

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20426
June 7, 2024

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 1403-068 – California
Narrows Hydroelectric Project
Yuba County Water Agency

Subject: Scoping Document 1 for the Narrows Hydroelectric Project

To the Parties Addressed:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is currently reviewing the license application filed on November 14, 2023, by Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) for relicensing the existing Narrows Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1403) under the Traditional Licensing Process. The project is located on the Yuba River near the City of Marysville in Yuba County, California. The project occupies 0.55 acres of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, Commission staff will prepare either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) (collectively referred to as the “NEPA document”), which will be used by the Commission to determine whether, and under what conditions, to issue a new license for the project. To support and assist our environmental review, we are beginning the public scoping process to ensure that all pertinent issues are identified and analyzed, and that the NEPA document is thorough and balanced. The Commission’s scoping process will satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether the Commission issues an EA or an EIS.

We invite your participation in the scoping process and are circulating the attached Scoping Document 1 (SD1) to provide you with information on the project. We are also soliciting your comments and suggestions on our preliminary list of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the NEPA document.

We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to participate in the paper scoping process. Further information on our paper scoping process is available in the enclosed SD1.

SD1 is being distributed to YCWA’s distribution list and the Commission’s official mailing list (see section 9.0 of the attached SD1). If you wish to be added to or removed from the Commission’s official mailing list, please send your request by email

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to FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or by mail to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. All written or emailed requests must specify your wish to be removed or added to the mailing list and must clearly identify on the first page: **Narrows Hydroelectric Project No. 1403-068.**

Please review SD1 and, if you wish to provide comments, follow the instructions in section 5.0, *Requests for Information*. If you have any questions about SD1, the paper scoping process, or how Commission staff will develop the EA for this project, please contact Rebecca Kipp at (202) 502-8846 or rebecca.kipp@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission's licensing process and the Narrows Hydroelectric Project may be obtained from our website, <http://www.ferc.gov>.

Enclosure: Scoping Document 1

SCOPING DOCUMENT 1
NARROWS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

CALIFORNIA

PROJECT NO. 1403-068

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Office of Energy Projects
Division of Hydropower Licensing
Washington, DC

June 7, 2024

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SCOPING DOCUMENT 1

Narrows Hydroelectric Project No. 1403-068

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), under the authority of the Federal Power Act (FPA),¹ may issue licenses for terms ranging from 30 to 50 years for the construction, operation, and maintenance of non-federal transmission line projects. On November 14, 2023, Yuba County Water Agency filed an application for a subsequent license for the Narrows Hydroelectric Project No. 1403 (Narrows Project or project).²

The project is located on the Yuba River near the City of Marysville in Yuba County, California. The project occupies 0.55 acre of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) lands.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Commission's regulations, and other applicable laws require that we independently evaluate the environmental effects of relicensing the project as proposed, and also consider reasonable alternatives to the licensee's proposed action. We will prepare either an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS), collectively referred to as the "NEPA document," that describes and evaluates the probable effects, including an assessment of the site-specific and cumulative effects of the proposed action and alternatives. The Commission's scoping process will help determine the required level of analysis and satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether the Commission issues an EA or an EIS.

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 791(a)-825(r).

² The current license for the project was issued on February 11, 1993 for a term ending January 31, 2023. On January 26, 2018, FERC approved PG&E's request to extend the license term to January 31, 2026.

