Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project

FERC No. 1388

Virtual Public Open House

October 6, 2020

Please Hold, we will begin at 5 minutes past the hour.
Thank you for your patience and muting your microphone.

Lee Vining Relicensing Management Team

SCE Team

Matthew Woodhall
Project Manager

Martin Ostendorf
Senior Manager

Wayne Allen
Principal Manager

Samantha Nelson
Production Manager

Al Partridge
Maintenance Supervisor

Seth Carr
Operations Supervisor

Consultant Team

Finlay Anderson
Project Manager

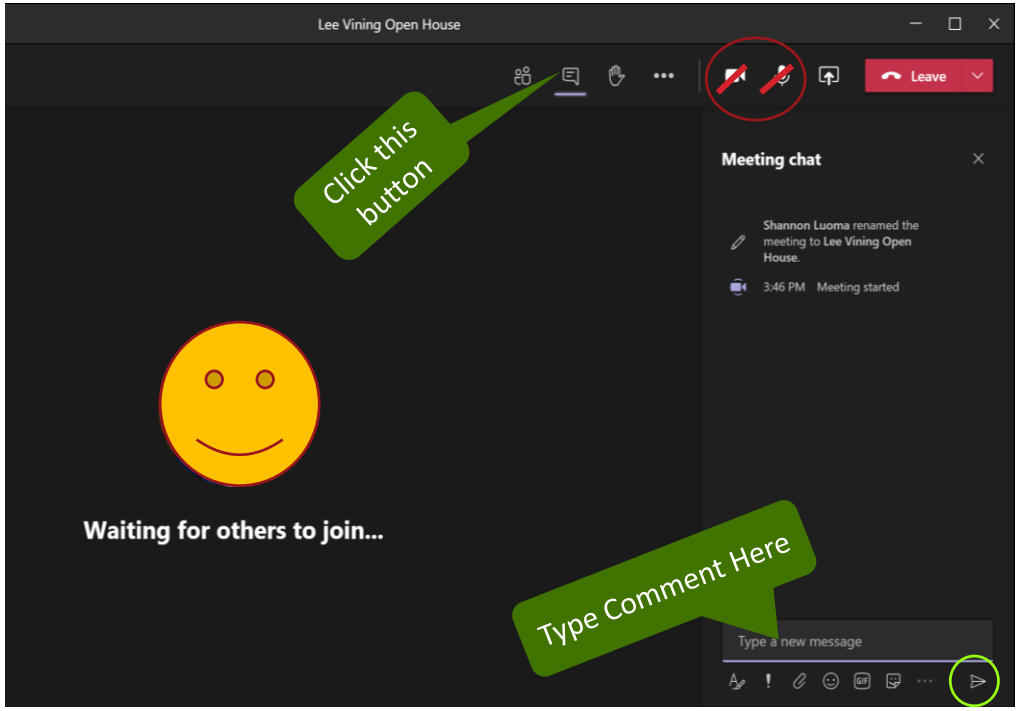
Kelly Larimer
Project Director

Shannon Luoma
Deputy PM

Carissa Shoemaker
Technical Workgroup Coordinator

Meeting Tips and Guidelines

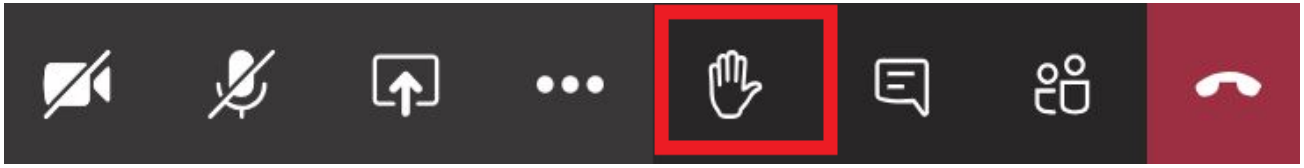
- Please Remain on Mute
- Turn off Camera
- Meeting will be Recorded
- Meeting materials are Available on Project Website, **www.sce.com/leevining**



- Consider Shutting Down Unnecessary Background Programs for Best Meeting Audio/Viewing Quality
- Utilize the Chat Box During the Presentation for Questions or Comments
- Questions will be answered in appropriate Q&A sections as time allows

How to Ask a Question

- Use the Chat Box or Ask Question Verbally
- Use the “Raise Hand” Feature to Indicate You Would Like to Ask Your Question Verbally



- Please Wait to be Called on and then Unmute Your Line
  - Introduce yourself (name and affiliation) prior to speaking
- Please Listen and Respect Each Other
- Please Stay on Topic

Public Meeting Objectives & Agenda

- Introduce Southern California Edison's (SCE) Relicensing Team
- Learn About:
  - SCE's relicensing objectives
  - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing process
  - Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project and relevant resource areas
- Ask Questions

SCE Relicensing Process

SCE Welcome

SCE's Vision

To achieve excellence in Safety, Operations, and Innovation, delivering reliable, valuable and clean generation solutions for our customers and communities

Why is relicensing important? Why are we here?

What role does the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission play?

SCE's Relicensing Objectives

- Obtain Project Authorization for an Additional License Term of 30-50 years (18 CFR Part 5)
- No anticipated changes in facilities or operations.
- Protect Generation Assets while Providing Resource Protection/Enhancement
- Evaluate Effects from Ongoing Project Operations and Maintenance
- Seek Collaborative Solutions that Achieve a Sustainable Balance for Beneficial Uses
- Provide Safe, Reliable, Affordable and Clean Energy to its Customers and Community

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISION (FERC) RELICENSING PROCESS

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

WHAT IS FERC?

A federal, independent agency (formally the Federal Power Commission)

WHAT DOES FERC REGULATE?

Electrical transmission, ***hydroelectric dam licensing*** *and safety, natural gas and oil pipelines*

HOW DOES FERC IMPACT YOU?

FERC manages the participation of the public, agencies, NGOs, and other interested stakeholders.

