



Reservoir Operations Plan

Version 3.0

September 18, 2026

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Version History

Version	Description	Date of Revision	Key Changes From Prior Version
1	Draft	1/17/2022	--
2.0	Draft; Not approved by Authority Board	5/24/2024	Once finalized, will supersede and entirely replace Version 1; Refers and utilizes the Project adopted by the Authority Board in November 2023; Prepared for the Sites Water Right proceeding process
2.1	Draft; Not yet approved by Authority Board	5/12/2025	Once finalized, will supersede and entirely replace Version 1 and 2.0. Builds upon Version 2.0 to include more information relative to Storage Partner benefits and how those are realized in actual operations. Updated to reflect the Oct 2024 Operations ITP conditions and additional proposed water right terms through the date of release of this document. A preliminary draft of V2.1 was provided for review by the Operations and Engineering Workgroup on 8/9/2024.
2.2	Draft; Not yet approved by Authority Board	12/15/2025	Once finalized, will supersede and entirely replace all prior versions. Addresses comments received on Version 2.1.
2.3	Draft; Not yet approved by Authority Board	6/15/2026	Once finalized, will supersede and entirely replace all prior versions. Addresses comments received on Version 2.2. Includes revisions to reflect updates to B&O Contract and the finalized versions of the Operations Agreement with DWR and Reclamation, along with the final draft Contracts for Administration of Public Benefits. Does not address the March 20, 2026 Draft Water Right Order and Permit.
<u>3.0</u>	<u>Anticipated to be advanced by the Authority Board at its September 18, 2026 meeting as a component of the approval of the Resolution to Offer Capacity*</u>	<u>9/18/2026</u>	<u>Includes revisions to reflect updates to B&O Contract, Contracts for Administration of Public Benefits, and September 3, 2026 Revised Draft Water Right Order and Permit. Once advanced by the Authority Board, will supersede and entirely replace all prior versions.</u>

* Document is draft for consideration.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AF	acre-feet
Authority	Sites Project Authority
BiOp	Biological Opinion
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
cfs	cubic feet per second
CBD	Colusa Basin Drain
CCWD	Contra Costa Water District
CNRFC	California-Nevada River Forecast Center
CVP	Central Valley Project
D-1641	Decision 1641
Delta	Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta
DO	Dissolved oxygen
DSOD	Division of Safety of Dams
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
GCID	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
I/O	inlet/outlet
MAF	million acre-feet
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NDWA	North Delta Water Agency
NOD	North-of-Delta
Operations Plan	Sites Reservoir Operations Plan
PGP	Pumping Generating Plant
RBPP	Red Bluff Pumping Plant
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SOD	South-of-Delta
SWC	State Water Contractors
SWP	State Water Project
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAF	thousand acre-feet
TC Canal	Tehama-Colusa Canal
TCCA	Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
TRR	Terminal Regulating Reservoir

Definition of Terms

Key terms used in this Reservoir Operations Plan are defined below. Should any definitions conflict with those in each Storage Partner's respective contract, the definitions in those agreements shall govern.

- **Applicable Laws** – Means applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, orders, and policies relating to the Project.
- **Base Facilities** – Means the Sites owned facilities or other facilities available to all Storage Partners including those listed in the Project Specific Information of each Storage Partner's respective contract, as modified from time to time.
- **Base Facilities Capacity Interest** – Means the undivided capacity right of each Storage Partner to (i) store, convey and divert Water in each of the Sites Owned Facilities specified in the Project Specific Information of the Storage Partner's respective contract, and (ii) ability to utilize Partner facilities through the Sites Authority to convey and divert Water for the Project, in the pro-rata share set out for each Storage Partner in the Storage Partner's respective contract and subject to the Sites Water Right, Applicable Law and Governmental Approvals.
- **Capacity Interest** – Means (i) in the case of the Base Facilities, the Base Facilities Capacity Interest; and (ii) in the case of the Downstream Facilities, the Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest, or either of them as the context applies.
- **Delivery Point** – With respect to the Participants and the Bureau of Reclamation, means Funks Reservoir, the Terminal Regulating Reservoir or the downstream confluence with the Sacramento River Knights Landing Outfall Gates and shall be specified by each Storage Partner in its Release Request Form with respect to each Storage Partner, the delivery point specified in the Project Specific Information in their respective contract. The Delivery Point under the Contracts for Administration of Public Benefits are specified in those contracts.
- **Delta Export Facilities** – Means the Harvey O. Banks Delta Pumping Plant including Clifton Court Forebay, owned and operated by the California Department of Water Resources and the Jones Pumping Plant owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation.
- **Downstream Facilities** – Means the Sites Owned Facilities or other facilities that are utilized by selected Storage Partners listed in the Project Specific Information of each Storage Partner's respective contract, as modified from time to time.
- **Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest** – Means the undivided capacity right to convey Water in each of the Downstream Facilities granted by the Sites Authority and owned by the Storage Partners in accordance with their respective contract, in the pro-rata share set out for each Storage Partner specified in the Project Specific Information of each Storage Partner's respective contract, subject to the Sites Water Right, Applicable Law, and Governmental Approvals.
- **Governmental Approvals** – Means any permit, license, consent, concession, court order, grant, franchise, authorization, waiver, certification, exemption, filing, lease, registration or ruling, variance or other approval, guidance, protocol, mitigation agreement, settlement agreement, agreement or memorandum of agreement/understanding, and any revision, modification, amendment, supplement, renewal or extension of any of the foregoing, required by or with any Governmental Entity in order to perform the purposes of this Sites Operations Plan.

- **Governmental Entity** - Means any federal, state, local or foreign government and any political subdivision or any governmental, quasi-governmental, judicial, public or statutory instrumentality, administrative agency, authority, body or entity other than the Authority.
- **Other Water** – Means water other than Sites Water that a Storage Partner may request the Authority to store in and/or convey through Project facilities consistent with Governmental Approvals and Applicable Law.
- **Partner Agreements** – Means any agreement entered into between the Sites Authority and another entity in accordance with which the Sites Authority has the right to divert, release and convey Water to or from the Project, as amended from time to time.
- **Secondary Delivery Point** – A location beyond the Delivery Point, which, at the request of each Storage Partner, and subject to Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals, the Authority may take actions reasonably practicable to assist Storage Partners in conveying Water.
- **Sites Project Authority (Authority or Sites Authority)** – A California Joint Powers Authority operating under and by virtue of Section 6500 et seq., of the California Government Code and formed in accordance with the Sites Project Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, ~~as such agreement may be modified from time to time~~, established for the purpose of designing, constructing, owning, operating and maintaining the Sites Reservoir Project.
- **Sites Reservoir Operations Plan (Operations Plan)** – Means this Sites Reservoir Operations Plan, including all Attachments, as may be modified from time to time.
- **Sites Reservoir Project (Project)** – ~~Means the entire physical infrastructure and capital improvements to be designed, constructed, commissioned and completed or contracted for use by the Authority, including the facilities owned by the Authority and the facilities utilized under Partner Agreements, as reflected in the Project Specific Information of each Storage Partner’s respective contract, for the purpose of providing storage and conveyance of water for use by Storage Partners, and other benefits, in accordance with their Capacity Interest, as such project may be modified from time to time~~~~Dams, reservoirs, certain associated diversion and conveyance facilities, and other associated facilities, mitigation lands, and the Sites Water Right owned and operated by the Authority.~~
- **Sites Water** – Means water that is appropriated under the Sites Water Right.
- **Sites Water Right** – Means the water right obtained and owned by the Authority for the Project.
- **Storage Allocation** – Means the maximum actual capacity allocated to a Storage Partner for storing Water in the Project facilities, measured and determined from time to time in accordance with the Sites Operations Plan.
- **Storage Partners** – The governmental agencies, water organizations and others who have funded and received a Storage Allocation in Sites Reservoir and the resulting water supply or water supply related benefits from the Project. Storage Partners include local agencies, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Bureau of Reclamation.
- **Water Year** – Period from October 1 through September 30.
- **Water** – Means Sites Water or Other Water conveyed through, or stored by, Storage Partners in Project Facilities.

1.0 Introduction

This Sites Reservoir Operations Plan (Operations Plan) establishes the procedures to be used in managing the water operations of the Sites Reservoir Project (Project). This Operations Plan reflects the Sites Project Authority's (Authority) permits, approvals, and commitments which are specified in other documents. Therefore, Project operations will be consistent with the following (in no particular order):

- All Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals – a few of which are currently in progress and not yet completed or obtained for the purposes of the Project's operations;
- Sites Reservoir Benefits and Obligations Contract (B&O Contract) – a final contract has been made available but has not yet been executed;
- Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program Contract for Administration of Public Ecosystem Benefits with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) – which is in final draft form but has not yet been executed;
- Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program Contract for Administration of Public Recreation, Flood Control, and Emergency Response Benefits with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) – which is in final draft form but has not yet been executed;
- Partnership Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) – which is in final draft form but has not yet been executed;
- Partner Agreement with Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) – which is in final draft form but has not yet been executed ~~which has not yet been finalized or executed~~;
- Partner Agreement with Tehama Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) and Excess Capacity Contract with Reclamation – which are in final draft form but have not yet been finalized or executed; and
- Any relevant water operations agreement – the following which have been executed by the Authority and included in Attachment A:
 - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Colusa County and the Authority Regarding Area of Origin Water Rights Claims to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks, and Related Matters, dated November 22, 2021 (Colusa County MOU);
 - Agreement between the Authority and Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) to Coordinate in the Operations of the Sites Reservoir Project, dated December 20, 2023 (CCWD Agreement);
 - Agreement between the Authority and Maxwell Irrigation District to Avoid Impacts of Sites Reservoir Project to Maxwell Irrigation District Water Rights, dated April 9, 2024 (Maxwell ID Agreement);
 - Memorandum of Understanding Between the North Delta Water Agency (NDWA) and the Authority, dated August 30, 2023 (NDWA MOU); and
 - Settlement Agreement between the Authority, the State Water Contractors (SWC), and DWR, dated June 7, 2024 (Sites/SWC/DWR Settlement Agreement).

