

Hello [boater],

We recently contacted you about your experiences with recreational boating on Piru Creek, located near Pyramid Lake in Los Angeles County. Thank you for your willingness to share your experiences with us. We are preparing to hold a meeting and interview session on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, that will include a brief observation session at Frenchman's Flat Campground followed by a presentation and discussion of the Whitewater Boating Study we are conducting at the Vista Del Lago Visitor's Center. This event is intended to inform interested parties about the purpose of the study and to obtain feedback from local and/or experienced boaters on ways that potential recreational boating opportunities on Piru Creek could be improved or expanded upon.

If you are available and interested, we would like to invite you to attend this event. Your responses to our previous inquiries have been helpful for our study, and we are interested in any ideas or thoughts you may have.

The observation session will begin at **8:30 am** at **Frenchman's Flat Campground**, located downstream from Pyramid Dam. To get there from the Highway 126 junction in Castaic:

- Take I-5 north 10.5 miles to the Templin Highway junction
- Turn left (west) under the freeway, then immediately turn right onto Golden State Highway
- Travel 5.2 miles to Frenchman's Flat Campground.

Use the following link to obtain directions through Google Maps: [Google Maps link](#) (click on the "Directions" icon and enter your starting address).

The presentation and discussion session will begin at **10:30 am** at the **Vista Del Lago Visitor's Center** located at the following address:

Vista Del Lago Visitor's Center  
35800 Vista Del Lago Rd  
Gorman, CA 93243

Use the following link to obtain directions through Google Maps: [Google Maps link](#) (click on the "Directions" icon and enter your starting address).

If you are able to attend either session or both, we encourage you to participate. This process could ultimately lead to improved opportunities for recreational boating on Piru Creek. We would love to hear your feedback and ideas, and we hope to see you there. If you are interested and think you may attend, please let us know so that we can best prepare for the size of the event.

Thank you,

[email signature]

# AGENDA

## Whitewater Boating Study Field Reconnaissance and Site Visit

**Date:** Saturday, August 25, 2018  
**Time:** 8:00 am – 12:30 pm  
**Location:** Begin at Frenchman's Flat off Interstate 5, Templin Highway Exit (Directions below)  
After Frenchman's Flat field reconnaissance proceed to:  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
28508 Westinghouse Place  
Valencia, CA 91355  
**Objectives:** To disseminate Whitewater Boating information collected to date, undertake joint reconnaissance of put-in locations and stream channel characteristics in uppermost section of Pyramid reach, conduct joint interviews with enthusiasts who have specialized knowledge of Pyramid reach, and conduct joint discussions of boating potential and characterization of Pyramid reach as a whitewater boating resource.

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8:00 – 8:15	<b>Sign-in, Introductions, Safety Discussion</b> Meet at Frenchman's Flat along the Golden State Highway ( <b>Interstate 5 Exit 183, Templin Highway</b> ). Proceed north on Golden State Hwy until you come to the gate at Frenchman's Flat. Meet in the parking area next to the gate.
8:15 – 10:00	<b>Pyramid Reach Put-in Reconnaissance (Frenchman's Flat to Pyramid Dam)</b> Reconnaissance at Frenchman's Flat to view beginning of the boating run, streambed channel, road, and trail access associated with boating put-in.
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Drive separate vehicles 16 miles to Embassy Suites Valencia (South on Interstate 5 Exit Newhall Ranch Road) See attached directions.</b>
10:30 – 11:30	<b>Whitewater Boating Study Status and Findings to Date Presentation</b> Convene at Embassy Suites Hotel Conference room to present and discuss overview of the initial results of literature search, interviews, and hydrologic analysis of the SSWP Whitewater Boating Study.  Gather further input and review morning walk-through findings.
11:30 – 12:30	<b>Joint Interview/Discussion</b> Hold open discussion to gather further input, document findings, and needs. Gain further input on the characterization of Pyramid reach as a whitewater boating resource. Conclude with next steps and action items.

# SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING

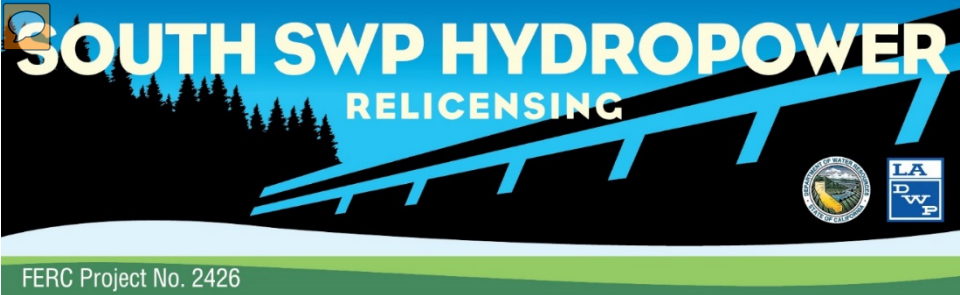


FERC Project No. 2426

## Whitewater Boating Recreation Study



August 25, 2018



# Agenda

- Project Site/Background
- Pyramid Lake Inflows/Outflows
- Deliveries to United Water Conservation District (UWCD)
- Pyramid Reach Inflows
- Boatable Flows
- Boating Access
- Environmental & Land Use Considerations
- Group Discussion/Interview
- Questions



# SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER

## RELICENSING



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# Project Site/Background

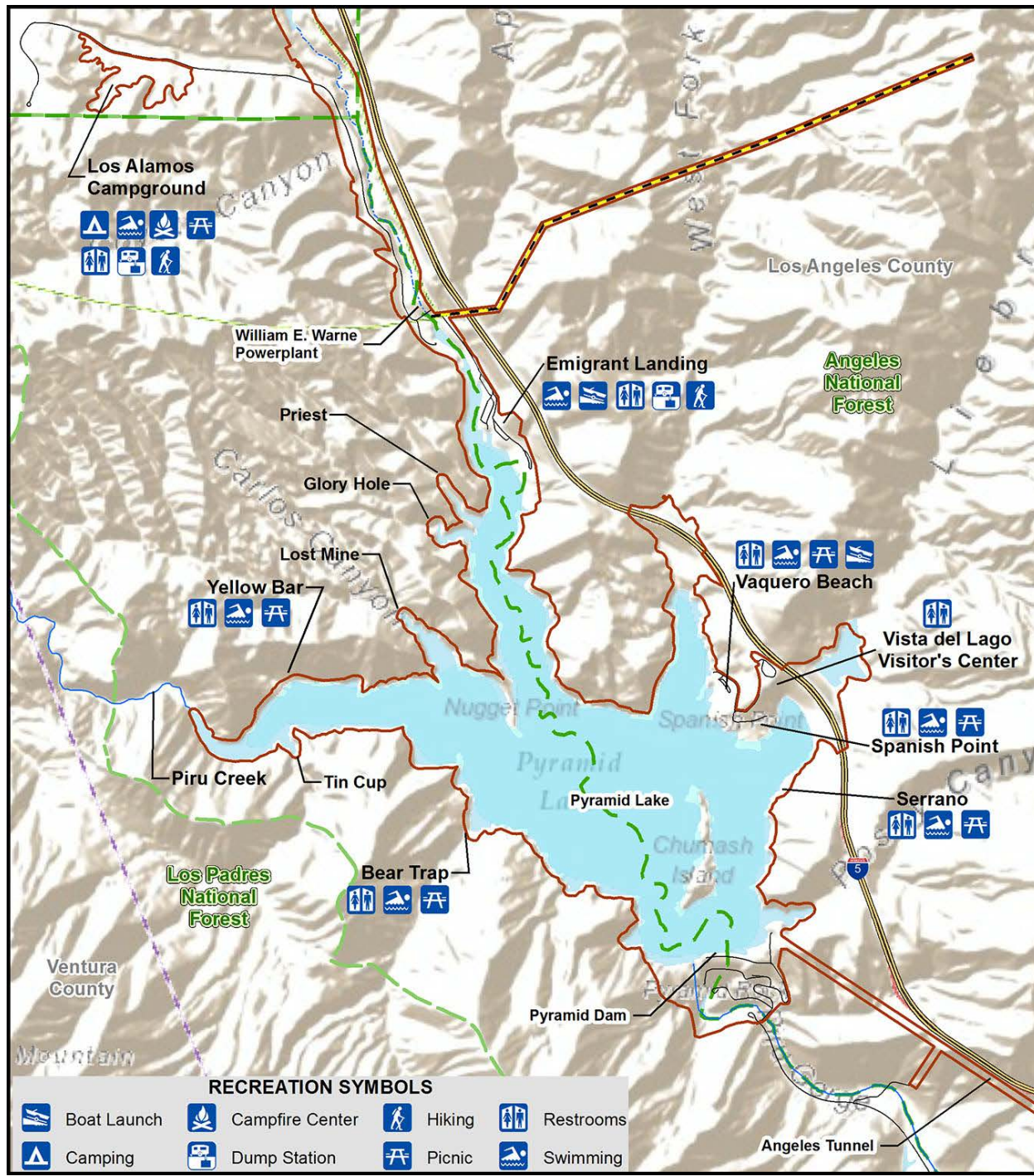


# Project Area



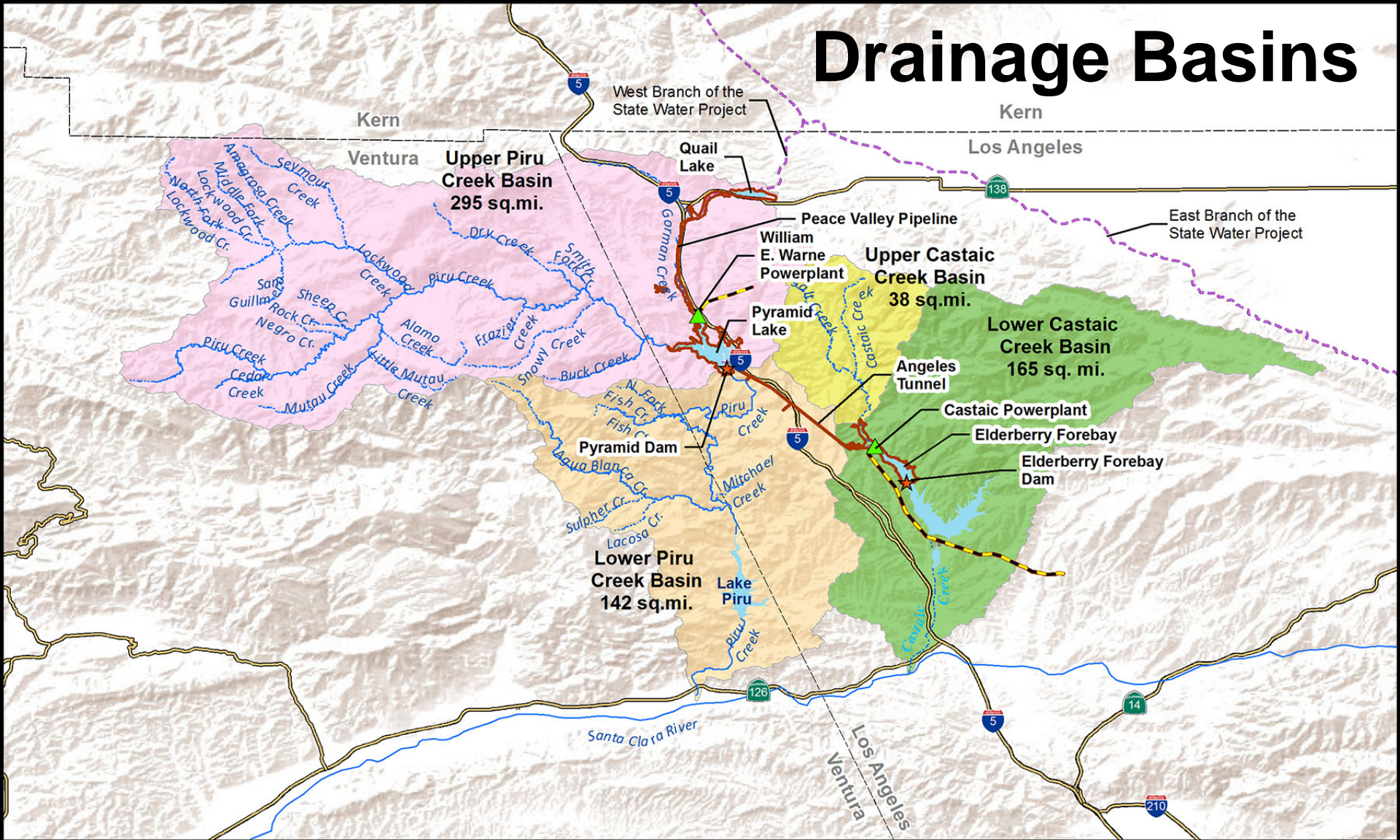


# Recreation Facilities





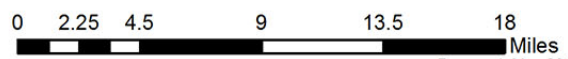
# Drainage Basins



- Legend**
- Proposed Project Boundary (v.20151214)
  - State Water Project
  - Transmission Line
  - Major Highway
  - Perennial Stream/River
  - Intermittent Stream/River
  - County Boundary

- Drainage Basin**
- Lower Castaic Creek
  - Lower Piru Creek
  - Upper Castaic Creek
  - Upper Piru Creek

- ★ Project Dam
- ▲ Powerplant



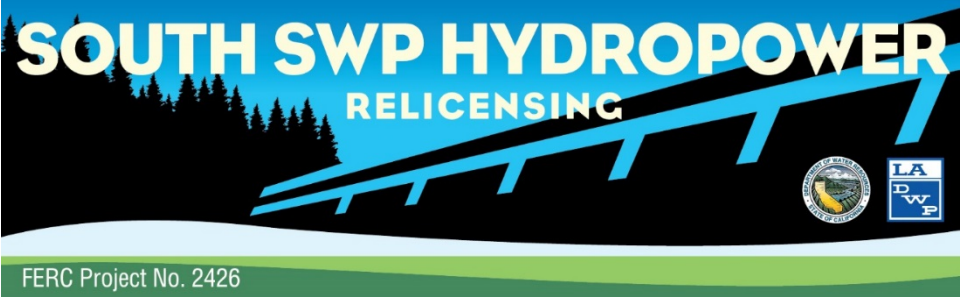
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FERC PROJECT NO. 2426

## Drainage Basins



Prepared: May 2016  
 Projection: CA\_SIP\_V NAD83 (ft)  
 Data and/or Background: Watershed: NHD, Terrain: USGS  
 Document Path: PROP MGMT\2015\_P\Projects  
 \20150722\FERC\_No2426\_SWP\_HydropowerRelicensing\GIS\Maps(mxd)\SouthSWP\_PAD\

