



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

April 7, 2025

RE: Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project, FERC Hydropower Docket No. 77-CA  
Support for Timely Action on Temporary Flow Amendment Request

Dear Secretary Reese,

On behalf of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) and the Institute for Fisheries Resources (IFR), we write in support of the prompt approval of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's 2025 Minimum Instream Temporary Flow Amendment Request for the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project. PCFFA represents commercial fishing families along the West Coast and has long advocated for the recovery of salmon populations essential to the health of the ocean and the future of our fisheries.

Timely implementation of this request is critical to protecting endangered salmon and steelhead throughout the Eel River. By allowing for proactive water temperature management during the summer months, the amendment helps reduce stress and predation risk for juvenile salmonids that remain trapped below Scott Dam. Preserving cool water storage and adjusting releases accordingly will help prevent further ecological harm and support the long-term recovery of these populations.

Although the Eel River no longer supports commercial harvest, the recovery of its salmon runs is essential to restoring access to sustainable seafood and rebuilding the economic and cultural foundation of coastal fishing communities. For that reason, we believe the broader decommissioning process must include a comprehensive fish reintroduction plan that rebuilds salmon populations in the Eel River to a harvestable and sustainable level.

This year's variance amendment is consistent with that longer-term vision, and incorporates updated modeling, early coordination, and active engagement with federal and state fisheries agencies to protect what remains and lay the groundwork for recovery.

The request is reasonable, science-based, and consistent with PCFFA and IFR's longstanding efforts to rebuild habitat, recover fish populations, and sustain commercial salmon fishing in California. We urge the Commission to take expedited action to ensure protective measures for salmon and steelhead are in place before conditions worsen and while the decommissioning process continues. Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Damrosch  
PCFFA/IFR Executive Director

PVP Variance Letter (04-07-25)