WHEN DOES RELICENSING START?

The relicensing process officially starts 5 to 5.5 years before license expiration

http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/gen-info/licensing

What is FERC Relicensing?

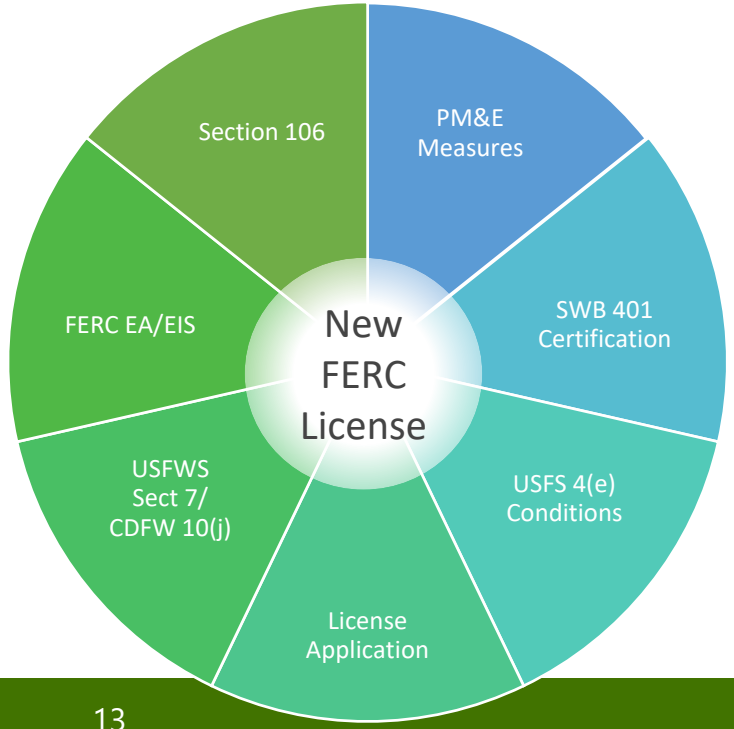
- Complex, multiyear
- Involves multiple participant with public involvement opportunities
- Develops an evidentiary record
- Provides FERC with decision-making information
- Determines license term and requirements

Basic Steps of Relicensing

- **Step 1: Describe Project and file Notice of Intent (NOI)**
- Preliminary Application Document (PAD) summarizes existing Project-related information, potential future operations, and identifies potential resource issues
- Identify Key Questions
  - Stakeholders ask questions and request studies for information that doesn't already exist (Criteria for determining appropriate studies).

FERC Relicensing Process Approach

- **Step 2: Answer Questions and Develop License Application**
  - Conduct studies for 1-2 years to fill in data gaps
  - Identify Protection, Mitigation, and Enhancement (PME) measures for the new license in with coordination with stakeholders
  - Submit license application to FERC



- **Step 3: FERC Conducts a NEPA review and issues license with term and conditions**
  - Solicits comments from stakeholders
  - Receives terms and conditions from agencies
  - Issues License

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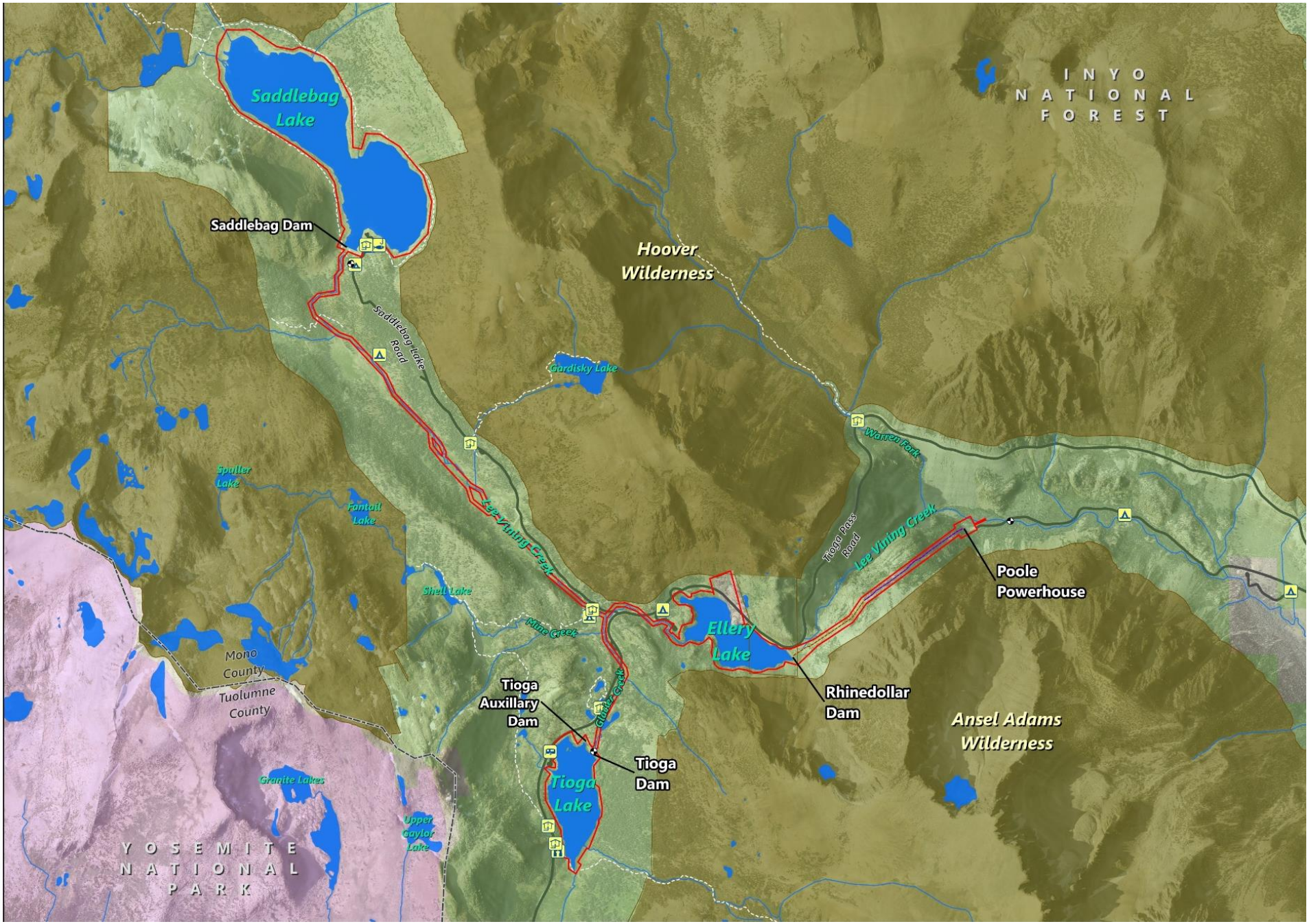
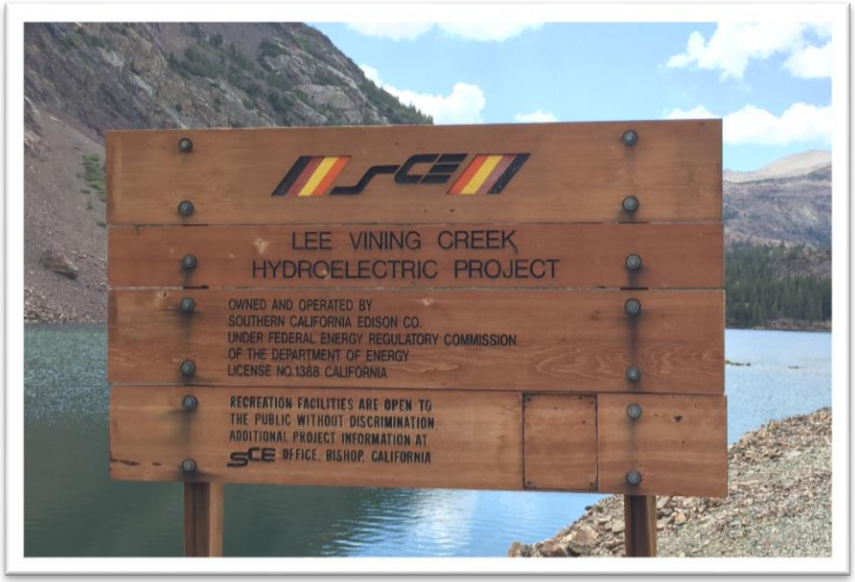
Questions about SCE or FERC relicensing?

