



Topic: **Authority Board Agenda Item 6-4**

2019 July 22

Subject: **Environmental Analysis & Permitting – NODOS
Geotechnical Progress Report**

Requested Action:

No action requested. Informational item regarding progress of the **North of Delta Offstream Storage/Sites Reservoir Feasibility Geotechnical Investigations** CEQA Notice of Exemption and permit applications.

Detailed Description/Background:

Staff have been coordinating with Reclamation to develop a grouping of geotechnical evaluations of soil and bedrock characteristics that are important to reduce uncertainties in the cost estimates in their federal Feasibility Report. Based on continued efforts to better define the scope of work for the collection of additional geotechnical data and to better analyze the potential effects associated with this field data collection, impacts have been determined to be localized, temporary, and minor. As such, the Geotechnical Investigations meet the criteria for a Categorical Exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 and 15306. A Notice of Exemption has been filed with the Colusa County Clerk-Recorder and the Clerk Recorder’s Office of Glenn County on July 8, 2019. Similarly, Reclamation plans to complete a Categorical Exclusion to comply with NEPA. Preparation of a Biological Assessment and permit applications for the project are nearly complete.

Permit applications are underway and are anticipated to be submitted in the coming weeks.

Prior Authority Board Action:

CEQA: At their June 24, 2019 meeting, the Authority Board of Directors authorized the General Manager to approve the North of Delta Offstream Storage/Sites Reservoir Feasibility Geotechnical Investigations. The Board of Directors also authorized the General Manager to release a Notice of Exemption consistent with comments from the Environmental Work Group, Reservoir Committee recommendations and concurrence from the Sites Project Authority’s Coordination Committee.

Permit Applications: At their May 20, 2019 meeting, the Authority Board of Directors approved the expenditure of funds needed to submit the necessary permit applications.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

Permit fees would need to be included with applications. Staff is currently confirming permit fees for each permit necessary. Total permit fees are estimated to not exceed \$40,000.

Staff Contact:

Ali Forsythe

Attachments:

None.