# 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

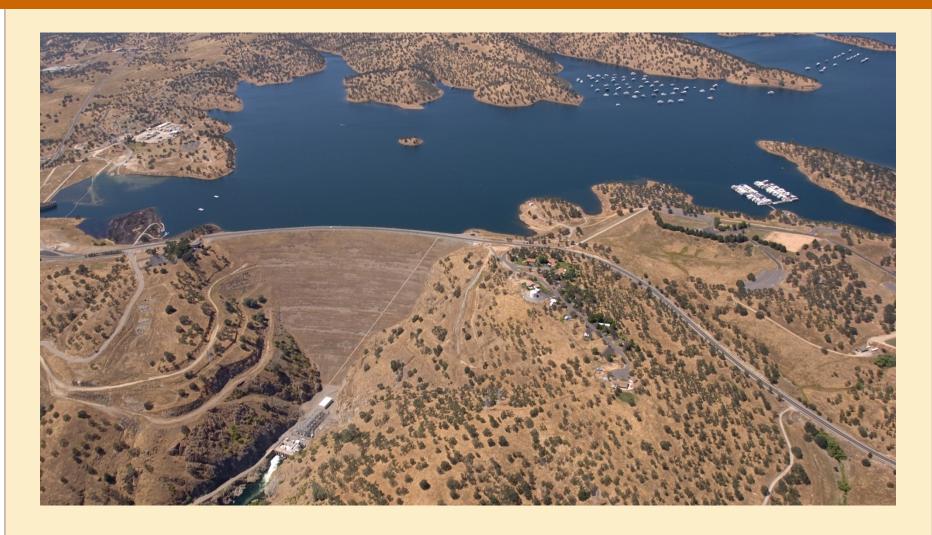
## Don Pedro Project License

- Project operates under a federal license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) because of powerhouse facility
- Original license issued:
  - o 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

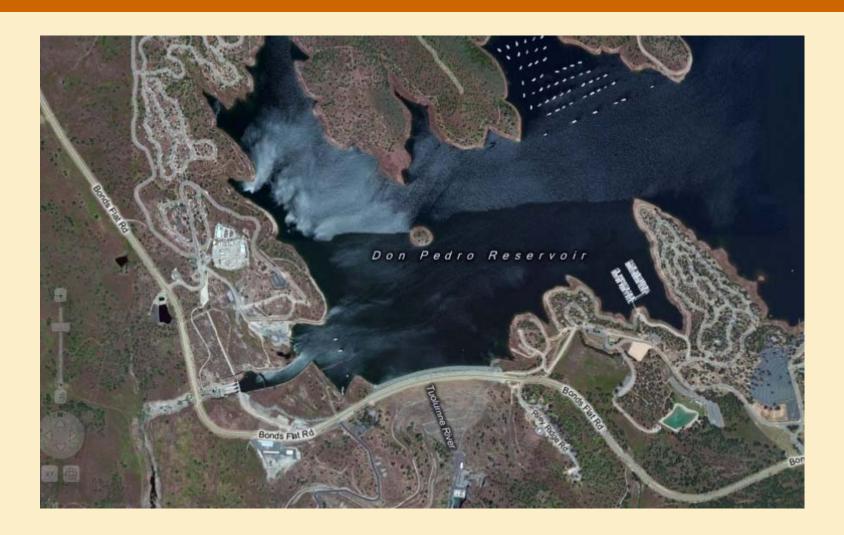
## **Don Pedro Reservoir**



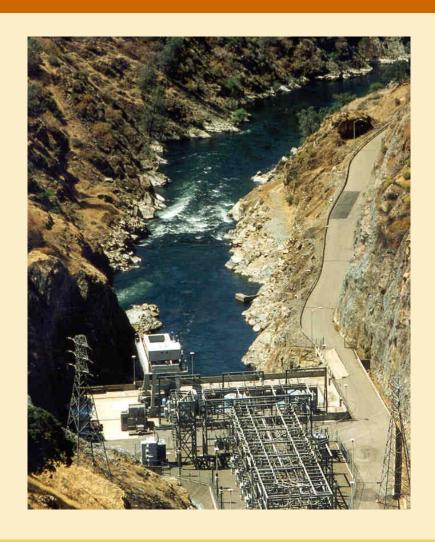
# Ward's Ferry Bridge



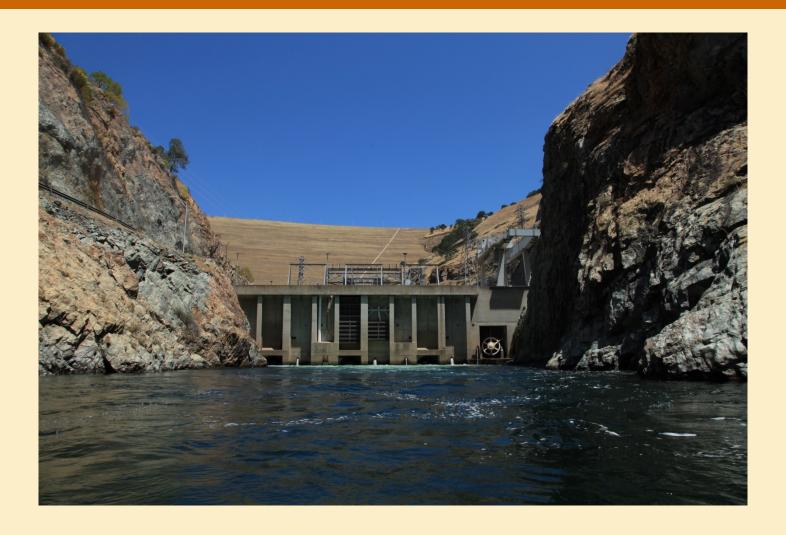
## **Don Pedro Recreation Areas**



## **Don Pedro Powerhouse**



## **Don Pedro Powerhouse**



## **Functions of the Project**

- Power Generation
- Water Storage & Use
  - Irrigation
  - Municipal & Industrial
  - o 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

12

• 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

- o FERC
  - Website: <a href="http://www.ferc.gov/">http://www.ferc.gov/</a>
  - Don Pedro Project Relicensing: <u>james.hastreiter@ferc.gov</u>
- Modesto Irrigation District Public Relations
  - Melissa Williams: melissaw@mid.org
- Turlock Irrigation District Public Relations
  - Michelle Reimers: <u>mareimers@tid.org</u>
- Relicensing website:
  - http://www.donpedro-relicensing.com/