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PUBLIC MEETING SOLICITING COMMENTS
ON THE
SCOPING DOCUMENT 1
FOR
BUCKS CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
P-619-158

Held at:
Holiday Inn
685 Manzanita Court
Chico, California

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

10:04 a.m. - 11:37 a.m.

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Reported by: CAROLE W. BROWNE
RPR, CSR NO. 7351

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PANEL MEMBERS

ALAN MITCHNICK
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

J. ADAM BEECO, Ph.D.
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

REPRESENTING PG&E

ALAN SONEDA
Senior License Project Manager
Power Generation

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1 ---o0o---

2 Tuesday, February 11, 2014, Chico, California

3 10:04 a.m. - 11:37 a.m.

4 ---o0o---

5 PROCEEDINGS

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7 MR. MITCHNICK: Good morning, everybody. We're
8 about ready to start. My name is Alan Mitchnick and I
9 am the licensing -- relicensing coordinator for the
10 Bucks Lake project. With me today is Dr. Adam Beeco,
11 who's the recreation specialist who's going to be
12 working on the project.

13 This is a long and complicated process, and I
14 thought it's real important for the participants to be
15 able to understand the process, so one of the purposes
16 today is to basically make sure everybody understands
17 the process so they can effectively participate.

18 Just some introductions. We have a court
19 reporter, who is recording every word that you say to
20 make sure we have a good record so that the rest of the
21 team can benefit from your comments today, and the
22 public. So to facilitate a good record, I would ask
23 you, when you -- before you speak, to give your name
24 and, at least the first time, to spell your name.

25 If you use any acronyms, please define the

1 acronym the first time you use it, and if there are any
2 particularly difficult words, to spell them out so that
3 we have an accurate record.

4 So before I hand it off to Adam, who will do
5 most of the heavy lifting today, I'll just go through
6 the agenda. Basically, we'll start off just answering
7 the simple question, you know, why are we here, what
8 does FERC do, what does the Federal Energy Regulatory
9 Commission do, and why are we here, and why will you see
10 us for the next five years or so.

11 Adam will go through the ILP process and he'll
12 break it down as well as he can so that basically
13 everybody understands where they can provide input, when
14 they can provide input into the process.

15 PG&E will provide a brief description of the
16 project and how it's operated. We'll go through the
17 issues that are outlined in the scoping document by
18 resource area.

19 We will start with geology and soils and work
20 our way through cultural resources and environmental
21 resources. And after each resource, we'll ask you to
22 provide comments, you know, did we get the initial list
23 right, what needs to be added, what can be subtracted.
24 Then we'll open it up for more general comments and
25 discussion, and we'll be available to answer some of

1 your questions about the process.

2 And so, just before we get going, are there any
3 general questions that anybody would like to bring up at
4 this time?

5 I will ask you throughout this whole meeting to
6 talk into one of these microphones, so either come to
7 the podium or we will pass the microphone around so that
8 the court reporter will have a good record of the
9 meeting.

10 So any questions before we begin?

11 Okay. Adam.

12 DR. BEECO: So we'll go ahead and start with
13 introductions, and I'll just pass the microphone around.
14 Again, if you're with an agency or an organization,
15 please mention that as well.

16 MR. SONEDA: Thanks, Adam.

17 My name is Alan Soneda. I'm PG&E's
18 Bucks Creek Project relicensing project manager. There
19 are a number of other PG&E folks here today, and I'll
20 let them introduce themselves.

21 MS. FARAGLIA: Annette Faraglia,
22 F-a-r-a-g-l-i-a. I'm with PG&E. I'm an attorney, and I
23 work on a lot of hydro relicensing, and I'll be working
24 with Alan Soneda on Bucks Creek relicensing.

25 MR. NEVARES: My name is Steve Nevares,

1 N-e-v-a-r-e-s. I'm with Cardno ENTRIX. We're an
2 environmental consulting firm that's assisting PG&E with
3 the relicensing of the project.

4 MR. O'SULLIVAN: Hi. I'm Barry O'Sullivan,
5 O-S-u-l-l-i-v-a-n. I am a property owner up at
6 Bucks Lake on three different properties and a 45-year
7 resident up here.

8 MS. ARMSTRONG: I'm Cheryl Armstrong, and we're
9 cabin owners as well.

10 MR. DOYLE: I'm Dustin Doyle. I'm a 65-year
11 resident of Bucks Lake and a cabin owner, of course, and
12 I'm a member of the Bucks Lake board at Bucks Lake.

13 MR. HENDERSON: I'm DeWitt Henderson,
14 D-e-W-i-t-t, Henderson. I own two commercial leases
15 contracted to PG&E at Bucks Lake, and I've been in
16 business for 20 years at Bucks Lake.

17 MR. FREY: I'm Rick Frey, my wife Jani. We're
18 homeowners at Bucks and a member of the board. It's
19 Frey, F-r-e-y.

20 MR. EVERETT: I'm Andrew Everett,
21 E-v-e-r-e-t-t. I'm a homeowner up at Bucks Lake and
22 also the president of the South Shore Association which
23 constitutes 30 lots on PG&E on Mile High Road.

24 MR. WILSON: Good morning. I'm Joe Wilson with
25 PG&E governmental relations.

1 MR. MORENO: Good morning. I'm Paul Moreno,
2 M-o-r-e-n-o, with PG&E external communications.

3 MR. KOLNOWSKI: I'm Kevin Kolnowski,
4 K-o-l-n-o-w-s-k-i, the City of Santa Clara.

5 MS. RAGAZZI: Good morning. Erin, E-r-i-n,
6 Ragazzi, R-a-g-a-z-z-i. I'm with the State Water
7 Resources Control Board.

8 MR. BARNES: My name is Peter Barnes,
9 B-a-r-n-e-s, and I'm also with the State Water Resources
10 Bureau.

11 MS. SIMON-JACKSON: Terri Simon-Jackson,
12 S-i-m-o-n, J-a-c-k-s-o-n. I'm the planner on the Plumas
13 National Forest.

14 MR. STEINDORF: Dave Steindorf,
15 S-t-e-i-n-d-o-r-f. I'm with American Whitewater.

16 MR. WILLIAMSON: Harry Williamson, and I'm
17 representing National Park Service.

18 MR. FRANSZ: Matthew Fransz, F-r-a-n-s-z. I'm
19 the technical coordinator for PG&E.

20 MR. VISCARRA: My name is Jesus Viscarra,
21 V-i-s-c-a-r-r-a. I'm with PG&E. I'm the land and
22 recreation manager of the project.

23 DR. BEECO: All right. Well, thank you guys
24 for that. So we'll go ahead and get started and work
25 through this presentation.

1 So the first thing is why are we here. A lot
2 of you are familiar with the licensing process, and some
3 of you may not be, so we just want to touch quickly on
4 what FERC does.

5 FERC regulates the nonfederal hydropower
6 projects. FERC does a lot more than that, but that's
7 basically what we do pertaining to what we're talking
8 about today. We require these projects have a license
9 to operate, and a license consists of articles and
10 conditions that direct how a licensee can operate the
11 project. These conditions are used to protect,
12 mitigate, and enhance resources at the project. And
13 resources can be anything from fisheries, recreation,
14 cultural issues, et cetera. So that's what we're here
15 to talk about today, and so we'll go on from there.

16 So we have a process that we use to work
17 through this. The process overall takes about five
18 years, so we're going to mostly talk about the front end
19 of this process; and not to iron over any details, but
20 if we went over everything step by step for an entire
21 five-year process, might be a little burdensome.

22 So basically the way we do it at FERC, we break
23 it down into pre-filing and post-filing, and so when we
24 talk about pre- and post-filing, we're talking about the
25 applications that are actually submitted, where PG&E

1 will put in an application and say, well, this is how we
2 would like to manage the project.

3 So the pre-filing is what we're working through
4 now, and then the post-filing again will come after the
5 application. Pre-filing typically takes between one,
6 two, to three years, and the post-filing, another year
7 or two.

8 So the initial steps are where PG&E files their
9 NOI and PAD. And NOI is a notice of intent. Basically
10 they're just filing a document that says we want to
11 relicense this project, and that kind of kicks off the
12 whole process.

13 And with that they file their preapplication
14 document, and that's already on file. So the
15 preapplication document basically is just a collection
16 of information of what currently exists at the project.

17 And so scoping, so scoping is basically what
18 we're here to do today, and it's more than just about
19 today.

20 So what we did at FERC was we issued a Scoping
21 Document 1, and basically what we did with that was we
22 read the PAD, we identified what may be going on with
23 the project based on experience at other projects and
24 information provided in the PAD.

25 And so we issued a scoping document, and then

1 we come out here and we meet with stakeholders and we
2 see what you guys think about the scoping document, did
3 we identify all the issues that are relevant, was there
4 anything we missed, is there other things that we want
5 to -- that we might want to know about.

