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*Filed Electronically*

February 13, 2024

Ms. Debbie-Anne Reese  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE, Room 1-A  
Washington, DC 20426

**Subject: Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project (P-1930-090)  
Revised Study Plan**

Dear Acting Secretary Reese:

On May 5, 2023, Southern California Edison (SCE) filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Pre-Application Document (PAD) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to seek a new license for the existing 26.3-megawatt (MW) Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 1930 (Project). The PAD provided FERC, federal and state agencies, and other interested parties with background information related to Project facilities, operations, and maintenance activities; summarized existing, relevant, and reasonably available information; defined pertinent Project issues; and identified potential study needs. The PAD included 13 Draft Technical Study Plans that SCE determined were needed to address issues for which existing information may not be adequate. The overall objective of the studies is to develop sufficient information to identify potential Project effects and to develop proposed new license conditions, as appropriate, that reasonably balance multiple resource interests.

On June 29, 2023, FERC issued a Notice of Commencement of Pre-Filing Process and Scoping Document 1 (SD1) for the Project. SD1 provided interested parties with FERC's preliminary list of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document analyzing potential conditions of a new Project license. Additionally, FERC requested that any party interested in providing comments on the PAD and SD1 and/or submitting formal study requests do so by September 5, 2023, in accordance with a 60-day comment period. During the comment period, FERC conducted a site visit on August 1, 2023 and scoping meetings on August 2, 2023. On October 17, 2023, FERC filed Scoping Document 2 (SD2) for the Project.

On August 23, 2023, SCE filed with FERC Updated Draft Technical Study Plans. The updated study plans incorporated stakeholder comments received during 13 Technical Working Group

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(TWG) meetings held between June 28 and August 30, 2023. The Updated Draft Technical Study Plans superseded the Draft Technical Study Plans filed in the PAD in May 2023.

On October 17, 2023, SCE filed a Proposed Study Plan (PSP) with FERC that included 13 Technical Study Plans for the Project. Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 5.12, stakeholders were afforded 90 days from the date of the PSP filing to provide comments on the PSP or to request additional studies. The deadline to file comments on the PSP ended January 16, 2024. During the comment period, SCE conducted a virtual Study Plan Meeting on November 14, 2023 with stakeholders to: (1) clarify SCE's PSP; (2) discuss any additional information gathering activities or study requests from stakeholders; and (3) attempt to resolve any outstanding issues with respect to SCE's PSP. To address State Water Resources Control Board comments received at the Study Plan Meeting, Technical Study Plan AQ 2 – Water Quality/Water Temperature has been revised to include methylmercury fish tissue sampling.

The following entities filed written comments on the PSP:

- FERC Staff
- National Park Service
- American Whitewater
- Leah Carter

Attachment A provides a copy of the comment letters filed on the PSP.

Attachment B provides the Revised Study Plan (RSP). Based on comments on the PSP, SCE addressed specific study plan comments either as a modification to the previously filed PSP, or by providing a rationale as to why a comment or new study request was not adopted. The RSP includes revisions to the following five Technical Study Plans based on comments received:

- AQ 2 – Water Quality/Water Temperature
- REC 2 – Recreation Facility Use Assessment
- REC 3 – Whitewater Boating
- TERR 1 – Botanical Resource
- TERR 2 – Wildlife Resources

In accordance with FERC's Process Plan and Schedule contained in Appendix A of SD2, any individual or entity interested in submitting comments on the RSP must do so by February 29, 2024. FERC encourages electronic filing using FERC's eFiling at [https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERC\\_Online.aspx](https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERC_Online.aspx). Commenters can submit comments using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>.

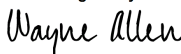
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The RSP and other Project relicensing documents can be obtained from FERC's website at <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/elibrary> or SCE's Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project relicensing website at [www.sce.com/kr1](http://www.sce.com/kr1).

SCE looks forward to continuing to collaborate with FERC and interested stakeholders on the relicensing of this Project. If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact David Moore, SCE Project Manager, by phone at (626) 302-9494 or via e-mail at [david.moore@sce.com](mailto:david.moore@sce.com).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Wayne P. Allen  
Principal Manager

Enclosure:

Attachment A – Stakeholder Comment Letters on the Proposed Study Plan  
Attachment B – Revised Study Plan

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