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Electronically Filed

April 14, 2020

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

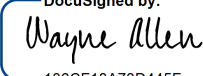
**Subject: Bishop Creek Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 1394
Progress Report 2**

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) hereby files with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) its second Progress Report for the Bishop Creek Project (Project No. 1394).

SCE will forward the "Acceptance for Filing" e-mail generated by FERC's e-filing service to all contacts on the distribution list either via e-mail or U.S Mail, as appropriate. This filing will also be placed on SCE's Bishop Creek Relicensing Website (www.sce.com/bishopcreek) where it will be available for download, and available for review by appointment at the Bishop Creek Hydro Headquarters Office – 4000 E. Bishop Creek Road, Bishop, CA 93514.

SCE looks forward to continuing to work with FERC and other interested parties on the Bishop Creek relicensing. Should there be any questions or concerns regarding this filing please contact Matthew Woodhall, Senior Regulatory Advisor, by phone at (626) 302-9596 or via e-mail at matthew.woodhall@sce.com.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Wayne P. Allen
Principal Manager

Attachments:

- Progress Report 2 Memorandum and Appendices

MEMORANDUM

TO: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Docket P-1394-080

FROM: Bishop Creek Relicensing Team

CC: Technical Work Groups
FERC Distribution List

DATE: April 14, 2020

RE: Quarterly Study Progress Report No. 2

INTRODUCTION

On September 4, 2019, as part of the Request for Waiver of 18 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 5.11 and 5.12, Southern California Edison (SCE) submitted a revised Technical Study Plan (TSP) for the Bishop Creek Project (FERC No. 1394) relicensing. As required in 18 CFR 5.11(b)(3), the TSP included provisions for periodic progress reports. These progress reports are to be distributed to the Technical Working Groups (TWG) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on a quarterly basis as required by the Study Plan Determination (SPD).¹ The progress reports are intended to be brief, technical memoranda that will at a minimum summarize work completed to date, any deviations from previously described methods, and any unforeseen issues that may warrant further stakeholder consultation. This memorandum serves as the second progress report for the Bishop Creek Project, with one to follow in July 2020. The Initial Study Report (ISR) will serve as the final quarterly progress report, which is to be filed no later than November 4, 2020.

The relicensing process requires a study report meeting to be held within 15 days of filing the ISR, and accordingly, SCE will contact agencies to assess availability prior to confirming the filing date of the ISR. SCE is also holding a one-day TWG meeting in May 2020 to review study results to date and discuss upcoming work.

PROGRESS REPORT

SCE completed or initiated several resource studies in 2019 as outlined in the revised TSP and SPD. Table 1 provides a summary of the field efforts conducted to date and a schedule for remaining studies. SCE will provide individual study reports in the ISR.

Summary memorandums are attached, which provide additional information related to ongoing study efforts and stakeholder consultation regarding the following studies:

- IFIM;
- Terrestrial Surveys 1, 2, 3 and 4;
- Sediment and Geomorphology; and a
- Revised Water Quality Implementation Plan

¹ Issued by FERC on November 4, 2019.

