

# **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON**

## **Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project**

### **(FERC Project No. 2290)**



## **UPDATED STUDY REPORT**



October 2024

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# **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON**

## **Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2290)**

### **Updated Study Report**

Southern California Edison  
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue  
Rosemead, CA 91770

October 2024

*Support from:*



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**LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| CEII           | Critical Energy/Electric Infrastructure Information            |
| CFR            | Code of Federal Regulations                                    |
| cfs            | cubic feet per second  |
| DLA            | Draft License Application                                      |
| FERC           | Federal Energy Regulatory Commission                           |
| Forest Service | USDA Forest Service  |
| FLA            | Final License Application                                      |
| ISR            | Initial Study Report   |
| NFKR           | North Fork Kern River  |
| Project        | Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2290) |
| RSP            | Revised Study Plan   |
| SCE            | Southern California Edison                                     |
| SPD            | Study Plan Determination                                       |
| SQF            | Sequoia National Forest  |
| USDA           | U.S. Department of Agriculture                                 |
| USR            | Updated Study Report   |

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Southern California Edison (SCE) is the owner and operator of the Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project (Project), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2290. SCE operates the Project under a 30-year license that was issued by FERC on December 24, 1996 (77 FERC ¶ 61,313) and subsequently amended in 1997 (81 FERC ¶ 61,162), 2004 (107 FERC ¶ 62,136), and 2019 (166 FERC ¶ 62,049). The current license will expire on November 30, 2026, and SCE is seeking a new license for its continued operation and maintenance of the Project.

The Project is located on the North Fork Kern River (NFKR) and on Salmon and Corral Creeks near the town of Kernville in Kern and Tulare Counties, California. Project facilities are primarily located on federal lands within the Sequoia National Forest (SQF), with a small amount around the powerhouse within SCE ownership. The 40.2-megawatt run-of-river Project includes an intake diversion dam; a water conveyance system consisting of concrete-lined arched tunnels, covered and open concrete box flumes, and a metal siphon; two diversion dams and pipelines; a forebay; two penstocks; and a powerhouse.

Pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 18, Section 5.15(f) (18 CFR§ 5.15(f)), SCE is filing this Updated Study Report (USR) to provide FERC and relicensing participants (i.e., regulatory agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties) an update on implementation of the 20 FERC-approved Study Plans, conducted pursuant to FERC's Study Plan Determination<sup>1</sup> (SPD) and Determination of Requests for Study Modification and New Studies.<sup>2</sup>

The document is organized as follows:

- Section 1.0: Introduction
- Section 2.0: Background
- Section 3.0: Study Implementation Progress
- Section 4.0: Updated Study Report Public Meeting
- Section 5.0: Next Steps
- Attachments A through L

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

On September 22, 2021, SCE filed a Notice of Intent to seek a new license for the Project, together with a Preliminary Application Document, which initiated the formal relicensing proceeding using FERC's Integrated Licensing Process. In response to FERC's Scoping

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<sup>1</sup> Study Plan Determination, Project No. 2290-122, Accession No. 20221012-3024 (issued October 12, 2022)

<sup>2</sup> Determination of Requests for Study Modification and New Studies, Accession No. 20240530-3030 (issued May 30, 2024).

Document 1 and relicensing participant comments, SCE revised 10 draft Study Plans that were included with the Preliminary Application Document and developed 5 new Study Plans that encompass resource topics including water, biological, botanical, recreation, land use, socioeconomics, geology, and Project operations in its Proposed Study Plan filed with FERC on March 4, 2022. FERC also issued Scoping Document 2 on March 4, 2022, which refined the list of issues to be addressed in their environmental analysis based on comments submitted to FERC from interested relicensing participants.

