



**SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY
ENGINEERING SERVICES
RFQ 19-03 – July 5, 2019**

**RESPONSE TO CONSULTANTS'
RFQ QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS**

- 1. Q:** Is 11 point font required for graphics, charts, figures? Can we decrease font for graphics, figures, charts to 9 point?

A: Please refer to Section 4.1.f., page 24. The SOQ shall not contain any font smaller than 11 point. The use of smaller fonts are not acceptable.
- 2. Q:** Will the HC consultant be in a lead role or support role for FERC permitting similar to table 6.2.1?

A: Should the Authority determine that a FERC license is required, the HC consultant would be the lead engineering services provider. The current working assumptions are that Reclamation has existing authorities to not require a FERC License and the start of construction will not be delayed due to the need to acquire hydropower permits. Should subsequent analysis lead the Authority to determine that a FERC license should be obtained, the associated equipment and components that, if installed, would require a permit would not be installed until the proper permits have been acquired. Respondent should factor this answer in preparing their approach to addressing the hydropower issues (refer to RFQ page 29, item 4)
- 3. Q:** Can you share the latest draft of the feasibility report if different from what is on your website?

A: The version posted is the current version that will be used as the basis for evaluating responses. The Authority considers any additions or modifications to this version to be confidential to the Bureau of Reclamation. Any use of such additions or modifications could result in the Statement of Qualifications being rejected.
- 4. Q:** Can you elaborate on interview schedule/format, number of attendees, location, and anticipated agenda?

A: *Schedule* – The Table 3.1 title (which starts on page 18) states “Tentative Solicitation Schedule (subject to change)”. In addition, the “Interviews” row states “August 13/14”. These dates are tentative, and interviews may or may not be held on both or either date. As stated in the paragraph above Table 3.1, “However some minor adjustments may occur due to the number of respondents to a service area and if the review of submitted SOQs for a specific service area are completed ahead of schedule.” The statement could have been expanded to other potential situations that may impact the interview dates such as availability of evaluation panel members. To provide some guidance on any potential adjustments needed to the tentative dates the RFQ stated that some interviews may occur sooner than presented and the Authority would provide at least four business days’ notice prior to an interview.

Format – The interview format has not been finalized by the Authority at this time. Past interview formats have included: Introductions, 15-minute presentation by the interview team, and questions and answers.

Number of attendees – The number of attendees for the interview team, evaluation panel, Authority Advisors and Authority Agents has not yet been determined.

Location – As stated in Section 3.6 on page 20, “The Authority’s selection committee intends to conduct the interviews at either the Sites Project Office in Maxwell or at another location in or near Sacramento”.

Anticipated Agenda – See above Format.

5. **Q:** Is there an email attachment size limit to be considered for the SOQ PDF submittal?

A: To avoid the potential for a technology issue to occur, you should limit your file to 30MB. We have tested the system and have not experienced issues with the 30MB files.

6. **Q:** Regarding the HC Service Area HC Provider’s scope of work for 2019; In addition to supporting the Authority with development of a 2020 work plan, will the HC service area provider support any of the evaluations regarding whether the Hothouse Reservoir or Fletcher Reservoir will serve as the balancing reservoir for the Sites P/G Plant?

A: The Authority does not plan to make this decision until year 2020. The current, 2019 work plan, does not include the studies needed to support this decision.

7. **Q:** Can the Authority provide any existing hydraulic model for the conveyance facilities?

A: The existing conveyance hydraulic model is dated, does not include the level of detail needed to be used to advance the engineering or to support any decisions. Given the current scope, the Authority wants the HC engineering services provider to develop a suitable model capable of integrating the work of multiple progressive design build contractors. Respondent should factor this answer in preparing their approach to addressing the hydraulics and transient analysis (refer to RFQ page 29, item 2)

8. **Q:** Is there any additional information more recent than *Phase 2 (2019) Reservoir Committee Agenda Item 8-1* for Fletcher Reservoir?

A: No. This study was intended to be appraisal level and it was used to recommend the Fletcher Reservoir option be advanced to feasibility level. The Bureau of Reclamation has started advancing this study to feasibility level, but this work is not expected to be completed until year 2020. Authority considers this work to be confidential to the Bureau of Reclamation. Any use of such post-appraisal level materials or analysis could result in the Statement of Qualifications being rejected.

9. **Q:** Under the “Surveying Segment” of the RFQ, the question uses the terms “Program Level Controls and Monuments and Local Controls”. Is the Authority referring to primary survey control and secondary survey control? Or does “Program and Local controls” refer to how all of the survey and mapping services will be managed and performed?

A: “Program Level Controls and Monuments and Local Controls” refers to both the primary survey control and secondary survey control needed to construct the project’s facilities.

10. Q: Because surveying, mapping, and right of way-related services are critical path for a project of this kind and the required schedule, will a representative of the survey firm(s) participate in project meetings in order to provide input as well as anticipate and proactively address the needs of the project as they change?

A: Assuming this work will be performed by a subconsultant, the prime engineering consultant is responsible for managing their subconsultant and therefore the level of involvement in project meetings. However, the Authority wants to develop an integrated, high performance, team and is currently using task orders to manage the work to, in part, support this objective. Should the Authority determine a prime consultant is restricting access of a subconsultant to perform their duties - survey or other, this behavior could result in termination of the task order and the Authority taking corrective actions to achieve our objectives.