TABLE 1 BISHOP CREEK HYDRO RELICENSING PROJECT 2019 FIELD STUDY SUMMARY

STUDY NAME	STATUS	MODIFICATIONS TO METHODOLOGY AND/OR NEEDED CONSULTATION
TERRESTRIAL AND BOTANICAL STUDIES		
TERR 1 – Assessment of Bishop Creek Riparian Community	SCE conducted riparian vegetation surveys throughout the 2019 field season focusing on the regulated stream reaches below project diversions and reservoirs.	No changes or modifications to methodology. See Appendix A: Bishop Creek Vegetation Guild Analysis Technical Memo
TERR 2 – Invasive Plants	SCE conducted surveys for invasive plants on multiple visits to the study area during the 2019 field season, focused on a 500-foot survey area around each Project facility (i.e., powerhouses, dams, diversions, valve houses, access roads, and recreation facilities within the Bishop Creek Project area) and a larger survey area around Plant 4 to document black locust populations.	No changes or modifications to methodology. See Appendix B: Bishop Creek Invasive Plant Technical Memo.
TERR 3 – Assessment of Special Status Plants	SCE conducted surveys for special status plants on multiple visits to the study area during the 2019 field season. The study area consisted of a 500-foot survey area around Project facilities including powerhouses, dams, diversions, valve houses, and access roads.	No changes or modifications to methodology. See Appendix C: Bishop Creek RTE Plant Survey Technical Memo.
TERR 4 – Wildlife	<p>Surveys for general wildlife, special status amphibians, and a bat habitat assessment were performed in 2019. A report documenting the results of the general wildlife surveys is in preparation. Technical memoranda documenting the results of the bat habitat assessment and special status amphibian surveys have been completed.</p> <p>The proposed study area for the field surveys included a 500-foot buffer area around the following Project facilities: powerhouses, dams, diversions, and flowline starting at Intake No. 2, valve houses and other outbuildings, and access roads. The proposed study area also included lakes and other impoundments that are located within 500 feet of Project facilities. Cameras were placed along the above ground flowline at mule deer crossings between Intake 2 and powerhouse No 2.</p>	<p>FERC’s SPD recommended expanding the study area for TERR 4 to include transmission facilities to ensure protection to migratory birds and raptors. SCE will make the necessary modifications to the goals and objectives of this study and determine if additional data collection is necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General wildlife surveys were reduced to one field survey in 2019. • Goshawk surveys were postponed to the 2020 field season • Bat surveys were reduced to a bat roost habitat assessment. • Bat acoustic surveys were postponed to the 2020 field season. After consultation with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), an additional winter bat survey was added and was conducted in January 2020. See Appendix D: Bishop Creek General Wildlife Technical Memo.
AQUATICS AND AQUATIC PROCESSES STUDY PLANS		
AQ 1 – Instream Flow Needs and Assessment	Phase 1 – Mesohabitat survey was conducted in September 2019. Survey results, study site selection, and provisional transect site selection were reviewed and discussed with the Aquatics TWG via conference call/webinars during October 2019. SCE collected detailed drone imagery as part of the	At the October 2019 Aquatics TWG web-meeting, high quality drone imagery collected during the mesohabitat study was reviewed; The TWG decided to select the majority of the transect sites via webinar (Skype) as opposed to selecting them in the field, which proved to be an efficient means of reducing level of effort for stakeholders and

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	mesohabitat study, which was used to identify transects with the Aquatics TWG via Skype during the October 2019 meeting. Final transect selection and Phase II IFIM field surveys were completed in the field in early November 2019. The survey included 8 of the 10 identified study reaches in Bishop Creek. Physical habitat data and survey data have been reviewed, assured for quality, and entered into the PHABSIM model.	SCE. The TWG agreed that the remaining two reaches (Reaches 4 and 6) could not be modeled using the PHABSIM model; SCE plans to use a Habitat Criteria Method (HCM) in 2020 as recommended by USFS. The HCM will also be used for the Birch-McGee study area in 2020. In February 2020, SCE consulted with the USFS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) to develop and finalize Habitat Suitability Criteria (Appendix E is a summary of that consultation). SCE is in the process of calibrating the hydraulic component of the PHABSIM model.
AQ 2 – Operations Model	The Operations Model has been configured and populated with historical data. The Relicensing Team is presently calibrating the model with SCE Operations.	No changes or modifications to methodology. Consistent with CDFW comments on the Pre-Application Document (PAD) on August 29, 2019, the Operations Model will be used to assist in demonstrating the natural hydrograph.
AQ 3 – Fish Distribution Baseline Study (Creek)	Electrofishing was conducted in late-September 2019 at four sites within the study area and gill netting was performed at two intake pools. In accordance with the TSP, the study area included sections of Bishop Creek downstream of South Lake and Lake Sabrina, and selected Bishop Creek bypass reaches. Data from the survey were analyzed over the 2019-2020 winter. Scale samples retrieved from trout collected during the survey were sent to CDFW for aging.	No changes or modifications to methodology. See Appendix F: Bishop Creek Fish Distribution Technical Memo.
AQ 4 –Baseline Fish Distribution Study (Reservoirs)	This study will be implemented in 2020.	No changes or modifications to methodology.
AQ 5 – Water Quality	This study will be implemented in 2020.	Based on comments from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on the PAD and follow-up communications, <i>E. coli</i> has been substituted for fecal coliform in sampling at near shore in Lake Sabrina, South Lake, and Intake No. 2 reservoir. A revised Water Quality Implementation Plan was distributed to the SWRCB on February 14, 2020, with a request for comments within 30 days. The SWRCB reviewed the plan and stated that they had no further comments. No other comments have been received to date. See Appendix G: Bishop Creek Water Quality Implementation Plan.
AQ 6 – Sediment and Geomorphology	Channel and substrate surveys were conducted in September 2019.	Fall 2019 work proceeded with no changes or modifications to methodology. After a review of field conditions at bankfull flow, SCE does not believe the planned use of a bed-load sampler can be safely deployed or effectively implemented via wading, and notes that necessary infrastructure (bridges) for deployment of the sampler