On July 1, 2022, SCE filed its Revised Study Plan (RSP) that considered FERC's Scoping Documents and comments filed on the Proposed Study Plan. The RSP filing included 18 individual Study Plans. On October 12, 2022, FERC issued the SPD that approved SCE's RSP with staff-recommend modifications. Of the 18 studies proposed by SCE, 5 were approved as filed, 12 were approved with staff-recommend modifications, and 1 was not required. FERC also adopted 2 additional relicensing participant-requested studies, with modifications, and 1 staff-recommended study, for a total of 20 Study Plans.

SCE filed the Initial Study Report<sup>3</sup> (ISR) with FERC on October 9, 2023. The ISR described SCE's progress in implementing the 20 FERC-approved Study Plans, including a summary of study results that were available at that time, together with a description of any variances and proposed modifications to the FERC-approved plans. As many of the studies were in-progress at the time of the ISR, SCE provided a summary of data collection efforts to date in the form of Interim Technical Memoranda. SCE presented the material filed with the ISR during the ISR Meeting held on October 17, 2023, and filed a meeting summary on October 31, 2023.<sup>4</sup> Subsequent to the filing of the ISR and meeting summary, FERC and relicensing participants filed comments on the ISR and new study requests.

In response to FERC and relicensing participants' comments on the ISR, SCE provided additional information and study results. A brief summary and date of each SCE filing is described below:

- In response to FERC's November 9, 2023, Request for Additional Information,<sup>5</sup> SCE filed on November 21, 2023,<sup>6</sup> additional information on fish populations near, and entrainment potential at, Fairview Dam.

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<sup>3</sup> Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2290-122; Initial Study Report. FERC Accession No. 20231009-5229. Filed October 9, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2290-122; Initial Study Report Meeting Summary. FERC Accession No. 20231031-5259. Filed October 31, 2023.

<sup>5</sup> Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2290-122; FERC Request for Additional Information. Accession No. 20231109-3044. Filed November 9, 2023.

<sup>6</sup> Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2290-122; Request for Additional Information. Accession No. 20231121-5179. Filed November 21, 2023.



- In response to relicensing participant comments on the ISR, SCE filed on January 9, 2024,<sup>7</sup> a Response to Comments document that:
  - Provided a detailed response to each relicensing participant comment that may be considered a request for a new or modified study, regardless of whether it complied with FERC’s requirements filed on the ISR or ISR Meeting Summary and/or proposed modifications to ongoing studies or requested new studies.
  - Stated that SCE would voluntarily provide additional information to relicensing participants outside of the standard Integrated Licensing Process reporting schedule, and provide addenda to the Technical Memoranda associated with the REC-1 Whitewater Boating Study, Study REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment Study, and OPS-1 Water Conveyance Assessment Study in the first quarter of 2024.
  - Proposed one study modification as part of the REC-2 Study. SCE proposed to extend the 2024 study period and conduct additional spot counts and 2-hour calibration counts through May 2024.
  - Included *Power Tunnel Hydraulic Model Results* (public document) as Appendix A to the OPS-1 addendum.
- In response to FERC’s February 1, 2024,<sup>8</sup> request that SCE file additional study data for relicensing participants to review, SCE filed on March 1, 2024,<sup>9</sup> the following additional study results (in their letter, FERC also revised the Process Plan and Schedule, extending the public comment period to April 1, 2024, to provide additional time for comments on the information requested):
  - REC-1 responses to the Level 1 structured interview questionnaire; and
  - REC-2 summary of the calibration and spot count data.
- As stated in SCE’s January 9, 2024, Response to Relicensing Participants Comments filing, SCE committed to providing additional data pertaining to the REC-1, REC-2, and OPS-1 studies in the first quarter of 2024. SCE filed on March 29, 2024,<sup>10</sup> an addendum to the ISR, including:
  - REC-1 analysis of the Level 3 single flow survey;

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<sup>7</sup> Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2290-122; Response to Comments. Accession No. 20240110-5011. Filed January 9, 2024

<sup>8</sup> Letter from Nicholas Jayjack, FERC, to Wayne Allen, SCE, Project No. 2290-122, Accession No. 202040201-3018 (issued February 1, 2024).