11. Q1: While this is clearly a local project that will be run by the Authority, reimbursements from the State and possibly from the Bureau of Reclamation are part of the financing of this project. Has it been determined by the Authority or these entities who will be performing the final review and approval of the surveying control, land net, appraisal exhibits, legal descriptions/plats, and record(s) of survey for these two revenue sources?

A1: No decision has been regarding who would assist the Authority in final review and approval. The Authority is developing the Sites Project with its partners who, in addition to DWR and Reclamation, include local water agencies from across the state. The Authority intends to utilize the strengths of all of our partners in final review and approvals, which is not limited to survey and controls.

Q2: Would it possibly be DWR Geodetic Branch for the State and USACE and/or Bureau of Reclamation for the federal? I’m asking because 1) the surveyor needs to know what specifications will apply and 2) who to coordinate with throughout the project so as to follow the appropriate protocols and procedures and to provide the appropriate documentation in a timely manner. If the surveyor doesn’t coordinate appropriately with the reviewing agency, delays in funding reimbursements for related work (such as real estate and even design) can occur.

A2: Either option is possible, but no formal decision has been made. Since the Authority is currently using task orders to manage all service area providers, including engineering, the development of the appropriate protocols and procedures would be a task order with implementation a subsequent task order.

12. Q1: The RFQ states that a firm cannot prime one of the two contracts and be a subconsultant on the other contract for this RFQ. How does that relate to subconsultants...particularly regarding a surveying subconsultant. Is the survey subconsultant allowed to be on teams that are competing for each contract?

A1: The potential for subconsultants to be on multiple contracts is permitted but is dependent upon their role. As it relates to surveying and related services, the Authority does not see a conflict of interest should the same firm provide surveying and related services under both contracts.

Q2: If not, it isn't clear what surveying services (project control, photogrammetric mapping and orthophotography, design topographic surveys and mapping, subsurface utility locating, boundary/right of way surveys, right of way engineering, appraisal exhibit preparation, land descriptions/plats, monitoring surveys, bathymetric surveys, etc) will be under which contract. How do we evaluate the teaming opportunities and relative amount of work for potential reservoir teaming vs the conveyance teaming?

A2: All of the services listed in the question, and others, are required. Since the Authority is currently using task orders to manage all service area providers and wants to develop an integrated, high performance, team, the task order development process will be used to clarify roles; specifically between engineering (service area H) and real estate services, which are being performed as part of service area G.

13. Q: The stated goal of the Authority is to obtain the best consultants for this project. If a subconsultant is on a team pursuing the HR contract and on another team pursuing the HC contract and both of the teams win, is there going to be a conflict of interest? If so, please explain the conflict.

A: Please see item 12, answer A1

14. Q: Is the Authority's intent for the HR team to have oversight of the HC team or vice versa?

A: Management and technical oversight of all service area providers is being performed, primarily, by Authority's Agents and Integration consultant (service area A). In addition, the Authority intends to use advisory processes (which are not limited to engineering) to ensure issues are satisfactorily resolved in a timely manner. Such panels (or equivalent) are likely to also include experts from the Authority's partners who include State of California, including DWR; Bureau of Reclamation; local water agencies; and potentially other stakeholders or agencies. However, on an exception basis, the Authority, at its discretion, may request to utilize an expert from one engineering services provider to participate as part of an advisory panel (or equivalent) to address an issue of concern for work being performed by another engineering services provider. The Authority does not define such a role as providing oversight.

15. Q: Technical Approach. Due to the importance of the technical approach for addressing the key issues related to each of the components of the project, and to best address material requested in Section E, will you consider increasing the page count by a minimum of ten pages? This increase would not include the already allocated/specified requirements for E-1, E-2. This increase would be used for Understanding of the Sites Project, Program goals and the challenges associates with successfully completing the project - as well as stating "How" our team intends to execute the services to address the program goals and challenges in a quality and responsive manner while meeting the schedule. This increase would benefit the reviewers by allowing us to add diagrams/graphics to best explain our approach.

A: No. The intent of the page limits is to ensure concise approaches, which the Authority believes can be achieved in the 44 pages allocated for Service Area HR and 48 pages allocated for Service Area HC.

16. Q: The RFQ states that the Interview dates will be August 13th and 14th. There were a few other mentions throughout the RFQ that interview may occur other than 13th or 14th. Is it safe to assume if there will be interviews they will take place on either the 13th or 14th of August? Can you share the format desired for those interviews now during Q&A period so we can best prepare for this process?

The RFQ had several notes about interviews. The RFQ also states interviews may occur sooner and within four business days of the request – which would be four days from August 6th = August 10th.

Page 18 from RFQ:

Schedule: Presented below is a tentative solicitation schedule. The Authority does not anticipate any changes to the schedule. However, some minor adjustments may occur due to the number of respondents to a service area and if the review of submitted SOQs for a specific service area are completed ahead of schedule. **Notification to those firms to be interviewed and those interviews may occur sooner than presented below.**

From Page 34 of RFQ:

Following the evaluation of the submitted SOQs, a short list of the most qualified respondents may be developed based on the criteria outlined in Section 5.0. The Authority may elect to have the shortlist of respondents give oral presentations. Short-listed respondents must be prepared to give their **presentation within four business days of the request by the Authority.**

Activity	Date (2019) *
Response to written questions emailed to mandatory pre-submittal conference's attendees	No later than July 17
SOQs due	July 31, 12:00 pm
Interview firms notified	August 6
Interviews	August 13/14

A: Please see the answer to Item 4.

