

Sites Reservoir Project Monthly Status Report

Report Period: **February 2022**

Monthly Status Summary:

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

Engineering:

- Coordination and planning to execute engineering mapping/surveying efforts.
- Ongoing coordination and planning efforts for design-level geologic and geotechnical investigations.
- Ongoing development of project contract strategy.

Coordination with Reclamation:

- Ongoing coordination with Reclamation on the development of approach and preparation of the Final EIR/EIS.
- Participated in Reclamation's Design, Estimating and Construction (DEC) review process.

Environmental Planning and Permitting:

- Completed numbering, sorting and categorizing individual comments within letters, emails and transcripts.
- Generated Working Comment Response Tables for Technical Team to Draft Responses.
- Generated Preliminary List of Master Responses.
- Ongoing development of approach to modeling and any other updated analysis needed to address refinements to design and operations in the Final EIR/EIS and in responding to comments.
- Ongoing outreach under AB 52.
- Preparation of admin draft EA/IS for geotechnical field investigations.
- Continued discussions with CDFW staff on the approach and analysis methodology for the Operations ITP applications.
- Continued discussions with Reclamation on the approach and analysis methodology for the Biological Assessment.
- Compiled results of the January eagle surveys and coordinated with USFWS.
- Continued coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and SWRCB on the Clean Water Act 404 and 401 permit applications effort.
- Continued meetings with TCCA and GCID to discuss the Clean Water Act

permitting approach as it relates to their existing infrastructure.

- Continued environmental permitting for the 2022-2024 geotechnical activities.
- Continued monthly water right coordination meetings with SWRCB staff and discussion of Project description, proposed exchanges, and the approach to the Project's water availability analysis.
- Continued development of water right application, water availability analysis and refinement of the Project's place of use and points of diversion with Participant input.
- Prepared for and held two resource agency workshops focusing on aquatics and fisheries.

Operations:

- Worked to identify alternatives, hydrology, and modeling runs required for several key 2022 deliverables.
- Worked to finalize operating criteria and modeling for the Biological Assessment, to be complete in March.
- Worked with State Water Contractors staff to plan a workshop to discuss Sites operations as it relates to the SWC.
- Provided presentations and operational information to interested participants, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

Stakeholder Engagement, Public Outreach & Real Estate:

- Completed landowner parcel access negotiations in support of early geotechnical field activities planned to begin in March.
- Conducted landowner and local agency parcel access negotiations in support of ongoing land surveying field activities.
- Initiated land access agreement engagement and coordination activities with landowners and local agencies to support the longer-term geotechnical work.
- Conducted an interview and provided project site tour for an Appeal-Democrat reporter.
- Conducted an interview with the California Rice Commission podcast.
- Facilitated project briefing for Sen Padilla and Rep Thompson's legislative staff.

Program Management & Administration:

- Responded to Participant informational requests related to Home board coordination efforts. Staff is encouraging Participants to provide feedback related to additional items to consider in the 2021 Draft Guiding Principles and Preliminary Terms and the 2021 Draft Plan of Finance by April 2022.