6 And, you know, scoping overall is for
7 everybody, for all the stakeholders to come together and
8 talk about the project, and so we want to identify
9 issues and concerns. It provides you the opportunity to
10 submit comments and submit study requests as well. And
11 we'll go over what study requests are in a minute.

12 So after we work through the scoping process,
13 we may or may not be issuing Scoping Document 2. And
14 all Scoping Document 2 is, is to kind of update Scoping
15 Document 1 on issues that we may have missed, that need
16 to be identified and put on the record.

17 So study requests are a really critical aspect
18 of pre-filing, and so once we -- once the PAD's been
19 issued, we've issued our scoping document, everybody's
20 aware of the current conditions. Well, we may not know
21 everything we need to know as we move forward in the
22 licensing.

23 So the study request process is where FERC and
24 stakeholders have the opportunity to submit study
25 requests. And the study requests are simply, you know,

1 doing research into specific resources, so that could be
2 recreation, fisheries issues, or whatnot, so that way we
3 can identify more information about a particular
4 resource.

5 And we have what's called the study request
6 criteria, so there's seven different points. And these
7 are really important if you're interested in submitting
8 a study for the licensing process.

9 And that includes -- the first one -- the first
10 step -- and I'm going to go over these, because they are
11 important.

12 Basically, the first step is to describe your
13 goals and objectives of the study proposal, so what do
14 you want to study and why it's important. If you're a
15 resource management agency such as the Park or the
16 Forest Service, you identify how those goals and
17 objectives work into your recreation management -- or
18 your resource management plan.

19 If you're not with an agency, if you're a
20 member of the public or -- then you just want to
21 identify why this study is in the interest of the
22 public. And describe -- when you submit your study
23 request, you should describe any existing information
24 such as current management plans, shore management
25 plans, and things like that that may be pertinent to

1 your study.

2 And then this is probably the most important
3 thing is you've got to identify the nexus to the project
4 and you have to make sure that your study request
5 identifies how the project is affecting this resource
6 and, you know, make sure that it's tied in.

7 And then you would also submit a methodology
8 that is generally consistent with scientific practices
9 and outlining how you think the licensee should go about
10 that study.

11 And then, of course, the last point is to
12 consider the level of effort and cost of the study.

13 Does anybody have any questions about that?

14 Yes, sir.

15 MR. FREY: How do we as individuals who don't
16 have the expertise to answer all of those questions, are
17 we just to submit our concerns that a study needs to be
18 done?

19 DR. BEECO: So there's a couple opportunities
20 there. So for one, you can also -- you can submit
21 general comments. Right? So if you're specifically
22 concerned about something, you can just submit comments
23 and make us aware of that. And if we identify a need to
24 actually conduct a study, a scientific study on that,
25 then we can write one up as well, so there's opportunity

1 for that.

2 Not every comment and not every concern is
3 necessarily going to warrant a scientific study, so it
4 may not be necessary to do that. And so if you think
5 that there's something that needs to be studied and
6 you're not -- you don't necessarily have the expertise
7 to do this, basically what we would suggest is just do
8 the best you can, and we'll read these, and if they're
9 not perfectly outlined or perfect, you know, the way
10 that we would like to see them, it's not really that big
11 of a deal. We'll be able to take, you know, to garner
12 that information, and we can write up our own study
13 request based off of that. So if you have comments or
14 concerns or whatever, it doesn't necessarily have to be
15 written in a study request.

16 Alan, is there something you wanted to say
17 about it?

18 MR. MITCHNICK: And Adam will at some point
19 talk about the guidance that we've developed on studies
20 and how to meet the study criteria which applies a
21 little bit of guidance in what we're looking for.

22 And, you know, a lot of these criteria, you
23 don't have to provide a whole lot, but we certainly need
24 to know the connection between the study and the project
25 and how the results of that study would be used to

1 determine future license requirements.

2 And we can help you. We can get you examples
3 of study requests that might be related to the areas
4 that you're interested in, so you can use those as a
5 guide.

6 But the important thing is to make clear on the
7 record just what your concerns are and what information
8 do you think would answer those concerns.

9 MR. DOYLE: But I think I'm hearing two
10 different things. I can express a concern and I can
11 relate it to the project, but now you've mentioned
12 you're going to guide us to provide the answers to this
13 as opposed to what I just heard Adam say?

14 MR. MITCHNICK: Right. I mean, you basically
15 sort of retain more control of the process when you
16 follow the study criteria and you come up with a
17 specific study plan that we can wrap our arms around and
18 really understand, but -- and so I think it's better to
19 go that approach.

20 But, you know, absent that, we'll certainly
21 take a look at what studies you think are necessary and
22 the information you hope to gain, and if we agree with
23 it, then we can develop our own study. If we don't
24 agree with it, then we won't. And this is where you
25 have a better opportunity to convince us, by providing

1 better information.

2 MR. FREY: Who would we contact to get that
3 better information?

4 MR. MITCHNICK: Oh, you can contact Adam.

5 DR. BEECO: You really can.

6 MR. MITCHNICK: You can call me, call Adam. We
7 have a team of probably five specialists in the
8 different resource areas. And you can call me and I can
9 get you the name of the specific resource person.

10 DR. BEECO: So let me go back one slide here.
11 So we issued the -- just to start giving you a couple of
12 dates here, and we'll go over this again, but we issued
13 the Scoping Document 1 January 14th, and the comments
14 and study requests and all that are due by March 15th.

15 So once all the studies are completed -- so
16 once all -- I'm sorry. Once all the study requests are
17 submitted, the applicant will prepare what's called a
18 proposed study plan. So they'll take everybody's ideas
19 and they'll actually submit to FERC what they would like
20 to study and what they think are the pertinent issues to
21 be studied.

22 At this point in time, it's another opportunity
23 for stakeholders such as yourself to get involved, and
24 parties can meet to discuss and resolve issues.

25 So if there's a specific, let's say, recreation

1 study out there and there's some stakeholders who would
2 like to see that changed a little bit, there will be
3 meetings and phone conferences and things like that that
4 can help really iron out how those studies need to be
5 done, and then the applicant will file a revised study
6 plan.

7 And at that point in time, again, the
8 stakeholders have the opportunity to comment on that
9 revised study plan and see if they can't iron out any
10 differences that may still be there.

11 And once everybody's study plan is submitted to
12 FERC, we'll actually come out with what's called a study
13 determination, which is, again, if there aren't -- if
14 there's still differences between what the stakeholders
15 and the licensee are proposing, that's when FERC comes
16 in and says, all right, well, this is exactly what we're
17 going to do. All right?

18 And so the study plan determination will be
19 issued on this date, so this entire process works from
20 about April all the way to almost October. So lots of
21 time and lots of opportunities for stakeholders to be
22 involved throughout this process.

23 MR. DOYLE: I have a question. Dustin Doyle.
24 Those meetings, they would be with FERC or with PG&E and
25 the people interested in a study?

1 DR. BEECO: So typically the way it works is
2 the licensee will hold the meetings, and so they'll
3 invite everybody. They'll invite FERC, the
4 stakeholders, and everybody will come to these meetings.

5 And typically FERC calls in to those meetings,
6 because we don't fly out for them. But you guys will
7 be, you know, invited to either go to the meeting or
8 call in, and so it brings us all together on that
9 specific issue, so recreation or fisheries, and gives
10 everybody the opportunity to work together to complete
11 the best study plan possible.

12 MR. MITCHNICK: And maybe later in the meeting
13 we can sort of get a feel for -- from PG&E on exactly
14 how they plan to proceed with making sure that everybody
15 is involved in the process, whether they set up specific
16 resource work groups or what the process would be, so
17 you sort of have a better understanding and what sort of
18 mailing list they're going to get together to keep
19 people informed.

20 DR. BEECO: And so once the study plan
21 determination comes out from FERC, then the applicant
22 will actually conduct the study, and these studies
23 typically take one to two years, depending on the size
24 of the project, complexity of the issues, things like
25 that. Oftentimes, things like drought can prolong

1 studies.

2 But -- so it takes one to two years, and then
3 the applicant will file study reports. And again, it's
4 an opportunity for stakeholders and FERC and everybody
5 to make comments on those study reports.

6 And once all those comments are in, then it
7 gives -- then that whole process is done and the
8 applicant files a preliminary licensing proposal. All
9 right?

10 And so that was all the pre-filing process.
11 Again, that's going to take two to three years. And
12 then, after that -- and I just have one slide here on
13 post-filing, once the application is actually filed, so
14 the application being filed. It's due to FERC on the
15 last day of 2016. And so once it's submitted, again,
16 there will be opportunities for comment, FERC will issue
17 documents and have more opportunities to comment,
18 et cetera, all the way to the end of the process.

