



KERN RIVER 1 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT FERC NO. 1930

SCOPING MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2023

Meeting Agenda

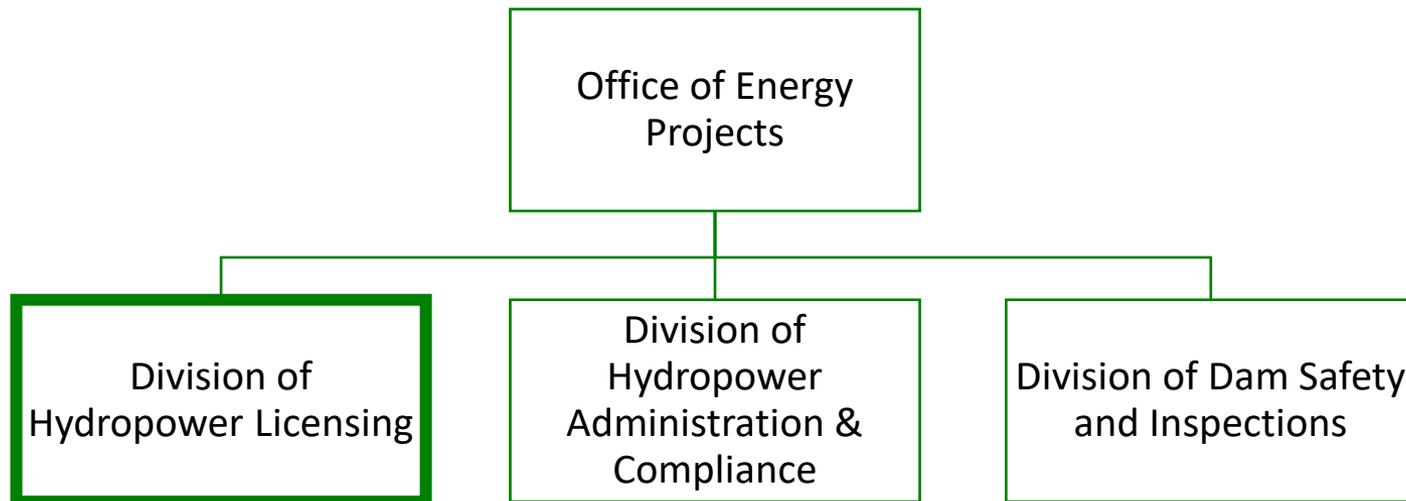


- Introductions
- Licensing and Scoping Process Overview
- SCE's Proposal
- Resource Issues Currently Identified (in SD1)
- Comments and Discussion

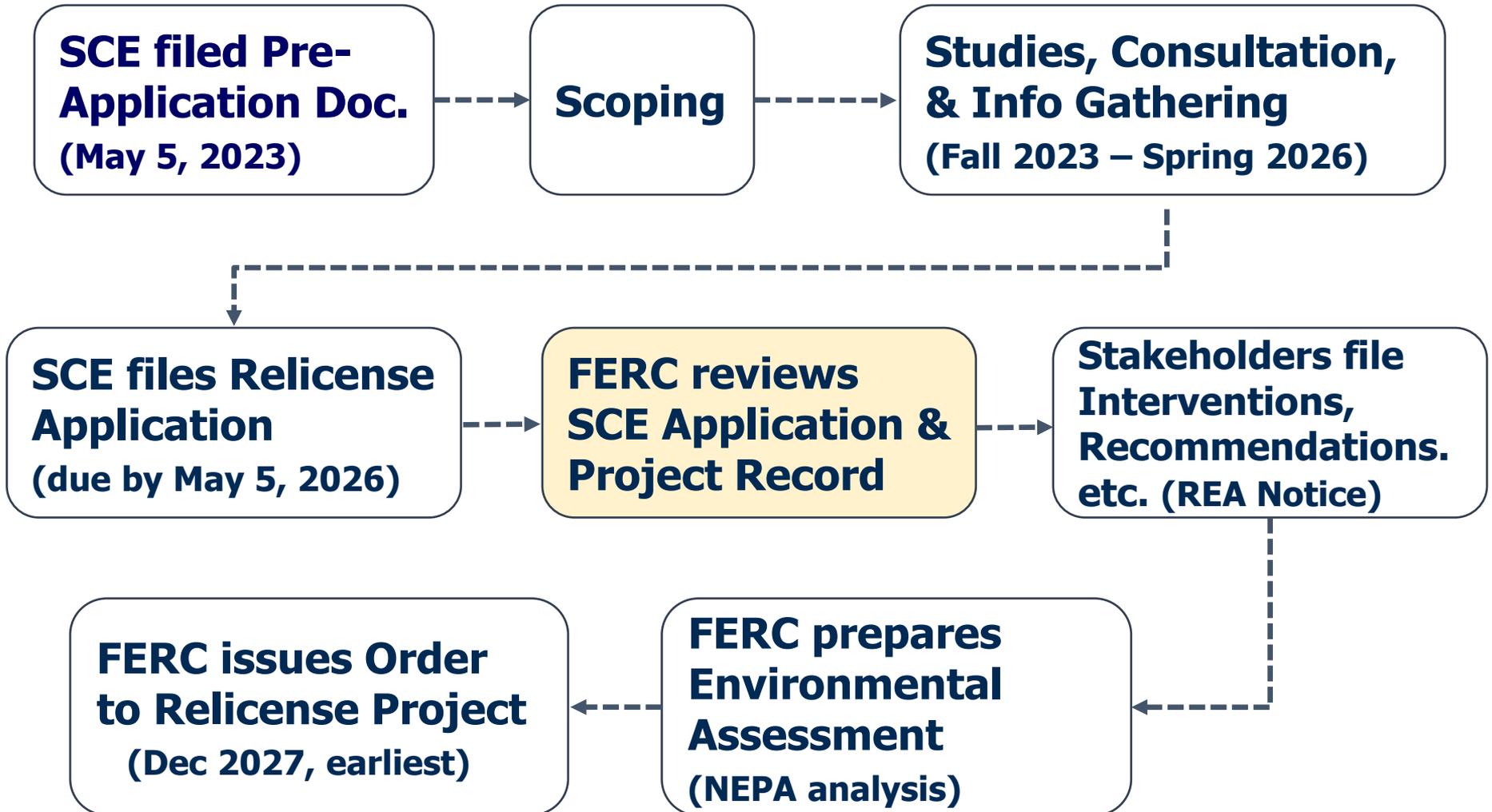
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)



