



TO: Ad Hoc Legislative & Outreach Committee
DATE: February 1, 2023
SUBJECT: Federal Government Affairs/Legislative Priorities

The Government Affairs Team have developed the following federal government affairs/legislative priorities to focus our activities to align with key Amendment 3 milestones and align in a coordinated manner with our state government affairs/legislative activities. This document covers the revised priorities through December 31, 2023.

RECLAMATION's Project Participation

- Complete a Coordinated Operations Agreement with Reclamation. This is envisioned to serve two purposes: 1) how the Sites Project and CVP/SWP would coordinate operations to achieve mutual goals and avoid harm to the projects.
- Coordination with Reclamation throughout the Authority's securing of a water right for the project.
- Continuing partnership with Reclamation as the NEPA lead agency in developing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and securing a Record of Decision by the scheduled date.
- Complete a benefits and obligations contract inclusive of Reclamation's participation in the Project and consistent with the PWAs benefits and obligations.
- Complete all of the Reclamation facility contracting necessary to support the project (ie Warren Act, Land licensing, Refuge Water Delivery)

WIIN ACT and IJJA Storage Funds

- Secure WIIN Act storage account funds and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) storage funds at a funding level and at times necessary to support Reclamation's investment in the Project reflected in the post feasibility analysis and the Dec 16 2022 letter expressing interest in 16% capacity share in the Project.
- Advocate for continued appropriation of no less than \$134 million to the WIIN Act Storage Account in the regular FY 2024 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill and in each fiscal year thereafter until the Sites Project is fully funded.
- Monitor and engage on Senator Feinstein's STREAM Act and Congressman Valadao's WATER for California Act and other water or drought legislation expected to be introduced, particularly if additional amendments to WIIN Act are considered or deemed necessary for Sites.

WIFIA and OTHER FEDERAL FUNDING

- Identify and secure appropriations/grants/loans to support project elements, i.e., broadband, transportation improvements (bridges), flood control, among others.
 - Identify priority alternative sources of funds to support project elements.



- Build support for same in Congress and among the federal agencies.
- Work with elected officials and USDA to ensure mutually agreeable terms for the Rural Development Community Facilities Loan

ELECTED OFFICIAL ENGAGEMENT

- Ongoing engagement with federal elected officials and their staff, administration officials and federal agency leadership. Prioritize engagement activities with members/staff who overlap the project participants' service areas, key Senate/House committee chairs, and the California Delegation.
- Prioritize engagement activities with Senator Padilla, Rep. Huffman, Rep. Thompson and Rep. LaMalfa.
- Conduct an 'in person' Federal Legislative Day in spring 2023.

Other items that do not require legislative action but are administrative in nature are listed below. We will need to keep our legislators informed on progress of these items so they can step in when/if needed to assist in keeping them on the timeline required to support the project schedule.

Permitting - Supportive consultation with federal agencies in securing; USFWS Biological Opinion, NMFS Biological Opinion through Reclamation as the Section 7 Consultation Lead for Construction and Operations, National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Programmatic Agreement.

Technical Coordination –Ongoing technical coordination with Reclamation staff on project engineering and geotechnical activities to advance the project.

Public Outreach - Coordinate with appropriate federal agencies on any public outreach activities associated with a recirculated EIS. Support engagement with tribes and continued consultation activities.