<sup>9</sup> Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2290-122; Request to File Study Results. Accession No. 20240301-5315. Filed March 1, 2024.

<sup>10</sup> Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2290-122; Addendum to Initial Study Report. Accession No. 20240329-5136. Filed March 29, 2024

- REC-2 results of the summer (Memorial Day – Labor Day) visitor intercept survey questionnaire and preliminary analysis of the calibration and spot count data; and
  - OPS-1 findings from the Phase 2 hydraulic assessment and tunnel stability results (public); the Appendix to this technical memorandum was filed with FERC under separate cover as Critical Energy/Electric Infrastructure Information (CEII).
- In response to additional comments on the ISR received by the extended comment period date of April 1, 2024, SCE filed on April 30, 2024,<sup>11</sup> a response to three relicensing participant comment letters on the additional REC-1 and REC-2 study results filed by SCE on March 1, 2024.

## 2.1. FERC'S DETERMINATION ON REQUEST FOR STUDY MODIFICATION AND NEW STUDIES

FERC's Determination on Request for Study Modification and New Studies issued on May 30, 2024,<sup>2</sup> stated that the requested modification for WR-1 Water Quality Study was approved; of the two requested modifications to the WR-2 Hydrology Study, one was approved with staff recommendations and one was not required; the requested modifications to studies REC-1 Whitewater Boating, REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment, AES-1 Aesthetic Flows, and ANG-1 Enjoyable Angling Flows were approved with staff-recommended modifications; and the requested new studies (NRG-1 Voltage Stepping Costs and NRG-2 CAISO Bid History) were not required.

## 3.0 STUDY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Data collection, analysis, and final technical memoranda have been completed for 19 of the 20 FERC-approved Study Plans (Table 1). The filing date(s) of the associated technical memoranda (interim and/or final) for each of the 20 studies are also noted in Table 1.

As part of the ISR filing on October 9, 2023, and/or additional filings made through March 1, 2024, SCE filed final technical memoranda for 8 of the studies, along with components for 2 additional studies (see Table 1); because these documents are considered final and were previously filed with FERC, these final technical memoranda are not included with this USR filing. Only data analysis and technical memoranda filed after the March 1, 2024<sup>12</sup> filing are appended to this USR in accordance with 18 CFR § 5.15(f).

Final technical memoranda associated with the second year of study implementation included with this USR are filings made on March 29, 2024, July 1, 2024, and as part of this USR for the remaining 12 studies and various study components. One Study Plan

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<sup>11</sup> Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2290-122; Initial Study Report—Additional Response to Comments. Accession No. 20240430-5439. Filed April 30, 2024.

<sup>12</sup> Per FERC's February 1, 2024 letter requesting that SCE file additional information, FERC staff and relicensing participants were given the opportunity to review and evaluate the studies' progress, variances, and the potential need for modifications to the approved study plan. The letter also included a Revised Process Plan and Schedule to provide additional time (until April 1, 2024), for relicensing participants to file comments on the information requested.

component associated with the REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment will continue data collection into the fall/winter of 2025; results from this study will be filed with FERC upon completion of data collection and subsequent data analysis.

The second year of study implementation has followed the methods described in SCE's RSP and as modified in FERC's SPD and Determination of Request for Study Modification. Any variances that occurred during the second year of data collection are minor and have not led to data gaps that would prevent a comprehensive analysis of potential Project effects, ensuring a sufficient level of detail for FERC to complete their environmental analysis. Refer to Table 2 and related technical memoranda (Attachments A through L) for a summary of tasks completed and analysis of the data collected.

Included with this USR is a supplemental Study Plan, *REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment Camera Study Plan*, that describes the approach and methodology to collect additional information pertaining to commercial and non-commercial boating use, per FERC's May 30, 2024, Determination of Request for Study Modification (Attachment H). This study component is ongoing and data collection will not be completed until fall/winter 2025. Results of this study will be filed with FERC following completion of the required one-year of data collection period.