17. Q: Clarification on References Requested. In addition to the references associated with the 5 Projects requested in Sec C (noting Key Personnel that worked on those projects in Sec C.) – Would two references per Key Person on their resumes suffice for RFQ request for references for key personnel? Or will listing the references in Sec C, 5 Projects with key persons listed on team suffice for all references in SOQ?

A: Either approach will be acceptable.

18. Q: Regarding 11pt font – May we use smaller font size for figures as long as it is legible so we may present information in graphic format to benefit the reviewer’s understanding of the technical exhibits?

A: Please see the answer to Item 1.

19. Q: What is the file limitations on single PDF size for electronic submittal received, 30MGB?

A: Please see the answer to Item 5.

20. Q: Please confirm the email address our Qualifications is to be submitted to – jtrapasso@sitesproject.org (listed in Section 3.5 of the RFQ document) or procurement@sitesproject.org (listed on the cover)?

A: Thank you for catching this error. The email address listed on the cover is incorrect and the correct email address that was noted in other sections of the RFP is jtrapasso@sitesproject.org.

21. Q: What is the maximum file size the designated email (question no. 1 above) can accept?

A: Please see the answer to Item 5.

22. Q: Can a font smaller than 11 pt. be used for graphics, captions, and sidebar information if it is legible?

A: Please see the answer to Item 1.

23. Q: The Hydraulics Lead as currently detailed requires a California PE. We request that this qualification be modified to be a PE in any state. Our basis for this request is that Hydraulics and Surge Experts that can provide the necessary leadership for a complicated project like the Sites Project do not need a state-specific PE (such as CA) to perform the work.

A: Only for the hydraulics Lead, the Authority is willing waive the PE license as a requirement.

RFQ page 65, last sentence to the Hydraulics Lead description is modified as follows:

An active California professional engineering license is ~~required~~ desired.

24. Q: The Pipelines Lead is requested to have experience with large diameter (i.e. over 66-inch diameter) installation of reinforced concrete pipe using open trench and tunnels. We would propose that the language be modified to require experience with 66-inch and larger pipe, as most appropriate pipeline material will be determined during the engineering services contract.

A: The use of concrete pipe originated in early studies, dating back to before year 2010 and continues to be the basis in the federal Feasibility Report. Given subsequent changes in market conditions, suppliers, and delivery methods, to achieve value, for the purposes of this RFQ, the Authority is willing to consider alternative pipeline materials.

In addition to the pipeline lead, please identify in your SOQ and include a resume for at least one engineer having experience in the design, fabrication, and construction of reinforced concrete pipelines

and an engineer having experience in the design, fabrication, and construction of steel pipelines. For both, their qualifications shall be for a minimum pipeline diameter of 66 inches and demonstrated experience in cathodic protection methods.

25. Q: Some Key Personnel are listed as requiring experience with alternative delivery methods, and some are designated as preferably having alternative delivery experience. To provide the Authority with the most qualified candidates, we suggest recommending that it is desirable that key personnel have experience with alternative delivery, but it not be a requirement.

A: For Tunnel (HR and HC), Bridge, Road, Pipeline, Pumping/Generating plants, and Power Delivery Leads, the Authority is willing to consider a candidate who either:

- a. does *not* have explicit design-build experience, but has an active California professional engineering license or
- b. has explicit design-build experience, *preferably* in the United States, but does *not* have an active California professional engineering license.

For each engineering lead who does *not* explicitly have design-build experience, your approach needs to specifically address who would work with the technical lead to prepare the bridging documents so these documents are sufficient to obtain responsive design-build proposals and then who would provide oversight of the design-builder to ensure the requirements developed by the technical lead are achieved.

26. Q: Can you clarify Exhibit A is Correct – when you open it – it says Exhibit B 2019 Work Plan. Also, the two Exhibits A look the same.

A: Exhibit A is correct. Sorry for the confusion as the RFQ reference to Exhibit A as the Phase 2 (2019) Work Plan is correct. However, this exhibit is Attachment B to the Authority's Phase 2 (2019) Work Plan. This should have been marked better on the exhibit itself. The second Exhibit A attached to the RFQ email was in error as it was a duplication of the second email attachment, Exhibit A.

27. Q: The purpose of this letter is to request written confirmation from Sites Project Authority regarding questions associated with subconsultants providing dam expertise and design expertise support to prime consultants for both engineering service area providers HR – Sites Reservoir and HC – Conveyance simultaneously. Section 2.3 of the RFQ 19-03 clearly indicates that "proposed prime consultants cannot be a subconsultant on the other engineering service area to allow for appropriate checks and balances during the engineering processes."

The RFQ does not preclude subconsultants from providing support to prime consultant in both the HR and HC service areas nor does there appear to be any conflict of interest. This was discussed during the mandatory pre-submittal conference. Based on the discussion, it appeared this would not be considered a conflict of interest. However, it is important to get written documentation regarding the Sites Authority decision regarding this subject.