19 And again, I don't want to get into that too
20 much, because it is over three years away. But again,
21 both pre-filing and post-filing, stakeholders, everybody
22 has a chance to make comments.

23 And at this time we're going to let PG&E talk
24 about the project specifically.

25 MR. SONEDA: Thank you, Adam.

1 I'm Alan Soneda, again, from PG&E. And what
2 I'm going to do is share some slides today. I was asked
3 by the FERC staff to talk a little bit about the
4 facilities on the project, how they currently operate,
5 and where the recreation facilities are, those sorts of
6 things.

7 The project itself basically has two
8 powerhouses: Bucks Creek powerhouse and Grizzly
9 powerhouse. Bucks Creek is the larger of the two, at
10 65 megawatts. It produces about 235 gigawatt hours of
11 average annual generation. It is capable of flexible
12 operation. It's what's known in the generation business
13 as a peaker. It's able to be dispatched very flexibly,
14 quickly, up and down as the system demands require. It
15 ranges in operation from zero to just shy of 400 cubic
16 feet per second. Seems like a large number. That's
17 relatively small across the portfolio of PG&E hydro
18 projects. It was completed in 1928.

19 The second of the two powerhouses is called
20 Grizzly powerhouse. It is owned by the City of
21 Santa Clara. Its capacity is about a third,
22 20 megawatts, of Bucks Creek powerhouse, and it produces
23 a fraction, 49 gigawatt hours of average annual
24 generation.

25 This one generally operates on a preplanned

1 schedule. Similar operating range as well, at 75 cubic
2 feet per second, and on the high end, up to 400 -- just
3 shy of 400 cfs. Completed in 1993. So cfs is cubic
4 feet per second.

5 The project also has four reservoirs. First,
6 I'm going to talk about Bucks Lake, the largest of the
7 four. It is the principal storage reservoir for the
8 project. Sizewise, it's a little over 100,000 acre-feet
9 of capacity, and surface area of 1.8 thousand acres,
10 roughly.

11 Maximum to minimum water surface elevation
12 ranges as high as 5,157 feet and the low in normal years
13 is allowed to go as low as 5,100 feet, 5,080 in dry
14 years.

15 Second in size is Lower Bucks Lake, just below
16 Bucks Lake. It is the point of diversion for the
17 first -- well, for Grizzly powerhouse. Gross storage,
18 again, a fraction, roughly 1/20th, about 5.8 thousand
19 acre-feet. Surface area, again, is much smaller,
20 136 acres. Maximum to minimum range is 5,022, down to
21 just shy of almost 5,000 feet.

22 The next two reservoirs are Three Lakes. These
23 are three roughly connected lakes, very small in size.
24 Gross storage, 500 acre-feet, much smaller surface area.
25 It is at much higher elevation, over 6,000 feet.

1 And then, fourthly, I want to talk about
2 Grizzly Forebay. It is on Grizzly Creek. It is a point
3 of diversion for the Bucks Creek powerhouse. Gross
4 storage is just over a thousand acre-feet. Surface
5 area, as you can see, is 38 acres. Maximum to minimum,
6 in the 4,300 or so range, and it ranges across about
7 10 feet of range.

8 This is a map showing how the facilities are
9 arranged. You can see the largest lake here,
10 Bucks Lake. Lower Bucks is just below it.

11 I next talk about Three Lakes, way up here.
12 They're actually three little separate small lakes up
13 there, connected by a conduit, a pipe under the road.

14 Then, fourthly, the Grizzly Forebay right
15 there. And the powerhouses are Grizzly powerhouse on
16 Grizzly Forebay and Bucks Creek powerhouse down on the
17 main north fork Feather River. So those are the main
18 pieces of the project and how they fit together.

19 This shows a little bit more sort of how the
20 water flows, and it acknowledges that this is part of a
21 system of projects on the north fork Feather River that
22 start all the way up at Mountain Meadows reservoir.

23 What's shown in red here is the Bucks Creek
24 Project. The four reservoirs are shown as these
25 inverted blue triangles. And these sort of upside-down

1 house shapes are the two powerhouses.

2 The project has four points that it feeds into
3 the north fork Feather River shown by these arrows.
4 Milk Ranch Creek, Bucks Creek, Bucks Creek powerhouse
5 tailrace is shown in blue, and then the black shows the
6 third creek of the system, Grizzly Creek.

7 These all come into the north fork Feather
8 River sort of in the middle of the Rock Creek-Cresta
9 PG&E project here.

10 This is an aerial view from Google Earth. It's
11 a little hard to see. I think we'll just skip this one.

12 This is sort of -- we recognized we couldn't do
13 a site visit, and this is a little bit of a virtual --
14 sort of a virtual flyover, if you will.

15 Highest elevation, this is the Three Lakes,
16 one, two, three, a little over 6,000 feet in elevation.
17 Then Bucks Lake right here, the biggest one. You can
18 see the top of Lower Bucks Lake there, in its entirety,
19 with Bucks Lake up at the top, back of the picture.

20 Then sort of virtually flying further down,
21 Grizzly powerhouse right here, along one edge of the
22 really long and squiggly Grizzly Forebay reservoir.

23 Bucks Creek powerhouse, down on the main north
24 fork Feather River here.

25 And this next view is a little bit hard to make

1 out what we're looking at without the caption, but
2 that's the Bucks Creek powerhouse way down there on the
3 river canyon, with the main roadway alongside it. And
4 you can barely make out the Bucks Creek powerhouse
5 penstock.

6 This is really to show the elevation difference
7 that Bucks Creek powerhouse uses as its means of value
8 to the grid, that ability to peak and provide flexible,
9 quick operation. It's really key to -- it's based on
10 its elevation difference from the upper reservoirs.

11 I want to talk in this slide about project
12 operations starting with the powerhouses. They are
13 operated differently. Bucks Creek powerhouse is very
14 highly valued by the California Independent System
15 Operator, sometimes called Cal ISO. They consider it
16 one of the more valuable flexible peakers. When system
17 demand for electricity goes up and down, fluctuates all
18 over the place, this is the kind of facility that is
19 often called upon by Cal ISO to meet that demand.

20 Grizzly powerhouse is operated very
21 differently. It's one of the newest constructed by
22 PG&E. It's designed more for prescheduled operation.

23 Mainly, also, I wanted to talk about one of the
24 four reservoirs, because Bucks Lake by far has had the
25 most storage, and it's the area of most interest to a

1 lot of the local folks, the ones that have cabins up
2 there at Bucks Lake, many of you folks who are here
3 today.

4 Bucks Lake is typically maintained at high
5 levels -- yes?

6 MR. STEINDORF: Dave Steindorf, American
7 Whitewater.

8 Two questions. One, when you say prescheduled
9 operations, does that mean you set that schedule
10 beginning of the summer or prescheduled like day ahead?

11 MR. SONEDA: Typically day ahead prescheduled.
12 You often will have the ability to schedule earlier in
13 advance, but it's usually confirmed a day ahead.

14 MR. STEINDORF: Okay. And then Bucks is
15 actually -- are you -- is that used for automatic grid
16 control with ISO or . . .

17 MR. SONEDA: Yes, it typically is operated
18 using automatic grid control, often called AGC. Right.

19 MR. STEINDORF: So they actually -- the ISO
20 actually controls the actual regulation of the
21 powerhouse?

22 MR. SONEDA: They can, yes.

23 MR. STEINDORF: Okay. Thank you.

24 MR. O'SULLIVAN: I have a question.

25 MR. SONEDA: Yes.

1 MR. O'SULLIVAN: Barry O'Sullivan. Those
2 pictures that you showed, were those -- how long ago
3 were those? Because, like, Three Lakes, I know I've
4 last year walked all the way across them. There's no
5 water in them.

6 MR. SONEDA: Sure. These are from last summer,
7 I believe.

8 MR. O'SULLIVAN: Really?

9 MR. SONEDA: Last spring, earlier in the year.

10 MR. O'SULLIVAN: Okay. Because they're empty,
11 and they were in June, and I didn't know what was going
12 on, but you could walk across them. There's not a thing
13 in them.

14 MR. SONEDA: Do you remember, Steve? Am I
15 mistaken? We were looking at a number of archival
16 photos, and I'm not certain what year this was taken.

17 MR. O'SULLIVAN: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. VISCARRA: Is that snow?

19 MR. SONEDA: Yeah. So the point is I don't
20 remember when that was taken.

21 So Bucks Lake or reservoir is maintained at
22 high levels in the summer. This is when it has the peak
23 value both as an electrical generation source and as a
24 recreation source.

25 Our goal in providing electricity from the

1 project is to provide reliable, affordable, and
2 environmentally responsible energy. And the
3 Bucks Creek Project does that very well, particularly
4 the water from Bucks Lake.

