

Reservoir Committee Meeting

Agenda Item 2.1: Federal Biological Assessment
and State Operations ITP Application

July 22, 2022



BA and Aquatic ITP Application Status

- Nearing completion of development of both Biological Assessment and Operations ITP Application
- Working on last few items and review/changes
- Focus of today
 - Few items not previously discussed
 - Uncertainty with CVP and SWP Operations Reconsultation

Few Items not Previously Discussed

- Longfin smelt included in BA for conference opinion
- Exact take numbers for aquatic species will be developed during BA and ITP consultation process
- Avoid, minimize then mitigate
 - Conservation measures to avoid and minimize
 - Compensatory Mitigation suite of options
 - Off-site habitat acquisition, creation or restoration
 - Conservation banks / mitigation banks
 - Similar-in-kind mechanisms (e.g., increase fish survival)
 - Currently estimate within 2021 aquatic mitigation cost estimate
 - Mitigation for aquatic species tends to have more negotiation
 - Generally, no established or precedential ratios like terrestrial

Few Items not Previously Discussed (cont)

- Adaptive Management Plan
 - Framework and process for addressing uncertainty with current scientific understanding of listed species and the effects of Project operations
 - Would generate and incorporate new information, improved analytical tools and effects understanding into refining operations
 - Will review key components and commitments with EPP workgroup members prior to submittal
- Terms and Changes
 - Biological Opinions
 - Standard reconsultation triggers required by law
 - Operations ITP
 - 10 years initial term plus 10-year extension from permit acceptance
 - Changes, if any, in the future would be mutually agreed upon
 - Process for change depends on magnitude of change

Uncertainty with CVP and SWP Operations Reconsultation

- CVP and SWP currently in reconsultation on operations
- Team actively working on appropriate approach and timing for both CVP/SWP reconsultation to occur concurrent with Sites consultation
- Impacts to schedules and scope possible
- Staff to continue efforts with agencies and return once a mutually agreeable approach is reached

Requested Action

- Request Reservoir Committee authorize the Executive Director to:
 - Submit the Biological Assessment to Reclamation and
 - Operations ITP Application to CDFW and pay the associated application fee
- Staff will return for additional review and discussion if any substantial changes in analysis or effects are expected

Questions?