



12/19/223

Friends of the Inyo
621 West Line St, Suite 201
Bishop, CA 93514

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Docket P-1389-059
Comment on Initial Study Report Meeting Summary of November 21, 2023.
Filed electronically in the appendices of the comments submitted by Robert Marks.

Dear Secretary Bose,

Friends of the Inyo is a grassroots non-profit organization of over 1,500 active members, based in Bishop, California. Our mission is to protect and care for the land and water of the Eastern Sierra. Since our founding in 1986, we have actively engaged with land and water management agencies in the Eastern Sierra, including the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to protect and improve Eastern Sierra ecosystems.

As a registered organizational stakeholder in the Rush Creek Project (Project), Friends of the Inyo has been in consistent attendance and conversation with Southern California Edison (SCE), including at the Initial Study Report Meeting for the Rush Creek Hydroelectric Project on November 9, 2023. At that meeting we were able to hear Robert Marks' suggestion that the Technical Study Plans be modified to include the study of the restoration of Agnew Lake and Rush Creek below its Agnew Lake outlet. As a local environmental conservation organization, we have a vested interest in seeing responsible development and, after time has run its course, as it has at the Rush Creek site, responsible restoration. We have already expressed a strong interest in the restoration of lands in the Project that are within the Wilderness boundary in order to

restore the area's health, habitat quality, and general Wilderness character.

We believe that, given the current undertakings for relicensing, it would be a benefit for the environment, for the community, and for the team at SCE to at least study the possibility of the restoration of Agnew Lake, its basin, and Rush Creek from its restored outlet at Agnew Lake to Horsetail Falls. Both partial and full removal of Agnew Dam will have direct effects on Agnew Lake and Rush Creek. Both the effects of this dam removal and restoration to pre-dam conditions should be studied given emerging information on the area's pre-1916 conditions from local historians like Robert Marks.

Friends of the Inyo appreciates the opportunity to be engaged in the study process for the relicensing of Southern California Edison's project at Rush Creek and looks forward to the information that will emerge as the Technical Study Plans are implemented.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allison Weber', written in a cursive style.

Allison Weber

Water and Forest Campaigns Manager

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