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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Energy Projects

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Lundy Project : Project No. P-1390

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Lee Vining Community Center

296 Mattly Avenue

Lee Vining, CA 93541

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

A public scoping meeting was held, pursuant to notice. starting at 6:05 p.m.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. ANDERSON: All right, everybody, if you'll take your seats and we'll get going. Welcome everybody to the scoping meeting for the Lundy Lakes Hydroelectric Project. This is a meeting hosted by FERC. My name is Finlay Anderson. I'm a consultant helping Southern California Edison relicense the project. I'm just going to be a little bit of a microphone bunny this afternoon.

And the intent is to make sure that the court reporter and everybody else can hear you clearly. So, just a couple of housekeeping items, in the case of an emergency, just exit straight out the back. We'll rally at the end of the parking lot. There's an AED over here at the corner. Anybody know how to use it? Raise your hand. Bathrooms are just down the hallway. Please don't hesitate to take care of yourself. And beyond that, I'll just turn it over to Jess to kick us off.

MS. FEFER: Thank you. Oh, you're holding on to that. All right. Hi everyone. Is it on now? All right. There we go. All right. Hi everyone, my name is Jess Fefer. I am with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, as you probably all know it. I am the project coordinator for the Lundy Project and also I'm an environmental protection specialist.

And my specialties are outdoor recreation, land

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use aesthetics and environmental justice. And there are two other FERC staff here with me today that I'd like to give the opportunity to introduce. So if you guys could just use your little live mics there and introduce yourself real quick, that would be awesome.

MS. KIPP: Is it on?

MS. FEFER: Maybe Finlay can. Yeah, there you go.

MR. ANDERSON: Let's try this. How about we try that.

MS. KIPP: Okay. Hi my name is Becky Kipp, and I am a wildlife biologist with FERC.

MR. SIDIBE: Hey, I'm Ousmane Sidibe, I go by Sid. I'm a civil engineer with FERC.

MS. FEFER: All right. Thank you so much. And then I was also going to have SE introduce. You want to introduce yourself real quick?

MR. WOODHALL: I'm Matthew Woodhall with Southern California Edison. I'm the project manager overseeing the relicensing.

MS. FEFER: Awesome. Thank you. All righty. So just a little bit of an agenda for what to expect today. I'll start with just a couple additional housekeeping items. I saw a lot of you signing in, but if you haven't signed in already, please make sure to do so. We just want to make

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sure that we're capturing everybody here. And we also have Finlay with the microphone.

And when you have a comment or question, if you have a comment or question, if you could remember to state your name and your affiliation when you do that, also to help out our court reporter, that would be great. Just a bit more of an overview, I'm first going to just start by going over kind of the broad licensing process so you all sort of know where we are in the process and where we're going. And then SCE will jump in and share a little bit about their project proposal.

And then I will come back and we'll talk about some of the expected or potential resource issues that we highlighted in our Scoping Document One. And through that, there'll be opportunities for you all to speak up as well. I do want to note, even though you do make comments and you are stating your name and your affiliation, and we will have that on the record with the court reporter, if you have comments that you really want on the public record, please go and put that on the public record as well.

Even if you say it here, we want to hear it. Try not to talk with my hands today. We want to hear it twice. So I will give you directions for how to do that a little bit later in this presentation. I also have a handout over there that has a QR code that you can just use

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the QR code and you get right to our website to make that easier for you all.

So just to dive right in to sort of the overview, as you know, probably, FERC is a Federal agency that regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil and electricity, and additional responsibilities like licensing and inspecting non-federal hydropower dams. My colleagues here and I are in the division of hydropower licensing.

And so, you know, you really deal with us only during the licensing process. Our other colleagues in headquarters in DC, our division of hydropower administration and compliance and division of dam safety and inspections, and SCE gets to deal with them for the rest of the time when they're not in licensing. So now for the licensing process just kind of, this is just a bird's eye broad overview of sort of where we are in our licensing process and where we're going.

So SCE did file their pre-application document in the end of February. And we have already issued our scoping document. That's why you're all here. And we are here to scope. So that's sort of where we are in the process. The next step in the process is going to be studies. So putting together what's the information that we're seeking here?

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So studies and consultation, and that takes, you know, two to three years and the public is very involved in that piece of the process as well. And then SCE will file their re-license application. Now I have the FERC reviews SCE application and project record in yellow, because that's where the timeline becomes a little bit more wonky. It's pretty tight until we get to that point.

And then it, you know, it will take FERC however long it takes, right? To review that because we need to make sure we have all the information we need. So sometimes there's some back and forth between FERC and SCE. And then we will issue our REA notice and begin our environmental analysis. And my next slide just sort of shows that throughout all of that you have opportunities to comment.

So I'm just going to lay that out here real quickly for you. So again, we are in this scoping phase. After this meeting, you'll have the opportunity to comment on the pad Scoping Document One and any study requests you have. And that's due June 24th. Technically it's due June 22nd, but that's a weekend. So we put it to the following Monday.

And then FERC will issue a second scoping document as needed based on your comments. And then we'll get into the study planning process. So SCE will file a proposed study plan. You all will have opportunity to

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comment on that and make study requests, and that will happen by November 4th. SCE will respond to those and file a revised study plan.

And you'll also have an opportunity to respond to that in mid-December of 2024. And then FERC will go ahead and issue the study plan determination, which really directs what those studies are going to look like. And that will happen in early January of 2025, right after the holiday season, you know. And then we're in the study seasons.

And so this takes some time, it takes about two years, right? But you will have chance again to comment during that time. So SCE when they're completing their studies they're required to submit an initial study report. You'll be able to comment on that. They'll then file a revised study report. You can comment on that. So all sorts of comment opportunities here. Again, when they file their preliminary proposal, you'll have another opportunity to comment.

And then I'd really just have this slide here, this is post filing where the dates are a little bit more wonky, but the soonest we will have our environmental analysis ready for review is April 29th. And this slide is really just to show you that you are going to continue to have opportunities to comment even after filing has

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occurred. Okay. And, you know, all of that is in the scoping document.

I don't expect you to remember those dates. Those are in the scoping document. I also have a handout that at least outlines the upcoming comment dates for you all. So not all of them, but the ones that are upcoming. All right. So the purpose of scoping, you know, of course it is a regulation, it's part of NEPA. It's a legal requirement based on NEPA and FERC regulations and other applicable laws. But, you know, I think more importantly, it's a time for us to engage with the public and hear what you all think of potential issues or concerns that you have about the project.

So really what we're doing here is we're here to understand public perspectives and any concerns you have, identify potential resource issues, reasonable alternatives, identify available information relevant to the project and our environmental analysis, and to identify cumulatively affected resources. So that's what we're doing here today. So we hope that we can hear from some of you. So with that, I'm going to hand it over to SCE to talk about their proposal.

MS. WILLIAMS: Hi guys. My name is Audry Williams. I'm a archeologist for Southern California Edison. Before we get started today, we'd just like to take

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a moment to acknowledge that the Lundy project, as well as where we are meeting right now, is the homeland of the Caseticate Paiute tribe that they have steward for generations. Thanks.

MR. WOODHALL: Thanks, Audry. Okay. Well first of all, just on behalf of Southern California Edison, I just want to thank everyone for being here tonight for this scoping and for FERC coming out to hold the meeting. Looking forward to talking a little bit about operations of the Lundy project. But before that, just wanted to give you a few names of the team members, most of which are in the room today. Although a couple, one of them is not.

But on the SCE side, I've already introduced myself, Matthew Woodhall. I am the project manager of the Lundy Relicensing. We also have Martin Ostendorf, who's in the back. You can just raise your hand when I call your name. Yeah. And you just met Audry Williams, cultural resources. Seth Carr, which I don't think he made it tonight, but he is the operations manager that runs the Lundy Project, runs all of our hydro operations here in the Mono Basin.

On the consulting team, you met Finlay, who's going to be running the microphone for us tonight. We also have Angela Whelpley, she's in the back there, Kelly Larimer over on the side. We've got Brad Blood and Allison. There

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they are. Heather Neath doing our fish and aquatics, Lynn Johnson on the tribal over there. And I don't think Jay and Meta are here, but they're part of our cultural historic properties. And then we've got Edith, which there she is right there.

So there's actually more people behind even those individuals that are on the consulting team. But just wanted to give you the key players from the Edison side. Before we get into the describing and talking a little bit about operations, we've got a video that we want to play that will kind of give you a good visual before we actually start talking about the operations on the ground. And so we'll start with the video, and then we'll proceed from there. So let me see here.

[Video shown]

Hello and thank you for joining us on this video tour of Southern California Edison's Lundy Project. Southern California Edison owns and operates the Lundy Project in Mono County, California. This video will provide a brief overview of the project and its principle features. Lands in and around the project include a combination of federal and non-federal lands. The watershed has a total drainage area of approximately 135 square miles.

The Mono Basin and the Mill Creek watershed includes the crest of the Sierra Nevada, with maximum

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elevations extending up to 12,400 feet to approximately 6,400 feet at the shoreline of Mono Lake. The Lundy project originates in Lundy Canyon and flows directly into Mono Lake four miles downstream. The Lundy Project is authorized by a 30 year license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC in 1999.

This authorization expires on February 28th, 2029. The current FERC license contains measures to protect key resources, and these measures will be reevaluated as part of the process we are starting. The vicinity of the Lundy project was historically sculpted by glaciers, and is currently characterized by rounded granitic outcrops, U-shaped glacial valleys, glacial lakes, and tele slops.

The stunning visual and natural features of the area lend themselves to recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, and fishing. A campground is located below Lundy Lake. Lundy Lake and Mill Creek are stocked by California Department of Fish and Wildlife for fishing. There are trails and trail heads that are accessible from the Lundy project. Boating, sightseeing, and picnicking are also popular in this area.

Lundy Lake is the intake for Lundy Powerhouse. The lake has historically been drawn down in the winter to provide storage capacity for spring runoff. Water is conveyed from Lundy Lake to the powerhouse via the flow line

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and penstock water is managed in the basin according to established water rights that have been adjudicated by the Superior Court of Mono County.

Spill and power generation are largely incidental to these water rights and secondarily by SCE's Power Sales Agreement with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which specifies annual drawdown requirements. SEC's FERC license requires that minimum flows be provided to stream reaches between the reservoir and the powerhouse. But these are also limited by preexisting water rights. Lundy Lake receives its water from Lundy Canyon, which has a drainage area of approximately 16 square miles.

The gravel at Rockville Dam measures approximately 690 feet long, with a structural height of 48 feet from the base of the core wall to the top of wall. The dam impounds the 132 acre Lundy Lake, which has a net storage capacity of 4,113 acre feet. The spillway is a 150 foot long by 7.7 foot deep notch in the concrete core wall.

An additional water release structure known as the Farmer's Gate operates when the lake level is above 7,779 feet to provide additional flow to the base of Lundy Dam. Generally operation of the Farmer's Gate is possible during wetter spring periods or wet water years. On the west end of Lundy Lake, there is a two-Lane bone launch available for recreationists. The site offers parking for

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approximately five boats with trailers.

At Lundy Dam, there is a day use area with a gravel parking lot. This site offers a restroom facility along with access to local trails. Lundy Canyon Campground is located downstream approximately one mile northeast of the Lundy Lake Dam. The campground is operated under a lease from SCE to Mono County. The campground offers 37 sites for recreationists, nine 10 sites and 28 sites that can fit a 35 foot recreational vehicle.

Sites offer a cleared area for camping, a picnic table, a parking area, and several sites offer a bear proof box for storage. There are four day use areas located east of Lundy Canyon Campground. These day use sites provide parking areas and picnic tables for recreationists to enjoy views of Mill Creek. Mill Creek flows into Mono Lake, below Lundy Lake downstream to the 7,200 foot contour. The creek is densely vegetated causing frequent log jams.

Wood and boulders are frequent. And channel bed material is a mix of gravel, cobbles and boulders with some sand. Below the 7,200 foot contour, the creek extends downstream for another 3.5 miles outside of the project boundary to Mono City, and is under laid by gravels and silts. After leaving Mono City, the creek is under lane by gravels and cobbles for the remaining 2.5 miles downstream where it flows into Mono Lake.

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The Lundy Powerhouse is a reinforced concrete building constructed in 1911. It is located on the Wilson drainage east downstream of Lundy Lake. The building is 66 feet long, 32 feet wide, 31 feet high, and has a substructure that is nine feet deep. The powerhouse contains two canyon turbines, each directly connected to an Allis Chalmers generator rated at 15,000 kilowatts.

Below the Lundy powerhouse water discharge from the powerhouse tail race is sent to a splitterbox, which directs flows either to the Wilson Drainage System, Wilson System, or returns water to Mill Creek via the Mill Creek return ditch. This return ditch shown here and the point at which it rejoins Mill Creek represents the end of the FERC project boundary.

The allocation of water between the Wilson System and Mill Creek is determined based on existing adjudicated water rights and flows through the powerhouse are set to ensure those water deliveries to water rights holders are met. Once water is returned to Mill Creek, it is outside the Lundy project boundary and continues towards Mono Lake.

Thank you for your time and interest in SEC's Lundy project. If you are interested in learning more about the project and the FERC relicensing process, please visit the project website at www.ce.com/lundy for more

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information.

MR. WOODHALL: Okay. Let's see if we can get this to advance here. Okay. So I think that video really gives a good snapshot of the project, but we do have a few slides to talk about, a little bit of additional information concerning the operation of the Lundy project. Some points of highlight. The 30 year license expires February 28th, 2029.

The formal FERC process, as Jess alluded to earlier, began in February, 2024 when we filed our pre-application document and notice of intent. We will be filing a draft license application in the fall of 2026, and we're not anticipating any changes in operations or to the facilities. So the project itself is on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range within a very small portion of the Inyo National Forest.

It's in Mono County, and the private lands that are within the project are primarily held by SCE and the -- the body of water that is dammed up by Lundy Dam creating Lundy Lake is Mill Creek. The main project facilities are the dam and the lake, which are just below the headwaters of Mill Creek. It's a 23 acre reservoir.

The Lundy powerhouse has a capacity of three megawatts. There's two units that are megawatt and a half each. Flow line in the penstock connecting the Lundy Lake

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and the powerhouse. And then below the powerhouse, we have a facility called the splitterbox, which separates the water flows to manage the flows for the water right holders either going into the Wilson drainage or into the return ditch. We saw that in the video as well.

The operations, in terms of the water that we use to make power is driven by the adjudicated water rights. We pass that water through the powerhouse, and then we deliver the water in varying quantities to the water right holders via the return ditch, the Wilson system. And then there's an additional release point at the Upper Conway Ditch.

The Adair Ditch is also an old historic ditch that can provide some flows over to the Wilson system if the powerhouse is offline for operation purposes, maintenance or what have you, we can move water over to the Wilson system through the Adair Ditch. This is just a schematic just to put everything in one frame. In terms of all of those features that I just mentioned. The reservoir has several release points up at the dam where water can be released.

The Farmer's gate we saw in that video was actually releasing water. Water can also go over the spillway when the flows get high enough. And then downstream of that, we have a specified release point for the minimum in-stream flow. And then we also have an

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additional release point that comes right off the penstock.