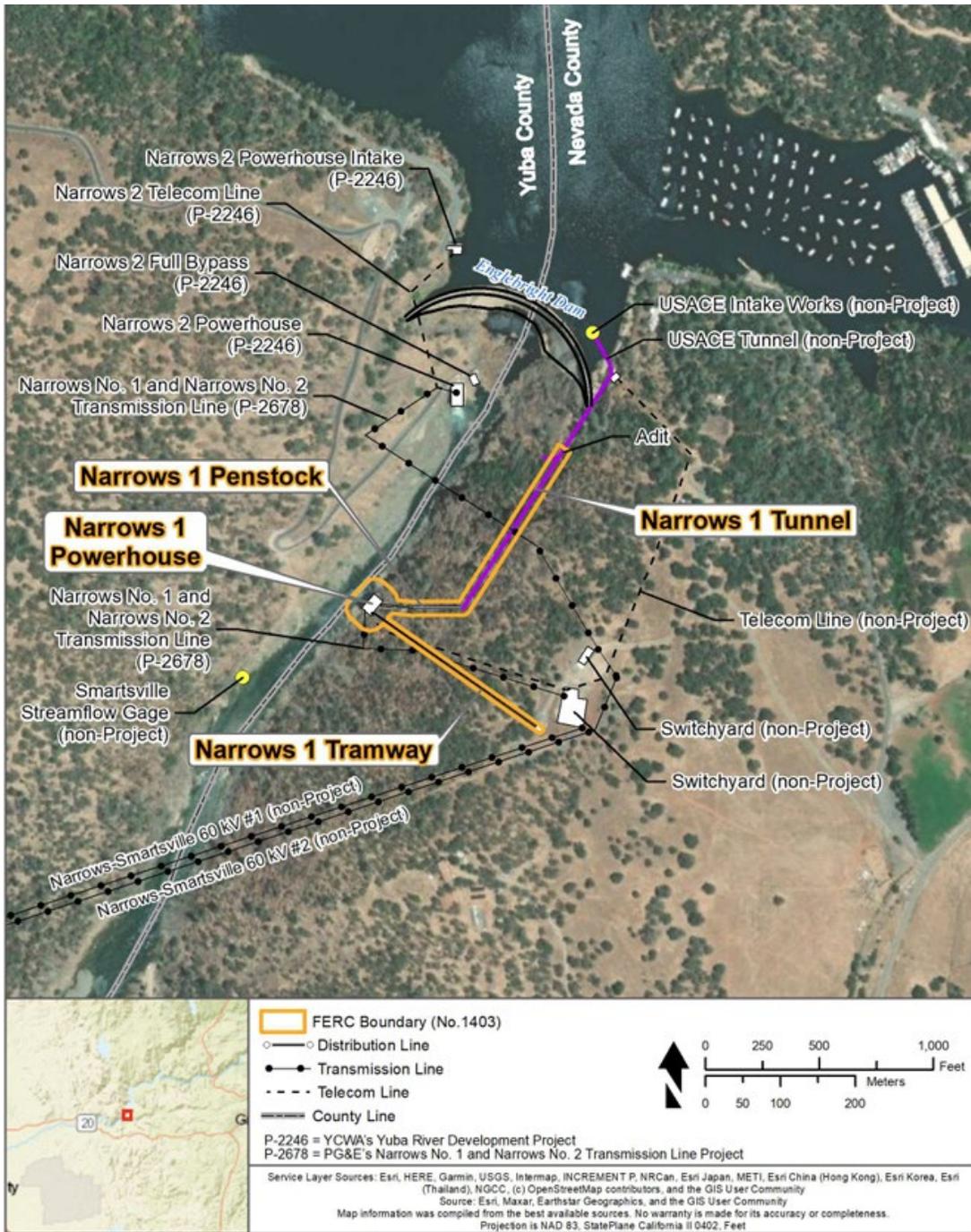


Figure 1. Location of the Narrows Hydroelectric Project (Project No. 1403). (Source: FLA).

2.0 SCOPING

This Scoping Document 1 (SD1) is intended to advise all participants as to the proposed scope of the NEPA document. This document contains: (1) a description of the scoping process and current processing schedule for the license application; (2) a description of the applicant's proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action; (3) a list of environmental issues; and (4) a list of comprehensive plans that are applicable to the project.

2.1 PURPOSES OF SCOPING

Scoping is the process used to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities for enhancement or mitigation associated with a proposed action. In general, scoping should be conducted during the early planning stages of a project. The purposes of the scoping process are as follows:

- invite participation of federal, state and local resource agencies, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the public to identify significant environmental and socioeconomic issues related to the proposed project;
- determine the resource issues, depth of analysis, and significance of issues to be addressed in the NEPA document;
- identify how the project would or would not contribute to cumulative effects;
- identify reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that should be evaluated in the NEPA document;
- solicit, from participants, available information on the resources at issue; and
- determine the resource areas and potential issues that do not require detailed analysis during review of the project.

