

# Operations & Engineering Workgroup

February 4, 2026



# Agenda

1.1 Update on Letter of Mutual Understanding with Lower Colusa Basin Drain System Stakeholders and Lower Colusa Basin Drain System components for Program Baseline Report

1.2 Update on status of Department of Water Resources/Reclamation/Sites Operations Agreement

1.3 Update on Facilities Use Agreements

1.4 Review and comment on approach for modeling transfers for North of Delta Participants

Engineering and Construction Manager's Report

# Agenda Item 1.1

**Update on Letter of Mutual Understanding with Lower Colusa Basin Drain System Stakeholders and Lower Colusa Basin Drain System components for Program Baseline Report**

Amparo Flores / Richard Newens/Pete Rude



# Purpose of LOMU

- Document the Lower CBD System engagement and partnership efforts since Sept 2023, and regional interest in continued cooperation.
- Inform Project participants' decision to execute the Benefits and Obligations (B&O) Contract with the Sites Authority, which will serve as the contractual basis for decision-making on the Project.

**Sites Authority invites all Lower CBD Working Group participants to sign the LOMU by early March 2026.**

# LOMU Preview: Draft Contents

- Acknowledgement of engagement and partnership since Sept 2023
- *Principles Establishing Guidelines for the Sites Project's Use of the Lower CBD System* as a framework for discussions
- Recognition of Project's potential net benefits to other users and the region, and remaining issues to be addressed:
  - timing and hydraulic effects (positive and negative) of Project operations
  - acquisition of property easements to establish legal rights the Sites Authority needs to secure in its use of the Lower CBD
  - coordination of construction activities to avoid and/or minimize impacts on existing uses of the CBD
  - long-term improvements, operations, and maintenance of the Lower CBD System, including financing and governance structure
  - support for DWR's ability to meet the terms of the Hershey Agreement
- Progress with RD 108 Operations Agreement in development

→ *Continued cooperative partnership towards future agreements*

# Next Steps

- Outreach over the next few weeks for signatures.
  - RD 108 Board has expressed interest in signing; LOMU will be presented to the RD 108 Board.
- Presentation of signed LOMU to the Sites Authority at the March 20, 2026 meeting.

**Slide 6**

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**AF1**

Add update from Lower CBD WG meeting, if any

Amparo Flores, 2026-02-03T02:02:24.732

# Conveyance TM – TC Canal, GCID Canal, CBD vs Pipeline to River

- TC Canal
  - Level of Service Assessment: 2,100 cfs Red Bluff to Funks Reservoir and 1,000 cfs from Funks Reservoir to Dunnigan Pipeline inlet.
  - Potential Improvements: Current HEC-RAS modeling of TC Canal with new survey data of TC Canal near Orland will help determine TC Canal capacity and provide information if any improvements are necessary.
- GCID Main Canal
  - Level of Service Assessment: 1,800 cfs from Hamilton City to TRR
    - During 10% design (2021) we did a condition assessment of several siphons near Willows. They were in good shape.
    - During 10% design (2021) we did a HEC-RAS model of Canal from Hamilton City to past TRR. Confirm canal has capacity to meet 1,800 cfs flow. Downstream of TRR, Funks Creek siphon has capacity of about 900 cfs.
  - Potential Improvements: During 10% design identified upgrade to Fish Screen cleaner to operate in flood flows, new headgate structure, limited canal bank improvements – costs included in 30% design costs

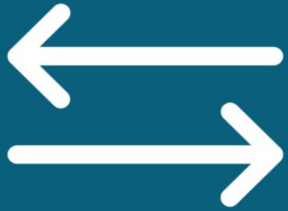
# Conveyance TM – TC Canal, GCID Canal, CBD vs Pipeline to River(continued)

- **Dunnigan Pipeline**
  - Level of Service Assessment:
    - 30% Design TC Canal to CBD, 10.5-ft Diam, Q design = 1,000 cfs, Max Q = 1,300cfs, \$215 Million.
  - Potential Improvements: Add in Alt 2 – extend pipe from CBD to Sacramento River.
    - Updated 10% design: increase pipe diameter to 12-ft, keep Q design = 1,000 cfs, costs about \$360 Million. Total for Dunnigan Pipeline would be about \$575 million
    - Adds salmonid permitting topics with USFWS, NMFS and CDFW
- **Colusa Basin Drain**
  - Level of Service Assessment: Using an updated HEC-RAS model we are estimating the extent of west bank improvements with 1,000 cfs of project flow, and how much of the flow may go down the KLRC.
  - Potential Improvements: will be estimating a cost for west bank improvements and may estimate cost for purchase of flooded land.