- Any relevant water operations agreement – the following which are in final form but have not yet been executed:
 - Agreement between the Authority and the Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company (Colusa Drain MWC; Anticipated Colusa Drain MWC Agreement);
 - Operations Agreement between the Authority, Reclamation, and DWR (Anticipated Sites/Reclamation/DWR Operations Agreement);
 - Agreement for Exchanges of Water Between the Sites Reservoir Project and State Water Project (Anticipated Lake Oroville Exchange Agreement);
 - Agreement Between DWR and the Authority for Conveyance of Sites Water for South of Delta (SOD) Central Valley Project (CVP) Project Improvement Act Refuges (Anticipated SOD Refuge Wheeling Agreement); and,
 - Agreement Between the United States and the Authority Providing For Refuge Water Supplies (Anticipated Refuge Donation Agreement with Reclamation).

On September 3, 2026, the Administrative Hearings Office of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued a Revised Draft Decision 1653 and Revised Draft Water Right Permit for the Project. -In addition, on September 3, 2026, the Administrative Hearings Office issued a Procedural Ruling bifurcating the Authority's water right application into two parts – one part that addresses diversions from the Sacramento River (which was the subject of the Revised Draft Decision 1653 and Revised Draft Water Right Permit¹) and one part addressing diversions from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks². -The Administrative Hearings Office also issued notice of a continued hearing to receive additional evidence in support of demonstrating water is available for diversions by the Authority from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks in January 2027. -This Operations Plan presents Project operations based on the terms and conditions in the SWRCB's Administrative Hearings Office September 3, 2026 Revised Draft Water Right and Order with respect to diversions and releases to the Sacramento River. This Operations Plan presents Project operations based on the terms proposed in the Authority's water right application and through the water right hearing process with respect to diversions from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks. This Operations Plan will be adjusted and revised to reflect the Project's Final Water Right(s) and Order(s) once adopted by the SWRCB.

This Operations Plan is an operating tool to help manage the water operations of the Project and does not take any precedence over Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals and the agreements identified above. In the event of a conflict between this Operations Plan and Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals or any of the agreements identified above, the terms of the respective instrument will control. This Operations Plan will be updated periodically to reflect updates to Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals and the agreements identified above, and to reflect current operational practices as those are further developed and refined over time, as described in Section ~~14~~15. It is also important to note the following:

¹ [Application 33534A \(Permit 21487\)](#)

² [Application 33534B](#)

1. This Version ~~2.3~~ of the Operations Plan supersedes and replaces all prior versions. This Version ~~2.3~~ of the Operations Plan, when ~~adopted-advanced~~ by the Sites Authority Board of Directors as a component of the approval of the Resolution to Offer Capacity, will also supersede the “Principles for the Storage, Delivery and Sale of Sites Reservoir Project Water” adopted by the Sites Authority Board of Directors on April 21, 2021. This Operations Plan does not bind the Authority to implement certain operations, mitigation measures, or permit terms.
2. ~~The Authority has submitted a water right application to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and permit applications to various other agencies. This Operations Plan presents Project operations based on the terms proposed in its water right application and through the water right hearing process. This Operations Plan will be adjusted and revised to reflect the final permit terms prior to Project operation. This Version of the Operations Plan is expected to be updated with the Final Water Right(s) and Order(s), remaining final agreements identified in this Section and any other operations-related agreements that may be developed and executed. Once updated, it will be considered for adoption by the Reservoir Management Board at the beginning of Phase 3 of the Project.~~
3. The Project is a wholly separate and distinct water supply project from that of the CVP and SWP. This Operations Plan and the Authority cannot modify, adjust, affect, or otherwise control the operations of the CVP and SWP. Conversely, Reclamation and DWR cannot modify, adjust, affect, or otherwise control the operations of the Project beyond those rights provided to Reclamation and DWR in any of the agreements identified above.
4. This Operations Plan addresses monitoring and measurement of water generally, including losses. Authority staff are developing a separate Measurement and Monitoring Plan which will describe this in detail.

Figure 1 provides an overview schematic of the Project, Project facilities, and related facilities. Figure 2 and Figure 3 shows the location of these facilities. Facility descriptions are provided in Attachment B.

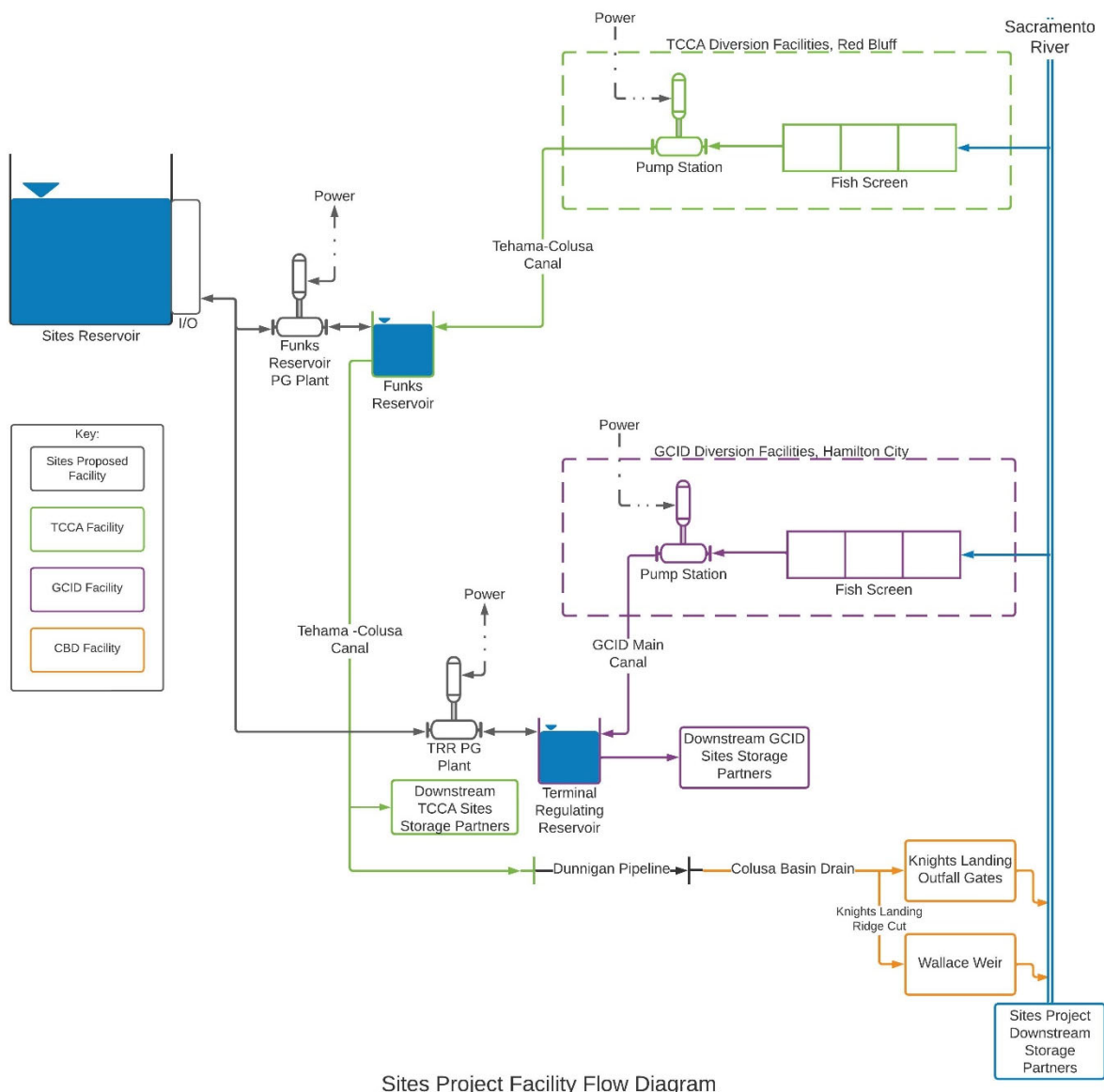


FIGURE 1. FACILITY SCHEMATIC

Abbreviations (in alphabetical order): CBD = Colusa Basin Drain; GCID = Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District; I/O = Inlet/Outlet; PG = Pumping / Generating; TCCA = Tehama Colusa Canal Authority; TRR = Terminal Regulating Reservoir

Note: Funks and Stone Corral Creeks not shown in the graphic. See Figure 2 for the creek locations.

Note: Releases through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut and Wallace Weir are no longer envisioned as part of the Project.

