EJ-1 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INTERIM TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

KERN RIVER NO. 3 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
FERC PROJECT NO. 2290

PREPARED FOR:

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON®
Energy for What's Ahead®

KERNVILLE, CALIFORNIA

October 2023

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACS	American Community Survey
BG	Block Group
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CBG	Census Block Group
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CT	Census Tract
DAC	Disadvantaged Communities
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
EJ	environmental justice
EJScreen	Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool
KR3	Kern River No. 3
N/A	data not available
Project	Kern River No. 3 Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2290)
SCE	Southern California Edison
SPD	Study Plan Determination
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1.0 INTRODUCTION

An Environmental Justice Study (EJ-1) was developed in response to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) October 12, 2022, Study Plan Determination (SPD) (FERC, 2022). This Technical Memorandum provides the methods and findings of desktop research associated with the *EJ-1 Environmental Justice Study Plan* outlined in FERC's SPD in support of Southern California Edison's (SCE) Kern River No. 3 (KR3) Hydroelectric Project (Project) relicensing, FERC Project No. 2290. The EJ-1 Study follows federal guidelines and methodologies to identify the presence of environmental justice (EJ) communities, develop outreach strategies and solicit input from these communities regarding the Project, and assess the potential for the Project to have disproportionately adverse and significant impacts on those communities.

Desktop data collection efforts were completed in 2023 and summarized below.

2.0 STUDY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study, as outlined in FERC's SPD and addressed in this memorandum, include:

- Identify the presence of EJ communities that may be affected by the relicensing of the KR3 Project and identify outreach strategies to engage the identified EJ communities in the relicensing process, if present;
- Identify the presence of non-English speaking populations that may be affected by the Project, and identify outreach strategies to engage non-English speaking populations in the relicensing process, if present; and
- Identify sensitive receptor locations within the study area, and identify potential impacts and measures taken to avoid or minimize the impacts on such locations, if they are present.

3.0 STUDY AREA AND STUDY SITES

The study area for the EJ-1 Study includes the Project with a 1-mile buffer. The Study Plan calls for a 1-mile radius, which is a largely unoccupied area that includes only the communities of Kernville and Camp Owens. Applicable Census Block Groups (CBGs) within the study area are referenced. The study area is shown on Figure 3-1.

