



DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY NOTES*
LEE VINING, FERC PROJECT NO. 1388
PME-1 AND OPERATIONS MODEL TWG MEETING
JUNE 17, 2026 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**These meeting notes are documentation of general discussions from the meeting held on the above-noted date and focus on stakeholder questions and comments. These notes are not a verbatim account of proceedings and do not represent any final decisions or official documentation for the project or participating agencies.*

AGENDA

- Continue review of State Water Board's questions on operations model
- Review USFS updates to PME-1 Table 1

ATTENDEES

Relicensing Team Members

Matthew Woodhall, SCE
Seth Carr, SCE
Finlay Anderson, Kleinschmidt
Carissa Shoemaker, Kleinschmidt

Technical Working Group Members & Interested Parties

Tristan Leong, US Forest Service (USFS)
Michael Wiese, USFS
Adam Cohen, State Water Board
Bryan Muro, State Water Board
Graham Meese, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Ashley Cooper, CDFW
Robbie Di Paolo, Mono Lake Committee
Chris Shutes, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

OPERATIONS MODEL DISCUSSION

- Tristan USFS provided an updated PME-1 Table 1 to group for review and edit.
- Footnote A edits are straightforward, all agree, annual meeting occurs for Saddlebag and Tioga minimum flows.
- Footnotes B and D had two dates, September 30 (for Saddlebag) and October 30 (for Tioga). Discussion on why the dates differ. Tioga Lake has the recreation level requirement. Operationally the dates can be the same for setting the valves. Changed footnote D to September 30 to make Tioga match Saddlebag. May consolidate the footnotes to one, since they are essentially the same now- but keeping them separate may also provide some clarity
- Tristan's updated table splits up flows below Poole Powerhouse by water year type and by time: June 1 – July 31, July 31 – September 30, and October 1 – May 31. All are instantaneous flows. In winter, the flows are sums of Saddlebag and Tioga releases. In summer, they vary from 8 cfs – 25 cfs, pending WY type. Consider these the agencies' proposed minimum instream flow releases for below Poole Powerhouse.

Proposed Alternative for Poole PH Table 1 PME-1.

Below Poole Powerhouse	Wet	June 1 - July 31: 25 cfs; July 31 – September 30: 18 cfs	October 1 – May 31 The sum of measured average daily release from Saddlebag and Tioga dams.**
	Normal	June 1 -July 31: 20 cfs; July 31– September 30: 10 cfs	October 1 – May 31 The sum of measured average daily release from Saddlebag and Tioga dams.**
	Dry	June 1 -July 31: 10 cfs; July 31– September 30: 8 cfs or the sum of the measured average daily releases from Saddlebag and Tioga dams.	October 1 – May 31 The sum of measured average daily release from Saddlebag and Tioga dams.**

- ** If the sum of measured releases is less than 8cfs licensee shall notify the FS of the flow change and release sum of daily average releases as the instantaneous flow.
- Tristan has modeling questions about attainment levels (100% and 2%) in model and situations where SCE's flows are used the model seems to be under-releasing and forcing spill at Saddlebag.

Modeled Alternatives & Assumptions:

Dry	10	10	8**	8**
Normal	20	20	10	8**
Wet	25	25	18	8**
Start:	15-Jun	7-Jul	31-Jul	30-Sep

- ** If the sum of measured releases is less than 8cfs licensee shall notify the FS of the flow change and release sum of daily average releases as the instantaneous flow.

- Discussion regarding percent attainment calculations and increasing flows out of Tioga and Saddlebag to meet flows below Poole.
- Talking about minimum flows, SCE often releases more than the minimums and operationally SCE can avoid spill. These flows seem to work for SCE.
- The team discussed asking Bret to double check these.
- Historically, it appears to agencies like SCE releases a big slug, higher than the minimum, and then turns down the valve. The team can review historic operations to clarify how late-season is typically managed. This can include discussion of when the valves are adjusted by operators to avoid spilling Saddlebag.
- Agencies may want to refine the PME-1 tables more, not considering them final yet. SCE/Bret will make sure that these will work on the operations side.
- Graham did a volumetric calculation, found that the proposed MIFs are a lot less (30% less water) than previous conditions. A lot more water could be held back. He suggests that the baseflow remainder below Saddlebag Lake could be increased by a cfs. Slate Creek does dominate the hydrology here. This reach has the best spawning habitat, so a slightly higher baseflow would be beneficial to the trout.

SCHEDULE AND ACTION ITEMS

- Bret and Adam to connect next week and look at the model.
- Next week TWG on 6/24 at 2pm.