

ATTACHMENT A KR3 UPDATED STUDY REPORT MEETING SUMMARY

**Southern California Edison
Kern River No. 3 (KR3) Hydroelectric Project (P-2290)
Updated Study Report (USR) Meeting Summary
October 23, 2024; 12:30-4:00 pm
Kernville, California**

The purpose of the Updated Study Report (USR) meeting was to present and discuss Southern California Edison's (SCE) progress in implementing the second year of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved studies and to review Study Plan variances and proposed modifications in support of the ongoing relicensing of the Kern River No. 3 (KR3) Hydroelectric Project (Project).

Meeting participants included SCE staff and their supporting subject matter experts, in addition to FERC staff, resource agencies, Tribes and interested members of the public, collectively referred to as "relicensing participants". A list of meeting participants is provided in Attachment A-1, including a copy of the sign-in sheet for those who attended in person and a list of those who used the Teams meeting link.

1.0 MEETING SUMMARY

This meeting summary is not intended to be a transcript of the USR meeting and is not intended to present every comment or question that was said during the meeting. This is a summary of the information presented and some discussions and questions. Action items identified during the meeting are summarized at the end. The USR meeting presentation is provided in Attachment B of this filing.

1.1. INTRODUCTION, SCHEDULE, AND PROJECT OVERVIEW

Stephanie Fincher-DeMillo (SCE KR3 Relicensing Manager) welcomed the group and provided a brief safety moment. Marie Rainwater (Rainwater Associates) provided meeting facilitation and gave an overview of the meeting agenda, meeting purpose, and meeting guidelines. SCE encouraged relicensing participants to file written comments directly with FERC and noted FERC's criteria for requesting modifications to an existing study (18 CFR § 5.15(d)) or a new study request (18 CFR § 5.15(e)).

A round of brief introductions of those physically in the room, followed by an acknowledgement of any FERC, agency, or Tribal participants participating virtually via Teams was conducted.

Jillian Roach (ERM Project Manager) presented an overview of the KR3 Project and highlighted key filing dates that have occurred since the Initial Study Report (ISR) Meeting in October 2023. Upcoming key dates through 2024 were also noted as part of the ongoing Integrated Licensing Process Project schedule. December 10, 2024, was emphasized as the due date for FERC and relicensing participants to submit comments

on the USR, this USR meeting summary, or to file a study modification or request a new study.

David Laughing Horse Robinson of the Kawaiisu Nation stated that they have not received any information on the KR3 relicensing and will need time to review these studies. Audry Williams, SCE Cultural Resources Specialist, stated that relevant cultural and tribal information has been provided to all Tribes, including the Kawaiisu. Audry Williams will review previous email distribution lists to confirm to whom and when relicensing documents were distributed. Martin Ostendorf (SCE Relicensing Manager) affirmed that SCE will reach out to FERC to discuss this topic, and that SCE will follow up with Mr. Robinson. Robert Gomez, Chairman of the Tübatulabal Tribe, spoke up and stated that his Tribe had received the information and notifications.

Other relicensing participants commented on the compressed timing of the study results (technical memorandum) and the recent filing of SCE's Draft and Final License Application and asked how the study data are interpreted and how that may affect the license going forward. SCE explained that the filing deadlines for the draft and final license application are stipulated in the federal regulations and are based on the expiration date of the current FERC license. The final license application is due to FERC no later than two years before the expiration of the current license (current license expires November 30, 2026). However, even after SCE files the application, there is more work to be done. In accordance with FERC's May 2024 study determination, SCE will conduct an additional year of studies to support further analysis of recreational resources. Relicensing is an iterative process and SCE intends to continue engaging with relicensing participants over the next year as data is still being conducted. SCE explained that once the data have been collected and compiled into technical memoranda, SCE uses that information, in coordination with Project operations, to identify whether the Project may have an impact to a particular resource area. If there is a potential impact, or there is an opportunity to enhance that resource, SCE will develop protection, mitigation, or enhancement measures.

1.2. STATUS OF TECHNICAL STUDY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Only new technical study information that was completed after the ISR filing and ISR meeting were included as part of the USR discussion. For each technical study, an overview of the study elements completed, study plan variances, and key study results were presented.

An overview of comments, questions, and general discussion are organized by individual technical study and summarized in the bullets below.

CULTURAL/TRIBAL RESOURCES

Audry Williams (SCE) provided an update on the Cultural Resources Assessment (CUL-1) and Tribal Resources Assessment (TRI-1).

- Tim Kelly (U.S. Forest Service) asked if the study results would be sent to the Forest Service and Tribes; Audry Williams (SCE) confirmed they would.

- Kate Devries (Kawaiisu Nation) commented about their Tribe not receiving reports on the surveys from the cultural studies. David Laughing Horse Robinson (Kawaiisu Nation) noted that there are multiple powerlines or facilities that are impacting tribal resources. Stephanie Fincher-DeMillo (SCE) clarified that the current FERC Project Boundary for the KR3 Hydropower Project does not include transmission lines.

WATER RESOURCES

Russ Liebig (Stillwater Sciences [SWS], Aquatic Biologist) presented the Water Quality (WR-1) and Hydrology (WR-2) studies.

WR-1 Water Quality

- Brett Duxbury (Kern River Boaters [KRB]) asked about the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) data and asked if any days did not meet Basin Plan Standards. Russ Liebig (SWS) stated they would have to review the data in question and encouraged KRB to submit the comment in writing to FERC if they identify a specific data gap.

WR-2 Hydrology

- Brett Duxbury (KRB) and Monique Sanchez (Forest Service) asked follow-up questions regarding the theoretical flow analysis:
 - o Brett Duxbury (KRB) asked how an outage in the theoretical hydrology was defined and whether there was a distinction between normal outages versus extended outages. Russ Liebig (SWS) stated that the FERC Study Plan Determination recommended conducting the analysis “excluding outages.” An extended outage is defined in the technical memorandum, and is a period when the Project was offline for facility upgrades and planned maintenance periods or when the Project was offline for more than 4 weeks.
 - o Brett Duxbury (KRB) inquired about additional information (graphs, charts, etc.) on the statistics observed on the theoretical hydrology analysis. Monique Sanchez (Forest Service) requested to receive any additional information that is shared.
 - o Brett Duxbury (KRB) asked whether the analysis includes hatchery flow diversions. Melissa Lane (SWS) stated that no, the hatchery flow diversion was not included as part of the analysis, as noted in the technical memorandum.
- Brett Duxbury (KRB) inquired about the list of goals included as with the California Environmental Flows Framework (CEFF) analysis, specifically a goal from the Upper Kern River Management Plan. Russ Liebig (SWS) indicated that the goal was included and updated in the text as part of the license application; however this was inadvertently left off the updates to the WR-2 Technical Memorandum.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Russ Liebig (SWS) presented Foothill Yellow-legged Frog (BIO-1) and Benthic Macroinvertebrate Survey (BIO-4) studies.

BIO-1 Foothill Yellow-legged Frog (FYLF)

- Niel Nikirk (KRB) commented that eDNA was collected in 2023, which was an extremely high-water year, and asked if it was difficult to collect eDNA. Russ Liebig (SWS) confirmed that eDNA for frogs was collected in 2023-and no FYLF DNA was detected in any of the samples, nor were they observed in the 2023 and 2024 visual encounter surveys-and flowing water is needed for eDNA collection.
- Niel Nikirk (KRB) inquired about the western pond turtle study. Russ Liebig (SWS) stated that we are not talking about that study as part of the USR agenda, as that study was completed during the first year of study and discussed during the ISR meeting; there is a separate technical memorandum completed for this study.

BIO-4 Benthic Macroinvertebrate

- Brett Duxbury (KRB) inquired about the BMI study sites and results being very uniform, and specifically that the CSCI score may not reflect long term stressors during moderate to dry years and that results could be an indicator of recolonization. Russ Liebig (SWS) stated that study sites were located upstream of Fairview Dam, two sites within the NFKR bypass reach, and one downstream of the KR3 Powerhouse and the results are generally similar across the sites. In a high-water year we would expect the BMI levels to decrease, because of bugs not laying eggs; conversely, we would expect scores (CSCI scores) to increase in a normal water year.
- Monique Sanchez (Forest Service) asked when the BMI data were collected. Russ Liebig (SWS) clarified that the data were collected from the four sites within two consecutive days in 2023.
- David Laughing Horse Robinson (Kawaiisu Nation) asked whether flora and fauna studies were included. Russ Liebig (SWS) and Jillian Roach (ERM) confirmed that there are separate studies for vegetation, and for fish populations, western pond turtle, and wildlife. Many of these studies were completed and discussed as part of the first-year study results at the ISR meeting in October 2023. These studies were filed with FERC and are available on SCE's public website to review.

LAND RESOURCES AND PROJECT OPERATIONS

Sergio Capozzi (ERM) presented the Road Condition Assessment (LAND-1) and Erosion and Carl Mannheim presented the Tunnel Assessment (OPS-1).

LAND-1 Road Condition Assessment

- Monique Sanchez (Forest Service) and Kate Devries (Kawaiisu Nation) asked when spot counts were done and whether any weekend data was collected. Sergio Capozzi (ERM) confirmed that spot counts were done on weekends once a month and were conducted on Saturday or Sunday or over the 3-day holiday weekend for 1 year (June 2023-May 2024).

- Kate Devries (Kawaiisu Nation) asked whether SCE is planning to close any of the roads. Sergio Capozzi (ERM) stated that the objective of this study was to document the public use observed on the roads over the year.
- *OPS-1 Tunnel Assessment:*
 - Jeff Venturino (American Whitewater [AW]) asked about study outcomes, whether these recommendations are more of a hard rule, and what flexibility they have for this project. Carl Manheim (Kleinschmidt) stated it is a recommendation, not a hard rule. The study included a recommendation for tunnel down ramping for the long-term integrity of the Project, SCE will follow that recommendation when operationally feasible.
 - Jim Aherns (Kern River Fly Fishers [KRFF]) asked where debris goes that collects in the tunnels and expressed concern about debris being thrown into the river. Martin Ostendorf (SCE) stated that SCE is not observing any debris from the tunnel going into the river. Martin Ostendorf clarified that the results of the study states that there is a potential for rocks/concrete to be dislodged within the tunnel. However, there are rock drops that would collect debris.
 - Brett Duxbury (KRB) commented that SCE has exceeded the 50 cfs down ramp recommendation many times. Martin Ostendorf (SCE) reiterated that the down ramping rate is a recommendation, and that there is operational flexibility.
 - Brett Duxbury (KRB) asked whether there were any findings in the study for keeping a minimum of 300 cfs in the tunnel. Carl Manheim (Kleinschmidt) stated that the study didn't specifically look at minimum flow in the tunnel, but rather looked at rates of change in flows through the tunnel.
 - Brett Duxbury (KRB) asked what "conservative" ramping rates means. Carl Mannheim (Kleinschmidt) clarified that the ramping rate is conservative in that faster rates could be supported if there is more adhesion than what was assumed during the analysis.
 - Jeff Venturino (AW) asked if there are any ways to determine adhesion or make a better assessment of adhesion. Carl Mannheim (Kleinschmidt) stated that the only way to actually know would be to do an actual (intrusive) test of the rock and the concrete in place. Typical values for adhesion were used in these calculations.

RECREATION RESOURCES

Angela Whelpley (Kleinschmidt Associates) presented the Recreation Facilities Use Assessment (REC-2). Sergio Capozzi presented the Aesthetics Flows Study (AES-1) and the Enjoyable Angling Flows Study (ANG-1). John Gangemi (River Science Institute) presented the Whitewater Boating Study (REC-1), and Sergio Capozzi presented the Recreation Facilities Use Assessment (REC-2)-Camera Study Plan.

REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment

- Karen Miller (Forest Service) inquired about the rec facility capacities noted in the report and whether SCE also looked at capacity in terms of bathrooms (since there is already a perceived lack of bathroom facilities). Angela Whelpley (Kleinschmidt) indicated that when assessing capacity, we looked at the number of parking

spaces versus the number of vehicles parked. We also looked at the number of people per group. The restroom capacity is something to consider when we are looking at future capacity.

- Karen Miller (Forest Service) inquired about looking at effects to the natural and cultural resources that are near and adjacent to recreation spots. Jillian Roach (ERM) clarified that SCE collected information on various resource topics throughout the Project area. Once the individual studies are completed, a look at the comprehensive package of all the studies for future recommendations in terms of Project-related effects to resources are discussed as part of the license application.
- Robert Gomez (Tübatulabal Tribe) stated that artifacts can be found throughout these areas and that education is needed so people know what to do if they find these artifacts.
- David Laughing Horse Robinson (Kawaiisu Nation) asked if there is a map that coincides with these recreation statistics. Angela Whelpley (Kleinschmidt) confirmed that, yes, all the data is in the REC-2 technical memorandum.
- David Laughing Horse Robinson (Kawaiisu Nation) asked if there is a map with homeless inhabitants of the Kawaiisu Nation [at the campground and campsite]. He recommended that this information should be collected in the report. Angela Whelpley (Kleinschmidt) stated that no, this information was not collected.
- Liz Duxbury and John Warnshuis (KRB) commented that the REC-2 data appeared to have been taken during an anomalous year (2023), and expressed concern that the results did not capture the reality of the high capacity at sites. Angela Whelpley (Kleinschmidt) indicated that SCE included additional spot counts and calibration counts from April through May 2024 to account for any potential road/facility closures that may have occurred in 2023. A comparison of the data collected during these timeframes is presented in the technical memorandum.
- Kate Devries (Kawaiisu Nation) asked about the survey and questionnaire responses, specifically if flows affected their visit, whether responses were tied to their locations, what types of water sports were participated in, and whether the survey captured if visitors participated in more than one activity. Angela Whelpley (Kleinschmidt) clarified that the majority of the people interviewed at the sites had noted that the effect of the flows had not impacted their visit; either that the flows were satisfactory, or they did not participate in water-related recreation activities, and therefore were not impacted by the flows. The survey responses indicate the site and date they relate to. A summary of the data is presented in the technical memorandum and the raw survey data are available on SCE's relicensing website. Additionally, while a large amount of people were participating in water-based recreation activities, some were not. The people who did not participate in water-based recreation activities would have said the flows did not affect their activity. We also asked respondents about the primary and secondary recreation activity they participated in to capture different group activities.

