



# Rush Creek Project

## FERC Project No. 1389

Local Community Meeting (June Lake)

February 13, 2024

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Safety Moment
- Meeting Tips
- FERC Relicensing Process and Schedule
- Technical Study Reports (TSR)
- Proposed Project Alternatives

# Welcome and Introductions

# Meeting Purpose

- Update stakeholders on relicensing process and timeline through the Final License Application
- Obtain local community input on the relicensing of the Rush Creek Project.

# Introductions

## Relicensing Team

Matthew Woodhall, SCE Licensing Manager

Martin Ostendorf, SCE Senior Manager

Seth Carr, SCE Senior Supervisor, Generation-Operations and Maintenance

Matthew Paruolo, SCE Government Relations Manager

Audry Williams, SCE Cultural Technical Lead

Nicolas Von Gersdorff, SCE Dam Safety

Ed Bianchi, Stantec Project Director

Patricia Sussman, Stantec Project Manager

# Consultant Team Technical Leads

Name	Role/Resource
<p><b>Craig Addley</b> (Kleinschmidt)            Jennifer Hammond (Stantec)            Robyn Smith (Janelle Nolan &amp; Associates Environmental Consulting)</p>	<p><b>Aquatics</b>            AQ-1, AQ-2, AQ-3, AQ-4, AQ-5,            AQ-6, AQ-7</p>
<p><b>Crystal West</b> (Stantec)            John Douglas (Statistical Research, Inc.)            Scott Thompson (Statistical Research, Inc.)            Michael Lerch (Michael K. Lerch &amp; Associates)</p>	<p><b>Cultural and Tribal</b>            CUL-1, CUL-2, TRI-1</p>
<p><b>Patricia Sussman</b> (Stantec)            Patrick Kester (Stantec-GSA)</p>	<p><b>Land (Aesthetics and Noise)</b>            LAND-1, LAND-2  <b>Environmental Justice</b></p>
<p><b>Patricia Sussman</b> (Stantec)</p>	<p><b>Recreation</b>            REC-1</p>
<p><b>Janelle Nolan</b> (Janelle Nolan &amp; Associates Environmental Consulting)            Robyn Smith (Janelle Nolan &amp; Associates Environmental Consulting)</p>	<p><b>Terrestrial (Botanical and Wildlife)</b>            TERR-1, TERR-2</p>

# Safety Moment



## Preventing Slips on Snow and Ice

- Clear snow and ice from walking surfaces, and spread deicer, as quickly as possible after a winter storm.
- Wear footwear that has good traction and insulation (e.g. insulated and water-resistant boots or rubber over-shoes with good rubber treads)
- Take short steps and walk at a slower pace to react quickly to changes in traction

# Meeting Tips



# General Rules of Engagement

- Questions and comments are welcome, but please time your comment or question to end of the presentation for each agenda topic.
  - Additional questions and comments welcome at the end of the meeting.
- Allow each person to speak before speaking a second time on an issue.
- Please silence your cell phone.
- Refrain from sidebar discussions.
- Assume positive intent.

# Meeting Tips – Virtual Attendees

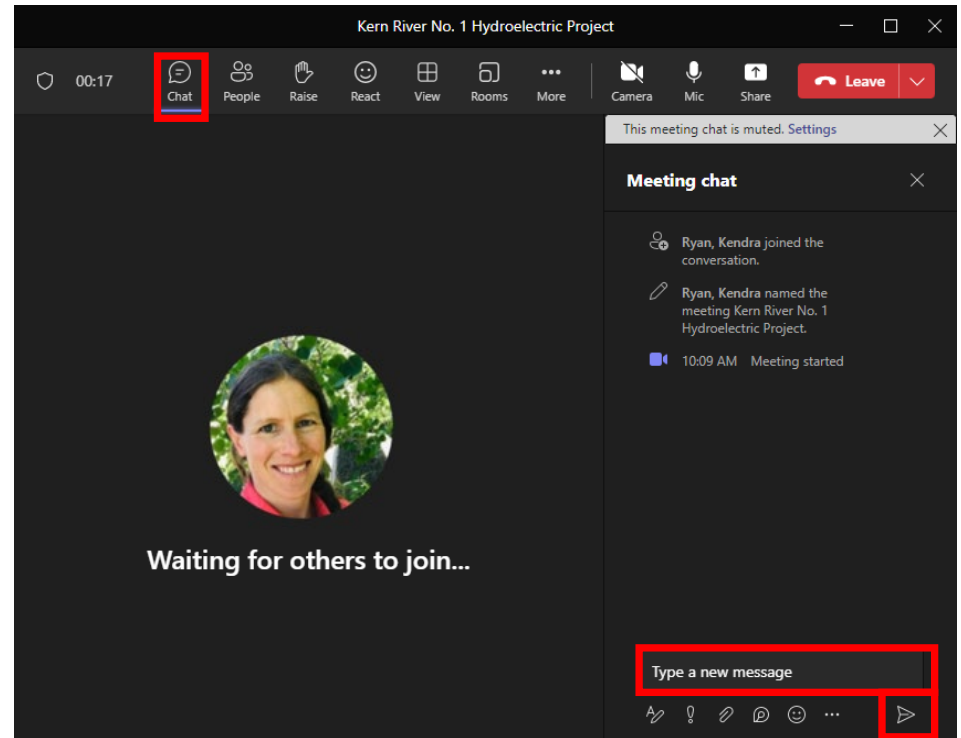
- Please remain on mute unless called on
- Turn off camera