- Federal agency that regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil, and electricity, and additional responsibilities - including licensing and inspecting non-federal hydroelectric projects



Relicensing Schedule - Overview



ENTITY	MILESTONE	DATE
SCE	Pre-Application Document (PAD)	05/05/23
FERC	Scoping Document 1 (SD1)	06/29/23
FERC	Scoping Meeting	08/02/23
Stakeholders (You)	File comments on PAD, SD1, & Study Requests	09/05/23
FERC	Scoping Document 2 (SD2) if needed	10/17/23
SCE	File Proposed Study Plans	10/17/23
Stakeholders (You)	Proposed Study Plan comments due	01/15/24
SCE	File Revised Study Plan	02/14/24
Stakeholders (You)	Revised Study Plan comments due	02/29/24
FERC	Issue Study Plan Determination	03/15/24
SCE	Study Seasons	2024 - 2026
Stakeholders (You)	Initial Study Report comments due	05/14/25
Stakeholders (You)	Updated Study Report comments due	05/14/26
SCE	File Preliminary License Proposal	01/01/26
Stakeholders (You)	Preliminary License Proposal Comments Due	04/01/26
SCE	License Application Filed	05/31/26

ENTITY	MILESTONE	DATE
SCE	License Application Filed	05/31/26
FERC	Ready for Environmental Analysis and Application Acceptance	07/30/26 (at earliest)
Stakeholders (You)	Deadline for filing Motions to Intervene and Protests, Comments on Application, Recommendations, Terms and Conditions	09/28/26
FERC	Issue Draft NEPA document	05/11/27
Stakeholders (You)	Comments on Draft NEPA document due	06/10/27
FERC	Issue Final NEPA document	11/07/27
FERC	Issue License Order	01/06/28

Purpose of Scoping

- Understand public perspectives and concerns
- Identify issues
- Identify reasonable alternatives
- Identify available information relevant to the project and our environmental analysis
- Identify cumulatively affected resources

SCE's Proposal

Presentation by Southern California Edison (SCE)

Preliminary Resource Issues

- Geology and Soils
- Aquatic
- Terrestrial
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Recreation
- Land Use and Aesthetics
- Cultural and Tribal
- Socioeconomic
- Environmental Justice

Geology and Soils Resources

- Effects of continued project operation on turbidity and suspended sediment loads.
- Potential effect of bank erosion within the bypassed reach.
- Effects of hillslope within the bypassed reach.
- Potential effects of sediment movement on or within the project shorelines and streambanks along the Democrat impoundment.

Water Resources

- Effects of continued project operation on hydrology of the lower Kern River in the project bypassed reach and downstream of the powerhouse.
- Effects of continued project operation on water quality in the project bypassed reach and downstream of the powerhouse.

Aquatic Resources

- Effects of continued project operation on fish habitat and fish resources in the project impoundment, bypassed reach, and downstream of the powerhouse.
- Effects of continued project operation on western pearlshell mussel in the project area.
- Effects of project water diversions and instream flow on fish habitat in the project bypassed reach.

