SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON®
Energy for What's Ahead℠

Wayne P. Allen
Principal Manager
Regulatory Support Services

Filed electronically

July 24, 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; Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Request Documentation**

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 for the Lee Vining Project (FERC Project No. 1388). FERC issued the Ready for Environmental Analysis (REA) Notice on May 28, 2026, with a deadline of July 27, 2026 for SCE to file (1) a copy of the water quality certification; (2) a copy of the request for certification, including proof of the date on which the certifying agency received the request; or (3) evidence of waiver of water quality certification.

SCE hosted a water quality certification pre-filing meeting with the California State Water Resources Control Board on July 7, 2026 and submitted the water quality certification request on July 20, 2026. Pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1341, 18 CFR 5.23(b), and the 2023 EPA Section 401 Rule (40 CFR Part 121), SCE files a copy of the water quality certification request.

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

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Wayne Allen
106CF18A73D445F...

Wayne P. Allen
Principal Manager

Enclosure:

- Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Request letter to California State Water Resources Control Board

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

From:	Cornelio Artienda
To:	Eric.Oppenheimer@waterboards.ca.gov; adam.cohen@waterboards.ca.gov; bryan.muro@waterboards.ca.gov; bryan.talmadge@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.sussman@waterboards.ca.gov; parker.thaler@waterboards.ca.gov; Garrett.Lenahan@Waterboards.ca.gov; rajaa.hassan@waterboards.ca.gov; nathan.fisch@waterboards.ca.gov; Jairo.Luque@Waterboards.ca.gov; Erin.Bender@Waterboards.ca.gov
Cc:	Finlay Anderson; Matthew Woodhall; Antal Szijj; Kevin.W.Grove@usace.army.mil; Carissa Shoemaker
Subject:	Lee Vining 401 WQC Request to State Water Board
Date:	Tuesday, July 21, 2026 10:57:00 AM
Attachments:	image.png image.png Lee Vining 401 WQC Request to CSWRB_07212026.pdf

Greetings California State Water Resources Control Board staff,

Southern California Edison submits the attached Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Request for the Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1388).

Please reach out to Matthew Woodhall matthew.woodhall@sce.com with any questions.

Thank you,
Leo Artienda
(On behalf of Matthew Woodhall)

Cornelio 'Leo' Artienda
Generation | RSS | Hydro Licensing/Dam & Public Safety
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, Rosemead, CA 91770
Tel: 626.302.0328 | M: 909.278.2730
cornelio.artienda@sce.com

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Wayne P. Allen
Principal Manager
Regulatory Support Services

Sent Electronically

July 20, 2026

Eric Oppenheimer, Executive Director
California State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, California 95812-0100

Re: Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1388)
Request for 401 Water Quality Certification

Dear Mr. Oppenheimer:

Southern California Edison (SCE; Licensee) is hereby submitting a request for 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) for the Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project (Project; FERC No. 1388). Pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1341, 18 CFR 5.23(b), and the 2023 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Section 401 Rule (40 CFR Part 121), and as part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing requirements for the Project, SCE is required to file (1) a copy of the WQC; (2) a copy of the request for certification, including proof of the date on which the certifying agency received the request; or (3) evidence of a waiver of WQC.

The three requirements listed above are to be filed within 60 days of FERC's issuance of its notice of acceptance and ready for environmental analysis of the Final License Application (FLA). SCE filed the FLA with FERC on January 27, 2025.[1] SCE has since filed additional information including supplementary analysis on flows and water resources. These documents, including the FLA, can be accessed on the Project website at https://www.sce.com/leevining or on the FERC eLibrary at https://elibrary.ferc.gov/ (Docket P-1388). For details pertaining to water resources and water quality, please see the FLA, Exhibit E, Section 6.4 (Water Resources) and associated appendices. Exhibit E is not attached, due to the size of the document. SCE can provide a hard copy of Exhibit E upon request.

On May 27, 2025, SCE presented an analysis of turbidity in Lee Vining Creek to the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). Meeting materials are included as Attachment A. Additionally, SCE has hosted several technical working group (TWG) meetings including State Water Board staff in April, July, August, and October 2025 and March and April 2026 to discuss supplementary flows (PME-1), hydro-resource optimization, and operations modeling. Relevant materials and filings are as follows:

- SCE received comments from interested parties on the FLA in March 2025 and filed responses with FERC in July 2025.[2]

[1] Accession Number 20250129-5059
[2] Accession Number 20250723-5119

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

- SCE filed meeting materials from hydro-resource optimization discussions in August 2025.[3]
- The FERC scoping comment period occurred in October 2025. SCE filed responses to comments from the scoping period in December 2025.[4]
- 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. As these are not yet part of the FERC docket, meeting summaries are available upon request.

Table 1. Technical Working Group Meetings hosted by SCE to date in 2026

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, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), 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

As required by the State Water Board, SCE sent a pre-filing meeting request on June 18, 2026. Documentation of the meeting request is included as Attachment B. SCE hosted the pre-filing

[3] Accession Number 20250813-5058
[4] Accession Number 20251223-5241

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

meeting with the State Water Board on July 7, 2026. Materials from the pre-filing meeting are included as Attachment C.

Consistent with requirements listed above, SCE includes the following required information for the Clean Water Act 401 WQC request (40 CFR § 121.5) (**Part 1**) and additional information required by the State Water Board (23 CCR § 3856) (**Part 2**):

Part 1 – Clean Water Act 401 Certification Request (40 CFR § 121.5)

1. Project Proponent and Contact Information

Project Applicant / Licensee:	Southern California Edison (SCE)
Physical Address:	2244 Walnut Grove Avenue Rosemead, California 91770
Telephone Number:	626-302-9741
SCE's Authorized Agent:	Wayne Allen

2. Proposed Project Description

The Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project (Lee Vining Project or Project) is an existing hydropower project owned and operated by Southern California Edison (SCE). The Project is a multi-development facility located on Lee Vining and Glacier creeks on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada near the eastern boundary of Yosemite National Park, and approximately 9 miles upstream from Mono Lake and the town of Lee Vining in Mono County, California (see Figure 1). The Project is located predominantly on federal lands administered by the Inyo National Forest (Inyo NF), with a small portion of land owned by SCE. The Yosemite National Park boundary is less than 1 mile south of Tioga Lake. SCE operates the Project under a federal license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), FERC Project No. 1388, with a license expiration date of January 31, 2027. SCE applied for a new license with FERC on January 27, 2025.

The 11.25-megawatt (MW) Project consists of three main dams and reservoirs, an auxiliary dam, a flowline consisting of a pipeline and penstock, and a powerhouse.

The Project has a total dependable generating capacity of 11 MW and has an average annual energy production of 25,763 megawatt-hours (MWh).

Releases and spills from both Saddlebag and Tioga lakes flow into Ellery Lake, which is the intake and regulating reservoir for Poole Powerhouse. Ellery Lake is the forebay for the powerhouse, and its storage level is not as varied as the two upper reservoirs. Water is conveyed from Ellery Lake to the powerhouse via the flowline and penstock. After water flows through Poole Powerhouse, it is returned to Lee Vining Creek.

Specifically, the Project includes four dams: Saddlebag Dam, Tioga Dam, Tioga Auxiliary Dam, and Rhinedollar Dam. A flowline, consisting of a pipeline and penstock, conveys water from Ellery Lake to Poole Powerhouse. A list of Project facilities used for hydroelectric generation is provided below, and the facilities are described in detail in the sections that follow, outlining the physical composition, dimensions, and general configuration of any dams, spillways, penstocks, powerhouses, tailraces, or other structures included as part of the Project.

The Project facilities, as shown on Figure 1, are discussed below. Please refer to FLA Exhibit A for additional details regarding Project facilities.

