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LIST OF ACRONYMS

APE	Area of Potential Effects
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DLA	Draft License Application
EJ	Environmental Justice
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FLA	Final License Application

ILP	Integrated Licensing Process
ISR	Initial Study Report
NGO	non-governmental organization
PAD	Pre-Application Document
Project	Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project
PSP	Proposed Study Plan
RSP	Revised Study Plan
SCE	Southern California Edison
SD1	Scoping Document 1
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SQF	Sequoia National Forest
TM	Technical Memo
TWG	Technical Working Group
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USR	Updated Study Report

E.4 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTATION

Appendix E.4 describes Southern California Edison's (SCE) consultation efforts completed for relicensing the Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project (Project), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 1930. This appendix is organized into the following subsections:

- E.4.1, *Early Outreach Activities*
- E.4.2, *Pre-Application Document Development and Distribution*
- E.4.3, *Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Scoping*
- E.4.4, *Study Plan Development and FERC Study Plan Determination*
- E.4.5, *Technical Study Implementation*
- E.4.6, *Endangered Species Act—Section 7 Informal Consultation*
- E.4.7, *National Historic Preservation Act—Section 106 Informal Consultation*
- E.4.8, *Section 106 Informal Consultation with Tribes*
- E.4.9, *Outreach to Environmental Justice Communities*
- E.4.10, *Draft License Application Development and Distribution*
- E.4.11, *Final License Application Development and Distribution*

Documents referred to in this section are available on SCE's relicensing website at <https://www.sce.com/regulatory/regulatory-information/hydro-licensing/kr1> or FERC's eLibrary at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search> under Docket P-1930. Consultation that has occurred since SCE initiated early outreach activities in 2022 prior to filing the Pre-Application Document (PAD) is summarized in Table E.4-1, with additional details provided below.

As required in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 18, Section 5.10(b)(5)(ii)(G) (18 CFR § 5.18(b)(5)(ii)(G)), the distribution list attached to the cover letter of this filing identifies federal and state resource agencies, local governments, Native American Tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and other interested parties (collectively referred to as "Stakeholders") that SCE consulted during preparation of this Application for New License.

E.4.1 Early Outreach Activities

SCE initiated early outreach activities in July 2022. The intent of early outreach activities was to identify potential stakeholders and local communities and understand their

resource interests, describe Project facilities and operations to interested parties, and solicit existing resource information. Early outreach activities included the following:

- Developing a comprehensive distribution list of federal and state resource agencies, local governments, Native American Tribes, NGOs, and other interested parties.
- To facilitate communication during the relicensing, SCE established a publicly accessible Internet website, which can be accessed at www.sce.com/regulatory/regulatory-information/hydro-licensing/kr1. The website serves as a repository for information on relicensing activities, including meeting notices and agendas; major filings by SCE or FERC; reference materials; key decision and action items; and links to relevant information sources.
- On July 21, 2022, SCE distributed a Project Information Questionnaire to Stakeholders to solicit information on existing resources in the Project vicinity and to identify potential resource issues.
- On August 16, 2022, as a follow-up to the Project Information Questionnaire, SCE provided more specific data requests to the Sequoia National Forest (SQF), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain readily available information to support PAD development. SCE specifically requested information on botanical, wildlife, fish, and aquatics resources from the agencies.
- On August 23, 2022, SCE notified Stakeholders of the early outreach activities being conducted as part of the relicensing process, including the questionnaire that was also made electronically available on the Project website, and notice that a public relicensing kick-off teleconference would be conducted. In addition, SCE posted the relicensing public announcement on social networks (i.e., Facebook and Next Door).
- On June 13, 2023, SCE conducted a public relicensing teleconference to acquaint Stakeholders with FERC's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), including key milestones and opportunities for Stakeholder participation; describe Project facilities and operations; and explain the PAD contents and organization.

E.4.2 Pre-Application Document Development and Distribution

On May 5, 2023, SCE filed a Notice of Intent and PAD with FERC. The PAD provided FERC and Stakeholders with background information related to Project facilities, operations, and maintenance activities; summarized existing, relevant, and reasonably available information; defined pertinent Project issues; and identified potential study needs. The PAD also included 13 Draft Technical Study Plans.