That's the rock drop valve where additional water can be released if necessary in small quantities. On the powerhouse side water goes directly down to the powerhouse. From there, there's actually two places that can go; directly out of the powerhouse, one to the splitterbox. The second one would be out to Matley Ranch through the Upper Conway Ditch.

And once the water gets to the splitterbox, there's two more directions that can go there. One would be over to the Wilson system, and the other would be through the return ditch that would take the water back to Mill Creek. And you can also see the depiction of the Adair Ditch, which does allow us to move that water over to Wilson if we're unable to put water through the powerhouse for any reason.

So the Mill Creek water rights were adjudicated in Mono County Superior Court long ago, back in November 30th, 1914. These are longstanding water rights. SCE has a non-consumptive, right? So the water rights just to pass through for us for the purposes of hydro generation. This just gives you a snapshot of what those water rights look like. They are in priority order one through 11 and varying quantities.

And so oftentimes, depending on the quantity of

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the water coming into the lake, we'll have water that needs to go to Mill Creek, water that needs to go to the Wilson system, all happening at the same time. But by using this priority table we're able to direct that water to the appropriate water right holders. And we have communication with the water right holders on an annual basis letting them know what the operations are looking like for a certain year.

And they have the opportunity to communicate with us if they have any particular needs or timing or issues that they're going to have in terms of receiving their water. Here's some of the milestones. I think we already saw some of those in Jess's table, but just to highlight them again, I won't go through them all, but as you can see there, it's a multi-step process and we've got a lot of work to do still ahead of us.

But we're looking forward to getting this thing kicked off and starting to gather that necessary information for the process. Any questions for me on the operations of the Lundy project? Pretty straightforward. Yeah. Tristan.

MR. LEONG: Tristan, US Forest Service. Is there no synchronous bypass at the penstock? Or I'm sorry, at the Powerhouse? So if it goes offline, you were saying you had to use the Adair Ditch to return. So that means

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Conway Ranch or the Conway Ditch does not get water in that scenario.

MR. WOODHALL: The Upper Conway Ditch cannot be utilized during those conditions.

MR. LEONG: Okay.

MR. WOODHALL: But the Upper Conway Ditch only has water in it periodically at the request of Mono County, which holds that water right. So we'll direct water in there at their request. If we are going to use the Adair ditch, it's something we communicate ahead of time so that Mono County would know that during that time period of powerhouse outage that the upper Conway will be unusable. So, yeah.

MR. ANDERSON: Questions?

MR. MEESE: Graham Meese, CDFW. I was wondering, it's just out of curiosity, when the footage that you showed in the video, if you know, like what year? What time of year, just like a lot of the shots of the creek looked great. I'm just curious --

MR. WOODHALL: What time of year did we shoot the video?

MR. MEESE: Correct.

MR. WOODHALL: It would've been spring. Yeah, right after we were able to access it. Spring time. Early spring.

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MR. MEESE: Spring 2023?

MR. WOODHALL: Yeah. Early three. Yeah.

MR. MEESE: Thank you.

MR. WOODHALL: Okay. Any other questions? That's it. All right. Back to you, Jess.

MS. FEFER: I think so. Let's see. Oh, it went back to the beginning. Okay. Sorry. Bear with me here. All right. Now that we've learned a little bit about the Lundy project, we are going to go into the preliminary resource issues that were identified in Scoping Document One. So really what I'm going to do right now is go through each resource and for each resource, if you have a comment or question about that resource, I will open it up after that resource.

So just keep your comments or questions now to the specific resource we're talking about, and then we'll have time to open it up to more general comments and questions after we've gone through all of that. So I will just go ahead and basically read the slide to you. Sorry.

But so geology and soils resources, what we found is potentially project impacts would be effects of continued project operation on shoreline erosion and sediment transport downstream of Mill Creek, potential effects of sediment movement from or within Deer Creek to the project shorelines and stream banks along Mill Creek and

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effects of Hill slope erosion downstream of Lundy Lake and Deer Creek.

Would anybody like to add any potential effects for geology and soil resources? And I should say, if you think about it like later, you don't have to think about it right now, if it comes up later when we're in the discussion stages, that's fine as well. But figure, I'll open it up here as well. All right.

So water resources; effects of continued project operation on water quality in the project bypass reach and downstream of the powerhouse effects of continued project operation on water quality in Lundy Lake and effects of continued project operation on downstream water rights and users. Any additional water resource potential issues you'd like to bring up?

All righty. Aquatic; effects of continued project operation on fish habitat and fish resources in the project and impoundment bypass reach and downstream of the powerhouse, effects of fish entrainment at the Lundy powerhouse on fish resources in the project area. Effects of continued project operation on fish stranding, effects of project water diversion and instream flow on fish habitat in the project bypass reach and effects of continued project operation on aquatic inverter rates downstream of the Lundy Dam. Anybody like to add anything to aquatic?

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MR. LEONG: I don't know if it's captured here, but where do you have amphibians? Is that --

MS. FEFER: Go ahead and ask that again. Sorry.

MR. LEONG: I'm sorry. This Tristan, US forest service. I don't know if within the project sphere, if there are amphibians that might be affected, is that captured in aquatics or some other section?

MS. FEFER: Would that be captured in? Terrestrial.

MR. LEONG: Terrestrial. Okay.

MS. FEFER: Except I'm about to go to that and we'll see if we have it there. So we'll add it there if we don't. So, effects of continued operation on maintenance on special status botanical resources, effects of the introduction and or spread of invasive plant populations potentially occurring due to maintenance activities.

Effects of continued operation and maintenance on special status wildlife species and effects of continued operation and maintenance on including vegetation management and herbicide use on native vegetation and wildlife, game species, and the special status species identified in SEC's pad including in near national forest species of conservation concern and nesting migratory bird species. So we will add invertebrates into --

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MR. LEONG: Amphibians.

MS. FEFER: Sorry, amphibians into where they should.

MS. WASHINGTON: Fish are part of special status wildlife as we analyze them. Sorry --

MS. FEFER: Amphibians.

MR. LEONG: There you go.

MS. WASHINGTON: Not fish. There are part of special status wildlife.

MR. LEONG: Okay.

MS. WASHINGTON: We would include it there.

MR. LEONG: Okay.

MS. FEFER: Okay. So covered in terrestrial. We'll get there eventually. All right. So and threatening and endangered species here. Effects of continued project operation and maintenance activities on species designated as federally threatened, endangered, proposed or candidates for listing and designated critical habitat, proposed and final under the Endangered Species Act.

I don't have all of those listed here, but they are in Scoping Document One. Recreation resources, we're going to look at effects of continued project operation and maintenance on recreation resources and adequacy of existing recreation facilities to meet current and future recreation demand. Anyone want to add anything to recreation?

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MS. WASHINGTON: I have a question.

MS. FEFER: Sure.

MS. WASHINGTON: Jameisha Washington, US Forest service? Question would be, I mean are we talking about recreation both summer, spring and fall, winter?

MS. FEFER: Uh-huh.

MS. WASHINGTON: Okay.

MS. FEFER: Yeah. As long as long as we are, you know, we know during the scoping that there is recreation during all of those times and we would look at all of that recreation.

MS. WASHINGTON: We have heavy recreation used during winter.

MS. FEFER: That's great. We will definitely look at that then. All right. Land use and aesthetics. Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on land use. And effects of continued project operation and maintenance on the aesthetic quality of the project area. Cultural and tribal resources. So effects of continued project operation and maintenance on historic or archeological resources and traditional cultural properties that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or on other areas or places of religious, cultural and traditional importance to Indian tribes. Anything to add there? Oh, yeah.

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MS. BOLTON: What about (Off mic -- Inaudible)

MS. FEFER: I'm going to have you repeat that question, sorry.

MS. BOLTON: So --

MR. ANDERSON: Identify your name and --

MS. BOLTON: And Lyn Bolton. Local resident. So what about adding tribal beneficial uses to that list of things to consider?

MS. FEFER: Yeah sure. We'll take that.

MS. BOLTON: That's a recent state water board thing.

MS. FEFER: Okay. Absolutely. Thank you. Okay. Socioeconomic; effects of continued project operations and flow diversions on agriculture and other consumptive uses in Mono city. Effects of any reduction in the amount of water available for irrigation on agricultural production and pasture land for livestock in Mono Lake watershed. Any additions there?

Okay. And lastly, environmental justice effects of project operation and maintenance on identified environmental justice communities. And I lied that wasn't lastly, we still have cumulative effects. So for cumulative effects, which just to remind everyone, you probably know what that is, but it's essentially the impact on the environment that results from incremental impact of actions

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from past, present, or future that may not be super impact on their own, but when they're incremental they become these cumulative impacts and we have identified water and aquatic resources that could be cumulatively impacted by the continued operation and maintenance of the Lundy project.

Does anyone see any of the other resources we've talked about today as potentially cumulatively impacted? Okay. Okay. So now I'm going to just switch gears a tiny bit for us to think again about your comment periods that I was talking about so much prior. So some of the information that really FERC is requesting from you because we want your help in learning about this project in this area. So Section Seven of the Scoping Document One includes a list of comprehensive plans on file with the commission that are relevant to the Lundy project.

And as part of scoping, we request that agencies and the public review the list and file any new updated plans that you might know about that might be helpful for us that we can add to the scoping document too. And we also ask that anyone who is not yet on the mailing list and would like to be added to the mailing list to make sure to go ahead and do that. And of course we want you to comment about any significant environmental issues that should be addressed in the EA. And here probably not super helpful to have the QR code on the presentation board for you.

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But just so you know, we have that and it's on the handout. And that will just take you right to FERC online and you can do everything there. You can leave comments, you can subscribe. If you want to know everything that's going on the public record for the Lundy project, you can subscribe to the Lundy project and have that sent to your email. And you can do that all by following the QR code that is on the table over there or the website that I have here.

Just a reminder, comments are due for scoping June 24th. And then again the next comment periods, I'm just kind of reminding you for the study proposal. So November 4th will be another time that you can comment on there on their proposed study plan. And then SCE will submit a revised study plan based on your comments. So your comments are very important. And then you'll be able to comment on that again before we issue our study plan determination.

So I sort of already went through that, but just wanted to make you aware since those there are upcoming this year. And again, for kind of things we're looking for. So especially in when we are commenting about these studies, right? The SCE may not be doing studies that you think need to be done or maybe they're not covering what you think needs to be covered. And so there's sort of a process that

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we have for requesting studies.

And it's the same as commenting. You just go into e-Library and comment. However, we ask for kind of specific things if you're going to request a brand new study. So I'm just going to go ahead and kind of brush over these really quickly just so that in case you want to do that. You know, you just want to make sure to follow the requirements so that we can take it into account in the right way so that we have all in the information we need to do that.

So making sure that you're describing the goals and objectives of each study. If applicable, explain relevant resource management goals. If you're not a resource agency yourself, explain any relevant public interest considerations. Describe existing information concerning the subject of study and the need for additional information. Explain the nexus between product operations and effects on the resource to be studied.

And then really six and seven here are the ones that we find most often people miss. So just these are the ones, if you only take two things home today, number six and seven. Explain how any proposed study methodology is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community. So if you have methods, let us know why we should use them. And then this one, most people

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usually miss, describe considerations of level of effort and cost as applicable.

So just make sure to have all of those pieces in there and then we will have all the information that we need in order to work it into our analysis. So with that, that's really all I have for you. I have my information here if you want to reach out and I can open it up to questions for me or for SCE or just any comments about any resource issues that you think we didn't bring up here today. All right, I'm seeing none. Oh, yeah, we've got one.

MR. MEESE: Graham Meese, California Fish and Wildlife. I was wondering, I noticed on the FERC project boundary map that you showed the boundary cuts off at the Adair Ditch and the section of Mill Creek then from the Adera ditch to the return ditch is not included.

MS. FEFER: Okay.

MR. MEESE: Would be curious why that's not included.

MR. WOODHALL: So Adair Ditch is not in the FERC boundary. It's not part of our project. It's an old historic ditch that we utilize for the water right holders. It's basically a water right holder ditch. So it's not a project feature. We don't need it for our project operations, it's solely a project water right holder ditch. Does that make sense?

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MR. MEESE: Sure. My question is really why there was a section of Mill Creek between, maybe it wasn't the Adair ditch then, between some -- yeah, if you could pull, maybe that'd be --

MS. FEFER: Yeah, I think it was in the other presentations of SCE. So let's see. Why is this so difficult today?

MR. ANDERSON: Name (Off mic -- Inaudible) talking about Graham?

MS. FEFER: You had it up here?

MR. MEESE: Yeah, I think it might be the one below, maybe it was in the conceptual diagram.

MS. FEFER: Oh, maybe it was in the video. It might've been in the video.

MR. MEESE: In the video. I think it's the one right above the --

MR. ANDERSON: Right there.

MS. FEFER: Oh, there we go.

MR. MEESE: There we go.

MS. FEFER: It's just part of it. Okay. There we go. We found it.

MR. MEESE: Yeah, so you can see like Mill Creek goes down and then there's something that peels off towards the penstock line, but then there's a section of Mill Creek above the return ditch that is not included in the project

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reach where and I'm just curious why that is. If you could explain that. Seems like Mill Creek is not in the project boundary.

MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, if I could speak to this.

MR. MEESE: Sure.

MR. ANDERSON: I believe this is a --

MR. MEESE: A campground.

MR. ANDERSON: -- these are include because they're part of the campground. So these are part of the Exhibit R's. And then this is included because it's access road to the penstock. So this is not the Adair ditch. This is not part of the project boundary because it's not water conveyance for the project. So this water is not necessary for the operation of the project, so it's not included in the project boundary.

MR. MEESE: I see. Okay.

MR. ANDERSON: So these, what you're seeing here is basically project facilities, these are necessary for the operation of the project. It's access road and penstock, but also campgrounds and day use areas that are part of the Exhibit R.

MR. MEESE: I think there's confusion maybe that the red lines encompass the bypass reach, but just to confirm it's not. But once you end at Lundy Dam, the bypass reach below is not part.

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MR. ANDERSON: Correct.

MR MESS: Right. Okay. That makes, well, yeah, thank you for clearing that up.

MR. ANDERSON: Yeah. Yeah, no problem. I just want to mention maybe just tomorrow is the site visit, I'm just curious, do you want to talk about that or?

MS. FEFER: Yeah, I mean, I was just going to mention it just to note that, you know, the site visit is happening at 8:30 and was just going to remind you all to come if you wanted to, but if you have anything else to say about it, that's really all I was going to say.

MR. ANDERSON: No. We'll just be convoying. So we'll condense into as few cars as we can. Wear, you know, sturdy shoes, be ready for whatever weather we might have.

MS. FEFER: Meet at Gus Hess Park. Is that right? That's Gus Hess? Yeah.

MR. ANDERSON: And hopefully, I think we're going to try to be done by 12 or 12:30. So it should, you know, it's a small project, so it shouldn't take that long, but, you know, but if people get involved in conversation, you never know.

MS. FEFER: That's true. All right. Well if there's no other questions, then we can, we can call it and hopefully see a lot of you tomorrow. All right. Thank you so much for being here. We appreciate it.

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(Whereupon the above proceedings concluded at 6:50 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION in the Matter of:

Name of Proceeding:

Lundy Project

Project No.: P-1390

Place: Lee Vining, CA

Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2024

was held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcription of the proceedings.

