

North Fork Stanislaus River Hydroelectric Project (P-2409)



3rd Relicensing Stakeholders Meeting

- Terrestrial Resources Study Descriptions –

April 13, 2026

- Welcome & Introductions
- Meeting Goal and Process
- Discuss and Attempt to Finalize Terrestrial Study Descriptions
- 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

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



- 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 each study description distributed by CCWD on April 1, 2026
 - Discuss any other comments on each study description
 - Assess whether there is agreement on each study description and, if not identify remaining differences



- Concepts and Practices Applicable to All Relicensing Studies
 - Open Word version of April 1, 2026, draft



- Botanical Resources Study including Vegetation Mapping and Protocol Surveys for Special-Status Species and Non-Native Invasive Plants
 - Open Word version of April 1, 2026, draft



- Protocol-level Surveys for Bald Eagle
 - Open Word version of April 1, 2026, draft



- Special-Status Terrestrial Wildlife Study
 - Open Word version of April 1, 2026, draft



- Upcoming Study Description Meetings
 - May 11, 2026 (1:00 PM) - Land Use and Recreation Resources
 - June 2, 2026 (noon) - Water and Aquatic Resources
- Process:
 - CCWD will distribute applicable draft study descriptions 2 weeks prior to each meeting
 - Interested parties will target providing CCWD red-lined study descriptions 1 week prior to the meeting
 - At each meeting, we will follow the same process we followed for Terrestrial Resources study descriptions



➤ **Review Action Items**



Thank You and Adjourn

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



P-2409 Calaveras County Water District – Terrestrial Resources Study Discussion Sign-in Sheet

Name & Title	Representing	Email
Jim Lynch	CCWD	jim.lynch@hdrinc.com
Ben Onanian	CCWD/HDR	benjamin.onanian@hdrinc.com
Ben Guy	NCPA	benjamin.guy@ncpa.com
Randy Bowersox	CCWD/GFT	rbowersox@gftinc.com
Stan Dobson	CSERC	stan@cserc.org
John Buckley	CSERC	johnb@cserc.org
Crispin Holland	USFS	crispin.holland@USDA.gov
Michael Mintzer	CCWD	
Todd Newbiger	USFS	Todd.Newbiger@usda.gov

P-2409 Calaveras County Water District – Terrestrial Resources Study Discussion Sign-in Sheet

Name & Title	Representing	Email
Victor Aguirre Orozco	USFS	virtual
Anna Bonnette	USFS	online
Noah Triplett	BLM	online
Lauren Estenson	USFWS	online
Michael Maher	CDFW	online
Sara Holm	CDFW	online
Truc Le	SWRCB	online
Tom Hofstra	CSERC	online
Eric Woodruff	CSFPA	online
Keiko Mertz	Friends of the River	online

Name & Title	Representing	Email & Phone
Shawn Puzen	Mead and Hunt	on line
Jake Eymann	NCPA	on line
Josef Polk	UWPA Council	On line

Terrestrial Resources (TR1, TR2, TR3)

CSERC - Held off on redline comments due to not having a complete understanding of Project Ops. and Facility locations

- Hard to determine potential impacts to species

CDFW (Michael M.) - Have comment on Deer herds

USFS - requests 2 weeks for review

* 4/14

USFS - General description comments to be shared after meeting (4/17)

* * HDR to number these

- Bullet * 5 - clarification request

- Answer - Project vs. cumulative

- Incidental observations - request more detail

- Field staff not experts in every resource

- Buffer around Project Features - For Botanical Surveys

- non-Project Facilities in FERC Boundary not studied

Anna (USFS) - Follow USFS protocols specifically for Botany

CSERC - Cumulative impacts will be addressed at appropriate time

- Follow FERC NEPA guidelines

TR-1USFS - use NNIP

- Buffer - where 20/50 ft. came from? Use in other projects
 - Anna - Good with 50 ft. buffer
- use special-status Botanical species
- Anna - Track any species with "Rare" status

USFWS (Lauren E.) - Include plants that can be used by SS species - milkweed

USFS - complete = covering 100% of project area
 controlled = Targeted approach

CSERC - Include all Facilities in study area, comment added to TR-1

* Comments Back from CCWD/HDR ~~4/15~~ COB
 4/22

TR-2

CSERC - Nesting Territories - Potential vs. Known

- Answer - using known detections for territories

NCPA - Helicopter access when not car accessible

CSERC - When would TR3 trigger a study need for a specific species

- most likely conversations to be had in 2028 but dependent on resource and when data collection is complete
-

CDFW - Deer herds moving through project

- Request wildlife study on Deer herds
- CDFW will get back to CCWD with specific concerns

USFS - What type of veg clearing methods?

- In FS ^{lands} historically manual - no herbicide
↳ chainsaw/hand crews

CSERC - Rodenticides?

- Historically, no

* NCPA has a PVP around New Spicer

CSERC - Southern long-toed Salamander - potential project impacts

- Discussed under Aquatics