SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1388)



PROJECT LANDS AND ROADS (LAND-1) FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT



SEPTEMBER 2024

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON

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Southern California Edison 2244 Walnut Grove Avenue Rosemead, CA 91770

September 2024

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
GIS	geographic information system
Project	Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1388)
SCE	Southern California Edison
TWG	Technical Working Group
USFS	U.S. Forest Service

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Technical Report provides summary of work completed to date for the *Project Lands and Roads (LAND-1) Study Plan* within the Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project (Project). The Final Technical Study Plan was filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on April 25, 2022 (SCE, 2022).

The Project is located along Lee Vining and Glacier Creeks west of the City of Lee Vining, California in Mono County. During Technical Workgroup (TWG) meetings on January 28, February 25, April 1, and May 27, 2021, Stakeholders identified the need to conduct a study that would evaluate the necessity for potential modifications to the FERC Project Boundary to account for future operation and maintenance (O&M) of Project facilities.

FERC requirements pertaining to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 18, Section 4.41 (18 CFR §4.41), a project boundary must encompass all lands necessary for project purposes, including O&M over the term of the FERC license. FERC further requires (18 CFR §11.2) that a licensee recompense the United States for the use, occupancy, and enjoyment of its lands or its property. The annual charge for such use of government lands is calculated, in part, based on the amount of federal acreage within the project boundary, and therefore a distinction must be made between federal and nonfederal lands when filing a project boundary and associated data. Therefore, this study is intended to ensure that an accurate representation of both the FERC Project Boundary and land classification is presented in the Final License Application.

2.0 STUDY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the study is to assess potential modifications to the FERC Project Boundary to account for future O&M of Project facilities. To meet this goal, the study objectives are as follows:

- Identify whether additional Project lands may be needed for operation of the Project, including laydown and spoil areas, or whether current Project lands or facilities are no longer needed for Project operation.
- Confirm existing land ownership and federal lands within the existing FERC Project Boundary are accurately represented.
- Identify which roads or access trails are used for access to and maintenance of the Project, and identify existing agreements related to maintenance of those roads and access trails.
- Inventory and assess the condition of those identified Project-related roads and access trails, including the potential need for improvements.
- Identify for purposes of describing in the Draft License Application all Project facilities and structures used for hydroelectric generation (e.g., buildings, roads, and spillways).

2.1. STUDY AREA

The study area includes all lands within the existing FERC Project Boundary, as well as additional lands identified by SCE staff or through consultation with the Stakeholders as having the potential for nexus to the Project (i.e., access, O&M activities).

3.0 METHODS

To ensure that the FERC Project Boundary conforms with 18 CFR §4.41 (DLA Exhibit G, Project Maps) requirements, the following methods were implemented to assess the current Project:

- Assess the existing FERC Project Boundary for accuracy.
 - Analyze the existing FERC Project Boundary within geographic information system (GIS) software to determine whether mapping errors or omissions are present in the representation of Project lands needed for operation under the current license.
- Assess existing Project lands ownership and lease agreements information.
 - Gather accurate land ownership and lease agreement data for existing Project lands to confirm ownership boundaries and representation of federal lands used for Project purposes.
- Consult with SCE O&M staff to determine whether the existing FERC Project Boundary adequately encompasses all lands needed for current operations or any proposed changes to facilities or operations.
- Consult with SCE and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) staff to identify roads or access trails that may be used for Project purposes, such as for O&M of Project facilities or access to Project-related recreation opportunities.
- Assess the condition of roads or access trails identified for Project purposes.

Methods included consultation with USFS and/or other landowners as needed to determine if other Project-related resource areas should be removed or included in the FERC Project Boundary. Results of other studies conducted as part of this relicensing were reviewed for potential modifications to the FERC Project Boundary.

Methods also include consultation with USFS, and/or other landowners as needed to determine if other Project-related resource areas should be removed or included in the FERC Project Boundary. Results of other studies conducted as part of this relicensing are being monitored for potential modifications to the FERC Project Boundary.

4.0 STUDY RESULTS

4.1. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO PROJECT LANDS**

Based on a review of available data and conversations with SCE staff to date, a comprehensive list of proposed changes to the existing FERC Project Boundary has been developed (Table 4.1-1 and Table 4.1-2). Proposed changes are primarily related to ensuring that all current Project operations and facilities are adequately encompassed, including current and proposed Project roads and trails. Minor changes to the FERC Project Boundary due to mapping corrections based on improved accuracy of available data can be expected but are not discussed in this Technical Report. Examples of mapping corrections include improved centerlines and buffers for roads, flowlines, or creeks that are included in the FERC Project Boundary but not accurately represented in the GIS data. A comprehensive list of mapping corrections will be included with the Final License Application.

This Technical Report focuses on those proposed changes to Project lands for features that are either not currently identified in the Project license (addition) or no longer needed for Project purposes (removal). Table 4.1-1 and Table 4.1-2 list each proposed FERC Project Boundary change currently under consideration by SCE. For each proposed change, a unique ID and figure reference (which corresponds to the map titles in Appendix A), short description, suggested action, and reason for the proposed change to the FERC Project Boundary, if applicable, is provided.

We recommend reviewing each table in conjunction with its corresponding map figure in Appendix A.

Table 4.1-1. Proposed FERC Project Boundary Changes Related to Operations/Facilities

ID	Figure Reference	Current Description	Proposed Action	Reason for Proposed FERC Project Boundary Change
Operations/ Facilities - 1	LAND-1 Study Tioga Lake Roads and Operations	Lands north of the Tioga Auxiliary Dam are currently used for access to the dam and are not included in the FERC Project Boundary.	Add 0.14 acre to the FERC Project Boundary. This addition encompasses lands currently owned by the USFS.	Addition of Project lands currently in use by Project operations.
Operations/ Facilities - 2	LAND-1 Study Ellery Lake Operations	Lands surrounding Tioga Pass Road above Ellery Lake were used as a staging area during Project construction and are included in the FERC Project Boundary, but are no longer needed for Project operations	Remove 11.45 acres from the FERC Project Boundary. This removal encompasses lands currently owned by SCE.	Removal of Project lands currently not used by Project operations.

FERC = Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; SCE = Southern California Edison; USFS = U.S. Forest Service

Table 4.1-2. Proposed FERC Project Boundary Changes Related to Project Roads and/or to the Project Roads Inventory

ID	Figure Reference	Current Description	Proposed Action	Reason for Proposed FERC Project Boundary Change
Road - 1	LAND-1 Study Saddlebag Lake Roads	An access road to Saddlebag Dam is not currently within the FERC Project Boundary or listed as an official Project road.	Add, in part, 2.05 acres to FERC Project Boundary and Project Roads Inventory. This addition encompasses lands currently owned by the USFS and managed by SCE.	Addition of Project lands (Project roads).
Road - 2	LAND-1 Study Saddlebag Lake Roads	An access road to Saddlebag Dam is not currently within the FERC Project Boundary or listed as an official Project road.	Add, in part, 2.05 acres to FERC Project Boundary and Project Roads Inventory. This addition encompasses lands currently owned by the USFS and managed by SCE.	Addition of Project lands (Project roads).
Road - 3	LAND-1 Study Saddlebag Lake Roads	An access road to Saddlebag Dam is not currently within the FERC Project Boundary or listed as an official Project road.	Add, in part, 2.05 acres to FERC Project Boundary and Project Roads Inventory. This addition encompasses lands currently owned by the USFS and managed by SCE.	Addition of Project lands (Project roads).
Road - 4	LAND-1 Study Saddlebag Lake Roads	An access road to Saddlebag Dam is not currently within the FERC Project Boundary or listed as an official Project road.	Add, in part, 2.05 acres to FERC Project Boundary and Project Roads Inventory. This addition encompasses lands currently owned by the USFS and managed by SCE.	Addition of Project lands (Project roads).
Road - 5	LAND-1 Study Tioga Lake Roads and Operations	An access road to the Project is not currently within the FERC Project Boundary or listed as an official Project road.	Add 0.52 acre to FERC Project Boundary and Project Roads Inventory. This addition encompasses lands currently owned by the USFS and managed by SCE.	Addition of Project lands (Project roads).