Bala Chandran

Official Reporter

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Energy Projects

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Lundy Project : Project No. P-1390

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Lee Vining Community Center

296 Mattly Avenue

Lee Vining, CA 93541

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

A public scoping meeting was held, pursuant to notice. starting at 6:05 p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. ANDERSON: All right, everybody, if you'll take your seats and we'll get going. Welcome everybody to the scoping meeting for the Lundy Lakes Hydroelectric Project. This is a meeting hosted by FERC. My name is Finlay Anderson. I'm a consultant helping Southern California Edison relicense the project. I'm just going to be a little bit of a microphone bunny this afternoon.

And the intent is to make sure that the court reporter and everybody else can hear you clearly. So, just a couple of housekeeping items, in the case of an emergency, just exit straight out the back. We'll rally at the end of the parking lot. There's an AED over here at the corner. Anybody know how to use it? Raise your hand. Bathrooms are just down the hallway. Please don't hesitate to take care of yourself. And beyond that, I'll just turn it over to Jess to kick us off.

MS. FEFER: Thank you. Oh, you're holding on to that. All right. Hi everyone. Is it on now? All right. There we go. All right. Hi everyone, my name is Jess Fefer. I am with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, as you probably all know it. I am the project coordinator for the Lundy Project and also I'm an environmental protection specialist.

And my specialties are outdoor recreation, land

use aesthetics and environmental justice. And there are two other FERC staff here with me today that I'd like to give the opportunity to introduce. So if you guys could just use your little live mics there and introduce yourself real quick, that would be awesome.

MS. KIPP: Is it on?

MS. FEFER: Maybe Finlay can. Yeah, there you go.

MR. ANDERSON: Let's try this. How about we try that.

MS. KIPP: Okay. Hi my name is Becky Kipp, and I am a wildlife biologist with FERC.

MR. SIDIBE: Hey, I'm Ousmane Sidibe, I go by Sid. I'm a civil engineer with FERC.

MS. FEFER: All right. Thank you so much. And then I was also going to have SE introduce. You want to introduce yourself real quick?

MR. WOODHALL: I'm Matthew Woodhall with Southern California Edison. I'm the project manager overseeing the relicensing.

MS. FEFER: Awesome. Thank you. All righty. So just a little bit of an agenda for what to expect today. I'll start with just a couple additional housekeeping items. I saw a lot of you signing in, but if you haven't signed in already, please make sure to do so. We just want to make

sure that we're capturing everybody here. And we also have Finlay with the microphone.

And when you have a comment or question, if you have a comment or question, if you could remember to state your name and your affiliation when you do that, also to help out our court reporter, that would be great. Just a bit more of an overview, I'm first going to just start by going over kind of the broad licensing process so you all sort of know where we are in the process and where we're going. And then SCE will jump in and share a little bit about their project proposal.

And then I will come back and we'll talk about some of the expected or potential resource issues that we highlighted in our Scoping Document One. And through that, there'll be opportunities for you all to speak up as well. I do want to note, even though you do make comments and you are stating your name and your affiliation, and we will have that on the record with the court reporter, if you have comments that you really want on the public record, please go and put that on the public record as well.

Even if you say it here, we want to hear it. Try not to talk with my hands today. We want to hear it twice. So I will give you directions for how to do that a little bit later in this presentation. I also have a handout over there that has a QR code that you can just use

the QR code and you get right to our website to make that easier for you all.

So just to dive right in to sort of the overview, as you know, probably, FERC is a Federal agency that regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil and electricity, and additional responsibilities like licensing and inspecting non-federal hydropower dams. My colleagues here and I are in the division of hydropower licensing.

And so, you know, you really deal with us only during the licensing process. Our other colleagues in headquarters in DC, our division of hydropower administration and compliance and division of dam safety and inspections, and SCE gets to deal with them for the rest of the time when they're not in licensing. So now for the licensing process just kind of, this is just a bird's eye broad overview of sort of where we are in our licensing process and where we're going.

So SCE did file their pre-application document in the end of February. And we have already issued our scoping document. That's why you're all here. And we are here to scope. So that's sort of where we are in the process. The next step in the process is going to be studies. So putting together what's the information that we're seeking here?

So studies and consultation, and that takes, you know, two to three years and the public is very involved in that piece of the process as well. And then SCE will file their re-license application. Now I have the FERC reviews SCE application and project record in yellow, because that's where the timeline becomes a little bit more wonky. It's pretty tight until we get to that point.

And then it, you know, it will take FERC however long it takes, right? To review that because we need to make sure we have all the information we need. So sometimes there's some back and forth between FERC and SCE. And then we will issue our REA notice and begin our environmental analysis. And my next slide just sort of shows that throughout all of that you have opportunities to comment.

So I'm just going to lay that out here real quickly for you. So again, we are in this scoping phase. After this meeting, you'll have the opportunity to comment on the pad Scoping Document One and any study requests you have. And that's due June 24th. Technically it's due June 22nd, but that's a weekend. So we put it to the following Monday.

And then FERC will issue a second scoping document as needed based on your comments. And then we'll get into the study planning process. So SCE will file a proposed study plan. You all will have opportunity to

comment on that and make study requests, and that will happen by November 4th. SCE will respond to those and file a revised study plan.

And you'll also have an opportunity to respond to that in mid-December of 2024. And then FERC will go ahead and issue the study plan determination, which really directs what those studies are going to look like. And that will happen in early January of 2025, right after the holiday season, you know. And then we're in the study seasons.

And so this takes some time, it takes about two years, right? But you will have chance again to comment during that time. So SCE when they're completing their studies they're required to submit an initial study report. You'll be able to comment on that. They'll then file a revised study report. You can comment on that. So all sorts of comment opportunities here. Again, when they file their preliminary proposal, you'll have another opportunity to comment.

And then I'd really just have this slide here, this is post filing where the dates are a little bit more wonky, but the soonest we will have our environmental analysis ready for review is April 29th. And this slide is really just to show you that you are going to continue to have opportunities to comment even after filing has

occurred. Okay. And, you know, all of that is in the scoping document.

I don't expect you to remember those dates. Those are in the scoping document. I also have a handout that at least outlines the upcoming comment dates for you all. So not all of them, but the ones that are upcoming. All right. So the purpose of scoping, you know, of course it is a regulation, it's part of NEPA. It's a legal requirement based on NEPA and FERC regulations and other applicable laws. But, you know, I think more importantly, it's a time for us to engage with the public and hear what you all think of potential issues or concerns that you have about the project.

So really what we're doing here is we're here to understand public perspectives and any concerns you have, identify potential resource issues, reasonable alternatives, identify available information relevant to the project and our environmental analysis, and to identify cumulatively affected resources. So that's what we're doing here today. So we hope that we can hear from some of you. So with that, I'm going to hand it over to SCE to talk about their proposal.

MS. WILLIAMS: Hi guys. My name is Audry Williams. I'm a archeologist for Southern California Edison. Before we get started today, we'd just like to take

a moment to acknowledge that the Lundy project, as well as where we are meeting right now, is the homeland of the Caseticate Paiute tribe that they have steward for generations. Thanks.

MR. WOODHALL: Thanks, Audry. Okay. Well first of all, just on behalf of Southern California Edison, I just want to thank everyone for being here tonight for this scoping and for FERC coming out to hold the meeting. Looking forward to talking a little bit about operations of the Lundy project. But before that, just wanted to give you a few names of the team members, most of which are in the room today. Although a couple, one of them is not.

But on the SCE side, I've already introduced myself, Matthew Woodhall. I am the project manager of the Lundy Relicensing. We also have Martin Ostendorf, who's in the back. You can just raise your hand when I call your name. Yeah. And you just met Audry Williams, cultural resources. Seth Carr, which I don't think he made it tonight, but he is the operations manager that runs the Lundy Project, runs all of our hydro operations here in the Mono Basin.

On the consulting team, you met Finlay, who's going to be running the microphone for us tonight. We also have Angela Whelpley, she's in the back there, Kelly Larimer over on the side. We've got Brad Blood and Allison. There

they are. Heather Neath doing our fish and aquatics, Lynn Johnson on the tribal over there. And I don't think Jay and Meta are here, but they're part of our cultural historic properties. And then we've got Edith, which there she is right there.

So there's actually more people behind even those individuals that are on the consulting team. But just wanted to give you the key players from the Edison side. Before we get into the describing and talking a little bit about operations, we've got a video that we want to play that will kind of give you a good visual before we actually start talking about the operations on the ground. And so we'll start with the video, and then we'll proceed from there. So let me see here.

[Video shown]

Hello and thank you for joining us on this video tour of Southern California Edison's Lundy Project. Southern California Edison owns and operates the Lundy Project in Mono County, California. This video will provide a brief overview of the project and its principle features. Lands in and around the project include a combination of federal and non-federal lands. The watershed has a total drainage area of approximately 135 square miles.

The Mono Basin and the Mill Creek watershed includes the crest of the Sierra Nevada, with maximum

elevations extending up to 12,400 feet to approximately 6,400 feet at the shoreline of Mono Lake. The Lundy project originates in Lundy Canyon and flows directly into Mono Lake four miles downstream. The Lundy Project is authorized by a 30 year license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC in 1999.

This authorization expires on February 28th, 2029. The current FERC license contains measures to protect key resources, and these measures will be reevaluated as part of the process we are starting. The vicinity of the Lundy project was historically sculpted by glaciers, and is currently characterized by rounded granitic outcrops, U-shaped glacial valleys, glacial lakes, and tele slops.

The stunning visual and natural features of the area lend themselves to recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, and fishing. A campground is located below Lundy Lake. Lundy Lake and Mill Creek are stocked by California Department of Fish and Wildlife for fishing. There are trails and trail heads that are accessible from the Lundy project. Boating, sightseeing, and picnicking are also popular in this area.

Lundy Lake is the intake for Lundy Powerhouse. The lake has historically been drawn down in the winter to provide storage capacity for spring runoff. Water is conveyed from Lundy Lake to the powerhouse via the flow line

and penstock water is managed in the basin according to established water rights that have been adjudicated by the Superior Court of Mono County.

Spill and power generation are largely incidental to these water rights and secondarily by SCE's Power Sales Agreement with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which specifies annual drawdown requirements. SEC's FERC license requires that minimum flows be provided to stream reaches between the reservoir and the powerhouse. But these are also limited by preexisting water rights. Lundy Lake receives its water from Lundy Canyon, which has a drainage area of approximately 16 square miles.

The gravel at Rockville Dam measures approximately 690 feet long, with a structural height of 48 feet from the base of the core wall to the top of wall. The dam impounds the 132 acre Lundy Lake, which has a net storage capacity of 4,113 acre feet. The spillway is a 150 foot long by 7.7 foot deep notch in the concrete core wall.

An additional water release structure known as the Farmer's Gate operates when the lake level is above 7,779 feet to provide additional flow to the base of Lundy Dam. Generally operation of the Farmer's Gate is possible during wetter spring periods or wet water years. On the west end of Lundy Lake, there is a two-Lane bone launch available for recreationists. The site offers parking for

approximately five boats with trailers.

At Lundy Dam, there is a day use area with a gravel parking lot. This site offers a restroom facility along with access to local trails. Lundy Canyon Campground is located downstream approximately one mile northeast of the Lundy Lake Dam. The campground is operated under a lease from SCE to Mono County. The campground offers 37 sites for recreationists, nine 10 sites and 28 sites that can fit a 35 foot recreational vehicle.

Sites offer a cleared area for camping, a picnic table, a parking area, and several sites offer a bear proof box for storage. There are four day use areas located east of Lundy Canyon Campground. These day use sites provide parking areas and picnic tables for recreationists to enjoy views of Mill Creek. Mill Creek flows into Mono Lake, below Lundy Lake downstream to the 7,200 foot contour. The creek is densely vegetated causing frequent log jams.

Wood and boulders are frequent. And channel bed material is a mix of gravel, cobbles and boulders with some sand. Below the 7,200 foot contour, the creek extends downstream for another 3.5 miles outside of the project boundary to Mono City, and is under laid by gravels and silts. After leaving Mono City, the creek is under lane by gravels and cobbles for the remaining 2.5 miles downstream where it flows into Mono Lake.

The Lundy Powerhouse is a reinforced concrete building constructed in 1911. It is located on the Wilson drainage east downstream of Lundy Lake. The building is 66 feet long, 32 feet wide, 31 feet high, and has a substructure that is nine feet deep. The powerhouse contains two canyon turbines, each directly connected to an Allis Chalmers generator rated at 15,000 kilowatts.

Below the Lundy powerhouse water discharge from the powerhouse tail race is sent to a splitterbox, which directs flows either to the Wilson Drainage System, Wilson System, or returns water to Mill Creek via the Mill Creek return ditch. This return ditch shown here and the point at which it rejoins Mill Creek represents the end of the FERC project boundary.

The allocation of water between the Wilson System and Mill Creek is determined based on existing adjudicated water rights and flows through the powerhouse are set to ensure those water deliveries to water rights holders are met. Once water is returned to Mill Creek, it is outside the Lundy project boundary and continues towards Mono Lake.

Thank you for your time and interest in SEC's Lundy project. If you are interested in learning more about the project and the FERC relicensing process, please visit the project website at www.ce.com/lundy for more

information.

MR. WOODHALL: Okay. Let's see if we can get this to advance here. Okay. So I think that video really gives a good snapshot of the project, but we do have a few slides to talk about, a little bit of additional information concerning the operation of the Lundy project. Some points of highlight. The 30 year license expires February 28th, 2029.

The formal FERC process, as Jess alluded to earlier, began in February, 2024 when we filed our pre-application document and notice of intent. We will be filing a draft license application in the fall of 2026, and we're not anticipating any changes in operations or to the facilities. So the project itself is on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range within a very small portion of the Inyo National Forest.

It's in Mono County, and the private lands that are within the project are primarily held by SCE and the -- the body of water that is dammed up by Lundy Dam creating Lundy Lake is Mill Creek. The main project facilities are the dam and the lake, which are just below the headwaters of Mill Creek. It's a 23 acre reservoir.

The Lundy powerhouse has a capacity of three megawatts. There's two units that are megawatt and a half each. Flow line in the penstock connecting the Lundy Lake

and the powerhouse. And then below the powerhouse, we have a facility called the splitterbox, which separates the water flows to manage the flows for the water right holders either going into the Wilson drainage or into the return ditch. We saw that in the video as well.

The operations, in terms of the water that we use to make power is driven by the adjudicated water rights. We pass that water through the powerhouse, and then we deliver the water in varying quantities to the water right holders via the return ditch, the Wilson system. And then there's an additional release point at the Upper Conway Ditch.

The Adair Ditch is also an old historic ditch that can provide some flows over to the Wilson system if the powerhouse is offline for operation purposes, maintenance or what have you, we can move water over to the Wilson system through the Adair Ditch. This is just a schematic just to put everything in one frame. In terms of all of those features that I just mentioned. The reservoir has several release points up at the dam where water can be released.

The Farmer's gate we saw in that video was actually releasing water. Water can also go over the spillway when the flows get high enough. And then downstream of that, we have a specified release point for the minimum in-stream flow. And then we also have an

additional release point that comes right off the penstock.

