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# **TRI 1 – TRIBAL RESOURCES INTERIM TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

**KERN RIVER NO. 1 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT  
*FERC PROJECT NO. 1930***

***PREPARED FOR:***



**January 2025**

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## List of Acronyms

APE	Area of Potential Effects
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
HPMP	Historic Properties Management Plan
ITM	Interim Technical Memo
KR1	Kern River No. 1
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
Project	Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1930)
SCE	Southern California Edison
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SPD	Study Plan Determination
TRI 1 TSP	TRI 1 – Tribal Resources Technical Study Plan
TSP	Technical Study Plan
TWG	Technical Working Group

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Interim Technical Memorandum (ITM) provides the methods and findings of desktop research and field surveys associated with the TRI 1 – Tribal Resources Technical Study Plan (TRI 1 TSP) (SCE 2024) in support of Southern California Edison’s (SCE) Kern River No. 1 (KR1) Hydroelectric Project (Project) relicensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 1930. The TRI 1 TSP was included in SCE’s Revised Study Plan filed on February 13, 2024 (SCE 2024). In its March 14, 2024, Study Plan Determination (SPD), FERC approved the TRI 1 TSP without modifications (FERC 2024).

The field investigations were conducted in 2024, and the results are pending. Additional work to complete this study is discussed in Section 7.0, Outstanding Study Plan Elements, and will occur into 2025. Study results will be included as part of the Draft/Final License Application and/or the Updated Study Report.

Definitions of technical terms, background information, and previous inventory and consultation efforts are included in Section 3.14, Tribal Resources of the Pre-Application Document (SCE 2023) and the TRI 1 TSP (SCE 2024).

## 2.0 STUDY OBJECTIVES

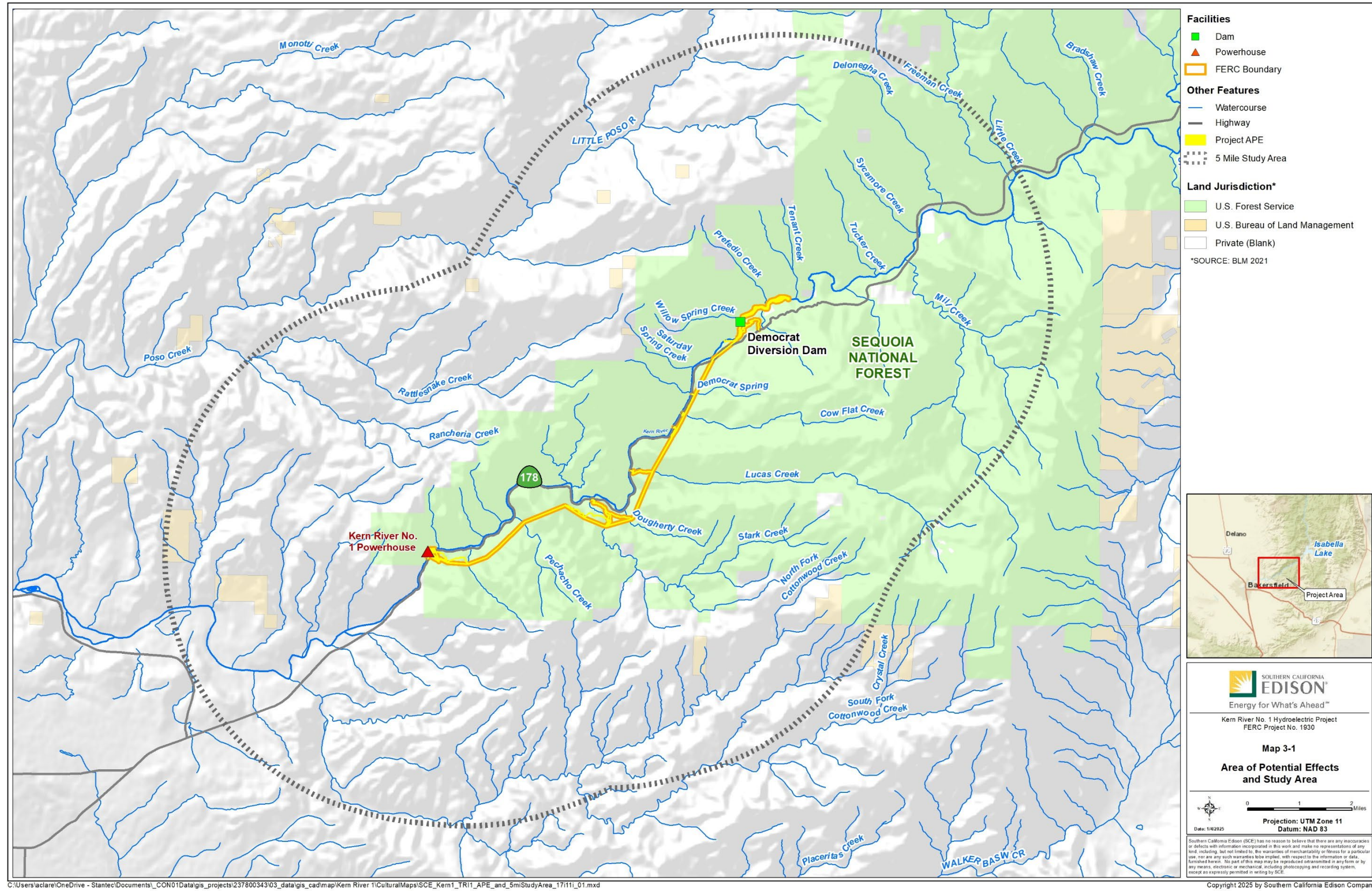
The objectives of the study, as outlined in the TRI 1 TSP (SCE 2024), include the following:

