

**EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT**

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DATE: May 22, 2025

MEMO TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Clifford C. Chan, General Manager *CCC*

FROM: Alice E. Towey, Director of Water and Natural Resources *AET*

SUBJECT: Lower Mokelumne River – FERC Project No. 2916 Overview and Update

**SUMMARY**

This memorandum provides an update on the District’s Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing effort to renew the license to operate hydropower facilities at Pardee and Camanche dams (Project 2916) ahead of meetings with external interested parties planned for June and July 2025. The Board last received an update on this project at its April 23, 2024 meeting.

**DISCUSSION**

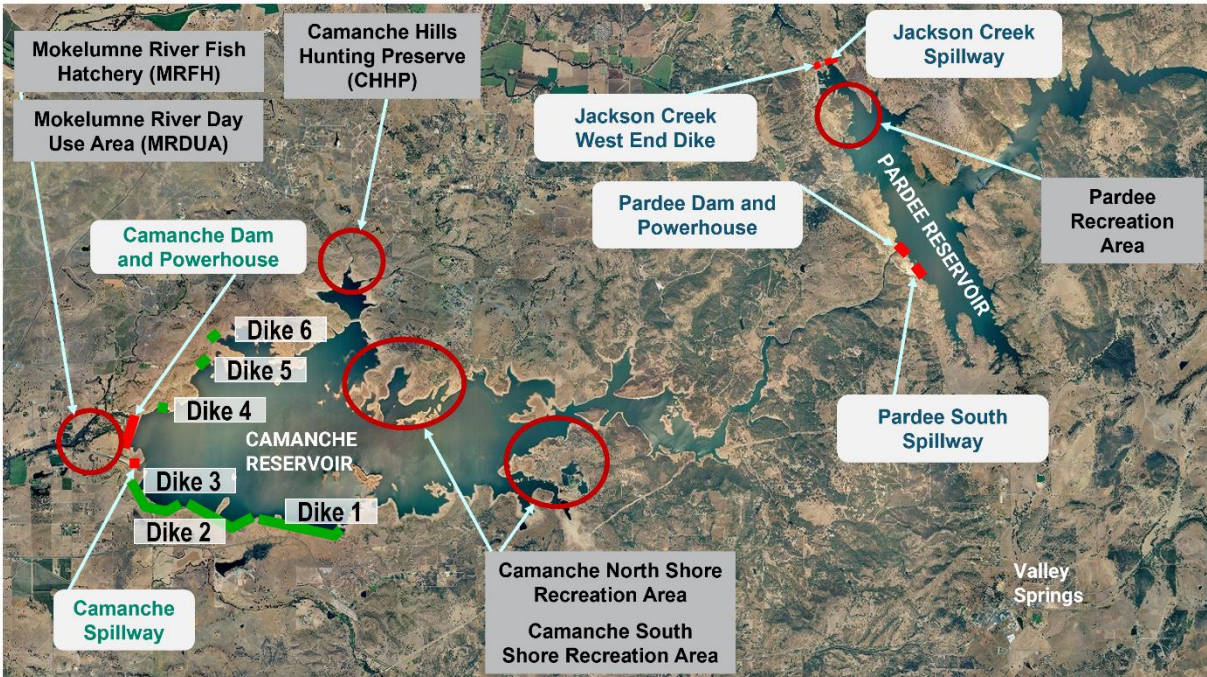
Existing FERC License

FERC monitors and regulates discrete aspects of the United States energy production and transmission industries, including hydropower generation. On March 10, 1981, FERC issued a 50-year license to the District for the Lower Mokelumne River Project (Project 2916) that took effect on April 1, 1981 and will expire in March 2031. The authorized hydropower capacity at Pardee and Camanche dams is 28.6 megawatts (MW) and 9.45 MW, respectively.

In addition to permitting hydropower generation, the Project 2916 license prescribes terms for operations related to dam safety, public safety, recreation, and environmental protection. Table 1 provides a general overview of non-hydropower elements of the Project 2916 license, while Figure 1 shows the location of key features.

**Table 1. Non-Hydropower Elements of Project 2916**

DAM SAFETY	ENVIRONMENTAL	RECREATION & PUBLIC SAFETY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EBMUD Policy 9.07 – Dam Safety Program</li><li>• Annual / 5-year Comprehensive Inspections</li><li>• Surveillance and Monitoring</li><li>• Emergency Preparedness</li><li>• Physical &amp; Cyber Security</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Joint Settlement Agreement (JSA), including downstream flows and hatchery commitments at Camanche Dam</li><li>• Water, Fish/Aquatic, Wildlife, and Botanical Resources Evaluation</li><li>• Cultural Resources Evaluation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Periodic Inspections</li><li>• Public Safety Plan</li><li>• Recreation Plan</li></ul>