**Table 1. Study Plan Technical Memorandum Status and Distribution Dates**

| Study Plan Technical Memorandum   | Study Plan Status | ISR Status | USR Status | Technical Memorandum Distribution Dates <sup>a</sup> | USR Attachment <sup>b</sup> |
|---|-------------------|------------|------------|--|-----------------------------|
| WR-1 Water Quality Technical Memorandum   | Completed         | Interim    | Final      | October 9, 2023<br>October 8, 2024                   | A                           |
| WR-2 Hydrology Technical Memorandum   | Completed         | Interim    | Final      | October 9, 2023<br>October 8, 2024                   | B                           |
| BIO-1 Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog Technical Memorandum  | Completed         | Interim    | Final      | October 9, 2023<br>October 8, 2024                   | C                           |
| BIO-2 Special-Status Salamanders Technical Memorandum   | Completed         | Final      | --         | October 9, 2023                                      |                             |
| BIO-3 General Wildlife Resources Technical Memorandum   | Completed         | Final      | --         | October 9, 2023                                      |                             |
| BIO-4 Benthic Macroinvertebrate Technical Memorandum  | Completed         | Interim    | Final      | October 9, 2023<br>July 1, 2024 (DLA)                | D                           |
| BIO-5 Western Pond Turtle Technical Memorandum  | Completed         | Final      | --         | October 9, 2023                                      |                             |
| BIO-6 Stream Habitat Typing Technical Memorandum  | Completed         | Final      | --         | October 9, 2023                                      |                             |
| BOT-1 General Botanical Resources Technical Memorandum  | Completed         | Final      | --         | October 9, 2023                                      |                             |
| REC-1 Whitewater Boating  | Completed         |            |            |  |                             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>REC-1 Whitewater Boating Technical Memorandum (Level 1 Desktop Analysis and Level 2 Limited Reconnaissance)</li> </ul> |                   | Final      | --         | October 9, 2023                                      |                             |

| Study Plan Technical Memorandum   | Study Plan Status | ISR Status | USR Status | Technical Memorandum Distribution Dates <sup>a</sup>                     | USR Attachment <sup>b</sup> |
|---|-------------------|------------|------------|--|-----------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REC-1 Whitewater Boating Study: Level 1 Structured Interview Analysis</li> <li>• Addendum to REC-1 Whitewater Boating Interim Technical Memorandum: Level 3 Single Flow Survey Results</li> <li>• REC-1 Whitewater Boating Technical Memorandum: Level 3 Results</li> </ul>  |                   | Final      | --         | March 1, 2024  |                             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment Technical Memorandum (visitor intercept survey questionnaire, calibration and spot count data)</li> <li>• Results of the Summer visitor intercept survey questionnaire and preliminary analysis of calibration and spot count data</li> <li>• REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment Camera Study Plan</li> </ul> | Ongoing           | Interim    | Final      | October 9, 2023<br>July 1, 2024 (DLA)                                    | G                           |
| REC-3 Recreation Facility Condition Assessment Technical Memorandum   | Completed         | Final      | --         | March 29, 2024<br>October 8, 2024  | H                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CUL-1 Cultural Resource Archaeology Technical Study Report <sup>c</sup></li> <li>• CUL-1 Cultural Resource Built Environment Technical Study Report <sup>c</sup></li> </ul>  | Completed         | Interim    | Interim    | May 6, 2024,<br>July 1, 2024 (DLA)<br>May 6, 2024,<br>July 1, 2024 (DLA) |                             |
| TRI-1 Tribal Resource Technical Study Report <sup>c</sup>   | Completed         | Interim    | --         | May 6, 2024<br>July 1, 2024 (DLA)  |                             |