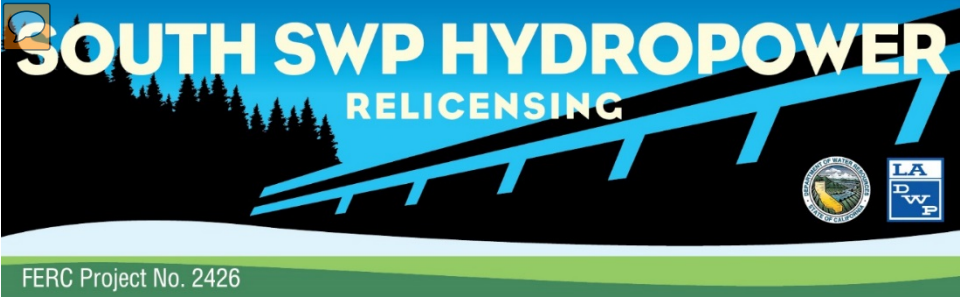




# Timeline of Events for Pyramid Reach

- 1955 – Santa Felicia Dam constructed forming Lake Piru
- 1972 – DWR granted a 50-year Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license to operate the South State Water Project (SSWP)
- 1974 – Pyramid Dam construction complete
- 1992 – Congress designates the 219,700-acre Sespe Wilderness a Wilderness Area
- 1994 – Arroyo toad added to the Endangered Species list
- 2001 – Critical Habitat for toad designated for 15-mile reach beginning at the confluence of Fish Creek and extending downstream to Lake Piru
- 2003 – US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) informs DWR that required minimum flows are resulting in incidental take of Arroyo toad downstream of Pyramid Dam
- 2009 – Portions of Piru Creek receive National Wild and Scenic River designation
- 2009 – License Article 52 requires Pyramid Lake natural inflows and outflows to be equal to the extent operationally feasible and consistent with safety requirements
- 2022 – SSWP FERC 50-year license expires



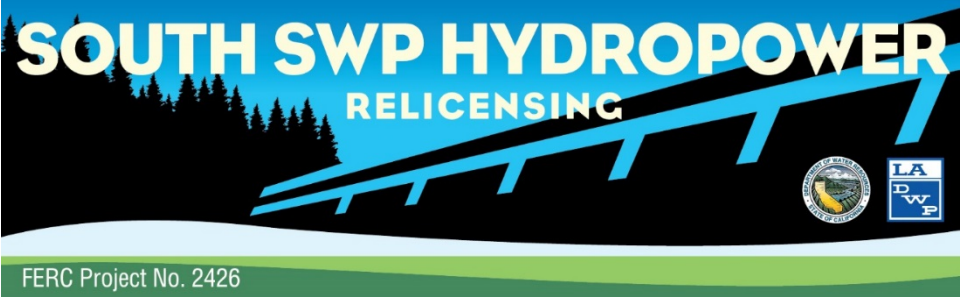


# Piru Creek Wild & Scenic River

- Designated March 30, 2009
- Total length of designation is 7.3 miles
  - first 4.3 are classified “Recreational”
  - next 3.0 miles are classified “Wild & Scenic”
- Classified segment begins 300 feet downstream of Pyramid Dam
- Geologic values determined to be outstandingly remarkable



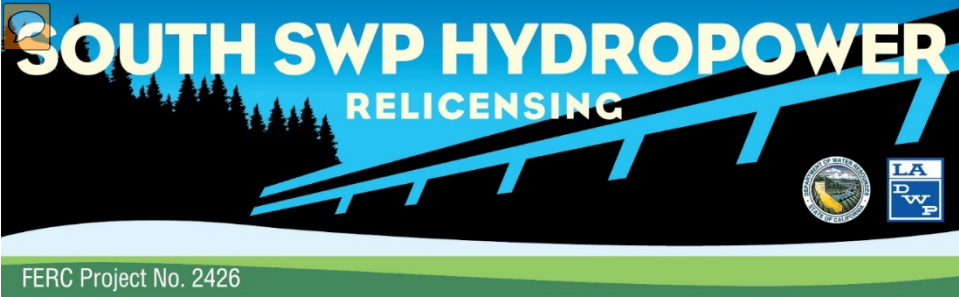




# Pyramid Lake

- Normal Maximum Water Surface Elevation is 2,578 feet
- Storage capacity is 169,902 acre-feet (AF)
- Pyramid Lake is filled with water from the State Water Project (SWP)
- Normal maximum surface area of approximately 1,300 acres
- Shoreline length of approximately 21 miles
- Receives extensive recreation boating use





# Pyramid Lake

(Continued)

- Pyramid Dam has two spillways:
  - Gate-controlled spillway
  - Uncontrolled emergency spillway
- Low-level outlet can release up to 1,200 cubic feet per second (cfs)
- Usable storage capacity of 22,221 AF
- Current operating agreements limit lake fluctuation to only the upper 19 feet under normal operating conditions:
  - Making the usable storage only a small fraction of the total storage available in the lake
- Serves as emergency storage for the SSWP





# SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER

## RELICENSING



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# Pyramid Lake Inflows/Outflows

# Pyramid Lake Inflows

- Inflows are primarily from SWP water passing through Warne Powerplant
- Some minor natural inflows from tributaries and occasionally other SSWP water released via the Gorman Bypass

Year	Total Inflow	SWP Water from Warne Powerplant	Natural Streamflows	Other SWP Water (Gorman Bypass)
2004	1,449,682	867,473 (60%)	13,016 (1%)	0 (0%)
2005	1,014,474	497,173 (49%)	158,093 (16%)	0 (0%)
2006	941,372	511,235 (54%)	43,164 (5%)	0 (0%)
2007	1,136,969	810,618 (71%)	7,512 (1%)	118,949 (10%)
2008	945,991	539,292 (57%)	32,353 (3%)	62,819 (7%)
2009	840,808	460,477 (55%)	13,446 (2%)	128,055 (15%)
2010	744,877	446,817 (60%)	25,619 (3%)	19,348 (3%)
2011	678,100	395,558 (58%)	34,117 (5%)	25,606 (4%)
2012	692,508	630,107 (91%)	7,364 (1%)	9,665 (1%)
2013	734,575	641,943 (87%)	3,512 (0.5%)	1,584 (0.5%)
2014	430,574	305,046 (71%)	6,022 (1%)	6,837 (2%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9,609,930</b>	<b>6,105,739 (63.5%)</b>	<b>344,218 (3.5%)</b>	<b>372,863 (4%)</b>

Note: all units in acre-feet (AF)

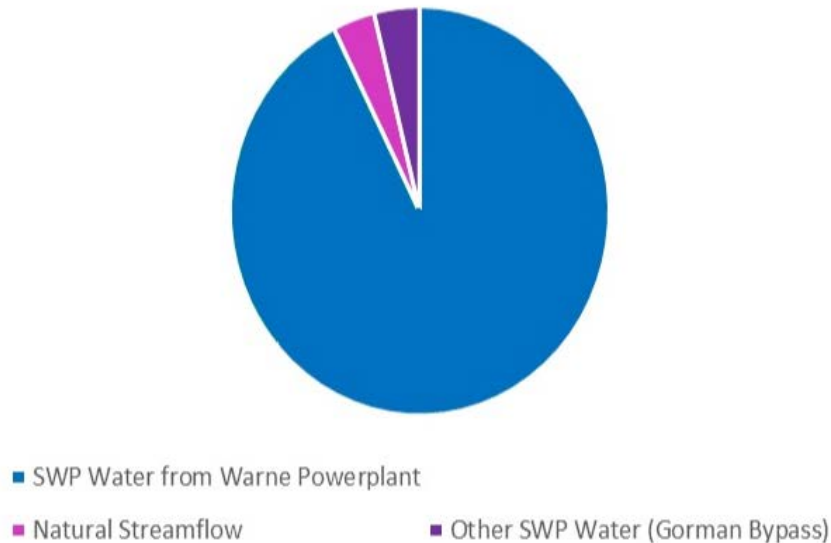




# Pyramid Lake Inflows

## (Continued)

Inflows to Pyramid Lake (2004 - 2014)



