



Topic: **Authority Board Agenda Item 5-2**

2018 March 19

Subject: **Regulatory Agency Coordination**

Requested Action:

No action requested. Informational item.

Detailed Description/Background:

As a follow-up to our meeting on December 12, 2017, the Sites staff, Reclamation staff and Sites Project consultants met with staff from the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region (NMFS) on February 13, 2018. At that meeting we presented information regarding our approach to identify and refine:

- the potential effects of the Sites Project to ecologically important habitat in the Sacramento River and adjacent wetlands/floodplains
- alternative operations that could reduce or alleviate negative effects
- the understanding of the hydrologic, fisheries and habitat characteristics

Sites staff and consultants presented preliminary information develop after the release of the Draft EIR/S regarding habitat mapping, inundated area mapping, flow-inundated area analysis, secondary channel features, and existing hydrology. Sites staff also provided an update on the WSIP process and status.

Meeting participants agreed to further pre-application consultation meetings this spring. Sites staff suggested the development of a preliminary draft work plan to address some of the concerns expressed by NMFS in their comment letter on the EIS. Since the meeting Sites staff have provided pdf copies of the WSIP appeal letter and attachments to NMFS staff.

In their comment letter on the Draft EIR/S, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) identified that the CDFW personnel would be available for consultation regarding the biological resources and strategies to minimize and/or mitigate impacts. After several attempts, Sites staff and consultants met with CDFW staff on March 19, 2018. At that meeting we presented information regarding our overall goals, general approach and assumptions, project facilities, EIR/S schedule, ongoing analyses that address their comments and comments requiring further clarification. Sites staff proposed the development of a preliminary draft work plan to address some of the concerns expressed by CDFW in their comment letter on the EIR.

Prior Authority Board Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

None.

Staff Contact:

Rob Thomson

Attachments:

None.