

Southern California Edison

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

Volume IV



Record of Consultation



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
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
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 Summary of Pre-filing Consultation

The information presented below summarizes the consultation activities conducted relevant to SCE's Application to FERC for Surrender Application of the Borel Project. Stakeholder consultation included meetings with private landowners, Native American Tribes, Federal and State agencies in support of consultations under Section 106 of the NHPA and Section 7 of the ESA Act, Kern County, utilities, and local organizations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most stakeholder consultation was conducted virtually throughout the Surrender Application process. See Attachment A – Borel Project Three-Year Plan for a detailed view of specific stakeholder consultations as they intersected with Borel Project milestones.

1.1 Public Outreach

In April 2021, SCE began public outreach by holding virtual meetings with private landowners within and/or adjacent to the Borel FERC Project boundary. Outreach continued with a virtual Town Hall, launch of a public-facing dedicated Borel Project website, informational hotline, emails, radio public service announcements, and social media posts. Except for the private landowner meetings, these communications were available to anyone interested in the Borel Project and the Surrender Application process. During the public comment period for the draft Application of Surrender of License (December 14, 2022 – February 1, 2023), stakeholders were notified by email and Borel Project website updates about the availability of the document for review and how to provide comments. The hotline was also updated to include information on the draft Surrender Application and public comment period.

Documentation of the outreach and communications listed below can be found in Attachment B – Communications and Attachment C – Town Hall Presentation.

1.1.1 Public Meetings

SCE hosted three virtual meetings with private landowners, and one virtual Town Hall for anyone interested in the Borel Project and the Surrender Application process. These meetings are described in Subsections 1.1.1.1 and 1.1.1.2.

1.1.1.1 Private Landowner Meetings

To begin the Surrender Application consultation process with private landowners who were identified as within and/or adjacent to the Borel FERC Project boundary, SCE mailed postcards with Borel Project information and an invitation to attend a virtual meeting with SCE Borel Project staff. The postcards were mailed on April 14, 2021, to 215 private landowners within and/or adjacent to the Borel FERC Project boundary announcing the virtual meetings scheduled for April 27 – 29, 2021.

Invitees were generally divided by their proximity to the Borel FERC Project boundary (North Group held on April 27, Middle Group held on April 28, South Group held on April 29). A total of eight landowners attended all three meetings. Copies of the postcard invitations for these three meetings can be found in Attachment B – Communications.

SCE followed up with another public information postcard and invitation to talk with SCE Borel Project staff on July 15, 2021. On August 4 and 11, 2021, SCE held two telephone meetings with private landowners.

1.1.1.2 Virtual Town Hall

A virtual Town Hall meeting was held on May 13, 2021, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. through the Webex platform. In advance of the meeting, SCE emailed informational postcards to 430 area residents and mailed 1,767 informational postcards via U.S. Postal Service to residents of Lake Isabella notifying them of the proposed Surrender Application for the Borel Project, the virtual town hall and additional information. The public was invited to join the meeting online or by calling in to a toll-free Webex meeting phone number. A total of 29 attendees were present on May 13, 2021. Copies of the postcard invitations can be found in Attachment B – Communications and a copy of the presentation can be found in Attachment C – Town Hall Presentation.

1.1.2 Other Communication Tools

Various communication tools were used during public outreach to provide additional information about the proposed Surrender Application of the Borel Project. These are described in the following subsections.

1.1.2.1 Contact Database

SCE developed and maintained a contact/stakeholder database, which included local and regional stakeholders, property owners within and adjacent to the Borel FERC Project boundary, government entities, Native American Tribes and Tribal Community contacts, and partner/resource agencies.

1.1.2.2 Website

SCE maintained two websites to facilitate communications with stakeholders and provide Borel Project information. The websites are accessible at the SCE [Hydro Relicensing](https://www.sce.com/regulatory/hydro-licensing/borel) webpage at <https://www.sce.com/regulatory/hydro-licensing/borel> and through a dedicated [Borel Project](https://www.borelhydro.com) website at <https://www.borelhydro.com>.

The dedicated Borel Project website includes a Borel Project overview, history, an interactive map of the Borel Project area, a license surrender process timeline, and key Borel Project regulatory documents. The website includes a SCE contact list as well as information on how to get involved in public engagement, leave comments, find additional resources, and sign up for notifications. Any user information voluntarily provided through the website is automatically logged into a Borel Project-specific, platform-based client relationship management tool.

During the draft Surrender Application public comment period (December 14, 2022 – February 1, 2023), the website housed the draft Surrender Application for review and download, as well as provided an online form to submit comments. All comments received were also logged into the client relationship management tool.

1.1.2.3 Program Hotline

SCE also hosted a toll-free program hotline in English and Spanish that was made available to all interested parties. The hotline was promoted on all collateral materials and the dedicated Borel Project website. It was monitored weekly, with messages manually entered into the client relationship management tool. SCE responded to calls within three business days.

1.1.2.4 Borel Project Email

SCE received email communications via the Borel Project's email address: info@borelhydro.com. This email address was provided to stakeholders and made available on the dedicated Borel Project website, informational field cards, and at the Town Hall public meetings. This email account was monitored weekly, and information was logged into the client relationship management tool.

SCE notified stakeholders about the draft Surrender Application public comment period through this email address. It was also a communication channel that interested parties could use to provide any comments during the comment period.

1.1.2.5 Collateral Materials

Frequently asked questions (FAQs), post card mailers, flyers, display maps, presentations, comment cards, and field cards were developed to support outreach and engagement with all interested parties.

1.1.2.6 Informational Field Cards

Informational field cards were prepared and distributed at information gathering events and site visits, and for use by SCE representatives any time they were present at the Borel Project. One side of the informational field card invited the recipient to contact SCE to ask questions or request information about the Borel Project by visiting the dedicated Borel Project website (www.borelhydro.com), emailing (info@borelhydro.com), or calling the program hotline (800-364-5807). The other side of the informational field card contained FAQs about the Borel Project and information about the license surrender process. A copy of the informational field card can be found in Attachment B – Communications.

1.1.2.7 Public Notices/Social Media Posts

In advance of public meetings, SCE posted public notices in local publications such as the Kern Valley Sun, created social media posts, and ran radio advertisements. SCE also posted public notices of the availability of the draft version of Surrender Application in the Kern Valley Sun. Copies of these communications are in Attachment B – Communications.

1.2 Agency Consultation

SCE initiated agency outreach in December of 2020. SCE consulted with Federal and State resource agencies via online virtual meetings and in-person meetings, and via email with points-of-contact in each resource agency. Federal agencies consulted include FERC, the Forest Service, BLM, and USFWS. State agencies consulted include CDFW and SWRCB. These consultation efforts are described below.

1.2.1 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

On December 16, 2020, SCE filed with FERC the Proposed Plan and Schedule for Surrender Application of Southern California Edison under P-382. On January 29, 2021, FERC acknowledged SCE's request for proposal to submit the Surrender Application and the Decommissioning Plan by January 31, 2023. SCE met virtually via Microsoft Teams with FERC staff on July 13, 2021, to discuss the document structure and contents of the Surrender Application. On August 25, 2022, SCE filed with FERC a request for extension of time to file the Surrender Application. FERC approved the request on August 30, 2022. On December 14, 2022, SCE filed with FERC the draft Surrender Application.

