

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project**

Subject: **Monthly Status Report**

Report Period: **2021 February**

Federal Financial Assistance Agreement is Progressing: An amended agreement is being prepared to include additional scope from the Amendment 2 Work Plan plus some work from the next work period to finalize the RDEIR/SDEIS. The amended agreement will increase by approximately \$7 million in total scope with 50 percent of the cost reimbursed under the WIIN Act. Costs since January 2021 are expected to be eligible for reimbursement in the amended agreement. The scope for the new agreement will primarily include engineering, operations, and project controls. The total amount for the new agreement will be approximately \$10 million with 50 percent of the cost reimbursed under the WIIN Act. The start date for eligible costs has not yet been established.

Technical Discussions with Reclamation and DWR Continue: The discussions leading to term sheets with both agencies covering coordinated operations and other subjects are making progress. The operations and power areas were the focus for Reclamation discussions. For DWR, the discussions are centered around operations. Next month will be water rights discussions with Reclamation and a joint meeting with DWR and Reclamation about operations and COA.

Regular Coordination with State Water Resources Control Board Initiated: The team is meeting monthly with SWRCB water rights staff that will be charged with processing the Sites Authority water right application. These meetings are intended to address any issues or concerns and ensure any data needs are covered in the RDEIR/SDEIS and the application.

NGO Workshop Series Started: This month, the team met with a small group of NGO representatives to discuss questions and concerns about the Sites Authority water right application approach. A good dialogue was initiated. Other topic areas will be covered in the coming months. The intent of these meetings is to share Project information and maintain an open line of communication to hear and attempt to address areas of concern from these groups.

Environmental Water Manager Discussions: Met with each of the Prop 1 storage project proponents to explore their interest in a collaborative process aimed at achieving an environmental water manager to manage the State's environmental benefits in the storage projects. Each project has its own uniqueness which may not translate to a common set of environmental water management conditions. It is looking like the Sites Project will need to be on its own in this regard, although all of the projects showed an interest in being engaged in the process. Further discussions will take place with NGOs and others next month.

Sites Project Highlighted in March 2021 Municipal Water Leader Magazine: The Board can go to <https://municipalwaterleader.com> to read an interview the

magazine did with the Executive Director on the rightsizing and other elements of the Project. The magazine is primarily circulated to members of Congress, their staff and Administration staff.

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

- Posting of RDEIR/SDEIS Chapter 2 on the Authority's website was completed February 19, 2021.
- Ongoing preparation of RDEIR/SDEIS chapters and appendices, including coordination with CEQA legal counsel on critical issues.
- Ongoing small group meetings with NGOs.
- Working with Authority Agents on the development of list and approach for environmental outreach with local agencies.
- Development of the schedule and outreach efforts for the roll out of the RDEIR/SDEIS.
- Finalized diversion criteria to be analyzed in the RDEIR/SDEIS.
- Continued coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Clean Water Act 404 permit application efforts, held pre-application meeting and continued coordination with the 404 permitting working group.
- Continued 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.
- Revised terrestrial species models for use in ITP and Biological Assessment.
- Continued 2020/21 geotechnical field work and associated resource surveys and monitoring.
- Continued mitigation planning and coordination with the mitigation and adaptive management small working group.
- Initiated coordination and discussions with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board for Encroachment permit application and 408 agreement.