| Study Plan Technical Memorandum   | Study Plan Status | ISR Status | USR Status | Technical Memorandum Distribution Dates <sup>a</sup>                       | USR Attachment <sup>b</sup> |
|---|-------------------|------------|------------|--|-----------------------------|
| LAND-1 Road Condition Assessment Technical Memorandum   | Completed         | Interim    | Final      | October 9, 2023<br>July 1, 2024 (DLA)                                      | I                           |
| GEO-1 Erosion and Sedimentation Technical Memorandum  | Completed         | Final      | --         | October 9, 2023  |                             |
| OPS-1 Water Conveyance Assessment   | Completed         |            |            |  |                             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OPS-1 Water Conveyance Assessment Technical Memorandum (Phase 1 Power Tunnel Hydraulic Model Results)</li> <li>Study OPS-1: Water Conveyance Assessment Power Tunnel Hydraulic Model Results Memorandum, (Redacted-Public Version)</li> <li>Addendum to OPS-1 Water Conveyance Assessment Technical Memorandum: Tunnel Stability (Appendix A Filed as CEII)</li> </ul> |                   | Final      | --         | October 9, 2023<br>January 9, 2024<br>March 29, 2024<br>July 1, 2024 (DLA) | J                           |
| AES-1 Aesthetic Flows Technical Memorandum (Level 1: Desktop Analysis)  | Completed         | Interim    | Final      | October 9, 2023<br>July 1, 2024 (DLA)                                      | K                           |
| ANG-1 Enjoyable Angling Flows Technical Memorandum (Level 1: Desktop Analysis)  | Completed         | Interim    | Final      | October 9, 2023<br>July 1, 2024 (DLA)                                      | L                           |
| EJ-1 Environmental Justice Technical Memorandum   | Completed         | Final      | --         | October 9, 2023  |                             |

--: not applicable; CUI = Controlled Unclassified Information; DLA = Draft License Application; FLA = Final License Application; PRIV = Privileged

<sup>a</sup> All Technical Memorandums completed to date were included with the DLA filed on July 1, 2024.

<sup>b</sup> Updated/Final Technical Memorandums completed after the ISR filings (October 9, 2023 through March 1, 2024, Request to File Study Results) are appended to this USR filing in accordance with 18 CFR 5.15(f).

<sup>c</sup> Technical Memorandums are filed separately as Confidential and Privileged information (CUI//PRIV). Reports were provided to authorized resource agencies and Tribes for review and comment on May 6, 2024, and to FERC as part of the DLA filing. Final reports will be appended to the FLA filing.

**Table 2: Updated Study Report Technical Study Plan Implementation Summary**

| Technical Memorandum (USR Attachment)            | Study Plan Elements Completed Since ISR <sup>a</sup>  | Study Plan Variances   | Ongoing/Outstanding Study Plan Elements | Modifications to Ongoing Studies |
|--|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| WR-1 Water Quality (Attachment A)                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed stream water temperature and dissolved oxygen monitoring at 10 sites <i>through September 2024</i>.</li> <li>Collected bacterial water samples: <i>Sampling was conducted between June 6 and July 10, 2024 and August 13 and September 10, 2024.</i></li> </ul>  | Data loggers: The dissolved oxygen data logger from Site 6 was lost (presumably theft) with approximately 1 month of data.               | None                                    | None                             |
| WR-2 Hydrology (Attachment B)                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated hydrological gage data summaries and natural functional flow ranges to include available water year 2023 data.</li> <li>Estimated flow travel times of the NFKR within the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach.</li> <li>Reviewed and disseminate hourly gage data from water years 2022 and 2023. Posted data to public website and notified Relicensing Participants on June 30, 2024.</li> <li>Summarized existing data for flows and diversions in Salmon and Corral Creeks.</li> <li>Described Cannell Creek Siphon Spillway and Forebay Spillway operations.</li> <li>Compilation and analysis of the theoretical hydrology excluding extended outages.</li> </ul> | In addition to water years (WYs) 1997–2021, the study also incorporated hydrology data from water years 2022 and 2023 into the analysis. | None                                    | None                             |
| BIO-1 Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (Attachment C) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase II: Implemented eDNA and Visual Encounter Survey protocols                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted Visual Encounter Surveys along the NFKR and Salmon Creek in June 2024</li> <li>Summarized eDNA and Visual Encounter Survey results from 2023 and 2024 surveys.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  | None   | None                                    | None                             |
| BIO-4 Benthic Macroinvertebrate (Attachment D)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted an inventory and assessment of benthic macroinvertebrate diversity and abundance at 4 sampling locations within the NFKR on October 24-25, 2023:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One control site upstream of Fairview Dam; 2 within the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach; and one downstream of the KR3 Powerhouse.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  | None   | None                                    | None                             |

