

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project**

Subject: **Monthly Status Report**

Report Period: **2021 July**

Monthly Status Summary:

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

Reclamation FY22 WIIN Request for Sites totals \$80M: Reclamation proposed the FY22 appropriations of the WIIN storage account to Congress and included \$80M for the Sites project, which is the largest allocation among the WIIN authorized projects. This is a very positive indication from Reclamation of their strong interest in participating in the project. Recall that the federal feasibility report finalized in December 2020 determined up to 25% cost share by the federal government was warranted. Congress still needs to approve of the recommendation in its upcoming appropriation actions this year and then the funds will be available for qualified project activities.

EPA WIFIA Letter of Interest Submitted: The project team successfully completed a very competitive letter of interest submission in response to EPA's 2021 call for interest in a WIFIA loan. The amount of a Sites loan was proposed to be up to \$600M. WIFIA loan terms are generally favorable compared to other financing options. This submittal was responsive to EPA's evaluation form and selection criteria. EPA now takes all of the submissions received from across the country and evaluates against pre-established criteria to determine a short list of projects for loan consideration. Notifications of the results of this evaluation are expected this fall and short-listed projects would then proceed to make a formal application and take approx. 18 months before closing on a loan. If unsuccessful this round or if additional funds are to be sought for the project, annual calls for interest are made by EPA dependent on Congressional appropriations and the project would pursue these opportunities.

Letter of Mutual Understanding signed with RWE's Janus Solar Project: In support of the Authority's renewable energy goals for the Sites project, the project team has been coordinating with RWE which is developing an 80MW battery storage solar facility within Colusa County (approx. 5-mile distance from the future Sites Reservoir). Projected load profiles were exchanged with RWE and it was determined RWE's Janus facility and other assets have the capability to meet all of the Sites Project needs with renewable energy. The understanding between the two projects is that coordination and planning will continue without making any binding contractual commitments at this time. The Janus facility is expected to be operational in 2023.

Environmental Planning and Permitting and Water Rights Activity:

- Efforts were focused on resolving comments received on the Administrative Draft

RDEIR/SDEIS and preparing the public draft version including working sessions with legal counsel and live edit meetings with Reclamation staff and legal counsel.

- Meetings with TCCA, GCID and Colusa County to address comments and outstanding issues on the RDEIR/SDEIS.
- Coordination with the Communications Team on the scheduling, format and materials needed for upcoming public meetings, including Spanish translation of the RDEIR/SDEIS Executive Summary, RDEIR/SDEIS Community Guide and Fact Sheet.
- Ongoing AB 52 consultation, including meeting with Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.
- Ongoing coordination with CDFW on 60-day process to resolve outstanding comments on the aquatics and terrestrial biological resources analysis of the RDEIR/SDEIS.
- Began review of the Administrative Draft Biological Assessment. Continued coordination and discussion of Reclamation's role as lead for the operations consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.
- Continued coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and SWRCB on the Clean Water Act 404 and 401 permit applications effort. Meetings with TCCA and GCID to discuss the Clean Water Act permitting approach as it relates to their existing infrastructure.
- Continued mitigation planning and coordination with the mitigation and adaptive management small working group.
- Continued monthly coordination meetings with SWRCB staff and discussion of project description and proposed exchanges
- Continued development of water right application and water availability analysis and refinement of the Project's place of use and points of diversion with Participants input.
- Meetings with Colusa County to review area of origin considerations for Funks and Stone Corral creeks.