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

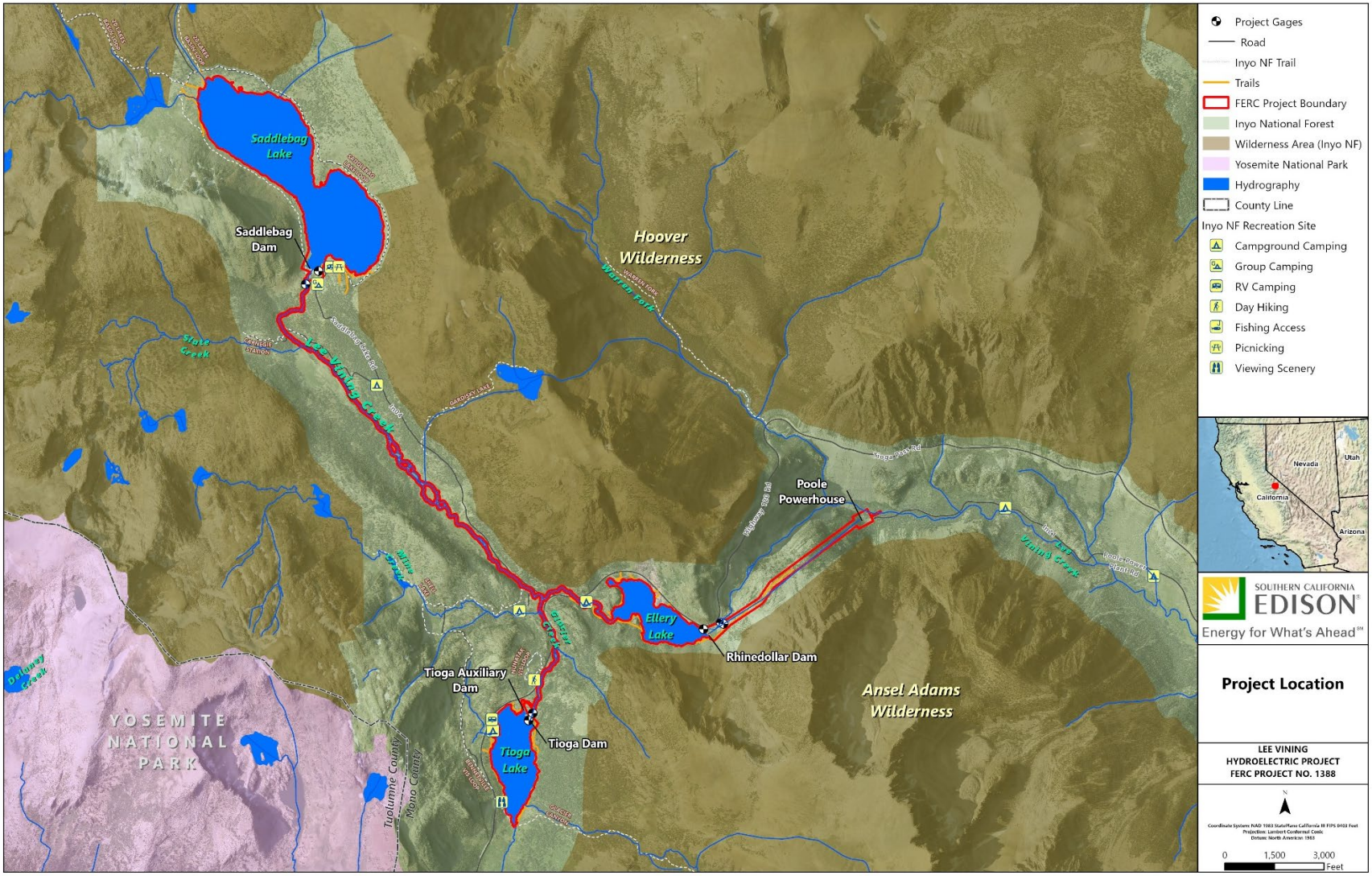

Figure 1. Project Location, Facilities, Structures, and Diversions.

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

Saddlebag Dam

Saddlebag Dam is located on Saddlebag Lake in the headwaters of Lee Vining Creek. The dam is 45 feet high and 600 feet long, geomembrane-lined, redwood-faced, and composed of rockfill. The dam impounds the 297-acre Saddlebag Lake. Saddlebag Lake has a surface area of 297 acres and has a net storage capacity of 9,765 acre-feet.

SPILLWAY

The spillway is centrally located on the dam; it is an ungated, concrete-lined rectangular notch that is integral with the center section of the dam. The spillway is 54 feet wide and 5 feet deep, with a current crest elevation of 10,089 feet.[5] The zero-freeboard[6] spillway discharge capacity is 1,436 cubic feet per second (cfs). The spillway chute was originally completely sheathed with redwood planking and had a short concrete apron at its downstream end, with a cutoff into bedrock. In 2013, the spillway's redwood planking was removed and replaced with reinforced concrete. The concrete apron was extended to approximately 25 feet, and the spillway crest elevation was lowered by 1 foot to elevation 10,089 feet. Also in 2013, a pedestrian bridge was installed over the spillway. The spillway discharges directly into Lee Vining Creek below the dam.

INTAKE AND LOW-LEVEL OUTLET

The Saddlebag Dam intake is a fully submerged, ungated, concrete intake box at the upstream toe of the dam. Water is released to the downstream channel via the low-level outlet. The low-level outlet intake elevation is 10,048 feet.

The low-level outlet admits water to a concrete-encased, 30-inch-diameter steel pipe that passes under the dam near the left abutment. The steel pipe is controlled at the downstream toe by a manually operated 30-inch rising stem gate valve located in a small building. The valve is normally partially open to control discharge to avoid spilling downstream at Rhinedollar Dam.

There are no water conveyances at Saddlebag Dam. There is a 30-inch-diameter riveted steel pipeline extending the outlet downstream of the dam by about 220 feet. The purpose of this pipeline is to prevent interference of outlet flows by snow and ice in the rock-cut for the outlet. The natural channel of Lee Vining Creek is used to convey stored water in Saddlebag Lake to Ellery Lake.

STORAGE CAPACITY

Saddlebag Lake is in the headwaters of Lee Vining Creek and is the furthest north of the Project and highest in elevation. The drainage area is approximately 4.5 square miles. Saddlebag Lake has a surface area of 297 acres and has a net storage capacity of 9,765 acre-feet. Saddlebag Lake previously had a storage capacity of 9,789 acre-feet at normal maximum reservoir level (elevation 10,090 feet); however, as discussed above, the spillway crest elevation was lowered by 1 foot to 10,089 feet in 2013, resulting in the current reservoir net storage capacity of 9,765 acre-feet.

[5] Elevations discussed are relative to mean sea level using the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29) datum.

[6] Zero freeboard in the context of a dam spillway means that the reservoir water surface at the design flood rises exactly to the elevation of the dam crest, leaving no vertical distance (freeboard) between the water level and the top of the embankment or structure.

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

DOWNSTREAM FLOWS

Below Saddlebag Dam, the outlet discharges directly into Lee Vining Creek and has a center elevation about 40 feet below the normal full reservoir level; the outlet has a maximum discharge of about 150 cfs based on the orifice equation at normal full reservoir level.

In the current FERC license, minimum instream flows below Saddlebag Dam vary by water year type but apply year-round. Table 2 shows the historic mean, maximum, and minimum flows in Lee Vining Creek, by month, below Saddlebag Dam.

Table 2. Monthly Mean, Minimum, and Maximum Flows (cfs) for Lee Vining Creek Below Saddlebag Lake (1997–2023)

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.
Mean	9.39	9.14	9.96	9.93	9.51	9.67	9.77	9.00	10.74	12.35	12.23	12.97
Maximum	33	24	23	22	19	33	38	52	56	63	60	57
Minimum	1.4	0.34	1	0.56	1.2	1.3	1.5	2.5	3.1	3	2.9	2.9

SCE, consulting agencies, and other interested parties discussed minimum instream flow requirements throughout the relicensing process. Since filing the FLA in January 2025, the proposed minimum instream flows have been reviewed and revised. Proposed minimum instream flows for the new FERC license are detailed in the **revised** protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PME) measure (PME-1), filed with FERC on July 15, 2026, and included here as Attachment D. Proposed flows vary by water year type and time of year.

Tioga Dam and Tioga Auxiliary Dam

Tioga Dam and Tioga Auxiliary Dam are located on Tioga Lake, in the headwaters of Glacier Creek, which subsequently drains into Lee Vining Creek. Tioga Dam is a 27-foot-high, 270-foot-long, redwood-faced, rockfill dam. Tioga Auxiliary Dam is a 19-foot-high, 50-foot-long, constant radius concrete-arch dam. In 2014, a geomembrane liner was installed over the upstream face of the main dam and over the exposed upstream face of the auxiliary dam. These dams together impound Tioga Lake, which has a surface area of 73 acres and a net storage capacity of 1,254 acre-feet.

SPILLWAYS

The main spillway located at the right abutment of Tioga Dam is ungated and consists of an excavated channel into granite bedrock. This channel has a flat concrete sill to control the spill elevation. The spillway is 57 feet wide and 4 feet deep, with a crest at an elevation of 9,650 feet, which is 1 foot lower than the auxiliary spillway crest on the arch dam. It is sited at the southeast end of the dam. The auxiliary spillway bays located on the auxiliary dam are located between the two end piers and the center pier and have a fixed crest elevation of 9,651 feet, which is 1 foot higher than the main spillway located to the right of the timber-face rockfill dam. The right spillway bay is 20 feet long, and the left bay is 22 feet long, measured along the arch radius. The main spillway has an estimated spill capacity of 1,460 cfs, and the auxiliary has an estimated spill capacity of 760 cfs at zero freeboard at the crest of Tioga Dam (9,654 feet elevation). The total estimated spill capacity of both spillways is 2,220 cfs at zero freeboard at the dam crest.

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

INTAKE AND LOW-LEVEL OUTLET

There is no intake at Tioga Dam or at the auxiliary dam.

The low-level outlet works consists of a 24-inch-diameter concrete-encased riveted steel pipe that passes through the base of the main Tioga Dam. No low-level outlet exists at the auxiliary dam. The invert elevation of the outlet pipe at the upstream side is 9,626 feet. The upstream end of the pipe is protected by a 6-foot by 7-foot trashrack. The steel pipe wall has a thickness of 0.25 inch, which is covered by a minimum thickness of 6 inches of concrete. The outlet pipe is manually controlled by a 24-inch gate valve located in a concrete valve house at the downstream toe of the dam.

STORAGE CAPACITY

Tioga Lake is in the headwaters of Glacier Creek, which then drains into Lee Vining Creek. It is the lake farthest south in the Project Area. The drainage area is approximately 4.03 square miles.[7] As discussed above, Tioga Lake has two dams: the main Tioga Dam and Tioga Auxiliary Dam. Tioga Lake has a surface area of 73 acres, and a net storage capacity is 1,254 acre-feet. Ellery Lake is on Lee Vining Creek, downstream of the confluence with Glacier Creek; both Saddlebag and Tioga lakes drain into Ellery Lake. Ellery Lake is the smallest and farthest east of the three Project lakes, and the drainage area is the largest at 17 square miles.[8] Ellery Lake is the forebay for the Poole Powerhouse, and its storage level is not varied as much as either Saddlebag or Tioga lakes. Ellery Lake has a surface area of 61 acres and a net storage capacity of 493 acre-feet.