5 Bucks Lake also stores up to 70,000 acre-feet
6 of water for California farmers under the approved water
7 right.

8 When we look at a slide in a bit, Bucks Lake
9 level is lowest in winter and tends to fill rapidly in
10 the spring. Right now we're at what is often the lowest
11 elevations. And this year in particular, being a dry
12 year, I wanted to show -- I guess, actually, let me talk
13 first about this powerhouse operation.

14 So this is a visual of the fact that, for
15 example, Grizzly powerhouse, like you mentioned -- or
16 asked, Dave -- being prescheduled. You can see some --
17 like here, for example -- this is being operated at a
18 steady rate for a fair period of time.

19 This is one year, water year 2011. And the
20 vertical scale is cubic feet per second flow through
21 each of these two powerhouses, maxing out somewhere
22 close to 400. And you can see that the Grizzly lot line
23 in blue tends to be a little bit more flat, doesn't have
24 the spikes, obviously. And then Bucks Creek is in red,
25 and it's quite spiky. This is the reflection of it

1 being called on to provide those immediate system
2 demands.

3 So the next slide I was thinking about --

4 MS. RAGAZZI: Was that from January to
5 December?

6 MR. SONEDA: You asked is this a calendar year?

7 This is actually a water year, starting October 1st --

8 this would have been 2011 -- to September 30th of 2012.

9 One of the odd things about California water is
10 it recognizes that the typical wet season, you know, it
11 starts the water year September -- end of September when
12 you typically have relatively low amounts of runoff
13 coming in.

14 This is a slide I wanted to share with you.

15 These dots here show the current Bucks Lake level at the
16 end of each of the months of 2014, and so this last dot
17 here is just a couple weeks ago, January 31st.

18 The dotted gray line is the 30-year median.

19 You might think of that as a normal kind of a year. We
20 looked at the past 30 years of operation and sort of the
21 middle value. It's not the mathematic average, because
22 there's some outliers, but if you arranged all those
23 years from highest to lowest, the middle value would be
24 shown by that calculated curve there in gray.

25 And you can see that -- this is interesting --

1 that this year, showing current elevation as of the end
2 of the month, end of January, being about 5,124 feet of
3 elevation. In several years you can see on this graph
4 in orange, 1985, right here, sorry, and in, I guess it's
5 red, 1977, these are a couple example years of when it
6 has been lower than this, dryer than this.

7 MR. HENDERSON: DeWitt Henderson. On this
8 chart -- and these charts are great -- I've seen them
9 before -- what you leave out on these charts is the
10 precipitation leading into those 30-year averages, be it
11 the snowpack, what's on the ground at the elevation.

12 And then the question I have is, back to a
13 prior slide, when you have the low elevation levels
14 allowed, you know, 5,100 for a regular year and 5,080
15 for a dry year, how did you guys come up with those
16 elevations and/or when was the year of the study that
17 said that that was an adequate elevation to meet the
18 needs of today's use? I guess those would be the
19 questions.

20 And then, also, do you have the precipitation
21 graph that would match this with your elevations, like
22 in the '80s? I mean, we were looking at six feet of
23 snow on the ground in those years, so yes, it's going to
24 come up, where this year and last year we didn't have
25 that snowfall. A couple questions together, but . . .

1 MR. SONEDA: I'll try to remember your three
2 questions.

3 First of all, so you're right that this only
4 shows a given year. We've taken some snapshot years. I
5 did have another slide that I'm not sure I'll be able to
6 bring up, but it shows every single year. It's very,
7 very hard to read, because there's, like, 20 lines, one
8 for each year, hard to pick out one year from another.

9 But this graph does show 2014, and then also
10 in -- I guess that's blue -- 2013, so you can see 2013
11 here in blue ended up right about there and then picks
12 up again as 2014 right there.

13 So that's one example of, you know, what was
14 there before, you're right, has a big effect on what
15 actually shows up as the lake elevation at any given
16 time.

17 We do have -- not shown on this graph, because
18 the graph hasn't been updated, but we will probably next
19 update it at the end of February. But interestingly,
20 we're now here about February 11th, as of yesterday,
21 this 5124.7, I believe it was, is now up a little over a
22 foot from where it was, so it's already starting to come
23 back up and is looking to us very much like the trace in
24 green here, which was 2008. There's some remarkable
25 similarities of the prior months of the water year are

1 almost dead-on the green curve.

2 MR. HENDERSON: And then, again, Alan, I'm
3 sorry, DeWitt Henderson, in 2008 you had a significant
4 more snowpack reserve, water reserve in the hills or in
5 that watershed area than they do now.

6 MR. SONEDA: So you're certainly right that
7 whatever is already on the ground at this point in time
8 makes a big difference.

9 I'll point out that what is still yet to come,
10 which we don't know, also makes a big difference. One
11 of the reasons we put this purple trace on here, which
12 happens to be 1997 -- you might remember that one -- I
13 remember that one. It was a very wet year.

14 This shows how much the elevation of Bucks Lake
15 can change in just what, two months. You can see it
16 goes from about where it was on November 30th of this
17 year -- that's pretty close to the purple line right
18 there, the gray dot -- and then two months later it's up
19 at max storage.

20 This is the main reason that no matter how much
21 precipitation has already fallen, how much snow is
22 already on the ground, we will draw the lake down fairly
23 low, knowing that there's tremendous uncertainty about
24 how much more is going to fall.

25 MR. HENDERSON: So there's no management plan

1 to see what -- I was living there in '97 also, and I
2 remember that year very well. There was 12 feet of snow
3 on the ground. So -- and then the rains came and then
4 the flooding came. So is there no management
5 operations, you know, criteria that says let's wait to
6 see where we're at going into the winter or late fall
7 before we pull the lake down to a certain level so we
8 can meet those recreational land use demands the
9 following year? Because even if we had the same weather
10 we got in '97 without that snowpack, you would not have
11 that on that graph.

12 MR. SONEDA: Good question. Good point.
13 DeWitt, you've met a number of our water management
14 team --

15 MR. HENDERSON: Yes.

16 MR. SONEDA: -- and you're aware, I think, that
17 there's quite a lot of planning that goes on. We're
18 looking at data every single day. We're looking at snow
19 forecast, precipitation forecast, looking as far out as
20 we can.

21 Those are predictions. They may or may not
22 come true. And there's constant planning. There's a
23 number of rules that we typically look at. But the main
24 thing is looking at as much data as we can. And we do
25 have a lot data up at Bucks Lake, so that area can get

1 some of the heaviest intensity precipitation of anywhere
2 in the state.

3 MR. HENDERSON: You're correct.

4 MR. SONEDA: And that's the main reason that
5 we -- right now we're pretty comfortable where we are.

6 Our best guess -- it is a guess, based on
7 tremendous years of experience of our water management
8 team -- is that we'll recover pretty well -- just a
9 guess -- 51/40-ish, maybe higher. We don't know. Maybe
10 lower. We don't know.

11 MR. HENDERSON: So then the last question --
12 sorry.

13 MR. SONEDA: Sure.

14 MR. HENDERSON: How did you come up with the
15 elevations of your dry year and your average year to not
16 exceed? When was that study done and/or how was that
17 process?

18 MR. SONEDA: So I was not here at the time, but
19 my review of the record says that there was a memorandum
20 of understanding, there was an agreement with the Plumas
21 National Forest that covers that. I believe a number of
22 the entities were involved besides just us and the
23 Plumas National Forest. I believe those are the two
24 signatories to the agreement, though. That was from
25 1990, I believe. So that has been in existence since

1 1990. 5,100 normal year and 5,080 dry year minimums.

2 It also set a number of the instream flow
3 release -- actually, not the instream flow release --
4 those were set by the license -- and other
5 reservoir-type criteria for the other -- Lower
6 Bucks Lake, for Three Lakes and so on.

7 MR. HENDERSON: Okay. Thank you.

8 MR. SONEDA: Did I miss --

9 MR. HENDERSON: No. Thank you.

10 MR. O'SULLIVAN: Barry O'Sullivan. I have a
11 question. You had indicated that you have people that
12 look at the weather and predict and all that. How
13 closely do you guys work with the State Water Board?
14 Because I would think they have -- you know, you have
15 your interest, you're PG&E, and you don't have W in
16 there, so their interest of water and how it gets to
17 people, too, I -- I don't know how closely you work with
18 them, because I am concerned.

19 You know, I see your graphs, and I've been up
20 there for 45 years, and I've not ever seen the lake as
21 low as it is right now. And I'm there winter and
22 summer. And it really is scary, because we only have
23 six inches of snow on the ground right now when we
24 should have 12 feet of snow on the ground.

25 So I was listening to the news the other night

1 regarding Oroville, and, you know, they're talking that
2 Oroville only has 37 percent left in the lake.