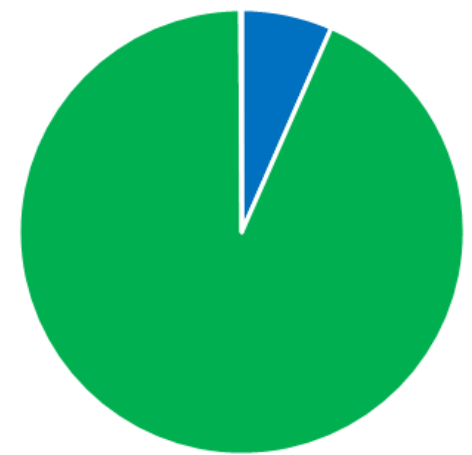
- SWP flows from Warne Powerplant make up the majority of inflows to Pyramid Lake
- Natural inflows come from upper Piru Creek and Canada De Los Alamos
  - very low other than during precipitation events and annual snowmelt
- The Gorman Bypass Channel flow capacity is 700 cfs
  - Can convey SWP water from Lower Quail Canal to Pyramid Lake, bypassing Warne Powerplant

# Pyramid Lake Outflows

- Most Pyramid Lake water flows through into Castaic Lake
- Daily Flows into Pyramid Reach are based on natural inflows from Piru and Canada De Los Alamos
- In some fall and winter periods, DWR also provides United Water Conservation District up to 3,150 AF of SWP water annually if available
- Because flow levels are based mostly on local weather, flows in Pyramid reach are difficult to predict

Year	Total outflow to Piru Creek	Deliveries to UWCD	Natural Streamflow	Recreation Deliveries
2004	16,603	2,431 (15%)	14,152 (85%)	20 (0%)
2005	102,976	0 (0%)	102,967 (100%)	9 (0%)
2006	41,677	0 (0%)	41,667 (100%)	10 (0%)
2007	11,881	1,890 (16%)	9,985 (84%)	6 (0%)
2008	34,530	1,980 (6%)	32,514 (94%)	36 (0%)
2009	15,748	3,150 (20%)	12,567 (80%)	31 (0%)
2010	27,767	3,150 (11%)	24,580 (89%)	37 (0%)
2011	38,103	2,520 (7%)	35,562 (93%)	21 (0%)
2012	10,751	3,150 (29.5%)	7,588 (70.5%)	13 (0%)
2013	5,959	2,258 (38%)	3,628 (61%)	73 (1%)
2014	6,147	0 (0%)	6,103 (99%)	44 (1%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>312,142</b>	<b>20,529 (6.5%)</b>	<b>291,313 (93.5%)</b>	<b>300 (0%)</b>

Inflows to Piru Creek (2004 - 2014)



■ Deliveries to UWCD ■ Natural Streamflow

Note: all units in acre-feet (AF)

# SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER

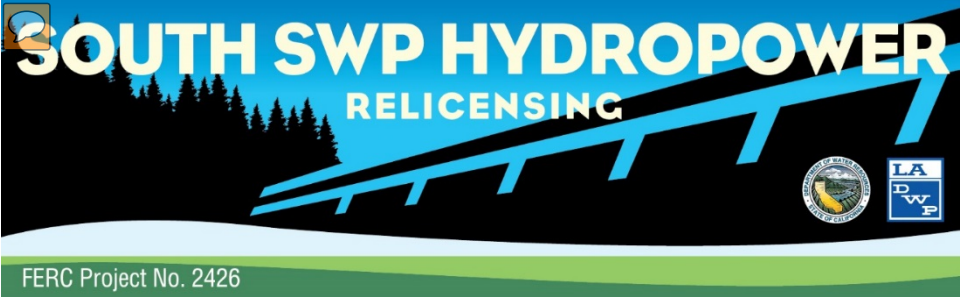
## RELICENSING



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# Deliveries to UWCD





# Deliveries to UWCD

- Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) has a long-term contract with DWR
  - Allows delivery of up to 3,150 AF of SSWP water annually from Pyramid Lake (to UWCD), using Pyramid reach as a means of conveyance
  - UWCD does not receive all 3,150 AF every year
  - Based on state water supplies, DWR annually determines the percentage available for all water contracts, therefore the percentage of the 3,150 AF determined annually is the maximum volume that UWCD could potentially receive.
- SSWP water deliveries to UWCD may only be carried out from first of November to end of February each water year to prevent releases from interfering with breeding of arroyo toads



# Deliveries to UWCD (Continued)

Annual Deliveries to UWCD, 2004 - 2014

Year	Deliveries to United Water Conservation District	Months During Which Releases Occurred	Maximum Single-Day Release	Average Single-Day Release
2004	2,431	August, September	53	46.8
2005	0	--	--	--
2006	0	--	--	--
2007	1,890	November	182	90
2008	1,980	November, December	109	55
2009	3,150	November, December	200	112.5
2010	3,150	November	158	108.6
2011	2,520	November, December	120	93.3
2012	3,150	November	169	108.6
2013	2,258	November	103	53.8
2014	0	--	--	--

Note: all units in acre-feet (af)



# SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER

## RELICENSING



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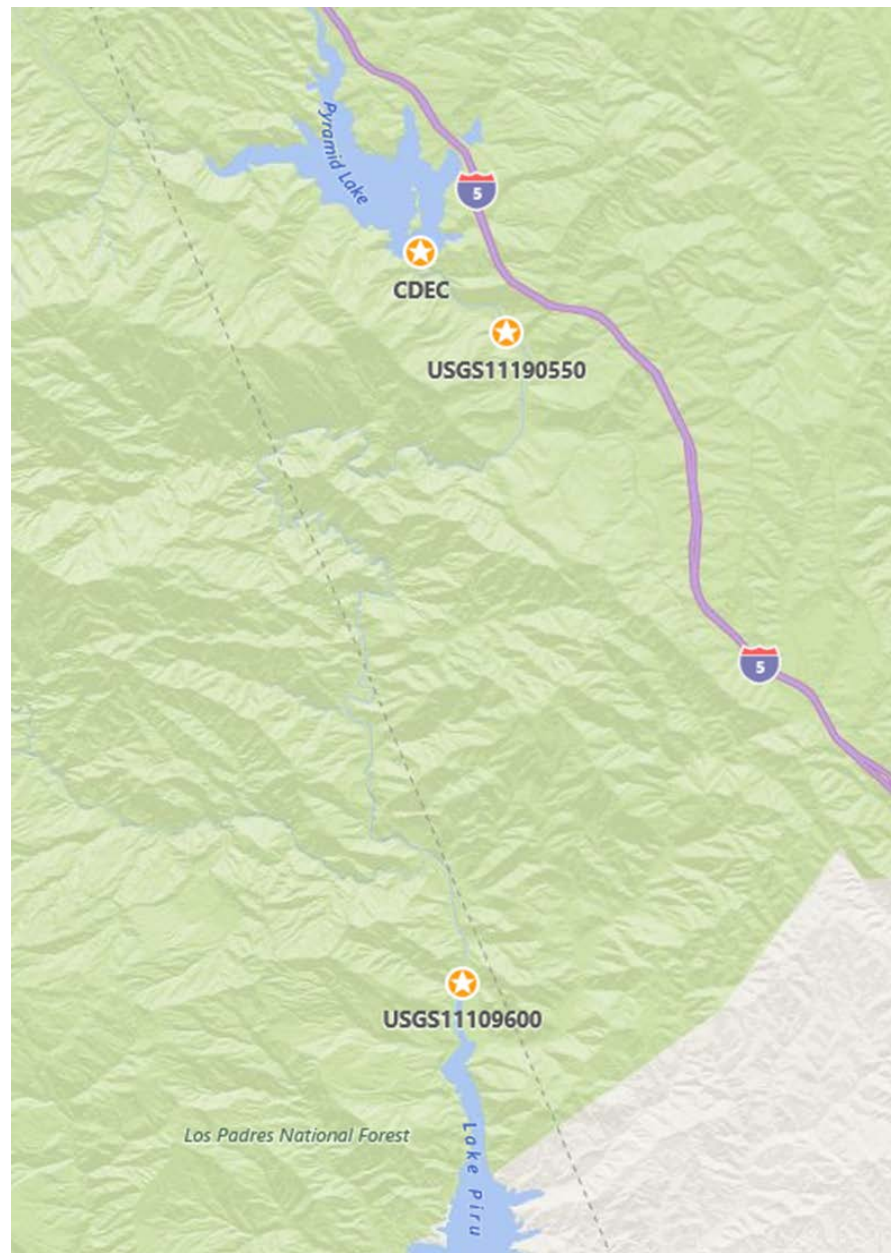
# Pyramid Reach Inflows