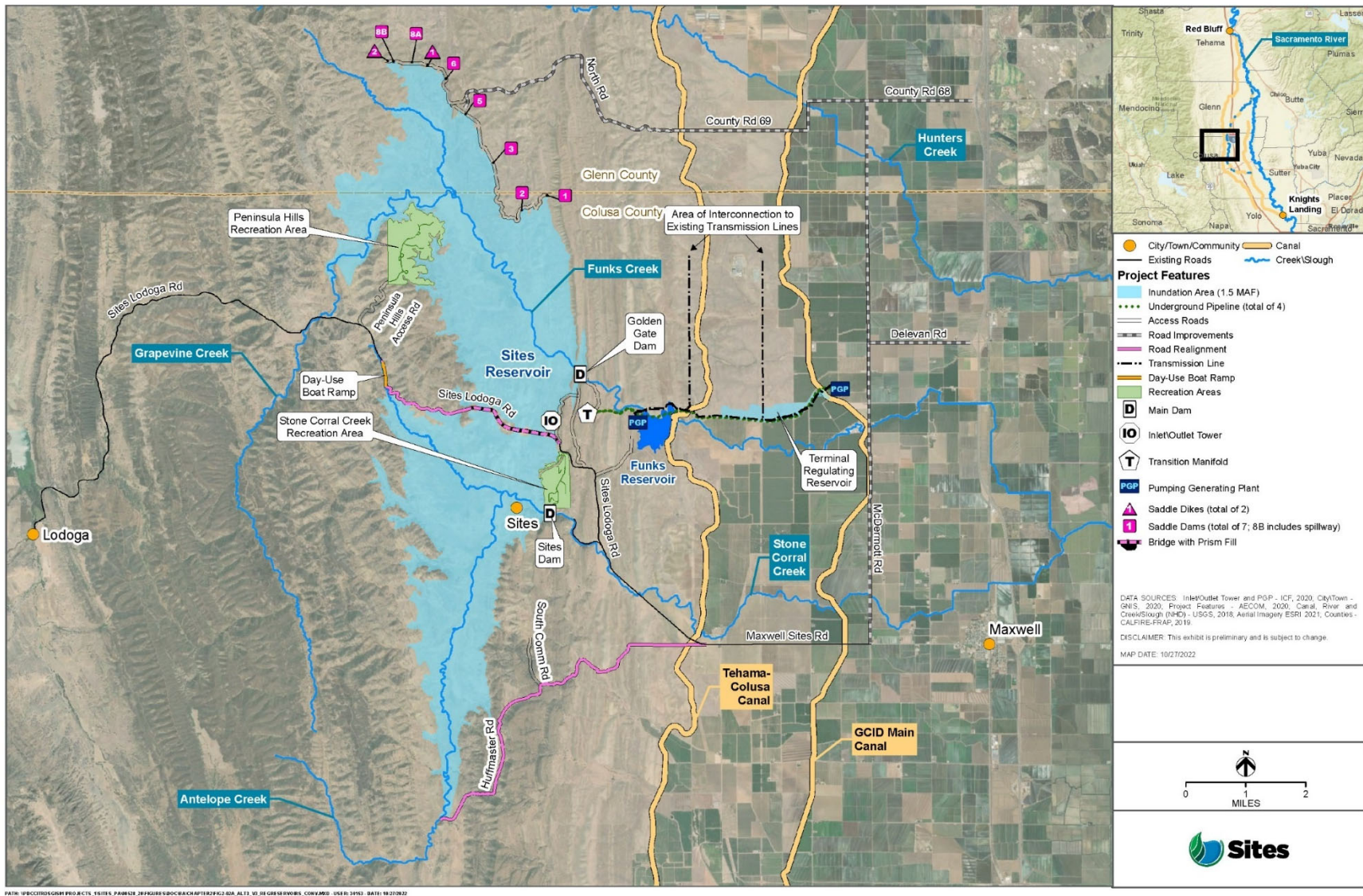


FIGURE 2. REGULATING RESERVOIRS, CONVEYANCE, AND SITES RESERVOIR FACILITIES

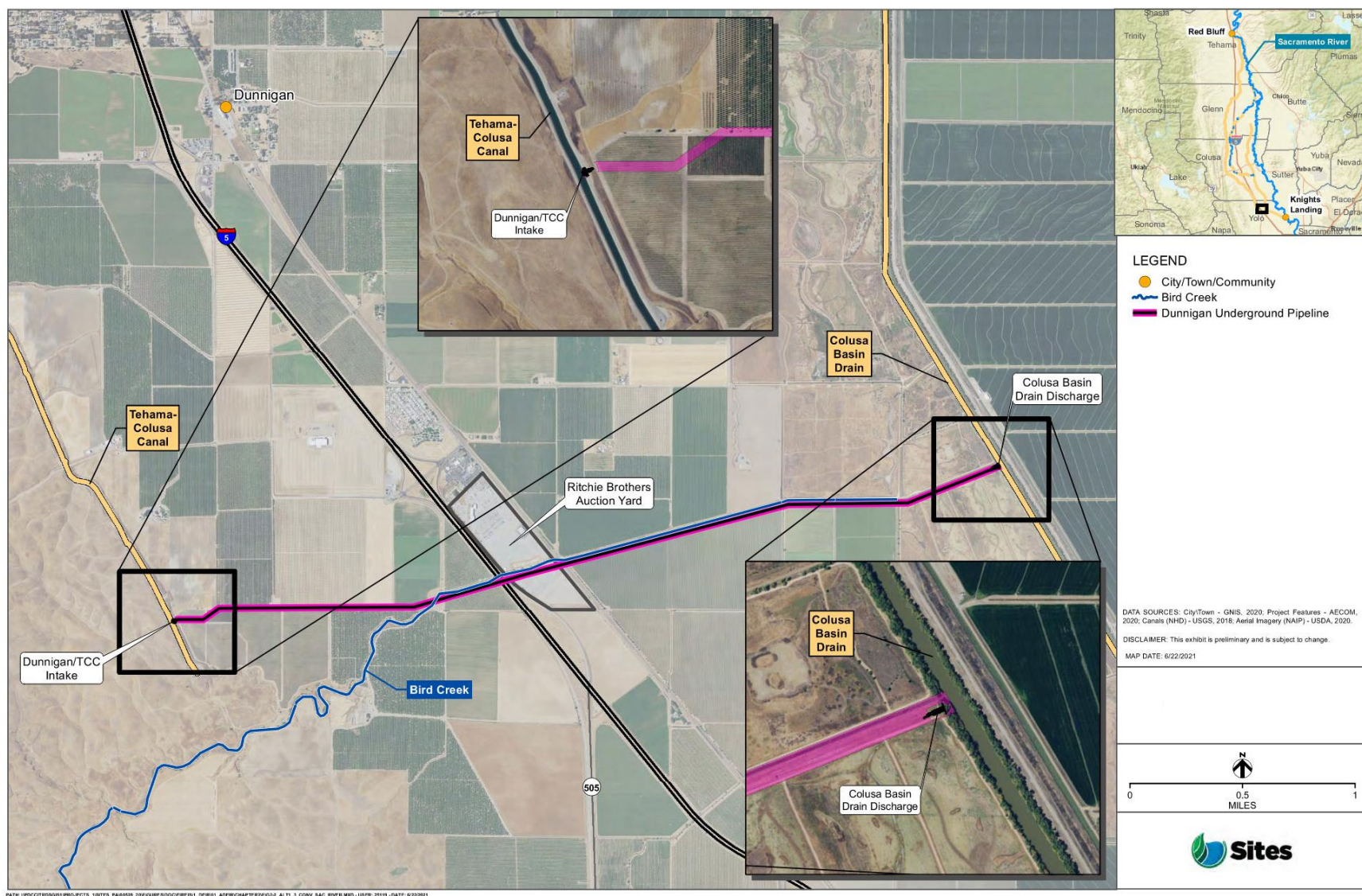


FIGURE 3. CONVEYANCE TO THE COLUSA BASIN DRAIN

2.0 Operations Planning, Forecasting, and Accounting

2.1 Annual Operating Cycle

Error! Reference source not found. provides a generalized annual operating cycle. The annual operating cycle depicts the timeline and requirements of components important to operations:

- Diversions ~~from the Sacramento River, Funks Creek, and Stone Corral Creek~~ to Sites Reservoir and primary diversion months
- Timing of releases for north-of-Delta (NOD) and SOD uses
- Timing of exchanges with DWR

The annual operating cycle can be broadly divided into those times when the Project is diverting water to storage, releasing water for NOD purposes which may occur at any time but will likely occur during the summer months, releasing water SOD during July through November in the transfer window,³ and exchanging water with DWR. Note that operations vary year by year, so there is overlap between potential operations “seasons”; however, the figure shows the primary months for each operation.



FIGURE 4. ANNUAL OPERATING CYCLE

³ Releases of Sites Water for uses SOD will be exported through Delta Export Facilities consistent with the requirements for transfer of non-CVP/SWP project water. Currently, non-CVP/SWP project water can only be conveyed through the Delta Export Facilities during July through November (often referred to as the “transfer window”) consistent with the Record of Decision for the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. Sites water will be exported during this July through November transfer window.



2.2 Forecasting

Forecasting will be used to project when Project diversions to storage are expected and to estimate the amount of water available to each Storage Partner in a given year. Forecasts will use the best available technology and information at the time of operations and are expected to rely on publicly available deterministic and probabilistic river and seasonal runoff forecasts.

Forecasting for diversions will begin as early as late-August ~~(prior to the start of the diversion season in September)~~. Diversion forecasting will include coordination with DWR and Reclamation to monitor, project, and verify Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) conditions. Diversion forecasting is further described in Section 3.4.

The Authority intends to work with all Storage Partners, Reclamation (in its capacity of CVP operations), and DWR to determine the most effective time period to initiate seasonal Project-specific forecasts along with what information is most useful for Storage Partners' planning purposes and for Reclamation and DWR in determining such things as available capacity and timing for diversions during the transfer window. Seasonal forecasts are expected to include storage estimates, potential release schedules, and estimates of available release and downstream capacities. Seasonal forecasting is expected to begin early in the calendar year and will be updated at least on a monthly basis as new information becomes available and on a timeline consistent with Storage Partners' planning schedules. Following the Authority's discussions with the Storage Partners, Reclamation, and DWR, this section will be updated to describe the general forecasting schedule and forecast details.

2.3 Real-time Tracking and Accounting

A Project dashboard will be developed that will allow the Authority and the Storage Partners to track real-time Project operations and accounting. The dashboard is anticipated to include the following:

- Project diversions and conveyance

- Sacramento River diversions at Red Bluff and Hamilton City
- Pumping into Sites Reservoir from Funks Reservoir and the Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR)
- Local inflows from Funks Creek and its watershed, Stone Corral Creek and its watershed and the watershed of Sites Reservoir, including precipitation
- Requested fills
- Actual fills
- In-Reservoir operations
 - Amounts in each Storage Partner's Storage Allocation
 - Reservoir levels
 - Estimated/calculated losses including evaporation and seepage
- Releases and deliveries
 - Outflow (releases) to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks
 - Requested releases to TRR and Funks Reservoir
 - Actual releases to TRR and Funks Reservoir
 - Releases into the Dunnigan Pipeline
 - Releases from the Dunnigan Pipeline into the Colusa Basin Drain
 - Colusa Basin Drain release into the Sacramento River
 - Estimated Delta Export
 - Estimated North Bay Aqueduct Export
- Other Project operations
 - Power use and generation
 - Exchanged water and location
 - Estimated losses, including conveyance losses and carriage water

The real-time dashboard is anticipated to have the ability to summarize data at various timesteps (e.g., instantaneous data, prior week, prior month, year-to-date) and will be developed with input from the Storage Partners.