- Kate Devries (Kawaiisu Nation) asked if the survey was conducted between 5am - 9:30am, when the local fishermen are at the river to fish. Angela Whelpley (Kleinschmidt) confirmed the survey start times overlapped with these times. Survey start times and locations were randomly selected, but in general surveys were conducted from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM. Survey times were adjusted in the fall and wintertime, to sunrise-sunset, when people would be out recreating.
- Monique Sanchez (Forest Service) asked if SCE can have another follow-up meeting, as the Forest Service needs time to review the recreation data. Martin Ostendorf (SCE) answered that yes, SCE is open to scheduling a follow-up meeting with the Forest Service, and other interested relicensing participants, to discuss the data collected as part of the relicensing studies.
- Brett Duxbury (KRB) said the REC-2 responses in the report were not correlated with the MIF at that time, and asked if SCE can tease that out or whether that is a study modification. Martin Ostendorf (SCE) requested KRB to please provide that as a written comment to FERC.
- Karen Miller (Forest Service) indicated support for the additional data to be collected for the Camera Study Plan and that the Forest Service would like to press for an adaptive recreation management plan that involves SCE and partners for the 40-year license. As the manager for the Sequoia Forest, they need an adaptive and cooperative plan that integrates more data.
- Karen Miller (Forest Service) expressed concern that the study did not distinguish between affluent people and lower income people, and the different types of recreation that they are participating in (water-based versus land-based). She also expressed concern that water-based recreating people may have been missed by the study. Angela Whelpley (Kleinschmidt) clarified that the survey technicians intercepted people on the river fishing, recreating, picnicking, using the restroom, swimming, etc. Additionally, we have the Camera Study Plan that will be implemented to collect additional information on people (specifically boaters) recreating along the river.

AES-1 Aesthetics Flows Study

- Karen Miller (Forest Service) commented that cameras would be very helpful to understand boater use information, outside of aesthetics, and wanted to make sure this user group has the opportunity to be involved.
- (Brett Duxbury, KRB) commented that SCE referenced that the current Sequoia Forest Land Management Plan (LMP) supersedes environmental documents and management plans. However, the new LMPs specifically sites the 1994 Wild and Scenic River Plan and Upper Kern Management Plan continues to guide the forest management. Sergio Capozzi (ERM) stated he would have to look at that statement in the technical memorandum to understand the full context before he could provide an answer.
- Brett Duxbury (KRB) inquired about the photographs (drone and camera views) documented in the technical memo and noted that KRB was interested in looking at the flows on the lower end (since the 130 cfs range is only required for two

months out of the year). Sergio Capozzi (ERM) clarified that only the first shot was a drone image, and that everything else was from key observation points (KOP). All the KOP photography is from the shoreline and follows the protocol outlined in the study. We documented and photographed the range of flows provided by the river during the study period. We captured photography (drone and shoreline-based) for a range of flows from low (MIF) to very high (flood conditions). This allowed for the description of scenic elements related to different flow levels (form, line, color, texture, and other flow-specific characteristics) within the overall viewshed at multiple points along the river.

ANG-1 Enjoyable Angling Flows

- Brett Duxbury (KRB) questioned the “satisfactory” responses in the survey results and stated that in a normal season, the current flows are entirely inadequate to maintain a cold water fishery. Sergio Capozzi (ERM) elaborated that SCE also conducted structured interviews with anglers experienced with this reach, in addition to intercepting anglers along the river.
- Jim Ahrens (KFRR) commented that the flows are too low for fly fishers (looking at the results and seeing that only 11% of respondents are fly fishers and 14% say they’re too low). Fly fishermen study the river and know the flows. He stated that in the normal season, the current flows are inadequate to maintain a cold water fishery. Sergio Capozzi (ERM) stated that part of fishing is the experience and the other part of it is the fisheries. This ANG-1 study was just focused on the fishing experience, per FERC’s Study Plan Determination.
- Jim Ahrens (KRFF) asked whether SCE is going to manage the river as a cold-water fishery, and said he believes additional studies may be required. Russ Liebig (SWS) stated that the management of the river is guided by resource agency goals, which are summarized in the WR-2 Technical Memo and license application. There has been fish population monitoring every five years as part of the current license and summarized water temperature study results in the WR-1 Water Quality Technical Memo. A synthesis of this data is presented in the license application. SCE also suggested that KRFF should file an additional study request with FERC if they believe there is a data gap.

REC-1 Whitewater Boating

- Brett Duxbury (KRB) asked if a lower number of whitewater boating opportunities would be expected in the Bypass Reach if using theoretical flows as opposed to the actual hydrology. John Gangemi (ERM) stated that tables depicting the number of days of various flows (ranging from 200 cfs to above 1,000 cfs) were provided both as inflows to the Project and within the bypass reach based on historical gage data.

REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment: Camera Study

- Brett Duxbury (KRB) said the study seemed to be focusing on boaters, not on other recreation, in particular the camera placement may not depict differences in use patterns above the dam from the bypass reach. Sergio Capozzi (ERM) indicated that commercial and non-commercial boating use numbers were identified as a

data need per FERC's Study Determination in May 2024, and suggested that any proposed changes to the study plan should be submitted to FERC.

- Jeff Venturino (AW) asked if SCE has considered other/cheaper options for camera data collection. Sergio Capozzi (ERM) explained that even with the use of AI, there is still a human component that will be required to obtain the photos and to QC the AI. SCE has evaluated other options for data collection such as motion detection, rather than a recurring 5-min photo frequency. But with the wide camera angle, the cameras would pick up a lot of "noise" and would likely result in even more photos. As for the river view locations, SCE's intent is to position the cameras to capture as much of the river segment as possible, so that regardless of flows, boating use can be captured.

1.3. PROPOSED STUDY MODIFICATIONS OR NEW STUDY REQUESTS

1.4. NEXT STEPS

- SCE reminded meeting attendees of the FERC requirements for submitting study plan modifications or new study requests to FERC. SCE also noted how to file comments with FERC.
- SCE will file the USR Meeting Summary by November 7, 2024, with FERC.
- Relicensing participants have until December 10, 2024, to file comments on the USR filing, USR Meeting Summary, or to request study modifications or a new study.

2.0 MEETING ACTION ITEMS

- SCE will contact Frank Winchell at FERC to discuss Tribal consultation for this Project.
- SCE will follow up with the Kawaiisu Tribe to discuss the KR3 Relicensing proceeding.
- Upon request, SCE will schedule a follow-up meeting with the Forest Service, and other interested relicensing participants, to discuss the data collected as part of the relicensing studies.

Attachment A-1. Meeting Participants List

Meeting Participants

Name	Organization	Participation (In-person/Online)
Stephanie Fincher-De Millo	SCE	In-person
Martin Ostendorf	SCE	In-person
Dan Keverline	SCE	In-person
Kadi Whiteside	SCE	In-person
Leo Artienda	SCE	In-person
Audry Williams	SCE	Online
Ramon Anzaldo	SCE	Online
Meg Richardson	SCE	Online
Charles Sensiba	Troutman Pepper	In-person
Khatoon Melick	FERC	Online
Shannon Archuleta	FERC	Online
Abimael Leon	California Department of Fish Wildlife (CDFW)	Online
Dale Stanton	CDFW	Online
Garrett Long	California State Water Board	Online
Ron Rozar	USDA, Forest Service (Forest Service)	In-person
Billy Brown	Forest Service	In-person
Tim Kelly	Forest Service	In-person
Barbara Johnson	Forest Service	Online
Becky Blanchard	Forest Service	Online
Carrie Ng	Forest Service	Online
Abdulrahim Chafi	Forest Service	Online
Karen Miller	Forest Service	Online
Keith Stone	Forest Service	Online
Victor Aguirre Orozco	Forest Service	Online
Monique Sanchez	Forest Service	Online
Nicole Holland	Forest Service	Online
Kevin Lewis	National Park Service Rivers, Trails Conservation Assistance Program	Online
David Laughing Horse Robinson	Kawaiisu Nation, President	In-person
Kate Devries	Kawaiisu Nation	In-person

Name	Organization	Participation (In-person/Online)
Robert Gomez	Tübatulabal Tribe	In-person
Jillian Roach	Environmental Resource Management (ERM)	In-person
Brian Deloera	ERM	In-person
Sergio Capozzi	ERM	In-person
John Gangemi	ERM	Online
Lia Conrath	ERM	Online
Samantha Bennett	ERM	Online
Jeff Venturino	American Whitewater	Online
Brett Duxbury	Kern River Boaters (KRB)	In-person
Liz Duxbury	KRB	In-person
Eugene Hacker	KRB	In-person
Neil Nikirk	KRB	In-person
John Warnshuis	KRB	In-person
Lawrence Wade	KRB	Online
Jim Aherns	Kern River Fly Fishers	In-person
Angela Whelpley	Kleinschmidt Associates	Online
Carl Mannheim	Kleinschmidt Associates	Online
Marie Rainwater	Rainwater Associates	In-person
Tom Moore	Sierra South	In-person
Lois Henry	SJV Water Team	In-person
Melissa Lane	Stillwater Sciences	In-person
Russ Liebig	Stillwater Sciences	In-person
Christina Buck	Stillwater Sciences	Online
Elliot Allen	Stillwater Sciences	Online
Holly Burger	Stillwater Sciences	Online
Krista Orr	Stillwater Sciences	Online

KERN RIVER NO. 3 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (P-2290)
SIGN IN SHEET

Date: October 23, 2024; 12:30-4 pm
Topic: Updated Study Report Meeting

Location: Forest Service Office; Sequoia National Forest
Kernville, CA

Name	Affiliation
Brett Duxbury	kernriverboaters.com
Liz Duxbury	Kern River Boaters
Robert Gomez	Tubatulabal Tribe
Martin Ostendorf	Martin.Ostendorf@sce.com
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Dan Keverline	daniel.Kevarline@sce.com
Sergio Capozzi	Sergio.Capozzi@erm.com

Name	Affiliation
Tom Moore	SIERRA SOUTH, IN USFS River Permitee
Billy Brown	USFS KRRD
James AHRENS	KERN RIVER FLY FISHERS
Tim Kelly	timothy.kelly@usda.gov - USFS
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KATE DEVRIES	KAWAII SU NATION
John Warnshuis	KRRB Kernville Resident
EUGENE HACKER	Kern RIVER BOATER - Kayaker
LEO ARTEAGA	SCE
Neil Nikirk	Local boater / KRRB
Ron Rozar	USFS

Name	Affiliation
Melissa Lane	Stillwater Sciences
Russ Liebig	Stillwater Sciences
Jillian Roach	ERM
Charles Sensiba	Troutman Sanders
Marie Rainwater	Meeting facilitator

KR3 USR Meeting

Teams Meeting Attendance Report

Start time: 10/23/24, 12:17:18 PM

End time: 10/23/24, 4:39:58 PM

Name

13233887207

15593673709

Aguirre orozco, Victor - FS, CA

Angela Whelpley (External)

Audry Williams (External)

Blanchard, Becky - FS, OR

Carl Mannheim (External)

Carrie Ng

Chafi, Abdulrahim - FS, CA

Christina Buck

Elliott Allen

Eugene Hacker (Unverified)

Holland, Nicole - FS, CA

Holly Burger

Jeff Venturino (American Whitewater) (Unverified)

Jillian Roach

John Gangemi (Guest) (Unverified)

Johnston, Barbara - FS, CA

Kevin Lewis (Unverified)

Khatoon Melick

Krista Orr

Larry Wade (Unverified)

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Melissa Lane

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ATTACHMENT B USR PRESENTATION

Kern No. 3 Project (FERC Project No. 2290)

Updated Study Report Meeting

October 23, 2024; 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM



Energy for What's Ahead[®]



Land Acknowledgement

SCE would like to take a moment and recognize that the Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric System is located on the Tübatulabal and Kawaiisu Tribe's traditional lands which they have stewarded for generations.