3 I'm concerned that we're pulling all this water
4 and have nothing, you know, I'm concerned that -- not
5 for the lake, I'm concerned for Northern California.

6 I mean, if you guys don't manage that water
7 real well, and then I look at Almanor, and it looks
8 wonderful. Almanor is not far. It's 25 miles if you
9 were flying from one place to the other. And it's
10 beautiful. I went there on Sunday to take pictures.

11 It's ten feet down on your tower, and you're
12 pulling a little water from there, not a lot, but, I
13 mean, even a foot of water out of Almanor would have
14 made a huge difference in Bucks, because you could
15 probably fit 12 Bucks Lakes in one Lake Almanor.

16 And so that's -- you know, I just have a real
17 concern, and I'm just wondering if the state is involved
18 and what their thoughts are and their concerns, because
19 it sounds like California is very concerned because you
20 have no water.

21 MR. SONEDA: Right. So PG&E does work very
22 closely with the State Department of Water Resources as
23 well as the federal government.

24 We're principally using not our own forecast
25 but the federal government's forecast through the

1 National Weather Service.

2 I'll further say that federal and state
3 cooperation and understanding of what's going on is
4 always there.

5 I don't remember the exact date, but recently
6 the state and federal governments collaborated on an
7 announcement that they were both looking at hydropower
8 operations throughout the state, recognizing that the
9 state is in a recognized dry scenario, and we're looking
10 at all these things that affect water levels, flows for
11 power, flows for instream flow releases, all of that is
12 being actively looked at.

13 When I say that our -- PG&E's water management
14 team -- I have a lot of respect for them, because they
15 have a lot of experience -- they're using all the data
16 that's available for the state, the federal, every piece
17 of data they can get their hands on, and they're
18 factoring all that in. We're not operating in a vacuum.
19 We talk regularly with state and federal folks.

20 MR. O'SULLIVAN: And regarding Almanor, what's
21 the --

22 MR. SONEDA: So Almanor operates very
23 differently. The biggest thing is its storage volume is
24 about ten times the size of Bucks Lake, so about a
25 million acre-feet. Bucks Lake is a little over a

1 hundred thousand.

2 MR. O'SULLIVAN: Okay.

3 MR. SONEDA: So acre-feet. And it's kind of a
4 tough measure to get your arms around. It's the amount
5 of water to cover an acre one foot deep. It's a fair
6 amount of water, one acre-foot.

7 Almanor has a million of them. A lot of the
8 inflow to Almanor is from a very large watershed up
9 above it, much bigger than Bucks Lake's watershed, and a
10 lot of the inflow into Almanor is through groundwater.
11 That doesn't happen at Bucks Lake. So a lot of things
12 are very different in Almanor and Bucks.

13 MR. O'SULLIVAN: And that would be probably a
14 better point. Then why wouldn't you pull from a lake
15 that constantly refills when you're pulling from it
16 instead of -- I think you had indicated Bucks Lake is
17 built on a granite basin, so once you pull that water
18 out, it's not going to replenish.

19 It just seems like if I had a gas tank that
20 kept putting gas in it, as I went down the road, I'm
21 going to take that car; but if I'm driving one that's
22 going to be sucking it up and I'm not sure I'm going to
23 get back, I'm going to leave that one at home.

24 MR. SONEDA: So we -- we -- thank you. I'm
25 sorry to interrupt.

1 MR. O'SULLIVAN: That's fine.

2 MR. SONEDA: We're trying to balance the need
3 for power with environmental considerations. And mainly
4 what we're trying to do is provide reliable and
5 affordable electricity for our customers.

6 Bucks Lake and the Bucks Creek Project in
7 particular, because of that high head, that elevation
8 difference that I showed in that visual of the
9 Bucks Creek penstock, the Bucks Creek powerhouse can
10 produce as much electrical energy from a single unit of
11 volume of water, one cfs, produces more electricity at
12 Bucks than just about anyplace you can get anywhere in
13 the state.

14 So from an environmental standpoint, if we
15 don't operate Bucks, and we operate some of the other
16 Feather River projects instead of Bucks, trying to save
17 water in Bucks Lake, you're actually producing less
18 energy, much less energy from that one cubic foot per
19 second coming out of Almanor. Much less.

20 Secondly, if you don't operate any of the hydro
21 resources, because they're all sensitive, they're all
22 suffering from a dry year, and we're doing as much of
23 that as we can, but the electricity demand from the
24 state of California doesn't stop. And generally what's
25 ending up being operated instead of these hydros would

1 be fossil fuel plants. They have a different
2 environmental impact, but that's part of the equation of
3 thinking through the overall environmental effect and,
4 you know, sort of the greatest good for the greatest
5 number is a big key, important part. We're trying to
6 provide reliable electricity for the entire state. And
7 Bucks Creek Project is a very important part of that.

8 MR. O'SULLIVAN: And I see that and I
9 understand that, but if you don't do something quick,
10 you're not going to have that option, because there's
11 only so much water in the glass.

12 And I'm looking -- right now you're at about
13 38 percent left before you hit bottom, and you're not
14 going to go that far to the bottom. So I would say you
15 have what, about 5 percent left of water as we speak
16 today, with no snow on the ground.

17 MR. SONEDA: Actually, we're about 50 percent.
18 We're about 52,000, a little over that, acre-feet of
19 105,000 total storage facility, right about 50 percent,
20 with about 40 percent of the water year still remaining.

21 MR. O'SULLIVAN: So how far would you go down
22 on that chart? Down to what?

23 MR. SONEDA: I think we're going up.

24 MR. O'SULLIVAN: No, how far could you pull it
25 down?

1 MR. SONEDA: Let's see, 5,100 acre-feet is
2 right about here. This line here says 5,098.9, so one
3 notch above that, right about here.

4 MR. O'SULLIVAN: Okay.

5 MR. STEINDORF: Just quickly --

6 MR. MITCHNICK: One question and then we need
7 to move on.

8 MR. STEINDORF: Dave Steindorf, American
9 Whitewater.

10 Just to help with a couple of the questions you
11 were asking there, one, Plumas County was very involved
12 in the relicensing process for up north fork Feather,
13 which includes Almanor, and one of their focuses -- key
14 focus was maintaining lake levels up there. So
15 particularly for those of you who live in Plumas County,
16 that's certainly a dialogue that you would want to have
17 with them about the lake levels.

18 The other thing is, when we get to it in the
19 comment section, one of the things we'll be asking for
20 is a water balance model that will go to answering a lot
21 of the questions that you're asking of how -- how is the
22 entire system operated, so you have a sense of when it's
23 going to be drawn down and not drawn down, and not just
24 for this reservoir but all the reservoirs throughout the
25 system, so hopefully that will help.

1 MR. SONEDA: Finally, I was asked to talk a
2 little bit about where the recreation facilities are.
3 This one's a little hard to read, but it is what is
4 available around Bucks Lake.

5 We have -- these square-type icons show the
6 project features. Some of them are day use facilities,
7 showing a little picnic table; some are campgrounds,
8 with a little tent; some of the circles here are the
9 commercial establishments, typically around the south
10 side of Bucks Lake. There's a few at Lower Bucks Lake
11 as well, some in Grizzly Forebay, and then trailhead up
12 at Three Lakes. This is sort of laying out where all
13 the facilities identified in the PAD, the preapplication
14 document, are located.

15 And with that, that was my last slide about
16 project operations and features. Does that meet your
17 needs?

18 MR. MITCHNICK: Yes. Thank you.

19 Before Adam goes on, I just want to bring to
20 your attention this flow chart. And I apologize for it
21 upfront. But this does provide the details of the
22 integrated licensing process. And it's developed by ten
23 or more different agencies over a multi-year period. So
24 this is what we're dealing with. And we're trying to
25 make it as simple as possible, but, you know, the colors

1 are pretty, though, so . . .

2 DR. BEECO: Tell them about the blue book while
3 you're at it.

4 MR. MITCHNICK: Okay. We have more copies of
5 this "Hydropower Licensing - Get Involved" booklet. I
6 know there's no more in the back. I do have some in the
7 front that you can pick up.

8 And it does a good job on a very entry level of
9 the FERC process and how to get involved. It doesn't
10 just cover the integrated licensing process, but it
11 talks about hydropower in general and the licensing
12 process in general. So I do have more copies up front
13 for you.

14 DR. BEECO: Okay. So again, as part of this
15 meeting we put out the -- before the meeting we put out
16 the Scoping Document 1, so we're going to basically go
17 over the issues by issue that we've identified, and
18 we'll take comments basically after each issue to see
19 what you -- if you guys have anything to say about that
20 issue.