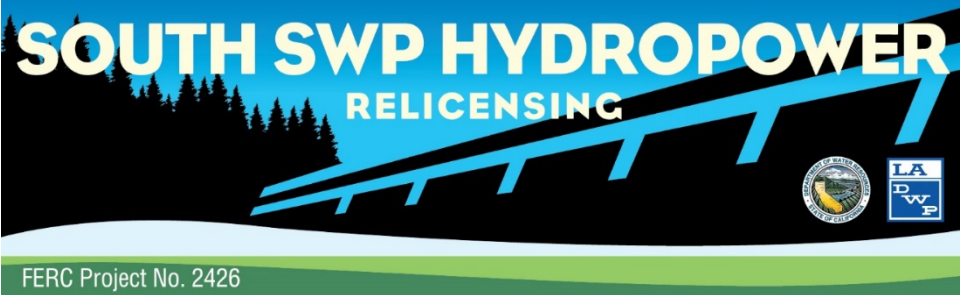


## Measuring Pyramid Reach Inflow Levels

- Two streamflow gages are operated by the United States Geological Survey (USGS)
  - USGS11190550
  - USGS11109600
- One sensor operated by the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC)

\*Both used to determine the amount of boatable days that are available on Piru Creek.

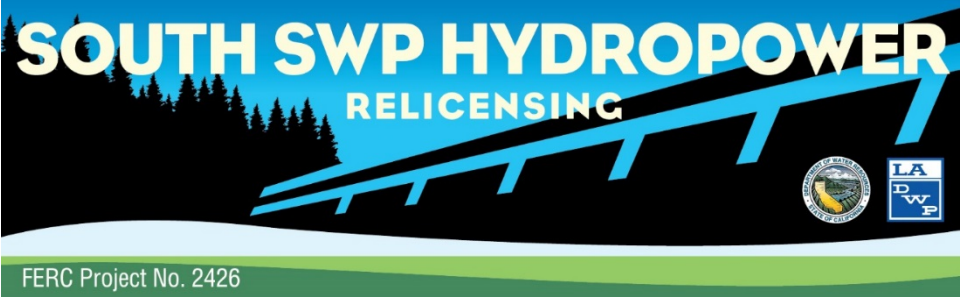




# Measuring Pyramid Reach Inflow Levels (Continued)

- USGS11109600 and the CDEC sensor record continuous, year-round data
- USGS11190550 only records data during the months May through October
- USGS11109600 measured the highest number of days with target flows
  - Likely because this gage is the furthest information source downstream of Pyramid Dam





# Pyramid Reach Flows

Pyramid reach collects flows from three named tributaries before reaching Lake Piru:

1. **Fish Creek**, which enters Pyramid reach 8.0 miles downstream of Pyramid Dam;
2. **Michael Creek**, which enters 15.7 miles below the dam; and
3. **Agua Blanca Creek**, which enters 16.4 miles below Pyramid Dam



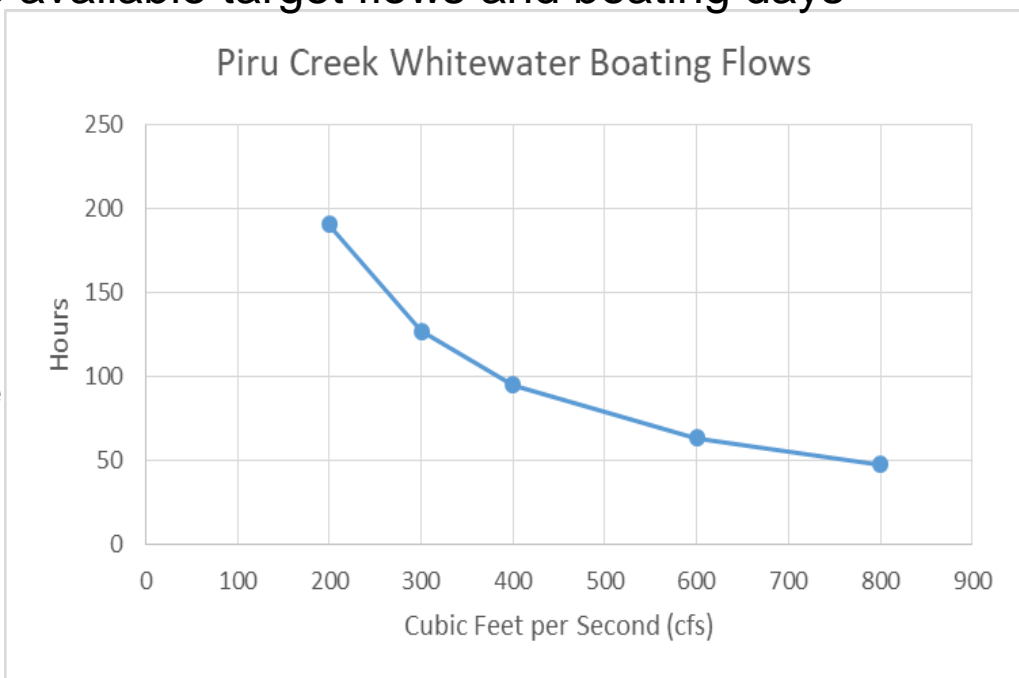


# 3,150 AF Flow Values (Theoretical)

- If released at a constant 200 cfs, it would take approximately 190 hours (almost 8 full days) to release 3,150 AF (see Figure)
- If a 12-hour regime was implemented, flow releases could lead to 16 days of flows at 200 cfs during mostly daylight hours
- Ramping rates would reduce the available target flows and boating days

**Notes:**

- Only three years between 2004 and 2014 saw full releases:
  - Average release was 1,866 AF, meaning the number of theoretical boatable days would have been approximately 5 days on a continuous 24-hour release schedule (or 10 days on a 12-hour release schedule)
  - Three years had no deliveries between 2004 and 2014