E.4.3 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Scoping

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

During the comment period, FERC conducted an environmental site review (August 1, 2023) and held two public scoping meetings (August 2, 2023). The daytime scoping meeting focused on concerns of resource agencies, Native American Tribes, and NGOs while an evening scoping meeting focused on receiving comments from the public. The environmental site review was open to all interested parties.

Six entities filed comments, including one from SCE, on SD1. The FERC revised SD1 based on oral comments received at the scoping meetings and written comments received through the scoping process. FERC issued Scoping Document 2 on October 17, 2023.

E.4.4 Study Plan Development and FERC Study Plan Determination

On August 23, 2023, SCE filed with FERC Updated Draft Technical Study Plans. The updated study plans incorporated Stakeholder comments received during 13 Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings held between June 28 and August 30, 2023. The Updated Draft Technical Study Plans superseded the Draft Technical Study Plans filed in the PAD in May 2023.

On October 17, 2023, SCE filed a Proposed Study Plan (PSP) with FERC that included 13 Technical Study Plans for the Project. SCE revised four Technical Study Plans based on study requests filed with FERC as part of its scoping process.

On February 13, 2024, SCE filed a Revised Study Plan (RSP). SCE addressed specific study plan comments either as a modification to the previously filed PSP, or by providing a rationale as to why a comment or new study request was not adopted. The RSP included revisions to five Technical Study Plans.

FERC issued their Study Plan Determination on March 14, 2024, that approved SCE's RSP with staff-recommended modifications. Of the 13 studies proposed by SCE, 12 were approved as filed, and one was approved with staff-recommended modifications; FERC also adopted one new staff-recommended study, for a total of 14 study plans.

E.4.5 Technical Study Implementation

SCE began implementing the approved Study Plans in 2024. Study progress was documented in SCE's Initial Study Report (ISR) filed with FERC on March 12, 2025. The ISR summarized SCE's progress in implementing the relicensing studies over the first

study season, including an explanation of any variances and modifications to ongoing studies. SCE held a meeting in Kernville, California, on March 19, 2025, to discuss the contents of the report and address comments regarding study plan implementation. The meeting discussion was documented in a meeting summary that SCE filed with FERC on April 3, 2025.

SCE is continuing with the second study season data collection in 2025 for ongoing/outstanding study elements. Since no disagreements/requests to amend the study plan were filed with FERC by the deadline of May 14, 2025, FERC did not need to issue a determination related to the ISR process.

E.4.5.1 Technical Study Memorandum

Study methods and results were compiled in a series of technical memoranda. Each technical memorandum included the following information: (1) study goals and objectives; (2) study area; (3) study approach and methods; (4) data summary, if available, or an update on activities completed to date; (5) summary of study-specific consultation; and (6) outstanding study elements and schedule for completion.

Prior to filing the ISR, SCE distributed the technical memoranda to Stakeholders for a 90-day review period in January, February, and March 2025. Two technical memoranda were distributed for a second review period, including TERR 2 – Wildlife Resources and REC 2 – Recreation Facility Use Assessment. Table E.4-2 provides a schedule showing when each technical memorandum was distributed to Stakeholders and their status. Any comments received from Stakeholders were addressed and the current technical memoranda are included in Appendix E.2 of this Exhibit E.

SCE will file an Updated Study Report (USR) with FERC by March 16, 2026. Following submittal of the USR and consistent with requirements under 18 CFR § 5.15(c)(2), SCE will hold a meeting with Stakeholders to review study results reported in the USR within 15 days following the USR filing.

E.4.6 Endangered Species Act—Section 7 Informal Consultation

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to ensure their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of federally-listed threatened or endangered species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of their designated critical habitat. SCE's Section 7 consultation efforts are summarized below.

- On May 5, 2023, SCE requested designation as the non-federal representative for the purpose of conducting informal ESA Section 7 consultation with the USFWS for the Project. On June 29, 2023, FERC initiated informal consultation with the USFWS and granted SCE's request to be designated as the non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation.
- Following filing of the Draft License Application (DLA), SCE will conduct a meeting with the USFWS to discuss comments on potential impacts to federally listed species and proposed Critical Habitat and review proposed environmental

measures for the Project. If required, a Draft Biological Assessment will be included in Appendix E.3 of the Final License Application (FLA).

