

Southern California Edison

Application for Surrender of License Borel Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 382

Volume I



Initial Statement



May 2023

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Southern California Edison
1515 Walnut Grove Ave.
Rosemead, CA 91770

May 2023

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

°C	Degrees Celsius
°F	Degrees Fahrenheit
1D	One-dimensional
2D	Two-dimensional
ac-ft	Acre-feet
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
AIRs	Additional Information Requests
AOU	American Ornithologists Union
APDEA	Applicant-Prepared Draft Environmental Assessment
APE	Area of Potential effect
Auxiliary Dam	Lake Isabella Auxiliary Dam, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
BA	Biological Assessment
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
BLM	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
BLM-S	BLM Sensitive Species
BMP	Best Management Practice
BO2	Blue Oak Savanna
Borel Project	Borel Hydroelectric Project, FERC Number 382
C.F.R.	Code of Federal Regulations
cal YBP	Calendar Years Before Present
CCMP	California Coastal Management Program
CDFA	California Department of Food and Agriculture
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEII	Critical Energy Infrastructure Information
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act

CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFGC	California Fish and Game Commission
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
Cfs	Cubic Feet per Second
CGS	California Geological Survey
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CRWQCB	California Regional Water Quality Control Board
CSB	California Stream Bioassessment
CUI	Controlled Unclassified Information
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWHR	California Wildlife Habitat Relationships
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
DPS	Distinct Population Segment
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAP	Emergency Action Plan
e-cat	Cataract Electrofisher
EPT	Ephemeroptera (mayflies), Plecoptera (stoneflies), and Trichoptera (caddisflies)
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (or Commission)

FGV	Fine-grained Volcanic
Forest Service	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
FP	Fully Protected Species
FPA	Federal Power Act
FSS	Forest Service Sensitive Species
ft	Feet
FW	Forest Service Watch List Species
FYLF	Foothill Yellow-legged Frog
GPS	Global Positioning System
H:V	Horizontal to Vertical
HABS	Historic American Buildings Survey
HAER	Historic American Engineering Record
HEC-HMS	Hydrologic Engineering Center's Hydrologic Modeling System
HEC-RAS	Hydrologic Engineering Center Riverine Analysis System
HHRD	Historic Human Remains Detection
HP	Horsepower
Hz	Hertz
ICF	Institute for Canine Forensics
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
KCF	Kern Canyon Fault
KOP	Key Observation Point
KR&LAEP	Kern River and Los Angeles Electric Power Company
KR-1	Southern California Edison's Kern River No. 1 Project
KRVHS	Kern River Valley Historical Society
KRVM	Kern River Valley Museum
Ksat	Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity of Soil

kV	Kilovolt
kW	Kilowatt
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
Lower Borel	Downstream of the Auxiliary Dam
LRMP	Land and Resource Management Plan
msl	Mean Sea Level
MW	Megawatt
NAD83	North American Datum of 1983
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NAVD 88	North American Vertical Datum of 1988
NED	National Elevation Dataset
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFS	National Forest System
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NLCD	National Land Cover Database
NNIP	Non-native Invasive Plant
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OHV	Off Highway Vehicle
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PCT	Pacific Crest Trail
PL&P	Pacific Light and Power Company
Plan	Decommissioning Plan
Plan Set	30% Design Plans
Powerhouse	Borel Powerhouse
PT&L	Power, Transit, and Light Company

QSD	Qualified SWPPP Developer
QSP	Qualified SWPPP Practitioner
RM	River Mile
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RMZ	Recreational Management Zones
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
RV	Recreational Vehicle
SCE	Southern California Edison Company
SCS	Soil Conservation Service
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office(r)
SIO	Scenic Integrity Objective
SMA	Special Management Area
SMS	Scenery Management System
SQF	Sequoia National Forest
SR	State Route
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
SSC	Species of Special Concern
SSJVIC	Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center
SSURGO	Soil Survey Geographic Database
Surrender Application	Application for Surrender of License
Switchyard	non-Project Borel Switchyard
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TCE	Temporary Construction Easement
TCL	Traditional Cultural Landscape
TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
TIN	Triangular Irregular Network

U.S.	United States
U.S.C.	United States Code
Upper Borel	Upstream of the Auxiliary Dam
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
v	Volt
VegCAMP	Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program
VMS	Visual Management System
VQO	Visual Quality Objective
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program
YOY	Young of the Year

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1 Initial Statement

**United States of America
Before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Application for Surrender of License for Major Project**

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) submits this Initial Statement as part of its Application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) for Surrender of License (Surrender Application) of the Borel Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 382 (Borel Project). This Surrender Application is prepared in conformance with Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Subchapter B (Regulations under the Federal Power Act [FPA]), Part 6 (Surrender or Termination of License).