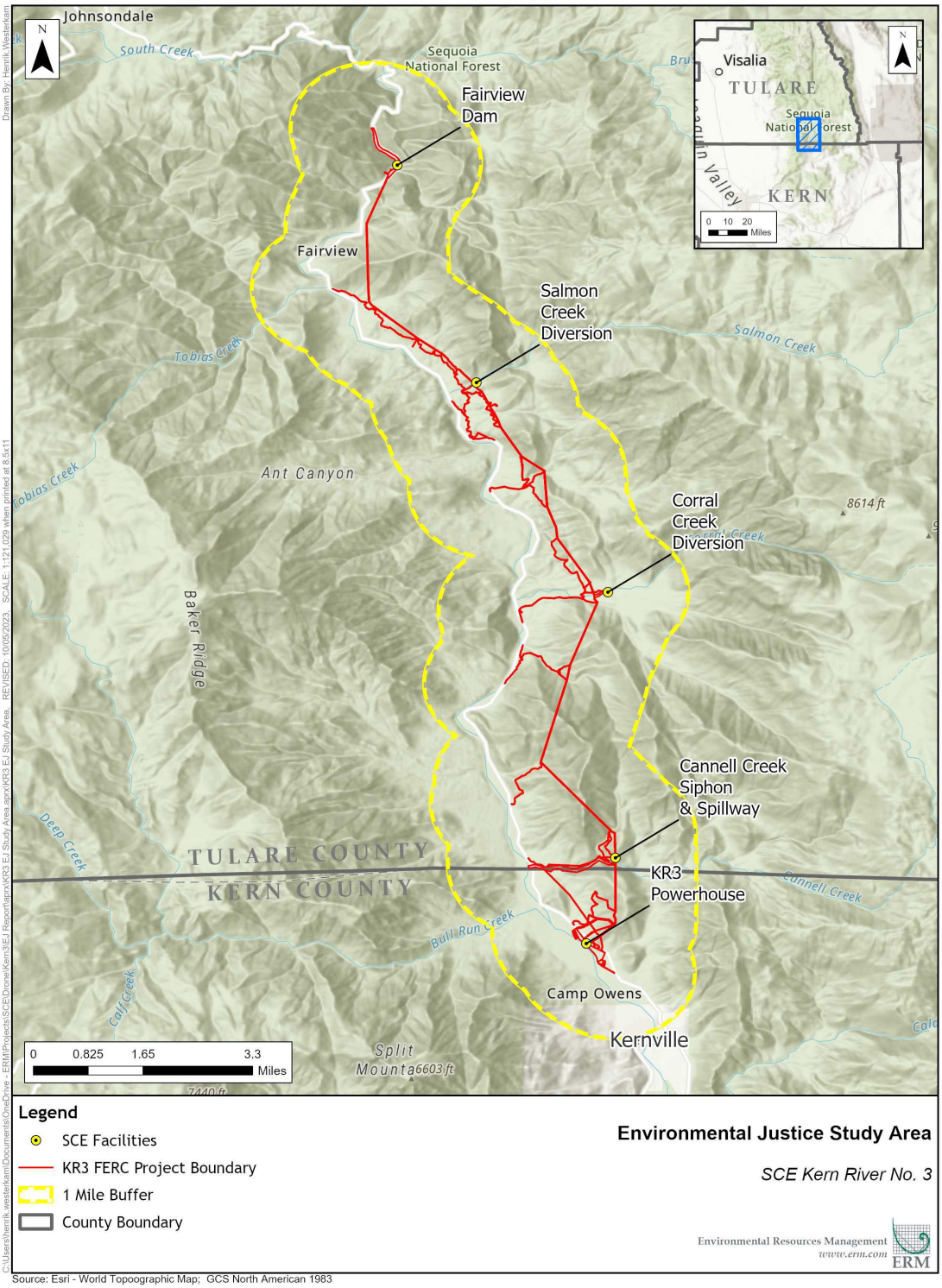


Figure 3-1. Environmental Justice Study Area.

4.0 METHODS

Study implementation followed the methods described in FERC's SPD (FERC, 2022).

The methodology used in the study is consistent with guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) *Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews* (NEPA Committee and EJ IWG, 2016). The analysis was accomplished through a desktop review of available EJ data including but not limited to population, health, racial and economic composition, minority groups, low-income individuals, and non-English-speaking groups. The following sources were used to compile this information:

- U.S. Census Bureau
- USEPA Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJScreen)
- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (CalEPA, 2021a)

Study Plan Variances

There are no variances from FERC's SPD (FERC, 2022).

4.1. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

In accordance with federal guidelines, the EJ assessment includes demographic and poverty-level data for the geographical area potentially affected by the Project to determine if EJ populations are present. EJ populations have been identified by applying the methods included in USEPA's *Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews* (NEPA Committee and EJ IWG, 2016).

Individuals who identify as any race other than White and/or list their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino are considered minority (USEPA, 2022). According to federal guidelines, an area where the minority population exceeds 50 percent of the total population or where the minority population percentage is "meaningfully greater" than the minority population of an appropriate unit of geographic analysis, referred to as a reference population, is determined to be an EJ population (CEQ, 1997); for the purpose of this Technical Memorandum, and as recommended by FERC in the SPD, "meaningfully greater" has been set as 10 percent greater than the reference population percentage.

Unlike federal guidance on minority populations, there is no quantitative definition of what proportion of low-income populations constitutes an EJ population. Guidelines suggest using an appropriate poverty threshold and comparing the low-income population in an affected area to a reference population (NEPA Committee and EJ IWG, 2016). Within this memorandum, low-income percentages of CBGs are compared to the relative county percentage, and any equal to or greater than that percentage is designated a low-income EJ population. Low-income is defined by the USEPA as households where the income is less than or equal to twice the federal poverty level (USEPA, 2023). The poverty threshold

is calculated as a percentage of those for whom the poverty ratio was known, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau. In 2021, the federally defined poverty threshold for an individual under age 65 was $14,097 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022b).

To define an analysis area and identify potentially impacted EJ populations, federal guidance advises using an "appropriate unit of geographic analysis" that does not "artificially dilute or inflate" the population (CEQ, 1997). The selected area may be a neighborhood CBG[1], Census Tract (CT)[2], a governing body's jurisdiction, or other similar geographic unit. The CBG is the smallest geographic unit for which U.S. Census Bureau demographic data are available.

The assessment defines the analysis area as the CBGs where the Project is located and any CBGs within 1 mile of the Project. A CBG was selected as the appropriate geographic unit for analysis for purposes of determining whether EJ populations are in the area that may be affected by construction and operation.

4.2. OTHER COMMUNITY VULNERABILITIES

In addition to minority and low-income populations, EJ considers additional demographic and access vulnerabilities for communities: most common are non-English-speaking populations, large percentages of older or younger residents, lack of access to services, and health burdens.

Using FERC's recommendations for demographic indicators of age and language, data from the U.S. Census Bureau is used and the same method is applied as with low-income: percentages of CBGs are compared to the relative county percentage, and any equal to or greater than that percentage is designated a population with language or age EJ vulnerabilities.

In addition to demographic and environmental vulnerabilities, a community may experience gaps in critical services or a disproportionate share of health burdens. EJScreen (USEPA, 2023) includes layers showing key burdens for communities as percentile rankings.

Critical service gaps mapped by EJScreen are as follows:

- Broadband gaps—Areas with the lowest rate of households with a broadband internet subscription. EJScreen pulls this data layer from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year summary estimates.

- Lack of health insurance—Percent of all persons without Health Insurance Coverage. EJScreen pulls this data layer from the Census Bureau's ACS 5-year summary estimates.

[1] A CBG is comprised of a Census Tract (CT) and a specific Block Group (BG) within the CT.
[2] A CT is comprised of a group of BGs.

- Housing burden—This dataset contains CT-level percentiles for housing cost, which is the share of households that are both earning less than 80 percent of Housing and Urban Development's Area Median Family Income and are spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs. The housing cost percentiles were adopted as Housing Burden for EJScreen. EJScreen sources this data layer from the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

- Transportation access—This dataset contains CT-level percentiles. The Average of Transportation Indicator uses an average of four transportation-related indicator percentiles, including Transportation Cost Burden, National Walkability Index, Percentage of Households with No Vehicle Available, and Mean Commute Time to Work. It was renamed "Transportation Access" for EJScreen. EJScreen pulls this data layer from the Department of Transportation's Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts.