DOWNSTREAM FLOWS

In the current FERC license, minimum instream flow requirements from Tioga Dam into Glacier Creek differ depending on lake water surface elevation, vary by season, differ by wet or normal years versus dry years, and were based on natural inflow; however, revised minimum instream flows are proposed for this location in the revised PME-1 (Attachment D). Proposed flows vary by water year type and time of year. Table 3 shows the historic mean, maximum, and minimum flows, by month, below Tioga Lake.

Table 3. Monthly Mean, Minimum, and Maximum Flows (cfs) for Glacier Creek Below Tioga Lake (1997-2023)

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.
Mean	7.35	8.20	4.83	16.20	15.34	19.39	32.91	78.93	117.99	79.93	34.02	22.44
Maximum	30	30	31	74	52	145	159	244	423	407	163	100
Minimum	1.4	0.62	1.00	3.5	2.4	3.6	1.3	9.6	8.8	10	6.6	5.3

Source: USGS 2025a[9] (USGS Gage No. 10287720)

[7] SCE (Southern California Edison). 2018. Supporting Technical Information Document, Tioga Lake Dams. FERC Project No. 1388-CA. Southern California Edison.

[8] USGS (U.S. Geological Survey). 2024. Water-Year Summary for Site USGS 10287760. United States Geological Survey. National Water Information System [online database].

[9] USGS (U.S. Geological Survey). 2025a. Water-Year Summary for Site USGS 10287720. United States Geological Survey. National Water Information System [online database].

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

Rhinedollar Dam

Rhinedollar Dam, located on Lee Vining Creek, impounds Ellery Lake downstream of the confluence with Glacier Creek; both Saddlebag and Tioga lakes drain into Ellery Lake. The Rhinedollar Dam is a 19-foot-high (17 feet with a 2-foot concrete parapet), 437-foot-long rockfill dam that impounds Ellery Lake, which has a surface area of 61 acres and a net storage capacity of 493 acre-feet. Releases from the reservoir flow down Lee Vining Creek (via the spillway or outlet conduit drain) or are diverted via the penstock to the Poole Powerhouse.

SPILLWAY

The spillway is a concrete side-channel excavated in metamorphic rocks at the left abutment of the dam. It has three spillway bays, each 12 feet wide and 7 feet deep, with a crest at elevation of 9,492 feet, and together they act as a broad crested weir. The zero-freeboard spillway discharge capacity is 1,820 cfs. There is a steel beam footbridge over the spillway.

INTAKES AND OUTLET WORKS

The Project's reinforced concrete intake structure is located at Rhinedollar Dam. It is protected by a single set of trashracks. Water flows under the dam through a 48-inch steel pipe encased in 8 inches of concrete. The intake elevation is 9,480 feet.

This outlet is part of the pipeline located below the dam, and the outlet works consists of a 48-inch concrete-encased steel pipe conduit, which passes through the base of the dam at elevation 9,478 feet to a remote-controlled butterfly valve at the downstream end. The valve can be remotely closed but not remotely opened. A 30-inch manually operated gate valve is located adjacent to the butterfly valve and is used as a side outlet to drain the conduit upstream of the butterfly valve. An extension was added to the 30-inch bypass line in 1998 to convey the discharge downstream of the toe of the dam. The intake elevation is 9,481 feet, and the pipe invert elevation is 9,478 feet.

FLOWLINE/PENSTOCK/CONVEYANCE SYSTEM

The proposed Project's 6,271-foot-long flowline consists of a pipeline and a penstock; water is conveyed from Ellery Lake to the Poole Powerhouse though the penstock. The pipeline is 2,530 feet long and 48 inches in diameter. It is composed of a double riveted lap joint steel pipe. The proposed Project's penstock is 3,741 feet long and tapers from 44 to 28 inches in diameter. It is composed of lap-welded steel and has a maximum flow of 110 cfs. The flowline features are below ground in a tunnel extending from Rhinedollar Dam to Poole Powerhouse. When the powerhouse is offline, a release valve at Ellery Lake allows the Project to meet minimum flow requirements. This is achieved via a bypass outlet at Ellery Lake, which can be remotely operated to release flow during powerhouse outages. Flow through the powerhouse is manually adjusted and can be adjusted locally or remotely from the Eastern Hydro Operations Center.

VALVE HOUSE

A concrete valve house is on the flowline to Poole Powerhouse just downstream of Rhinedollar Dam. The valve house contains a 48-inch Pelton butterfly valve and a 30-inch gate valve.

DOWNSTREAM FLOWS

Minimum instream flows are proposed below Poole Powerhouse into Lee Vining Creek in the revised PME-1 (Attachment D). Proposed flows vary by water year type and time of year, and they depend on releases from Saddlebag and Tioga dams.

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

Table 4 and Table 5 show the historic mean, maximum, and minimum flows, by month, below Ellery Lake for Rhinedollar Dam spill and Poole Powerhouse flow, respectively, while Table 6 includes a summary of data for the Project reservoirs and dams.

Table 4. Monthly Mean, Minimum, and Maximum Flows (cfs) for Lee Vining Creek, Outlet from Ellery Lake, Rhinedollar Spill (1997–2023)

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.
Mean	4.5	2.4	1.8	1.8	0.6	3.1	5.8	22.6	42.7	22.4	2.9	5.2
Maximum	26	22	26	19	16	57	57	86	181	172	32	42
Minimum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: USGS 2025b[10] (USGS Gage No. 10287770)

Table 5. Monthly Mean, Minimum, and Maximum Flows (cfs) for Lee Vining Creek, Outlet from Ellery Lake into Poole Powerhouse Flow (1997-2023)

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.
Mean	16.0	17.2	16.0	16.7	15.6	17.5	28.1	58.6	76.4	57.7	31.7	17.4
Maximum	38	37	39	58	40	52	61	1071	1131	1161	84	38
Minimum	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0

Source: USGS 2025c[11] (USGS Gage No. 10287762)

Table 6. Dam and Reservoir Details Summary

	Saddlebag Dam and Lake	Tioga Dam and Lake	Tioga Auxiliary Dam	Rhinedollar Dam and Ellery Lake
Spillway Crest Elevation (feet)	10,089	9,650	9,651	9,493
Spillway Dimensions (feet)	54 wide, 5 deep	57 wide, 4 deep	Right bay 20 long; Left bay 22 long	Three spillway bays, each 12 wide, 7 deep
Zero-freeboard Spillway Discharge Capacity (cfs)	1,437	1,460	760	1,820
Intake/Invert and Low-Level Outlet Elevation (feet)[1]	10,049	No intake / 9,627	--	9,479

[10] USGS (U.S. Geological Survey). 2025b. Water-Year Summary for Site USGS 10287770. United States Geological Survey. National Water Information System [online database].
[11] USGS (U.S. Geological Survey). 2025c. Water-Year Summary for Site USGS 10287762. United States Geological Survey. National Water Information System [online database].

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

	Saddlebag Dam and Lake	Tioga Dam and Lake	Tioga Auxiliary Dam	Rhinedollar Dam and Ellery Lake
Low-Level Outlet Capacity (cfs)	Max 150	82	--	110
Valve Dimensions (inches)	30 gate valve	24 gate valve	--	30 gate valve
Low-Level Outlet Dimensions (inches)	30-diameter pipe	24-diameter pipe	--	48-diameter pipe
Dam Dimensions (feet)	45 high, 600 long	27 high, 270 long	19 high, 50 long	17 high, 437 long
Normal Maximum Surface Area (acres)	297	73	--	61
Normal Full Pond Elevation (feet amsl)	10,089	9,650	--	9,493
Net Storage Capacity (acre-feet)	9,495	1,254	--	493

cfs = cubic feet per second; asml = above mean sea level
Sources: SCE, 2018, 2019,[12] 2020a,[13] 2020b,[14] 2023[15]

Powerhouses, Turbines, and Generators

This section contains the number, type, and rated capacity of any turbines or generators to be included as part of the Project.

POOLE POWERHOUSE

The Poole Powerhouse is a reinforced concrete building constructed in the 1920s. It is located on Lee Vining Creek east (downstream) of Ellery Lake. The building is 68 feet long, 38 feet wide, 43 feet high, and has a substructure that is 18 feet deep. The powerhouse's control panel is located on the ground floor. The powerhouse contains a restroom, storage room, battery room, operator's desk, and a five-panel switchboard. There is a motor-operated gate valve with bypass and a tailrace outside the powerhouse.

The Poole Powerhouse facility includes three detached ancillary buildings. One adjacent structure was historically used as a three-family construction and operators housing apartment complex. Two smaller buildings include a garage for storing equipment and materials and a shop/storage garage that has parts and other materials. A fiberoptic line that runs to Poole Powerhouse allows remote operation and is controlled at the Bishop Control Center. The powerhouse contains one General Electric generating unit with a nameplate capacity of 11.25 MW. The Project has one

[12] SCE Southern California Edison. 2019. Supporting Technical Information Document, Rhinedollar Dam. FERC Project No. 1388-CA. Southern California Edison.

[13] SCE (Southern California Edison). 2020a. Supporting Technical Information Document, Rhinedollar Dam. FERC Project No. 1388-CA. Southern California Edison.

[14] SCE (Southern California Edison). 2020b. Supporting Technical Information Document, Saddlebag Lake Dam. FERC Project No. 1388-CA. Southern California Edison.

