



DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Hydropower License Planning and Compliance Office
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Los Angeles
Department of
Water & Power
Regulatory Compliance and
Special Projects
111 North Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

June 7, 2018

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, Northeast
Washington, DC 20426

FERC Project No. 2426-227 - South SWP Hydropower
Filing of Initial Study Report Meeting Summary

Dear Secretary Bose:

In accordance with 18 Code of Federal Regulations Section 5.15(c)(3), the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) (Licensees) file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) this Initial Study Report (ISR) meeting summary for relicensing of the Licensees' South SWP Hydropower (Project), FERC Project Number 2426.

FERC's June 14, 2017 Study Plan Determination required the Licensees to perform 22 studies. On May 15, 2018, the Licensees filed their ISR with FERC and notified the Relicensing Participants of the filing via email. The Licensees' ISR covered the period from initiation of the various relicensing studies through April 30, 2018. The ISR provided a description of the Licensees' progress in implementing the study plan and schedule, the data collected, and an explanation of any variances to FERC-approved study plan for each of the 22 studies. The ISR also addressed any Licensee-proposed modifications to ongoing studies or new studies proposed by the Licensees.

Initial Study Report Meeting Summary

On May 23, 2018, the Licensees met with the Relicensing Participants to discuss the ISR for the Project. The meeting was held at the Courtyard by Marriott at 28523 Westinghouse Place, Valencia, California; it was scheduled in consultation with FERC and the Relicensing Participants through telephone conversations and confirmed via email on April 2, 2018. Although the meeting was scheduled for four hours, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time, it ended at 11 a.m. after all Relicensing Participants had ample time and opportunity to ask questions of the Licensees.

Prior to the meeting, the meeting details were posted on the Project's relicensing Website (<http://south-swp-hydropower-relicensing.com/>), along with the meeting agenda (Attachment 1) and ISR meeting presentation (Attachment 2). A call-in number was

provided for interested Relicensing Participants who could not attend the ISR meeting in person. Participants who attended in person were provided hardcopies of the agenda and presentation upon their arrival to the meeting. Participants who attended the meeting by telephone were emailed the agenda and presentation prior to the meeting.

The meeting was attended by 44 people: 37 participated in person and 7 participated by telephone. A copy of the meeting sign-in sheet is attached (Attachment 3). Agencies and organizations represented at the meeting included (in alphabetical order):

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- DWR
- FERC
- HDR, on behalf of the Licensees
- LADWP
- Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
- Louis Berger Group, on behalf of FERC
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Stantec Consulting Services Inc., on behalf of the Licensees
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- United States (U.S.) Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS);
- United Water Conservation District (UWCD)
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI), National Park Service
- USDOI, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Van Ness Feldman, on behalf of the Licensees

Overview of Meeting Presentation

The following is an overview of the Licensees' presentation:

- The Licensees thanked FERC and the Relicensing Participants for participating in the meeting, and restated their commitment to a transparent, efficient, and collaborative relicensing process.
- The Licensees discussed the purpose of the meeting and their relicensing mission statement.
- The Licensees reviewed the relicensing schedule, including the specific schedule regarding the ISR process (e.g., filing of ISR meeting summary, comments on the summary, responses to comments, and FERC's resolution of disagreements,

if any). John Mudre of FERC provided meeting participants with a hardcopy of an updated relicensing schedule (Attachment 4). The Licensees said they would update the schedule on the Project's relicensing website to include FERC's modifications to the schedule.

- The Licensees stated that when the ISR was filed, 1 FERC-approved study had been completed, 18 studies were underway, and 3 studies had not yet been initiated. The Licensees noted that they posted and plan to keep updated on the Project's relicensing website relevant information for each of the 22 studies. The information includes: FERC-approved study plans, study data, field results and data summaries. The Relicensing Participants were notified of data availability via email on May 13, 2018. The Licensees reported that:
 - Study efforts relative to the *Special-Status Aquatic Amphibians and Semi-Aquatic Snakes Study* have not identified any special-status species;
 - Efforts relative to the *ESA-Listed Plants Study* have not identified any Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed plants; and
 - Efforts relative to the *ESA-Listed Amphibians – California Red-legged Frog Study* have not identified any California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*).
- The Licensees provided an update on study progress since the ISR was filed. They noted that two studies that had not yet been initiated when the ISR was filed were now underway, and a third (*ESA-Listed Terrestrial Wildlife Species – California Wildlife Habitat Relationships Study*) would be initiated on schedule in September 2018. For the *Pyramid Reach Fish Populations Study*, the Licensees received the laboratory report for the environmental deoxyribonucleic acid (eDNA) sampling. The laboratory report documented the presence of rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*), and arroyo chub (*Gila orcuttii*) in the basin, each of which was expected to occur in the basin based on existing information described in the Licensees Pre-Application Document (PAD). The Licensees also consulted with agencies regarding sampling sites, which is discussed further below. For the *Water Quality and Temperature Study*, the Licensees said they had collected the last season of water temperature profiles, and the data were undergoing quality assurance/quality control review, but appeared to be consistent with previous temperature profile samplings.
- The Licensees reported they anticipated fieldwork for the *ESA-Listed Riparian Bird Species Study* to begin the week of May 21, 2018. Efforts relative to the *Recreation Facilities Demand Analysis and Condition Assessment Study* were anticipated to begin during the 2018 Memorial Day weekend.

- The Licensees provided an overview of the variances from the FERC-approved study plans that have occurred to date. The Licensees noted that of the 22 studies, 14 did not have variances, and 8 of the studies had one or more variances. For seven of the studies that had variances, the variances were related to schedule and none will affect the overall study. The remaining study with a variance (*Indicators of Hydrologic Alteration Study*) will not affect the remaining work or the study schedule.
- The Licensees advised the Relicensing Participants that based on FERC's criteria for study modifications the Licensees did not propose any study modifications in the ISR. The Licensees said that all studies are being performed in conformance with the FERC-approved study plans; the variances from the study plans will have no effects on the outcomes of the studies; and no studies were performed under anomalous environmental conditions.
- The Licensees advised the Relicensing Participants that based on FERC's criteria for new studies the Licensees did not propose any new studies in the ISR. The Licensees were not aware of material changes in laws or regulations, significant changes in the Project, or significant new information that would warrant a new study.

Overview of Discussion Among Meeting Participants

John Mudre mentioned that with the number of acronyms related to this Project, a publicly available acronym list should be provided. Licensees suggested posting a list of acronyms on the relicensing website to provide stakeholders with easy access to the references.

USFS asked if the Licensees could file the ISR meeting summary earlier than the regulatory deadline (i.e., 15 days after the ISR meeting). The Licensees said that they would file the summary as soon as possible. However, they noted that it would likely not be filed until the deadline of June 7, 2018, since the Memorial Day holiday fell within the Licensees' ISR meeting summary drafting period, and the summary must be reviewed and approved by both DWR and LADWP prior to filing.