- Meeting materials are available on Project website [www.sce.com/rushcreek](http://www.sce.com/rushcreek)
- Consider shutting down other background programs for best meeting audio/viewing quality

# Meeting Tips – Virtual Attendees

- Virtual – to submit in writing
  - Utilize the chat feature during the presentation to submit questions/ comments
  - Questions submitted via the chat feature will be answered at the end of each agenda topic, as time allows



# Meeting Tips – Virtual Attendees

Virtual: to submit a question/comment verbally:

- Use the “Raise Hand” feature to indicate you would like to ask a question verbally

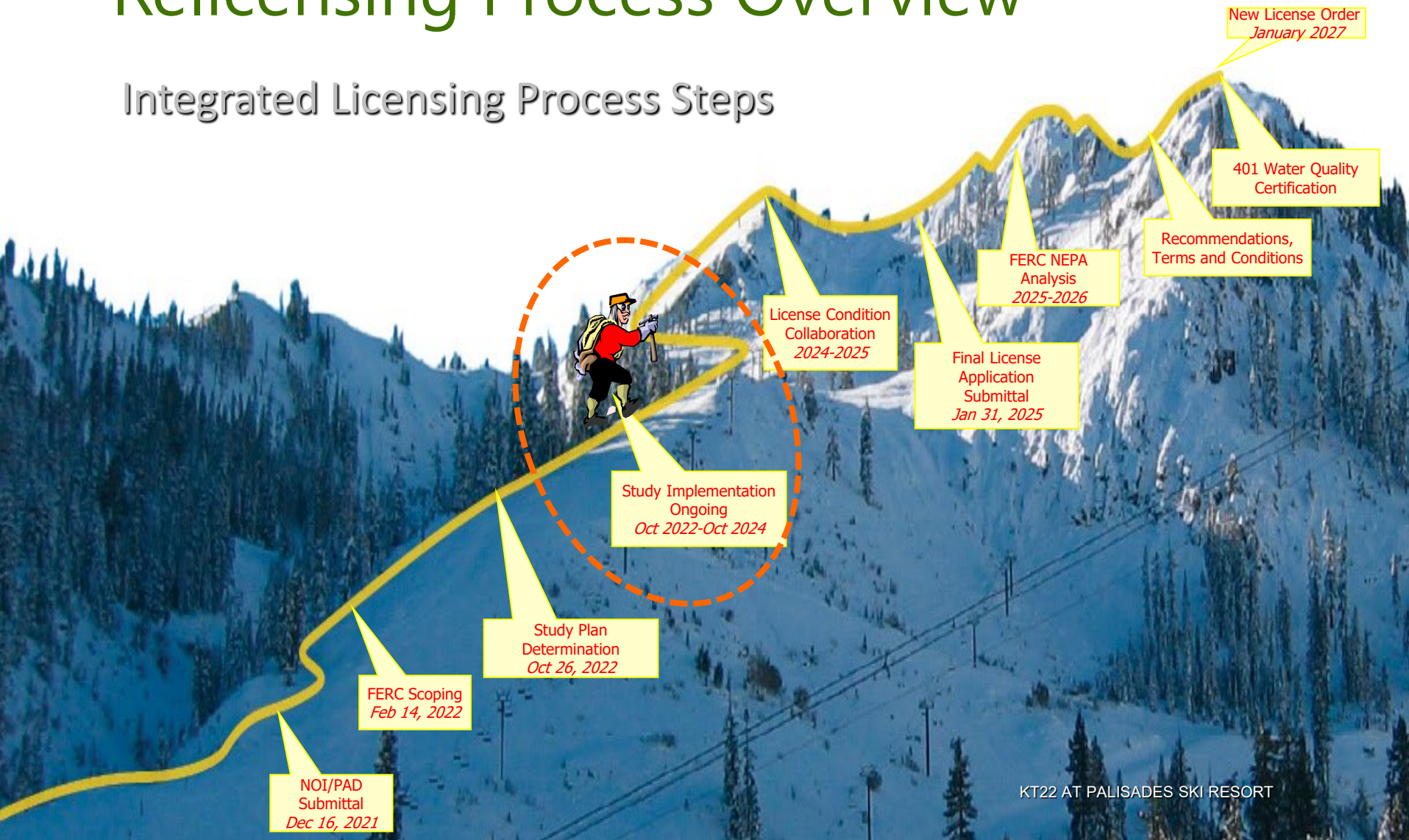


- Please wait to be called on and then unmute yourself
  - Introduce yourself (name and affiliation) prior to speaking

