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Electronically Filed

August 27, 2021

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr., Deputy Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Subject: 2021 Progress Report 3
Bishop Creek Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 1394**

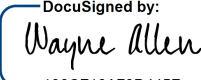
Dear Secretary Bose,

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) hereby files with the FERC its third Progress Report of 2021. SCE continues to implement the approved study plans supporting the relicensing of the Bishop Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project 1394).

SCE will forward the "Acceptance for Filing" e-mail generated by FERC's e-filing service to all contacts on the distribution list either via e-mail or U.S Mail, as appropriate. This filing will also be placed on SCE's Bishop Creek Relicensing Website (www.sce.com/bishopcreek) where it will be available for download, and available for review by appointment at the Bishop Creek Hydro Headquarters Office – 4000 E. Bishop Creek Road, Bishop, CA 93514.

SCE looks forward to continuing to work with FERC and other interested parties on the Bishop Creek relicensing. Should there be any questions or concerns regarding this filing please contact Matthew Woodhall, Senior Regulatory Advisor, by phone at (626) 302-9596 or via e-mail at matthew.woodhall@sce.com.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Wayne P. Allen
Principal Manager

Attachments:

- Progress Report 3 Memorandum

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Docket P-1394-080

FROM: Bishop Creek Relicensing Team

CC: Technical Work Groups
FERC Distribution List

DATE: August 27, 2021

RE: 2021 Quarterly Study Progress Report No. 3

INTRODUCTION

On November 4, 2019 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved Southern California Edison's (SCE) Technical Study Plan (TSP) for the relicensing of the Bishop Creek Project (FERC No. 1394). As provided for in 18 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 5.11(b)(3), the TSP included provisions for periodic progress reports. These progress reports are to be distributed to the Technical Working Groups (TWG) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on a quarterly basis as required by the Study Plan Determination (SPD).¹ The progress reports are intended to be brief technical updates that will, at a minimum, summarize work completed to date, any deviations from previously described methods, and any unforeseen issues that may warrant further stakeholder consultation. This memorandum serves as the third progress report for the Bishop Creek Project for 2021. The Updated Study Report (USR) will serve as the final quarterly progress report for 2021, which will be filed no later than November 4, 2021.

PROGRESS REPORT

SCE continues to make progress on study plans as outlined in the revised TSP and SPD. As such, several studies conducted their second study season in 2020 and are now complete and others are in their second year. Table 1 provides a summary of the field efforts conducted to date and a schedule for remaining studies and data analysis. Those studies impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are identified in the table below. As discussed in the ISR Meeting, the final technical reports are being drafted and will be submitted in batches to the TWGs for 60-day review as they become available. The final technical reports will be filed with FERC as part of the Draft License Application (DLA) package in early 2022.

SCE is currently planning to discuss preliminary potential effects and study plan results at a series of meetings beginning in October of 2021. Discussions from this meeting and the final technical reports will inform the Updated Study Report and Meeting later this year.

¹ Issued by FERC on November 4, 2019.

TABLE 1 BISHOP CREEK HYDRO RELICENSING PROJECT FIELD STUDY SUMMARY

STUDY NAME	STATUS	MODIFICATIONS TO METHODOLOGY AND/OR NEEDED CONSULTATION
TERRESTRIAL AND BOTANICAL STUDIES		
TERR 1 – Assessment of Bishop Creek Riparian Community	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report has been drafted and was sent to TWGs in August 2021.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
TERR 2 – Invasive Plants	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report has been drafted and was sent to TWGs in August 2021.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
TERR 3 – Assessment of Special Status Plants	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report has been drafted and was sent to TWGs in August 2021.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
TERR 4 – Wildlife	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report has been drafted and was sent to TWGs in August 2021.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
AQUATICS AND AQUATIC PROCESSES STUDY PLANS		
AQ 1 – Instream Flow Needs and Assessment	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report was submitted to the Aquatics TWG for review. Comments were received from CDFW, SCE and the Relicensing Team intends to address the comments prior to the Effects Meetings that are being scheduled for October, 2021.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
AQ 2 – Operations Model	The Operations Model has been configured and populated with historical data. A final technical report has been submitted to the Aquatics TWG for review. A virtual Operations Model Workshop is currently scheduled for September 3, 2021 to review the model.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
AQ 3 – Fish Distribution Baseline Study (Creek)	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report was submitted to the Aquatics TWG for review. Comments were received from CDFW, SCE and the Relicensing Team intend to address the comments prior to the Effects Meetings that are being scheduled for October, 2021.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
AQ 4 – Baseline Fish Distribution Study (Reservoirs)	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report was submitted to the Aquatics TWG for review. Comments were received from CDFW, SCE and the Relicensing Team intend to address the comments prior to the Effects Meetings that are being scheduled for October, 2021.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
AQ 5 – Water Quality	Water Quality sampling is being conducted at Lake Sabrina, South Lake, Intake No. 2 reservoir and locations along Bishop Creek throughout the summer of 2021 as outlined in the revised Water Quality Implementation Plan submitted to FERC in April	No additional changes or modifications to methodology.

