

RESERVOIR COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 16, 2020

03-02 KEY OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS FACTORS - BASELINE



Baseline Considerations

- Critical to the EIR/EIS evaluation
 - Used to compare the project against to determine impacts and benefits
- Modeling baseline is especially complicated now with:
 - New Biological Opinions that govern the operation of the Central Valley Project (ROC on LTO)
 - New State Water Project Incidental Take Permit (SWP ITP) that governs operations of the State Water Project
 - Litigation by a number of parties on all three of these documents
- Controversary likely to exist throughout the planning process
- As CEQA Lead Agency, we need to balance factors and constraints and identify a baseline that provides the public and our members with the highest quality information for evaluating our project

Potential Modeling Baseline Approaches Considered

1. Reclamation ROC on LTO Alternative 1/Proposed Action published December 2019
2. SWP ITP Alternative 2b/Proposed Project published March 2020
3. 2019 SWP Delivery Capability Report (DCR2019) combined baseline in development by DWR

ROC on LTO Alternative 1/Proposed Action Baseline

- Based on the ROC on LTO Proposed Action Calsim II model released by Reclamation in December 2019
- Pros:
 - Most recent representation of Shasta Lake tiered cold water pool management
 - Expedited development of the modeled baseline using existing Sites model developed for Reclamation Feasibility Report
- Cons:
 - Excludes additional actions that are included in the SWP ITP
 - Potential lack of acceptance by the State since the model does not include the SWP ITP

SWP ITP Alternative 2b/Proposed Project Baseline

- Based on the SWP ITP Calsim II model released by DWR in March 2020
- Pros:
 - Use of a model representing the SWP ITP in the baseline for analysis in the Sites ITP application
- Cons:
 - May require additional updates to include all of the actions described in the SWP ITP
 - Excludes changes made in the updated final ROC on LTO Alternative 1/Proposed Action published in December 2019
 - Potential lack of acceptance by Reclamation since the model does not include ROC on LTO

DCR2019 Combined ROC on LTO and SWP ITP Baseline

- Joint representation of the ROC on LTO BiOps and the SWP ITP lead by DWR
- Draft released on July 10; final expected by end of month
- Pros:
 - Comprehensive representation of baseline operations
 - Allow for the possibility of greater acceptance to a wider range of agencies and stakeholders
 - Provide a State/Federal supported baseline
- Cons:
 - Schedule for release of DCR2019 has been and may continue to be delayed
 - Delay of at least four weeks to incorporate into Sites merged Calsim model

Proposed Approach

- **Continue development with ROC on LTO baseline**
- **Incorporate SWP ITP actions after release of final DCR2019**
- This approach provides :
 - The most defined and expedient starting point for analysis of Sites Project operations
 - Best represents Shasta Lake tiered cold water pool management
 - Use of the merged Sites version of the model developed for the Reclamation Feasibility Report will expedite model development
- Operations criteria for SWP ITP actions will be incorporated based on DCR2019 as soon as available
- Conduct additional gap and sensitivity analyses to evaluate additional operations that are needed to support the Sites Project planning and permitting process
- Continue to evaluate approach and modify as necessary

DISCUSSION