USFS expressed concern that it would not see any more data until the Licensees filed the USR on May 15, 2019, which would give the Relicensing Participants little time to review the data. USFS suggested the Licensees post the data in advance of filing the USR. The Licensees said they understood the concern and appreciated USFS's interests. The Licensees noted the Relicensing Communication Guidelines in the PAD state the Licensees will post the data when the study is complete, and most studies will be complete well in advance of the filing date for the USR. Therefore, the study data

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should be available to USFS well in advance of the USR filing, which should address USFS's concern. However, to provide even more time to the Relicensing Participants' review of study data, the Licensees said they would, when possible, post study data to the relicensing website when blocks of data have undergone the appropriate review, rather than wait until the entire study is complete to post the data. Further, the Licensees said when these blocks of data are posted the Licensees would notify the Relicensing Participants by email to advise that the data is available on the website. As an example of this, the Licensees said they would post to the relicensing Website the *Pyramid Reach Fish Populations Study* eDNA laboratory results, which have just become available, within a few weeks, even though the study is not complete. The Licensees said that they would notify the Relicensing Participants via email after the Licensees post the data.

CDFW noted that, after FERC's Study Determination was issued, tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) was listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act, and that CDFW was aware of observations of the blackbird at the Project. CDFW also noted that it was aware of pond turtle sightings at the Project. The southern western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata* or *Emys marmorata*) is a State Species of Special Concern. The Licensees said that they would evaluate how observations of the two listed species may affect the study efforts. Licensees encouraged CDFW and USFS to submit a written request for study modifications, if warranted, relative to the observations of the tricolored blackbird and pond turtle for the *ESA-Listed Birds – Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Least Bell's Vireo, and Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Riparian Habitat Evaluation Study* and the *Special-Status Aquatic and Semi-Aquatic Snakes Study*, respectively. [**Note:** Subsequent to the ISR meeting, on June 4, 2018, the Licensees advised USFS and CDFW via email of the survey protocols for the target species, the dates the Licensees surveyed for these species, and the remaining target survey dates for the study efforts. The Licensees also acknowledged the records of occurrence of the tricolored blackbird at Quail Lake and will note any observations of these species within the study area. The email is included as Attachment 5 to this letter.]

USFS expressed a concern regarding the lack of clarification in the ISR where it stated that there was a delay in starting a study due to "safety." The Licensees clarified that this was in reference to the *Pyramid Reach Fish Populations Study*, and further reiterated that safety was the Licensees' highest priority. The Licensees further pointed out that the ISR (pages 2–4) notes that the Licensees delayed the *Pyramid Reach Fish Populations Study* planning reconnaissance, eDNA sampling, and habitat mapping in Pyramid Reach because water flow was too high to safely and efficiently perform the work. The ISR also noted safety concerns on pages 2–32 regarding accessing water temperature loggers in Pyramid reach during high flows.

Meeting participants indicated they would like more communication relative to study schedule and future delays to study efforts, particularly with regard to delays which, in turn, may delay data gathering. The Licensees said they believed permitting had caused very few delays in initiating fieldwork. The ISR reported that 7 of the 22 FERC approved studies had schedule-related variances, and only 1 of the 7 resulted from a delay in obtaining a permit, the *Quail Lake Fisheries Assessment Study*. In that case, study completion was anticipated to be delayed by only three months: from August 2018, to November 2018, (refer to ISR, pages 2–3).

CDFW cited a scientific collecting permit, and USFS mentioned the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) permit from USFS will be needed for some of the studies. USFS and CDFW further indicated that they may be able to assist in expediting issuance of necessary permits to reduce delays. The Licensees said they would review the necessary permits for the remaining work and reach out to the appropriate agencies, as necessary, for assistance. In addition, USFS said that if there are plans to take voucher plant specimens from the National Forest System lands for the study, the Licensees would need a permit from USFS to do so. **[Note: Subsequent to the ISR meeting, on May 31, 2018, the Licensees requested via email that CDFW and USFWS provide written permission to collect, as requested by the agencies, tissue samples from any Santa Ana sucker or arroyo chub found during the study, as well as, explicit written directions regarding the tissue sample collection. The email is included as Attachment 6 to this letter. In addition, the Licensees sent an email to USFS on June 2, 2018, relative to the ARPA permit from USFS explaining the permit status and necessary signatures. The email is included as Attachment 7 to this letter.]**

CDFW and USFWS said they were concerned that *Botanical Resources Study* fieldwork may not have begun early enough to survey for early blooming plants. The Licensees said that the botanical surveys began in March 2018, but would confirm the exact start date and notify meeting participants via email. **[Note: Subsequent to the ISR meeting, on June 4, 2018, the Licensees advised USFS via email that the botanical crews conducted the botanical surveys in line with the spring blooming period. The email is included as Attachment 8 to this letter.]**

CDFW indicated that the Licensees should select a subcontractor with familiarity of the benthic macroinvertebrate (BMI) taxonomy for the region to perform the identification of BMIs for the *Pyramid Reach Benthic Macroinvertebrates Study*. The Licensees responded that this was their best management practice, and would select a contractor with familiarity of BMI taxonomy for the region. The Licensees noted the study plan prescribed that CDFW would do a quality control review of the taxonomic identifications.

The Louis Berger Group inquired as to the progress of the *Whitewater Boating Study* to confirm that the Level 1 and Level 2 survey results would be completed in time to determine if a Level 3 survey was necessary. The Licensees noted that the study was on schedule and was anticipated to be complete by late Fall of 2018. The Licensees also confirmed that the results of the Level 1 and Level 2 surveys would be completed with sufficient time to determine if a Level 3 survey was necessary and, if so, to plan and potentially perform the Level 3 survey in the Fall of 2018 or Winter of 2019.

FERC inquired as to the contractual obligations between the Licensees and UWCD that may affect the timing, and magnitude of the water releases to Pyramid Reach; and whether they might affect boating in the area. The Licensees noted that releases are made to Pyramid Reach between November and February, based upon requests made by UWCD, taking into consideration how the releases would affect sensitive species, namely the arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*). The Licensees said they would further research whether the contract allows DWR some discretion on the timing and shaping of the releases, and would advise FERC in its whitewater study results.

USFS expressed concern that the ISR does not contain as much data from study efforts as compared to other (unspecified) relicensings. Further, USFS expressed concern that the ISR was "thin" and the lack of data in the ISR makes it difficult for USFS to determine if new studies or study modifications are necessary. FERC noted that the ISR is intended to be a summary of study status and the Licensees indicated that available data can be found on the Project's relicensing website. The Licensees said the ISR was consistent with the requirements of FERC's Determination and the Licensees' commitment to provide data. Nonetheless, in this summary, as Attachment 9, the Licensees are providing additional data relative to the schedule.

USFS expressed a concern that it could not ascertain if the data gaps it identified during the study plan development process would be filled until they saw the study data. The Licensees pointed out that FERC ordered studies to fill data gaps, and that if Licensees performed the studies as ordered by FERC, which the Licensees are doing, the data gaps would be filled.

