

# REC 19 INFORMATION AND INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITIES AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study identifies existing information and interpretative opportunities near project facilities within the basin. This information was gathered through literature review, and consultation with the United States Forest Service (USDA-FS) and Southern California Edison (SCE). Information was also obtained from the results of the recreation use surveys that were conducted during the summer of 2002 at recreation facilities located in the study area. The recreation use survey questionnaire contained focused questions to acquire information about the information and interpretative services available within the study area.

Results from the recreation use survey indicates that 1,912 survey respondents answered questions evaluating the adequacy of interpretive/educational displays and exhibits, and the adequacy of visit/trip/recreation information. Of the 1,912 survey respondents, 811 stated that they obtained information about study area recreation opportunities from their family or a friend, and 626 respondents stated that they knew of or found out about s area recreation opportunities because they live locally. Generally survey respondents rated the adequacy of interpretive/education displays and exhibits and the adequacy of visit/trip/recreation information at campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads and stream corridors, between highly acceptable to neutral, with the exception of two locations. These two locations were the Northshore Day Use Areas at Shaver Lake, rated as moderately unacceptable, and at the Logan Meadow Trailhead, rated as highly unacceptable. However, the results at both locations are based on the response from only one survey respondent. All other locations received acceptable or neutral ratings.

Both SCE and the USDA-FS provide educational and interpretive information on the Big Creek area. The USDA-FS publishes educational and interpretive materials that are distributed at several study area-related sites. These materials are both general national forest information and study area specific information. Interpretive facilities in the study area include the Billy Creek Guard Station Museum and the Eastwood Visitor Center. Other study area interpretive and educational facilities are informational signs located at wilderness trailheads, winter sports area parking lots, and at campgrounds. SCE publishes two study area related documents that are educational or interpretive. In the brochure, "We Call it Big Creek," SCE describes study area hydroelectric facilities, recreation opportunities, and their approach to managing natural resources including vegetation and fisheries, and the importance of Big Creek in relation to the entire SCE system (SCE 1998). The second educational document SCE offers is a profile of the Big Creek area that shows the different reservoirs and the water chain, tunnels, powerhouses, and other Big Creek hydroelectric facilities related to the system.

These documents are distributed to visitors at the USDA-FS offices in Clovis and Prather, California and at SCE's Northern Hydro Division Office in Big Creek. SCE also provides signs as required by FERC regulations in 18 CFR Section 8.2 with information

about their hydroelectric project facilities and also lists recreation facilities and their locations that are open to the public at several locations in the study area. In addition, SCE also provides recreation user information at Camp Edison and on their Big Creek Hydro Website.

## **2.0 STUDY OBJECTIVES**

Evaluate the current opportunities and future demands for visitor information and interpretation within the Project area.

## **3.0 STUDY IMPLEMENTATION**

### **3.1 STUDY ELEMENTS COMPLETED**

- Identified existing information and interpretive opportunities near Project facilities and within the Basin.
- In coordination with REC 10, Recreation Opportunities and Needs Assessment, developed an information survey instrument to gather data on existing and potential use, factors influencing use, and perceived needs for information and interpretive services near Project facilities and Project-induced recreation facilities.
- Identified target areas/sites that will be surveyed.
- Conducted Information and Interpretive Use Survey at target sites.
- Used existing information, survey data, and data from other appropriate sources, to characterize the existing information and interpretive opportunities, and future recreational needs for information and interpretive services.

### **3.2 OUTSTANDING STUDY ELEMENTS**

- Develop a GIS database of interpretive and informational services including location, and type of interpretive or informational service.
- Identify and document the need and feasibility and desirability for improvements to meet existing and future need for diverse informational and interpretive programs.

## **4.0 STUDY METHODOLOGY**

The purpose of this study is to assess and characterize the existing opportunities and limitations in providing recreational information and interpretive services to the public near Project facilities and Project-related areas. The assessment included information regarding: (1) the factors that influence use; (2) groups that are using the existing study area facilities; (3) how people acquired information regarding existing recreational opportunities; and (4) perceived needs for additional informational and interpretive services at Project facilities.