Updated Study Report (USR) Meeting Agenda

12:30 PM – 12:50 PM

Welcome, Safety, & Guidelines
Introductions
Purpose and Objective of Meeting
Project Overview & Schedule

12:50 PM – 3:30 PM
(10 min Break)

Status of Technical Study Plan Implementation

- Cultural and Tribal Resources
- Water Resources
- Biological Resources
- Land Use / Operations
- Recreation Resources

3:30 PM – 3:55 PM

Proposed Study Modifications or New Studies

3:55 PM – 4:00 PM

Next Steps

Meeting Guidelines

- Speak one at a time when prompted
- Please be concise
- Refrain from personal attacks

Remember, this is not the only opportunity
to comment on the USR

Kern River No. 3 (KR3) Project Team Introductions

- Southern California Edison (SCE)
 - Stephanie Fincher-DeMillo, Project Manager**
 - Martin Ostendorf, Sr Licensing Manager**
 - Dan Keverline, KR3 Area Manager**
 - Karen Whiteside, Sr. Licensing Advisor**
 - Audry Williams, Cultural Resources Specialist
 - SCE Legal Counsel, Charlies Sensiba**
- Environmental Resources Management (ERM)
 - Jillian Roach, Project Manager**
 - Sergio Capozzi, Recreation/Aesthetics/Angling**
- Kleinschmidt Associates
 - Angela Whelpley, Recreation
 - Carl Mannheim, PE, Project Infrastructure
- Stillwater Sciences (SWS)
 - Russ Liebig, Aquatics Specialist**
 - Melissa Lane, Hydrology**
 - Christina Buck, Water Quality
 - Holly Burger, Amphibians
- River Science Institute
 - John Gangemi, Whitewater Resources

Updated Study Report Meeting

- Filed Updated Study Report (USR) on October 8, 2024
- Purpose of USR Meeting:
 - Report 2nd year data collection progress and high-level results of FERC-approved studies
 - Identify study plan variances/modifications
 - New or modified study proposals
- Today's meeting is NOT to:
 - Discuss 1st year studies (ISR), PM&Es, comments on DLA
- SCE will file high-level meeting summary with FERC (Nov. 7th)
- Any Relicensing Participant detailed comments and/or study modification requests should be e-Filed with FERC

KR3 Project Overview and Relicensing Schedule

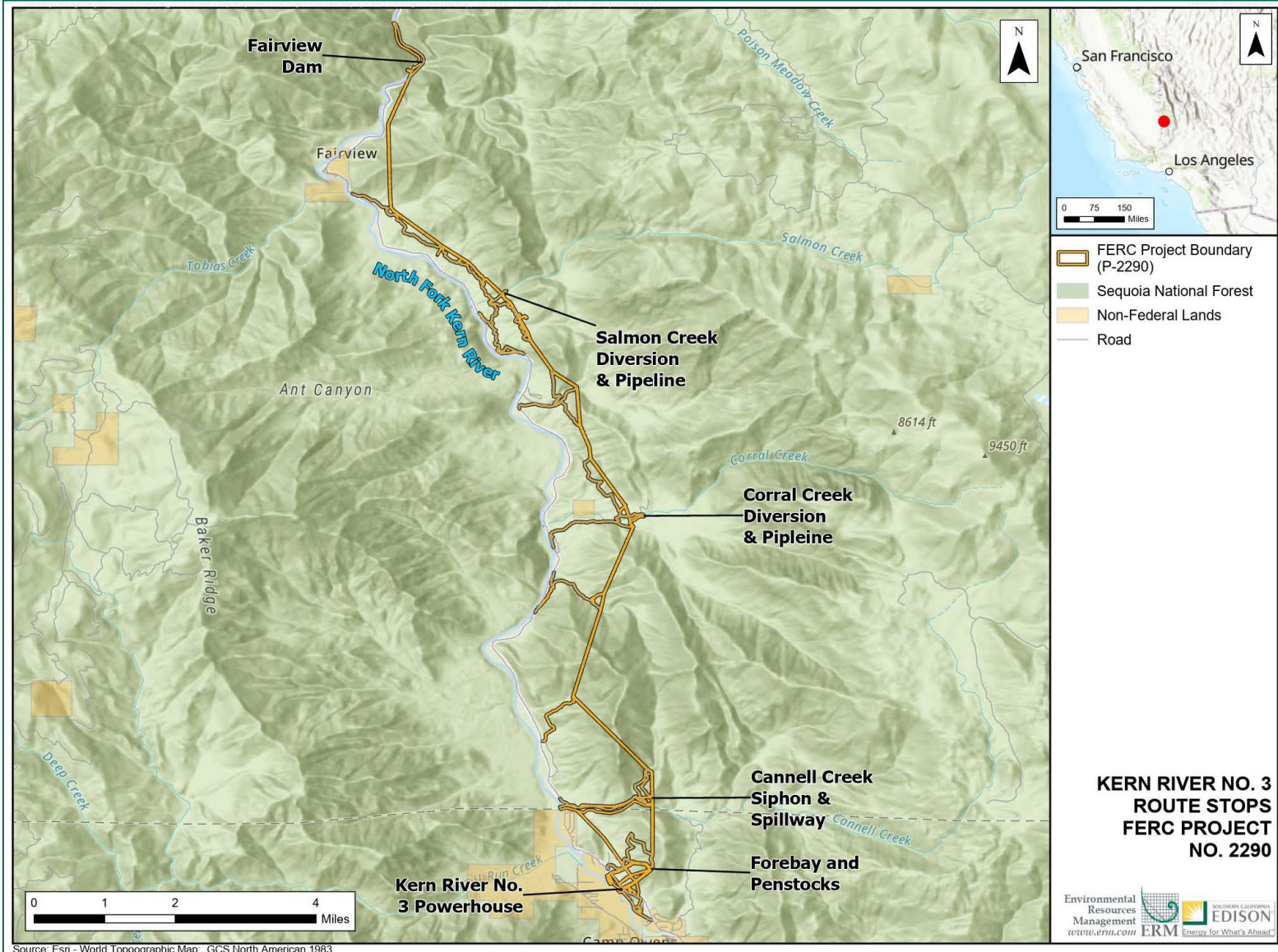
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Kern River No. 3 (KR3) Project

- Current License Expires on November 30, 2026
- Dependable Generating Capacity is 36.8 MW
- Located in Tulare and Kern Counties primarily within Sequoia National Forest (SQF)
- Run-of-River Operations
- Key Project Elements
 - Fairview Dam and Sandbox
 - Salmon Creek Diversion
 - Corral Creek Diversion
 - Stream Gages (Kern River & Adit 6/7)
 - Cannell Creek Siphon
 - Conveyance Flowline
 - Pressure Flume, Forebay & Penstocks
 - Kern River No. 3 Powerhouse

KR3 Project Area



FERC Relicensing Schedule: Post ISR (Revised 2/2024)

Due Date	Responsible Party	Milestone	FERC Regulation 18 CFR§
Fall 23 - Summer 24	SCE	Conduct Second Study Season	5.15(a)
12/11/23	Stakeholders	File Disagreements/Requests to Amend Study Plans*	5.15(c)(4)
1/10/24	Stakeholders	File Responses to Disagreements/Amendment Requests*	5.15(c)(5)
3/2/24	SCE	Files Study Results for REC-1 and REC-1 (Filed 3/1/2024)	5.16(a)-(c)
4/1/24	Stakeholders	File Any Additional Disagreements/Requests to Amend Study Plans*	5.15(c)(4)
5/10/24	Stakeholders	File Responses to Any Additional Disagreements/Amendment Requests*	5.15(c)(5)
5/31/24	FERC	Issue Director's Determination on Disagreements/Amendments*	5.15(c)(6)
7/3/24	SCE	File Draft License Application (Filed 7/1/2024)	5.16(a)-(c)
10/1/24	Stakeholders	File Comments on Draft License Application	5.16(e)

*Dispute resolution if needed

FERC Relicensing Schedule (Revised 2/2024)

Due Date	Responsible Party	Milestone	FERC Regulation 18 CFR§
10/11/24	SCE	File Updated Study Report (Filed 10/8/2024)	5.15(f)
10/28/24	SCE	Updated Study Report Meeting (Held 10/23/2024)	5.15(f)
11/11/24	SCE	File Study Report Meeting Summary (est. 11/7/2024)	5.15(f)
11/30/24	SCE	File Final License Application	5.17
12/10/24	Stakeholders	<i>File Disagreements/Requests to Amend Study Plans*</i>	5.15(f)
1/9/25	Stakeholders	<i>File Responses to Disagreements/Amendment Requests*</i>	5.15(f)
2/10/25	FERC	<i>Issue Director's Determination on Disagreements/Amendments*</i>	5.15(f)
12/30/24	FERC	If necessary, issues deficiency letter for FLA	5.20
TBD	FERC	Issues letter requesting additional information on the FLA, if necessary	5.21
TBD	FERC	Issues Ready for Environmental Analysis	5.22

*Dispute resolution if needed

Green: Post FLA

FERC Approved Study Plan Implementation

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FERC Approved Study Plans

Technical Study Plan	
WR-1 Water Quality*	REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment*
WR-2 Hydrology*	REC-3 Recreation Facility Condition Assessment
BIO-1 Foothill Yellow-legged Frog	CUL-1 Cultural Resources
BIO-2 Special Status Salamanders	TRI-1 Tribal Resources
BIO-3 General Wildlife Resources	Land-1 Road Condition Assessment
BIO-4 Benthic Macroinvertebrate	GEO-1 Erosion and Sedimentation
BIO-5 Western Pond Turtle	OPS-1 Water Conveyance Assessment
BIO-6 Stream Habitat Typing	AES-1 Aesthetic Flows*
BOT-1 Botanical Resources	ANG-1 Enjoyable Angling Flows*
REC-1 Whitewater Boating*	EJ-1 Environmental Justice

*Revised or new study plan elements per FERC's May 30, 2024 determination on requests for new studies and modifications to the approved Study Plan.

Initial Study Report: Completed Study Plans/Plan Components

Study Plans/Plan Components*	
WR-1 Water Quality (temp/DO '21-'23; bacterial F'22; F'23)	REC-3 Recreation Facility Condition Assessment
WR-2 Hydrology (hydrology analysis '97-'21, CEFF Part A)	Land-1 Road Condition Assessment (Road Condition Assessment)
BIO-2 Special Status Salamanders	GEO-1 Erosion and Sedimentation
BIO-3 General Wildlife Resources	OPS-1 Water Conveyance Assessment (Phase 1)
BIO-5 Western Pond Turtle	EJ-1 Environmental Justice
BIO-6 Stream Habitat Typing	CUL-1 Cultural Resources ¹
BOT-1 Botanical Resources	TRI-1 Tribal Resources ¹
REC-1 Whitewater Boating (Level 1 and Level 2)	

*Final Technical Memoranda filed on October 9, 2023, or as part of supplemental filings on January 9, 2024 and March 1, 2024.

¹Draft Documents submitted to Forest Service and Tribes for review

Updated Study Report: Completed and Ongoing Study Plans/Plan Components

Completed Study Plans/Plan Components with USR

WR-1 Water Quality	REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment
WR-2 Hydrology	LAND-1 Road Condition Assessment
BIO-1 Foothill Yellow-legged Frog	OPS-1 Water Conveyance Assessment
BIO-4 Benthic Macroinvertebrates	AES-1 Aesthetic Flows
REC-1 Whitewater Boating	ANG-1 Enjoyable Angling Flows

Ongoing Study Plans/Plan Components

REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment: Camera Study

Cultural/Tribal Resources

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CUL-1 Cultural Resources & TRI-1 Tribal Resources

Status of TSPs and TSRs

- Cultural and Tribal resource studies consist of: CUL 1 – Archaeology and Built Environment TSRs, and TRI 1 – Tribal Resources TSR
- Reports submitted to USFS and Tribes in April 2023, results summarized in the DLA.
- Currently addressing comments from the DLA, updating report with additional field work results
- Submittal to State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is expected November 2024

Historic Properties Management Plan

- Currently drafting HPMP, which will include the following:
 - Incorporate results from the cultural and Tribal resource studies
 - Include measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to cultural and Tribal resources that may be affected by continued O&M activities.
 - Outline implementation procedures such as management roles and responsibilities, Tribal and agency consultation, project review requirements, implementation protocols including annual meetings and reporting, as well as processes for revision of the HPMP and dispute resolution.
 - Draft HPMP to be submitted with the FLA
 - Final HPMP will incorporate comments received from USFS, Tribes, and SHPO

Questions?

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Water Resources

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WR-1 Water Quality (Att. A)

- Study Elements Completed
 - Water temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO)
 - May – October 2021; May 2022 – May 2023 (reported in ISR)
 - October 2023 – September 2024
 - Bacteriological Monitoring
 - Collected samples September 6–26, 2022 and August 8–September 5, 2023 (reported in ISR)
 - Collected samples June 6– July 10 (July 4th weekend) and August 13– September 10 (Labor Day weekend) 2024
- Ongoing/Outstanding Study Elements
 - None

WR-1 Water Quality, cont.

- Variances
 - Water Temperature and DO
 - High flows affected safe access and sedimentation of instruments and resulted in equipment loss and some data gaps in the continuous data record.
 - To remedy data gaps, loggers were redeployed from October 2023 through September 2024.
 - Bacterial sampling
 - Additional bacterial samples were collected in fall 2022.
 - Additional samples for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) were collected in 2024 to determine compliance with an adopted amendment of the water quality objective in the Water Quality Control Plan.
 - Bacterial samples could not be collected at Corral Creek upstream of the NFKR between July 10 and September 10, 2024, because the stream was dry
- Modifications to Ongoing Study
 - None

WR-1 Water Quality, cont.

