

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project**

Subject: **Monthly Status Report**

Report Period: **2020 December**

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### **Monthly Status Summary:**

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

#### **WSIP Funding:**

- The Commission considered options for reallocating the Temperance Flat Reservoir \$170M MCED but did not take action and instead asked CWC Staff to bring back more information on the remaining seven projects including Sites. With the current Commission make-up unanimous approval is required for any action. One of the options on the table is an inflation boost to each project of ~2.5% of MCED.

#### **WIIN Act Funding:**

- The Project was awarded \$13.7 million in the FY 2021 spending bill. Staff are working with Reclamation on developing a work plan for these funds.
- The first payment for the FY 2020 funds was received by the Authority. The amount totaled \$658,092.17.
- The Federal Feasibility Study was transmitted to Congress on December 22, 2020. This determination of feasibility allows the project to remain eligible for WIIN Act funding and finds that the project is feasible for federal investment up to 25% cost share.

#### **USDA Funding:**

- No update this month.

#### **Engineering:**

- Continued feasibility design and analysis.
- Continued preparation of Class IV project cost estimate.
- Continued support of permitting and environmental data needs including preparation of the construction equipment estimates, supporting data for preparation of Appendix 2C – Construction Appendix, beginning review of the environmental document chapters 12 – Geology and Soils, 13 – Minerals, and 19 – Noise.
- Began field work efforts to obtain additional geotechnical data to verify feasibility analysis.

#### **Coordination with Reclamation:**

- Coordination with Reclamation and ongoing participation in meetings with NEPA Cooperating Agencies, including WAPA, USFWS, USACE, USEPA, and CDFW to establish Cooperating Agency interests and schedule for review of relevant chapters and appendices of the upcoming Administrative RDEIR/SDEIS.
- Coordination on WIIN Act funds per section above.
- Worked with Reclamation on developing assumptions related to Alternative 3 to be included in the RDEIR/SDEIS.
- Continued coordination with Reclamation for in-kind work associated with geologic and geotechnical exploration efforts in support of the feasibility design.

- Continued to work with Reclamation planning and environmental teams on the NEPA approach and schedule.
- Continued coordinating with Reclamation on Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act consultations for geotechnical exploration and project-level work.
- Continued discussions with Reclamation on a Sites-Reclamation Operating Agreement.

**Coordination with Department of Water Resources:**

- Team held a meeting related to modeling results between SWP-Sites contractors and DWR operations staff.
- DWR identified team to participate in Sites-DWR Operating Agreement discussions. First meeting to be held in January.

**Environmental Planning and Permitting:**

- Completion and submittal of RDEIR/SDEIS Batch 1A chapters and appendices on December 10, 2020 and coordination of Sites Agents, Integration, Reclamation staff and legal counsel review.
- Completion and submittal of RDEIR/RDEIS Chapter 2, Alternatives Description and associated appendices on December 24, 2020 and coordination of Sites Agents, Integration, Reclamation staff and legal counsel review.
- Conducted two workshops with NGOs to provide project updates; followed with a survey to identify key issues for future technical focus meetings in 2021.
- Ongoing preparation of additional RDEIR/SDEIS Batch 1B chapters for delivery in January 2021.
- Continued working with operations to refine and finalize 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, scheduled pre-application coordination meeting and continued coordination with the 404 permitting small working group.
- Initiated planning and coordination 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 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.

**Water Rights:**

- Continued working on water right permit application.
- Scheduled discussion with State Water Resources Control Board on water right coordination, application process and approach.

**Operations:**

- Finalized diversion criteria to be used in RDEIR/SDEIS.

- Finished implementing updated baseline: CalSim II 2020 Benchmark baseline, which includes both ROC on LTO BiOp and actions from the SWP ITP.
- Continued reviewing Prop 1 benefits under revised project and updated model; coordinated with CDFW on ecosystem benefits agreement.
- Worked with Storage Policy Small Group on specific updates to the Storage Policy and began discussions on conversion to Storage-Based Participation.
- Supported environmental planning team in draft project description with operations.

**Stakeholder Engagement, Public Outreach & Real Estate:**

- Held Legislative & Outreach Committee Meeting on December 16.
- Continued engagement and outreach efforts with landowners, local community members, state and federal elected officials, non-governmental organizations and coalitions of regional and statewide organizations to introduce the Value Planning Report and the new “rightsized” project.
- Responded to landowner requests for project information, facilitated coordination activities with local government agencies and organizations and planned for future landowner, stakeholders and general public outreach activities and events.

**Program Management & Administration:**

- Received payment of CWC Invoice No 6 in the amount of \$1.5 million.
- Continued coordination efforts for Project Financing Action Plan including meeting with Water Commission staff on 75% Local Cost Share Commitment.
- Received payment of FAA Financial Report No 1 in the amount of \$650,000.