That's the rock drop valve where additional water can be released if necessary in small quantities. On the powerhouse side water goes directly down to the powerhouse. From there, there's actually two places that can go; directly out of the powerhouse, one to the splitterbox. The second one would be out to Matley Ranch through the Upper Conway Ditch.

And once the water gets to the splitterbox, there's two more directions that can go there. One would be over to the Wilson system, and the other would be through the return ditch that would take the water back to Mill Creek. And you can also see the depiction of the Adair Ditch, which does allow us to move that water over to Wilson if we're unable to put water through the powerhouse for any reason.

So the Mill Creek water rights were adjudicated in Mono County Superior Court long ago, back in November 30th, 1914. These are longstanding water rights. SCE has a non-consumptive, right? So the water rights just to pass through for us for the purposes of hydro generation. This just gives you a snapshot of what those water rights look like. They are in priority order one through 11 and varying quantities.

And so oftentimes, depending on the quantity of

the water coming into the lake, we'll have water that needs to go to Mill Creek, water that needs to go to the Wilson system, all happening at the same time. But by using this priority table we're able to direct that water to the appropriate water right holders. And we have communication with the water right holders on an annual basis letting them know what the operations are looking like for a certain year.

And they have the opportunity to communicate with us if they have any particular needs or timing or issues that they're going to have in terms of receiving their water. Here's some of the milestones. I think we already saw some of those in Jess's table, but just to highlight them again, I won't go through them all, but as you can see there, it's a multi-step process and we've got a lot of work to do still ahead of us.

But we're looking forward to getting this thing kicked off and starting to gather that necessary information for the process. Any questions for me on the operations of the Lundy project? Pretty straightforward. Yeah. Tristan.

MR. LEONG: Tristan, US Forest Service. Is there no synchronous bypass at the penstock? Or I'm sorry, at the Powerhouse? So if it goes offline, you were saying you had to use the Adair Ditch to return. So that means

Conway Ranch or the Conway Ditch does not get water in that scenario.

MR. WOODHALL: The Upper Conway Ditch cannot be utilized during those conditions.

MR. LEONG: Okay.

MR. WOODHALL: But the Upper Conway Ditch only has water in it periodically at the request of Mono County, which holds that water right. So we'll direct water in there at their request. If we are going to use the Adair ditch, it's something we communicate ahead of time so that Mono County would know that during that time period of powerhouse outage that the upper Conway will be unusable. So, yeah.

MR. ANDERSON: Questions?

MR. MEESE: Graham Meese, CDFW. I was wondering, it's just out of curiosity, when the footage that you showed in the video, if you know, like what year? What time of year, just like a lot of the shots of the creek looked great. I'm just curious --

MR. WOODHALL: What time of year did we shoot the video?

MR. MEESE: Correct.

MR. WOODHALL: It would've been spring. Yeah, right after we were able to access it. Spring time. Early spring.

MR. MEESE: Spring 2023?

MR. WOODHALL: Yeah. Early three. Yeah.

MR. MEESE: Thank you.

MR. WOODHALL: Okay. Any other questions? That's it. All right. Back to you, Jess.

MS. FEFER: I think so. Let's see. Oh, it went back to the beginning. Okay. Sorry. Bear with me here. All right. Now that we've learned a little bit about the Lundy project, we are going to go into the preliminary resource issues that were identified in Scoping Document One. So really what I'm going to do right now is go through each resource and for each resource, if you have a comment or question about that resource, I will open it up after that resource.

So just keep your comments or questions now to the specific resource we're talking about, and then we'll have time to open it up to more general comments and questions after we've gone through all of that. So I will just go ahead and basically read the slide to you. Sorry.

But so geology and soils resources, what we found is potentially project impacts would be effects of continued project operation on shoreline erosion and sediment transport downstream of Mill Creek, potential effects of sediment movement from or within Deer Creek to the project shorelines and stream banks along Mill Creek and

effects of Hill slope erosion downstream of Lundy Lake and Deer Creek.

Would anybody like to add any potential effects for geology and soil resources? And I should say, if you think about it like later, you don't have to think about it right now, if it comes up later when we're in the discussion stages, that's fine as well. But figure, I'll open it up here as well. All right.

So water resources; effects of continued project operation on water quality in the project bypass reach and downstream of the powerhouse effects of continued project operation on water quality in Lundy Lake and effects of continued project operation on downstream water rights and users. Any additional water resource potential issues you'd like to bring up?

All righty. Aquatic; effects of continued project operation on fish habitat and fish resources in the project and impoundment bypass reach and downstream of the powerhouse, effects of fish entrainment at the Lundy powerhouse on fish resources in the project area. Effects of continued project operation on fish stranding, effects of project water diversion and instream flow on fish habitat in the project bypass reach and effects of continued project operation on aquatic inverter rates downstream of the Lundy Dam. Anybody like to add anything to aquatic?

MR. LEONG: I don't know if it's captured here, but where do you have amphibians? Is that --

MS. FEFER: Go ahead and ask that again. Sorry.

MR. LEONG: I'm sorry. This Tristan, US forest service. I don't know if within the project sphere, if there are amphibians that might be affected, is that captured in aquatics or some other section?

MS. FEFER: Would that be captured in? Terrestrial.

MR. LEONG: Terrestrial. Okay.

MS. FEFER: Except I'm about to go to that and we'll see if we have it there. So we'll add it there if we don't. So, effects of continued operation on maintenance on special status botanical resources, effects of the introduction and or spread of invasive plant populations potentially occurring due to maintenance activities.

Effects of continued operation and maintenance on special status wildlife species and effects of continued operation and maintenance on including vegetation management and herbicide use on native vegetation and wildlife, game species, and the special status species identified in SEC's pad including in near national forest species of conservation concern and nesting migratory bird species. So we will add invertebrates into --

MR. LEONG: Amphibians.

MS. FEFER: Sorry, amphibians into where they should.

MS. WASHINGTON: Fish are part of special status wildlife as we analyze them. Sorry --

MS. FEFER: Amphibians.

MR. LEONG: There you go.

MS. WASHINGTON: Not fish. There are part of special status wildlife.

MR. LEONG: Okay.

MS. WASHINGTON: We would include it there.

MR. LEONG: Okay.

MS. FEFER: Okay. So covered in terrestrial. We'll get there eventually. All right. So and threatening and endangered species here. Effects of continued project operation and maintenance activities on species designated as federally threatened, endangered, proposed or candidates for listing and designated critical habitat, proposed and final under the Endangered Species Act.

I don't have all of those listed here, but they are in Scoping Document One. Recreation resources, we're going to look at effects of continued project operation and maintenance on recreation resources and adequacy of existing recreation facilities to meet current and future recreation demand. Anyone want to add anything to recreation?

MS. WASHINGTON: I have a question.

MS. FEFER: Sure.

MS. WASHINGTON: Jameisha Washington, US Forest service? Question would be, I mean are we talking about recreation both summer, spring and fall, winter?

MS. FEFER: Uh-huh.

MS. WASHINGTON: Okay.

MS. FEFER: Yeah. As long as long as we are, you know, we know during the scoping that there is recreation during all of those times and we would look at all of that recreation.

MS. WASHINGTON: We have heavy recreation used during winter.

MS. FEFER: That's great. We will definitely look at that then. All right. Land use and aesthetics. Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on land use. And effects of continued project operation and maintenance on the aesthetic quality of the project area. Cultural and tribal resources. So effects of continued project operation and maintenance on historic or archeological resources and traditional cultural properties that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or on other areas or places of religious, cultural and traditional importance to Indian tribes. Anything to add there? Oh, yeah.

MS. BOLTON: What about (Off mic -- Inaudible)

MS. FEFER: I'm going to have you repeat that question, sorry.

MS. BOLTON: So --

MR. ANDERSON: Identify your name and --

MS. BOLTON: And Lyn Bolton. Local resident. So what about adding tribal beneficial uses to that list of things to consider?

MS. FEFER: Yeah sure. We'll take that.

MS. BOLTON: That's a recent state water board thing.

MS. FEFER: Okay. Absolutely. Thank you. Okay. Socioeconomic; effects of continued project operations and flow diversions on agriculture and other consumptive uses in Mono city. Effects of any reduction in the amount of water available for irrigation on agricultural production and pasture land for livestock in Mono Lake watershed. Any additions there?

Okay. And lastly, environmental justice effects of project operation and maintenance on identified environmental justice communities. And I lied that wasn't lastly, we still have cumulative effects. So for cumulative effects, which just to remind everyone, you probably know what that is, but it's essentially the impact on the environment that results from incremental impact of actions

from past, present, or future that may not be super impact on their own, but when they're incremental they become these cumulative impacts and we have identified water and aquatic resources that could be cumulatively impacted by the continued operation and maintenance of the Lundy project.

Does anyone see any of the other resources we've talked about today as potentially cumulatively impacted? Okay. Okay. So now I'm going to just switch gears a tiny bit for us to think again about your comment periods that I was talking about so much prior. So some of the information that really FERC is requesting from you because we want your help in learning about this project in this area. So Section Seven of the Scoping Document One includes a list of comprehensive plans on file with the commission that are relevant to the Lundy project.

And as part of scoping, we request that agencies and the public review the list and file any new updated plans that you might know about that might be helpful for us that we can add to the scoping document too. And we also ask that anyone who is not yet on the mailing list and would like to be added to the mailing list to make sure to go ahead and do that. And of course we want you to comment about any significant environmental issues that should be addressed in the EA. And here probably not super helpful to have the QR code on the presentation board for you.

But just so you know, we have that and it's on the handout. And that will just take you right to FERC online and you can do everything there. You can leave comments, you can subscribe. If you want to know everything that's going on the public record for the Lundy project, you can subscribe to the Lundy project and have that sent to your email. And you can do that all by following the QR code that is on the table over there or the website that I have here.

Just a reminder, comments are due for scoping June 24th. And then again the next comment periods, I'm just kind of reminding you for the study proposal. So November 4th will be another time that you can comment on there on their proposed study plan. And then SCE will submit a revised study plan based on your comments. So your comments are very important. And then you'll be able to comment on that again before we issue our study plan determination.

So I sort of already went through that, but just wanted to make you aware since those there are upcoming this year. And again, for kind of things we're looking for. So especially in when we are commenting about these studies, right? The SCE may not be doing studies that you think need to be done or maybe they're not covering what you think needs to be covered. And so there's sort of a process that

we have for requesting studies.

And it's the same as commenting. You just go into e-Library and comment. However, we ask for kind of specific things if you're going to request a brand new study. So I'm just going to go ahead and kind of brush over these really quickly just so that in case you want to do that. You know, you just want to make sure to follow the requirements so that we can take it into account in the right way so that we have all in the information we need to do that.

So making sure that you're describing the goals and objectives of each study. If applicable, explain relevant resource management goals. If you're not a resource agency yourself, explain any relevant public interest considerations. Describe existing information concerning the subject of study and the need for additional information. Explain the nexus between product operations and effects on the resource to be studied.

And then really six and seven here are the ones that we find most often people miss. So just these are the ones, if you only take two things home today, number six and seven. Explain how any proposed study methodology is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community. So if you have methods, let us know why we should use them. And then this one, most people

usually miss, describe considerations of level of effort and cost as applicable.

So just make sure to have all of those pieces in there and then we will have all the information that we need in order to work it into our analysis. So with that, that's really all I have for you. I have my information here if you want to reach out and I can open it up to questions for me or for SCE or just any comments about any resource issues that you think we didn't bring up here today. All right, I'm seeing none. Oh, yeah, we've got one.

MR. MEESE: Graham Meese, California Fish and Wildlife. I was wondering, I noticed on the FERC project boundary map that you showed the boundary cuts off at the Adair Ditch and the section of Mill Creek then from the Adera ditch to the return ditch is not included.

MS. FEFER: Okay.

MR. MEESE: Would be curious why that's not included.

MR. WOODHALL: So Adair Ditch is not in the FERC boundary. It's not part of our project. It's an old historic ditch that we utilize for the water right holders. It's basically a water right holder ditch. So it's not a project feature. We don't need it for our project operations, it's solely a project water right holder ditch. Does that make sense?

MR. MEESE: Sure. My question is really why there was a section of Mill Creek between, maybe it wasn't the Adair ditch then, between some -- yeah, if you could pull, maybe that'd be --

MS. FEFER: Yeah, I think it was in the other presentations of SCE. So let's see. Why is this so difficult today?

MR. ANDERSON: Name (Off mic -- Inaudible) talking about Graham?

MS. FEFER: You had it up here?

MR. MEESE: Yeah, I think it might be the one below, maybe it was in the conceptual diagram.

MS. FEFER: Oh, maybe it was in the video. It might've been in the video.

MR. MEESE: In the video. I think it's the one right above the --

MR. ANDERSON: Right there.

MS. FEFER: Oh, there we go.

MR. MEESE: There we go.

MS. FEFER: It's just part of it. Okay. There we go. We found it.

MR. MEESE: Yeah, so you can see like Mill Creek goes down and then there's something that peels off towards the penstock line, but then there's a section of Mill Creek above the return ditch that is not included in the project

reach where and I'm just curious why that is. If you could explain that. Seems like Mill Creek is not in the project boundary.

MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, if I could speak to this.

MR. MEESE: Sure.

MR. ANDERSON: I believe this is a --

MR. MEESE: A campground.

MR. ANDERSON: -- these are include because they're part of the campground. So these are part of the Exhibit R's. And then this is included because it's access road to the penstock. So this is not the Adair ditch. This is not part of the project boundary because it's not water conveyance for the project. So this water is not necessary for the operation of the project, so it's not included in the project boundary.

MR. MEESE: I see. Okay.

MR. ANDERSON: So these, what you're seeing here is basically project facilities, these are necessary for the operation of the project. It's access road and penstock, but also campgrounds and day use areas that are part of the Exhibit R.

MR. MEESE: I think there's confusion maybe that the red lines encompass the bypass reach, but just to confirm it's not. But once you end at Lundy Dam, the bypass reach below is not part.

MR. ANDERSON: Correct.

MR MESS: Right. Okay. That makes, well, yeah, thank you for clearing that up.

MR. ANDERSON: Yeah. Yeah, no problem. I just want to mention maybe just tomorrow is the site visit, I'm just curious, do you want to talk about that or?

MS. FEFER: Yeah, I mean, I was just going to mention it just to note that, you know, the site visit is happening at 8:30 and was just going to remind you all to come if you wanted to, but if you have anything else to say about it, that's really all I was going to say.

MR. ANDERSON: No. We'll just be convoying. So we'll condense into as few cars as we can. Wear, you know, sturdy shoes, be ready for whatever weather we might have.

MS. FEFER: Meet at Gus Hess Park. Is that right? That's Gus Hess? Yeah.

MR. ANDERSON: And hopefully, I think we're going to try to be done by 12 or 12:30. So it should, you know, it's a small project, so it shouldn't take that long, but, you know, but if people get involved in conversation, you never know.

MS. FEFER: That's true. All right. Well if there's no other questions, then we can, we can call it and hopefully see a lot of you tomorrow. All right. Thank you so much for being here. We appreciate it.