The Licensees said that after the ISR was filed, the Licensees consulted with USFS, USFWS, SWRCB, and CDFW regarding sampling sites for the *Pyramid Reach Fish Populations Study* and the *Pyramid Reach Benthic Macroinvertebrates Study*. This consultation was not reported in the ISR because it had not occurred prior to April 30, 2018. **[Note: Subsequent to the filing of this ISR meeting summary, the Licensees will file with FERC documentation of consultation regarding the Pyramid Reach Fish Populations Study and the Pyramid Reach Benthic Macroinvertebrates Study.]**

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At the conclusion of the meeting, the Licensees encouraged meeting participants to thoroughly review the ISR and posted data, address FERC's study criteria in their filings, and make any requests for study modifications or new studies as specific as possible. The Licensees stated they would take into consideration all reasonable requests for study modifications and new studies, as appropriate. The Licensees thanked FERC and the Relicensing Participants for participating in the meeting and for their continued participation in the relicensing.

Licensees' Proposed Study Modifications and New Studies in the Initial Study Report

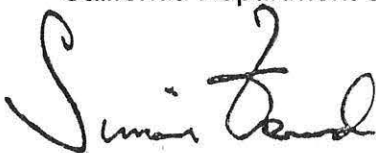
At this time, and based on the ISR meeting, the Licensees request that FERC consider the study schedule provided in Attachment 9 as the Licensees' most current anticipated schedule for fieldwork and study completion, and that this schedule supersede any schedule that may be implied in the ISR. The Licensees do not propose any study modifications or new studies.

If you have any questions about this ISR meeting summary, please contact Gwen Knittweis, DWR's Acting Chief of Hydropower License Planning and Compliance Office at (916) 557-4554, or Simon Zewdu, LADWP's Manager of Regulatory Compliance and Special Projects, at (213) 367-2525.

Sincerely,



Gwen Knittweis, Acting Chief
Hydropower License Planning and Compliance Office
Executive Division
California Department of Water Resources



Simon Zewdu
Manager of Regulatory Compliance and Special Projects
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Attachments: (See attached list)

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Attachment 1 - Initial Study Report Meeting Agenda

Attachment 2 - Initial Study Report Meeting Presentation

Attachment 3 - Initial Study Report Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Attachment 4 - FERC's Updated Relicensing Schedule

Attachment 5 - Licensees' Email to CDFW Regarding Observations of the Tricolored Blackbird and Southern Western Pond Turtle

Attachment 6 - Licensees' Email to CDFW and USFWS Relative to Santa Ana Sucker and Arroyo Chub Tissue Sampling

Attachment 7 - Licensees' Email to USFS Regarding ARPA Permit Status

Attachment 8 - Licensees' Email to USFS Regarding the Start Date of the *Botanical Resources* Study

Attachment 9 - Licensees' Anticipated Schedule for Conducting Fieldwork and Completing Each FERC-approved Study

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Attachment 1

Initial Study Report Meeting Agenda

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South SWP Hydropower Relicensing, FERC Project No. 2426

AGENDA

Initial Study Report Meeting

Date: May 23, 2018
Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Location: Courtyard by Marriott Valencia
28523 Westinghouse Place
Valencia, CA 91355
Objectives: Discuss the progress status, variances, and proposed modifications of the Relicensing Studies as described in the Initial Study Report (ISR)

-
- Introductions
 - Meeting Purpose
 - Licensees' Goals and Objectives
 - Safety Moment
 - Relicensing Schedule
 - Study Progress
 - Data Availability
 - Study Status
 - Variances
 - Completed Studies:
 - *Fish Entrainment Risk Assessment*
 - Studies Underway:
 - *Quail Lake Fisheries Assessment*
 - *Pyramid Reach Fish Populations*
 - *Special-status Aquatic Amphibians and Semi-Aquatic Snakes*

- *Botanical Resources*
- *Non-native Invasive Plants*
- *Special-Status Terrestrial Wildlife Species–California Wildlife Habitat Relationships*
- *ESA-listed Plants*
- *ESA-listed Amphibians – California Red-legged Frog*
- *ESA-listed Riparian Bird Species*
- *Recreation Facilities Demand Analysis and Condition Assessment*
- *Cultural Resources*
- *Tribal Resources*
- *Indicators of Hydraulic Alteration*
- *Scenic Integrity*
- *Water Quality and Temperature*
- *Whitewater Boating*
- *Special-status Raptors*
- *Pyramid Lake Tributaries Fish Passage Barriers*
- Studies Not Yet Initiated:
 - *Aquatic Invasive Species*
 - *ESA – Terrestrial Wildlife Species – California Wildlife Habitat Relationships*
 - *Pyramid Reach Benthic Macroinvertebrates*
- Study Progress Questions
- Study Modifications and New Studies
 - Licensees
 - Other Parties
- ISR Meeting Summary
- Adjourn

Attachment 2

Initial Study Report Meeting Presentation

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Initial Study Report Meeting

SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



FERC Project No. 2426

Courtyard by Marriott, Valencia, CA

May 23, 2018

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Meeting Purpose

SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



FERC Project No. 2426

For Licensees to discuss the status of the Relicensing Studies described in the Initial Study Report (ISR) and to discuss variances, questions, and proposals for modification (if any) of the FERC-approved study plans.

May 23, 2018

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SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



FERC Project No. 2426

Licensees' Goals and Objectives

To obtain a new license for South SWP Hydropower operations to provide safe and cost-effective operation of licensed facilities while protecting existing FERC Project No. 2426 water supply, power generation, and energy storage functions and addressing Project impacts in an accountable and responsive manner.



May 23, 2018



STOP & TALK: SPRING ALLERGIES

Health, Safety, Security and Environment

Spring is beautiful, but it's also a key time of year for seasonal allergies. As plants release pollen, millions of people with allergies experience symptoms such as itchy eyes and skin, sneezing, nasal congestion, wheezing and rash. There's no cure, but you can take steps to curb springtime allergies, from medication to household habits.

There are many medicines that can ease the symptoms of allergies. They include:

- **Antihistamines** reduce sneezing, sniffing, and itching by lowering the amount of histamine in your body.
- **Decongestants** shrink the blood vessels in the nasal passageways to relieve congestion and swelling.
- **Antihistamine/decongestant combos** combine the effects of both drugs.

These drugs can be found in a variety of over-the-counter medicines or in prescription strength. If you suffer from spring allergies, start by contacting your local physician.

5 Tips to Keep Pollen at Bay

1. Try to stay indoors whenever the pollen count is very high. The counts usually peak in the mornings.
2. Keep your doors and windows closed during the spring months to keep allergens out. An air purifier may also help.
3. Clean the air filters in your home often. Also, clean bookshelves, vents, and other places where pollen can collect.
4. Wash your hair after going outside, because the allergen can collect there.
5. Vacuum twice a week. Wear a mask, because vacuuming can kick up pollen, mold, and dust that were trapped in your carpet.



