

POTENTIAL RESOURCE ISSUES:

- Recreation use and opportunities in the vicinity of the Project; and
- Public safety.

PROJECT NEXUS:

- The licensee is responsible for:
 - Addressing Project-related recreational needs; and
 - Maintaining public safety associated with operations and maintenance of the Project.

POTENTIAL LICENSE CONDITION:

- Develop a Recreation Plan that includes measures that are designed to:
 - Address Project-related recreational needs, as appropriate; and
 - Maintain Project-related public safety.

STUDY OBJECTIVES:

- Identify, map and describe all developed recreation facilities (public and private) in the vicinity of the Kaweah Project, including capacity and ownership;
- Identify, map and describe any existing Project-related recreation facilities/area (i.e., “Edison Beach”), including capacity, condition, user conflicts, consistency with applicable accessibility requirements, and operation and maintenance responsibilities;
- Characterize recreation use and opportunities in the immediate vicinity of the Project facilities and in the bypass reaches, including along the Kaweah No. 2 Flowline;
- Document recreation needs identified in current relevant State or local recreation plans and determine whether those needs can be accommodated by existing recreation facilities;
- Characterize commercial and private whitewater boating use in the bypass reaches;
- Identify the range of flows in the bypass reaches that accommodate whitewater boating;
- Identify existing mechanisms for disseminating flow information to the public; and
- Document potential safety issues and existing features or measures that are implemented to protect the public.

EXTENT OF STUDY AREA:

The study area generally includes the Kaweah River Watershed (Watershed). Focused studies will be limited to a small access point located on the Kaweah River near the Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse referred to as “Edison Beach” and the bypass reaches, which are defined as follows:

- East Fork Kaweah River between the Kaweah No. 1 Diversion Dam and the Kaweah River confluence; and
- Kaweah River between the Kaweah No. 2 Diversion Dam and the Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse Tailrace.

Edison Beach and the bypass reaches are shown on Map REC 1-1.

It should be noted that the majority of lands along the bypass reaches and around select Project facilities are privately owned and outside the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project boundary. For the purposes of the recreation studies described herein, Southern California Edison (SCE) will take the following steps to obtain approval to conduct studies on private property:

- Notify the landowner of Project relicensing and request authorization to enter property to conduct the field studies.
- If authorization is obtained, SCE will complete studies as described in this technical study plan.
- If authorization is not obtained, SCE will limit field studies to only those lands where landowners have authorized access.

STUDY APPROACH:

Most of the land surrounding the Project facilities and bypass reaches is privately owned, which substantially restricts public access and limits opportunities for recreational development. As such, FERC did not require SCE to construct or maintain any developed recreational facilities or trails in the existing license for the Project. SCE does maintain one informal access point to the Kaweah River (Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse River Access Area), referred to by the local community as “Edison Beach”. This access point is located adjacent to the Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse and consists of a small parking area with six parking stalls, one of which is accessible. Due to concerns by local residents, use of this site between Memorial Day and Labor Day is only allowed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At all other times of the year, the Kaweah No. 2 River Access Area is open seven days per week between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. When the river access is closed, an A-frame sign is posted at the entrance providing hours of operation and entry is blocked by a barrier. The following describes the recreation resources study approach.

Inventory Existing Recreation Facilities/Areas

- Identify all developed recreation facilities located in the Kaweah River Watershed, including: privately operated facilities; facilities owned and operated by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and facilities located within the boundaries of the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park (SKCNP).
- Utilize existing information sources to briefly describe each recreation facility, including ownership (public or private), facility capacity, and types of recreational uses supported by each facility. This information will be used for contextual purposes.
- Prepare Geographic Information System (GIS)-based maps showing the location of existing developed recreation facilities/area in the Kaweah River Watershed relative to the Kaweah Project.
- Describe SCE’s Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse River Access Area (Edison Beach), including facility capacity, amenities, use restrictions, and operation and maintenance responsibilities.
- Assess the condition of the Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse River Access Area (Edison Beach) relative to current Tulare County design and accessibility standards.

Characterize Existing Use and Opportunities in the Vicinity of the Kaweah Project