(Whereupon the above proceedings concluded at 6:50 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION in the Matter of:

Name of Proceeding:

Lundy Project

Project No.: P-1390

Place: Lee Vining, CA

Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2024

was held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcription of the proceedings.

Bala Chandran

Official Reporter

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Energy Projects

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Lundy Project : Project No. P-1390

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Lee Vining Community Center

296 Mattly Avenue

Lee Vining, CA 93541

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

A public scoping meeting was held, pursuant to notice. starting at 2:00 p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. ANDERSON: All right. Just a reminder, if you haven't signed in up front, please do so that we have a record of folks who have come to the meeting. A couple just notes similar to yesterday. If they're in the case of emergency, please just exit straight out the back. We'll rally at the back end of the parking lot. Restrooms are out the door to the left. I really wanted to emphasize that if you're going to talk today make sure you use the microphone, identify yourself.

I've been asked to sort of make it clear that if you don't speak into the microphone, Chandra and can't get a good record of it and can't have your thoughts on the record. So I appreciate everybody starting here. We'll start off with FERC and then Matt will have some comments about how the project operates. We've got short video and then yeah, we'll just have the discussion from there, right? So Jessica?

MS. FEFER: Yeah. Thank you. All right. How does that work, sort of, is that okay? All right. All right. Hi, everyone. Thanks for being here today. For those of you who are out at the site visit, which I think was everyone, thanks for being at the site visit. And sorry that I wasn't able to be a little bit more engaged in that, but sorry, do you guys hear that too?

MR. SIDIBE: Little bit of background noise?

MS. FEFER: Yeah. All right. Awesome. Thank you. Maybe it's me. Is it close to that one? Let's see, how's that? Oh, that might have been it. I think it needs to be here for me to actually be able to talk into it.

Okay. All right, great. So, I'm Jess Fefer. I'm with FERC. I am the relicensing project coordinator. And I am environmental protection specialist as well. My specialty is outdoor recreation, land use, aesthetics and environmental justice. And I am accompanied by two of my colleagues here that I will also have introduce themselves. Go ahead, Sid.

MR. SIDIBE: I'm Ousmane Sidibe, Sid. Civil engineer with FERC.

MS. FEFER: Oh, sorry.

MS. KIPP: Becky Kipp I'm a wildlife biologist with FERC.

MS. FEFER: All right. Thank you. And if I could have SCE introduce yourself real quick.

MR. WOODHALL: We can try this one? Yeah, it works. I'm Matthew Woodhall with Southern California Edison. I'm the project manager overseeing the relicensing of Lundy.

MS. FEFER: Awesome. Thank you. So just a quick agenda for the meeting today. But before I do that, I

do have a couple of housekeeping items I know we already mentioned to definitely make sure to sign in. And actually you already did it for me. I was going to say, state your name and affiliation when you're when you're speaking. So I think that's actually really the only housekeeping that I had.

Oh, one thing that I did want to make sure to mention is that when you speak today of course we are going to have that on the record. We have our court reporter here. But we also, you know, that doesn't take the place of commenting online. And so I am going to, you know, to walk through how to do that if you don't know already kind of how to comment online. But make sure that with the comments that you say out loud today, also put those on the record for us.

So today I'm going to start by just going over the licensing process a quick overview of that. And then SCE will jump in with their proposal. And then I will come back and we'll identify resource issues that were identified in scoping document one, and we'll have time for comments and discussion from you all. So just really briefly kind of a introduction to FERC, although you may all know this already.

We are a federal agency that regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil and electricity.

And additional responsibilities including licensing and inspecting of non-federal hydroelectric projects. We are all in the division of hydropower licensing. That's why we're here because you're going through relicensing. But there's also the division of hydropower administration and compliance and dam safety and inspection that you all probably deal with when you're not in relicensing.

Kind of a bird's eye view of the relicensing schedule. SCE filed their pre-application document in the end of February. We are now in scoping, that's what we're here doing. And then the next stage will be study periods and figuring out what the studies should be. And then SCE will file their re-license application by February 28th, 2027. And then I have this FERC reviews SCE application in yellow because that's when the timeline sort of gets a little bit more wonky.

We might have some back and forth with SCE about getting all the information that we need. And, you know, then we move forward to the NEPA analysis. And my next slide sort of walks you through all of the times that you will be able to comment in during this period. So again, we are in scoping season right now. Your comments for the pad scoping document one and any study requests are due on June 24th. So make sure to get those into us so that we can incorporate those into a second scoping document as needed.

Our next phase will be putting the study plans together and you all have two opportunities to comment there as well. SCE will file their proposed study plan in early August of 2024, and then you all can comment on that before November 4th. And then SCE will take those comments into account and file a revised study plan in December. And then you will be able to comment on that as well before FERC issues the study plan determination.

Then we go into the study seasons and that can take some time and you all will have time to comment on the initial study report and the updated study report as well. And then you'll also get a chance to comment on the preliminary license proposal before SCE files their license application. And this is just to point out that sort of at the earliest right, this is a really long process and that's just sort of my point with this slide is kind of at the earliest we'll be ready for our environmental analysis by the end of April of 2027.

And you'll have time to comment on that as well. All right. Oh, and all of those dates are also in the scoping document, so I don't expect you to, you know, remember all those. But so the purpose of scoping, right? It is obviously a requirement that's part of NEPA regulations FERC regulations and other applicable laws. But

I think more importantly, it's about understanding public perspectives and concerns of what's going on at the project.

We hope that you'll help us identify issues, identify reasonable alternatives identify available information that might be relevant to the project and our analysis and identify cumulatively affected resources. So we're here to hear from you all and learn from you all. And so with that, we will go over SCE's proposal. Let's see. Oops. Okay. Do you want me to get this slide show going? Here we go.

MS. WILLIAMS: Hi guys. My name's Audry Williams. I'm an archeologist for Edison. We just wanted to start this meeting off with taking a moment to recognize that the Lundy project as well as where we're meeting today and everywhere we went today is within the Mona Lake Kootzaduka'a Tribes traditional land, which they have steward for generations. Thanks.

MR. WOODHALL: Thanks, Audrey. Okay. Well, thanks for being here, everyone on behalf of Southern California Edison, I just want to share my appreciation for everyone participating today. I think we had a good day in the field going up and seeing the project and looking forward to just talking a little bit more about those operations.

But before we do that, just want to introduce some of the folks on the Edison side, on the Edison team both from Edison and our consulting team as well. I've already introduced myself, Matthew Woodhall. We also have Martin Ostendorf, who's in the back of the room there. He is a senior manager in our regulatory licensing group, Audrey Williams, who we just have the land acknowledgement from. And then we also have Seth Carr in the room today, who's our operations manager that makes everything happen up here and keeping Lundy running.

On the consulting side, we have Finlay Anderson, who you've met earlier, who's going to be running the microphone for us today. We have Angela in the back Kelly over here. Brad Blood and Allison are here as well. And you can see the subsequent areas of interest in the areas that they'll be overseeing as part of the licensing we have. Heather is here, Lynn --

MS. WILLIAMS: She is not here.

MR. WOODHALL: Lynn is not here. Jay and King are not here. And I think Edith is here as well. So aside from some of these leads that are going to be heading up the licensing activities, there's a, you know, a team of individuals even beyond that. So I just want to acknowledge those individuals. There might be names that you'll be seen as this process continues. Thought we'd also just share a

video that we have of the project. This will be a nice kind of cherry on the top from our field day. This will just be a quick overview of what we saw, but just a way to kind of put it all together. So we'll start with this video and then we'll do a little bit of review.

(Video played)

Hello and thank you for joining us on this video tour of Southern California Edison's Lundy Project. Southern California Edison owns and operates the Lundy Project in Mono County, California. This video will provide a brief overview of the project and its principle features. Lands in and around the project include a combination of federal and non-federal lands. The watershed has a total drainage area of approximately 135 square miles.

The Mono Basin and the Mill Creek watershed includes the crest of the Sierra Nevada with maximum elevations extending up to 12,400 feet to approximately 6,400 feet at the shoreline of Mono Lake. The Lundy Project originates in Lundy Canyon and flows directly into Mono Lake four miles downstream. The Lundy Project is authorized by a 30-year license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC in 1999.

This authorization expires on February 28th, 2029. The current FERC license contains measures to protect key resources, and these measures will be reevaluated as

part of the process we are starting. The vicinity of the Lundy project was historically sculpted by glaciers and is currently characterized by rounded granitic outcrops, U-shaped glacial valleys, glacial lakes, and tele slopes.

The stunning visual and natural features of the area lend themselves to recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, and fishing. A campground is located below, Lundy Lake. Lundy Lake and Mill Creek are stocked by California Department of Fish and Wildlife for fishing. There are trails and trail heads that are accessible from the Lundy project.

Boating, sightseeing and picnicking are also popular in this area. Lundy Lake is the intake for Lundy Powerhouse. The lake has historically been drawn down in the winter to provide storage capacity for spring runoff. Water is conveyed from Lundy Lake to the powerhouse via the flow line and Penstock. Water is managed in the basin according to established water rights that have been adjudicated by the Superior Court of Mono County.

Spill and power generation are largely incidental to these water rights and secondarily by SCE's Power Sales Agreement with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which specifies annual drawdown requirements. SCE's FERC license requires that minimum flows be provided to stream reaches between the reservoir and the powerhouse,

but these are also limited by pre-existing water rights.

Lundy Lake receives its water from Lundy Canyon, which has a drainage area of approximately 16 square miles. The gravel and Rockfield Dam measures approximately 690 feet long with a structural height of 48 feet from the base of the core wall to the top of wall. The dam impounds the 132-acre Lundy Lake, which has a net storage capacity of 4,113 acre feet. The spillway is a 150 foot long by 7.7 foot deep notch in the concrete core wall.

An additional water release structure known as the Farmer's Gate operates when the lake level is above 7,779 feet. To provide additional flow to the base of Lundy Dam. Generally, operation of the Farmer's Gate is possible during wetter spring periods for wet water years. On the west end of Lundy Lake, there is a two lane boat launch available for recreationists. The site offers parking for approximately five boats with trailers at Lundy Dam.

There is a day use area with a gravel parking lot. This site offers a restroom facility along with access to local trails. Lundy Canyon Campground is located downstream approximately one mile northeast of the Lundy Lake Dam. The campground is operated under a lease from SCE to Mono County. The campground offers 37 sites for recreationists 910 sites and 28 sites that can fit a 35-foot recreational vehicle. Sites offer a cleared area for

camping, a picnic table, a parking area, and several sites offer a bear proof box for storage.

There are four day use areas located east of Lundy Canyon Campground. These day use sites provide parking areas and picnic cables for recreationists to enjoy views of Mill Creek. Mill Creek flows into Mono Lake, below Lundy Lake downstream to the 7,200 foot contour. The creek is densely vegetated causing frequent log jams. Wood and boulders are frequent. And channel bed material is a mix of gravel, cobbles and boulders with some sand. Below this 7,200 foot contour. The creek extends downstream for another 3.5 miles outside of the project boundary to Mono City, and is under lane by gravels and silts.

After leaving Mono city the creek is under laid by gravels and cobbles for the remaining 2.5 miles downstream where it flows into Mono Lake. The Lundy Powerhouse is a reinforced concrete building constructed in 1911. It is located on the Wilson drainage east downstream of Lundy Lake. The building is 66 feet long, 32 feet wide, 31 feet high, and has a substructure that is nine feet deep. The powerhouse contains two canyon turbines, each directly connected to an Alice Chalmers generator rated at 15,000 kilowatts.

Below the Lundy powerhouse water discharge from the powerhouse tail race is sent to a splitterbox, which

directs flows either to the Wilson Drainage system, Wilson System, or returns water to Mill Creek via the Mill Creek return ditch. This return ditch shown here and the point at which it rejoins Mill Creek represents the end of the FERC project boundary.

The allocation of water between the Wilson System and Mill Creek is determined based on existing adjudicated water rights and flows through the powerhouse set to ensure those water deliveries to water rights holders are met. Once water is returned to Mill Creek, it is outside the Lundy project boundary and continues towards Mono Lake.

Thank you for your time and interest in SCE's Lundy project. If you are interested in learning more about the project and the FERC relicensing process, please visit the project website at www.sce.com/lundy for more information.

MR. WOODHALL: All right. Nice to see some shots of the lake full of water, which today when we were out there, it's still at low pool, so kind of kind of cool to see the conditions when it's full. So it seems to be a lag here. Oh, I got this. Oh. Too many times. There we go. Got it. Thank you, Finlay.

All right. Well, from here we'll just do a, a little review. Some of this stuff we talked about today on

the field visit. I'm not sure if everyone made it to the field visit, but a lot of great questions today. A lot of great dialogue. This is just a quick kind of synopsis of the project, some of its elements and how it operates. It is currently on a 30-year license, which expires February 28th, 2029. We did formally kick off the FERC process in February of this year with our pre-application document and notice of intent filing. And we will be filing a draft license application in 2026.

So there's still some time between now and that filing where we'll be doing the studies to help inform that process. We are not proposing any sort of changes to operations or any changes to the facilities. From a location standpoint, we are on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada. It's within a small portion of the INO National Forest within the county of Mono County.

And the private lands that are within the project are primarily held by Southern California Edison. And the main water body is Mill Creek that is dammed up by the Lundy Dam and the creation of the lake there. So Lundy Dam itself and the lake as I said, is fairly near the headwaters of Mill Creek 73 acre reservoir.

The powerhouse downstream of the lake is a three megawatt powerhouse the flow line, the penstock connecting the Lundy Lake and the powerhouse. So it's just a single

flow line with a pen stock and the single powerhouse. And then below the powerhouse we have the structure called the splitterbox, which manages flows to the water right holders either going over to the Wilson system or back over to Mill Creek.

The operations at Lundy are driven by the adjudicated water rights. We SCE passes the water through the powerhouse and then delivers the water to the water right holders through the varying pieces of infrastructure. The return ditch, the Wilson system there at the splitterbox. And then there's also another ditch that delivers water over to Mono County, which is the upper Conway Ditch that we participate in removing that water over there when they ask us to, just because the gate there is right within the tail race.

And if you guys were out there today, you, you saw that actually in action we're currently moving water over in Upper Conway. And so we were able to see that that gate drop down and diverting that water. There is also a ditch called the Adair Ditch, which is an old historic ditch that provides water over to the water right holders over on the Wilson side. If we ever have to take the powerhouse completely offline and we're not able to bypass any water through there, that old historic ditch can be utilized to fulfill those water rights.

This is just a quick little schematic of all the things that we've been talking about. This just puts it all on one page and kind of this cartoon character here, but it does show all the different points of operation with the reservoir at the top. And the three, four actually discharge points that can come out of the bottom of the dam. That farmer's gate that sits right in the middle of the dam that can be operated just above the elevation that it mentioned in the video there.

Water can also go over the spillway and really high water years. When the lot of water's coming into the lake, we try to manage to keep things out of spill. But oftentimes it will spill anyway, even if we have water going out of the farmer's gate, the water can go over the spillway. We also utilize the rock drop valve, which we also saw in operation today, that to move water that needs to be delivered in the Mill Creek, that for whatever reason, not able to go through the return ditch, we'll utilize that rock drop valve if it's at a quantity that that valve can handle.

