

NORTH FORK STANISLAUS RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

FERC NO. 2409

APRIL 24, 2026

**STUDY PLAN DEVELOPMENT MEETING —
CULTURAL AND TRIBAL STUDIES**



NORTH FORK STANISLAUS RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

FERC P-2409

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

MICHAEL MINKLER - GENERAL MANAGER, CCWD

ANDREW RENSHAW - WATER RESOURCES MANAGER, CCWD

CHUCK VERTUCCI - PROJECT MANAGER, HDR

DANIELLE RISSE - CULTURAL RESOURCES LEAD, HDR

SAMANTHA FAER - CULTURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST, HDR



AGENDA

- 1 INTRODUCTIONS
- 2 P-2409 OVERVIEW
- 3 FERC RELICENSING PROCESS
- 4 REVIEW OF STUDY PLAN DESCRIPTIONS
- 5 QUESTIONS





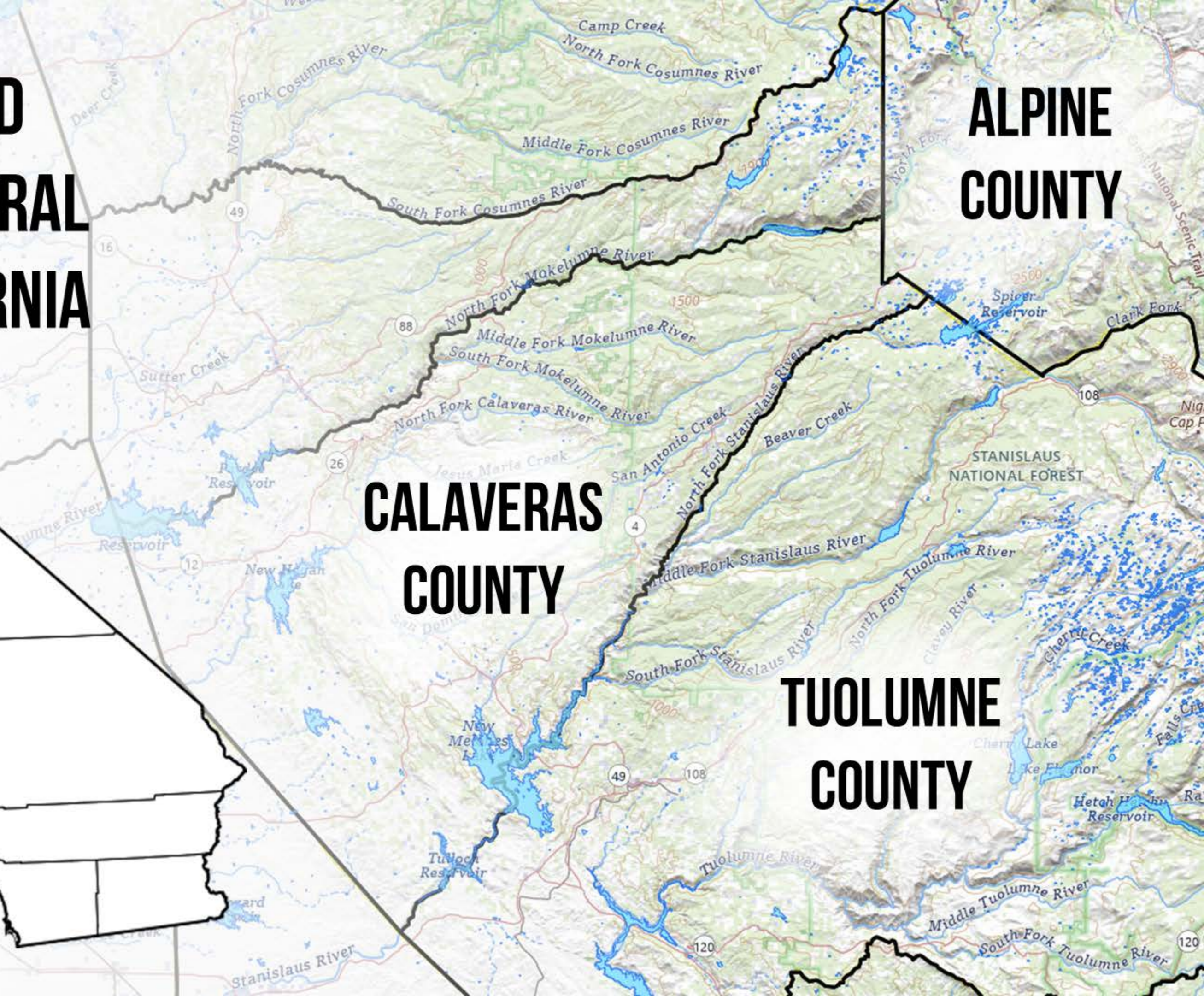
P-2409 PROJECT OVERVIEW





**LOCATED
IN CENTRAL
CALIFORNIA**

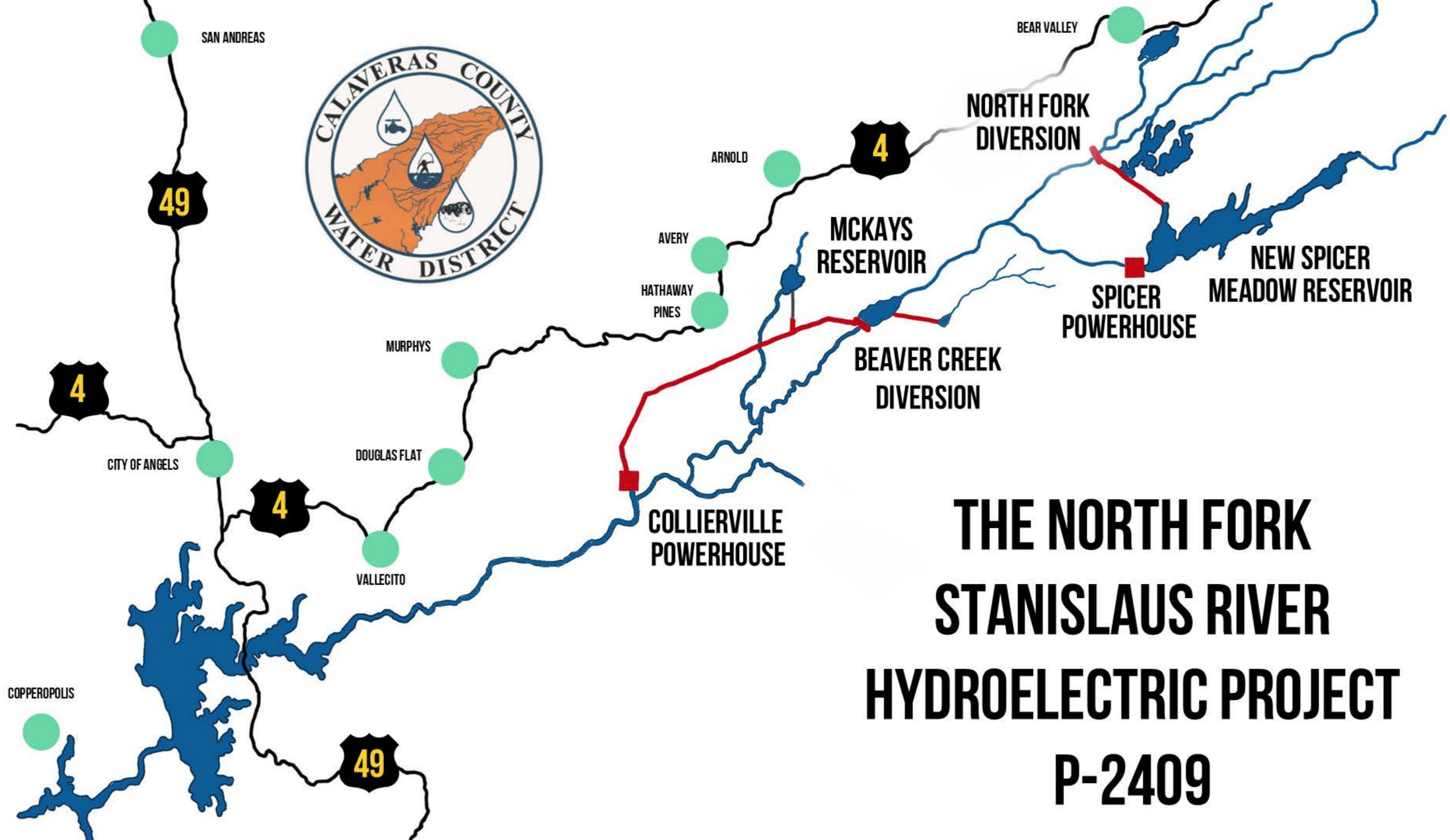
**P-2409
SPANS 3 COUNTIES**



**ALPINE
COUNTY**

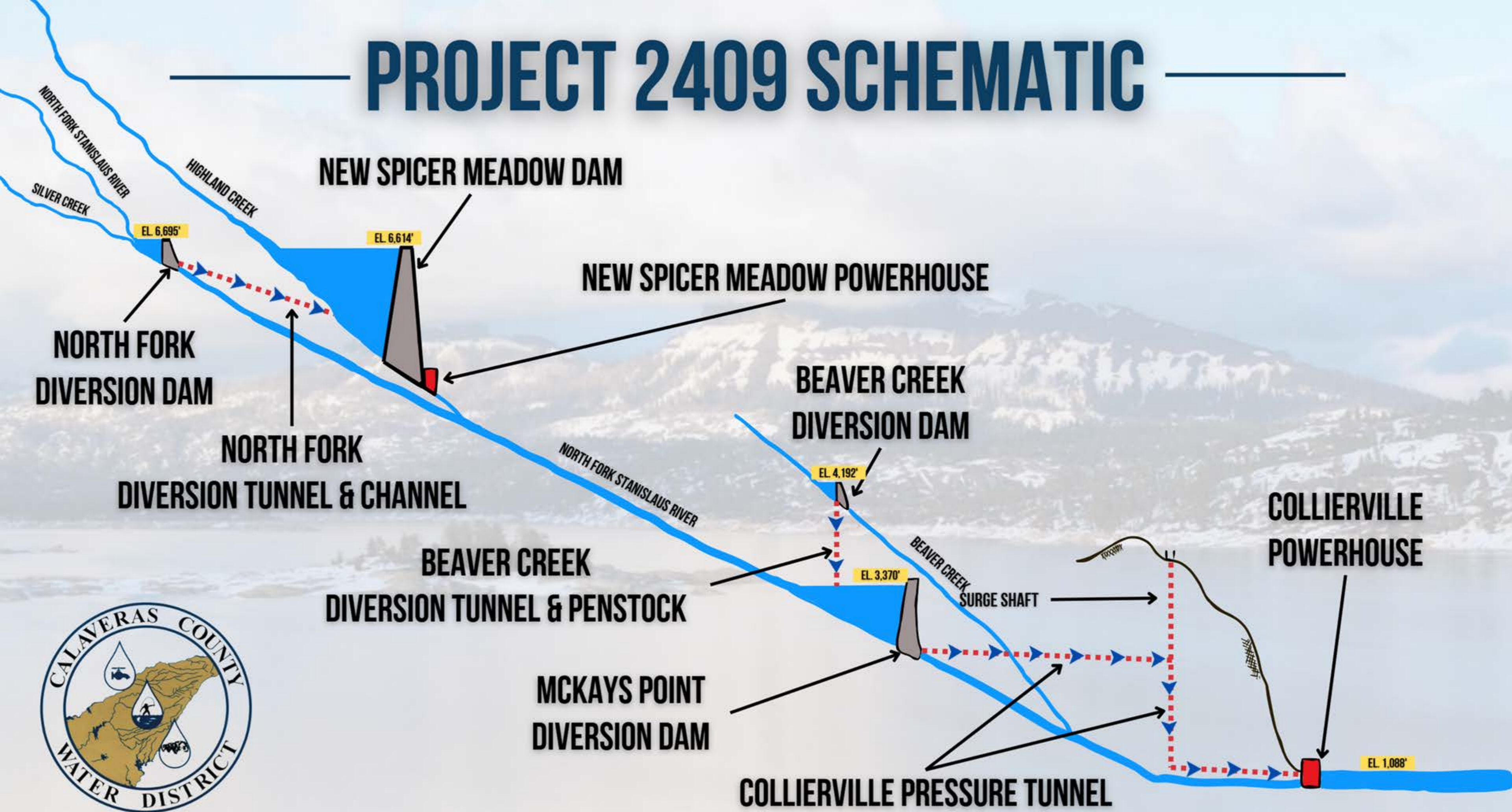
