

Requested Action:

Review and comment on fundamental elements of the water right application being prepared for submittal to the State Water Resources Control Board.

Detailed Description/Background:

The Sites Project water rights team, including Somach, Simmons and Dunn and MBK Engineers, are developing the Project's water right application to be submitted to the State Board in late 2020. In an effort to ensure the State's proceedings are efficient and expedited, the team initiated monthly coordination meetings with State Board staff and has been focused on refining the key parameters for the application. Refinements to the purpose of use and points of diversion have been made since the last discussion with the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board as follows:

- **Purpose of Use:** Stockwatering was added based on discussions with the Bureau of Reclamation. The purpose of use continues to follow the SWP and CVP purposes of use.
- **Points of Diversion:** Staff is working with the Reclamation water rights team to identify points of diversion for Incremental Level 4 Refuge water. Additional points of diversion will be needed for this use. Staff is considering the Freeport diversion for potential inclusion as well. Staff also has a survey out to Reservoir Committee members to assess if any other additional points of diversion will be needed to ensure water can be delivered to Project participants.

Staff has also worked to develop and refine the place of use map. No changes have been proposed to the place of use. The draft place of use map is provided in Figures 1 through 3.

The Project water rights team has assessed the application approach and whether to file a new application or seek assignment of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) previous application. At this time, the team is recommending that the Authority submit a petition to amend and assign DWR's Application A025517 and request release from priority of DWR's Applications A025514 and A025513. All three of these applications were for the Colusa and Glenn Reservoir Projects. Of those, the Sites Project is most similar

to the Colusa Project included in Application A025517. All three applications have a priority date of September 30, 1977.

The State Board has moved to an electronic filing format and the Project's water rights team has been working with staff to navigate this new format.

The Project water rights team will continue efforts in development of the Project's water rights application. Reservoir Committee members are encouraged to respond to the recent survey from the team and to contact Ali Forsythe with any water right questions or circumstances that may be unique to your organization.



Figure 1. Place of Use Map



Figure 2. Place of Use Map, North of Delta and Delta Detail

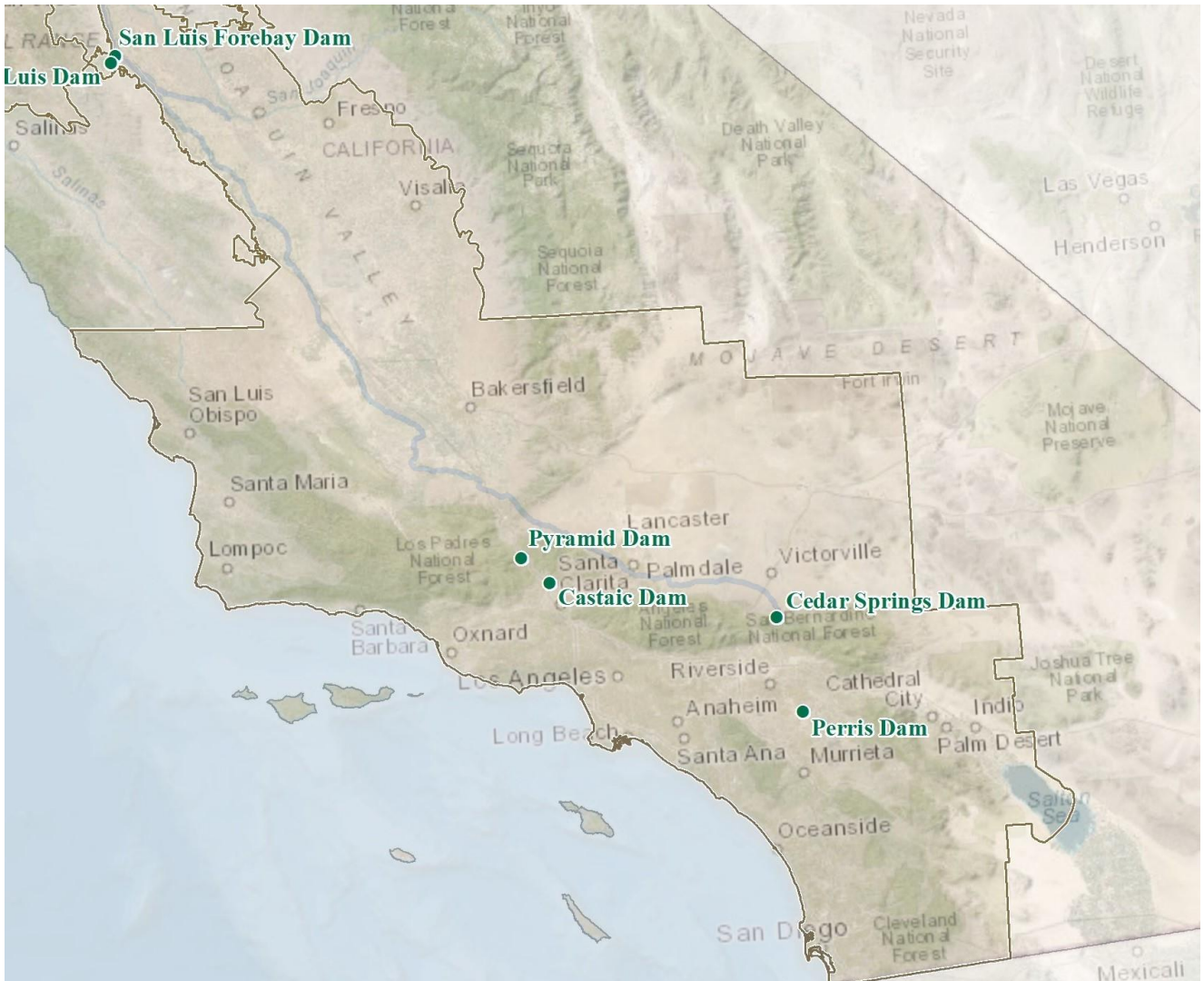


Figure 3. Place of Use Map, South of Delta Detail

Prior Action:

November 2020: Review and comment on the key parameters for the Sites Project Authority's water right application to the State Water Resources Control Board.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

None.

Staff Contact:

Ali Forsythe

Attachments:

None.