FERC = Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; SCE = Southern California Edison; USFS = U.S. Forest Service

4.2. U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAND

A review of the existing FERC Project Boundary in relation to the current boundary of the Inyo National Forest revealed—apart from a rectangular area of land at Ellery Lake—the entire FERC Project Boundary is within lands owned by the USFS (Figure 4.2-1).



Figure 4.2-1. USFS Lands in the Vicinity of the Project.

5.0 ONGOING ANALYSIS

The proposed changes discussed in this Technical Report are a result of initial review of Project lands, features, operations, maintenance activity, and underlying land ownership. As intended, this study is an ongoing process that will continue until a proposed FERC Project Boundary and inventory of Project features is established and submitted as part of SCE's Draft License Application in September 2024. Following distribution of this Final Technical Report, SCE will meet with USFS to discuss land ownership and the addition or removal of lands and roads as noted above.

6.0 CONSULTATION SUMMARY

In preparation to file the Pre-Application Document and Notice of Intent in August 2021, SCE hosted Recreation and Land Use TWG Meetings on January 28, February 25, April 1, and May 27, 2021, which resulted in study requests from Stakeholders to address questions regarding existing recreation facilities. Notes and materials from these meetings are available on SCE's Project website (www.sce.com/leevining).

SCE filed draft Study Plans with the Pre-Application Document and Notice of Intent on August 12, 2021, to address issues discussed with the TWG. The Stakeholder comment period for these filings ended on January 18, 2022. SCE reviewed all comments received and drafted Revised Technical Study Plans, which were distributed to the TWGs on February 18, 2022, for another 30-day review period. Stakeholder comments received on the Revised Technical Study Plans were reviewed and incorporated as appropriate in the Final Technical Study Plans, which were filed with FERC on April 25, 2022 (SCE, 2022). SCE met with USFS on February 28, 2024, to discuss land ownership and potential modifications to the FERC Project Boundary.

Draft Technical Reports were distributed to TWGs on April 16, 2024, for a 60-day comment period. On May 14, 2024, SCE held a public meeting at the Lee Vining Community Center to discuss the draft reports and study findings to date. On June 12, 2024, at the end of the comment period, comments were received from USFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Water Resources Control Board, and Mono Lake Committee; however, no comments received were related to Study LAND-1.

7.0 REFERENCES

SCE (Southern California Edison). 2022. *Final Technical Study Plans*. Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 1388. April 25, 2022.

APPENDIX A MAPS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO PROJECT LAND



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Legend

Inyo National Forest Recreation Sites

- Campground Camping
- Current FERC Project Boundary (P-1388) -
- FERC Project Boundary
 - Potential FERC Project Boundary Removed Changes
- Inyo National Forest
 - Wilderness Area



100

300 Feet

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1388)



VISUAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT (LAND-2) FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT



SEPTEMBER 2024

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON

Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1388)

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September 2024

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- 3DEP 3D Elevation Program
- FERC Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- GIS geographic information system
- GPS global positioning system
- KOP Key Observation Point
- LMP Land Management Plan
- M/R Modified/Roaded
- PAD Pre-Application Document
- PME protection, mitigation, and enhancement
- SCE Southern California Edison
- SIO scenic integrity objectives
- TWG Technical Working Group
- USGS U.S. Geological Survey

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Southern California Edison (SCE) is the licensee of the Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project (Project), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project Number 1388, which includes three reservoirs (Ellery Lake, Tioga Lake, and Saddlebag Lake). The LAND-2 *Visual Resource Assessment Technical Study Plan* details SCE's proposal for study objectives, study area, methods, and schedule for the effort. The Study Plan was filed with FERC on April 25, 2022 (SCE, 2022). This report describes the methods and results of the Visual Resource Assessment conducted consistent with the Study Plan.

2.0 STUDY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Visual Resource Assessment is to characterize the existing visual resources of Project lands, document the associated visual quality and management objectives identified in the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Land Management Plan (LMP) for the Inyo National Forest (USFS, 2019), and document the existing visual character of Project facilities and features from affected viewsheds and representative Key Observation Points (KOPs).

The objectives of the study were to:

- Inventory, map, and describe existing Project infrastructure and operation, maintenance, and construction activities that may have the potential to affect visual resources of the Project Area.
- Document existing protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PME) measures, including the existing Visual Resource Protection Plan (Section 4(e) Condition 11) implemented under the existing license.
- Obtain data and maps from the USFS geographic information system (GIS) and characterize existing visual resource inventories and management objectives associated with the Project lands as developed under the 2019 Inyo National Forest LMP (USFS, 2019). Summarize any available information pertaining to variety classes, sensitivity levels, distance zones, and Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications.
- Conduct a desktop viewshed analysis (via GIS data) and assess what portion and acreages of the Project lands and associated landscape are potentially visually affected by Project-related activities and based on the field assessment.
- Determine the number and location of KOPs in consultation with the Recreation and Land Use Technical Working Group (TWG) prior to the 2023 field season. In consultation with the USFS, KOPs have been identified from representative locations such as Project-related travel corridors and recreation sites within the identified viewshed areas for additional analysis.

- Map and assess the KOP locations to include documentation of the existing scenic character and potential use of the selected KOPs. Where applicable, incorporate KOP locations into 2023 user surveys associated with the REC-1 Recreation Use Assessment to determine frequency and duration of visits at the KOP locations.
- Prepare a study report that documents the study findings and characterizes the existing visual conditions as they relate to Project facilities and Project-related activities.

2.1. STUDY AREA

The study area includes key viewsheds and representative KOPs from which the Project facilities and features are visible. SCE consulted with the Recreation and Land Use TWG, including the USFS, to identify viewsheds and representative KOPs for assessment that may be affected by future Project operations, maintenance, or construction activities. Figure 1.2-1 and Section 2.0, *Methods*, provide information regarding the KOP locations.



Figure 1.2-1. Study Area and KOP Locations.

3.0 METHODS

3.1. KOP FIELD ASSESSMENT

Methods for this study followed those described in the Study Plan (SCE, 2022). Existing information regarding the visual character of the Project lands and facilities, including description and photographs of existing Project facilities, summary of relevant visual management objectives in the 2019 Inyo National Forest LMP (USFS, 2019), and pertaining to wild and scenic rivers and scenic highways within the Project vicinity was compiled and reviewed.

KOPs were selected in consultation with the Recreation and Land Use TWG during meetings in March 2023. A summary of the identified KOPs and rationale for selection is provided in Table 2.1-1; KOP locations are shown on Figure 1.2-1. The majority of the identified KOPs (KOP 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6) are also survey locations included in the REC-1 Recreation Use Assessment (to be conducted in spring/summer 2024), so that the sites can be assessed to determine frequency and duration of visits at the KOP locations.

КОР	KOP Location	Rationale for Selection
KOP 1	Saddlebag Lake Day Use Area / Campground	High public-use area, views of Saddlebag Lake and Dam
KOP 2	Ellery Lake Campground	High public-use area, views of Ellery Lake and Rhinedollar Dam
KOP 3	Tioga Lake Campground	High public-use area, views of Tioga Lake and Dams
KOP 4	Tioga Lake Overlook	High public-use area, views of Tioga Lake and Dams
KOP 5	State Route 120 pull-off west of Warren Fork trailhead, where the powerhouse parking lot is visible	High public-use thoroughfare, potential views of Ellery Lake, Rhinedollar Dam, and Poole Powerhouse
KOP 6	Junction Campground / Bennettville Trailhead	High public-use area in the middle of the Project
KOP 7	Poole Powerhouse gate	View of the powerhouse from the public access road
KOP 8	Pull-off north of Ellery Lake	Industrial-looking area with old SCE cabin

Table 2.1-1. KOP Locations and Rationale

KOP = Key Observation Point; SCE = Southern California Edison

SCE conducted a field inventory at each of the eight KOPs on August 9 and 10, 2023. At each site, the field team documented the site with photos and recorded aesthetic characteristics, including KOP site name, global positioning system (GPS) coordinates for the KOP, the date of each documentation, weather conditions, primary site use, landscape vegetation and features, cultural modifications, general visual character, unique visual characteristics, waters visible from the site, and impoundment elevation

and/or river flow. In addition, the field team evaluated views within specific distance zones (foreground, middleground, and background views), and obtained representative photographs of aesthetic character of the site. Viewing distances were generally characterized as:

- Immediate foreground/foreground—0 feet to approximately 0.5 mile;
- Middleground—approximately 0.5 mile to 4 miles; and
- Background—approximately 4 miles to horizon.

