

February 1, 2024

Filed via Electronic Submittal (e-File)

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

SUBJECT: Jeff L. Taylor-Pine Flat Power Plant
FERC Project No. 2741
Notification of Intent to File an Application for a New License (NOI) and
Request for Designation as Non-Federal Representative for Informal
Consultation under Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the
National Historic Preservation Act

Dear Secretary Reese:

Pursuant to Section (§) 16.6 of Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), the Kings River Conservation District (KRCD) gives notice to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) of KRCD's intent to file an application for a new license for the Jeff L. Taylor-Pine Flat Power Plant, FERC Project Number (No.) 2741 (Project), on or before August 31, 2027. KRCD is the existing licensee and current owner and operator of the Project.

In addition, as provided for in 18 C.F.R § 5.5(e), this letter requests that FERC authorize KRCD as FERC's non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Simultaneously with the filing of this Notice of Intent (NOI), under separate cover KRCD e-Filed with FERC a Pre-Application Document (PAD) in conformance with 18 C.F.R. § 5.6 and a letter requesting FERC's authorization for KRCD to use the Traditional Licensing Process to relicense the Project.

KRCD'S NAME AND ADDRESS

KRCD's physical address (same as mail address) and telephone number are:

Kings River Conservation District
4886 E. Jensen Ave.
Fresno, California 93725
Tel: (559)237-5567

KRCD's designated agent is David Merritt. For questions or comments about the Project, please contact Charlotte Gallock, Project Manager, by telephone at (559) 237-5567, extension 105, or by e-mail at PowerplantFERC@krcd.org.

PROJECT NUMBER

The FERC Project Number for the Jeff L. Taylor-Pine Flat Power Plant is 2741.

LICENSE EXPIRATION DATE

FERC issued the original Project license to KRCD on September 25, 1979, stating that the license would be effective the first day of the month of license issuance for a 50-year period, expiring on August 31, 2029.

UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT OF INTENT TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR A NEW LICENSE

KRCD's intent is to file with the FERC an application for new license for the Jeff L. Taylor-Pine Flat Power Plant by August 31, 2027, two years prior to the expiration of the existing FERC license.

TYPE OF PRINCIPAL PROJECT WORKS LICENSED

The existing Project consists of one development - Pine Flat¹ - that, in total, includes: (a) three penstock extensions that extend from the three United States (U.S.) Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) 13.5-foot diameter penstocks in USACE's Pine Flat Dam to the Jeff L. Taylor Powerhouse; (b) the outdoor Jeff L. Taylor Powerhouse at the toe of the dam, containing three Francis turbines and associated generating units, each with a rated capacity of 55 megawatts (MW); (c) three generator leads and a step-up transformer bank at the Jeff L. Taylor Powerhouse, consisting of three 70 megavolt amperes (MVA) single-phase units; (d) the outdoor Unit 4 Powerhouse containing one Francis turbine and associated generating unit with a capacity of 6.3 MW; (e) one generator lead and a step-up transformer at the Unit 4 Powerhouse consisting of one 6.6 MVA, three-phase unit; (f) appurtenant facilities; and (g) one recreation facility. The Project does not include any open water conduits, borrow or spoil areas, or transmission or distribution power lines. Project power is transmitted from the Project's switchyard to the grid via the California Department of Water Resources Pine Flat Transmission Line Project, FERC Project No. 2876.

The Project is an energy recovery (run-of-river) facility that generates electricity as water is released from the USACE's Pine Flat Dam. Releases are conducted by USACE during mandatory flood control operations and as requested by the Kings River Water Association through the Kings River Water Master for irrigation demand and other uses including fisheries management – KRCD does not have the authority to schedule or make releases from Pine Flat Lake for the purpose of power generation. Neither the Pine Flat

¹ While the Project includes two powerhouses, the powerhouses are adjoining, use the same source of water for power generation (i.e., USACE's Pine Flat Lake) and discharge at the same location in the Kings River. For these reasons, KRCD treats the two powerhouses as one development in this Notice of Intent.

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Dam nor Pine Flat Lake is a licensed Project work as they are owned and operated by the USACE.

The 11.87-acre FERC Project boundary includes 4.94 acres of U.S. lands administered by the USACE, 4.55 acres of State of California lands submerged by the Kings River, and 2.38 acres of Fresno County lands. KRCD is the existing licensee and current owner and operator of the Project.