2.4 Year-end Accounting

Following the final deliveries, year-end accounting and true-up will be prepared. True-up will consist of reconciling the end of year diversion, storage, release, and delivery accounting with all final operational data. Any discrepancies not immediately settled will be resolved through coordination with the pertinent Storage Partner(s) and the Owner/Operator(s) of any pertinent downstream facility(ies). Metrics will be provided to the Storage Partners and may also be used in the annual Sites Water Right report. It is anticipated that the year-end accounting will include a summary of the volumes collected to storage by source, account storage, requested releases from storage, actual releases, actual deliveries, and estimated losses, including spills (or carryover, if allowable) of exchange water in Oroville. The year-end accounting will be available to the Storage Partners as they make their requests for Sites Water the following year.

Currently, annual water right reports are due to the SWRCB by February 1 for the prior Water Year. Following the end of the Water Year on September 30, the Authority will request any additional information needed from Storage Partners for water right reporting purposes (see Section 12.0).

2.5 Periodic Summary Reporting

A summary report will be prepared by the Authority staff every 5 years, starting 5 years after initial operations of the Project. Depending on hydrologic conditions and the range of operations during the initial years of operation, the Authority will consider if an earlier report (i.e., prior to 5 years) would be informative. The summary report will evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of Project operations, describe, at a minimum, challenges and opportunities that occurred over the prior 5 years of operations, and identify improvements to be implemented in the future, including potential changes to this Operations Plan. The Periodic Summary Report will incorporate feedback and assess satisfaction of the Storage Partners and facility partners with Project operations. Any changes to the Operations Plan recommended by the Periodic Summary Report will be made consistent with the process and requirements detailed in Section ~~14.0~~14.0.

3.0 Diversions and Conveyance to Sites Reservoir

3.1 Overall Project Diversions

Project diversions to storage will generally occur in the winter and early spring but could occur any time from ~~September-November~~ 1 through June 14, subject to compliance with all Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals. With regard to diversions from the Sacramento River, Project facilities can only be used to divert/fill or release from the Reservoir; simultaneous fill from the Sacramento River and release back into Funks Reservoir or the TRR through the inlet/outlet works (I/O Works) cannot occur with the planned facilities. Simultaneous fill from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks and release through the I/O Works is possible, as is release of water to the creeks below the dams while filling with Sacramento River water. ~~In addition, and consistent with the Sites Water Right application, a~~All water diverted under the Sites Water Right must be placed into storage in Sites Reservoir and cannot be directly put to beneficial use prior to being stored in Sites Reservoir.

In accordance with all its obligations, contractual, permitting, regulatory, agreements, and otherwise, the Authority plans to maximize the diversion of water from all three sources (Sacramento River, Funks Creek, and Stone Corral Creek) into storage consistent with physical constraints and hydrologic conditions. The Authority is responsible for deciding whether and how much Sites Water to divert from all sources.

3.2 Diversion and Conveyance Facilities to Sites Reservoir

Sites Reservoir will be filled primarily through the diversion of Sacramento River flows. Diversions from the Sacramento River and conveyance to Sites Reservoir will occur via (1) the existing Red Bluff Pumping Plant (RBPP) and fish screen, the Tehama-Colusa Canal (TC Canal), and Funks Reservoir or (2) the existing Hamilton City Pump Station ([HCPS](#)) and fish screen, GCID Main Canal, and TRR. These facilities are described in Attachment B. When river conditions and capacity are available for both diversion facilities to be operated simultaneously, the maximum combined diversion rate from the Sacramento River is 4,200

190 cubic feet per second (cfs)⁴ ~~as identified in the Sites water right application~~. Additional criteria related to the rate of diversion at each POD are summarized in Section 3.3.

Water from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks will also be impounded in Sites Reservoir. Water from Funks Creek and its tributaries upstream will be diverted at Golden Gate Dam. Water from Stone Corral Creek and its tributaries upstream will be diverted at Sites Dam.

3.3 Diversion Criteria

Table 1 provides a summary of all of the diversion criteria applicable to the Project's Sacramento River diversions ~~that are in place at the time this document was prepared~~. Table 2 provides a summary of all of the diversion criteria applicable to the Project's Funks and Stone Corral Creeks diversions. Each diversion criteria is discussed in more detail in the following subsections.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF PROJECT'S SACRAMENTO RIVER DIVERSION CRITERIA

Criteria	Description
System-wide Criteria and Regulations	
Diversion Season	Limited to September-November 1 to June 14
Delta Conditions	No diversion under the Sites Water Right is authorized at any time from the Sacramento River when DWR and Reclamation have declared the Delta to be in any of the following conditions, as will be coordinated in real time: 1. Balanced Water Conditions, 2. Excess Conditions with Export Restrictions for Delta Inflow, 3. Excess Conditions with Export Restrictions for Sacramento River Inflow, 4. Any unforeseen circumstance that may cause and Adverse Effect, as reasonably determined by DWR and Reclamation.
Close Coordination	DWR, Reclamation, and the Authority have agreed to closely coordinate to avoid adverse effects on SWP and CVP operations and water rights. During the diversion season, DWR, Reclamation, and the Authority will use real-time and forecasted data to determine the needed level of coordination and actions to be taken to avoid adverse effects on the SWP and CVP.
Net Delta Outflow Index (NDOI) Upon Initiation	For diversions to commence, NDOI must have increased by an additional 3,000 cfs above the observed NDOI from the day prior to the determination of Excess Conditions to initiate diversions. Following commencement of diversions, the 3,000 cfs requirement is not required to be maintained unless or until the Delta returns to a Balanced Condition.
Senior Water Rights	Existing water rights with a priority date prior to September 30, 1977 <u>May 11, 2022</u> and those listed in Attachment C are senior
Term 91	Diversions only allowed when Term 91 is not in effect

⁴ The maximum combined physical diversion rate ~~planned by the Authority and included in the Sites water right application~~ is 4,200 cfs. The current maximum combined diversion rate in the Operations ITP and Water Right Permit is 4,190 cfs.

Criteria	Description
SWP Article 21, Reclamation Article 3F and Section 215	Delivery of SWP Article 21 water, CVP Article 3(f), and CVP Section 215 water is senior to Project diversions ⁵
SWRCB Decision 1641 (D-1641)	Project operations cannot affect the implementation of water quality and flow objectives in D-1641
SWP Incidental Take Permit (ITP)	Project operations cannot affect DWR's ability to operate to the then existing SWP ITP
CVP and SWP Record of Decision (ROD)	Project operations cannot affect Reclamation's ability to operate to the then approved Record of Decision for the Long-Term Operation of the CVP and SWP
Diversion Capacity Available	There is available capacity at the RBPP, HCPS , and in the TC Canal and GCID facilities to divert and convey water to Sites Reservoir, above the capacity needed for deliveries to existing TC Canal users and within the GCID service area
Trinity River Water	No water diverted from the Trinity River watershed to the Sacramento River watershed by Reclamation can be rediverted into the Project
Temporary Urgency Change Order for Delta Water Quality Objectives	No diversions when the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan requirements for Delta Outflow, X2 (Spring), Rio Vista, Emmaton, Jersey Point, and Delta Export to Inflow (E:I) ratio are modified by a Temporary Urgency Change Petition/Order and the CVP or SWP are operating to the modified conditions
Temporary Restrictions	Comply with any temporary restrictions on diversions put into place by SWRCB, such as water right curtailments
2026 Bay-Delta Plan (Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta)	No diversion is authorized when any of the numeric Sacramento River inflow (including Sacramento River at Rio Vista), Sacramento River salinity, Delta salinity, or Delta outflow (including salinity-based Delta outflow) objectives of the 2026 Bay-Delta Plan and any future amendments thereto, are not being met. No diversion is authorized until the State Water Board implements the regulatory actions to effectuate the 2026 Bay-Delta Plan that are applicable to the Sites Project
Sacramento River Mainstem Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Restrictions	No diversions on any day in which flows provided pursuant to the Sacramento River Mainstem HRL are contributing to Delta outflow, according to the accounting provisions in the 2026 Bay-Delta Plan

⁵ Only these contracted "excess" supplies are identified here to specifically note that diverted Sites Water cannot displace CVP Article 3(f) or CVP Section 215 water in the TC Canal or GCID Main Canal and/or diversion of Sites Water cannot reduce the ability of the CVP and SWP to export water for SWP Article 21, CVP Article 3(f), or CVP Section 215 supplies South of the Delta.

