



**Congressman Jared Huffman**  
**Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**

August 29, 2017  
10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Agenda

Welcome by Congressman Huffman

Outcomes discussion, continued

- Domestic water use – dependency on PVP
- Lake Pillsbury
- Power production – future costs and mitigation
- Dam safety

Modelling – Discussion on most appropriate model

Modelling scenarios

- Modified status quo
- Partial dam removal
- Project removal
- Alternative water supply strategies
- Other scenarios

Lunch

Future meeting topics

Adjourn



April 6, 2017

**Via Electronic Submittal (E-File)**

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
888 First Street, N.E., Docket Room  
Washington, D.C. 20426-0001

**Re: FERC Project No. 77 – Potter Valley Project  
Notice of Intent to File Application for New License and Pre-Application  
Document**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §§ 5.5 and 5.6, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (“PG&E”) (“Applicant”) herein files with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) this Notice of Intent (“NOI”) and Pre-Application Document (“PAD”) in support of Applicant’s intent to file an application for a new license for the Potter Valley Project, FERC Project No. 77 (“Project”).

Applicant is the existing Licensee, and current owner and operator of the Project. The current Project license expires on April 14, 2022. The 9.2 MW Project is located in Mendocino and Lake Counties in California. The Project consists of the Potter Valley Powerhouse, a series of tunnels, conduits and penstocks; Scott Dam, and the storage reservoir it impounds, Lake Pillsbury; and Cape Horn Dam and the reservoir it impounds, Van Arsdale Reservoir.

In conformance with 18 C.F.R. §5.2(a) and §5.6(a)(1) and (2), Applicant will make the NOI and PAD available to appropriate federal and State of California resource agencies, Indian tribes, local governments, and members of the public likely to be interested in the proceeding. A list of those parties is provided in the NOI. All interested parties can access and download the NOI and PAD from PG&E’s public website: [www.pge.com/pottervalley](http://www.pge.com/pottervalley) or the FERC website: <https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>. Hard copies will be available for review at PG&E’s main San Francisco office located at 245 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. Also, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §5.2, a printed copy of the NOI and PAD will be available to any party upon request.

The PAD is comprised of four volumes, including public and confidential information. Volumes 1 and 2 contain public information. Volume 3 contains Appendix F which provides information on the locations of special-status biological resources. Volume 4 contains Appendix G which provides information on the locations of sensitive cultural resources. Disclosure of this information could be harmful to these resources. Volume 3 and Volume 4 qualify as Confidential Information [18 CFR §385.1112 and 36 CFR §800.11(c)(1)]. Per FERC regulations, PG&E labeled Volume 3 and Volume 4 as ‘Confidential – Not for Public Distribution’ and requests confidential treatment of these materials.

Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §5.5(e) and 36 C.F.R. §800.2(c)(4), Applicant requests that FERC authorize the Applicant to initiate consultation, as described in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (“SHPO”) and others regarding relicensing of the Project. Also, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. §5.5(e) and 50 C.F.R. §402.08, Applicant requests that FERC designate the Applicant as its non-federal representative for the purpose of informal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for the Project.

Applicant looks forward to working with FERC and other interested parties on the Project relicensing. If you have any questions regarding this letter, the NOI, or the PAD, please contact Susan Kester, Relicensing Project Manager, at (415) 973-7202, or by e-mail at [susan.kester@pge.com](mailto:susan.kester@pge.com).

Respectfully yours,



Carrell Gill  
Director – Hydro Licensing

JG:SK:lp  
Enclosures

cc: Acting Regional Engineer, FERC – San Francisco Regional Office, w/encl.  
Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Affairs – Washington, D.C. and Sacramento  
Director, Division of Hydropower, Administration & Compliance – Washington, D.C., w/encl.  
Bureau of Land Management, Branch of Adjudication and Records – California Director, Sacramento  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Office – San Francisco  
Mr. John Katz, Deputy Associate General Counsel, Office of Energy Projects, FERC, w/encl.  
Ms. Susan Kester, Project Manager for Potter Valley Hydro Project – PG&E, San Francisco  
Ms. Annette Faraglia, Chief Counsel – PG&E, San Francisco  
List of Interested Parties (attached)



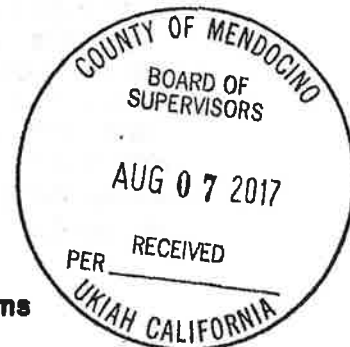
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111  
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

August 4, 2017

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Re: **Request for analysis for the decommissioning of the Eel River Dams**  
**Docket #P-77-286**



Dear Sirs;

I am writing to you as a Humboldt County Supervisor representing the people of the 3<sup>rd</sup> district. I also grew up on the banks of the Eel River. I spent my summers swimming and winters fishing this amazing watershed. I have seen firsthand the impact that this diversion has done to this important ecosystem.

The Wild and Scenic Eel River flows through the redwood heart of Humboldt County, tying our rugged mountains to the Pacific. The health and productivity of the Eel River are central to the efforts of Humboldt County citizens and government to protect, restore, and recover fisheries vital to our economic and ecological future.

The salmon and steelhead which returned to the Eel River a million strong in the 19<sup>th</sup> century face a growing risk of extinction. Humboldt County's once thriving fishing fleets have struggled for decades to survive. Fishers face another closure this year in the face of historically low returns. Humboldt County would benefit directly and indirectly in many ways from the recovery of runs of chinook and steelhead capable of supporting tribal, sport and commercial fisheries. The loss of these unique native fish would be incalculable.

The two dams of the Potter Valley Project are hardly the sole cause of salmon and steelhead decline over the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but they may present the greatest opportunity to dramatically improve the prospects for fishery recovery in the Eel River.

The dams were built a century ago, and are increasingly expensive to maintain. They produce very little hydropower. In fact, five acres of solar panels would produce more electricity more reliably and more cheaply with less environmental impact.

While the power the dams produce can easily be replaced, Humboldt County's fisheries, once lost, cannot be. I urge the Commission to carefully consider the benefits of decommissioning the Project, removing the dams, and restoring more than 250 miles of high-quality fisheries habitat in the upper Eel River.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Wilson  
Humboldt County 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor

C: BOS, CEO, C.C.O.

cc: **Congressman Jared Huffman**  
**Assemble Member Jim Woods**  
**Senator Mike McGuire**  
**Senator Kamala Harris**  
**Senator Dianne Feinstein**  
**Mendocino County Board of Supervisors**  
**Sonoma County Board of Supervisors**  
**Eel Russian River Commission**  
**Friends of the Eel River**  
**Round Valley Indian tribes**  
**Wiyot tribe**