



# **ACTION ALERT**

## **SPEAK UP TO FREE THE EEL RIVER!**

**Tell the State Water Resources Control Board to move quickly to support Eel River dam removal and create a protective and inclusive 401 water quality certification process for PG&E's Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project surrender and decommissioning.**

**Oct 14 | 6pm - 8pm**

River Lodge Conference Center,  
1800 Riverwalk Drive, Fortuna

**Oct 15 | 5:30pm - 7:30pm**

North Coast Regional Water Quality  
Control Board, 5550 Skylane Boulevard,  
Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA

**Oct 15 | 11:30am - 1:30pm**

Ukiah Valley Conference Center  
*IN PERSON ONLY*

**Oct 17 | 12:30 - 2:30pm**

CalEPA Building 1001 I Street, 2nd Floor  
*IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM*

***Comment Deadline: Nov 3***

Email Comments to: [Wr401program@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Wr401program@waterboards.ca.gov)

Title your comments: "Potter Valley NOP Comments"



***More Info at: [tinyurl.com/EelWaterBoardNotice](https://tinyurl.com/EelWaterBoardNotice)***

# TALKING POINTS

## Background:

The Section 401 process is California's most direct tool to ensure PG&E's dam removal project improves water quality, restores habitat, and protects downstream communities and Tribal resources. We urge the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to frame the water quality certification for the PVP as a watershed restoration tool, not merely a construction permit.

The Section 401 process should ensure the Eel River dam removals deliver on the promise of cleaner water, thriving salmon, restored Tribal fisheries, and a resilient watershed for future generations.

## Talking Points:

- Please complete this process quickly. Eel River communities have been burdened with the impacts of the dams for 100 years. The dams have resulted in reduced economic opportunity for downstream communities.
- PG&E is removing their dams because they are too expensive to operate. They have not generated power since 2021.
- Eel River is in need of immediate relief through expedited dam removal. Upper Eel River salmon are on the verge of extinction. The Board must act quickly to help prevent this.
- Dam removal will improve river and community health. Dam removal projects are large-scale river restoration projects, the short-term impacts are worth the long-term improvements to water quality and river health.
- The short-term impacts of dam removal must be analyzed and, to the extent possible, minimized and mitigated. Dam removal can cause short-term negative impacts, but recent California projects show these risks can be effectively managed. The Klamath removal succeeded due to a strong, well-designed 401 process.
- 401 scope should be limited to dam removal. Any new diversions are a separate project.

## Meeting dates:

**OCT 14 | 6PM - 8PM**

River Lodge Conference Center,  
1800 Riverwalk Drive, Fortuna

**OCT 15 | 11:30AM - 1:30PM**

Ukiah Valley Conference Center  
in person only

**OCT 15 | 5:30PM - 7:30PM**

North Coast Regional Water Quality  
Control Board, 5550 Skylane Boulevard,  
Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA

**OCT 17 | 12:30 - 2:30PM**

CalEPA Building 1001 I Street, 2nd Floor  
in person and via Zoom

## COMMENT DEADLINE: NOV 3

Email Comments to:

**Wr401program@waterboards.ca.gov**

Title your comments: "Potter Valley NOP Comments"



**More Info at:**

**[tinyurl.com/EelWaterBoardNotice](https://tinyurl.com/EelWaterBoardNotice)**

