



# Rush Creek Project

## FERC Project No. 1389

### Initial Study Report Meeting

November 9, 2023

Please hold, we will begin shortly. Thank you for your patience and for muting your microphone.

# Welcome and Introductions

# Introductions

## Relicensing Team

Matthew Woodhall, SCE Licensing Manager

Martin Ostendorf, SCE Senior Manager

Seth Carr, SCE Senior Supervisor, Generation-Operations and Maintenance

Matthew Paruolo, SCE Government Relations Manager

Audry Williams, SCE Cultural Technical Lead

Ed Bianchi, Stantec Project Director

Patricia Sussman, Stantec Project Manager

# Consultant Team Technical Leads

Name	Role/Resource
<p><b>Craig Addley</b> (Kleinschmidt)            Jennifer Hammond (Stantec)            Robyn Smith (Janelle Nolan &amp; Associates Environmental Consulting)</p>	<p><b>Aquatics</b>            AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-4, AQ-5,            AQ-6, AQ-7</p>
<p><b>Crystal West</b> (Stantec)            James Clark (Statistical Research, Inc.)            Scott Thompson (Statistical Research, Inc.)            Michael Lerch (Michael K. Lerch &amp; Associates)</p>	<p><b>Cultural and Tribal</b>            CUL-1, CUL-2, TRI-1</p>
<p><b>Patricia Sussman</b> (Stantec)            Patrick Kester (Stantec-GSA)</p>	<p><b>Land (Aesthetics and Noise)</b>            LAND-1, LAND-2</p>
<p><b>Patricia Sussman</b> (Stantec)</p>	<p><b>Recreation</b>            REC-1</p>
<p><b>Janelle Nolan</b> (Janelle Nolan &amp; Associates Environmental Consulting)            Robyn Smith (Janelle Nolan &amp; Associates Environmental Consulting)</p>	<p><b>Terrestrial (Botanical and Wildlife)</b>            TERR-1, TERR-2</p>

# Stakeholder Introductions

# Safety Moment



# Meeting Tips

# Meeting Tips

- Please remain on mute unless called on
- Turn off camera



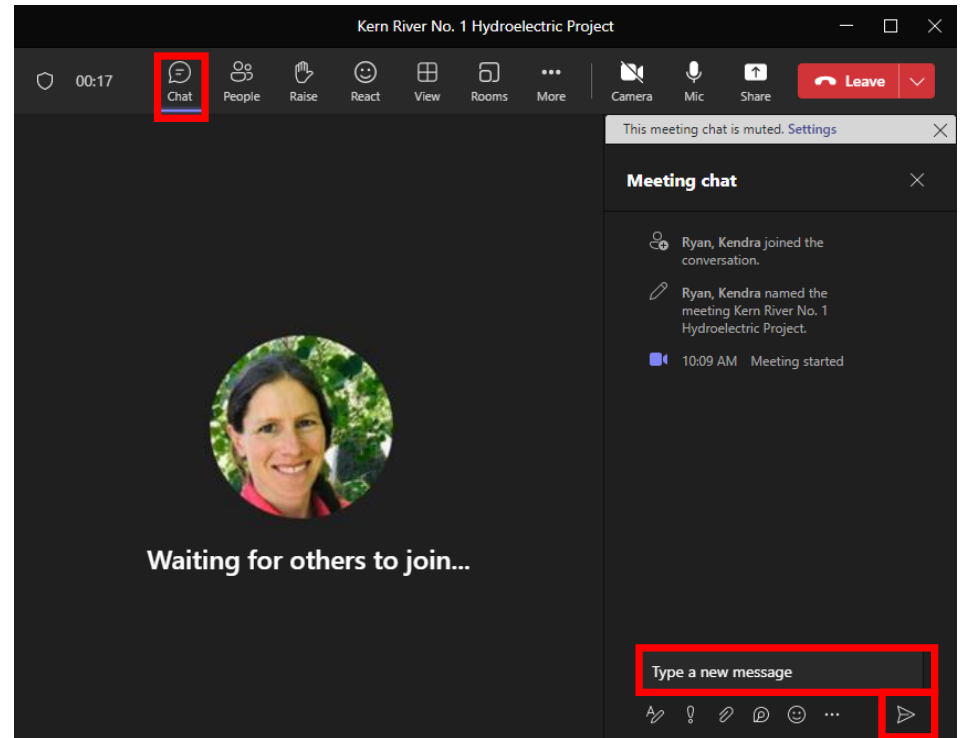
- Meeting materials are available on Project website [www.sce.com/rushcreek](http://www.sce.com/rushcreek)
- Consider shutting down other background programs for best meeting audio/viewing quality



# Meeting Tips

To submit a question/  
comment in writing:

- Utilize the chat feature during the presentation to submit questions/comments
- Questions submitted via the chat feature will be answered at the end of each agenda topic, as time allows



# Meeting Tips

To submit a question/comment verbally:

- Use the “Raise Hand” feature to indicate you would like to ask a question verbally



- Please wait to be called on and then unmute yourself
  - Introduce yourself (name and affiliation) prior to speaking
- Please stay on topic

# Agenda

- Meeting Purpose
- Initial Study Report
- Relicensing Process and Schedule
- Technical Study Plan Implementation
- Key Contacts
- Adjourn

# Meeting Purpose

- Provide an update on overall study plan implementation and any proposals to modify ongoing studies or conduct new studies.
  - Presentations on each Technical Study Plan will cover:
    - Completed Study Elements/Data Collected
    - Technical Working Group Consultation
    - Technical Study Plan Variances
    - Outstanding Study Elements
    - Proposed Modifications (none)
    - Proposed New Studies (none)