[15] SCE (Southern California Edison). 2023. Supporting Technical Information Document, Tioga Lake Dams. FERC Project No. 1388-CA. Southern California Edison.

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

Pelton single-overhung, horizontal impulse turbine with a design capacity of 17,910 horsepower and a hydraulic capacity of 105 cfs.

The Poole Powerhouse is typically activated during peak hours in response to grid demand. This operation results in a release of flow into Lee Vining Creek below the powerhouse, generally lasting less than 8 hours. These flows are characterized by relatively higher volume water releases designed to meet fluctuating electricity demands, especially during peak periods. These flows can result in changes in stream discharge, causing short duration increases and decreases in water depth and velocity. The timing and magnitude of these releases are influenced by grid needs and operational constraints, such as reservoir levels and snowmelt. Typically, these flows occur in pulses rather than sustained releases, and their frequency and intensity vary seasonally, with more pronounced activity during periods of high energy demand.

These operations are part of SCE's hydro-resource optimization strategy, which aims to match available water capacity with market opportunities—particularly those identified through California Independent System Operator's (CAISO's) day-ahead energy needs. The capacity for peaking is constrained by two main factors: (1) water availability, after accounting for minimum instream flow requirements, spill events, and reservoir limitations; and (2) operational constraints, such as maintenance activities (e.g., trashrack repairs), grid isolation events, and seasonal ice concerns. According to the relicensing AQ-5 Operations Model,[16] the average duration of the hydro-resource optimization events varies by season (from 2.99 hours in the winter to 5.49 hours in the summer, 2015–2023). The magnitude of these events ranges from an average of 60.80 cfs in the winter to 66.82 cfs in the summer (2015–2023); the magnitude of these events has increased from the 2010–2014 time period. Additionally, the frequency of the events has increased from fewer than 2 times (average per season 2010–2014) to an average of 18.78 times in the summer to 37.78 times in the winter (2015–2023).

There is a turbine shutoff valve to isolate the unit. The plant is remotely operated and continuously monitored at the Bishop Control Center via the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system. The switchyard is located immediately north of the powerhouse and contains the main power transformers. Galvanized structural steel switch racks support the switchgear, buses, and related equipment. The generator is connected to the transformer bank through a 7-kilovolt, 1,200-amp circuit breaker. Flow from Poole Powerhouse is discharged to Lee Vining Creek.

TURBINE

The Project has one Pelton single-jet, single-overhung, horizontal-impulse turbine with a rated design capacity of 17,910 horsepower, design head 1,550 feet, rated at 1,531 feet, 360 rotations per minute, with a hydraulic capacity of 105 cfs.

GENERATOR

The powerhouse contains one air-cooled General Electric direct-connect type AT1 generating unit with a nameplate capacity of 11.25 MW and dependable capacity of approximately 11 MW. The generator is rated at 11,250 kilowatts, 0.9 power factor, 7.5 kilovolts, three-phase, and 60 hertz.[17]

[16] FLA Volume III, Operations Model (AQ-5) Final Technical Report. September 2024.

[17] FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). 1997. Order Issuing New License. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Washington, DC: Project No. 1388-001.

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

PRIMARY TRANSMISSION LINES

There are no transmission lines within SCE's transmission system that are regulated under the Project license.

Gages and Appurtenant Facilities

A fiberoptic line that runs to Poole Powerhouse allows remote operation and is controlled at the Bishop Control Center.

GAGING STATIONS

There are seven Project-associated instream gages immediately downstream of Saddlebag and Tioga dams. These gages continuously collect streamflow data, which are monitored and recorded at the Bishop Control Center. The gages are published by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) but are owned by SCE. The seven gages in the Project Area are shown in Table 7. Mean, minimum, and maximum flows for the instream gages are reported above (Table 2 through Table 5).

Table 7. SCE Gaging Stations

SCE Gage No.	USGS Gage No.	Location
353	10287770	In stream, Lee Vining Creek below Ellery Lake
354	10287655	In stream, Lee Vining Creek below Saddlebag Lake
356	10287760	In reservoir, Ellery Lake (Rhinedollar Reservoir)
360	10287650	In reservoir, Saddlebag Lake
361	10287700	In reservoir, Tioga Lake
363	10287762	In stream, Poole Plant Use (acoustic velocity meter)
368	10287720	In stream, Glacier Creek below Tioga Lake

PROJECT ROADS

Project operation and maintenance activities use existing gravel access roads at Saddlebag Dam (2 acres) and Tioga Dam (0.5 acre); these roads are included in the proposed FERC Project Boundary. Poole Powerhouse Road is a multi-use road, providing access to several U.S. Forest Service (USFS) recreation sites prior to terminating at the powerhouse. The road is maintained year-round by Mono County and is therefore not included in the FERC Project Boundary, nor does SCE consider it a Project road.

3. Applicable Federal License (FERC)

SCE currently operates the Lee Vining Project (FERC No. 1388) under a 30-year license that was issued by FERC on February 4, 1997. The current license will expire on January 31, 2027. SCE filed an "Application for New License for Major Project – Existing Dam," a Final License Application (FLA), with FERC on January 27, 2025.

4. Location and Nature of Potential Discharges

Location and nature of potential discharges are described above in Section 2, for each dam under their Spillway, Intake and Outlet, and Downstream Flows subsection headings.

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

5. Monitoring and Control Measures

Releases and spills from both Saddlebag and Tioga lakes flow into Ellery Lake, which is the intake and regulating reservoir for Poole Powerhouse. Ellery Lake is the forebay for the powerhouse, and its storage level is not as varied as the two upper reservoirs. Water is conveyed from Ellery Lake to the powerhouse via the flowline and penstock.

SCE stores water from the drainage area in the Project's reservoirs and releases the water for power generation, which is the primary, non-consumptive use of water within the Lee Vining Creek watershed. Once water has left the FERC Project Boundary, SCE has no control over downstream diversions.

As described in FLA Exhibit A, seven stream gages (see Table 7, above) within the FERC Project Boundary actively record flows released from the Project dams; data from these gages are published by USGS but are owned by SCE. Flows leaving the Poole Powerhouse are measured by an acoustic velocity meter installed within the powerhouse. During those periods when short-term repair and testing of the Poole Powerhouse facilities may be needed (i.e., Poole Powerhouse is offline), minimum flows in Lee Vining Creek are measured downstream of Ellery Lake, below Rhinedollar Dam. SCE is authorized under the license to temporarily modify minimum flows if required by operating emergencies beyond its control. SCE may also modify minimum flows for short periods upon mutual agreement with USFS.

Turbidity Monitoring 2022-2023 (WQ-1 Study)

Turbidity data were collected during the Stream and Reservoir Water Quality (WQ-1) relicensing study in 2022 and 2023.

As described in Section 6.4.1.7 of the FLA, turbidity measured in Lower Lee Vining Creek ranged from approximately less than 1 to 551 Formazin turbidity units (FTU[18]) over the monitoring period from July 2022 to early October 2023, which includes periods of increased turbidity during intermittent hydro-resource optimization operations, extended snowmelt in summer 2023, and rainfall runoff events. Short-term turbidity peaks of varying magnitudes—both related and unrelated to hydro-resource optimization events—were recorded. During July 2022, small turbidity peaks (approximately 0.5 to 1.5 nephelometric turbidity units [NTU] increase) were observed at Sites LVC-DSPP1 and LVC-DSPP2 during baseflows[19] and during hydro-resource optimization events (approximately 0.5 to 3.0 NTU increase). In August and September 2022, similar magnitude turbidity peaks were observed at Site LVC-DSPP2 during baseflows (approximately 3 to 20 NTU increase) and hydro-resource optimization events (similarly, an increase from approximately 4 to 20 NTU). Between October 2022 and July 2023, turbidity peaks during hydro-resource optimization events were less frequent, and extended periods of high flow led to high natural turbidity (greater than 20 NTU). These periods of naturally high turbidity extended through spring-melt in June 2023.

As described in SCE's Response to FLA Comments,[20] turbidity in Lower Lee Vining Creek increases during precipitation events. Over eight rainfall events during August 2022, median turbidity in Lower Lee Vining Creek was 14.3 FTU, reaching a maximum of 107 FTU on August 9, 2022. Later rainfall events during September (four events), October (one event), and November (two events) 2022 were associated with median turbidity levels of 10 FTU, 27 FTU, and 154 FTU,

[18] Formazin turbidity units (FTU) are equivalent to nephelometric turbidity units (NTU).

[19] Periods when hydro-resource optimization events were not occurring.

[20] Accession Number 20250813-5058

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

respectively. Additional information related to rain events and turbidity in Lower Lee Vining Creek can be found in SCE's Response to FLA Comments.

Natural background turbidity varied seasonally during 2023. All background monitoring locations (Site LVC-WCT, Site LV-SIT, and Site LV-GCT) were generally characterized by elevated turbidity and high runoff conditions during July and August, followed by uniformly lower turbidity levels during October as snowmelt runoff receded. Turbidity in Warren Creek (Site LV-WCT) during July generally ranged from 100 to 150 NTU and temporarily exceeded 400 NTU; during August, turbidity varied from 5 to 13 NTU, and during October, turbidity ranged from zero to 1 NTU. Turbidity measured in the Lee Vining Creek inflow to Saddlebag Lake (Site LV-SIT) during July was generally low (zero to 1 NTU); during August,[21] turbidity varied from zero to 30 NTU; and during October, turbidity returned to very low levels (zero to 1 NTU). Turbidity measured in Glacier Creek inflow to Tioga Lake (Site LV-GCT) was generally lower than the other monitoring sites, with turbidity ranging from zero to 4 NTU, zero to 12 NTU, and zero to 1 NTU during July, August, and October, respectively.