21 So one thing to talk about before we do that is
22 cumulative effects. So cumulative, so you may have a
23 specific issue with a single resource at the project,
24 but as we were talking about earlier, how other projects
25 and other things outside of the project could actually

1 affect the specific resource, talking about water
2 levels, power generation, things like that, we refer to
3 that as the cumulative effect. And within this project
4 we've identified aquatic resources, fisheries, as a
5 resource that has a cumulative effect. And the
6 geographic scope for cumulative effect is outside of the
7 project boundary, and for this specifically it's the
8 north fork of the Feather River from Lake Almanor all
9 the way down to Lake Oroville.

10 And I think you guys are all really familiar
11 with that, but it's basically from up here all the way
12 down to there, and then here's Bucks Lake in the middle.

13 So the primary resources that we've identified,
14 that we'll be looking at in the licensing, are these
15 eight listed here, and we'll go through them one at a
16 time. Alan's going to go what you might call the hard
17 science ones and then I'll go through the more social
18 science ones.

19 So, Alan?

20 MR. MITCHNICK: Okay. The first resource is
21 geology and soils, and we've identified five potential
22 issues. And let me make clear from the beginning, these
23 are potential issues. They may not turn out to be
24 issues based on more evaluation as you go through the
25 study process and the application process, but, you

1 know, at least to get started these are the issues that
2 we've identified.

3 So the first one is effects of project
4 operation on erosion and sedimentation in Bucks and
5 Grizzly creeks, particularly downstream of project
6 impoundments.

7 The second issue is effect of project operation
8 and maintenance on shoreline erosion at Bucks Lake.

9 The third is the effect of proposed project
10 operation and maintenance on upstream erosion, including
11 erosion from runoff and from project-related roads and
12 trails.

13 The fourth issue is erosion and the effects of
14 project operation on erosion and sedimentation,
15 including operation of project spillways and outlet
16 facilities, and the effect of project structures on
17 landslides and erosion rates in the project area.

18 Does anybody have issues to add dealing with
19 geology and soils?

20 And certainly, we want to hear from you now,
21 but you certainly can provide your written comments, so
22 either way.

23 MR. FREY: Rick Frey. I just have a question.
24 How current do you expect these studies to be? Because
25 some of this information refers to a 2002 study, which

1 strikes me, on erosion, that that may be 12 or 14 years
2 outdated. And the erosion situation, to me, has
3 increased up there with lake activity. And you've got
4 more solvents in the water, warmer temperatures, we've
5 had algae blooms a couple of seasons. I just wondered
6 what -- how current a study you want to make decisions
7 on those.

8 MR. MITCHNICK: Okay. And that's going to
9 depend on the resource and the study. You know,
10 certainly, as part of this process, we're going to need
11 to look at some of these older studies and, you know,
12 will they satisfy today's needs or not, so that's going
13 to be part of the study plan process.

14 Okay. Moving on to aquatic resources, we've
15 identified six issues dealing with aquatic resources.
16 The first one is effects of project operation and
17 facilities on dissolved oxygen and water temperature
18 both in project reservoirs and in bypassed reaches.

19 The second is effects of project operation,
20 including the current minimum instream flow releases and
21 channel maintenance flows on fish and aquatic habitat in
22 the project bypassed reaches; effect of project
23 operation and facilities on upstream and downstream fish
24 passage, including the potential for entrainment and
25 turbine mortalities; the effects of project operation on

1 fish populations in the project reservoirs and in
2 project-affected stream reaches; the effects of project
3 operation and facilities on recruitment and movement of
4 large woody debris and coarse sediment through the
5 system; and effects of project operation on the
6 potential spread of invasive mussels to project
7 reservoirs.

8 So those are the six aquatic issues that we've
9 identified. Any comments? Anything to add to this
10 list?

11 Dave.

12 MR. STEINDORF: Yes. Actually, this is on
13 behalf of my colleagues at California Sport Fishing
14 Protection Alliance, and that is an assessment of
15 temperature-related effects of -- below the Bucks Creek
16 powerhouse on the north fork Feather River. This was
17 referred to earlier today that the project is used for
18 peaking. The water coming out of the Bucks Creek
19 powerhouse is significantly colder than that of the
20 north fork Feather River, which is a good thing, but
21 it's also peaking, and so just an assessment of what
22 that -- those water temperature effects look like.

23 MR. MITCHNICK: Okay. Thanks, Dave.

24 Any other comments?

25 MR. HENDERSON: DeWitt Henderson, Bucks Lake.

1 The only thing I could add to it would be the
2 fish populations in the project reservoirs. When the
3 lake levels get to too low of a level, we lose our fall
4 spawn. I'm not sure if that's already being addressed
5 or if that is something to add at this time.

6 MR. MITCHNICK: Okay. Thank you for that
7 comment.

8 Move on to terrestrial resources, which is my
9 expertise. The first issue is effect of project
10 operation and maintenance activities on vegetation
11 communities and wildlife species in the project area;
12 effects of project operation and maintenance activities
13 on the spread of invasive species; the effects of
14 recreation on vegetation communities and the spread of
15 invasive species; the effects of project operation on
16 riparian habitat in Grizzly, Bucks, and the Milk Creek
17 reaches and tributaries; the effects of project
18 operation on wetland habitat occurring along the
19 reservoir shorelines; and effect of project operation
20 and -- operation on rare species, including, but not
21 limited to, the state listed species such as the willow
22 flycatcher, the bald eagle, special status bat species,
23 special status plant species, and plant species that
24 have some cultural significance to the local
25 Native American tribes, and also special status

1 amphibian and reptile species. I guess I combined the
2 last two.

3 Okay. And so, before we move on to rare -- to
4 federally listed species, are there any comments on
5 terrestrial resources?

6 Okay. The only federally listed species that
7 we've identified to this point is the valley elderberry
8 longhorn beetle.

9 We certainly, as we go through this process,
10 want to make sure that we do have the correct list of
11 species to address throughout the licensing process.

12 Any comments on federally listed threatened or
13 endangered species?

14 MS. SIMON-JACKSON: Terri Simon-Jackson, Plumas
15 National Forest.

16 We expect listing as endangered for the Sierra
17 Nevada yellow-legged frog sometime this spring.

18 MR. MITCHNICK: The mountain or . . .

19 MS. SIMON-JACKSON: Mm-hmm.

20 MR. MITCHNICK: The mountain. All right.

21 DR. BEECO: All right. So moving on to
22 recreational land use. So I'll just read these off,
23 similar to what Alan did.

24 Adequacy of existing recreation public use
25 facilities in meeting existing and future regional

1 public use needs; effects of project operations on
2 quality and availability of reservoir level dependent
3 recreation opportunities -- and I referred to that a
4 little bit already; adequacy of structural integrity,
5 physical capacity, and/or management methods to support
6 recreation use at existing facilities; adequacy of
7 management methods for informal recreation along
8 reservoir shoreline, access to Bucks Lake wilderness
9 area, and adequacy of existing shoreline management
10 policies and programs to control non-project use of
11 project lands. Heard a little bit about that as well.

12 Are there any other issues or any questions
13 about these issues?

14 MR. WILLIAMSON: Harry Williamson, National
15 Park Service.

16 In addition, that pretty much limits itself to
17 existing physical facilities on the shoreline of the
18 lakes, and I'm just wondering if there's an anticipation
19 you'll be looking at disbursed recreation in those
20 streams, bypass reaches, conveyances, that.

21 DR. BEECO: That can definitely be added to the
22 list.

23 MR. WILLIAMSON: Because that seems to limit
24 itself to existing facilities. And, of course, those
25 are all based on the reservoirs.

1 DR. BEECO: Yeah. Okay.

2 Yes, sir.

3 MR. FREY: Rick Frey. I just had a question.

4 The scoping document follows the PAD, and the PAD said
5 that, in regards to recreational land use, no additional
6 studies were -- or information was needed to be
7 identified.

8 How does that translate here? Does that --
9 which comment stands? I mean, this comment says no
10 study or additional information needs to have been
11 identified. Does this now mean that there are going to
12 be studies?

13 DR. BEECO: Not necessarily. So what we did is
14 we read the PAD and then we have a -- then we look at
15 the issues that we think might be existing. So what
16 we're saying is, these are issues that may be enough
17 existing information and there may not be, and so, based
18 off of the information in the PAD, in our experience,
19 this is what we anticipate could be issues.

20 So if you're saying that you don't think
21 there's enough existing information, you know, now would
22 be the time to say that.

23 And I think, Alan, you were -- no? Never mind.

24 So yeah. So if you think that there should be
25 studies on recreation, you can mention that now as well

1 as submit comments or submit a study request.