# RD108 Operations Agreement

- Sites Authority will memorialize its partnership with RD 108 in the form of an Operations Agreement for Lower CBD Operations
- The agreement will describe anticipated operations and associated cost sharing provisions for the
  - Dunnigan Pipeline
  - upper, middle, and lower reaches of the CBD
  - Knight Landing Outfall Gates

# Key Principles for RD 108 Operations Agreement Development



## Leverage provisions from other Sites Agreements

- 2023 Cooperative Agreement with RD 108
- Benefits & Obligations Contract
- Sites Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement



## Develop substantially similar agreement as with other partners

- Follow framework and key terms from Facilities Use Agreements with other partners (GCID/TCCA)
- Identify entity specific changes where appropriate



## Defer certain details to attachments

- Attachments can be more readily revised as the project advances

# Agenda Item 1.2

**Update on status of Department of Water  
Resources/Reclamation/Sites Operations Agreement.**

Jerry Brown



# Issue and Policy Direction Needed

- Issue – The Sites Water Right application identifies harm to the CVP and SWP will be avoided in the operations of Sites and a three-party agreement is needed to assure parties of the desired outcome.
- Policy Direction Needed –
  - Confirm that key terms as being discussed are protective of interests

# Background

- The Authority initiated discussions with DWR and Reclamation Operations staff in November 2020.
- A negotiating team of board members assisted in the discussions with DWR and Reclamation.
- The biggest challenge was establishing an approach that could:
  - Assure that in ~10 years when Sites is operational, the parties could move forward satisfied interests would be met
- This was accomplished in today's environment - the Sites Project is under development and CVP/SWP operations are ever changing
- The draft agreement is now going through legal review

# Agreement Structure

- Agreement consists of:
  - main Operations Agreement
  - two Attachments (Diversions and Releases/Measurements)
  - and a white paper (What Coordination Looks Like Today.)
- The Attachments include technical details and may be updated over time as needed based on changing conditions and regulatory requirements
  - Close Coordination
  - Release and Delivery Schedule – to be consistent with Sites Ops plans
  - Exchanges w/DWR - mentioned
  - Exchanges w/Recl - silent

# Key Terms Topic

- **Ensuring “No Harm” to CVP and SWP:**
  - In general, Agreement language focuses on “close coordination” to avoid negative effects
  - Reclamation and/or DWR to inform Sites Authority if negative effects may occur
    - Sites Authority to make operational adjustments to avoid negative effects
    - If negative effect occurs, water will be returned to Reclamation and/or DWR
  - Water right term provides additional protection
  - SOP for Sites Diversions, incorporates SWC settlement terms, ops conditions analysis described in white paper
    - Balance Conditions – no Sites diversion
    - Excess with Export Restrictions – conditional Sites diversion where DWR/Recl determine Sac River flow conditions not affecting exports
    - Excess – unimpaired Sites diversion

# Key Terms Topic

- **Other Operational Considerations:**

- Annual operations assessment of Sites diversions and releases to be done, including timing of communication and coordination with Reclamation and DWR
- Sites operations does not propose ability to store CVP water in Sites Reservoir
- Carriage water will be applied to Sites Water consistent with existing white paper
- Considering separate agreements to address Exchanges:
  - Exchange Agreement with DWR
  - Reclamation Partnership Agreement (minimal)

# Key Terms Topic

- **Sites Water Right and Permitting**

- A term regarding no injury to CVP and SWP has been included in the Authority's water right application
- Language has been included that the Agreement does not change the water rights or priorities of the parties (similar to SWC settlement)
- Reclamation is Section 7 ESA lead for operations and construction – holds the BiOps
- COA considerations were reviewed, and all parties concur that Sites can work within existing COA accounting methods

# Key Terms Topic

- **Financial Considerations:**

- Where Sites actually injures CVP and/or SWP, negative effects are remedied with “payback water”
- DWR and Recl may be compensated for close coordination services under specific conditions

# Key Terms Topic

- **Use of Facilities and Power:**
  - No power credits and no power impacts are expected
  - Sites will procure its own energy source for all non-Federal uses
  - Excess Use contract (ie Warren Act) and/or Conveyance Agreements and land entitlements are feasible and will be accomplished under other agreements

# SWC Review Per Settlement Agreement

- Substantially complete
- Further review to occur as agreement is completed

# Next Steps

- Review by all three parties continues with current goal of signing a Final Agreement after water right is issued
- The ROD authorizes Reclamation to sign
- Authority staff focus for next 2 months:
  - Finalize legal review
  - Incorporate any changes resulting from the draft water right order

# Agenda Item 1.3

## Update on Facilities Use Agreements

JP Robinette

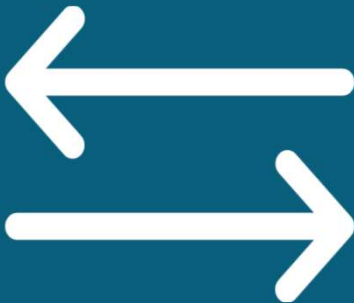


# Key Principles for Facilities Use Agreement Development



Develop substantially similar agreement for both agencies

- Identify entity specific changes where appropriate



Leverage provisions from other Sites Agreements

- 2023 Cooperative Agreement with GCID and TCCA
- Benefits & Obligations Contract
- Sites Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement
- 2021 Draft Term Sheets with GCID and TCCA



Defer certain details to attachments

- Attachments can be more readily revised as the project advances

# Where are we at today?

Distributed initial draft to GCID and TCCA on Dec 18

- No red flags identified at this time.
- Comments are pending.