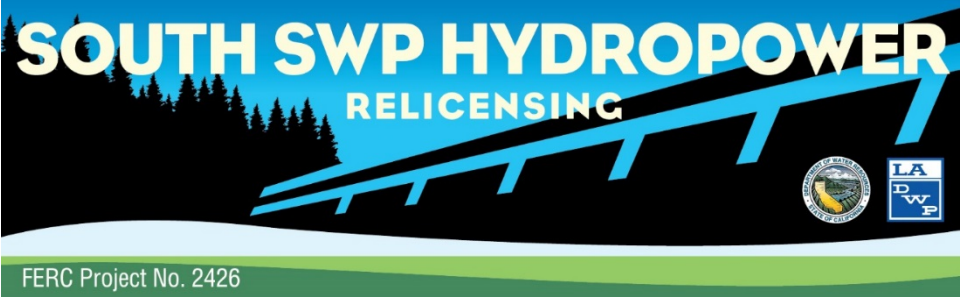
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# Boatable Flows



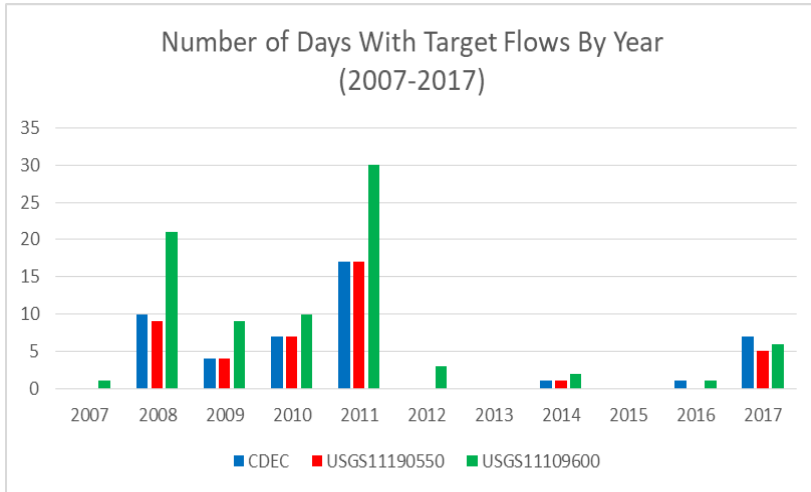
# Recreational Boating Flows and Boatable Flows

- According to American Whitewater:
  - Pyramid reach (Piru Creek) flows around 200 cfs are considered “barely runnable,” or the minimum flows necessary to support boating activities
  - “Usable days” or “boatable days”, are the number of days that flows meet recreational needs defined by American Whitewater
  - Boatable days occur almost entirely during winter and early spring months and rarely during summer months

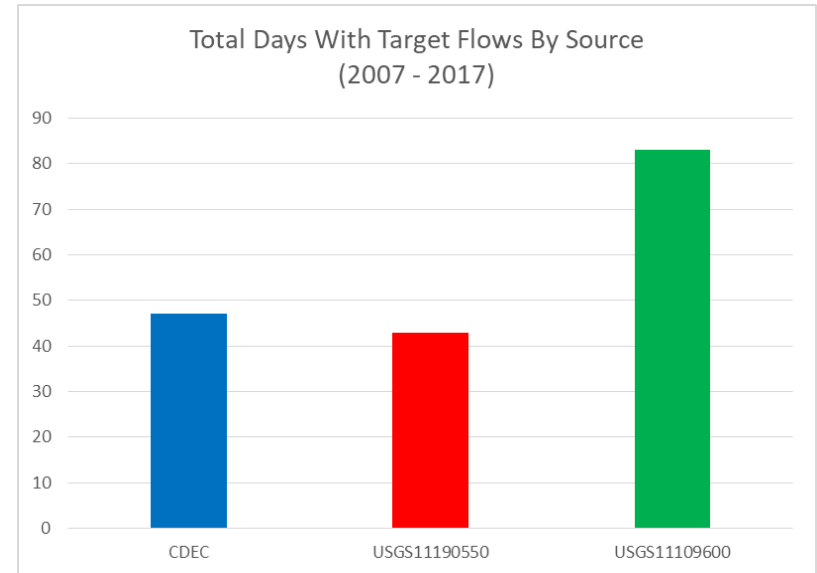




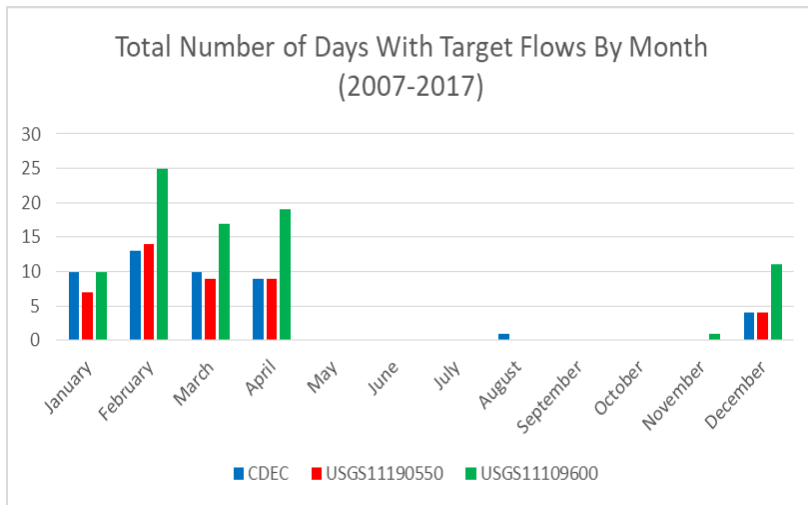
# Minimum Recreational Boating Potential (w/ Target Flows = 200 cfs)