# Initial Study Report

- Initial Study Report filed on Oct 26, 2023
- Initial Study Report components:
  - Cover Letter
  - Attachment A – Distribution List
  - Attachment B – TSP Implementation Summary
  - Attachment C – TSP Implementation Schedule
- Available for download:
  - [www.sce.com/rushcreek](http://www.sce.com/rushcreek)
  - [www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp)

# Technical Study Implementation Initial Study Report (Attachment B)

Rush Creek Initial Study Report October 2023

Technical Study Plan	Study Elements Completed / Data Collected	Work Group Updates/ Consultation During Study Plan Implementation	Technical Study Plan Variances	Outstanding Study Elements <small>(Data analysis and reporting schedules are shown on the implementation schedules provided in Attachment C)</small>	Modifications to Ongoing Studies	Proposed New Studies
CUL 2 – Archaeology	<p><b>Establish APE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established APE (Area of Potential Effects) in consultation with SHPO.</li> </ul> <p><b>Review of Previous Studies and Site Records</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtained survey Permit from Inyo National Forest.</li> <li>Reviewed Previous Studies and Site Records.</li> </ul> <p><b>Archival Research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed Archival Research.</li> </ul> <p><b>Archeological Inventory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed archaeological field survey.</li> <li>Conducted Tribal participation in archaeological inventory.</li> </ul>	The Technical Working Group will be consulted during the TSR stakeholder review process.	<p><b>National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Evaluations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluations requiring testing were not completed during 2023 field season due to late season survey because of heavy snow in APE. These may be able to be conducted in 2024 depending on 23/24 winter and access.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reporting Schedule</b></p> <p>Due to heavy snow in APE/ Project Area field studies were delayed to late in the season and analysis and reporting has been subsequently delayed. Distribution of TSRs expected to be delayed by approximately one month as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 2024 - Distribute draft TSR to stakeholders.</li> <li>March-May 2024 - Stakeholder review and provide comment on draft TSR (90 days).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Archeological Inventory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit field report to Inyo National Forest.</li> </ul> <p><b>NRHP Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NRHP Evaluation Eligibility.</li> </ul> <p><b>Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop HPMP.</li> </ul> <p><b>Analysis and Reporting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze data and prepare Draft TSR.</li> <li>Distribute Draft TSR for stakeholder review.</li> <li>Address comments, finalize, and distribute Final TSR.</li> </ul>	None	None
TRI 1 – Tribal	<p><b>Establish APE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established APE (Area of Potential Effects) in consultation with SHPO.</li> </ul> <p><b>Review of Previous Studies and Site Records</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtained Organic Act Permit from Inyo National Forest.</li> <li>Reviewed Previous Studies and Site Records (previous regional ethnography and archaeology in study area)].</li> <li>Collaborated with other scholars knowledgeable about study area ethnography (Jones, Davis-King, Hull).</li> </ul> <p><b>Archival Research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed previously collected archival data.</li> <li>Compiled ethnobotany data.</li> <li>Researched online collections</li> </ul>	The Technical Working Group will be consulted during the TSR stakeholder review process.	<p><b>Reporting Schedule</b></p> <p>To provide Tribes with additional time to respond to inquiries for input, distribution of TSR to be delayed by approximately one month as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 2024 – Distribute draft TSR to stakeholders.</li> <li>March-May 2024 – Stakeholder review and provide comment on draft TSR (90 days).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Meetings with Tribal Governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings with Tribal Governments if requested (offered in 7-14-23 email and follow-up calls; none yet scheduled).</li> <li>Review CUL-2 results with tribal participants.</li> <li>Follow-up calls to active participants to schedule interviews if requested.</li> <li>Formal, recorded Interviews (none yet requested or scheduled).</li> <li>Documentation and Evaluation of Tribal Places, TCPS, Tribal Government Resources (no Tribal Places, TCPS per NPS Bulletin 38 or Tribal Government Resources identified in APE to date).</li> </ul>	None	None

# Technical Study Implementation Initial Study Report (Attachment C)

Rush Creek Initial Study Report October 2023



Technical Study Plan	2023												2024												2025		
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
<b>AQ 1—Instream Flow</b>																											
Select Project-affected stream segments for instream modeling, complete mesohabitat mapping, and select study sites (completed in 2022)																											
Consult with the interested resource agencies and stakeholders regarding target species and life stages, habitat suitability criteria, and habitat modeling methods																											
Conduct field data collection (topography, water surface elevations, velocities, substrate/cover)																											
Analyze data and prepare draft report <small>*Data collected in 2024 will be included in an updated Technical Study Report filed as part of the FLA</small>																											
Distribute draft report to resource agencies and stakeholders																											
Resource agency and stakeholder review and provide comments on draft report (90 days)																											
Resolve comments and prepare final report																											
Distribute final draft report in Draft License Application. Distribute final updated report in Final License Application																											
<b>AQ 2—Hydrology</b>																											
Collaborate with stakeholder modeling working group on approach for refining the historical, existing, and unimpaired hydrology (as appropriate), and developing the Proposed Project hydrology																											
Install temporary flow gages and collect data																											
Develop the Proposed Project hydrology and refine the analysis of the historical, existing, and unimpaired hydrology																											
Complete the hydrologic alteration analysis and flood-frequency analysis																											
Summarize data and prepare draft report (incorporating October 2022–September 2023 data)																											
Distribute draft report to stakeholders																											
Stakeholders review and provide comments on draft report (90 days)																											