In addition to written comments solicited by this SD1, we will hold two public scoping meetings near the project and an environmental site review of the project. The daytime meeting will focus on concerns of the resource agencies, NGOs, and Indian tribes, and an evening meeting will focus on receiving input from the public. We invite all interested agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and individuals to attend one or both meetings to assist us in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the NEPA document. All interested parties are also invited to participate in the environmental site review. The times and locations of the meetings and environmental site review are as follows:

<p>Environmental Site Review</p> <p>Tuesday, July 9, 2024 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PST</p> <p>Yuba Water Agency (parking lot) 1220 F Street Marysville, CA 95901</p>
<p>Meeting for resource agencies, Tribes, and NGOs:</p> <p>Wednesday, July 10, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. PST</p> <p>Yuba Water Agency 1220 F Street Marysville, CA 95901</p>
<p>Meeting for the general public:</p> <p>Wednesday, July 10, 2024 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. PST</p> <p>Yuba Water Agency 1220 F Street Marysville, CA 95901</p>

Please RSVP to John James of YCWA at jjames@yubawater.org on or before Monday, July 1, if you would like to attend the environmental site review. Individuals attending the tour must wear long pants and sturdy, closed-toe shoes.

Commission staff will moderate the scoping meetings. The meetings will be recorded by an independent court reporter, and all statements (oral and written) will become part of the Commission’s public record for the project. Before each meeting, all individuals who attend, especially those who intend to make statements, will be asked to sign in and clearly identify themselves for the record. Interested parties who choose not to speak or who are unable to attend the scoping meetings may provide written comments

and information to the Commission as described in section 5.0 of this scoping document. These meetings, along with other related information, are posted on the Commission's calendar at <https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/events>.

Meeting participants should come prepared to discuss their issues and/or concerns as they pertain to the relicensing of the Narrows Project. It is advised that commenters review the FLA³ in preparation for the scoping meetings. The FLA may also be viewed on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov>), using the "eLibrary" link and entering the docket number P-1403 to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. A copy of the FLA can also be obtained from YCWA's Project website (<https://www.yubawater.org/357/Narrows-Relicensing>) or can be inspected and reproduced, by appointment, at the following address: Yuba Water Agency, 1220 F Street, Marysville, CA 95901. The public may contact John James by email at jjames@yubawater.org to make an appointment to review the information.

Following the scoping meetings and comment period, all issues raised will be reviewed and decisions made as to the level of analysis needed. If preliminary analysis indicates that any issues presented in this scoping document have little potential for causing significant effects, the issue(s) will be identified and the reasons for not providing a more detailed analysis will be given in the NEPA document.

If we receive no substantive comments on SD1, then we will not prepare a Scoping Document 2 (SD2). Otherwise, we will issue a SD2 to address any substantive comments received. The SD2 will be issued for informational purposes only; no response will be required. The NEPA document will address recommendations and input received during the scoping process.

Scoping commenters should provide information on issues and/or concerns as they pertain to the proposed continued operation and maintenance of the Narrows Project. It is advised that commenters review the license application when preparing written comments. Copies of the license application may be viewed on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov>), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, P-1403 for the Narrows Project, to access the documents. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. Following the scoping comment period, all issues raised will be reviewed and decisions made as to the level of analysis needed. If this preliminary analysis indicates that any issues presented in this scoping document have little potential for causing significant effects, the issue(s) will be identified and the reasons for not providing a more detailed analysis will be given in the NEPA document. If we do not

⁴ The FLA can be accessed on the Commission's eLibrary system at: https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/docinfo?accession_number=20231114-5136.

receive substantive comments on SD1, we will not prepare a Scoping Document 2 (SD2). Otherwise, we will issue SD2 to address any substantive comments received.

3.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with NEPA, the environmental analysis will consider the following alternatives, at a minimum: (1) the no-action alternative, (2) the applicant's proposed action, and (3) alternatives to the proposed action.

3.1 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the no-action alternative, the Narrows Project would continue to operate as required by the current project license (i.e., there would be no change to the existing environment). No new environmental protection, mitigation, or enhancement measures would be implemented. The no action alternative is used to establish baseline environmental conditions for comparison with other alternatives.