**CALAVERAS
COUNTY**

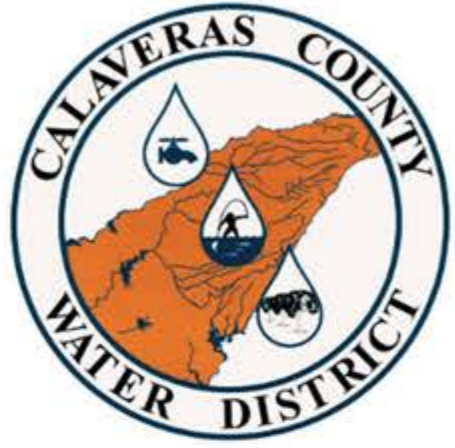
**TUOLUMNE
COUNTY**



THE NORTH FORK STANISLAUS RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT P-2409

PROJECT 2409 SCHEMATIC





FERC

RELICENSING

OVERVIEW



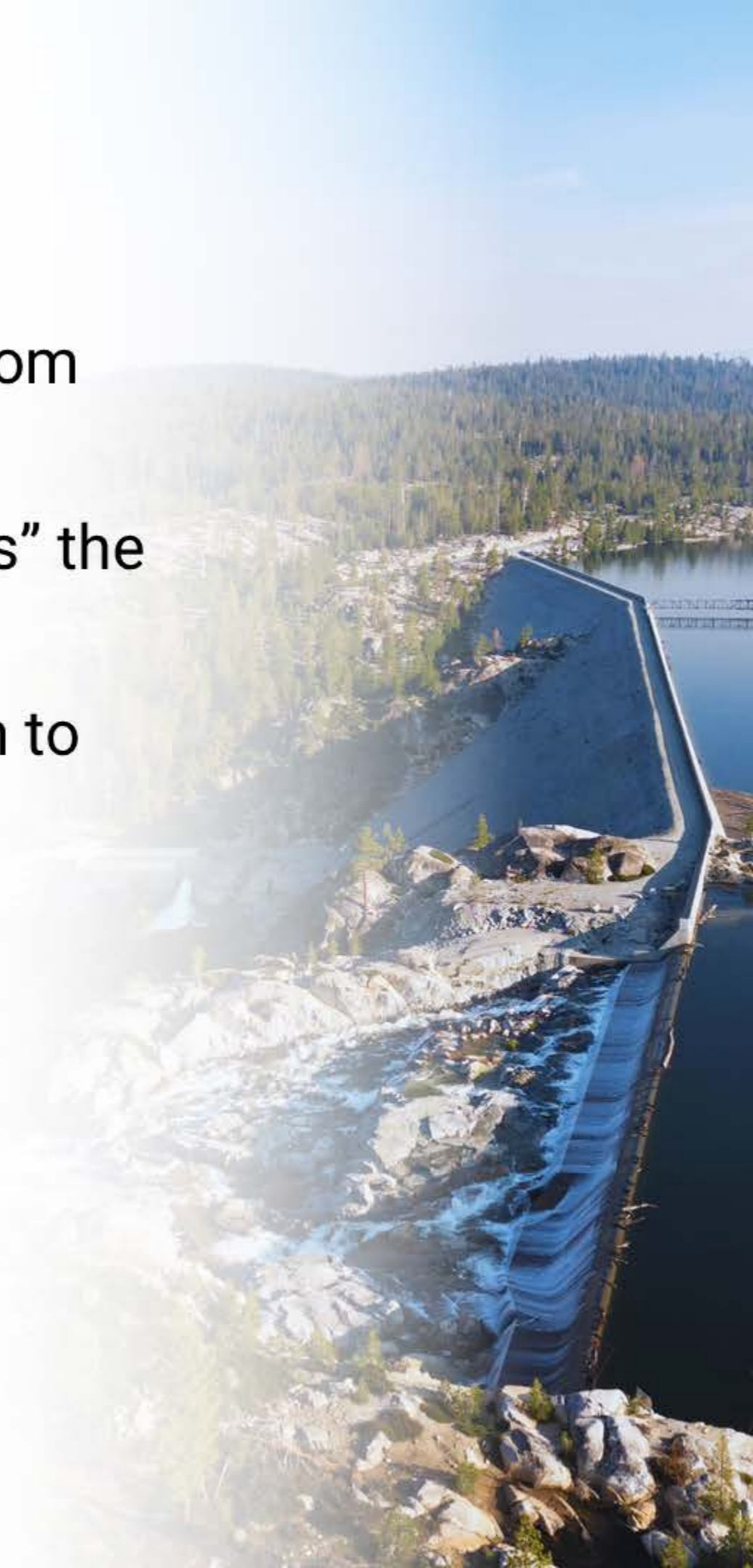
WHAT IS FERC'S LICENSING JURISDICTION?

