MEETING SUMMARY NOTES*
CERRO COSSO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BISHOP CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
STAKEHOLDER KICKOFF MEETING
FERC PROJECT NO. 1394

DATE: March 14, 2018, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Cerro Cosso Community College, 4090 Line Street, Bishop, CA

**These meeting notes are documentation of general discussions from the meeting held on the above-noted date. These notes are not a verbatim account of proceedings, are not meeting minutes, and do not represent any final decisions or official documentation for the project or agency.*

1.0 OBJECTIVES

a) Provide information about the Bishop Creek relicensing project, including:
    a. Overview of the facilities and lands involved;
    b. SCE's relicensing approach and process;
    c. Opportunities for public engagement.
b) Collect feedback on how the community engages with the Project and what they value about the Project area.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME

Mike Harty, Kearns & West, opened the meeting, welcomed attendees, and introduced the agenda.

Wayne Allen, Southern California Edison (SCE), welcomed attendees and expressed his excitement for the Bishop Creek Project relicensing. He articulated SCE's overarching goal as achieving excellence in safety, operations, and innovation by delivering reliable, valuable, and clean generation solutions for its customers and communities— and expressed the important role hydro generation plays in meeting that goal. Wayne described the relicensing process as an opportunity to hear from the public about how they use the project and to address any resource issues collaboratively. He explained that SCE sees itself as a member of the communities it operates in; to this end, keys to success in the relicensing process include clear and transparent communication, an early understanding of stakeholder priorities, creative and balanced resolution of any conflict areas, and ultimately, stakeholder support for the license conditions.

2.2 INTRO TO THE BISHOP CREEK PROJECT

Matthew Woodhall, SCE's Project Manager, explained the unique role the Bishop Creek Project has played in both Bishop's history and that of SCE as an early provider of hydropower. After silver and gold were discovered in the area in 1900, the mining camps required more power than nearby wood or coal supplies could easily provide, so two local entrepreneurs formed the Nevada Power Mining and Milling Company and in 1904, built the Bishop Creek Project. The Town of Bishop itself was incorporated in 1903. Matt emphasized the importance of a crafting a new long-term FERC license that will respect the history of the Bishop Creek Hydroelectric Project and the Bishop Community by continuing to protect existing hydropower and natural resources into the future.

Al Partridge, SCE, described the geography of the Project and introduced Project operations, reporting that the Project has a good record of maintaining the minimum flows required under the current license. Al clarified that SCE does not own the water but rather uses it on its way to other water rights holders. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has rights to some of the water, and the Chandler Agreement guarantees certain flows through western Bishop for agricultural use.

SCE does not anticipate asking for any major changes to operations under the new license. Rather, they will pursue smaller adjustments intended to improve efficiency and long-term operations and maintenance responsibilities. These could include incorporating low-flow/micro-turbines on some of the flowlines and penstocks, which would generate a small amount of additional electricity, and replacing current water wheels with computer-run steel water wheels that would increase generation.

2.3 INTRO TO RELICENSING: FERC 101

Finlay Anderson, Kleinschmidt, described the relicensing process, which is typically initiated five and a half years ahead of license expiration. Finlay explained that the length of the process reflects the importance FERC places on contacting and involving stakeholders. SCE is starting a year earlier than usual, and will spend three and a half years studying the Project and developing a new license application with input from stakeholders; that license application will include proposed operations, potential impacts, and protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measures. In the remaining two years, FERC will review that application, conduct National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) analysis, and do additional stakeholder outreach.

Finlay explained that SCE has selected the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), which proceeds through three stages. In the first phase, (initial consultation), SCE works with Technical Working Groups to identify questions about resources impacted by the Project. The second phase (information development) includes developing and implementing study plans. The results are analyzed and integrated into the draft application, which is filed with FERC at least two years before license expiration. At that point, FERC reviews the application, conducts environmental review under NEPA, and collects recommendations and required conditions from stakeholders prior to issuing a license.

FERC puts significant emphasis on public involvement, and its website outlines how to procedurally engage with the process, as well as providing a comprehensive electronic library with all FERC issuances and submissions from other parties. It can be hard to navigate, however, so SCE will also make documents accessible through the SCE' Bishop Creek website (www.sce.com/bishopcreek).

2.4 RESOURCE AREAS

The team presented the resource areas it will be studying as part of relicensing: land management and recreation, cultural/historical, terrestrial, riparian/botanical, and aquatics. Kelly Larimer, Kleinschmidt, explained that in assessing project resources, they start broadly by looking at the project vicinity but ultimately, narrow down to specifically what lies within the project boundary. The project and the surrounding area is largely Forest Service land, so they also must work with the Forest Service to apply for a special use permit.

The project vicinity is rich in recreational resources including 12 campgrounds and extensive hiking, climbing, and fishing areas. Study plans will include use and needs studies to examine what recreation exists at present and help inform predictions about future use trends.

Audry Williams, SCE, summarized cultural resources, which include both prehistoric archeological sites and artifacts and historical sites and architectural and engineered structures. As part of the 1994 relicensing, they inventoried the Project to identify cultural resources, which included multiple prehistoric and historic archeological sites, established the Bishop Creek Hydroelectric System Historic District, and included a Historic Properties Management Plan to manage these resources. For the new relicensing, there will need to be an assessment of additional (pre)historic resources that have been identified since 1994, whether changes in project operations could impact them, and whether mitigation measures are necessary. Tribal consultations are also an important part of the process.

Brad Blood, Psomas, the lead for terrestrial resources, described the wide range of plant and animal species that exist in the Project area, a complex habitat pattern resulting from diverse elevations and terrain. He explained that the team is aware of a number of endangered species in the general area and has done a comprehensive survey of scientific literature and agency records, but they are interested in what frequent visitors to the Project area have seen on the ground.

Edith Read, an SCE consultant, described the depth of information on botanical/riparian and aquatic resources in the area – a result of SCE monitoring that has been ongoing since the 1990s. They have biological survey reports as well as detailed information on riparian growth and relationships between groundwater depth and stream flow/stage. Sensitive, as well as any threatened and endangered species, will need to be updated based on new information.

2.5 OPEN HOUSE

Participants were encouraged to review information, meet with staff, ask questions, and provide feedback at the following information stations:

- Maps and Project Infrastructure
- Relicensing Process & Public Engagement Opportunities

- Environmental Resource Interests (Aquatic & Terrestrial)
- Cultural Resource Interests
- Recreational Resource and Socioeconomic Interests
- Comment Station