E.4.7 National Historic Preservation Act—Section 106 Informal Consultation

The Project relicensing is an “undertaking” as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(y). Therefore, the relicensing of the Project is subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires FERC to consider the effect of its proposed undertaking on properties that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. SCE’s efforts on behalf of FERC regarding Section 106 consultation are summarized below.

- On May 5, 2023, SCE requested designation as the non-federal representative for the purpose of conducting Section 106 consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for the Project. On June 29, 2023, FERC initiated informal consultation with SHPO and granted SCE’s request to be designated as the non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation.
- On July 16, 2024, SCE, as FERC’s non-federal representative for Section 106 consultation, submitted the proposed Area of Potential Effects (APE) and study areas to SHPO.
- In a letter dated August 30, 2024, the SHPO agreed with the delineation of the APE and study areas but reserved the right to consult on its expansion should planned studies or consultation identify cultural resources that extend beyond the FERC Project boundary or otherwise are found to be affected by the Project.
- On January 31, 2025, the draft Cultural and Tribal Technical Memorandum (non-confidential documents) were distributed to stakeholders for 90-day review. Comments received are addressed in the draft Cultural and Tribal Technical Study Reports (confidential documents).
- Following filing of the DLA, SCE will circulate Draft Technical Study Reports and a Draft Historic Properties Management Plan to the Cultural TWG. After comments are received and addressed, the reports will be sent to the SHPO for concurrence.
- After accepting the FLA, FERC will continue consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and SHPO regarding the Project. FERC typically completes Section 106 by entering into a Programmatic Agreement or Memorandum of Agreement with the Licensee, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and SHPO. This agreement is then incorporated by reference into the Project license when it is issued. Upon issuance of a new license, SCE will be responsible for finalizing and implementing the Historic Properties Management Plan and FERC will be responsible for enforcing compliance with the plan.

E.4.8 Section 106 Informal Consultation with Tribes

SCE conducted informal Section 106 consultation with Tribes in association with the Project relicensing. SCE coordinated with appropriate Tribal representatives to identify cultural and Tribal resources of traditional cultural or religious importance to Native Americans that may be present in the Project APE. This informal consultation included a combination of written, telephone, and e-mail correspondence; meetings; and site visits. Additional consultation and efforts to include Tribes in the relicensing process are summarized below.

- On June 7, 2023, FERC initiated formal government-to-government Section 106 consultation with six federally recognized tribes. Tribes were invited to participate in the relicensing process by FERC. Follow-up e-mails and telephone contacts were made by FERC after sending letters by registered mail.
- On June 29, 2023, SCE held a Cultural TWG Meeting to discuss the PAD, information gaps and Draft Technical Study Plans with agencies and Tribes.
- Throughout the study planning process for the CUL 1 – Built Environment, CUL 2 – Archaeology, and TRI 1 – Tribal Resources study plans, Tribes were kept informed.
- Beginning in September 2024, the Project ethnographer called and e-mailed Tribal representatives on the Project Tribal contact list to elicit interest in participating in the Tribal Resources Study (details are in the confidential consultation log).
- On December 3, 2024, SCE conducted a site visit to discuss elements of the Project with Tribal representatives and SQF heritage staff.
- On June 4, 2025, SCE e-mailed to the Project's Tribal contact list with a questionnaire requesting additional input and information for the Tribal Resources Study.
- On June 25, 2025, SCE held an in-person meeting with participating Tribal representatives to discuss preliminary findings and maps for the Tribal Resources Report.
- On August 7, 2025, SCE held a virtual meeting with participating Tribal representatives to review new ethnographic information and mapping for the Kern River Canyon.

The Tribal resource investigation made a good-faith effort at proper communication with Tribal leaders as laid out in FERC's Policy Statement on Consultation with Indian Tribes in Commission Proceedings, issued July 23, 2003 (Docket No. PL03-4-000; Order No. 635; FERC 2003). The investigation followed the FERC regulations at 18 CFR § 2.1c, which recently revised its policy statement on consultation with Tribes in FERC proceedings (FERC 2019).