3.2. DESKTOP REVIEW AND ASSESSMENTS

SCE conducted a desktop review of existing GIS data obtained from the USFS to characterize existing visual resource inventories and management objectives associated with the Project lands as developed under the 2019 Inyo National Forest LMP (USFS, 2019). The information was then summarized using available data pertaining to variety classes, sensitivity levels, distance zones, and Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications to adequately communicate visual resources.

SCE conducted a desktop viewshed analysis to identify what portion and acreage of the Project lands and associated landscape would potentially be visually affected by Project-related features. The desktop viewshed analysis was performed by analyzing the most current publicly available elevation data, which is a 10-meter digital elevation model (DEM) published by the U.S. Geological Survey 3D Elevation Program (USGS 3DEP; USGS 2021). Vegetation height data was not readily available; therefore, SCE did not consider forest vegetation (e.g., tree height and location) in the viewshed analysis, but did consider the viewing height of the average person. The analysis was based on the DEM land elevation with an additional 5 feet and 5 inches, with no vegetation height or screening accounted for in the identification of potential viewsheds. Overall, this would reflect a greater viewing distance and availability of views than would be expected under existing conditions with presence of vegetation.

3.3. VARIANCES

There were no variances from the Study Plan (SCE, 2022).

The majority of the identified KOPs (KOP 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6) are also survey locations included in the REC-1 Recreation Use Assessment to determine frequency and duration of visits at the KOP locations. However, implementation of the 2023 Recreation Use Assessment Survey was delayed due to limited access to the Project Area during the study period and the study is planned for spring/summer 2024. Data regarding frequency and duration of recreation visitation to these KOP locations will be provided in the forthcoming Recreation Use Assessment (REC-1) Draft Technical Report (*to be filed with the Final License Application*).

4.0 STUDY RESULTS

4.1. VISUAL CHARACTER OF PROJECT FEATURES AND LANDS

The Project is located on Lee Vining and Glacier Creeks in the glacially carved upper Lee Vining Canyon, approximately 9 miles upstream of Mono Lake and the town of Lee Vining, California, and 1 mile north of the eastern entrance to Yosemite National Park. In the existing FERC Project Boundary, approximately 96 percent (590.8 acres) of Project lands are owned by the USFS, and 4 percent (24.7 acres) are owned by SCE. Project facilities include three dams and reservoirs, an auxiliary dam, an underground flowline consisting of a pipeline and penstock, and a powerhouse (Figure 1.2-1). The principal Project features were constructed in the early 1920s and have been part of the landscape and scenic character of the Lee Vining Canyon for approximately 100 years.

Saddlebag Dam impounds the 297-acre Saddlebag Lake; Tioga Dam impounds the 73-acre Tioga Lake; and Rhinedollar Dam impounds the 61-acre Ellery Lake. Both Saddlebag Lake and Tioga Lake drain into Ellery Lake, which is the intake and regulating reservoir for the Poole Powerhouse. The intake structure is at Ellery Lake and includes an underground pipeline and penstock and the Poole Powerhouse. The Poole Powerhouse and the adjacent Triplex Cottage are reinforced concrete buildings constructed in the 1920s. It is located on Lee Vining Creek east (downstream) of Ellery Lake.

The Project facilities are rockfill/earthen dams with some areas of exposed concrete in earth tone colors. The various dams and concrete areas are similar in color to the surrounding rock boulders and mountains, and blend into the surrounding environment. The reinforced concrete Poole Powerhouse is beige in color, and is built directly next to, and flanked by, an exposed rock mountain and also blends into the landscape with similar earth tone colors.

The scenic character of the impoundments and creek areas are predominantly undeveloped shorelines with occasional recreation facilities and structures. The surrounding vegetation primarily includes evergreen trees and forests, shrubs, grasses and grasslands, and meadows and wetlands with nearby lakes and creeks. Vegetated areas are followed by barren rock, exposed rock boulders, and distant views of hills and mountains beyond. The lowland and surrounding mountain areas are covered in snow in winter.

Photo 1 provides a view of the overall Project Area, Photos 2 through 5 show representative views of the Project dams, and Photo 6 provides a view of the Poole Powerhouse. Photos 7 through 11 provide representative views of reservoirs and creeks within the existing FERC Project Boundary.



Photo 1. Overview of Project Area.



Photo 2. Saddlebag Dam.



Photo 3. Tioga Dam and Spillway.



Photo 4. Tioga Dam Outlet.



Photo 5. Rhinedollar Dam (Ellery Lake) and Spillway.



Photo 6. Poole Powerhouse (right) and Triplex Cottage (left).



Photo 7. Glacier Creek.



Photo 8. Lee Vining Creek below Rhinedollar Dam.



Photo 9. Saddlebag Lake.



Photo 10. Tioga Lake.



Photo 11. Ellery Lake.

4.2. INYO NATIONAL FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The 2019 Inyo National Forest LMP (USFS, 2019) provides a planning framework for the management of uses and resources associated with the Inyo National Forest (see Section 5.8, *Recreation Resources*, and Section 5.9, *Land Use*, of the Pre-Application Document [PAD] for more information). The USFS *Land Management Planning Handbook* (USFS, 2015) identifies scenic character as the combination of the physical, biological, and cultural images that gives an area its scenic identity and contributes to its sense of place. Scenic character provides a frame of reference from which to determine scenic attractiveness and to measure scenic integrity. The 2019 Inyo National Forest LMP identifies desired conditions for scenic character (see Table 5.9-5 in Section 5.9, *Land Use*, of the PAD) and scenic integrity objectives (desired conditions) for the management and preservation of scenic character within the Inyo National Forest.

As described in the 2019 Inyo National Forest LMP (USFS, 2019), scenic integrity objectives describe the minimum thresholds for the management of the scenery resource, ranging from very high to low scenic integrity objectives. Scenic integrity objectives (SIO) describe the degree to which desired attributes of the scenic character are to remain and reflect changes in public perceptions and the importance of viewing scenery as well as integrating scenery resources with the overall management of the landscape.

The USFS measures scenic integrity in five levels (USFS, 2019):

• Very High: landscapes where the valued scenic character "is" intact with only minute, if any, deviations. The existing scenic character and sense of place is expressed at the highest possible level.

- **High:** landscapes where the valued scenic character appears unaltered. Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the scenic character so completely and at such scale that they are not evident.
- **Medium:**¹ landscapes where the valued scenic character appears slightly altered. Noticeable deviations must remain visually subordinate to the scenic character being viewed.
- Low: landscapes where the valued scenic character appears moderately altered. Deviations begin to dominate the valued scenic character being viewed but they borrow valued attributes such as size, shape, edge effect, pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes, or architectural styles outside the landscape being viewed. They should not only appear as valued character outside the landscape being viewed, but compatible or complementary to the character within.
- **Very Low:**² landscapes where the valued scenic character appears heavily altered. Deviations may strongly dominate the valued scenic character. They may not borrow from valued attributes such as size, shape, edge effect, pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes, or architectural styles within or outside the landscape being viewed. However, deviations must be shaped and blended with the natural terrain so that elements such as unnatural edges, roads, landings, and structures do not dominate the composition.

For lands within the FERC Project Boundary, the 2019 Inyo National Forest LMP (USFS, 2019) predominantly identifies SIO as High (99.9 percent), with remaining lands identified as Medium and Very High³ (see Figure 3.2-1). For lands within a 0.5-mile buffer of the FERC Project Boundary, the USFS predominantly identifies SIO as High (61 percent) and Very High (38 percent), with remaining lands identified as Medium (see Figure 3.2-1). The 2019 Inyo National Forest LMP also identifies potential management approaches relative to vegetation management and consideration of scenic character, such as minimizing visible lines in landscape areas where vegetation is removed and cleared areas include edges reflect the visual character of naturally occurring vegetation openings.

¹ The *Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan* defines this category as "Moderate," though the GIS data for scenic integrity objectives associated with the *Land Management Plan* defines this category as "Medium." We will refer to this category as Medium.

² While the *Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan* defines this category, there are no lands designated as "Very Low" in the GIS data for scenic integrity objectives associated with the *Land Management Plan*.

³ Though small pieces of these designations cross into the existing FERC Project Boundary, it appears that the intent of the data was for the entire FERC Project Boundary to be considered a "High" scenic integrity objective.