Deadline to File Draft License Application: Sep 3, 2024

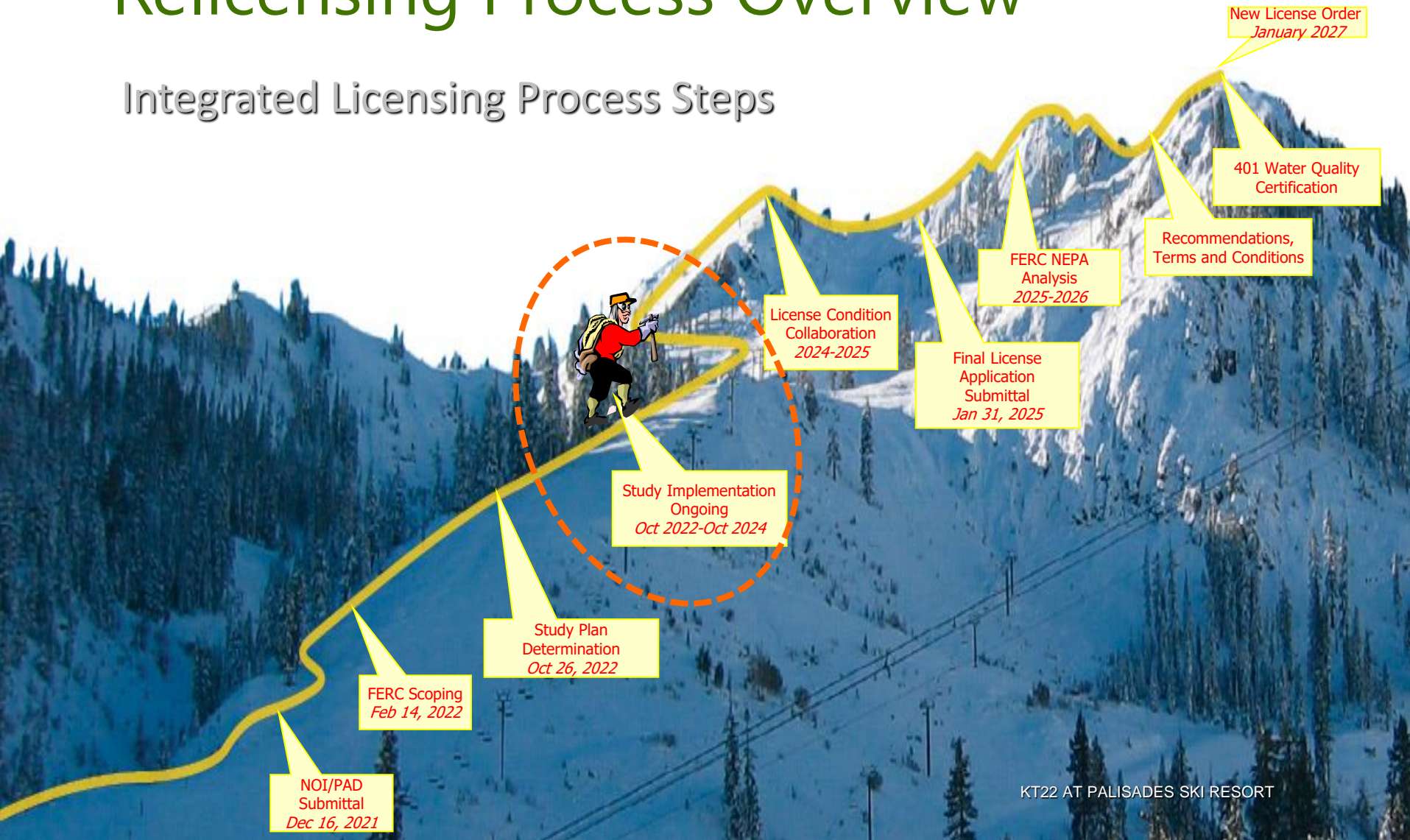
Deadline to File Final License Application: Jan 31, 2025

# Relicensing Process and Schedule



# Relicensing Process Overview

## Integrated Licensing Process Steps



# Relicensing Process and Schedule

FERC Regulation 18 CFR §	Responsible Party	Action	Date Completed	
5.11(a)	SCE	Filed Proposed Study Plan	May 26, 2022	✓
5.13	FERC	Filed Revised Study Plan	Sep 23, 2022	✓
5.13	FERC	Study Plan Determination	Oct 26, 2022	✓
5.15(a)	SCE	Conducted First Study Season	summer/fall 2023	✓
5.15(c)(1)	SCE	Filed Initial Study Report	Oct 26, 2023	✓
5.15(c)(2)	SCE	Conduct Initial Study Report Meeting	Nov 9, 2023	
5.15(c)(3)	SCE	File Initial Study Report Meeting Summary	Nov 26, 2023	
5.15(c)(4)	Stakeholders/FERC	File Disagreements/Requests to Amend Study Plan	Dec 26, 2023	
5.15(c)(6)	FERC	Issue Director's Determination on Disagreements/Amendments	Feb 24, 2024	
5.15(a)	SCE	Conduct Second Study Season	summer/fall 2024	
5.15(f)	SCE	File Updated Study Report	Oct 26, 2024	

# Technical Study Implementation

## Stakeholder Engagement

- TSR distributed to stakeholders
  - Feb and Mar 2024
- 90-day review and comment period
- SCE will conduct TWG meetings (by resource area) to discuss/review study results
- SCE will also be available during TWG meetings to discuss stakeholder requests for study modifications and/or need for new studies
- Any stakeholder changes or study disputes after stakeholder discussion will be filed with FERC

