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Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044. (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Six Big Creek Hydroelectric Projects

Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board Contact Person: Michelle Siebal
Mailing Address: PO Box 2000 Phone: 916-322-8465
City: Sacramento Zip: 95812-2000 County: Sacramento

Project Location: County: Fresno and Madera City/Nearest Community: Big Creek
Cross Streets: Highway 168 / Huntington Lake Road Zip Code: 93664
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds):
Assessor's Parcel No.: Section: Twp.: Range: Base:
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: SR 168 Waterways: upper San Joaquin River watershed
Airports: NA Railways: NA Schools: NA

Document Type:

- CEQA: [] NOP [] Draft EIR [] Early Cons [] Supplement/Subsequent EIR [] Neg Dec [] Mit Neg Dec [] NEPA: [] NOI [] EA [] Draft EIS [] FONSI [] Joint Document [] Final Document [] Other:

State's Office of Planning & Research
AUG 13 2018
offer 12 PM
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Local Action Type:

- [] General Plan Update [] Specific Plan [] Rezone [] Annexation
[] General Plan Amendment [] Master Plan [] Prezone [] Redevelopment
[] General Plan Element [] Planned Unit Development [] Use Permit [] Coastal Permit
[] Community Plan [] Site Plan [] Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) [X] Other: C.W.A. 401

Development Type:

- [] Residential: Units Acres [] Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees [] Transportation: Type
[] Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees [] Mining: Mineral
[] Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees [] Power: Type MW
[] Educational: [] Waste Treatment: Type MGD
[] Recreational: [] Hazardous Waste: Type
[] Water Facilities: Type MGD [] Other:

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- [] Aesthetic/Visual [] Fiscal [] Recreation/Parks [] Vegetation
[X] Agricultural Land [] Flood Plain/Flooding [] Schools/Universities [] Water Quality
[X] Air Quality [X] Forest Land/Fire Hazard [] Septic Systems [] Water Supply/Groundwater
[] Archeological/Historical [] Geologic/Seismic [] Sewer Capacity [] Wetland/Riparian
[] Biological Resources [] Minerals [] Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading [X] Growth Inducement
[] Coastal Zone [] Noise [] Solid Waste [] Land Use
[] Drainage/Absorption [] Population/Housing Balance [X] Toxic/Hazardous [X] Cumulative Effects
[] Economic/Jobs [] Public Services/Facilities [X] Traffic/Circulation [X] Other: Utilities & Svc. Sys.

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Rangeland, timber production, hydroelectric power generation, mining, research areas, wilderness areas, and recreation

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)
See Attachment A

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District #6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB #5F |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region #4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date August 13, 2018 Ending Date October 12, 2018

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

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|--|--|
| Consulting Firm: <u>Cardno</u> | Applicant: <u>Southern California Edison Company</u> |
| Address: <u>2300 Clayton Road, Suite 200</u> | Address: <u>P.O. Box 100</u> |
| City/State/Zip: <u>Concord, CA 94520</u> | City/State/Zip: <u>Big Creek, CA 93605</u> |
| Contact: <u>Wayne Lifton</u> | Phone: <u>1-559-893-2033</u> |
| Phone: <u>925-988-1216</u> | |

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Ann Marie Oree Date: 8/13/18

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY
SIX BIG CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT
NOS. 67, 120, 2085, 2086, 2174, AND 2175**

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) filed applications for new major licenses (relicensing) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for Six Big Creek Hydroelectric Projects. As part of the relicensing processes, SCE filed its most recent joint certification application for the Six Big Creek Hydroelectric Projects, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on November 20, 2017. The joint certification application is for the following Six Big Creek Hydroelectric Projects (Projects), which are covered under one certification:

- Big Creek Nos. 2A, 8, and Eastwood Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 67);
- Big Creek No. 3 Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 120);
- Mammoth Pool Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2085);
- Vermilion Valley Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2086);
- Portal Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2174); and
- Big Creek Nos. 1 and 2 Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2175).

The State Water Board, as lead agency for CEQA compliance, intends to rely on FERC's Final Environmental Impact Statement¹ (EIS) and Environmental Assessments² (EAs), in combination with a CEQA Supplement prepared by State Water Board staff, to satisfy CEQA requirements. CEQA Guidelines Section 15225 provide that a lead agency may use a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document (i.e. FERC's EIS and EAs) to satisfy CEQA if the NEPA document is circulated for public review as broadly as required by CEQA. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15225.)

Project Description:

The Six Big Creek Hydroelectric Projects are comprised of an integrated system of six individually-licensed hydroelectric projects with operations coordinated to maximize the value of hydropower produced from available water supply. Together, the Projects include seven major powerhouses and one power station, five major reservoirs, numerous dams and small diversions, various water conveyance facilities, access roads, electrical transmission lines, and other appurtenant facilities. The Six Big Creek Hydroelectric Projects are owned and operated by SCE. All system facilities lie within the upper San Joaquin River watershed on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The combined authorized generation capacity of the Six Big Creek Hydroelectric Projects is 850.6 megawatts.

For purposes of the CEQA analysis, the Project being considered by the State Water Board includes SCE's proposed project as described in its applications to FERC, conditions proposed by United States Forest Service pursuant to Section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act, FERC's NEPA staff alternatives, terms of the Big Creek ALP Settlement Agreement³, and conditions of the certification necessary to protect water quality.

¹ On March 13, 2009, FERC issued the Final EIS for the following four Big Creek Hydroelectric Projects: Mammoth Pool Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2085); Big Creek Nos. 2A, 8, and Eastwood Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 67); Big Creek Nos. 1 and 2 Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2175); and Big Creek No.3 Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 120).

² On April 27, 2006, FERC issued the Final EA for the Portal Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2174). On May 4, 2004, FERC issued the EA for the Vermilion Valley Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2086).

³ SCE filed the *Big Creek Alternative Licensing Process (ALP) Hydroelectric Projects Settlement Agreement* with FERC on February 21, 2007.