1.2.2 National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106)

By letter dated December 17, 2020, FERC designated SCE as its non-Federal representative for the purpose of conducting consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Office, Federal agencies, Native American Tribes, and other consultation parties pursuant to 36 C.F.R. Section 800.2(c)(4), which implement the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA. A kickoff meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams on March 17, 2021, with Native American Tribes, and with the Forest Service and BLM participating as part of the NHPA Section 106 process. On December 7, 2021, SCE emailed all Native American Tribes introducing the Borel Project ethnographer, Tiley Research, and requesting participation in the Tribal Resources Study. A second meeting with Native American Tribes, the Forest Service, and BLM was held on October 6, 2022, including a presentation of the Decommissioning Plan and a site visit. On December 14, 2022, SCE submitted (via email) the draft Surrender Application to Native American Tribes' representatives.

Following distribution of the Cultural and Tribal Study Reports to Federal agencies and Native American Tribes on February 2, 2023, a third meeting with Native American Tribes and the Forest Service was held virtually via Microsoft Teams on February 22, 2023, to discuss the results of the two studies and invite comments. The BLM was invited to the meeting but did not participate. Finally, at the invitation of the Tübatulabal Tribe, on April 14, 2023, SCE attended the Tribe's annual remembrance ceremony commemorating the events surrounding the 1863 massacre of approximately 35 Tribal members.

Additional telephone calls and email correspondence with the Native American Tribes is documented in the (confidential) *Tribal Resources Study Report*.

All Section 106 consultation is included specifically as part of the cultural and tribal consultation logs in the cultural and tribal documents made part of this Surrender Application.

1.2.3 U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Excluding the Section 106 meetings described above, SCE met with BLM staff on two occasions. On March 18, 2021, and August 16, 2022, SCE held virtual Microsoft Teams meetings with the BLM. The initial March 18, 2021, meeting included several agenda items, such as Borel Project background; SCE's intent to decommission the Borel Project; review of the surrender process schedule; and sharing of information-gathering efforts on BLM-managed lands. SCE followed up with BLM on March 20, 2021, via email to thank the BLM representatives for attending the March 18,

2021, meeting and provided a copy of the presentation for reference. BLM replied with a thank you email for providing the presentation.

The August 16, 2022, meeting included SCE's proposed disposition for decommissioning Borel Project facilities on BLM-managed lands, as well as a Borel Project overview for new BLM team members. SCE sent a follow-up email to BLM attendees on August 17, 2022, following the August 16, 2022, meeting and provided copies of the presentations as well as notes from the Q&A.

On December 14, 2022, SCE submitted (via email) the draft Surrender Application to BLM.

1.2.4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

SCE met with USFWS staff via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting on February 24, 2022, to have an informal discussion related to ESA consultation. The meeting was originally for the purposes of the existing Borel Project license conditions, but the license surrender was also discussed. As a result of this discussion, the Isabella Lake Borel Canal Reactivation Biological Evaluation¹ document was referenced and later used as a reference in the preparation of this Surrender Application.

SCE met with USFWS staff via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting on August 29, 2022, to provide a presentation on the SCE's intent to decommission the Borel Project. Information was presented on the Borel Project background, the status and schedule, and the results of recent information gathering for ESA-listed species in support of the Borel Project. On August 30, 2022, as a follow-up to the virtual Microsoft Teams meeting, SCE thanked USFWS staff for attending the virtual meeting and provided a copy of the presentation for reference. Proposed dates were offered to set up another virtual Microsoft Teams meeting to discuss the Decommissioning Plan and additional ESA species not covered during the August 29, 2022, call.

SCE met with USFWS staff via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting again on October 31, 2022, where SCE provided an overview of the Project, a review of the Project schedule and milestones, and a review of the ESA-listed bird habitat assessment previously discussed in detail on August 29, 2022. In addition, SCE shared with USFWS the additional wildlife species evaluated as not occurring on the Borel Project as well as a review of the proposed protection measures. On November 1, 2022, via email, SCE thanked USFWS for attending both meetings and provided the presentations for the August 29 and October 31 meetings for reference.

On December 14, 2022, SCE submitted (via email) the draft Surrender Application to USFWS.

1.2.5 U.S. Forest Service

On December 8, 2020, SCE provided the Forest Service with a letter of intent, requesting to add SCE Borel Project (FERC Project No. 382) to the Sequoia National Forest 2021 Program of Work.

¹ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2013. Isabella Lake Borel Canal Reactivation Project: Biological Evaluation. August 2013. Prepared by Mitch Stewart. Environmental Resources Branch. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Sacramento District.

Excluding the Section 106 meetings described above, SCE met with Forest Service representatives on ten occasions from January 2021 – March 2023 to discuss and provide updates on the Borel Project.

On January 28, 2021, SCE met virtually with Forest Service staff via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting for the Annual Consultation Meeting. Activities completed in 2020 and proposed activities for 2021 were discussed on the following SCE projects: Lower Tule (P-372), Kern River No. 3 (P-2290), Borel (P-382), and Kern River No. 1 (P-1930).

On February 11, 2021, SCE met with the Forest Service via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting and provided updates on Borel Project facility disposition options, considerations, and constraints; requests for existing Borel Project information to fill in data gaps for decommission plan and alternatives; a review of the Surrender Application schedule; and a review of Lower and Upper Borel Project facilities.

On February 25, 2021, SCE met with the Forest Service via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting to discuss an overview of the Borel Project; review the Surrender Application schedule; and review orientation of the Borel Project facilities before scheduling another coordination meeting. On the same day, representatives from SCE's cultural team met via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting with representatives from the Forest Service to discuss coordination in the license surrender application process, primarily as part of the NHPA S106 consultation.

On March 11, 2021, SCE and the Forest Service met via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting to review the Borel Project process overview; share information-gathering efforts; review Borel Project orientation; and schedule the next coordination meeting.

On June 10, 2021, SCE and the Forest Service met via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting to discuss the preliminary design concepts for the decommissioned disposition of existing facilities on the Lower Borel Project.

On June 24, 2021, SCE met for another consultation meeting with the Forest Service via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting to discuss the preliminary design concepts for existing facilities on the Upper Borel portion of the Borel Project.

On November 10, 2021, SCE and the Forest Service met via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting to discuss updates on biological and cultural information, and reviewed the Decommissioning Plan dashboard, a web-based mapping and information tool.

On February 23, 2022, SCE met with Forest Service staff via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting for the Annual Consultation Meeting. The agenda included activities completed in 2021 and proposed activities for 2022 for SCE projects, including Lower Tule (P-372), Kern River No. 3 (P-2290), Borel (P-382), and Kern River No. 1 (P-1930).

On November 16, 2022, SCE also met with representatives from the Forest Service staff in person during a tour of the Powerhouse, organized by the Kern Historic Society. Meeting details are provided in Section 1.3.3 below.

On December 14, 2022, SCE submitted (via email) the draft Surrender Application to the Forest Service.

On March 7, 2023, SCE met with Forest Service staff via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting for the Annual Consultation Meeting. The agenda included activities completed in 2022 and proposed activities for 2023 for SCE projects, including Lower Tule (P-372), Kern River No. 3 (P-2290), Borel (P-382), and Kern River No. 1 (P-1930).

