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July 15, 2026

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Subject: Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 1388;
Amendment to Final License Application**

Dear Secretary Reese:

On January 29, 2025, Southern California Edison Company (SCE) filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) a Final Application for New License (FLA) for the Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1388) (Project). On May 28, 2026, FERC issued a Notice of Application Accepted for Filing with the Commission, Soliciting Motions to Intervene and Protests, Ready for Environmental Analysis (REA Notice). Pursuant to this REA Notice, and after further consultation with resource agencies, SCE hereby is filing a revised PME-1 to modify its proposed protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PME) measure for flow management. The revised measure is included as Attachment A; the basis for this amendment is described below.

Minimum Flow Requirements and Reservoir Elevations PME

In the FLA, SCE proposed a flow-related PME measure designated as PME-1. PME-1 included minimum flow requirements by location (Table 1 in Attachment A) and a reservoir level requirement (Table 2 in Attachment A) that were intended to meet the resource needs identified through issue identification and study results and as expressed by Technical Work Group (TWG) members during the licensing proceeding. For example, PME-1 included minimum instream flow targets for Lower Lee Vining Creek below Poole Powerhouse and met seasonal high-flow goals for releases below Saddlebag Lake and Tioga Lake to better represent the early-season hydrograph. These spring flow releases were modeled and discussed in several TWG meetings before the FLA was filed, and they addressed a number of resource objectives.

Since filing the FLA, discussions have taken place to better understand SCE's proposal, and members of the TWG have proposed additional modifications. In 2026, SCE hosted a series of TWG meetings to refine the flows and timing proposed in PME-1, Water Management. A summary of these meetings is included in Table 1 below, and meeting summaries may be found at SCE's relicensing website at <https://www.sce.com/regulatory/regulatory-information/hydro-licensing/lee-vining#mat>.

Secretary Reese
Page 2 of 4
July 15, 2026

Table 1. TWG Meetings Regarding Revised PME-1 Measure

Date	Topics	Attendees
March 12, 2026	PME-1 minimum flows below Ellery Lake / Poole Powerhouse; operational conditions; managing 2-ft elevation band at Ellery Lake; Tioga Lake elevations	SCE, Kleinschmidt Associates (Kleinschmidt), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Mono Lake Committee (MLC)
April 1, 2026	PME-1 minimum flows below Ellery Lake / Poole Powerhouse; measured vs. planned flows; operational conditions; hydrologic variability and “whichever is less” condition; operations model; ecological and safety considerations	SCE, Kleinschmidt, USFS, State Water Board, CDFW, MLC
April 27, 2026	PME-1 minimum flows; alignment of releases from Saddlebag and Tioga lakes; flow triggers; mimicking natural hydrology; seasonal access of valves; measurement and compliance methods; water year classification and timing	SCE, Kleinschmidt, USFS, State Water Board, CDFW, MLC
June 2, 2026	Operations model questions raised by State Water Board	SCE, Kleinschmidt, USFS, State Water Board, CDFW
June 11, 2026	Operations model questions raised by State Water Board; PME-1 minimum flows and timing; alignment of releases from Saddlebag and Tioga lakes	SCE, Kleinschmidt, USFS, State Water Board, CDFW, MLC
June 17, 2026	PME-1 flow timing (October vs. September); operations model questions raised by State Water Board	SCE, Kleinschmidt, USFS, State Water Board, CDFW, MLC, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA)
June 24, 2026	Goals of PME-1; PME-1 flow timing; operations model; shifting dates in Article 405 from October to September; observed spike in flow late August 2024	SCE, Kleinschmidt, USFS, State Water Board, CDFW, MLC, CSPA

Over the course of these meetings, the TWG requested revisions to Table 1 and Table 2 of PME-1 to meet multiple objectives:

- a. Provide higher flows in spring to reflect the natural hydrograph.
- b. Follow the format of upstream hydrology that changes according to water year type and seasonal availability (i.e., provide proportionally more water during wet years and less water in dry years).
- c. Provide a minimum flow that is directly measurable, as compared to the “or natural inflow” modeling calculation from the current license, which is difficult in practice to quantify and could require averaging, etc.
- d. Provide an instantaneous minimum flow and some buffering capacity from peak discharges in Lower Lee Vining Creek and protect associated aquatic habitat.

Secretary Reese
Page 3 of 4
July 15, 2026

- e. Limit flow fluctuations during fall spawning season by shifting the current license's limits to ramping below Saddlebag Lake dam from October 15 to October 1.¹

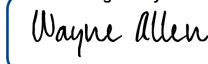
Functionally, these goals will be met through revisions to PME-1 that modify the methods of determining minimum instream flows below Poole Powerhouse using measured flows below Saddlebag and Tioga lakes and increasing the baseflows below Poole Powerhouse from the filed PME-1 measure. The revised PME-1 tables are included in Attachment A.

