

MONO CREEK CHANNEL RIPARIAN MAINTENANCE FLOW PLAN

The objective of this Mono Creek Channel Riparian Maintenance Flow Plan (Plan) is to establish an appropriate channel and riparian maintenance (CRM) flow regime to maintain reduced accumulations of fine sediment in Mono Creek between Mono Diversion and the confluence with the South Fork San Joaquin River. The Plan shall be used to determine which of two Wet Water Year CRM flow schedules will be released for sediment control in Wet Water Years. The criteria used as the basis for deciding which Wet Water Year CRM flow will be released shall be the weighted mean value of the level of fine sediments (V^*w) in a representative set of pools (Hilton and Lisle 1993), or a similar peer reviewed sediment monitoring tool as determined jointly by the Licensee, the United States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service (FS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the State Water Resource Control Board (State Water Board). When scheduling sampling site selection or field data collections, Southern California Edison Company (SCE) will give interested governmental agencies 30 days advance notice to provide them with the opportunity to participate or observe. If field conditions or operational situations preclude a 30 day notification, SCE will provide notice as far in advance as feasible.

The weighted mean value of the level of fine sediments (V^*w) values in Mono Creek below the diversion shall be initially determined following the procedures described in Hilton and Lisle (1993) no later than the summer following the first year of license issuance. The measurement locations proposed by the Licensee will be approved by FS in consultation with other interested governmental agencies and may be coincident with the sites used in the Licensee's Mono Creek Sediment Studies Report (SCE 2007). These locations will become the measurement sites to determine compliance with the V^*w standard and also be used to determine the appropriate CRM flow schedule.

V^*w values in Mono Creek below the diversion shall be measured within six months following any Wet Water Year CRM flow release, with the following exceptions:

- If CRM Wet Year flows are released in consecutive years and the V^*w values after the first year's release are less than or equal to 0.2, no measurement will be required after the second year CRM flow. Both years will be considered as having a V^* of 0.2 for purposes of reducing the frequency of monitoring as identified in the bullet, below.
- If after three successive measurements of V^*w of less than or equal to 0.2, then the V^* monitoring regime will be modified so that monitoring occurs after every third Wet Water Year release, or at a lesser frequency agreed to by FS and interested governmental agencies.

No V^*w monitoring is required following Above Normal Water Year CRM flow releases.

Schedule I - Wet Water Year

In Wet Water Years, if the last sediment monitoring resulted in a V^*w value greater than 0.2, Licensee shall ensure the following flow schedule is implemented over 11 consecutive days in Mono Creek below the Mono Creek Diversion beginning during the period July 1 through August 5:

- 1) for three consecutive days, an average flow of at least 400 cubic feet per second (cfs), representing a gradual increase, to the extent within the Licensee's control, from the minimum instream flow to 800 cfs,
- 2) an average daily flow of at least 800 cfs for three consecutive days,
- 3) for five consecutive days, a ramp down consisting of the first two days at approximately an average flow of 500 cfs, the next two days at an average flow of about 350 cfs, followed by a one day ramp down to the minimum instream flow (MIF), and
- 4) achieve a total flow volume of at least 10,800 acre-feet (ac-ft) over the above 11 days.

Schedule II – Wet Water Year

In Wet Water Years, if the last sediment monitoring resulted in a V^*w less than or equal to 0.2, Licensee shall ensure the following flow schedule is implemented over 10 consecutive days in Mono Creek below the Mono Creek Diversion beginning during the period July 1 through August 5:

- 1) over one day, gradually increase, to the extent within the Licensee's control, the MIF to at least 450 cfs,
- 2) an average daily flow of at least 450 cfs for eight consecutive days,
- 3) for one day, gradually decrease the flow, to the extent within the Licensee's control, to the MIF, and
- 4) achieve a total flow volume of at least 7,700 ac-ft over the above 10 days.

Schedule III - Above Normal Water Year

In Above Normal Water Years, Licensee shall ensure the following flow schedule is implemented over seven consecutive days in Mono Creek below the Mono Creek Diversion beginning during the period July 1 through August 5:

- 1) over two days, gradually increase, to the extent within the Licensee's control, the MIF to at least 450 cfs,
- 2) an average daily flow of at least 450 cfs for two consecutive days,

- 3) for three days, gradually decrease the flow, to an average flow of approximately 345 cfs on the first day of ramp-down and 240 cfs on the second day, to the extent within the Licensee's control, followed by a one day ramp down to the MIF, and
- 4) achieve a total flow volume of at least 4,100 ac-ft over the above seven days.

Literature Cited

Hilton, S. and T. Lisle. 1993. Measuring the fraction of pool volume filled with fine sediment. Res. Note PSW-RN-414. Albany, CA: Pacific Southwest Research Station, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Southern California Edison Company (SCE). 2007. Mono Creek Sediment Studies. *In* SCE's Amended Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (APDEA) for the Big Creek ALP (Mammoth Pool Project (FERC Project No. 2085), Big Creek Nos. 1 and 2 (FERC Project No. 2175), Big Creek Nos. 2A, 8 and Eastwood (FERC Project No. 67), and Big Creek No. 3 (FERC Project No. 120)). February 2007 (Volume 4, SD-E, Books 18 and 24).