# Technical Study Plan Implementation

# Technical Study Implementation

## 15 Technical Study Plans approved by FERC

### Aquatic Resources

AQ-1 Instream Flow

AQ-2 Hydrology

AQ-3 Water Temperature

AQ-4 Water Quality

AQ-5 Geomorphology

AQ-6 Fish Population and Barriers

AQ-7 Special-status Amphibians

### Cultural and Tribal Resources

CUL-1 Built Environment

CUL-2 Archaeology

TRI-1 Tribal Resources

### Land Resources

LAND-1 Aesthetics

LAND-2 Noise

### Recreation Resources

REC-1 Recreation Resources

### Terrestrial Resources

TERR-1 Botanical

TERR-2 Wildlife

# Project Area



C:\GIS\Cartool\30735240\_SCE\_EasternHydro\map\Rush\_Creek\Facilities\Map\BCE\_RUSH\_CREEK\_ProjDesc\_Juris\_17111\_01.mxd

# Technical Study Implementation

## Data Collection

- Study Plan Determination October 2022 precluding field work until 2023 due to high elevation of the Project and limited road access.
- Field studies were delayed in 2023 due to record snowpack and prolonged high runoff.
  - Most studies were delayed until late July /early August 2023
  - Aquatic-related studies did not commence until mid-August/early September 2023 and are continuing into November
  - Waugh Lake did not drain sufficiently this year to commence most lakebed studies



Agnew May 8, 2023



Waugh May 8, 2023



Rush Creek, July 17, 2023



# Technical Study Implementation

## Data Collection

- Data collection deferred to summer/fall 2024 includes:
  - AQ-1 (instream flow) and AQ5 (geomorphology)
    - evaluation of potential Rush Creek channel restoration in the former lakebed of Waugh Lake
    - fine sediment deposition in Waugh Lake
  - LAND-2 (noise)
    - June and August characterization of the ambient noise environment
  - TERR-2 (wildlife)
    - raptor nest surveys
    - bat roost and acoustic surveys

# Aquatic Resources

- AQ-1 Instream Flow
- AQ-2 Hydrology
- AQ-3 Water Temperature
- AQ-4 Water Quality
- AQ-5 Geomorphology
- AQ-6 Fish Population and Barriers
- AQ-7 Special Status Amphibians



# Technical Study Implementation Initial Study Report

Rush Creek Initial Study Report October 2023

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<b>Aquatic Resources</b>						
AQ 1 – Instream Flow	<p><b>Quantification of Habitat Versus Flow Relationships Data Collection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stream segments were selected for modeling (Table AQ 1-1; Map AQ 1-1) and additional locations/cross-sections identified in the TERR 1 – Botanical Technical Study Plan (TSP) and AQ 5 – Geomorphology TSP were selected.</li> <li>Data collection for hydraulic and aquatic habitat modeling                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data was collected at representative mesohabitat types (see AQ 5 – Geomorphology TSP) to support one-dimensional hydrodynamics and habitat models at all sites in Table AQ 1-1.</li> <li>Data was collected at the two-dimensional model study sites, except for the channel within Waugh Lake due to high water surface elevations (Table AQ 1-1).</li> <li>Hydraulic and habitat data was collected in the plunge pool habitats.</li> <li>Stage data were collected to evaluate Silver Lake backwater effects (pressure transducers were installed and data to develop rating curves were collected)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Rush and South Rush Creek Channels near SR-158</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collected detailed topographic information for South Rush</li> </ul>	<p>Consultation to be scheduled associated with development of the target species suitability criteria in early 2024 and during review of the TSRs.</p>	<p><b>Survey Timing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The collection of data associated with evaluation of Waugh Lake lakebed, a field study element originally scheduled for the summer 2023, has been delayed until the summer of 2024 due to the wet water year of 2023 and resulting high water surface elevation of Waugh Lake.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Previous Instream Flow Study</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summarize previous instream flows study below Rush Meadows Dam</li> </ul> <p><b>Quantification of Habitat Versus Flow Relationships Modeling and Analysis (in progress)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder Consultation, Conduct Target Species / Suitability Criteria working group meeting (TWG meeting to be scheduled) to finalize target species and their suitability criteria.</li> <li>Generate a species distribution map and life stage periodicity <a href="#">chart</a></li> <li>Evaluation of Silver Lake backwater effects</li> <li>Hydrodynamics Modeling</li> <li>Habitat Modeling</li> <li>Empirical Plunge Pool Modeling</li> <li>Riparian and Sediment Transport Modeling</li> <li>Summarize local hydrology in Rush Creek and South Rush Creek near SR-158, Rush Creek Powerhouse, Prairie, Reversed Creek, and inflow to Silver Lake developed in the AQ 2 Hydrology TSP for historical, existing, Proposed Project, and unimpaired hydrology.</li> <li>Use the stage-discharge relationship of Silver Lake over a range of flows to incorporate backwater effects in the channel</li> </ul>	None	None

