

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) files this Pre-Application Document (PAD) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to support DWR's relicensing of a portion of the existing license for South SWP Hydropower, FERC Project Number (No.) 2426. DWR and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) jointly hold the initial FERC license, which expires on January 31, 2022, for the South SWP Hydropower.

1.1 APPLICANT AND APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZED AGENT

The applicant for the Project is DWR. DWR's physical address, mailing address and telephone number are as follows:

Physical Address:

California Department of Water
Resources
2033 Howe Avenue, Suite 220
Sacramento, CA 95825
Tel: (916) 557-4550

Mailing Address:

California Department of Water
Resources
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

DWR's designated agent for the Project relicensing is Mr. Ted Craddock, Chief of DWR's Hydropower License Planning and Compliance Office (HLPDO), Executive Division. Mr. Craddock's telephone number and e-mail address are (916) 557-4555 and Ted.Craddock@water.ca.gov.

1.2 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF PAD

1.2.1 Brief Description of the Project

The facilities addressed in this PAD are part of a larger water storage and delivery system, the State Water Project (SWP), which is the largest state-owned and operated water supply project of its kind in the United States. The SWP provides southern California with many benefits, including affordable water supply, reliable regional clean energy, opportunities to integrate green energy, accessible public recreation opportunities, and environmental benefits. The facilities addressed in this PAD have an authorized installed capacity of 280 megawatts (MW) and are located in San Bernardino County at the southern end of the East Branch of the SWP.

The facilities addressed in this PAD range in elevation from 5,377 feet to 1,778 feet and include Cedar Springs Dam, Silverwood Lake, San Bernardino Tunnel, Devil Canyon Powerplant, Devil Canyon Powerplant Afterbay, Devil Canyon Switchyard, and the Devil

Canyon Second Afterbay¹. Together, these facilities are referred to as the “Project” in this PAD.

The Project’s existing FERC boundary includes 3,744 acres, of which 220.98 acres are National Forest System (NFS) lands managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS), as part of the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF).

Figure 1.2-1 shows the general regional location of the Project. Refer to Section 3.0 of the PAD for a detailed description of the Project and its operations.

1.2.2 Purpose of the PAD

This PAD provides FERC, federal and State of California (State) agencies, Native American tribes, local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGO), businesses, members of the public, and others interested in the Project relicensing (i.e., these parties are collectively referred to as “relicensing participants”) with summaries of existing, relevant, and reasonably available information. This information, which was (and remains) in DWR’s possession at the time the PAD was filed, is related to the Project and potentially affected resources. In addition, the PAD presents DWR’s preliminary proposal for gathering additional information that may be needed to meet the information requirements for issuance of the new license. The PAD sections along with the information sources listed in Appendix A of this PAD satisfy the requirements of a PAD as set forth in 18 CFR § 5.6(d).

DWR exercised due diligence in acquiring information included in the PAD. DWR contacted appropriate governmental agencies, Native American tribes, and others that potentially have relevant information; conducted extensive searches of publicly available databases and its own records; and broadly distributed a comprehensive questionnaire specifically designed to identify existing, relevant, and reasonably available information related to the Project. Section 9.0 lists the parties contacted by DWR to gather information for this PAD. Appendix A lists the information identified by the parties contacted by DWR and other information used by DWR to prepare this PAD. Appendix B contains all pre-PAD questionnaires returned to DWR.

¹ On April 1, 2016, DWR filed an application with FERC to amend the existing license to remove the two Devil Canyon Transmission Lines. DWR assumes FERC will issue the amendment in 2016. Therefore, these two Transmission Lines are not discussed in the PAD.

