

Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project

FERC No. 1388

Welcome!

Using the chat, please write your name, organization, and where you want to go when the pandemic is over

TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

Technical Working Group Meeting

April 7, 2021

Safety Moment



Lee Vining Relicensing TWG Team

SCE Team

Matthew Woodhall
Project Manager

Martin Ostendorf
Senior Manager

Seth Carr
Operations Manager

Lyle Laven
Production Manager

Consultant Team

Finlay Anderson
Project Manager

Kelly Larimer
Project Director

Shannon Luoma
Deputy PM

Carissa Shoemaker
TWG Coordinator

Steve Norton
Wildlife Lead

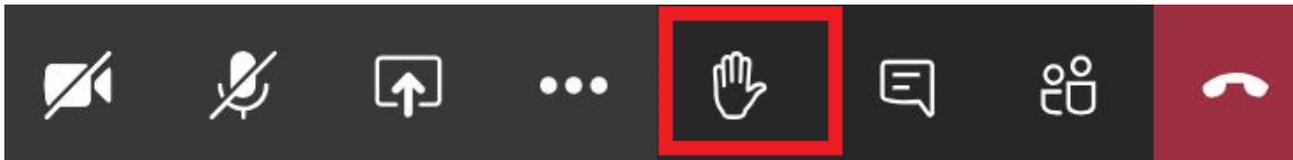
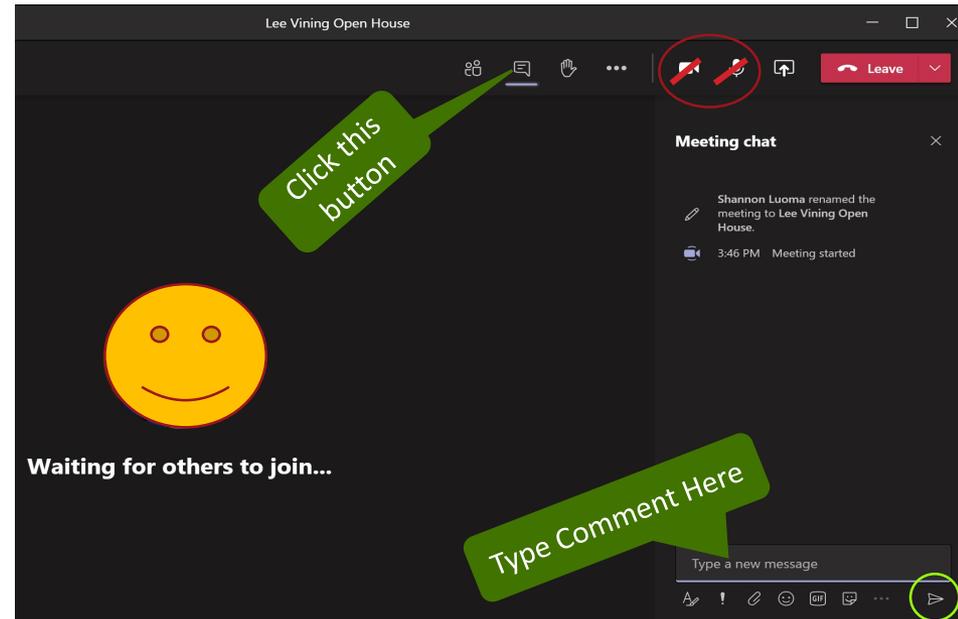
Allison Rudalevige
Botanical Lead

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
 - Safety Moment
 - Review of February TWG notes
 - Meeting goals
- Discussion of Study Plan Requests
 - Objectives
 - Rationale, Nexus
 - Study Area
 - Methods
- Schedule, Next Steps, Action Items
 - Next TWG date(s)
 - Study Plan Titles/Outlines
 - Other action items
- Final Questions

Meeting Tips and Guidelines

- Please wait to be called on and then unmute your line
 - Introduce yourself (name and affiliation) prior to speaking
- Listen and respect each other
- Stay on topic
- Ask a question by typing it into the chat box during the presentation or by using the raise your hand feature