E.4.9 Outreach to Environmental Justice Communities

According to the methodology described in FERC's Study Plan Determination, there are no minority environmental justice (EJ) communities in the study area. However, census tract 52.06 block group 1 would be considered an EJ community under prior, now-abandoned federal guidelines, based on income, according to FERC's "low-income threshold criteria" since the percent of the population below the poverty level in the identified block group is equal to or greater than that of the reference population (Kern County).

To support public outreach and consultation, SCE engaged with interested Stakeholders throughout the relicensing process (since 2022). Documents related to the relicensing are publicly available on FERC's eLibrary and on SCE's public relicensing website. All interested Stakeholders (including those who filed a comment on the relicensing proceeding) are notified via e-mail when documents are filed with FERC as part of this proceeding.

In addition to the consultation required as part of the ILP, as part of other FERC-approved technical studies that include direct interactions with the public for study plan implementation, bilingual (English and Spanish) information flyers, public questionnaires, and bilingual field staff were deployed. SCE will continue ongoing outreach to the local communities and Stakeholders in the Project vicinity to obtain comments regarding Project relicensing and to understand primary concerns and questions from interested Stakeholders as part of the ILP.

E.4.10 Draft License Application Development and Distribution

The public portions of the DLA are available to any person interested in the Project's relicensing through SCE's public relicensing website at www.sce.com/regulatory/regulatory-information/hydro-licensing/kr1 or from FERC's eLibrary at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search>. In addition, the DLA can be viewed electronically during normal business hours at the Kern River Valley Branch Library located at 7054 Lake Isabella Boulevard, Lake Isabella, California 93240 or the Beale Memorial Library located at 701 Truxton Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301.

E.4.10.1 Comment Period

Concurrently with filing the DLA with FERC, SCE notified Stakeholders on the distribution list of its filing and availability for a 90-day review and comment period. Reports designated as Controlled Unclassified Information and Critical Energy Infrastructure Information were only provided to FERC. Information designated as privileged (e.g., sensitive cultural or biological resource information) was only distributed to FERC and select resource agencies and/or Tribes with jurisdiction over those resources.

SCE will address comments submitted on the DLA, as appropriate, in the FLA, which will be filed with FERC and concurrently distributed to Stakeholders on or before June 1, 2026, which is two years prior to the license expiration date.

E.4.11 Final License Application Development and Distribution

This section will be included in the FLA.

E.4.12 References

FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). 2003. *Policy Statement on Consultation with Indian Tribes in Commission Proceedings*. Issued July 23, 2003, Docket No. PL03-4-000; Order No. 635.

———. 2019. *Revision to Policy Statement on Consultation With Indian Tribes in Commission Proceedings, 18 CFR 2 (October 10, 2019)*.

TABLES

Table E.4-1. Summary of Stakeholder Meeting Dates and Topics

Date	Type / Purpose	General Attendance	Relicensing Process Overview and Schedule	Existing Information/ Data Request	Relicensing Process Plan/ Communication Protocols	Project Facilities and Operations	Technical Study Plan Development	Technical Study Implementation	Project Site Visit
6/13/2023	Project Kick-off Teleconference	Interested Stakeholders	X	X	X	X			
6/28/2023	TWG Study Plan Development: Land Resources	Interested Stakeholders		X	X		X		
6/29/2023	TWG Study Plan Development: Cultural Resources	Interested Stakeholders		X	X		X		
7/7/2023	TWG Study Plan Development: Aquatic Resources	Interested Stakeholders		X	X		X		
7/11/2023	TWG Study Plan Development: Terrestrial Resources	Interested Stakeholders		X	X		X		
7/12/2023	TWG Study Plan Development: Recreation Resources	Interested Stakeholders		X	X		X		

Date	Type / Purpose	General Attendance	Relicensing Process Overview and Schedule	Existing Information/ Data Request	Relicensing Process Plan/ Communication Protocols	Project Facilities and Operations	Technical Study Plan Development	Technical Study Implementation	Project Site Visit
7/26/2023	TWG Study Plan Development: Land Resources	Interested Stakeholders		X	X		X		
7/27/2023	TWG Study Plan Development: Cultural Resources	Interested Stakeholders		X	X		X		
7/31/2023	TWG Study Plan Development: Aquatic Resources	Interested Stakeholders		X	X		X		
8/1/2023	Environmental Site Review	Interested Stakeholders	X	X	X	X			X
8/2/2023	Scoping Meetings	Interested Stakeholders	X	X	X	X			
8/10/2023	TWG Study Plan Development: Recreation Resources	Interested Stakeholders		X	X		X		
8/15/2023	TWG Study Plan Development: Terrestrial Resources	Interested Stakeholders		X	X		X		