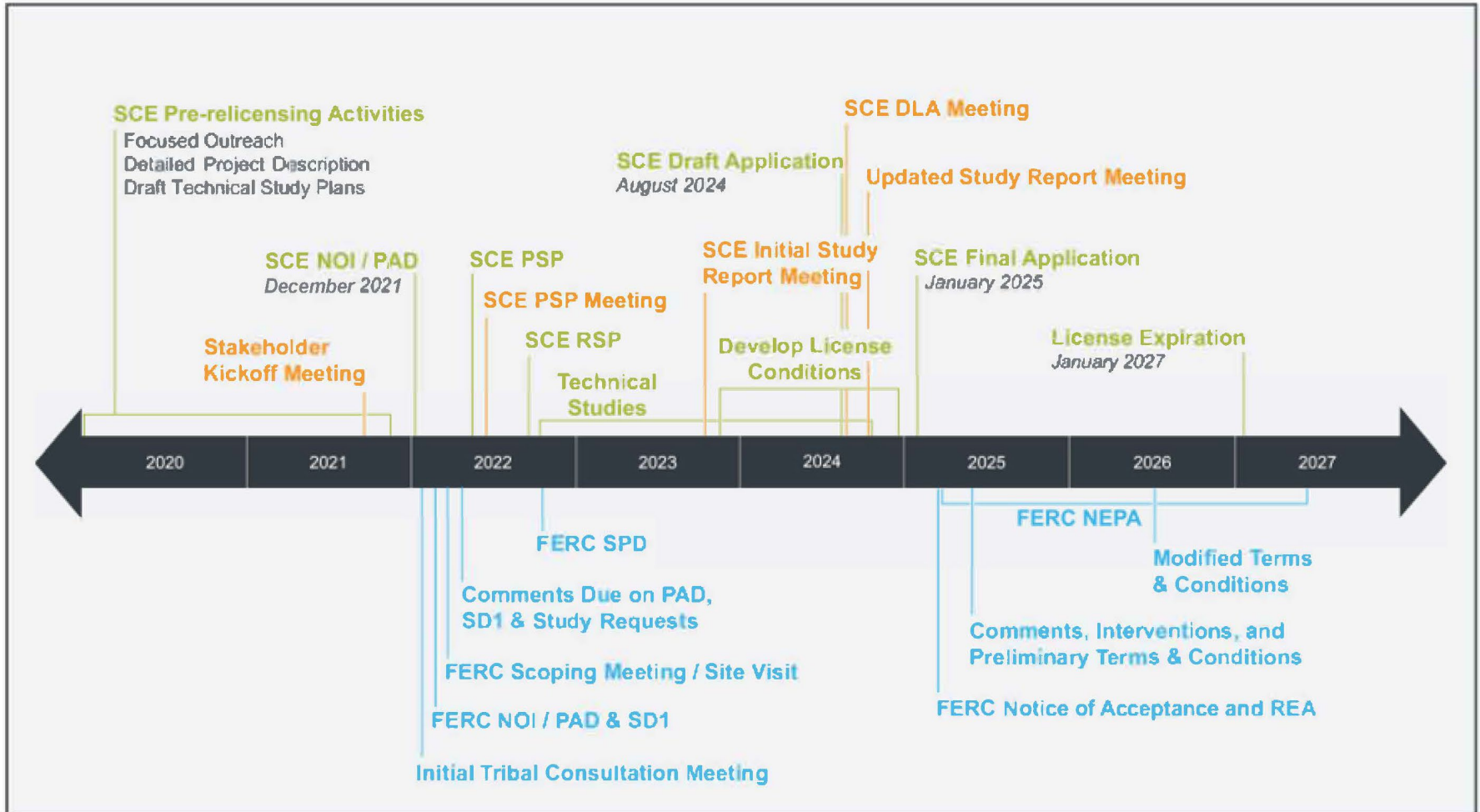
# Relicensing Process and Schedule

# Relicensing Process Overview

## Integrated Licensing Process Steps



# Rush Creek Project



# Relicensing Process and Schedule

- **Year 1 (2021):** PAD and NOI filed, FERC performs NEPA scoping, Applicant and Relicensing Stakeholders collaborate on study plans, FERC issues Study Plan Determination, and Applicant may begin performing studies
- **Year 2 & 3 (2022 and 2023):** Applicant gathers information, performs studies, and prepares and files license application with input from Relicensing Stakeholders
- **Year 4 – 6 (2024 – 2026):** FERC and State perform environmental analyses (NEPA and CEQA), regulatory agencies file recommendations and mandatory conditions, Federal fish and wildlife agencies may issue Biological Opinion under ESA, and SHPO completes Section 106 compliance
- **Year 6+ (2027+):** FERC issues new license with updated conditions



# Relicensing Process and Schedule

FERC Regulation 18 CFR §	Responsible Party	Action	Date Completed
5.15(c)(3)	SCE	File Initial Study Report Meeting Summary	Nov 26, 2023 ✓
5.15(c)(4)	Stakeholders/FERC	File Disagreements/Requests to Amend Study Plan	Dec 26, 2023 ✓
5.15(c)(6)	FERC	Issue Director's Determination on Disagreements/Amendments	Feb 24, 2024
5.15(a)	SCE	Conduct Second Study Season	summer/fall 2024
5.16(a)-(c)	SCE	File Preliminary Licensing Proposal (or Draft License Application)	Sept 3, 2024
5.15(f)	SCE	File Updated Study Report	Oct 26, 2024
5.15(f)	Stakeholders	Updated Study Report Meeting	Nov 10, 2024
5.15(f)	SCE	File Updated Study Report Meeting Summary	Nov 25, 2024
5.15(f)	Stakeholders	File Updated Study Report Meeting Summary	Dec 25, 2024
5.15(f)	Stakeholders	File Responses to Disagreements/Amendment Requests	Jan 24, 2025
5.15(f)	SCE	File Final License Application	Jan 31, 2025
5.15(f)	FERC	Issue Director's Determination on Disagreements/Amendments field on the Updated Study Report Meeting Summary	Feb 23, 2025