OVERVIEW OF LEE VINING HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT


Saddlebag Lake
Saddlebag Dam
Saddlebag Lake Road
Hoover Wilderness
INYO NATIONAL FOREST
Gardisky Lake
Warren Fork
Spuller Lake
Fantail Lake
Lee Vining Creek
Tioga Pass Road
Poole Powerhouse
Shell Lake
Mine Creek
Ellery Lake
Mono County
Tuolumne County
Tioga Auxillary Dam
Glacier Creek
Rhinedollar Dam
Ansel Adams Wilderness
Tioga Dam
Tioga Lake
Granite Lakes
Upper Gaylor Lake
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) License
  - FERC Project No. 1388
  - Issued February 1997
  - 30 year license term
  - Expires January 31, 2027



- Key Outcomes from Previous Relicensing
  - Established minimum release flows with Project operations (i.e., generation) while protecting aquatic resources
  - Conducted focused studies/evaluation on key resource topics
  - Established resource protection measures

Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project

- Located in the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada primarily on Inyo National Forest lands about 9 miles upstream of Lee Vining, CA
- Situated on Lee Vining Creek, in Mono County
- The Project maintains 3 reservoirs and dams:
  - Saddlebag Dam and Lake
  - Tioga Dam and Lake
  - Rhinedollar Dam and Ellery Lake

Aerial Overview of Lee Vining Project Area

Project Facilities

- Saddlebag Dam and Lake
  - Headwaters of Lee Vining Creek
  - 297-acre reservoir
- Tioga Dam and Lake
  - Headwaters of Glacier Creek
  - 2 dams: Main and Auxiliary
  - 73-acre reservoir
- Rhinedollar Dam and Ellery Lake
  - Tioga and Saddlebag drain into here
  - 61-acre reservoir
- Poole powerhouse
  - 11.25 megawatts
- Flowline and penstock connect in Ellery Lake and Poole Powerhouse

See the project description sheet for more details

Lee Vining Video Flyover

For best results:

Close other programs you may have running

<https://vimeo.com/462919292/9777e7296f>

Water Management

- Different minimum flows below each reservoir, influenced by the type of hydrologic year (wet, dry, normal).

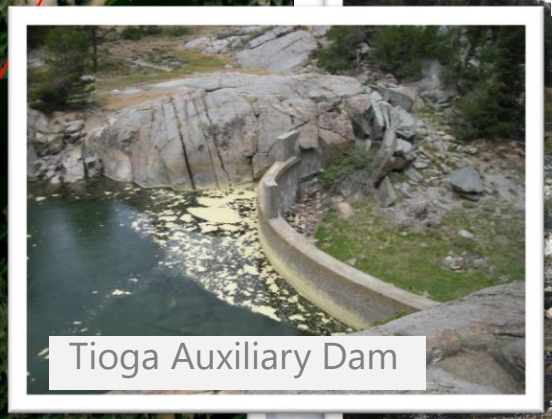
- Historic contract (sales agreement) largely dictates how water is stored and released – SCE has no control over what happens to the water once it leaves the Project