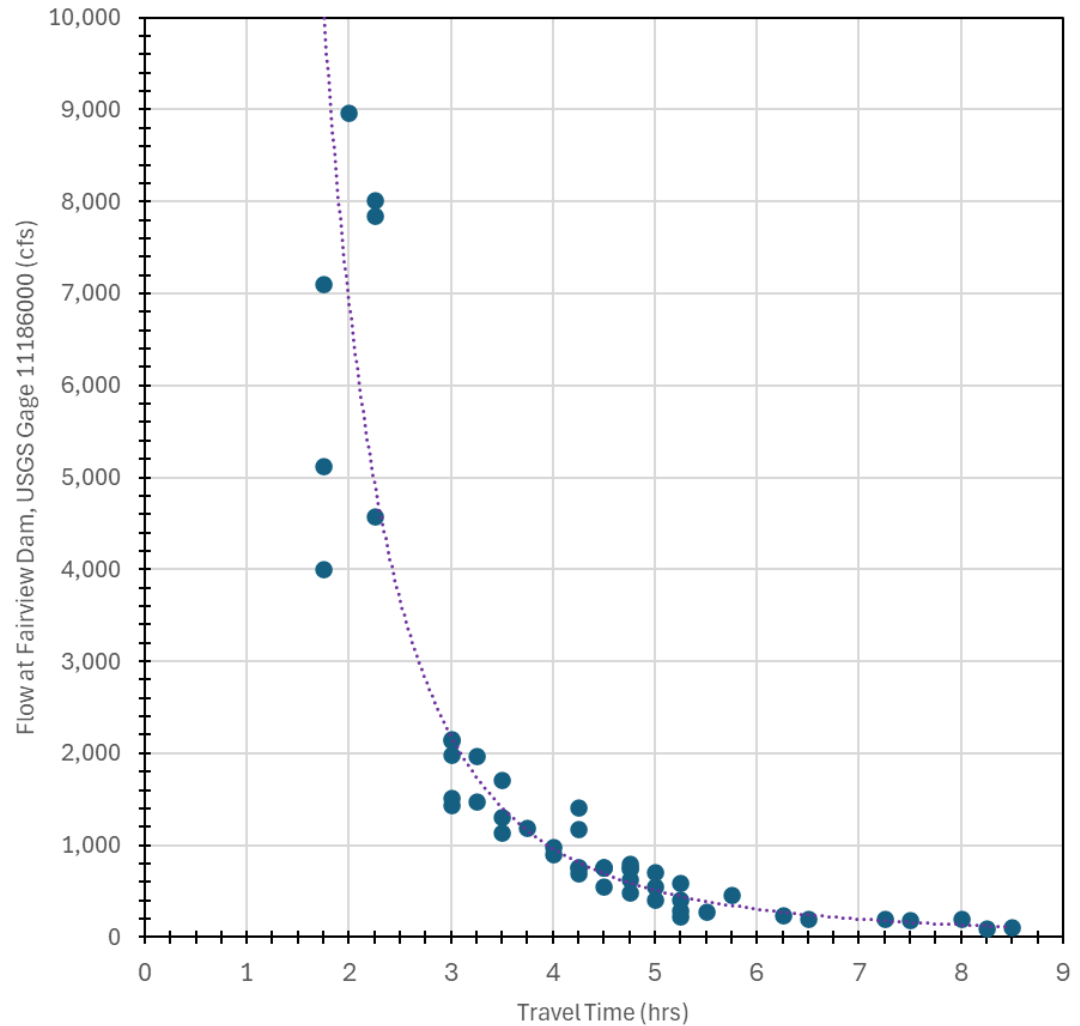
- Key Study Results
 - Water Temperature
 - Water warms from upstream to downstream
 - Seasonal variation with cooler temperatures in winter and warmer temperatures in summer
 - Dissolved Oxygen
 - DO levels generally follow seasonal patterns, decreasing with increased water temperatures
 - Bacteriological Monitoring
 - All samples show generally low levels of fecal coliform, increasing following rain events
 - Fall 2022 (1.1–16 MPN/100 mL)
 - Late summer/fall 2023 (2–230 MPN/100 mL)
 - Summer (July 4th) 2024 = all samples < 1.8 MPN/100mL
 - Late Summer/fall (Labor Day) 2024 = all samples < 1.8 MPN/100 mL

WR-2 Hydrology (Att. B)

- Study Elements Completed
 - Review and disseminate hourly gage data WY2022 and 2023 (posted on website June 1, 2024)
 - Summarized existing data for flows and diversions in Salmon and Corral Creeks
 - Estimated flow travel times along the NFKR between Fairview Dam and KR3 Powerhouse
 - Described Cannel Creek Spillway and Forebay Spillway operations
 - Calculated theoretical hydrology excluding extended Project outages
- Variances and Ongoing/Outstanding Study Elements
 - None

WR-2 Hydrology, cont.

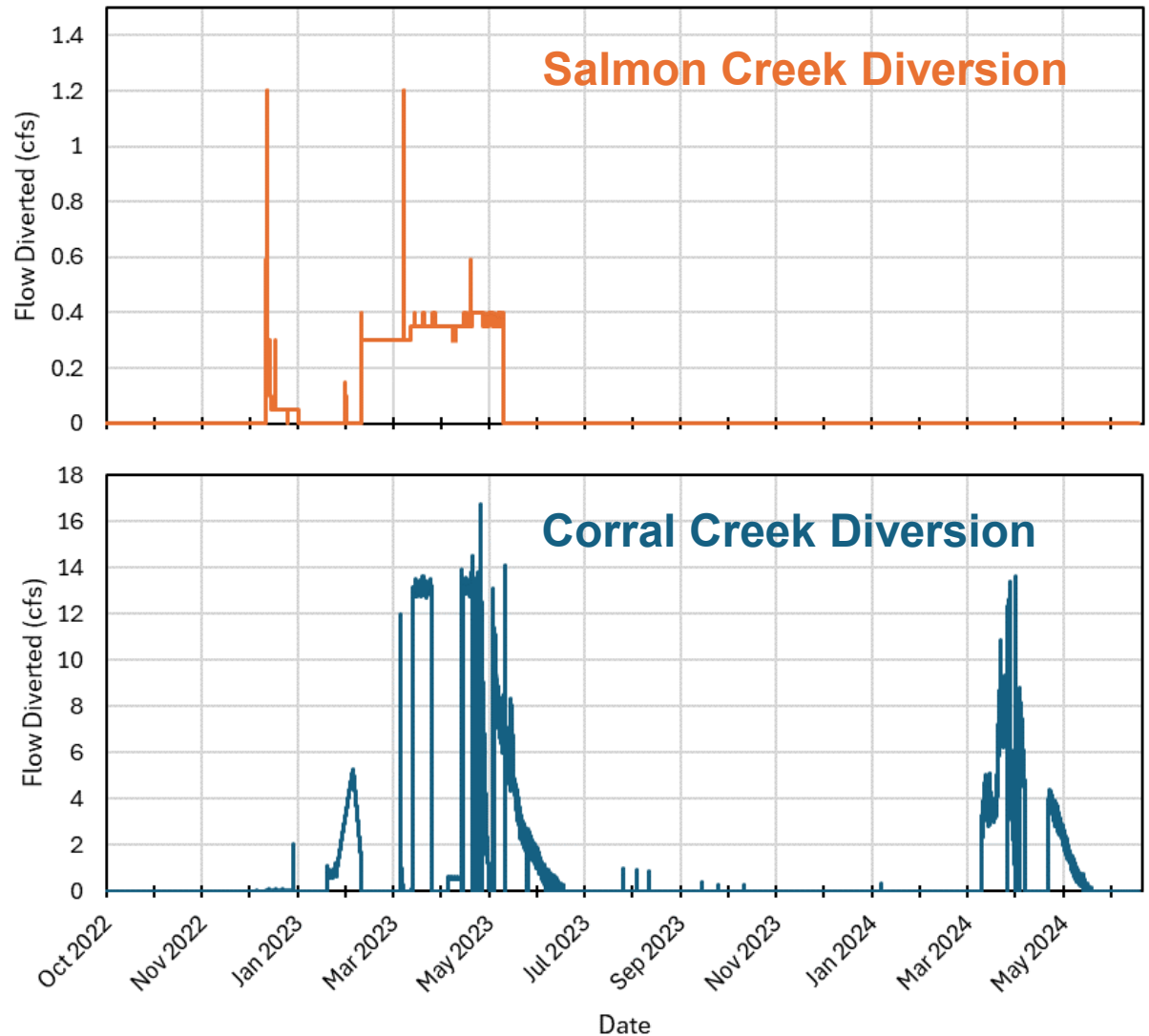
- Key Study Results- Flow Travel Times



WR-2 Hydrology, cont

- Key Study Results- Salmon and Corral Creek Flows

- Streams are intermittent
- Inflow < MIF 83% and 77% of time for Salmon and Corral Creeks



WR-2 Hydrology, cont.

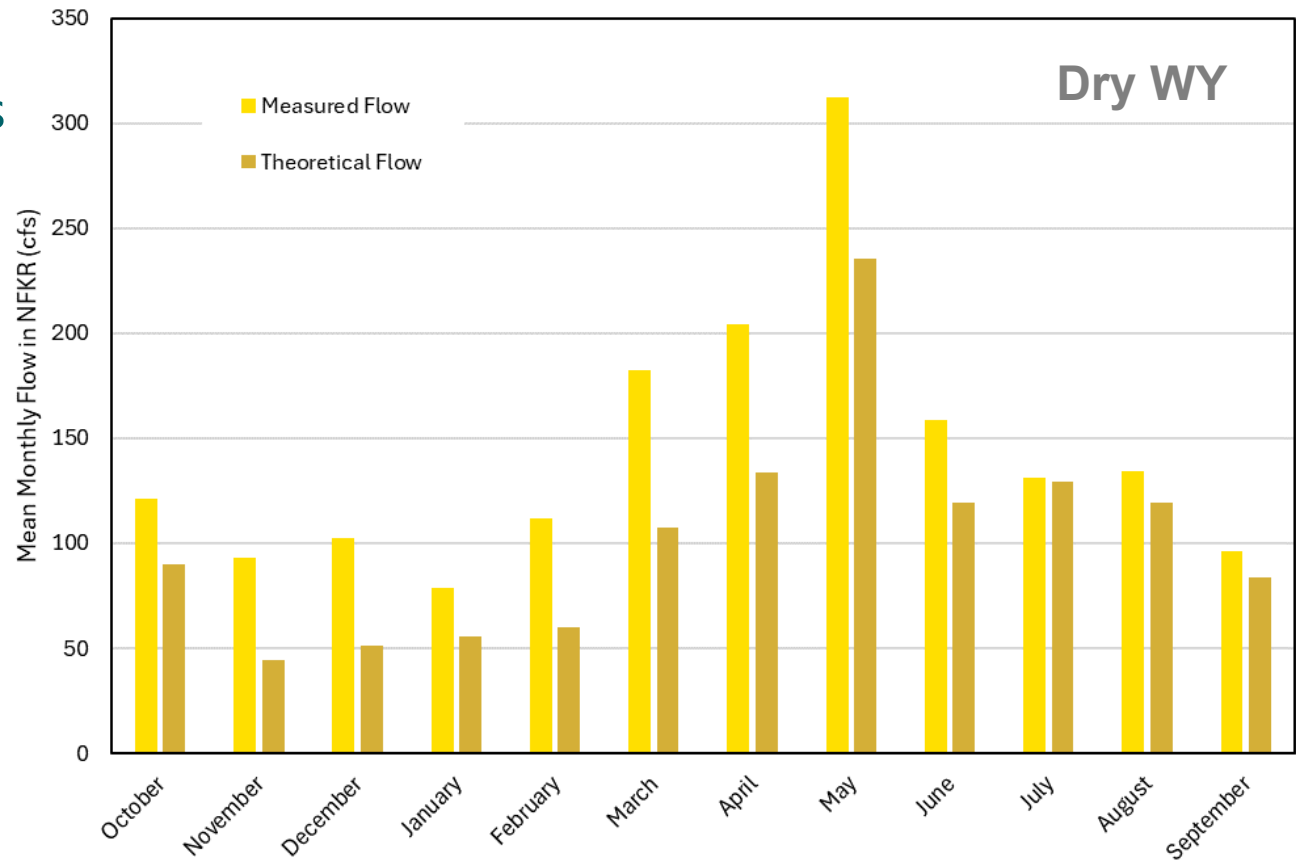
- Key Study Results- Cannell Creek Spillway and Forebay Spillway Operations

Reasons for Spill Event	Cannell Creek Siphon Spillway Events				Estimated Potential Spill Flows at Each Spillway			
	Count of Events	Sum of Minutes	Percent Sum of Minutes (%)	Average of Minutes per Event	Count of Events	Minimum	Mean	Max Instantaneous
Flushing ^a	7	223	3	32	7	17	48	101
Pause generation due to turbid water	5	1,260	14	252	4	38	177	289
Forced outage	11	4,240	48	385	9	8	91	161
Pause generation for penstock maintenance	5	1,230	14	246	4	32	55	83
Scheduled Outage	6	1,855	21	309	6	5	92	269
Total	34	8,808	100	--	30	5	92	289

WR-2 Hydrology, cont.

- Key Study Results- Theoretical Hydrology Excluding Extended Project Outages

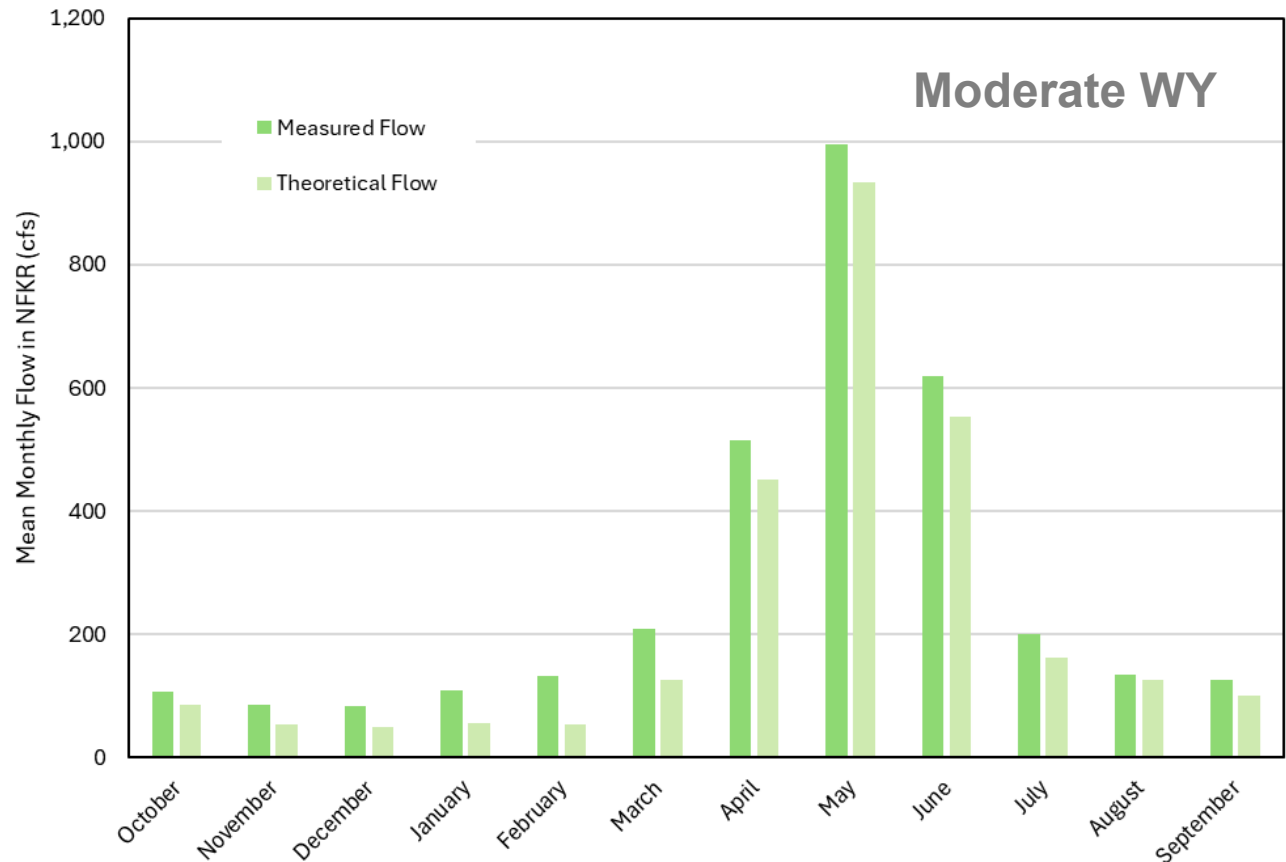
- Theoretical flows reassigns measured flows during extended outages
- Assumes no boating flows
- Assumes no CDFW hatchery diversion



WR-2 Hydrology, cont.