# Technical Study Reports

Review Period and Stakeholder Engagement

# Technical Study Implementation

## 17 Technical Study Plans

### Aquatic Resources

AQ-1 Instream Flow

AQ-2 Hydrology

AQ-3 Water Temperature

AQ-4 Water Quality

AQ-5 Geomorphology

AQ-6 Fish Population and Barriers

AQ-7 Special-status Amphibians

### Cultural and Tribal Resources

CUL-1 Built Environment

CUL-2 Archaeology

TRI-1 Tribal Resources

### Land Resources

LAND-1 Aesthetics

LAND-2 Noise

### Recreation Resources

REC-1 Recreation Resources

### Terrestrial Resources

TERR-1 Botanical

TERR-2 Wildlife

### Other

Environmental Justice

Full Decommissioning

# TSR review by stakeholders

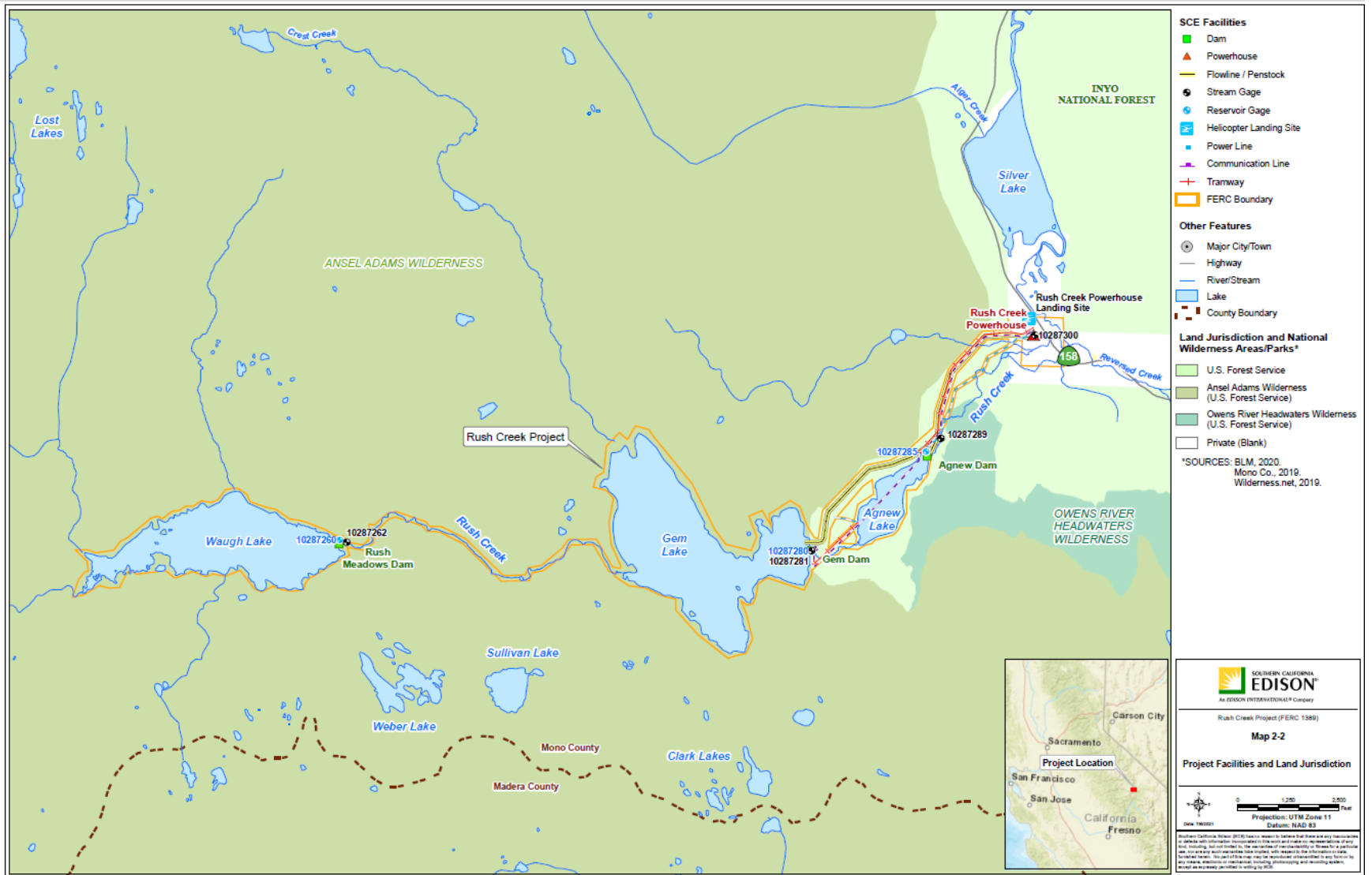
- TSRs distributed end of Feb and end of March
  - Cultural/Tribal TSRs on separate schedule
  - 90-day review period (review period complete by the end of June)
- Supplemental TSRs for Instream Flow (AQ 1) and Geomorphology (AQ 5) – May
- Two TWG meetings to review study results during review period
  1. Instream Flow, Hydrology, Geomorphology (AQ 1, AQ 2, AQ 5)
  2. Water Temperature, Water Quality (AQ 3, AQ 4)
  3. Fish Pop and Barriers, Special-status Amphibians (AQ 6, AQ 7)
  4. Cultural/Tribal (CUL 1, CUL 2, TRI 1)
  5. Aesthetics, Noise (LAND 1, LAND 2)
  6. Recreation (REC 1)
  7. Botanical, Wildlife (TERR 1, TERR 2)
  8. Environmental Justice (EJ)
  9. Full Decommissioning (FULL DECOM)
- Additional TWG meetings after the review period to discuss and resolve stakeholder comments (July and August – as needed)
  - Discuss/develop proposed license conditions

