

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project, Phase 2**

Subject: **Monthly Status Report**

Report Period: **2020 May**

Monthly Status Summary:

The development of the Sites Project continues to make progress in the critical areas including the following activities:

WSIP Funding:

- A six-agency letter was submitted to the CWC requesting consideration of modifications to the Prop 1 WSIP implementation in light of COVID economic impacts. Commission Staff will reach out to each project to explore options for addressing cash flow concerns.

WIIN Act Funding:

- See "Coordination with Reclamation" section below.

USDA Funding:

- No update.

Engineering:

- Initiated feasibility analysis and design of project alternatives.
- Coordinated data needs to support preparation of the Project Description.

Coordination with Reclamation:

- Continued to work closely with Reclamation to provide the information needed to enter into a Financial Assistance Agreement for WIIN Act funding. Discussed the potential scope for \$1 million of in-kind work.
- Received and reviewed Reclamation's final draft Feasibility Report. Provided comments related to integrating the Feasibility Study with the Value Planning Report and recommended Project.
- Continued to work with Reclamation planning and environmental teams on the National Environmental Policy Act approach, confirming the preparation of a Revised Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Environmental Planning and Permitting:

- Continued development of the project description for use in the Revised Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the Biological Assessment.
- Continued to refine the EIR/EIS Work Plan submitted by ICF to identify technical work (environmental, operations and engineering) that will be needed to support the analysis performed for the Revised Draft EIR/EIS under Amendment 2.
- Updating CEQA project objectives to support alternatives selected for Revised

Status: Issued for Use

Preparer: JB, JT, KMS, AF

Phase: 2 Version: A

Purpose: Informational

QA/QC:

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Caveat: Subject to change

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Notes:

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Draft EIR/EIS analysis.

- Produced memorandum on Place of Use for the Project's water right application.
- Developed approach to permit and agreement negotiations for Environmental Planning, Permitting and Operations.
- Developed approach for Regulatory Agency Technical Working Group.
- Established data exchange, water quality and geotechnical small technical working groups to facilitate development of those project components for use in the Revised EIR/EIS, Biological Assessment and Sites Feasibility Report.
- Continued technical discussions and planning activities for state and federal ESA and Clean Water Act permitting.
- Conducted meeting with CDFW Department Director regarding the value planning and "rightsized" project. There will be follow-up with CDFW staff next month to determine a coordinated schedule for the permitting work.

Operations:

- Developed negotiations approach for working on operational agreements with the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation.
- Reviewed options for the modeling baseline and developed a technical memorandum outlining pros and cons of various baselines as well a recommendation for review with the Ad Hoc Operations and Engineering Workgroup.
- Progressed the development of operations criteria that will be built into the models for use in the Revised EIR/EIS and Biological Assessment. Criteria in development include the modeling of Shasta exchanges, diversion criteria, water demand, and coordination with the State Water Project.

Stakeholder Engagement, Public Outreach & Real Estate:

- Conducted a "virtual" Capitol Hill Legislative Day to brief federal elected officials, legislative staff, and committee staff on the new "rightsized" project and the project's near-term activities.
- Continued engagement in outreach efforts with landowners, local community members, state and federal elected officials, non-governmental organizations and coalitions of regional and statewide organizations to introduce the Value Planning Report and the new "rightsized" project.
- Responded to landowner requests for project information, facilitated coordination activities with local government agencies and organizations and planned for future landowner, stakeholders and general public outreach activities and events.

Program Management & Administration:

- Developed Amendment 2 Task Order templates and provided guidance to service area providers.
- Developed a two-step cash call process and presented priority system at Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meetings.