

Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting

Agenda Item 3.1: Project Construction and
Operations ITPs

November 15, 2024



Project Incidental Take Permits

- Incidental Take Permits needed to construct and operate Project facilities
 - Identified as high priority work plan action and a condition precedent to participation by all Storage Partners
- Construction ITP issued by CDFW on October 22
- Operations ITP issued by CDFW on October 24
- Staff have reviewed both and feel they are consistent with Authority's applications and previous discussions with RC/AB
- No action to sign or accept the permits, they are valid and in effect when issued

Construction ITP – Overview

- Species Covered
 - Giant garter snake, Swainson’s hawk, Tricolored blackbird, Crotch’s bumble bee (candidate species)
- Term – Expires on Dec 31, 2034 unless extended
- Mitigation
 - Avoidance and minimization measures as generally proposed by the Authority
 - Compensatory mitigation generally consistent with Application but phased in 2-year increments
- Conditions of Approval – Standard ones with some minor, reasonable modifications

Construction ITP – Next Steps

- Staff continuing review and preparing to implement terms and conditions
- Future considerations
 - Burrowing owl recently identified as candidate species
 - Design modifications, especially roadway improvements and construction traffic routing
 - Will allow things to progress further and reassess in the future (well prior to any ground disturbance actions taken under the ITP)

Operations ITP – Overview

- Species Covered
 - Winter-run Chinook Salmon, Spring-run Chinook Salmon, Delta Smelt, Longfin Smelt, and White Sturgeon (candidate species)
- Term – Expires on Dec 31, 2039 unless extended
- Limited to the Sites Project operations – does not affect TCCA and GCID operations (governed by separate requirements)

Operations ITP – Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation

- Wilkins Slough Bypass Flows @ 10,930 cfs for entire diversion season (Sept 1 to June 14)
 - Same science, accounts for uncertainty in model results
- Flow Dependent Diversions – Scale maximum diversion rates on flows in the river at each diversion location
 - Limits the proportion of river flow that may be diverted for the Project during lower flows
 - Replaces Authority's pulse flow protection measure
 - Actual Project performance expected to be similar
- Plans and Technical Studies – Added specificity
 - Continued collaboration with TCCA and GCID important throughout term of ITP
- Compensatory Mitigation – Same as the Authority's application

Operations ITP – Next Steps

- Staff continuing review and preparing to implement terms and conditions
- Preparing to develop technical study plans due in years 1 and 2
 - Will be initiating coordination with TCCA and GCID in early 2025
- Future considerations
 - Outcomes of SWP/CVP reconsultation, DCP, Bay-Delta Plan updates, and similar system-wide changes will necessitate coordination with CDFW to determine if reconsultation is warranted

Questions?