



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

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January 31, 2025

Statement regarding PG&E's Administrative Draft License Surrender Application for the Potter Valley Project on the Eel River

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors adopts the following statement regarding PG&E's administrative draft License Surrender Application which was released for public comment on January 31, 2025:

The release of PG&E's administrative draft License Surrender Application for the Potter Valley Project is an important milestone toward the ultimate goal of removing two dams and restoring a free-flowing Eel River with fish passage to important headwaters habitat. PG&E is expected to file its final license surrender application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by July 29, 2025.

PG&E's draft application includes a proposal to use a portion of PG&E's lands and facilities for construction of a new water diversion facility (the New Eel-Russian Facility). It continues to be the preferred position of Humboldt County that Eel River water should stay within the Eel River watershed. (See prior statement of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, November 7, 2023.) Nevertheless, we have been engaged in negotiations with a variety of parties in the Eel and Russian River Basins to develop consensus on an agreement to allow continued diversions with appropriate protections and benefits for the Eel River and its fisheries. The parties include Sonoma Water, Mendocino Inland Water and Power Commission, Round Valley Indian Tribes, California Trout, Trout Unlimited, and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

It is our hope that an agreement can be reached before PG&E files its final license surrender application. We envision an agreement that would allow limited diversions of Eel River water under strict conditions and science-based criteria and also provide a consistent, robust funding source to pay for high-priority restoration work throughout the Eel River watershed. Such an agreement would protect the health and resilience of the Eel River and provide substantial benefits for the people and communities connected to the Eel River. It is our expectation that the agreement will ultimately lead to a future when the Russian River basin is self-reliant for water and not dependent on Eel River diversions.

At this time, Humboldt County conditionally supports inclusion of the proposed facility in PG&E's draft application. We expect to consider approval of the key terms of the water diversion agreement in open session, after thorough discussion and public comment, at a Humboldt County Board of Supervisors' meeting in the near future.