Information on interpretative services in the basin was obtained through: (1) consultation with USDA-FS and SCE to identify methods used to provide information to the recreational public; (2) literature review to identify the location, types and effectiveness of information and interpretive services in the Basin; and (3) implementation of a recreational use survey which included questions on information and interpretive services in the basin. A recreation use survey was conducted in 2002 in coordination with the REC 10, Recreation Opportunities and Needs Assessment (Developed) Technical Study Plan (SCE 2001), and contained focused questions to obtain information on the adequacy of interpretive and education exhibits and the adequacy of visit/trip/recreation information for four management resource areas: campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, and stream corridors. Appendix A provides a copy of the Recreation Use Survey Instrument. Figure REC 19-1 depicts locations where Interpretive Information data was obtained as part of the recreation use survey. In addition, the survey also asked respondents how they found out about recreation opportunities in the area.

Survey respondents were asked to identify where they recreated and to rate the adequacy of interpretive/educational/displays and exhibits, and the adequacy of visit/trip/recreation information on a 5-point scale ranging from highly acceptable (2); moderately acceptable (1); neutral (0); moderately unacceptable (-1); and highly unacceptable (-2). For statistical analysis purposes the response format was converted to a scale from 5 to 1, with 5 being highly acceptable and 1 being highly unacceptable. Rating scores could then be tabulated and averages calculated to determine the median score.

The survey responses were grouped for analysis into recreational resource areas (campground, picnic area, trailheads, and stream corridors) and the consultation, literature review, and survey data were reviewed to describe the existing information and interpretive opportunity areas.

Informational and interpretive services data obtained during the study were entered into a GIS database.

#### **4.1 STUDY AREA**

The study area for the informational and interpretive opportunities and needs assessment includes all Project-related facilities.

### **5.0 STUDY RESULTS AND ANALYSIS**

Study results are presented in two sections. The first is an analysis and summary of respondent data obtained from the recreational use survey. The second describes information obtained through consultation and from a review of existing literature.

#### **5.1 RECREATIONAL USE SURVEY RESULTS ON INTERPRETIVE AND INFORMATION SERVICES**

The following sections summarize the survey respondents rating of adequacy with: 1) interpretive/educational displays and exhibits; and 2) visit/trip/recreation information.

### 5.1.1 CAMPGROUNDS

Table REC 19-1 summarizes the survey respondent rating at study area campgrounds. Interpretive information was obtained from fifteen campgrounds during the study. The median score of adequacy of interpretive/educational displays and exhibits ranged from 4.2 to 3.2, from moderately acceptable to neutral, respectively. The median score for adequacy of visit trip recreation visits ranged from 4.3 to 3.5, from moderately acceptable to neutral, respectively.

### 5.1.2 PICNICKING

Table REC 19-2 summarizes the survey respondent rating at study area picnic areas. Twelve picnic areas provided results for this study. The median score for both the adequacy of interpretive/educational displays and exhibits and the adequacy of visit trip recreation visits ranged from 4.9 to 2.0, highly acceptable to moderately unacceptable, respectively.

The low rating of 2.0 (moderately unacceptable) was provided at one location, Shaver Lake North Shore Day Use Area. Only one survey response was provided at this location. At all other picnic area locations, rating scores ranged from 4.3 to 3.5, moderately acceptable to neutral, respectively.

### 5.1.3 TRAILHEADS

Table REC 19-3 summarizes the survey respondent rating at study area trailheads. There are nine trailheads within the study area that yielded survey results related to this study. The median score of adequacy of interpretive/educational displays and exhibits ranged from 4.0 to 1.0, from moderately acceptable to highly unacceptable, respectively. The median score for adequacy of visit trip recreation visits ranged from 5.0 to 1.0, from highly acceptable to highly unacceptable, respectively.

The median score at most trailheads ranged between 4.2 and 3.0, moderately acceptable to neutral, respectively. Only two locations received lower scores. One respondent at one location, Logan Meadow Trailhead, provided a score of 1.0 highly unacceptable. One other location received a score less than 3.0, this was Bear Creek Trailhead where four respondents provided a median score of 2.9 (neutral) for adequacy of interpretive/educational displays and exhibits.

### 5.1.4 STREAM CORRIDOR

Table REC 19-4 summarizes the survey respondent rating at study area stream corridors. Five stream corridor areas were evaluated as part of the study. The median score of adequacy of interpretive/educational displays and exhibits ranged from 4.4 to 4.1, both moderately acceptable. The median score for adequacy of visit trip recreation visits ranged from 4.1 to 3.2, from moderately acceptable to neutral, respectively.