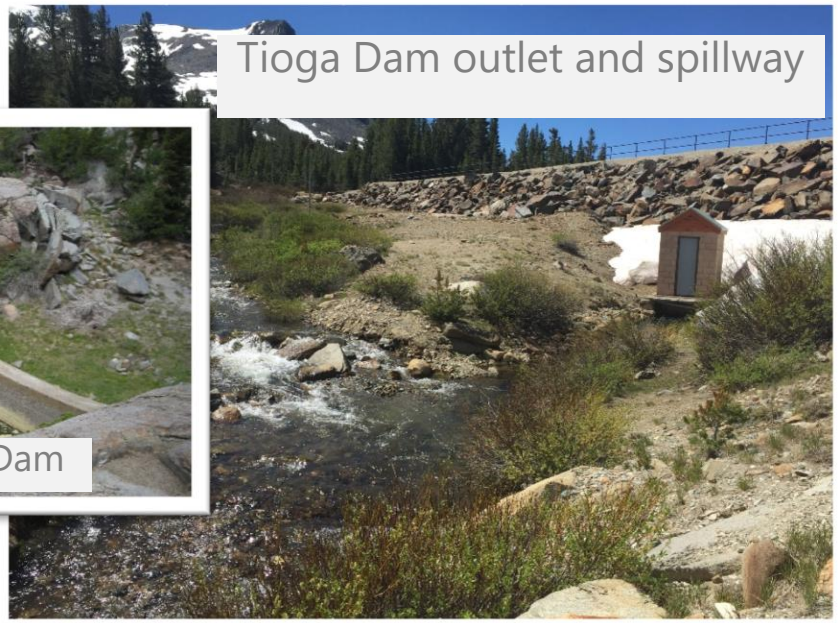
- Water rights below the Project on Lee Vining Creek belong to LADWP and managed through a settlement agreement to allocate water between Aqueduct System (via the Mono Basin Extension at an impoundment approximately 5 miles downstream of the Poole Powerhouse) and Lee Vinings historic watershed

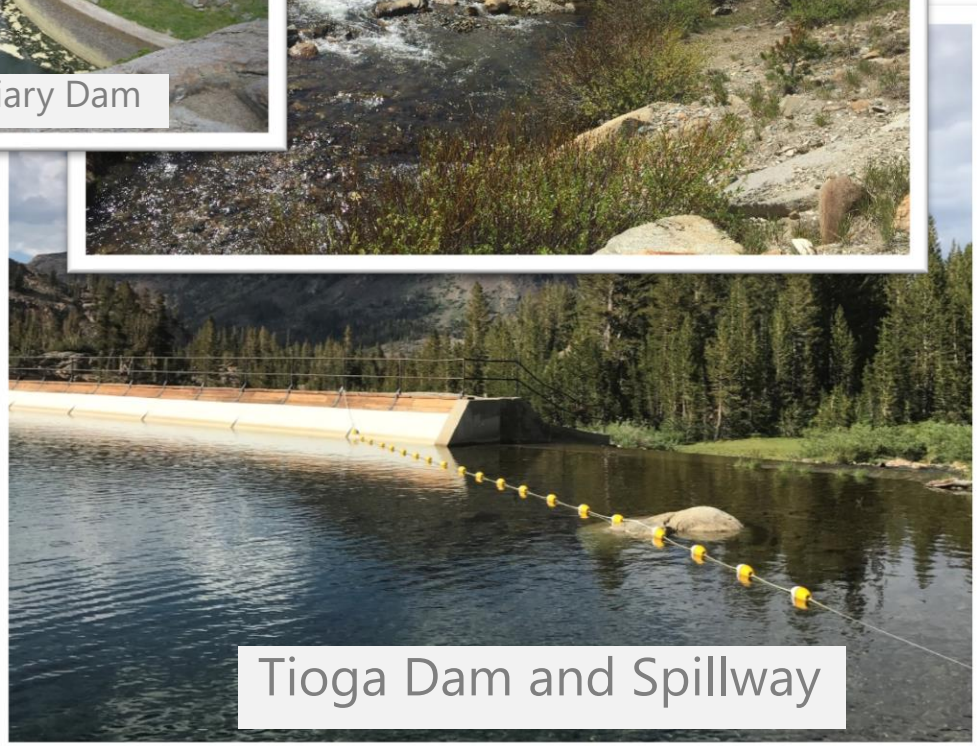
Project Overview: Saddlebag Dam and Lake

