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## INTRODUCTION

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This Amended Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (APDEA) is being filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) by Southern California Edison Company (SCE) as a part of the license applications for the four hydroelectric projects included in the Big Creek Alternative Licensing Process (ALP). The four Big Creek ALP Projects evaluated in the APDEA are Mammoth Pool (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). Basic information on each Project is provided in Table 1. A schematic profile of the seven FERC Projects in SCE's Big Creek Hydroelectric System (BCS), including the four Big Creek ALP Projects analyzed in the APDEA, is provided in Figure 1.

This APDEA substitutes for the Exhibit E in the Applications for New License filed with the Commission for each of the four Big Creek ALP Projects. The APDEA proposes various measures to address Project impacts for each of the four Big Creek ALP Projects. The APDEA provides the necessary technical information and analyses to identify and evaluate the potential Project impacts and then explains how the various measures will address those impacts. SCE requests that the Commission use the APDEA as a comprehensive environmental assessment to serve as the basis for establishing new license conditions for the four Projects.

SCE filed an Application for New License for the Mammoth Pool Project (FERC Project No. 2085) on November 21, 2005. The existing License for the Mammoth Pool Project expires on November 30, 2007. While many of the proposed measures in this APDEA were also in the Draft Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PDEA) filed with the Mammoth Pool Project Application for New License, much of the APDEA has been changed to reflect further consultation with interested stakeholders. Therefore, SCE is requesting that the Commission replace the PDEA filed with the Mammoth Pool Application and use this APDEA instead.

SCE is also filing a Settlement Agreement (Settlement) (SCE 2007; Volume 4, SD-H (Books 20 and 25)) for the four Big Creek ALP Projects. The APDEA serves as the explanatory statement for the Settlement and describes the basis for the Settlement's recommended license conditions. As a comprehensive resolution, the Settlement proposes numerous Project improvements and, if approved by the Commission, the Settlement would establish SCE's obligations for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of resources affected by the Projects under new licenses.