### 5.1.5 VISITOR INFORMATION SOURCES REGARDING EXISTING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Table REC 19-5 summarizes the survey respondents responses regarding how they found out about the recreation opportunities in the area. The majority of the survey respondents either got information from a family member or a friend (811 respondents), or lived locally (626 respondents).

## 5.2 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INTERPRETIVE AND INFORMATION SERVICES OBTAINED THROUGH CONSULTATION AND LITERATURE REVIEW RESULTS

Additional information and interpretive opportunities that were considered included the following:

- Interpretive sites and programs
- Environmental education programs
- Informational signs
- Internet, television, radio, and printed media
- Public outreach programs
- School and organization group programs
- American Indian interpretive and cultural site information
- Focused programs for disabled, handicapped and minority persons

The following sections describe USDA-FS and SCE's programs in these areas.

### 5.2.1 UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE (USDA-FS)

The USDA-FS publishes educational and interpretive materials that are both general national forest information and study area specific information. USDA-FS interpretive and educational materials are distributed online at various Internet sites such as the national and Sierra National Forest sites, by staff in the field, at visitor centers, and at ranger stations such as Clovis, Panther, and High Sierra near the study area.

Examples of some printed (written) interpretive and educational information offered by the USDA-FS that cover study area lands and facilities include the following:

- Caring for the Land: Sierra National Forest (SNF)
- Camping: SNF
- Bear Country: SNF
- How to Safely Build and Put Out a Campfire: SNF
- Campgrounds/ Picnic Areas: SNF
- Camping and Day Use: SNF

- Accessible Recreation Opportunities: SNF
- Horses, Mules and Good Camping Rules: SNF
- Sierra National Forest, Wilderness Areas
- Proper Food Storage
- Is the Water Safe to Drink?: SNF
- Food Drop Information: SNF
- Boating Opportunities: SNF
- Federal Recreation Passport Program: SNF
- Whitewater Boating: SNF
- Shooting Opportunities: SNF
- Help the Western Pond Turtle: SNF (in several languages)
- Mountain Biking: SNF

Information is available on several recreation and wilderness areas adjacent to surrounding lands and facilities within the study area. These include the following brochures:

- John Muir Wilderness
- Dinkey Lakes Wilderness
- Kaiser Wilderness
- Huntington Lake Recreation Area: SNF
- Huntington Lake Boating: SNF
- Lake Thomas A. Edison: SNF
- High Sierra Recreation Area
- Mammoth Pool: SNF
- Rancheria Falls, National Recreation Trail: SNF
- Black Point Hiking Trail: SNF
- Jackass Meadow Nature Trail: SNF

The USDA-FS has developed several interpretive planning documents such as the “Interpretive Services Strategy: Sparking Imaginations and Making Connections” that are general reference materials used by staff. The Sierra National Forest also uses study area related interpretive materials such as the Huntington Lake Interpretive Plan, Sierra National Forest, 2003 (Plan). In the Plan, interpretive facilities are described and include two main sites, Billy Creek Guard Station Museum and the Eastwood Visitor Center.

- Billy Creek Guard Station Museum is a former USDA-FS guard station built in 1929. History of the area is the main topic discussed in the two museum buildings and outdoor amphitheater. The Huntington Lake Big Creek Historical Conservancy leads walks on various subjects, provides environmental education opportunities, and archives historical artifacts. This facility is operated and maintained by the Huntington Lake Big Creek Historical Society.
- The Eastwood Visitor Center is located on two acres of land near Portal Powerhouse at the north end of Huntington Lake. An informational sign provides maps and study area information. Wilderness and campfire permits, books, and other environmental information can be obtained at the USDA-FS-CLM campground registration facility located near the Visitor Center. The facility features several information signs about the Big Creek hydroelectric project. This facility was constructed and is maintained by SCE as part of FERC Project No. 67.

Interpretive plans developed by the USDA-FS and/or the Huntington Lake Big Creek Historical Society for the Huntington Lake area include improvements to the Billy Creek Museum, Eastwood Visitor Center, Lakeshore lodge, Lakeview Cottages, organizational camps, campgrounds, marinas and boat launches, wilderness trailheads, D&F Stables, Bear Cove Picnic Area, and winter sports areas. These improvements range from new interpretive and educational signs to live programs and media involvement with aspects that involve visitor access and care of Sierra National Forest and study area lands.

Other study area interpretive and educational facilities are located at wilderness trailheads, winter sports area parking lots, and campgrounds.

