



Topic: Authority Board Agenda Item 6-3

2019 September 23

Subject: Sites Authority Principals and Requirements for Feasibility Study

**Requested Action:**

Discussion and possible direction to staff to present the Sites Authority Principals and Requirements for Feasibility Study to the Authority Board.

**Detailed Description/Background:**

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) has identified the potential to make independent determinations of feasibility in order to support its decision-making and qualify for funding from others. These determinations are needed to secure funding through the California Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) and the federal Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN).

A draft Feasibility Report was prepared and published by Reclamation (August 2017) with input from the Authority, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and cooperating agencies. The final NODOS Feasibility Report is currently planned to be published by Reclamation consistent with the typical approach used on all federal projects. This report is being prepared primarily under the CalFed authorization with funding augmented through prior congressional appropriations as authorized under the WIIN Act.

Should the NODOS Feasibility Report be prepared as a joint document (and titled the Sites Project), which would be similar to the EIR/EIS, the feasibility report should demonstrate compliance with the requirements of both Reclamation and the Authority. For the Authority, this would also include the State's requirements to ensure the proposed WSIP funding is secured. If the Reclamation Feasibility Report is not a joint document, the Authority would be required to complete its own feasibility analysis and separately demonstrate to the Secretary of the Interior and the California Water Commission that the Sites Project is feasible.

Staff is developing draft Sites Authority Principals and Requirements for Feasibility Study. These Principles and Requirements are intended to provide the Authority's Feasibility Study framework for analyzing the projects and related actions involving Federal, State and Participant investments. For the purposes of this policy, "Principles" refer to the overarching concepts that the Authority seeks to achieve through policy implementation. The "Requirements" are inputs to alternative plans, programs, designs, strategies or actions that should be incorporated into analyses for Authority investment.

Staff intend to circulate a draft of the Sites Authority Principles and Requirements to appropriate ad hoc work groups prior to the October meeting of the Reservoir Committee.

Status:	Draft	Preparer:	Frederiksen	Phase:	2	Version:	A
Purpose:	Sites Authority Board Staff Report	QA/QC:	Thomson	Date:	2019 September 23		
Caveat:	Informational	Authority Agent:	Watson	Ref/File #:	12.221-2		
Notes:				Page:	1	of	2

**Prior Authority Board Action:**

None.

**Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:**

None.

**Staff Contact:**

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**Attachments:**

None.