Initial Study Report



Source: JNA-Consulting 2023

Break – 5 minutes

# Cultural/Tribal Resources

- CUL-1 Built Environment
- CUL-2 Archaeology
- TRI-1 Tribal Resources



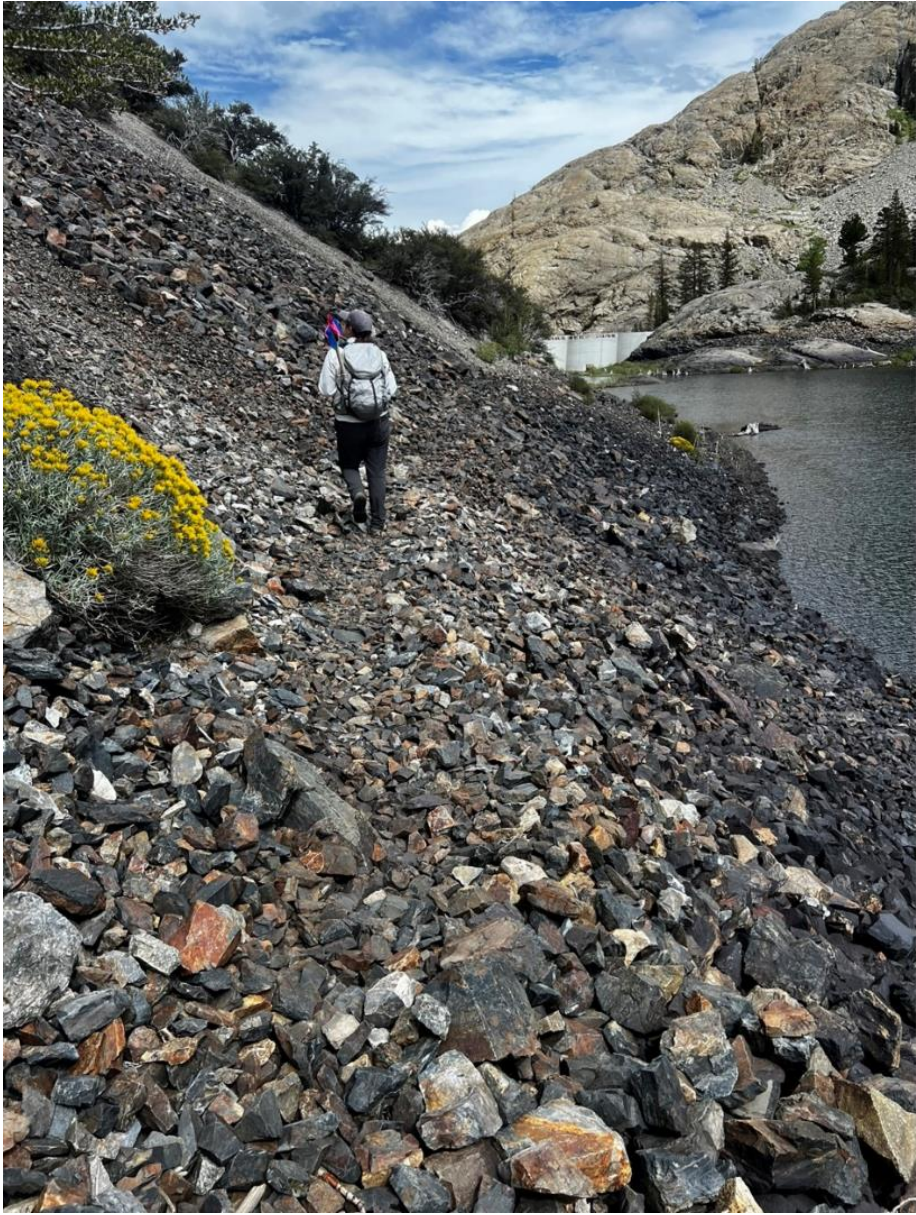
Source: Statistical Research, Inc. 2023



# Technical Study Implementation Initial Study Report

Rush Creek Initial Study Report October 2023

Technical Study Plan	Study Elements Completed / Data Collected	Work Group Updates/ Consultation During Study Plan Implementation	Technical Study Plan Variances	Outstanding Study Elements <small>(Data analysis and reporting schedules are shown on the implementation schedules provided in Attachment C)</small>	Modifications to Ongoing Studies	Proposed New Studies
CUL 2 – Archaeology	<p><b>Establish APE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established APE (Area of Potential Effects) in consultation with SHPO.</li> </ul> <p><b>Review of Previous Studies and Site Records</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtained survey Permit from Inyo National Forest.</li> <li>Reviewed Previous Studies and Site Records.</li> </ul> <p><b>Archival Research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed Archival Research.</li> </ul> <p><b>Archeological Inventory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed archaeological field survey.</li> <li>Conducted Tribal participation in archaeological inventory.</li> </ul>	<p>The Technical Working Group will be consulted during the TSR stakeholder review process.</p>	<p><b>National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Evaluations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluations requiring testing were not completed during 2023 field season due to late season survey because of heavy snow in APE. These may be able to be conducted in 2024 depending on 23/24 winter and access.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reporting Schedule</b></p> <p>Due to heavy snow in APE/ Project Area field studies were delayed to late in the season and analysis and reporting has been subsequently delayed. Distribution of TSRs expected to be delayed by approximately one month as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 2024 - Distribute draft TSR to stakeholders.</li> <li>March-May 2024 - Stakeholder review and provide comment on draft TSR (90 days).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Archeological Inventory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit field report to Inyo National Forest.</li> </ul> <p><b>NRHP Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NRHP Evaluation Eligibility.</li> </ul> <p><b>Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop HPMP.</li> </ul> <p><b>Analysis and Reporting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze data and prepare Draft TSR.</li> <li>Distribute Draft TSR for stakeholder review.</li> <li>Address comments, finalize, and distribute Final TSR.</li> </ul>	None	None
TRI 1 – Tribal	<p><b>Establish APE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established APE (Area of Potential Effects) in consultation with SHPO.</li> </ul> <p><b>Review of Previous Studies and Site Records</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtained Organic Act Permit from Inyo National Forest.</li> <li>Reviewed Previous Studies and Site Records (previous regional ethnography and archaeology in study area).</li> <li>Collaborated with other scholars knowledgeable about study area ethnohistory (Jones, Davis-King, Hull).</li> </ul> <p><b>Archival Research</b></p>	<p>The Technical Working Group will be consulted during the TSR stakeholder review process.</p>	<p><b>Reporting Schedule</b></p> <p>To provide Tribes with additional time to respond to inquiries for input, distribution of TSR to be delayed by approximately one month as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 2024 – Distribute draft TSR to stakeholders.</li> <li>March-May 2024 – Stakeholder review and provide comment on draft TSR (90 days).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Meetings with Tribal Governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings with Tribal Governments if requested (offered in 7-14-23 email and follow-up calls; none yet scheduled).</li> <li>Review CUL-2 results with tribal participants.</li> <li>Follow-up calls to active participants to schedule interviews if requested.</li> <li>Formal, recorded Interviews (none yet requested or scheduled).</li> <li>Documentation and Evaluation of Tribal Places, TCPs, Tribal Government Resources (no</li> </ul>	None	None



