

Lee Vining, FERC Project No. 1388

CULTURAL AND TRIBAL RESOURCES TWG 4 MEETING NOTES MAY 26, 2021; 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM PDT

**These meeting notes are documentation of general discussions from the meeting held on the above-noted date. These notes are not a verbatim account of proceedings, are not meeting minutes, and do not represent any final decisions or official documentation for the project or participating agencies.*

1. Attendees

Relicensing Team Members

Audry Williams, SCE
Carissa Shoemaker, ERM
Finlay Anderson, Kleinschmidt
Lynn Compas, HRA
Matthew Woodhall, SCE
Shannon Luoma, Kleinschmidt
Shelly Davis-King, DKA

Agencies, Tribes, and Interested Stakeholders

Sheila Irons, USFS
Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe
Raymond Andrews
Monty Bengochia, Bishop Paiute Tribe

2. Compiled Action Items for Relicensing Team

- Connect with Ron Goode to get copies of his Water Stories
- Keep the group informed of Studies as they progress, including other resources' Study Plans

3. Welcome and Introductions

- The Relicensing Team introduced the meeting, presented a safety moment
- TWG participants introduced themselves

4. Relicensing Process, Project Overview

- SCE provided a Lee Vining Project overview
- Review of notes/comments and action items from March TWG
- No comments have been received on the Tribal or CUL 1 Preliminary Application Document (PAD) to date, more opportunities for comment will be presented throughout the relicensing process.

5. Discussion of Proposed Study Plans

- The Relicensing Team reviewed the Cultural Resource and Tribal Resource Study Plans
- Comment: Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe –
 - Emphasized the difference between cultural resources the way the team is using it and cultural resources the way the Tribes use it. Cultural resources to the tribes are all things—water, rocks, air, birds, plants, etc. He wants us to be clear on what we are meaning. Tribal resources are more than archaeological sites that might be eligible for listing in the National Register. Wanted clarity on how cultural resources and Tribal



- values will be analyzed separately. Is glad that the ethnographic study area extends 5 miles around the Project.
- Response: Shelly Davis-King, Relicensing Team – Cultural and Tribal resources are different: not all Tribal resources are eligible for the National Register, e.g., an elderberry harvest location related to an individual gatherer might not be eligible. We are asking the Tribes to help us understand what is significant to them, and we will include those resources in our Tribal Resource Study Plan implementation. We work closely with HRA who has a great understanding of what those more recent resources might be.
 - Comment Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe – We don't want to get lost in the two verbiages (cultural and Tribal). For example, on another project we made them a vegetation species list and it was not included/assessed in the Botanical study report. We felt like we weren't listened to.
 - Response: Shelly Davis-King, Relicensing Team – The ethnobotanical lists you have developed in the 70s and the more recent one were included in the tribal resources report for that project, and the biological team had access to that list. We will conduct a similar survey for this Project.
 - Response: Audry Williams, Relicensing Team – We understand that the resources are connected and we will assess them where we need to.
 - Response: Lynn Compas, Relicensing Team – Sometimes archeological sites or buildings may not meet the criteria for the National Register but still have Tribal values, and that is part of the goal here to recognize those sites.
 - Response: Shelly Davis-King, Relicensing Team – HRA, a Tribal representative, and I go into the field together and discuss potential Tribal resource areas. We identify as best as we can what those values are.
- Comment: Raymond Andrews –
 - When this project was constructed, there was no consultation with the Tribes, except for a report that was written after construction. A lot of the information my elders passed on wasn't recorded. For example, before there was a road up Tioga Pass the Kutzadikaa used a trail and gathered up there near Poole Powerhouse. We know there are sites in there. There is an importance of certain plants we are gathering because they didn't grow in any other place. So, we have to gather there.
 - Response: Audry Williams, Relicensing Team – Missing information like this is what we want to gather from you for the Tribal Resources Study Plan. We want to include the information you know and include it in the Study.
 - Comment: Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe –
 - For Raymond and Monty, we have been assessing trails on our side of the Sierra recently. It would be beneficial to look at trails on the east side and those that go over to the west side to see where the trading was.
 - Response: Audry Williams, Relicensing Team – Agreed that a trail analysis, combined with other projects in the area, would be great to map comprehensively.
 - Response: Shelly Davis-King, Relicensing Team – In the PAD, there is a map of trails in the Project Study Area, where the Kutzadikaa and others have identified many of those go into this Project area or nearby. There is already some knowledge/documentation of the trails. I hope that this will be a major portion of the Tribal Resources Study in addition to plants and animals. *[Showed the PAD Figure 5.12-3 to the group]*. Trails are

an important feature of this Tribal Resources Study and we know there are a lot more to add in.