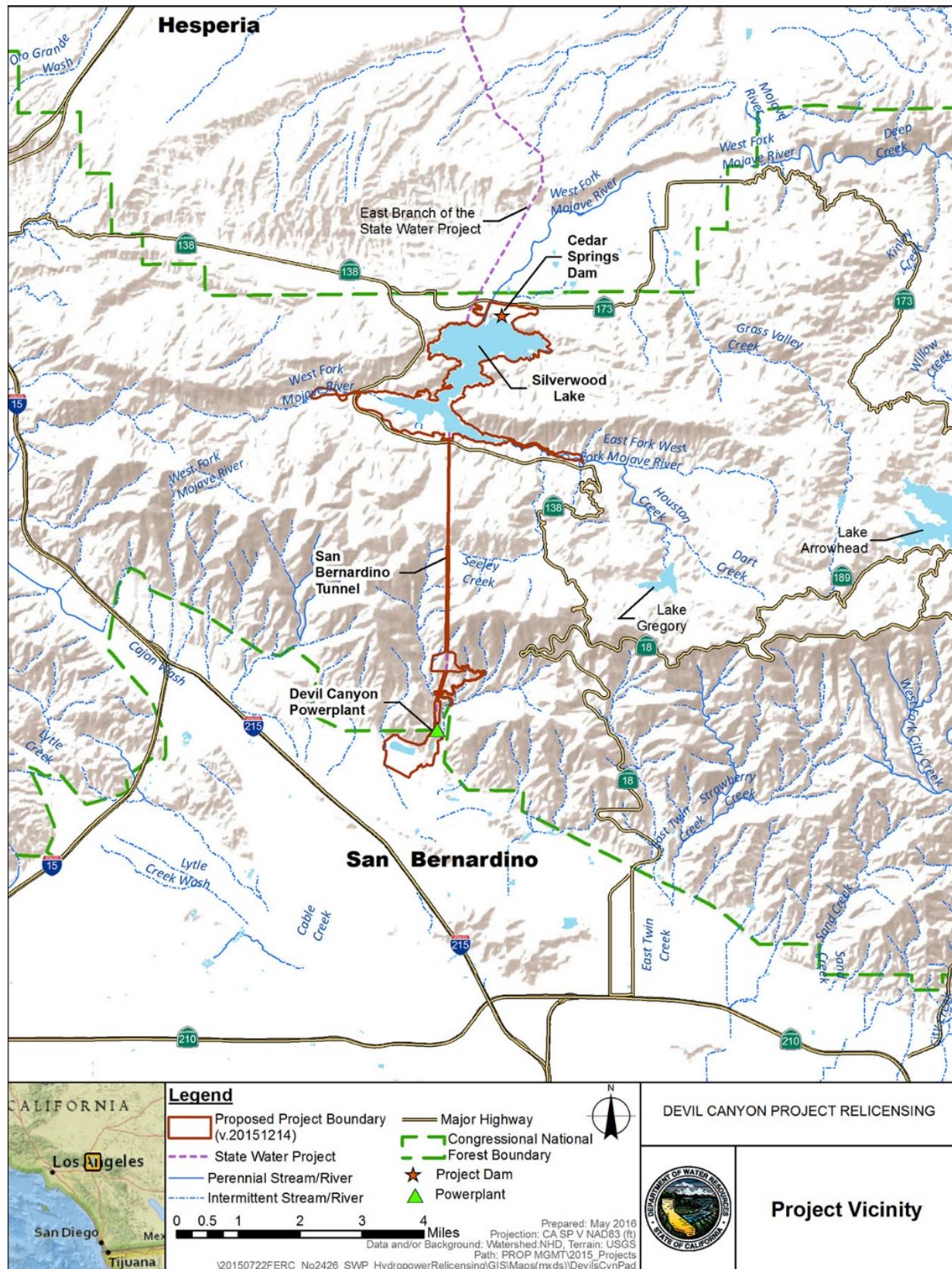


Figure 1.2-1. Project Vicinity Map

1.3 QUALIFYING PLANS

FPA § 10(a)(2)(A) requires FERC to consider in relicensing the extent to which a project is consistent with federal and State comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving waterways affected by a project. DWR has reviewed the current FERC-filed comprehensive plans and concluded that 19 of the 76 plans for California may pertain to the Project relicensing. Section 6.0 of this PAD provides more detail on these qualifying plans and Section 7.0 provides information on other plans that may also be relevant to the Project relicensing.

1.4 DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The PAD is organized in general alignment with the requirements in the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP) regulations. Section 2.0 presents the relicensing process plan and schedule, and includes DWR's proposed communication guidelines for the relicensing. Section 3.0 summarizes information about the Project facilities, operations, and compliance history. Section 4.0 describes existing information. Section 5.0 identifies relicensing issues, known or potential adverse impacts to environmental resources and proposed studies based on DWR's analysis of the existing information and discussions with relicensing participants. Sections 6.0 through 9.0 fulfill additional PAD requirements, including documentation of due diligence in gathering reasonably available existing information and a list of all references used in preparing the PAD.