- Food desert—Low-income and low-access tract measured at 1 mile for urban areas and 10 miles for rural areas. This data is available at the CT level and is pulled from the USDA.

4.3. CALENVIROSCREEN 4.0

In addition to using the U.S. Census Bureau demographics, information from the California-specific EJ tool, CalEnviroScreen (CalEPA, 2021a), were reviewed. CalEnviroScreen shows cumulative impacts in California communities by CT. The Project is located within two CTs in Kern and Tulare Counties: CT 52.01 in Kern County and CT 27.00 in Tulare County. These two CTs make up the study area for the CalEnviroScreen data.

CalEnviroScreen scores are calculated from the scores for two groups of indicators (i.e., Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics) and present a relative, rather than an absolute, evaluation of Pollution Burdens and vulnerabilities in California communities by providing a relative ranking of communities across the state. The model uses 21 statewide indicators to characterize Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics and uses percentiles to assign scores for each of the indicators in a given geographic area. The percentile represents a relative score for the indicators. Percentiles are averaged using a scoring system for the set of indicators in each of the four components: Exposures, Environmental Effects, Sensitive Populations, and Socioeconomic Factors. These component scores are then combined to produce a CalEnviroScreen Score for a given place relative to other places in the state. The formula for calculating the CalEnviroScreen Score is as follows:

Pollution Burden x Population Characteristics = CalEnviroScreen Score

Where Pollution Burden is the average of exposures and environmental effects (environmental effects score is weighted half as much as the exposures score) and Population Characteristics is the average of sensitive populations and socioeconomic

factors. A full description of the methodology for the tool can be found in the October 2021 CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Document on the CalEPA website (CalEPA, 2021b).

CalEnviroScreen's purpose is to help calculate the cumulative impact of multiple environmental and social burdens on communities. It is not intended to determine classification of a community as an EJ population. The tool has helped CalEPA and other local, state, and federal agencies ensure their activities address these Pollution Burdens and protect those communities from additional ones. CalEPA uses CalEnviroScreen to prioritize enforcement and outreach in vulnerable communities.

4.4. SENSITIVE RECEPTORS

A look at specific locations within a study area community that may be associated with sensitive populations is also included. Sensitive Receptors include:

- Places where the community gathers such as community centers, senior facilities, or places of worship;
- Facilities where health vulnerable populations gather such as medical facilities; and
- Locations with large concentrations of children such as schools and daycare centers.

For this Study, sensitive receptors were identified using a combination of mapping tools (Google Earth Pro, EJScreen, and ArcGIS) to search the study area for the closest sensitive receptor facilities to the Project.

5.0 DATA SUMMARY

The EJ assessment follows the federal guidelines and methodologies outlined in Section 4.0 to assess the potential for the Project to have disproportionately adverse impacts on vulnerable populations (or EJ populations).

5.1. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATIONS IN THE STUDY AREA

Using the U.S. Census data and the recommended FERC guidelines for identifying an EJ population, three CBGs within 1-mile of the Project are classified as EJ communities based on income.

None of the CBGs within the study area have minority populations that are meaningfully greater than the county minority populations. Both Tulare and Kern Counties have total minority populations that are greater than 50 percent in addition to being greater than the minority population in the state of California; however, the CBGs in these portions of these counties have much lower populations of minority residents. Throughout the study area, the minority group with the highest populations are those identifying as Latino or Hispanic or American Indian. Refer to Table 5.1-1 and Figure 5.1-1 for a breakdown of the CBGs in the study area. Detailed breakdowns of minority populations by race and low-income populations within 1-mile of the study area are summarized in Table 5.1-2.

Table 5.1-1. Census Block Groups within 1-Mile of the Project

	1-mile Radius
Kern County	CT 52.07 BG 3 [a] CT 52.07 BG 2 [a] CT 52.08 BG 3
Tulare County	CT 27.01 BG 2 [a]

BG = Block Group; CT = Census Tract

[a] EJ community based on low-income population higher than the relative counties.

