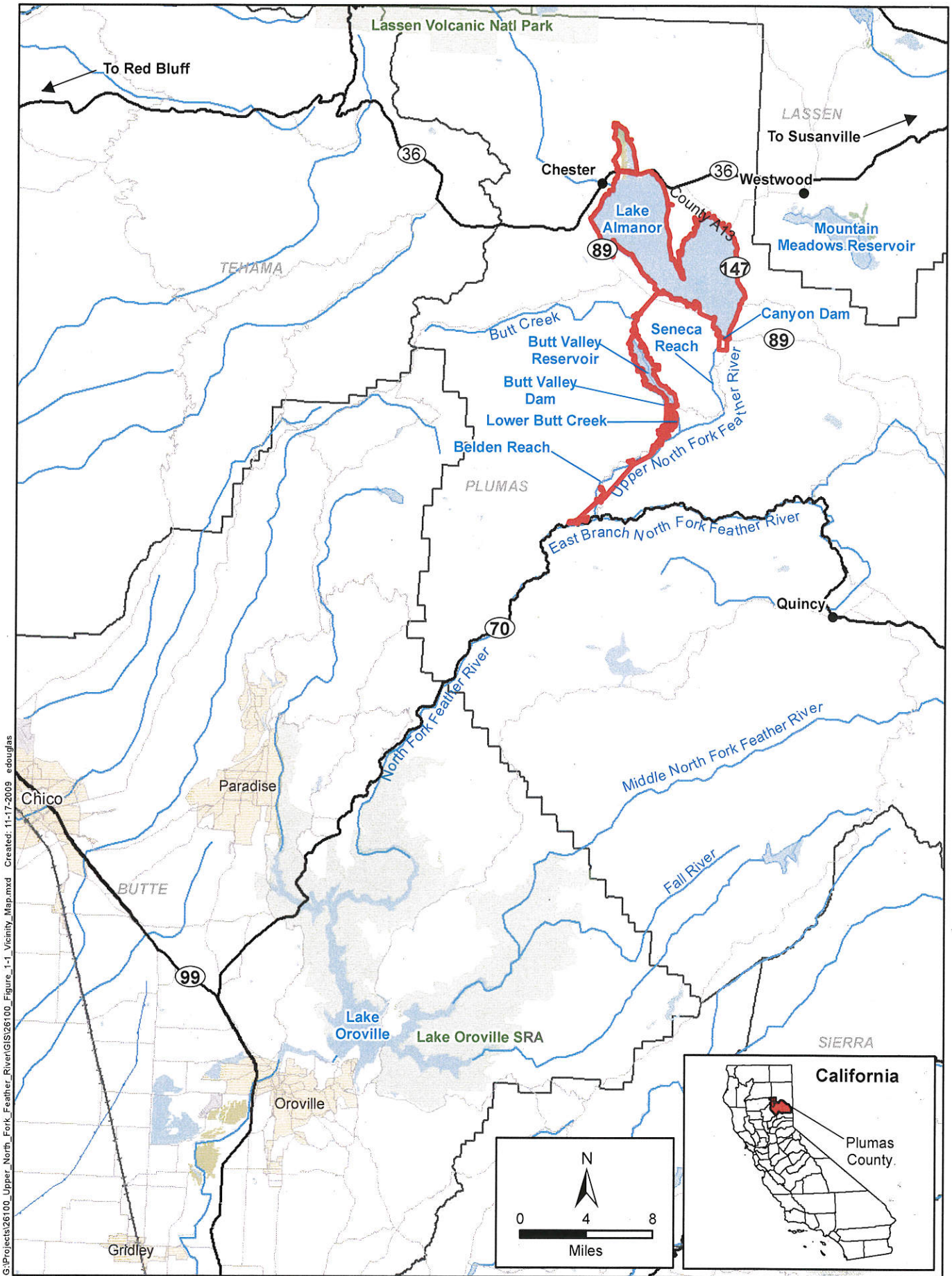
On October 23, 2002, PG&E filed an application for a new license for the UNFFR Project, also known as FERC Project No. 2105. The UNFFR Project encompasses more than 30,000 acres including three reservoirs, part of the North Fork Feather River and part of Butt Creek. The three reservoirs are: Lake Almanor (created by Canyon dam on the North Fork Feather River); Butt Valley reservoir (created by Butt Valley dam on Butt Creek); and Belden forebay (created by Belden dam on the North Fork Feather River downstream of its confluence with Butt Creek). The North Fork Feather River within the UNFFR Project boundary consists of two reaches: 1) the Seneca reach; and 2) the Belden reach. The Seneca reach extends from Canyon dam to Belden forebay, and the Belden reach extends from Belden dam downstream to the tailrace of Belden powerhouse.

When issuing a certification, the State Water Board Resources Control Board (State Water Board) must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The State Water Board is the CEQA lead agency and is required to evaluate PG&E's Proposed UNFFR Project and its effects before taking action on PG&E's request for certification.

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) evaluates PG&E's Proposed UNFFR Project as well as two alternatives. For purposes of the CEQA analysis, the Proposed UNFFR Project consists of operation of the Proposed UNFFR Project under a new FERC license in accordance with PG&E's application to FERC, a partial settlement agreement¹ between PG&E and numerous stakeholders, conditions proposed by the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to section 18 of the Federal Power Act, conditions proposed by the United States Forest Service pursuant to section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act, and FERC's Staff Alternative as outlined in Chapter 3 of the EIR². Alternatives 1 and 2 are described in detail in Chapter 4 of the EIR. Generally, both Alternatives 1 and 2 involve construction of thermal curtains at the Prattville and Caribou intakes and the activities outlined in the Proposed UNFFR Project, with relatively minor modifications to the minimum flow releases from Canyon Dam to the Seneca and Belden reaches of the North Fork Feather River. Alternative 1 also includes an increase in releases from the low level outlet at Canyon dam of up to 250 cubic feet per second from June 15 to September 15 to improve temperatures in the North Fork Feather River.

¹ Project 2105 Relicensing Settlement Agreement. Available online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/docs/unffr_ferc2105/unffr_relicensing_settlement.pdf (Last visited April 16, 2014).

² Among other things, the Proposed UNFFR Project consists of higher minimum instream flows which vary depending upon water year type, recreational enhancement measures, and fishery management measures.



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**Figure 1-1
Vicinity Map**