As discussed during the pre-submittal conference on July 12, 2019, Sites Authority representatives extended the deadline for potential conflict of interests questions to July 15, 2019. Please confirm that

the Sites Authority would not preclude or consider a conflict of interest for an engineering firm to provide design support and other dam expertise to prime consultants of both the HR and HC service areas (emphasis added).

A: The potential for subconsultants to be on multiple contracts is permitted but is dependent upon their role. As it relates to "dam design support and other dam expertise", the Authority does not see a conflict of interest should the same firm provide "dam design support and other dam expertise" on multiple contracts.

NOTE: the word "dam" has been specifically added to limit this response and to ensure it is not construed to mean *general* design support, which is too broad and could apply to non-dam facilities.

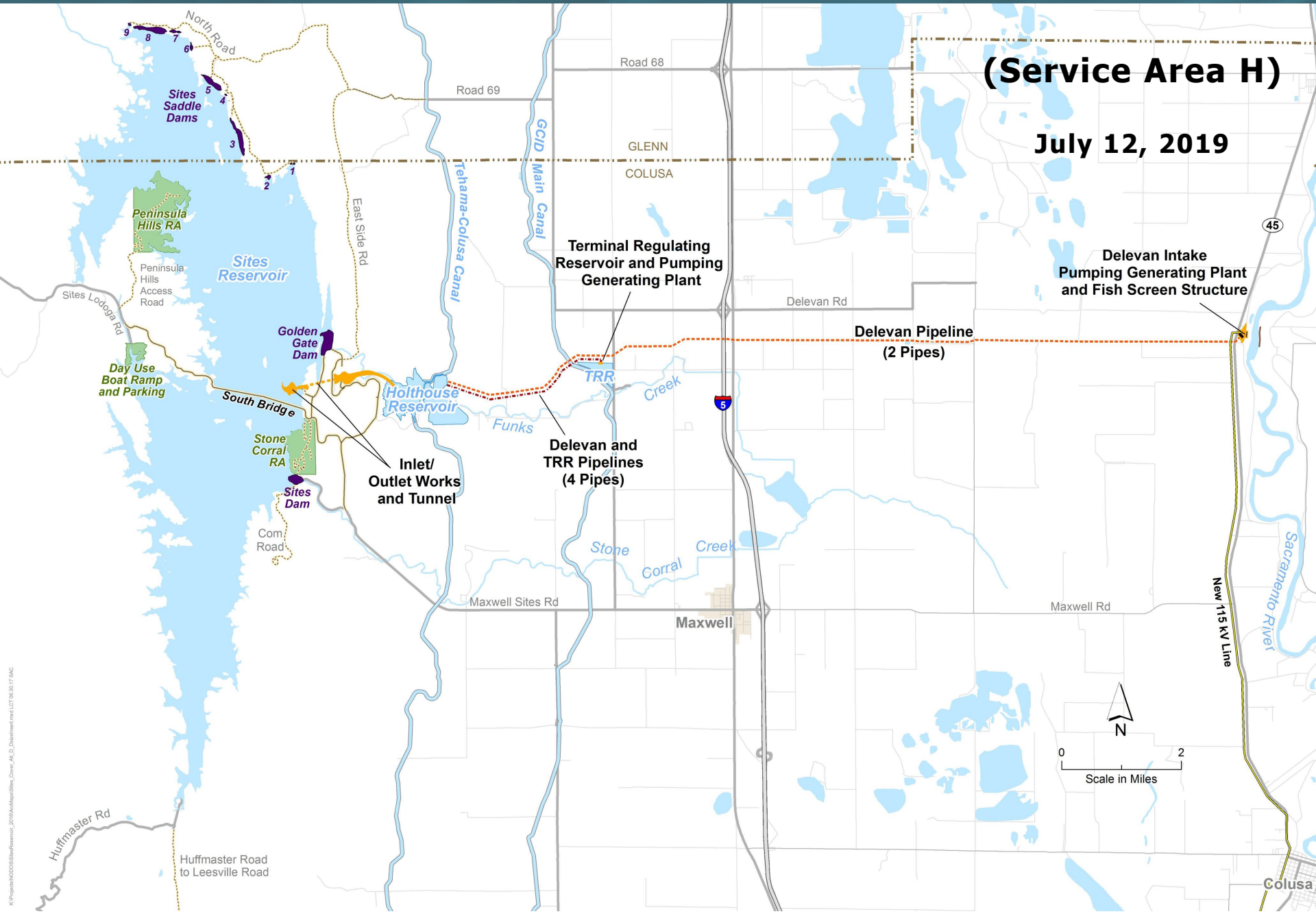
28. Q: With reference to the Clause on Page 29 of the RFQ requiring task orders and pricing structure. What is the Authority's Intent with this clause.

A: This term is used in items 3, 4, and 5. The Authority considers each to be a significant issue. Given the program's schedule constraints, these issues will need to be resolved on an expedited basis. Given the associated complexities, the studies needed to develop a recommendation for the Authority's consideration would be performed under a task order having a compressed duration, which should be factored into your approach as it may require parallel-path activities to complete.

29. Q: Will the slides be available online from today's presentation?

A: The slides are attachment to this document and will be posted to the Sites website.

