

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

Subject: **Monthly Status Report**

Report Period: **2020 May**

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### **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

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Status: Issued for Use

Preparer: JB, JT, KMS, AF

Phase: 2 Version: A

Purpose: Informational

QA/QC:

Date: 2020 June 24

Caveat: Subject to change

Authority Agent: Jerry Brown

Ref/File #: 10211-016.000

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.