

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project, Phase 1**

Subject: **Monthly Status Report**

Report Period: **2017 April**

Executive Summary: The principle activities approved as part of the amended Phase 1 work plan are underway with consultant work products being submitted for review and comment. Based on the Water Commission’s schedule, work is on track to have the application ready in July 2018, which will include a draft feasibility report.

Program Management & Administration:

Onboarding: Receipt of executed agreements to participate in the Reservoir Committee continues. California Water Service submitted signed agreements on April 28 and MWD’s request to participate has been accepted. Additional inquiries have been received, but no formal requests.

Accounting: Initial payments are being received from the new participants. Work is in progress to ensure all participants to the Reservoir Committee have paid the same dollar per acre-ft. and ensure accuracy of billings to Authority Members. The budget review process resulted in shifting budget from lower to higher priority activities with no change in the approved fiscal year 2017 total and no change to the Phase 1 budget target. Work is in progress to update the accounting system to include the current budget.

Office Flooding: The current forecast to reopen the office is July.

Engagement & Outreach:

Work continues to monitor media, social media and to respond to comments generated from the website. A two-page project summary was prepared focusing on the features and benefits. Plans are underway for additional landowner communications. Technical staff supported project locations visits by media and interested agency staff. Outreach materials included a participants’ map, fact sheet, and talking points for federal elected official/stakeholder outreach.

Proposition 1 (WSIP) Application:

The March Water Commission meeting agenda did not include any WSIP-related items. However, representatives participated in the April 27 webinar to explain the application process.

AECOM provided an update on the requirements for the WSIP application to the Reservoir Committee on April 21. The application requires completed urban &/or agricultural water management plans by all participating agencies. Participants were also informed of the need for information on affected groundwater basins and water for disadvantaged communities.

AECOM and Ch2m continue to coordinate on the modeling needs for the WSIP application. Preliminary results were provided by Ch2m in early April. Results for

2030 with the WSIP climate change assumptions were provided on April 28 to support the economic analysis required by WSIP. Results for 2070 are expected in early May.

CH2M completed the update of the analytical tools to include the latest available tools prescribed in the CWC WSIP regulations including new data into the tools to address climate change and sea level rise. Continued to implement model code changes and continued coordination efforts with Authority, SWCs, and Reclamation as necessary including related to overall key assumptions and additional Sacramento Valley demands for Western Canal and Colusa County WDs. Continued refinement of specific public benefit operations criteria and assumptions to better align with CWC ecosystem objectives and provided updates at various meetings and workshops.

Work is nearing completion on the ACWA Storage Integration study. This study includes Sites Reservoir and other surface and groundwater storage projects to estimate the benefits of additional storage and how the efficiency of the state's water system could be improved. The findings will be rolled out at ACWA's May conference.

Environmental Documentation (EIR/S):

CH2M completed the administrative draft EIR/EIS and associated appendices for review. Continued coordination with Perkins Coie, Authority, Reclamation, DWR, and AECOM related to updating and revising of all chapters of the preliminary draft EIR/EIS and to include Alternative D and associated CALSIM II and related modeling, specific technical analyses. and other coordination. Finalized project description (including operations and benefits refinements) and revised EIR/S analyses and internal review progressed consistent with the revised production schedule.

AECOM provided comments on the project description and mitigation measures in the administrative draft document.

Federal Cooperating Agency Review of an updated working draft EIS/EIR is proposed to occur in mid-May and would be followed by Reclamation's management review.

Federal Feasibility Report:

Reclamation provided responses to the Authority's comments to the draft feasibility report. The Authority was successful in aligning the schedule for the feasibility report with the WSIP application. Reclamation is scheduled to deliver a draft report to the Authority on July 20 which can be used to support the WSIP application.

Engineering & Technical:

AECOM is currently updating the Basis of Estimate Report for Alternative D based on comments received from Reclamation and MWD.

AECOM met with Colusa County on April 24 to discuss the probable maximum flood and emergency drawdown associated with the project. AECOM reviewed the two technical memoranda detailing these issues with the County. Future meetings with the County are anticipated to develop an appropriate strategy of engineering controls and emergency management.