3.1.1 Project Area

The project is located on the mainstem of the Yuba River in northern California in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The project works are located on the south bank of the river, extending approximately 0.2 mile downstream of the Corps' Englebright Dam and Reservoir and YCWA's Yuba River Development Project No. 2246 (YRDP), which is located on the north bank of the river at the base of Englebright Dam.

From the project powerhouse, the Yuba River flows approximately 24.1 miles to its confluence with the Feather River, which is part of the Sacramento River Basin. The Feather River drains into the Sacramento River and subsequently into the San Francisco Bay. The Yuba River has a drainage area of approximately 1,108 square miles at Englebright Dam and 1,339 square miles at its confluence with the Feather River.

3.1.2 Existing Project Facilities

The project consists of: (1) a tunnel; (2) a penstock with a standpipe; (3) a powerhouse; and (4) a powerhouse access tram. The project works do not include the Corps' Englebright Dam or Reservoir, open water conveyance facilities, or borrow or spoil areas.

Narrows Tunnel

The project tunnel is a 1,077-foot-long tunnel that connects the Corps' tunnel to the project penstock. The first 1,000 feet of the tunnel is irregularly shaped and gunit-

lined with an average height of 11.75 feet and average width of 11.5 feet. The remaining 77 feet consist of an 8-foot-diameter gunite-lined circular section. An adit portal is located on the southeastern wall of the Yuba River canyon and connects to the project tunnel near the upstream end. The adit portal is the delineation point between the downstream portion of the project tunnel and the Corps-owned tunnel. The Corps' tunnel intake can fully open or close its tunnel, so the project does include a control gate at the upstream end of the project tunnel.

Narrows Penstock

The project penstock is a 266-foot-long steel pipe that connects the project tunnel to the project powerhouse. The penstock exits the tunnel part way up the steep south bank of the Yuba River canyon at an elevation of 436 feet. The penstock is exposed for 165 feet between the upper and lower anchor blocks, where it is inclined down the slope at an angle of 55 degrees.

Narrows 1 Powerhouse

The powerhouse is a reinforced concrete structure containing a main floor, basement, and sub-basement, that is 82.5 feet by 43.67 feet, with a height of approximately 92 feet. It has a single 12-megawatt Francis turbine capable of passing up to 730 cubic feet per second (cfs).

3.1.3 Existing Project Operation

The project is operated in accordance with the terms of the existing FERC license, issued in 1993. YCWA operates the project as run-of-river mode primarily through remote control using a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system adjusting generation in response to changing river flows and releasing flows from the diversion dam to meet minimum instream flow requirements required by Articles 104 and 402 of the current licenses. The facilities are staffed and monitored at various times, ensuring ongoing operations and maintenance. YCWA continuously monitors the reservoir levels, stream gauges, and power facilities with alarms for parameters outside normal ranges. YCWA coordinates operations of the Narrows 1 powerhouse, which is a facility of the Narrows Project and the Narrows 2 powerhouse, which is a facility of YRDP (Project No. 2246), to meet downstream flow requirements and irrigation water demands as follows:

- Lower flow requirements: When the required releases are less than the Narrows 1 powerhouse's current capacity, only Narrows 1 powerhouse operates.

- Moderate flow requirement up to 900 cfs: When the required releases exceed the Narrows 1 powerhouse's capacity but under 900 cfs, the Narrows 1 powerhouse operates at full capacity. The remaining required release is provided via Narrows 2 full or partial bypass.
- High flow requirement over 900 cfs: When the release is over 900 cfs, the Narrows 2 powerhouse operates either independently or in conjunction with Narrows 1.
- Transitioning Narrows 1 online: If Narrows 2 is operating but Narrows 1 needs to come online, synchronization to the grid occurs while reducing Narrows 2 output.
- As Narrows 1 gradually increases its load and water releases, Narrows 2 decreases its release to maintain the overall required flow.
- Transitioning Narrows 2 online: If Narrows 1 is operating and Narrows 2 needs to come online, synchronization to the grid occurs while reducing Narrows 1 output, allowing Narrows 2 to supplement Narrows 1 load to meet the release requirements.

Routine mechanical and electrical inspections are conducted, and maintenance schedules are adhered to ensure the integrity and safe operation of the facilities. Vegetation management and rodent control are part of the ongoing maintenance to ensure safety and operational efficiency.