If you have questions, please contact your supervisor, [Office Safety and Environment Coordinator \(OSEC\)](#), or local HSSE representative

SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



FERC Project No. 2426

Agenda

- Relicensing Schedule
- Study Progress
- Study Progress Questions
- Study Modifications and New Studies
- ISR Meeting Summary
- Adjourn

May 23, 2018

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Relicensing Schedule

SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



FERC Project No. 2426

May 23, 2018

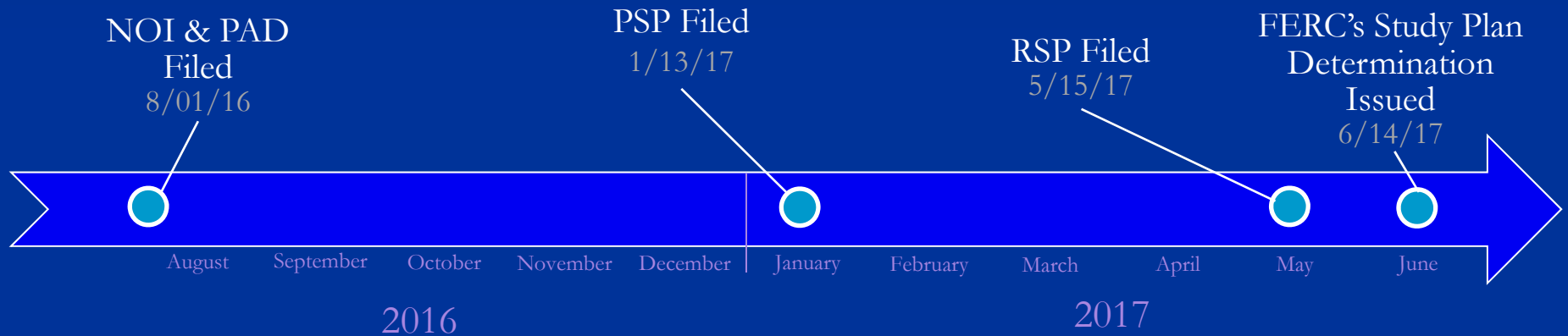
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SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



FERC Project No. 2426

Previous Milestones Achieved



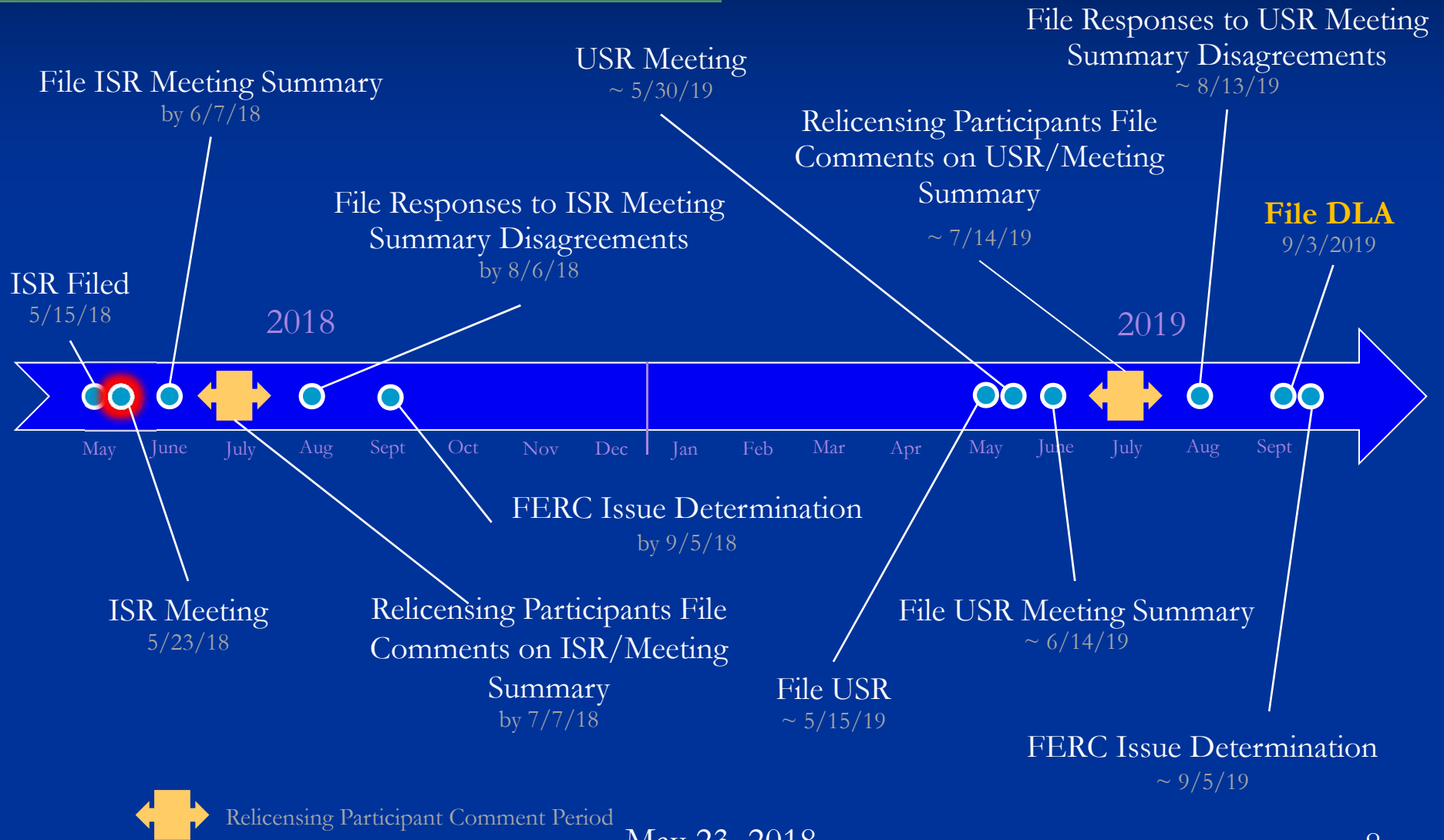
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SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



FERC Project No. 2426

Milestones Through DLA



May 23, 2018

Study Progress

SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



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May 23, 2018



Data Availability

- Beginning May 10, 2018, per FERC's Determination and consistent with the Communication Guidelines and Goals in the PAD, the Licensees have provided the following on the Relicensing Website (<http://south-swp-hydropower-relicensing.com/>):
 - Study Plans
 - Study Results
 - Field Results and Data Summaries
 - Raw Data
- Relicensing Participants were notified of data availability via email on May 11, 2018



Study Status

- 22 FERC-approved studies
 - 1 study complete
 - 18 studies underway
 - 3 studies not yet initiated



Study Variances

- 14 studies did not vary from the FERC-approved study plans
- 8 studies involved one or more variances
 - 7 studies involved variances related to scheduling – see next slide
 - 1 study (Indicators of Hydrologic Alteration) involved a minor variance that will not affect remaining work or study schedule

