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Filed Electronically

March 12, 2025

Debbie-Anne A. Reese
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426-0001

**Subject: Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 1930
Initial Study Report**

Dear Secretary Reese:

Southern California Edison Company (SCE or Licensee) is the owner and operator of the Kern River No. 1 (KR1) Hydroelectric Project (Project), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 1930. Pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 18, Section 5.15(c) (18 CFR § 5.15(c)), SCE is filing this Initial Study Report (ISR) to provide FERC and Stakeholders with an update regarding the progress made in implementing the 14 FERC-approved technical study plans associated with the Project relicensing. FERC requires that the ISR be filed by March 17, 2025.

This ISR describes SCE's progress in implementing its relicensing studies (first study season) and includes supporting documentation that summarizes SCE's overall progress to date and the results of the field studies conducted pursuant to FERC's Study Plan Determination (SPD). A copy of this cover letter will be distributed to Stakeholders via email with a link to the ISR filing. Additionally, the ISR will be posted on SCE's public relicensing website at <https://www.sce.com/regulatory/hydro-licensing/kr1>.

BACKGROUND

On May 5, 2023, SCE filed a Notice of Intent to seek a new license for the Project, together with a Pre-Application Document, which initiated the formal relicensing proceeding using FERC's Integrated Licensing Process. On October 17, 2023, SCE filed a Proposed Study Plan (PSP) which included 13 studies to support the relicensing process. A study plan meeting was conducted on November 14, 2023, to discuss the PSP with FERC and Stakeholders. On February 13, 2024, SCE filed a Revised Study Plan (RSP) that considered FERC's Scoping Documents and comments filed on the PSP. The RSP included the 13 studies previously included in the PSP, with four having revisions based on comments received on the PSP. On

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March 14, 2024, FERC issued its SPD 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 additional study for a total of 14 study plans.

STUDY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Study implementation progress associated with the 14 FERC-approved study plans is summarized in Attachment B, with an updated implementation schedule in Attachment C. Attachments D through Q include individual study Technical Memoranda. Each Technical Memorandum describes: (1) study objectives; (2) study area; (3) methods, including any study plan variances that occurred; (4) results summary, including study elements completed and associated data; (5) study specific consultation; and (6) outstanding study elements and associated schedule for completion.

To date, study implementation has followed methods described in SCE’s RSP, as modified in FERC’s SPD, with few variances. No study modifications are proposed. Refer to Attachment B and related Technical Memoranda for additional information on variances encountered during study implementation. While most field work was completed in 2024, a limited number of studies will continue into the summer of 2025. Updated results will be reported in the Updated Study Report (USR), which will be filed with FERC no later than March 16, 2026.

ISR PUBLIC MEETING

In accordance with 18 CFR § 5.15(c)(2), SCE will convene an ISR meeting to discuss overall progress of study plan implementation and Stakeholder comments. The meeting will be held in-person in Kernville, California, with a call-in option for virtual attendees. Meeting details are as follows:

Date:	March 19, 2025
Time:	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location:	U.S. Forest Service Kern River Ranger Station 11380 Kernville Road Kernville, CA 93238
MS Teams:	Meeting ID: 285 986 456 923 Passcode: EU9Mz973
Dial In:	(833) 266-3861 Conference ID: 143 889 21#

Refer to the Project relicensing website at <https://www.sce.com/regulatory/hydro-licensing/kr1> for meeting updates, agenda, and meeting materials.

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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) provide relevant information to FERC and Stakeholders as they consider whether to recommend any proposed modifications to ongoing studies or new studies.

In accordance with 18 CFR § 5.15(c)(3) through § 5.15(c)(7), within 15 days following the meeting (i.e., by April 3, 2025), SCE will file an ISR meeting summary with FERC. FERC or any Stakeholder may file a disagreement on the meeting summary within 30 days, in accordance with FERC's Revised Process Plan and Schedule issued October 17, 2023. 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 will be deemed to be approved by FERC.

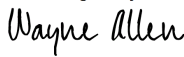
NEXT STEPS

SCE will continue with data collection for a second study season (2025–2026) for ongoing/outstanding study elements and per FERC's resolution of any disagreements, if necessary (refer to Attachment B and Attachment C for a summary of ongoing/outstanding study elements and revised schedule, respectively). The results of the second study season will be provided in the USR filed with FERC by March 16, 2026.

In addition, 18 CFR § 5.16(c) requires SCE to file a Preliminary Licensing Proposal (PLP) or Draft License Application (DLA) no later than 150 days prior to the deadline for filing its Final License Application (FLA). For this Project, the deadline for SCE to file its FLA is June 1, 2026, so the deadline for filing the PLP or DLA is January 2, 2026. SCE plans to prepare a DLA instead of a PLP, and FERC's regulations at 18 CFR § 5.16(c) require SCE to provide notice of its intent to prepare a DLA in the USR. However, SCE's USR in this proceeding will be filed in March 2026, *after* the deadline for filing the DLA. Thus, to provide advance notice to FERC and Stakeholders, SCE hereby provides notice under 18 CFR § 5.16(c) of its intent to file a DLA in lieu of a PLP.

SCE looks forward to working with FERC and the Stakeholders as the relicensing of the Project proceeds. If you have any questions regarding this filing please contact Meg Richardson, SCE Project Manager via email at mary.m.richardson@sce.com.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Enclosures:

Attachment A: Distribution List
Attachment B: Technical Study Plan Implementation Summary
Attachment C: Revised Technical Study Plan Implementation Schedule
Attachment D: AQ 1 – Hydrology Technical Memo
Attachment E: AQ 2 – Water Quality/Water Temperature Interim Technical Memo
Attachment F: AQ 3 – Fish Population Interim Technical Memo
Attachment G: CUL 1 – Built Environment Interim Technical Memo
Attachment H: CUL 2 – Archaeology Interim Technical Memo
Attachment I: TRI 1 – Tribal Resources Interim Technical Memo
Attachment J: LAND 1 – Road and Trail Condition Assessment Technical Memo
Attachment K: LAND 2 – Erosion and Sedimentation Technical Memo
Attachment L: REC 1 – Recreation Facility Condition Assessment Technical Memo
Attachment M: REC 2 – Recreation Facility Use Assessment Interim Technical Memo
Attachment N: REC 3 – Whitewater Boating Interim Technical Memo
Attachment O: TERR 1 – Botanical Resources Interim Technical Memo
Attachment P: TERR 2 – Wildlife Resources Interim Technical Memo
Attachment Q: EJ 1 – Environmental Justice Technical Memo