

## Sites Reservoir Project Monthly Status Report (November)

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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) were kicked off in November.
- Ongoing coordination to support the NEPA process, including the release of the Final EIR/EIS on November 9, 2023.

### Environmental Planning and Permitting:

- Completed efforts to prepare the Final EIR/EIS for publication on November 2, 2023, and certification at the November Joint Reservoir Committee and Authority Board meeting.
- Completed preparation of the administrative record for posting online consistent with SB 149 and for certification by the Executive Director after Project approval. This included coordination with CEQA legal counsel on content and format of the record.
- Completed CEQA Findings, including finalization of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, Findings, and Statement of Overriding Considerations for adoption by the Authority Board on November 17, 2023.
- Prepared responses to late comments received on the Final EIR after release and for inclusion in the administrative record.

## Monthly Status Report Continued

- Prepared the Notice of Determination and filed with all county clerks on November 20, 2023 and with the State Clearinghouse on November 21, 2023.
- Completed AB 52 consultation-related efforts.
- 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.
- Submitted the Operations ITP application. Received notice from CDFW of outstanding items that need to be addressed to complete the application.
- Continued coordination with CDFW on the Revised Construction ITP application; finalized addressing all outstanding "incomplete" items and submitted a supplement to the application to CDFW.
- Continued development of the Proposition 1 Adaptive Management Plans for WSIP recreation and flood benefits.
- Reclamation submitted the Sites Project Construction Biological Assessment to the USFWS in November and included the Sites Project as a programmatic action in its Long-term Operations Reconsultation Biological Assessment, submitted to USFWS and NMFS also in November.
- Continued discussions with several parties protesting 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 January meeting.

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

- Facilitated a Local Community Working Group Meeting.
- 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 2024 Local Community Working Group meetings.
- Submitted first real estate acquisition offer to landowner. Awaiting feedback.
- Ongoing coordination with landowners to discuss TROE for geotechnical, biological, environmental, and cultural field activities and other real estate actions.

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

- Coordinated with EPA staff and consultants on WIFIA Loan Document development including submission of Draft Benefits and Obligations Contract.