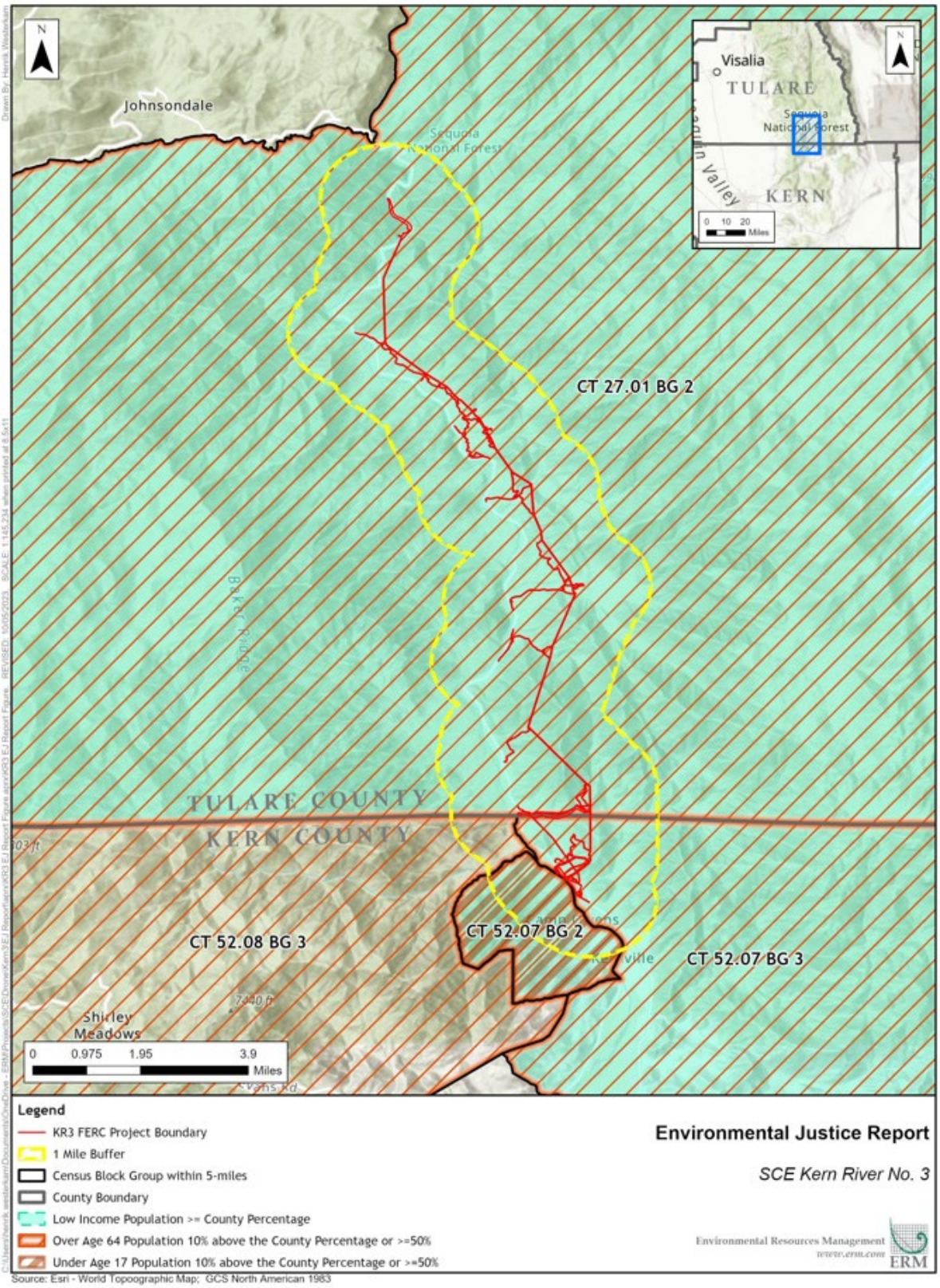


Figure 5.1-1. Project Area Map with Identified Environmental Justice Communities.

Table 5.1-2. Minority Populations by Race and Low-Income Populations in the 1-Mile Study Area

	White (Non-Hispanic)	Black or African American	Asian	American Indian and Alaskan Native	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino	Total Minority [a]	Total Population Below Poverty Level [b]
California	*35.8%*	*5.4%*	*14.7%*	*0.3%*	*0.3%*	*0.4%*	*3.6%*	*39.5%*	*64.2%*	*11.8%*
Tulare County	*27.0%*	*1.3%*	*3.5%*	*0.5%*	*0.1%*	*0.3%*	*1.5%*	*65.8%*	*73.0%*	*18.0%*
CT: 27.01 BG: 2 Project-occupied	94.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.0%	**28.3%**
Kern County	*32.2%*	*5.1%*	*4.7%*	*0.4%*	*0.1%*	*0.3%*	*2.5%*	*54.7%*	*67.8%*	*18.2%*
CT: 52.07 BG: 2	91.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	8.2%	8.7%	**20.6%**
CT: 52.07 BG: 3 Project-occupied	67.0%	0.0%	7.4%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	22.6%	33.0%	**22.2%**
CT: 52.08 BG: 3	79.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	12.9%	5.5%	20.3%	14.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2021b and 2021d

BG = Block Group; CT = Census Tract

[a] "Minority" refers to people who reported their ethnicity and race as something other than Non-Hispanic White.

[b] Minority or low-income populations exceeding the established thresholds are indicated in bold type and gray shading. Due to rounding differences in the dataset, the totals may not reflect the sum of the addends.

5.2. OTHER COMMUNITY VULNERABILITIES

5.2.1. LIMITED-ENGLISH-SPEAKING GROUPS AND AGE DATA

The non-English speaking groups identified within the study area are Spanish speakers and speakers of a language or languages categorized as Indo-European. Both Tulare County and Kern County show high percentages of groups who display limited English: 50.5 percent and 44.3 percent, respectively (Table 5.2-1). Overall, the CBG with the highest percentage of total limited English in the study area is CT 52.07 CBG 3 with 24.8 percent, a majority of that being speakers of an Indo-European language contributing 23.9 percent to the total.