**Figure 7: Possible Pyramid reach Boatable Days by Year (2007 – 2017)**



**Figure 6: 10 years of Possible Pyramid reach Boatable Days by Source (2007 – 2017)**



**Figure 8: Possible Pyramid reach Boatable Days by Month (2007 – 2017)**

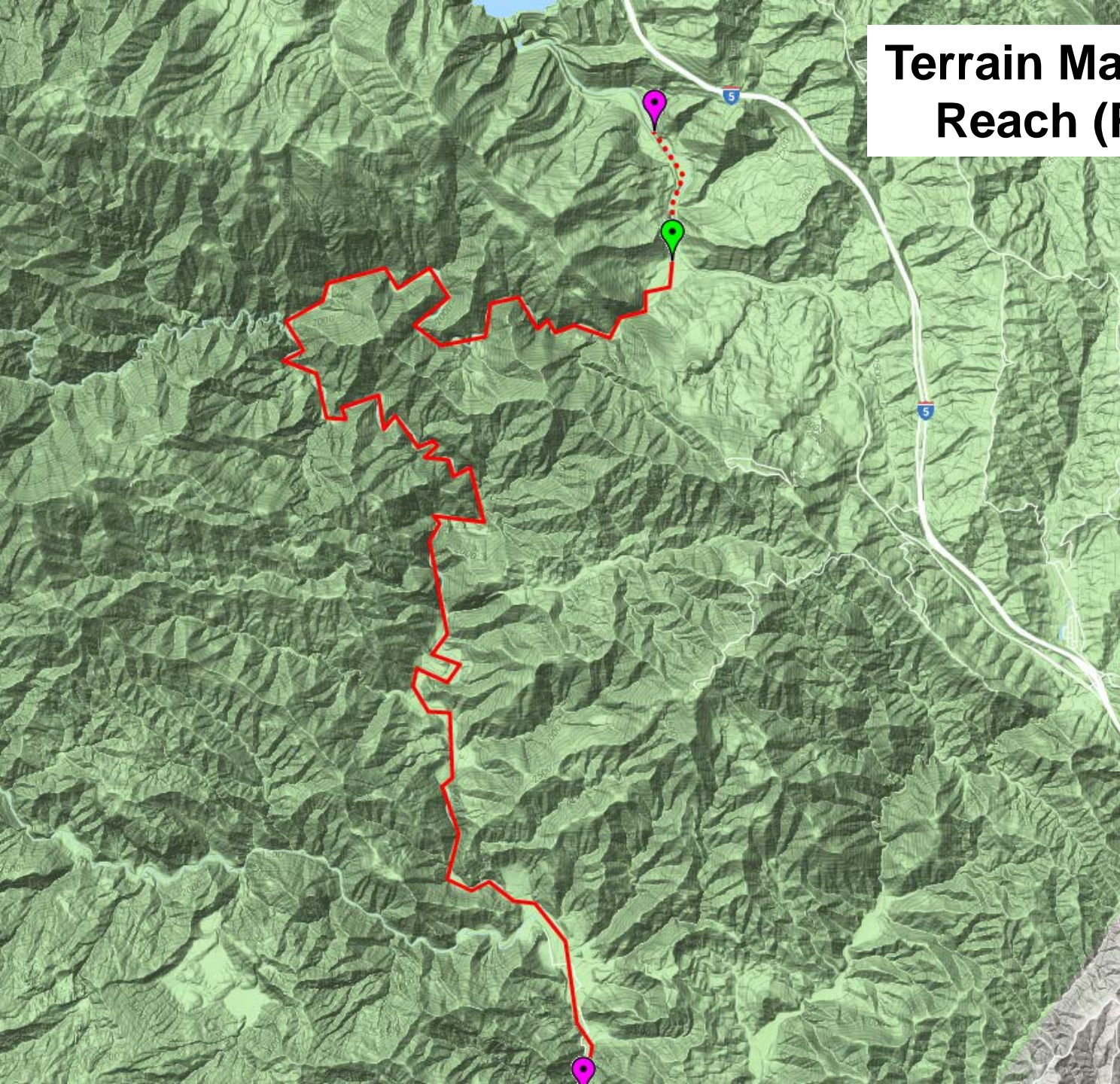


# Pyramid Reach Photos





# Terrain Map of Pyramid Reach (Piru Creek)





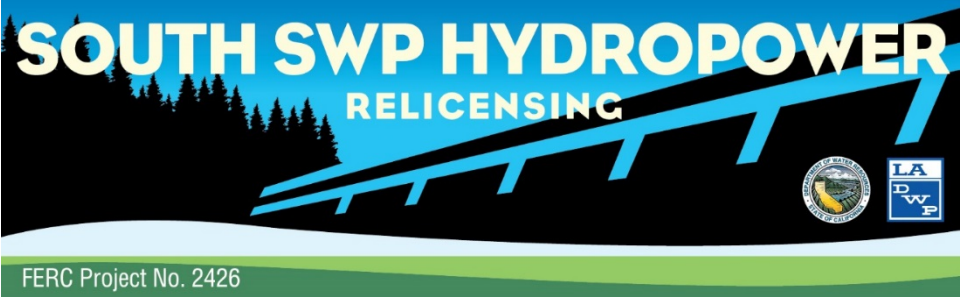
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# Boating Access



## UWCD's Santa Felicia Project (FERC No. 2153) Whitewater Boating Plan

- UWCD's current plan for allowing recreational boating access for Lower Piru Creek, and can be considered a case study for the advantages and challenges to providing similar access for Pyramid reach
- Access to the put-in site for boating as well as access to a portage trail over the Santa Felicia Dam is provided
- Overgrown vegetative banks have curtailed interest.





# SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



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## Environmental & Land Use Considerations



# Environmental & Land Use Considerations

- Deliveries to UWCD are limited to winter months of November through February
  - To avoid interfering with the breeding habits of the Federally-listed, endangered arroyo toad
- Invasive vegetation along the banks of the stream
- Private properties are adjacent to lower reaches of Pyramid reach
  - Landowners have requested that discretionary flows not exceed 100 cfs/day, as flows above this level make it difficult to access their land



# Environmental & Land Use Considerations (Continued)

- USFS Critical Biological Land Use Zone for arroyo toad in Pyramid reach
  - Biological Land Use Zones are areas managed by the USFS for the protection of rare species. Human activities and land modifications are restricted, but not excluded, to prevent any impacts to the protected species within the land use zone
- In 2014, Environmental Science Associates observed widespread vegetation encroachment on the riparian channel
  - Observed were mule-fat, willow, Fremont cottonwood, white alder, and broadleaf cattail being dominant on stream banks
- Southern willow scrub was reported to be the dominant plant community in the riparian floodplain
  - Reported dominant species being willows and mule-fat, and occasionally poison oak and Spanish broom



## Pyramid Reach Wildlife



Potential riparian habitat for federally-listed Arroyo Toad, southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo and the California Condor



# SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



FERC Project No. 2426

## Group Discussion/Interview

Questions?

# South SWP Hydropower Relicensing, FERC Project No. 2426 Whitewater Study Field Reconnaissance and Site Visit Summary

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## Meeting Details

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**When:** Saturday, August 25, 2018 – 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Frenchman's Flat, Piru Creek, and Embassy Suites Conference Room

**Objective:** Conduct field reconnaissance and site visit, conduct further interview follow-on discussions in group setting, gather additional information, and present hydrologic information to whitewater boaters in accordance with FERC-approved Whitewater Boating Study plan.

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## Attendees

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Kirby Gilbert (Stantec), Bryan Rorie (Stantec), Michael Barrientez (Stantec), Rick Norman (Public Piru-creek experienced Boater), Teresa Simsiman (American Whitewater [AW])

The following attendees were invited to participate and had planned on attending but due to unforeseen circumstances they were unable to attend: Experienced boaters Eric Disque and Terry Valle, Conner Everts from the Environmental Water Caucus, and Steve Bose from National Parks.

A list of all invited stakeholders is identified in the table located at the following link – [2018 Stakeholder Meeting Inventionation List](#)

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## Summary

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Prior to the meeting, attendees were provided with the following information located [HERE](#) on SharePoint:

- Agenda
- Site Location Map

### **Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Frenchman's Flat to conduct site reconnaissance**

Kirby Gilbert began the meeting with introductions and a review of the meeting purpose and agenda. Shortly after introductions, Bryan Rorie provided a site-specific health and safety tailgate briefing to discuss potential hazards associated with the site reconnaissance. Following the safety meeting, the attendees performed a windshield and roadside reconnaissance survey on the approximate three-mile section of Piru Creek between Pyramid Lake Dam and Frenchman's Flat to observe whitewater recreation potential (gradient, channel openings, boulders, and bed characteristics) and assess access including possible put-in and take-out

locations. Flows were about 2.5 cubic feet per second (cfs) according to the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) gauge. Some of the general observations and things noted were as follows:

- Frenchman's Flat was in high use. Day use and some camping activity was noted during the survey. Recreationists were walking up the Golden State Highway beyond the gate to access Piru Creek shorelines in this reach. Rick and Teresa's perception of the site was that it was in good shape with a suitable restroom facility in place.
- Rick provided accounts of his previous boating trips through the middle fork of Piru Creek approximately 20 years prior. The trip started at Frenchman's when the flow was about 200 cfs. Rick stated that it took 10-12 hours to complete the run ending at Blue Point Campground or upper Lake Piru.
- It was recognized that shorter daylight hours in late spring and early winter months represent an important constraint and consideration to completing the 18-mile run in one day.
- Both Teresa and Rick felt that in addition to a traditional whitewater boating kayak, inflatable kayaks could be used to complete the run but probably not rafts or paddle boards.
- Teresa asked to have the gradient of Pyramid Reach calculated and graphical representations provided including some summary data of the slopes involved in the various reaches for better flow assessment.
- Teresa recommended that, if possible, it would help to create larger scale aerial type maps of the creek channel so one could potentially identify large boulders, incised canyons, or highly vegetated areas.
- In its present condition it was noted that due to dense vegetation most of the Frenchman's Flat shoreline areas are highly desirable (at this time) to serve as put-in locations. The Golden State Highway itself runs directly alongside Piru Creek from Pyramid Dam to Frenchman's Flat and the wide highway and immediate creek access locations present an excellent access situation for potential boaters in terms of multiple put-in and take-out locations, and ability to make multiple runs as compared to many whitewater boating rivers in California.