Figure 3.2-1. 2019 Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan Scenic Integrity Classifications for the Project Vicinity.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrums are designed to establish expectations and inform the management of settings when making decisions on facility and infrastructure design and development (USFS, 2019). Table 3.2-1 explains the physical, managerial, and social settings across each of these Recreation Opportunity Spectrums. As shown on Figure 3.2-2, for lands within the FERC Project Boundary, the 2019 Inyo National Forest LMP Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications (USFS, 2019) are primarily Modified/Roaded, while both Primitive and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized each account for less than 1 percent of Project lands.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum	Physical Setting	Managerial Setting	Social Setting
Modified/ Roaded	 Theme: Natural appearing with nodes and corridors of development such as campgrounds, trailheads, boat launches, and rustic, small-scale resorts Infrastructure: Access–Classified road system for highway vehicle use Fishing sites–Rivers, lakes, reservoirs with some facilities Camp/picnic sites–Identified dispersed and developed sites Sanitation–Developed outhouses that blend with setting Water supply–Often developed Signing–Rustic with natural materials to more refined using a variety of materials such as fiberglass, metal, etc. Interpretation–Simple roadside signs, some interpretive displays Water crossing–Bridges constructed of natural materials 	Opportunity to be with other users in developed sites; some obvious signs (information and regulation) and low to moderate likelihood of meeting Forest Service rangers	Moderate evidence of human sights and sounds; moderate concentration of users at campsites; little challenge or risk
Primitive	 Theme: Remote, predominately unmodified, naturally evolving Infrastructure: Access–Non-motorized trails Fishing sites–Rivers and lakes Camp/picnic sites–Not developed or defined, leave no trace Sanitation–No facilities, leave no trace Water supply–Undeveloped natural Signing–Minimal, constructed of rustic, natural materials Interpretation–Through self-discovery and at trailheads 	Few signs, few encounters with rangers	Very high probability of solitude; closeness to nature; self- reliance, high challenge, and risk; little evidence of people

Table 3.2-1.	Physical,	Managerial,	and Social	Settings	Across	Recreation
Opportunity	Spectrum	<u>15</u>				
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum	Physical Setting	Managerial Setting	Social Setting			
---------------------------------------	---	--	---			
	 Water crossing–Minimal, some bridges made of natural materials (wood) may exist but are rare 					
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	 Theme: Predominately natural/natural appearing; rustic improvements to protect resources Infrastructure: Access–Non-motorized trails are present. Closed and temporary roads may be present but are not dominant on the landscape Fishing sites–Rivers, lakes, and reservoirs Camp/picnic sites–Not developed, leave no trace Sanitation–No facilities, leave no trace Water supply–Undeveloped natural Signing–Rustic constructed of natural materials Interpretation–Through self-discovery, at trailheads Water crossing–Rustic structures or bridges made of natural materials 	Minimum or subtle signing and regulations, some encounters with rangers	High probability of solitude, closeness to nature, self- reliance high to moderate challenge and risk; some evidence of others			

Source: USFS, 2019



Figure 3.2-2. 2019 Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan Recreation Opportunity Spectrum for the Project Vicinity.

4.3. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS AND SCENIC HIGHWAYS/BYWAYS

No rivers in the FERC Project Boundary are currently included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; however, the 2019 Inyo National Forest LMP (USFS, 2019) has recently identified over 75 miles of river in the Mono Basin as eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, including all of Lee Vining Creek (see Section 5.8, *Recreation Resources* of the Lee Vining PAD for more information; SCE, 2021).

The Project is located along State Route 120, which runs west to east across the central part of California from Interstate 5 in the San Joaquin Valley near Lathrop through Yosemite National Park—where at 9,943 feet it is the highest mountain pass (Tioga Pass) in California—to its end at U.S. Route 6 near Mono Lake. The 64 miles of State Route 120 running through Yosemite National Park has been designated as the Tioga Road / Big Oak Flat Road National Scenic Byway by the Federal Highway Administration (USDOT, n.d.). The 12 miles of State Route 120 extending from the eastern boundary of Yosemite National Park, through the Project, to U.S. Highway 395 which runs north—south through the community of Lee Vining has also been designated a National Forest Scenic Byway on February 8, 1990, and is commonly known as the Lee Vining Canyon Scenic Byway (USDOT, n.d.). State Route 120 is typically closed in winter due to snowpack and inclement weather conditions (Caltrans, 2024).

4.4. Key Observation Points Characterization

Table 2.1-1 provides a summary of the identified KOPs, and Figure 1.2-1 denotes the KOP locations. Aesthetic Inventory Data Forms are included as Appendix A. A narrative description and photographs with 360-degree mid-level view representation of the eight KOPs is provided below in the inventory results. At least three 360-degree sets of photo views were taken at each KOP: a lower, middle, and upper view. The lower, middle, and upper level 360-degree view photographs are included in Appendix B, and middle view photographs are included below.

4.4.1. KOP 1—SADDLEBAG LAKE DAY USE AREA / CAMPGROUND

Predominant views within the Saddlebag Lake Day Use Area / Campground KOP Saddlebag Lake in the foreground, middleground, and background views of mountains. Saddlebag Dam can be seen in the far-off distance. Development consists of the reservoir (Saddlebag Lake), Saddlebag Dam, an old USFS building, and a metal storage container. The area has low rolling hills with semi-vegetated flat faces and terrain that are subtle brown color variations with little contrast and generally mute tones. The day use area provides more color variety with human-made structures such as vehicles and trailers. Vegetation includes trees in the foreground, with shrubs and more trees in the middleground. Viewing distances extend from foreground to middleground views.



Photo 12. KOP 1 Saddlebag Lake Day Use Area / Campground View North.



Photo 13. KOP-1 Saddlebag Lake Day Use Area / Campground View Northeast.



Photo 14. KOP-1 Saddlebag Lake Day Use Area / Campground View East.



Photo 15. KOP-1 Saddlebag Lake Day Use Area / Campground View Southeast.



Picture 16. KOP-1 Saddlebag Lake Day Use Area / Campground view South



Picture 17. KOP-1 Saddlebag Lake Day Use Area / Campground view Southwest



Photo 18. KOP-1 Saddlebag Lake Day Use Area / Campground View West.



Photo 19. KOP-1 Saddlebag Lake Day Use Area / Campground View Northwest.

4.4.2. KOP 2—ELLERY LAKE CAMPGROUND

The Ellery Lake Campground was chosen during consultation as a KOP due to it being a high public-use area and a location that provides views of Ellery Lake. The Ellery Lake Campground is located on the western edge of Ellery Lake. Ellery Lake and State Route 120 are visible from the KOP location. The natural scenery has high and low ranges of rounded mountains and canyons. The topography includes soft, steep mountain slopes

and the Lee Vining Creek inlet. The vegetation is primarily sparse grasses, trees, and shrubs. The main visual feature is the inlet with bright green islands on the lake and rock outcroppings with sparse vegetation sprinkled with brown rocks and minimal grass, trees, and shrubs on the shoreline that provide unique feature views. Coniferous trees with some greenery and mixed curved and straight brown tree trunks line the non-vegetated areas. The inlet water is still and dark blue and semi-clear with dark brown and green shallow spots along the shoreline. Adjacent scenery has moderate overall visible quality. Viewing distances are predominantly foreground to middleground views.



Photo 20. KOP 2 Ellery Lake Campground View North.



Photo 21. KOP 2 Ellery Lake Campground View Northeast.



Photo 22. KOP 2 Ellery Lake Campground View East.



Photo 23. KOP 2 Ellery Lake Campground View Southeast.



Photo 24. KOP 2 Ellery Lake Campground View South.



Photo 25. KOP 2 Ellery Lake Campground View Southwest.



Photo 26. KOP 2 Ellery Lake Campground View West.



Photo 27. KOP 2 Ellery Lake Campground View Northwest.