Age data in the study area was also collected. A higher percentage of non-English speaking residents over the age of 64 were identified in all four CBGs compared to their respective county percent averages. A high percentage of residents under the age of 17 compared to the respective county percentages were identified in CT 52.07 CBG 2. This data may be explained by the presence of Camp Erwin Owen, a juvenile correctional facility located in the CBG.

Table 5.2-1. Limited-English-Speaking Groups and Age Census Data within the Project Study Area

	Vulnerable Age Groups		Limited-English-Speaking Groups				
	Age 17 and Under	Over Age 64	Spanish	Indo-European	Asian and Pacific Islands	Other	Total Limited English
California	*22.8%*	*14.4 %*	*28.3 %*	*4.6 %*	*9.9 %*	*1.1%*	*43.9%*
Tulare County	*30.8%*	*11.3%*	*46.5%*	*1.3%*	*2.2%*	*0.5%*	*50.5%*
CT: 27.01 BG: 2	13.2%	**41.0%**	1.1%	6.9%	0.0%	0.3%	8.3 %
Kern County	*29.0%*	*10.9%*	*39.2%*	*1.7%*	*2.9%*	*0.5%*	*44.3%*
CT: 52.07 BG: 2	**35.3**%	**28.0%**	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
CT: 52.07 BG: 3	0.0%	**94.3%**	0.9%	23.9%	0.0%	0.0%	24.8%
CT: 52.08 BG 3	16.6%	**28.4** %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2021a and 2021c

BG = Block Group; CT = Census Tract

5.2.2. Service Gaps and Health Burdens

The Project facilities are in two CBGs with limited broadband. In Kern County, CT 52.07 BG 3 has limited broadband access of 22 percent, which is in the 78th percentile nationally and the 88th percentile for the state of California. In Tulare County, CT 27.01 BG 2 has limited broadband access of 28 percent, which is in the 86th percentile nationally and the 93rd percentile for the state.

Lack of health insurance does not seem to be a gap in critical services for these block groups with CT 52.07 BG 3 in the 17th percentile nationally and in the 21st percentile for the state of California. In Tulare, CT 27.01 BG 2 is in the 23rd percentile nationally and the 28th percentile for the state.

Housing burden is not labeled as a concern in Kern County CT 52.07 BG 3 but is a concern in Tulare County CT 27.01 BG 2. Both CBGs are classified as food deserts and as having a lack of transportation access, which is not unusual for very rural communities. See Table 5.2-2.

Table 5.2-2. Critical Service Gaps

Indicator	Value	State Average	State Percentile	U.S. Average	U.S. Percentile
Kern County CT 52.07 BG 3					
Broadband internet	22%	10%	88	14%	78
Lack of health insurance	3%	7%	21	9%	17
Housing burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation access	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food desert	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tulare County CT 27.01 BG 2					
Broadband internet	28%	10%	93	14%	86
Lack of health insurance	3%	7%	28	9%	23
Housing burden	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation access	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food desert	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: USEPA 2023

BG = Block Group; CT = Census Tract; N/A = data not available

Health disparities included in EJScreen are as follows:

- Low life expectancy—Average life expectancy data developed as a collaboration between National Center for Health Statistics, the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This data is available at the CT level; the same tract value is then assigned to all sub

CBGs. EJScreen pulls this data layer from the U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project.

- Heart disease—Heart disease prevalence among adults aged 18 years or older. The term "heart disease" refers to several types of heart conditions. This data is available at the CT level; the same tract value is then assigned to all sub CBGs. EJScreen pulls this information from the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) Places Data.

- Asthma—Asthma prevalence among adults aged 18 or older. This data is available at the CT level; the same tract value is then assigned to all sub CBGs. EJScreen pulls this information from the CDC Places Data.

- Cancer—Cancer (excluding skin cancer) prevalence among adults aged 18 or older. This data is available at the CT level; the same tract value is then assigned to all sub BGs. EJScreen pulls this information from the CDC Places Data.

- Persons with Disabilities—Percent of all persons with disabilities. This data is derived from Census ACS data at the CT level. CBG values are calculated by multiplying the tract value by the block population weight. The weights are derived from the same Census source used by the EJScreen buffer reports and analysis. EJScreen uses data from the Census Bureau's ACS 5-year summary estimates for this map layer.

Both of the CBGs crossed by the Project facilities have various health indicators above the average on both national and statewide measurements. Kern County CT 52.07 BG 3 is in the 80th percentile and above for all five health indicators compared to the state of California, although asthma and low life expectancy are in the 70th percentile nationally. Tulare County CT 27.01 BG 2 is in the 80th percentile or above in all of the health indicators except low life expectancy both in California and nationally. Overall, the Project overlaps with populations that exhibit high occurrence of heart disease, asthma, cancer, and persons with disabilities, which should be taken into account when considering impacts and mitigation measures.

Health vulnerabilities are present within the study area with rankings above the 80th percentile appearing either for the state of California or nationally for all the indicators in Kern County and for all but low life expectancy in Tulare County (Table 5.2-3).

