



Topic: **Authority Board Agenda Item 7-1**

2019 Apr 22

Subject: **Environmental Analysis & Permitting – Update for 2019 Geotechnical Evaluations**

Requested Action:

No action requested. Informational Item. Report on the North of Delta Off-stream Storage/Sites Reservoir Feasibility Geotechnical Investigation Initial Study permit applications and consultation in accordance with AB52.

Detailed Description/Background:

This is an update to the March 2019 staff report. Staff have been coordinating with Reclamation on the geotechnical evaluations of soil and bedrock characteristics that are important to reduce uncertainties in the cost estimates in the federal Feasibility Report. Locations for these geotechnical evaluations are being selected to provide additional information at key Project facilities while avoiding and minimizing impacts to environmental and cultural resources, as well as current agricultural and wildlife refuge practices. This includes the locations where access is granted by the current landowner and to existing right-of-way easement lands. Access to the majority of testing locations would be on existing improved (paved or gravel) roads. Access to more remote locations would be on existing unimproved roads or by helicopter.

Preparation of the Initial Study (and parallel Environmental Assessment) and permit applications is proceeding. We expect to have a review copy to the Environmental Work Group in early-May. Should that be favorably reviewed they may have a recommendation for the Reservoir Committee for the May meeting. AB52 consultation with potentially affected tribes have been initiated.

Prior Authority Board Action:

Staff provided a status report at the March 25, 2019 Authority Board Meeting.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

None.

Staff Contact:

Rob Thomson/Kevin Spesert

Attachments:

None.