4.4.3. KOP 3—TIOGA LAKE CAMPGROUND

The KOP location at the Tioga Lake Campground was chosen due to high public-use and views of Tioga Lake and the dams. It consists of level and open grassy areas with a view of Tioga Lake, mid-level mountains, and both the Tioga Dam and Tioga Auxiliary Dam in the distance. Rounded rock outcrops are surrounded by semi-thick forest and a deep canyon beyond the dams. There is a green, grassy meadow on the south side of the lake with some variety of coniferous trees visible on the way up the mountain tops. Vegetation is sparse at the top of the mountains with white snow poking through brown and green soils through the mountains. Water visible from the KOP site includes Tioga Lake and the Glacier Creek inlet to the south. Additionally, the campground is within sight, which provides additional color contrast, as well as State Route 120 / Tioga Pass Road. Viewing distances are predominantly foreground to middleground and extend to background views.



Photo 28. KOP 3 Tioga Lake Campground View North.



Photo 29. KOP 3 Tioga Lake Campground View Northeast.



Photo 30. KOP 3 Tioga Lake Campground View East.



Photo 31. KOP 3 Tioga Lake Campground View Southeast.



Photo 32. KOP 3 Tioga Lake Campground View South.



Photo 33. KOP 3 Tioga Lake Campground View Southwest.



Photo 34. KOP 3 Tioga Lake Campground View West.



Photo 35. KOP 3 Tioga Lake Campground View Northwest.

4.4.4. KOP 4—TIOGA LAKE OVERLOOK

The Tioga Lake Overlook was selected due to it being a high-use public area with views of the Project. The Tioga Lake Overlook has Tioga Lake, dams, mountains, and forests in view. There are low meadows to the east with mountains and forest. The roadside's sheer face provides a unique geological feature while vegetation consists of dense forest with low heights to sparse trees the higher the view up the mountain. There are meadows

along the lake edge. There are also wet areas to the east. The Tioga Lake Campground is in view, as well as both dams. This KOP location has visitor information signage. Viewing distances are predominantly foreground to middleground and extend to background views.



Photo 36. KOP 4 Tioga Lake Overlook View North.



Photo 37. KOP 4 Tioga Lake Overlook View Northeast.



Photo 38. KOP 4 Tioga Lake Overlook View East.



Photo 39. KOP 4 Tioga Lake Overlook View Southeast.



Photo 40. KOP 4 Tioga Lake Overlook View South.



Photo 41. KOP 4 Tioga Lake Overlook View Southwest.



Photo 42. KOP 4 Tioga Lake Overlook View West.



Photo 43. KOP 4 Tioga Lake Overlook View Northwest.

4.4.5. KOP 5—STATE ROUTE 120 PULL-OFF WEST OF WARREN FORK TRAILHEAD

The State Route 120 pull-off KOP is located west of the Warren Fork trailhead, where the powerhouse parking lot is visible. It was chosen by Stakeholders due to its high public-use throughfare, potential view of Ellery Lake, Rhinedollar Dam, and Poole Powerhouse. The views seen from the KOP include the highway, steep and long curved canyon walls and high mountain peaks, and Lee Vining Creek. Detailed features of mixed green forest,

grasses, and shrubs in the canyons are dominant and exceptionally striking. The Rhinedollar Dam spillway can be seen from this site in the very far distance (northwest in photos) with a waterfall below the spillway. The cliffs are sheer and run along the highway with high and low vertical topography and an abundance of long-distance mountain views. The mountains have remnants of white snow, brown rocks, and soil mixed with bright green vegetation. Sparse bright green shrubs and trees grow along the canyon drainage. Parts of the Project facilities can be seen, including distribution lines and the substation. The transmission lines⁴ running from Poole Powerhouse to Lee Vining are also visible. There is a rock face along the roadside that blocks a far distance view. Viewing distances are primarily foreground and middleground and extend to background views.



Photo 44. KOP 5 State Route 120 Pull-off West of Warren Fork Trailhead View North.

⁴ There are no primary transmission lines associated with the Project. The existing transmission line from Poole Powerhouse to Lee Vining was removed from the Project's license in 2001.



Photo 45. KOP 5 State Route 120 Pull-off West of Warren Fork View Northeast.



Photo 46. KOP 5 State Route 120 Pull-off West of Warren Fork View East.



Photo 47. KOP 5 State Route 120 Pull-off West of Warren Fork View Southeast.



Photo 48. KOP 5 State Route 120 Pull-off West of Warren Fork View South.



Photo 49. KOP 5 State Route 120 Pull-off West of Warren Fork View Southwest.



Photo 50. KOP 5 State Route 120 Pull-off West of Warren Fork View West.



Photo 51. KOP 5 State Route 120 Pull-off West of Warren Fork View Northwest.

4.4.6. KOP 6—JUNCTION CAMPGROUND AND BENNETTVILLE TRAILHEAD

The Junction Campground and Bennettville Trailhead KOP location was chosen due to it being a high-use area that is in the middle of the Project Area. The KOP's views include the entrance road for the campground, the Lee Vining Creek segment, and State Route 120 / Tioga Pass Road. Rolling hills sloping southeast to northwest, mountains with gray and brown rock outcrops, lines of rich green coniferous vegetation, and bright white lines and chunks of snow melt are in view from the KOP. Open meadows are closer in view to the southeast with green grass and scattered trees immediately to the northwest. Some views provide more tightly packed mixed green tree populations, while in other views the trees are further apart with green grass meadows between the forested landscapes. Water visible from this KOP includes a segment of Lee Vining Creek. There are also segments of Lee Vining Creek that meander through the site. Land use patterns and cultural features include the campground itself, a bridge, and State Route 120 / Tioga Pass Road. Viewing distances are predominantly foreground to middleground views.



Photo 52. KOP 6 Junction Campground and Bennettville Trailhead View North.



Photo 53. KOP 6 Junction Campground and Bennettville Trailhead View Northeast.



Photo 54. KOP 6 Junction Campground and Bennettville Trailhead View East.



Photo 55. KOP 6 Junction Campground and Bennettville Trailhead View Southeast.



Photo 56. KOP 6 Junction Campground and Bennettville Trailhead View South.



Photo 57. KOP 6 Junction Campground and Bennettville Trailhead View Southwest.



Photo 58. KOP 6 Junction Campground and Bennettville Trailhead View West.



Photo 59. KOP 6 Junction Campground and Bennettville Trailhead View Northwest.

4.4.7. KOP 7—Poole Powerhouse Gate

The Poole Powerhouse Gate KOP is located on the access road to Poole Powerhouse and substation. The powerhouse and substation are directly in face view at this KOP, which is why it was selected for the study. This KOP also includes views of the outlet to Lee Vining Creek, the tailrace, maintenance building, Triplex Cottage, transmission/distribution lines, and the substation. The natural landscape includes mountains, steep rock edges, and a variety of vegetative types. There is a sheer rock face behind the powerhouse with mixed tree species. Viewing distances are predominantly foreground views.



Photo 60. KOP 7 Poole Powerhouse Gate View North.



Photo 61. KOP 7 Poole Powerhouse Gate View Northeast.



Photo 62. KOP 7 Poole Powerhouse Gate View East.



Photo 63. KOP 7 Poole Powerhouse Gate View Southeast.



Photo 64. KOP 7 Poole Powerhouse Gate View South.



Photo 65. KOP 7 Poole Powerhouse Gate View Southwest.



Photo 66. KOP 7 Poole Powerhouse Gate View West.



Photo 67. KOP 7 Poole Powerhouse Gate View Northwest.

4.4.8. KOP 8—PULL-OFF NORTH OF ELLERY LAKE

The Ellery Lake pull-off KOP was suggested by Stakeholders because it is an industrial-looking area with a historic SCE building, known as the "Operator's Cabin." Views include mountain peaks in the distant view and views of Ellery Lake. Project facilities in view include the Operator's Cabin, transmission/distribution poles and lines, and State Route 120 / Tioga Pass Road. The Operator's Cabin is wooden and provides

a historic looking feature. Natural diverse rock outcrops surround Ellery Lake with steep slopes, rocky terrain, and sheer mountain walls. The rock outcrops are mixed in color, ranging from red tones to brown to gray that slope into the lake bowl with white snow on the peaks. There are minimal green trees and shrubs in the lower canyon. Viewing distances are primarily foreground and middleground views.



Photo 68. KOP 8 Pull-off North of Ellery Lake View North with Operator's Cabin.



Photo 69. KOP 8 Pull-off North of Ellery Lake View Northeast with Operator's Cabin.



Photo 70. KOP 8 Pull-off North of Ellery Lake View East.



Photo 71. KOP 8 Pull-off North of Ellery Lake View Southeast.