- Pursuant to section 23(b)(1) of the FPA, a non-federal hydroelectric project must be licensed if it falls under at least one of the following mandatory jurisdictional criteria:
 - Located on a navigable water of the United States;
 - Occupies lands or reservations of the United States;
 - Utilizes surplus water or waterpower from a government dam; or
 - Located on a stream over which Congress has Commerce Clause jurisdiction, is constructed or modified on or after August 26, 1935, and affects the interests of interstate or foreign commerce.



WHAT IS RELICENSING?

- Process by which an applicant obtains a new/subsequent license from FERC.
- Transparent regulatory proceeding through which FERC “re-balances” the power and non-power benefits of the project.
- Term of new license is normally 40 years, but FERC can adjust down to 30 years or up to 50 years.
- Defined through:
 - Federal Power Act and Title 18 of Code of Federal Regulations;
 - Years of legal precedents and FERC Orders/decisions;
 - Various federal statutes and regulations;
 - Evolving regulatory and policy landscape; and
 - Relevant court cases.





WHY RELICENSE?

- To continue operating the project after the existing license term expires.
- If new/subsequent license is not issued by the time existing license term expires, FERC issues annual licenses until new license is issued.
 - Annual licenses are issued as an administrative process and have the same terms and conditions as the existing license.
 - No limit to how many annual licenses can be issued.

HOW LONG DOES RELICENSING TAKE?

- Formal Start: Applicant files with FERC a Notice of Intent to file an application for a new or subsequent license (NOI) and a Pre-Application Document (PAD) 5.5 to 5 years before existing license expires.
- License Application: Applicant must file a final license application at least 2 years before existing license expires.
- Formal End: FERC issues a new license or otherwise resolves the proceeding.



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN RELICENSING?

Federal, state, & local agencies

Non-governmental organizations (NGO's)

Local special interest groups & groups from far away

Landowners (public and private)

Federally & non-federally recognized Indian tribes & non-tribal Native Americans

Business interests including farmers & ranchers

Industries

Anybody!!!

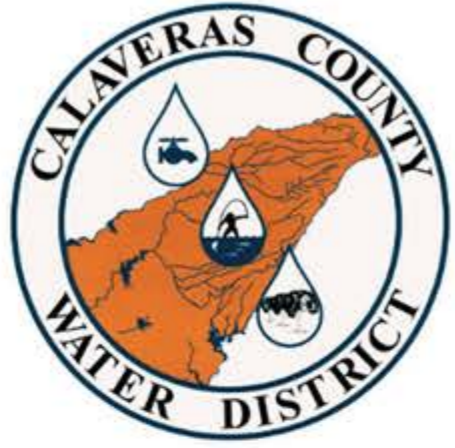


WHAT RESOURCES ARE ASSESSED?



