

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

Subject: **Monthly Status Report**

Report Period: **2020 June**

Monthly Status Summary:

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

WSIP Funding:

- Meetings were conducted with CWC staff to evaluate administrative actions that could be taken to accelerate early funding to the project. Of these measures, release of retention has been authorized and a revised scope of work that redistributes funds within existing tasks is being reviewed. Combined these actions would accelerate approximately \$2-\$3M of state funding to the project in the Amendment 2 work plan that was not previously anticipated. A third action to temporarily allow higher state cost share is under consideration as well. Staff continue to pursue further definition from CWC on the 1/1/2021 requirements for feasibility and 75% local cost share commitment.

WIIN Act Funding:

- See "Coordination with Reclamation" section below.

USDA Funding:

- No update.

Engineering:

- Engaged PG&E and WAPA in power delivery discussions.
- Continued feasibility analysis and design of project alternatives.
- Continue supporting data needs for preparation of the Project Description.

Coordination with Reclamation:

- Began coordinating with Reclamation for in-kind work associated with Geologic & Geotechnical exploration efforts in support of the feasibility design.
- Continued to work with Reclamation planning and environmental teams on the National Environmental Policy Act approach, including identification of schedule for Reclamation review process assuming joint environmental document.
- Provided updated materials for Financial Assistance Agreement application for WIIN Act funding.

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Environmental Planning and Permitting:

- Continued development of the project description for use in the Revised Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (Revised EIR/EIS) and the Biological Assessment.
- Finalized the Revised EIR/EIS Work Plan. The Revised EIR/EIS Work Plan identifies the approach and technical work (environmental, operations and engineering)

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Notes:				Page:	1	of	2

that will be needed to support the analysis performed under Amendment 2.

- Updated the CEQA project objectives in response to feedback to support alternatives selected for the Revised Draft EIR/EIS analysis.
- Completed approach to permit and agreement negotiations for Environmental Planning, Permitting and Operations.
- Continued technical discussions and planning activities for the water right permitting and a 2020 initial meeting with state Board Staff
- Completed approach for Regulatory Agency Technical Working Group.
- Continued 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 Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act permitting.

Operations:

- Refined negotiations approach for working on operational agreements with the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation.
- 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 determining the modeling baseline, modeling of Shasta exchanges, diversion criteria, water demand, and coordination with the State Water Project.

Stakeholder Engagement, Public Outreach & Real Estate:

- Planning and logistics for the July 14th & 15th Sites Town Hall meetings.
- Facilitated a project update meeting for the Water Education Foundation.
- Continued engagement and 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:

- Provided update to Reservoir Committee and Authority Board on project rebalancing process.
- Supported WSIP Funding Strategy and options for leveraging State Funds via coordination meetings with Water Commission Staff.
- Implemented process and templates for Amendment 2 Work Plan Task Orders for service area providers.