APPLICATION FOR POWER LICENSE

KRCD is applying for a new power license.

LOCATION OF THE PROJECT

The location of the Project is:

State:	California
Township or nearby town:	Community of Piedra, California
County:	Fresno
Stream or other body of water:	Kings River

INSTALLED PLANT CAPACITY

The Project has two powerhouses with four units. The total FERC-authorized installed capacity for the two powerhouses is 171.3 MW.

INSTALLED PLANT CAPACITY

The Project's installed plant capacity is 171.3 MW.

LOCATION WHERE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 16.7 IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

This NOI as well as other information required under 18 C.F.R. § 16.7 including the PAD is available to businesses, non-governmental organizations, and members of the public for inspection, review, and reproduction, at a reasonable cost of reproduction and postage during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday) at KRCD's place of business located at:

Kings River Conservation District Office
4886 E Jensen Avenue
Fresno, California 93725

To make an appointment to review the information, the public is instructed to contact KRCD at (559) 237-5567.

A copy of this NOI as well as the PAD is also available at the following public libraries in the Project region:

Fresno County Public Library
2420 Mariposa Street
Fresno, California 93721

Piedra Branch Library
25385 E. Trimmer Springs Road
Sanger, California 93657

To facilitate accessibility and distribution of documents and information regarding the Jeff L. Taylor-Pine Flat Power Plant relicensing, a Project Relicensing Website is available at <https://www.krcd.org/relicensing>. Information and relicensing documents², including this NOI and the PAD are available in portable document format (.PDF) on the website.

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF EVERY COUNTY IN WHICH THE PROJECT AND FEDERAL FACILITIES USED BY THE PROJECT IS LOCATED

The Project and associated USACE's Pine Flat Dam and Pine Flat Lake are located entirely within Fresno County, California. The mailing address of the county is:

County of Fresno
Board of Supervisors
2281 Tulare Street # 301
Fresno, California 93721

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF EVERY CITY, TOWN OR SIMILAR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION IN WHICH THE PROJECT AND FEDERAL FACILITIES USED BY THE PROJECT IS LOCATED

The Project and associated USACE's Pine Flat Dam and Pine Flat Lake are not located within any city, town or similar political subdivision.

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF EVERY CITY, TOWN OR SIMILAR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THAT HAS A POPULATION OF 5,000 OR MORE AND IS WITHIN 15 MILES OF A PROJECT DAM

The Project does not include a dam.

USACE's Pine Flat Dam is not located within 15 miles of any designated cities, towns, or subdivisions with a population of 5,000 or more.

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF EVERY IRRIGATION DISTRICTS, DRAINAGE DISTRICTS, OR SIMILAR SPECIAL PURPOSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS IN WHICH THE PROJECT IS LOCATED OR THAT OWNS, OPERATES, MAINTAINS OR USES ANY PROJECT FACILITY OR FEDERAL FACILITY USED BY THE PROJECT

² Except for excessively large documents and additional material.

The Project and associated USACE Pine Flat Dam and Pine Flat Lake are located within the following special purpose political subdivisions:

**Sierra Resource Conservation
District**
President
P.O. Box 693
Auberry, California 93602

**Fresno County Local Agency
Formation Commission**
Commission Clerk
2607 Fresno Street
Fresno, California 93721

No third parties divert water directly from Pine Flat Dam or Pine Flat Lake.

**NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OR ANY OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS IN THE
PROJECT AREA THAT MAY BE INTERESTED IN THE RELICENSING**

KRCD is not aware of any other political subdivisions in the general area of the Project that would likely be interested in or affected by this relicensing.

