

Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting

Agenda Item 3.1: Final EIR/EIS, Part 2 of 3 Status
Briefing in Preparation for Approval of the Project

March 17, 2023



Final EIR/EIS Briefings in Preparation for Approval of Project

- March 2023, Part 2 of 3
 - Overview of key comments and master responses; ongoing public and local community, tribal and NGO outreach
- April 2023, Part 3 of 3
 - Overview of refinements to impacts and mitigation measures; Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
- May 2023, Part 3 of 3, continued
 - Overview of Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations
- June 2023, Board Hearing
 - Any last items and next steps post EIR
 - EIR Certification
 - Decision to Approve Project

RDEIR/SDEIS Comments

- Received 101 unique letters or communications
- Approximately 1,000 discrete comments
- Final EIR will include all comments and responses to substantive comments
 - Individual responses
 - Master responses



Eight Master Responses to Comments, Focus on Four Key Ones

- MR4, Water Quality
 - Water quality effects are expected to be similar to similarly sized reservoirs throughout our state
 - Further explains the analysis of possible metal accumulation in the reservoir and supports the related mitigation measures as appropriate and reasonable
 - Water temperature of water discharged back into the Sacramento River is expected to be similar or slightly cooler than Sacramento River water
- MR5, Aquatic Biological Resources
 - Includes the Project's highly protective revised diversion criteria and how the revised criteria results in less than significant impacts to salmonids

Eight Master Responses to Comments, Focus on Four Key Ones (continued)

- MR8, Trinity River
 - Further information to continue to demonstrate that the Project would not adversely affect the Trinity River
 - Includes the Project's proposed water right term to provide firm assurances for Trinity River interests
- MR9, Alternatives Development
 - Addresses comments about the range of alternatives analyzed
 - Addresses comments on modified diversion criteria and how many of these suggestions do not result in an affordable project or feasible alternatives and also do not meet the Project's purpose and need

Ongoing Public and Local Outreach

- Local Community Working Group
 - Intended to represent a broad cross-section of local agencies and community organizations in the Colusa, Glenn and Yolo County areas
 - Provides a forum for efficient, effective, and meaningful local community input into the development of the project
 - Meetings have been ongoing since October 2022
- One-on-one discussions with many agencies and local organizations
- One-on-one discussions with many landowners

Ongoing Tribal Outreach and Coordination

- AB 52 Consultation
 - Formal consultation ongoing with Yocha Dehe and Cachil Dehe, meetings with Yocha Dehe scheduled monthly
 - Preparation of a draft MOA outline for continued consultation and collaboration
- Tribal Government Working Group
 - Intended to represent tribes with traditional or cultural affiliation with the Project area
 - Provides a forum for efficient, effective, and meaningful tribal input into the development of the project
 - Formal invitation letters to the above-listed tribes were sent on January 12, 2023
 - First meeting to be scheduled shortly

Ongoing Non-governmental Organization Outreach

- September 2022 – Overview of the approach to the Sites water right application
- January 2023 – Review supplemental materials submitted to SWRCB in regard to water rights application
- March 2023 – Review of Project's Calsim modeling
- March 2023 – Project's water quality and water temperature effects and mitigation measures
- Small group and one-on-one discussions

Next Steps in Briefing Process

- April 2023, Part 3 of 3
 - Overview of any refinements to impacts and mitigation measures
 - Overview of Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
- May 2023, Part 3 of 3 (continued)
 - Overview of Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations

Final EIR Certification Targeted for June 2023

- June 2023, Board Hearing
 - Any last items
 - EIR Certification
 - Adoption of Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations and Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program
 - Decision to Approve Project
 - Next Steps
 - Local considerations with MOUs and Local Community Working Group
 - Tribal considerations with MOA and Tribal Working Group

Questions?