The Commission's regulations do not include a form for initial statements associated with a surrender application. Because the Borel Project is a major Project at an existing dam, SCE has used the form at 18 C.F.R. Section 4.51(a) as a guide for preparing this Initial Statement, which includes specified general information about the Borel Project, SCE, interested resource agencies, Native American Tribes, and state and local governments. This Initial Statement conforms to the regulations in 18 C.F.R. Section (§) 4.51(a) pertaining to the contents of an Initial Statement, and in 18 C.F.R. Section 5.18(a) that require, in part, that an application include certain general information.

1. Applicant

SCE applies to FERC for a surrender of the license for the Borel Hydroelectric Project No. 382, as described in the attached volumes of this Application.

2. Location of the Project

State: California
County: Kern
Nearby Town: Bodfish
Stream: Kern River

3. SCE Business Address, Telephone Number and Website

Southern California Edison Company
1515 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
PO Box 800
626-238-2902
<https://www.sce.com/regulatory/hydro-licensing/borel>

4. *SCE's Authorized Agents*

Wayne P. Allen
Principal Manager, Regulatory Support
Services
Southern California Edison Company
1515 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626-302-9741
wayne.allen@sce.com

Meg Richardson
Borel Hydroelectric Project, FERC License
Surrender Project Manager
Southern California Edison Company
1515 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626-238-2902
Mary.M.Richardson@sce.com

Kelly Henderson
Senior Attorney, Environmental Law
Southern California Edison Company
1515 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
626-302-4411
Kelly.Henderson@sce.com

5. *SCE's Organizational Status*

SCE is a domestic corporation of the State of California. SCE is not a municipality for purposes of the FPA; regardless, the preference provisions under Section 7(a) of the FPA do not apply to a surrender of license.

6. *Pertinent California Statutory and Regulatory Requirements*

The statutory or regulatory requirements of the state in which the Borel Project is located that affect the Borel Project, as proposed, with respect to bed and banks; and to the appropriation, diversion, and use of water for power purposes; and with respect to the right to engage in the business of developing, transmitting, and distributing power, as well as any other business necessary to accomplish the purposes of the license under the FPA include the following:

- California Water Code Section 13160; Title 23, California Code of Regulations Sections 3855-3861 – California Water Code Section 13160 designates the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as the state water pollution control agency for the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and any other Federal act. Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Sections 3855-3861, specify requirements and procedures for applications for water quality certificates required under Federal law.
- SCE will apply to the SWRCB at the appropriate time in the license surrender proceeding for Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification and provide a copy of the request to FERC.
- The Federal Consistency Unit of the California Coastal Commission implements the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 as it applies to Federal activities, development projects, permits and licenses, and support to state and local governments. In the CZMA, Congress created a Federal and state partnership for management of coastal resources. The Federal government certified the California Coastal Management Program (CCMP) in 1977.

SCE will consult with the California Coastal Commission and file with FERC documentation of the consultation with the California Coastal Commission.

7. Name and Address of the Owners of the Existing Borel Project Facilities

Southern California Edison Company
1515 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770

No Borel Project works are Federally owned.

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2 Additional Information Required by 18 C.F.R. § 4.32(a)

1. *Identify every person, citizen, association of citizens, domestic corporation, municipality, or state that has or intends to obtain and will maintain any proprietary right necessary to construct, operate, or maintain the Project:*

SCE is applying to surrender the existing license. Therefore, the requirements of Section 4.32(a) are not pertinent to this Surrender Application.

2. *Identify (providing names and mailing addresses):*

- i. *Every county in which any part of the Project, and any Federal facilities that would be used by the Project, would be located:*

Joshua Champlin
Interim Director of Public Works
Kern County
2700 M St Ste 400
Bakersfield, CA 93301

The Borel Project does not use any Federal facilities. However, the Borel Project's canal system runs through the Federally owned Lake Isabella and Lake Isabella Auxiliary Dam, which are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps):

U.S. Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District
Isabella Dam Safety Modification Project
1325 J Street, Room 1513
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-557-5100
isabella@usace.army.mil

- ii. *Every city, town, or similar local subdivision:*

- A. *In which any part of the Project, and any Federal facilities that would be used by the Project, would be located:*

The Borel Project is not located within any city, town, or similar local subdivision. The Borel Project does not use any Federal facilities.

