

Rush Creek Project

FERC Project No. 1389

Environmental Measures

October 16, 2024

Please hold, we will begin shortly. Thank you for your patience and for muting your microphone.

Meeting Purpose

Collect input from stakeholders on environmental measures, management, and monitoring plans (environmental measures) included in the Draft License Application filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on August 28, 2024.



Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Safety Moment
- Draft License Application
- Environmental Measures
 - Aquatic Resources
 - Cultural Resources
 - Terrestrial Resources
- Next Steps

Relicensing Team Introductions

Relicensing Team

Southern California Edison

Matthew Woodhall, Relicensing Manager

Martin Ostendorf, Senior Manager

Audry Williams, Cultural and Tribal Resources Lead

Consultants

Julie Smith, Relicensing Project Manager (Stantec)

Craig Addley, Aquatics Technical Lead (Kleinschmidt)

Crystal West, Cultural Technical Lead (Stantec)

Robyn Smith, Terrestrial Technical Lead (JNA Consulting)

Safety Moment

- Daylight Saving Time – Fall back one hour on November 3, 2024
- Daylight saving time can cause a disruption in our schedules and affect our mental and physical health for a few days as our bodies adjust
- Dangers include road accidents, workplace injuries, health risks
- Tips:
 - Adjust your schedule gradually
 - Stay alert on the road
 - Prioritize workplace safety
 - Monitor your health



Draft License Application

- Filed August 28, 2024
 - FERC's eLibrary: <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/elibrary>
 - SCE's relicensing website: www.sce.com/rushcreek
- Exhibit E, Section 5, Appendix 5-C contains a description of environmental measures, management, and monitoring plans (environmental measures) that SCE proposes to implement under the Proposed Action for the Rush Creek Project
- Environmental measures are designed to protect, maintain, or enhance environmental and cultural resources over the term of the new license

Environmental Measures

- Aquatic Resources
 - Minimum Instream Flow Measure
 - Recreation Reservoir Elevation Objectives Measure
 - Stream and Reservoir Gaging Monitoring Plan
 - Fish Stocking Measure
- Cultural Resources
 - Historic Properties Management Plan
- Terrestrial Resources
 - Vegetation Management Measure

Minimum Instream Flow Measure

The Licensee will maintain a continuous minimum flow of 1 cubic foot per second (cfs) (or natural inflow if the level of Gem Lake falls below the face of the dam) in Rush Creek below Gem Dam (USGS Gage 10287281; SCE 352 R) and 1 cfs (or natural inflow if the level of Gem Lake falls below the face of the dam) below Agnew Lake (natural lake) at the flume gage (USGS 10287289; SCE 357).

The Licensee may temporarily modify minimum instream flows if required by operating emergencies beyond the control of the Licensee. The Licensee may also modify minimum instream flows for short periods upon written consent of the Forest Service.

Natural inflow if natural inflow is less than the specified minimum flow. The bottom of the dam face and low-level outlet pipe invert is approximately 8,983.88 feet elevation.

Recreation Reservoir Elevation Objectives Measure

Following retrofitting of Gem Dam, the Licensee will operate Gem Lake during the July through Labor Day weekend season to meet the primary hydropower generation purpose of the reservoir. The Licensee will also support reservoir-based recreation by making every reasonable effort to achieve the following water surface objectives as determined by the April 1 snow water equivalent at Agnew Pass:

April 1 Snow Water Equivalent Percent at Agnew Pass¹	Gem Lake Elevation Objectives, Elevation from the Spillway (feet)	Date
>100%	5	August 1 through the Tuesday after Labor Day weekend
75-100%	5	July 1 through the Tuesday after Labor Day weekend
40-<75%	10	July 1 through the Tuesday after Labor Day weekend
<40%	15	July 1 through the Tuesday after Labor Day weekend

Note:

¹ Agnew Pass snow water equivalent is located at site AGP – Agnew Pass on the California Data Exchange Center. In the event snow water equivalent data is not available at Agnew Pass, an alternate site such as GEM – Gem Pass may be used.

Stream and Reservoir Gaging Monitoring Plan

The purpose of the Stream and Reservoir Gaging Monitoring Plan (SRGMP) is to describe:

- Project gages used to document compliance with minimum instream flow and reservoir levels;
- Operation and maintenance of the gages; and
- Reporting of compliance.

Fish Stocking Measure

The purpose of the Fish Stocking Measure is to continue the Licensee's off-site fish stocking commitment approved by FERC under the existing license (Article 405). The Licensee will stock rainbow trout into an off-site location, to be determined in consultation with CDFW, to offset potential fish entrainment in the Rush Creek Project hydroelectric facilities. The Licensee will implement the following as part of this measure:

- Consult with CDFW every five years following license issuance to confirm stocking schedule and location.
- Obtain and release 1,000 catchable-sized (0.5 to 1.0 pound each) or equivalent rainbow trout at a location approved by CDFW.
 - Fish will be transported to the release site by a licensed vendor. The Licensee will release the stocked fish following proper fish-handling procedures and protocols.
- Submit a Report of Fish Stocking to FERC and CDFW within 30 days after release of fish.

Historic Properties Management Plan

- HPMP to consider direct and indirect effects to NRHP listed, eligible or unevaluated cultural and Tribal resources from continued Project operation and maintenance
- Incorporates results from cultural and Tribal resource studies conducted for relicensing
- To be developed in consultation with the Cultural and Tribal TWG (Inyo National Forest, Native American Tribes, and SHPO)
- Will outline implementation procedures such as management roles and responsibilities, consultation, project review requirements, implementation protocols including annual meetings, reporting, evaluations, as well processes for revision of the HPMP and dispute resolution
- Will be utilized as a management tool to avoid potential adverse effects to historic properties.

Vegetation Management Measure

The Licensee will implement the Vegetation Management Measure which provides for protection of whitebark pine (*pinus albicaulis*) during vegetation maintenance activities and establishes measures to minimize the introduction or spread of non-native invasive plant species (NNIP).

- **Whitebark Pine**
 - Environmental Awareness Training
 - Surveys
 - Protection
- **Non-Native Invasive Plants**
 - NNIP Training Program
 - Measures to Prevent the Introduction or Spread of Noxious Weeds

Next Steps

- File comments with FERC on the Draft License Application, including the environmental measures, by November 26, 2024
- Comments can be filed online through FERC's website
- Instructions on how to file a comment can be found here:

<https://www.ferc.gov/how-file-comment>

- SCE will review and address comments received in the Final License Application to be filed with FERC by January 31, 2025