On March 23, 2023, SCE met with the Forest Service via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting to review Borel Project plans and schedule, and schedule a site visit. A site visit for Forest Service staff to tour the Powerhouse was scheduled for April 13, 2023.

On April 13, 2023, SCE met with Forest Service District Ranger and Staff at the Powerhouse for a site visit and Powerhouse tour to discuss decommissioning plans for the Powerhouse and appurtenant buildings.

1.2.6 California Department of Fish and Wildlife

On April 2, 2021, SCE reached out via email to CDFW to set up a coordination call on April 9, 2021. The April 9, 2021, SCE and CDFW consultation meeting was held virtually to discuss the background of the Borel Project; SCE's intent to decommission the Borel Project; provide an overview of the license surrender process; share SCE's surrender process schedule; and review the Borel Project dashboard of existing Project facilities.

On December 14, 2022, SCE submitted (via email) the draft Surrender Application to CDFW.

1.2.7 State Water Resources Control Board

A consultation meeting was held with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on January 12, 2021, to discuss the background of the Borel Project; SCE's intent to decommission the Borel Project; provide an overview of the license surrender process; share SCE's surrender process schedule; and review the Borel Project dashboard of existing Borel Project facilities.

On December 14, 2022, SCE submitted (via email) the draft Surrender Application to SWRCB.

On February 14, 2023, SCE spoke with SWRCB to discuss SWRCB's comments provided on the draft Surrender Application regarding coordination on CEQA and Clean Water Act §401 certification.

On April 21, 2023, SCE spoke with SWRCB to answer questions on SCE's schedule to file with FERC the Surrender Application. SCE confirmed it would be filed by May 1, 2023. SCE and SWRCB also discussed coordinating a meeting for early May 2023 to discuss the coordination on CEQA and Clean Water Act §401 certification.

1.3 County, Utilities and Local Organizations

1.3.1 Kern County

Three consultation meetings were held virtually with Kern County: one on March 18, 2021, another on June 25, 2021, and the final on July 26, 2021. The March 18, 2021, consultation meeting provided Kern County with an overview of the Borel Project. The agenda of the June 25, 2021, meeting included the discussion of the Borel Project background, the status of the Borel Project, and the design concept of existing Borel Project facilities. The July 26, 2021, consultation meeting

focused on the overall hydrology and hydraulics approach and the work completed to date. On February 2 and 3, 2023, SCE spoke with Kern County regarding ownership and use of easements for the School Pedestrian Bridge at Webb Avenue.

On December 14, 2022, SCE submitted (via email) the draft Surrender Application to Kern County.

1.3.2 Utility Outreach

Information-gathering letters (i.e., A-Letters) were sent to a list of utilities that may have facilities within or in the vicinity of the Borel FERC Project boundary. Utility information was obtained on the USA North 811 – Call 811 Before You Dig website. The results of the database search produced nine contacts at five utilities: the mapping and marking contact departments at California Water Service Company; the engineering and mapping departments at Erskine Creek Water Company; the engineering and mapping departments at Frontier Communications; the engineering department at MediaCom California LLC; and the mapping and vacuum departments at SCE.

Each of the nine recipients was sent a letter via email on September 21, 2021, stating general information about the decommissioning activities planned as well as to request utility delineation mapping, as-builts, and information of planned and future activities within the Borel Project footprint. Also included in the email was enclosure of two 34-inch x 22-inch map figures that included the Borel Project footprint for reference. Each of the letters stated the recipient had 30 days from the date of the letter to reply with information of known utility facilities within the Borel Project footprint. Follow-up utility A-Letters were sent to AT&T on March 17, 2022, and to Frontier and Verizon on October 6, 2022, to confirm communication line ownership within the Borel Project FERC boundary footprint. Frontier responded via phone confirming ownership on November 8, 2022. SCE provided additional Borel Project information on November 9, 2022, to facilitate further discussion. Coordination with Frontier is ongoing. Kern Historic Society

SCE provided members of the Kern Historic Society a tour of the Powerhouse on November 16, 2022. The tour was organized by the Kern Historic Society and was not a License Surrender Project-related meeting. However, tour participants who were also interested in the Borel License Surrender were provided the Borel Project Information Card to access information related to the License Surrender. Meg Richardson, Borel Hydroelectric Project, FERC License Surrender Project Manager, provided an update on the License Surrender schedule. Approximately 50 members of the Kern Historic Society attended the tour, as well as representatives from the Forest Service.

1.4 Comments on Surrender Application

On December 14, 2022, SCE made available to stakeholders a draft of the Surrender Application for a 50-day review and written comment period ending at close of business on February 1, 2023.

SCE received four comment letters and several emails to the Borel Project email address from stakeholders during and after the official comment period on Volumes I through IV. The SWRCB submitted a comment letter via email on January 27, 2023. The Forest Service submitted a comment letter via email on Volumes I-IV on February 9, 2023. Five private landowners submitted comments to the Borel Project email address between December 27, 2022, and January 30, 2023. Kernville Union School District submitted a letter on April 10, 2023, via USPS requesting that they be notified about any updates regarding the decommissioning. SCE reviewed each of the comment letters and

emails concerning the December 14, 2022, draft of the Surrender Application. Comments received from Stakeholders have been provided in Attachment D – Comments on Surrender Application.

Additionally, comments were received on Volume V which have been provided in that Volume that contains CUI//CEII and is filed with the Commission under the Privileged security level.

Table 1-1 below provides a summary of comments, including the commentor’s affiliation and date of comment, the comment², and SCE’s response. SCE’s responses in Table 1-1 below, are specific to the scope of the comment by the affiliation. Regardless of the response, SCE will comply with all applicable laws, regulations and approvals. Of the 81 comments received, 29 were comments that did not provide a recommendation or specific direction to SCE. Of the remaining 52 comments received, 30 were adopted, 21 were adopted with modification, and one was not adopted.

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Kyle Villa Business/Resident/ Landowner, December 26, 2022.	Who’s responsible for maintaining the foot bridge? ...Why is this foot bridge going to remain in place after the demolition of the Borel channel? It is nothing but a nuisance.	Comment Noted. As described in Vol. II, Sec. 2, Lakeland pedestrian bridge is under Kern County Jurisdiction and will be left in place.
Richard Rooney Business/Resident/ Landowner, December 29, 2022.	The best outcome for the Borel Project would be to fill in and return to nature and return to the property owner as the property as is; now presents a safety problem as the homeless now use the property. This presents a problem to the property owner and the homeless. Hope you do the right thing and return the upgraded property to the property owners.	Comment Noted. Vol. II, Sec. 2 describes SCE's plan for decommissioning facilities on private land and the termination of any easements or other rights SCE has for use of the land for Project purposes.
Janet Lubin Business/Resident/ Landowner, December 29, 2022.	As owner of property along the Borel canal, I'd be interested in the plans for construction. As a landowner, my hopes are that the canal will be put back to nature and given back to landowner. Please advise of what construction will be done.	Comment Noted. Vol. II, Sec. 2 describes SCE's plan for decommissioning facilities on private land and the termination of any easements or other rights SCE has for use of the land for Project purposes.

² In many cases, comments have been paraphrased for purposes of reproduction. Attachment D – Comments on Surrender Application, provides complete versions of comments received.