- B. *That has a population of 5,000 or more people and is located within 15 miles of the Project dam:*

There are no communities with 5,000 or more people located within 15 miles of the Borel Project.

iii. *Every irrigation district, drainage district, or similar special purpose political subdivision:*

A. *In which any part of the Project, and any Federal facilities that would be used by the Project, would be located:*

There are no irrigation districts, drainage districts, or other similar special-purpose political subdivisions located within the Borel Project area or which own, operate, or maintain any Borel Project facilities. The following water districts claim rights to the waters of the Kern River or divert water from the river downstream of the Borel Project and may be interested in the Surrender Application:

Kern County Water Agency Thomas D. McCarthy, General Manager PO Box 58 Bakersfield, CA 93302	Buena Vista Water Storage District Tim Ashlock, Engineer Manager PO Box 756 Buttonwillow, CA 93206
North Kern Water Storage District A. David Hampton, General Manager PO Box 81435 Bakersfield, CA 93380-1435	City of Bakersfield Arthur Chianellow, P.E, Water Resources Manager 1000 Buena Vista Road Bakersfield, CA 93311
Kern Delta Water District Mark Mulkay, Water Resources-Manager 501 Taft Highway Bakersfield, CA 93307	Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage Mark Gilkey, General Manager 1001 Chase Avenue Corcoran, CA 93212

B. *That owns, operates, maintains, or uses any Project facilities or any Federal facilities that would be used by the Project:*

No irrigation district, drainage district, or other similar special-purpose political subdivision owns, operates, maintains, or uses any Borel Project facilities. The Borel Project does not use any Federal facilities.

A Watermaster has been appointed for the Kern River to coordinate the Corps' operation of Lake Isabella with water rights and conservation storage holders based upon water availability and contractual requirements:

L. Mark Mulkay
Kern River Watermaster
16294 Highway 43
Wasco, CA 93280

- iv. Every other political subdivision in the general area of the Project that there is reason to believe would likely be interested in, or affected by, the Surrender Application:

Margo A. Raison, County Counsel Kern County Admin & Courts Bldg. 1415 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301-5215 mraison@kerncounty.com	Kern County Water Resources Committee 2700 "M" Street, Suite 350 Bakersfield, CA 93301 661-862-8800 info@wakc.com
Ryan Abler, District 1 Commissioner Kern County Parks and Recreation Kern County General Services Parks and Recreation 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd Floor Bakersfield, CA 93301 661-868-7000 district1@kerncounty.com	CELL INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

- v. All Native American Tribes that may be affected by the Project:

Jacqueline "Danelle" Gutierrez Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Big Pine Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley d.gutierrez@bigpinepaiute.org PO Box 700 Big Pine, CA 93513	L'eaux Stewart Chairperson Big Pine Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley l.stewart@bigpinepaiute.org PO Box 700 Big Pine, CA 93513
Sally Manning Environmental Director Big Pine Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley s.manning@bigpinepaiute.org PO Box 700 Big Pine, CA 93513	Amy Flores Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Chumash Council of Bakersfield Amyflores000@gmail.com 4701 Beechwood Street, Suite 150 Bakersfield, CA 93309

(continued)

<p>Julio Quair Chairperson Chumash Council of Bakersfield chumashtribe@sbcglobal.net 729 Texas Street Bakersfield, CA 93307</p>	<p>Carl Dahlberg Chairman Fort Independence Community of Paiute Indians receptionist@fortindependence.com PO Box 67 Independence, CA 93526</p>
<p>Sean Scruggs Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Fort Independence Community of Paiute Indians thpo@fortindependence.com falconkeeper22@gmail.com PO Box 67 Independence, CA 93526</p>	<p>David Laughing Horse Robinson Chairperson Kawaiisu Tribe horse.robinson@gmail.com PO Box 1547 Kernville, CA 93238</p>
<p>Bob Robinson Chairperson Kern Valley Indian Community bbutterbredt@gmail.com PO Box 1010 Lake Isabella, CA 93240</p>	<p>Brandy Kendricks Kern Valley Indian Community krazykendricks@hotmail.com 30741 Foxridge Court Tehachapi, CA 93561</p>
<p>Julie Turner Secretary Kern Valley Indian Community administrator@kawaiisu.org PO Box 1010 Lake Isabella, CA 93240</p>	<p>Delia Dominguez Chairperson Kitanemuk and Yowlumne Tejon Indians 2deedominguez@gmail.com 115 Radio Street Bakersfield, CA 93305</p>
<p>Kathy Bancroft Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe kathybancroft@gmail.com PO Box 40 Lone Pine, CA 93545</p>	<p>Mary Weuster Chairperson Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe chair@lppsr.org PO Box 747 Lone Pine, CA 93545</p>
<p>Colin Rambo Cultural Resources Technician Tejon Indian Tribe Colin.rambo@tejonindiantribe-nsn.gov PO Box 640 Arvin, CA 93203</p>	<p>Leo Sisco Chairperson Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut lsisco@tachi-yokut-nsn.gov PO Box 8 Lemoore, CA 93245</p>

(continued)