- Key Study Results- Theoretical Hydrology Excluding Extended Project Outages

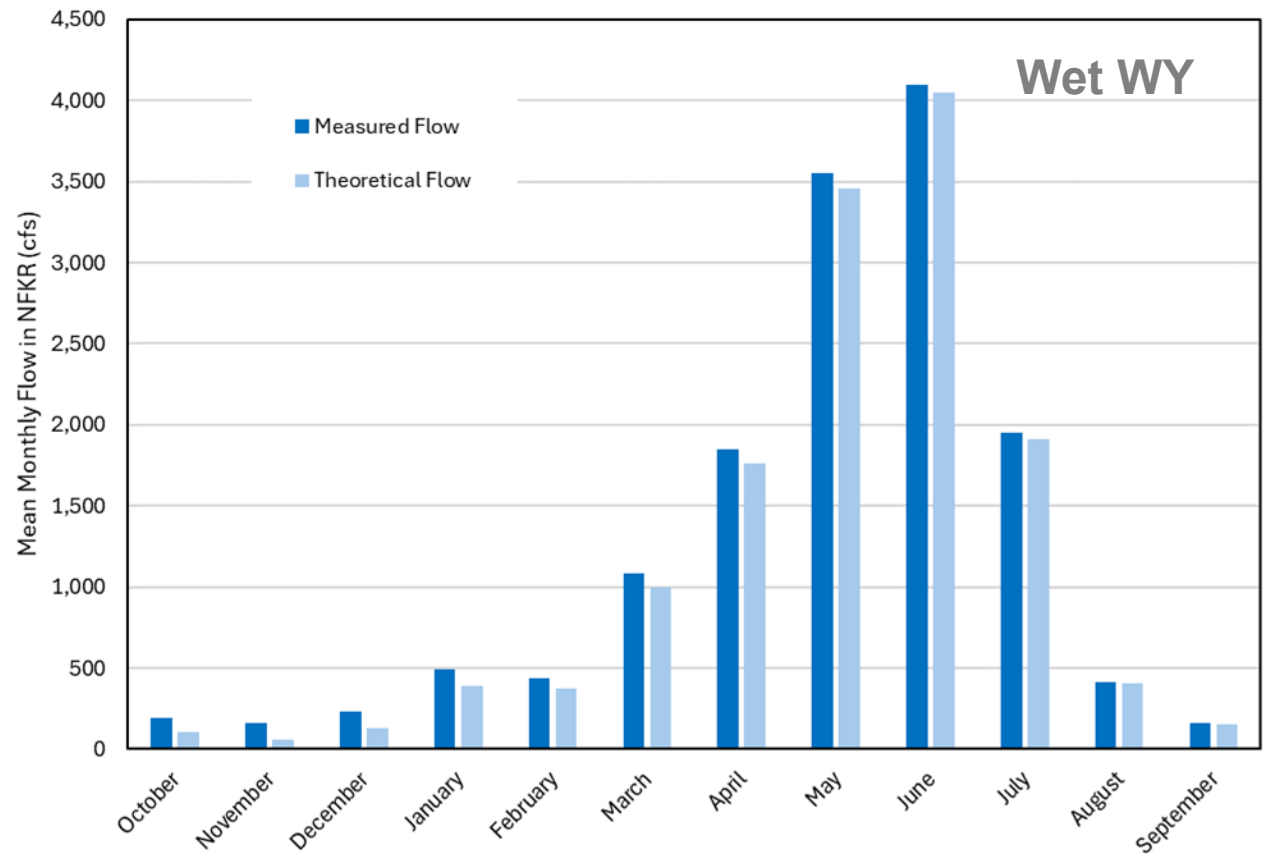
- Theoretical flows reassigns measured flows during extended outages
- Assumes no boating flows
- Assumes no CDFW hatchery diversion



WR-2 Hydrology, cont.

- Key Study Results- Theoretical Hydrology Excluding Extended Project Outages

- Theoretical flows reassigns measured flows during extended outages
- Assumes no boating flows
- Assumes no CDFW hatchery diversion



Questions?

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Biological Resources

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BIO-1 Foothill Yellow-legged Frog (Att. C)

- Study Elements Completed
 - Phase II: Implemented Field Surveys
 - Visual Encounter Surveys (VES) # 1: June 21-23, 2023 (reported in ISR)
 - VES #2 and Environmental DNA collection: September 5-8, 2023
 - VES #3: June 2024 along NFKR and Salmon Creek
- Variances / Modifications to Ongoing Study
 - Survey timing was adjusted to align with the expected breeding and egg mass oviposition periods
 - Surveys were repeated in 2024 at all sites since some sites were not safely accessible in 2023
- Ongoing/Outstanding Study Elements
 - None

BIO-1 Foothill Yellow-legged Frog, cont.

- Key Study Results

- No foothill yellow-legged frogs were observed or detected in any eDNA samples
- Suitable habitat for foothill yellow-legged frogs is present in the study area
- Other herpetofauna observed included Sierran tree frog, Sierra garter snake, western pond turtle, southern alligator lizard, and Blainville's horned lizard



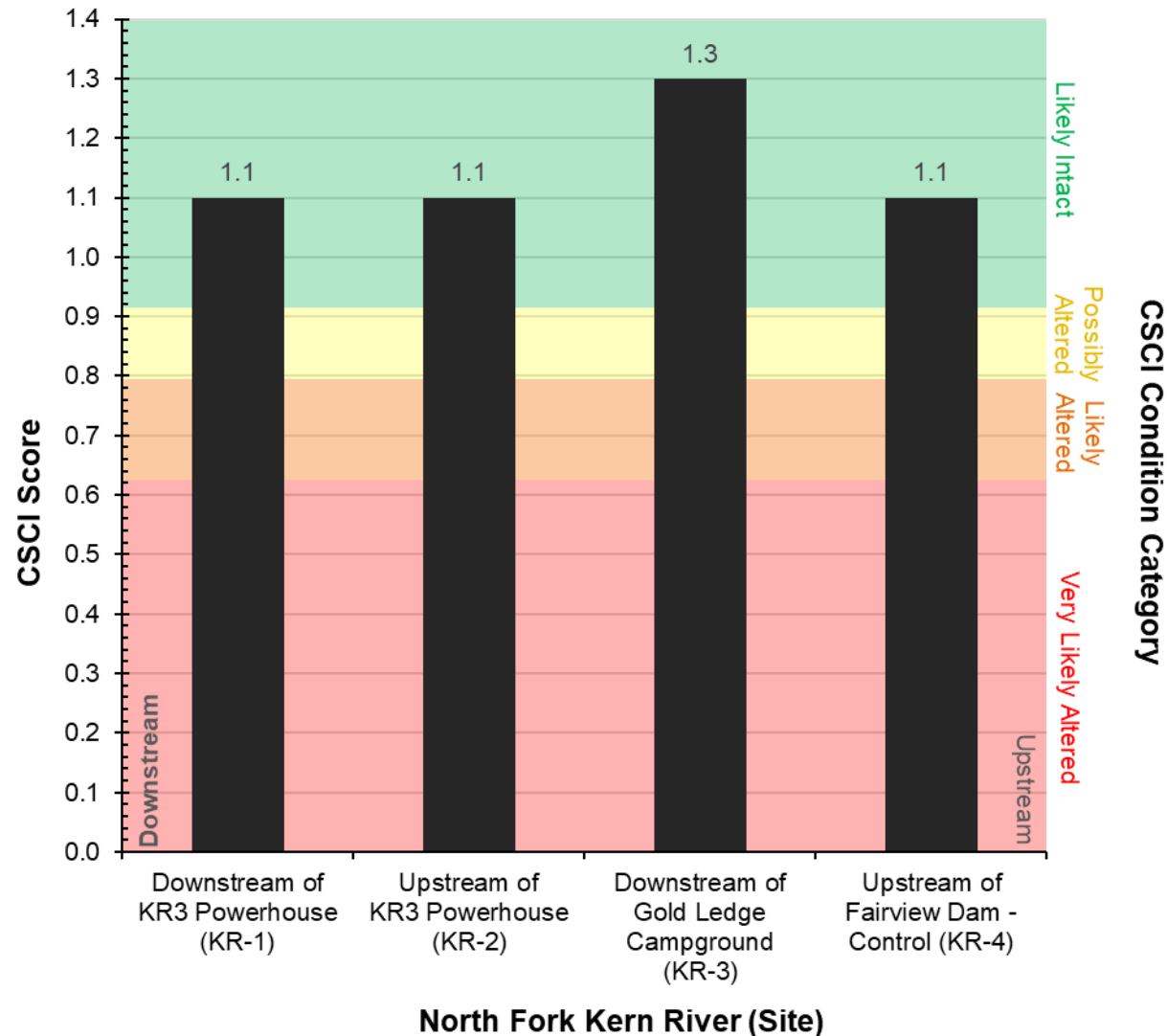
BIO-4 Benthic Macroinvertebrate Survey (Att. D)

- Study Elements Completed
 - Conducted an inventory and assessment of benthic macroinvertebrate diversity and abundance at 4 sampling locations within the NFKR on October 24-25, 2023.
- Ongoing/Outstanding Study Elements
 - None
- Variances
 - None

BIO-4 Benthic Macroinvertebrate Survey, cont.

• Key Study Results

- A total of 2,281 individuals representing 52 distinct taxa were collected
- The CSCI scores for samples collected in the NFKR were all described as “likely intact”



Questions?

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Land Resources and Project Operations

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LAND-1 Road Condition Assessment (Att. I)

- Study Elements Completed
 - Monthly road use spot counts June '23 - May '24
 - Characterized SCE's use along Project and Shared Access Roads
- Ongoing/Outstanding Study Elements
 - None
- Variances
 - None

LAND-1 Road Condition Assessment, cont.

- Key Study Results
 - SCE Use of Project/Shared Access Roads

Frequency of Use	Road Access to:
Daily/Weekly (M-F)	Major Project features (Fairview Dam/sandbox, Salmon Ck Diversion, Corral Ck Diversion, stream gages, above ground segments of flowline, forebay/penstock)
Monthly	Project adits or tunnel muck locations

- Public Use of Shared Access Roads
 - Highest rate of public use:
 - Tunnels 5-8A Access Road
 - Rincon Access Road (road to Rincon Trailhead)
 - KR3 Powerhouse Access Road (to KR3 Powerhouse Put-in/Take-out)

OPS-1 Tunnel Assessment (Att. J)

- Study Elements Completed
 - Phase 2:
 - Completed engineering review and evaluation of current water conveyance conditions under varying flow conditions
 - Identified guidelines and recommendations for long-term Project operations
- Ongoing/Outstanding Study Elements
 - None, study completed
- Variances
 - None

OPS-1 Tunnel Assessment, cont.

- Key Study Results (Conclusions):
 - The tunnel floor (invert) is susceptible to effects from rapid changes in tunnel flows over time
 - Upward pressures at a 50 cfs per hour flow reduction, results in an invert slab at the verge of "floating," *increasing the potential* for the concrete floor to break
 - The broken concrete pieces could be mobilized by the flow and slowly migrate downstream, which could result in reduced tunnel capacity and functionality

OPS-1 Tunnel Assessment, cont.

- Key Study Results (Operational Recommendations):
 - Rapid changes in depth of flow, specifically reducing flow, could have an unfavorable effect on the long-term integrity of section of the tunnel invert
 - Operate at near-constant flows
 - If reduction is necessary, a ramping rate of 50 cfs per hour or less is recommended when operationally feasible
 - No constraints on ramping rates when increasing the flow

Questions?

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Recreation Resources

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REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment (Att. G)

- Study Elements Completed
 - Visitor Surveys
 - Calibration counts
 - Spot counts
- Ongoing/Outstanding Study Elements
 - Camera Study (discuss later)
- Variances
 - Developed campground data/use information from the Forest Service (received on October 10, 2024, updated Technical Memorandum to be filed with the FLA)
- Modifications to Ongoing Study
 - None

REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment, cont.

- Key Study Results:

Over 1-year study period

- 56 visitor survey days
 - 2,195 recreationists approached
 - 1,697 completed survey
 - 347 declined to participate
 - 151 duplicate surveys
- 61 spot count days
- 5 one-hour calibration counts
- 28 two-hour calibration counts
- 42 online surveys submitted

REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment, cont.

- Key Study Results, cont.:
 - Visitor Intercept Surveys and Online Surveys
 - Study Sites 1-3
 - 188 Surveys completed
 - Study Sites 4-25
 - 1,551 Surveys completed
 - Primary Recreation Activity
 - Camping, Fishing, Hiking/Walking/Trail Use
 - Effect of Flows on Activity
 - No Effect, did not participate in Water-related activity
 - Average Overall Satisfaction Ratings
 - Satisfied to very satisfied for all categories

REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment, cont.