Aquatic Resources

- Effects of fish entrainment at Democrat Dam on fish resources in the project area.
- Effects of Democrat dam on upstream and downstream fish passage.

Terrestrial Resources

- Effects of continued operation and maintenance of the project, including the use of project roads and trails, that could potentially introduce and spread nonnative, invasive plant species including the potential effects of invasive plants on native plant communities, special-status species, and wildlife habitat.
- Effects of continued operation and maintenance of the project that could potentially promote suitable conditions for the spread of non-native, invasive wildlife species, including the American bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*), Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), and crayfish species and their potential effects on native aquatic, semi-aquatic, and terrestrial wildlife.

Terrestrial Resources

- Effects of the timing and magnitude of flows resulting from continued operation of the project, and project maintenance activities on wetlands and riparian habitat along the Kern River, including the bypassed reach.
- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance activities including vegetation management and herbicide use on native vegetation and wildlife, game species, and the special-status species identified in SCE's PAD, including Sequoia National Forest Species of Conservation Concern and nesting migratory bird species.
- Effects of project facilities that present potential entrapment hazards to wildlife including open-air flumes.

Threatened and Endangered Species

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance activities on species designated as federally threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidates for listing, and designated critical habitat (proposed and final), under the Endangered Species Act.

List of Species under ESA

ENDANGERED	THREATENED	PROPOSED & CANDIDATES FOR LISTING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fisher, Southern Sierra DPS▪ San Joaquin kit fox▪ Tipton kangaroo rat▪ California condor▪ SW willow flycatcher▪ Bakersfield cactus▪ California jewelflower▪ San Joaquin woolly-threads	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Vernal pool fairy shrimp▪ San Joaquin adobe sunburst	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Foothill yellow-legged frog, South Sierra DPS (PE)▪ Relictual slender salamander (PE)▪ California spotted owl, Sierra Nevada DPS (PT)▪ Kern Canyon slender salamander (PT)▪ Monarch butterfly (CAN)

Recreation Resources

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on recreation resources.
- Adequacy of existing recreation facilities to meet current and future recreation demand.
- Effects of project operation and maintenance on recreational white water boating use in the project bypassed reach.

Land Use and Aesthetics

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on land use.
- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on the aesthetic quality of the project area.

Cultural and Tribal Resources

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on historic or archaeological resources, and traditional cultural properties that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, or on other areas or places of religious, cultural, and traditional importance to Indian tribes.

Socioeconomics

- Effects of continued project operations and flow diversions on agriculture and other consumptive uses in North Fork Kern River watershed.
- Effects of any reduction in the amount of water available for irrigation on agricultural production in Kern County.
- Effects of any reduction in the amount of water available for future water supply deliveries to the City of Bakersfield.

Environmental Justice

- Effects of project operation and maintenance of identified environmental justice communities.

Cumulative Effects

We have identified **Water and Aquatic Resources** that could be cumulatively affected by the continued operation and maintenance of the Kern River 1 Project.

Requested Updates and Information

- Comprehensive Plans
- Mailing List
- Significant environmental issues that should be addressed in the EA

FERC Online

- eFiling
- eComments
- eSubscription
- eLibrary



Use docket no. P-1930-090

FERCOnlineSupport@FERC.gov
1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659

Scoping Comments Due:

September 5th, 2023

Relicensing Studies

- SCE's Proposed Study Plan (PSP) due **October 17, 2023**
 - Stakeholder comments, requests to modify proposed studies, and requests for new studies due **Jan 15, 2024**
-

- SCE's Revised Study Plan (RSP) due **Feb 14, 2024**
 - Stakeholder comments/study requests on RSP Comments due **Feb 29, 2024**
-

- FERCs Study Plan Determination on **March 15, 2024**

Relicensing Studies

Any information or study request must contain the following as required by section 5.9(b) of FERC's regs:

1. Describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the information to be obtained;
2. If applicable, explain the relevant resource management goals of the agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied;
3. If the requester is not a resource agency, explain any relevant public interest considerations in regard to the proposed study;
4. Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal, and the need for additional information;

Relicensing Studies

Any information or study request must contain the following:

5. Explain any nexus between project operations and effects (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the resource to be studied, and how the study results would inform the development of license requirements;
6. Explain how any proposed study methodology (including any preferred data collection and analysis techniques, or objectively quantified information, and a schedule including appropriate field season(s) and the duration) is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community or, as appropriate, considers relevant tribal values and knowledge;
7. Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable, and why proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs.

Questions?

**Jessica Fefer, FERC, Office of Energy Projects, Division of
Hydropower Licensing**

Kern River 1 Project Relicensing Coordinator

202.502.6631

Jessica.fefer@ferc.gov