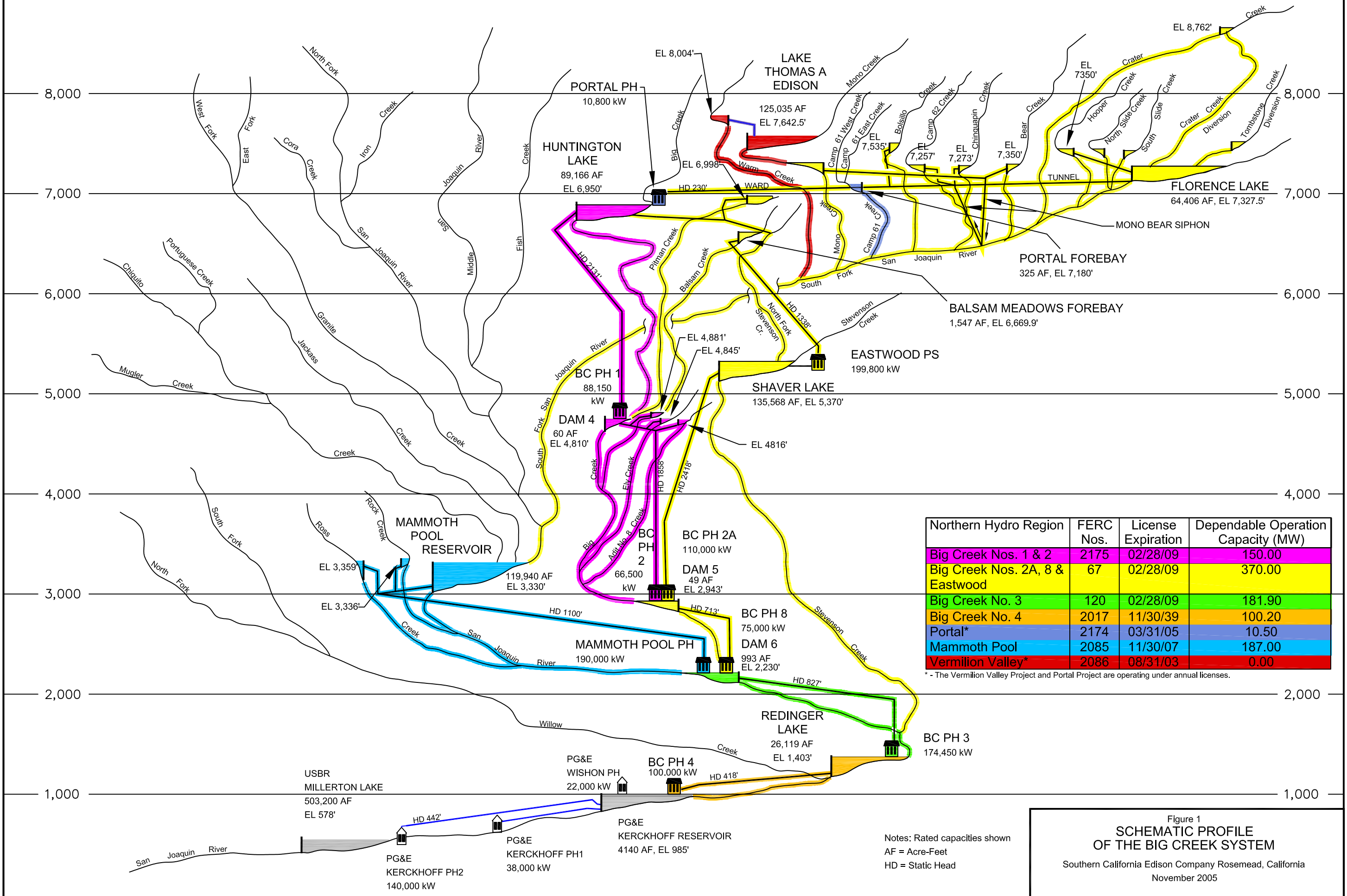
Finally, SCE is requesting that the Commission coordinate the future license expiration dates of all seven Big Creek Hydroelectric Projects. The Proposed Action requests that the Commission issue an order for new license for the four Big Creek ALP Hydroelectric Projects with a term no less than 44 years from the date of license issuance for all four Projects. The requested license terms for the four Big Creek ALP Projects would allow for future coordination of the licensing efforts associated with all seven Big Creek Projects.

**Table 1. SCE's Four Big Creek ALP Projects in the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Analyzed in the APDEA.**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>FERC Project No.</b>	<b>License Expiration Date</b>	<b>Dependable Operating Capacity (MW)</b>	<b>Average Annual Generation (MWH)<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Location (County/State)</b>	<b>Lands of United States Occupied (Acres)</b>
Mammoth Pool	2085	November 30, 2007	187.0	592,449	Fresno and Madera Counties, California	2,036.64
Big Creek Nos. 1 & 2	2175	February 28, 2009	150.0	657,072	Fresno County, California	1,877.96
Big Creek Nos. 2A, 8, & Eastwood	67	February 28, 2009	370.0	1,125,429	Fresno County, California	2,143.25
Big Creek No. 3	120	February 28, 2009	181.9	804,240	Fresno and Madera Counties, California	377.16

<sup>(1)</sup>This represents the average annual generation under the Proposed Action that would occur if the minimum instream flow and channel riparian maintenance flow releases are in effect.

ELEVATION – FEET



Northern Hydro Region	FERC Nos.	License Expiration	Dependable Operation Capacity (MW)
Big Creek Nos. 1 & 2	2175	02/28/09	150.00
Big Creek Nos. 2A, 8 & Eastwood	67	02/28/09	370.00
Big Creek No. 3	120	02/28/09	181.90
Big Creek No. 4	2017	11/30/39	100.20
Portal*	2174	03/31/05	10.50
Mammoth Pool	2085	11/30/07	187.00
Vermilion Valley*	2086	08/31/03	0.00

\* - The Vermilion Valley Project and Portal Project are operating under annual licenses.

Notes: Rated capacities shown  
AF = Acre-Feet  
HD = Static Head

Figure 1  
**SCHEMATIC PROFILE OF THE BIG CREEK SYSTEM**  
Southern California Edison Company Rosemead, California  
November 2005