| Technical Memorandum (USR Attachment)  | Study Plan Elements Completed Since ISR <sup>a</sup>  | Study Plan Variances   | Ongoing/Outstanding Study Plan Elements  | Modifications to Ongoing Studies |
|--|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| REC-1 Whitewater Boating (Attachments E and F)                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level 3: Intensive Study                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Analyzed the single flow survey data collected in 2023 (Attachment E, March 29, 2024)</li> <li>– Provided enhanced flow opportunities, including a post flow evaluation form to complete following each event:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ April 11, 2024, approx. 450 cfs</li> <li>▪ April 12, 2024, approx. 770 cfs</li> <li>▪ April 13, 2024, approx. 835 cfs</li> <li>▪ July 12, 2024, approx. 550 cfs</li> <li>▪ July 13, 2024, approx. 250 cfs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>– Worked with the boating community to reach boaters across California to encourage participation in the study.</li> <li>– Conducted focus groups during Level 3 enhanced flow opportunities.</li> <li>– Deployed flow comparison survey from July 17<sup>th</sup> through August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.</li> <li>– Developed minimum acceptable and optimum flow preference curves by watercraft type for respective river segments.</li> <li>– Quantified the annual number of whitewater boating days using flow preference curves from Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 data.</li> </ul> | <p>A specific post flow evaluation form was developed for the enhanced flow opportunities, rather than reopening the single flow survey utilized in 2023.</p>  | None   | None                             |
| REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment (Attachment G)                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor Surveys                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Conducted in-person visitor intercept surveys and spot counts through March 31, 2024.</li> <li>– Conducted 2-hour calibration counts and spot counts through May 31, 2024.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Data analysis to estimate existing and future recreational use, recreation site capacity and use density percentages, and recreation needs.</li> </ul>  | <p>The Forest Service did not provide use information (reservation/capacity) data at their developed campgrounds; therefore, this analysis is not included with the final REC-2 Technical Memorandum (data requested on July 31, 2024, August 12, 2024, and September 17, 2024).</p> | None   | None                             |
| NEW: REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment Camera Study Plan (Attachment H) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In coordination with Forest Service, install cameras at all river access locations along the Fairview Dam bypassed reach and above Fairview Dam to Johnsondale Bridge.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provided a list, map, and description to the Forest Service for review and approval (June–August 2024).</li> <li>– Informed other agencies and interested boating community of the proposed camera locations prior to installation (August 2024).</li> <li>– Provided Forest Service revised list of camera location descriptions that included three additional locations (total of 15 camera locations) following feedback from the boating community (September 2024).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  | None   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Final Forest Service approval of camera locations; installation following approval.</i></li> <li>• <i>The cameras will be deployed for one calendar year to record boating activity.</i></li> <li>• <i>Review and analyze photographs and prepare final Technical Memorandum.</i></li> </ul> | None                             |
| CUL-1 Cultural Resource  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports were provided to authorized resource agencies and Tribes for review and comment on May 6, 2024, and to FERC as part of the DLA filing on July 1, 2024.</li> </ul>  | None   | None   | None                             |
| TRI-1 Tribal Resource  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report was provided to authorized resource agencies and Tribes for review and comment on May 6, 2024, and to FERC as part of the DLA filing on July 1, 2024</li> </ul>   | None   | None   | None                             |
| LAND-1 Road Condition Assessment (Attachment I)                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted road traffic spot counts through <i>May 31, 2024</i>, to record public use of Project and Shared Access roads.</li> <li>• Characterized SCE’s current maintenance practices and frequency of use along Project and Shared Access Roads.</li> </ul>   | None   | None   | None                             |