SCE also provides informational signage at major Project facilities, such as Powerhouses and reservoirs, and at the Camp Edison recreation facility at Shaver Lake. The Camp Edison facility has educational signs that provide a Project area facilities map and information on swimming, camping, picnicking, native fish and wildlife, area timber harvest programs and boat launching (M. Newquist, pers. comm. 2003).

SCE also provides recreation user information on the Big Creek Hydro Website, such as various educational opportunities to learn about study area lands and recreational facilities, including Camp Edison and whitewater rafting within the Project area.

### 5.2.2 SCE

SCE publishes two study area related documents that are educational or interpretive. These documents are distributed to visitors at their Northern Hydro Division Office in Big Creek. One of the documents is a brochure titled "We Call It Big Creek." In this brochure SCE describes study area hydroelectric facilities, recreation opportunities, and their approach to managing natural resources including vegetation and fisheries, and the importance of Big Creek in relation to the entire SCE system. The second educational document SCE offers is a profile of the Big Creek area that shows the different reservoirs and the water chain, tunnels, powerhouses, and other Big Creek hydroelectric facilities related to the system (SCE 1998).

In accordance with 18 CFR Section 8.2, SCE is required to post signage at their hydroelectric projects which provide information on: the name of the project and owner of the project, a statement that it is licensed by the Commission and the Project Number, direction to areas of the project which are available for public recreation use, permissible times and activities, and other regulations regarding such use, and advising that further information may be obtained at local offices of the licensee in the vicinity of the project. Table REC 19-6 summarizes the hydroelectric Project information signs and their locations in the study area.



## **6.0 LITERATURE CITED**

Sierra National Forest 2003. Huntington Lake Interpretive Plan, Sierra National Forest, 2003 (Plan).

Southern California Edison. 1998. We Call it Big Creek. March 1998.

Southern California Edison. 2001. Final Technical Study Plan Package for the Big Creek Hydroelectric System Alternative Licensing Process. August 2001

### Personal Communication

Newquist, Mark. August 14, 2003. Southern California Edison. Personal communication to Tim Blewett, ENTRIX, Inc.

## **TABLES**

**Table REC 19-1. Adequacy of Interpretive/Educational Displays and Exhibits and Adequacy of Visit/Trip/Recreation Information at Study Area Campgrounds.**

Campground	Adequacy of Interpretive/Education Exhibits		Adequacy of Visit/Trip/Recreation Information	
	No. of Responses	Average Response <sup>1</sup>	No. of Responses	Average Response <sup>1</sup>
<b>Huntington Lake Area</b>				
Rancheria	98	3.9	102	4.1
Deer Creek	64	3.7	75	4.0
Billy Creek (Upper Billy creek)	35	4.1	36	4.3
Lower Billy Creek	28	3.7	32	3.9
Kinnikinnick	20	3.8	25	4.2
Catavee	13	4.0	21	4.0
College	7	3.7	8	4.0
<b>Shaver Lake Area</b>				
Camp Edison	160	4.1	175	4.3
Dorabelle	59	3.5	59	3.8
Jackass Meadow	41	4.2	46	4.2
Mono Creek	29	3.6	32	3.8
Mono Creek Overflow	2	3.5	21	4.2
Mammoth Pool	21	4.2	24	4.2
Mono Hot Springs	37	3.2	42	3.5
Portal Forebay	24	4.2	28	4.3

<sup>1</sup>Based on a weighted scale of 1-5 (1=Highly Unacceptable, 5=Highly Acceptable).

**Table REC 19-2. Adequacy of Interpretive/Educational Displays and Exhibits and Adequacy of Visit/Trip/Recreation Information at Study Area Picnic Areas.**

Picnic Area	Adequacy of Interpretive/Education Exhibits		Adequacy of Visit/Trip/Recreation Information	
	No. of Responses	Average Response <sup>1</sup>	No. of Responses	Average Response <sup>1</sup>
<b>Huntington Lake Area</b>				
Bear Cove	34	3.6	39	3.7
Dowville	6	3.5	10	4.2
Billy Creek	7	4.9	7	4.9
Deer Creek	3	3.7	3	3.7
<b>Shaver Lake Area</b>				
Shaver Point Day Use Area	14	3.9	41	3.5
Dorabelle	4	4.0	4	4.5
Northshore Day Use Areas (Shaver Lake Road 1, Road 2)	1	2.0	1	2.0
Lake Edison/Bear Diversion <sup>2</sup>	4	3.5	4	3.3
Florence Lake	16	4.0	18	4.1
Windy Point	3	4.3	3	4.3
Mono Creek	3	4.3	3	4.3
Balsam Forebay	1	3.0	1	4.0

<sup>1</sup>Based on a weighted scale of 1-5 (1=Highly Unacceptable, 5=Highly Acceptable).