Review of February TWG notes

- Riparian Community / Black Cottonwood Study
 - Number and location of monitoring sites
 - Separation of baseline and operations impacts
- Invasive Plants
 - Aquatic invasive plants to be addressed by Aquatics TWG
 - Assess recreation sites for invasive plants
- Wildlife
 - Species included versus Bishop-specific species not included
- Yosemite Toad
 - Data gaps
 - Detailed study request
- Riparian Birds
 - Baseline conditions determination

Review of February TWG action items

- CDFW sent information on bighorn sheep in the area
- CDFW to send the new Sierra Nevada red fox report when it becomes available
- Psomas will send the USFWS dissertation about mark-recapture of Yosemite toad from UCSB, if publically available: David Martin. 2008. Decline, Movement and Habitat Utilization of the Yosemite Toad (*Bufo canorus*): An Endangered Anuran Endemic to the Sierra Nevada of California.
- CDFW/USFS provided the plans/documents regarding the translocation of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog to the project vicinity
- Relicensing team and USFS to confirm that everything USFS intended to share with us was received (e.g. rare and invasive plants data, high priority species list)
- Relicensing team to delete the USFS Bishop Creek comments from 2018 that are included currently in the study requests list
- Peak flow study – keep on table for future discussion (Aquatics TWG)

Study Plans

Potential Studies for Other Resource Areas

- Aquatics
 - Aquatic Habitat Assessment and Sediment Characterization
 - Operations Model / Peaking Flow Study
 - Stream Fish Populations
 - Reservoir Fish Populations
 - *Didymo* and other Aquatic Invasive Plants
 - Water quality assessment

Potential Studies for Other Resource Areas (continued)

- Cultural and Tribal
 - Cultural study
 - Tribal study
- Recreation and Land Use
 - Recreation Use and Needs Evaluation
 - Existing Recreation Facilities Condition Assessment
 - Project Boundary and Roads

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources: Potential Studies

Requested by Stakeholders

- Yosemite Toad (see general wildlife study)
- Focal Riparian Birds (see general wildlife study)
- Invasive Plants (see Botanical study)
- Invasive plants sub-unit on *Didymo* (to be covered in Aquatics TWG)
- Assessment of Special Status Plants (see Botanical study)
- Assessment of Riparian Community (see Riparian Analysis)

Elements Considered but Not Included

Request	Rationale for not including
Focused presence/absence surveys for riparian and cliff-dwelling birds.	<p><u>Lack of Nexus:</u> The baseline environmental conditions would stay the same as no new activities are proposed. Detailed population studies or determining species' absence is not relevant.</p>
Yosemite toad mark/recapture study	<p><u>Level of Effort:</u> Not commensurate with resource question given no change in operations.</p> <p><u>Methods:</u> Mark/recapture and focal point counts don't inform questions around project impacts and would require multiple years of study for non-project-related purposes.</p>

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources: Potential Studies

Team Proposed Studies

- General Wildlife Study
- Botanical Study
- Riparian Community Analysis

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources: Potential Studies

Wildlife Study

- Objectives
 1. Build a compendium of common and RTE wildlife species occurring within project areas that may be affected by proposed O&M activities.
 2. Identify RTE and riparian birds in the area during general wildlife surveys.
 3. Determine persistence of known Yosemite toad populations within the FERC boundary.
 4. Determine potential impacts/interactions with dispersed use and terrestrial species of interest, including YOTO.
 5. Develop sufficient data for informal and formal consultation needs for Federal resources agencies with respect to habitat needs for YOTO.
 6. Coordinate with related TWG to ensure continuity of studies
 1. Cultural Resources and Recreation
- Rationale/Nexus
- Study Area

