



Volume 1 | Issue 2



# Don Pedro



*A newsletter about the relicensing of the Don Pedro Project*

## Study Plan development taking place

Following a pair of scoping meetings and plenty of discussions with relicensing participants, the Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts filed a Proposed Study Plan (PSP) on July 25 as part of the effort to relicense the Don Pedro Project.

The PSP outlines 30 studies proposed by the districts resulting from 130 study requests, each of which were carefully considered.

The filing of the PSP is just one of many steps in the arduous but necessary process to renew the license of the Don Pedro Project.

**INSIDE:** Some data collection is taking place prior to the Final Study Plan. Take a look inside to learn more.

The current license expires in 2016.

Also part of the relicensing process, the

districts met with interested parties Aug. 23-24 in Modesto to discuss and review various aspects of the study plan.

In the coming months, the districts will work with relicensing participants to develop a Revised Study Plan to submit to FERC for approval in late fall of 2011. Once approved, likely in late December 2011, the stage will be set for studies to begin the next part of the relicensing process. Approved studies will be conducted during much of 2012 and 2013.

The districts look forward to continuing their work with federal and state resource agencies, Indian tribes, FERC staff, local governmental authorities, non-governmental organizations and members of the public in finalizing the study plan for the Project's relicensing.

### The Relicensing Process

*The relicensing of the Don Pedro Project formally began in 2011. Below are some of the major stages of the process.*

1. Districts filed PAD and Notice of Intent in Feb. 2011.
2. FERC conducts scoping in Spring '11.
3. Interested parties discuss issues and develop study requests.
4. Districts file Proposed Study Plan (PSP) on 7/25/11 and undertake a series of meetings with relicensing participants to review and discuss the PSP.
5. FERC issues Study Plan Determination on 12/22/11.
6. Studies are conducted and Study Report issued for review and comment.
7. Applicant files draft and final license applications.
8. FERC issues new license with new terms and conditions in 2016.

For those interested in viewing the PSP, it is available online within the documents section located at [www.donpedro-relicensing.com](http://www.donpedro-relicensing.com).

Throughout this process, the districts remain willing to meet with any group interested in the relicensing of the Don Pedro Project, and encourage active participation by anyone with an interest in the future allocation and distribution of the water of the Tuolumne River.

### Important dates

**Oct. 23**  
*Participants file their comments on the districts' proposed studies*

**Nov. 22**  
*Districts file Revised Study Plan with FERC and participants*

**Dec. 22**  
*FERC issues Study Plan Determination*



### What's inside

- Scoping Meetings
- Scoping Document 2
- Proactive Studies
- Relicensing Website



Scoping meetings in Modesto (above) and Turlock attracted over a hundred people.

## Scoping meetings conclude

Forums in Modesto, Turlock not lacking in public participation

More than 100 participants attended a pair of public scoping meetings hosted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on May 11 in Modesto and Turlock.

Both of the meetings were of the same format; a FERC presentation covering the relicensing process, followed by an informative presentation from TID and MID staff, culminating in a public comment period. In all, more than 80 members of the public voiced their views regarding the Don Pedro Project and its scope. Many others communicated their views to FERC in writing.

The purpose of the meetings, which were sponsored and facilitated by FERC, was to identify relevant issues of public interest involving the Don Pedro Project in relation to the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts are co-applicants to relicense

the Don Pedro Project. The current license expires in 2016.

An integral part of the relicensing process, scoping meetings are designed for members of the public to have the opportunity to speak their concerns in a documented public forum. The scoping meetings were recorded by a stenographer and are part of the formal record of the FERC proceeding on the project.

Transcripts of the scoping meetings are available via the FERC eLibrary located online at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov).

Also at the meetings, FERC staff described the environmental review process, provided relevant information and answered procedural questions.

The information gathered at these scoping meetings proved helpful to the districts in the development of the Proposed Study Plan (PSP). Read this issue's cover story for more on the PSP.

## Some river studies conducted proactively

While the process of developing final study plans is well underway, there's already plenty of data collection taking place around and within the Tuolumne River. Some of these efforts include:

- The collection of water temperature and dissolved oxygen data at the discharge from the Don Pedro Powerhouse.
- The districts have already established two meteorological stations in the vicinity of the project to obtain better data to support the development of a rigorous three-dimensional model of the temperatures in the Don Pedro Reservoir.
- Studies are being conducted in the lower Tuolumne River on the relationships between flow and habitat. A report is due to be completed early in 2012.