Saddlebag spillway and low-level outlet

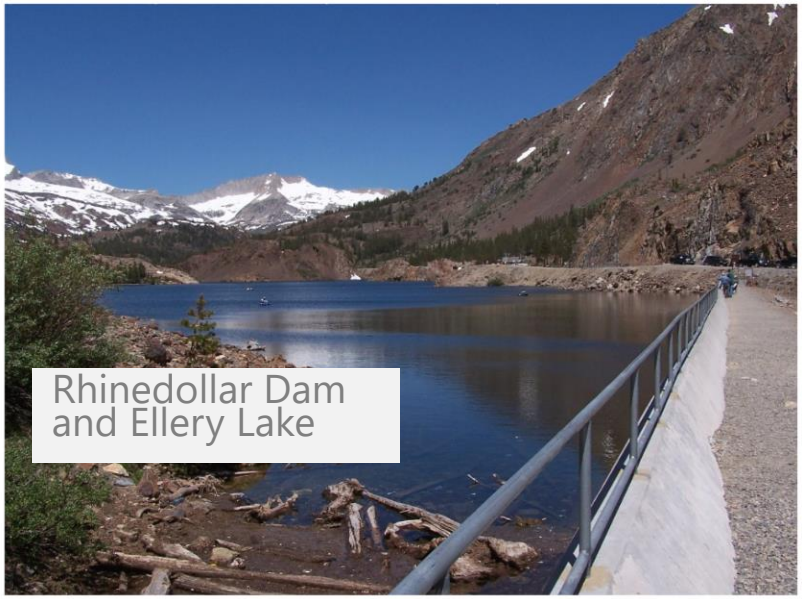
Project Overview: Tioga Dam and Lake


Tioga Auxiliary Dam

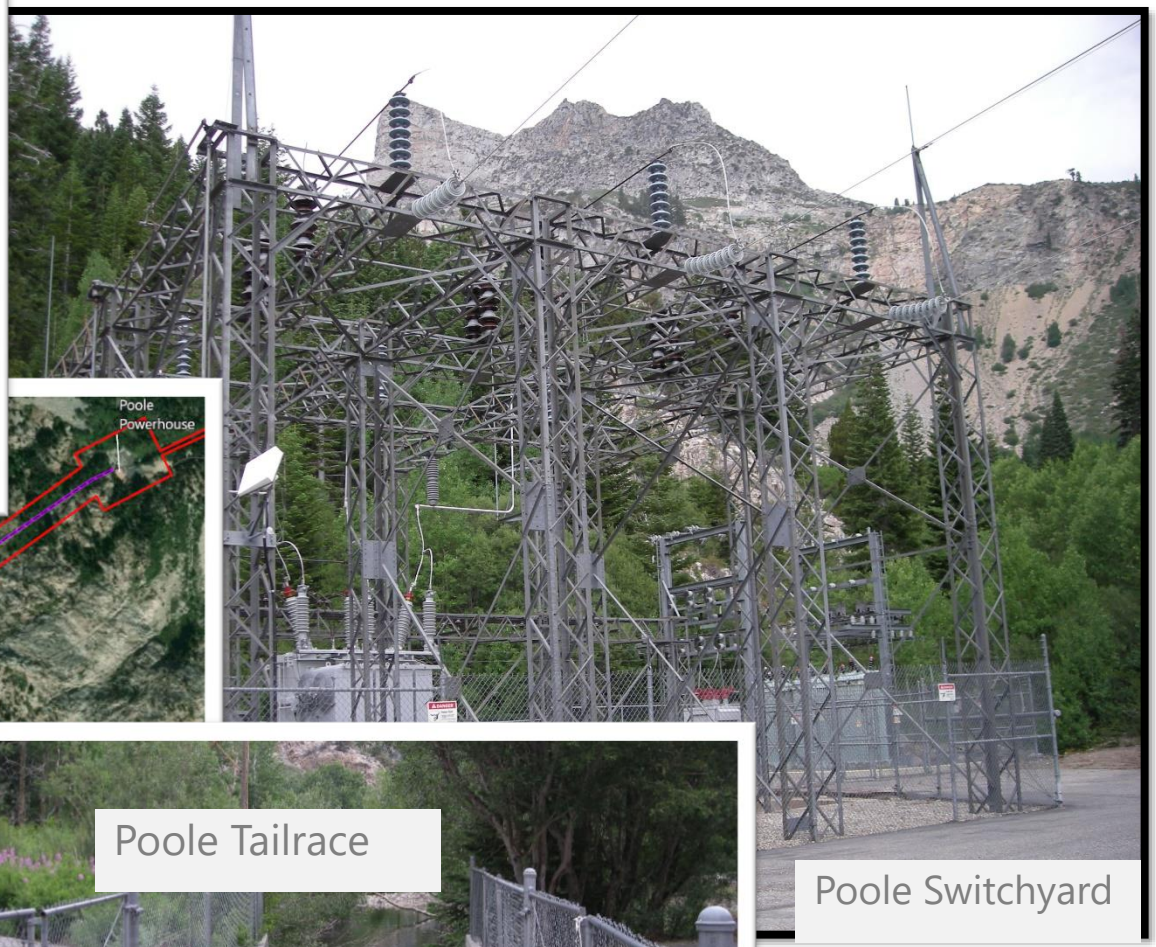

Tioga Dam outlet and spillway

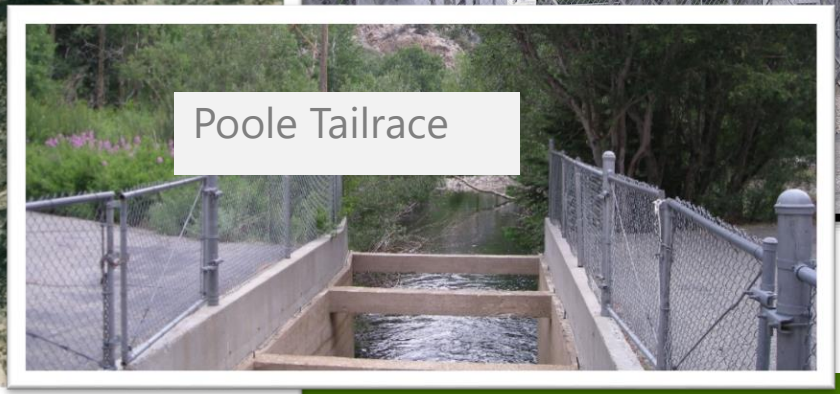

Tioga Dam and Spillway

Project Overview: Rhinedollar Dam and Ellery Lake

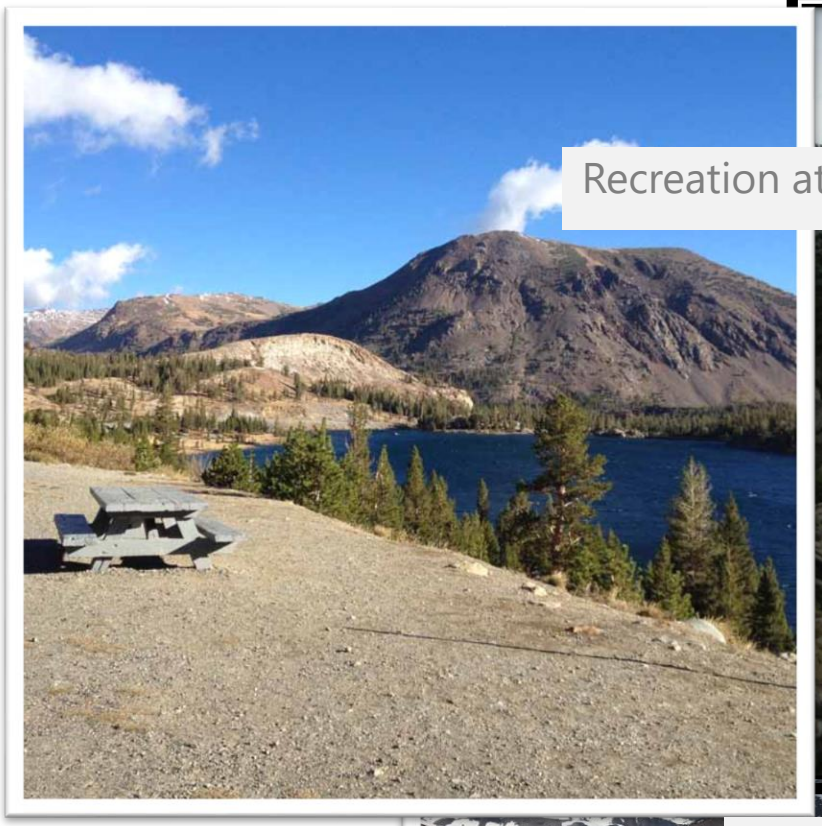


Project Overview: Poole Powerhouse

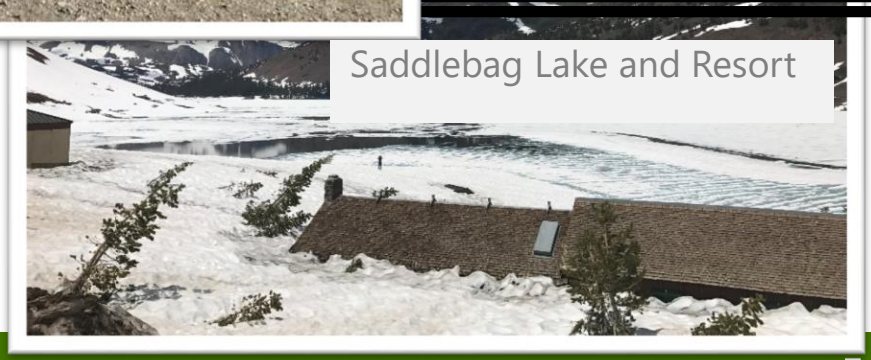




Project Overview: Recreation Facility



Recreation at Tioga Lake



Saddlebag Lake and Resort

Operations

- SCE provides minimum flow releases consistent with current FERC license
- Flows for Lee Vining Creek are determined annually with the USFS
- Default flows:
  - 14 cfs for wet years,
  - 9 cfs for normal years,
  - 6 cfs for dry years.
- Below Tioga Dam
  - From December to April: equal to the natural inflow.
  - October and November: 2 cfs or natural inflow.
  - May to September, depends on water year and inflow.
- Below Poole Powerhouse Dam
  - 27 cfs or the natural flow, whichever is less.
  - June and July: 89 cfs or natural flow, whichever is less

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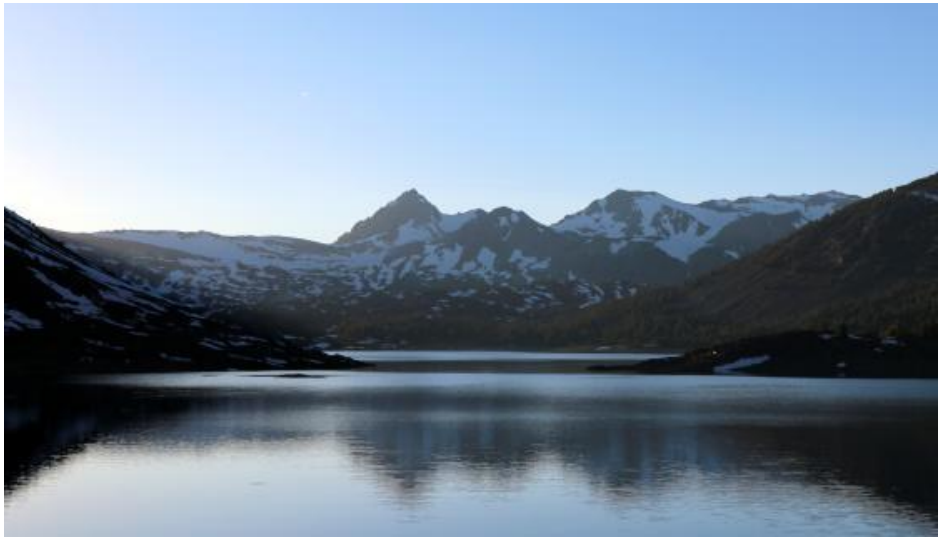
Questions about the Project or Operations?

EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

Key Resource Areas

- Aquatic Resources
- Terrestrial Resources