3.2 APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL

3.2.1 Proposed Project Facilities and Operations

YWCA does not propose any changes to existing project facilities or plan new facilities that would require construction.

3.2.2 Proposed Environmental Measures

YCWA proposes the following environmental measures:

Geology and Soil Resources

- There are no proposed protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures specifically related to geology and soils resources for the Narrows Project.

Aquatic and Fisheries Resources

- Develop a Water Release Plan in coordination with the licensee of the YRDP to define how the two projects will coordinate operations and provide flows to the lower Yuba River. The plan would include a provision that releases from the Narrows Project Powerhouse up to 730 cfs, the maximum hydraulic capacity of the powerhouse, would be provided to assist YRDP meet the minimum flow requirements at USGS gage station 11418000, Yuba River below Englebright Dam Near Smartsville, CA, as specified in the YRDP FERC license.
- Maintain ramping rates such that releases from the Narrows 1 Powerhouse would not result in a rate of change of streamflow greater than flow fluctuation limits required at USGS gage station 11418000.
- Maintain water surface elevation in Englebright Reservoir no less than an elevation of 514 feet, unless necessary for the temporary protection of life, health, property, or environmental resources.

Terrestrial Resources

- Schedule project vegetation clearing, ground-disturbing and loud, noise-generating activities outside of the peregrine falcon nesting season, January 1 through August 15.
- Assess bat roosts and openings large enough to admit bats within the Powerhouse and tram building where staff are routinely present, and place humane exclusion devices where feasible to prevent bat occupation within structures.

Threatened and Endangered Species

- There are no proposed protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures specifically related to federally threatened and endangered species for the Narrows Project.

Recreation Resources

- Provide up to 5,000 rainbow trout annually to be stocked in Englebright Reservoir, with the number, timing, and location of fish stocking coordinated with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

- There are no proposed protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures specifically related to land use and aesthetics or environmental justice populations and communities for the Narrows Project.

Cultural Resources

- Consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and affiliated native American tribes before starting any land clearing, land-disturbing, or spoil-producing activities in areas where a cultural resources survey and SHPO consultation has not been previously conducted.

3.3 DAM SAFETY

It is important to note that dam safety constraints may exist and should be taken into consideration in the development of proposals and alternatives considered in the pending proceeding. For example, proposed modifications to the dam structure, such as the addition of flashboards or fish passage facilities, could impact the integrity of the dam structure. As the proposal and alternatives are developed, the applicant must evaluate the effects and ensure that the project would meet the Commission's dam safety criteria found in Part 12 of the Commission's regulations and the Engineering Guidelines (<http://www.ferc.gov/industries/hydropower/safety/guidelines/eng-guide.asp>).

3.4 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Commission staff will consider and assess all alternative recommendations for operational or facility modifications, as well as protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures identified by us, the agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public.

3.5 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED STUDY

At present, we propose to eliminate the following alternatives from detailed study in the NEPA document.

3.5.1 Federal Government Takeover

In accordance with § 16.14 of the Commission's regulations, a federal department or agency may file a recommendation that the United States exercise its right to take over a hydroelectric power project with a license that is subject to Sections 14 and 15 of the FPA.⁴ We do not consider federal takeover to be a reasonable alternative. Federal takeover of the project would require congressional approval. While that fact alone

⁴ 16 U.S.C. §§ 791(a)-825(r).

would not preclude further consideration of this alternative, there is currently no evidence showing that federal takeover should be recommended to Congress. No party has suggested that federal takeover would be appropriate, and no federal agency has expressed interest in operating the project.

3.5.2 Non-power License

A non-power license is a temporary license the Commission would terminate whenever it determines that another governmental agency is authorized and willing to assume regulatory authority and supervision over the lands and facilities covered by the non-power license. At this time, no governmental agency has suggested a willingness or ability to take over the project. No party has sought a non-power license, and we have no basis for concluding that the Narrows Project should no longer be used to produce power. Thus, we do not consider a non-power license a reasonable alternative to relicensing the project.