2 MR. HENDERSON: DeWitt Henderson.

3 I think there should be more current studies on
4 today's recreation on public lands and public use.

5 DR. BEECO: Thank you.

6 MR. DOYLE: Dustin Doyle.

7 Part of the original questionnaire that was
8 sent in, I had sent in an issue -- to PG&E -- I had sent
9 in an issue of moving the FERC boundary line in order to
10 open the possibilities of ownership of the leased land
11 by the people that have built cabins on the lake, and
12 that was not -- it didn't go any further than that. And
13 that's what Mr. Frey said, that that was not an issue
14 that ever surfaced from those -- from that first PAD
15 document indicating that that was a need of further
16 study. That is something that I am going to pursue and
17 submit.

18 DR. BEECO: Thank you.

19 MR. MITCHNICK: I'd like to make one comment.

20 As we go through this process, there's going to be
21 issues where more information is needed and there's
22 going to be issues that basically -- or there's going to
23 be discussion about what measures need to be included in
24 the license. So to answer that second question, you
25 don't necessarily need more information. You might, in

1 some cases, but in some cases, you might not need more
2 information to address a particular measure.

3 And for those cases, the appropriate time to
4 discuss that issue ultimately would be in the license
5 application.

6 I mean, it -- certainly, there could be
7 discussions about that, but that would basically turn up
8 as recommendations to be included in the license. And
9 the proper time for that is when you provide comments on
10 the license application, which will be, you know, two
11 years or more down the line.

12 Dave.

13 MR. STEINDORF: Dave Steindorf, American
14 Whitewater.

15 We'd like to see an assessment of opportunities
16 for whitewater recreation on the project. We recommend
17 a two-part study, as we've done on other relicensings,
18 which Phase I is a reconnaissance to identify project
19 reaches that could have whitewater recreation on this
20 project that appear to be focusing on Bucks Creek, Upper
21 Grizzly Creek, Lower Grizzly Creek, looking at impacts
22 of project flows, and then also access; and then, based
23 out of that Phase I reconnaissance, then determine if
24 controlled flow studies are required after the fact.

25 DR. BEECO: Thank you.

1 MR. WILLIAMSON: Harry Williamson, Park Service
2 again.

3 This may be a question for Alan.

4 I noticed, I guess, when you were showing the
5 aerials or the graphic that had recreation facilities,
6 the PAD seemed to limit itself to rec facilities that
7 were maintained and operated by the licensees or the
8 applicants.

9 And the question I've got is, within project
10 boundary, which would be -- which would encompass all
11 the reservoirs, of course, are there other rec
12 facilities that are Forest Service or third party or
13 whatever that are not maintained and operated by you
14 guys? Campgrounds, day use areas.

15 MR. SONEDA: Yeah. So what we included in the
16 PAD is the PG&E license facilities and commercial
17 facilities. There are some facilities that exist that
18 aren't shown on the maps. There's some disbursed
19 recreation facilities that you were expressing interest
20 in previously.

21 Jesus, did you have anything to add to that
22 or . . .

23 MR. VISCARRA: I think, to sum it up,
24 Forest Service and PG&E each have commercial leases on
25 PG&E lands. There's three commercial leases:

1 Lakeshore, Bucks Marina, and then the Bucks Camp RV
2 Park. Forest Service has two organizational camps.
3 They have a Latter Day Saints camp and a Boy Scouts of
4 America camp. So that's kind of your -- there is a
5 private outside of PG&E lands and there is a private
6 resort called Passage Valley Inn and Forest Service also
7 does have a Bucks Lake Lodge that is outside FERC.

8 MR. WILLIAMSON: Outside the boundaries or --

9 MR. VISCARRA: The latter two are the ones that
10 are outside of FERC and all the others are all either
11 within the boundaries or --

12 MR. WILLIAMSON: But maintained and operated by
13 the applicants could also include ones that you guys
14 outsource to commercial for concessions or marina
15 or . . .

16 MR. VISCARRA: And that's the case here. Those
17 are leases from either PG&E or the Forest Service to
18 these private business entities.

19 MR. WILLIAMSON: Okay.

20 MR. SONEDA: Yeah. So, Harry -- this is Alan
21 Soneda again -- the PAD was intended to include
22 everything inside the FERC project boundary, regardless
23 of who owns and operates it. Does that more directly
24 answer your question?

25 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yeah. I just saw that term in

1 there that it was limited to one -- the ones that were
2 owned and maintained -- or operated and maintained by
3 the applicants.

4 MR. SONEDA: Yeah, it was intended to be
5 everything that was inside the FERC project boundaries,
6 regardless of who operates it.

7 MR. HENDERSON: So -- DeWitt Henderson -- Alan,
8 this is a question for you. Then it shows that it's
9 applicants operating and maintaining four recreational
10 sites at Bucks Lake, but obviously there's three more
11 commercial sites that are on leased lands from PG&E to
12 run commercial resorts that aren't listed in this PAD.
13 Now, is this something that needs to be in Scoping
14 Document 2? Because it doesn't list the Lakeshore
15 Resort, which is a PG&E-leased commercial resort within
16 that FERC boundary, it doesn't list Bucks Lake Marina in
17 your original 3.1.1 existing projects and facilities,
18 and it doesn't list the Bucks Camp, which is
19 another PG&E- leased property, commercial lease, within
20 this scoping document. So that was a question I have
21 for you, because I didn't see those --

22 DR. BEECO: I think -- I think one of the
23 things you may be doing is you may be looking at our
24 scoping document versus their PAD. All right?

25 MR. HENDERSON: Okay.

1 DR. BEECO: So there's a difference. So their
2 PAD does list a lot of the things that you guys have
3 identified. However, our scoping document has boiled
4 those down a little bit to what PG&E owns and operates.

5 So, you know, as you move forward in the
6 licensing process and the studies, if there's an
7 interest to possibly survey uses at Forest Service
8 sites, we can get into that a little bit later, but our
9 regulations, our regulatory authority does not extend
10 over the Forest Service, so that's why our scoping
11 document has boiled these points down a little bit.

12 MR. HENDERSON: Okay. Thank you.

13 DR. BEECO: Anything else on recreational land
14 use? Okay.

15 So aesthetics is also a resource, and the
16 effects of project features, operation, and maintenance
17 on the surrounding landscape. Those are pretty common
18 general ones for these processes.

19 And then cultural resources, historic,
20 archeological, and traditional cultural resources that
21 may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

22 Anything else on cultural resources?

23 And then developmental resources, which is
24 basically what we said when we referred to the economics
25 of the project, and so the economics of the project and

1 the alternatives and the effects of any recommended
2 environmental measures on the project's economics.

3 So one thing that we're going to -- that we
4 want to ask from a lot of you folks is updated requests
5 on comprehensive plans, so FERC, on our website, we have
6 a list of all the comprehensive plans that have been
7 submitted to us that we're aware of.

8 If you are aware of -- particularly the
9 agencies -- if you're aware of any comprehensive plans
10 that we may not have on file or that are new or we may
11 have just missed, you know, please submit those to us.

12 If you're interested in getting on the mailing
13 list for the project, see Section 10 of the scoping
14 document. It lets you know how to do that.

15 So again, just to rehash a little bit, all the
16 comments are going to be due by March 15th for this
17 portion of the process. And there's different ways to
18 make those comments.

19 Of course, you can just comment on the PAD,
20 which is, you know, similar to some of the comments
21 we've made today. You can make comment on the scoping
22 document. You can file study requests, which, again,
23 study requests that follow those criteria we outlined
24 earlier, and then any cooperating agency requests as
25 well.

1 And so the Commission prefers that everything
2 be filed electronically, but you don't have to file
3 electronically. You can mail an original and five
4 copies to the Commission as well.

5 But whether you file electronically or you mail
6 anything in, just be sure that we know which project
7 you're talking about, so it needs to say Bucks Creek
8 Project as well as the project number.

9 And so what we refer to -- this is the project
10 number, 619, but a lot of things go on with these
11 projects year after year after year, so we give it
12 what's called a subdocket as well, and so that's this
13 number over here. Make sure you have the 619 for sure.

14 So there's a number of online resources we have
15 at FERC that are very helpful for this process. And the
16 first is eFiling, which is what I just talked about. If
17 you want to file comments, study requests, anything like
18 that, you do that through eFiling.

19 There's eComments, basically it's where you
20 just file comments in basically like a little text box,
21 so you won't be able to attach any documents or anything
22 like that to it, so it's just a little bit more -- if
23 you have just a couple sentences, that's probably the
24 way to go. But if you want to file a full letter or
25 comment, it's better to do that through eFiling.

1 eSubscription, on our website you can sign up
2 for anytime anything goes on the public record about
3 this project or whichever project you may be interested
4 in subscribing to, you'll get an email. So if we file
5 something, if another stakeholder files something, if
6 the licensee files something, you'll get an email about
7 that.

8 And eLibrary is the other resource, and this is
9 all kind of part of the same thing, but within eLibrary
10 you can search about the project and search documents
11 that have been filed and search the entire record and
12 the history of the project, so it's helpful if you want
13 to do research and stay current on it.