Table 5.2-3. Health Indicators

Indicator	Value	State Average	State Percentile	U.S. Average	U.S. Percentile
Kern County CT 52.07 BG 3					
Low life expectancy	22%	18%	86	20%	70
Heart disease	12.1	5.2	99	6.1	99
Asthma	10.9	9.5	86	10	77
Cancer	10.1	5.3	98	6.1	98
Persons with disabilities	31.9%	10.9%	99	13.4%	99

Indicator	Value	State Average	State Percentile	U.S. Average	U.S. Percentile
Tulare County CT 27.01 BG 2					
Low life expectancy	14%	18%	13	20%	7
Heart disease	8.7	5.2	97	6.1	91
Asthma	11.1	9.5	89	10	81
Cancer	7.9	5.3	91	6.1	87
Persons with disabilities	25.4%	10.9%	98	13.4%	95

Source: USEPA EJScreen, 2023

BG = Block Group; CT = Census Tract; N/A = data not available

5.3. CALENVIROSCREEN 4.0

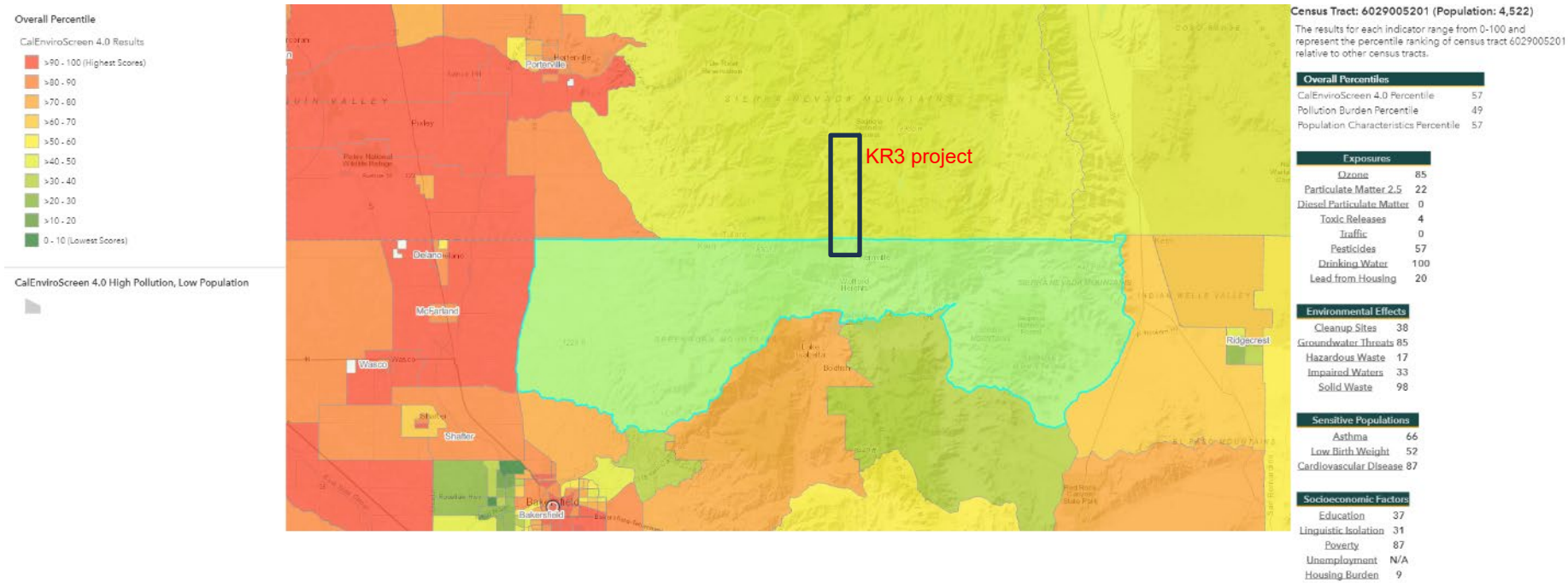
CTs with darker red colors have higher CalEnviroScreen scores and therefore have relatively high pollution burdens and population sensitivities. CTs with lighter green colors have lower scores and correspondingly lower pollution burdens and sensitivities.

In Kern County CT 52.01, the overall percentile for CalEnviroScreen is 57 with a Pollution Burden percentile of 49 and a Population Characteristics percentile of 57 (Figure 5.3-1).

In Tulare County CT 27.00, the CalEnviroScreen percentile is 46 with the Pollution Burden Percentile at 34 and the Population Characteristics Percentile at 52 (Figure 5.3-2).

