

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project**

Subject: **Monthly Status Report**

Report Period: **2021 May**

Monthly Status Summary:

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

Outreach and Workshops with NGOs: In an effort to extend outreach on issues of tribal and cultural concern, letters were sent this month to a wider range of tribes than is required under AB52. Responses were requested within 30 days. Also, the workshops with NGO's were continued in order to extend the good dialogue on their potential concerns and issues with the project. Where feasible, concerns are being addressed in the environmental document prior to release for public review. These meeting also included a review of the "if we had Sites in 2021" estimate of 1MAF of additional water with a small group that interested in our calculations.

Coalition Letter of P1 Storage Projects: The 7 Prop 1 storage projects signed a coalition letter addressed to the budget leadership of the Assembly and Senate indicating concerns with potentially reallocating Prop 1 storage money to other purposes within the 2021 State Budget. Some on the budget committee were attempting to reallocate funds from the termination of the Temperance Flat project which the CWC had already allocated to the other 7 projects, including the additional \$20M to Sites.

Briefing for Yolo County Supervisor and Staff: Given the project extended reach into Yolo County due to construction of the Dunnigan pipeline and use of the CBD, a briefing was held with Yolo County representatives. There were several questions about the delivery of water to the Yolo Bypass which is part of the Prop 1 environmental benefit and how this might affect agriculture in the area. The project team is discussing these potential issues with CDFW.

Meetings with State Water Board Members: The Executive Director and the Chairs of the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board are scheduling meetings with each State Board member to ensure they are updated on the project prior to the filing of the water right application later this year.

Environmental Planning and Permitting:

- Completed preparation of Group 1, 2, and 3 Administrative RDEIR/SDEIS chapters and appendices, delivered May 3, 24 and 31. Internal, legal and CEQA Responsible Agency review of Administrative RDEIR/SDEIS chapters and appendices is on-going.
- Completed updates to Chapter 2, Project Descriptions and Alternatives, including the associated appendices.

- Continued coordination under AB 52 with the Yocha Dehe Tribe.
- Completed coordination with legal counsel to develop approach on enhanced tribal outreach and sent letters to Tribes with potential interest as a result in changes in flows due to operations.
- Began preparation of the environmental feasibility section of draft CWC Feasibility Report.
- 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 working with Reclamation on the Biological Assessment and approach to species analysis.
- 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 monthly coordination meetings with SWRCB staff.
- Continued development of water right application and water availability analysis.