- Utilize existing information available from SCE, Tulare County and the BLM to characterize recreation opportunities and use levels in the immediate vicinity of the Kaweah Project facilities and along the bypass reaches, including along the Kaweah No. 2 Flowline.
- Determine frequency and timing of non-motorized use of Craig Ranch Road/Salt Creek Road and the Project access road to the Kaweah No. 1 Forebay Tank within BLM's Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA).
 - Monitor use along Craig Ranch Road/Salt Creek Road using trail cameras installed at the gate (transition to BLM property) and at the intersection of Salt Creek Road and the Kaweah No. 1 Forebay Tank Road.
 - Download data weekly between Memorial Day and Labor Day and every other week the remainder of the survey period (in conjunction with user counts at the Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse River Access described below).
- Estimate recreation use at SCE's Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse River Access Area (Edison Beach).
 - Use counts will be conducted on one randomly-selected day every week during the 14-week period between Memorial Day and Labor Day (i.e., the peak recreation season), limited to the specific days and times that the parking area is open to the public. During the peak recreation season, counts will be conducted during one of three randomly selected time blocks, defined as follows: Block 1 – 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; Block 2 – 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and Block 3 – 4:00 p.m. to close.
 - For the remainder of the year (Labor Day through Memorial Day), use counts will be conducted on one randomly-selected day every other week, limited to the specific days and times that the parking area is open to the public. During the non-peak seasons, counts will be conducted during one of two randomly selected time blocks defined as follows: Block 1 – 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; and Block 2 – 12:00 p.m. to close.
 - The following information will be recorded: number of vehicles present in the parking lot; number of people present in the parking lot; number of people present at the river in the immediate vicinity of the beach; and the types of activities those people are participating in, based on visual observations (as opposed to surveys).
 - All data collected through this effort will be entered into a database and used to determine recreation use in daytime visits. Overnight use is not allowed at the access area.

Characterize Potential User Conflicts

- Interview Tulare County land use/recreation planners to identify concerns related to conflicts between recreation users and private property owners in the vicinity of the Kaweah Project.
- Interview property owners to identify and document potential concerns and issues related to recreation use at SCE's Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse River Access Area.

- During data downloading at Craig Ranch Road/Salt Creek Road monitoring sites, if recreation users are encountered, interview and document any concerns and issues related to motorized use along this section of road.

Characterize Existing Commercial and Private Whitewater Boating Opportunities and Use on the Bypass Reaches

- Summarize whitewater boating opportunities.
 - Map existing whitewater boating runs on the two bypass reaches based on published maps and literature, consultation with local and regional whitewater boating groups, and resource agency recreation specialists.
 - Describe and characterize each whitewater boating run, including: access points (put-in and take-out), shuttle routes, length of run, gradient, portages, level of difficulty, types of water craft, published boatable flow ranges, support facilities, safety concerns, and any known limiting factors. The descriptions will be developed using information contained in published whitewater guides, augmented by information developed during a site visit.
 - Consult with commercial boating outfitters and private local boaters to develop additional details about specific boating runs, existing and potential uses, access conditions or constraints, and boatable flow ranges.
 - Utilize boatable flow ranges in combination with hydrologic data to determine the number of boating days that are available on the bypass reaches under impaired and unimpaired conditions during different water year types.
- Estimate commercial and private whitewater boating use on the bypass reaches.
 - Quantify commercial whitewater boating use on the Kaweah River using records available from Tulare County and/or provided by commercial outfitters holding permits to conduct whitewater boating operations on the Kaweah River.
 - Characterize private boating use on the Project bypass reaches by consulting Tulare County and BLM land use/recreation planners, by examining information that may be available on websites maintained by the boating community, and by conducting interviews with local boaters.

Estimate Future Recreation Needs in the Vicinity of the Project

- Utilize census data and information available in current relevant federal, State, and local comprehensive plans to identify population projections and to document outdoor recreation use trends and needs.
- Utilize use estimates along with trends and population projections to estimate future recreation needs over the license period (assumed to be 50 years).
- Determine whether future recreation needs can be met in vicinity of Project.

Flow Information Dissemination

- Characterize the type of flow information that is currently available to the public through, for example, existing web sites and flow phones.

- Identify, map, and characterize existing stream gaging stations in the Watershed, including location, equipment, and data collection capabilities.
- Consult with whitewater boaters to identify target reaches or locations where flow information may enhance existing boating opportunities.

