



DRAFT MEETING NOTES*
LEE VINING, FERC PROJECT NO. 1388
PROTECTION, MITIGATION, AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES STAKEHOLDER MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2024, 9:00 AM–10:30 AM

**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

- Review proposed protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PME) measures for:
 - Aquatic invasives (e.g., Didymo)
 - Fish stocking
- Hear stakeholder suggestions for PMEs
- Address stakeholder questions
- Review proposed PME meeting schedule, bi-weekly meetings through December

2.0 ATTENDEES

Relicensing Team Members

Matthew Woodhall, SCE
Martin Ostendorf, SCE
Audry Williams, SCE
Seth Carr, SCE
Kelly Larimer, Kleinschmidt
Finlay Anderson, Kleinschmidt
Shannon Luoma, Kleinschmidt
Carissa Shoemaker, Kleinschmidt
Heather Neff, Stillwater Sciences

Beth Lawson, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
James Erdman, CDFW
Bryan Muro, SWRCB
Bryant Luu, CDFW
Chris Shutes, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
Graham Meese, CDFW
Greg Reis, Mono Lake Committee
Bartshe Miller, MLC
Karyn Spears, Mono County
Michael Weise, USFS
Courtney Rowe, USFS
Raymond Andrews, Bishop Paiute Tribe
Sheila Irons, USFS
Tristan Leong, USFS
Wilfred Nabahe, USFS

Technical Working Group Members & Interested Parties

Adam Cohen, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
Andrew Lyons-Gould, US Forest Service (USFS)

3.0 COMPILED ACTION ITEMS

- The relicensing team will share the Invasive Mussels Plan
- The relicensing team will send out Outlook scheduling polls for two additional meetings, for the weeks of August 12 and August 26
- The fish stocking discussion will be continued at a later date
- Operations/flows and how it could relate to Didymo will be discussed at a later date

4.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Shannon Luoma, Kleinschmidt, welcomed attendees, introduced the meeting.

She discussed that at the previous meeting (PME meeting #2) we heard PME topics that TWG members are interested in. A reminder that the DLA will have the baseline conditions in it and no new PMEs. SCE is advancing with current measures because studies did not identify specific Project effects.

5.0 PME TOPIC: AQUATIC INVASIVES (E.G., DIDYMO)

Shannon explained that we need to connect the aquatic invasives concern to the Project and nexus, determine what it means to agencies. Heather Neff (Stillwater) summarized the 2023 study results which did not observe any Didymo in the study area. SCE would like to understand what stakeholders see as the Project effect to Didymo.

- Graham had brought up Didymo in the previous meeting so that the group acknowledges that it does occur in the watershed and should be included in a management plan, like a comprehensive aquatic invasive species management plan. Signage for increasing public awareness at the boat input locations of the lakes could also be helpful.
- Once Didymo is present in a system it is impossible to get rid of.
- CDFW has observed it in Rush and Lee Vining Creeks in 2015-2016; Bartshe has also observed it throughout the system.
- Herbicides have been used to control the dense mats. Tristan asked if a flushing flow could help control it and if there is operational flexibility in the Project to help with that.
- Shannon summarized that we will distribute the SCE invasive mussel plan, SCE is open to education signage, and it is to be determined if SCE will commit to a greater aquatic invasive management/monitoring plan at this time.

6.0 PME TOPIC: FISH STOCKING

Shannon explained that we will not be able to discuss creel survey results and recreation until November, but we can talk about potential changes to the fish stocking PME now. SCE proposes to continue to contribute 12% of funds for fish that CDFW stocks into Ellery Lake, to mitigate for entrainment.

- Graham and Jim described CDFW's current stocking goals and what SCE contributes for the Lee Vining and Bishop Creek Projects. CDFW would like Lee Vining's contribution to be more like what happens at Bishop, an annual number of fish rather than an annual dollar amount. CDFW

wants more flexibility and accountability from SCE. We are looking for SCE to contribute even when CDFW's stocking efforts fail or are limited.

- SCE believes that the contribution they are doing now is working and they should not be responsible for stocking fish if CDFW's hatcheries are doing poorly.
- SCE and CDFW would like to see the results of the creel surveys and then discuss this again at a future meeting.
- Shannon summarized that this discussion will be continued. We hear that CDFW is looking for physical stocking rather than monetary contribution.

7.0 SCHEDULE AND NEXT STEPS

Fish stocking conversation is on pause for now, as the meeting time ran out. To schedule the next PME meeting, Carissa Shoemaker will send out an Outlook scheduling poll for several times the week of August 12. The next meeting will be a 2-hour block.

- (C) Tristan Leong – Do you know when we will have potential recreation PME discussions?
 - (R) Shannon Luoma – Recreation surveys will continue through October, so we will have creel data in late October, but the rest of recreation use and needs study data will be ready for discussion in November. We will have a draft recreation report with the FLA, not the DLA.
- (C) Chris Shutes – Can we outline the topic areas of each meeting beforehand? I'm interested in streamflow information, is that a recreation or aquatics subject? When would that discussion take place?
 - (R) Shannon Luoma – The meetings that were categorized as 'operations/aquatics' in Carissa's agenda email are the ones where we will discuss flows. Our goal is to get topics out ahead of the meetings, yes. Carissa will send out scheduling poll emails to pin down the next two meeting dates.

Matt Woodhall reminded everyone that he is available at other times too to discuss PME thoughts anytime. Graham Meese points out that not everyone would be able to participate in those discussions, so he would prefer continuing the bi-weekly plan of meetings.

The relicensing team adjourned the meeting.