Criteria	Description
Project-specific Sacramento River Diversion Criteria	
Flow Dependent Diversions	RBPP: No diversion until flows in the Sacramento River at Bend Bridge exceeds 4,800 cfs from January 1 to February 28 (or February 29 in leap years) and 6,300 cfs from September 1 to December 31 along with March 1 to June 14. Diversions ramp up as flows increase in the Sacramento River until full diversion amount is reached at flows of 17,500 cfs 14,100 cfs or higher in the Sacramento River at Bend Bridge from January 1 to February 28 (or February 29 in leap years) and 17,500 cfs or higher from September 1 to December 31 along with March 1 to June 14. HCPS: No diversion until flows in the Sacramento River at Hamilton City exceed 10,500 cfs after any Project and non-Project diversions at HCPS from September 1 to June 14. Diversions ramp up as flows increase in the Sacramento River until full diversion amount is reached at flows of 24,500 cfs or higher in the Sacramento River at Hamilton City after any Project and non-Project diversions at HCPS.
<u>Bend Bridge Pulse Protection</u>	<u>Pulses are to be protected as identified below.</u> <u>Initiation: 3-day forecasted average Sacramento River flow at Bend Bridge is projected to exceed 8,000 cfs and 3-day forecasted average combined tributary flow (Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Battle Creek) must exceed 2,500 cfs</u> <u>Duration: 7 days upon initiation; if flows exceed 29,000 cfs at Sacramento River at Bend Bridge, diversions can occur but are limited to the flow in excess of 25,000 cfs for the remainder of the 7-day period</u> <u>Reset: After completion of the pulse protection period, resetting criteria must be met for another pulse protection period to commence: 3-day moving average Sacramento River flow at Bend Bridge is less than 7,500 cfs for 7 consecutive days and 3-day moving average tributary flow must go below 2,500 cfs for 7 consecutive days</u> <u>Period: March 1 – May 31</u>
Wilkins Slough Bypass Criteria	Diversions may not cause flow in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough to decline below 10,930 cfs from November 1 to November 30 and from March 1 to June 14. Diversions may not cause flow in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough to decline below 14,125 cfs from December 1 to February 28.
Bypass Criteria at RBPP ⁶	March – November: Sacramento River at RBPP must remain at or above 3,250 cfs

⁶ The December – February Bypass Criteria at RBPP considers the “Fall-Run Chinook Salmon Redd Maintenance and Reservoir Refill” action specified in Reclamation’s Record of Decision (ROD) Operations Plan (signed December 4, 2025). The Bypass Criteria at RBPP for November may revert to the December – February flow target, depending on how Reclamation implements the “Fall Release Ramp Down” action in the ROD Operations Plan. The ROD allows for potential modifications to these flow targets based on hydrology and Shasta Lake cold water pool conditions. If this occurs, the Bypass Criteria at RBPP will be adjusted to remain consistent with Reclamation’s current operation.

Criteria	Description
	December – February: The flow at which the Sacramento River at RBPP must remain at or above is determined based the end-of-September (EOS) storage in Shasta Lake - ≤ 2.4 MAF Shasta EOS storage: 3,250 cfs - ≤ 2.8 MAF Shasta EOS storage: 4,000 cfs - ≤ 3.2 MAF Shasta EOS storage: 4,500 cfs - > 3.2 MAF Shasta EOS storage: 5,000 cfs
Bypass Criteria at HCPS	Sacramento River at HCPS must remain at or above 4,000 cfs
Operable Fish Screens	Diversions may only occur when the fish screen panels at the RBPP and HCPS are installed, maintained, and fully operational
Maximum Total Annual Diversions and Maximum Diversion Rate	- Total maximum annual Project diversions from the Sacramento River of no more than 986,000 AF - Total maximum annual Project diversion at the RBPP of no more than 660,000 AF - Total maximum annual Project diversion at the HCPS of no more than 421,000 AF - Maximum instantaneous diversion rate at RBPP of 2,120 cfs - Maximum instantaneous diversion rate at HCPS of 2,070 cfs
Cessation of Diversions	- When either USGS Station 11390500 or CNRFC-WLKC1 Station are nonoperational unless CDFW has approved an alternative plan - When Project flow monitoring facilities are nonoperational
Water Quality Portfolio	Development of the Water Quality Portfolio must occur prior to initiating diversions. Water Quality Portfolio must be implemented for diversions to continue
Groundwater Monitoring Program	Preparation and approval of a groundwater monitoring program must occur prior to commencing diversions
Agreements	Project is implementing all Sacramento River diversion-related agreements described in Section 3.3.3

TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF PROJECT'S FUNKS AND STONE CORRAL CREEK DIVERSION CRITERIA

Criteria	Description
System-wide Criteria and Regulations	
Diversion Season	Limited to September 1 to June 14
Balanced Conditions in the Delta	No diversions during Balanced Conditions, which are determined by DWR and Reclamation
Close Coordination	DWR, Reclamation, and the Authority have agreed to closely coordinate to avoid adverse effects on SWP and CVP operations and water rights
Senior Water Rights	Existing water rights with a priority date prior to September 30, 1977 and those listed in Attachment C are senior
Term 91	Diversions only allowed when Term 91 is not in effect
Temporary Restrictions	Comply with any temporary restrictions on diversions put into place by SWRCB, such as water right curtailments
Project-specific Funks and Stone Corral Creek Diversion Criteria	

Criteria	Description
Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek Operations Plan	No water can be impounded from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks until the Authority completes a Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek Operations Plan
Agreements	Project is implementing all Funks and Stone Corral Creek, diversion-related agreements described in Section 3.3.5

3.3.1 System-wide Criteria and Regulations

The system-wide regulatory requirements that must be met prior to diversions are summarized below. All diversion criteria, both system-wide and Project-specific, must be met for Project diversions.

- System-wide criteria and regulations applicable to all sources:
 - ~~Diversion Season: The Authority would only divert from September 1 through June 14, inclusive. No diversions can occur from June 15 to August 31, inclusive, regardless of conditions or flows.~~
 - **Balanced Conditions in the Delta:** The Project would not be allowed to divert when the Delta is in Balanced Conditions. Balanced Conditions exist when DWR and Reclamation agree that releases from upstream reservoirs plus unregulated flow approximately equals the water supply needed to meet Sacramento Valley in-basin uses plus exports. Balanced Conditions are determined by DWR and Reclamation.
 - **Close Coordination with DWR and Reclamation:** DWR, Reclamation, and the Authority have agreed to closely coordinate to avoid adverse effects on SWP and CVP operations and water rights.
 - ~~Senior Water Rights: The Authority has submitted a Petition for Assignment of a State filed water right (A025517), which has a priority date of September 30, 1977. Existing water rights with an earlier priority date are senior to the Project. This includes the existing CVP and SWP water rights. This also includes those water rights to which the Authority subordinated its right to divert listed in Attachment C which were included in the Sites Water Right application materials.~~
 - **Term 91⁷:** The Project would only divert when Term 91 is not in effect. [Source: Water Right Permit Term 27.](#)
 - **Temporary Restrictions:** The Project will also be required to operate under any temporary restrictions on [pumping diversions](#) put into place by SWRCB, such as water right curtailments. [Source: Water Right Permit Term 26.](#)

⁷ Term 91 requires that those holding such permits and licenses cease diverting water when the [SWRCB's State Water Resources Control Board's](#) Division of Water Rights (Division) gives notice that water is not available for use under those permits and licenses. This occurs at times when the [SWP State Water Project](#) and [CVP Central Valley Project](#) are releasing previously stored water to meet water quality and flow requirements in the Delta and the Delta is termed to be in "Balanced Conditions," generally during the summer and fall. See: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/term_91/

- System-wide criteria and regulations applicable to Sacramento River diversions, in addition to the above:

- **Diversion Season:** The Authority would only divert from November 1 through June 14, inclusive. No diversions can occur from June 15 to October 31, inclusive, regardless of conditions or flows.
- **Senior Water Rights:** Existing water rights with a priority date prior to May 11, 2022 are senior. This includes the existing CVP and SWP water rights.
- **Excess Conditions with Sacramento River Export Restrictions:** In addition to Balanced Conditions, the Project may not divert during Excess Conditions with Export Restrictions for Delta Inflow or for Sacramento River Inflow, or if any unforeseen circumstance that may cause an adverse effect, as reasonably determined by DWR and Reclamation.
- **NDOI Upon Initiation:** For diversions to commence, NDOI must have increased by an additional 3,000 cfs above the observed NDOI from the day prior to the determination of Excess Conditions. This criteria is initiated each time the Delta moves from Balanced to Excess and Project diversions are initiated. The 3,000 cfs requirement is not required to be maintained while the Project is diverting. See Source: Operations ITP Term 9.8.
- **SWP Article 21, Reclamation Article 3(f) and Section 215:** SWP contracts and CVP contracts include provisions for deliveries above contract amounts in certain conditions. This water is generally available in wetter water year types or in higher flow conditions. The delivery of SWP Article 21 water, CVP Article 3(f), and/or CVP Section 215 water cannot be displaced or impacted by Project diversions.
- **SWRCB Decision 1641 (D-1641):** D-1641 and its amendment identify the implementation of water quality and flow objectives for the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. Components of D-1641 expected to have the largest influence on Project operations include requirements for the Net Delta Outflow Index, maximum percent of Delta inflow diverted (Export/Inflow ratio), operations of the CVP and SWP related to salinity and X2, and Delta water quality requirements.
- **SWP Incidental Take Permit (ITP):** The Project would operate so as to avoid affecting DWR's ability to operate to the then-existing SWP Incidental Take Permit, currently the 2024 SWP ITP (ITP No. 2081-2023-054).
- **CVP and SWP Record of Decision:** The Project would operate so as to avoid impairing Reclamation's ability to operate to the then-existing Record of Decision for the Long-Term Operation of the CVP and SWP, including the Incidental Take Statements provided in the Services' Biological Opinions.
- **Diversion Capacity Available:** There is available capacity at the RBPP and in the TC Canal and GCID facilities to divert and convey water to Sites Reservoir, above the capacity needed for deliveries to existing TC Canal users and within the GCID service area.
- **Trinity River Water:** No water originating from the Trinity River can be rediverted into the Project. Trinity River Water is defined as water diverted by Reclamation from the Trinity River watershed into the Sacramento River watershed pursuant to Reclamation's water rights. Source: Water Right Permit Term 17.