Engineering Services: Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting



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Sites Project Authority & Our Partners

Sacramento Valley

<u>Authority Board (11 agencies)</u>	<u>Acre-ft.</u>
Colusa County	10,000.
Colusa County Water District	11,975.
Glenn County	
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	5,000.
Placer County WA & City of Roseville	
Reclamation District 108	4,000.
Sacramento Co WA & City of Sacramento	
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority	
Westside Water District	15,000.
<u>Associate Members (6 non-voting)</u>	
Maxwell Irrigation District	
Western Canal Water District	
Tehama-Colusa Four	
Cortina Water District	450.
Davis Water District	2,000.
Dunnigan Water District	2,717.
LaGrande Water District	1,000.
<u>Other (2 non-voting)</u>	
US Bureau of Reclamation (Cost-share)	
California Department of Water Resources (Ex Officio)	

Sacramento Valley

<u>Reservoir Committee</u>	<u>Acre-ft.</u>
American Canyon, City of	4,000.
Carter MWC	300.

Beyond the Sacramento Valley

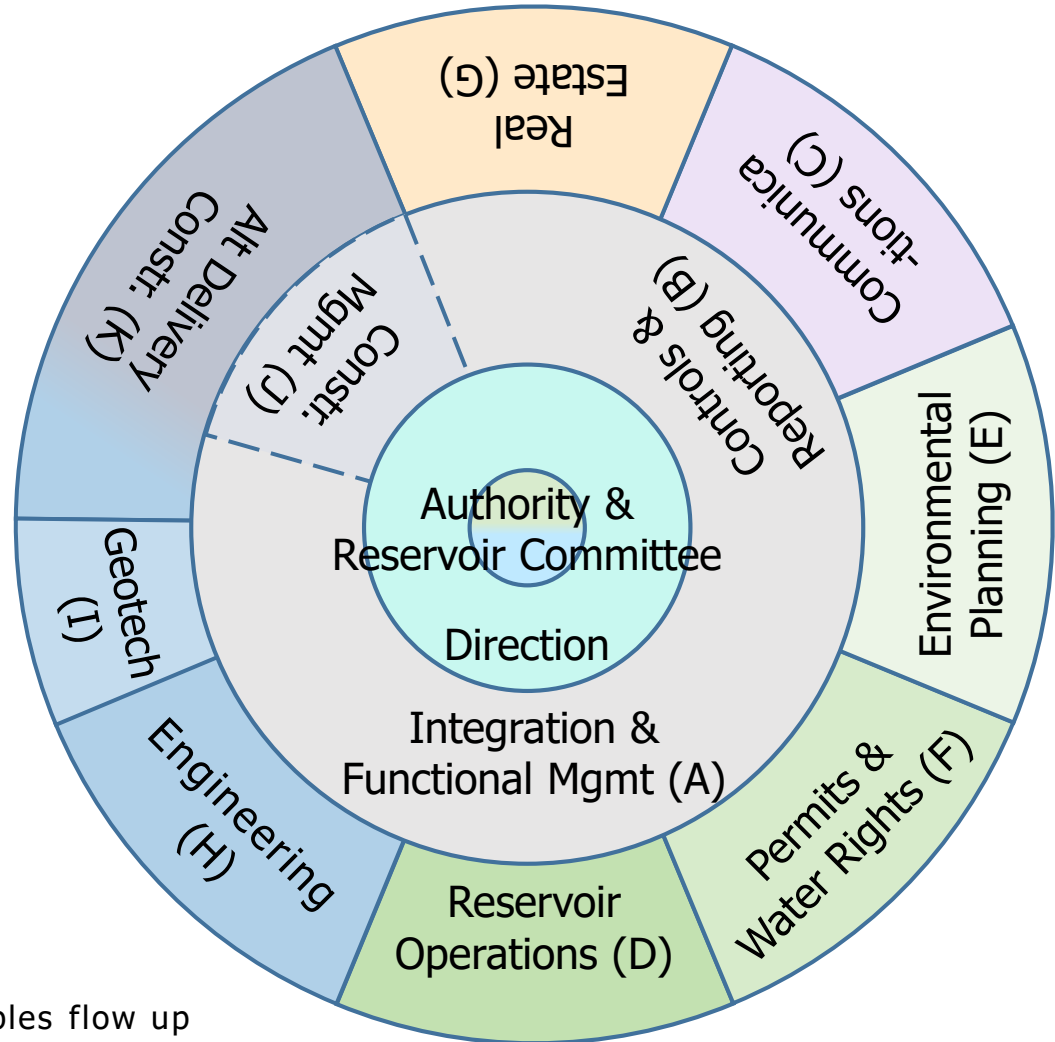
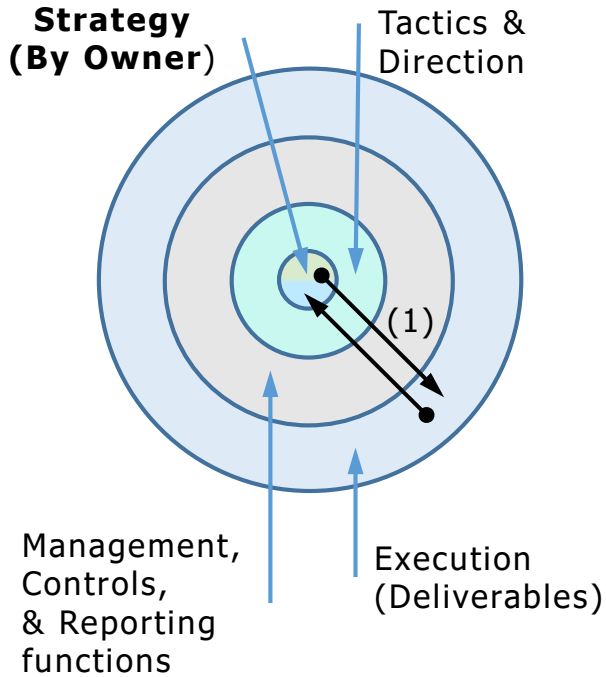
<u>Reservoir Committee</u>	<u>Acre-ft.</u>
Antelope Valley-East Kern WA	500.
Coachella Valley Water District	10,000.
Desert Water Agency	6,500.
Metropolitan Water District	50,000.
San Bernardino Valley Muni WD	21,400.
San Geronio Pass Water Agency	14,000.
Santa Clara Valley Water District	16,000.
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	5,000.
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa WSD	3,050.
Zone 7 Water Agency	10,000.
Total acre-ft:	192,892.

