

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project**

Subject: **Monthly Status Report**

Report Period: **2021 March**

Monthly Status Summary:

The development of the Sites Project continues to make progress in the critical areas including the following activities:

WSIP State Feasibility Evaluation Initiated: The feasibility report required to meet the 1/1/22 deadline criteria was started this month with the development of the operations modeling analysis supporting the MCED level of benefits. The results confirm that the rightsized project is able to deliver the awarded level of benefits while also achieving the projected benefits for local agencies. The Admin Draft of the feasibility is expected to be complete in May and the report will be brought to the Board in July prior to submitting it to the CWC for its determination of feasibility by end of year.

Field Geotechnical Evaluations Completed: The combined team of Reclamation and Sites Geotechnical successfully completed all of the borings and testing planned for this past winter. The work occurred on willing private landowner property and Reclamation property. The team had a perfect safety record, no incidents or near misses. The next steps of the evaluation involve lab analysis by Reclamation which is expected to be complete mid-May. These evaluations support the engineering feasibility studies primarily along the Dunnigan pipeline and the TRR areas.

Engineering Work is Progressing: The TRR West location was analyzed, and a preliminary feasibility review was completed. The updated construction cost estimate continues to be reviewed. Follow-up items to Land Management Committee input are being evaluated and findings will be discussed with the Committee in April. Three peer reviews of the cost estimate were conducted resulting in some adjustments. The mitigation and non-contract cost items are being updated. The complete updated cost estimate will be presented for review by the Reservoir Committee/Authority Board in May.

Environmental Water Manager Update: PPIC has secured some funding from its sources and will be evaluating a broader concept but they wish to include as part of their work a case study on the application of an environmental water manager for the Sites project. Coordination will continue on the scope will continue with the work is expected to be initiated this summer.

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

- Continued to coordinate with Reclamation staff on NEPA process and permitting.
- Discussed American River and Folsom operating assumptions for RDEIR/SDEIS

Alternative 3.

- Evaluated need for additional socioeconomic analysis in RDEIR/SDEIS.
- Continued ongoing technical small group meetings with NGOs.
- Continued coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Clean Water Act 404 permit application efforts and continued coordination with the 404 permitting working group.
- Continued coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board for preparation of the Clean Water Act Section 401 permit application and held Pre-Application meeting.
- 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.
- Continued mitigation planning and coordination with the mitigation and adaptive management small working group.
- Continued coordination efforts for Central Valley Flood Protection Board for Encroachment permit application and 408 agreement.