



**Requested Action:**

No action requested. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding the status and progress of the Sites Reservoir (and Maxwell Water Intertie) Project’s environmental planning and permitting efforts.

**Detailed Description/Background:**

The Sites Project team has been diligently working to complete key environmental planning and permitting efforts. The status of the key efforts underway is provided below.

- California Environmental Quality Act / National Environmental Policy Act (CEQA / NEPA) – The Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) was developed in compliance with CEQA / NEPA and released in August 2017. The comment period closed on January 15, 2018. The project team is currently developing responses to the comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS. Draft responses to comments will be provided for review by the Ad Hoc Environmental and Permitting Work Group in the late October timeframe. As the responses to comments are further developed, the team will begin development of an Administrative Final EIR/EIS.
- Federal Endangered Species Act – The project team is currently developing a draft Biological Assessment in coordination with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). The Biological Assessment, when completed, will be submitted by Reclamation to initiate the federal Endangered Species Act compliance with National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Project construction actions and operation. An administrative draft Biological Assessment is anticipated to be ready for review by the Ad Hoc Environmental and Permitting Work Group in the early October timeframe.
- National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 – The project team is currently developing a Programmatic Agreement in coordination with Reclamation. Reclamation will be the lead federal agency for Section 106 compliance. An administrative draft Programmatic Agreement is anticipated to be ready for review by the Ad Hoc Environmental and Permitting Work Group in the late November timeframe.
- California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code Section 2081) – Through the on-going discussions with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife described in the state report for Agenda Item 6.2, the project team is developing initial approaches for the 2081 permit application. The team is currently anticipating developing two permit applications – one for construction actions and the second for operations. Throughout the

remainder of 2019, the team will be drafting the permit applications and supporting materials. Administrative draft 2081 permit applications are anticipated to be ready for review by the Ad Hoc Environmental and Permitting Work Group in the late February 2020 timeframe.

A number of other permit applications and approvals are anticipated including, but not limited to the following: Clean Water Act, Section 401 and 404; Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 408 and 10; Central Valley Flood Protection Board Encroachment Permit; California Fish and Game Code Section 1600 (Streambed Alteration Agreements); State Lands Commission lease agreement; and water rights. In addition, the team is working on the draft Adaptive Management Plan and the mitigation approach for the project. All of these permit applications are in their initial stages of development with efforts shifting to these in early 2020.

**Prior Authority Board Action:**

None.

**Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:**

None.

**Staff Contact:**

Ali Forsythe

**Attachments:**

None.