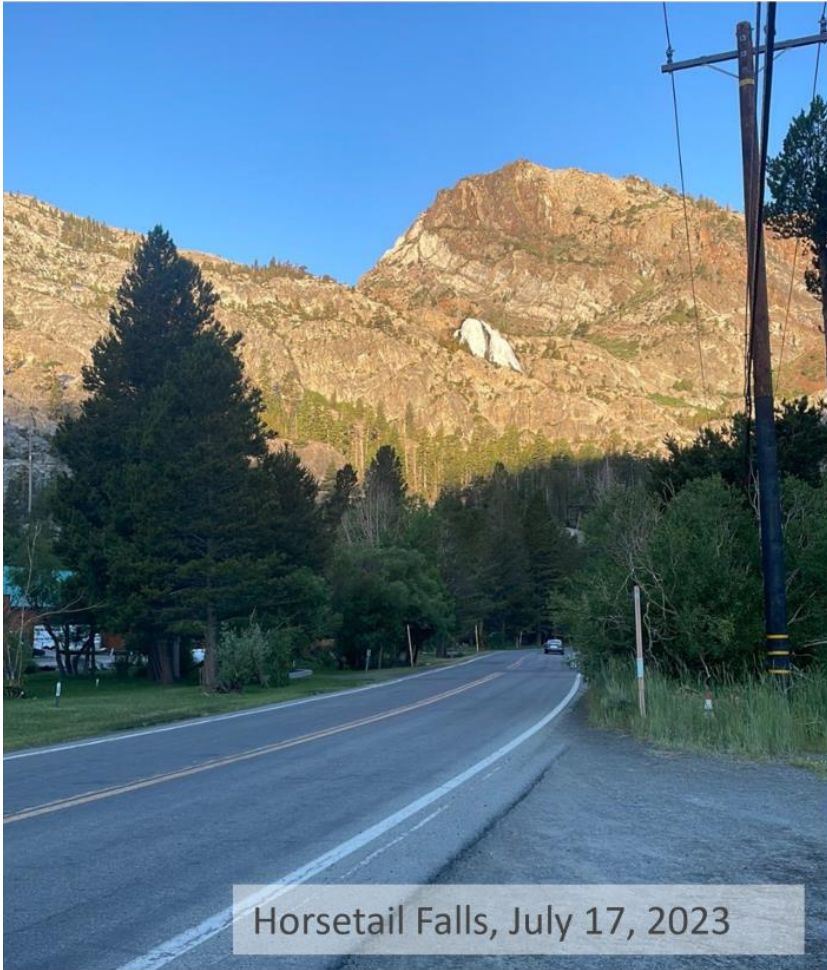
Source: Statistical Research, Inc. 2023

# LAND

- LAND-1 Aesthetics
- LAND-2 Noise

# Technical Study Implementation Initial Study Report

Land Resources						
LAND 1 – Aesthetics	<b>Data Collection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepared maps showing Project facilities with respect to Forest Service Scenic Integrity Objectives and corresponding tables.</li> <li>Developed standardized inventory form in consultation with INF.</li> <li>Established Key Observation Points (KOPs) and documented, with photos and narrative, the landscape character of the Project facility viewsheds (mid-July 2023).</li> <li>With photos, documented views of Horsetail Falls under various flow conditions including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt;100CFS; and</li> <li>70-8CFS.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	The Technical Working Group will be consulted during the TSR stakeholder review process.	<b>Data Collection and Analysis Timing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to a <u>high water</u> year, photos of Horsetail Falls at low flows are anticipated to be taken in October and November of 2023 rather than in August of 2023.</li> </ul>	<b>Data Collection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document Horsetail Falls at low flows.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outstanding documentation needed:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13-20 cfs.</li> <li>5-8 cfs.</li> <li>1 cfs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>Prepare visual renderings of proposed Project alternatives.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rush Meadows Dam – full and partial removal.</li> <li>Gem Dam – retrofit.</li> <li>Agnew Dam – full and partial removal.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Reporting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare Draft TSR.</li> <li>Distribute Draft TSR for stakeholder review.</li> <li>Address comments, finalize, and distribute Final TSR.</li> </ul>	None	None
Technical Study Plan	Study Elements Completed / Data Collected	Work Group Updates/ Consultation During Study Plan Implementation	Technical Study Plan Variances	Outstanding Study Elements <small>(The analysis and reporting schedules are shown on the implementation schedules provided in Attachment C)</small>	Modifications to Ongoing Studies	Proposed New Studies
LAND 2 – Noise	<b>Points of Interest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified noise receptors/points of <u>interest</u></li> </ul> <b>Noise Measurements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Characterized ambient noise environment and project-induced noise (October 2023)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powerhouse operation.</li> <li>Helicopter Use.</li> <li>Construction Equipment.</li> <li>Truck use.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	June 22, 2023 - Noise Technical Working Group meeting to discuss timing of noise monitoring study, and location from which to conduct the monitoring (Points of Interest). Stakeholders suggested noise studies be postponed due to atypical ambient noise environment created by ongoing exceptionally high runoff. June 30, 2023 - Follow-up email to engaged noise stakeholders confirming the decision to postpone two of the three proposed noise studies to 2024 and to proceed with the October 2023 noise study if conditions are favorable.	<b>Survey Timing</b> Due to high runoff and an associated atypical ambient noise environment in the study area, noise studies were delayed (at stakeholder request) to field season 2024 with the exception of noise measurements undertaken in late October 2023.	<b>Noise Measurements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct noise surveys to characterize ambient noise environment and project-induced noise (June, August).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powerhouse operation.</li> <li>Helicopter Use.</li> <li>Construction Equipment.</li> <li>Truck use.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Analysis and Reporting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze data and prepare Draft TSR.</li> <li>Distribute Draft TSR for stakeholder review.</li> <li>Address comments, finalize, and distribute Final TSR.</li> </ul>	None	None





Source: Stantec 2023

# RECREATION

- REC-1 Recreation Resources



# Technical Study Implementation

## Initial Study Report

Recreation Resources						
REC 1 – Recreation	<p><b>Non Commercial Use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed survey instrument (survey form).</li> <li>Collected and analyzed wilderness permit system data from USFS for last 4+ years.</li> <li>Established self-registration survey box near the Rush Creek trailhead.</li> <li>Conducted use counts and visitor surveys May 1- Nov 1, <a href="#">2023</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commercial Use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviewed the Frontier Pack Station outfitter.</li> <li>Collected available commercial use data from USFS.</li> </ul>	None	<p><b>Data Variance</b></p> <p>USFS provided wilderness permit data from the fall of 2018 through December 2022. Data was not available prior to the fall of 2018. Therefore, the analysis reflects 4+ years of data rather than 5 years of data as indicated in the TSP.</p>	<p><b>Non Commercial Use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interview INF Wilderness Rangers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Document Public Safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interview SCE to characterize safety features and recorded incidents in the vicinity of the Project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Data Synthesis and Analysis</b></p> <p>Characterize Flow Fluctuation in Rush Creek Downstream of the Rush Creek Powerhouse.</p> <p><b>Reporting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare Draft TSR.</li> <li>Distribute Draft TSR for stakeholder review.</li> <li>Address comments, finalize, and distribute Final TSR.</li> </ul>	None	None