Local Water Agencies:

Reservoir Comm: 21 Agencies

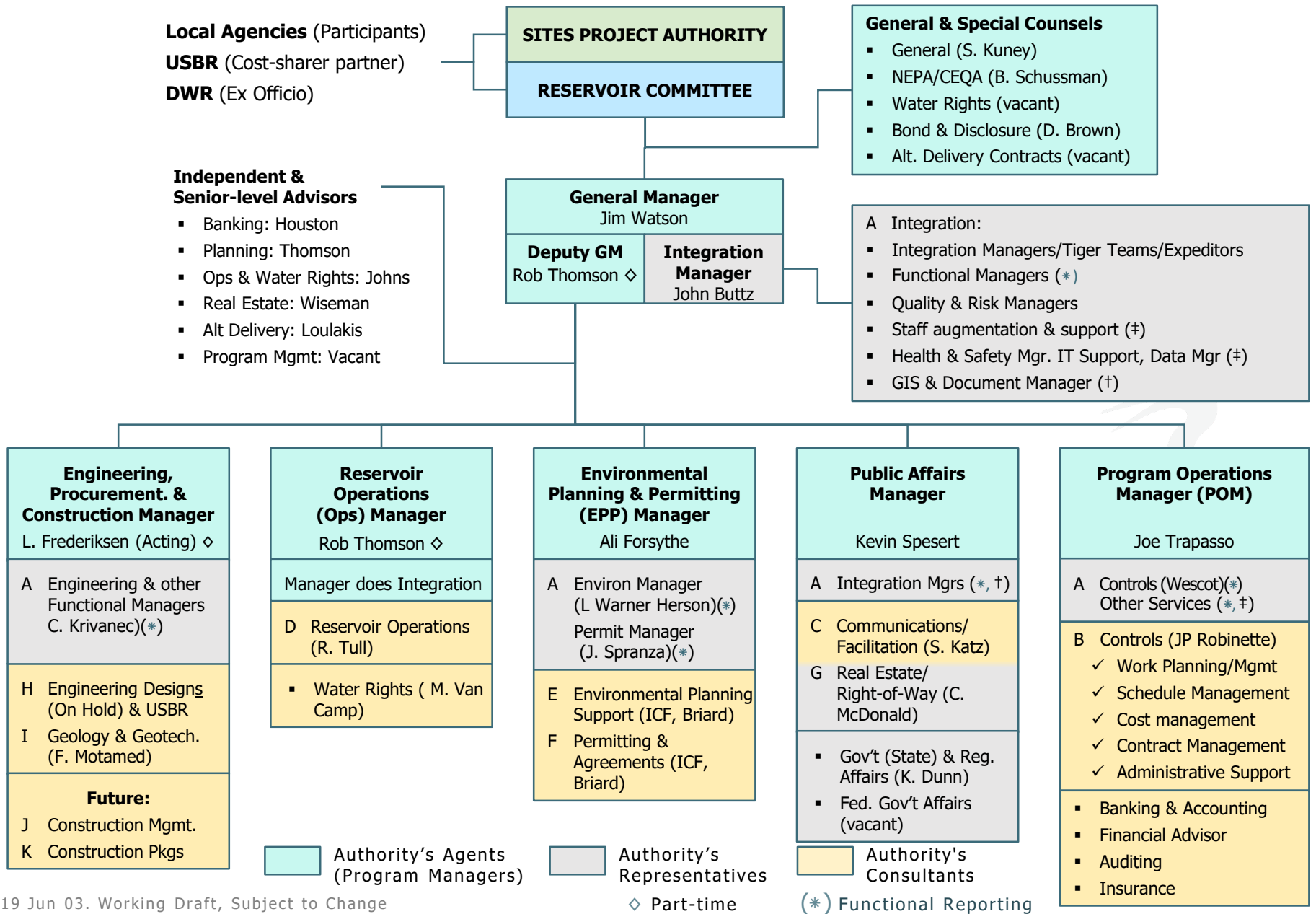
Combined: 29 Agencies

Program Development Model

