

Agenda Item 2.3 Federal Legislative/Government Affairs Priorities

**Sites Reservoir Committee
May 21, 2020**



Agenda Item 2.3 - Federal Legislative/Government Affairs Priorities

Staff has been working with the Authority Ad Hoc Legislative & Outreach Committee to identify near-term (2020) Federal legislative and government affairs priorities

- Ensure that legislative/government affairs activities better align with key project milestones, overall project schedule and available resources
- Responsive to the recommendations outlined in the Organizational Assessment to prepare an analysis and staff recommendation on federal funding pursuits

Effort focused on identifying near-term priorities associated with Federal Operational Participation and Federal Funding

Any adjustment to the priorities would be brought back to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board before being incorporated and updates will be project on significant progress

A similar effort is planned to identify our State Legislative/Government Affairs priorities

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Federal Operational Participation Priorities

- Final completion of Reclamation's Feasibility Report and Secretarial determination of feasibility by December 31, 2020
 - Reconcile the alternative included in the Feasibility Report with the Authority's VP7 alternative
 - Finalize level of federal participation/investment in the project
- Pursue development of a CVP Coordination Operations Plan - with term sheet where parties agree on the key provisions by July 2021
- Coordination with Reclamation on the development of the Authority's Water Rights Application - submittal of the Authority water rights application by June 2022
- Continuing partnership with Reclamation as the NEPA lead agency in developing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Completion of recirculated Draft EIS no later than July 2021 in coordination with the Authority's EIR
 - Completion of the Record of Decision by May 2022

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Federal Funding

- **WIFA**
 - Begin groundwork for the submittal of a \$1.1 billion WIFIA loan application by June 2021
 - Continue to track the development of the RIFIA program and the Army Corp of Engineers WIFIA program and pursue funding if available
- **WIIN ACT**
 - Secure the \$6 million appropriated to the project in the 2019 budget deal and finalize the Federal Financial Assistance Agreement to access the funds
 - Pursue and secure FY2021 WIIN Act funding (current budget cycle) and begin groundwork for a FY2022 WIIN Act Request for preconstruction activities
 - Begin groundwork for a WINN Act construction funding request - pending Reclamation's investment decision
- **Federal Stimulus & Other Funding**
 - Support development and secure funding from potential COVID19 related infrastructure stimulus package that align with early project work
 - Track and pursue opportunities for appropriations/grants for related project facilities - roads/bridges, flood control, rural broadband, infrastructure planning, etc.

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Other Administrative Priorities

- **Permitting**
 - Support consultation with federal agencies in securing federal permits - UFFWS Biological Opinion, NMFS Biological Opinion, National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Programmatic Agreement

- **Public Outreach & Communications**
 - Support Reclamation in the public affairs staff with the roll-out of the Feasibility Report
 - Coordinate and support Reclamation on any public outreach/involvement activities associated with a recirculated EIS
 - Coordinate and support Reclamation with outreach and engagement with tribes and other stakeholder groups

- **Real Estate**
 - Coordination with appropriate federal agencies to secure access to federal lands for the purposes of conducting environmental, engineering, and geotechnical field studies identified in the work plan

Questions