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Sharon Rooney Business/Resident/ Landowner, December 30, 2022.	As owner of property along the Borel canal, I'd be interested in the plans for construction. As a landowner, my hopes are that the canal will be put back to nature and given back to landowner. Please advise of what construction will be done.	Comment Noted. Vol. II, Sec. 2 describes SCE's plan for decommissioning facilities on private land and the termination of any easements or other rights SCE has for use of the land for Project purposes.
Kernville Union School District, April 10, 2023.	Request to be notified about any Borel Project updates and/or any proceedings related to the decommissioning.	Adopted. SCE will continue to notify Kernville Union School District on the proceeding.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Request SCE-led Project site visit.	Adopted. SCE coordinated with Forest Service for a site visit on 4/13/2023.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Lake Isabella is on 303(d) list - EA does not discuss potential contributions of concrete on water quality.	Comment Noted. SCE anticipates that canal concrete will be tested prior to decommissioning. Potential effects will be mitigated by BMPs during construction (See Vol. II, Sec. 4 and Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2.).
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Current proposal leaves many linear features still on the landscape, visible to the public land the current post-Project appearance of some portions of the Project should be addressed in the final application.	Comment Noted. Vol. II, Sect. 4 describes the proposed disposition of Project features. Some features will be left in place at the request of the Forest Service and Tribes. Areas on NFS lands disturbed by construction will be restored to the satisfaction of the Forest Service.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Fill material needs to be clean, invasive weed monitoring will be required, multiple years.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4. & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. SCE will use toxic substance free fill and certified weed free materials for work on NFS lands. SCE defines the "work" to include all decommissioning work including monitoring and revegetation. After the "work" is done and the license is surrendered, SCE will have no obligations regarding the NFS lands.

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	§2.4.2.1 – Section 3 of canal is on SCE lands. Decommissioning Segment 3 includes removal and disposal of the portable Bailey Bridge, which is on the Forest Service bridge inventory as the Portable Marina Bridge. The Forest Service may choose to retain and reuse the portable bridge elsewhere.	Comment Noted. SCE's plan is to remove Bailey Bridge (See Vol. II, Sec. 2.). If Forest Service chooses to retain and reuse the portable bridge, SCE will coordinate with Forest Service for Forest Service's removal of the bridge from the site.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	§2.5.2.1 – Section 4 is partially on NFS lands. Siphons are proposed to be filled with concrete slurry. “The existing wingwalls and headwalls will remain in place and will be replaced with clean fill” – clarify if features will remain in place or if they will be replaced. If the siphons are left, what happens if lake ceases to exist? - Forest Service will not be responsible for removing the siphons. A plan should be in place for the licensee to remove the siphons should the lake cease to exist.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 2. SCE adopted new language to add clarity of work to be performed at Siphon wingwalls and headwalls. SCE did not adopt the development of a plan to remove the siphons. SCE believes that removal of the siphons is not feasible due to the anticipated existence of the Corps operated and managed reservoir and prohibitive cost.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	§ 2.9.1 - Section 8 - Why need 14-foot access road if Project is decommissioned.	Comment Noted. Segment 8 is not on NFS lands.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	§ 2.10.2.1 - Section 9 Concern re: historic mining features adjacent to Pioneer Syphon.	Adopted. See Vol III & Vol V which have been updated to include cultural and Tribal resources analysis, including identification of effects.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	§ 2.11.2.1 - Section 10 No mention of restoring to natural appearance.	Adopted. As stated in Vol. II, Sec. 4. & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2., SCE will obtain Forest Service approval for revegetation of NFS lands with the Borel FERC Project boundary or otherwise disturbed during decommissioning.

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Clarify what is the APE? Need to include as part of cultural resources survey?	Adopted. See Vol III & Vol V which have been updated to include cultural and Tribal resources analysis, including identification of effects.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Clarify what features are proposed to remain and whether any mitigation is proposed for visual resource effects.	Adopted. See Vol. II, Sec. 2 and Vol. III, Sec. 3.11. SCE described the disposition of all facilities in the decommissioning plan and included an assessment of Aesthetic resources in the APDEA.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	§ 2.12.2.1 - Concern re: restoration measures or lack thereof: Forebay, Penstock, Powerhouse, Aux buildings, Spillway, Trail race.	Adopted. See Vol. II, Sec. 2 and Sec 4. SCE has provided details regarding the disposition of Project facilities on NFS lands and measures to revegetate as appropriate. Revegetation details will be finalized in conjunction with completed engineering design.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Table 4.1 states adverse effect can't be avoided and no mention of mitigation. Conflicts with Section 1.3.4 Volume III "Demo of Borel Powerhouse would constitute an adverse effect to a historic property".	Adopted. See Vol III & Vol V which have been updated to include cultural and Tribal resources analysis, including identification of effects.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	1st paragraph - Leaving access roads in place invites illegal motor vehicle use. Should decommission roads, sloped for drainage, scarified, seeded, and blocked to vehicles.	Adopted. See Vol. II, Sec. 2. Roads on NFS lands used for the sole purpose of accessing Project facilities, unless otherwise requested by the Forest Service, will be decommissioned.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	§2.2-2.5 Segments 1-4 Road improvements need more detail and analysis. USFS GIS should review and advise on portions of access roads.	Comment noted. The level of detail in the application is sufficient for this phase of the surrender. SCE understands USFS may have its GIS staff review the application.

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	§ 2.4.1.3 Segment 3 - USFS may want to retain Baily Bridge (known as Portable Marina Bridge).	Adopted. SCE's plan is to leave Bailey Bridge in place (Vol. II, Sec. 2).
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	§ 2.10-2.11 Segments 9, 10. System Road 27S14 should be maintained during Project, but other non-system roads used should be decommissioned. USFS will decide after Project if 27S14 should stay.	Adopted. See Vol. II, Sec. 2. System Road 27S14 will be maintained during construction activities and left in place. Other roads on NFS lands used for the sole purpose of accessing Project facilities, unless otherwise requested by the Forest Service, will be decommissioned.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	§2.12.2.2 Segment 11 - Aside from paved access road to Powerhouse, decommission all other roads.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 2. Other than the paved road, roads on NFS lands used for the sole purpose of accessing Project facilities will be decommissioned unless they are required for access to non-Project transmission or distribution lines and facilities.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	§1.3.4 - Volume III does not address the stated adverse effect beyond following State regs. SHPO and ACHP (if council participates) must concur.	Adopted. See Vol III & Vol V which have been updated to include cultural and Tribal resources analysis, including identification of effects.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	V5 was unavailable.	Adopted. Vol. V was provided via email to Forest Service, BLM and Tribes on 2/2/2023.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	VII and VIII did not show CDFW 1602 permit. Verify if applying and if not, need CDFW to concur why no permit needed.	Comment Noted. See Vol. II, Sec. 4. & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. SCE will obtain all necessary permits and approvals prior to ground disturbing activities on NFS lands. This includes those required by CDFW.

