



**DRAFT MEETING NOTES\***  
**LEE VINING, FERC PROJECT NO. 1388**  
**PROTECTION, MITIGATION, AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES STAKEHOLDER MEETING**  
**JULY 16, 2024, 2:00 PM–3:45 PM**

*\*These meeting notes are documentation of general discussions from the meeting held on the above-noted date and focus on stakeholder questions and comments. These notes are not a verbatim account of proceedings and do not represent any final decisions or official documentation for the project or participating agencies.*

**1.0 OBJECTIVES**

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- Review proposed protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PME) measures
- Hear stakeholder suggestions for PMEs
- Address stakeholder questions

**2.0 ATTENDEES**

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Relicensing Team Members

Audry Williams, SCE  
Carissa Shoemaker, Kleinschmidt  
Finlay Anderson, Kleinschmidt  
Shannon Luoma, Kleinschmidt

Graham Meese, CDFW  
Greg Reis, Mono Lake Committee  
Jazzmyn Gegere Brochini, Southern Sierra  
Miwuk Nation  
Jonathan Knight, USFS  
Karyn Spears, Mono County  
Michael Weise, USFS  
Robbie DiPaolo, MLC  
Sheila Irons, USFS  
Stephanie Heller, USFS  
Tristan Leong, USFS

Technical Working Group Members & Interested Parties

Adam Cohen, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)  
Andrew Lyons-Gould, US Forest Service (USFS)  
Ashley Blythe Haverstock, USFS  
Beth Lawson, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)  
Bryan Muro, SWRCB  
Bryant Luu, CDFW  
Chad Mellison, USFWS  
Chris Shutes, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

### 3.0 COMPILED ACTION ITEMS

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- The relicensing team will provide the Aesthetics Study Technical Report to USFS. (Completed 7/17)
- The relicensing team will set up the next meeting for August 1. (Completed 7/16)
- The relicensing team will provide a plan and schedule for meeting with Stakeholders to work through PME interests discussed today

### 4.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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Shannon Luoma, Kleinschmidt, welcomed attendees, introduced the meeting. Informed the group that SCE representatives Matthew Woodhall and Martin Ostendorf are unable to attend today, so Kleinschmidt will have a limited ability to respond to PME suggestions and questions. Interested parties welcome to share their ideas for PMEs. Shannon reviewed the proposed PME list that was shown last time and summarized the new proposed Lee Vining Resources Management Plan. We hope to have another PME meeting at the end of July that SCE will attend.

### 5.0 PME DISCUSSION

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- Tristan asked why SCE proposes one overarching Resource Management Plan, Shannon explained that the SCE Operations team would prefer a single document for ease of access.
- Tristan asked about the management of the operators cabin at Ellery Lake. SCE intends to keep it. Tristan would like to discuss the visual impacts of the cabin at a future meeting.
- Graham and Tristan lead discussions about streamlining the annual consultation process and potentially having set minimum instream flows out of Saddlebag and Tioga that depend on the water year type. Annual consultation would not go away entirely, but would be more efficient.
- Graham, Greg, and Chris emphasized that they would appreciate publicly available real-time hydrology data from SCE which would benefit several stakeholders. They discussed which intervals would be useful and if a lag in the data would be acceptable.
- Finlay reminded the group that very little of this conversation will probably make it into the DLA because of the timing of it. Results of these discussions will go into the FLA.
- Graham emphasized that CDFW would like to continue fish stocking discussions with SCE at a later meeting. They would like to have a system more like what is done at Bishop, a number of fish stocked, rather than a dollar amount per year.
- Graham wants the group to recognize that even though the AQ-4 study did not detect *Didymo*, we can't assume that there is no *Didymo* in the system and needs to be addressed in the Resource Management Plan. The SCE corporate Invasive Mussel Plan could be expanded to include other aquatic invasives.
- Graham discussed the informal hiking trails that go through the Yosemite toad habitat on the southeast edge of Tioga Lake. There is an opportunity there to reduce impacts. The group discussed re-routing the trail, signage, or a boardwalk over the wetland. The Biological Assessment and FERC/USFWS process will address this concern.

- Graham asserts that hydro-resource optimization affects geomorphology, riparian vegetation, macroinvertebrates, fisheries, etc., but the LV studies didn't really integrate all of these. CDFW is concerned about this and wants to find middle ground.
- Tristan listed out topics for future discussion:
  - Potential sedimentation and erosion into waterway below Poole Powerhouse and road management / maintenance.
  - Yosemite toad / frog monitoring (may or may not be part of Sensitive Species Plan) and response to flows out of Saddlebag.
  - Fish / Stocking / Angler recreation management
  - Recreation Facilities and Management (Day use and overnight)
  - Automating annual operations / decisions to adjust for below normal / dry conditions ("or inflow").

## **6.0 SCHEDULE AND NEXT STEPS**

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Shannon Luoma led the discussion of selecting a time for the next group PME discussion. August 1 from 9-10:30 works for the great majority.

- (C) Beth Lawson – Given the next meeting will be short (1.5 hour), SCE should be prepared to respond to some of the issues we talked about today. Prepare for that so we have a more substantive conversation.
  - (R) Shannon Luoma – The relicensing team will review all of the topics that you suggested today and then we will make an agenda(s) for our next PME meeting(s) and plan how to discuss them. We will get you this plan early next week. We will send out a meeting invitation for August 1.

The relicensing team adjourned the meeting.