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF POTENTIALLY AFFECTED INDIAN TRIBES

Federally-recognized Native American tribes and other Native American tribes that may be affected by the relicensing or that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the Project area were identified based on information provided to KRCD by the Native American Heritage Commission on May 26, 2023. The identified tribes and organizations are:

Federally-Recognized Native American Tribes

**Big Sandy Rancheria of Western
Mono Indians**
Chairperson
P.O. Box 337
Auberry, California 93602

**Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi
Indians**
Chairperson
P.O. Box 2226
Oakhurst, California 93644

**Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-
Wuk Indians**
Chairperson
P.O. Box 1159
Jamestown, California 95327

**Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut
Tribe**
Chairperson
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore, California 93245

Cold Springs Rancheria
Chairperson
P.O. Box 209
Tollhouse, California 93667

Table Mountain Rancheria
Chairperson
P.O. Box 410
Friant, California 93626

**Nashville Enterprise Miwok-
Maidu-Nishinam Tribe**

Chairperson
P.O. Box 580986,
Elk Grove, California 95758

**North Fork Rancheria of Mono
Indians**

Chairperson
P.O. Box 929
North Fork, California 93643

Tejon Indian Tribe

Chairperson
P.O. Box 640
Arvin, California 93203

Tule River Indian Reservation

Chairperson
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, California 93258

Other Native American Tribes

**Dumna Wo-Wah Tribal
Government**

Chairperson
2191 West Pico Avenue
Fresno, California 93705

Dunlap Band of Mono Indians

Chairperson
P.O. Box 14
Dunlap, California 93621

**Kings River Choinumni Farm
Tribe**

Chairperson
3515 East Fedora Avenue
Fresno, California 93726

**Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon
Indians**

Chairperson
115 Radio Street
Bakersfield, California 93305

North Fork Mono Tribe

Chairperson
13396 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, California 93619

Traditional Choinumni Tribe

Chairperson
2415 E. Houston Avenue
Fresno, California 93720

**Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley
Band**

Chairperson
1179 Rockhaven Court
Salinas, California 93906

**REQUEST FOR NON-FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE STATUS FOR CONSULTATION
UNDER SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT**

As provided for in 18 C.F.R. § 5.5(e), KRCD requests FERC designate KRCD as FERC's non-federal representative for the purposes of consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and the implementing regulations at 36

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C.F.R. § 800.2(c)(4).

**REQUEST FOR NON-FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE STATUS FOR CONSULTATION
UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

As provided for in 18 C.F.R. Section 5.5(e), KRCD requests FERC to designate DWR as FERC's non-federal representative for purposes of consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact Charlotte Gallock at (559) 237-5567 extension 105 or by email at PowerplantFERC@krcd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Merritt", is positioned above the printed name.

David Merritt
General Manager
Kings River Conservation District

cc: Frank Blackett – Regional Engineer, FERC, San Francisco Regional Office
Distribution List (via e-mail)

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Distribution Via E-mail	
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Sara C. Bronin, Chair achp@achp.gov	McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Matt Hurley, General Manager mhurley@mcmullinarea.org
Alta Irrigation District Chad Wegley, General Manager cw@altaid.org	Mid-Kings River Groundwater Sustainability Agency Barry McCutcheon, President kcwdh2o@sbcglobal.net
American Rivers Ann Willis, California Regional Director awillis@americanrivers.org	Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe Cosme Valdez, Chairperson valdezcome@comcast.net
Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians Elizabeth D. Kipp, Chairperson lkipp@bsrnation.com	Natural Heritage Institute Richard Roos-Collins, Director of Legal Services rrcollins@waterpowerlaw.com
California Coastal Commission Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director executive.staff@coastal.ca.gov	North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Justin Mendes jmendes@northforkkings.org
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 4 Julie Vance, Regional Manger julie.vance@wildlife.ca.gov	North Fork Mono Tribe Ron Goode, Chairperson rwgoode911@hotmail.com
California Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation Julianne Polanco, Historic Preservation Officer calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov	North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians Fred Beihn, Chairperson fbeihn@nfr-nsn.gov
California Department of Transportation, District 10 Dennis Agar, Director District10publicaffairs@dot.ca.gov	North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Kassy Chauhan, Executive Officer kchauhan@fresnoirrigation.com
California Department of Water Resources Jeremiah McNeil, Manager of DWR's Hydropower License Planning and Compliance Office, Executive Division Jeremiah.McNeil@water.ca.gov	Pacific Gas and Electric Company Janet Walther, Senior Manager, Licensing & Compliance, Power Generation jmw3@pge.com
California Hydropower Reform Coalition Kelly Catlett, Associate Western States Director kelly@hydroreform.org	Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians Janet K. Bill, Chairwoman jbill@chukchansitribe.net