- Recreation and Land Use
- Cultural and Tribal Resources



Fish and Aquatic Resources

- Heather Bowen-Neff, Stillwater Sciences

Fish and Aquatic Resources

Rainbow trout

Fish Species

- Stream Habitats
  - Dominated by natural populations of non-native brown and brook trout
  - Stocked, sterile rainbow trout
  - Trout biomass highest below Saddlebag Dam
  - Fish in good condition
- Project Reservoirs
  - Dominated by non-native introduced trout species
  - Saddlebag Lake includes rainbow and brook trout
  - Ellery Lake includes rainbow, brook, and brown trout
  - Tioga Lake contains rainbow and brook trout
  - Trout appear to be non-migratory

Fish and Aquatic Resources

Lee Vining Creek below Tioga Dam

Aquatic Habitat

- Lee Vining Creek between Saddlebag Dam and Slate Creek
  - Primarily overhanging vegetation (e.g., willow bushes and conifers)
  - Dominated by moderate-gradient riffles; small amount of cascade habitat
  - Abundant spawning gravels, loosely compacted sediments, in relatively low gradient areas
  - Large wood occasionally occurs
- Lee Vining Creek between Slate Creek to Glacier Creek
  - Two low-gradient meadow sections, separated by a steeper gradient canyon
- Lee Vining Creek between confluence of Glacier Creek and Ellery Lake
  - Primarily riffle and run habitat and low-gradient cascades that flow over cobble and gravel