- **Temporary Urgency Change Order for Delta Water Quality Objectives.** No diversions when the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan requirements for Delta Outflow, X2 (Spring), Rio Vista, Emmaton, Jersey Point, and Delta Export to Inflow (E:I) ratio are modified by a Temporary Urgency Change Petition/Order and the CVP or SWP are operating to the modified conditions. Source: See Operations ITP Term 9.9.
- **2026 Bay-Delta Plan.** No diversion is authorized when any of the numeric Sacramento River inflow (including Sacramento River at Rio Vista), Sacramento River salinity, Delta salinity, or Delta outflow (including salinity-based Delta outflow) objectives of the 2026 Bay-Delta Plan and any future amendments thereto, are not being met. Source: Water Right Permit Term 29. No diversion is authorized until the State Water Board implements the regulatory actions to effectuate the 2026 Bay-Delta Plan that are applicable to the Sites Project. Source: Water Right Permit Term 30.
- **Sacramento River Mainstem HRL Restrictions.** No diversions on any day in which flows provided pursuant to the Sacramento River Mainstem HRL are contributing to Delta outflow, according to the accounting provisions in the 2026 Bay-Delta Plan. The Authority is to coordinate the timing of its diversions with the State Water Board and Sacramento River Mainstem HRL parties. Source: Water Right Permit Term 31.

3.3.2 Project-specific Sacramento River Diversion Criteria

Below are the Project-specific Sacramento River diversion criteria. All of the criteria must be met, in addition to the system-wide criteria listed in Section 3.3.1.

3.3.2.1 Flow Dependent Diversion

RBPP

No diversion until flows in the Sacramento River at Bend Bridge as measured at the CDEC Station Bend Bridge (BND)⁸ exceeds ~~4,800 cfs from January 1 to February 28 (or February 29 in leap years) and 6,300 cfs from September 1 to December 31 along with March 1 to June 14.~~

Allowable Sites Project diversions at RBPP ~~from January 1 to February 28 (February 29 in leap years) are specified in Table 3. Allowable Sites Project diversions at RBPP from March 1 to June 14 and September 1 to December 31 are specified in Table 4.~~ Linear interpolation shall be used between the range values provided in Table 3 ~~and Table 4.~~ Diversion adjustments can be made as frequently as desired in coordination with TCCA.

TABLE 3. FLOW DEPENDENT DIVERSIONS AT RBPP ~~— JANUARY 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28 (FEBRUARY 29 IN LEAP YEARS)~~

Real-Time Flow at Bend Bridge (BND) in cfs	Maximum Diversion (cfs)
4,800	0
5,000	130
6,000	230

⁸ California Data Exchange Center Station Bend Bridge (BND) – https://cdec.wa14.100ter.ca.gov/dynamicapp/staMeta?station_id=BND

7,000	360
8,000	520
9,000	710
10,000	930
11,000	1,180
12,000	1,450
13,000	1,760
14,000	2,100
14,100	2,120
Greater than 14,100	2,120

Table 4. Flow-Dependent Diversions at RBPP—March 1 to June 14 and September 1 to December 31 Real-Time Flow at Bend Bridge (BND) in cfs	Maximum Diversion (cfs)
6,300	0
7,000	120
8,000	220
9,000	340
10,000	480
11,000	640
12,000	810
13,000	1,010
14,000	1,220
15,000	1,460
16,000	1,710
17,000	1,980
17,500	2,120
Greater than 17,500	2,120

See Sources: [Water Right Permit Term 23a and](#) Operations ITP Term 9.14.1.

HCPS

No diversion until flows in the Sacramento River at HCPS as measured at the CDEC Station Hamilton City (HMC)⁹ exceeds 10,500 cfs ~~from September 1 to June 14~~ and after accounting for both Project and non-Sites Project diversions at the HCPS. As the HMC CDEC Station is downstream of the HCPS, Sites Project and other non-Sites Project¹⁰ (if any are occurring) diversions at the HCPS must be accounted for such that, for the Sites Project diversions to occur, the HMC CDEC Station continues to exceed 10,500 cfs with total diversions at the HCPS.

Allowable Sites Project diversions at HCPS ~~from September 1 to June 14~~ are specified in Table 54. Linear interpolation shall be used between the range values. Diversion adjustments can be made as frequently as desired in coordination with GCID.

⁹ California Data Exchange (CDEC) Station Hamilton City (HMC) - https://cdec.water.ca.gov/dynamicapp/staMeta?station_id=HMC.

¹⁰ Non-Sites Project water refers to any water diverted at the HCPS not for the purpose of diversion to Sites Reservoir.

TABLE 4. FLOW DEPENDENT DIVERSIONS AT HCPS – JANUARY 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28 (FEBRUARY 29 IN LEAP YEARS)

Real-Time Flow at Bend Bridge (BND) in cfs	Maximum Diversion (cfs)
10,500	0
11,500	280
12,500	370
13,500	480
14,500	590
15,500	720
16,500	850
17,500	980
18,500	1,130
19,500	1,290
20,500	1,450
21,500	1,620
22,500	1,800
23,500	1,990
24,500	2,200
Greater than 24,500	2,200

See Source: Operations ITP Term 9.14.2.

3.3.2.2 Bend Bridge Pulse Protection

A pulse flow protection measure is applied to all qualified precipitation-generated peaks in the hydrograph as described below from March 1 through May 31. Project diversions from the Sacramento River would not occur during a qualified pulse event. Diversions are otherwise unrestricted by the Bend Bridge Pulse Flow protection criteria.

The following criteria define a qualified pulse event:

- If the 3-day forecasted average of Sacramento River flow at Bend Bridge is projected to exceed 8,000 cfs and the 3-day forecasted average combined tributary flow upstream of Bend Bridge (Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Battle Creek) is projected to exceed 2,500 cfs, then a pulse protection event is anticipated. Diversion restrictions would begin when the average hourly flows in the Sacramento River at Bend Bridge exceed 8,000 cfs and the average hourly flows in the tributaries upstream of Bend Bridge (Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Battle Creek) cumulatively exceed 2,500 cfs, provided that the previous day was not already in a pulse protection event.
- A pulse event terminates 7 days after initiation; or earlier than 7 days after initiation if the average daily Sacramento River flow at Bend Bridge exceeds 29,000 cfs. In the event that Sacramento River flow at Bend Bridge exceeds 29,000 cfs during the 7-day pulse protection event, Project diversions may resume when average daily diversions subtracted from Sacramento River flow at Bend Bridge continue to be at least 25,000 cfs during what would have been the 7-day pulse protection period.

- After completion of a pulse event, the following conditions must occur before another pulse event is triggered: (1) 3-day ~~trailing~~moving average of Sacramento River flow at Bend Bridge was less than 7,500 cfs for 7 consecutive days; and (2) 3-day ~~trailing~~moving average of tributary flow upstream of Bend Bridge (Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Battle Creek) was less than 2,500 cfs for 7 consecutive days.

~~Project diversions from the Sacramento River would not occur during a qualified pulse event. Diversions are otherwise unrestricted by the Bend Bridge Pulse Flow protection criteria.~~

Source: Water Right Permit Term 23b.

~~3.3.2.23.3.2.3~~ Wilkins Slough Bypass Criteria

Diversions to Sites Reservoir may not cause flow in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough to decline below 10,930 cfs for November 1 to November 30 and from March 1 to June 14. Diversions to Sites Reservoir may not cause flow in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough to decline below 14,125 cfs for from December 1 to February 28. ~~Both the entire diversion season (September 1 to June 14)~~ as indicated by United States Geological Survey (USGS) Station 1139050031¹¹ - Sacramento R BL Wilkins Slough NR Grimes CA.

For the period of November 1 to November 30 and from March 1 to June 14, flow at Wilkins Slough are
~~This is~~ determined using the following criteria:

- The Real-Time flow at USGS Station 11390500 exceeds 10,930 cubic feet per second (cfs).
- The California Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC) forecasted flow at station WLKC1¹² exceeds 10,930 cfs for the subsequent 72 hours following the estimated start time of any diversion event.
- The forecasted flow continues to exceed 10,930 cfs at CNRFC station WLKC1 for 72 hours after the diversion event is scheduled to end.
- The forecasted flow at CNRFC station WLKC1 shall be re-evaluated for the duration of the diversion event at a minimum of every twenty-four hours to ensure the projected forecast has not changed and the forecasted flow continues to exceed 10,930 cfs.

In the event that TCCA and/or GCID is also diverting at the same time as diversions to Sites Reservoir are occurring, then the above condition applies and the Sites Project cannot divert unless the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough remains at or above 10,930 cfs. The total allowable Sites Project diversions shall be determined by the following equation:

Available Flow for the Sites Project (cfs) = $WLK_{72hrForecast} - (10,930 + RB_{NonPermitteeDiv} + HC_{NonPermitteeDiv})$

¹¹ Real-time flow at USGS Station# 11390500 - <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoringlocation/11390500/#parameterCode=00065&period=P7D&showMedian=false>

¹² California Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC) deterministic forecasted flow at station WLKC1 - <https://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/ensembleProduct.php?id=WLKC1&prodID=3>

Where: $WLK_{72hrForecast}$ is the CNFRC 72-hour forecast
 $RB_{NonPermitteeDiv}$ is non-Sites Project diversions at RBPP
 $HC_{NonPermitteeDiv}$ is the non-Sites Project diversions at HCPS

See-Source: Operations ITP Term 9.12 and 9.13.

Diversions need to cease when any of the following exist:

- Flows at USGS Station 1139050031 no longer exceed 10,930 cfs.
- The 72-hour forecast indicates the CNRFC Station WLKC1 no longer exceeds 10,930 cfs for the 72-hour period following the estimated start time or end time of diversions.
- Any 24-hour re-evaluation of the forecast indicates CNRFC Station WLKC1 will no longer exceed 10,930 cfs.
- Total Sites diversions and non-Sites diversions at RBPP and HCPS will reduce flows below 10,930 cfs at Wilkins Slough (as measured at either USGS Station 1139050031 or CNRFC Station WLKC1).

Source: See Operations ITP Term 9.15.

Source: 14,125 cfs December 1 to February 28 requirement is Water Right Permit Term 23c.

