



**DRAFT MEETING NOTES\***  
**LEE VINING, FERC PROJECT NO. 1388**  
**RECREATION AND LAND USE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING**  
**APRIL 19, 2023, 9:00 AM–10:00 AM**

*\*These meeting notes are documentation of general discussions from the meeting held on the above-noted date and focus on stakeholder questions and comments. These notes are not a verbatim account of proceedings and do not represent any final decisions or official documentation for the project or participating agencies.*

**1.0 OBJECTIVE**

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- Discuss 2023 Recreation Study Plan Implementation

**2.0 ATTENDEES**

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Relicensing Team Members

Matt Woodhall, SCE  
Finlay Anderson, Kleinschmidt  
Shannon Luoma, Kleinschmidt  
Kelly Larimer, Kleinschmidt  
Angela Whelpley, Kleinschmidt  
Carissa Shoemaker, ERM

Technical Working Group Members & Interested Parties

Adam Barnett, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)  
Sheila Irons, USFS  
Jameisha Washington, USFS  
Eric Rios-Bretado, USFS  
Adam Cohen, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)  
Beth Lawson, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)  
Bryan Muro, SWRCB  
Raymond Andrews, Bishop Paiute Tribe

**3.0 COMPILED ACTION ITEMS**

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- **Relicensing Team** will send the revised REC-1 User questionnaire to Adam Barnett for review. Complete.
- **Jameisha Washington (USFS)** will confirm that the proposed opening dates for recreation sites will be posted to the webpage when they become available.
- **Beth Lawson (CDFW)** will discuss stocking question with Trisha Moyer and let the relicensing team know the results.

- **Relicensing Team** will reach out to Jim Erdman to inquire about stocking timeframe and likelihood.

#### **4.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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Shannon Luoma, Kleinschmidt, welcomed Technical Working Group (TWG) members to the meeting, and provided an overview of the agenda. Shannon provided a safety moment.

#### **5.0 2023 STUDY IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH**

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SCE is planning to file the updated study plans with FERC Friday (4/21) to formalize the changes that have been made.

SCE will remain flexible with study season implementation due to the snow conditions and record water year. An example, delayed, schedule was drafted and shared with stakeholders.

SCE is working with a temporary staffing agency in Lee Vining to identify field staff for the REC-1 survey. The condensed schedule would start as soon as the survey sites are open. Angela Whelpley showed a revised schedule with the example start date of July 1. The condensed schedule would still include two major holiday weekends (July 4 and Labor Day). April, May, and June dates would be redistributed throughout the later part of the summer and fall.

There were no stakeholder comments on this example schedule shift.

The reporting schedule would likely remain the same. SCE would meet again with this TWG in early 2024, maybe January to discuss again. Prior to that meeting, a draft report and initial results would be given to TWG for review.

SCE will continue to coordinate with USFS and will monitor road conditions via the NPS and CalTrans websites.

#### **6.0 QUESTIONS FOR USFS AND CDFW**

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Question (Q) Shannon Luoma (Kleinschmidt): SCE would like to better understand what the USFS' plan is to open up the campgrounds and day use areas this summer. Is there a possibility some may be closed for the season? How long does it take you get to the facilities when roads are opened? We understand that some people are comparing this water year with the 2017 water year.

Response (R) Adam Barnett (USFS): We have two district representatives on the call today, Jameisha and Eric are on.

(R) Jameisha Washington (USFS): It really depends how long it takes to open sites after roads have opened. I estimate 2-3 weeks if we are lucky. We do intend to open all the campgrounds this summer. Hazard tree mitigation will need to happen at each site to make them safe.

(R) Eric Rios-Bretado (USFS): We still have a few feet of snow at Lower Lee Vining Campground and Aspen Campground, Aspen will likely flood, which will delay the opening dates. Big Bend Campground may also flood. Recreators out there right now are mostly skiing. I would guess a June opening for Lower

Lee Vining, Aspen may be longer because of flooding and under bank cutting issues. There are also a lot of downed trees at Aspen.

(Q) Matt Woodhall (SCE): Can we access current conditions online anywhere or should we just keep in contact with you (Jameisha and Eric) to get updates?

(R) Jameisha Washington (USFS): Lisa Cox, our public affairs sends out updates of campgrounds and facilities. You can also visit our website on Rec page, there is a status list of developed sites. You can reach out to Eric and I directly too, we intend to keep that updated. I will confirm that the proposed opening dates will be posted to the website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/invo/recreation>

(Q) Shannon Luoma (Kleinschmidt): Does CDFW plan on stocking any fish this year in the project area?

(R) Beth Lawson (CDFW): I'm not sure yet, I will need to talk to fisheries staff in the region. It's a hatchery-by-hatchery question this year, based on availability. There are always disease concerns with hatchery-raised fish.

(R) Matt Woodhall (SCE): We can reach out to CDFW's Jim Erdman to point us in the right direction. We want to be in the field for creel surveys right when stocking occurs, if it does.

(R) Beth Lawson (CDFW): I have a meeting with Trisha Moyer, we will discuss it at that meeting and will let you know what comes of it.

## **7.0 Q&A**

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(Q) Adam Barnett (USFS): Is there a revised version of the REC-1 User questionnaire since our last meeting?

(R) Matt Woodhall (SCE): Yes, we can get you a copy of the revised form to review.

(Q) Adam Cohen (SWRCB): Is there a contingency plan if any facilities are damaged and end up closed or are inaccessible for the whole year?

(R) Shannon Luoma (Kleinschmidt): On the relicensing side we have discussed this, the basic premise of the user survey is to capture a representative sample of the 2023 recreation season, so if there are closed facilities that is part of the year and it would still be representative. Why we added the additional check in early 2024 to review the data prior to finalizing everything. We'll capture the data as the sites open.

(Q) Beth Lawson (CDFW): CDFW is still stocking FERC projects but we have to go through outside hatcheries. Did they not stock at all at the Lee Vining project last year?

(R) Matt Woodhall (SCE): Last year in the Eastern Sierras, CDFW did not put any fish in. Out of the last three years the lakes have only been stocked once. Within the region there is a supplemental effort, Mono County has set out buckets to collect money to help fund. Aquaculturalists in Oregon and Idaho are bringing in fish too. Matt provided a summary of the Lee Vining project license's stocking requirements.

(R) Beth Lawson (CDFW): I would assume something similar will go into a new license. We should expect that going forward.

(R) Matt Woodhall (SCE): Stocking as a license requirement would need to be tied to a project-related impact.

Shannon Luoma summarized action items.

No further stakeholder comments or questions.

The Relicensing Team adjourned the meeting.