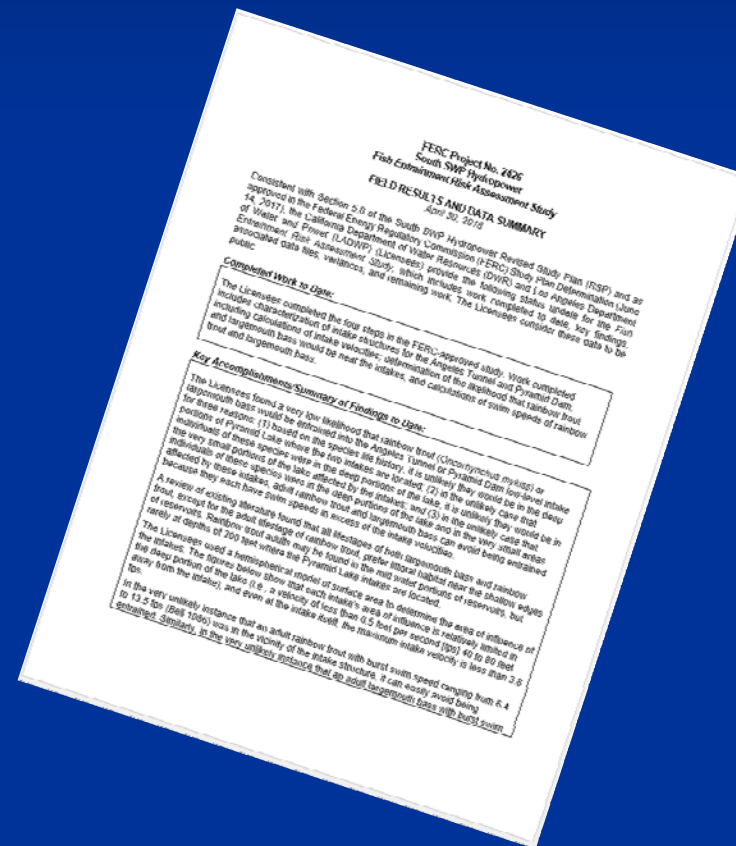


Schedule Variances

- Four studies included schedule variances, but are still on track to finish by completion dates in the FERC Study Plan Determination:
 - Pyramid Reach Fish Populations
 - Cultural Resources
 - Tribal Resources
 - Water Quality and Temperature
- Three studies included schedule variances that resulted in a delay of their completion date as stated in the FERC Study Plan Determination:
 - Quail Lake Fisheries Assessment (delayed from August 2018 to November 2018)
 - Scenic Integrity (delayed from November 2017 to June 2018)
 - Pyramid Lake Tributaries Fish Passage Barriers (delayed from November 2017 to July 2018)



17) Fish Entrainment Risk Assessment



SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



FERC Project No. 2426

Studies Underway

- 2) Quail Lake Fisheries Assessment
- 3) Pyramid Reach Fish Populations
- 4) Special-Status Aquatic Amphibians and Semi-Aquatic Snakes
- 5) Botanical Resources
- 6) Non-Native Invasive Plants
- 7) Special-Status Terrestrial Wildlife Species—California Wildlife Habitat Relationships
- 8) ESA-Listed Plants
- 9) ESA-Listed Amphibians – California Red-legged Frog
- 10) ESA-Listed Riparian Bird Species
- 11) Recreation Facilities Demand Analysis and Condition Assessment
- 12) Cultural Resources
- 13) Tribal Resources
- 14) Indicators of Hydrologic Alteration
- 15) Scenic Integrity
- 16) Water Quality and Temperature
- 19) Whitewater Boating
- 20) Special-Status Raptors
- 22) Pyramid Lake Tributaries Fish Passage Barriers

May 23, 2018

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1) Aquatic Invasive Species:

- Anticipate initiating study in July 2018

18) ESA-Listed Terrestrial Wildlife Species – California Wildlife Habitat Relationships:

- Anticipate initiating study in September 2018

21) Pyramid Reach Benthic Macroinvertebrates:

- Anticipate initiating study in May 2018

Study Progress Questions

SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



FERC Project No. 2426

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Study Modifications and New Studies

SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



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FERC's Criteria for Study Modification

FERC's criteria for proposing a modification to a FERC-approved study are provided at 18 CFR 5.15(d), which states:

(d) Criteria for modification of approved study. Any proposal to modify an ongoing study pursuant to paragraphs (c)(1)-(4) of this Section must be accompanied by a showing of good cause why the proposal should be approved, and must include, as appropriate to the facts of the case, a demonstration that:

- (1) Approved studies were not conducted as provided for in the approved study plan; or
- (2) The study was conducted under anomalous environmental conditions or that environmental conditions have changed in a material way.



Study Modifications Licensees

- Licensees are performing studies in conformance with FERC-approved study plans
 - Variances will have no effects on outcomes of the studies
 - Licensees did not conduct studies under anomalous environmental conditions
- ❖ As a result, the Licensees do not propose study modifications



FERC's Criteria for New Studies

FERC's criteria for proposing new studies are provided at 18 CFR 5.15(e), which states:

(e) Criteria for new study. Any proposal for new information gathering or studies pursuant to paragraphs (c)(1)-(4) of this Section must be accompanied by a showing of good cause why the proposal should be approved, and must include, as appropriate to the facts of the case, a statement explaining:

- (1) Any material changes in the law or regulations applicable to the information request;
- (2) Why the goals and objectives of any approved study could not be met with the approved study methodology;
- (3) Why the request was not made earlier;
- (4) Significant changes in the project proposal or that significant new information material to the study objectives has become available; and
- (5) Why the new study request satisfies the study criteria in § 5.9(b).



New Studies Licensees

- Licensees are not aware of material changes in laws or regulations
- Licensees are not aware of significant changes in the Project
- Licensees are not aware of significant new information that has come to light since FERC issued its Study Plan Determination that would warrant a new study
- ❖ As a result, the Licensees do not propose any new studies

SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



FERC Project No. 2426

Study Modifications and New Studies Relicensing Participants

Relicensing Participants Input

May 23, 2018

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ISR Meeting Summary

SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



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- Licensees will File ISR Meeting Summary with FERC -
Within 15 days of this ISR meeting (by 6/7/18)
 - The summary will highlight topics discussed at this meeting and identify changes, if any, to the Licensees' proposed modifications to the FERC-approved studies or new studies described in the ISR
 - The meeting summary is not intended to be a meeting transcript or to characterize each party's position on a topic



Next Steps

- Relicensing Participants file comments on ISR Meeting Summary - *Within 30 days from Meeting Summary file date (by 7/7/18)*
- Licensees file response to Relicensing Participants' comments – *Within 30 days (by 8/6/18)*
- FERC will make its determination – *By 9/5/2018*

Adjourn

SOUTH SWP HYDROPOWER RELICENSING



FERC Project No. 2426

May 23, 2018

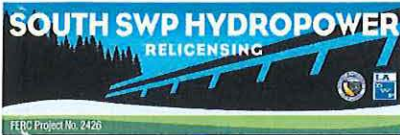
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Attachment 3

Initial Study Report Meeting Sign-In Sheet

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SSWP ISR Meeting
Wednesday, May 23, 2018
9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Sign-in Sheet

