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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
FERC or Commission	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Forest Service	United States Forest Service
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
MIF	minimum instream flow
PAD	Pre-Application Document
Project	Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project
SCE	Southern California Edison Company
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

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5.0 SUMMARY OF CONTACTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) Integrated Licensing Process requires that an applicant for a new license consult with interested parties (stakeholders) during the relicensing process. As required in Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §5.6(d)(5), this section and Appendix B provide a summary of contacts to date with federal and state resource agencies, local governments, Native American Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties (collectively referred to as stakeholders or Relicensing Participants) during preparation of the Pre-Application Document (PAD).

The following summarizes SCE's early outreach activities.

5.2 PROJECT INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESPONSES

On July 21, 2022, SCE distributed a Project Information Questionnaire to stakeholders to solicit information on existing resources in the vicinity of the Project and to identify potential resource issues. Appendix B-1 contains the questionnaire and list of recipients. Appendix B-2 contains responses received on the questionnaire. Table 5-1 provides a summary of resource issues and areas of concern identified by stakeholders in the questionnaire responses.

5.3 REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENCY INFORMATION

On August 16, 2022, as a follow-up to the Project Information Questionnaire, SCE provided more specific data requests to United States Forest Service (Forest Service), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to obtain readily available information to support development of the PAD. SCE specifically requested information on botanical, wildlife, fish, and aquatics resources from the agencies (Appendix B-4). Only the USFWS responded to the data request (Appendix B-4).

5.4 STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATIONS / MEETINGS

On August 23, 2022, SCE notified stakeholders of the early outreach activities being conducted as part of the relicensing process, including the questionnaire that was also made electronically available on the Project website (see below), and notice that a public relicensing kick-off teleconference will be held in March/April 2023, open to all stakeholders, to discuss the relicensing process, project facilities and operations, existing resource information, and draft technical studies in advance of distribution of the PAD (Appendix B-3). In addition, SCE posted the relicensing public announcement on social networks Face Book and Next Door.

On April 25, 2023, stakeholders were notified that the public relicensing teleconference was rescheduled to June 13, 2023 (9:30 am - 12:00 pm), to allow time to review the detailed information in the PAD (Appendix B-5). The purpose of the teleconference is to

acquaint stakeholders with FERC's ILP, including key milestones and opportunities for stakeholder participation; describe Project facilities and operations; and explain the PAD contents and organization. Refer to Appendix B for a summary of early relicensing activities and contacts associated with preparation of the PAD.

The stakeholder distribution list¹ for the relicensing is provided in Appendix B-6. SCE will provide announcement of upcoming meetings to all stakeholders on the distribution list.

Meeting materials will be provided to attendees and subsequently posted to the Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project website for review and download by those not able to attend in person. SCE expects to hold meetings as the relicensing process proceeds. The consultation record will be updated and included in SCE's Application for New License.

5.5 PROJECT WEBSITE

SCE established a public Internet website, which can be accessed at www.sce.kr1.

The website contains information regarding past and current relicensing activities, including meeting agendas, key decisions and action items, documents distributed to or received from participants, and reference materials.

¹ The Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project distribution list is continually updated.

TABLES

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Table 5-1. Summary of Specific Resource Issues/Concerns, Available Information, and Data Requests Identified in Responses to the Project Information Questionnaire

Stakeholder	Summary of Resource Issues / Areas of Concern / Data Requests
American Whitewater	
Jeff Venurino <i>Regional Coordinator</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues/Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation resources - Safe rivers access between the several sections - Reliable and predictable recreational flows below the Democrat diversion • Consider the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Previous relicensing whitewater boating surveys - Description of the run in the Stanley/Holbek Whitewater Guide: The Best Whitewater in California pp 296 - The Best Whitewater in California, 3rd Edition Stanley and Holbek 1998, Watershed Books • Data Requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request modern analysis of the whitewater segments for all whitewater craft types at various level - Collect information on enjoyable whitewater recreation flows for each of the Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project impacted reaches for each type of modern whitewater recreation craft
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	
Abimael Leon <i>Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues/Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Botanical and wildlife - Fish and aquatic resources - Rare, Threatened, & Endangered species - Streambed and watershed studies/surveys • Consider information included in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and in fish stocking records • Data Requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect current information on native fish species and native aquatic mussels in the Project area

Stakeholder	Summary of Resource Issues / Areas of Concern / Data Requests
Caltrans	
Shane Gunn <i>Senior Environmental Planner</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues/Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aesthetic resources - Botanical and wildlife resources - Fish and aquatic resources - Geology and soils - Rare, Threatened, and Endangered species - Riparian and wetland habitats - Tribal resources • Consider information included in the Initial Study/Negative Declaration for the State Route 178 from 1.6 miles east of Rancheria Road to Vista Grande Drive in Kern County 06-KER-178-12.60/55.40 (Project ID 0618000017) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes resource species evaluations and documentation - Contact Chelsea Starr, Caltrans Senior Environmental Planner for additional information
Kern River Fly Fishers Council	
James Ahrens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues/Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fish and aquatic resources - Geology and soils - Power generation - Recreation resources - Riparian and wetland habitat - Water quality - Water use/water supply - Impacts of the dam on maintaining a sustainable fishery • Data Requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide information on why the dam is needed