3.3.2.33.3.2.4 *Bypass Criteria at the Red Bluff Pumping Plant*

From March through November, diversions at the RBPP can occur only when flows in the Sacramento River are at and remain at or above 3,250 cfs, as measured at the Bend Bridge California Data Exchange (CDEC) Station (BND)¹³ minus any Project diversions and any non-Project diversions (such as CVP diversions) occurring at the RBPP. See-Source: Operations ITP Term 9.10.

From December through February, the bypass flow at the RBPP is dependent on the end-of-September storage in Shasta Lake, as specified in Reclamation's 2025 ROD Operations Plan:

- ≤ 2.4 MAF Shasta EOS storage: 3,250 cfs
- ≤ 2.8 MAF Shasta EOS storage: 4,000 cfs
- ≤ 3.2 MAF Shasta EOS storage: 4,500 cfs
- > 3.2 MAF Shasta EOS storage: 5,000 cfs

Diversions at the RBPP can occur only when flows in the Sacramento River are at and remain at or above the specified flow, as measured at the Bend Bridge California Data Exchange (CDEC) Station (BND) minus any Project diversions and any non-Project diversions (such as CVP diversions) occurring at the RBPP.

¹³ California Data Exchange Center Station Bend Bridge (BND) -
https://cdec.water.ca.gov/dynamicapp/staMeta?station_id=BND

See footnote 6 and Reclamation's 2025 ROD Operations Plan, Section 2.9, for additional detail and operational considerations.

~~3.3.2.4~~3.3.2.5 *Bypass Criteria at the Hamilton City Pump Station*

Diversions at the HCPS can occur only when flows in the Sacramento River are at and remain at or above 4,000 cfs, as measured at the Hamilton City CDEC Station (HMC)¹⁴. ~~Source: See~~ Operations ITP Term 9.11.

~~3.3.2.5~~3.3.2.6 *Operable Fish Screens*

Diversions may only occur with the fish screen panels at the RBPP and HCPS are installed, maintained, and fully operational. The Project's Operations ITP includes terms and conditions relative to fish screen testing and maintenance that must be implemented relative to this criteria. ~~Source: See~~ Water Right Permit Term 21 and Operations ITP Terms 9.1 and 9.2.

~~3.3.2.6~~3.3.2.7 *Maximum Total Annual Diversions and Maximum Diversion Rates*

Total maximum annual Project diversions from the Sacramento River is limited to 986,000 AF, combined from both the RBPP and HCPS. Source: Water Right Permit Term 5 and Operations ITP Term 9.4.

The total maximum annual Project diversion at the RBPP is no more than 660,000 AF. The total maximum annual Project diversion at the HCPS is no more than 421,000 AF. The individual total maximum annual Project diversion at RBPP and HCPS are not intended to add to 986,000 AF. ~~Source: See~~ Operations ITP Term 9.4.

The maximum Project diversion rate at the RBPP is 2,120 cfs. The maximum Project diversion rate at the HCPS is 2,070 cfs. Maximum combined rate of diversion is 4,190 cfs. Source: See Water Right Permit Term 5 and Operations ITP Term 9.5 and 9.6.

~~3.3.2.7~~3.3.2.8 *Cessation of Diversions*

Diversions from the Sacramento River must cease when ~~either~~ any of the following exist:

- Either USGS Station 11390500 or CNRFC - WLKC1 Station is nonoperational, or the data centers cease to provide data. The Authority may develop and seek CDFW's approval of alternative methods of compliance. Source: Operations ITP Term 9.15.
- Downstream flow monitoring equipment or Project facilities that monitor water volumes diverted, exported, transferred, or exchanged related to the Project are nonoperational or cease to provide data. The equipment or facilities include, but are not limited to, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) components at the RBPP or HCPS diversion facilities, flow monitoring equipment at the Terminal Regulating Reservoir, Funks Reservoir, I/O Facility, Sites Reservoir and at the Dunnigan Pipeline. Source: Operations ITP Term 9.15.
- Within 5 working days of determining that a streamflow measurement station used to establish diversion criteria relative to the Project's Water Right Permit is not in operation or data from

¹⁴ California Data Exchange Center Station Hamilton City (HMC) - https://cdec.water.ca.gov/dynamicapp/staMeta?station_id=HMC

that station is not available in real-time. The Authority may develop and seek the Deputy Director's approval of alternative measurement location or methods. No diversions shall occur until the State Water Board has approved the alternative measurement location or method.
Source: Water Right Permit Term 24.

3.3.2.9 ~~See Operations ITP Term 9.15.~~ Water Quality Portfolio

Water Right Permit Term 34 calls for the development of a Water Quality Portfolio that incorporates the requirements of Terms 35 through 43. The Water Quality Portfolio must be developed prior to initiation of diversions. Actions in the Water Quality Portfolio must be implemented in accordance with the timelines in the Portfolio for diversions to continue. Source: Water Right Permit Terms 34 through 43.

3.3.2.10 Groundwater Monitoring Program

Prior to commencing diversions, the Authority shall prepare a groundwater monitoring program consistent with Water Right Term 52. The groundwater monitoring program must be approved by the State Water Board. Source: Water Right Term 52.

3.3.3 Project-specific, Sacramento River Diversion-Related Operations Agreements

The Project-specific, Sacramento River operational components from operations agreements are indicated below. Note that each description does not summarize the respective agreement in its entirety, but rather focuses on the sections of this Operations Plan that address operational components. Executed agreements can be found in Attachment A.

- CCWD Agreement – The notification and coordination components of this agreement have been incorporated into Section 3.5. This agreement may require modifications in the timing or amount of Project diversions depending on outcomes of the notification and coordination process.
- NDWA MOU – The operations-related components of this agreement are incorporated into the diversion criteria described throughout this Section 3.3. Future changes, if any, to the diversion criteria need to be considered in the context of the NDWA MOU.
- Anticipated Sites/Reclamation/DWR Operations Agreement – The operations-related components of this agreement are incorporated into the diversion criteria described throughout this Section 3.3. The notification and coordination components of this agreement have been incorporated into Section 3.5.
- Sites/SWC/DWR Settlement Agreement – The operations-related components of this agreement are incorporated into the diversion criteria described throughout this Section 3.3. The notification and coordination components of this agreement have been incorporated into Section 3.5.

3.3.4 Project-specific Funks and Stone Corral Creeks Diversion Criteria

Below are the Project-specific Funks and Stone Corral Creeks diversion criteria. All of the criteria must be met, in addition to the applicable system-wide criteria and regulations listed in Section 3.3.1.

- **Diversion Season:** The Authority would only divert from September 1 through June 14, inclusive. No diversions can occur from June 15 to August 31, inclusive, regardless of conditions or flows.

- **Senior Water Rights:** The Authority has submitted a Petition for Assignment of a State-filed water right (A025517), which has a priority date of September 30, 1977. Existing water rights with an earlier priority date are senior to the Project. This includes the existing CVP and SWP water rights. This also includes those water rights to which the Authority subordinated its right to divert listed in Attachment C which were included in the Sites Water Right application materials.
- **Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek Operations Plan:** No water can be impounded from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks until the Authority completes a Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek Operations Plan, as described in the Sites Water Right application and the Project's Final EIR. The Authority has committed to including GCID, TCCA, Colusa County, Maxwell ID, and the Colusa Drain MWC in the development of this Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek Operations Plan. This effort is likely to result in additional operational considerations for the creeks that would be reflected in a future version of this Operations Plan.

3.3.4.1 Regulation of Creek Flows

The Authority may regulate flows on Funks and/or Stone Corral Creeks (temporarily store water from the creeks for less than 30 days) for the purposes of public safety to prevent downstream flooding impacts. Regulation would only occur when the applicable Funks and Stone Corral Creek diversion criteria are not being met and thus, water from the creeks is not being diverted to storage under the Sites Water Right; but downstream impacts are anticipated from high flow events. Prior to regulating flows, the Authority shall coordinate with Colusa County and document the current and anticipated flow conditions and possible downstream threats to life and property. The Authority shall estimate the amount of flow retained during regulation and develop a plan to safely release the entire estimated amount, with no more than a 30-day retention period. Regulated flows from Funks and/or Stone Corral Creeks will occupy empty space (i.e., Storage Allocation not filled with water) in Sites Reservoir and will not require the Authority to lease space from Storage Partners. In the event that all Storage Partner allocations are full, it is assumed that this water would be held in the inactive storage pool. If and when this water is released from the inactive storage pool, that volume will be accounted for and refilled consistent with Section 4.3 of this Operations Plan. This is expected to be a rare occurrence. Regulated flows from Funks and/or Stone Corral Creeks will not be allocated to any Storage Partner as this is not Sites Water diverted under the Sites Water Right.

Regulation may also occur during Project construction to manage flows through construction areas for public/worker safety and site stability considerations. If regulation is needed during construction, the Authority will develop a plan for regulating flows and will establish a methodology to measure daily inflows and outflows. The Authority will make all reasonable efforts to release regulated flows within 30 days when considering safety and site conditions.

3.3.5 Project-specific, Funks and Stone Corral Creeks Diversion-Related Operations Agreements

The Project-specific, Funks and Stone Corral Creeks operational components from [the applicable](#) operations agreements are described below. Note that each description does not summarize the respective agreement in its entirety, but rather focuses on the diversion-related operational components. Executed agreements can be found in Attachment A.

- Colusa County MOU – The allocation of Sites Water diverted from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks is addressed in Section 3.6 of this Operations Plan. Section 3.3.4 of this Operations Plan

describes the development of the Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek Operations Plan and the Authority's commitment to include Colusa County in its development. Monitoring and measurement of water originating from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks will be addressed in a separate Measurement and Monitoring Plan that Authority staff are developing.

