

North Fork Stanislaus River Hydroelectric Project (P-2409)

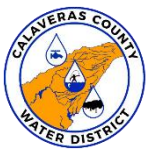


9th Relicensing Stakeholders Meeting

- Aquatic Resources Study Descriptions -

August 18, 2026

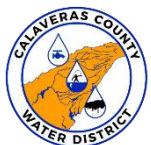
- Welcome & Introductions
- Overview of Study Description Status
- Meeting Goal & Process
- Discuss & Attempt to Finalize Study Descriptions AR-5, AR-6, and AR-7
- Review Schedule for Upcoming Meetings
- Review Action Items
- Adjourn



➤ CCWD and Consultant Staff

- **Michael Minkler** (CCWD) General Manager
- **Kelly Gerkenmeyer** (CCWD) External Affairs Manager
- **Andrew Renshaw** (CCWD) Water Resources Manager
- **Jim Lynch** (HDR) Senior FERC Regulatory Specialist
- **Ben Onanian** (HDR) FERC Regulatory Specialist
- **Randy Bowersox** (GFT) Senior Hydropower Operations Specialist
- **Matt McKechnie** (Stillwater Sci.) Project Manager
- **Marrisa Montjoy** (Stillwater Sci.) Senior Wildlife Biologist
- **Ken Jarrett** (Stillwater Sci.) Fisheries Biologist
- **Russ Liebig** (Stillwater Sci.) Senior Fisheries Biologist

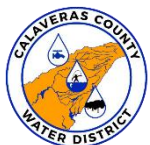
➤ Participating Agencies, Native American Tribes, NGOs, and Others



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Study Descriptions Status (1 of 4)

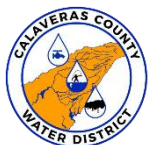
Study Description	No Additional Comments	Remaining Comments to Be Discussed & Process for Resolution
WR-1, Water Quality Sampling in Project-Affected Reaches, in New Spicer Meadow and Mckays Reservoirs, and Near Project Recreation Facilities	X	--
WR-2, Water Temperature Model of Project-Affected Reaches and New Spicer Meadow Reservoir	X	--
AR-1, Fish Sampling in New Spicer Meadow Reservoir	X	--
AR-2, Fish Sampling in Project-Affected Reaches	X	--



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Study Descriptions Status (2 of 4)

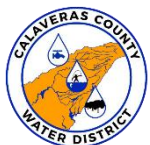
Study Description	No Additional Comments	Remaining Comments to Be Discussed & Process for Resolution
AR-3, Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sampling in Project-Affected Reaches	X	--
AR-4, Assessment of Potential for Fish Entrainment		CDFW and USFS provided an extensive redline of CCWD's study description that was primarily a desktop analysis. Redlines focused primarily on: 1) diversions to be studied; 2) and adding fish behavior studies. CCWD is reviewing CDFW and USFS's redline, will issue a revised study description addressing comments, and schedule a virtual meeting to resolve differences.
AR-5, Instream Flows		To be discussed at today's virtual meeting.
AR-6, Special-Status Amphibians and Aquatic Reptiles eDNA Sampling		To be discussed at today's virtual meeting.



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Study Descriptions Status (3 of 4)

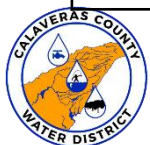
Study Description	No Additional Comments	Remaining Comments to Be Discussed & Process for Resolution
AR-7, ESA-Listed Amphibians and Aquatic Reptile Visual Encounter Surveys		To be discussed at today's virtual meeting.
TR-1, Botanical Resources Study Including Vegetation Mapping and Protocol Surveys for Special-Status Species and Non-Native Invasive Plants	X	--
TR-2, Bald Eagle Surveys at New Spicer Meadow Reservoir	X	--
TR-3, ESA-Listed and Special Status Wildlife Habitat Assessment in Areas Disturbed by the Project	X	--
LU-1, Primary Project Roads and Trails Assessment		Remaining comment is: 1) USFS requested adding additional roads to list of Primary Project Roads to be included in study. Discuss at meeting to be scheduled.



