

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project, Phase 1** **2017 April 11**

Subject: **Monthly Status Report** Report Period: **2017 March**

Executive Summary: The principle activities approved as part of the amended Phase 1 work plan are underway with consultant work products being submitted for review and comment. Based on the Water Commission’s schedule, work is on track to have the application ready in June and to be able to start Phase 2 in July 2018. The target completion date for Phase 2 is December 31, 2022.

Program Management & Administration:

Onboarding: Receipt of executed agreements to participate in the Authority and/or Reservoir Committee continues. Work is in progress to address the 2 alternative proposals and 1 contingent proposal. We have received additional inquiries to participate in the Authority and/or Reservoir Committee, but no formal requests have been submitted. The Reservoir Committee developed guidelines for prioritizing changes in participation using the acre-ft. should occur and to address the potential risk to some participants that there may not be Class 1 water allocated to them at the end of the Phase 1 rebalancing process.

Organization and Delegation: An organization and reporting structure has been established. It includes a number of standing and ad hoc committees and work groups to focus on key areas needed to advance the project through phase 1.

Accounting: Initial payments are being received from the new participants. Work is in progress to ensure all participants to the Reservoir Committee have paid the same dollar per acre-ft. Work is also underway to update the budget to match the approved amended phase 1 work plan.

Office Flooding: Colusa County has executed contracts to restore the office for occupancy and we are working with the insurance adjustor to address damages. The current forecast is to reopen the office by July.

Engagement & Outreach:

Work continues to monitor social media and to respond to comments generated from the website. A two-page project summary was prepared focusing on the features and benefits. Plans are underway for additional landowner communications. Technical staff supported project locations visits by media and interested agency staff.

Proposition 1 (WSIP) Application:

The Commission held a workshop to discuss the application process on March 30, 2017. AECOM and the Authority are developing a detailed outline and schedule to prepare the required components for the WSIP application. This includes coordination with Reclamation on the schedule for drafts of a federal Feasibility Report and EIR/EIS.

AECOM and Ch2m continue to coordinate on the modeling needs for the WSIP application. Preliminary results will be provided by Ch2m in early April with a target date of April 21 for the completion of the modeling needed to support the economic analysis required by WSIP.

Ch2m continued to update the analytical tools to include the latest available tools prescribed in the CWC WSIP regulations including new data into the tools to address climate change and sea level rise. Implemented model code changes and continued coordination efforts with Authority, SWCs, and Reclamation as necessary including related to key assumptions. Refined specific public benefit operations criteria and assumptions to better align with CWC ecosystem objectives. On March 31, preliminary modeling of year 2030 conditions was reviewed.

Environmental Documentation (EIR/S):

The supplemental scoping period for the EIR closed in early March. An updated Scoping Summary is under development.

Continued coordination with Perkins Coie, Authority, Reclamation, DWR, and AECOM related to updating and revising of all chapters of the preliminary draft EIR/EIS and to include Alternative D and associated CALSIM II and related modeling, specific technical analyses and other coordination. Development of project description (including operations and benefits refinements) and revised EIR/S analyses and internal review progressed consistent with the revised production schedule.

AECOM addressed questions on reservoir induced seismicity and the peak ground acceleration. AECOM also supported the EIR/S Team with information on greenhouse gas emissions and further clarification of the project features.

Federal Cooperating Agency Review of an updated working draft EIS/EIR is proposed to occur in mid-May and would be followed by Reclamation's management review.

Federal Feasibility Study:

A special assessment by Reclamation's Design, Estimating, and Construction (DEC) group was performed from February 28 through March 2. The Authority attended the out-briefing. The primary finding is additional engineering will be needed to support the type of cost-estimate prepared by Reclamation to evaluate federally-sponsored projects. This additional Engineering is proposed to occur after the California Water Commission makes its investment decision as authorized under WSIP.

On March 31, Reclamation's management and the Authority provided comments to an initial draft Federal Feasibility Report. Comments are being evaluated. Reclamation and the Authority are working to develop a coordinated schedule to include a draft Feasibility Report with the Authority's WSIP application.

Engineering & Technical:

In addition to the review of the engineering by Reclamation's Denver Technical Service Center also performed an independent review of the engineering drawings and cost estimate for Alternative D.

AECOM is also developing additional material on the probable maximum flood (PMF) and the downstream effects of an emergency drawdown of the reservoir.