Stakeholder	Summary of Resource Issues / Areas of Concern / Data Requests
Kern River Fly Fishers Club	
Larry Elman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues/Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fish and aquatic resources - Removal of a significant amount of water from the Kern River and the negative effects on fish and aquatic resources (dewatered section of the lower Kern River) - Climate change and the cumulative impact of the Kern River No. 1 tunnels and powerhouse dewatering the river on aquatic resources • Consider information available at http://kernriverflyfishers.com under Conservation. Specifically historic documents and studies concerning the Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project and aquatic resources • Data Requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct contemporary aquatic populations surveys to document the existing state of fish and aquatic organisms in the Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project dewatered section of the Kern River. Compare the results of these studies to historic survey results
Kern Valley Indian Community	
Robert Robinson <i>Chairman and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues/Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project operation - Project was built and is operated without regard to prehistoric cultural resources of importance to tribal members
National Park Service	
Stephan Bowes <i>Planner</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues/Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation resources

Stakeholder	Summary of Resource Issues / Areas of Concern / Data Requests
State Water Resources Control Board	
<p>Garrett Long <i>Water Resources Control Engineer and Project Manager</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues/Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Botanical and wildlife resources - Cultural resources - Fish and aquatic resources - Geology and soils - Power generation - Rare, Threatened, and Endangered species - Recreation resources - Riparian and wetland habitats - Water quality - Water use/water supply • Consider information included in the following Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality Certification (2009) - Revised Sediment Management Practices (2006) - FERC Order Issuing New License (1996) - Letter from SCE to FERC – Revised FERC Form 80 for Southern California Edison’s Hydroelectric Project No. 67, et. al. (October 23, 2003) - Letter from SCE to FERC – Form 80 Request for Exemption (February 18, 2004) - Letter from FERC to SCE – Reply to letter dated February 18, 2004, Requesting Exemptions from Further Filing of the FERC Form 80 (August 9, 2004) - Letter from SCE to FERC – Request for Exemption from Form 80 Filing Requirements for Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project (September 30, 2014) - Motion to Intervene; Protests to SCE’s Application for Exemption from Form-80 Filing Requirements on Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project-Docket No. P-1930-088 (FERC 2014) - Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin, Third Addition (2018)

Stakeholder	Summary of Resource Issues / Areas of Concern / Data Requests
Tejon Indian Tribe	
Colin Rambo <i>Cultural Resources Technician</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues/Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural resources - Tribal resources • Consider confidential Tribal Cultural Resources records and maps that include relevant information about the cultural resources in the Project area. To be obtained by formal government-to-government consultation with the Tejon Tribe. • Data Requests: to be discussed during formal consultation.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	
Elizabeth (Liz) Menchaca <i>Fish and Wildlife Biologist</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues/Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Botanical and wildlife resources - Rare, Threatened & Endangered species • Consider USFWS list of Threatened and Endangered Plants and Wildlife for Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project • Obtain an official species list from the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website • Data Requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct protocol-level botanical surveys in suitable habitat - Conduct Protocol-level amphibian surveys in suitable habitat - Address rare birds during the relicensing process - Survey for rare birds in the entire Project area - Work with agencies to develop conservation measures to protect rare bird species

Stakeholder	Summary of Resource Issues / Areas of Concern / Data Requests
U.S. Forest Service	
<p>Stephen Elgart <i>District Recreation Staff Officer</i></p> <p>Tim Kelly <i>Archaeologist</i></p> <p>Norm Leonard <i>NEPA Planner</i></p> <p>Keith Stone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues/Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural resources - Fish and aquatic resources - Geology and soils - Geomorphology - Rare, Threatened, and Endangered species - Recreation resources - Riparian and wetland habitats - Tribal resources - Water quality - Water use/water supply - Non-native invasive species - Facility erosion and associated effects • Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Archaeological, historical and Tribal Cultural Resources surveys, records and other documents at the Kern River Ranger District - Area of Potential Effects needs to reflect the actual geographic area within which effects may occur, not simply the Project footprint. • Data Requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data on aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources includes but is not limited to: freshwater mussels (<i>Gonidea angulata</i> and <i>Margaritifera falcata</i>), Kern brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra hubbsi</i>), <i>Batrachoseps</i> salamanders, western pond turtles (<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>), legless lizards (<i>Anniella spp.</i>), willow flycatchers (<i>Empidonax traillii</i>), yellow-billed cuckoos (<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>), wading birds, eagles, hawks, owls, condor (<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>), bats, fisher (<i>Pekania pennanti</i>), beaver (<i>Castor canadensis</i>), and black bear (<i>Ursus americanus</i>). - There is a need for more wildlife and aquatic resources data. - There is a need for better MIF support, better/ more accessible tracking of the hydrograph and water quality data. - Comprehensive inventory of all botanical resources in the river corridor. - Alert the Forest Service to presence of non-native invasive species.

Stakeholder	Summary of Resource Issues / Areas of Concern / Data Requests
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop protocols for preventing introduction and spread of non-native invasive species. Pesticide use is a last resort and requires separate documentation not covered by SCE’s license. - SQF is filling its vacant Tribal Relations Program Manager who should be brought into the relicensing process. - Full cultural resources inventory to fully understand the cultural resources in and around the Project area. The Forest Service has some information but likely incomplete. - All FERC roads need to be inspected to ensure drainage functionality per Forest Service standards. - Sediment studies and post-fire sediment transport models are needed to determine if flow conditions downstream of the Democrat diversion are sufficient to move excess sediment after a fire.

Notes:

IPaC – Information for Planning and Consultation

MIF – minimum instream flow

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