Aquatic Resources

Preliminary Relicensing Topics

- Identify protected or managed species that exist in the Project boundary
- Assess habitat conditions
- Understand water quality parameters/standards

Terrestrial Resources

- Steve Norton, Psomas Senior Biologist

Terrestrial Resources

Belding's Ground Squirrel at Saddlebag Lake, 2018

Existing Data

- State and Federal Database Reviews
- SCE Biological Survey Reports
- License Compliance Documents
- USFS Data and Publications
- Scientific Literature

Data Gaps

- Unrecorded species occurrences
- Ground-truth vegetation mapping within the FERC right-of-way

Terrestrial Resources

Yosemite Toad at Saddlebag Lake, 2020

Existing Environment

- 14 Vegetation Types within Project Area
  - Ranging from wet meadows to scrub to forested areas with riparian and conifer-dominated communities.
  - Provide a wide range of habitats for wildlife.
- Special Status Species Present
  - Yosemite toad
  - Whitebark pine
- Critical Habitat
  - Yosemite toad
  - Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog
  - Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep

Terrestrial Resources

Preliminary Relicensing Topics

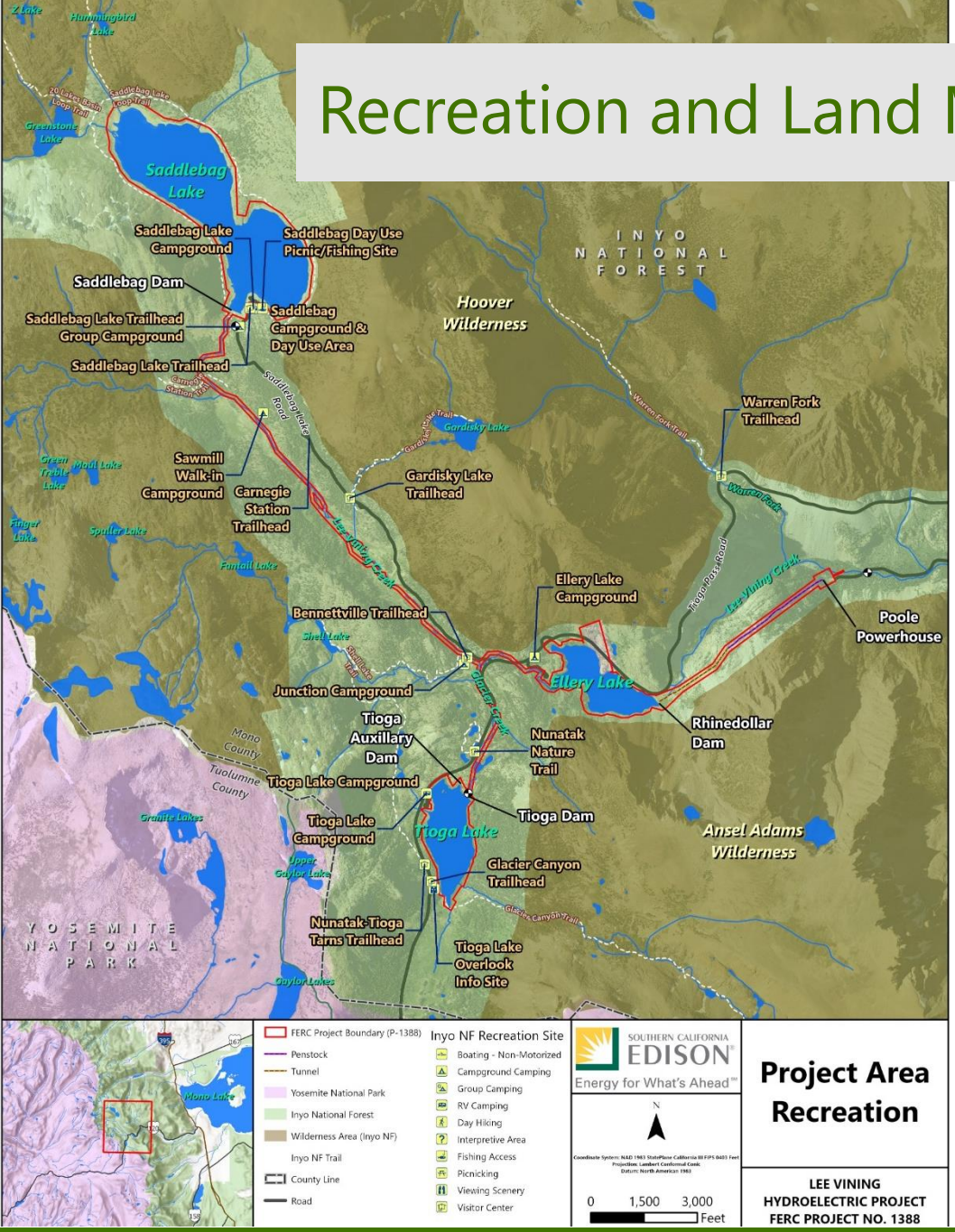
- Identify protected or managed species present within the Project boundary
- Assess habitat suitability for special status wildlife and plants
- Protect habitat for special status species

Pika at Saddlebag Lake, 2018

Recreation and Land Use

- Kelly Larimer, Kleinschmidt Regulatory Program Director

Recreation and Land Management Resources



Existing Environment

- Current license does not require recreational facilities
- Inside FERC boundary:
  - Fish stocking at Ellery as part of current license
  - Several hiking trails cross into the Project Boundary
- Approximately 10 campgrounds; 17 miles of trails; 8 trailheads; CDFW fish stocking within the Project Vicinity

Recreation and Land Management Resources

Preliminary Relicensing Topics

- Assess the Project area's recreation opportunities, use, and needs
- Inventory condition of recreation facilities with a nexus to the Project and assess future needs
- Learn from the community what recreation attributes of the Project are most valued