Turbidity Monitoring 2026–2027

Ongoing turbidity data collection began in April 2026 at three sites: Warren Fork, Lee Vining Creek downstream of Poole Powerhouse, and Lee Vining Creek upstream of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power diversion. These data loggers will remain in place for data collection through fall of 2027. SCE will provide this additional information as it becomes available.

Turbidity Compliance Approach

Concurrent with this Water Quality Certification (WQC) request, SCE is developing a compliance approach to ensure that the Project meets the turbidity goals of the Lahontan Basin Plan[22] through consultation with the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). Lahontan Basin Plan Water Quality Objectives that apply to all surface waters, relevant to Lee Vining Creek turbidity, include the following:

- Suspended Materials: Waters shall not contain suspended materials in concentrations that cause nuisance or that adversely affect the water for beneficial uses. For natural high-quality waters, the concentration of total suspended materials shall not be altered to the extent that such alterations are discernible at the 10 percent significance level.
- Turbidity: Waters shall be free of changes in turbidity that cause nuisance or adversely affect the water for beneficial uses. Increases in turbidity shall not exceed natural levels by more than 10 percent.

The proposed compliance approach uses Warren Fork as a surrogate for understanding natural conditions as described in the Lahontan Basin Plan because it is not regulated like Lee Vining Creek. The following approach identifies natural turbidity conditions under a range of flows and describes a compliance framework for Lower Lee Vining Creek that reflects normal operations, maintenance operations, and a compliance point and averaging period.

[21] Data are qualified due to potential equipment malfunction and/or equipment fouling. Difference between turbidity readings and spot check measurements indicate fouling.

[22] California Regional Water Quality Control Board Lahontan Region. 2021. Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region North and South Basins. Available online: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/references.html.

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Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

- Normal operations in Lee Vining Creek would operate within the natural range of turbidity as defined by an averaging period that would be determined in consultation with the State Water Board.
- Maintenance actions conducted during low-flow conditions would rely on NTU measurements characteristic of summer/fall precipitation-driven turbidity events (see SCE's Response to FLA Comments), with hourly average turbidity limits to be determined in consultation with the State Water Board.
- A compliance point not to exceed 1,000 feet downstream of locations of routine operation and maintenance activities that involve in-water work would be determined based on access. Turbidity would be monitored for the duration of those activities.

The compliance approach will be improved and updated as needed, such as additional data collection to refine compliance thresholds. SCE is anticipating that turbidity NTU limits may need to be revised based on additional monitoring.

Proposed Development

There are no proposed new developments or ground-disturbing activities proposed for the new license for the Project. However, if such activities occur within the Project, appropriate equipment and measures will be used to treat, control, and manage discharge. Appropriate erosion, sedimentation, pollution control measures and best management practices (BMPs) for ground-disturbing activities will be used for proposed work.

Streamflow Gages

There are seven Project-associated instream gages immediately downstream of Saddlebag and Tioga dams. These gages are discussed above and reported in Table 7. Mean, minimum, and maximum flows for the instream gages are reported above (Table 2 through Table 5). SCE proposes to continue to operate these gages under the proposed Project.

Precipitation Gages and Snow Survey Sites

SCE does not operate any permanent precipitation gages or snow survey sites at the Lee Vining Project. Precipitation data from the Dana Meadows snow course[23] are used to determine the water year type. However, SCE is currently collecting precipitation data with a pressure transducer in Warren Fork, concurrent with the turbidity monitoring data collection (2026–2027).

6. Other Required Authorizations

The Project does not include any new developments or ground-disturbing activities. In addition, there are no anticipated changes to operation or maintenance from the existing license to the new license aside from those described as PME-1, which are intended to enhance biotic and abiotic resources in Lee Vining Creek. Interagency consultations and considerations are part of the FERC relicensing process and have been addressed for the proposed Project. As such, the issuance of a new FERC license and those requirements set by FERC and incorporated as part of the new license are the only authorization necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the proposed Project.

[23] CDEC (California Data Exchange Center). 2023. "Ellery Lake (ERY) and Dana Meadows (DAN) Precipitation and Temperature Data." California Department of Water Resources. Accessed: July 2024. Retrieved from: https://cdec.water.ca.gov/dynamicapp/wsSensorData.

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

7. Documentation of Pre-filing Meeting Request

A pre-filing meeting request was sent to the State Water Board on June 18, 2026. The pre-filing meeting request communications are included as Attachment B.

8. Required Certification Statement

SCE hereby certifies that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of SCE's knowledge and belief.

9. Request for Action within Reasonable Period of Time

SCE hereby requests that the certifying authority review and take action on this Clean Water Act 401 certification request within the applicable reasonable period of time.

Part 2 – California State Water Resources Control Board Completeness Information (23 CCR § 3856)

1. Detailed Technical Description of Activity

Refer to Exhibit A, Exhibit B, and Exhibit E, Sections 3.0 and 4.0, of the FLA for a detailed technical description of Project activities.

- Project Overview: see Exhibit A.
- Existing Facilities: see Exhibit A and Exhibit E, Section 3.1.
- Project Operations: see Exhibit B and Exhibit E, Section 3.3.
- Construction and Maintenance Activities: SCE is not proposing any new construction as part of this relicensing. Project maintenance, as part of the Proposed Action, is discussed in Exhibit E, Section 4.4.

2. Complete FERC Application Materials

The public portions of the FLA are available on SCE's relicensing website at www.sce.com/leevining or on the FERC's eLibrary system, https://www.ferc.gov/elibrary, under FERC Docket No. P-1388. In addition, the public volumes of the FLA can be viewed electronically during regular business hours at both the Lee Vining Library located at 51710 Hwy. 395 Library Bldg., Lee Vining, California 93541 and the June Lake Library located at 90 West Granite Avenue, June Lake, California 93529.

3. Copies of Federal Correspondence

A record of consultation with agencies and interested parties for the FLA is included with the FLA in Volume II, after the appendices of Exhibit E.

Summaries of additional technical working group (TWG) meetings that have occurred since the FLA was filed can be found on SCE's relicensing website: www.sce.com/leevining.

All Project FERC filings can be located at https://www.ferc.gov/elibrary, under FERC Docket P-1388.

4. Other Permit and Approval Documents

A summary of statutory and regulatory requirements and applicable laws is included in Exhibit E, Section 2.0, of the FLA.

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

4. Other Permit and Approval Documents

A summary of statutory and regulatory requirements and applicable laws is included in Exhibit E, Section 2.0, of the FLA.

5. CEQA Documentation

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process is occurring concurrently with this water quality certification process, so this section is not applicable at this time.

6. Fee Documentation

Under Section 3833 of Chapter 28, Certifications, there is no fee required at this time.

7. Maps, Plans, Drawings, Impact Calculations, Waterbody Information, and Supporting Technical Reports

Maps, plans, drawings, impact calculations, waterbody information, and supporting technical reports are included in Exhibits E, F, and G, and Volume III of the FLA.

- Maps and Plans: see Exhibit F and Exhibit G of the FLA.
- Impact Calculations: potential effects and issues for each environmental resource are described within each resource section of Exhibit E of the FLA; a cumulative effects analysis is presented in Exhibit E, Section 7.0.
- Waterbody Information: see Exhibit E, Sections 6.2 and 6.4, General Description of the River Basin and Water Resources, respectively.
- Supporting Technical Reports: see the Final Technical Reports in Volume III of the FLA.

SCE appreciates your support and consideration of this 401 WQC request. Please contact Matthew Woodhall at matthew.woodhall@sce.com or 626-302-9596 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Wayne Allen
[illegible]445F...

Wayne Allen
Principal Manger

cc: Matthew Woodhall, SCE
Finlay Anderson, Kleinschmidt
Parker Thaler, California State Water Resources Control Board

Enclosures:

- Attachment A: May 27, 2025 State Water Board Turbidity Meeting Materials
- Attachment B: Pre-filing Meeting Request
- Attachment C: July 7, 2026 Pre-filing Meeting Materials
- Attachment D: Revised PME-1

2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626.302.9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A MAY 27, 2025 STATE WATER BOARD TURBIDITY MEETING MATERIALS

