

# Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Committee Meeting

Agenda Item 2.3: Environmental  
Water Manager Pilot Project

March 18, 2022



# Environmental Water Manager Concept

- State would actively manage its Proposition 1 water similar to all other members
  - Make annual, monthly, weekly decisions on how to use ecosystem water for the environment
  - Work with Authority as conditions change or challenges arise
- Proposing “pilot project” with Environmental Defense Fund and The Nature Conservancy to develop concept into “pilot” form for Sites for proposal to CDFW
  - Frame up and demonstrate how the concept might be used as Sites/CDFW develop benefits agreement
  - Adapt theory into practical implementable actions

# Key Considerations in Formulating Pilot Project Proposal

- Must be within Project's Storage Principles
- Advisory Committee used to guide proposal effort
- Will consider possible coordination of Sites environmental water with other state assets
- Each organization provides its own funding
  - Sites providing technical (modeling) and staff time

# Outcomes of Efforts

- Primary end product = “mini operations plan” for environmental water
  - Complete around mid-summer 2022
- Staff would return to Reservoir Committee and Authority Board to seek authority to incorporate specific terms and conditions into benefits agreement with CDFW
- Would not impact schedule for receiving final Proposition 1 funding award

# Requested Action

- Consider authorizing the Executive Director to execute a proposal letter with partners to cooperatively develop terms and conditions for consideration in the Prop 1 Benefit Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to incorporate an Environmental Water Manager “pilot” as part of the Sites Project implementation