- Comment: Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe – I'm glad you are recording trails, we want that to continue. I call it the Mono Trail System. There's a "stem" on the western side, but there may be one on the eastern side too. I just heard of a deer migration study where deer were following Indian trails.
- Comment: Monty Bengochia, Bishop Paiute Tribe – I'd like to assist in any way with the trails research. I believe that the indigenous trails and commerce system need to be revived. The mountain country is very therapeutic, it is our ancestral homeland. I just wanted to say I like this discussion. And I have been working with Kathy Bancroft up there –she was related to Sugar Pine and Harney Jefferson and her brother ran the pack train-- and we really need to reconnect our ancestral homeland and make it come together.
- Response: Audry Williams, Relicensing Team – With the several relicensing projects in the area, we should be able to amass a lot of really good data, and I'm also looking forward to it.
- Comment: Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe –
 - We (Ron, Monty, and Raymond) have a lot of good stories and information about our homeland, like where we were and what was going on in those areas.
 - Comment: Shelly Davis-King, Relicensing Team – It would be great if you could share your Water Story pamphlets/booklets with the relicensing team, especially the water resources team.
 - Response: Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe – I'm willing to share some.
 - Response: Audry Williams, Relicensing Team – I will work with you, Ron, and figure out how we can get copies to our team.
- Comment: Raymond Andrews –
 - Will there be Tribal monitors?
 - Response: Relicensing Team – Tribal monitors will be invited to the cultural resources field survey.

6. Proposed Studies for Other Resource Areas

- Relicensing team summarized proposed Studies for the other resource areas.
- Relicensing team will continue to keep this TWG's participants aware of studies/issues raised in other TWG resource areas.
- Comment: Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe –
 - Are there any mussels on that side of the Sierra?
 - Response: Finlay Anderson, Relicensing Team – No, my understanding is that the water chemistry is not conducive for mussels.
- Comment: Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe –
 - Does water from Lee Vining Creek affect Mono Lake, does it go there?
 - Response: Finlay Anderson, Relicensing Team – Yes, Lee Vining flows into Mono Lake. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) diversion is about 5 miles downstream of Poole Powerhouse. SCE releases water from the Powerhouse into Lee Vining Creek and then LADWP diverts a portion of it to LA, and the rest goes down into Mono Lake.

- Ron Goode-- From a native view, if we don't go all the way down the stream we aren't doing right by our resources. Especially affects rehabilitation and restoration even if it isn't in the FERC boundary.
- Comment: Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe –
 - Expressed concerns about shrimp (kutsavi) gathering areas and how hydro projects can affect them. You need to assess the whole stream and ecological connections between species to understand the system (e.g., there are no eagles at another project because there are no fish, there are no fish because of the hydro project not releasing enough water).
 - Response: Finlay Anderson, Relicensing Team – The LADWP Settlement Agreement would be a good resource for you to see, as it describes how much water LADWP has to release into Lee Vining Creek. I realize this may not be a complete answer to your question, so we will keep having this conversation.
- Comment: Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe –
 - Native Americans understand what we had before Europeans came and before the hydropower dams.
 - Response: Finlay Anderson, Relicensing Team – We will revisit the PAD and make sure the resources are comprehensive about this.
- Comment: Raymond Andrews –
 - Lakes in the area are being affected by water quality and quantity (e.g., Mono Lake and Owens Lake). We haven't gathered at Mono Lake for many years. We are losing part of our gathering process so we are trying to bring it back. The agencies and water boards aren't concerned with the whole streams to the lakes, only the project areas.
- Comment: Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe –
 - Mussels that we used to gather are almost extinct. We haven't gathered them in a long time. We've been working with SCE and PG&E. The environmental changes is related to the hydro projects. The agencies aren't looking at things that are cultural. Harvesting and access to cultural resources is important. It's important that we get involved with the other resources and follow what they are doing. Our science has been around for thousands of years and we understand what is going on.

7. Schedule and Next Steps

- Study Plan outlines will be distributed as early as next week, but these are not set in stone. There is a lot of opportunity down the road to refine the objectives and scope.
- Hopefully will have an in-person meeting at the end of September and a site visit, then there are more opportunities to comment on the Study Plans. Then we take all the comments and incorporate them into the Studies or put on record why we aren't including some parts of the requests.
- When the PAD/NOI is filed, FERC then has 30 days to initiate formal tribal consultation.

8. Upcoming TWG Meetings



Energy for What's Ahead®

None scheduled at this time, TBD as needed.

9. TWG Meeting Notes Correction August 25, 2021

Chairperson Lange of the Mono Lake Kutzadikaa Tribe notified SCE that the Mono Lake Kutzadikaa Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association (Association) chairperson is Jocelyn Sheltraw. Jason Small is the Vice Chairperson and Damon Dondero is Secretary/Treasurer. Earlier communications about the Association's leaders were incorrect. The incorrect information was included in the PAD and SCE is informing FERC about the change in leadership.