Photo 72. KOP 8 Pull-off North of Ellery Lake View South.



Photo 73. KOP 8 Pull-off North of Ellery Lake View Southwest.


Photo 74. KOP 8 Pull-off North of Ellery Lake View West.



Photo 75. KOP 8 Pull-off North of Ellery Lake View Northwest.

4.5. VIEWSHED ANALYSIS

As described in Section 2.0, *Methods*, a viewshed analysis was conducted in GIS software to assess the visibility of each Project facility. The viewshed analysis was performed by analyzing the most current publicly available elevation data, which is a 10-meter DEM published by the USGS 3DEP (USGS 2021). Due to limited available vegetation type and height information, SCE did not consider vegetation (i.e., potential

influence of vegetation and tree height screening of views) in the viewshed analysis and assumed an average individual's viewing height of 5 feet 5 inches. Therefore, this would overall reflect a greater viewing distance and availability of views than would be expected under existing conditions with presence of vegetation.

Based on the viewshed analysis, four Project facilities were determined to be visible from four KOPs: Saddlebag Dam would be visible from KOP 1—Saddlebag Lake Day Use Area / Campground, both Tioga Auxiliary Dam and Tioga Dam would be visible from KOP 3—Tioga Lake Campground and KOP 4—Tioga Lake Overlook, and Poole Powerhouse would be visible from KOP 7—Poole Powerhouse Gate. Rhinedollar Dam is not visible from any KOP location (Table 3.5-1). All Project facilities are located in a USFS-designated "High" Scenic Integrity Objective area (Figure 3.2-1), and a USFS-designated "Modified/Roaded" Recreation Opportunity Spectrum area (Figure 3.2-2). Appendix B provides photographs taken from each of the KOPs.

Table 3.5-2 provides the area of land that each Project facility is visible from based on the viewshed assessment, and Figures 3.5-1 through 3.5-4 provide a visual representation of these areas. The only highway within a 0.5-mile vicinity of the FERC Project Boundary is State Route 120. Poole Powerhouse, Rhinedollar Dam, Tioga Dam, and Tioga Auxiliary Dam are visible along Mile 0.60, Mile 0.30, Mile 1.29, and Mile 0.98 of the highway, respectively. Saddlebag dam is not visible from the highway within a 0.5-mile buffer of the FERC Project Boundary.

Table 3.5-1. Visual Resource Information by Facility for the Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project

Project Facility	KOP Viewshed ^a	SIO ^b	ROS ^b
Poole Powerhouse	KOP 7	Н	MR
Rhinedollar Dam	N/A	Н	MR
Saddlebag Dam	KOP 1	Н	MR
Tioga Auxiliary Dam	KOP 3, KOP 4	Н	MR
Tioga Dam	KOP 3, KOP 4	Н	MR

H = high; KOP = Key Observation Point; MR = Modified/Roaded; N/A = data not available; ROS = Recreation Opportunity Spectrum; SIO = scenic integrity objectives

^a Denotes facility visibility from KOP Locations

^b Source: USFS, 2019

Table 3.5-2. Extent of Visibility of Each Project Facility a

Project Facility	Viewshed Area (acres within FERC Project Boundary)	Viewshed Area (acres within a 0.5-mile buffer of FERC Project Boundary)
Poole Powerhouse	6.2	415.3
Rhinedollar Dam	54.8	1,066.0
Saddlebag Dam	102.3	595.7
Tioga Auxiliary Dam	77.8	927.8
Tioga Dam	58.2	711.6

FERC = Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

^a Based on viewshed analysis utilizing 10-meter DEM (USGS 3DEP; USGS 2021); not including vegetation (i.e., potential influence of vegetation and tree height screening of view), and assuming a person viewing average standing height of 5'5".



Figure 3.5-1. Extent of Visibility of Project Facilities.



Figure 3.5-2. Extent of Visibility of Project Facilities.



Figure 3.5-3. Extent of Visibility of Project Facilities.



Figure 3.5-4. Extent of Visibility of Project Facilities.

4.6. EXISTING MEASURES TO PRESERVE OR ENHANCE VISUAL QUALITY

Per Section 4(e) Conditions 4 and 6 of the Project License (FERC, 1997), the Project maintains reservoir levels and minimum instream flows to preserve visual quality within the FERC Project Boundary.

PME measures for the Project include the existing Visual Resource Protection Plan Section 4(e) Condition 11 (SCE, 1997), which is currently being implemented under the existing license. The following sections summarize existing PME measures of the aesthetic environment within the Project Area.

4.6.1. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL

Prior written approval must first be obtained from USFS before initiating any activity USFS deems as affecting or potentially affecting resources on National Forest System lands. The approval will be contingent upon compliance with federal laws, including, but not limited to, the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and the National Forest Management Act.

4.6.2. FACILITY DESIGN AND PLACEMENT

The Project facilities are painted in earth tones to blend in with the surrounding areas. The facility areas are landscaped with trees and scrubs to screen and break up the lines of the buildings. Where feasible, new structures will be placed within areas where existing structures are located. These structures will be painted in earth tones relative to Forest Service specifications. Areas will be landscaped to conform with vegetation in the surrounding areas and to screen the buildings and associated facilities. Any vegetation or revegetation plans will be reviewed and approved by the USFS resource specialist prior to implementation. However, no new Project infrastructure is currently proposed.

4.6.3. PIPELINE AND SIMILAR STRUCTURE PLACEMENT AND DESIGN

New pipelines will either be buried or painted in earth tones per Forest Service specifications to blend with the surrounding areas. Ground disturbances revegetate naturally and blend in with the surrounding areas. Where feasible, valve structures will be screened by vegetation. However, no new Project pipelines are currently proposed.

4.6.4. TRANSMISSION LINES

There are no plans for construction of new transmission lines for the Project. Existing facilities are small wooden pole structures that blend with the surrounding area.

4.6.5. ROADS AND CLEARED AREAS

New roads or other cleared areas will be located, where feasible, to minimize visual impact. Road cuts, fill areas, and facility areas not occupied with structures, will be revegetated with locally derived native species, wherever practicable, to blend with the

surrounding areas and maintain the integrity of the local gene pools. However, no new Project roads or cleared areas are currently proposed.

5.0 CONSULTATION SUMMARY

In preparation to file the PAD and Notice of Intent filed in August 2021, SCE hosted Recreation and Land Use TWG meetings on January 28, February 25, April 1, and May 27, 2021. These TWG meetings resulted in study requests from Stakeholders to address questions regarding existing recreation facilities. Notes and materials from these meetings are available on SCE's Project website (www.sce.com/leevining).

SCE filed draft study plans with the PAD and Notice of Intent on August 12, 2021, to address issues discussed with the TWGs. The Stakeholder comment period for these filings ended on January 18, 2022. SCE reviewed all comments received and drafted Revised Technical Study Plans, which were distributed to the TWGs on February 18, 2022, for another 30-day review period. Stakeholder comments received on the Revised Technical Study Plans were reviewed and incorporated as appropriate in the Final Technical Study Plans, which were filed with FERC on April 25, 2022 (SCE, 2022). On January 23, 2023, SCE distributed a draft 2022 progress report and technical memos to Stakeholders for a 30-day review period. The memos included preliminary data from 2022 study implementation; a meeting to discuss those memos was held on February 1, 2023. No field studies occurred in 2022 for Study LAND-2, and no comments were received.

Recreation and Land Use TWG meetings were held on March 1, 2023, and March 15, 2023, to address implementation of these studies. The eight KOPs were selected through consultation with the TWG at these March 2023 meetings, prior to the 2023 field season. KOPs were identified at representative locations such as Project-related travel corridors and recreation sites within the identified viewshed areas for additional analysis.

Draft Technical Reports were distributed to TWGs on April 16, 2024, for a 60-day comment period. On May 14, 2024, SCE held a public meeting at the Lee Vining Community Center to discuss the draft reports and study findings to date. On June 12, 2024, at the end of the comment period, comments were received from USFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Water Resources Control Board, and Mono Lake Committee; however, no comments received were related to this LAND-2 Technical Report.

