

## Sites Reservoir Project Monthly Status Report (October)

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### Monthly Status Summary:

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

#### Engineering:

- Continued Division of Safety of Dams coordination.
- Continued preliminary engineering design and analysis: dams, I/O, roads, conveyance, and system hydraulics.
- Continued coordination and execution of geotechnical investigation Work Package 3 field and office activities.

#### Coordination with Reclamation:

- Meetings with Reclamation and DWR individually to discuss technical aspects of coordinating operations. The joint discussions around the Operations Coordination Agreement were activated again as Reclamation has determined that the agreement can be finalized without a Basis of Negotiation as long as no commitment of resources are made by Reclamation. The parties are going through the document one last time before legal review.
- Technical discussions with Reclamation involving the development of the Partnership Agreement (which is the Federal equivalent to the B&O) are being kicked off in November.
- Ongoing coordination to support the NEPA process, including the DC EIS briefings and outreach materials. Approval for publication of the Final EIR/EIS was obtained in late October with release on November 2, 2023.

#### Environmental Planning and Permitting:

- Ongoing efforts to prepare the Final EIR/EIS for publication and certification.
- Ongoing preparation of components of the administrative record for posting online consistent with SB 149. This included coordination with CEQA legal counsel on content and format of the record.
- Continued development of CEQA Findings, including finalization of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and preparation of the Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations.
- Ongoing AB 52 consultation-related efforts to receive input from the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians.

## **October's Monthly Status Report**

- Continued development of the draft Reservoir Management Plan, Clean Water Act 404/401 permit applications, Master Streambed Alteration Agreement, and the Project's Adaptive Management Plan.
- Continued with fieldwork for portions of the Aquatic Study Plan.
- Continued biological and botanical surveys to confirm landcover and assess species presence/absence.
- Submitted the Operations ITP application.
- Continued coordination with CDFW on the Revised Construction ITP application; finalized addressing all outstanding "incomplete" items.
- Continued development of the Proposition 1 Adaptive Management Plans for WSIP recreation and flood benefits.
- Submitted Construction Biological Assessment to Reclamation. Reclamation is anticipated to submit the Construction Biological Assessment to the USFWS in November.
- Continued discussions on the programmatic operations analysis in the Long-term Operations Reconsultation Biological Assessment.
- Completed and submitted responses to all protests submitted on the Project's water right. Continued discussions with several parties on the Project's water right application.

### **Operations:**

- Continued effort to transition Sites into the CalSim 3 model platform. Preparing summary of results for presentation to the Board at the December meeting.

### **Stakeholder Engagement, Public Outreach & Real Estate:**

- Prepared communications associated with the roll-out of the Final EIR/EIS and the water right process.
- Planning for a Virtual Town Hall in early 2024 and Local Community Working Group meetings.
- Ongoing coordination with landowners to discuss TROE for geotechnical, biological, environmental, and cultural field activities and other real estate actions.

### **Program Management & Administration:**

- Developed initial responses to Participant comments on Draft 2 of the Benefits & Obligations Contract along with draft of JPA amendment and Updated Bylaws for Phase 3/4/5 governance changes.
- Met with Secretary of California Natural Resources Agency to review project progress and coordinate activities.