Initial Study Report



# TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

- TERR-1 Botanical
- TERR-2 Wildlife



Source: JNA-Consulting 2023

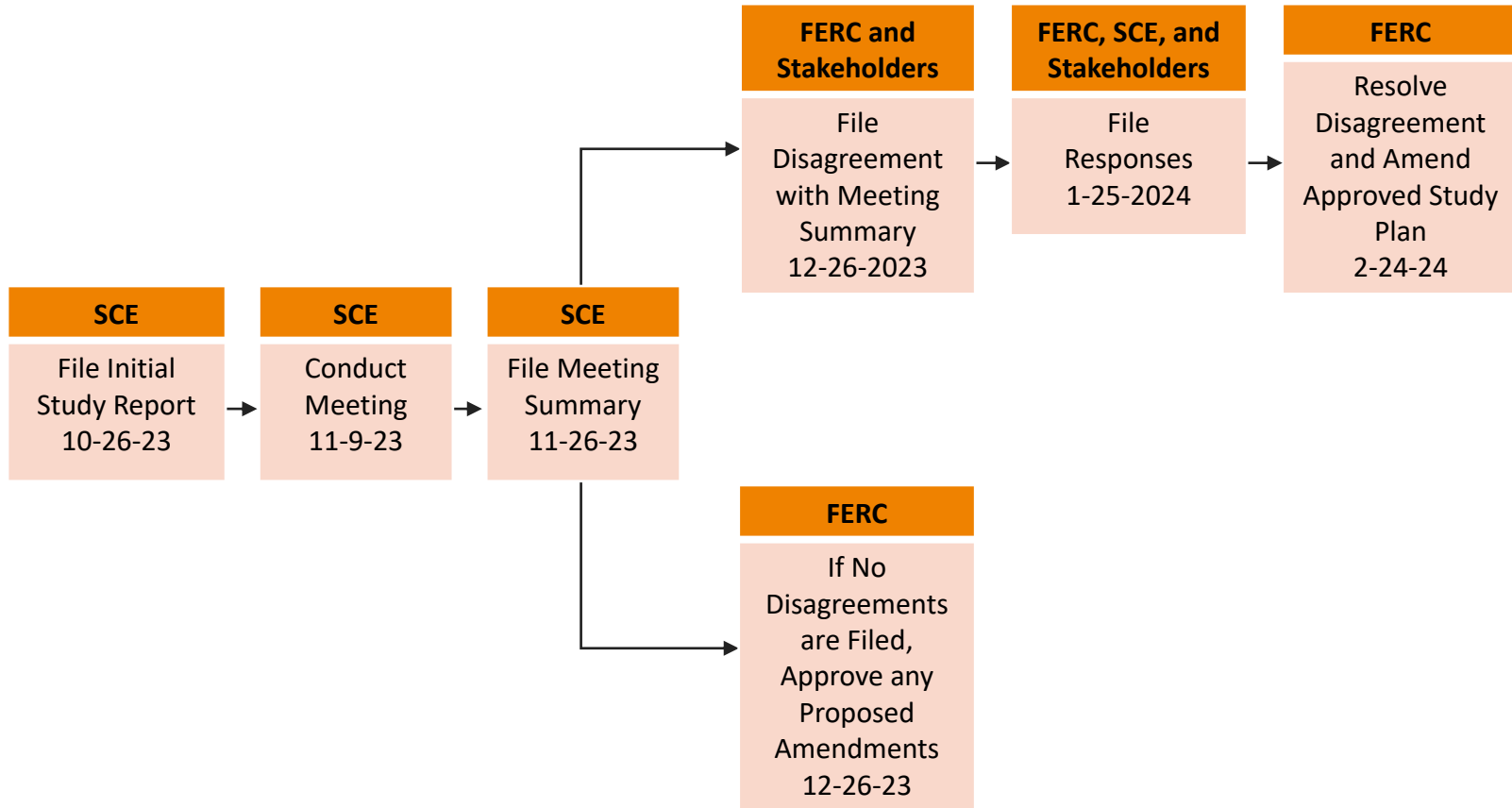


Source: JNA-Consulting 2023

# Technical Study Implementation Initial Study Report

Terrestrial Resources						
TERR 1 – Botanical Resources	<b>Vegetation Alliances and Wildlife Habitats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed vegetation alliances maps of the study area based on Classification and Assessment with LANDSAT of Visible Ecological Groupings (CALVEG) mapping and vegetation alliance descriptions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May 11, 2023 – Conducted Terrestrial Resources TWG meeting to confirm special-status and NNIP species lists; obtain any new information on location of special-status plants or NNIPs in the study area; identify agency personnel to coordinate reference population visits and verify timing of surveys; and to discuss current site conditions</li> </ul>	None	<b>Special-status Plants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare and submit California Native Species Field Survey Forms for special-status plant populations to CNDDB.</li> </ul> <b>Historic and Existing Botanical Resources within the Inundation Zones of Project Reservoirs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize maps showing location of stumps within the inundation</li> </ul>	None	None
Technical Study Plan	Study Elements Completed / Data Collected	Work Group Updates/ Consultation During Study Plan Implementation	Technical Study Plan Variances	Outstanding Study Elements (Data analysis and reporting schedules are shown on the implementation schedules provided in Attachment C)	Modifications to Ongoing Studies	Proposed New Studies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verified CALVEG data against recent aerial photographs.</li> <li>Conducted ground-truthing of vegetation alliances.</li> <li>Developed GIS map of vegetation alliances, wildlife habitats and riparian alliances.</li> </ul> <b>Special-status Plants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consulted with agencies regarding updated special-status species lists or new occurrences.</li> <li>Developed updated lists of special-status plant species potentially occurring in the Project area, based on agency responses.</li> <li>Identified and mapped known occurrences of special-status plant species.</li> <li>Provided updated plant list and timing of surveys to the Technical Working Group members.</li> <li>Requested input on the location of special-status plant reference populations.</li> <li>Conducted special-status plant reference population surveys and provided results to Technical</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>and potential effects on survey timing.