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APPENDIX A AESTHETIC INVENTORY DATA FORMS

FERC Project No. 1388

am

Lake (Reservoir)

Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project LAND-2

6.7

ATTACHMENT 1. AESTHETIC INVENTORY FORM 1.0

Site Location and Characteristics

Vining Saddle pag PO Project Name and Development_

Site Name/Location of Key Observation Point (KQP):

37° 57,991° GPS Coordinates Date & Time: Aug 9,2023 10:30am Weather: Sunny Clear Lee Vining Creek flow on this date/time: Site primary use (i.e., recreation, highway, parking area) Recreation, day-use, boat launch Scenic Integrity Objective for KOP Location (USFS 2019) (i.e., High, Medium or Low) _____

Landscape Scenic Character

Provide a brief description of the key characteristics of the following:

General visual/aesthetic description of site: Mountains Lake

Topography and notable landforms visible from the site:

Unique geographic or rock features visible from the site:

Type and extent of vegetation and vegetation patterns visible from this site: _



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Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project LAND-2

Land Use Patterns and Cultural Features

Identify the type of visible development (campgrounds, Project facilities, etc.): Saddlebag dam, old Forest Service building Metal strags (ontainer

Identify the level of development _

- 1. No noticeable development
- 2. Very limited primitive development
 3. Five or fewer buildings/structures in view
 4. 5-10 (or more) buildings/structures in view
 5. Highly developed

 Describe adjacent landscape and land use features: Recreation day use and Overnight

Identify any unique visual/aesthetic features noted at this site: Saddlebag dan, Forest Service buildings

Landscape Visibility

Distance Zones - Characterize predominate viewing distances from this site:

. Foreground (up to 1/2 mile from viewer),

2. Middle ground (approx. 1/2 to four miles from viewer)

B. Background (greater than four miles from viewer)

Describe prominent vegetation, key features, and degree of discernable detail of each distance zone:

Foreground views Trees, Dushes, lake,

Middleground views \rees, USNO 123

Background views_



Description of context of view (i.e., recreation, roadway) <u>**FRCE**</u>

Description of duration of view (i.e., short, medium, long) _____ Meduum

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Photographs

.

(Take photos looking in each direction)

Enter photo names and the number of photos taken looking in each direction.



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ATTACHMENT 1. AESTHETIC INVENTORY FORM 1.0

Site Location and Characteristics Project Name and Development Lee Vining Ellery Site Name/Location of Key Observation Point (KOP): Campground GPS Coordinates Date & Time: Aug. 16, 2023 11:00 Meather: Suny Lee Vining Creek flow on this date/time: Site primary use (i.e., recreation, highway, parking area) <u>fecreation</u> Scenic Integrity Objective for KOP Location (USFS 2019) (i.e., High, Medium or Low) Landscape Scenic Character

Provide a brief description of the key characteristics of the following:



Type and extent of Project waters visible from this site: (reservoir, creek segment): Unique/focal point water features (waterfalls, wetlands, creek segment): _

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Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project LAND-2

Land Use Patterns and Cultural Features

Identify the type of visible development (campgrounds, Project facilities, etc.): nno

Identify the level of development

- No noticeable development



0 a 0

Landscape Visibility

Distance Zones - Characterize predominate viewing distances from this site:

- 1. Foreground (up to 1/2 mile from viewer),
- 2. Middle ground (approx. 1/2 to four miles from viewer)
- 3. Background (greater than four miles from viewer)

Describe prominent vegetation, key features, and degree of discernable detail of each distance zone:

Thrubs ruck outcrop Foreground views_

aces Now Middleground views_



Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project LAND-2

Photographs

-

(Take photos looking in each direction)

Enter photo names and the number of photos taken looking in each direction.





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1.0 ATTACHMENT 1. AESTHETIC INVENTORY FORM

Site Location and Characteristics

Project Name and Development Lee VINIng 1090 Lake

Site Name/Location of Key Observation Point (KOP):

GPS Coordinates <u>N 37° 55.635</u> W <u>Hy</u> <u>IS.2008</u> Date & Time: <u>Aug. 9,2023 3:50 pm</u> Weather: <u>Sunny</u> <u>Clear</u> Lee Vining Creek flow on this date/time: Site primary use (i.e., recreation, highway, parking area) <u>recreation</u>, <u>Camping</u> Scenic Integrity Objective for KOP Location (USFS 2019) (i.e., High, Medium or Low) <u>High</u>

Landscape Scenic Character

Provide a brief description of the key characteristics of the following:

General visual/aesthetic description of site: Level Open grassy areas

Mountains, dans in distance Topography and notable landforms visible from the site: FOCK outcrop in lake rock outerops surrounded by forest canyon beyond dam Unique geographic or rock features visible from the site: rock in lake, rock outcrops on both sides of dam Type and extent of vegetation and vegetation patterns visible from this site: grass meadow south side of lake, trees visible to mountain tops. sparse & top



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Land Use Patterns and Cultural Features



Identify the level of development _

- 1. No noticeable development
- 2. Very limited primitive development
- 3. Five or fewer buildings/structures in view
- 4. 5-10 (or more) buildings/structures in view
- 5. Highly developed

torest Describe adjacent landscape and land use features: <u>Highway P1</u> ODEN <u>9rassy</u> <u>Meadow</u>, <u>Shrubs</u>

stand Identify any unique visual/ aesthetic features noted at this site: <u>fock</u> Sides

or

Landscape Visibility

Distance Zones - Characterize predominate viewing distances from this site:

1. Foreground (up to 1/2 mile from viewer),

fiddle ground (approx. 1/2 to four miles from viewer)

Background (greater than four miles from viewer)

Describe prominent vegetation, key features, and degree of discernable detail of each distance zone:

Res in Foreground views_ Indivi





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Photographs

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(Take photos looking in each direction)

Enter photo names and the number of photos taken looking in each direction.





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FERC Project No. 1388

brest

ATTACHMENT 1. AESTHETIC INVENTORY FORM 1.0

Site Location and Characteristics

Tioga VINING RR Project Name and Development_

Site Name/Location of Key Observation Point (KOP):

12

376 7 55.301 5.279 GPS Coordinates Date & Time: Aug 9,2023 3:15 pm Weather: SUNNY, Clear Lee Vining Creek flow on this date/time:

J

Site primary use (i.e., recreation, highway, parking area) OVERLOOK, Sector 100

Scenic Integrity Objective for KOP Location (USFS 2019) (i.e., High, Medium or Low) _

Landscape Scenic Character

Provide a brief description of the key characteristics of the following:

General visual/aesthetic description of site: <u>Jake</u> Mountain, H

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Land Use Patterns and Cultural Features

Identify the type of visible development (campgrounds, Project facilities, etc.): am Campor

- 2. Very limited primitive development
- 3. Five or fewer buildings/structures in view
- 4. 5-10 (or more) buildings/structures in view
- 5. Highly developed

Describe adjacent landscape and land use features: Tiogg Pass road Campground

Identify any unique visual/aesthetic features noted at this site: Canyon View to

Distance Zones - Characterize predominate viewing distances from this site:

- 1. Foreground (up to 1/2 mile from viewer),
- 2. Middle ground (approx. 1/2 to four miles from viewer)
- 3. Background (greater than four miles from viewer)

Describe prominent vegetation, key features, and degree of discernable detail of each distance zone:

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Photographs

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(Take photos looking in each direction)

Enter photo names and the number of photos taken looking in each direction.

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DIL

highway

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63

1.0 ATTACHMENT 1. AESTHETIC INVENTORY FORM

Site Location and Characteristics

Project Name and Development_

Site Name/Location of Key Observation Point (KOP): Warren Fork Traillea HWY 120 Pullost West of Warren Fork Traillea

GPS Coordinates <u>N 37° 56 44" W 119 13 39</u> Date & Time: <u>Aug 10,2023 9:30 am</u> Weather: <u>Sunny Clear</u> Lee Vining Creek flow on this date/time:

Site primary use (i.e., recreation, highway, parking area) highway

Scenic Integrity Objective for KOP Location (USFS 2019) (i.e., High, Medium or Low)

Landscape Scenic Character

Provide a brief description of the key characteristics of the following:

General visual/aesthetic description of site: Canyon

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Land Use Patterns and Cultural Features

Identify the type of visible development (campgrounds, Project facilities, etc.): <u>Posle powerhouse road</u>, <u>Conspection</u> HNY 120, <u>transmission</u> <u>distribution lines</u>

Identify the level of development

- 1. No noticeable development
- 2. Very limited primitive development
- 3. Five or fewer buildings/structures in view
- 4. 5-10 (or more) buildings/structures in view
- 5. Highly developed

Describe adjacent landscape and land use features: Mountainside 1 highway

Identify any unique visual/aesthetic features noted at this site: CANJON QUALAGE Flery Spillway, Naterfalls Delow Flery spillway

Distance Zones - Characterize predominate viewing distances from this site:

- 1. Foreground (up to 1/2 mile from viewer),
- 2. Middle ground (approx. 1/2 to four miles from viewer)
- 3. Background (greater than four miles from viewer)

Describe prominent vegetation, key features, and degree of discernable detail of each distance zone:

Middleground views brush clusters, sparse trees snow

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FERC Project No. 1388

Photographs

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(Take photos looking in each direction)

Enter photo names and the number of photos taken looking in each direction.

