
DRAFT
REC 1 – RECREATION FACILITY
CONDITION ASSESSMENT
TECHNICAL STUDY PLAN

Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project
FERC Project No. 1930



May 2023

TECHNICAL STUDY PLAN

REC 1 – Recreation Facility Condition Assessment

POTENTIAL RESOURCE ISSUES

- Recreation facility use in the vicinity of the Project.

PROJECT NEXUS

- Forest Service day use areas are located adjacent to the Democrat Dam impoundment and the bypass reach.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

The following information is available regarding recreation in the vicinity of the Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project. See Pre-Application Document (PAD) Section 3.11 Recreation Resources for a description of existing recreation resources.

- Management prescriptions and direction relevant to recreation included in the Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Forest Plan (Forest Service 1988).
- Management prescriptions and direction relevant to recreation included in the draft Land Management Plan for the Sequoia National Forest, Pre-Objection Version (Forest Service 2022).
- Final Environmental Assessment for Hydropower License, Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 1930-014 (FERC 1998)
- Five-Year Recreation Use Report, Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project – FERC No. 1930 (TCW 2005).
- Various state and federal agency websites.

POTENTIAL INFORMATION GAPS

- Updated recreation facility condition assessments at select Sequoia National Forest (SQF) facilities in the vicinity of the Project.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

- Identify, map, and describe public developed recreation facilities in the vicinity of the Project, including capacity.
- Conduct a facility inventory and condition assessment at the public recreation facilities including overflow parking areas, including an evaluation of signage and public safety features; and an assessment of the condition and potential for universal accessibility.

EXTENT OF STUDY AREA

The study area will be focused on public day-use areas in the vicinity of the Project. These day use facilities are owned and operated by the SQF. The recreation day-use facility locations are listed below and shown on Map 3.11-1.

- Democrat Raft Take-out Boating Site
- Upper Richbar Day Use Area
- Lower Richbar Day Use Area
- Live Oak Day Use Area

STUDY APPROACH

Section 3.11 Recreation Resources of the PAD identifies, maps, and describes developed public recreation facilities in the vicinity of the Project, based on data and information readily available from existing information sources. The study element described below will build on the information presented in the PAD.

CONDUCT A FACILITY INVENTORY AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT AT EXISTING PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES

A facility inventory and condition assessment will be performed at the four Forest Service day-use areas. SCE will consult with the Forest Service to develop appropriate methods and forms for the inventory and condition assessment. Generally, the study will include an inventory and condition assessment including:

- Inventory of features at the day-use facilities
- Overall day-use facility capacity
- Assessment of the condition of facilities and associated features;
- Characterization of universal accessibility;
- Public safety measures;
- Signage and wayfinding; and
- Site-specific circulation road(s) and parking area(s).

The survey will document facility condition according to Table 1. All inventories will be documented with photographs and integrated into a GIS database with relevant attributes to facilitate future analysis and on-going assessments.

REPORTING

- Study methods and results will be documented in a REC 1 – Recreation Facility Condition Technical Study Report (TSR). The TSR will include an inventory and assessment of the selected site facilities and appurtenant features, including applicable maps and illustrations. The report will discuss findings in relation to the Desired Conditions, Goals, Standards, and Guidelines of the 1988 Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1988 Forest Plan), and the draft 2022 Sequoia National Forest Land Management Plan – pre objection version (revised Forest Plan), as applicable. Stakeholder review and comment period for the TSR is identified below in the Schedule.
- Upon request, data will be provided to resource agencies and interested stakeholders in an Excel spreadsheet (electronic format).

SCHEDULE

This is a one-year study to be conducted during the first year of the study period with the study results reported in the Initial Study Report (ISR).

| Date | Activity |
|---------------------------|--|
| April 2024–May 2024 | Develop facility inventory and condition assessment forms in consultation with the SQF |
| June 2024–September 2024 | Conduct the facility inventory and condition assessment |
| October 2024–January 2025 | Analyze data and prepare draft technical memo |
| February 2025 | Distribute draft technical memo to stakeholders |
| March 2025–May 2025 | Stakeholders review and provide comments on draft technical memo (90 days) |
| June 2025–July 2025 | Resolve comments and prepare final technical memo |
| December 2025 | Distribute final technical memo in Draft License Application |

REFERENCES

FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). 1998. Final Environmental Assessment for Hydropower License. Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project. FERC Project No. 1930-014. California. June 17.

Forest Service (United States Forest Service). 1988. Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest. March 1988. Accessed: October 2022. Available online: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5400303.pdf.

———. 2022. Land Management Plan for the Sequoia National Forest, Pre-Objection Version. Fresno, Kern, and Tulare Counties, California. R5-MB-325-A. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region. Accessed: October 2022. Available online: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=3375>

SCE (Southern California Edison Company). 1994. Application for New License for the Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 1930. Kern County, California. April 28. TCW TCW Economics. 2005. Report on Five Year Recreation Use Monitoring Study for the Kern River No. 1 Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1930). Prepared for Southern California Edison, Hydro Generation Division, 300 North Lone Hill, San Dimas, CA 91773. Prepared by TCW Economics, 27569th Ave. Sacramento, CA. December 2005.

TABLES

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Table 1. Facility Feature Condition Rating Table

| ID | Category | Description |
|-----------|-------------------|--|
| N | Need Replacement | Facility feature is non-functional or has broken or missing components. |
| R | Needs Repair | Facility feature has structural damage or is in an obvious state of disrepair. |
| M | Needs Maintenance | Facility features needs maintenance, such as cleaning or painting. |
| G | Good Condition | Facility feature is functional and well maintained. |

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