And then we also have the minimum instream flow valve that is continuously set to deliver the one CFS minimum instream flow requirement that the license currently requires. On the powerhouse side water travels to the powerhouse, turns the generators from there, it goes into

the tail race. It can be diverted to go over to Upper Conway as I mentioned earlier. If Mono County asks us to do that, we will do that.

Otherwise, all the water goes down to the splitterbox and then it gets earmarked to go to the individual water right holders, the water right holders that want their Water Mill Creek. It comes through the return ditch on the Wilson side. It goes the other way through a Langemann gate up there at the splitterbox and gets delivered out into the Wilson system.

There's also a depiction of that, a dare ditch that can move water directly from Mill Creek into Wilson just below the splitterbox. Again, in times when the powerhouse, we can't bypass any water that just essentially keeps the Wilson system with some water in it. As I mentioned, the water rights are kind of the driving force behind all the operations.

Those water rights were adjudicated in Mono County Superior Court in November 30th, 1914. They predate that many of those water rights were established back in the 18100s, but they were actually formally adjudicated in 1914. And SCE has a non-consumptive, right? It's just a pass through for us. We just use the water to generate electricity, and then we move the water onto those water right holders.

Just to get a sense of what we're talking about. With all the water rights it's not just a simple single quantity type scenario. There's 11 different water rights that are held in priority order, meaning they get fulfilled in those priorities up to 74.6 CFS. Each one has an individual quantity associated with that priority. And so if you look at the different water right holders you'll notice that some of them, like Mono County, has multiple water rights at multiple priorities.

So that has to be kept track of, which we do through using a Excel based tool that kind of tracks this for us, and that helps us to make sure that we deliver the water to the water right holder in the appropriate quantities based upon this table, which is in that adjudication that I mentioned earlier. I think we saw some of these milestones already, but throwing them out there, again lots of activity going on between now and the end of this process.

This is going to be a multi-year process. We're looking forward to getting things kicked off. And again, these dates, I don't think you need to memorize anything. There's plenty of places they're listed, but lots of opportunity to get engaged in the process add information to any of any of these milestones as they take place. Any questions on just general Lundy operations type questions?

All right. I guess we'll turn it back over to you, Jess.

MS. FEFER: Sounds good.

MR. WOODHALL: Thanks again, everyone.

MR. SIDIBE: All right.

MS. FEFER: Sure.

MR. SIDIBE: You got that?

MS. FEFER: Yeah. All righty. All right. Thanks Matt for going through that. Okay. And now I am just going to jump into the preliminary resource issues that were identified in scoping document one. And so what I'm going to do is I'm just going to go through each of these resources and what those preliminary issues might be, and if you have comments or questions about that specific resource, I will open it up for each resource. So just go ahead and keep your comments to each resource that we're on, and then we'll have time to comment more generally in the end.

So just for lack of kind of a better way of doing this, I am just going to read the slide to you. So geology and soil resources effects of continued project operation on shoreline erosion and sediment transport downstream of Mill Creek potential effects of sediment movement from or within Deer Creek to the project shorelines and stream banks along Mill Creek and effects of Hill slope erosion downstream of Lundy Lake and Deer Creek. Any comments or additions to potential impacts related to

geology and soil resources?

MR. ANDERSON: I'm going to make a comment. This is Finley Anderson with Kleinschmidt on behalf of Southern California Edison. And I just wanted to comment that I think the way the second bullet is phrased regarding deer Creek implies that the Deer Creek is part of the project, and it's part of the project description. It is in fact outside the FERC boundary. It enters the Mill Creek below the minimum Instream flow point and is in fact a pretty substantial source of sediment to Mill Creek. So in terms of a scoping document too, I think we'd be looking for a little refinement of that bullet point.

MS. FEFER: Okay. Thank you. All righty. Water resources effects of continued project operation on water quality in the project bypass reached and downstream of the powerhouse effects and continued project operation on water quality in Lundy Lake and effects of continued project operation on downstream water rights and users, any additional water resources potential impacts.

All righty. Moving on to aquatic. Effects of continued project operation on fish habitat and fish resources in the project impoundment bypass reach and downstream of the powerhouse effects of fish entrainment at the Lundy powerhouse on fish resources in the project area. Effects of continued project operation on fish stranding

effects of project water diversion and instream flow on fish habitat in the project bypass reach and effects of continued operation on aquatic invertebrates downstream of the Lundy Dam. Any additional potential impacts to aquatic resources?

All righty. Moving on to terrestrial. Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on special status botanical resources. Effects of the introduction and or spread of invasive plant populations potentially occurring due to maintenance activities effects of continued operation and maintenance on special status wildlife species and effects of continued operation and maintenance, including vegetation management and herbicide use on native vegetation and wildlife game species, and the special status species identified in CEEs pad, including Indian national Forest, species of conservation concern and nesting migratory bird species. Any additional terrestrial impacts? Yes.

MR. ANDERSON: Your name and affiliation.

MS. WRAGG: Oh, sure. Haley Wragg Lundy Lake Resort. I already shared this briefly with Edison earlier today, but we have observed in the last five years, especially during the drought season 2020 through 2021, 2022 that when the lake is really low and we have exposed lake bed and mud some invasive plant species are really taking

control of the area, specifically Mullein.

It's comparable to like walking through a cornfield of Mullein. And unfortunately over the years, with dry years and needing to of course deliver water to the water holders all those combinations it's spread through the entire canyon and it's extremely hard to remove. It's not just on the west end by the resort, it's on the east side, it's at the canyons at this point.

So just a concern for mitigation. Especially when the lake is low and we know it's going to be low we know that Mullein is going to be there. I also am not a botanist or a fish specialist, but through like really short research Mullein was originally introduced to the Americas to actually kill fish in water populations.

They would take it and grind up the seeds and to poison the fish and kill them in a water source. So the fact that that's in the water bed is really concerning. And obviously we did not see a lot of it today because we have a very full year. And hopefully that will continue, but for drought years, it's just something to pay attention to. And I would love to partner with community and Edison and whoever to help get rid of that at one point slowly but surely. Yeah. Thank you.

MS. FEFER: Great. Thank you for your comment. We'd love to see it on the record too. All right. Thank

you. All right. So for threatened and endangered species effects of continued project operation and maintenance activities on species designated as federally threatened, endangered proposed or candidates for listing and designated critical habitat proposed and final under the Endangered Species Act. I don't have those listed out here, but they are in scoping document one and the pad. So any additional impacts to threaten an endangered species?

All righty. Recreation resources. Affects continued project operation and maintenance on recreation resources and adequacy of existing recreation facilities to meet current and future recreation demand. Yes, I'll give you the mic again.

MS. WRAGG: Okay. This one's a bit long. Sorry, I have some notes.

MS. FEFER: No worries.

MS. WRAGG: I just want to enter it into the record. My name's Haley Wragg. I'm with Lundy Lake Resort. I'm certified in wild end resources and forestry, and also I'm a fourth generation Lundy lover. So it makes me really happy to see everyone come together to discuss such a precious and like beloved place, which is Lundy. Lundy Lake Resort resides on the west end of the lake.

So when we took our tour today, and when we look at the maps, that's the boat launch side. We have a

fabulous boat launch there that has lots of public use. However they're not sufficient public resources to take care of human waste and trash on that side of the lake. When we compare the east and west ends of the lake, you'll notice that there's a large difference.

There's just simply no recreational resources other than the boat launch. On that side of the lake, there's no public restrooms no bathroom, no trash to support the FERC public zone. And when you look at section 5.8.4 in the pad, I was concerned to see that there was no like future plans to be able to maintain the existing day use rate and also address future rates in a post COVID world, and also with our neighbors in Yosemite throttling the number of visitors that can come into the park every year.

We're seeing a lot of overflow in neighboring areas, Bridgeport, Virginia, Lundy June Lake. And so that's putting a lot of pressure on the existing areas, including the west end of Lundy Lake. Currently, when the public goes to use the west side of the lake and use the boat launch, the nearest public restroom is either one mile west which is up the road on Lundy Lake Road in the Indian National Forest, where there is a restroom at the Trailhead or one mile East which is where the dam is.

And that's just simply unreasonable to ask of people. And because of that, we're having you know, some

issues. Best practice would be to have at a point of interest like that something between three and 500 feet away. And that hasn't been happening. The challenges, you know, that we're seeing here are not like solo just Lundy, obviously it's not specific to Lundy, but I do feel it's my duty as the boots on the ground on the west side to just let you know what's going on and the pressures that we're feeling.

My priority will always be keeping Lundy clean and open to all and for generations to enjoy it. And that's why in emergency response responses last year, Lundy Lake Resort, in partnership with Sierra Septic has been sponsoring a public use Porta-potty on the west side of the lake. But that's just financially a burden for us. And not completely, you know, permanent, so we're just looking for a sustainable solution here. You know, for years this has been an issue, but it really came to a peak in 2023.

In 2023, we had the 100 year winter, and many facilities, including Lend Lake Resort, were not able to open on time, but creators were there and wanting to play, and because of that, we had significant trespass issues on private property, not just Edison on private lands, people breaking into buildings to use restrooms that were not hooked up to water. Significant human waste along the lake bed and the edge as well as trash and fishing line.

And as I mentioned, as a community, we came together, Lundy Lake Resort partnered with Sierra Septic. In response, I've communicated to Edison, the Forest Service and Mono County about the issue. And we also have many good Samaritans and that live in Mono City and Vining that always make an effort to clean up when they're recreating responsibly, and we're really grateful to them.

But just personally it's my opinion that like, ultimately we need a support system to give the day use recreations an option to do the right thing. And my request would be during fishing season when that west side of the lake is open to public access that there could possibly be a porta-potty sponsored or a pit toilet. I realize that that might not be realistic, and that is okay.

A porta-potty would be fine. Trash service and possibly a fishing line recycling tube, which is a new best practice that I'd actually love to see on both the east and the west side of the lake. If that's an opportunity. And I just want to reiterate that while Lundy Lake Resort is prepared and we do provide services for our resort patrons, the public use rate that we're seeing, especially within the FERC public use boundary is spilling over into our neighboring owners, both under license and under private ownership.

And anything that we can do would be great. And

I really hope that these simple solutions will be earnestly considered in the licensing process. So thank you so much.

MS. FEFER: Great. Thank you. All righty. Land use and aesthetics. Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on land use and effects of continued project operation and maintenance on the aesthetic quality of the project area. Does anyone have any effects that they would like to add to land use and aesthetics?

All righty. Moving on to cultural and tribal resources. Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on historic or archeological resources and traditional cultural properties that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of historic places or on other areas or places of religious, cultural and traditional importance to Indian tribes. Does anyone have any impacts that they would like to add to cultural and tribal resources?

All right. Socioeconomics. Effects of continued project operation and flow diversions on agriculture and other consumptive uses in Mono city. Effects of any reduction in the amount of water available for irrigation on agricultural production and pasture land for livestock in Mono Lake watershed. Any additional impacts to socioeconomics that you'd like to add?

All righty. Environmental justice. Effects of

project operation and maintenance of identified environmental justice communities. Any additional impacts? All right. So cumulative effects which I'm sure all of you know, but just as a reminder, it's the impact of the environment that results from incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

So we identified that water and aquatic resources could be cumulatively affected by the continued operation and maintenance of the laundry project. Does anyone else think that any other resources should be included as a potential cumulative effect in SD2? All right. So with that, that is sort of the end of our sort of resource issue list that we had in scoping document one.

Thank you so much for the comments. We'll definitely take those into consideration. Other sort of information that we are requesting from you all in your participation in this process. Section seven of the SD1 that's scoping document one includes a list of the comprehensive plans on file with the commission that are relevant to the Lundy project.

And as part of scoping, we would request that agencies review the list and file any new comprehensive plans that we could add. We also ask that any entity that

is not already on the mailing list to be added to the official mailing list, there are instructions for that in section eight of SD1. And then of course, any significant environmental issues that should be addressed in the EA.

We appreciate your comments here and would also super appreciate if you put those on the record as well. And the way that you would do that, it's not super helpful that I have a QR code up here, I realize, but I also have the same QR code as a handout over there. And it just takes you to fork online for where you can comment. You can also subscribe using the project number P1390 and then have anything that goes on the public record come to your email. And that can all happen in FERC online.

And like I said, there's a handout over there that will give you instructions and I think many of you're probably pretty versed in it, but you're first scoping comments, as I've mentioned already are due June 24th. So just sort of keep that in mind. And then after the scoping process, we're moving into the study process where we're sort of putting together what studies SCE will be conducting to inform this relicense.

And so this is just a reminder. I know you've seen these dates a bunch of times now, but you will have opportunity to comment on what those studies are going to look like. You can do study requests that, sorry, SCE will

file their proposed study plan in August 6th, and then you'll have an opportunity to comment on that, including any study requests.

And then SCE will update to a revised study plan based on those comments, and you'll be able to comment on that as well. And the study requests are pretty specific. You know, your comments, go ahead and say whatever you want in the study requests if you're requesting a new study. We have some pretty specific asks of you to help us understand what you're asking for. And so that we can properly do our analysis. And so I'm just going to read through these and sort of what those requirements are for our study requests.

So we ask that you describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the information to be obtained. If applicable, explain the relevant resource management goals of the agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied. If you as a requester are not a resource agency, explain any relevant public interest considerations in regard to the proposed study.

Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal and the need for additional information. Explain the nexus between project operations and effects on the resource to be studied and how the study

results would inform the development of license requirements. And these last two, six and seven seem to just be the toughest for people.

So just pay attention to these and make sure you get that in there when you file a study request. Explain how any proposed study methodology is consistent with general accepted practice. So if you have certain methods you want us to use, let us know why. And then also describe considerations of level of effort and cost as applicable and why the proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information.

So methods and cost. Don't forget about those people. Forget about those a lot. And with that that's all I've got so we can open it up to any more comments or discussion if you have that or questions. And feel free to reach out to me. My contact information is on the screen. Any additional comments or questions?

MR. TAYLOR: I have one.

MS. FEFER: All righty. We'll get the mic to you before you start.

MR. TAYLOR: Can you hear me? Has wildfire been considered? In fact, not just the effects, but like infrastructure? I'm just curious. I didn't see anything about wildfire.

MR. ANDERSON: Could you just state your name?

MR. TAYLOR: Oh, I'm Alan Taylor. I live in Mono City.

MS. FEFER: Okay. Thank you. It is not in our SD1, so we will take that into consideration for SD2.

MR. TAYLOR: Yeah. I would think PG and E might have some information for you.

MS. FEFER: Okay. Thank you.

MR. TAYLOR: Forest Service.

MS. FEFER: Sure. Okay. Thank you. Any other comments or questions? All righty. Well, seeing none, just a reminder to make sure you've signed in if you haven't already. And just thanks so much for being here and if you're able to make it to the site visit, thanks for spending the whole day with us. Yeah, that's all I got.

MR. SIDIBE: Thanks Jess.

(Whereupon the above proceedings concluded at 2:47 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION in the Matter of:

Name of Proceeding:

Lundy Project

Project No.: P-1390

Place: Lee Vining, CA

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024

was held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcription of the proceedings.