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Ensuring compliance with the SWPPP and Forest Service BMPs will require Forest Service personnel to be present and working alongside the contractor’s QSD/QSP (qualified SWPPP designer/practitioner).	Adopted. See Vol. II, Sec. 4. & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. for updated measure. Forest Service staff may wish to visit the worksite on NFS lands during construction.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Monitor all parking, storage areas, laydown sites, equipment storage areas in addition to the active work areas annually for 5 years for invasive plants.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4. & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. for updated measure. SCE will monitor all parking, storage areas, laydown sites, equipment storage areas for work on NFS lands. SCE defines the "work" to include all decommissioning work including monitoring and revegetation. After the "work" is done and the license is surrendered, SCE will have no obligations regarding the NFS lands.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Seek approval if can't confine to previously disturbed areas to confirm not sensitive habitat.	Adopted. See Vol. II, Sec. 4. & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. for updated measure for work on NFS lands.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Use certified weed free materials, monitor annually for 5 years. If weed populations introduced, use BMPs to remove.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4. & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. SCE will use certified weed free materials for work on NFS lands. SCE defines the "work" to include all decommissioning work including monitoring and revegetation. After the "work" is done and the license is surrendered, SCE will have no obligations regarding the NFS lands. .

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Use gravel and sand from local and certified weed-free sources that is verified prior to import. Monitor annually for 5 years.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4. & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. SCE will attempt to use gravel and sand from local sources for work on NFS lands. SCE defines the "work" to include all decommissioning work including monitoring and revegetation. After the "work" is done and the license is surrendered, SCE will have no obligations regarding the NFS lands
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	If spoil piles approved w/in Project boundary, monitor annually for 5 years.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4. & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. for work on NFS lands. SCE defines the "work" to include all decommissioning work including monitoring and revegetation. After the "work" is done and the license is surrendered, SCE will have no obligations regarding the NFS lands
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Fill sites must verify toxic substance and weed free prior to import. Monitor annually for 5 years.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4. & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2 SCE will use toxic substance free fill and certified weed free materials for work on NFS lands. SCE defines the "work" to include all decommissioning work including monitoring and revegetation. After the "work" is done and the license is surrendered, SCE will have no obligations regarding the NFS lands.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Survey Project area, get mapping guidance from botanist, send data to Sequoia National Forest botanist.	Adopted. See Vol. II, Sec. 4. SCE updated measures to address coordination with Forest Service botanist for work on NFS lands.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Have biological monitor present when any work near rare botanical species or non-native invasive plants.	Adopted. See Vol. II, Sec. 4. & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. SCE updated measures stating biological monitor will be present during construction work on NFS lands.

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Restoration of disturbed areas use locally grown native plants, weed and pathogen free. All species and seeds purchased from verified weed free native seed nursery.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4. & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. SCE will require all plantings on NFS lands be weed free but cannot ensure all revegetation plantings are locally grown.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	All restoration and revegetation plans must be agreed and approved by USFS.	Adopted. As stated in Vol. II, Sec. 4. & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2., SCE will obtain Forest Service approval for revegetation of NFS lands.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Follow USFS prescribed rules for hydroseeding and monitor annually for 5 years.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4 & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. SCE will follow hydroseeding guidelines for work on NFS lands. SCE cannot ensure plants used for revegetation will be locally grown. SCE defines the "work" to include all decommissioning work including monitoring and revegetation. After the "work" is done and the license is surrendered, SCE will have no obligations regarding the NFS lands
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	FSH 2609.26 – Botanical Program Management. FSM 2600 – Wildlife, Fish, and Sensitive Plant Habitat Management. Chapter 2670 – Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plants and Animals. U.S. Forest Service TESP-IS NRM NRIS. Provides direction of rare botanical species occurring on NFS lands in Region 5.	Adopted. As stated in Vol. II, Sec. 4 & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2., unless otherwise agreed to by the Forest Service, SCE will adhere to all Forest Service applicable policies and directives regarding rare botanical species during decommissioning.

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Monitor before/after work - Kern Canyon clarkia and Tracy's Eriastrum. Collect metadata and send with shapefile to Sequoia National Forest botanist.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4. Pre-construction surveys will be conducted for work on NFS lands. SCE defines the "work" to include all decommissioning work including monitoring and revegetation. After the "work" is done and the license is surrendered, SCE will have no obligations regarding the NFS lands.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Any projected or accidental damage to Kern Canyon clarkia and Tracy's Eriastrum report to Sequoia National Forest botanist.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4 & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. If damage to Kern Canyon clarkia and Tracy's eriastrum occurs on NFS lands during construction, SCE will report it to the Forest Service.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	50-ft fenced buffer zone during work. Follow special habitat protection measures and report any work to Sequoia National Forest botanist.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4. & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2., SCE added language regarding buffer on NFS lands but cannot commit to a 50 ft buffer in all locations due to terrain and anticipated work.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	No herbicides on Federal land w/o approval of USFS. If used, document and provide to Sequoia National Forest botanist.	Adopted. As stated in Vol. II, Sec. 4 & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2., unless otherwise agreed to by the USFS, SCE will not use herbicides on NFS lands during decommissioning.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	If any new populations of rare botanical species or invasive plant populations discovered, apply 50-ft fenced buffer, and notify Sequoia National Forest botanist.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4 & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. SCE will report new species on NFS lands, added language regarding buffer but cannot commit to a 50 ft buffer in all locations due to terrain and anticipated work.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	If elderberry species found – 50-ft fenced buffer. Follow special habitat protection measures. Report any work to Sequoia National Forest botanist.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4 & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. SCE will report Elderberry occurrence on NFS lands, added language regarding buffer but cannot commit to a 50 ft buffer in all locations due to terrain and anticipated work.

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Non-native invasive plant populations within the Project area will be removed and monitored annually for 5 years. Best management practices will be followed for removal and disposal. Manual removal is favored over herbicide application, manual removal may be required in certain situations.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4 & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. SCE will consult with the Forest Service on the development of the Revegetation Plan, specifically which species require management. Several non-native invasive weed species are currently widespread throughout the Borel FERC Project boundary and/or have uncontrollable source populations which render them unsuitable for management. SCE defines the "work" to include all decommissioning work including monitoring and revegetation. After the "work" is done and the license is surrendered, SCE will have no obligations regarding the NFS lands.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	If new invasive plant populations are found or if new invasive plant species previously not recorded in the Project area are found, collect metadata and a current shapefile documenting: location, population numbers. Send to Sequoia National Forest botanist.	Adopted. See Vol. II, Sec. 4 & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. SCE updated measures to address for work on NFS lands.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Follow FSM 2903 for invasive plant management on USFS land.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4 & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. SCE will generally follow FSM 2903 for work on NFS lands.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Clean all equipment and machinery with clean water to remove any dirt, weeds, seeds, before entering USFS land.	Adopted. See Vol. II, Sec. 4 & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. for work on NFS lands.