# 2024 Field Season and fall TSRs

- Data collection deferred to summer 2024 includes:
  - AQ-1 (instream flow) and AQ5 (geomorphology)
    - potential Rush Creek channel restoration in the former lakebed of Waugh Lake
    - fine sediment deposition in Waugh Lake
  - LAND-2 (noise)
    - characterization of the ambient noise environment (June and August)
  - TERR-2 (wildlife)
    - raptor and bat surveys
- Additional field studies 2024
  - Fish Pop and Barriers AQ-6
    - Four sites below Agnew Dam
  - Amphibians (SNYLF and YT)
  - Full Dam Decommissioning Study
    - Characterization of sediment and contaminants behind each dam
- Supplemental TSRs available as soon as results are compiled (will be included with the DLA or FLA)

# Proposed Project Alternatives

# Project Area



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# Proposed Project Alternatives

- The following alternatives were selected for consideration in the relicensing:
  - Agnew Dam
    - full and partial dam removal
  - Rush Meadows Dam
    - full and partial dam removal
  - Gem Dam
    - retrofitting



# Considerations

- Alternatives for Agnew, Rush Meadows and Gem dams will be included in the Draft License Application to bookend the analysis, facilitate stakeholder collaboration, and represent different priorities, including:
  - Disturbance to the local community (helicopter and truck use)
  - Conformity to the Wilderness Act (Rush Meadows)
  - Stakeholder acceptability
  - Visual footprint

# Considerations

- Final Project Alternatives will be identified based on agency and stakeholder input and will be provided in the Draft License Application (September 2024)
- Construction will not begin until issuance of the new license, approval of the final engineering plans by FERC and DSOD, and acquisition of regulatory permits (estimated 2029)

