



## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 1988-105]

### **Pacific Gas & Electric Company; Notice of Application for a Flow Variance Under Article 401 Accepted for Filing, Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene, and Protests**

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

- a. Application Type: Application for Temporary Variance of Minimum Flow Releases into Helms Creek
- b. Project No: 1988-105
- c. Date Filed: October 14, 2025; supplemented on October 22, 2025, and November 26, 2025
- d. Applicant: Pacific Gas & Electric Company
- e. Name of Project: Haas-Kings River Hydroelectric Project

- f. Location: The project is located on the North Fork Kings River in Fresno County, California. The project occupies federal lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Corps of Engineers, and Bureau of Land Management.
- g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act, 16 USC 791a - 825r
- h. Applicant Contact: Tiffany Begaye; P.O. Box 28209, Oakland, California 94604; T9BC@pge.com; and (559) 955-7135
- i. FERC Contact: Katherine Schmidt; (415) 369-3348; and katherine.schmidt@ferc.gov
- j. Cooperating agencies: With this notice, the Commission is inviting federal, state, local, and Tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues affected by the proposal, that wish to cooperate in the preparation of any environmental document, if applicable, to follow the instructions for filing such requests described in item k below. Cooperating agencies should note the Commission's policy that agencies that cooperate in the preparation of any environmental document cannot also intervene. *See* 94 FERC ¶ 61,076 (2001).
- k. Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, and protests: **January 16, 2026, 5:00 pm Eastern Time.**

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, and protests using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852. The first page of any filing should include the docket number **P-1988-105**. Comments emailed to Commission staff are not considered part of the Commission record.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

1. Description of Request: The licensee requests a temporary variance of the release requirements under Article 401 that require it, in part, to release from Courtright Dam

into Helms Creek a minimum flow of 4 cubic feet per second (cfs) from June 1 through November 30, as measured at gaging station downstream of the dam (KI-17). With the variance, the licensee proposes to reduce flow released into Helms Creek to 2.5 cfs September 1 through November 30, 2026, with compliance assessed by a 24-hour average of measurements taken by KI-17. In addition, though Courtright Reservoir does not have a license-required minimum elevation, the licensee advises they will draw down the reservoir to an elevation of 8,000 feet, with an impoundment of 2,283 acre-feet, from September 1 through December 31, 2026. The licensee states that the requested variance and reservoir drawdown is necessary to complete repair and replacement projects related to maintaining Courtright Dam, its low-level outlet bypass valve, and the KI-17 weir.

m. Locations of the Application: This filing may be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, call 1-866-208-3676 or e-mail [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), for TTY, call (202) 502-8659. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant.

n. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

o. Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene: Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214, respectively. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

p. Filing and Service of Documents: Any filing must (1) bear in all capital letters the title “COMMENTS”, “PROTEST”, or “MOTION TO INTERVENE” as applicable; (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting, protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, motions to intervene, or protests must set forth their evidentiary basis. Any filing made by an intervenor must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2010.

q. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502-6595 or [OPP@ferc.gov](mailto:OPP@ferc.gov).

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)

Dated: December 17, 2025.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**

*Secretary.*

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