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Notify USFS at least 2 working days prior to moving equipment. Certify in writing compliance terms of weed-free and pathogen-free prior to each operations start.	Adopted. See Vol. II, Sec. 4 & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. for work on NFS lands.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Any equipment, tools (including hand tools), or vehicles staged or that created ground disturbance within areas identified as containing invasive plants - wash before leaving site.	Adopted. See Vol. II, Sec. 4 & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. for work on NFS lands.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Any new infestations of invasive species occur after work has been done, will be reported to parties who worked on site.	Not Adopted. SCE defines the "work" to include all decommissioning work including monitoring and revegetation. After the "work" is done and the license is surrendered, SCE will have no obligations regarding the NFS lands.
Forest Service, February 9, 2023.	Heavy machinery and ground disturbing work must be avoided and flagged or have fencing installed in sensitive habitats, riparian or aquatic habitats within the Project areas.	Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 4 & Vol III, Sec. 2.2.2. SCE will avoid sensitive habitat on NFS lands to the extent possible but cannot commit to complete avoidance. If impacted, mitigation measures will be implemented.
SWRCB, January 27, 2023.	Clean Water Act §401 Cert - SCE will need to apply for a certification to cover Project Decommissioning.	Adopted. See Vol. III, Sec 1.3.2. SCE intends to submit to the SWRCB an application for CWA Sec. 401 water quality certification for the decommissioning. SCE understands FERC will determine the deadline for the submittal.
SWRCB, January 27, 2023.	Pursuant to CEQA - SWRCB = lead agency. SCE coordinate with SWRCB on the timing prior to SCE submitting a Cert app.	Adopted. See Vol. IV, Sec. 1.2.7. SCE will consult with the SWRCB regarding CEQA to the extent necessary to support a SWRCB action related to the decommissioning.
SWRCB, January 27, 2023.	SCE holds water right license No. 005731 (application No. 013778) to divert and use for power. SWRCB requests SCE clarify the future disposition of the Water Right.	Adopted. See Vol. II, Sec. 1 and Vol III, Sec. SCE intends to surrender its power water rights at the appropriate time.

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
SWRCB, January 27, 2023.	Decommissioning Approach § 2.2.2.1 - Access roads. SWRCB request SCE include additional information in its FLA regarding proposed access road improvements noting any temporary and/or permanent wetland impacts.	<p>Comment Noted.</p> <p>There are no known temporary or permanent wetland impacts from anticipated work at this time, but SCE expects that a formal aquatic resources delineation will be completed once the engineering design is closer to completion and prior to construction in that area.</p>
SWRCB, January 27, 2023.	§ 2.3.2.1 - Define native material, describe how concrete will be blended and spread. Describe actions to ensure disposed materials do not contribute to erosion into surface waters.	<p>Adopted with Modification.</p> <p>See Vol II. Sec. 2. SCE has included language describing native materials. Earthwork specifications will be developed in detail at later stages of engineering design.</p>
SWRCB, January 27, 2023.	Staff request more info on type of imported soils and clarification on any Project measures to ensure that disposed materials does not contribute to erosion into surface waters.	<p>Comment Noted.</p> <p>At this time the specific location and nature of imported fill material is not known. SCE has included measures in Vol. II, Sec. 4 to test and verify imported fill materials are free from toxic substances.</p>
SWRCB, January 27, 2023.	A Hazardous Materials Plan should be developed to detail how lead contamination will be addressed along with potential impacts to soil contamination and stormwater runoff. Powerhouse auxiliary buildings should be evaluated for hazardous materials and addressed accordingly in a Hazardous Materials Plan.	<p>Adopted.</p> <p>See Vol II. Sec. 4. SCE has additional language to measures regarding hazardous materials plan development.</p>
SWRCB, January 27, 2023.	Clarify how Project water is being managed given it's no longer being diverted for hydropower.	<p>Comment Noted.</p> <p>Natural flow in the Kern River is not being diverted. i.e., water remains in the river</p>

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	<p>§ 2.8.2.1 VII School pedestrian bridge at Webb Ave should be removed, not abandoned in place.</p> <p>VIII, pg. 23 - SCE should select removal.</p>	<p>Adopted. See Vol II., Sec 2. SCE has updated the plan requiring the removal of the School Pedestrian Bridge.</p>
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	<p>§ 2.8.2.1 The proposed use of pulverized backfill may present future risks of subsidence as backfilled land settles.</p> <p>Plan is not clear what form of fill will be used across private parcels in Segment 7.</p> <p>Ensure solid compacted to standards sufficient for reverted small-parcel residential use, without significant risks of subsidence.</p>	<p>Comment Noted. See Vol II., Sec. 2. SCE included reference to compaction standards and fill material.</p>
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	<p>Current schedule is vague and open ended re: timing/completion - especially private owned parcels in Segment 7.</p> <p>Private parcels should be completed first to mitigate Project blight on private land.</p>	<p>Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 3. SCE has included a schedule providing more detail regarding construction timing but cannot commit to timing of construction on each segment.</p>
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	<p>Inconsistency with VII and VIII re: number of private owners impacted.</p> <p>All private w/in Segment 7 in VII and VIII Segment 8 may have private owners.</p>	<p>Comment Noted. The exact number of private properties that may be impacted directly by construction activities on their property may change as design and construction plans are completed.</p>
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	<p>Due to length of Project, negative impact of blight caused by Project is significant and affected properties "in limbo" while Project proceeds for decade +.</p> <p>Work on Segment 7 first to minimize blight.</p>	<p>Adopted with Modification. See Vol. II, Sec. 3. SCE has included a schedule providing more detail regarding construction timing but cannot commit to timing of construction on each segment at this stage of Surrender.</p>

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	Air quality not adequately addressed for Segment 7 and school: PM-2.5 and PM-10 Valley Fever not mentioned No mitigation measures	Comment Noted. SCE anticipates that CEQA will address any potential air quality concerns.
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	Noise impacts not adequately addressed and not mitigation measures for Segment 7 and schools	Comment Noted. SCE anticipates that CEQA will address any potential noise impacts.
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	Dust impacts from backfill on Segment 7 and schools not adequately addressed. Evaluate native plants for related mitigation.	Comments Noted. Measures included in Vol II., Sec. 4 will address potential dust impacts and use of native plants for revegetation.
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	Traffic impacts and deaths from trucking fill through residential of Segment 7 not adequately addressed.	Comment Noted. Measures in Vol II., Sec. 4 provide language for the development of construction traffic plans. Construction will be coordinated with Kern County.
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	1K truckloads of fill is understated and no supporting calculations.	Comment Noted. Complete construction volumes will be updated once final engineering is complete.
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	Too few human impacts addressed.	Comment Noted. SCE provided an Environmental Justice analysis in the Vol. III, Sec 3.
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	No mention of arsenic in water/Lake Isabella area.	Comment Noted. Any arsenic detected in the water, would not be a Borel Project-related effect and thus will not be addressed as part of this Surrender Application.
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	Land use assessment misstates/understates/ignores residential use.	Comment Noted. The level of detail in the application is sufficient for this phase of the surrender.

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	§ 3.8.2.2 false claim: "Project decommissioning and surrender will not affect adjacent land uses; therefore, no long-term effects on land use associated with the Borel Project decommissioning would occur."	Comment Noted. The level of detail in the application is sufficient for this phase of the surrender.
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	§ 3.8.2.2 false & misleading claim: "Scenic resources will be generally improved as facilities are removed."	Comment Noted. The level of detail in the application is sufficient for this phase of the surrender.
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	§ 3.10.2 false & misleading claim: "...no other Borel Project facilities were found to create visual contrast". The distinction of Project facilities and non-Project facilities is not defined. Bridge must be included as part of Project.	Adopted. SCE determined that the School Pedestrian Bridge has a Project nexus and it will be removed.
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	§ 3.8.2.2 false & misleading "innuendo": "Scenic resources will be generally improved as landscape is rehabilitated to match natural conditions."	Comment Noted. The level of detail in the application is sufficient for this phase of the surrender.
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	Page 204. Doubt "all work areas will be revegetated to pre-existing conditions".... What enforcement measures in place to require SCE to honor commitments?	Comment Noted. The level of detail in the application is sufficient for this phase of the surrender. FERC will enforce all requirements included in its order accepting license surrender.
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/Landowner, January 30, 2023.	§ 3.10.2 "EA is an advocacy document not balanced informational document as omits information about facts i.e., removal and modification of Borel Project facilities....is expected to have long-term beneficial impact on aesthetic resources" - but no discussion about where facilities are not removed or areas not restored.	Comment Noted. The level of detail in the application is sufficient for this phase of the surrender.