3.5.3 Project Decommissioning

As the Commission has previously held, decommissioning is not a reasonable alternative to relicensing in most cases.⁵ Decommissioning can be accomplished in different ways depending on the project, its environment, and the particular resource needs.⁶ For these reasons, the Commission does not speculate about possible decommissioning measures at the time of relicensing, but rather waits until an applicant actually proposes to decommission a project, or a participant in a relicensing proceeding demonstrates that there are serious resource concerns that cannot be addressed with appropriate license measures and that make decommissioning a reasonable alternative.⁷

⁵ See, e.g., *Eagle Crest Energy Co.*, 153 FERC ¶ 61,058, at P 67 (2015); *Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County*, 112 FERC ¶ 61,055, at P 82 (2005); *Midwest Hydro, Inc.*, 111 FERC ¶ 61,327, at PP 35-38 (2005).

⁶ In the unlikely event that the Commission denies relicensing a project or a licensee decides to surrender an existing project, the Commission must approve a surrender “upon such conditions with respect to the disposition of such works as may be determined by the Commission.” 18 C.F.R. § 6.2 (2023). This can include simply shutting down the power operations, removing all or parts of the project (including the dam), or restoring the site to its pre-project condition.

⁷ See generally *Project Decommissioning at Relicensing; Policy Statement*, FERC Stats. & Regs., Regulations Preambles (1991-1996), ¶ 31,011 (1994); see also *City of Tacoma, Washington*, 110 FERC ¶ 61,140 (2005) (finding that unless and until the

YCWA does not propose decommissioning, nor does the record to date demonstrate there are serious resource concerns that cannot be mitigated if the project is relicensed; as such, there is no reason, at this time, to include decommissioning as a reasonable alternative to be evaluated and studied as part of staff's NEPA analysis.

4.0 SCOPE OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND SITE-SPECIFIC RESOURCE ISSUES

4.1 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

According to the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (40 C.F.R. 1508.7), a cumulative effect is the effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time, including hydropower and other land and water development activities.

4.1.1 Resources that could be Cumulatively Affected

Based on information in the license application for the Narrows Project, and preliminary staff analysis, we have identified aquatic resources, particularly water quality that could be cumulatively affected by the proposed continued operation and maintenance of the Narrows Project in combination with other hydroelectric and water storage projects in the Yuba River Basin.

4.1.2 Geographic Scope

The geographic scope of analysis for cumulatively affected resources is defined by the physical limits or boundaries of: (1) the proposed action's effect on the resources, and (2) contributing effects from other hydropower and non-hydropower activities. For water quality, the geographic scope includes upstream of Englebright Dam at the project intake, and downstream to the Narrows powerhouse.

4.1.3 Temporal Scope

The temporal scope of our cumulative effects analysis in the NEPA document will include a discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions and their

Commission has a specific decommissioning proposal, any further environmental analysis of the effects of project decommissioning would be both premature and speculative).

effects on each resource that could be cumulatively affected. Based on the potential term of a new license, the temporal scope will look 30 to 50 years into the future, concentrating on the effect on the resources from reasonably foreseeable future actions. The historical discussion will, by necessity, be limited to the amount of available information for each resource. The quality and quantity of information, however, diminishes as we analyze resources further away in time from the present.

4.2 RESOURCE ISSUES

In this section, we present a preliminary list of environmental issues to be addressed in the NEPA document. We have identified these issues, which are listed by resource area, by reviewing the license application and the Commission's record for the Narrows Project. This list is not intended to be exhaustive or final, but contains those issues raised to date that could have substantial effects. After the scoping process is complete, we will review this list and determine any need for studies and the appropriate level of analysis needed to address each issue in the NEPA document. Those issues identified by an asterisk (*) will be analyzed for both cumulative and site-specific effects.

4.2.1 Geologic and Soil Resources

- Effects of bank erosion on the south bank of the river.
- Effects of hillslope erosion within the bypassed reach.
- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on turbidity, shoreline erosion, and suspended sediment loads.
- Effects of sediment movement on or within the project shorelines and streambanks along the project impoundment.

4.2.2 Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on water quality upstream and downstream of the project.*
- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on fish resources upstream and downstream of the project.
- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on aquatic habitat upstream and downstream of the project.

4.2.3 Terrestrial Resources

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance, including vegetation management, on botanical and wildlife species, including any special-status species and nesting birds occurring in the project area.
- Effects of non-native, invasive plant species potentially introduced and spread as a result of project operations.