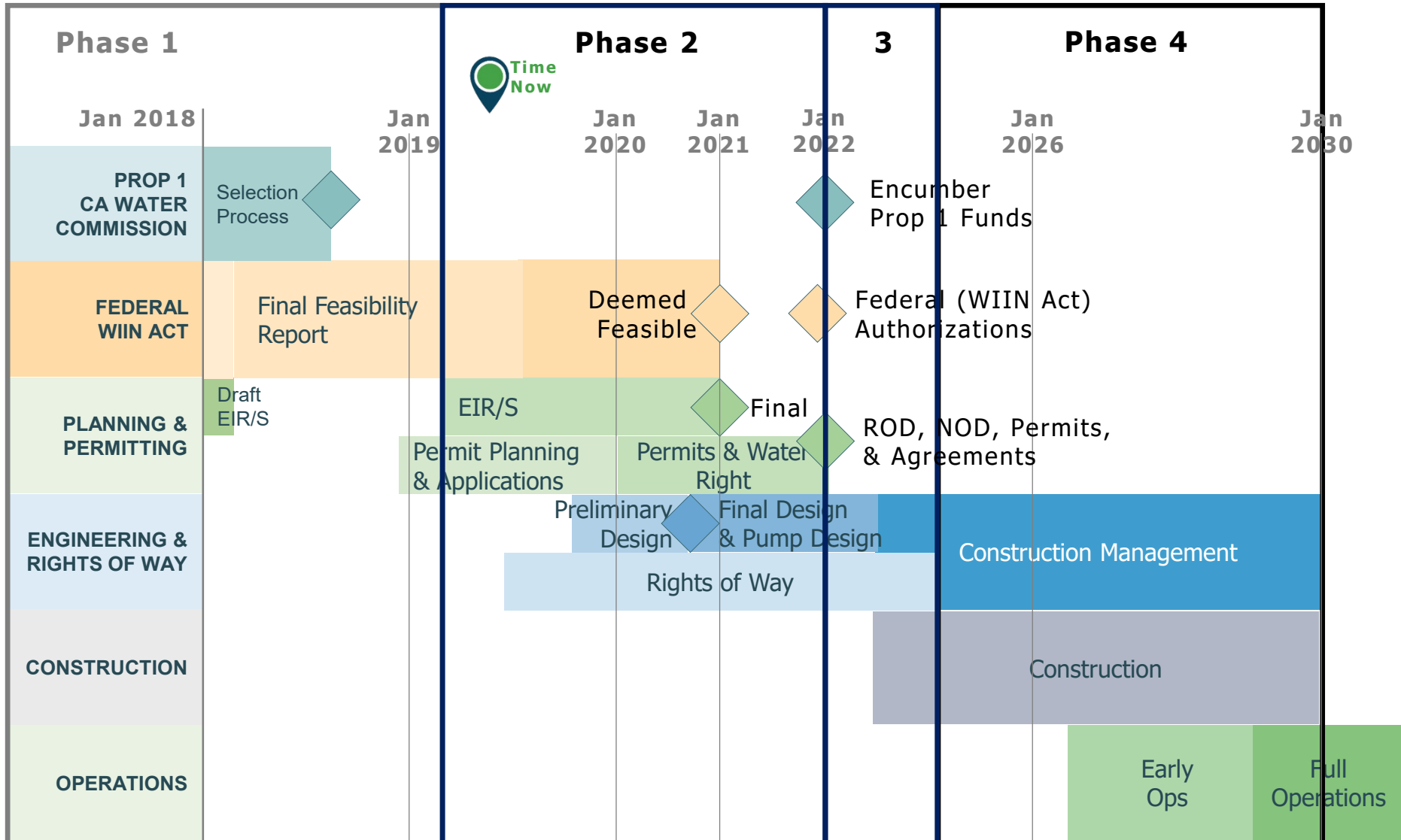


(1) Interim work products and deliverables flow up to the Owners; either a Reservoir Committee Work Group &/or Authority Committee

