

# Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting

Agenda Item 2.1: Sites Project Operations  
Biological Assessment

August 22, 2025



# Background and Today's Ask

- Project-level operations ESA compliance is a high priority Work Plan item and a condition precedent to the B&O taking effect
- Approach discussed in early 2024 has been revised recently
- Seeking Board's concurrence on approach revisions and approval to submit when completed
  - Reminder that Reclamation is lead federal agency

# Operations BA Approach – As of Early 2024

- Two step ESA approach for Sites

- ✓ Step 1 – Mixed programmatic consultation for Sites
  - ✓ • Programmatic operations in the Reconsultation on the CVP/SWP BA/BiOps (2024 LTO BiOps)
    - Completed Late 2024
  - ✓ • Sites Project-level Construction BA/BiOp
    - Completed July 2025

## Step 2 – Project-level operations

- Reinitiate consultation after CVP/SWP BiOps to cover Sites operations at a project-level
- Stand-alone independent BA/BiOp for Sites' operations

# Operations BA Approach – Revised Approach

- Two step ESA approach for Sites

- ✓ Step 1 – Mixed programmatic consultation for Sites
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## Step 2 – Project-level operations

- Amend ~~Reinitiate~~ consultation after CVP/SWP BiOps to cover Sites operations at a project-level
- ~~Stand-alone independent BA/BiOp for Sites' operations~~
- Tier Sites' project-level operations analysis off 2024 LTO BiOps

# Operations BA Approach – Revised Approach

- Tier Sites' project-level operations analysis off 2024 LTO BiOps
  - Consultation with Sites operations as a “distinct component” of 2024 LTO BiOps
  - Sites would have its own take statement
    - For take that is above and beyond that addressed in the 2024 LTO BiOps
- Sites not a division of the CVP and would not reconsult every time there is a CVP/SWP reconsultation
  - Authority intends that this be clarified in the terms and conditions of the upcoming Partnership Agreement

# What this means to process and schedule

- The resulting “BA” would be brief and only cover differences in Sites project description and analysis
- Required modeling would likely be reduced
  - Have started with key umbrella models (e.g., Calsim 3) and follow with secondary modeling, as needed
- Schedule is still set for completion in late 2025
  - Will provide updates should that change

# Questions?