4.2.4 Threatened and Endangered Species

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance activities on the federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), and vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*); the proposed threatened northwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) and western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*); and a candidate for listing as federally threatened or endangered under the ESA, the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*).⁸
- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on threatened Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus* (=Salmo) *tshawytscha*), California Central Valley steelhead Distinct Population Segment (DPS) (*Oncorhynchus* (=Salmo) *mykiss*), and North American green sturgeon Southern DPS (*Acipenser medirostris*).

4.2.5 Recreational Resources

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on recreation resources upstream and downstream of the project.

4.2.6 Land Use and Aesthetic Resources

- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on land use.
- Effects of continued project operation and maintenance on the aesthetic quality of the project area.

⁸ On April 12, 2024, Commission staff accessed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation website (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>) and filed the official list of species designated under the ESA to the project record (Accession Number: 20240412-3038).

4.2.7 Cultural Resources

- Effects of proposed construction and continued project operation and maintenance activities on historic or archaeological resources, or traditional cultural properties that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

4.2.8 Developmental Resources

- Effects of proposed alternatives, including any environmental, protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures, on project economics.
- Effects of proposed or recommended environmental measures on project generation and economics.
- Effects of project operation and maintenance on local and regional economies.

4.2.9 Environmental Justice

- Effects of project operation and maintenance of identified environmental justice communities.

5.0 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

We are asking federal, state, and local resource agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public to forward to the Commission any information that will assist us in conducting an accurate and thorough analysis of the project-specific and cumulative effects associated with relicensing the Narrows Project. The types of information we request includes, but are not limited to:

- information, quantitative data, or professional opinions that may help define the geographic and temporal scope of the analysis (both site-specific and cumulative effects), and that helps identify significant environmental issues;
- identification of, and information from, any other EA, EIS, or similar environmental study (previous, on-going, or planned) relevant to the proposed relicensing of the Narrows Project;

- existing information and any data that would help to describe the past and present actions and effects of the project and other developmental activities on environmental and socioeconomic resources;
- information that would help characterize the existing environmental conditions and habitats;
- the identification of any federal, state, or local resource plans, and any future project proposals in the affected resource area (e.g., proposals to construct or operate water treatment facilities, recreation areas, water diversions, timber harvest activities, or fish management programs) along with any implementation schedules;
- documentation that the proposed project would or would not contribute to cumulative adverse or beneficial effects on any resources. Documentation can include, but need not be limited to, how the project would interact with other projects in the area and other developmental activities; study results; resource management policies; and reports from federal and state agencies, local agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public; and
- documentation showing why any resources should be excluded from further study or consideration.

The requested information and comments on SD1 should be submitted to the Commission **no later than August 6, 2024**. All filings must clearly identify the project name and docket number on the first page: **Narrows Hydroelectric Project (P-1403-068)**. Scoping comments may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 C.F.R. 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's website <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, documents may also be paper-filed. To paper-file, mail an original and five copies. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to these or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.

Intervenors – those on the Commission’s service list for this proceeding – are reminded that if they file comments with the Commission, they must also serve a copy of their filing on each person whose name appears on the official service list. Note that the list is periodically updated. The official service list can be obtained on the Commission’s web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) - click on Documents and Filing and click on eService – or call the Office of the Secretary, Dockets Branch at (202) 502-8715. In addition, if any party files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on the resource agency.

Any questions concerning the paper scoping process or how to file written comments with the Commission should be directed to Rebecca Kipp at (202) 502-8846 or rebecca.kipp@ferc.gov. Additional information about the Commission’s licensing process and the Narrows Project may be obtained from the Commission’s website, www.ferc.gov.

6.0 INITIAL PROCESSING SCHEDULE

The major milestones are as follows:

<u>Major Milestone</u>	<u>Target Date</u>
Scoping Document 1 Issued	June 2024
Scoping Document 1 Comments Due	August 2024
Issue Scoping Document 2 (if needed)	September 2024
Issue Ready for Environmental Analysis (REA) Notice	September 2024
Deadline for Filing Comments, Recommendations and Agency Terms and Conditions/Prescriptions	December 2024

If Commission staff determines that there is a need for additional information or additional studies, the issuance of the Ready for Environmental Analysis notice and subsequent milestones could be delayed. If this occurs, all subsequent milestones would be delayed by the time allowed for the applicant to respond to the Commission’s request.