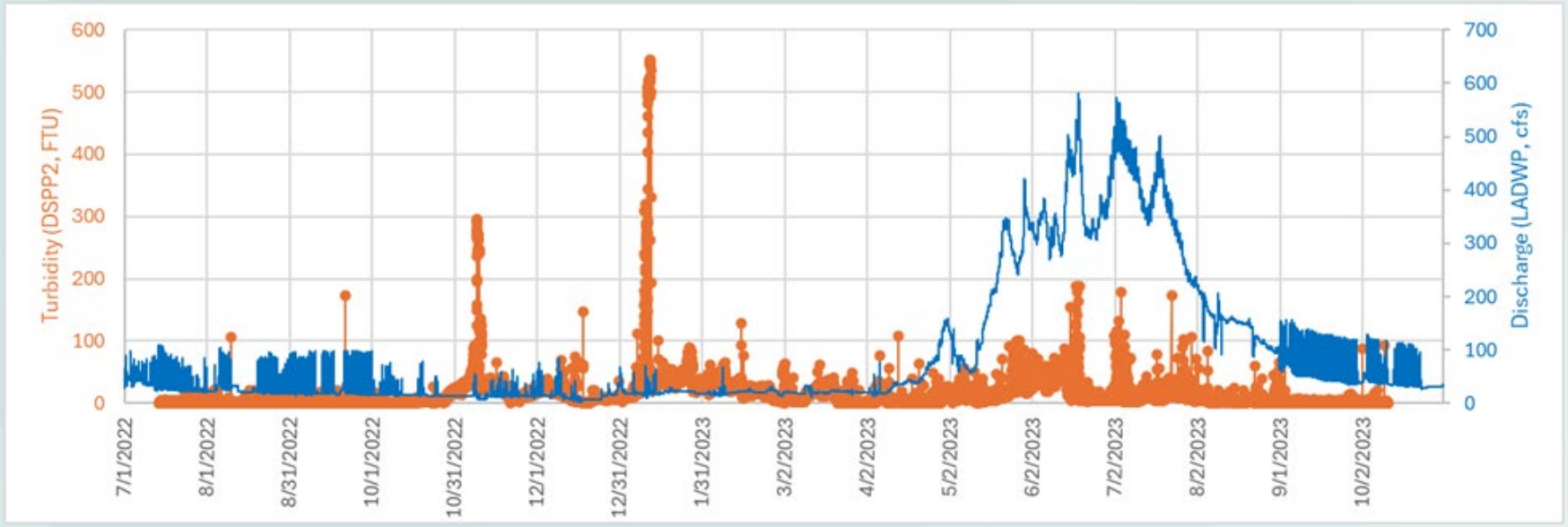
Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project

Turbidity Analysis

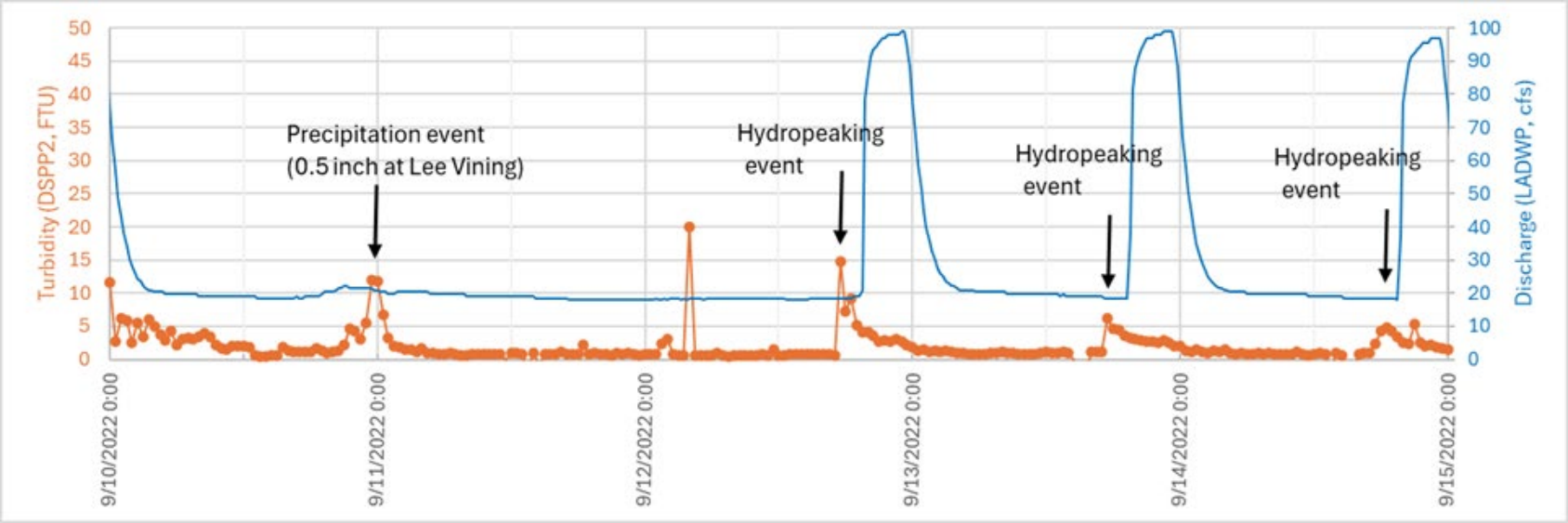
Stillwater Sciences


LV-SIT
Saddlebag Lake
LV-1
LV-2
Saddlebag Dam
LV-B1
LV-3
Slate Creek
Ice Vining Creek
Warren Fork
LV-WCT
LV-8
LVC-DSPP1
Mine Creek
LV-4
LV-6
LV-B3
LV-5
LV-7
Glacier Creek
Ellery Lake
Rhinedollar Dam
Poole Powerhouse
Beartrack Creek
LADWP Diversion Dam
Tioga Auxiliary Dam
LV-B2
LV-12
Tioga Dam
Tioga Lake
LV-11
LV-GCT
LV-10
Lee Vining Creek
LV-9
LVC-DSPP2
Mono County
Tuolumne County
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
Walker Creek
Water Quality Sites
Bacterial Monitoring Site
Turbidity Monitoring Site
Reservoir Water Quality Monitoring Site
Stream Water Quality Monitoring Site
Stream Flowline
Fish Tissue Sampling
FERC Project Boundary (P-1388)
Waterbody
Inyo National Forest
National Park
County
Tuolumne County
Mono County
Mariposa County
Madera County
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
Energy for What's Ahead
WQ-1 Study Sites (2022)
LEE VINING HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
FERC PROJECT NO. 1388
0
2,000
4,000
Feet

Turbidity in Lower Lee Vining Creek near Lee Vining Creek Campground



Turbidity in Lower Lee Vining Creek near Lee Vining Creek Campground following rainfall events



Turbidity following rainfall events

Date (2022)	Precipitation (in)[1]	Begin (2022)	End (2022)	Maximum Turbidity (FTU) at Lee Vining Creek Campground
8/1	0.04	8/1	8/2	2.36
8/2	0.04	8/2	8/3	1.06
8/3	0.05	8/3	8/4	21.26
8/4	0.06	8/4	8/5	20.14
8/5	0.79	8/5	8/6	8.52
8/6	0.39	8/6	8/7	3.76
8/9	0.02	8/9	8/10	106.60
8/18	0.06	8/18	8/19	21.26
9/8	0.03	9/8	9/9	8.13
9/11	0.50	9/11	9/12	11.85
9/13	0.10	9/13	9/14	6.22
9/21	0.11	9/21	9/22	174.18
10/23	0.06	10/23	10/24	26.79
11/3	0.15	11/3/	11/4	33.51
11/9	1.74	11/9	11/10	276.07

ATTACHMENT B PRE-FILING MEETING REQUEST

From:	Carissa Shoemaker
To:	Thaler, Parker@Waterboards
Cc:	Cohen, Adam@Waterboards; Muro, Bryan@Waterboards; Matthew Woodhall; Finlay Anderson; Antal.J.Szijj@usace.army.mil; Sussman, Daniel@Waterboards; bryan.talmage@waterboards.ca.gov
Subject:	Pre-filing Meeting Request, 401 certification, Lee Vining (FERC No. 1388)
Date:	Thursday, June 18, 2026 9:26:50 AM
Attachments:	image001.png image.png image.png image.png

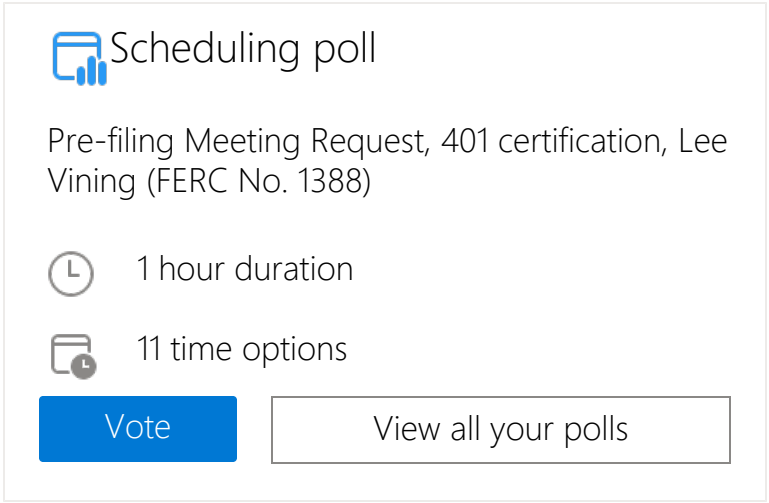
Dear Mr. Thaler,

Under the new Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Rule (effective September 11, 2020), a "Pre-filing Meeting" request is required at least 30 days prior to submitting an application for an individual Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification (40 CFR Part 121).

On behalf of Southern California Edison (SCE), Kleinschmidt Associates is requesting a pre-filing meeting with the State Water Board for the Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1388). The Lee Vining Project is located on Lee Vining and Glacier creeks, near the community of Lee Vining in Mono County, California. SCE intends to submit a Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification application to the State Water Board in mid-July 2026. We hope that a pre-filing meeting can occur either the week of June 22 or June 29 and have provided a scheduling poll link with this email.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you



Carissa Shoemaker
Licensing Coordinator
Kleinschmidt
C: 907-575-0294
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From: Carissa Shoemaker
To: Fisch, Nathan@Waterboards; Hassan, Rajaa@Waterboards
Cc: Finlay Anderson; "bryan.talmadge@waterboards.ca.gov"
Subject: FW: Pre-filing Meeting Request, 401 certification, Lee Vining (FERC No. 1388)
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2026 10:27:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image.png
image.png
image.png

Hi Nathan and Rajaa,

I received an auto reply from Parker because he's out for a bit. If one of you could let me know if he is available for any of the proposed meeting times, I would really appreciate it!

