



March 10, 2025

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

Debbie-Anne Reese, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20426

**RE: Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 77-CA  
Cape Horn Dam, NATDAM No. CA00399  
Deviation Report Follow-up for Cape Horn Dam Fish Hotel**

Dear Debbie-Anne Reese:

This letter provides the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) follow-up to the deviation report regarding fish passage facility operations at Cape Horn Dam, which is part of PG&E's Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 77. In a letter dated February 19, 2025, PG&E reported that it had closed the fish hotel sediment doors during storm events in December 2024 and committed to provide a follow-up report to FERC detailing actions to protect the fish passage facility for the month of February 2025.

Table 1 below details dates, times, flows measured at Gage E11 (E11), and actions taken at the fish passage facility in February 2025.

*Table 1: dates, times, flows (provisional), and actions taken at the fish passage facility in February 2025.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Flow (hourly cfs) at Gage E11</b>	<b>Status of Fish Ladder</b>
2/2/2025	1418	8575	Fish ladder inlet closed
2/6/2025	1300	5662	Fish ladder opened
2/7/2025	0145	7377	Fish ladder inlet closed
2/7/2025	1029	6941	Fish ladder opened
2/10/2025	1038	2631	Fish ladder removed from service for post storm maintenance
2/10/2025	1415	2541	Fish ladder returned to service after maintenance outage
2/14/2025	0020	7621	Fish ladder inlet closed
2/14/2025	1527	7438	Fish ladder opened
2/20/2025	0945	1877	Fish hotel sediment doors opened
2/20/2025	1620	1812	Lamprey tubes reinstalled

Additionally, the information in Table 1 was documented in the Potter Valley Project Agency Nightly Report, which is provided to agencies daily via email. Note E11 flow data are provisional.

A qualified biologist was onsite daily to assess the fish ladder during the period when the sediment exclusion doors were closed. The fish ladder was inspected for sign of adult Pacific lamprey migration during sediment exclusion door closures due to lamprey the passage system being disconnected; no lamprey were observed.

There were three fish ladder closure events initiated in February to minimize storm debris from entering the fishway when flows on the Eel River exceeded 6,000 cfs. Two of the closure events were short in duration (>24 hours), while a third closure lasted for approximately four days when storm flows at E11 peaked at approximately 38,000 cfs (hourly average flow) on 2/4/2025. The biologist inspected the fish ladder for sign of fish stranding after the fish ladder inlet was closed to one-inch open; none were observed. Another short duration fish ladder closure event was initiated on 2/10/2025 for storm repairs which consisted of replacing weir boards in the lower fish ladder that were lost during the flood event.

The fish ladder was inspected for sediment deposition during the short maintenance outage and only minimal deposition was observed in a few of the lower pool ladder steps. Sediment deposition measurements were also taken in the fish hotel and like the fish ladder, only minimal sedimentation was observed. No impacts to fish passage are anticipated due to sedimentation from the flood event on 2/4/2025.

The video monitoring system continuously tracks adult salmonid migration through the fish ladder. Figure 1 shows daily counts of adult and subadult steelhead migrating through the fish passage facility and average hourly flow at E11 in February 2025. Sediment door and fish ladder closures are also shown on Figure 1.

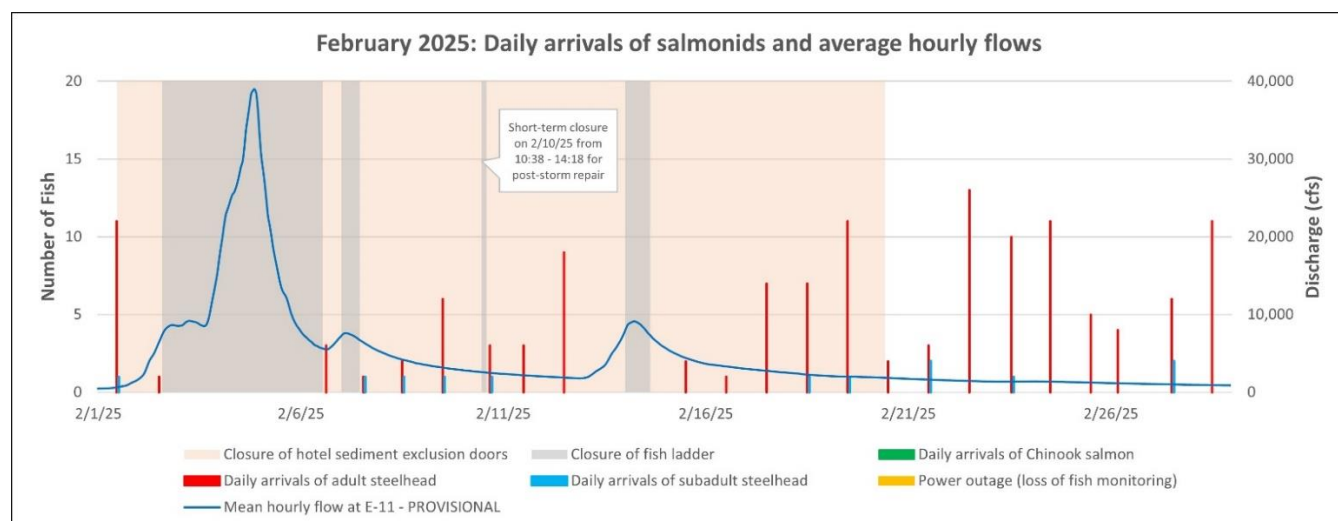


Figure 1. February 2025 E11 Flows and Fish Passage Events at VAFS.

PG&E staff will continue to update the agencies with any changes in fish passage facility operations and provide notifications every month to FERC if a flow event is large enough to require PG&E to close the fish ladder inlet to one inch or close the fish hotel sediment doors.

If you have any questions, please contact PG&E's license coordinator, Chadwick McCready, at 530-685-5710.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Joseph".

Matthew Joseph  
Supervisor, Hydro License Compliance

cc: via email

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