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources: Potential Studies

Wildlife Study

- Objectives
- Rationale/Nexus
 - Data on the wildlife species present within areas proposed for O&M activities in the FERC boundary under the new license are needed to appropriately determine the existing conditions associated with terrestrial biological resources.
- Study Area

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources: Potential Studies

Wildlife Study

- Objectives
- Rationale/Nexus
- Study Area
 - SCE areas of activity (O&M)
 - Including SCE access road to Tioga Dam
 - Yosemite Toad locations known in the FERC boundary
 - Including the wetland southeast of Saddlebag

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources: Potential Studies

Botanical Study

- Objectives
 - Determine distribution of RTE plants, other special status plants, and invasive plants within the project area with a potential to be affected by O&M activities of the project.
 - Coordinate with related TWG to ensure continuity of studies
 - Recreation and Cultural Resources
- Rationale/Nexus
- Study Area

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources: Potential Studies

Botanical Study

- Objectives
- Rationale/Nexus
 - O&M activities at project facilities and developed recreational facilities may affect RTE plant species (including whitebark pine) and other, non-listed special status plant species; O&M activities at project facilities and developed recreational facilities may contribute to the establishment and spread of invasive plant species.
- Study Area

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources: Potential Studies

Botanical Study

- Objectives
- Rationale/Nexus
- Study Area
 - SCE areas of activity (O&M)
 - Developed recreational facilities within FERC Boundary

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources: Potential Studies

Riparian Community Assessment

- Objectives
 - Determine distribution of riparian plant communities with a potential to be affected by O&M activities of the project, including changes in instream flow conditions.
 - Review existing data and incorporate 2021 riparian monitoring results in the riparian community assessment.
- Rationale/Nexus
- Study Area

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources: Potential Studies

Riparian Community Assessment

- Objectives
- Rationale/Nexus
 - O&M activities may affect riparian vegetation types.
- Study Area

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources: Potential Studies

Riparian Community Assessment

- Objectives
- Rationale/Nexus
- Study Area
 - Reach between Saddlebag and Slate Creek. Downstream hydrology is affected by factors not under SCE control, e.g., accretion flows, tributaries.
 - Augment upstream and downstream with remote sensing imagery

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources

- Questions
- Do you have information you want to share with us?
- Proposed next TWG date: May 26

RELICENSING SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Relicensing Process Schedule

(subject to change depending on relicensing process)

Date	Activity
August 2, 2021	SCE Files Notice of Intent/Pre-Application Document (NOI/PAD)
September 2021	FERC initiates Tribal consultation
September – October 2021	<i>If ILP:</i> FERC issues Notice of Commencement and Scoping Document 1 (SD1) and hosts scoping meeting/site visit <i>If TLP:</i> FERC approves use of TLP
October 2021	Public Meeting to discuss PAD and NOI
October/November 2021	Stakeholders file comments on NOI/PAD and request studies
November 13, 2021	SCE files proposed Study Plans
January 2022	SCE hosts Study Plan Meeting
April 2022	Revise Study Plans as appropriate
Spring/Summer 2022-2023	Conduct field studies
September 3, 2024	SCE Files Draft License Application
January 31, 2025	SCE Files Final License Application

Tentative TWG Meeting Schedule

Date		Activity
Week of May 24, 2021	Monday, May 24	Aquatic Resources TWG 4
	Wednesday AM, May 26	Terrestrial and Botanical TWG 4
	Wednesday PM, May 26	Cultural and Tribal TWG 4
	Thursday, May 27	Recreation and Land Use TWG 4

How to Stay Involved

- Check the Project website for updates/news at www.sce.com/leevining
- You can view other SCE relicensing Projects at www.sce.com/regulatory/hydro-licensing
- Sign-up to receive Project-related emails through the Contact Registration Form/Project Questionnaire on the Project website
- Participate in an ongoing TWG
- Sign up for FERC's for e-subscription (docket number "P-1388") at www.ferc.gov
- Email Carissa Shoemaker with questions carissa.shoemaker@erm.com



Thank you!