- Communicate and consult with Tribes regarding the Project.
- Develop an ethnohistory associated with lands in the vicinity of the Project (study area) which will be used to assist in identification and evaluation of Tribal resources.
- Identify and document Tribal resources in the vicinity of the Project. Characterize Tribal values and resources from a Tribal perspective through outreach and contact with Tribal governments and their representatives.
- Evaluate Tribal resources, as appropriate, to determine if they are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and determine whether these resources will be affected by actions of the Proposed Project.

## 3.0 AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS AND STUDY AREA

The TRI 1 TSP (SCE 2024) defined the Area of Potential Effects (APE) as “the area within the FERC Project boundary, a 25-foot buffer from centerline of the access trails located outside of the FERC boundary, and a 50-foot radius around FERC ancillary facilities such as gages located outside of the FERC boundary.”

For Tribal resources, the study area includes the area within 5 miles of the APE (Map 3-1). The study area is a guide for archival research and interviews to develop contextual and background information.



Map 3-1. Area of Potential Effects and Study Area

## **4.0 METHODS**

Study implementation followed the methods described in the TRI 1 TSP (SCE 2024).

### **4.1 STUDY PLAN VARIANCES**

There are no variances from the TRI 1 TSP approved in FERC’s SPD (FERC 2024).

## **5.0 RESULTS SUMMARY**

Results of the TRI 1 TSP are pending.

## **6.0 STUDY SPECIFIC CONSULTATION**

The following study specific consultation has been conducted:

- SCE conducted a Cultural Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting on June 29, 2023 to provide an overview of the Project, review the existing information included in the Pre-Application Document, review the cultural and Tribal TSPs, and the study schedule.
- On July 16, 2024, SCE submitted a letter to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) requesting concurrence on the proposed APE for the Project. On August 30, 2024, SHPO sent a letter to SCE concurring on the APE.

This ITM will be distributed to the Cultural TWG for review and comment in January 2025.

## **7.0 OUTSTANDING STUDY PLAN ELEMENTS**

The outstanding study plan elements include:

- Conduct Tribal site visit.
- Complete Tribal interviews to identify Tribal resources.
- Compile results of data gathered and evaluate Tribal resources.
- NRHP Evaluation
  - SCE shall utilize the results of the inventories to prepare, in collaboration with the Sequoia National Forest, Tribes, and other relicensing participants, an Evaluation Plan that will be executed to evaluate the eligibility of potential historic properties (i.e., Tribal resources) for the NRHP. The Evaluation Plan will include an assessment of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable Project effects, and describe the methods of evaluation to be implemented. The Evaluation Plan will be submitted to the TWG, as appropriate, for review 30 days prior to submittal to the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP).

- Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP)
  - SCE anticipates FERC will enter into a programmatic agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, OHP, and any other agencies or entities FERC elects to include. SCE anticipates that one of the programmatic agreement stipulations will be the completion and implementation of an HPMP during the new license term.
  - The HPMP will consider direct and indirect effects of continued Project operations and maintenance on NRHP-listed or eligible Tribal resources and will require avoidance and protection of specified resources, whenever possible. Processes and procedures will be developed for general and site-specific treatment measures, including minimization and mitigation measures to be taken should license implementation create unavoidable adverse effects to historic properties.
- Coordination with Other Studies
  - To the extent feasible, SCE will coordinate Tribal resources field studies with other Project-related environmental studies (e.g., archaeological resources, historical resources, and habitat surveys) and conduct them in a manner that does not affect other sensitive natural resources. When conducting built environment resources or other investigations, SCE and/or their contractors should not violate other federal or state laws or regulations protecting natural resources, including but not limited to the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. SCE should consider that Tribes may utilize natural resources for subsistence or specific ceremonial uses and should avoid affecting those uses or events while conducting studies.

The anticipated schedule to complete the outstanding study plan elements are identified in Table 7-1.

**Table 7-1. Schedule for Completion of Outstanding Study Plan Elements**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
December 2024	Conduct Tribal site visit
January 2025	Distribute ITM to TWG
December 2024	Conduct Tribal interviews to identify Tribal resources
October 2024–December 2025	Compile results of data gathered, evaluate Tribal resources, and prepare draft technical memo
December 2025	Distribute draft technical memo to TWG
February–April 2025	TWG review and provide comment on draft technical memo
April–June 2025	Resolve comments and prepare final technical memo

Date	Activity
April–October 2025	Develop Draft HPMP
December 2025	Distribute Final Technical Memorandum and Draft HPMP in Draft License Application

Source: SCE 2024

Key: HPMP = Historic Properties Management Plan  
ITM = Interim Technical Memo  
TWG = Technical Working Group

## 8.0 REFERENCES

FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). 2024. Study Plan Determination for the Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project. March 14.

SCE (Southern California Edison). 2023. Pre-Application Document for the Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1930). May 5.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2024. Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1930) Revised Study Plan. February 13.