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		<p>is not present for the desired sample reaches. As noted in the attached technical memorandum (Appendix H), the sediment found in the dredge piles from past dredging at Intakes 2, 4, 5, 6, and the L.A. Department of Water and Power intake show that, while some large particles were deposited in the impoundments, the majority of this material is sand (all D50 values were less than 6 millimeters , and most were less than 2 millimeters). To help resolve the question relating to sediment mobility that can't be answered by the bedload sampling that is not feasible, SCE is proposing to perform a tracer rock study at higher flows in the next year to understand when various size substrates are mobilized. SCE will work with the TWG on this proposed revision to the study plan.</p>
HUMAN ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY STUDY PLANS		
<p>REC 1 – Recreation Use and Needs</p>	<p>Off-site recreation use surveys will be implemented in 2020 and 2021. All other activities, described in REC 1 will be implemented in 2021.</p>	<p>As part of ongoing consultation, SCE provided a memorandum to the USFS on October 28, 2019, proposing an approach to general recreation survey implementation, which was discussed on a November 7, 2019, conference call. Following the November 2019 call, SCE and USFS staff agreed to specific revisions to the survey schedule and methods. Over the course of the 2019-2020 winter, the USFS' indicated a desire to include use of off-site surveys, to be administered in part by the USFS, to answer questions directly related to use, avoidance of use, or desired use in the Bishop Creek area. SCE will take a lead role in the implementation, collection, and analysis of off-site surveys.</p> <p>In January 2020, the USFS provided news of a recent development in the Bishop Creek area – heavy road construction on South Lake Road – that would significantly affect the recreational use patterns and scheduled activities for the 2020 recreation season (most notably user counts and surveys). Based on this development, SCE developed a revised implementation schedule for the REC 1 study plan h in consultation with the USFS that moves the general recreation field surveys to the 2021 recreation season.</p>
<p>REC 2 – Recreation Facilities Condition and Public Accessibility</p>	<p>This study will be implemented in 2020.</p>	<p>No changes or modifications to methodology.</p>
<p>LAND 1 – Project Boundary and Lands</p>	<p>This study will be implemented in 2020.</p>	<p>No changes or modifications to methodology.</p>

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CULT 1 – Cultural Resources	This study will be implemented in 2020.	No changes or modifications to methodology. The Relicensing Team has received one of two required Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Permits, with the remaining expected in May or June of 2020. Field work is anticipated to start in mid to late June of 2020.
CULT 2 – Tribal Resources	This study will be implemented in 2020.	No changes or modifications to methodology. Background research has been initiated.