

Don Pedro Project Relicensing

MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT | TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT



**FERC
PROJECT
NO. 2299**



Presentation Overview

- The Don Pedro Project
 - Federal License
 - Description of Project
 - Functions
- The Licensees
- The Relicensing Process
 - Purpose
 - Steps
 - Schedule
- Contact Information and Website

Don Pedro Project License

- Project operates under a federal license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) because of powerhouse facility
- Original license issued:
 - Effective April 30, 1966
 - Term of 50 years
 - Expires on April 30, 2016
- Project must obtain a new license through a process generally referred to as “relicensing”

The Don Pedro Project

- Don Pedro Dam and Reservoir
- Don Pedro Powerhouse
- Recreation facilities
 - Blue Oaks Recreation Area
 - Fleming Meadows Recreation Area
 - Moccasin Point Recreation Area

Don Pedro Reservoir



Ward's Ferry Bridge



Don Pedro Recreation Areas



Don Pedro Powerhouse



Don Pedro Powerhouse



Functions of the Project

- Power Generation
- Water Storage & Use
 - Irrigation
 - Municipal & Industrial
 - CCSF “Water Bank”
- Recreation
 - Houseboating
 - Recreational boating
 - Fishing
 - Camping
 - Hiking and swimming
- Flood Control



The Licensees

Modesto Irrigation District

- Established in 1887
- Serves 7 communities in 2 counties
- Treats drinking water for City of Modesto
- Electric Service Area: 560 square-miles
- Electric Accounts: 111,000
- Irrigation Service Area: 156 square-miles
- Irrigated acres: 60,000

Turlock Irrigation District

- Established in 1887
- Serves 14 communities in 3 counties
- Electric Service Area: 662 square-miles
- Electric Accounts: 100,000
- Irrigation Service Area: 307 square-miles
- Irrigated acres: 150,000

Purpose of FERC Relicensing

- Obtain new license for operation of Project
 - New License term can range from 30-50 years
- Include interested parties in process
- Examines uses of Project
 - Power generation
 - Other uses of multi-purpose project (irrigation and municipal water supply, recreation, flood control)
 - Natural resource management
 - ✦ Major issue: water releases for instream purposes below the dam
 - Species of concern: Steelhead & Fall-run Chinook

Scope of Relicensing

- Congress passed the Federal Power Act (FPA) in 1920. Several amendments have since occurred.
- FERC is mandated by Congress to issue licenses authorizing projects which are:

“best adapted to a comprehensive plan for improving or developing a waterway for the...benefit of interstate commerce,... waterpower,... protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife..., and other beneficial public uses, including irrigation, flood control, water supply and recreational purposes...”

FERC Relicensing Process

- Integrated Licensing Process (ILP)
- Multi-year process leading up to License Application
- Participants include
 - Federal, State and Local Governmental Agencies
 - Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
 - Public Citizens
 - Tribal Groups

Steps During Relicensing

- Compile relevant information about Project
- Identify known and potential resource effects
 - Operation and Maintenance of Project
 - Natural Resources
- Conduct studies
- Evaluate impacts
- Determine project operation for next license term

Why It is Called the “Integrated” Licensing Process

- Comprehensive approach
- Integrates FERC’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Federal Power Act (FPA) responsibilities
- Integrates other related processes
 - Endangered Species Act
 - National Historic Preservation Act
 - Clean Water Act (by State Water Resources Control Board)
 - Magnuson-Stevens Act (fisheries act)

Relicensing Process Schedule

- **2010** – Information from interested parties
 - Available and relevant information for relicensing
- **February 2011** –
Notice of Intent and Pre-Application Document (PAD) Filed
 - General informational document
 - Followed by 120 day comment period
- **June through December 2011** –
Study Plan Development
 - Feedback and revision period
- **2012 and 2013** – Executions of Studies
- **Early 2014** – License Application Filed

Public Involvement Opportunities

- 2010** Initial Informational Meeting; Relicensing Website
- 2011** Relicensing Participants Meetings (Feb 28, Apr 1, Apr 19-21)
4 Resource Work Groups formed
Early May:
- Public Scoping Meetings (May 11) and Site Visit (May 10)
- Circa Mid-July and Early December:
- Comment on Proposed Studies
- 2012/2013** Study Report Meetings
Comment on Draft License Application
- 2014** Circa June:
- Comment on Final License Application
- 2016** New License Issued

Questions?

- **Contact Information**

- FERC

- Website: <http://www.ferc.gov/>

- Don Pedro Project Relicensing: james.hastreiter@ferc.gov

- Modesto Irrigation District – Public Relations

- Melissa Williams: melissaw@mid.org

- Turlock Irrigation District – Public Relations

- Michelle Reimers: mareimers@tid.org

- **Relicensing website:**

- <http://www.donpedro-relicensing.com/>