| Technical Memorandum (USR Attachment)   | Study Plan Elements Completed Since ISR <sup>a</sup>   | Study Plan Variances | Ongoing/Outstanding Study Plan Elements   | Modifications to Ongoing Studies |
|---|--|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| OPS-1 Water Conveyance Assessment (Attachment J-Public) and full reported filed CUI//CEII | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 2:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Completed engineering review and evaluation of current water conveyance conditions (e.g., hydrostatic pressure, flow depth) under varying flow conditions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   | None                 | None  | None                             |
| AES-1 Aesthetic Flows (Level 1: Desktop Analysis) (Attachment K)                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed Level 1 desktop assessment including:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Reviewed and summarized existing online/desktop information, including relevant scenic designations and management plans.</li> <li>– Used the Forest Service Scenery Management System to document the aesthetic characteristics of the study area at varying flow levels from 16 key observation points along the NFKR.</li> <li>– Analyzed users' perception of aesthetics from the REC-2 Visitor Intercept Survey Questionnaire.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Filed the full results of the REC-2 Survey with the DLA.</i></li> <li>• <i>Included a recommendation regarding the necessity to move a Level 2 Limited Reconnaissance Site Visit.</i></li> </ul> | None                 | None, concluded sufficient data collected to inform license conditions related to aesthetic conditions. Refer to Technical Memorandum for rationale.    | None                             |
| ANG-1 Enjoyable Angling Flows (Level 1: Desktop Analysis) (Attachment L)                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed Level 1 desktop assessment including a literature review to describe river characteristics and angling opportunities within the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach, conducted focused interviews with anglers, and an analysis of users' perception of enjoyable angling flows from the REC-2 Visitor Intercept Survey Questionnaire.</li> <li>• <i>Filed the full results of the REC-2 Survey with the DLA.</i></li> <li>• <i>Included a recommendation regarding the necessity to move a Level 2 Limited Reconnaissance Site Visit.</i></li> </ul>   | None                 | None, concluded sufficient data collected to inform license conditions related to enjoyable angling flows. Refer to Technical Memorandum for rationale. | None                             |

<sup>a</sup> FERC-approved study modifications are in italics in accordance with FERC's May 30, 2024, Determination on Requests for Study Modifications and New Studies (FERC Order No. 20240530-5062).  
CEII = Critical Energy/Electric Infrastructure Information; cfs = cubic feet per second; CUI = Controlled Unclassified Information; DLA = Draft License Application; eDNA = environmental DNA; FERC = Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Forest Service = USDA Forest Service; KR3 = Kern River No. 3; NFKR = North Fork Kern River; PRIV = Privileged; SCE = Southern California Edison; SPD = Study Plan Determination; SQF = Sequoia National Forest; USDA = U.S. Department of Agriculture

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#### 4.0 UPDATED STUDY REPORT PUBLIC MEETING

In accordance with 18 CFR § 5.15(f) and provided for in § 5.15(c)(2), SCE will convene a USR meeting to discuss Study Plan implementation and provide an overview of the studies included as part of the USR filing. The meeting will be held in-person in Kernville, California, with a call-in option for virtual attendees.

Meeting details are as follows:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Date              | Wednesday, October 23, 2024   |
| Time              | 12:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m. (Pacific Standard Time)  |
| Location          | USDA Forest Service; Kern River Ranger District-<br>Kernville Office<br>11380 Kernville Rd, Kernville, CA 93238                       |
| Call-In<br>Option | Online Meeting: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a><br>or<br>Call-in Number: 1 213-279-1475<br>Conference ID: 471 140 990# |

Refer to the Project website ([www.sce.com/kr3](http://www.sce.com/kr3)) for meeting updates, agenda, and meeting materials.