Cultural and Tribal Resources

- Audry Williams, SCE Senior Archeologist
- Shelly Davis-King, Davis-King Associates Senior Ethnographer

Cultural Resources

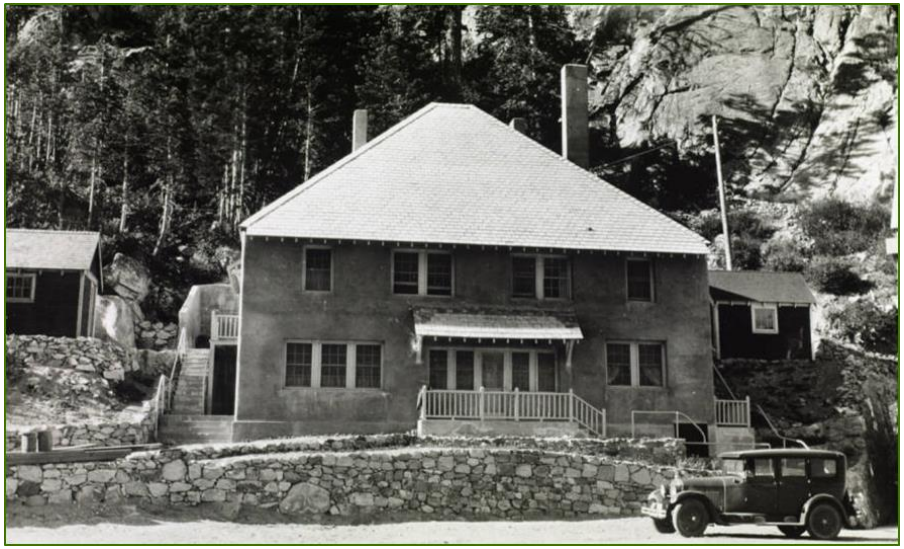
- Cultural Resource
  - A cultural resource can be a building, structure, object, site, or district, usually more than 50 years of age
- Tribal Resource
  - A Tribal resource may include tribal cultural or economic interests, can be a cultural resource, and may also include plants, animals, geological/geographic features, and more.
- Traditional Cultural Property
  - A community-related resource with traditional use; often associated with ethnic groups. A TCP is considered eligible for the National Register.

Cultural Resources

Existing Environment

- Data Sources - SCE's Subscription to California Historical Resources Information Center, USFS Data, Previous Studies, SCE Historical Documents

- 19 previous studies
- 25 previously recorded built environment resources
  - Triple Cottage National Register eligible
- 5 previously recorded archaeological resources



Tribal Resources

Existing Environment

- Data Sources - accessible libraries, online web-pages, and Native American Heritage Commission
- Multiple Tribal Groups have an interest in the Project (Northern Paiute, Owens Valley Paiute, Western Shoshone, Southern Miwok, Central Me-Wuk, Hungalelti Washo, Western Mono)
- Kutzadikaa Paiute/Mono Lake are the principal tribal group
- No federal trust tribal lands in Project
- No baseline ethnographic investigation of Project; ethnography from 1960s

Tribal Resources

Existing Environment

- Numerous trails in area, camps, medicine and food gathering locales
- Broad territory of tribal people to include Walker Lake and Yosemite Valley
- No interviews or meetings have yet been scheduled with Tribes

Cultural and Tribal Resources

Preliminary Relicensing Topics

- Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act
- Contact Tribes and interested parties
- Identification of location and types of cultural resources, tribal resources, and historic properties in Project area

Projectile Points

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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG): APPROACH AND OVERVIEW

Technical Working Group Objectives

- Help Inform the Development of Proposed Study Plans
- Provide Technical Expertise and Represent Key Stakeholder Constituencies during the Relicensing Process
- Elicit Collaborative Participation, while Respecting Individual Authorities and Mandates of Participating Agencies, Tribes, and SCE's Independent Decision-Making
- Identify Areas of Agreement among SCE/ Stakeholders as well as a Forum to Clarify and Discuss any Areas of Disagreement

Technical Working Group Participation

- Roles and Participation of TWG Members
  - Open to all interested agencies and individual stakeholders with baseline knowledge of their chosen resource area
  - Each TWG Member Agency or Participant is Encouraged to Designate a Primary Representative for each TWG
  - Expected to commit and be prepared for and attend meetings, review documents, and provide technical feedback to SCE
    - Time commitment expected to increase once formal relicensing begins (after filing of PAD)
- Join the TWG by emailing Carissa.Shoemaker@erm.com or using the online form at https://www.sce.com/leevining

RELICENSING SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Relicensing Process Schedule

Date	Activity
Aug 2, 2021	SCE Files Notice of Intent/Pre-Application Document (NOI/PAD)
September 2021	FERC initiates Tribal consultation
Sept. – Oct. 2021	FERC issues Notice of Commencement and Scoping Document 1 (SD1) and hosts scoping meeting/site visit
October 2021	Public Meeting to discuss PAD and NOI
October/November 2021	Stakeholders file comments on NOI/PAD
Nov 13, 2021	SCE files proposed Study Plans
Dec 13, 2021	SCE hosts Study Plan Meeting
Spr/Sum 2022-2023	Conduct field studies
Sept 3, 2024	SCE Files Draft License Application
Jan 31, 2025	SCE Files Final License Application

How to Stay Involved

- Check the Project Website for Updates/News at www.sce.com/leevining
- Sign-up to Receive Project-Related Emails
- Participate in TWG Meetings
- Sign up for FERC's for E-subscription (docket number "P-1388") at www.ferc.gov

We Want Your Feedback

Complete the Contact **Registration Form/Project Questionnaire** on the Project website: www.sce.com/leevining

- Final meeting materials and responses to comments or questions received will be posted to the Project website within 14 days.
- Contact information for the Relicensing Team is available on the Project website.

Thank you!