Bryan, apologies, I misspelled your email address in the previous one and it bounced back.

Thanks all!

Carissa Shoemaker
Licensing Coordinator
www.kleinschmidtgroup.com
907-575-0294
Upcoming out of office dates: July 8-18

From: Carissa Shoemaker
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2026 9:27 AM
To: Thaler, Parker@Waterboards <parker.thaler@waterboards.ca.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Adam@Waterboards <adam.cohen@waterboards.ca.gov>; Muro, Bryan@Waterboards <bryan.muro@waterboards.ca.gov>; Matthew Woodhall <matthew.woodhall@sce.com>; Finlay Anderson <finlay.anderson@kleinschmidtgroup.com>; Antal.J.Szijj@usace.army.mil; Sussman, Daniel@Waterboards <daniel.sussman@waterboards.ca.gov>; bryan.talmage@waterboards.ca.gov
Subject: Pre-filing Meeting Request, 401 certification, Lee Vining (FERC No. 1388)

Dear Mr. Thaler,

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certification application to the State Water Board in mid-July 2026. We hope that a pre-filing meeting can occur either the week of June 22 or June 29 and have provided a scheduling poll link with this email.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you

Carissa Shoemaker
Licensing Coordinator
Kleinschmidt
C: 907-575-0294
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Upcoming out of office dates: July 8-18

ATTACHMENT C JULY 7, 2026 PRE-FILING MEETING MATERIALS

Document Accession #: 20260724-5280 Filed Date: 07/24/2026

Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project Relicensing

Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification Request

Pre-Filing Meeting

July 7, 2026, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM PDT via Microsoft Teams

Objectives

- Project overview
- Understand process and next steps
- Clarify roles and responsibilities

Safety Moment, Welcome, & Introductions

- Safety moment
- Introductions

Procedural Discussion

- Timing/Format of 401 Application
- Notification requirements
- Water Board Process and Schedule

401 Application Content Discussion

- Project Description
- Turbidity Discussion

PME-1 Water Management Update

- Potential for FERC supplemental filing (Revised PME)
- CEQA process implications

Lee Vining Post-FLA Filing Discussions: 401 WQC Request

with California State Water Board

July 7, 2026

Agenda

- Safety moment, welcome, and introductions
- Procedural Discussion
- 401 Application Content
  - Project Description
  - Turbidity Discussion
- Potential PME-1 (Water Management) Update
  - Potential FERC supplemental filing
  - Implications for CEQA process

Procedural Discussion

- Timing / Format of 401 Application
- Notification requirements
- Water Board Process and Schedule

WQC Application Content

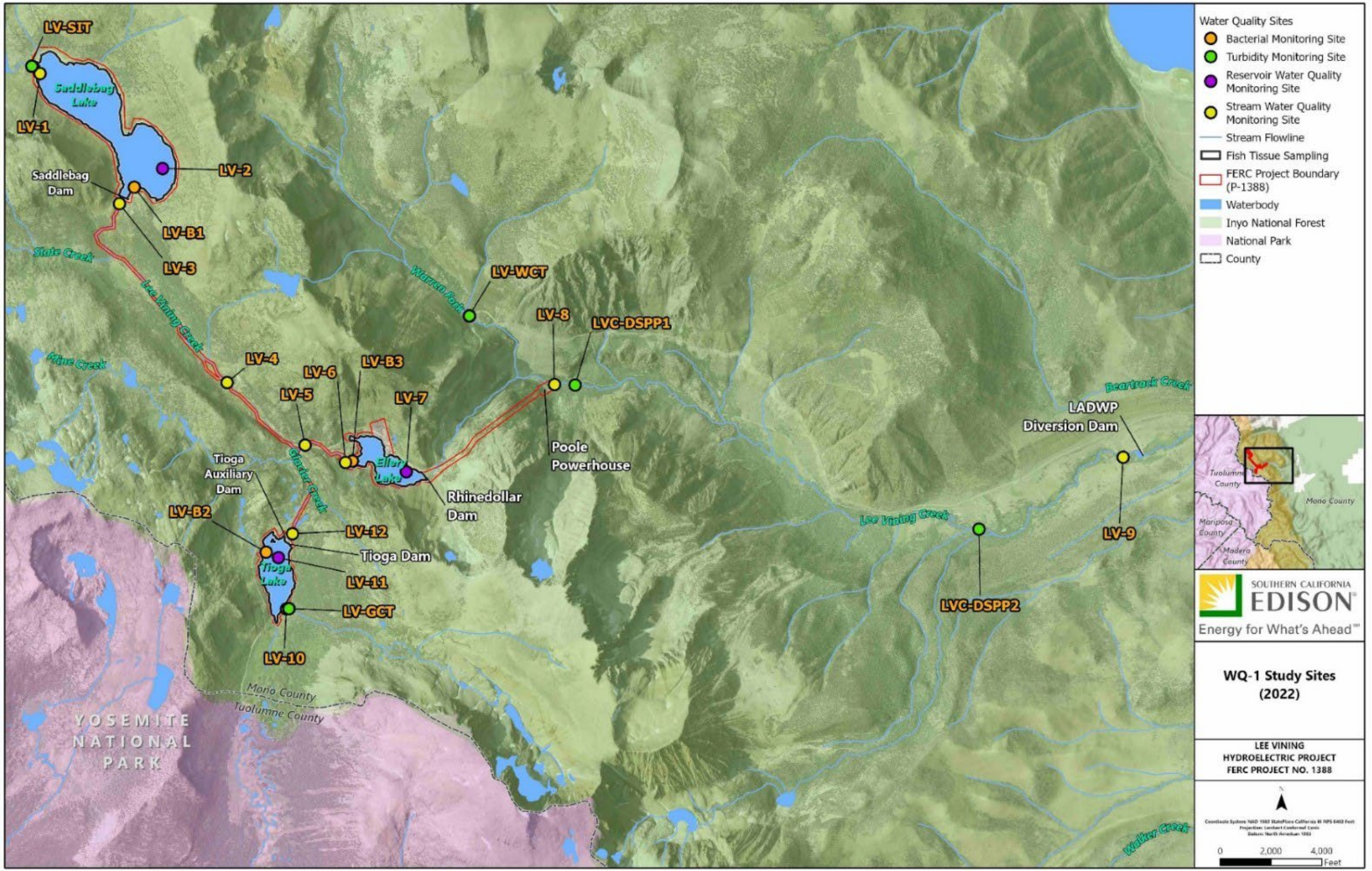
- Letter format
- Summary of consultation to date
- Project description (Consultant/CEQA)
- Turbidity Discussion
  - Past (WQ-1) data collection
  - Current data collection
  - Proposed compliance approach
- Attachments
  - Past meeting materials
  - Pre-filing meeting request and materials
  - Revised PME-1 table

Turbidity Data Collection Efforts

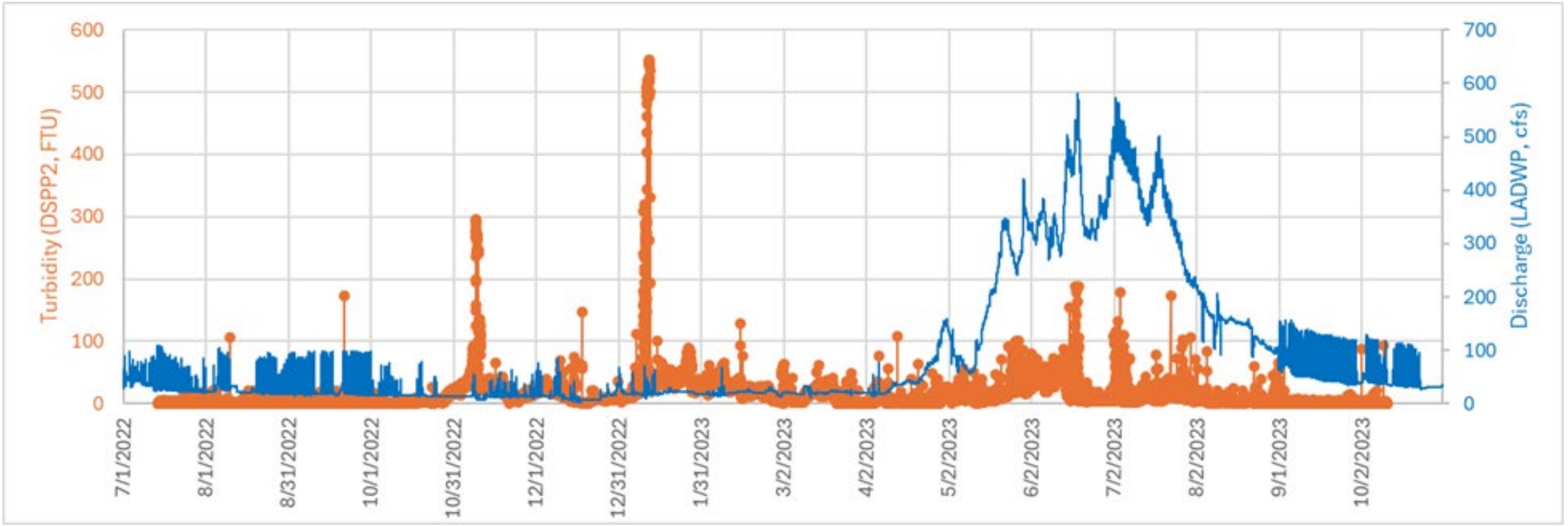
- 2022-2023 for Stream and Reservoir Water Quality (WQ-1) Study
- 2026 post-FLA filing, for baseline conditions

