

AUTHORITY BOARD AGENDA ITEM 3.1

KEY COMMENTS FROM CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS AND PLAN FOR ADDRESSING THEM JUNE 2020



Overview

- Authority and Reclamation received 11 comment letters from conservation organizations on the 2017 Draft EIR/EIS
- Authority is proactively addressing the concerns raised in these comment letters in the development of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS
- Staff will begin reaching out to commenters in October to discuss their comments and how we plan to address them

Background

- Authority and Reclamation released Draft EIR/EIS in August 2017 for public comment
- Comment period closed in January 2018
- 137 comment letters were received, 11 of which were from conservation organizations

Current Efforts

- Staff has begun work on the preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS
- Staff and consultant team has reviewed all comments on the 2017 Draft EIR/EIS
- Why do these previous comments matter? Not required to respond to them, but want to . . .
 - Proactively address concerns
 - Improve the Project and EIR/EIS analysis
 - Be responsive to all parties
 - Get ahead of issues and address them early

Comments / Issues Raised

- Project description and range of alternatives
- Modeling approach, modeling baseline, and modeling analysis
- Operational impacts to fisheries
- Impacts to Trinity River resources
- Indian Trust Assets and impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources
- Impacts to terrestrial species
- Water quality
- Water rights
- Geotechnical and geological data and seismicity
- Cumulative impacts

Addressed Thru . . .

- Revisions to the project description to incorporate changes as a result of Value Planning
 - Develop more specifics on items (i.e., Reservoir Management Plan, Operations Plan and operational criteria, releases to Funks and Stone Corral creeks)
- Clarify baseline / existing conditions / No Action
- Clarify study areas for resource sections
- Update throughout with new information and analyses (i.e., water quality, air quality, Tribal cultural resources, terrestrial)
- Update hydrologic modeling and fisheries analyses based on new information
- Clearly identify and support that there will be no negative impacts to the Trinity River and its resources
- Closely look at impacts of the revised project along with mitigation measures to ensure they are specific, robust, supported by evidence, and address the driving factors
- Improve organization, layout and make reader friendly

Next Steps

- Continue development of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS
- Staff will begin reaching out to commenters in October to discuss their comments and how we plan to address them in the development of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS