

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project**

**2017 July 16**

Subject: **Environmental Analysis - Release Status for Aug 14, 2017**

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## **Document Review Work Group Report and Recommendation**

**Purpose:** To provide a recommendation to the Reservoir Committee for its consideration regarding the status of the environmental analysis. This recommendation relates to a decision on the form of the environmental information to be included in the WSIP application and the continuance of the CEQA and NEPA evaluation of the Sites Project.

**Background:** The Document Review Work Group has provided direction and comments to the staff and consulting teams on matters related to advancing the current Administrative Draft EIR/S regarding the incomplete sections, analysis and mitigation approach and other considerations related to the Sites Project EIR/S. The Work Group presents this report and recommendation to the Reservoir Committee on July 20, 2017.

**Status:** On June 19, 2017 the Authority Board voted to accept the conditional recommendation of the Reservoir Committee and provided no further direction regarding the need for additional information.

**Recommendation:** Since the June 16 Reservoir Committee meeting, staff and the consulting teams have been:

1. Modifying the Administrative Draft EIR/S to address the unresolved items in a manner that is consistent with the direction provided;
2. Coordinating the updated chapters and/or sections with Reclamation as the NEPA Lead Agency as well as coordinating the schedule for release as a joint document;
3. Providing updated chapters and/or sections primarily to the Reservoir Committee's Document Review Work Group for additional comments and direction.

This work has now been completed and the Document Review Work Group provides the following recommendations for the Reservoir Committee's consideration:

1. In response to the Members' Operations Work Group request, the Document Review Work Group deems that the current version of the Administrative Draft EIR/S is formulated to provide flexibility to accommodate changes and re-

allocations to water supplies among Sites participants at the end of Phase 1 and for use in Phase 2.

2. The current Administrative Draft EIR/S is sufficiently complete to allow the Reservoir Committee to consider and recommend to the Authority its release for agency and public review as a Draft EIR/S. This summary recommendation is based on the following findings:

In summary,

- The document provides an analysis of environmental consequences of the Sites Reservoir Project consistent with the direction provided by the Authority on December 5, 2016 and the supplemental scoping NOP and comments received.
  - The sections requiring additional evaluation are deemed to be complete
  - The significance determinations and mitigation measures included are appropriate. The identified project components intended to reduce operational impacts and project mitigation measures reduce the impacts of the project.
3. The current administrative draft EIR/S is sufficiently complete to allow the Reservoir Committee to forward this recommendation, either as is or as modified, to the Authority to include the EIR/S in the WSIP application.

Respectfully Submitted by:

- Thad Bettner, Phase 1 Document Review Work Group Leader