2022-2023 WQ-1 Data

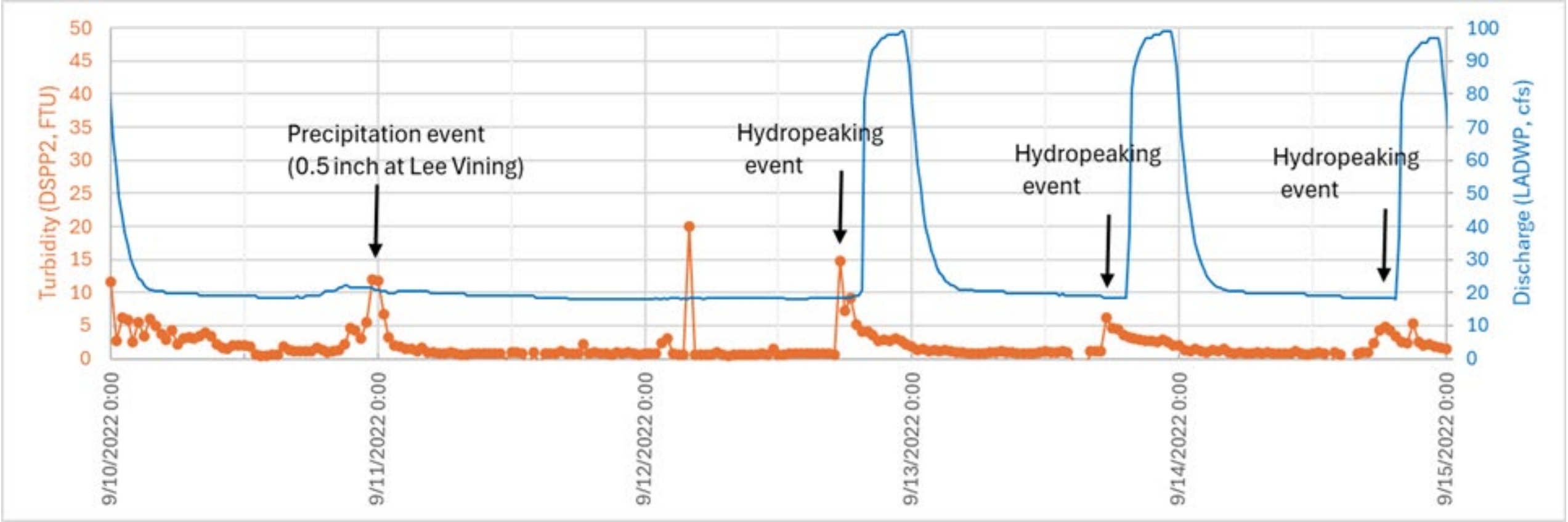
- Five locations
  - Warren Fork
  - Lee Vining Creek downstream of Poole Powerhouse
  - Lee Vining Creek near Lee Vining Creek Campground
  - Headwaters of Saddlebag Lake
  - Headwaters of Tioga Lake
- Key Findings
  - No adverse effects to beneficial uses
  - Some indication of turbidity reaction to hydro-resource optimization


LV-SIT
Saddlebag Lake
LV-1
LV-2
Saddlebag Dam
LV-B1
LV-3
State Creek
Lee Vining Creek
Warren Fork
LV-WCT
LV-8
LVC-DSPP1
Mine Creek
LV-4
LV-6
LV-B3
LV-5
LV-7
Glacier Creek
Ellery Lake
Tioga Auxiliary Dam
Rhinedollar Dam
Poole Powerhouse
LV-B2
LV-12
Tioga Dam
Tioga Lake
LV-11
LV-GCT
LV-10
Mono County
Tuolumne County
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
Beartrack Creek
LADWP Diversion Dam
LV-9
LVC-DSPP2
Walker Creek
Water Quality Sites
Bacterial Monitoring Site
Turbidity Monitoring Site
Reservoir Water Quality Monitoring Site
Stream Water Quality Monitoring Site
Stream Flowline
Fish Tissue Sampling
FERC Project Boundary (P-1388)
Waterbody
Inyo National Forest
National Park
County
Tuolumne County
Mono County
Mariposa County
Madera County
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
Energy for What's Ahead℠
WQ-1 Study Sites (2022)
LEE VINING HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT FERC PROJECT NO. 1388
0
2,000
4,000
Feet

Turbidity in Lower Lee Vining Creek near Lee Vining Creek Campground



Turbidity in Lower Lee Vining Creek near Lee Vining Creek Campground – following rainfall events



Turbidity following rainfall events

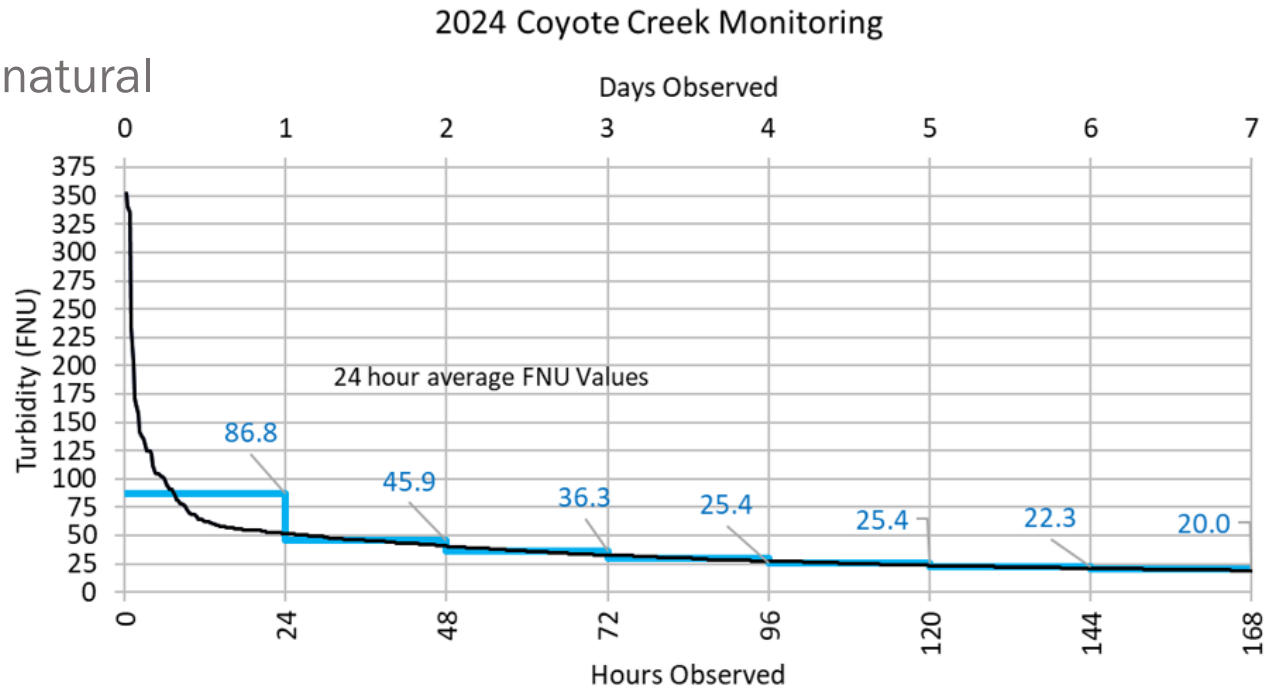
Date (2022)	Precipitation (in)[1]	Begin (2022)	End (2022)	Maximum Turbidity (FTU) at Lee Vining Creek Campground
8/1	0.04	8/1	8/2	2.36
8/2	0.04	8/2	8/3	1.06
8/3	0.05	8/3	8/4	21.26
8/4	0.06	8/4	8/5	20.14
8/5	0.79	8/5	8/6	8.52
8/6	0.39	8/6	8/7	3.76
8/9	0.02	8/9	8/10	106.60
8/18	0.06	8/18	8/19	21.26
9/8	0.03	9/8	9/9	8.13
9/11	0.50	9/11	9/12	11.85
9/13	0.10	9/13	9/14	6.22
9/21	0.11	9/21	9/22	174.18
10/23	0.06	10/23	10/24	26.79
11/3	0.15	11/3/	11/4	33.51
11/9	1.74	11/9	11/10	276.07

2026 Baseline Data

- Collection began in May 2026
- Three locations:
  - Warren Fork
  - Lee Vining Creek downstream of Poole Powerhouse
  - Lee Vining Creek upstream of LADWP diversion
- Status: ongoing (dry water year)

Proposed Compliance Approach

- Meeting Lahontan Basin Plan Natural Condition objective vs addressing adverse effects on beneficial uses
- Similar in concept to Bishop Creek
  - Use of surrogate unregulated stream
  - Collection of data over different water year types
  - Use data to
    - Propose Averaging Period for defining natural conditions (Coyote Creek example)
    - Thresholds for compliance
- Differences from Bishop
  - Different resource objectives
  - NTU magnitude



PME-1 (Water Management) Update

- SCE, USFS, CDFW, State Water Board, and Mono Lake Committee have been discussing minimum instream flows, timing, and the operations model
- Potential for FERC supplemental filing
- CEQA process implications

Questions

ATTACHMENT D 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 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, 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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