STUDY NAME	STATUS	MODIFICATIONS TO METHODOLOGY AND/OR NEEDED CONSULTATION
	2020. An Interim Annual Report was filed with FERC in March 2021.	
AQ 6 – Sediment and Geomorphology	Bishop Creek Operations released flows of approximately 50 cfs on May 5, 2021 and flows of approximately 120 cfs on June 9, 2021 in an effort to simulate higher flushing flows in the study reaches and mobilize the tracer rocks previously placed in August 2020. Surveys were conducted following each release, May 25-28 and July 12-14, respectively, to recover the tracer rocks. GPS units were used to survey the cross sections and visual surveys were used to locate the rocks which had been previously PIT-tagged and painted. ~90% of the rocks were recovered each time. A final technical report is in development and will be distributed to the TWGs once complete.	Previous Variances: After a review of field conditions at bankfull flow, SCE did not believe the planned use of a bed-load sampler can be safely deployed or effectively implemented via wading, and notes that necessary infrastructure (bridges) for deployment of the sampler is not present for the desired sample reaches. To help resolve the question relating to sediment mobility that cannot be answered by the bedload sampling that is not feasible, SCE proposed to perform a tracer rock study during higher flows to understand when various size substrates are mobilized. SCE discussed the change in methods with the TWG during review of the 2 nd progress report in May 2020 and no concerns were raised.
HUMAN ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY STUDY PLANS		
REC 1 – Recreation Use and Needs	<p>Web-based, recreation use surveys were implemented in 2020 and will continue through November 2021. URLs and QR codes have been posted and fliers distributed at Lake Sabrina, South Lake, and Intake No. 2 Reservoir recreation areas.</p> <p>Angler surveys are currently being administered at each recreation area and select campgrounds adjacent to Project creeks. Surveys will continue through Labor Day weekend.</p> <p>Traffic counters have been installed at each recreation area and will continue to collect data through November 2021.</p> <p>Trail counters have been installed at Inlet Trail, Little Egypt climbing access, and Green Creek Diversion Pipeline and will continue to collect data through November 2021. A final technical report will be developed once surveys are complete in the fall of 2021 and distributed to the TWG once ready.</p>	<p>Previous Variances: Due to road construction on the South Lake Road and travel restrictions relating to COVID-19, a revised implementation schedule for the REC 1 study plan was developed in consultation with the USFS which moved the general recreation field surveys to the 2021 recreation season.</p> <p>Variance for 2021 implementation: The Recreation TWG considered alternative methods and schedules to address the Recreation Use and Needs Study Objectives, which resulted in a revised approach for obtaining responses from recreational users that reduced potential contact/exposure to COVID-19. A technical memo outlining this revised approach was submitted to FERC with the May 2021 Progress Report and is not restated here.</p>
REC 2 – Recreation Facilities Condition and Public Accessibility	This survey effort is complete, and a technical report is being drafted to be finalized in fall of 2021.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.
LAND 1 – Project Boundary and Lands	This study is underway and is being informed by the results of numerous surveys. The results of the study and its recommendations will be incorporated into the Draft License Application (DLA) for review.	No changes or modifications to methodology and no additional field work is anticipated for the duration of this relicensing process.

STUDY NAME	STATUS	MODIFICATIONS TO METHODOLOGY AND/OR NEEDED CONSULTATION
CUL 1 – Cultural Resources	Cultural Resource fieldwork was conducted in the fall of 2020. Final technical reports for Archaeology and Built-Environment are in production and will be distributed to the cultural TWG once complete. The Relicensing Team is hopeful that additional architectural surveys and archaeological site evaluations will be able to proceed this fall. Should surveys once again be delayed due to COVID-19, fires, or weather (snow), they will be carried out in the spring of 2022. An updated will be provided as part of the USR.	As noted in a previous Progress Report: Two technical reports are being developed for this study: Archaeological Resources and a Built Environment Report.
CUL 2 – Tribal Resources	<p>This study will be implemented when conditions warrant safe interview techniques. Work on background studies is continuing, although access to archives due to COVID-19 is creating slowdowns.</p> <p>SCE has been conducting additional outreach to Indian Tribes and has held meetings with the North Fork Mono Tribe and Northfork Rancheria of Mono Indians.</p>	Due to COVID-19, the Relicensing Team has been unable to schedule interviews with tribes and conduct outreach to tribal councils. Background research has been initiated and no changes to methodology are expected. SCE is anticipating that not all information from Tribal interviews will be available for inclusion in the DLA to be filed in early 2022.