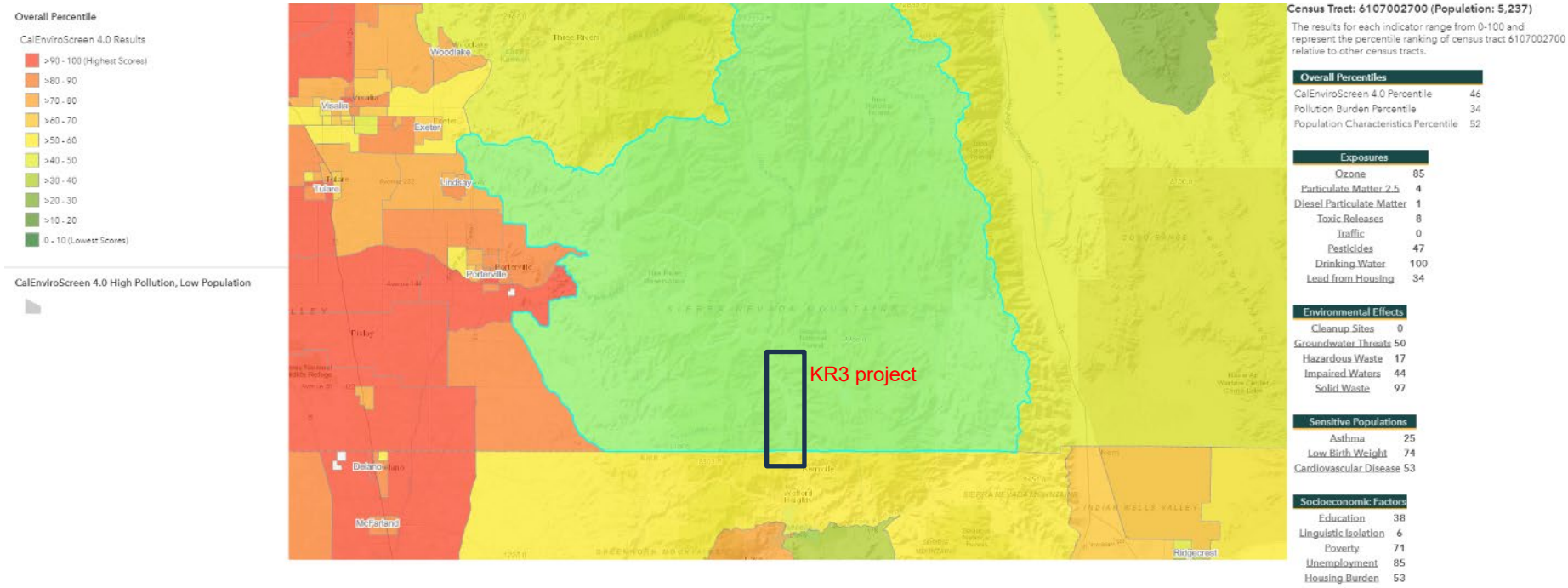
CalEPA also provides a mapping tool that identifies Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) in accordance with Senate Bill 535 established in 2012. The Senate Bill 535 detailed initial requirements for minimum funding levels to DAC and gives CalEPA the responsibility for identifying those communities. The legislation states that CalEPA's designation of DACs must be based on "geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria" (CalEPA, 2023).

According to the CalEPA SB 535 map for the study area, the pollution and demographic burdens are in the low to mid-range for the state of California. Within the 1-mile buffer established around the Project, there are no communities that qualify as DACs following the designation established by CalEPA. The cumulative impacts to the communities within the study area are minimal, with the closest identified DAC being the Lake Isabella community south of the Project, which is outside the 1-mile radius of the study area (see Figure 5.3-3).



Source: CalEPA, 2021a

Figure 5.3-1. Kern County Census Tract 52.01 CalEnviroScreen Map.



Source: CalEPA, 2021a

Figure 5.3-2. Tulare County Census Tract 27.00 CalEnviroScreen Map.