<sup>2</sup>Respondent data is for the Lake Edison/Bear Diversion Area and is not tied to a specific picnic area location.

**Table REC 19-3. Adequacy of Interpretive/Educational Displays and Exhibits and Adequacy of Visit/Trip/Recreation Information at Study Area Trailheads.**

Trailhead	Adequacy of Interpretive/Education Exhibits		Adequacy of Visit/Trip/Recreation Information	
	No. of Responses	Average Response <sup>1</sup>	No. of Responses	Average Response <sup>1</sup>
Mono Creek	18	3.5	18	4.1
Shaver Lake <sup>2</sup>	16	3.1	16	3.4
Bear Creek	10	2.9	10	3.7
Balsam Meadows	6	3.8	6	4.2
Billy Creek	5	4.0	9	4.1
Dutch/Crater	4	3.8	4	5.0
Bear Ridge	2	3.5	3	3.7
Mono Crossing	1	1.0	1	1.0
Logan Meadow	1	3.0	1	4.0

<sup>1</sup>Based on a weighted scale of 1-5 (1=Highly Unacceptable, 5=Highly Acceptable).

<sup>2</sup>Respondent data is for trails in the Shaver Lake area and is not tied to any specific trailhead location.

**Table REC 19-4. Adequacy of Interpretive/Educational Displays Exhibits and Adequacy of Visit/Trip/Recreation Information at Project Area Stream Corridors.**

Stream Corridor	Adequacy of Interpretive/Education Exhibits		Adequacy of Visit/Trip/Recreation Information	
	No. of Responses	Average Response <sup>1</sup>	No. of Responses	Average Response <sup>1</sup>
Huntington Lake	41	4.4	28	4.1
Lake Edison/Bear Diversion <sup>2</sup>	35	4.1	23	3.8
Florence Lake	25	4.2	19	3.7
Shaver Lake	17	4.1	13	3.4
Mammoth Pool Reservoir	15	4.2	11	3.2

<sup>1</sup>Based on a weighted scale of 1-5 (1=Highly Unacceptable, 5=Highly Acceptable).

<sup>2</sup>Respondent data is for the Lake Edison/Bear Diversion Area and is not tied to a specific stream corridor location.

**Table REC 19-5. How Visitors Found Out About Recreation Opportunities.**

	<b>No. of Responses</b>
Advice from family or friend	811
Live locally	626
Explore on my own	262
Guidebook	113
Internet	100

**Table REC 19-6. SCE Project Information Sign Locations.**

<b>FERC Project No.</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Information sign Location</b>
Project No. 2175	Big Creek 1 and 2	Near BC1 powerhouse on side of county road
Project No. 67	Big Creek 2A	By Gate house near Shaver Dam
Project No. 120	Big Creek 3	Near powerhouse/switchyard
Project No. 2017	Big Creek 4	By Dam 7 at Redinger Lake
Project No. 2174	Portal	Near Portal Forebay and also at visitors center at Huntington Lake
Project No. 2086	Vermilion	Near overlook at east end of dam
Project No. 67	Florence Lake	Near turn off to Jackass Meadow on Kaiser Pass Road
Project No. 2085	Mammoth Pool	Near powerhouse and also at reservoir
		Camp Edison

**FIGURE**

**Placeholder for Figure**  
**Non-Internet Public Information**

This Figure has been removed in accordance with the Commission regulations at 18 CFR Section 388.112.

This Figure is considered Non-Internet Public information and should not be posted on the Internet. This information is provided in Volume 4 of the Application for New License and is identified as “Non-Internet Public” information. This information may be accessed from the FERC’s Public Reference Room, but is not expected to be posted on the Commission’s electronic library, except as an indexed item.



**APPENDIX A**  
**Recreation Use Survey Instrument**

## STREAM CORRIDOR USE

Please complete questions 15-18 if recreating within or adjacent to the stream corridor during this visit.