Bala Chandran

Official Reporter

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Energy Projects

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Lundy Project : Project No. P-1390

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Lee Vining Community Center

296 Mattly Avenue

Lee Vining, CA 93541

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

A public scoping meeting was held, pursuant to notice. starting at 2:00 p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. ANDERSON: All right. Just a reminder, if you haven't signed in up front, please do so that we have a record of folks who have come to the meeting. A couple just notes similar to yesterday. If they're in the case of emergency, please just exit straight out the back. We'll rally at the back end of the parking lot. Restrooms are out the door to the left. I really wanted to emphasize that if you're going to talk today make sure you use the microphone, identify yourself.

I've been asked to sort of make it clear that if you don't speak into the microphone, Chandra and can't get a good record of it and can't have your thoughts on the record. So I appreciate everybody starting here. We'll start off with FERC and then Matt will have some comments about how the project operates. We've got short video and then yeah, we'll just have the discussion from there, right? So Jessica?

MS. FEFER: Yeah. Thank you. All right. How does that work, sort of, is that okay? All right. All right. Hi, everyone. Thanks for being here today. For those of you who are out at the site visit, which I think was everyone, thanks for being at the site visit. And sorry that I wasn't able to be a little bit more engaged in that, but sorry, do you guys hear that too?

MR. SIDIBE: Little bit of background noise?

MS. FEFER: Yeah. All right. Awesome. Thank you. Maybe it's me. Is it close to that one? Let's see, how's that? Oh, that might have been it. I think it needs to be here for me to actually be able to talk into it.

Okay. All right, great. So, I'm Jess Fefer. I'm with FERC. I am the relicensing project coordinator. And I am environmental protection specialist as well. My specialty is outdoor recreation, land use, aesthetics and environmental justice. And I am accompanied by two of my colleagues here that I will also have introduce themselves. Go ahead, Sid.

MR. SIDIBE: I'm Ousmane Sidibe, Sid. Civil engineer with FERC.

MS. FEFER: Oh, sorry.

MS. KIPP: Becky Kipp I'm a wildlife biologist with FERC.

MS. FEFER: All right. Thank you. And if I could have SCE introduce yourself real quick.

MR. WOODHALL: We can try this one? Yeah, it works. I'm Matthew Woodhall with Southern California Edison. I'm the project manager overseeing the relicensing of Lundy.

MS. FEFER: Awesome. Thank you. So just a quick agenda for the meeting today. But before I do that, I

do have a couple of housekeeping items I know we already mentioned to definitely make sure to sign in. And actually you already did it for me. I was going to say, state your name and affiliation when you're when you're speaking. So I think that's actually really the only housekeeping that I had.

Oh, one thing that I did want to make sure to mention is that when you speak today of course we are going to have that on the record. We have our court reporter here. But we also, you know, that doesn't take the place of commenting online. And so I am going to, you know, to walk through how to do that if you don't know already kind of how to comment online. But make sure that with the comments that you say out loud today, also put those on the record for us.

So today I'm going to start by just going over the licensing process a quick overview of that. And then SCE will jump in with their proposal. And then I will come back and we'll identify resource issues that were identified in scoping document one, and we'll have time for comments and discussion from you all. So just really briefly kind of a introduction to FERC, although you may all know this already.

We are a federal agency that regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil and electricity.

And additional responsibilities including licensing and inspecting of non-federal hydroelectric projects. We are all in the division of hydropower licensing. That's why we're here because you're going through relicensing. But there's also the division of hydropower administration and compliance and dam safety and inspection that you all probably deal with when you're not in relicensing.

Kind of a bird's eye view of the relicensing schedule. SCE filed their pre-application document in the end of February. We are now in scoping, that's what we're here doing. And then the next stage will be study periods and figuring out what the studies should be. And then SCE will file their re-license application by February 28th, 2027. And then I have this FERC reviews SCE application in yellow because that's when the timeline sort of gets a little bit more wonky.

We might have some back and forth with SCE about getting all the information that we need. And, you know, then we move forward to the NEPA analysis. And my next slide sort of walks you through all of the times that you will be able to comment in during this period. So again, we are in scoping season right now. Your comments for the pad scoping document one and any study requests are due on June 24th. So make sure to get those into us so that we can incorporate those into a second scoping document as needed.

Our next phase will be putting the study plans together and you all have two opportunities to comment there as well. SCE will file their proposed study plan in early August of 2024, and then you all can comment on that before November 4th. And then SCE will take those comments into account and file a revised study plan in December. And then you will be able to comment on that as well before FERC issues the study plan determination.

Then we go into the study seasons and that can take some time and you all will have time to comment on the initial study report and the updated study report as well. And then you'll also get a chance to comment on the preliminary license proposal before SCE files their license application. And this is just to point out that sort of at the earliest right, this is a really long process and that's just sort of my point with this slide is kind of at the earliest we'll be ready for our environmental analysis by the end of April of 2027.

And you'll have time to comment on that as well. All right. Oh, and all of those dates are also in the scoping document, so I don't expect you to, you know, remember all those. But so the purpose of scoping, right? It is obviously a requirement that's part of NEPA regulations FERC regulations and other applicable laws. But

I think more importantly, it's about understanding public perspectives and concerns of what's going on at the project.

We hope that you'll help us identify issues, identify reasonable alternatives identify available information that might be relevant to the project and our analysis and identify cumulatively affected resources. So we're here to hear from you all and learn from you all. And so with that, we will go over SCE's proposal. Let's see. Oops. Okay. Do you want me to get this slide show going? Here we go.

MS. WILLIAMS: Hi guys. My name's Audry Williams. I'm an archeologist for Edison. We just wanted to start this meeting off with taking a moment to recognize that the Lundy project as well as where we're meeting today and everywhere we went today is within the Mona Lake Kootzaduka'a Tribes traditional land, which they have steward for generations. Thanks.

MR. WOODHALL: Thanks, Audrey. Okay. Well, thanks for being here, everyone on behalf of Southern California Edison, I just want to share my appreciation for everyone participating today. I think we had a good day in the field going up and seeing the project and looking forward to just talking a little bit more about those operations.

But before we do that, just want to introduce some of the folks on the Edison side, on the Edison team both from Edison and our consulting team as well. I've already introduced myself, Matthew Woodhall. We also have Martin Ostendorf, who's in the back of the room there. He is a senior manager in our regulatory licensing group, Audrey Williams, who we just have the land acknowledgement from. And then we also have Seth Carr in the room today, who's our operations manager that makes everything happen up here and keeping Lundy running.

On the consulting side, we have Finlay Anderson, who you've met earlier, who's going to be running the microphone for us today. We have Angela in the back Kelly over here. Brad Blood and Allison are here as well. And you can see the subsequent areas of interest in the areas that they'll be overseeing as part of the licensing we have. Heather is here, Lynn --

MS. WILLIAMS: She is not here.

MR. WOODHALL: Lynn is not here. Jay and King are not here. And I think Edith is here as well. So aside from some of these leads that are going to be heading up the licensing activities, there's a, you know, a team of individuals even beyond that. So I just want to acknowledge those individuals. There might be names that you'll be seen as this process continues. Thought we'd also just share a

video that we have of the project. This will be a nice kind of cherry on the top from our field day. This will just be a quick overview of what we saw, but just a way to kind of put it all together. So we'll start with this video and then we'll do a little bit of review.

(Video played)

Hello and thank you for joining us on this video tour of Southern California Edison's Lundy Project. Southern California Edison owns and operates the Lundy Project in Mono County, California. This video will provide a brief overview of the project and its principle features. Lands in and around the project include a combination of federal and non-federal lands. The watershed has a total drainage area of approximately 135 square miles.

The Mono Basin and the Mill Creek watershed includes the crest of the Sierra Nevada with maximum elevations extending up to 12,400 feet to approximately 6,400 feet at the shoreline of Mono Lake. The Lundy Project originates in Lundy Canyon and flows directly into Mono Lake four miles downstream. The Lundy Project is authorized by a 30-year license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC in 1999.

This authorization expires on February 28th, 2029. The current FERC license contains measures to protect key resources, and these measures will be reevaluated as

part of the process we are starting. The vicinity of the Lundy project was historically sculpted by glaciers and is currently characterized by rounded granitic outcrops, U-shaped glacial valleys, glacial lakes, and tele slopes.

The stunning visual and natural features of the area lend themselves to recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, and fishing. A campground is located below, Lundy Lake. Lundy Lake and Mill Creek are stocked by California Department of Fish and Wildlife for fishing. There are trails and trail heads that are accessible from the Lundy project.

Boating, sightseeing and picnicking are also popular in this area. Lundy Lake is the intake for Lundy Powerhouse. The lake has historically been drawn down in the winter to provide storage capacity for spring runoff. Water is conveyed from Lundy Lake to the powerhouse via the flow line and Penstock. Water is managed in the basin according to established water rights that have been adjudicated by the Superior Court of Mono County.

Spill and power generation are largely incidental to these water rights and secondarily by SCE's Power Sales Agreement with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which specifies annual drawdown requirements. SCE's FERC license requires that minimum flows be provided to stream reaches between the reservoir and the powerhouse,

but these are also limited by pre-existing water rights.

Lundy Lake receives its water from Lundy Canyon, which has a drainage area of approximately 16 square miles. The gravel and Rockfield Dam measures approximately 690 feet long with a structural height of 48 feet from the base of the core wall to the top of wall. The dam impounds the 132-acre Lundy Lake, which has a net storage capacity of 4,113 acre feet. The spillway is a 150 foot long by 7.7 foot deep notch in the concrete core wall.

An additional water release structure known as the Farmer's Gate operates when the lake level is above 7,779 feet. To provide additional flow to the base of Lundy Dam. Generally, operation of the Farmer's Gate is possible during wetter spring periods for wet water years. On the west end of Lundy Lake, there is a two lane boat launch available for recreationists. The site offers parking for approximately five boats with trailers at Lundy Dam.

There is a day use area with a gravel parking lot. This site offers a restroom facility along with access to local trails. Lundy Canyon Campground is located downstream approximately one mile northeast of the Lundy Lake Dam. The campground is operated under a lease from SCE to Mono County. The campground offers 37 sites for recreationists 910 sites and 28 sites that can fit a 35-foot recreational vehicle. Sites offer a cleared area for

camping, a picnic table, a parking area, and several sites offer a bear proof box for storage.

There are four day use areas located east of Lundy Canyon Campground. These day use sites provide parking areas and picnic cables for recreationists to enjoy views of Mill Creek. Mill Creek flows into Mono Lake, below Lundy Lake downstream to the 7,200 foot contour. The creek is densely vegetated causing frequent log jams. Wood and boulders are frequent. And channel bed material is a mix of gravel, cobbles and boulders with some sand. Below this 7,200 foot contour. The creek extends downstream for another 3.5 miles outside of the project boundary to Mono City, and is under lane by gravels and silts.

After leaving Mono city the creek is under laid by gravels and cobbles for the remaining 2.5 miles downstream where it flows into Mono Lake. The Lundy Powerhouse is a reinforced concrete building constructed in 1911. It is located on the Wilson drainage east downstream of Lundy Lake. The building is 66 feet long, 32 feet wide, 31 feet high, and has a substructure that is nine feet deep. The powerhouse contains two canyon turbines, each directly connected to an Alice Chalmers generator rated at 15,000 kilowatts.

Below the Lundy powerhouse water discharge from the powerhouse tail race is sent to a splitterbox, which

directs flows either to the Wilson Drainage system, Wilson System, or returns water to Mill Creek via the Mill Creek return ditch. This return ditch shown here and the point at which it rejoins Mill Creek represents the end of the FERC project boundary.

The allocation of water between the Wilson System and Mill Creek is determined based on existing adjudicated water rights and flows through the powerhouse set to ensure those water deliveries to water rights holders are met. Once water is returned to Mill Creek, it is outside the Lundy project boundary and continues towards Mono Lake.

Thank you for your time and interest in SCE's Lundy project. If you are interested in learning more about the project and the FERC relicensing process, please visit the project website at www.sce.com/lundy for more information.

MR. WOODHALL: All right. Nice to see some shots of the lake full of water, which today when we were out there, it's still at low pool, so kind of kind of cool to see the conditions when it's full. So it seems to be a lag here. Oh, I got this. Oh. Too many times. There we go. Got it. Thank you, Finlay.

All right. Well, from here we'll just do a, a little review. Some of this stuff we talked about today on

the field visit. I'm not sure if everyone made it to the field visit, but a lot of great questions today. A lot of great dialogue. This is just a quick kind of synopsis of the project, some of its elements and how it operates. It is currently on a 30-year license, which expires February 28th, 2029. We did formally kick off the FERC process in February of this year with our pre-application document and notice of intent filing. And we will be filing a draft license application in 2026.

So there's still some time between now and that filing where we'll be doing the studies to help inform that process. We are not proposing any sort of changes to operations or any changes to the facilities. From a location standpoint, we are on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada. It's within a small portion of the INO National Forest within the county of Mono County.

And the private lands that are within the project are primarily held by Southern California Edison. And the main water body is Mill Creek that is dammed up by the Lundy Dam and the creation of the lake there. So Lundy Dam itself and the lake as I said, is fairly near the headwaters of Mill Creek 73 acre reservoir.

The powerhouse downstream of the lake is a three megawatt powerhouse the flow line, the penstock connecting the Lundy Lake and the powerhouse. So it's just a single

flow line with a pen stock and the single powerhouse. And then below the powerhouse we have the structure called the splitterbox, which manages flows to the water right holders either going over to the Wilson system or back over to Mill Creek.

The operations at Lundy are driven by the adjudicated water rights. We SCE passes the water through the powerhouse and then delivers the water to the water right holders through the varying pieces of infrastructure. The return ditch, the Wilson system there at the splitterbox. And then there's also another ditch that delivers water over to Mono County, which is the upper Conway Ditch that we participate in removing that water over there when they ask us to, just because the gate there is right within the tail race.

And if you guys were out there today, you, you saw that actually in action we're currently moving water over in Upper Conway. And so we were able to see that that gate drop down and diverting that water. There is also a ditch called the Adair Ditch, which is an old historic ditch that provides water over to the water right holders over on the Wilson side. If we ever have to take the powerhouse completely offline and we're not able to bypass any water through there, that old historic ditch can be utilized to fulfill those water rights.

This is just a quick little schematic of all the things that we've been talking about. This just puts it all on one page and kind of this cartoon character here, but it does show all the different points of operation with the reservoir at the top. And the three, four actually discharge points that can come out of the bottom of the dam. That farmer's gate that sits right in the middle of the dam that can be operated just above the elevation that it mentioned in the video there.

Water can also go over the spillway and really high water years. When the lot of water's coming into the lake, we try to manage to keep things out of spill. But oftentimes it will spill anyway, even if we have water going out of the farmer's gate, the water can go over the spillway. We also utilize the rock drop valve, which we also saw in operation today, that to move water that needs to be delivered in the Mill Creek, that for whatever reason, not able to go through the return ditch, we'll utilize that rock drop valve if it's at a quantity that that valve can handle.

And then we also have the minimum instream flow valve that is continuously set to deliver the one CFS minimum instream flow requirement that the license currently requires. On the powerhouse side water travels to the powerhouse, turns the generators from there, it goes into

the tail race. It can be diverted to go over to Upper Conway as I mentioned earlier. If Mono County asks us to do that, we will do that.

