

Lee Vining Hydroelectric Project

FERC No. 1388

Welcome! Using the chat,
please write your name,
organization and your
favorite winter activity

TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

Technical Working Group Meeting

February 24, 2021

Safety Moment



Lee Vining Relicensing TWG Team

SCE Team

Matthew Woodhall
Project Manager

Martin Ostendorf
Senior Manager

Seth Carr
Operations Manager

Consultant Team

Finlay Anderson
Project Manager

Kelly Larimer
Project Director

Shannon Luoma
Deputy PM

Carissa Shoemaker
TWG Coordinator

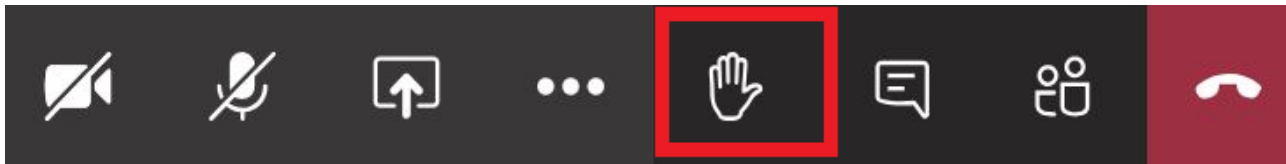
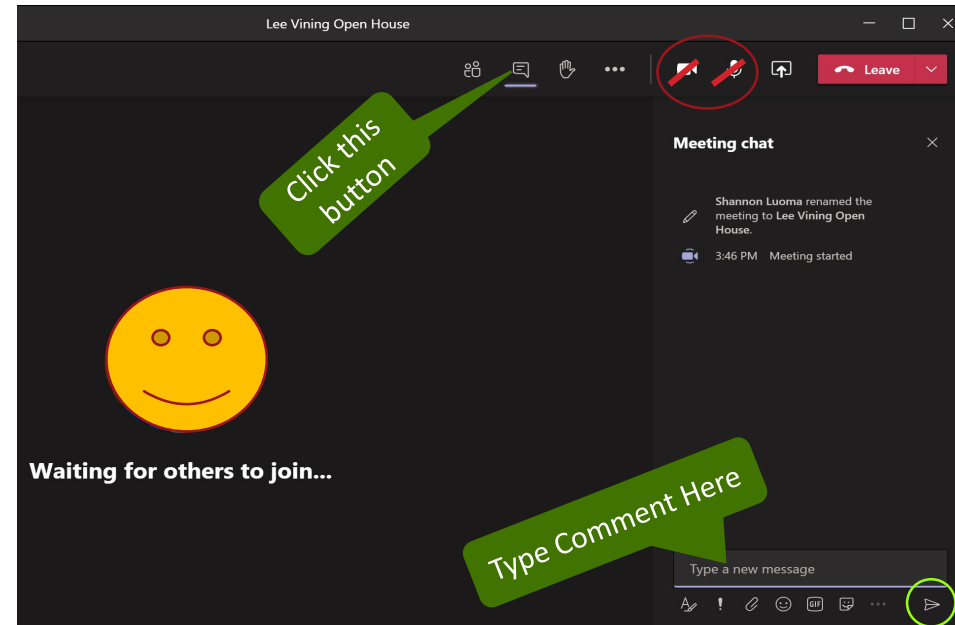
**Steve Norton &
Allison Rudalevige**
Terrestrial TWG Leads

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
 - Safety Moment
 - Review of January TWG notes
 - Meeting goals
- Discussion of Study Plan Requests (from homework)
 - Objectives
 - Rationale, Nexus
 - Study Area
 - Methods
- Schedule, Next Steps, Action Items
 - Next TWG date(s)
 - Study Plan Titles/Outlines
 - Other action items
- Final Questions

Meeting Tips and Guidelines

- Please wait to be called on and then unmute your line
 - Introduce yourself (name and affiliation) prior to speaking
- Listen and respect each other
- Stay on topic
- Ask a question by typing it into the chat box during the presentation or by using the raise your hand feature



Review of January TWG notes

- Concerns about *Didymo* and other invasive aquatic species – to be discussed in Aquatics TWG
- Listed species, e.g., Yosemite toad, Whitebark pine
- Proposed two studies: Wildlife and Botanical (more detail later in presentation)

Review of January TWG action items

- The relicensing team circulated updated “homework” (Bishop Creek study applicability)
- Blake Englehardt provided USFS records of whitebark pine

