



DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY NOTES*
LEE VINING, FERC PROJECT NO. 1388
PROTECTION, MITIGATION, AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES STAKEHOLDER MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 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 AGENDA

- Recap since last meeting
- TWG member comments/proposals/objectives regarding Reservoir Storage and management of instream flows
- Questions/Clarifications
- Areas of agreement / overlapping interests
- Set next meeting date

2.0 ATTENDEES

Relicensing Team Members

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

Beth Lawson, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Bryant Luu, CDFW
Graham Meese, CDFW
Greg Reis, Mono Lake Committee (MLC)
Bartshe Miller, MLC
Andrew Lyons-Gould, US Forest Service (USFS)
Ashley Blythe-Haverstock, USFS
Courtney Rowe, USFS
Michael Wiese, USFS
Sheila Irons, USFS
Stephanie Heller, USFS

Tristan Leong, USFS
Karyn Spears, Mono County
Gabriel Gaspar, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Technical Working Group Members & Interested Parties

Adam Cohen, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
Bryan Muro, SWRCB

3.0 COMPILED ACTION ITEMS

- Relicensing team will send out new Ops Model, a summary of discussion items, and a meeting poll for week of Oct 14

4.0 RECAP SINCE LAST MEETING

Bret shared the updates he has made to the model, including capturing head changes on releases and incorporating feedback from stakeholders at previous meetings.

5.0 PME PROPOSALS – RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT AND INSTREAM FLOWS

Greg Reis and Beth Lawson presented their draft proposals and approach for augmenting peak flows and managing reservoir operations, aiming for a more natural hydrograph and addressing operational feasibility.

- Greg shared his version of the model which explored ways in which target flows identified in the synthesis report could be achieved in different water years. The approach involved some flow threshold at the Diversion triggering a visit to the Project by an operator and releasing additional flows from Tioga or Saddlebag or both after some period of time.
- Beth described her modeling and talked about the idea of letting Tioga fill slower, by closing the valve down to half open, rather than fully open earlier in the year during the ascending limb of the hydrograph. Operators would then open the valve when the storage limit was almost fully reached. Goal was to see what the change did to hydrographs below Saddlebag/Tioga. The group discussed if operations could manage these changes. The reservoir would still fill, but slower, and result in earlier season flows without the significant drop in flows below the dams that we see now when the valve is closed. The goal is to not cut off the snow melt peak which agencies would like to put back in the river during the snowmelt time. It would add to the pulse from Saddlebag that Greg is suggesting.
- Tristan Leong emphasized agency's interest in slowing down the acceleration of filling Tioga Lake and suggested that the current requirement to fill "as soon as possible" was something that could be modified. Tristan also asked about the limitations of the valve at Tioga Lake, how much can it be throttled, how often is Tioga accessible when Saddlebag isn't?

Seth Carr and Matthew Woodhall discussed the operational challenges and constraints, emphasizing dam safety and the need for flexibility in response to hydrologic conditions. Seth confirmed that Tioga is accessible sooner than Saddlebag, and access of Saddlebag is usually a few weeks behind, depending on weather conditions.

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6.0 QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Tristan suggested a way to track items we have discussed, those we have agreed on, and outstanding items.

7.0 AREAS FOR AGREEMENT

Flow proposals may be met if the “fill as soon as possible” restriction was lessened or pushed back a few weeks at Saddlebag and Tioga.

Lower flows over winter at Saddlebag and Tioga would be acceptable.

8.0 NEXT STEPS AND NEXT MEETING

The team agreed to further explore the proposals, particularly focusing on Tioga's operations and the potential for adjusting the timing of reservoir filling to achieve a more natural hydrograph. The team considered adjusting the timing of reservoir filling at Tioga to achieve a more natural hydrograph.

Shannon agreed that we will send out notes and a summary for review. We will also send out a meeting date/time poll for week of Oct 14 for the 5th PME meeting.