- Key Study Results, cont.:
 - Recommended improvements
 - Sites 1-3: restrooms/sanitation features, trash cans/maintenance/cleaning
 - Sites 4-23 and Site 25: restrooms/sanitation features, new or repaired benches/tables/grills, parking area or paving
 - Site 24: restrooms/sanitation, trash cans/maintenance/cleaning, benches/tables/grills
 - Recommended additional recreation facilities
 - Sites 1-3: no/none recommendations, restrooms, benches/grills/tables
 - Sites 4-23 and Site 25: no/none recommendations, restrooms, benches/tables/grills and drinking/washing stations
 - Site 24: no/none recommendations, benches/tables/grills, restrooms

REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment, cont.

- Key Study Results, cont.:
 - Additional comments
 - Sites 1-3: no comment, trash/recycling/cleaning
 - Sites 4-23 and Site 25: no comment; signs/information/warnings
 - Site 24: no comment, signs/information/warnings

REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment, cont.

- Key Study Results, cont.:
 - Recreation Use
 - Sites 1-3:
 - 1,076 visitors observed
 - 31,900 estimated annual recreation user days
 - Sites 4-23 and Site 25:
 - 9,546 visitors observed
 - 106,800 estimated annual recreation user days
 - Site 24:
 - 280 visitors observed
 - 10,900 estimated annual recreation user days

REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment, cont.

- Key Study Results, cont.:
 - Parking Utilization
 - Maximum parking utilization on non-peak weekends
 - Whiskey Flat Trailhead (66 percent)
 - Johnsondale Bridge River Access (55 percent)
 - Maximum parking utilization on peak (holiday) weekends
 - Whiskey Flat Trailhead (98 percent)
 - Camp 3 Campground (76 percent)
 - Johnsondale Bridge River Access (67 percent)
 - Corral Creek Day Use Site (64 percent)

REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment, cont.

- Key Study Results, cont.:
 - Future Recreation Use
 - 204,900 estimated future recreation days
 - (increase of 54,900 recreation days or approximately 37 percent)
 - Future Recreation Needs
 - All sites remain under capacity through 2070
 - Exceptions
 - Whiskey Flat Trailhead 2040, 2050, 2060, 2070
 - Camp 3 Campground 2070

AES-1 Aesthetic Flows Study (Att. K)

- Study Elements Completed
 - Level 1 Desktop Review of Existing Information
 - Summarized existing and available information
 - Described aesthetic conditions at varying flows for 16 key observation points (KOPs) along the NFKR using elements of the Forest Service Scenery Management System
 - Analyzed responses from REC-2 Visitor Intercept Survey
- Ongoing/Outstanding Study Elements
 - None, Level 1 review completed
- Variances / Modifications to Ongoing Study
 - None

AES-1 Aesthetic Flows Study



AES-1 Aesthetic Flows Study



AES-1 Aesthetic Flows Study – KOP 3

134 - 160 CFS



331 - 381 CFS



719 - 829 CFS



891 - 1,000 CFS



AES-1 Aesthetic Flows Study – KOP 7

134 - 160 CFS



331 - 381 CFS



719 - 829 CFS



891 - 1,000 CFS



AES-1 Aesthetic Flows Study – KOP 14

134 - 160 CFS



331 - 381 CFS



719 - 829 CFS



891 - 1,000 CFS



AES-1 Aesthetic Flows Study

- Key Study Results - Key Observation Points
 - Scenic conditions at different flow levels
 - Reduction in visual complexity at very low flows
 - Variability in visual conditions at moderate flows (visibility and presence of river/water features)
 - Flood characteristics at very high flows
 - Flow effects on visual changes is location-dependent
 - Visual changes most evident at locations with narrow river channel, boulders and other rock features, and higher gradient
 - In areas that lack these features, differences in scenic conditions at different flow levels are less pronounced

AES-1 Aesthetic Flows Study

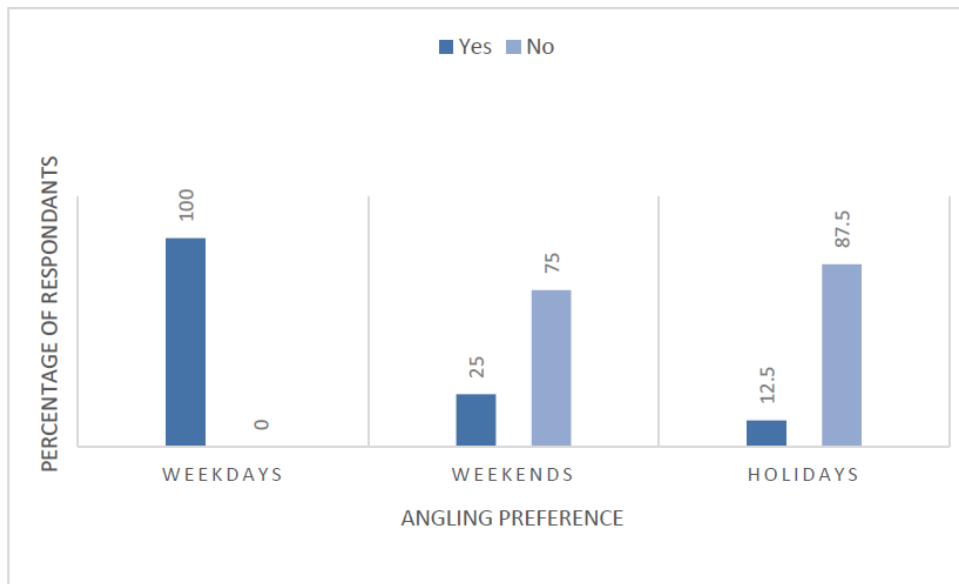
- Key Study Results – Visitor Questionnaire
 - 96% of visitors rated scenic quality as “very good” or “good”
 - Most attractive scenic features include: river flows (~53%) and general scenery of the area (~42%)
 - 97% of visitors rated general scenery as “very good” or “good”
 - 88% of visitors rate scenic condition of flows as “very good” or “good”
 - 85% of visitors rated Project infrastructure as “very good” or “good”
 - 21% of visitors reported participating in an aesthetic-oriented activity

ANG-1 Enjoyable Angling Flows (Att. V)

- Study Elements Completed
 - Level 1 Desktop Study
 - Literature review describing river characteristics and angling opportunities (reported in ISR)
 - Structured interviews with persons knowledgeable about angling in the Project Area (reported in ISR)
 - Analyzed responses from REC-2 Visitor Intercept Survey
- Ongoing/Outstanding Study Elements
 - None, Level 1 review completed
- Variances /Modifications to Ongoing Study
 - None

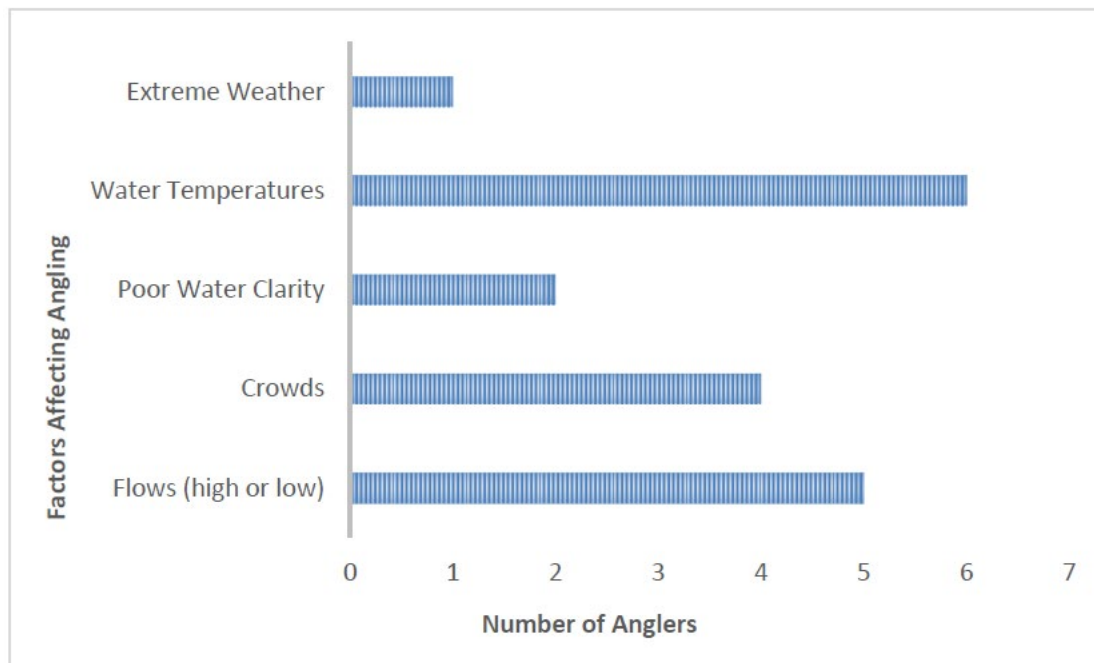
ANG-1 Enjoyable Angling Flows

- Key Study Results – Structured Interviews
 - Mix of spin and fly anglers (8 total)
 - Multiple personal or guided trips per year (6 – 150+)
 - Fly fishing = Fall – Spring
 - Spin fishing = Summer
 - Avoid weekends and holidays



ANG-1 Enjoyable Angling Flows

- Key Study Results – Structured Interviews
 - Preference for both developed and dispersed access points
 - Factors that influence chosen fishing area



ANG-1 Enjoyable Angling Flows

- Key Study Results – Structured Interviews
 - Preferred flows in the 150 to 1,000 cfs range:
 - 50 cfs and under affects fish activity and fishability
 - 100 to 200 cfs minimum angling flows
 - 200 to 800 cfs combination of active fish and safe angler access
 - 700 to 800 cfs upper threshold of angling flows
 - 2,000 to 4,000 (and above) unfishable for most anglers
 - Preferred locations:
 - Narrow channel sections at lower flows
 - Broad channel sections at higher flows
 - Anglers more selective at increased flows

ANG-1 Enjoyable Angling Flows

- Key Study Results – Visitor Questionnaire
 - 25% of all participants reported angling
 - More trips in Spring and Summer
 - ~87% of anglers fish for fun
 - Types of angling:
 - 47% spin fish with bait
 - 41% spin fish with lures
 - 11% fly fish

ANG-1 Enjoyable Angling Flows

- Key Study Results – Visitor Questionnaire
 - Primary reasons:
 - “For the fishing” - ~51%
 - Solitude/peaceful/scenery - ~14%
 - River access - ~7.8%
 - River flows:
 - 76% indicated flows did not affect their experience
 - 14% indicated flow did affect their experience
 - Flows too high (61%)
 - Flows too low (39%)

Questions?

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REC-1 Whitewater Boating (Att. E and F)

- Study Elements Completed

- Level 3: Intensive Study
 - Analysis of the single flow survey data collected in 2023
- Level 3: Intensive Study
 - Enhanced flow opportunities designed to target knowledge gaps between 200 and 800 cfs
 - Focus group discussions
 - Flow comparison survey
 - Hydrology analysis using flow preference curves for different watercraft types

- Ongoing/Outstanding Study Elements

- None, study completed

- Variances

- Developed a specific post flow evaluation form for the enhanced flow opportunities, rather than reopening the single flow survey utilized in 2023.

REC-1 Whitewater Boating, cont.

- Key Study Results - Single Flow Survey
 - 404 responses between April 1 and December 31, 2023
 - Boaters evaluated flows between 250 and 8,500 cfs
 - Kayaks were the dominant watercraft type

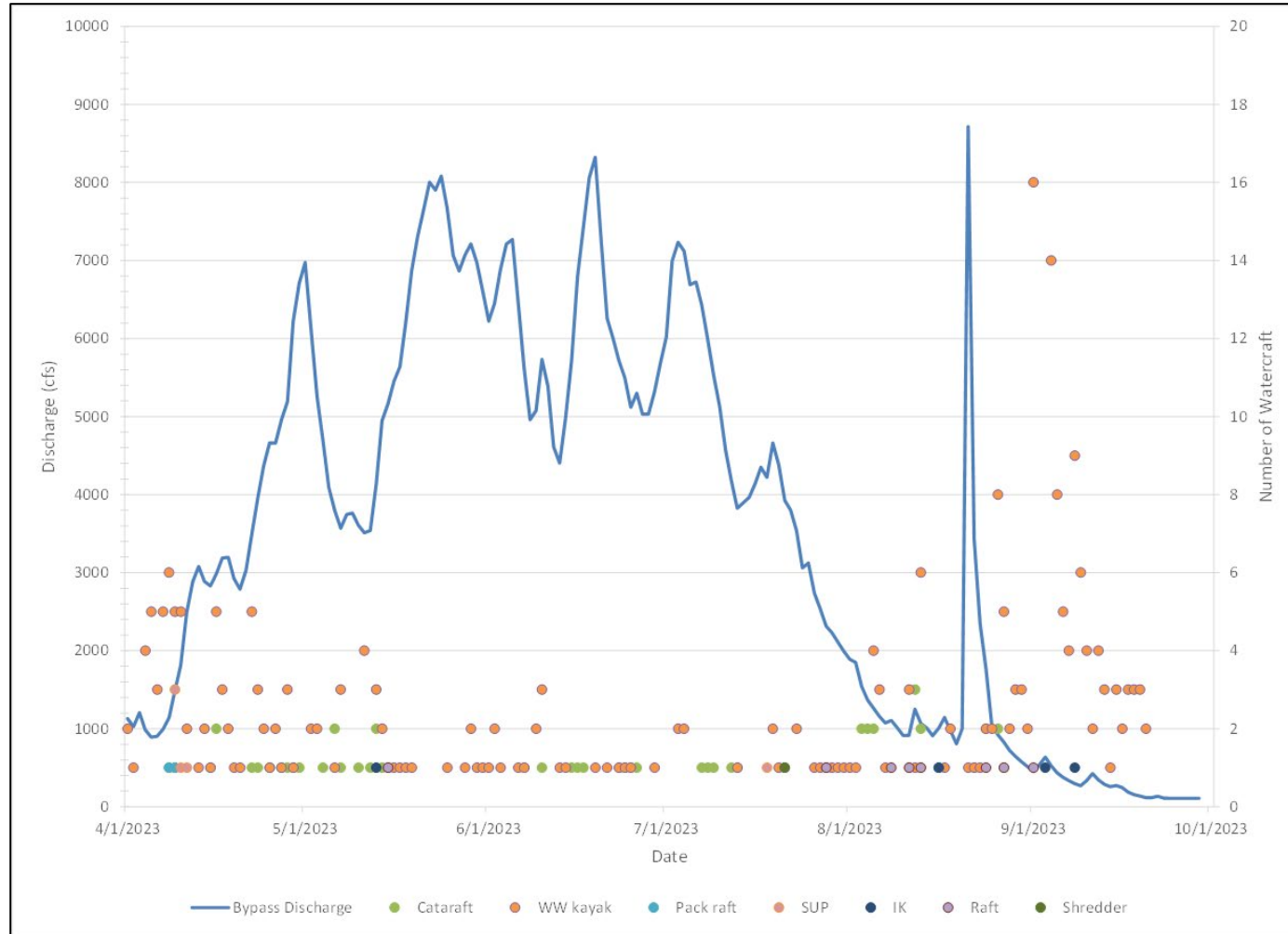
Table 5.1-2. River Segments Boated by Single Flow Survey Respondents Grouped by Discharge

Discharge Range (cfs)	Sidewinder	Fairview	Chamise	Salmon Falls	Gold Ledge	Thunder Run	Camp 3 / Cable Run	Riverkern	Powerhouse
>3,000	3	3	3	1	10	45	96	89	110
1,500–3,000	0	0	4	2	5	19	23	20	35
1,000–1,500	0	1	12	2	7	9	26	22	43
700–1,000	1	11	16	1	5	15	22	18	37
<700	0	60	107	1	20	1	7	5	119
Total per River Segment	4	75	142	7	47	89	174	154	344

cfs = cubic feet per second

REC-1 Whitewater Boating, cont.

