

EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

DATE: April 23, 2026

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 Relicensing 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 (Lower Mokelumne River Project, or Project 2916). The last update about the relicensing project was provided via an information memo dated October 9, 2025, when the District submitted the Pre-Application Document (PAD) and Notice of Intent (NOI).

DISCUSSION

On March 10, 1981, FERC issued a 50-year license to the District for Project 2916, which will expire in March 2031. In addition to permitting hydropower generation, the Project 2916 license prescribes terms for operations related to dam safety, public safety, recreation, and environmental protection. The District's Joint Settlement Agreement (JSA), which was developed to resolve a proceeding that was initiated in 1991 to evaluate whether modifications should be made to the Project 2916 license, remains in effect for the duration of the Project 2916 license. The JSA expires with the current license in 2031. As part of the relicensing effort, the District will work collaboratively with resource agency partners to determine how to address the measures in the JSA and ensure the optimal means of moving forward with both the flow and habitat measures and the beneficial partnerships that were put in place by the JSA.

The filing of the PAD and NOI formally initiated the relicensing process with FERC, consistent with the FERC regulations requiring the commencement of this process five to five and a half years before the license expires. The PAD identified 17 technical studies that the District proposes to conduct in coordination with resource agencies, tribes, and interested parties to support FERC's environmental review and, importantly, the development of license terms.

After the PAD and NOI were filed, FERC issued Scoping Document 1 (SD1) on December 31, 2025. SD1 outlined the issues FERC intends to analyze during the relicensing process, including project operations, environmental resources, and potential study needs. It also provided the framework for developing study plans under the relicensing process.

The public review period for the PAD and SD1 was from December 31, 2025 through February 17, 2026. During the public review period, FERC held two scoping meetings, an early afternoon session and an evening session on January 28, 2026, in Lodi, California, to receive in-person comments from interested parties. The District also facilitated a site tour of Project 2916 for FERC staff and members of the public. Eleven people attended the scoping meetings, and eighteen people participated in the tour. Participants included representatives from regulatory agencies, non-governmental organizations, neighboring water districts, private citizens, and local tribes.

FERC received oral comments from two private citizens during the January in-person scoping meeting and received five written comment letters from the following agencies and organizations:

- California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- State Water Resources Control Board
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

District staff is reviewing the comments and will refine, modify, or add to the 17 proposed study plans identified in the PAD. These comments will also help identify any additional information necessary for FERC's environmental analysis. As required by the relicensing process, the District submitted its Proposed Study Plan to FERC on April 2, 2026, which provided a more detailed scope for each of the 17 studies including revisions made as result of the comments received. Some of the proposed studies will require consultant services, and there will be several FERC relicensing related agreements that will be brought to the Board for consideration between May and September 2026. Staff estimates all the studies may cost up to \$7 million, which is covered in the existing capital budget.

NEXT STEPS

On April 29, 2026, EBMUD, with FERC, will host a meeting to review each proposed study with interested parties, who may provide oral comments and request revisions before the District files the Revised Study Plan later in 2026. Once the Revised Study Plan is approved, the District will commence the studies, and depending on the study involved, the study will continue for one to two years.

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