

Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 1930

Study Plan Meeting

November 14, 2023

Please hold, we will begin shortly. Thank you for your patience and for muting your microphone.

Introductions

Relicensing Team

David Moore, SCE Licensing Manager

Martin Ostendorf, SCE Senior Manager

Daniel Keverline, SCE Senior Manager - Operations and Maintenance

Audry Williams, SCE Cultural Technical Lead

Ed Bianchi, Stantec Project Director

Kendra Ryan, Stantec Project Manager

Safety Moment



Meeting Tips

Meeting Tips

- Please remain on mute unless called on
- Turn off camera

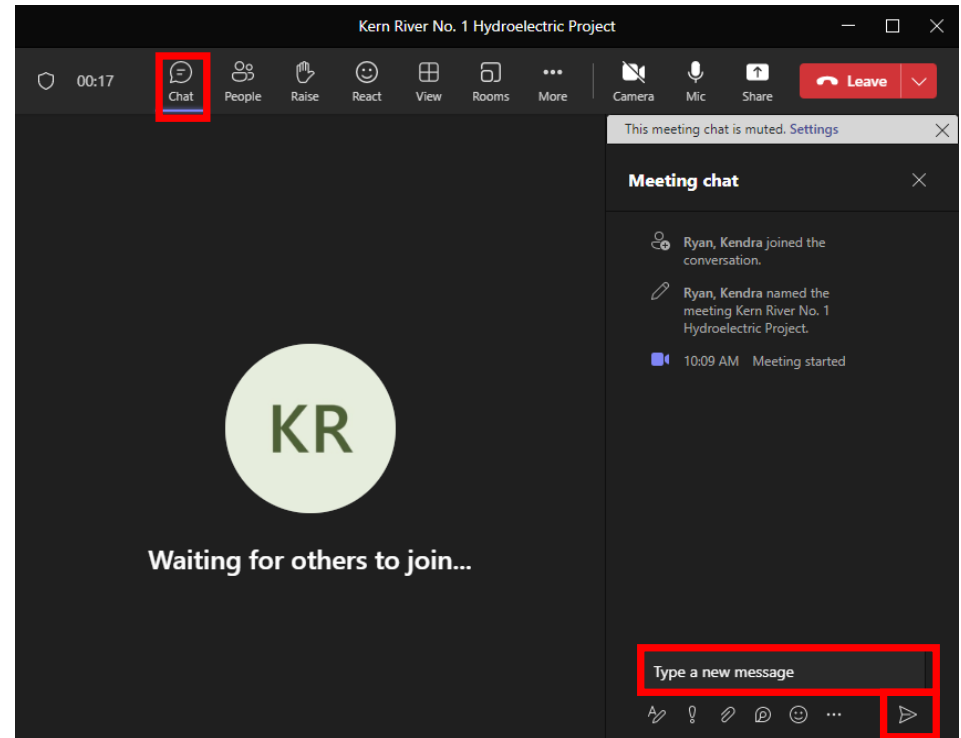


- Meeting materials are available on Project website www.sce.com/kr1
- Consider shutting down other background programs for best meeting audio/viewing quality

Meeting Tips

To submit a question/
comment in writing:

- Utilize the chat feature during the presentation to submit questions/comments
- Questions submitted via the chat feature will be answered at the end of each agenda topic, as time allows



Meeting Tips

To submit a question/comment verbally:

- Use the “Raise Hand” feature to indicate you would like to ask a question verbally



- Please wait to be called on and then unmute yourself
 - Introduce yourself (name and affiliation) prior to speaking
- Please stay on topic

Agenda

- Purpose of Study Plan Meeting
- Relicensing Process and Schedule
- SCE's Proposed Study Plan
- Study Plan Development Process – Next Steps
- How to Stay Involved
- Adjourn

Purpose of Study Plan Meeting

- Provide overview of SCE's Proposed Study Plan (PSP)
- Clarify stakeholder study requests and SCE's response
- Attempt to resolve any outstanding issues with respect to the PSP

Relicensing Process and Schedule

Relicensing Process and Schedule

Integrated Licensing Process Steps



*If no dispute resolution required.