Name	Agency/Organizational Affiliation	Phone Number	E-mail Address	Initial
Bowes, Stephen	National Park Service	415-623-2321	stephen_bowes@nps.gov	SB
Burr, Doug	Stantec	916-418-8356	Douglas.Burr@Stantec.com	DB
Caldwell, Jarvis*	HDR	916-679-8875	Jarvis.Caldwell@hdrinc.com	Phone
Chang, Stanley	LADWP	213-367-1063	Stanley.Chang@ladwp.com	SC
Chua, Pjoy	LADWP	213-367-1750	Pjoy.Chua@ladwp.com	PTC
Cleary-Rose, Karin	USFWS	760-322-2070, ext. 406	Karin_cleary-rose@fws.gov	
Costanzo, Lorraine	DWR – SFD	661-944-8735	Lorraine.costanzo@water.ca.gov	LC
Driscoll, Syndi	LADWP	213-367-4363	Syndi.Driscoll@ladwp.com	SD
Fisch, Nathan	SWRCB	916-322-6796	Nathan.Fisch@waterboards.ca.gov	NF
Foote, Peter	Louis Berger	716-998-0359	pfoote@louisberger.com	PSF
Foreman, Alynda	Louis Berger	617-308-9332	aforeman@louisberger.com	
Foster, Bill	NOAA	916-930-3617	William.foster@noaa.gov	X
Gamez, Ramon	LADWP	213-367-4853	Ramon.Gamez@ladwp.com	RDG
Gibson, Joanna	CDFW	909-987-7449	Joanna.Gibson@wildlife.ca.gov	
Gilbert, Kirby	Stantec	425-896-6954	kirby.gilbert@mwhglobal.com	KG
Goebel, Scott	DWR – HILPCO	916-557-4561	Scott.Goebel@water.ca.gov	SG
Grison, Chloe	LADWP	213-367-1339	chloe.grison@ladwp.com	CG
Hodge, Ken	Louis Berger	781-707-7413	khodge@louisberger.com	
Kass, Anitra	Pacific Crest Trail Association	951-257-4100	akass@pcta.org	
Knittweis, Gwen	DWR – HILPCO	916-557-4554	Gwen.Knittweis@water.ca.gov	GK
Lewis, Edward	LADWP	661-294-3221	Edward.Lewis@ladwp.com	EL
Lynch, Jim	HDR	916-679-8740	Jim.Lynch@hdrinc.com	JL
MacDougall, Allison	Louis Berger	530-892-1308	amacdougall@louisberger.com	
McElvain, Doug	DWR – SFD	661-944-8445	Doug.McElvain@water.ca.gov	DM
Meneghin, Candice	CalTrout	805-665-6203	cmeneghin@caltrout.org	
Miller, Aaron S.*	DWR	916-557-4560	Aaron.S.Miller@water.ca.gov	Phone
Miller, Jill	Stantec	916-418-8439	Jill.Miller2@Stantec.com	JM
Mudre, John	FERC	202-502-8902	John.Mudre@ferc.gov	JM
Quintero, Joel	DWR – SFD	661-702-1136	joel.quintero@water.ca.us	JQ
Rychener, Tyler	Louis Berger	781-707-7492	trychener@louisberger.com	TR
Simsiman, Theresa	American Whitewater	916-835-1460	theresa@americanwhitewater.org	
Shepherd, Lela	Louis Berger	425-760-8268	lshepherd@louisberger.com	
Swiger, Mike*	VNF	202-298-1891	mas@vnf.com	Phone
Sy, Anton	LADWP	213-367-2332	Anton.Sy@ladwp.com	AS
Taylor, Robert	US Forest Service	909-382-2660	rgtaylor@fs.fed.us	RT
Torres, Ralph	DWR	916-779-9019	torresraphael13@yahoo.com	RT
Velazquez, Gabino	DWR – SFD	661-944-8555	gabino.velazquez@water.ca.gov	
Williams, Victoria	DWR – SFD	661-944-8537	victoria.williams@water.ca.us	VW
Wood, Julia	VNF	202-298-1938	jsw@vnf.com	JW
Zewdu, Simon	LADWP	213-367-2525	Simon.Zewdu@ladwp.com	ZZ

*Will be calling into the meeting.



SSWP ISR Meeting
 Wednesday, May 23, 2018
 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
 Sign-in Sheet

Name	Agency/Organizational Affiliation	Phone Number	E-mail Address	Initial
Matthew Burak	Louis Berger (FERC contractor)		mburak@louisbergr.com	MBB
Jof Splenda	"		jsplenda@louisberger.com	JS
John Mudre	FERC	202-507-8902	johnmudre@ferc.gov	JMM
Nathan Fisch	SWRCB	916-322-6796	nathan.fisch@waterboards.com	NF
Kelly Schmolzer	CDFW	626-949-8382	Kelly.Schmolzer@wildlife.ca.gov	KS
Kristie Klose	USFS	805-961-5745	kristie.klose@fs.fed.us	KK
Daren Alvarez	USFS	707-562-9109	dalvarez@fs.fed.us	DA
Jennifer Pareti	CDFW	502-342-7173	jennifer.pareti@wildlife.ca.gov	JP
Ramon Gamez	LADWP	313-323-3944	ramon.gamez@ladwp.com	RD
Simon Zavelo	LADWP	213-367-2525	Simon.Zavelo@ladwp.com	SZ
Scott Goebel	DWR	916-447-1111	scott.goebel@water.ca.gov	SG
ANTON SY	LADWP	213-367-2332	Anton.Sy@ladwp.com	AS
Sarah Bartlett	Metropolitan Water Dist	4 213-426-1666	sbarlett@metwater.com	SB
Steve Bowes	NPS	415-623-2321	stephen-bowes@nps.gov	SB
LORRAINE COSTANZO	DWR	661-949-8735	LORRAINE.COSTANZO@WATER.CA.GOV	LC
Lloyd Simpson	USFS	805-646-4349	lsimpson@fs.fed.us	LS
Linda Purpus	United Water Cons. Dist	925-525-4433	l.purpus	LP
Wendy Welch	USFS	626-574-5332	lwelch@fs.fed.us	WW
Kelsa L Anderson	USFS	626-574-5257	kelsaanderson@fs.fed.us	KA
Chloe Grison	LADWP	213-367-1339	chloe.grison@ladwp.com	CG
Zachary Likins	LACO-DRP	626-588-5310	zlikins@parks.lacounty.gov	ZL
Lena Cheng	US FWS	805-677-3305	lena_cheng@fws.gov	Phone
Katherine Killian	DWR		katherine.killian@water.ca.gov	Phone
Jim Gleim	DWR	916-557-4573	James.Gleim@water.ca.gov	Phone

Attachment 4

FERC's Updated Relicensing Schedule

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18 CFR § 5.15 CONDUCT STUDIES

