



Meeting: **Joint Reservoir Committee & Authority Board**  
**Agenda Item 2.2**

**January 19, 2024**

Subject: **Policy Recommendations from the Local Community Working Group (LCWG)**

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**Requested Action:**

Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider directing staff to proceed with implementing the Local Community Working Group proposed policy recommendations as part of the project and continue working with the LCWG to ensure the project stays aligned with the local community's vision for a successful outcome.

**Detailed Description/Background:**

The Local Community Working Group (LCWG) was established in the fall of 2022 to provide a forum for efficient, effective, and meaningful local community engagement in the development of the project. The adopted 2020 Strategic Plan includes as one of the central values of the organization "Respect for the Local Communities," and this group serves as the Authority's liaison to the local community.

The mission of the LCWG has been to work collaboratively to develop creative solutions to issues of local concern, identify opportunities of shared interest between the Authority and the local community, and to advise the project team in the implementation of the project.

The LCWG was initially developed to represent a broad cross-section of representatives from local governmental agencies, business organizations, local business owners, local community associations, and federal and state elected officials within the counties where the project's facilities are located (Colusa, Glenn, and Yolo County).

Participation in the LCWG is open to anyone "local" – including those in the counties of where the project is located and the JPA members service areas. Staff is actively recruiting additional members to help advance the LCWG's mission and activities.

The LCWG has held seven meetings in 2023. An overview of the LCWG's 2023 meetings, participants, and activities are included in the Community Working Group 2023 Interim Report (Attachment A).

As originally envisioned, LCWG meetings were planned only through the end of 2023. However, Staff will reconvene the LCWG in 2024 and will meet on a quarterly basis.

The meetings have been very productive, provided vital insight into the local community's concerns, and identified several areas of shared interests between the community and the Project. The outcome of these meetings included the development of four broad policy recommendations that the LCWG has proposed for the AB/RC consideration and adoption. These recommendations include:

**Policy Recommendation #1** – Require all construction contractors to be responsive to the Maxwell community needs (due to the proximity to most of the project work) and develop standard provisions to be included in all Sites construction contract documents requiring all work to be performed in a manner compatible with local needs.

**Policy Recommendation #2** – Establish goals and incentives for a local hiring. Implement a program that trains and hires residents and set a goal for a specific percentage of the project workforce to reside in Colusa, Glenn, Yolo, Sutter, Butte, Tehama, Shasta, Placer, and Sacramento counties. Ensure that local businesses can compete for the contracts and purchase orders necessary to construct the project.

**Policy Recommendation #3** – Recognizing that there are long-term effects of the project on the provision of public services in the vicinity of the reservoir (e.g. emergency response, crime prevention, school population, etc.)the Sites Project should perform and analysis of the current public service staffing and equipment limitations and take steps in the Project planning to address these issues in the near term with the goal of achieving improved public service for all after the Project is in operation.

**Policy Recommendation #4** – Conduct a study to determine the existing capacity of local infrastructure (e.g., broadband, water, sewer) and implement needed improvements in a manner that supports the project and also provides for potential improvements in service to the local community. This study should be conducted in conjunction with the Maxwell Community Plan that is required in the Colusa County General Plan.

The establishment of goals for local hiring, creating a local workforce development program, and ensuring that local contractors/businesses can compete for contracts and purchase orders is a high priority for members of the LCWG. In large part, the anticipation of this local benefit has been a major driver for local support for the project.

Due to the scope, cost, complexity, and duration of the Sites Project, the Authority will need to develop a comprehensive strategy to address project contracting and labor. It is anticipated that the Authority will likely need to utilize a broad mix of organized labor, local contractors, non-local contractors, and a regional workforce to deliver the project on time and on budget.

As such, it is anticipated that a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) will be necessary for the project's construction. A PLA establishes the terms and conditions for the project's contracting and labor, including incorporating the goals outlined by the LCWG. An important consideration in developing a PLA for the Sites Project is the need to secure a pool of available, skilled, organized labor to deliver the project

while also ensuring that local contractors, workforce, and businesses have opportunities to compete for contracts and work on the project. As the Authority develops its overall contracting and labor approach (including a PLA), it will be critically important to strike a balance between these factors.

It will be necessary to have a PLA in place prior to the procurement of a construction contractor so that the selected firm(s) are aware and committed to contributing to meeting the conditions of the PLA.

Continued outreach to organized labor and the local community is important and will be conducted as the PLA is developed. Negotiation of the PLA will be conducted under the Construction Legal Services (which is currently in procurement) and will be initiated immediately after award of these services in March 2024.

**Prior Authority Board Action:** The Joint Authority Board/Reservoir Committee Meeting received an informational presentation from staff on creating a Local Community Working Group on June 17, 2022. The AB/RC agreed by consensus to its establishment.

**Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:** Funding to support the Maxwell Community Plan, Local Public Service Staffing Analysis, and the Local Infrastructure Capacity Study will require reallocations of what is currently budgeted as staff support time within the 2024/2025 Amendment 3 Budget which are within the Executive Director's authority to make. The estimated cost to complete the three studies is \$250,000. Staff will further refine the scope and costs of these studies and identify potential funding to support the effort.

**Staff Contact:** Kevin Spesert

**Primary Service Provider:** Katz & Associates

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Local Community Working Group 2023 Interim Report