MAJOR DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY APPLICANT DURING RELICENSING

- **Notice of Intent**: Required information, formal intent to relicense.
- **Pre-Application Document**: Summary of existing, relevant, and reasonably available information, and issues to be addressed in relicensing. Identifies data gaps and Applicant's proposed studies to close data gaps.
- **Draft License Application**: Draft of License Application including environmental impacts and Applicant's proposed protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) conditions.
- **Final License Application**: Final License Application including updates from DLA comments.
- Others, as appropriate.



P-2409 MAJOR MILESTONES & NEXT STEPS



KEY RELICENSING MILESTONES

- **July 31, 2026.** Earliest date CCWD can file the NOI and PAD (5.5 years before existing license expires).
- **January 31, 2027.** Latest date CCWD can file the NOI and PAD (5 years before existing license expires).
- **2027/2028.** Assumed study years and develop PM&E conditions.
- **~ Fall 2029.** Provide Draft License Application to agencies and tribes for 90-day review and comment period.
- **January 31, 2030.** Latest date CCWD can file the Final License Application (2 years before existing license expires).
- **January 31, 2032.** Existing P-2409 licenses expires.



CCWD'S PRE-PAD STUDY DEVELOPMENT GOALS

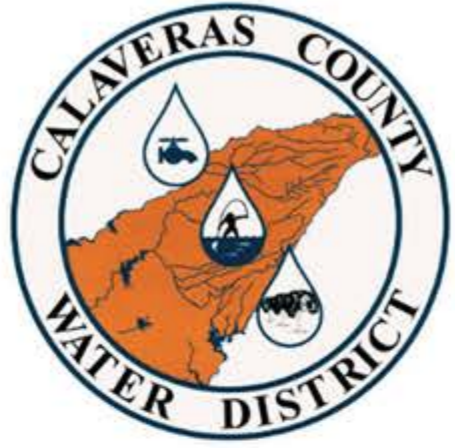
- Reach agreement with as many relicensing participants as possible on as many Study Descriptions as possible by July 2026, and include those Study Descriptions in the PAD