- Single Flow Survey (cont.)



REC-1 Whitewater Boating, cont.

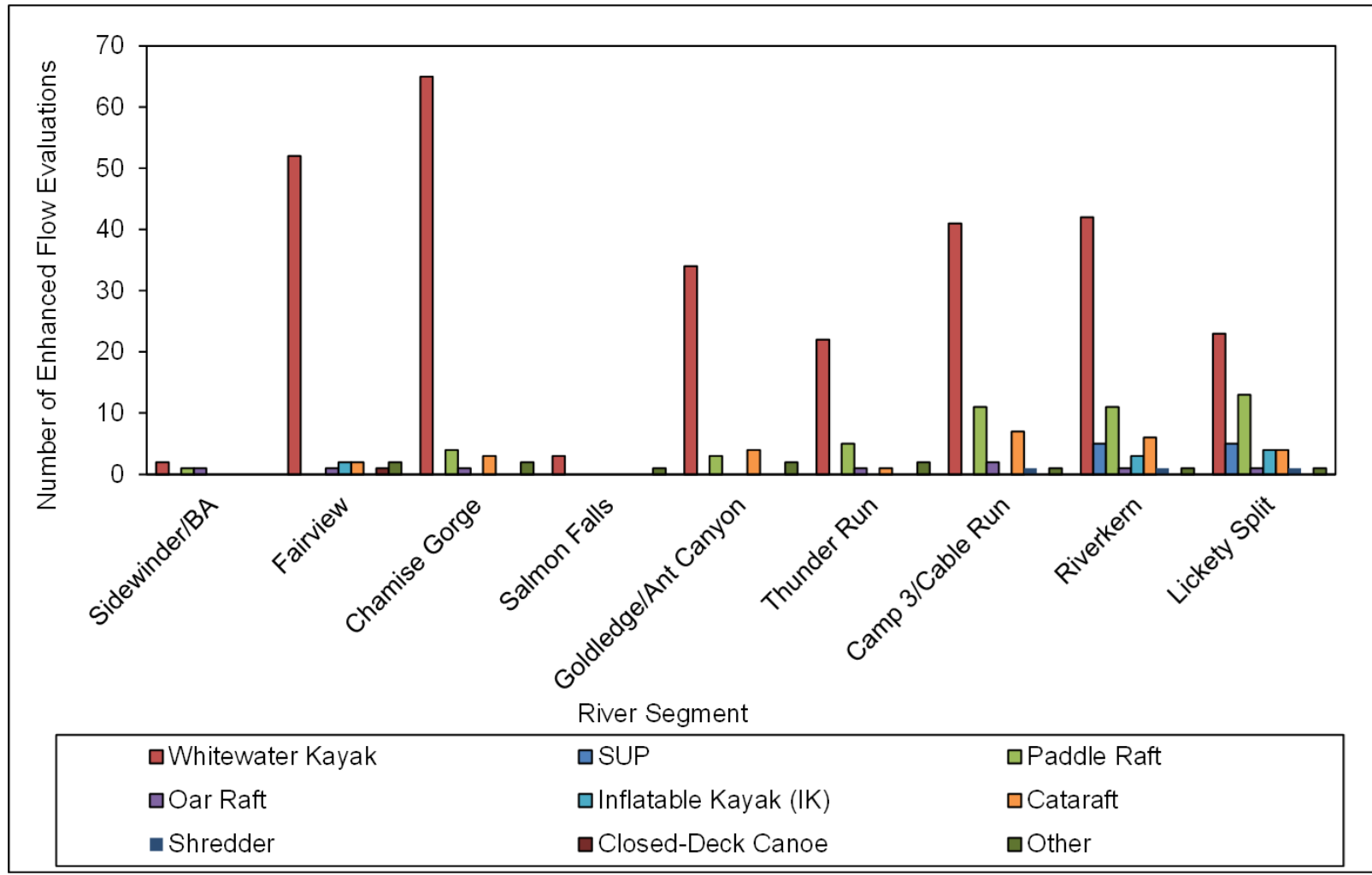
- Key Study Results: Enhanced Flow Opportunities

Date	Approx. Flow	Evaluation Forms
April 11	450 cfs	27
April 12	770 cfs	26
April 13	835 cfs	24
April 14	835 cfs	17
July 12	550 cfs	22
July 13	250 cfs	15

- Enhanced flow evaluation form completed following each enhanced flow opportunity
- Focus group discussion following each enhanced flow opportunity to obtain direct feedback from boaters (Appendix D)

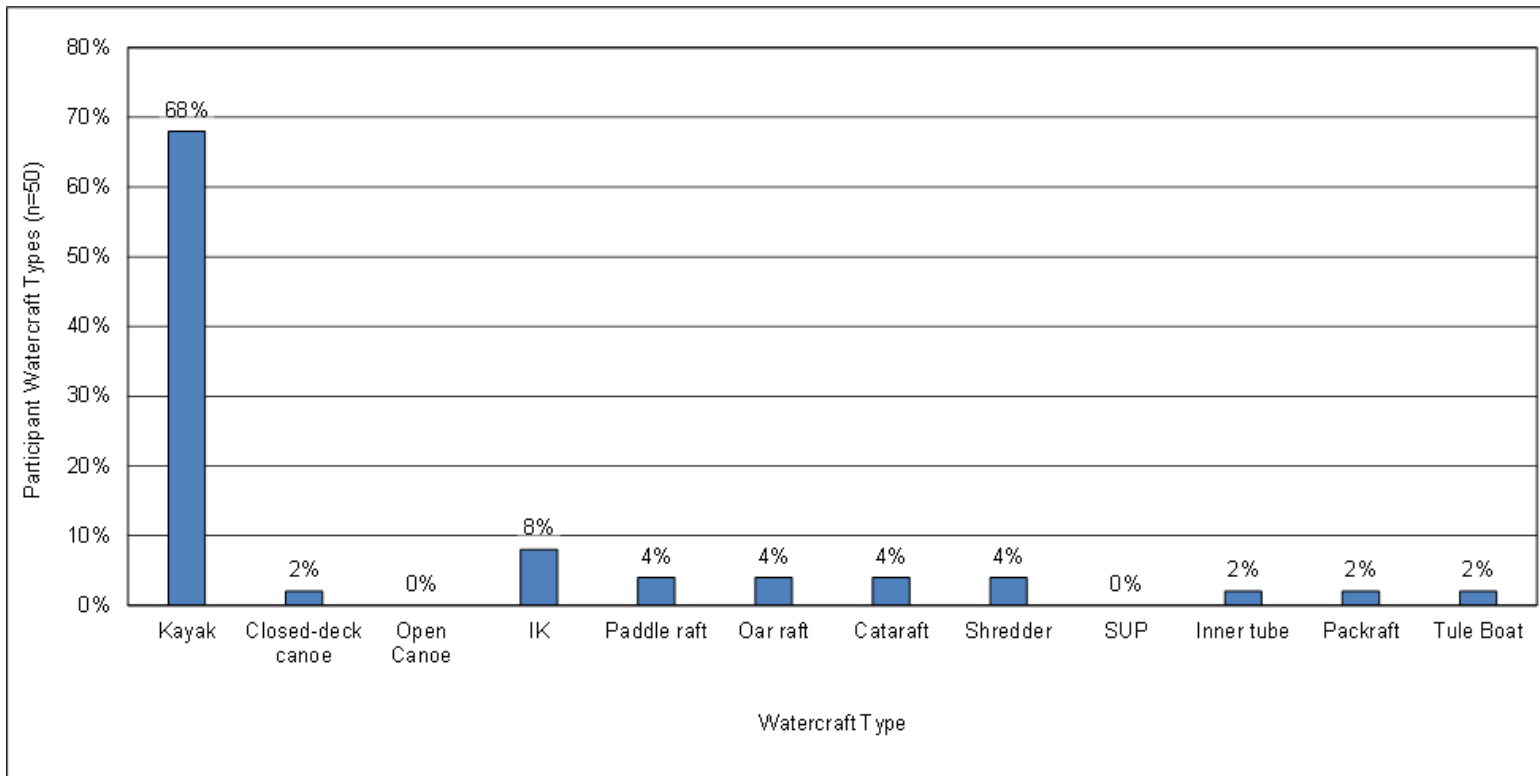
REC-1 Whitewater Boating, cont.

Enhanced Flow Opportunities (cont.)



REC-1 Whitewater Boating, cont.

- Key Study Results: Flow Comparison Survey
 - Survey Available: July 18-August 16, 2024
 - 50 Survey Responses
 - Kayaks most prevalent (68%)



REC-1 Whitewater Boating, cont.

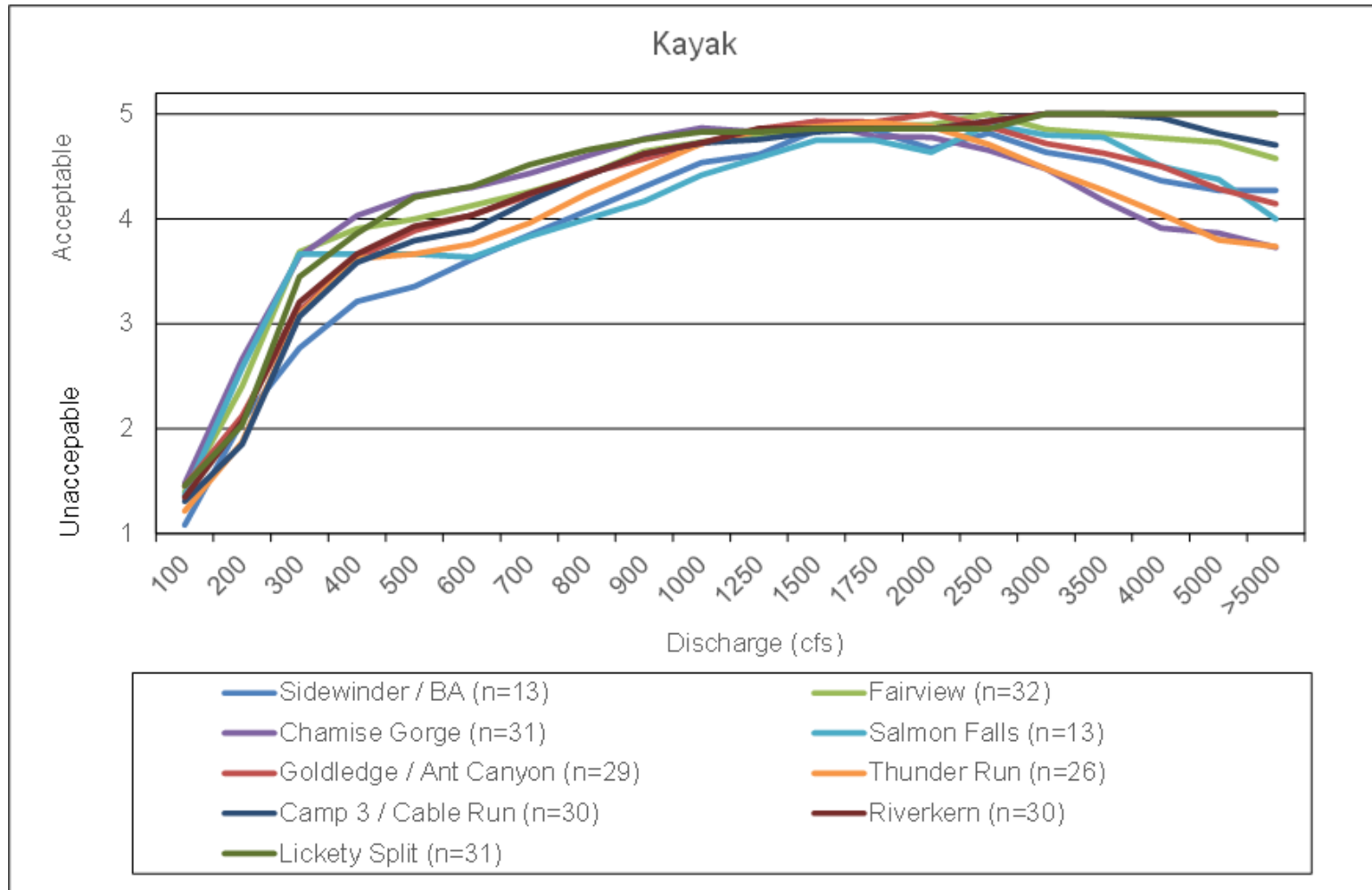


Figure 5.2-2. Whitewater Kayak Flow Preference Curve for Nine River Segments on the NFKR (Flow Comparison Survey).