7.0 COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Section 10(a)(2) of the FPA, 16 U.S.C. section 803(a)(2)(A), requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with federal or state comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by a project. Staff has preliminary identified and reviewed the plans listed

below that may be relevant to the Narrows Project. Agencies are requested to review this list and inform Commission staff of any changes. If there are other comprehensive plans that should be considered for this list that are not on file with the Commission, or if there are more recent versions of the plans already listed, they can be filed for consideration with the Commission according to 18 C.F.R. section 2.19 of the Commission's regulations. Please follow the instructions for filing a plan at <http://www.ferc.gov/media/list-comprehensive-plans>.

The following is a list of comprehensive plans currently on file with the Commission that may be relevant to the Narrows Project.

- California Department of Fish and Game. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2010. Final Hatchery and Stocking Program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. Sacramento, California. January 2010.
- California Department of Fish and Game. 2007. California Wildlife: Conservation Challenges, California's Wildlife Action Plan. Sacramento, California. 2007.
- California Department of Fish and Game. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. National Marine Fisheries Service. Bureau of Reclamation. 1988. Cooperative agreement to implement actions to benefit winter-run Chinook salmon in the Sacramento River Basin. Sacramento, California. May 20, 1988.
- California Department of Fish and Game. 1990. Central Valley Salmon and Steelhead Restoration and Enhancement Plan. Sacramento, California. April 1990.
- California Department of Fish and Game. 1993. Restoring Central Valley Streams: A Plan for Action. Sacramento, California. November 1993.
- California Department of Fish and Game. 1996. Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan for California. Sacramento, California. February 1996.
- California Department of Fish and Game. 2003. Strategic Plan for Trout Management: A Plan for 2004 and Beyond. Sacramento, California. November 2003.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2008. California Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan. Sacramento, California. January 18, 2008.
- California Department of Parks and Recreation. 1998. Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California. Sacramento, California. March 1998.

- California Department of Parks and Recreation. 1980. Recreation Outlook in Planning District 3. Sacramento, California. June 1980.
- California Department of Parks and Recreation. 1994. California Outdoor Recreation Plan. Sacramento, California. April 1994.
- California State Water Resources Control Board. 2018. Bay-Delta Plan: Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. Sacramento, California. December 2018.
- California State Water Resources Control Board. 2018. Water Quality Control Plan for Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins and Appendices. Sacramento, California. May 2018.
- California - The Resources Agency. 1989. Upper Sacramento River Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Management Plan. Sacramento, California. January 1989.
- National Marine Fisheries Service. 2014. Recovery Plan for the Evolutionarily Significant Units of Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and the Distinct Population Segment of California Central Valley steelhead. Sacramento, California. July 2014.
- National Marine Fisheries Service. 2018. Final Recovery Plan for the Southern Distinct Population Segment of North American Green Sturgeon. Sacramento, California. August 8, 2018.
- National Marine Fisheries Service. Pacific Fishery Management Council. 1978. Fishery Management Plan for Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California Commencing in 1978. March 1978.
- National Park Service. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 1993.
- Pacific Fishery Management Council. 1988. Eighth Amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California Commencing in 1978. Portland, Oregon. January 1988.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1990. Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Implementation Plan: A Component of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. February 1990.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2001. Final Restoration Plan for the Anadromous

Fish Restoration Program. Department of the Interior, Sacramento, California.
January 9, 2001.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Canadian Wildlife Service. 1986. North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Department of the Interior. Environment Canada. May 1986.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. n.d. Fisheries USA: The Recreational Fisheries Policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C.

8.0 MAILING LIST

The list below is the Commission’s official mailing list for the Narrows Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 1403). If you want to receive future mailings for the project from the Commission and are not included in the list below, please send your request by email to FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. In lieu of an email request, you may submit a paper request. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852. All written and emailed requests to be added to the Commission’s mailing list must clearly identify the following on the first page: **Narrows Hydroelectric Project No. 1403-068**. You may use the same method if requesting removal from the mailing list below.

Register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Official Mailing List for the Narrows Hydroelectric Project
