



P R E S S R E L E A S E

TO: California Media
FROM: Sequoia Riverlands Trust and
Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council
DATE: December 22, 2014
RE: SRT and PG&E finalize first-of-kind conservation partnership
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For immediate release

(VISALIA, CA) – The Stewardship Council and Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT) have announced a first-of-its-kind conservation easement for Pacific Gas and Electric Company-owned lands. On December 10, PG&E conveyed a conservation easement on its Doyle Springs property to Visalia-based Sequoia Riverlands Trust.

The Doyle Springs easement is the first conservation easement on lands being retained by PG&E that are to be permanently protected under terms of a settlement agreement being implemented by the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) for PG&E watershed lands totaling more than 140,000 acres.

The Doyle Springs property and the Tule River Project (FERC #1333) are located within a small valley along the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Tule River. The property is surrounded by public lands managed by the Sequoia National Forest and is adjacent to land, cabins, and recreational facilities owned by the Doyle Springs Association.

“Sequoia Riverlands Trust is pleased to bring its conservation expertise to these important PG&E lands,” said SRT Executive Director Soapy Mulholland. “We look forward to a long and positive working relationship with PG&E and the Doyle Springs homeowners. We appreciate the Stewardship Council’s role in shepherding this deal to completion,” she added.

Early in 2008, the Stewardship Council selected four pilot projects, including Doyle Springs. The four were chosen for the unique set of land use and conservation challenges posed. Doyle Springs has now gained all necessary approvals and the conservation easement has been recorded.

The Stewardship Council and other stakeholders have taken what they learned through this pilot effort and are applying that knowledge to the remaining lands to be protected. “The Doyle Springs transaction represents years of work by the Stewardship Council board and staff and the parties to the conservation easement, with valuable input from stakeholders. This is among the first of many important milestones that the Stewardship Council plans to achieve in carrying out its important mission of protecting and enhancing watershed lands and uses,” said Art Baggett, president of the Stewardship Council Board of Directors.

“The Doyle Springs conservation easement held by SRT serves as a model of how the Beneficial Public Values of lands with federally licensed hydroelectric projects can be protected. The Doyle Springs property may be small at just 43 acres, but it represents an example for the upcoming transactions on much larger properties. We’re proud to be chosen to administer what is a truly unique and innovative conservation tool.” said SRT Conservation Director Hilary Dustin.