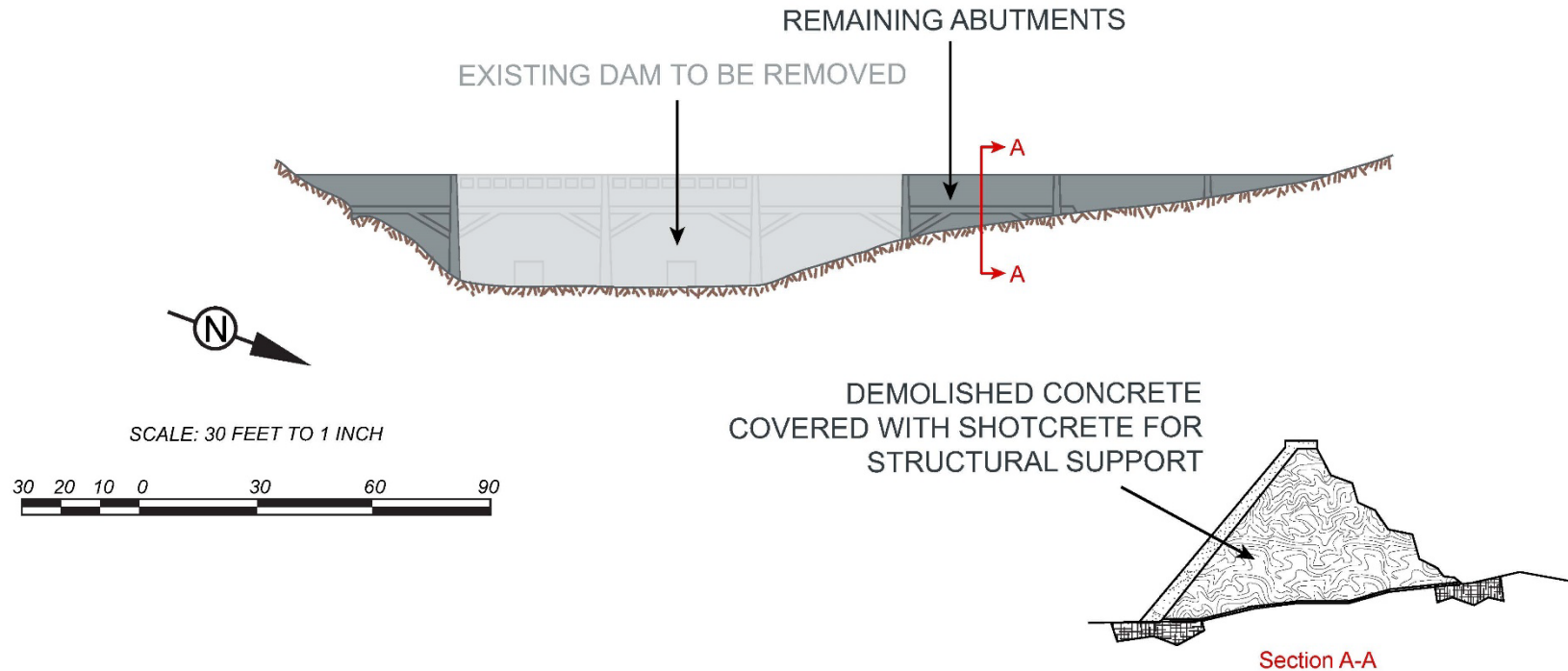
# Proposed Project Alternatives

- Agnew Dam and Rush Meadows Dam Disposition

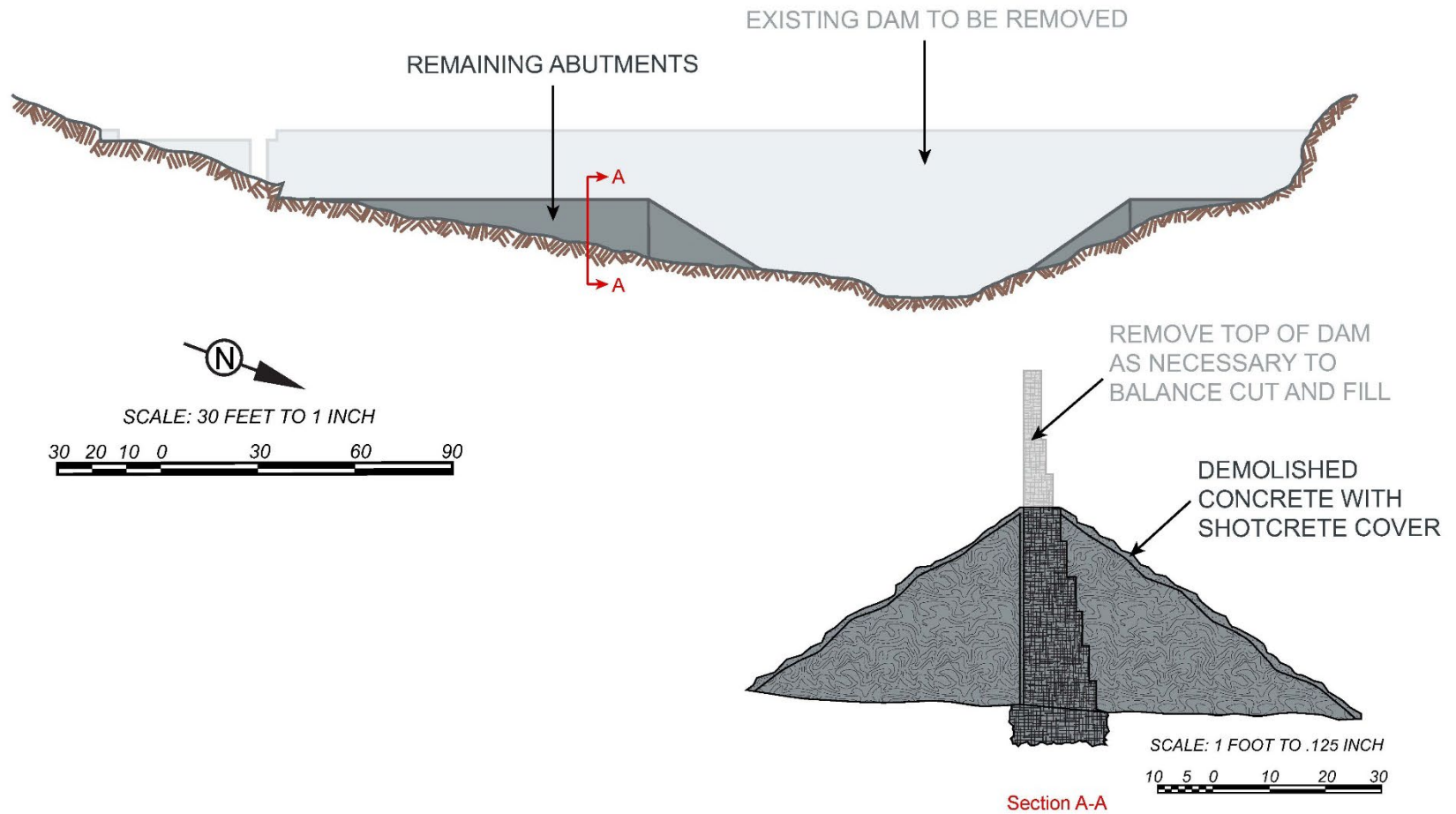
## Objectives

- Address seismic concerns by modifying/removing the dams such that no water is impounded under the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF)
- Remove dams from FERC jurisdiction

