

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Bishop Creek Technical Work Group (TWG) Members  
**FROM:** Bishop Creek Relicensing Team  
**DATE:** May 19, 2019  
**RE:** Study Plan Determination Process

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### Introduction

On May 1, 2019 Southern California Edison (SCE) filed the Pre-Application Document (PAD), the Notice of Intent (NOI), and proposed Technical Study Plans (TSPs) for the Relicensing of the Bishop Creek Hydroelectric (Project). This filing followed a year of outreach and consultation with stakeholders through the Technical Working Groups (TWGs). This memorandum outlines next steps in FERC's Study Plan Determination process, which will deviate somewhat from the normal process because of our early consultation. Additionally, we will provide you with an update on some studies that SCE has determined can be implemented early.

In a "normal" relicensing process using the Integrated Relicensing Process (ILP), we would be at the front-end of the study planning process; Stakeholders would take the time between the filing and the end of the PAD comment period (August 30) to comment on the PAD and make study requests. Because of our early consultation, we have accelerated this process by providing substantively complete study plans, complete with consultation histories and responses to comments that we have received from the TWGs.

### Study Plan Approval

Instead of filing Study Plan Requests at the end of the comment period, we are striving for **approval letters** from our TWG members affirming that the PAD adequately summarizes the potential issues that need to be addressed in relicensing and that the TSPs are appropriately scoped to provide information for our environmental review.

To that end, our next task is to have all of you review the TSPs, as filed (available at [www.sce.com/bishopcreek](http://www.sce.com/bishopcreek)) and to provide us with any comments or requests that you believe still need to be addressed. We have scheduled a conference call on June 11 to review the aquatic study plans. A second call will be scheduled the following week to review terrestrial study plans and the recreation study plans.

### Schedule

A complete relicensing schedule is included in [Section 2.3 of the PAD](#), but for purposes of getting to an "approved study plan" from FERC (the Study Plan Determination) the following milestones are in front of us:

Date	Description	Goal
June 11, 2019	Call to review questions on Aquatics Focused Study Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orient TWG members to the proposed plan</li> <li>• Confirm outstanding issues</li> <li>• Resolve issues or agree on path forward for resolving</li> </ul>
Week of June 17, 2019	Review Terrestrial and Recreation Study Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orient TWG members to the proposed plan</li> <li>• Confirm outstanding issues</li> <li>• Resolve issues or agree on path forward for resolving</li> </ul>
July 5, 2019	Update to TWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolution of any issues identified</li> </ul>
Mid-July to Late July (Date TBD)	FERC Study Plan Scoping and Site Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orient FERC to Project</li> <li>• Dialogue about identified issues and proposed approach</li> <li>• Expand outreach to any other interested stakeholders</li> <li>• Check-in on status of any issued identified in early June</li> </ul>
August 9, 2019	Final Study Plans	Study Plans revisions to address any comments collected during FERC scoping
August 30, 2019	Study Requests and PAD Comments due at FERC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters of approval for Technical Study Program</li> </ul>
September 2, 2019	Waiver request to FERC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request to expedite the FERC Study Plan Determination Process</li> </ul>
September 9-October 24	FERC Considers Waiver Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional outreach from FERC to stakeholders soliciting input on request.</li> </ul>
October 8, 2019	Study Plan Determination	

### Study Implementation Status

As a result of our early collaboration, SCE is implementing some studies ahead of a formal Study Plan Determination from FERC. Studies that are being implemented include those which the team has determined may benefit from the unique hydrologic year, which can be cost-effectively tagged onto other ongoing efforts, or which may be “critical path” to some future decision that the TWG may need to make. Obviously, studies (or portions of studies) that we think may have some outstanding questions to be resolved are scheduled for later in the process.

<b>Field Effort</b>	<b>Implementation Schedule</b>
(TERR 1) Riparian Community Assessment	2019 Implementation
(TERR 2) Invasive Plants	2019 Implementation
(TERR 3) RTE Plants	2019 Implementation
(TERR 4) Wildlife	2019 Implementation
(AQ1) IFIM	
Phase 1 - Reconnaissance and mesohabitat mapping	2019 Implementation
Phase 2 - Cross sections, transects and flow testing	2019 Implementation
(AQ 2) Ops Model	Ongoing
(AQ 3) Creek Fish Distribution	2019 Implementation, although under discussion because of high flows
(AQ4) Reservoir Fish Distribution	2020 Implementation
(AQ 5) Water Quality	2020 following approval of implementation plan
(AQ 6) Sediment Modeling	
Phase 1 - Baseline Reconnaissance	2019 Implementation
Phase 1 - Survey and Data Gathering	2020 Implementation
(CULT 1) Tribal Resources	2019 Implementation and ongoing
(CULT 2) Cultural Resources	2020 Implementation
(LAND 1) Project Boundary and Lands	
(REC 1) Recreation Use and Needs	
Phase 1 - Baseline Reconnaissance	2019 Implementation
Phase 1 - Survey and Data Gathering	2020 Implementation
(REC 2) Facilities Condition Assessment	
Phase 1 - Baseline Reconnaissance	2020 Implementation
Phase 1 - Survey and Data Gathering	2020 Implementation

### Ongoing Collaboration and Participation

All of these studies are designed to allow TWG continued participation and involvement. To that end, we will be continuing to dialogue with members through the TWG leads. As well, TWG members are invited to participate and observe field activities. Indeed, some agency involvement in key field-decision will be requested as appropriate. TWG leads will be reaching out to you regarding upcoming opportunities for visits.