



DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY NOTES*

LEE VINING, FERC PROJECT NO. 1388

PROTECTION, MITIGATION, AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES STAKEHOLDER MEETING

OCTOBER 22, 2024, 12:30 PM–2:00 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 AGENDA

- Schedule check in
- Flows
- Fish stocking and creel data
- Schedule and Recreation PME look ahead

2.0 ATTENDEES

Relicensing Team Members

Matthew Woodhall, SCE
 Martin Ostendorf, SCE
 Seth Carr, SCE
 Audry Williams, SCE
 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)
 Graham Meese, CDFW
 Greg Reis, Mono Lake Committee (MLC)
 Bartshe Miller, MLC
 Robert Di Paolo, MLC
 Andrew Lyons-Gould, US Forest Service (USFS)
 Ashley Blythe-Haverstock, USFS
 Jacqueline Beidl, USFS
 Michael Wiese, USFS
 Sheila Irons, USFS
 Tristan Leong, USFS
 Gabriel Gaspar, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)
 Alis Pruett, LADWP
 Chris Shutes, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

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 polls for next three PME meetings
- Send Robbie links to AQ-5, AQ-6, and DLA for hydro-resource optimization analysis
- Send Creel Survey data memo out to TWG
- SCE to have flow scenarios prepared for Nov 18 week meeting
- Set a Fish Stocking PME meeting date with CDFW
- Send Draft REC-1 Report to TWG for review before filing the FLA

4.0 SCHEDULE CHECK IN

- Welcome, safety moment
- Week of Nov 18: PME meeting for Recreation and Flow Scenarios
- Week of Dec 9: PME meeting for Recreation
- Week of Dec 16: tentative PME meeting, topic TBD
- Intend to send Draft REC-1 Report to TWGs before filing the FLA

5.0 INSTREAM FLOWS

Bret Hoffman summarized changes to the Operations Model since our last meeting. The most recent version was circulated in early September.

Heather Neff showed unimpaired hydrographs (flows from Saddlebag and Ellery Lake) and showed hydrographs with Slate Creek contributions to describe the hydrology of the system. These hydrographs show several years of data.

Bret shows hydrographs of LADWP diversion dam site, the gage is just upstream of the diversion showing total flow coming to the LADWP diversion with the Lee Vining Project in place. Hydropeaking is not included in these charts because sub-daily data isn't available for all calculations, we have average daily values. High level flows are really impacted by what is spilling out of Rhinedollar. About half of the spikes are from spills out of Rhinedollar.

Heather presented flow scenarios SCE is considering for the next license. Matt Woodhall mentioned one idea is to fill Tioga Lake slower, the current condition is to fill as quickly as possible.

Tristan Leong discussed the phase shifting and windows between peak flows. The window could be aligned with timing of filling the reservoir, if SCE is able to access the reservoirs to change the valve settings the public can likely access the area for recreation too, and vice versa. Spill during natural spill season in normal and wet WYs, then determine when the valve setting can be changed (an approximate date range). The Saddlebag and Tioga valve changes may occur at different times.

Beth Lawson approves of the ideas to change the instream flows and is looking forward to seeing the actual proposal/flow language to review. Shannon Luoma clarified that SCE's operations and generations team needs to approve of the flows before we present them to agencies (hopefully by the Nov 18 week PME meeting).

Graham Meese would like to discuss the ecosystem impacts from hydro-resource optimization at a future meeting. For example: rates that strand less fish, spawning impacts, recreational components, seasons when it is detrimental, what can we do in the license provisions from the biological perspective. Greg Reis mentions some time periods are more sensitive than others for fish, like when fish are emerging and are poor swimmers.

Robbie Di Paolo expressed concerns about hydro-resource optimization not being in the current license. Wonders about seasonality, frequency, and magnitudes for the future. Shannon and Heather remind Robbie that a lot of these issues are discussed in the DLA and in Tech Reports (AQ-5 and AQ-6).

6.0 CREEL DATA SUMMARY

Shannon provided a summary of the creel survey data collected this year. A memo with this data will be distributed soon.

Tristan, Matt, and Graham discussed that the brook trout results for Saddlebag look skewed, since rainbows are the stocked species there should be more of those caught. Data was self-reported by recreators/fishers, species were not verified by survey staff. This year, 2024, rainbows were stocked in Saddlebag Lake. Gillnetting survey was conducted in 2022 so results aren't very comparable.

7.0 FISH STOCKING PME

Shannon provided a summary of the current and proposed fish stocking PME. The current measure is to contribute 12% of what CDFW stocks into Ellery Lake. The proposal is to switch to a stocked number of fish, 1,000 annually, and these fish would go into any of the reservoirs, determined in annual consultation with CDFW. Matt described how the proposal is to put in a little more money into the effort than SCE has been doing historically. Graham appreciates that SCE is proposing this change and the flexibility. He would like a separate meeting specifically to discuss this PME. Graham noted that the current license's stocking requirement was related to entrainment because the intake isn't screened, so there is some need to address that component as well.

8.0 SCHEDULE / RECREATION PMES LOOK AHEAD

Shannon summarized the schedule to get to the FLA, including potential weeks to meet regarding recreation PME discussions. She explained that because of the timing of the FLA and the delay in the REC-1 fieldwork, there will be a supplemental filing after the FLA to include recreation-related documents after they have been reviewed by TWGs.

The Relicensing team will send out three outlook pools for the upcoming PME meetings: Nov 18 week (Recreation and Flows), Dec 9 week (Recreation), and Dec 16 week (topic TBD).

The Relicensing team will reach out to CDFW to find a time to meet regarding fish stocking PME.

Shannon explained that SCE intends to have flow scenarios prepared to present during the Nov 18 week PME meeting, but perhaps before.