TWG Materials Provided via Email and Website

- Email
 - Agenda and Homework
 - FERC Scoping Overview Memo
 - Draft Jan 2021 TWG Meeting Notes
 - Study Plan Template
- Website
 - TWG Charter Document
 - Select parts of PAD
 - PAD References List
 - Comprehensive Management Plans List
 - FERC NEPA overview
 - FERC Study Criteria

Stakeholder “Homework”: Discussion of Resource Management Objectives

- Desired Future Conditions
- Data Gaps
- Potential Study Requests
 - Study Area
 - Project Nexus
 - Goals and Objectives

Potential Studies for Other Resource Areas

- Aquatics
 - Instream Habitat Assessment
 - Operations model
 - Fish distribution baseline study (creek)
 - Fish distribution baseline study (reservoirs)
 - Sediment and geomorphology
 - *Didymo* and other aquatic invasive species
 - Water quality assessment

Potential Studies for Other Resource Areas (continued)

- Cultural and Tribal
 - Cultural study
 - Tribal study
- Recreation and Land Use
 - Recreation use and needs evaluation
 - Condition of existing recreation facilities
 - Creel (fishing) census
 - Trail history, effects on arch. sites, sensitive species, and overlap with tribal trails (crossover with Cultural/Tribal and Terrestrial)

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources: Potential Studies

Wildlife Study

- Objectives
 - Determine existing conditions
 - Build wildlife species compendium
 - Assess presence/absence of special status wildlife species
 - Assess presence/absence of RTE species
- Rationale/Nexus
 - Known RTE species in Project boundary (i.e., Yosemite toad)
 - Potential effects due to O&M activities at Project facilities
- Study Area
 - Project facilities subject to O&M activities
 - Known locations of RTE species

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources: Potential Studies

Botanical Study

- Objectives
 - Ground-truth vegetation types
 - Assess presence/absence of RTE plants, special status plants, and invasive plant species
- Rationale/Nexus
 - Known RTE species in immediate Project vicinity (i.e., whitebark pine)
 - Potential effects due to O&M activities at project facilities
- Study Area
 - Project facilities subject to O&M activities

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources: Potential Studies

Requested by Stakeholders

- Wildlife
- Yosemite Toad
- Focal Riparian Birds
- Invasive Plants
- Invasive plants sub-unit on *Didymo* (to be covered in Aquatics TWG)
- Assessment of Special Status Plants
- Assessment of Riparian Community

- Black cottonwood was assessed at Bishop Creek
 - Stakeholders discussed data and anecdotal observations that black cottonwood cover, recruitment, and mortality in riparian areas may be in decline; there was an interest in understanding potential causes
 - The study topic was broadened to address changes in the riparian community as a whole, including black cottonwoods

[Open Study Requests document(s) received for details]

Terrestrial and Botanical Resources

- Questions
- Do you have information you want to share with us?
- Proposed next TWG date: March 30

RELICENSING SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Relicensing Process Schedule

(subject to change depending on relicensing process)

Date	Activity
August 2, 2021	SCE Files Notice of Intent/Pre-Application Document (NOI/PAD)
September 2021	FERC initiates Tribal consultation
September – October 2021	<i>If ILP:</i> FERC issues Notice of Commencement and Scoping Document 1 (SD1) and hosts scoping meeting/site visit <i>If TLP:</i> FERC approves use of TLP
October 2021	Public Meeting to discuss PAD and NOI
October/November 2021	Stakeholders file comments on NOI/PAD and request studies
November 13, 2021	SCE files proposed Study Plans
January 2022	SCE hosts Study Plan Meeting
April 2022	Revise Study Plans as appropriate
Spring/Summer 2022-2023	Conduct field studies
September 3, 2024	SCE Files Draft License Application
January 31, 2025	SCE Files Final License Application

Tentative TWG Meeting Schedule

Date		Activity
Week of March 29, 2021	Monday, Mar 29	Aquatic Resources TWG
	Wednesday AM, Mar 31	Terrestrial and Botanical TWG
	Wednesday PM, Mar 31	Cultural and Tribal TWG
	Thursday, Apr 1	Recreation and Land Use TWG

How to Stay Involved

- Check the Project website for updates/news at www.sce.com/leevining
- Sign-up to receive Project-related emails through the Contact Registration Form/Project Questionnaire on the Project website
- Participate in an ongoing TWG
- Sign up for FERC's for e-subscription (docket number "P-1388") at www.ferc.gov
- Email Carissa Shoemaker with questions carissa.shoemaker@erm.com



Thank you!