REC-1 Whitewater Boating, cont.

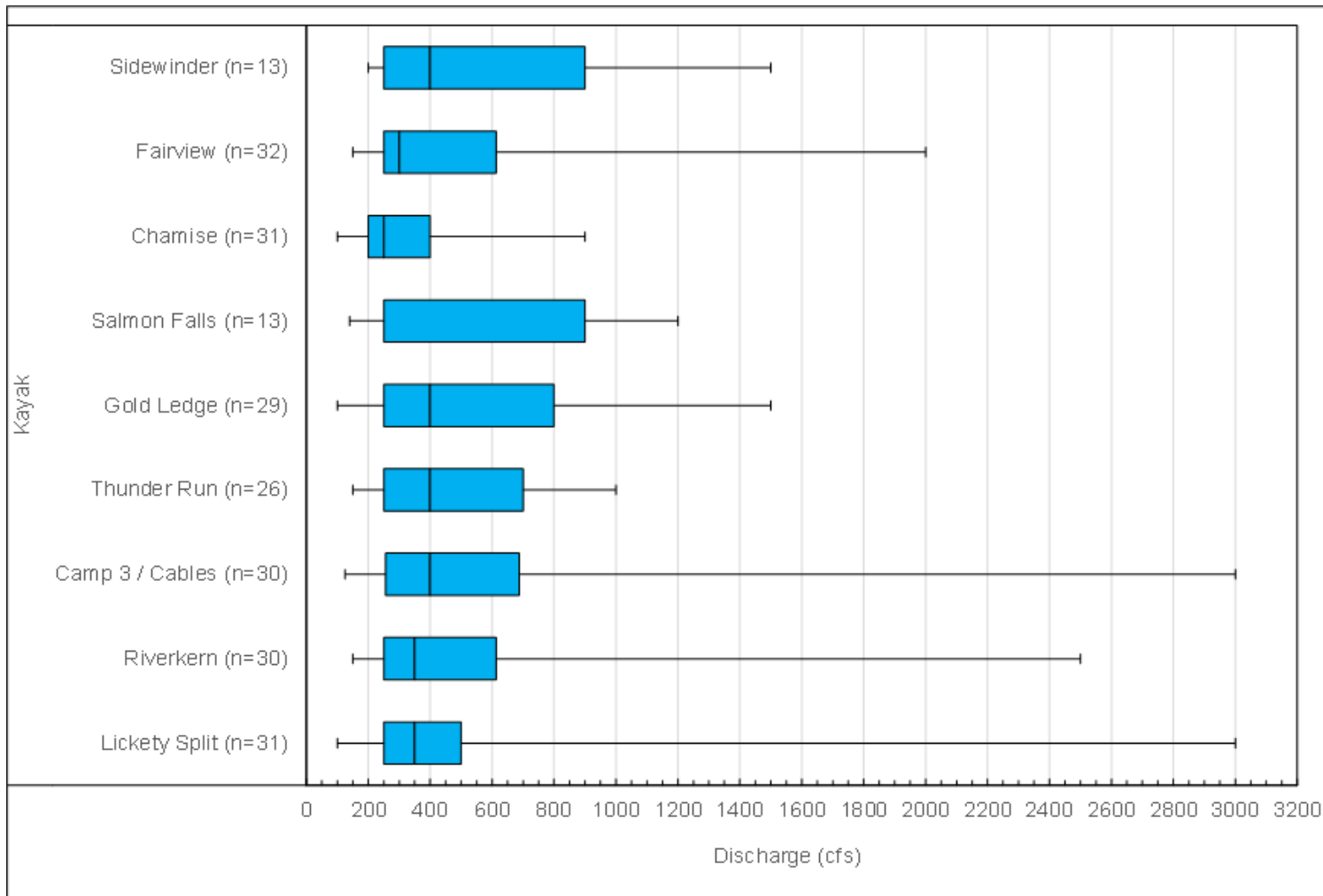


Figure 5.2-2. Whitewater Kayak Minimum Acceptable Flow Preference (Flow Comparison Survey).

REC-1 Whitewater Boating, cont.

- Minimum acceptable flow preferences differ substantially between watercraft types and river segments in the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach:
 - Smaller watercraft (whitewater kayak, IK, and packraft): the minimum acceptable flow ranged from 200 to 300 cfs depending on watercraft type and river segment.
 - Boaters typically choose Chamise Gorge and Fairview river segments under minimum acceptable flow conditions.
 - Cataract: the minimum acceptable flow was 400 cfs.
 - Larger inflatables (such as paddle and oar rafts): the minimum acceptable flow ranged between:
 - 800 and 900 cfs for the river segments rated Class IV to V in whitewater difficulty; or
 - Decreased to 500 cfs for the Riverkern and Lickety Split river segments.

REC-1 Whitewater Boating, cont.

- Whitewater kayak optimum flows covered a broad range with slight differences between river segments in the low and high ends of the range.
 - Sidewinder / Bomb's Away river segment optimum flow range from 1,000 cfs to greater than 3,500 cfs.
 - Fairview river segment optimum flow range from 900 cfs to greater than 5,000 cfs.
 - Chamise Gorge river segment optimum flow range from 800 cfs to 3,000 cfs.
 - Goldledge / Ant Canyon river segment optimum flow range from 900 cfs to greater than 4,000 cfs.
 - Thunder Run river segment optimum flow range from 900 cfs to greater than 3,000 cfs.
 - Cable / Camp 3 river segment optimum flow range from 900 cfs to greater than 5,000 cfs.
 - Riverkern river segment optimum flow range from 900 cfs to greater than 5,000 cfs.
 - Lickety Split river segment optimum flow range from 700 cfs to greater than 5,000 cfs.

REC-1 Whitewater Boating, cont.

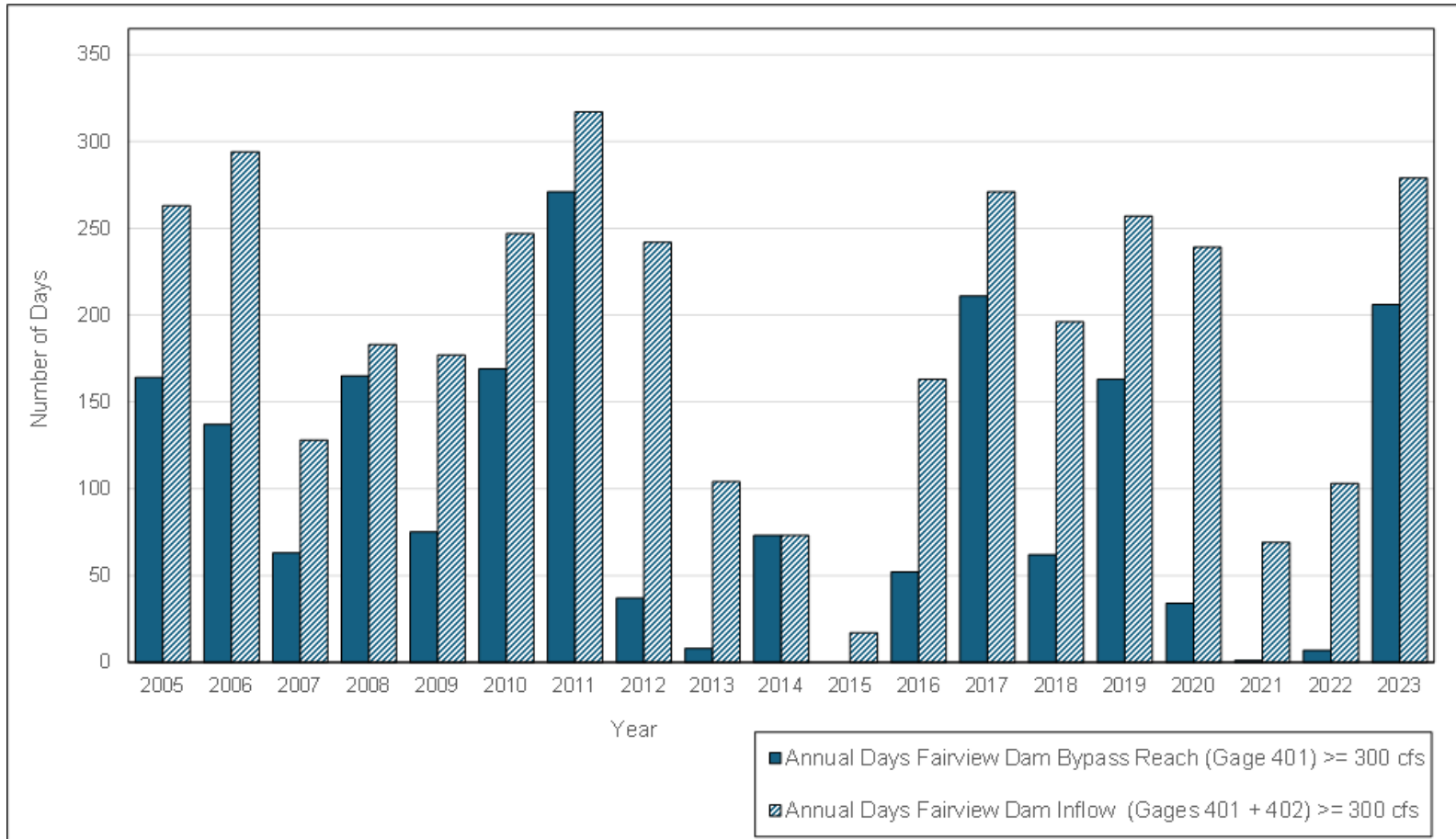
- The optimum flow range for large inflatables such as paddle and oar rafts ranged between:
 - 900 to 5,000 cfs for most of the river segments; or
 - 500 to greater than 5,000 cfs on the Riverkern and Lickety Split river segments.
- IK and packraft optimum flows started lower than other watercraft—200 cfs on the low end.

REC-1 Whitewater Boating, cont.

- Whitewater Boating Opportunities
 - Annual number of whitewater boating days (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) in the Fairview Dam Bypass Reach and inflow to Fairview Dam were quantified using minimum acceptable and optimum flow thresholds for different watercraft types between 2005 and 2023 (Appendix I).

REC-1 Whitewater Boating, cont.

Whitewater boating days ≥ 300 cfs



REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment: Camera Study Plan (Att. H)

- Study Goals and Objectives
 - Document and estimate river-focused recreation use:
 - Validate capacity estimates at river access sites (with other REC-2 data)
 - Commercial and non-commercial use levels
 - Types of watercraft
- Consultation Summary
 - June-September: Consulted with Forest Service on potential camera locations and submitted formal approval to install cameras
 - August: Boater outreach on camera locations

REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment: Camera Study Plan, cont.

- Study Implementation
 - 15 camera locations identified along NFKR between Johnsondale Bridge and KR3 Powerhouse
 - 11 put-in/take-out locations (recreation sites)
 - 1 road shoulder pull-off
 - 3 river view locations
 - Photo collection
 - Every 5 min from dawn to dusk
 - 1 year of data collection
 - Periodic download of data
 - Estimated 730,000+ photos at end of study period

REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment: Camera Study Plan, cont.

- Study Implementation, cont.
 - Photo analysis
 - Utilize AI technology:
 - document presence of boats/boaters
 - Intention to analyze all photos collected
 - Further analysis on sub-set of photos with boats/boaters detected
 - Number of people (commercial vs non-commercial)
 - Types of watercraft
 - Use patterns (day and time)
 - QA/QC
 - Subset of photos to refine and verify AI model

REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment: Camera Study Plan, cont.

- Study Implementation, cont.
 - Data Analysis
 - Report out on use patterns and frequency recorded at each of the 15 camera locations
 - Develop estimates of commercial and non-commercial use
 - Schedule
 - Winter 2024-Winter 2025: Camera Install and periodic download and check of camera data
 - Winter 25/26: data analysis and reporting

Questions?

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Criteria for Proposed Study Modifications or New Studies

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Criteria for Modification of a Study

- Per 18 CFR §5.15(d) - Criteria for modification of approved study.
 - Any proposal to modify an ongoing study pursuant to paragraphs (c)(1)–(4) of this section must be accompanied by a showing of good cause why the proposal should be approved, and must include, as appropriate to the facts of the case, a demonstration that:
 - (1) Approved studies were not conducted as provided for in the approved study plan; or
 - (2) The study was conducted under anomalous environmental conditions or that environmental conditions have changed in a material way.

Criteria for Request of a New Study

- Per 18 CFR §5.15(e) - Criteria for new study.
 - Any proposal for new information gathering or studies pursuant to paragraphs (c)(1)–(4) of this section must be accompanied by a showing of good cause why the proposal should be approved, and must include, as appropriate to the facts of the case, a statement explaining:
 - (1) Any material changes in the law or regulations applicable to the information request;
 - (2) Why the goals and objectives of any approved study could not be met with the approved study methodology;
 - (3) Why the request was not made earlier;
 - (4) Significant changes in the project proposal or that significant new information material to the study objectives has become available; and
 - (5) Why the new study request satisfies the study criteria in § 5.9(b).

How to File a Comment

- Please file all comments using the Commission's eFiling system at:
 - <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx>
- Submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at:
 - <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>
 - Include name and contact information at the end of your comments
- For assistance, please contact FERC Support at: FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.

Relicensing Participant Proposed Modifications or New Study Plans

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Next Steps

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Next Steps

- **November 7, 2024:** SCE will file the USR Meeting Summary with FERC
- **December 10, 2024:** Stakeholders can file written comments with FERC
 - Associated with the USR / USR meeting notes
 - New/modified study requests per 18 CFR §5.15(d) or (e)

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FERC Project No. 2290 Official Service List (retrieved June 13, 2024)

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