14 MR. MITCHNICK: Before we get to questions,
15 just a few more comments, following up on what Adam had
16 mentioned.

17 In this document, on pages 12 to 14, I mean, it
18 talks about everything that he talked about, and he
19 talked about why it's important to be on the mailing
20 list, what filings you would get if you're on the
21 mailing list. It's also clearly spelled out on the
22 Commission's website, so there are directions, there are
23 people to call if you have problems filing something.

24 You do have to register for eFiling, you do
25 have to register for a subscription, but you don't have

1 to register for eComments, so it's just an easier
2 process. But it certainly would make a lot of sense to
3 eSubscribe. You would get an email every time the
4 Commission issues something or any time PG&E files
5 something, you'll get an email and you'll be able to
6 click on the link, go right to the document, so it's a
7 great resource.

8 We talked a little bit about and sort of
9 defined points of the process, defined meetings that are
10 required by the Commission's regulations, but that's
11 just a minimum of interactions between the applicant and
12 the participant.

13 And I did want Alan to talk a little bit about
14 how he sort of foresees the consultation process, you
15 know, proceeding.

16 MR. SONEDA: Sure. So there was some
17 discussion -- PG&E did hold a public meeting on
18 January 22nd. There was some discussion about what
19 folks that were at that meeting, both agencies and
20 members of the public, wanted to see in terms of
21 meetings.

22 And they ranged -- there wasn't a consensus
23 necessarily. They ranged from one of the agencies
24 suggesting that we might want to pre-calendar meetings
25 on some kind of regular schedule and make it easier for

1 folks to, you know, work that into their calendars and
2 make sure they can make them.

3 Sort of countering that was a notion that this
4 can get to be a lot of meetings, it can get to be pretty
5 burdensome.

6 We didn't come away from that meeting making
7 any commitment as to our frequency of holding these
8 meetings.

9 As I think about trying to balance those
10 things, I'm inclined to want to listen to the issues
11 that were raised January 22nd, for those who were able
12 to make it, and then certainly today at this meeting,
13 and start thinking about issue-specific type meetings
14 being calendared and getting the word out early enough
15 so that people that are interested in that issue, for
16 example, around modeling, an operations model, anyone
17 that's interested in that either from the perspective of
18 what effect it might have on the level of Bucks Lake,
19 that's a perfect example of something that might be of
20 interest to a lot of parties, so we'd want to get that
21 calendared pretty quickly.

22 We'll probably try and get something on
23 calendars to the folks that have made themselves aware
24 to us as well as to FERC, a meeting like that, for
25 example, and perhaps a few others that have come out of

1 either today's meeting or the one in January, but our
2 inclination is probably to do issue-specific rather than
3 calendar a series of meetings and not really sure which
4 is the one to tackle first, second, and so on.

5 Does that help?

6 Any feedback from folks that maybe you've
7 expressed some of these issues before and -- would that
8 work for you?

9 Yeah. Harry.

10 MR. WILLIAMSON: Harry Williamson, Park
11 Service.

12 I was wondering, Alan, how this -- I'm assuming
13 there's not going to be like a specific website for the
14 Bucks Creek Project, even tear it off of PG&E's hydro
15 website or something, but how -- what the medium is
16 going to be for these notifications on formation of
17 technical work groups or, you know, the classic, the way
18 these things break out, how a person, since we wouldn't
19 be relying on eSubscription or that for these types of
20 notices, what you envision in terms of when we start
21 getting cranked up on study, plan development, those
22 types of things.

23 MR. SONEDA: So folks that were at the
24 January 22nd meeting will confirm that a lot of folks
25 raised that question and asked specifically about a

1 public relicensing website.

2 PG&E has done that in the past on other
3 projects, and we are going to do that on this project.
4 We'll get that up as soon as we can.

5 Frankly, you'll also remember that we talked a
6 lot about FERC's existing eLibrary as a temporary way to
7 get really all the documents you might need, and a lot
8 of folks have tried that and have found it a little bit
9 difficult to work with, and we'll try and get the right
10 kind of site set up that's a little easier to use.

11 And it may take a little bit of while for us to
12 do that, but we'd like to get a site up and running that
13 will meet everybody's needs and is easy enough to use
14 that people won't feel intimidated by, you know, not
15 being able to find what you're looking for.

16 Does that help?

17 Thanks, Alan.

18 MR. MITCHNICK: Go ahead, Dave.

19 MR. STEINDORF: Dave Steindorf, American
20 Whitewater.

21 I just wanted to formalize that request for the
22 water balance model and also the request that that model
23 is going to take into account or should take into
24 account all the projects within the basin.

25 So it seems like it would be efficient to have

1 people that are also interested in the Poe project,
2 which is downstream, and upper north fork Feather, all
3 of which are still within the relicensing process, to
4 provide input to that model, because it is going to have
5 bearing and the results of that modeling will have
6 bearing on each of those relicensings. And I'm done.

7 MR. MITCHNICK: Thanks, Dave.

8 I guess our plan was just to give people an
9 opportunity to provide comments if there was something
10 they didn't have an opportunity to provide earlier. We
11 certainly are available to answer any questions about
12 FERC, about the process, about licensing.

13 I did want to, one, make sure you sign the
14 sign-in sheet so we have a record of who attended.

15 And I did want to talk a little bit about the
16 site visit, which I guess we anticipate we'll have
17 sometime in May, I believe, so we'll start organizing
18 that and getting information to people.

19 And, you know, like this, we will issue a
20 notice on the FERC website that, if you eSubscribe,
21 you'll know about it. I'm sure PG&E will also let
22 people know about it, and we'll coordinate with PG&E on
23 developing a site visit in a reasonable amount of time
24 that we'll see, you know, everything that's important to
25 people so we're able to understand the issues.

1 Okay. So are there any other questions or
2 comments?

3 MR. DOYLE: Dustin Doyle.

4 One of the issues that Alan just mentioned was
5 that at the January 22nd meeting that we indicated
6 several items that we would want to look at. I don't
7 believe one of them was to the possibility of downline
8 purchase of the property or the movement of the FERC
9 boundary, so I'd like to document the fact that I'd like
10 to have that as one of the issues.

11 MR. O'SULLIVAN: Barry O'Sullivan, for the
12 record.

13 My understanding is, your site visit, that's
14 when you guys are actually going to be visiting
15 Bucks Lake? Is that . . .

16 MR. MITCHNICK: Yes.

17 MR. O'SULLIVAN: And the other thing, for PG&E,
18 future meetings, you might try to get one or two of them
19 in Plumas County, where Bucks Lake sits. You know,
20 we're a long ways from home here, and I know there's a
21 lot of people in Plumas County, Quincy, you know, it's
22 ten miles out of Quincy. There's a lot of concerned
23 people that would like to know what's going on.

24 DR. BEECO: Anybody else?

25 MR. MITCHNICK: Okay. Well, this is sort of

1 step one in the process. So technically this is Box 4,
2 so we've only got 22 more boxes to do.

3 I just want to continue to make the point that
4 your involvement in the process is very important in
5 determining what the issues are.

6 Relicensing -- new licenses are issued for 30
7 to 50 years, so that's a generation or more, so we
8 certainly want to get it right, always want to get it
9 right, always want to understand the issues out there,
10 want to have the information to be able to evaluate the
11 effects, so that's why studies are so critical.

12 Just focus on the next step, which is the study
13 plan process, and it's a very critical step in this
14 whole licensing process, a very important step, so we
15 certainly want to see or hear your comments, your study
16 plans, and how, you know, how the information can aid
17 the process.

18 So with that, I thank everybody for coming this
19 morning. We will be having another meeting this evening
20 at 7:00.

21 Certainly, if you made comments at today's
22 meeting, there's no reason to make those comments again
23 tonight.

24 But again, I appreciate everybody for coming
25 and, you know, we'll be spending a lot of time together

1 over the next three to five years. Thank you.

2 DR. BEECO: So one more thing. If you have --
3 if you gave us any submitted comments, if you just
4 handed them to us -- I think a couple of you did that --
5 if you have an extra copy, if you can give that to the
6 court reporter, that would be great as well. If not,
7 it's no problem.

8 Thank you guys.

9 MR. MITCHNICK: Okay. That's it. Thank you.

10 (Time noted: 11:37 a.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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I, CAROLE W. BROWNE, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of California, duly commissioned and a disinterested person, certify:

That the foregoing transcript was taken before me at the time and place herein set forth;

That the statements of all parties made at the time of the proceeding were recorded stenographically by me to the best of my ability and were thereafter transcribed into typewriting;

That the foregoing transcript is a record of the statements of all parties made at the time of the proceeding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my name on this 14th day of February, 2014.

Carole W. Browne, RPR, CSR
Certificate No. 7351

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