

Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Committee Meeting

Agenda Item 2.1: Changing to Alternative 3 and
Adjustments to the Project's Diversion Criteria

March 18, 2022



Requested Action

- Direct staff to proceed with using the following approach as the basis of environmental review, permitting and water right application:
 - (1) Alternative 3 as the Preferred Project Alternative instead of Alternative 1
 - (2) Adjust to more restrictive diversion criteria to a level expected to achieve a higher degree of permitting certainty while maintaining Project affordability

Why are We Doing These Things and Why Now?

- If we want to consider these items, we should consider them now to reduce rework, schedule delays and costs of changing in the future
- Biological Assessment, Operations ITP, Water Right Application
 - All targeted for April/May submittal (depending on modeling)
 - Important to include our Preferred Project and “final” diversion criteria to reduce rework and renegotiation later

Selection of the Preferred Alternative

Alternatives Considered in the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS

Facilities / Operations	Alternative 1 – Authority’s Preferred Project	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Reservoir Size	1.5 MAF	1.3 MAF	1.5 MAF
Hydropower	Incidental upon release	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Diversion Locations	Red Bluff Pumping Plant and Hamilton City	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Conveyance Release / Dunnigan Release	1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain	1,000 cfs into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Sacramento River. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain	Same as Alt 1
Reclamation Involvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding Partner, up to 7% 2. Operational Exchanges <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges 	Operational Exchanges <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges 	Same as Alt 1, but up to 25% investment
DWR Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge across reservoir	Paved road around southern end of reservoir	Same as Alt 1

Consideration of Changes to the Federal Investment

- Reclamation sees benefits and has an interest in greater than 7% investment
- Federal government in different financial situation today than in 2019
- Reclamation's demand characteristics require more frequent fill/releases → improve project performance
- Reclamation investment likely to be combination of storage allocation and compensation for anadromous fish benefits of exchanges
- Adjusting deadpool possible, would free up some capacity to allocate to Reclamation or other new participants
- May need voluntary reduction by other members in the future if cant accommodate otherwise

Determining Federal Investment

- Determining exact Reclamation investment is subject to negotiations
 - Further evaluation and negotiations, goal of completing main deal points within next 6 months
 - Goal would be to receive final commitment of federal funds on similar schedule as received from Participants

Determining Federal Investment

April 2022 –
Revised Modeling
for Biological
Assessment

May 2022 –
Reclamation
completes
revised
economics
analysis

Summer 2022 –
Reclamation
submits OMB
Addendum &
Authority
submits Letter
Request for
Investment to
Reclamation

Fall/Winter 2022
– Negotiations

Final
commitment of
federal funds on
similar schedule
as received from
Participants

Revisions to Diversion Criteria

Proposed Revisions

Parameter	Revised Draft EIR/ Supplemental Draft EIS with Mitigation	Proposed Revised Criteria
Wilkins Slough Bypass Flow	10,700 cfs Mar-May; 5,000 cfs Sept to Feb and June	10,700 cfs Oct-June; 5,000 cfs Sept
Pulse Flow Protection	Yes	Yes
Fremont Weir Notch Protections	Yes	None. Higher bypass flows and pulse protection provide protection for the Notch

- All other conditions of the diversion criteria would remain the same

Why Make These Revisions?

- Responsive to fishery agency and NGO comments on the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS
- Higher degree of permitting certainty
- Modeling sensitivity analysis indicate that with these changes, Project continues to generate sufficient benefits to meet affordability criteria

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