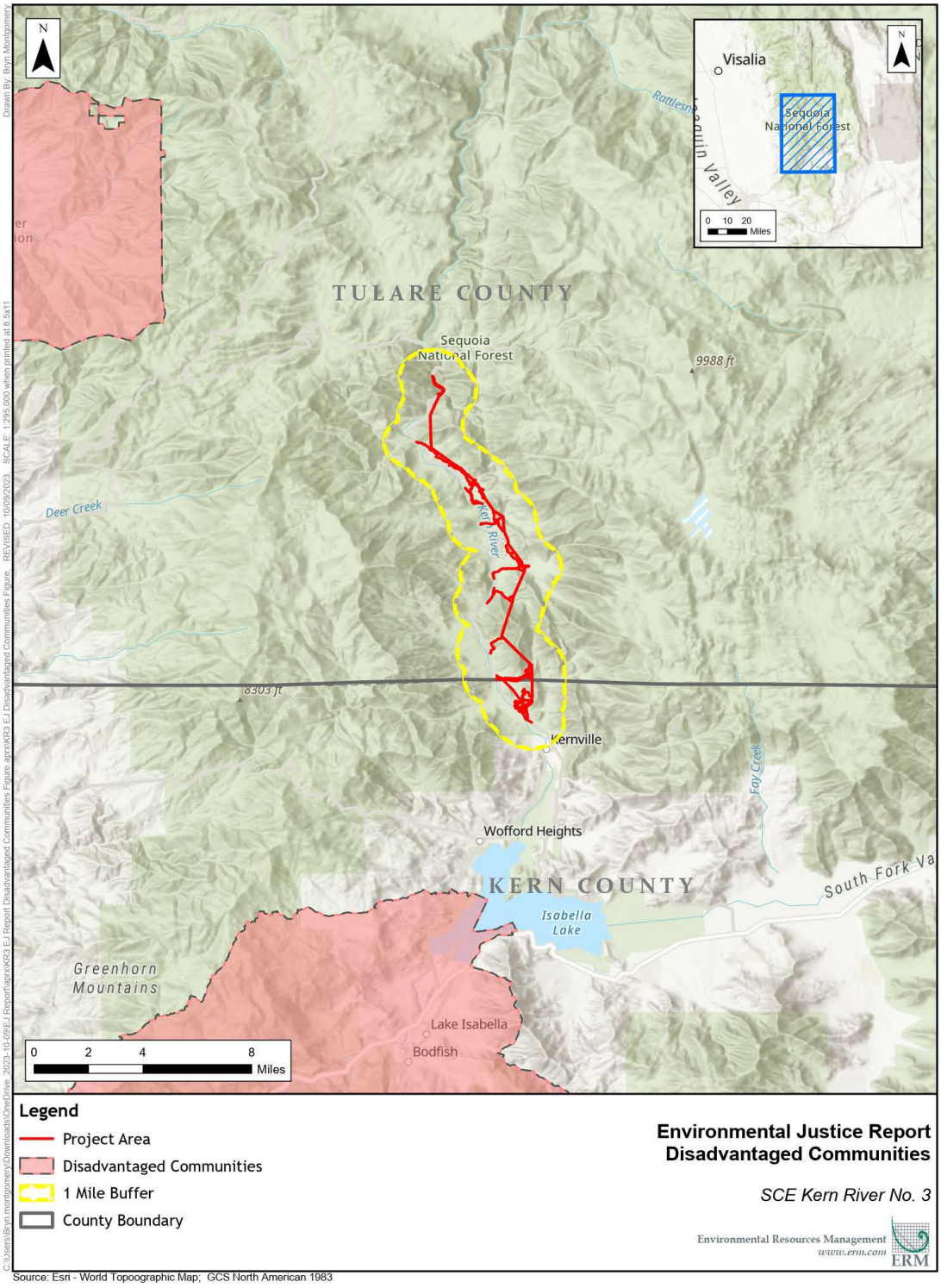


Figure 5.3-3. Map of CalEPA Identified Disadvantaged Communities Relative to the Study Area.

5.4. SENSITIVE RECEPTORS

SCE is not proposing any new construction or facility modifications to the Project at this time; therefore, there are no new identified sensitive receptor locations within the geographic scope of analysis. For reference, previously identified sensitive receptors included:

- Camp Ewin Owen, a juvenile detention center in Kernville located across Sierra Way Road from the southern end of the Project;
- Kernville United Methodist Church located 0.8 mile south of the southern end of the Project; and
- Kernville Elementary School located 1.2 miles southeast of the southern end of the Project.

There are also no newly identified medical facilities in the study area. The nearest hospital is Kern Valley Hospital located 9.96 miles south of the southern end of the FERC Project Boundary. The second closest medical facility is Family Healthcare Network Health Center in Springville located 32.9 miles from the southern end of the Project.

6.0 PUBLIC OUTREACH AND CONSULTATION

There are no minority EJ communities in the study area, but there are low-income EJ communities within the study area. To support public outreach and consultation, SCE has engaged with interested Stakeholders throughout the relicensing process since 2020. Documents related to the relicensing are publicly available on FERC's e-Library and on SCE's public website. All interested Stakeholders (including those who have filed a comment on the relicensing proceeding) are notified via email when documents are filed with FERC as part of this proceeding.

In addition to the consultation required as part of the Integrated Relicensing Process, SCE has conducted the following stakeholder engagement activities:

- Prior to SCE filing the Pre-Application Document (SCE, 2021), an informational postcard with a link to an online survey was distributed via mail in August 2020 so that interested Stakeholders were aware of SCE's intent to relicense the KR3 Project; SCE could identify topics of interest and to refine the Project Stakeholder contact list. Names and addresses of potentially interested Stakeholders were compiled from public distribution lists (i.e., FERC's Project No. 2290 Service List); previous KR3 relicensing Stakeholder lists; federal, state, and local governments; and an internet search of local businesses or interest groups within 5 miles of the Project to create a comprehensive Project Distribution List.
- A virtual public open house was hosted by SCE on October 1, 2023, so the public could learn about the Project, the FERC relicensing process, and how they can be involved during the relicensing process. The meeting notice was posted on SCE's

public website, interested Stakeholders were notified via email, and a meeting notice was posted on social media (e.g., Nextdoor).

- As part of other FERC approved studies that include direct interactions with the public as part Study Plan implementation (e.g., Study *REC-2 Recreation Facilities Use Assessment*), bilingual (English and Spanish) information flyers, public questionnaires, and bi-lingual field staff have been deployed.

SCE will continue ongoing outreach to the local communities and Stakeholders in the Project Vicinity to obtain comments regarding the relicensing of the Project and to understand primary concerns and questions from interested stakeholders as part of the Integrated Relicensing Process. If a Project-related impact on low-income EJ communities is identified through the relicensing process and there is a potential nexus between the impact and the EJ community, additional consultation and potential mitigation measures may be necessary.

7.0 OUTSTANDING STUDY PLAN ELEMENTS

Two additional study objectives noted by FERC in the SPD will be addressed, as applicable, in the License Application and include: (1) A discussion of impacts from relicensing the Project on any identified EJ communities and if those impacts are disproportionate, significant and adverse; and (2) if needed, include proposed mitigation measures to avoid or minimize Project impacts on EJ communities.

8.0 REFERENCES

CalEPA (California Environmental Protection Agency). 2021a. CalEnviroScreen, Version 4.0. Online tool. Accessed: June 2023. Available online: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/11d2f52282a54ceebcac7428e6184203/page/CalEnviroScreen-4_0/

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