

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



February 1, 2024

Electronically filed

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

FERC Project No. 2876—Pine Flat Transmission Line Project
Filing of Notification of Intent to File an Application for a New License
and Request for Designation as Non-Federal Representative for Informal Consultation

Dear Ms. Reese:

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is the licensee and current owner and operator of the Pine Flat Transmission Line Project, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project Number (No.) 2876 (Project). DWR operates the Project under an existing license issued by FERC on March 24, 1980, that is anticipated to expire on August 31, 2029. Pursuant to Section (§) 16.6 of Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), DWR gives notice to FERC of DWR's intent to file an application for a new license for the Project on or before August 31, 2027.

In addition, as provided for in 18 CFR § 5.5(e), this letter requests FERC designate DWR 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 and the implementing regulations at 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(4) for activities related to the Project relicensing.

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

DWR NAME AND ADDRESS

DWR's physical address is:

California Department of Water Resources
Hydropower License Planning and Compliance Office
2033 Howe Avenue, Suite 220
Sacramento, California 95825

Ms. Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary
February 1, 2024
Page 2

DWR's mailing address is:

California Department of Water Resources
Hydropower License Planning and Compliance Office
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

DWR's designated agent is:

Jeremiah McNeil, Manager
Hydropower License Planning and Compliance Office
(916) 699-8414
Jeremiah.McNeil@water.ca.gov.

PROJECT NUMBER

The FERC Project Number for the Pine Flat Transmission Line Project is 2876.

LICENSE EXPIRATION DATE

FERC issued the original Project license to DWR on March 24, 1980, stating that the new license would be effective from the first day of the month of license issuance through August 31, 2029.

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

DWR's intent is to file with FERC an Application for License-Transmission Line Only power license pursuant to 18 CFR Part 4, Subpart H, for the Pine Flat Transmission Line Project 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 a three-phase, single-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line constructed on three self-supporting, square-based steel lattice towers. The transmission line extends approximately 0.8 mile from the Kings River Conservation District's Jeff L. Taylor Powerhouse switchyard (Jeff L. Taylor-Pine Flat Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2741) to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Balch #2-McCall 230 kV transmission line. The existing 11.52-acre FERC Project boundary includes 7.94 acres of federal lands administered by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, 1.11 acres of State of California lands submerged by the

Ms. Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary
February 1, 2024
Page 3

Kings River, and 2.46 acres of private lands. The Project does not include a discharge to waters of the United States.

PROJECT LOCATION

The location of the Project is:

State:	California
Township or nearby town:	Community of Piedra, California
County:	Fresno
Stream or other body of water:	Not applicable

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

This NOI as well as other information required under 18 CFR §§ 5.2 and 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. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday) at DWR's and Kings River Conservation District's places of business; that is:

California Department of Water Resources
Hydropower License Planning and Compliance Office
2033 Howe Avenue, Suite 220
Sacramento, CA 95825

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 either DWR at (916) 713-4892 or KRCD at (559) 237-5567.

Copies of this NOI and the PAD are 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

In conformance with 18 CFR § 5.2 and to facilitate the distribution of documents and information regarding the Pine Flat Transmission Line Project relicensing, a Project

Ms. Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary
February 1, 2024
Page 4

Relicensing Website is available at <https://www.krcd.org/relicensing>. Information and relicensing documents¹, including this NOI and 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 is 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 ANY FEDERAL FACILITY USED BY THE PROJECT IS LOCATED

The Project is not located within any city, town, or similar political subdivision. The Project does not utilize any federal facility.

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.

The Project is not located within 15 miles of any designated cities, towns, or subdivisions with a population of 5,000 or more.

¹ Except for excessively large documents

Ms. Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary
February 1, 2024
Page 5

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF 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

The Project is located within the following special purpose political subdivisions:

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

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

No irrigation district or similar special purpose political subdivision uses any Project facility.

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

In addition to the parties noted above, DWR has reason to believe that the following political subdivisions in the general area of the Project would likely be interested in or affected by this relicensing:

Kings River Conservation District
General Manager
4886 E. Jensen Avenue
Fresno, California 93725

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF POTENTIALLY AFFECTED INDIAN TRIBES

Federally-recognized Native American tribes and other Native Americans 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 DWR 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	Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians Chairperson P.O. Box 1159 Jamestown, California 95327
Cold Springs Rancheria Chairperson P.O. Box 209 Tollhouse, California 93667	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	Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians Chairperson P.O. Box 2226 Oakhurst, California 93644
Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe Chairperson P.O. Box 8 Lemoore, California 93245	Table Mountain Rancheria Chairperson P.O. Box 410 Friant, California 93626
Tejon Indian Tribe Chairperson P.O. Box 640 Arvin, California 93203	Tule River Indian Reservation Chairperson P.O. Box 589 Porterville, California 93258

Ms. Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary
February 1, 2024
Page 7

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

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF INTENT

DWR is publishing a notice on the filing of this NOI and PAD in the following daily newspaper of general circulation in Fresno County in which the Project is located:

The Fresno Bee
710 Van Ness Avenue, #293
Fresno, California 93721

:

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

As provided for in 18 CFR § 5.5(e), DWR requests FERC to designate DWR 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 CFR § 800.2(c)(4).

Ms. Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary
February 1, 2024
Page 8

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

As provided for in 18 CFR § 5.5(e), DWR requests FERC to designate DWR as FERC's non-federal representative for purposes of consultation under Section 7 of the ESA.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact me at (916) 699-8414, or your staff may contact Joseph Muradyan, Relicensing Project Manager, at (916) 837-8598.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremiah McNeil". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Jeremiah McNeil, Manager
Hydropower License Planning and Compliance Office
Executive Division

cc: Mr. Frank Blackett, P.E.
Regional Engineer
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
100 First Street, Suite 200
San Francisco, California 94105-3084

(See attached [Distribution] list.)

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 Hydropower Reform Coalition Kelly Catlett, Associate Western States Director kelly@hydroreform.org	Pacific Gas and Electric Company Janet Walther, Senior Manager, Licensing & Compliance, Power Generation jmw3@pge.com
Central Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Earl Hudson, President info@ckgsa.org	Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians Janet K. Bill, Chairwoman jbill@chukchansitribe.net

<p>Chicken Ranch Rancheria Me-Wuk Indians Lloyd Mathiesen, Chairperson lmathiesen@crtribal.com</p>	<p>Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer Patrick.Pulupa@waterboards.ca.gov</p>
<p>Clark's Fork Reclamation District #2069 Bill Miguel, President bill@bmiguel.com</p>	<p>Riverdale Irrigation District Frank Thomas, Manager riverdaleirrig@gmail.com</p>
<p>Cold Springs Rancheria Shane Ratchford, Chairperson csrshaner@gmail.com</p>	<p>Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe Shana Powers, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Spowers@tachi-yokut-nsn.gov</p>
<p>Consolidated Irrigation District Phil Desatoff, General Manager pdesatoff@cidwater.org</p>	<p>Sierra Resource Conservation District Pete Lassotovitch, President office@sierrarcid.com</p>
<p>Corcoran Irrigation Company Devin Eagle, General Manager deagle@corcoranid.com</p>	<p>South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joe Neves, Chair paul@southforkkings.org</p>
<p>County of Fresno, Board of Supervisors Bernice E. Seidel, Clerk of the Board ClerkBOS@fresnocountyca.gov</p>	<p>South Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Karnig Kazarian, Board Chair annikaromo@peters-engineering.com</p>
<p>Dumna Wo-Wah Tribal Government Robert Ledger Sr., Chairperson ledgerrobert@gmail.com</p>	<p>Stratford Irrigation District Ronnie Silva, General Manager lcic1902@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Dunlap Band of Mono Indians Benjamin Charley, Jr., Tribal Chair ben.charley@yahoo.com</p>	<p>State Lands Commission Brian Bugsch, Chief Brian.Bugsch@slc.ca.gov</p>
<p>El Rico Groundwater Sustainability Agency Chairman JWyrick@jgboswell.com</p>	<p>State Water Resources Control Board Glenn Hoffmann Glenn.Hoffmann@Waterboards.ca.gov</p>
<p>El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust Luke Hoekstra, Executive Director e.davis@elrioreyestrust.org</p>	<p>Table Mountain Rancheria Brenda Lavell, Chairperson rpennell@tmr.org</p>
<p>Empire West Side Irrigation District Scott Sills, General Manager scott@lagunaid.com</p>	<p>Tejon Indian Tribe Octavio Escobedo, Chairman oescobedo@tejonindiantribe-nsn.gov</p>
<p>Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 9 Brandi Richard Thompson, Public Affairs brandi.richard-thompson@fema.dhs.gov</p>	<p>Traditional Choinumni Tribe David Alvarez, Chairperson dave@davealvarez.com</p>
<p>Fresno County Local Agency Formation Commission Amanda Olivas, Commission Clerk aolivas@fresnocountyca.gov</p>	<p>Tri-County Water Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency Deanna Jackson, Executive Director DJackson@tcwater.org</p>

Fresno County Public Works and Planning Steven E. White, Director stwhite@fresnocountyca.gov	Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District Jacob (JJ) Westra jwestra@tlbwsd.com
Fresno Irrigation District Bill Stretch, General Manager bstretch@fresnoirrigation.com	Tulare Lake Reclamation District #761 Carlo Wilcox, Director wilcox.carlo@gmail.com
Friends of the River Ron Stork, Conservation Director rstork@friendsoftheriver.org	Tule River Indian Reservation Neil Peyron, Chairman neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov
James Irrigation District Manny Amorelli, General Manager mamorelli@jamesid.org	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Randy P Olsen randy.p.olsen@usace.army.mil
Kings River Choinumni Farm Tribe Stan Alec, Vice Chairman alecmarcia@rocketmail.com	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region Amy Dutschke, Regional Director amy.dutschke@bia.gov
Kings River Conservancy Sue Buckley, President kingsriverconservancy@gmail.com	U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service Rick Kuyper, Division Manager richard_kuyper@fws.gov
Kings River Conservation District David Merritt, General Manager dmerritt@krkd.org	U.S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service, Stephen Bowes, Outdoor Recreation Planner Stephen_Bowes@nps.gov
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	
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Dustin Hail, Unit Chief Fresno-Kings Unit 210 S. Academy Avenue Sanger, California 93657	Kings River Water District P.O. Box 911 Visalia, California 93279
James Groundwater Sustainability Agency Executive Director 8749 9th Street San Joaquin, California 93660	Sierra Land Use Committee Glenn Dorfmeier 234 West Robinson Avenue Fresno, California 93705-2944