(a)	Licensees	Conduct studies	6/15/17 (Thursday)	1/31/20 (Friday)
(b)	Licensees	File periodic progress reports	FERC determines frequency	
(c)(1)	Licensees	File Initial Study Report (<i>No later than 1 year after FERC's approval of Revised Study Plan</i>)	6/15/17 (Thursday)	6/14/18 5/15/18
(c)(2)	Licensees	Hold Initial Study Report meeting (<i>No later than 15 days of date Initial Study Report filed</i>)	6/15/18 (Friday)	6/29/18 5/23/18
(c)(3)	Licensees	File Initial Study Report meeting summary, including proposed plan modifications and new studies (<i>No later than 15 days after Initial Study Report meeting</i>)	6/30/18 (Saturday)	7/16/18 6/7/18
(c)(7)	FERC	Approve meeting summary and study plan modifications, if no disagreements filed (<i>30th day after meeting summary filed</i>)	8/15/18 7/7/18 (Saturday) 7/9/18 (Monday)	
(c)(4)	Relicensing Participants	File disagreements with meeting summary, including Licensees' proposed study plan modifications and new studies (<i>No later than 30 days after Initial Study Report meeting summary filed</i>)	7/17/18 (Tuesday)	8/15/18 7/7/18 (Sat) 7/9/18 (Mon)
(c)(5)	Licensees & Relicensing Participants	File responses to disagreements (<i>No later than 30 days after disagreement period ends</i>)	8/16/18 (Thursday)	9/14/18 8/8/18
(c)(6)	FERC	Resolve disagreements and amend study plan (<i>No later than 30 days after responses to disagreements period ends</i>)	9/15/18 (Saturday)	10/15/18 9/7/18

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Attachment 5

***Licensees' Email to CDFW Regarding
Observations of the Tricolored Blackbird and
Southern Western Pond Turtle***

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From: [Miller, Jill \(Sacramento\)](#)
To: [Schmoker, Kelly@Wildlife](#); [Pareti, Jennifer@Wildlife](#); [Taylor, Robert G -FS](#)
Cc: [Knittweis, Gwen@DWR](#); [Goebel, Scott@DWR](#); [Burr, Douglas](#)
Subject: South SWP Hydropower - ESA-Listed Birds - ISR Meeting Follow-up
Date: Monday, June 4, 2018 11:57:00 AM

Good afternoon Kelly, Jennifer, and Robert
 At the May 23, 2018 Initial Study Report (ISR) meeting, some agencies expressed a concern whether the bird surveys under the FERC-approved *ESA-Listed Birds – Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Least Bell’s Vireo, and Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Riparian Habitat Evaluation Study* were occurring within the protocol time periods, particularly with regard to the southwestern willow flycatcher. Licensees said they believed so, but would confirm.

The study plan references the most current survey protocols for each species. The most recent protocols state the surveys should be performed as follows:

- least Bell’s vireo – eight surveys from April 10 through July 31; and the surveys should be separated by 10 days
- southwestern willow flycatcher – five surveys from May 15 through July 17 with 1 survey between May 15 and 31, two surveys between June 1 and 24 , and two surveys between June 25 and July 17; and the surveys should be separated by at least 5 days
- yellow-billed cuckoo - four surveys from approximately June 15 through August 15 (± 3 days) with 1 survey between June 15 and July 1, two surveys between July 1 and 31, and 1 survey between August 1 and 15; and the surveys of each site should be separated by at least 12 to 15 days

The table below shows, by species, the dates Licensees have surveyed for these birds so far (highlighted in green) and our remaining target survey dates.

Survey #	Survey Period		
	Least Bell’s Vireo	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	Yellow-Billed Cuckoo
1	April 10-13	May 22-25	June 19-22
2	April 24-27	June 5-8	July 2, 3, 5, 6
3	May 7-10	June 19-22	July 16-19
4	May 22-25	July 2, 3, 5, 6	July 31-August 3
5	June 5-8	July 12, 13, 16, 17	
6	June 19-22		
7	July 2, 3, 5, 6		
8	July 16-19		
# of Surveys	8	5	4

To date, our surveyors, which have the necessary permits to conduct the studies, have detected a single least Bell’s vireo within the Elderberry Forebay survey polygon. Willow flycatchers have been detected at various locations throughout the study area, however these may be migrants and the

subspecies (i.e., if they are southwestern willow flycatchers) cannot be determined until later in the survey protocol.

In addition, during the ISR meeting, some agencies raised questions about the tricolored blackbird, a CESA-listed species, occurring at South SWP Hydropower. We are aware of records of occurrence of this species at Quail Lake, but nowhere else within the proposed Project boundary. However, during the ESA-Listed Birds – Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Least Bell's Vireo, and Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Riparian Habitat Evaluation Study, the Licensees have been watchful for potential habitat for tricolored blackbirds throughout the study area and will note any observations of this species. No tricolored blackbirds have been observed to date.

We hope this is helpful and let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jill Miller

Jill N. Miller PE, PMP
Principal Engineer / Project Manager

Direct: 916-418-8439
Mobile: 916-837-6710
jill.miller2@stantec.com

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Attachment 6

***Licensees' Email to CDFW and USFWS Relative
to Santa Ana Sucker and Arroyo Chub Tissue
Sampling***

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From: [Miller, Jill \(Sacramento\)](#)
To: [Pareti, Jennifer@Wildlife](mailto:Pareti.Jennifer@Wildlife); "[Schmoker, Kelly@Wildlife](mailto:Schmoker.Kelly@Wildlife)"
Cc: [Taylor, Robert G -FS](#); [Knittweis, Gwen@DWR](mailto:Knittweis.Gwen@DWR); [Goebel, Scott@DWR](mailto:Goebel.Scott@DWR); [Burr, Douglas](#)
Subject: South SWP Hydropower - Pyramid Reach Fish Populations Study - Tissue Sampling
Date: Monday, June 4, 2018 11:50:00 AM

Good afternoon Jennifer and Kelly,
Thank you for participating in the May 23, 2018 Initial Study Report meeting in Valencia. During the meeting, you offered to facilitate the Licensees obtaining any approvals necessary to perform the studies, and we'd like to take you up on that offer.

Specifically, as you may recall, during development of the *Pyramid Reach Fish Populations Study*, agencies asked if the Licensees would be willing to collect tissue samples from Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*) and Arroyo chub (*Gila orcuttii*), if any are found during the study, and provide the tissue samples to CDFW and USFWS. Santa Ana sucker is listed under the ESA as threatened in its native range, which does not include the Santa Clara River watershed in which the Project lies. The Arroyo chub is a California species of concern. While we did not think collecting these tissue samples was necessary to support the relicensing, we thought it was a reasonable request since we'd be in the field and the cost to take the tissue samples would be very low. With that, the Licensees included that provision in the study.

The Licenses have obtained a scientific collecting permit (#10230) for the Pyramid Reach Fish Populations Study, and intend to begin sampling in September of this year.

At this time, we request CDFW's and USFWS's written permission to collect, as requested by the agencies, fish tissue samples from any Santa Ana sucker or Arroyo chub, and, if we have your permission to do so, explicit written directions regarding taking the samples, preserving the samples, and delivering them to CDFW and USFWS.

