

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project**

Subject: **Monthly Status Report**

Report Period: **2021 January**

Sites Receives WSIP Inflation Boost: The Authority received confirmation from the CWC that MCED awarded to Sites has been increased an additional \$20.4M based on the Commission's action to reallocate funds from the Temperance Flat Reservoir project. These new funds represent an inflation adjustment and do not require any additional benefits to be provided. Also, the Authority will be requesting that 5% (max allowed) of this amount be allocated to early funding when the agreement is amended after 1/1/22.

Federal Appropriation Allocation Being Discussed: Staff shared an initial plan with Reclamation on use of FY 2021 funds. The initial request included work already scoped in Amendment 2 as well as some new scope items that will be completed in early 2022 for a total of approximately \$10 million for Sites activities and approximately \$3.7 million to advance Reclamation's work and cover staff costs. Staff are working on pulling together a full cost breakdown and scope of work.

Geotechnical Work is Progressing Well: Field work continued with the geotechnical investigations along the proposed Dunnigan Pipeline alignment. We are receiving positive feedback from landowners that have voluntarily allowed the work to occur on their property. We are expecting all of the field work to wrap up in February, weather permitting.

Reclamation Participation is Ramping Up: Staff reached agreement with Reclamation on the assumed operations for Alt 3 of the RDEIR/SDEIS and began discussing the timing and criteria for commitment of federal funding to correspond with the Prop 1 commitment of local agencies. Other work included review of environmental documents, kick-off of the Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act consultations, and continued progress on the technical discussions for coordinated operations between the Reservoir and Reclamation facilities.

Technical Discussions with DWR Kicked Off: The negotiating team held its initial Sites-DWR Operating Agreement discussion. Discussions to be ongoing until June, when initial term sheet will be complete.

Initiated Interagency Permitting Coordination Underway – A meeting was conducted to brief the various agencies involved in permitting and approvals on the environmental review being conducted and to ensure any issues or concerns they may have are properly incorporated into the RDEIR/SDEIS. These meetings will continue on a regular basis through the completion of permitting.

Preparation of the Environmental Document Continues: Analysis, evaluations and chapter preparation and reviews are occurring as follows:

- Based on survey results, ongoing coordination with NGOs to identify and plan upcoming technical focus meetings in February and March 2021.
- Ongoing preparation of additional RDEIR/SDEIS chapters
- Continued working with operations to review preliminary modeling results and approach to RDEIR/SDEIS analysis.
- Continued coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Clean Water Act 404 permit application efforts.
- Initiated planning and coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board for preparation for the Clean Water Act Section 401 permit application.

- Continued discussions with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on 2020/2021 meetings and workshops.
- Continued discussions with CDFW regarding take permit conditions and Prop 1 benefits.
- Initiated planning and coordination with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board for potential need for Encroachment permit.
- Continued mitigation planning and coordination with the mitigation and adaptive management small working group.