#### **Frenchman's Flat to DWR Pyramid Dam Access Bridge**

- Both Teresa and Rick showed a high level of interest for potential boating use in the approximate three-mile creek section from about the gated bridge that leads up to Pyramid Dam to Frenchman's Flat, and they referred to this reach as "Upper Middle Piru Creek". The appeal of this section was based on several characteristics including its potential to provide a more intermediate run with great access and the potential for



short repeat runs. It was noted there could be several potential short runs, or the whole 3-mile reach might be a good boating resource. The 0.5 mile stretch from the Golden State Highway Bridge crossing of Piru to Frenchman's Flat was thought to have great potential for a good, but short boating experience.

- Rick Norman was impressed by the opportunity this section presented. He went on to state that this area of Upper Middle Piru displays class 2 or 3 features. He defined a class 3 as larger waves, water holes, and water flushing back upstream. Rick considered this portion of the river to be similar to the San Gabriel River in Pasadena that boaters like to use when flows are high enough during some November through February periods.

#### **Frenchman's Flat – First Stop; Golden State Highway Bridge past Frenchman Flat gate**

- It was noted that there was plenty of debris in the creek bed that could and would likely move downstream or to high bank areas if flows of 600-800 cfs were to occur.
- The area near the Golden State Highway Bridge was considered a great river access location and could perhaps serve as a good location for a designated put-in and take-out point that could serve boaters running any part or all of Pyramid Reach. It was noted that recreationists are using the access now. In addition, there were several "angler trails" established along the shorelines both upstream and downstream of the bridge. Without vehicles regularly using this highway, it presented a safe and somewhat unique opportunity for all types of recreationists to enjoy the creek as compared to an open highway.

#### **Frenchman's Flat – Second Stop; Pyramid Dam Access Bridge (end of Golden State Highway)**

- There were some large rocks in the channel just below the bridge that appear to be boatable but may not make it a highly desirable put-in location. It was noted that only a very short reach was not fenced off to access above the bridge and that access to the creek may be better suited below this bridge location.
- Both Teresa and Rick mentioned the possibility of having a 24/7 live camera online to observe current water flows.
- It was noted that perhaps some boating test runs or observations of flows around 300 cfs might provide boaters with more information on how the whitewater recreation and how Piru Reach could be boated. .

#### **Frenchman's Flat – Third Stop; mid-point near the Angeles Tunnel Adit**

- At this location Piru Creek is directly adjacent to the highway in a fairly narrow channel. This creek bed section has some older concrete armoring apparently built to help protect the old highway in this area (Photos on SharePoint [here](#)). Rick considered it to

be an “Arizona crossing” type feature. Meaning boaters can swiftly cross through it even if extremely shallow but it would probably still be typically passable.

- Teresa noted there could be important safety considerations for boaters regarding some old broken concrete lining on the east wall of the channel and yet it would be easy to portage (The act of carrying your kayak around a rapid because you don’t want to run it in your kayak) or scout given the proximate road access
- This section flowed into a heavily vegetated section, some of which appeared to have more overstory than understory layers and vice versa.

### **Embassy Suites (Santa Clarita) – Presentation and Discussion**

- A PowerPoint presentation was used to help convey information regarding the flow regimes and hydrology as well as inflow-outflow release requirements and other operational constraints including those related to protection of the fisheries and ESA-species such as the Arroyo Toad.
- During discussions about past boating use, Rick provided names of acquaintances (Richard Penny, Phil Martin, and Charles Foster) who had previously floated the Piru Creek. He plans to also ask them for their journals to reference flows, experiences, time, and weather. Charles Foster’s contact phone numbers were provided (310-809-1424 [mobile], 310-373-0905[(home])). Theresa noted it would be very useful to identify exact dates of previous runs and then find from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and CDEC gauges what the flows were during the actual run days.
- Rick mentioned that Gary Valle may have posted his trips on his website. Specifically, one boating trip was made on March 5, 2005. Rick himself was uncertain about flow rates, but speculated they were around 235 cfs at the beginning and up to approximately 355 cfs near the end at Lake Piru. He ran the river with others who monitored weather and flow more than he did.
- Both Teresa and Rick would like to pursue the possibility of having a boating float test to determine what flows in Piru Creek, including Upper middle Piru Creek, might be suitable for boating. They were suggesting a controlled release of 300 cfs over 10-12 hours, would provide a good way for them to better evaluate Piru Creek as a boatable whitewater resource.
- It was discussed further that boaters could try running Piru Creek as had been done in the past, following good precipitation events and figure out the flows they preferred. Teresa in particular indicated they would like to do a boating test under the study phase of relicensing. She inquired whether it was possible for DWR to provide flows at higher levels (such as 300 cfs) during water releases, if called on by United Water Conservation District (UWCD), during November 2018 or November 2019 to complete an on-water boating feasibility assessment. If deliveries of SWP water were going to be made to. It

was requested that it be released at flows of 300 cfs. In the past such flows had been made at or below the 100 cfs level at the request of UWCD to not constrain downstream landowner's ability to cross the river (wet crossings) to access their properties during the water release periods.

- Theresa noted that AW could coordinate boater's participation and running of an on-water boating feasibility test selecting experienced boaters from those available and interested.
- It was noted that boaters could benefit from knowing in advance about water delivery releases.
- Teresa requested the information about past flow releases also be presented in more graphical and time-series displays using cfs levels over time (during higher flow events) in order to more easily understand the implications for potential boating uses.
- Kirby mentioned that just this year there was a storm around March 22-23, 2018 that can be looked at online from the CDEC "PYM" gauge site recordings to see how the flows ramped up and peaked downstream of Pyramid Dam during a period of rainfall resulting in inflows to the creek.
- Kirby noted that the Blue Point Campground has been closed by the Los Padres National Forest and is being restored so it is not open to public vehicular traffic.
- Theresa and Rich inquired about current potential take-out locations near Lake Piru, and Kirby noted that UWCD has designated whitewater boating take-out locations for their Project at Juan Fernandez Boat Launch or the Lake Piru Marina. It was discussed that in the past the Blue Point Campground area had been used.

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### **Action Items**

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- Inquire about the potential of having a controlled release either this November or November 2019 (or anytime during the November – February potential release periods) if UWCD deliveries are scheduled to be released. Specifically, look into the possibility of providing releases higher than the past flows, perhaps at a level of approximately 300 cfs. – DWR to reach out UWCD to determine delivery status or if preferred, Stantec to follow up with UWCD by September 2018.
- Follow up with boaters who have boated Pyramid Reach to inquire if they have boated the upper middle Piru Creek reach and check again if they have boating logs or other information that would help determine the exact dates of their previous boating experiences. – Stantec will follow up with newly identified boaters of Piru Creek

- Provide Teresa and Rick Norman copies of the PowerPoint slides, and link to CDEC site. – Completed as of August 27, 2018.
- Prepare a more detailed gradient cross sections graphic and information for Upper Middle Piru based on best available topography available. – Stantec will evaluate the gradient and provide better representation of the topography by September 2018.