Drafting of Wheeling Rate and Water Loss Methodology Attachment is in progress

- GCID and TCCA are in agreement that the other attachments can be deferred until future project discussions.

Will move to RD108 agreement once we have a good “template” FUA

# Agenda Item 1.4

**Review and comment on approach for modeling for Baseline Report.**

Ali Forsythe / Chad Whittington

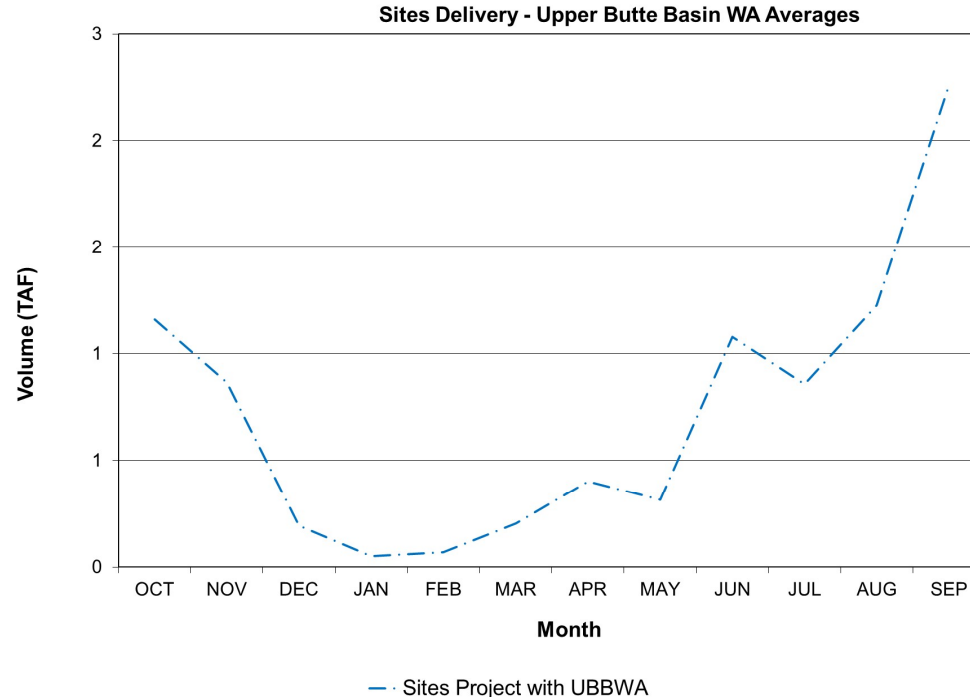


# Issue and Policy Direction Needed

- Issue – Staff needs to complete CalSim 3 modeling to be included in the Baseline Report in a way that best represents Participants anticipated use
- Policy Direction Needed – Provide input on approach to modeling North of Delta transfers

# CalSim 3 Modeling Updates

- Since December:
  - Coordinated with CDFW to include Sites Project deliveries to the Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area (UBBWA)
    - Sites Reservoir releases from the State's refuge water supply are exchanged with Oroville releases for delivery to the UBBWA off of the Feather River (9 TAF/yr)
    - UBBWA operation provides additional State benefits without significantly effecting releases for other Sites Project members



\*Preliminary result from draft CalSim 3 models. For discussion purposes only

# North of Delta Operations

- Three possible transfer routings
  1. In-reservoir transfers from NOD-SOD
    - Used previously, but won't be used in the future
  2. Direct delivery from NOD account to a SOD demand (could be a Sites Participant or non-Sites) – In Progress
    - NOD members transfer to example SOD contractors
    - Beginning with high demand to determine limitations
  3. Direct delivery from NOD account to a non-Sites NOD demand – In Progress
    - For non-Sites demand, beginning with high demand to determine limitations
- Does moving forward with #2 and #3 bracket the range of possibilities?

# Modeling Approach for Baseline Report

- In coordination with NOD and SOD members:
  - Finalize NOD operations
  - Finalize NOD and SOD transfers operations
  - Finalize City of American Canyon operations
- Review draft water order and refine model as needed based on terms and conditions
- Develop two scenarios to demonstrate a range of delivery capability for SOD members (similar to the sensitivity analysis presented in the December O&E Meeting)
  - One scenario that incentivizes dry year deliveries to all SOD members
  - One scenario that focuses operations on moving Sites Water through Delta more aggressively
- Anticipate modeling results around end of February

# Engineering and Construction Manager's Report

JP Robinette

# Questions?



# Thank you!

## Upcoming Meetings:

Reservoir Committee and Authority Board:

Friday, February 20, 2026 - 9:00 a.m. to noon

O&E Workgroup:

Wed March 11 - 1:30 to 3:30 pm