We look forward to hearing from you soon so we can incorporate this data collection effort into our sampling in September 2018. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

Thank you in advance!
Jill Miller

Jill N. Miller PE, PMP
Principal Engineer / Project Manager

Direct: 916-418-8439
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Attachment 7

***Licensees' Email to USFS Regarding
ARPA Permit Status***

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From: [Miller, Jill \(Sacramento\)](#)
To: "Taylor, Robert G -FS"
Cc: "[Knittweis, Gwen@DWR](#)"; [Goebel, Scott@DWR](#); [Burr, Douglas](#)
Subject: South SWP Hydropower - Cultural Resources
Date: Saturday, June 2, 2018 3:11:00 PM
Attachments: [Angeles Permit 2018 Scanned.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon Robert,

At the May 23, 2018 Initial Study Report (ISR) meeting, you raised a question concerning the status of our Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) permit to perform the FERC-approved Cultural Resources Study on National Forest System lands for the South SWP Hydropower relicensing. We said we'd check on that and get back to you.

Our cultural resources lead, HDR, Inc., emailed to David Peebles, Heritage & Tribal Relations Program Manager for the Angeles National Forest (ANF), an ARPA permit application on December 12, 2017. On January 17, 2018, Sandy Flint, HDR's Cultural Resources Group Manager, received the permit via hardcopy through the U.S. Postal Service along with an invoice for \$520. We began archaeological fieldwork on January 23, 2018. Work on Forest Service lands began on February 6, 2018. All fieldwork was complete by March 1, 2018. The work was performed in compliance with the permit received on January 17, 2018. We are in the process of preparing a confidential report, as required by the permit, which we will provide to the ANF and interested tribes for review and comment.

Subsequently, on March 12, 2018, Jay Lloyd, HDR's Cultural Specialist, received an email from David checking on the status. Jay took this to mean that the USFS had not yet been paid on the original \$520 invoice, and he forwarded this information to HDR's billing department to ensure that the invoice had been processed. On May 22, 2018, David confirmed that the invoice had been paid. However, it was also during the May 22 email exchange between David and Jay that Jay realized that there was an additional signature process, beyond the initial signature submitted with the application, necessary to fully execute the permit.

We inaccurately assumed that the permit was issued on January 17, 2018 when we received it, not realizing until advised by David that it had not been fully executed. Attached to this email is a copy of the ARPA permit signed by Ken Jong, HDR's Northern California Operations Area Manager and Permit Administrator. We have also sent a hardcopy to David and emailed him to let him know it was in the mail. At this time, we are awaiting the countersigned version of this permit to ensure our records are complete.

We apologize for our administrative oversight in signing and returning the ARPA permit to you, and want to thank David for working with us on this.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Jill N. Miller PE, PMP
Principal Engineer / Project Manager

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Attachment 8

***Licensees' Email to USFS Regarding the Start Date
of the Botanical Resources Study***

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From: [Miller, Jill \(Sacramento\)](#)
To: [Taylor, Robert G -FS](#)
Cc: [Knittweis, Gwen@DWR](#); [Goebel, Scott@DWR](#); [Burr, Douglas](#)
Subject: South SWP Hydropower - Botanical Survey Timing
Date: Monday, June 4, 2018 4:08:00 PM

Good Afternoon Robert,

At the May 23, 2018 Initial Study Report (ISR) meeting, USFS raised a question concerning the timing of the *Botanical Resources* Study fieldwork for the South SWP Hydropower relicensing relative to early blooming plants. We said we'd check on that and get back to you.

Our botanical resources lead verified the timing of the botanical surveys which were conducted between March 26, 2018 and April 20, 2018. Based on the weather conditions and the amount of precipitation received in March, the team made a deliberate, professional decision to start the botanical surveys in late March as the phenology of the local area reflected a later blooming period. This was verified and monitored by our biologists in southern California, and the crews that were present on site for other project related activities. In particular the raptor survey crew, who conducted surveys in mid-March, experienced unusually cool weather with rain and snow in the project area. In addition, this conclusion was consistent with the reference sites that were checked for some of the earlier blooming species such as Nevin's Barberry, Payne's bush lupine, and Catalina mariposa lily and showed no occurrences.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Jill Miller

Jill N. Miller PE, PMP
Principal Engineer / Project Manager

Direct: 916-418-8439
Mobile: 916-837-6710
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Attachment 9

Licensees' Anticipated Schedule for Conducting Fieldwork and Completing Each FERC-Approved Study

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Licensees' Anticipated Schedule for Conducting Fieldwork and Completing Each FERC-Approved Study

Study	Scheduled Fieldwork	Scheduled Completion
Aquatic Invasive Species	Aug 2018	Dec 2018
Quail Lake Fisheries Assessment	Oct 2017 - Jul 2018	Aug 2018 Nov 2018
Pyramid Reach Fish Populations	Jul 2017 - Sep 2018	Dec 2018
Special-Status Aquatic Amphibians and Semi-Aquatic Snakes	Jul 2017 - Sep 2018	Jun 2019
Botanical Resources	May 2017 - Apr 2018	Dec 2018
Non-Native Invasive Species	Jun 2017 - Apr 2018	Dec 2018
Special-Status Terrestrial Wildlife Species – CWHR	Apr - Sep 2018	Dec 2018
ESA-Listed Plants	Jun 2017 - May 2018	Dec 2018
ESA-Listed Amphibians - CRLF	Apr - Jul 2018	Jun 2019
ESA-Listed Birds – Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Least Bell's Vireo, and Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Riparian Habitat Evaluations	Apr - Aug 2018	Jun 2019
Recreation Facilities Demand Analysis and Condition Assessment	Mar - Oct 2018	Jun 2019
Cultural Resources	Aug - Oct 2017 Jan - Mar 2018	Dec 2018
Tribal Resources	Aug 2017 - Jun 2018	Oct 2018
Indicators of Hydrologic Alteration	None	Dec 2018
Scenic Integrity	Sep 2017 -Dec 2017	Nov 2017 Jun 2018
Water Quality and Temperature	Aug 2017 - Aug 2018 Sep 2018	Dec 2018
Fish Entrainment and Risk Assessment	None	May 2018
ESA-Listed Wildlife - CHWR	Apr - Sep 2018	Dec 2018
Whitewater Boating	Feb - Dec 2018	Jun 2019
Special-Status Raptors	Mar - Nov 2018	Feb 2019
Pyramid Reach BMI	May - Jul 2018	Dec 2018
Pyramid Lake Tributaries Fish Passage	Aug - Sep 2017 Oct 2018	Nov 2017 Jul 2018

Sources:

Licensees' May 2017 Revised Study Plan, as approved by FERC, and Licensees' May 15, 2018 ISR.

Notes:

Dates that were modified by the Licensees in its ISR or this ISR meeting summary are shown as strike-through with the new date.

Completed studies, including the posting of data files, are highlighted in green.

Studies for which the ISR included data files are highlighted in yellow.

All scheduled completion dates are consistent with the FERC-approved Revised Study Plan.

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