15. Check the boxes corresponding with the activity(ies) you engaged in on this trip while recreating in the stream corridor.
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping in developed sites                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold panning       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Undeveloped camping                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitewater boating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking  | <input type="checkbox"/> General – relaxing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing wildlife, scenery, etc.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/walking     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming/wading/water play                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock collecting    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant gathering (berries, mushrooms, grasses, etc.) |   |

16. Check the boxes corresponding with the stream(s)/river(s) where you recreated in the stream corridor during this trip.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Fork San Joaquin River above Florence Lake                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Bear Creek above Bear Diversion                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Fork San Joaquin River below Florence Lake                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Bear Creek below Bear Diversion                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Fork San Joaquin River near Mono Hot Springs                     | <input type="checkbox"/> North Fork Stevenson Creek  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Fork San Joaquin River near Mono/Rattlesnake Crossings           | <input type="checkbox"/> Stevenson Creek below Shaver Lake                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River above Mammoth Pool                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Big Creek upstream of Huntington Lake                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River below Mammoth Pool                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Big Creek between Huntington Lake and the town of Big Creek       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River above Redinger Lake                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Big Creek between the town of Big Creek and the San Joaquin River |
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River below Redinger Lake                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Portal Tailrace (Rancheria Creek at Huntington Lake)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mono Creek above Lake Edison   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tributary to the South Fork San Joaquin River, Name: _____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mono Creek between Lake Edison and Mono Diversion Dam                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tributary to the San Joaquin River, Name: _____                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mono Creek between Mono Diversion Dam and South Fork San Joaquin River | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Name: _____  |

17. Please rate your satisfaction with the following recreation factors in the stream corridor.

Factor	Acceptable		Neutral	Unacceptable		
	Highly	Moderately		Moderately	Highly	
Vehicular access	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Trail access to stream corridor	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Drinking water availability	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Availability of developed camp/picnic sites	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Trash disposal	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Restroom availability	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Restroom cleanliness	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Number of people encountered	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Safety	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Adequacy of interpretive/educational displays, and exhibits	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Adequacy of visit/trip/recreation information	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Other: _____	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA

If unacceptable, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Was your enjoyment of your recreation activity affected by other activities taking place in the stream corridor?  Yes  No  
or by water level?  Yes  No

Lake/stream name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your activity: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete questions 19-23 if boating during this trip.

## BOATING

19. What type of boat did you use?  
 Ski boat  Fishing boat  Pontoon boat  Sail boat  
 Personal watercraft  Non-power boats (i.e., canoe, kayak, row boat, raft, etc.)  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_
20. If you launched your boat, name of launch facility: \_\_\_\_\_
21. Do you rent/own a boat slip? Yes  No

If yes location: \_\_\_\_\_

22. Rate the adequacy of the boat facilities with respect to the categories listed.

	Acceptable		Neutral	Unacceptable		
	Highly	Moderately		Moderately	Highly	
Boat ramp access	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Condition of boat ramp	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Condition of dock	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Availability of boat slip/moorings	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Condition of marina facilities	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Parking availability	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Parking area condition	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Number of people/ boats encountered at ramp	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Restroom availability	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Restroom cleanliness	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Availability of commercial facilities (gas, stores, rentals, etc.)	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Safety	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Nearby picnic areas	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Trash disposal	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA
Disability access	2	1	0	-1	-2	NA

If unacceptable, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

23. If lake or river boating, was your enjoyment of your recreation activity affected by other activities taking place on the lake or river?  Yes  No  
or the lake/river water level?  Yes  No

Lake/stream name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your activity: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SCE would like to thank you for your cooperation and time in completing this survey questionnaire.

Completed survey forms may be returned to the surveyor, the survey drop box on the survey kiosk, or completed forms may also be faxed or mailed to:

Ms. Carla Anthony  
Relicensing Coordinator  
Southern California Edison  
Northern Hydro Region Office  
P.O. Box 100  
Big Creek, CA 93605  
Fax: (559) 893-3626

# Summer Recreation Use Survey

Southern California Edison and the Big Creek Collaborative are conducting this summer recreation use survey as part of the relicensing of the Big Creek Hydroelectric System. Your responses to this survey will assist us in determining recreation use and opportunities in the Big Creek area. The results of the survey will help maintain future recreation opportunities in the Big Creek area.

### Survey Instructions:

This survey is divided into sections, which ask questions about your background, general recreation use, camping, picnicking, trail use, stream corridor use and boating. Everyone should complete the Background and General Recreation Use sections. You should also complete any additional sections that correspond with activities you participated in during your visit.

If you fished during this trip please complete the separate Angling Survey form.