**Figure 1. Key Facilities of the District’s FERC License**

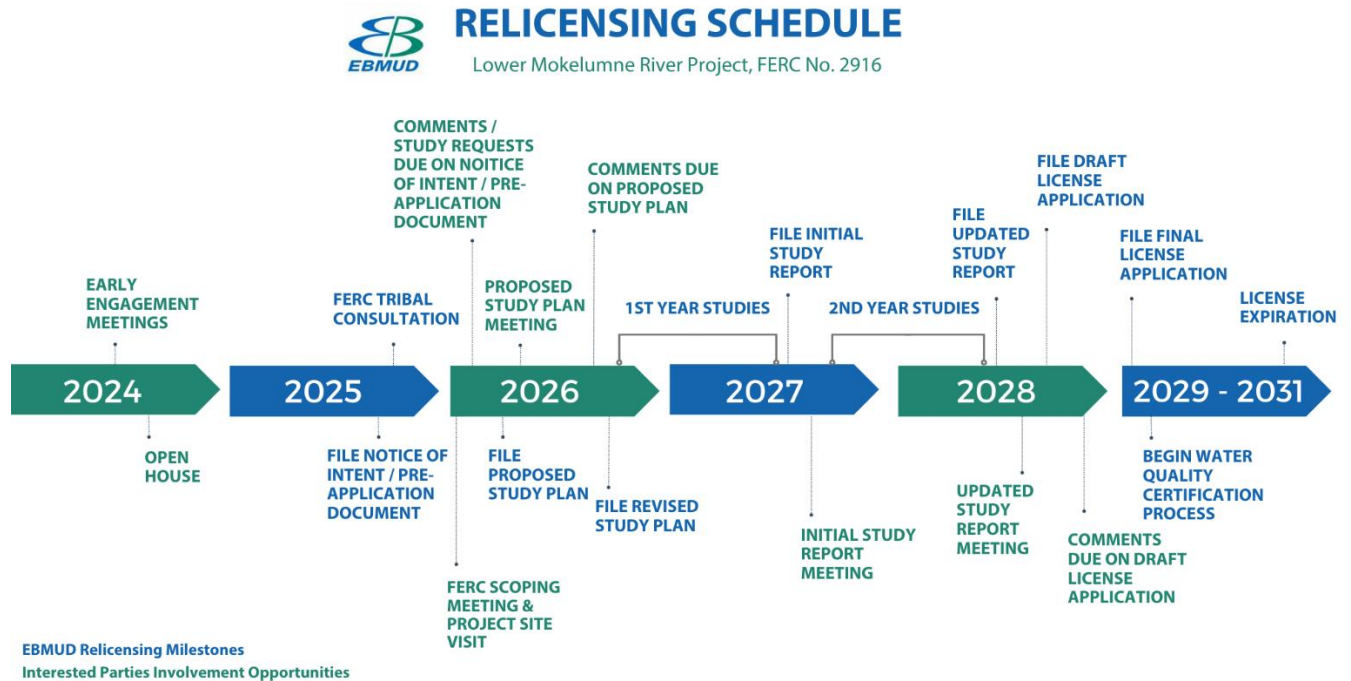
Project 2916 Relicensing Overview and Schedule

The District plans to follow FERC’s default Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), which is a highly structured regulatory process designed around early collaboration with interested parties. Per FERC regulations, the District must initiate this process five to five and a half years before the existing license expires. As part of the relicensing process, FERC will also reassess dam operations, guided by the statutory mandate that it give equal consideration to hydropower and non-hydropower uses (e.g., recreation, environmental, tribal, and cultural resources). Numerous federal and state environmental and regulatory requirements will also be implicated by this process (e.g., National Environmental Policy Act, California Environmental Quality Act, and Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification).

The relicensing process is initiated with FERC by filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to relicense and a Pre-Application Document (PAD). The NOI informs FERC and all interested parties that the District is initiating the relicensing process. The PAD is the foundation for identifying issues and developing study plans that will inform the relicensing terms and FERC’s environmental analysis. The PAD generally includes the engineering, economic, and environmental information relevant to the project that is reasonably available when the NOI is filed. The District is currently targeting October 15, 2025 to file the NOI and PAD.

The District is estimating that in total, the relicensing process could take six to seven years. Figure 2 presents the general timeline of the relicensing process. Internally, staff engaged in the relicensing project continue to meet with the Steering Committee comprised of the District’s Senior Management Team members to provide input throughout this multi-year process.

**Figure 2. District's Overall Schedule for Relicensing Project 2916**



Initial Outreach for Relicensing of Project 2916

District staff held early engagement meetings and an open house event with resource agencies, tribes, non-governmental agencies, and other interested parties in September and October 2024. This early outreach helped the District gather information for development of the NOI and PAD, disseminate information about the ILP process, build relationships, and identify issues. In addition to the early outreach meetings, the District also established a project webpage ([www.ebmud.com/MokRelicense](http://www.ebmud.com/MokRelicense)) to disseminate information and documents, including several fact sheets and a “StoryMap” video that provides an interactive way to learn about the different project features.

**NEXT STEPS**

The District plans to include in the PAD a proposed list of studies that are either required by FERC or necessary to fill data gaps. In June and July 2025, the District will host Technical Working Group meetings with external interested parties to help inform and better define the proposed study list. These collaborative technical meetings will also keep interested parties informed and engaged in the process.

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