# Agnew – Partial Dam Removal



# Rush Meadows – Partial Dam Removal



# Proposed Project Alternatives

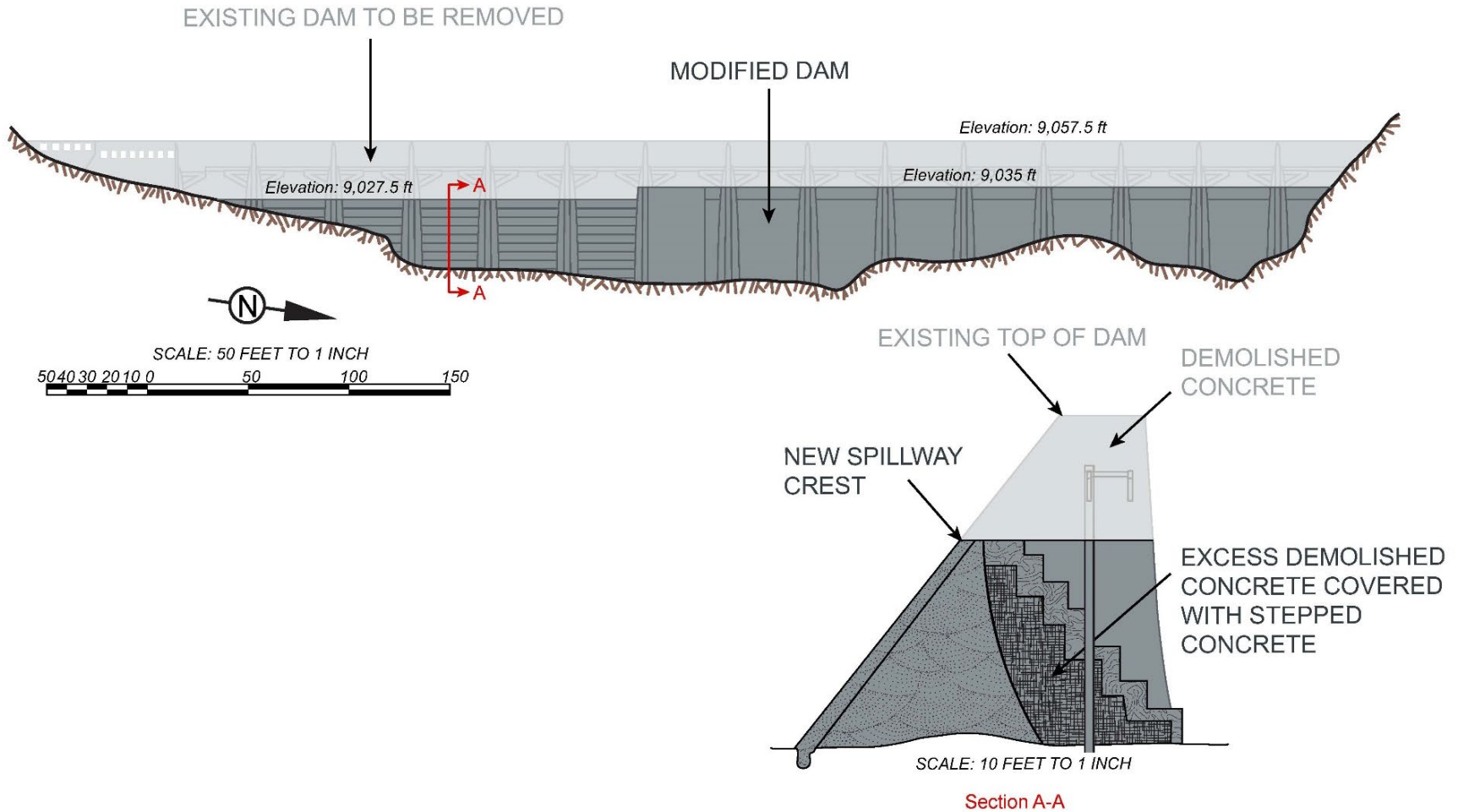
- Gem Dam Retrofitting

## Objective

- Retrofit the dam to meet seismic restrictions under PMF and allow for continued operations of the Project under FERC jurisdiction



# Gem – Dam Retrofit



# Where to Get Information:

Register online to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to the Rush Creek Project

- [www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm](http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm)

Access documents filed related to the Rush Creek Project

- FERC's eLibrary: <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/elibrary>
- SCE's relicensing website: [www.sce.com/rushcreek](http://www.sce.com/rushcreek)

Submit comments at:

- FERC's eFiling:  
<https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>