



Topic: Authority Board Agenda Item 06-5.3 2019 September 23

Subject: An updated description for the preferred Project

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**Requested Action:**

Consider approving an updated executive-level description for the preferred Project and provide direction to staff to advance the level of detail.

**Detailed Description/Background:**

Documents that defined the preferred project were released in mid-August 2017. Since then:

1. The Authority has received comments from the public, governmental agencies and other stakeholders that have been informative.
2. Pre-application consultations related to key permits are underway and have also informed the Authority.
3. The Water Commission made their conditional determinations in July 2018 and have conditionally approved a funding amount for eligible Prop 1 benefits. This funding amount needs to be translated into a proportionate share of the reservoir for the state’s resource managers use to produce ecologic benefits.
4. Work continues to determine a federal interest in participation and potentially obtaining congressional funding for eligible benefits. However, the timing and ability to commit any federal funding commensurate with both the Reservoir Committee members’ and the State of California remains uncertain.
5. Other water management actions, some of which have matured since 2017 to allow a better understanding of their potential role to benefit the state’s water system and some of which are newer and have the potential to also help to improve the state’s water system in a positive manner (i.e. changing landscape).
6. The science related to the aquatic ecology in the Sacramento River and the Delta continues to add to the overall understanding and improving the ability to develop sustainable solutions.

Based on this accumulated information, a revision to the description of the preferred project should be considered.

Approving an updated, executive-level, description for the preferred project will facilitate advancement of the Final EIR/EIS, the Authority’s feasibility studies and analysis, and continuing pre-application consultations.

Status:	Draft, Subject to Change	Preparer:	Watson	Phase:	2	Version:	A
Purpose:	Sites Authority Board Staff Report	QA/QC:	Forsythe	Date:	2019 September 23		
Caveat:	Informational	Authority Agent:	Watson	Ref/File #:	12.221 - 010.700		
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**Prior Authority Board Action:**

At the August 15 and September 12, 2019 joint Authority and Reservoir Committee workshops, the attendees discussed the results of information gained since the project description for the preferred project was last updated. The discussions also included updated information related to the financing and estimated repayment costs for the Reservoir Committee's proportionate share of costs to build the preferred project.

The Reservoir Committee, at their July 20, 2017 meeting approved the release of the Draft EIR/EIS and draft Feasibility Report for public comment and inclusion into the Authority's application for Chapter 8 of Proposition 1 [2014] and in accordance with the WSIP. These documents identified the preferred project as Alternative D in the draft EIR/EIS.

**Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:**

None.

**Staff Contact:**

Jim Watson/Ali Forsythe

**Attachments:**

None.