Reservoir Committee Meeting

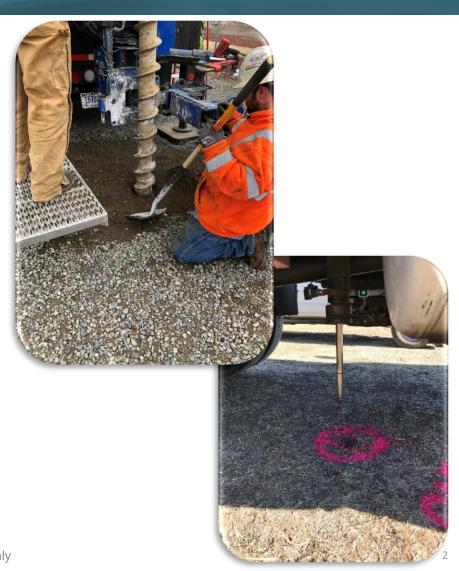
Agenda Item 3.1: 2022-2024 Geotechnical Investigations, Release of Draft EA/IS and Permit Applications

February 18, 2022



2022-2024 Geotechnical Investigations

- Necessary to refine engineering designs and cost estimates
- Activities:
 - Geologic mapping
 - Surface mapping, noninvasive
 - Geotechnical investigations
 - Subsurface drilling, invasive
 - Surface geophysical surveys
 - Surface mapping, non or minimally invasive
- Summer 2022 through 2024



Roles and Responsibilities

Authority

- Undertake all field activities
- Obtain all land access
- CEQA Lead Agency
- Obtain all permits (except 2 obtained by Reclamation)

Reclamation

- Funding partner, no field activities anticipated
- NEPA Lead Agency
- Complete Federal ESA and National Historic Preservation Act compliance

Project Development

- Activity locations coordinated with engineering, environmental, and realty teams
 - Avoided and minimized impacts to biological, cultural and Tribal resources
 - Avoided and minimized activities in areas where landowners are less likely to be willing
- Activities only undertaken on willing landowner parcels and in public right of way (with permission)

Impact Avoidance and Minimization

- To avoid and minimize potential environmental impacts, Authority will implement:
 - Standard geotechnical protocols and procedures
 - Similar to prior geotechnical activities
 - Mitigation measures in Draft EA/IS
 - Permit requirements
- Pre-activity surveys for biological, cultural and Tribal resources
 - Do not drill at any site:
 - With known cultural or Tribal resources based on previous survey information and pre-activity surveys
 - Where we can not adhere to biological mitigation measures or measures in the anticipated permits
- On-site biological, cultural and Tribal monitoring

CEQA/NEPA Compliance Approach

- Initial Study under CEQA
 - Authority Lead Agency
 - Will determine whether Authority adopts a mitigated negative declaration
- Environmental Assessment under NEPA
 - Reclamation Lead Agency
 - Will determine whether Reclamation adopts a Finding of No Significant Impact
- Joint Draft EA/IS
 - 30-day public review period
- Currently reviewing/finalizing the document with Reclamation

Mitigation Measures Anticipated in Draft EA/IS

Resource Area	Summary of Mitigation Measures
Biological Resources	Conduct mandatory biological resources awareness training; general measures to avoid and minimize effects on sensitive biological resources; measures to avoid and minimize effects on waters of the U.S./State; species specific measures for state and federally-listed plant and animal species along with migratory birds and eagles; and decontamination of equipment for aquatic invasive species
Paleontological Resources	Consult with qualified paleontologist if paleontological resources are discovered
Cultural Resources	Avoid impacts on cultural resources; conduct pre-activity pedestrian survey; prepare a post-review Discovery Plan; conduct archaeological sensitivity training; conduct archaeological monitoring; and immediately halt ground-disturbing activities if cultural resources or human remains are found and implement appropriate plans
Tribal Cultural Resources	Avoid or preserve in place; treat resources with culturally appropriate dignity; and implement permanent conservation easements for any resources found

Preliminary mitigation measures. These measures may change as staff and Reclamation continue review of the EA/IS.

Federal Permits/Authorizations

- USFWS Supplemental Biological Assessment
 - Amending prior geotechnical Biological Assessment and associated Biological Opinion
 - Reclamation submitted amended BA to USFWS on February 15, 2022
- National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106
 - Finalized cultural sensitivity report
 - Tribal consultation by Reclamation will be initiated shortly
 - SHPO consultation will be initiated by Reclamation following tribal consultation

Other Permits/Authorizations

- With the careful selection of locations to avoid impacts, only a few locations trigger the need to obtain additional permits
- Four locations will need permits under:
 - Clean Water Act Section 404
 - Clean Water Act Section 401
- Three locations will need a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement
- Two locations will need permit from Central Valley Flood Protection Board

Action This Month

• Authorize:

- Release of the Draft Environmental Assessment/Initial Study
 - Authorize the Executive Director to file a Notice of Completion with the State Clearinghouse and complete other noticing requirements to initiate the public review process
- 2. Executive Director to sign and submit the necessary permit applications including associated application fees, if any

Questions?



Sites