The principal objectives of the meeting are to (1) summarize overall progress in implementing the Study Plans with an overview of the data collected; (2) review the remaining schedule for study implementation; (3) review any variances from the Study Plans and schedule; and (4) discuss modifications to ongoing studies or the need for new studies.

In accordance with 18 CFR § 5.15(f) and provided for in § 5.13(c)(3), SCE will file an USR Meeting Summary with FERC. FERC or any participant may file a disagreement on the meeting summary or request to amend a Study Plan within 30 days (i.e., by December 10, 2024), in accordance with FERC's Revised Process Plan and Schedule issued February 1, 2024. FERC staff will resolve any disagreements and amend the approved Study Plan, as appropriate, no later than 30 days following the due date for responses. If no disagreements are filed, the meeting summary and any proposed amendments are deemed as approved.

#### 5.0 NEXT STEPS

SCE will continue with data collection associated with REC-2 boater count information for one calendar year (through fall/winter 2025), or following FERC's resolution of any disagreements, if necessary.

Upon completion of the studies, data and information will be analyzed and, together with other available information, will be used to evaluate potential environmental effects of the Project, which will be described in the relicensing application.

## **5.1. LICENSE APPLICATION**

SCE filed its Draft License Application (DLA) with FERC on July 1, 2024<sup>13</sup> (i.e., within 150 days prior to the deadline for filing a new license application, in accordance with 18 CFR § 5.16).

In accordance with 18 CFR § 5.16(e), comments on SCE's DLA were due to FERC within 90 days of the DLA being filed (no later than October 1, 2024). A total of 15 entities filed comment letters with FERC, including federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other relicensing participants. SCE's responses to comments received on the DLA will be provided in the FLA.

In accordance with 18 CFR § 5.17, SCE will file its FLA with FERC by November 30, 2024, which, as required under the Federal Power Act and FERC's regulations (16 USC § 808(c)(1); 18 CFR § 5.17(a)), is no later than 24 months before the current Project license expires on November 30, 2026.

While the FLA will include proposed protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures, SCE intends to continue to engage relicensing participants regarding the Proposed Action, specifically whitewater boating flows and other protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures as applicable that will ultimately be included in the new license. In the event this post-FLA engagement results in revisions to the Proposed Action, SCE will supplement its FLA to incorporate any revisions.

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<sup>13</sup> Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2290-122; Draft License Application. Accession No. 20240701-5180. Filed July 1, 2024.

**ATTACHMENT A    WR-1 WATER QUALITY TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

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**ATTACHMENT B    WR-2 HYDROLOGY TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

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**ATTACHMENT C    BIO-1 FOOTHILL YELLOW-LEGGED FROG TECHNICAL  
MEMORANDUM**

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**ATTACHMENT D    BIO-4 BENTHIC MACROINVERTEBRATE TECHNICAL  
MEMORANDUM**

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**ATTACHMENT E      ADDENDUM TO REC-1 WHITEWATER BOATING INTERIM  
TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM: LEVEL 3 SINGLE SLOW SURVEY  
RESULTS**

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**ATTACHMENT F    REC-1 WHITEWATER BOATING FINAL LEVEL 3: INTENSIVE STUDY**

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**ATTACHMENT G    REC-2 RECREATION FACILITIES USE ASSESSMENT FINAL  
TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

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**ATTACHMENT H    REC-2 RECREATION FACILITIES USE ASSESSMENT CAMERA  
STUDY PLAN**

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**ATTACHMENT I      LAND-1 ROAD CONDITION ASSESSMENT TECHNICAL  
MEMORANDUM**

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**ATTACHMENT J      ADDENDUM TO OPS-1 WATER CONVEYANCE ASSESSMENT  
TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM: TUNNEL STABILITY**

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**ATTACHMENT K    AES-1 AESTHETIC FLOW TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM (LEVEL 1:  
DESKTOP ANALYSIS)**

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**ATTACHMENT L    ANG-1 ENJOYABLE ANGLING FLOWS TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM  
(LEVEL 1: DESKTOP ANALYSIS)**

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