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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) is the licensee, owner, and operator of the Kaweah Project (Project) (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC or Commission] Project No. 298) located on the Kaweah River and East Fork Kaweah River near the community of Three Rivers in Tulare County, California. The Project is located on private lands and public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Project also utilizes non-Project diversions and flowlines located within the Sequoia National Park (SNP) under a Special Use Permit (SUP).

The Project consists of three developments: Kaweah No. 1, Kaweah No. 2, and Kaweah No. 3, which commenced operation in June 1899, February 1905, and May 1913, respectively. The Project has limited storage capacity and is operated in a “run-of-river” mode. The total generating capacity is 8.85 megawatts (MW).

SCE currently operates the Project under a 30-year license that was issued by FERC on January 31, 1992. The current license expires on December 31, 2021. SCE is seeking renewal of its license to continue operation and maintenance of the Project.

In support of preparing an application for a new license, SCE has elected to use the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), as defined in 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 5. To formally initiate the relicensing process, FERC requires the Licensee to file a Notification of Intent (NOI) to seek a license, a Pre-Application Document (PAD), and to initiate consultations required under the ILP a minimum of five years prior to the expiration of the current license. Filing of the NOI and PAD with FERC initiates the ILP.

1.2 PURPOSE

The PAD was prepared in compliance with 18 CFR Part 5, which defines the form and content requirements of the document. The purpose of the PAD is to provide FERC, federal and state agencies, and other interested stakeholders with background information related to Project facilities and engineering, operational, economic, and environmental aspects of the Project. The PAD also defines pertinent Project issues and potential study needs. In accordance with the regulations, the PAD and associated NOI have been filed with FERC, and distributed to federal and state resource agencies, local governments, relevant tribal entities, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and other interested parties.

1.3 DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The information contained in this document was assembled based on the requirements set forth in 18 CFR §5.6 (c) and (d) and is organized as follows:

Section	Description	FERC Regulation
1.0	Introduction to the Project and document organization	–
2.0	General description of the Project location, facilities, and operations	18 CFR §5.6(d)(2)
3.0	Description of the existing environment, including reference to literature and information sources cited for each resource area	18 CFR §5.6(d)(3) 18 CFR §5.6(c)(2)
4.0	Identification of preliminary resource issues, potential studies, and relevant comprehensive plans and resource management plans	18 CFR §5.6(d)(4)
5.0	Summary of contacts	18 CFR §5.6(d)(5)
Appendix A	Relicensing Process Plan	18 CFR §5.6(d)(1)
Appendix B	Summary of Contacts	18 CFR §5.6(d)(5)
Appendix C	Proposed Technical Study Plans	18 CFR §5.6(d)(4)

1.4 PROCESS PLAN AND SCHEDULE

Pursuant to 18 CFR §5.6(d), SCE developed a Relicensing Process Plan (Appendix A) that summarizes the approach for relicensing the Kaweah Project and includes Communication and Participation Protocols for stakeholder participation.

Specifically, the Relicensing Process Plan describes SCE's plan and schedule for pre-application activities, incorporating the timeframes for pre-filing consultation, information gathering, and studies. This includes filing of the NOI and PAD; FERC scoping; study plan development, execution and reporting; filing the License Application; and FERC application processing. SCE's proposed schedule (Appendix A, Table 1) provides each of the major ILP relicensing activities, the associated CFR reference, the responsible party and deadline for implementation of the activity.

The Communication and Participation Protocols (Appendix A, Attachment 1) provide guidelines for participation in the relicensing process by interested parties, including governmental agencies, NGOs, Native American tribes, and unaffiliated members of the public.

1.5 EARLY RELICENSING ACTIVITIES

SCE initiated early outreach activities in 2015. Early outreach activities involved: meeting with individual state and federal resource agencies; conducting meetings with stakeholders, including members of the public, NGOs, resource agencies, and Native American tribes; and establishing a publicly-accessible website. The intent of these early outreach activities was to identify potential stakeholders and understand their resource interests, explain the relicensing process, describe Project facilities and operations, and

solicit existing resource information. Refer to Section 5.0 and Appendix B for a summary of contacts made during early relicensing activities.

During early relicensing activities SCE collaborated with stakeholders in preparation of the relicensing process plan, project description, existing resource information, and technical study plans. Each of these sections of the PAD was provided to stakeholders for review and comment prior to their inclusion in this document.

Specific to existing resource information and technical study plan development, documentation relevant to the Project was acquired, compiled, and summarized by SCE and provided to stakeholders in a series of draft Existing Resource Information Reports. These reports were intended to provide the foundation for understanding resources in the vicinity of the Project and for determination of additional information needs. Based on resources identified and availability of existing information SCE, in consultation with stakeholders, determined the need to prepare 15 Technical Study Plans for the Project. The study plans are organized into five major resource areas – Aquatic, Cultural, Land, Recreation, and Terrestrial (Appendix C). Technical Study Plans for the Project are identified below.

Aquatic Resources	
AQ-1	Instream Flow Technical Study Plan
AQ-2	Fish Population Technical Study Plan
AQ-3	Macroinvertebrate Technical Study Plan
AQ-4	Water Temperature Technical Study Plan
AQ-5	Geomorphology Technical Study Plan
AQ-6	Water Quality Technical Study Plan
AQ-7	Special-status Amphibians and Aquatic Reptiles Technical Study Plan
AQ-8	Fish Passage Technical Study Plan
AQ-9	Entrainment Technical Study Plan
Cultural Resources	
CUL-1	Cultural Technical Study Plan
Land Resources	
LAND-1	Transportation Technical Study Plan
LAND-2	Visual and Noise Technical Study Plan
Recreation Resources	
REC-1	Recreation Technical Study Plan
Terrestrial Resources	
TERR-1	Botanical Technical Study Plan
TERR-2	Wildlife Technical Study Plan

1.6 SCOPING MEETING AND SITE VISIT

Pursuant to 18 CFR §5.8(b)(3)(viii), FERC will hold a scoping meeting and site visit. Typically, FERC conducts two scoping meetings with one meeting held during the day to focus on the solicitation of comments and information from resource agencies and tribes, and the second meeting held in the evening to facilitate participation from the public and NGOs. The scoping meetings are planned for March 2017. FERC will provide a public notice of both the scoping meeting and the Project site visit. All interested parties are invited to participate in the scoping meeting and site visit.