Summary

SCE is amending its Proposed Action to include the revised PME-1 that modifies Tables 1 and 2 of the measure as filed with the FLA. SCE requests FERC to analyze the revised PME-1 measure as part of the Proposed Action in its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and consultation with agencies, Tribes, and stakeholders.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact Matthew Woodhall, SCE Relicensing Project Manager, by phone at 909-362-1764 or via email at matthew.woodhall@sce.com.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Wayne P. Allen
Principal Manager

- Attachment A Lee Vining Revised PME-1

¹ The revised measure restricting ramping below Saddlebag Lake dam captures the intent of the current License Article 405, which sets limits on flow changes after October 15 based on an averaging period.

Attachment A

Lee Vining Revised PME-1

Table 1. Minimum Flow Requirements by Location

Location	Water Year Type	Minimum Flow (cfs)	Timing/Duration
Below Saddlebag Dam ^a	Wet	30	Week 1, for 1 week ^c
		22	Week 2, for 1 week
		16	Week 3, for 1 week
		9 ^b	Remainder of the year (late summer and over-winter flows)
	Normal	20	Week 1, for 1 week ^c
		14	Week 2, for 1 week
		10	Week 3, for 1 week
		6 ^b	Remainder of the year (late summer and over-winter flows)
	Dry	4 ^b	Year-round
Below Tioga Dam ^a	Wet	10	2 weeks ^c
		2	Until October 29
		5 ^d	October 30 through early spring
	Normal	5	2 weeks ^c
		2	Until October 29
		5 ^d	October 30 through early spring
	Dry	2	June 1 ^c until October 29
		5 ^d	October 30 through early spring
Below Poole Powerhouse ^f	Wet	25 ^{a, e}	June 1 ^c – July 31
		18	Aug 1 – September 30
		The lessor of: the sum of the required releases from the reservoirs or the sum of the measured average daily release from Saddlebag and Tioga dams ^{a, e}	Oct 1 – May 31
	Normal	20 ^{a, e}	June 1 ^c – July 31
		10	Aug 1 – September 30
		The lessor of: the sum of the required releases from the reservoirs or the sum of the measured average daily release from Saddlebag and Tioga dams ^{a, e}	Oct 1 – May 31
	Dry	10 ^{a, e}	June 1 ^c – July 31
		The sum of the required releases from the reservoirs. ^{a, e, g}	Aug 1 – September 30

Location	Water Year Type	Minimum Flow (cfs)	Timing/Duration
		The lesser of: the sum of the required releases from the reservoirs or the sum of the measured average daily release from Saddlebag and Tioga dams. ^{a, e, g}	Oct 1 – May 31

cfs = cubic feet per second

Table 2. Reservoir Level Requirements

Location	Water Year Type	Lake Elevation and Duration
Tioga Lake	All	Between July 4 and September 30, lake elevation will be maintained within 2 feet of the crest of the spillway. ^h
Ellery Lake	All	Ellery Lake will be managed to be full (within 2 feet of its spillway elevation) during the annual recreation season (defined as the Friday preceding Memorial Day through the end of September). Outside the annual recreation season, Ellery Lake may be drawn down to a level that is more than within 2 feet of the spillway elevation if required by operating emergencies beyond the control of the licensee, or for short periods of time for operational needs.

^a Minimum flow requirements below Saddlebag and Tioga dams are determined annually based upon water year type, no later than May 1 of each calendar year.

^b After September 30, the Saddlebag Dam release valve will be set to not less than the values shown in the table. Overwinter flows at Saddlebag Dam may be less than the valve setting due to natural inflow conditions and reduced head. Between October 1 and as soon as access allows in the spring, the licensee shall limit operationally generated flow fluctuations below Saddlebag Lake dam. Flow releases made during this timeframe and any associated ramping reductions to reach the minimum flow shall be limited to a maximum of 10 cfs per 24 hours.

^c Beginning June 1, or as soon as access allows. These flows shall be coordinated to coincide as closely as possible with the corresponding wet and normal 3-week releases schedule for Saddlebag Dam.

^d No later than October 30, the Tioga release valve will be set at not less than 5 cfs through drawdown, after which time outflow may be less than the valve setting due to natural inflow conditions and reduced head on the outlet due to falling reservoir elevations.

^e Flows are measured by a continuously recording gaging device (acoustic velocity meter).

^f As measured by the sum of flows measured by USGS Gage No. 10287762, Poole PH Conduit Intake Near Lee Vining, CA, and USGS Gage No. 10287770, Lee Vining Creek Below Rhinedollar Dam Near Lee Vining, CA.

^g If the sum of measured releases below Saddlebag Dam (USGS Gage No. 10287655) and below Tioga Dam (USGS Gage No. 10287720) is less than 8 cfs, the licensee shall notify the USFS of the flow change and release sum of daily average releases as the instantaneous flow.

^h In a dry year, required minimum flows below Tioga Dam would take priority over maintaining lake elevations over the recreation season.

Document Content(s)

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