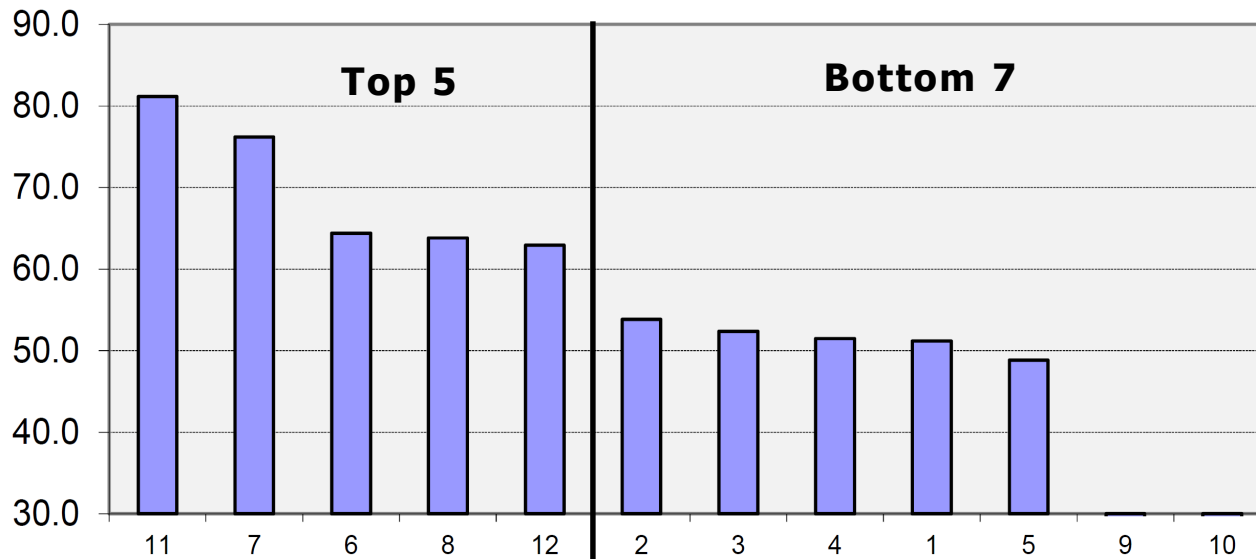
Phase 2 (2019) Organization



Phase-level Schedule



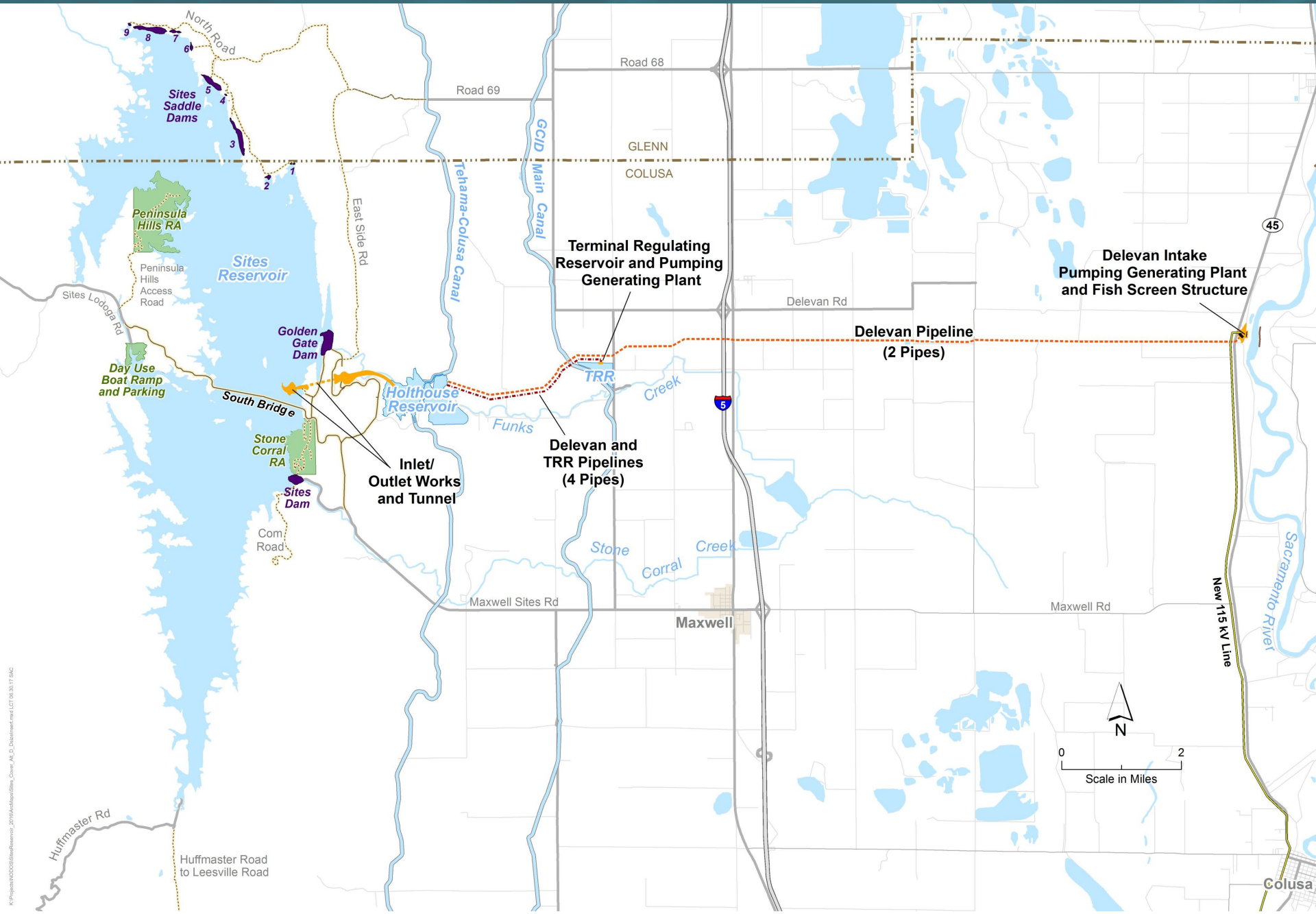
Construction Industry Institute PDCS



<u>Method</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Method</u>
11	84.1	Turnkey
7	78.5	Design-Build or EPC
6	64.7	Construction Management @ Risk
8	66.2	Multiple Design-Build or EPC
12	62.6	Fast Track

<u>Method</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Method</u>
2	52.1	Traditional (DBB) with Early Procurement
3	49.7	Traditional (DBB) with Project Manager
4	48.8	Traditional (DBB) with Construction Manager
1	48.2	Traditional Design-Bid-Build (DBB)
5	47.4	Traditional (DBB) with Early Procurement and Construction Management
9	14.4	Parallel Primes
10	11.2	Traditional (DBB) with Staged Development

Project Facilities



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