## BACKGROUND

All respondents please complete questions 1-5

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

How Many in Group: (Adults): \_\_\_\_\_ Children (under 16): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Vehicles in Your Group? \_\_\_\_\_

Type(s) of vehicles:  Car  Pickup/SUV  Motorcycle  Motor home/RV

OHV/Green Sticker  Travel trailer  Boat/Utility/Horse trailer  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence, yours and other group members:

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did you find out about the recreation opportunities in the area?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Live locally                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Information at campground        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advice from family or a friend          | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel brochure                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper or magazine                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Resort or local business         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USFS brochure/map                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploring on my own              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor center                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio/TV                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chamber of Commerce or Visitor's Bureau | <input type="checkbox"/> Organized outing                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sportsman's expo                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interest group or hobby affiliations    | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet, Name of website: _____ |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                     |

2. How many years have you recreated in the area?

1  2  3 to 5  6 to 10  10+

3. How many trips per year do you take to the area from April through November?

1  2  3 to 5  6 to 10  10+

4. How much money will you spend locally in the mountain communities during your current visit to this area?

\$0 to \$50  \$51 to \$100  \$101 to \$200  \$201 to \$500  more than \$500

5. Does anyone in your party have a physical impairment that might hinder their use of outdoor recreation facilities or opportunities during this visit?

Yes  No

Were the services and facilities in the areas you visited on this trip adequate for that physical impairment?  Yes  No

If inadequate, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**EDISON**

An Edison International <sup>SM</sup> Company

All respondents please complete questions 6-9.

6. Did your visit to the area involve a local overnight stay?  Yes  No

## GENERAL RECREATION USE

If yes, where did you stay?

- Rental home/hotel/condo/cabin/lodge
- Camp Edison
- USFS campground, Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Camping in undeveloped areas of the National Forest
- Camping in designated Wilderness Areas
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Check the boxes corresponding with the area(s) you visited on this trip, and indicate the time you spent in each area you visited. (Please refer to the map on the information kiosk for area locations.)

	< 0.5 day   0.5-1 day   2 days   > 2 days			
	< 0.5 day	0.5-1 day	2 days	> 2 days
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 1-Redinger Reservoir	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 2-San Joaquin River Canyon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 3-Mammoth Pool Reservoir	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 4-Shaver Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 5-Big Creek/Camp Sierra	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 6-Tamarack Ridge/Red Lake/Coyote Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 7-Huntington Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 8-Kaiser Wilderness Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 9-Stump Springs Rd./Mt. Tom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 10-Kaiser Ridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 11-Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 12-Portal Forebay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 13-Ansel Adams Wilderness Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 14-John Muir Wilderness Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 15-High Sierra Station/Mono Hot Springs/ Ward Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 16-Lake Edison/Bear Diversion Dam	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Area 17-Florence Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. For the recreation activities you engaged in on this trip: a) check the corresponding boxes; and b) please rate your satisfaction by circling a value in the range provided.

Facility	Acceptable			Unacceptable	
	Highly	Moderately	Neutral	Moderately	Highly
<input type="checkbox"/> Camping in developed sites	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Undeveloped camping	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness day use	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness overnight use	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Resorts, cabins, rental accommodations	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking (single or group sites)	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Viewing wildlife, scenery photography etc.	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Visiting interpretive/educational center	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Visiting historic/cultural sites	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Stream fishing	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Lake fishing	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant gathering (berries, mushrooms, grasses, etc.)	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Woodcutting	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Off-highway vehicle travel	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Driving for pleasure on roads	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Motorized water activities (boat, personal watercraft, etc.)	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonmotorized flatwater boating	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Sailing	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Whitewater boating	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/walking	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling/mountain biking	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming/wading/water play	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports/games/field activities	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> General – relaxing	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	2	1	0	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	2	1	0	-1	-2

If unacceptable, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

9. List the two top activities that were the focus of your visit.

1.) \_\_\_\_\_ 2.) \_\_\_\_\_

10. If lake or river recreating, was your enjoyment of your recreation activity affected by other activities taking place on the lake or river?  Yes  No  
or the lake/river water level?  Yes  No

Lake/stream name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your activity: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

11. How important are the following factors when **choosing** a recreation area? Check the box that best represents your (your household) opinions regarding the importance of the listed factors.