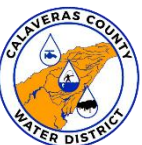
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Study Descriptions Status (4 of 4)

Study Description	No Additional Comments	Remaining Comments to Be Discussed & Process for Resolution
RR-1, Project Recreation Use and Visitor Surveys		Remaining comment is: 1) USFS requested adding additional sites at which visitor surveys would be conducted. CCWD issued a revised study description on 8/10. Discuss at meeting to be scheduled.
RR-2, NFSR Sourgrass Run Whitewater Boating Use Evaluation	X	--
RR-3, Fishing, Swimming and Wading Use Evaluation at Calaveras Big Trees State Park	X	--
VR-1, Visual Resources Evaluation at Project Facilities	X	--
CR-1, Archeological and Historic Sites Inventory to Support Section 106	X	--
CR-2, Traditional Cultural Sites and Tribal Consultation to Support Section 106	X	--
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>6</i>
Total	19	



- Goal: Develop the best possible study descriptions through meaningful engagement with interested parties.
- Process:
 - Review and discuss comments received by CCWD prior to the meeting on AR-5 and revised AR-6 and AR-7.
 - Discuss any other comments on each study description.
 - Assess whether there is agreement on each study description and, if not identify remaining differences.



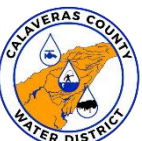
➤ Instream Flows

- CCWD distributed initial study description on 7/15. No comments received prior to 8/18 meeting.
- Open Word version of 7/15 draft.

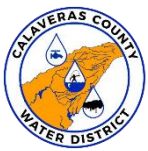
- Special-status Amphibian and Aquatic Reptile eDNA Sampling
 - CCWD distributed initial study description on 6/29, received comments during meeting on 7/16, addressed comments, and issued a revised AR-6 on 8/4. No additional comments received prior to 8/18 meeting.
 - Open revised Word version of 8/4 draft.

- ESA-Listed Amphibian and Aquatic Reptile Visual Encounter Surveys
 - CCWD distributed initial study description on 6/29, received comments during meeting on 7/16, addressed comments, and issued a revised AR-7 on 8/4. No additional comments received prior to 8/18 meeting.
 - Open revised Word version of 8/4 draft.

- Upcoming Study Description Meetings
 - TBD – CCWD addressed comments and issued a revised RR-1 study description on 8/10. CCWD addressing comments and will issue a revised LU-1 study description. CCWD to schedule virtual meeting, after stakeholders have had time to review and comment.
 - TBD – For AR-4, CCWD address comments, issue revised study description, and schedule a virtual meeting, after stakeholders have had time to review and comment.



➤ Review Action Items



Thank You and Adjourn

<https://www.ccwd.org/p-2409-relicense-homepage>



P- 2409 Aquatics Meeting #9 (AR-5, AR-6, AR-7) – 8/18/2026

Attendance

Victor Aguirre-Orozco (USFS)
Lauren Estenson (USFWS)
Beth Lawson (CDFW)
Ben Ewing (CDFW)
Truc Le (SWRCB)
Stan Dodson (CSERC)
Eric Woodruff (CSPA)
Josef Polk (Utica)
Michael Minkler (CCWD)
Kelly Gerkenmeyer (CCWD)
Andrew Renshaw (CCWD)
Randy Bowersox (GFT)
Jim Lynch (HDR)
Ben Onanian (HDR)
Marissa Montjoy (Stillwater)
Matt McKechnie (Stillwater)
Russ Liebig (Stillwater)
Ken Jarrett (Stillwater)

AR-5 Instream Flows

Beth Lawson (CDFW) – Need additional study site below confluence of Highland Creek and N. Fork Stan, above McKays Point Reservoir (within this reach – exact location not yet determined)

- Only CDFW comment
- Supports developing unimpaired flows

Stan D. (CSERC) – No discussion of unimpaired flows. Would like to see for NFS, Silver Creek, Beaver Creek (all major inputs to system) – developed (modeled) for different WYTs
-to help determine MIF

AR-6 Special-Status Amphibian and Reptile eDNA

No additional comments
Will be cleaned up, changes accepted and posted

AR-7 ESA-Listed Amphibian and Aquatic Reptile VES

Beth Lawson (CDFW) – More than one set of Yosemite Toad survey per year to avoid false negative possibilities

- Potentially using SCE Lee Vining Project as an example for frequency

- Sophia needed for specific discussion on timing of additional survey

Would like incidental observations of bullfrogs reported online

- CDFW to provide link

If comments resolved via email with Sophia – cc Michael Maher and Beth Lawson and USFWS and USFS

- No additional meeting at the moment

USFWS and USFS – No additional comments

Action Items

2 Additional virtual meetings to be scheduled by CCWD/HDR

CDFW to provide link to report incidental observations

Accept track changes and clean up AR-6

Discussion with CDFW staff (Sophia) about additional survey timing