</li> <li>June 19, 2023 – E-mail submitted to TWG requesting agency-recommended early season reference populations and identifying the schedule for the early season reference populations site visit.</li> <li>July 4, 2023 – E-mail notification to TWG regarding early season reference population site visit on July 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>July 15, 2023 – E-mail to TWG providing results of early season reference population site visit and schedule for early season surveys.</li> <li>August 15, 2023 - E-mail submitted to TWG requesting agency-recommended late season reference populations and identifying the schedule for the late season reference populations site visit.</li> <li>August 23, 2023 – E-mail notification to TWG regarding late season reference population site visit on August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>September 5, 2023 – E-mail to</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>zones of Project reservoirs using LIDAR, once available.</li> </ul> <b>Aquatic Resources (Wetland) Delineation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop aquatic resources delineation report and maps consistent with USACE standards.</li> </ul> <b>Characterization of Riparian Community Along Project-Affected Stream Reaches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Characterize the relationship between riparian vegetation and flow conditions in the selected Project-affected stream segments (refer to AQ 1 – Instream Flows).</li> <li>Develop summary of the relationship between existing inundation characteristics and the distribution of dominant riparian species across the floodplain at each selected Project-affected stream segment.</li> </ul> <b>Analysis and Reporting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze data and prepare Draft TSR.</li> <li>Distribute Draft TSR for stakeholder review.</li> </ul>		

# Initial Study Report Process per FERC ILP Regulations



18 CFR §5.15(c)

# Where to Get Information:

Register online to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to the Rush Creek Project

- [www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm](http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm)

Access documents filed related to the Rush Creek Project

- FERC's eLibrary: <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/elibrary>
- SCE's relicensing website: [www.sce.com/rushcreek](http://www.sce.com/rushcreek)

Submit comments at:

- FERC's eFiling:  
<https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>

# Key Contact Information

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<b>Southern California Edison</b>			
Matt Woodhall	Generation-Regulatory Support Services	<a href="mailto:matthew.woodhall@sce.com">matthew.woodhall@sce.com</a>	(626) 302-9596