Studies involving water temperature and dissolved oxygen data at the discharge from the Don Pedro Powerhouse are being conducted. Here, the river is shown downstream of the powerhouse.

# Scoping Document 2 issued by FERC

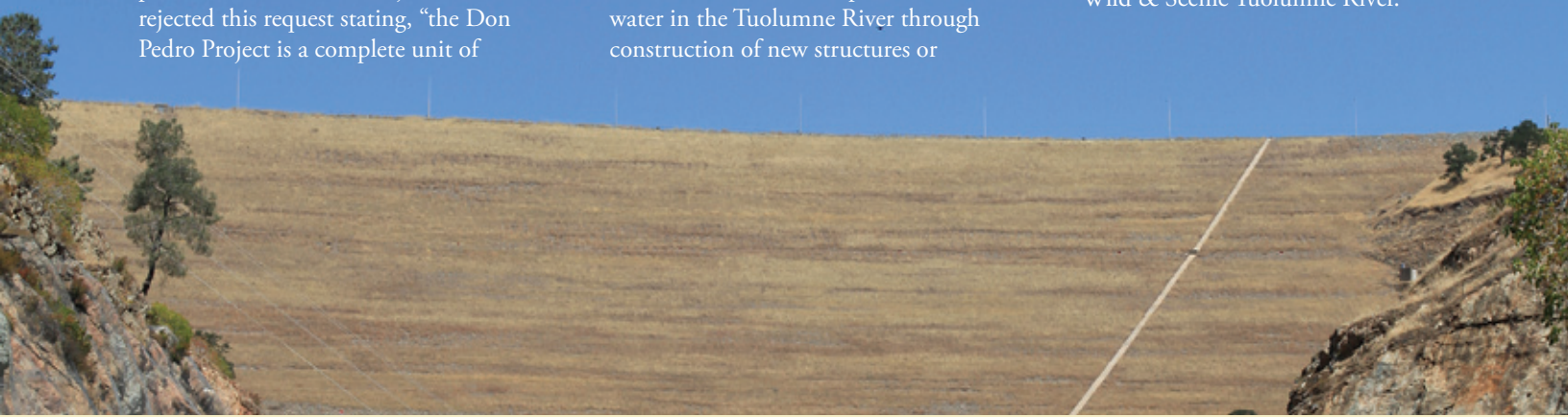
Based on verbal comments received by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) at its May 11, 2011 scoping meetings held in Turlock and Modesto, in addition to written comments received during the scoping process, FERC issued Scoping Document 2 (SD2) on July 25, 2011.

SD2 highlighted decisions made by FERC about the scope of the Don Pedro Project Among them:

- Several parties had requested that FERC make the La Grange project part of the Don Pedro Project. FERC rejected this request stating, “the Don Pedro Project is a complete unit of development, separate and distinct from La Grange.”
- Some groups had indicated to FERC that the City and County of San Francisco should be made co-licensee of Don Pedro along with MID and TID. FERC indicated that this decision was beyond the scope of the SD2 and was a legal matter to be addressed by the FERC at its Commission level.
- FERC also determined that alternatives to be considered under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that address the consumptive use of water in the Tuolumne River through construction of new structures or

methods designed to alter or reduce consumptive use of water are alternative mitigation strategies that could not replace the Don Pedro project”, and as such “these recommended alternatives do not satisfy the NEPA purpose and need for the proposed action and are not reasonable alternatives for the NEPA analysis.”

- FERC decided that the districts should evaluate the potential feasibility of alternative takeout facilities at the Wards Ferry Bridge to accommodate white water rafting on the upstream Wild & Scenic Tuolumne River.



## Relicensing website packed with information

Whether interested parties simply desire a little background of the Don Pedro Project or want to download detailed transcripts and documents, the [www.donpedro-relicensing.com](http://www.donpedro-relicensing.com) website is loaded with useful information.

In addition to being regularly updated with meeting times, agendas, documents, filings and other information, the site also describes the relicensing process, provides useful links and offers contact information.

The website serves as one of the primary communication outlets informing stakeholders of events and meetings that are part of the relicensing process.



A screenshot of [www.donpedro-relicensing.com](http://www.donpedro-relicensing.com)

