

**RESERVOIR COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM 3.3
REVISED EIR/EIS OBJECTIVES &
ALTERNATIVES**

JUNE 2020



Overview

- Staff has begun work on the preparation of the Revised EIR/EIS, updates to the Biological Assessment, and design efforts
- Key first step is the development of a Revised Project Description
 - Serves as the foundation of the Revised EIR/EIS
 - Preferred Project is foundation of the Biological Assessment and Sites Feasibility Report
- Soliciting your early input to reduce rework and maintain schedule

Building Block to September Decision

Environmental Planning and Permitting Key Milestones



- September, RC and AB to review and approve –
 - More complete project description
 - Recommendation on Preferred Project
- Necessary to stay on schedule

Objectives – Background

- CEQA Guidelines require that a project description contain a clear statement of the project objectives, including underlying purpose of the Project
- Staff proposing revisions to objectives to:
 - Better reflect goals of RC and AB as described in the Value Planning Report and messaging documents
 - Add clarity and specificity to improve understanding of the foundation of the Project

Objectives – Proposed Revisions

- Improve environmental, agricultural, and municipal water supply reliability in a cost-effective manner for Project Participants;
- Improve cold water pool management in Shasta Reservoir through coordination and exchanges with Reclamation to benefit anadromous fish;

Objectives – Proposed Revisions (cont)

- Enhance the Delta ecosystem by providing water to convey food resources from the floodplain to the Delta thereby improving the food chain and quality of the Delta's estuarine habitat for the benefit of pelagic fishes* in the north Delta (e.g. Cache Slough);

* Pelagic fish are species that spend most of their life swimming in the water column, having little contact or dependency with the bottom.

Objectives – Proposed Revisions (cont)

- Provide improvements in state-wide water supply reliability to enhance opportunities for fish protection, habitat management, and other environmental needs; and
- Provide local and regional amenities, including developing recreational facilities, reducing local flood damage, and maintaining community connectivity through roadway modifications.

Alternatives – Background

- CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives that would –
 - Satisfy and attain most of the basic objectives of the project
 - Avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project
- Staff proposing revisions to alternatives to better align with the Value Planning Report

Alternatives – Key Components and Differences

Facilities / Operations	Action Alternative 1 (Derived from VP7)	Action Alternative 2 (Includes Parts of VP5 and VP6)
Reservoir Size	1.5 MAF	1.3 MAF
Hydropower	Incidental upon release	Same as Alt 1
Diversion Locations	Red Bluff Pumping Plant and Hamilton City	Same as Alt 1
Operations Criteria	Based on Value Planning Report Scenario B, but anticipated to be modified by modeling efforts	Same as Alt 1
Reclamation Involvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding Partner 2. Operational Exchanges <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within Year b. Real-time 	Same as Alt 1
DWR Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta	Same as Alt 1

Alternatives – Key Components and Differences (cont)

Facilities / Operations	Action Alternative 1 (Derived from VP7)	Action Alternative 2 (Includes Parts of VP5 and VP6)
Conveyance Release / Dunnigan Release	Release 1,000 cfs into new pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain	Release into new pipeline to Sacramento River, partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain to fulfill the Proposition 1 needs
Provide Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge for access to Lodoga; road to residents at the south end of reservoir	Road to residents at the south end of reservoir continues to Lodoga; no bridge

- Changes and refinements will be made as analyses progress.

Next Steps

- Continue development and refinement of more complete project description, including:
 - Objectives
 - Action Alternatives
 - No Action Alternative
 - Recommended Preferred Project
- Return to RC and AB in September with:
 - More complete project description
 - Recommend Preferred Project for the purpose of the CEQA analysis
- Coordinate with Reclamation and Sites legal counsel for input