

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From (Public Agency):
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Project Title: Big Creek 4 Long Term Operating Rules (Project)
Project Applicant: Southern California Edison Company
Project Location - Specific: The Project is located on the San Joaquin River, approximately five miles north of Auberry in Fresno and Madera counties.

Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: Fresno and Madera counties

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project is a requirement of the Big Creek 4 Hydroelectric Project water quality certification. The purpose of the Project is to provide consistent whitewater boating opportunities while promoting the native aquatic species assemblage in the Horseshoe Bend Reach of the San Joaquin River (i.e., Project bypass reach). The Project prescribes whitewater boating flows, down ramping of flows, and monitoring of aquatic biota, water temperature, instream flow, and meteorological conditions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: State Water Resources Control Board
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Southern California Edison Company
Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
[X] Categorical Exemption. Class 1, § 15301 and Class 6, § 15306
Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Class 1 categorical exemption applies because the Project involves minor operational alterations to an existing facility with no construction or expansion of use. The Project involves flow prescriptions and ramping rates from Dam 7 into the San Joaquin River for the benefit of aquatic species and recreation. The Class 6 exemption applies to the long-term monitoring, which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. There is no reasonable possibility that the Project will have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances.

Contact Person: Allan Laca Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 322-8469

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?
[] Yes [] No

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

AUG 16 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Title: Deputy Director for Water Rights

Date received for filing at OPR: _____