

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project, Phase 1** **2017 Feb 13**

Subject: **Monthly Status Report** Report Period: **2017 January**

Purpose: To provide a concise, monthly, status of efforts underway to advance the Sites Reservoir Project.

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. The Water Commission has not provided a schedule for when applications window will close and when they plan to make any decisions, but we are on track to have the application ready in June and to be able to start Phase 2 in July 2018.

Program Management & Administration:

Engagement & Outreach: In addition to continuing to advance the website and creation of a new infographic, the project and its benefits were presented in public events that included: Colusa Farm Show, Sierra Cascade Logging Conference, Sportsman’s Expo and Family Farm Alliance. Expanded efforts include the January 12th legislative tour, the creation of a “Capitol Brown Bag” series aimed at informing legislative staff, supporting engagement efforts at the federal level, having supporters speak at the start of the monthly Water Commission meetings, and engaging environmental organizations.

Onboarding: Receipt of executed agreements to participate in the Authority (11 of 12 seats) and/or Reservoir Committee (20 of 27) continues. Work is in progress to address the 2 alternative proposals and 1 contingent proposal. Total participation by the end of March is expected to be 32 participants with additional inquiries continuing to come in.

Work Groups: Several ad hoc, joint (Authority and Reservoir Committee) work groups are being formed to focus on key areas needed to support completion of the phase 1 deliverables: WSIP Application, draft EIR/S, and draft federal feasibility study.

Accounting: The transition of accountant services is in progress with the goal to be completed by the February Authority meeting. The initial priority will be to generate invoices and then update the budgets to match the approved amended phase 1 work plan.

Proposition 1 (WSIP) Application:

AECOM has begun to develop the approach and spreadsheet tools to be used for the economic analysis required by WSIP. We are also identifying and

refining the ecosystem and water quality priorities to be provided to CDFW and the SWRCB, respectively.

CH2M HILL updated the analytical tools framework 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. Implemented model code changes and coordinated efforts with Authority, SWCs, and Reclamation as necessary. Refined specific public benefit operations criteria to better align with CWC ecosystem objectives.

Environmental Documentation (EIR/S):

Notice of Preparation: Authority staff, consultants and legal counsel provided revised text for consideration by the Authority.

CH2M HILL continued updating and revising all chapters of the preliminary draft EIR/EIS and to include Alternative D and associated CALSIM II and related modeling, as well as to update necessary information (e.g., additional analyses as necessary; existing environment/environmental setting data). Focused on "schedule 3" chapter revisions to support submittal of separate chapters to be delivered in early February. Began discussions with Perkins Coie attorneys to obtain input on approach and contents of key sections (e.g., including climate change approach, approach to cumulative analysis and growth-inducing impacts, and identification of environmental commitments /mitigation).

Reclamation staff is currently conducting a technical review of the recently submitted chapters.

Federal Feasibility Study:

All of the draft chapters and appendices, including the alternative descriptions, alternative evaluation, benefits estimates, cost allocation, and cost assignment. The chapters and appendices are currently in technical review by Reclamation staff. Numerous meetings were held to discuss ownership scenarios in support of the cost assignment.

Engineering & Technical:

AECOM is continuing work to refine the costs for the Authority's preferred alternative, including responding to review comments on costs and risk from the Bureau of Reclamation. The concept for generation of hydropower was presented at the Reservoir Committee meeting.