Central Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Earl Hudson, President info@ckgsa.org	Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer Patrick.Pulupa@waterboards.ca.gov
Chicken Ranch Rancheria Me-Wuk Indians Lloyd Mathiesen, Chairperson lmathiesen@crtribal.com	Riverdale Irrigation District Frank Thomas, Manager riverdaleirrig@gmail.com
Clark's Fork Reclamation District #2069 Bill Miguel, President bill@bmiguel.com	Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe Shana Powers, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Spowers@tachi-yokut-nsn.gov
Cold Springs Rancheria Shane Ratchford, Chairperson csrshaner@gmail.com	Sierra Resource Conservation District Pete Lassotovitch, President office@sierrarcid.com
Consolidated Irrigation District Phil Desatoff, General Manager pdesatoff@cidwater.org	South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joe Neves, Chair paul@southforkkings.org
Corcoran Irrigation Company Devin Eagle, General Manager deagle@corcoranid.com	South Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Karnig Kazarian, Board Chair annikaromo@peters-engineering.com
County of Fresno, Board of Supervisors Bernice E. Seidel, Clerk of the Board ClerkBOS@fresnocountyca.gov	Stratford Irrigation District Ronnie Silva, General Manager lcic1902@yahoo.com
Dumna Wo-Wah Tribal Government Robert Ledger Sr., Chairperson ledgerrobert@gmail.com	State Lands Commission Brian Bugsch, Chief Brian.Bugsch@slc.ca.gov
Dunlap Band of Mono Indians Benjamin Charley, Jr., Tribal Chair ben.charley@yahoo.com	State Water Resources Control Board Glenn Hoffmann Glenn.Hoffmann@Waterboards.ca.gov
El Rico Groundwater Sustainability Agency Chairman JWyrick@jgboswell.com	Table Mountain Rancheria Brenda Lavell, Chairperson rpennell@tmr.org
El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust Luke Hoekstra, Executive Director e.davis@elrioreyestrust.org	Tejon Indian Tribe Octavio Escobedo, Chairman oescobedo@tejonindiantribe-nsn.gov
Empire West Side Irrigation District Scott Sills, General Manager scott@lagunaid.com	Traditional Choinumni Tribe David Alvarez, Chairperson dave@davealvarez.com

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 9 Brandi Richard Thompson, Public Affairs brandi.richard-thompson@fema.dhs.gov	Tri-County Water Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency Deanna Jackson, Executive Director DJackson@tcwater.org
Fresno County Local Agency Formation Commission Amanda Olivas, Commission Clerk aolivas@fresnocountyca.gov	Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District Jacob (JJ) Westra jwestra@tlbwsd.com
Fresno County Public Works and Planning Steven E. White, Director stwhite@fresnocountyca.gov	Tulare Lake Reclamation District #761 Carlo Wilcox, Director wilcox.carlo@gmail.com
Fresno Irrigation District Bill Stretch, General Manager bstretch@fresnoirrigation.com	Tule River Indian Reservation Neil Peyron, Chairman neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov
Friends of the River Ron Stork, Conservation Director rstork@friendsoftheriver.org	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Randy P Olsen randy.p.olsen@usace.army.mil
James Irrigation District Manny Amorelli, General Manager mamorelli@jamesid.org	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region Amy Dutschke, Regional Director amy.dutschke@bia.gov
Kings River Choinumni Farm Tribe Stan Alec, Vice Chairman alecmarcia@rocketmail.com	U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service Rick Kuyper, Chief richard_kuyper@fws.gov
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Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency Buddy Mendes, Chair info@kingsrivereast.org	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 John Busterud, Administrator r9.info@epa.gov
Kings River Water Association Steve Haugen, Watermaster shaugen@kingsriverwater.org	U.S. Geological Survey Anke Mueller-Solger, Director amueller-solger@usgs.gov
Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians Dee Dominguez, Chairwoman 2deedominguez@gmail.com	Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson kwood8934@aol.com
Laguna Irrigation District Scott Sills, General Manager scott@lagunaid.com	

Distribution via U.S Mail	
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James Groundwater Sustainability Agency Executive Director 8749 9th Street San Joaquin, CA 93660	Sierra Land Use Committee Glenn Dorfmeier 234 West Robinson Avenue Fresno, CA 93705-2944