Date	Type / Purpose	General Attendance	Relicensing Process Overview and Schedule	Existing Information/ Data Request	Relicensing Process Plan/ Communication Protocols	Project Facilities and Operations	Technical Study Plan Development	Technical Study Implementation	Project Site Visit
8/22/2023	TWG Study Plan Development: Cultural Resources	Interested Stakeholders		X	X		X		
8/23/2023	TWG Study Plan Development: Land Resources	Interested Stakeholders		X	X		X		
8/30/2023	TWG Study Plan Development: Recreation Resources	Interested Stakeholders		X	X		X		
11/14/2023	PSP Meeting	Interested Stakeholders	X		X		X		
3/27/2024	TWG Study Plan Development: REC 2 Recreation Facility Use Assessment	Interested Stakeholders					X		
5/21/2024	SQF Relicensing Update	SQF	X					X	
8/8/2024	TWG Study Plan Update: Aquatic Resources	Interested Stakeholders						X	
12/3/2024	Project Site Visit	Tribes				X			X

Date	Type / Purpose	General Attendance	Relicensing Process Overview and Schedule	Existing Information/ Data Request	Relicensing Process Plan/ Communication Protocols	Project Facilities and Operations	Technical Study Plan Development	Technical Study Implementation	Project Site Visit
12/5/2024	TWG Study Plan Update: Recreation Resources	Interested Stakeholders						X	
3/19/2025	ISR Meeting	Interested Stakeholders	X			X		X	
4/24/2025	TWG Study Plan Update: REC 2 Recreation Facility Use Assessment	Interested Stakeholders						X	
5/7/2025	Site Visit	SQF				X			X

Key: ISR = Initial Study Report
PSP = Proposed Study Plan
TWG = Technical Working Group
SQF = Sequoia National Forest

Table E.4-2. Technical Memorandum Distribution Dates

Technical Memorandum	90-Day Stakeholder Review Period Begin	60-day Stakeholder Review Period Begin (if applicable)	Status
Aquatic Resources			
AQ 1 – Hydrology	1-31-2025		Complete TM in DLA
AQ 2 – Water Quality and Water Temperature	3-12-2025		Field work is complete. Additional data analysis ongoing. Complete TM to be filed with FLA.
AQ 3 – Fish Population	2-28-2025		Outstanding study components. Complete TM to be filed with FLA.
Cultural and Tribal Resources			
CUL 1 – Built Environment	1-31-2025		Studies complete and reports under review by the United States Forest Service and Tribes. Reports will be provided in the FLA.
CUL 2 – Archaeology	1-31-2025		
TRI 1 – Tribal Resources	1-31-2025		
Land Resources			
LAND 1 – Road and Trail Condition Assessment	1-31-2025		Complete TM in DLA
LAND 2 – Erosion and Sedimentation	2-28-2025		Complete TM in DLA
Recreation Resources			
REC 1 – Recreation Facility Condition Assessment	2-28-2025		Complete TM in DLA
REC 2 – Recreation Facility Use Assessment	2-28-2025	9-9-2025	Outstanding study components. Complete TM to be filed with FLA.
REC 3 – Whitewater Boating	2-28-2025		Complete TM in DLA

Technical Memorandum	90-Day Stakeholder Review Period Begin	60-day Stakeholder Review Period Begin (if applicable)	Status
Terrestrial Resources			
TERR 1 – Botanical	1-31-2025		Complete TM in DLA
TERR 2 – Wildlife	3-12-2025	6-6-2025	Complete TM in DLA
FERC-Required Studies			
EJ 1 – Environmental Justice	2-28-2025		Complete TM in DLA

Key: DLA = Draft License Application
FLA = Final License Application
TM = Technical Memorandum