Relicensing Process and Schedule

Pre-filing Milestones - Completed

FERC Regulation 18 CFR §	Responsible Party	Action	Date Completed
5.5, 5.6	SCE	File NOI/PAD	5/5/2023
5.8	FERC	Issue Notice of Commencement of Proceeding and SD1	7/4/2023
5.8(b)(viii)	FERC	Conduct Site Visit	8/1/2023
5.8(b)(viii)	FERC	Conduct Scoping Meeting	8/2/2023
5.9	Stakeholders	Deadline for filing comments on the PAD/SD1 and Study Requests	9/2/2023
5.10	FERC	Issue SD2	10/17/2023
5.11(a)	SCE	File Proposed Study Plan	10/17/2023
5.11(e)	SCE	Conduct Proposed Study Plan Meeting	11/14/2023

SCE's Proposed Study Plan

SCE's Proposed Study Plan

- The overall objective of the PSP is to develop sufficient information to:
 - Identify Project effects
 - Develop proposed new license conditions, as appropriate, that reasonably balance multiple resource interests

Proposed Study Plan

Development of Technical Studies

Thirteen Draft Technical Study Plans were included in the PAD

Aquatic Resources

- AQ 1 – Hydrology
- AQ 2 – Water Quality / Water Temperature
- AQ 3 – Fish Population

Cultural Resources

- CUL 1 – Built Environment
- CUL 2 – Archaeology
- TRI 1 – Tribal

Land Resources

- LAND 1 – Road and Trail Condition Assessment
- LAND 2 – Erosion and Sedimentation

Recreation Resources

- REC 1 – Recreation Facility Condition Assessment
- REC 2 – Recreation Facility Use Assessment
- REC 3 – Whitewater Boating

Terrestrial Resources

- TERR 1 – Botanical
- TERR 2 – Wildlife

Proposed Study Plan

Development of Technical Studies

Following filing of the PAD, SCE convened 13 Technical Working Group meetings to review and refine the Draft Technical Study Plans

Technical Study Plan	Week Starting										
	26-June	3-July	10-July	17-July	24-July	31-July	7-Aug	14-Aug	21-Aug	28-Aug	4-Sep
Aquatic Resources											
AQ 1 – Hydrology		July 7				July 31					
AQ 2 – Water Quality/Water Temperature		10 am-12 pm				1-3 pm					
AQ 3 – Fish Population											
Cultural Resources											
CUL 1 – Built Environment	June 29				July 27				Aug 22		
CUL 2 – Archaeology											
TRI 1 – Tribal	1-3 pm				1-3 pm				1-3 pm		
Land Resources											
LAND 1 – Road and Trail Condition Assessment	June 28				July 26				Aug 23		
LAND 2 – Erosion and Sedimentation	1-3 pm				1-3 pm				1-3 pm		
Recreation Resources											
REC 1 – Recreation Facility Condition Assessment			July 12				Aug 10			Aug 30	
REC 2 – Recreation Facility Use Assessment			1-3 pm				1-3 pm			1-3 pm	
REC 3 – Whitewater Boating											
Terrestrial Resources											
TERR 1 – Botanical			July 11					Aug 15			
TERR 2 – Wildlife			1-3 pm					1-3 pm			
	TWG #1			TWG #2				TWG #3			

Proposed Study Plan

Development of Technical Studies

- Based on the Technical Working Group meetings, SCE revised the Draft Technical Study Plans, as necessary, to address comments.
- SCE prepared Updated Draft Technical Study Plans, which were filed with FERC and distributed to stakeholders on August 23, 2023.

Proposed Study Plan

Development of Technical Studies

- In response to FERC's Notice of Commencement of Proceeding, six comment letters were submitted by the deadline (September 5, 2023), five of which included study requests, as denoted by an asterisk:
 - Neil Nikirk - July 11, 2023*
 - Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria - July 20, 2023
 - U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service - August 31, 2023*
 - State Water Resources Control Board - September 1, 2023*
 - American Whitewater - September 5, 2023*
 - Kern River Boaters - September 5, 2023*

Proposed Study Plan

Development of Technical Studies

- Based on study requests, SCE revised four technical study plans:
 - AQ 1 – Hydrology
 - AQ 2 – Water Quality/Water Temperature
 - REC 2 – Recreation Facility Use Assessment
 - REC 3 – Whitewater Boating
- All other Updated Draft Technical Study Plans remain unchanged.