Table 1-1. Summary of Comments

Affiliation / Date	Comment	SCE Response
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/ Landowner, January 30, 2023.	§ 3.10.2 false & misleading claim: "...With the exception of the Diversion Dam and Intake Structure and Overflow Dam at Settling Basin upstream of the Canal Inlet Structures which are all proposed to be abandoned in place, the Borel Canal will be abandoned with modification, demolished and buried or backfilled or hauled off site." Note School Pedestrian Bridge which is abandoned in place.	Comment Noted. School Pedestrian Bridge is going to be removed.
Eldarica Land Corporation, Gavin Erasmus Business/Resident/ Landowner, January 30, 2023.	Information presented is incomplete and cannot be adequately reviewed by public, no due process and there is no cumulative impact analysis.	Comment Noted. The level of detail in the application is sufficient for this phase of the surrender.

2 Detailed Log of Communication and Events

A detailed log of communications and events that have occurred since December 8, 2020, is provided in Table 2-1 below.

Table 2-1. Borel Project Consultation and Public Outreach Log

Date	Description
December 8, 2020	Letter from W.P. Allen (SCE) to R. Moore (Forest Service). Letter of intent requesting to add SCE Borel Project (FERC Project No. 382) to Sequoia NF 2021 Program of Work.
December 16, 2020	SCE filed with FERC the proposed plan and schedule for the Surrender Application.
December 17, 2020	FERC designated SCE as its non-Federal representative for the purpose of conducting consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Office, Federal agencies, Native American Tribes, and other consultation parties pursuant to 36 CFR Section 800.2(c)(4), which implement the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA.
January 12, 2021	SCE virtually met with the State Water Resources Control Board for a coordination meeting to discuss the Borel Project.
January 28, 2021	SCE virtually met with representative members of the Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest for the Annual Consultation Meeting to discuss activities completed in 2020 and proposed activities for 2021 on the following SCE projects: Lower Tule (P-372), Kern River No. 3 (P-2290), Borel (P-382), and Kern River No. 1 (P-1930).
January 29, 2021	FERC acknowledged SCE’s request for proposal to submit the Surrender Application and the Decommissioning Plan by January 31, 2023.
February 11, 2021	SCE virtually met with the representative members of the Forest Service to discuss updates on Borel Project facility disposition options, requests for existing Borel Project information; review of Surrender Application schedule; and a review of Lower and Upper Borel Project facilities.
February 25, 2021	SCE virtually met with the representative members of the Forest Service to discuss overview of the Borel Project; review schedule; and the Borel Project orientation of facilities.
March 11, 2021	SCE virtually met with the representative members of the Forest Service to discuss an overview of the Borel Project process; information gathering efforts; Borel Project orientation; and schedule next meeting.
March 17, 2021	SCE’s cultural resources team virtually met with Native American Tribal representatives to discuss coordination as part of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) consultation.
March 18, 2021	SCE team virtually met with Kern County representative to discuss the overview of the Borel Project.
March 18, 2021	SCE virtually met with the representative members of the BLM for an informational meeting and provided an overview of the Borel Project.
March 20, 2021	Via email, D. Moore (SCE) thanked BLM members for attending the Borel Project Overview Presentation and provided a PDF copy of the presentation.
March 22, 2021	N. Dedios (BLM) thanked D. Moore via email for providing a copy of the Borel Overview Presentation to BLM.
April 2, 2021	D. Moore (SCE) reached out to A. Leon (CDFW) to set up a coordination call on April 9, 2021.

Table 2-1. Borel Project Consultation and Public Outreach Log

Date	Description
April 9, 2021	SCE met with representative members of CDFW for an informational coordination meeting, providing background on the Surrender process.
April 14, 2021	SCE mailed public information postcards were mailed to private landowners, for the virtual meetings occurring via WebEx on April 27-29, 2021.
April 27, 2021	Virtual meeting via WebEx for the Borel Project with the group of private landowners classified as the ‘North Group.’
April 28, 2021	Virtual meeting via WebEx for the Borel Project with the group of private landowners classified as the ‘Middle Group.’
April 29, 2021	Virtual meeting via WebEx for the Borel Project with the group of private landowners classified as the ‘South Group.’
May 13, 2021	SCE met virtually with members of the invited public for an informational public meeting/ virtual Town Hall.
June 2, 2021	SCE Team met with private landowner T. Schwass.
June 10, 2021	SCE virtually met with the representative members of the Forest Service to discuss preliminary design concepts for existing facilities on Lower Borel.
June 24, 2021	SCE virtually met with the representative members of the Forest Service to discuss preliminary design concepts for existing facilities on Upper Borel.
June 25, 2021	SCE virtually met with the representative members of Kern County to discuss Borel Project background, the status, and the design concepts of existing facilities.
July 13, 2021	SCE met virtually via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting with FERC staff to discuss the document structure and contents of the Surrender Application.
July 15, 2021	SCE sent out informational postcards to 25 impacted properties to discuss their property with SCE.
July 16, 2021	SCE Team met virtually with R. Martin of FERC to have a brief discussion to discuss Surrender Application structure.
July 19, 2021	SCE emailed the same informational postcards to the same group of property owners (18 emails) as in the July 15, 2021, mailing to discuss their property with SCE.
July 26, 2021	SCE met virtually with representative members of Kern County for coordination call regarding hydrology and hydraulics and to discuss overall approach.
August 4, 2021	SCE participated in a telephone call with private landowner (Denton Burton/Landmark Church) to discuss pulling concrete and grading on easement.
August 11, 2021	SCE participated in a telephone call with private landowner (George Boyer).
September 21, 2021	SCE contacted M. Mahajan and F. Trotta of California Water Service Company requesting information for utilities with the Borel Project footprint.
September 21, 2021	SCE contacted J. Slinkard and D Loseth of Erskine Creek Water Company requesting information for utilities with the Borel Project footprint.
September 21, 2021	SCE contacted S. McDonald and J. Jordan of Frontier Communications requesting for information for utilities with the Borel Project footprint.