Robert Gomez Chairman Tubatulabal Tribe rgomez@tubatulabal.org PO Box 226 Lake Isabella, CA 93240	Octavio Escobedo Chairperson Tejon Indian Tribe oescobedo@tejonindiantribe-nsn.gov PO Box 640 Arvin, CA 93203
Kerri Vera Environmental Coordinator Tule River Indian Tribe tuleriver@yahoo.com PO Box 589 Porterville, CA 93258	Tina Guerrero Vice Chair Tubatulabal Tribe tguerrero@tubatulabal.org PO Box 226 Lake Isabella, CA 93240
Rocky Stone White Blanket Allotment Stonz66@hotmail.com PO Box 376 Onyx, CA 93255	Neil Peyron Chairman Tule River Indian Tribe neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov PO Box 589 Porterville, CA 93258
Mona Olivas Tucker Chairwoman yak titvu yak tihini – Northern Chumash Tribe olivas.mona@gmail.com 660 Camino Del Rey Arroyo Grande, CA 93420	Kenneth Woodrow Chairperson Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band kwood8934@aol.com 1179 Rock Haven Court Salinas, CA 93906

3. Reporting Requirements to Property Owners

Because this Surrender Application is not for a license under Section 4 of the FPA, SCE need not provide notifications required under Section 4.32(a)(3) of the Commission’s regulations. Federal land management agencies that there is a reason to believe would likely be interested or affected by this Surrender Application are:

U.S. Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District Isabella Dam Safety Modification Project 1325 J Street, Room 1513 Sacramento, CA 95814 916-557-5100 isabella@usace.army.mil	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest, Kern River Ranger District 11380 Kernville Road / PO Box 9 Kernville, CA 932398 760-376-7381 x 610
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management Bakersfield Field Office Bakersfield, CA 93308 661-391-6000	CELL INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Although not required by Section 4.32(a)(3) of the Commission’s regulations, beginning in December 2020, SCE notified all landowners of properties within and adjacent to the Borel FERC Project boundary regarding SCE’s license surrender. SCE sent Borel Project communications to 215 property owners and met with many of them during dedicated landowner meetings and public townhall meetings. SCE has and will continue to make information available to these property owners throughout the license surrender process. More information is available in Volume IV - Record of Consultation, which provides a description of SCE’s consultation with stakeholders regarding decommissioning of Borel Project facilities and surrender of the license.

3 Contents of Surrender Application

In addition to this Initial Statement (Volume I), this Surrender Application includes the following material:

- Volume II includes a Decommissioning Plan. This plan provides SCE's proposed decommissioning of Borel Project facilities. The plan includes a 30% design set, proposed measures to protect environmental resources that may be affected during decommissioning and address any impacts that cannot be avoided and provides an anticipated schedule for decommissioning.
- Volume III includes an Applicant-Prepared Draft Environmental Assessment. This document provides an assessment of environmental effects due to the implementation of SCE's proposed Decommissioning Plan and measures.
- Volume IV includes a Record of Consultation. This record provides a description of SCE's consultation with stakeholders regarding decommissioning of Borel Project facilities and surrender of the license.
- Volume V includes non-public, privileged information and compiled data with regard to pre-contact and historic-era archaeological resources, historic built environment resources and Traditional Cultural Properties, as well as a record of consultation with Native American Tribes and agencies, as appropriate.

All portions of the Surrender Application are public with the exception of Volume V that contains CUI//CEII and is filed with the Commission under the Privileged security level. In accordance with the Commission's regulations, 18 C.F.R. §§ 388.112 & 388.113, SCE has included the required markings on each page of Volume V.

In addition, the Surrender Application includes Exhibit A (Project Description), Exhibit F (Design Drawings), and Exhibit G (Project Maps) that are on file with FERC and are therefore included in the Surrender Application by reference. SCE has made no changes to these exhibits; they are included by reference in the Surrender Application for informational purposes only.

- Exhibit A, Project Description. This exhibit is available in FERC's eLibrary at Accession Number 20030310-0186 and is made part of this Surrender Application by reference for informational purposes.
- Exhibit F, Design Drawings. This exhibit, which contains Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (CEII) and is not available to the public, can be found in FERC's eLibrary at Accession Numbers 20030504-0004, 20060804-4013, and 20060815-0323. This exhibit is made part of this Surrender Application by reference for informational purposes only and is not available for public viewing.
- Exhibit G, Project Maps. This exhibit is available in FERC's eLibrary at Accession Numbers 20060804-4012, 20060815-0315, 20060815-0314, and 20060804-4011, and is made part of this Surrender Application by reference for informational purposes.

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4 Subscription and Verification

VERIFICATION

State of California
County of Orange

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, states that he has read the above document and knows the contents of it, and that all of the statements contained in that document are true and correct, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Signature Wayne Allen
Wayne Allen

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of the document.

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this 27 of APRIL, 2023, by Wayne Allen, proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person who appeared before me.

(Seal)



Signature

Mohamad T. Younes

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