Proposed Study Plan

Development of Technical Studies

Table 2. Stakeholder Study Requests and Associated SCE Responses

Study Request	SCE Response
<p>Neil Nikirk Request Filed: July 11, 2023</p>	
<p>Draft AQ 1 – Hydrology The hydrology model should include water availability and changes in hydrology in light of the effects of climate change on the source of water – North Fork and South Fork Kern River and Lake Isabella.</p>	<p>Response Nikirk-1: The Draft AQ-1 – Hydrology Technical Study Plan already incorporates the use historical inflow hydrology to characterize water availability over the Period of Record (POR) (1998-2021). SCE does not propose to independently model the effect of climate change on inflow hydrology (see Rationale below). If climate change modeling for Lake Isabella releases (inflow to the Kern No. 1 Project) is available over the Kern No. 1 POR then this existing data will be incorporated into the Project hydrology model. Refer to Appendix B for the Technical Study Plan.</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> SCE does not propose to independently model climate change effect of Kern River hydrology for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inflow hydrology to the Kern River No.1 Project is totally controlled by upstream operations of Lake Isabella by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and flow releases schedules developed by the Kern River Water Master. SCE does manage storage in Lake Isabella or subsequent releases and, therefore, has no control over Project inflow. Future operations of Lake Isabella by ACOE and flow releases schedules developed by the Kern River Water Master under climate change hydrology is unknown.
<p>Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria Comment Filed: July 20, 2023</p>	
<p>Cultural Director Shana Powers commented that unless there would be further downstream effects from the Project, the Community would defer to more local Indian tribes.</p>	<p>No study request comments were received.</p>
<p>U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service Request Filed: August 31, 2023</p>	
<p>Updated Draft REC 2 – Recreation Facility Use Assessment Extent of Technical Study Area – In addition to the developed site and select Project trails, the Study sites should include dispersed sites where visitors access undeveloped areas along the bypass reach. Study sites should be determined by the Recreation Technical Working Group with the option to further modify, if warranted.</p>	<p>Response NPS-1: SCE has modified the TSP to include characterization of recreation use at undeveloped sites along the bypass reach accessible from SR 178. SCE will consult with the Recreation Technical Working Group to identify undeveloped recreation sites along the bypass reach that should be included in the study.</p>
<p>Technical Study Approach – In addition to interviewing personnel from the Sequoia National Forest, SCE, and consultants to obtain information on trail use (intensity, types and season of use, access, safety concerns, etc.), individuals affiliated with the Kern Gateway Trail project and other community members should be interviewed or invited to participate in focus groups to solicit their input. Such groups could also assist in survey development, including assistance in drafting survey questions and suggesting survey and trail counter locations.</p>	<p>Response NPS-2: SCE has modified the TSP to specify that other interested stakeholders identified by the Recreation TWG such as active Kern Gateway Trail team members will also be consulted.</p>
<p>The proposed Technical Study would not include data on trail users during December and January. NPS recommends the study be continuously conducted throughout the year.</p>	<p>Response NPS-3: SCE has modified the TSP to specify data will be collected for a full year.</p>
<p>NPS recommends an option to complete paper self-survey forms and submit them in drop boxes. Survey by QR code has limitations due to unreliability of cellular reception in the Kern River Canyon while hiking.</p>	<p>Response NPS-4: SCE has modified the TSP to specify the use of physical tamper-proof survey boxes to collect user data along the six Project trails identified for study in the TSP. These physical boxes will be used in place of prior suggested data collection methods involving QR codes and trail cameras.</p>
<p>The Technical Study should also include random, in-person surveys throughout the study period to improve the reliability of the overall study.</p>	<p>Response NPS-5: SCE has modified the TSP to include random in-person intercept surveys. These surveys would be conducted at the same time as the vehicle counts and rely on standardized intercept survey forms designed to clarify and characterize recreation use and gather information about user experience – including aesthetic experience. The intercept forms will be designed with questions for two user groups: day users and whitewater boaters. SCE will consult with the Recreation TWG to finalize the questions in the intercept survey forms.</p>

Study Plan Development Process – Next Steps

Study Plan Development Process - Next Steps

Pre-filing Milestones - Upcoming

FERC Regulation 18 CFR §	Responsible Party	Action	Date
5.12	Stakeholders	Proposed Study Plan Comments Due	1/16/2024
5.13(a)	SCE	File Revised Study Plan	2/14/2024
5.13(b)	Stakeholders	Revised Study Plan Comments Due	2/29/2024
5.13(c)	FERC	Issue Study Plan Determination	3/15/2024
5.14(a)	Mandatory Conditioning Agencies / Tribes	File Any Study Disputes	4/4/2024

Submit comments via FERC's eFiling system at: <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>

How to Stay Involved

Where to Get Information:

Obtain relicensing information from:

- FERC's eLibrary: [eLibrary | Federal Energy Regulatory Commission \(ferc.gov\)](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/)
- SCE's relicensing website: www.sce.com/kr1

Submit comments at:

- FERC's eFiling: <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>

Contact Information

FERC

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SCE

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Adjourn