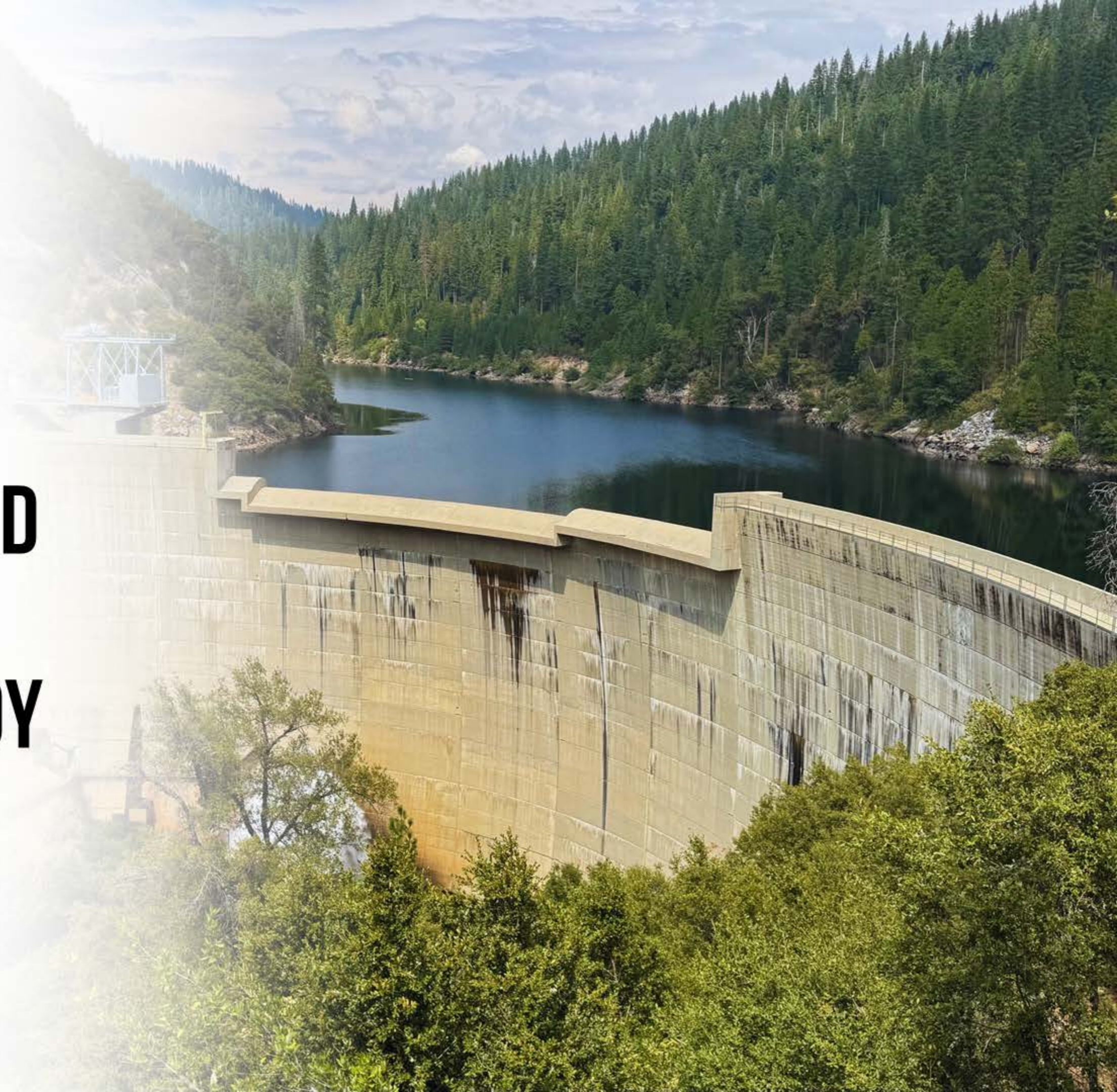
CCWD'S PRE-PAD STUDY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Purpose of today's study development coordination meeting:
 - Discuss comments/edits on Cultural and Tribal Resources Study Descriptions from relicensing participants or proposes changes with the goal to try to reach agreement.
- After the meeting, CCWD will provide updated Study Descriptions to relicensing participants.
- If there are items with some studies where agreement is close, CCWD may schedule additional discussions to attempt to resolve differences.
- Final versions of agreed upon Study Descriptions will be included in the PAD.





REVIEW OF CULTURAL AND TRIBAL RESOURCES STUDY DESCRIPTIONS



SECTION 106 AND FERC RELICENSING

- **The Cultural Resources Study and the Tribal Resources Study will largely be conducted to assist FERC with its Section 106 compliance requirements.**
- **CCWD will request FERC to designate CCWD as the non-federal representative for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) consultation in the NOI for purposes of the relicensing process.**
- **Accordingly, CCWD will initiate informal Section 106 consultation with Tribes and agencies after FERC designates CCWD as the non-federal representative for Section 106 consultation.**
- **FERC of course remains the lead federal agency responsible for Section 106 compliance; and will conduct government to government consultation with Native American Tribes.**



REVIEW OF STUDY DESCRIPTIONS

The Study Descriptions will be shared on screen



EMAIL:
P2409Relicense@ccwd.org



Website
WWW.CCWD.ORG/P-2409-RELICENSE



QUESTIONS

Meeting Attendees

1. Mike DeSpain, Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians
2. Jesus “Jesse” Galvan, Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians
3. Adam Lewis, Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians
4. Debra Grimes, Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians
5. Alex Ramiez, California Valley Miwok Tribe
6. Pete Ramirez, California Valley Miwok Tribe
7. Briana Sanchez, California Valley Miwok Tribe
8. Billy Hawk (William Enos), Washoe Tribe of NV & CA
9. Kathy Strain, Stanislaus USFS
10. Allison Stevenot, Stanislaus USFS
11. Michael Minkler, CCWD
12. Andrew Renshaw, CCWD
13. Danielle Risse, HDR
14. Chuck Vertucci, HDR
15. Samantha Faer, HDR