Factors	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important	NA
	Variety of recreation opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost of facility access fees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not crowded	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
River, stream, lake, or trail access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of commercial facilities (gas, stores, rentals, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of accommodations (cabins, resorts, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developed restroom/shower/drinking water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developed camp/picnic sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RV hook-ups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean/well maintained facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interpretive/Educational opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural/Historical opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Onsite manager (camp host)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scenery/Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Did you camp during this trip?  Yes  No

## CAMPING

If yes, name of campground: \_\_\_\_\_

What was your mode of camping?

- Recreational vehicle  Trailer/Tent trailer  Tent  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate your satisfaction with the quality of the facilities at the campground.

Facility	Acceptable			Unacceptable	
	Highly	Moderately	Neutral	Moderately	Highly
Campsite availability	2	1	0	-1	-2
Campsite condition	2	1	0	-1	-2
Cost of campground access fee	2	1	0	-1	-2
Adequacy of shower facilities	2	1	0	-1	-2
Road condition in campground	2	1	0	-1	-2
Drinking water availability	2	1	0	-1	-2
Fire ring/BBQ condition	2	1	0	-1	-2
Table condition	2	1	0	-1	-2
Trash disposal	2	1	0	-1	-2
Parking availability	2	1	0	-1	-2
Parking area condition	2	1	0	-1	-2
Restroom availability	2	1	0	-1	-2
Restroom cleanliness	2	1	0	-1	-2
Number of people encountered	2	1	0	-1	-2
Safety	2	1	0	-1	-2
Adequacy of interpretive/ educational displays, and exhibits	2	1	0	-1	-2
Adequacy of visit/trip/recreation information	2	1	0	-1	-2
Access to facilities	2	1	0	-1	-2
Other: _____	2	1	0	-1	-2

If unacceptable, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Did you use a picnic area during this trip?  Yes  No

## PICNICKING

If yes, name of picnic area: \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate your satisfaction with the quality of the facilities at the picnic area.

Facility	Acceptable			Unacceptable	
	Highly	Moderately	Neutral	Moderately	Highly
Picnic site availability	2	1	0	-1	-2
Picnic site condition	2	1	0	-1	-2
Drinking water availability	2	1	0	-1	-2
Fire ring/BBQ condition	2	1	0	-1	-2
Table condition	2	1	0	-1	-2
Trash disposal	2	1	0	-1	-2
Parking availability	2	1	0	-1	-2
Parking area condition	2	1	0	-1	-2
Restrooms availability	2	1	0	-1	-2
Restrooms cleanliness	2	1	0	-1	-2
Number of people encountered	2	1	0	-1	-2
Adequacy of interpretive/educational displays and exhibits	2	1	0	-1	-2
Adequacy of visit/trip/recreation information	2	1	0	-1	-2
Access to facilities	2	1	0	-1	-2
Other: _____	2	1	0	-1	-2

If unacceptable, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

14. Did you use trails in the region during this trip?  Yes  No

## TRAILS

If yes, please name the trailhead(s) you used and your activity (hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, etc.), then rate your satisfaction with the quality of the facilities at each trailhead.

Name of Trailhead: \_\_\_\_\_ Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility	Acceptable			Unacceptable	
	Highly	Moderately	Neutral	Moderately	Highly
Parking availability	2	1	0	-1	-2
Parking area condition	2	1	0	-1	-2
Restroom availability	2	1	0	-1	-2
Restroom cleanliness	2	1	0	-1	-2
Number of people encountered at trailhead	2	1	0	-1	-2
Adequacy of interpretive/ educational displays, and exhibits at trailhead	2	1	0	-1	-2
Adequacy of visit/trip/ recreation information	2	1	0	-1	-2
Condition of trail	2	1	0	-1	-2
Access to facilities	2	1	0	-1	-2
Other: _____	2	1	0	-1	-2

Name of Trailhead: \_\_\_\_\_ Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility	Acceptable			Unacceptable	
	Highly	Moderately	Neutral	Moderately	Highly
Parking availability	2	1	0	-1	-2
Parking area condition	2	1	0	-1	-2
Restroom availability	2	1	0	-1	-2
Restroom cleanliness	2	1	0	-1	-2
Number of people encountered at trailhead	2	1	0	-1	-2
Adequacy of interpretive/ educational displays, and exhibits at trailhead	2	1	0	-1	-2
Adequacy of visit/trip/ recreation information	2	1	0	-1	-2
Condition of trail	2	1	0	-1	-2
Access to facilities	2	1	0	-1	-2
Other: _____	2	1	0	-1	-2

If unacceptable, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_