

Sites Reservoir Project Monthly Status Report (March)

Monthly Status Summary:

The development of the Sites Project continues to make progress in the critical areas, including the following activities:

Engineering:

- Ongoing CAISO and PG&E coordination.
- Continued Division of Safety of Dams coordination.
- Continued preliminary engineering design and analysis: dams, I/O, roads, conveyance, and system hydraulics.
- Initiated planning and coordination of Golden Gate Dam value engineering activities.
- Initiated development of preliminary engineering Opinion of Probable Construction Cost Estimate.

Coordination with Reclamation:

- Meetings with Reclamation and DWR to discuss technical aspects of coordinating operations has resumed. Most of the current effort is related to defining the circumstances under which close coordination is to occur during diversions.
- The State Water Contractors are providing comments on the Operations Coordination Agreement through DWR.
- Technical discussions with Reclamation involving the development of the Partnership Agreement (which is the Federal equivalent to the B&O) continue.
- Ongoing coordination with Reclamation on schedule and timing for signing the ROD.

Environmental Planning and Permitting:

- Ongoing CEQA litigation support, as needed.
- Additional updates to County Approvals Matrix to address input received on land use entitlements and permit requirements.
- Continued to perform seasonal surveys required by the Project's Aquatic Study Plan.
- Continued development of Section 404(b)(1) Alternatives Analysis for Section 404 permitting.
- Continued meetings with CDFW staff on responding to additional information requests for the Project's Operations ITP application. Provided substantial information to CDFW to address their requests.

Monthly Status Report Continued

- Continued coordination with CDFW on the Revised Construction ITP and Master Streambed Alteration Agreement.
- Continued discussions with several parties protesting the Project's water right application and continued preparation for the administrative hearing.
- Initiation of the Section 408 approval process with the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Continued coordination with design and engineering team on Project Delivery planning.

Operations:

- Continued effort to transition Sites into the CalSim 3 model platform.
- Began efforts on additional modeling in CalSim II for the Operations ITP analysis.

Partner Engagement, Public Outreach & Real Estate:

- Facilitated project presentation for California State Association of Counties President.
- Conducted a Local Community Working Group (LCWG) meeting.
- Planning for Washington DC Legislative trip for May 21st-23rd.
- Continued to develop the 2023 Annual Report.
- Planning for a Virtual Town Hall in 2024 and future 2024 LCWG meetings.
- Planning for landowner meeting in June 2024.
- Continued ongoing coordination with landowners who are part of the Early Acquisition Program.
- Ongoing coordination with landowners to discuss Temporary Right Of Entry for geotechnical, biological, environmental, and cultural field activities and other real estate actions.

Program Management & Administration:

- Ongoing response to comments received on the draft of the Benefits & Obligations Contract with Participants and Joint Powers Agreement and Bylaws amendments.