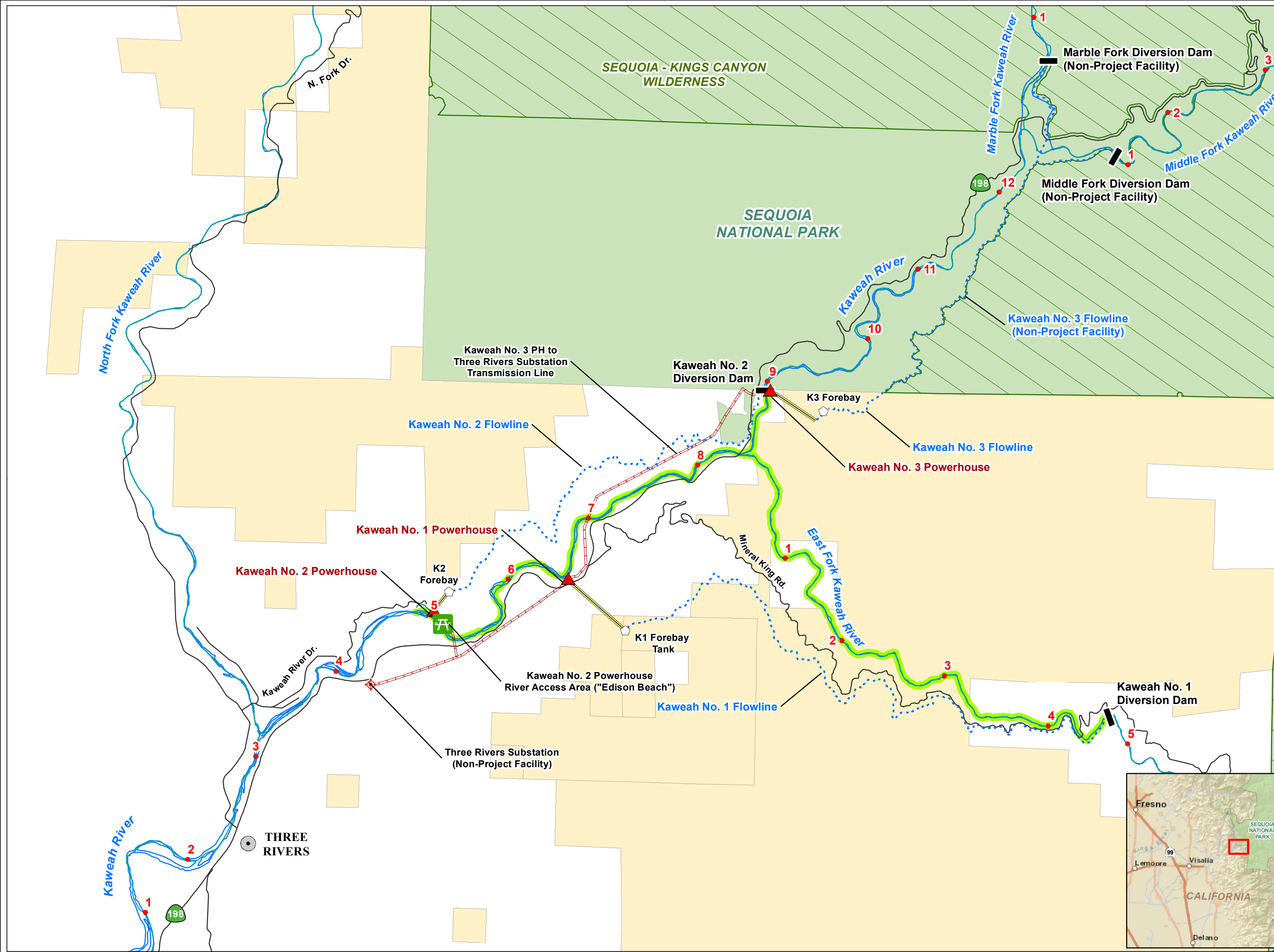
Identify Public Safety Measures

- Identify and describe existing programs and measures implemented by SCE for public health and safety (i.e., buoy lines, escape ropes, signage, and alarms). The inventory will include a description of the condition of the existing safety features.
- Identify and map the locations of existing designated helicopter landing sites in the vicinity of the Project.
- Characterize and document the number, type and location of safety incidents that have occurred in the vicinity of the Project. This effort will be conducted by reviewing existing records and databases maintained by the FERC and by consulting with Project personnel.


SCHEDULE:

Date	Activity
November 2017–April 2018	Consult with stakeholders and compile existing resource information
January–December 2018	Conduct visitor counts at Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse River Access Area
May–July 2018	Conduct site visits to develop additional whitewater boating information, identify public safety measures and to assess condition of Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse River Access Area
May–July 2018	Conduct interviews with whitewater boaters and private property owners.
August 2018–February 2019	Analyze data and prepare draft report
March 2019	Distribute draft report to the stakeholders
March 2019–May 2019	Stakeholders review and provide comments on draft report (90 days)
June–July 2019	Resolve comments and prepare final report
August 2019	Distribute final report in Draft License Application

MAP



- Facilities**
- Powerhouse
 - Diversion
 - Utility
 - Forebay
 - Flowline
 - Penstock
 - Transmission Line
- Other Features**
- City/Town
 - Highway/Road
 - Watercourse
 - Water Body
 - River Mile
- Land Jurisdiction***
- Bureau of Land Management
 - National Park Service
 - Private (Blank)
- *SOURCE: BLM 2012.
Kaweah Project entirely within Tulare County.
- Land Management**
- National Wilderness Area
- Study Area**
- Bypass Reaches




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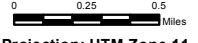
Eastern Hydro Generation

Map REC 1-1

**Recreation Resources
Study Area**



Date: 12/30/2015



Projection: UTM Zone 11
Datum: NAD 83

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