Table 2-1. Borel Project Consultation and Public Outreach Log

Date	Description
September 21, 2021	SCE contacted C. Nelson of MediaCom California LLC requesting information for utilities with the Borel Project footprint.
September 21, 2021	SCE contacted G. Gonzales and G. Aceves of Southern California Edison Company requesting information for utilities with the Borel Project footprint.
September 22, 2021	On behalf of SCE, SCE’s contractor, HDR, Inc., filed a formal request with Caltrans for a “Request for Photographs, Maps, As-Built Plans or Other Material” (Caltrans form DPD-3002, revised 02/2017).
November 10, 2021	SCE met virtually with representative members of the Forest Service to discuss biological and cultural updates and review the Decommissioning Plan dashboard.
February 23, 2022	SCE met with Forest Service (Sequoia National Forest) staff via a virtual Microsoft Teams meetings for the Annual Consultation Meeting. to discuss activities completed in 2021 and proposed activities for 2022 on the following SCE projects: Lower Tule (P-372), Kern River No. 3 (P-2290), Borel (P-382), and Kern River No. 1 (P-1930).
February 24, 2022	M. Richardson (SCE) met virtually with R. Kuyper of USFWS to have an informal discussion on the status of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle and received official concurrence to add to license amendment. Discussion during this meeting of the license surrender application led to Corps documents used for references in the preparation of the license application.
March 17, 2022	SCE contacted L. Olson at AT&T to verify if AT&T is the owner of communication lines that cross the Borel Project. AT&T did not think the lines belonged to them because it was outside of AT&T territory and referred SCE to Verizon.
May 2, 2022	M. Brumbaugh, NEPA Specialist with the Corps provided SCE Team with copies of two documents via email: Informal Consultation on the Proposed Isabella Lake Dam Safety Modification Project, Kern County, California, and the Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the Isabella Lake Dam Safety Modification Project.
May 3, 2022	A private landowner contacted the SCE website via email and requested to be part of the mailing list. In addition, posed the question, “With the Corps condemning the conduit to the dam, is there no other way to get water to the canal?” The private landowner was added to the mailing list and a response was sent directly to private landowner through the general email box.
May 13, 2022	N. Silicz of Erskine Creek Water Agency contacted D. Moore at SCE to discuss the possibility of a right-of-way in the Borel Canal for a water line.
June 21, 2022	S. Delear (BLM) reached out to D. Moore (SCE) via email requesting information about the Borel Project.
June 22, 2022	D. Moore (SCE) replied to S. Delear (BLM) stating M. Richardson (SCE) is the new Borel Hydroelectric Project, FERC License Surrender Project Manager and requested Delear contact Richardson for further information about the Borel Project.
June 22, 2022	M. Richardson (SCE) sent S. Delear (BLM) an email which provided reference information regarding the Borel Project and the License Surrender and coordinated a meeting for August.

Table 2-1. Borel Project Consultation and Public Outreach Log

Date	Description
July 13, 2022	Via email, M. Richardson (SCE) thanked S. Delear (BLM) for setting up a coordination call date on August 16, 2022.
July 13, 2022	Via email, M. Richardson (SCE) contacted BLM staff and let them know that BLM parcel detail was forthcoming on July 18, 2022.
August 3, 2022	M. Richardson (SCE) sent email invitation to R. Kuyper, USFWS, to check in and informally review the Borel Project License Surrender Application and Decommissioning Plan to specifically discuss ESA species.
August 11, 2022	M. Richardson (SCE) provided BLM with information in preparation of August 15, 2022, BLM coordination call, including the August 16, 2022, meeting agenda and information pertaining to specific BLM parcels within the Borel FERC Project boundary.
August 16, 2022	SCE met virtually via a Microsoft Teams meeting with representative members of BLM for coordination call to review the overview of the Borel Project with mostly new BLM staff.
August 17, 2022	M. Richardson (SCE) followed up with BLM coordination call attendees and provided copies of the August 16, 2022, and March 18, 2021, presentations, as well as notes from the March 18, 2021, Q&A. S. Delear (BLM) emailed M. Richardson (SCE) post-coordination call regarding future plans for BLM parcels within the Borel Project.
August 18, 2022	M. Richardson (SCE) followed up with S. Delear and J. Caldwell of BLM via email regarding BLM parcels.
August 25, 2022	SCE filed a request to extend the proposed filing date of the Surrender Application until May 1, 2023.
August 26, 2022	M. Richardson (SCE) provided USFWS invitees the agenda for August 29, 2022, meeting.
August 29, 2022	SCE virtually met with members of USFWS to discuss the overview of the Borel Project, including the results of the information gathering on ESA-listed species.
August 30, 2022	FERC approved SCE’s request for extension to file the Surrender Application by May 1, 2023.
August 30, 2022	M. Richardson (SCE) thanked R. Kuyper and E. Leung (USFWS) for attending coordination call and provided a copy of the presentation for reference. Dates were proposed to coordinate a future coordination call to review the Decommissioning Plan and additional ESA species.
October 6, 2022	SCE sent additional Utility A-Letters to Verizon and Frontier to verify ownership of communications lines from Bodfish to Profanity. S. McDonald at Frontier forwarded the email to T. Wiseman at Frontier for confirmation.
October 6, 2022	A second meeting with Native American Tribes, Forest Service, and BLM in fulfillment of Section 106 consultation that included a presentation of the draft Decommissioning Plan and a site visit.
October 12, 2022	SCE notified via email the key coordinating members of the following agencies of the filing schedule update: Corps, Forest Service, USFWS, BLM, and CDFW.
October 17, 2022	SCE provided the (confidential) presentation to Native American Tribes, Forest Service, and BLM attendees from October 6, 2022, Section 106 meeting.
October 31, 2022	SCE met with USFWS to discuss ESA-listed species habitat.

Table 2-1. Borel Project Consultation and Public Outreach Log

Date	Description
November 1, 2022	M. Richardson (SCE) thanked E. Leung (USFWS) for coordination call on October 31, 2022, and provided copies of August 29, 2022, and October 31, 2022, presentations. In addition, the SCE website information was provided for additional information.
November 8, 2022	SCE contacted L. Edrozo at Frontier via phone to confirm ownership of the communication lines.
November 9, 2022	SCE followed up with email to L. Edrozo and provided additional Borel Project information.
November 16, 2022	SCE provided members of the Kern Historic Society a tour of the Powerhouse. The tour was organized by the Kern Historic Society and was not a License Surrender Project-related meeting. Approximately 50 members of the Kern Historic Society attended the tour, as well as representatives from the Forest Service. Tour guests were provided Borel Project Information Cards.
December 14, 2022	SCE made available to stakeholders a draft of the Surrender Application for a 50-day review and written comment period.
February 2, 2023	SCE inquiring with Kern County regarding pedestrian bridge ownership and easements.
February 3, 2023	SCE follow up with Kern County regarding pedestrian bridge ownership and easements with new information.
February 22, 2023	SCE held a Section 106 Consultation meeting with Tribes and USFS.
February 14, 2023	SCE contacted SWRCB to discuss §401 Certification and timing of CEQA.
February 17, 2023	SCE contacted Forest Service to discuss timing of Virtual meeting and schedule a site visit.
March 7, 2023	SCE met with Forest Service (Sequoia National Forest) staff via a virtual Microsoft Teams meetings for the Annual Consultation Meeting.
March 23, 2023	SCE met with Forest Service to review schedule, Project, and determine future site visit.
April 13, 2023	SCE hosted field visit for Forest Service and project team at the Powerhouse.
April 14, 2023	SCE attended the Tübatulabal Tribe's ceremony Honoring the Ancestors.
April 21, 2023	SCE spoke with SWRCB to answer questions on SCE's schedule to file with FERC the Surrender Application.

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