W NW Lower Angle NE E SE S SW

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ATTACHMENT 1. AESTHETIC INVENTORY FORM 1.0

Site Location and Characteristics

ining Project Name and Development _____

Site Name/Location of Key Observation Point (KOP): Junction Campground, Bennettville

5.061 6.373 11 GPS Coordinates Date & Time: Aug 9,2023 1:06pm Weather: Sunny, Lee Vining Creek flow on this date/time: Site primary use (i.e., recreation, highway, parking area) <u>Recreation</u>

Scenic Integrity Objective for KOP Location (USFS 2019) (i.e., High, Medium or Low) _____

Landscape Scenic Character

Provide a brief description of the key characteristics of the following:

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Land Use Patterns and Cultural Features

Identify the type of visible development (campgrounds, Project facilities, etc.):

Compground, bridge, Tibga Pass ruad

1

Identify the level of development _

- 1. No noticeable development
- 2. Very limited primitive development
- 3. Five or fewer buildings/structures in view
- 4. 5-10 (or more) buildings/structures in view
- 5. Highly developed

Describe adjacent landscape and land use features: Main road to Josemite bridge over Lee Vining Creek, trainead, campgrund

Identify any unique visual/ aesthetic features noted at this site: Bendir

Distance Zones - Characterize predominate viewing distances from this site:

- 1. Foreground (up to 1/2 mile from viewer),
- 2. Middle ground (approx. 1/2 to four miles from viewer)
- 3. Background (greater than four miles from viewer)

Describe prominent vegetation, key features, and degree of discernable detail of each distance zone:

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Photographs

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(Take photos looking in each direction)

Enter photo names and the number of photos taken looking in each direction.

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ATTACHMENT 1. AESTHETIC INVENTORY FORM 1.0

Site Location and Characteristics Project Name and Development_____ Site Name/Location of Key Observation Point (KOP):

GPS Coordinates Date & Time: Aug. 10,2023 8:30am Weather: Suny Lee Vining Creek flow on this date/time: Site primary use (i.e., recreation, highway, parking area) Packing acea Scenic Integrity Objective for KOP Location (USFS 2019) (i.e., High, Medium or Low)

Landscape Scenic Character

Provide a brief description of the key characteristics of the following:

Type and extent of Project waters visible from this site: (reservoir, creek segment): _

Unique/focal point water features (waterfalls, wetlands, creek segment):

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Land Use Patterns and Cultural Features

Identify the type of visible development (campgrounds, Project facilities, etc.): maintenance building, transmission up to ton

Identify the level of development _____

- 1. No noticeable development
- 2. Very limited primitive development
- 3. Five or fewer buildings/structures in view
- 4. 5-10 (or more) buildings/structures in view
- 5. Highly developed

Describe adjacent landscape and land use features: Forested, access road

Identify any unique visual/aesthetic features noted at this site: <u>Cleared trees</u> to west

cabin on top of cliff to NW

Distance Zones - Characterize predominate viewing distances from this site:

1. Foreground (up to 1/2 mile from viewer),

- 2. Middle ground (approx. 1/2 to four miles from viewer)
- 3. Background (greater than four miles from viewer)

Describe prominent vegetation, key features, and degree of discernable detail of each distance zone:

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Photographs

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(Take photos looking in each direction)

Enter photo names and the number of photos taken looking in each direction.

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Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project LAND-2 **1.0 ATTACHMENT 1. AESTHETIC INVENTORY FORM** <u>Site Location and Characteristics</u> Project Name and Development Lee Vining Ellery Lake Site Name/Location of Key Observation Point (KOP): of Ellery Lake OF Ellery Lake OF Ellery Lake

Date & Time: Aug 10, 2023 11: 30am Weather: Sunny, Clear

Lee Vining Creek flow on this date/time:

Site primary use (i.e., recreation, highway, parking area) Highway P

Scenic Integrity Objective for KOP Location (USFS 2019) (i.e., High, Medium or Low)

Landscape Scenic Character

1.1

14

Provide a brief description of the key characteristics of the following:

General visual/aesthetic description of site: <u>Mountain peaks</u>, old building

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February 2023

10no

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Land Use Patterns and Cultural Features

Identify the type of visible development (campgrounds, Project facilities, etc.):

Transmission I distribution lines 120

1

Identify the level of development _

1. No noticeable development

- 2. Very limited primitive development
- 3. Five or fewer buildings/structures in view
- 4. 5-10 (or more) buildings/structures in view
- 5. Highly developed

Describe adjacent landscape and land use features: highway, Scenic pull out Dack country trails

Identify any unique visual/aesthetic features noted at this site: 10ck out cno

Landscape Visibility

Distance Zones - Characterize predominate viewing distances from this site:

- Foreground (up to 1/2 mile from viewer),
- 2. Middle ground (approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ to four miles from viewer)
- 3. Background (greater than four miles from viewer)

Describe prominent vegetation, key features, and degree of discernable detail of each distance zone:

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(Take photos looking in each direction)

Enter photo names and the number of photos taken looking in each direction.

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APPENDIX B 360-DEGREE KOP PHOTOGRAPHS


KOP 1, Upper view, looking North



KOP 1, Upper view, looking Northwest



KOP 1, Upper view, looking West



KOP 1, Upper view, looking Southwest



KOP 1, Upper view, looking South



KOP 1, Upper view, looking Southeast



KOP 1, Upper view, looking East



KOP 1, Upper view, looking Northeast



KOP 1, Upper view, looking North



KOP 1, Middle view, looking Northwest



KOP 1, Middle view, looking West



KOP 1, Middle view, looking Southwest



KOP 1, Middle view, looking South



KOP 1, Middle view, looking Southeast



KOP 1, Middle view, looking East



KOP 1, Middle view, looking Northeast



KOP 1, Middle view, looking North



KOP 1, Lower view, looking Northwest



KOP 1, Lower view, looking West



KOP 1, Lower view, looking Southwest



KOP 1, Lower view, looking South



KOP 1, Lower view, looking Southeast



KOP 1, Lower view, looking East



KOP 1, Lower view, looking Northeast



KOP 1, Lower view, looking North



KOP 2, Lower view, looking North



KOP 2, Lower view, looking Northeast



KOP 2, Lower view, looking East



KOP 2, Lower view, looking Southeast



KOP 2, Lower view, looking South



KOP 2, Lower view, looking Southwest



KOP 2, Lower view, looking West



KOP 2, Lower view, looking Northwest



KOP 2, Middle view, looking North



KOP 2, Middle view, looking Northeast



KOP 2, Middle view, looking East


KOP 2, Middle view, looking Southeast



KOP 2, Middle view, looking South



KOP 2, Middle view, looking Southwest



KOP 2, Middle view, looking West



KOP 2, Middle view, looking Northwest



KOP 2, Upper view, looking North



KOP 2, Upper view, looking Northeast



KOP 2, Upper view, looking East



KOP 2, Upper view, looking Southeast



KOP 2, Upper view, looking South



KOP 2, Upper view, looking Southwest



KOP 2, Upper view, looking West



KOP 2, Upper view, looking Northwest



KOP 3, Upper view, looking North



KOP 3, Upper view, looking Northeast



KOP 3, Upper view, looking East



KOP 3, Upper view, looking Southeast



KOP 3, Upper view, looking South



KOP 3, Upper view, looking Southwest



KOP 3, Upper view, looking West



KOP 3, Upper view, looking Northwest



KOP 3, Upper view, looking North



KOP 3, Middle view, looking North



KOP 3, Middle view, looking Northeast



KOP 3, Middle view, looking East