

Lee Vining, FERC Project No. 1388

CULTURAL AND TRIBAL RESOURCES TWG 1 MEETING NOTES

January 27, 2021; 1:30 PM – 2:40 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
 Kelly Larimer, Kleinschmidt
 Lynn Compas, HRA
 Matthew Woodhall, SCE
 Shannon Luoma, Kleinschmidt
 Shelly Davis-King, DKA

Agencies, Tribes, and Interested

Stakeholders

Ashley Blythe-Haverstock, USFS
 Charlotte Lange, Mono Lake Kutzadikaa
 Tribe (via phone)
 Christina McDonald, North Fork Rancheria
 of Mono Indians of California
 Dean Tonenna, Mono Lake Kutzadikaa Tribe
 Monique Sanchez, USFS

2. Compiled Action Items

-
- SCE (Audry Williams) will gather previous consultation letters to confirm what communication there was in the past.
 - The relicensing team will put the previous Environmental Assessment (EA) and other relevant license documents on the Project website.
 - The relicensing team will inform the Cultural/Tribal group about other TWG items.
 - The relicensing team can circulate a team contact list.
 - The Relicensing Team will distribute a link to the Bishop Creek Study Plan and provide an updated study plan template for TWG members to fill out within two weeks of receipt.

3. Welcome and Introductions

-
- Matthew Woodhall provided a Safety moment
 - Introductions of team and all participants
 - Review of notes/comments from November

4. Relicensing Process

-
- SCE provided a Lee Vining Project overview
 - The Relicensing Team provided a FERC relicensing overview

5. Summary of Existing Resources

- SCE summarized existing Cultural and Tribal resources in the Project vicinity
 - Relicensing Team mentioned there are updates to Eastern Information Center Record Search that we will be able to access soon; data regarding sites and studies will be incorporated into the PAD.

6. Discussion of Resource Management Objectives / Potential Study Requests

- The Relicensing Team asked about resource management objectives: What issues would you like us to focus on? This is meant to be a collaborative group, we want to make sure we address the issues important to you, participants.
- Comment: Mono Lake Kutzadikaa Tribe -
 - Tribal people can provide and have interest in cultural resources, but are often limited in the cultural arena. Tribes are mostly interested in natural resources (e.g., plants, animals, water). In the past have been boxed into cultural issues and have been lumped into the general public for other natural resources. Public interest does often satisfy the tribal interest, because often there is more. We do not want to repeat consultation efforts where tribal has been boxed into other categories.
 - Have there been previous studies / previous NEPA consultation done on this project? Was tribal consultation done for previous NEPA? It seems that this will be the first opportunity for tribes to consult on this project. I do not think they were previously engaged or involved in the project as it exists. Tribal input has not been taken into account yet.
 - Relicensing Team – this is exactly why FERC has two separate areas, cultural and tribal. Analysis is needed to communicate your interests and concerns. You will have an opportunity all the way through the Relicensing Process to provide your comments and interests.
 - SCE – Not much consultation happened on this Project the first time around, in the late 1980s. SCE will gather the previous consultation letters to confirm if there was any consultation in the past.
 - Relicensing Team – From a process standpoint, interconnectedness of all of the work groups (TWG) is important. We encourage participants to join more than one TWG if you have time. We need to make sure there is cross-referencing between the groups so we all know what is important to each other. As far as previous NEPA goes, we can put the previous Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Project website. Presented a brief review of what information is currently provided on the website. We will remember to check in with Cultural/Tribal group to inform about what the other TWGs are looking at.
 - Several folks present here are in the other TWGs as well. You are welcome to join in several or all. We can report back to this group on progress of other TWGs. We do not have past relicensing documents up on our website, but do have a lot of information that we have compiled so far (PAD references, draft tables and figures, etc.).

- Mono Lake Kutzadikaa Tribe – I agree that synthesis from other groups is important. We want to get this off on the right foot and we do not have time to attend all of those other meetings.
- The Relicensing Team discussed the study request process. We are looking for study goals and objectives, management goals/objectives relevant to public interest. However, what we are studying needs a direct connection to the project. We can circulate a contact list to everyone.
- Comment: Mono Lake Kutzadikaa Tribe – From a tribal perspective, we lose our heritage project by project. It is important to have cumulative effects as context for this project because of all of the existing projects. We need to set the realization of how this can affect tribal people. Most would say things are ‘beyond the scope of the project,’ but it is a cumulative impact to our people, project by project by project. Think about this for future conversations, not now.

7. Schedule & Next Steps

- Final comments on goals and objectives as soon as possible, we can start an outline for the next meeting for scope of studies.
- Reviewed the proposed upcoming meeting dates.
- The next Cultural/Tribal TWG will be 1.5 hours in length
- Draft meeting notes to be circulated for review
- Meeting invitations for February and March to be sent
- Additional action items are underlined above

8. Upcoming TWG Meetings

Aquatics 2	February 22, 2021 10am
Terrestrial 2	February 24, 2021 10am
Cultural and Tribal 2	February 24, 2021 1:30pm
Recreation and Land Use 2	February 25, 2021 10am
Aquatics 3	March 29, 2021 10am
Terrestrial 3	March 31, 2021 10am
Cultural and Tribal 3	March 31, 2021 1:30pm
Recreation and Land Use 3	April 1, 2021 10am