

Authority Board Meeting

Agenda Item 2-1, Authorize Release of the Revised
Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS

July 21, 2021



Agenda

- Cumulative analysis
- NEPA required chapters
- Air quality and water quality
- Public review
- Request for authorization to release the RDEIR/SDEIS

Cumulative Analysis Preliminary Determinations

- Approach
 - Considers over 60 closely related past, present, or reasonably foreseeable probable future projects
 - Each resource area is evaluated
- Preliminary Cumulatively Considerable Impacts
 - Water Quality: mercury and methylmercury
 - Vegetation: loss of oak woodlands
 - Wildlife: effects to special status wildlife and changes in wildlife movement
 - Agriculture: loss of important farmland; cancellation of Williamson Act contracts
 - Air Quality: emissions during construction

NEPA-Required Chapters Preliminary Determinations

- Ch 28, Climate Change
 - Operations – No effect to beneficial effects
- Ch 29, Indian Trust Assets
 - Construction – No effect
 - Operations – No adverse effect
- Ch 30, Environmental Justice
 - All Alts Construction – substantially adverse effects associated with air quality and visual resources to minority and low-income populations
 - All Alts Operation – substantially adverse effects associated with air quality
 - Alt 2 Operations – substantially adverse effects associated with land use and transportation to minority and low-income populations
- Ch 30, Socioeconomics
 - Construction and Operation – No adverse effect to beneficial effect

Air Quality and Water Quality Preliminary Determinations

Chapter (# and Title)	Impacts Requiring Mitigation	Significant and Unavoidable Impacts
6, Surface Water Quality	All Alts – Implement mercury and methylmercury control and reduction measures; Evaluate metal concentrations and effects in Stone Corral Creek; Evaluate metal and pesticide concentrations and effects in the Yolo Bypass	All Alts – Increased methylmercury concentrations downstream of Sites Reservoir
20, Air Quality	All Alts – Increase in criteria pollutant for which region is nonattainment during construction; recreational boat emissions during operations	All Alts – Increase in criteria pollutant for which region is nonattainment during construction
21, Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)	All Alts – Develop a GHG Reduction Plan to achieve net-zero emissions during construction and operations	None

Public Review

- Staff currently in the planning stages
- Target release
 - Under CEQA on August 26
 - Under NEPA on September 3
- 60-day review period from September 3
- Public Meetings
 - 2 virtual meetings; 1 during day, 1 in evening
 - 1 in-person meeting in Maxwell

Request for Authorization to Release

- Staff requests that the Authority Board
 - Authorize the release the RDEIR/SDEIS when it is ready
 - Authorize the Executive Director to file Notice of Completion and complete other noticing requirements to initiate public review process
- Release of the RDEIR/SDEIS would not occur until the following:
 - The team addresses the comments received on administrative draft versions of the document
 - TCCA and GCID consent to the release consistent with Section 2.5 of the Authority's Joint Powers Agreement
 - Reclamation has scheduled the release of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register

Questions