Otherwise, all the water goes down to the splitterbox and then it gets earmarked to go to the individual water right holders, the water right holders that want their Water Mill Creek. It comes through the return ditch on the Wilson side. It goes the other way through a Langemann gate up there at the splitterbox and gets delivered out into the Wilson system.

There's also a depiction of that, a dare ditch that can move water directly from Mill Creek into Wilson just below the splitterbox. Again, in times when the powerhouse, we can't bypass any water that just essentially keeps the Wilson system with some water in it. As I mentioned, the water rights are kind of the driving force behind all the operations.

Those water rights were adjudicated in Mono County Superior Court in November 30th, 1914. They predate that many of those water rights were established back in the 18100s, but they were actually formally adjudicated in 1914. And SCE has a non-consumptive, right? It's just a pass through for us. We just use the water to generate electricity, and then we move the water onto those water right holders.

Just to get a sense of what we're talking about. With all the water rights it's not just a simple single quantity type scenario. There's 11 different water rights that are held in priority order, meaning they get fulfilled in those priorities up to 74.6 CFS. Each one has an individual quantity associated with that priority. And so if you look at the different water right holders you'll notice that some of them, like Mono County, has multiple water rights at multiple priorities.

So that has to be kept track of, which we do through using a Excel based tool that kind of tracks this for us, and that helps us to make sure that we deliver the water to the water right holder in the appropriate quantities based upon this table, which is in that adjudication that I mentioned earlier. I think we saw some of these milestones already, but throwing them out there, again lots of activity going on between now and the end of this process.

This is going to be a multi-year process. We're looking forward to getting things kicked off. And again, these dates, I don't think you need to memorize anything. There's plenty of places they're listed, but lots of opportunity to get engaged in the process add information to any of any of these milestones as they take place. Any questions on just general Lundy operations type questions?

All right. I guess we'll turn it back over to you, Jess.

MS. FEFER: Sounds good.

MR. WOODHALL: Thanks again, everyone.

MR. SIDIBE: All right.

MS. FEFER: Sure.

MR. SIDIBE: You got that?

MS. FEFER: Yeah. All righty. All right. Thanks Matt for going through that. Okay. And now I am just going to jump into the preliminary resource issues that were identified in scoping document one. And so what I'm going to do is I'm just going to go through each of these resources and what those preliminary issues might be, and if you have comments or questions about that specific resource, I will open it up for each resource. So just go ahead and keep your comments to each resource that we're on, and then we'll have time to comment more generally in the end.

So just for lack of kind of a better way of doing this, I am just going to read the slide to you. So geology and soil resources effects of continued project operation on shoreline erosion and sediment transport downstream of Mill Creek potential effects of sediment movement from or within Deer Creek to the project shorelines and stream banks along Mill Creek and effects of Hill slope erosion downstream of Lundy Lake and Deer Creek. Any comments or additions to potential impacts related to

geology and soil resources?

MR. ANDERSON: I'm going to make a comment. This is Finley Anderson with Kleinschmidt on behalf of Southern California Edison. And I just wanted to comment that I think the way the second bullet is phrased regarding deer Creek implies that the Deer Creek is part of the project, and it's part of the project description. It is in fact outside the FERC boundary. It enters the Mill Creek below the minimum Instream flow point and is in fact a pretty substantial source of sediment to Mill Creek. So in terms of a scoping document too, I think we'd be looking for a little refinement of that bullet point.

MS. FEFER: Okay. Thank you. All righty. Water resources effects of continued project operation on water quality in the project bypass reached and downstream of the powerhouse effects and continued project operation on water quality in Lundy Lake and effects of continued project operation on downstream water rights and users, any additional water resources potential impacts.

All righty. Moving on to aquatic. Effects of continued project operation on fish habitat and fish resources in the project impoundment bypass reach and downstream of the powerhouse effects of fish entrainment at the Lundy powerhouse on fish resources in the project area. Effects of continued project operation on fish stranding

effects of project water diversion and instream flow on fish habitat in the project bypass reach and effects of continued operation on aquatic invertebrates downstream of the Lundy Dam. Any additional potential impacts to aquatic resources?

All righty. Moving on to terrestrial. Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on special status botanical resources. Effects of the introduction and or spread of invasive plant populations potentially occurring due to maintenance activities effects of continued operation and maintenance on special status wildlife species and effects of continued operation and maintenance, including vegetation management and herbicide use on native vegetation and wildlife game species, and the special status species identified in CEEs pad, including Indian national Forest, species of conservation concern and nesting migratory bird species. Any additional terrestrial impacts? Yes.

MR. ANDERSON: Your name and affiliation.

MS. WRAGG: Oh, sure. Haley Wragg Lundy Lake Resort. I already shared this briefly with Edison earlier today, but we have observed in the last five years, especially during the drought season 2020 through 2021, 2022 that when the lake is really low and we have exposed lake bed and mud some invasive plant species are really taking

control of the area, specifically Mullein.

It's comparable to like walking through a cornfield of Mullein. And unfortunately over the years, with dry years and needing to of course deliver water to the water holders all those combinations it's spread through the entire canyon and it's extremely hard to remove. It's not just on the west end by the resort, it's on the east side, it's at the canyons at this point.

So just a concern for mitigation. Especially when the lake is low and we know it's going to be low we know that Mullein is going to be there. I also am not a botanist or a fish specialist, but through like really short research Mullein was originally introduced to the Americas to actually kill fish in water populations.

They would take it and grind up the seeds and to poison the fish and kill them in a water source. So the fact that that's in the water bed is really concerning. And obviously we did not see a lot of it today because we have a very full year. And hopefully that will continue, but for drought years, it's just something to pay attention to. And I would love to partner with community and Edison and whoever to help get rid of that at one point slowly but surely. Yeah. Thank you.

MS. FEFER: Great. Thank you for your comment. We'd love to see it on the record too. All right. Thank

you. All right. So for threatened and endangered species effects of continued project operation and maintenance activities on species designated as federally threatened, endangered proposed or candidates for listing and designated critical habitat proposed and final under the Endangered Species Act. I don't have those listed out here, but they are in scoping document one and the pad. So any additional impacts to threaten an endangered species?

All righty. Recreation resources. Affects continued project operation and maintenance on recreation resources and adequacy of existing recreation facilities to meet current and future recreation demand. Yes, I'll give you the mic again.

MS. WRAGG: Okay. This one's a bit long. Sorry, I have some notes.

MS. FEFER: No worries.

MS. WRAGG: I just want to enter it into the record. My name's Haley Wragg. I'm with Lundy Lake Resort. I'm certified in wild end resources and forestry, and also I'm a fourth generation Lundy lover. So it makes me really happy to see everyone come together to discuss such a precious and like beloved place, which is Lundy. Lundy Lake Resort resides on the west end of the lake.

So when we took our tour today, and when we look at the maps, that's the boat launch side. We have a

fabulous boat launch there that has lots of public use. However they're not sufficient public resources to take care of human waste and trash on that side of the lake. When we compare the east and west ends of the lake, you'll notice that there's a large difference.

There's just simply no recreational resources other than the boat launch. On that side of the lake, there's no public restrooms no bathroom, no trash to support the FERC public zone. And when you look at section 5.8.4 in the pad, I was concerned to see that there was no like future plans to be able to maintain the existing day use rate and also address future rates in a post COVID world, and also with our neighbors in Yosemite throttling the number of visitors that can come into the park every year.

We're seeing a lot of overflow in neighboring areas, Bridgeport, Virginia, Lundy June Lake. And so that's putting a lot of pressure on the existing areas, including the west end of Lundy Lake. Currently, when the public goes to use the west side of the lake and use the boat launch, the nearest public restroom is either one mile west which is up the road on Lundy Lake Road in the Indian National Forest, where there is a restroom at the Trailhead or one mile East which is where the dam is.

And that's just simply unreasonable to ask of people. And because of that, we're having you know, some

issues. Best practice would be to have at a point of interest like that something between three and 500 feet away. And that hasn't been happening. The challenges, you know, that we're seeing here are not like solo just Lundy, obviously it's not specific to Lundy, but I do feel it's my duty as the boots on the ground on the west side to just let you know what's going on and the pressures that we're feeling.

My priority will always be keeping Lundy clean and open to all and for generations to enjoy it. And that's why in emergency response responses last year, Lundy Lake Resort, in partnership with Sierra Septic has been sponsoring a public use Porta-potty on the west side of the lake. But that's just financially a burden for us. And not completely, you know, permanent, so we're just looking for a sustainable solution here. You know, for years this has been an issue, but it really came to a peak in 2023.

In 2023, we had the 100 year winter, and many facilities, including Lend Lake Resort, were not able to open on time, but creators were there and wanting to play, and because of that, we had significant trespass issues on private property, not just Edison on private lands, people breaking into buildings to use restrooms that were not hooked up to water. Significant human waste along the lake bed and the edge as well as trash and fishing line.

And as I mentioned, as a community, we came together, Lundy Lake Resort partnered with Sierra Septic. In response, I've communicated to Edison, the Forest Service and Mono County about the issue. And we also have many good Samaritans and that live in Mono City and Vining that always make an effort to clean up when they're recreating responsibly, and we're really grateful to them.

But just personally it's my opinion that like, ultimately we need a support system to give the day use recreations an option to do the right thing. And my request would be during fishing season when that west side of the lake is open to public access that there could possibly be a porta-potty sponsored or a pit toilet. I realize that that might not be realistic, and that is okay.

A porta-potty would be fine. Trash service and possibly a fishing line recycling tube, which is a new best practice that I'd actually love to see on both the east and the west side of the lake. If that's an opportunity. And I just want to reiterate that while Lundy Lake Resort is prepared and we do provide services for our resort patrons, the public use rate that we're seeing, especially within the FERC public use boundary is spilling over into our neighboring owners, both under license and under private ownership.

And anything that we can do would be great. And

I really hope that these simple solutions will be earnestly considered in the licensing process. So thank you so much.

MS. FEFER: Great. Thank you. All righty. Land use and aesthetics. Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on land use and effects of continued project operation and maintenance on the aesthetic quality of the project area. Does anyone have any effects that they would like to add to land use and aesthetics?

All righty. Moving on to cultural and tribal resources. Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on historic or archeological resources and traditional cultural properties that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of historic places or on other areas or places of religious, cultural and traditional importance to Indian tribes. Does anyone have any impacts that they would like to add to cultural and tribal resources?

All right. Socioeconomics. Effects of continued project operation and flow diversions on agriculture and other consumptive uses in Mono city. Effects of any reduction in the amount of water available for irrigation on agricultural production and pasture land for livestock in Mono Lake watershed. Any additional impacts to socioeconomics that you'd like to add?

All righty. Environmental justice. Effects of

project operation and maintenance of identified environmental justice communities. Any additional impacts? All right. So cumulative effects which I'm sure all of you know, but just as a reminder, it's the impact of the environment that results from incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

So we identified that water and aquatic resources could be cumulatively affected by the continued operation and maintenance of the laundry project. Does anyone else think that any other resources should be included as a potential cumulative effect in SD2? All right. So with that, that is sort of the end of our sort of resource issue list that we had in scoping document one.

Thank you so much for the comments. We'll definitely take those into consideration. Other sort of information that we are requesting from you all in your participation in this process. Section seven of the SD1 that's scoping document one includes a list of the comprehensive plans on file with the commission that are relevant to the Lundy project.

And as part of scoping, we would request that agencies review the list and file any new comprehensive plans that we could add. We also ask that any entity that

is not already on the mailing list to be added to the official mailing list, there are instructions for that in section eight of SD1. And then of course, any significant environmental issues that should be addressed in the EA.

We appreciate your comments here and would also super appreciate if you put those on the record as well. And the way that you would do that, it's not super helpful that I have a QR code up here, I realize, but I also have the same QR code as a handout over there. And it just takes you to fork online for where you can comment. You can also subscribe using the project number P1390 and then have anything that goes on the public record come to your email. And that can all happen in FERC online.

And like I said, there's a handout over there that will give you instructions and I think many of you're probably pretty versed in it, but you're first scoping comments, as I've mentioned already are due June 24th. So just sort of keep that in mind. And then after the scoping process, we're moving into the study process where we're sort of putting together what studies SCE will be conducting to inform this relicense.

And so this is just a reminder. I know you've seen these dates a bunch of times now, but you will have opportunity to comment on what those studies are going to look like. You can do study requests that, sorry, SCE will

file their proposed study plan in August 6th, and then you'll have an opportunity to comment on that, including any study requests.

And then SCE will update to a revised study plan based on those comments, and you'll be able to comment on that as well. And the study requests are pretty specific. You know, your comments, go ahead and say whatever you want in the study requests if you're requesting a new study. We have some pretty specific asks of you to help us understand what you're asking for. And so that we can properly do our analysis. And so I'm just going to read through these and sort of what those requirements are for our study requests.

So we ask that you describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the information to be obtained. If applicable, explain the relevant resource management goals of the agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied. If you as a requester are not a resource agency, explain any relevant public interest considerations in regard to the proposed study.

Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal and the need for additional information. Explain the nexus between project operations and effects on the resource to be studied and how the study

results would inform the development of license requirements. And these last two, six and seven seem to just be the toughest for people.

So just pay attention to these and make sure you get that in there when you file a study request. Explain how any proposed study methodology is consistent with general accepted practice. So if you have certain methods you want us to use, let us know why. And then also describe considerations of level of effort and cost as applicable and why the proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information.

So methods and cost. Don't forget about those people. Forget about those a lot. And with that that's all I've got so we can open it up to any more comments or discussion if you have that or questions. And feel free to reach out to me. My contact information is on the screen. Any additional comments or questions?

MR. TAYLOR: I have one.

MS. FEFER: All righty. We'll get the mic to you before you start.

MR. TAYLOR: Can you hear me? Has wildfire been considered? In fact, not just the effects, but like infrastructure? I'm just curious. I didn't see anything about wildfire.

MR. ANDERSON: Could you just state your name?

MR. TAYLOR: Oh, I'm Alan Taylor. I live in Mono City.

MS. FEFER: Okay. Thank you. It is not in our SD1, so we will take that into consideration for SD2.

MR. TAYLOR: Yeah. I would think PG and E might have some information for you.

MS. FEFER: Okay. Thank you.

MR. TAYLOR: Forest Service.

MS. FEFER: Sure. Okay. Thank you. Any other comments or questions? All righty. Well, seeing none, just a reminder to make sure you've signed in if you haven't already. And just thanks so much for being here and if you're able to make it to the site visit, thanks for spending the whole day with us. Yeah, that's all I got.

MR. SIDIBE: Thanks Jess.

(Whereupon the above proceedings concluded at 2:47 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION in the Matter of:

Name of Proceeding:

Lundy Project

Project No.: P-1390

Place: Lee Vining, CA

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024

was held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcription of the proceedings.

Bala Chandran

Official Reporter

ERRATA SHEET

DEPOSITION OF: 05_14_2024 Lundy Scoping (P-1390)

DATE OF DEPOSITION: PAGE 1 of 1 pages

Page	Line	Correction
23	4, 8, 11	Reference to Ms. Washington should be changed to Ms. Kipp.

Document Content(s)