- Maxwell ID Agreement – The diversion-related components of this agreement are incorporated into the diversion criteria described throughout this Section 3.3. The diversion-related notification and coordination components of this agreement are incorporated into Section 3.5. Monitoring and measurement of water originating from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks will be addressed in a separate Measurement and Monitoring Plan that Authority staff are developing.
- Anticipated Colusa Drain MWC Agreement – The diversion-related operations components of this agreement are incorporated into the diversion criteria described throughout this Section 3.3. The diversion-related notification and coordination components of this agreement are incorporated into Section 3.5. Monitoring and measurement of water originating from Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek and releases into the Colusa Basin Drain will be addressed in a separate Measurement and Monitoring Plan that Authority staff are developing.

3.4 Diversion Forecasting

The Authority will develop and maintain a tool to assist with diversion forecasting and coordination. Currently, a spreadsheet tool, referred to as the Forecasting Tool, has been created to forecast potential diversions from the Sacramento River. The Forecasting Tool includes observed and forecasted flows for the Sacramento River at Bend Bridge, the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough, and the observed and expected Delta condition. The observed and forecasted flows are evaluated with the system-wide and Project-specific diversion criteria to forecast the rate of water that the Authority could potentially divert each day.

Forecasted flows for locations on the Sacramento River and tributary creeks are available on a 30-day outlook; however, detailed forecasts are typically only available up to 10 days out with a greater reliability in the 3- to 5-day range. The Authority will use forecasts to initiate and continue coordination with facility operators and other agencies as required under [the applicable](#) agreements.

There are currently no forecast data available for Funks and Stone Corral creeks. The Authority will consider what tools are needed, if any, to forecast inflows from these creeks.

Each diversion forecast and all long-range, seasonal forecasts prepared for the Sacramento River and for Funks and Stone Corral creeks will consider the available storage capacity remaining in Sites Reservoir as a whole and in each Storage Partner account.

3.5 Diversion Notifications

During the diversion season, the Authority will regularly coordinate with DWR and Reclamation to exchange data and forecasts regarding projected operations and conditions. Through this regular close coordination, the Authority, DWR, and Reclamation will have a collective understanding of when Project diversions are projected to begin, continue, or cease.

When system-wide and Project-specific diversion criteria are met, the Authority will be responsible for deciding whether and how much to divert from all sources in accordance with applicable provisions of the Project's Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals, and will coordinate with Reclamation, TCCA,

and GCID to provide specific diversion requests, including timing and amount. The Authority will work with Reclamation, TCCA, and GCID to develop a communications protocol and procedure to ensure efficient and effective communication on diversions and conveyance of diverted water to Funks Reservoir and the TRR, respectively.

Error! Reference source not found. identifies diversion notifications applicable to the Project's Sacramento River diversions.

Error! Reference source not found. identifies diversion notifications applicable to the Project's Funks and Stone Corral Creeks diversions.

TABLE 5. SACRAMENTO RIVER DIVERSION NOTIFICATIONS AND TIMING

Notification Timeframe	Agency Notifying	Notification Summary	Controlling Agreement and Section
Regular basis, no specific timing	CCWD	Meet with CCWD to share information about forecasted conditions and coordinate regarding foreseeable Project operations; discuss and cooperatively work to assess and improve relevant modeling tools and processes; agree upon the tool or tools to be used prior to the Sites Project diversion season within the context of the agreement	CCWD Agreement, SOP, Paragraph 1
At least 7 days prior to diversions (or earlier, if possible)	CCWD	Inform CCWD of dates and rates of intended diversions, as well as if forecasted "Quick Check-in Conditions and Process" or "Quantitative Analysis Conditions and Process" exist and follow process identified in the CCWD Agreement, SOP (see Attachment A)	CCWD Agreement, SOP, Paragraph 2
At least 3 days prior to diversions (or earlier, if possible)	DWR, Reclamation	DWR and/or Reclamation can give notice to the Authority that diversions may occur 7 days in advance. The Authority shall coordinate and confirm with DWR and Reclamation that the conditions exist with the date and rate of planned diversion at least 3 days before the planned diversions, or earlier if possible.	Sites/DWR/Reclamation Operations Agreement, Attachment 1, Section 1
At least 7 days prior to diversions (or earlier, if possible)	DWR, SWC	Inform DWR and SWC of date and rate of intended diversions. If Excess Conditions with Sacramento River export restrictions are forecasted as defined in the Sites/SWC/DWR Settlement Agreement, DWR shall determine if the planned diversion will cause an adverse effect to the SWP and notify the Authority	Sites/SWC/DWR Settlement Agreement, Paragraphs 2.3 and 3.4

TABLE 6. FUNKS AND STONE CORRAL CREEKS DIVERSION NOTIFICATIONS AND TIMING

Notification Timeframe	Agency Notifying	Notification Summary	Controlling Agreement and Section
Regular basis, no specific timing	Maxwell ID	Meet with Maxwell ID to share information about forecasted conditions and coordinate regarding foreseeable Project operations; discuss and	Maxwell ID Agreement,

Notification Timeframe	Agency Notifying	Notification Summary	Controlling Agreement and Section
		cooperatively work to assess and improve relevant measurement and monitoring tools and processes, along with assess and improve including data sharing and communications tools and processes	SOP, Paragraph 1
At least 7 days prior to diversions (or earlier, if possible)	Maxwell ID	Inform Maxwell ID of date of anticipated initial diversions	Maxwell ID Agreement, SOP, Paragraph 3a
Weekly after initial notification through remainder of diversion season (June 14)	Maxwell ID	Inform Maxwell ID of Project's intended diversions to storage of water from Funks and/or Stone Corral Creeks and releases into Funks and/or Stone Corral Creeks weekly for the upcoming seven (7) days that occur two (2) days following the notification (for example, if the notification occurs on a Monday, it would cover the upcoming seven days from Wednesday through the following Tuesday). Inform Maxwell ID of changes that may occur to the weekly plan as soon as possible	Maxwell ID Agreement, SOP, Paragraph 3b
Daily	Maxwell ID	Inform Maxwell ID of the following: flows in the creeks above Sites Reservoir for the prior day; actual daily releases into Funks and Stone Corral Creeks from Sites Reservoir for the prior day; expected daily releases into Funks and Stone Corral Creeks from Sites Reservoir for the current day; and flows in Stone Corral Creek at locations downstream of Sites Reservoir but upstream of Maxwell ID's POD #2 (on Stone Corral Creek near its intersection with Maxwell Road) for the prior day	Maxwell ID Agreement, SOP, Paragraph 2
Periodic Regulation of Flows for Less than 30 Days	Maxwell ID	Notify Maxwell ID in advance of regulation, or as soon as possible after regulation has occurred if advance notice was not possible, and coordinate to ensure that Maxwell ID's ability to exercise its water rights is not impacted	Maxwell ID Agreement, SOP, Paragraph 4

Note: The Anticipated Colusa Drain MWC Agreement is expected to have the same or substantially similar notification requirements. Once this agreement is finalized, these requirements will be incorporated into this table.

3.6 Allocation of Diversions to Storage Partners

3.6.1 Allocation of Diversions

Sites Water diverted from the Sacramento River is first used to fill inactive storage. After inactive storage is filled, each Storage Partner will be allocated water diverted from the Sacramento River based on each Storage Partner's Base Facilities Capacity Interest as specified in their respective contract up to each Storage Partner's Storage Allocation or other Storage Allocation leased or acquired. If a Storage Partner's Storage Allocation is not available or is full, then diverted Sites Water from the Sacramento River will be allocated proportional to the Storage Allocation of all Storage Partners who have available Storage Allocation remaining.

Sites Water diverted from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks, and their tributaries, and from the watershed of Sites Reservoir is allocated to Colusa County or other beneficiaries as specified in the Colusa County MOU up to the County's or other beneficiaries' Storage Allocation or other Storage Allocation leased or acquired.¹⁵ If Colusa County's or other beneficiaries' Storage Allocation is not available or is full, then diverted Sites Water from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks, and their tributaries, and from the watershed of Sites Reservoir will be allocated first to fill inactive storage, and second, proportional to the Storage Allocation of all Storage Partners who have available Storage Allocation remaining.

The timing, volume, and rate of releases into Funks and Stone Corral Creeks are uncertain at this time. Once additional information is known, the Authority may project anticipated release needs for the creeks and hold back allocating water diverted from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks, and their tributaries, and from the watershed of Sites Reservoir in anticipation of meeting future downstream needs. This allocated creek water will occupy empty space (i.e., Storage Allocation not filled with water) in Sites Reservoir and does not require the Authority to lease space from Storage Partners. In the event that all Storage Partner allocations are full, it is assumed that this water would be held in inactive storage. If and when this water is released from inactive storage, that volume will be accounted for and refilled consistent with Section 4.3 of this Operations Plan. This is expected to be a rare occurrence.

Consistent with the Sites Water Right ~~application~~, all water diverted under the Sites Water Right must be placed into storage in Sites Reservoir and cannot be directly put to beneficial use prior to being stored in Sites Reservoir. Under expected operational conditions, once water is diverted and physically placed into storage it is considered "stored" water. Stored water can be subsequently withdrawn from storage and put to beneficial use per the needs of the Authority and/or the Storage Partners.

All allocations of Sites Water to a Storage Partner's Storage Allocation will be made in Sites Reservoir. Sites Water at diversion locations and in conveyance prior to being placed in Sites Reservoir shall remain held by the Authority and not allocated to individual Storage Partner accounts.

3.6.2 Diversions and Storage Opportunity Request Form

Each Storage Partner shall provide the Authority with a projected request for the volume of Sites Water the Storage Partner seeks to be stored in its respective Storage Allocation or other Storage Allocation leased or acquired in the format requested by the Authority ("Storage Opportunity Request Form"). An example Storage Opportunity Request Form is provided in Attachment E. The timing for providing an initial Storage Opportunity Request Form will be determined in a future version of this Operations Plan. The timing and frequency of changes allowed to the Storage Opportunity Request Form will be determined in a future version of this Operations Plan – with changes anticipated to be allowed with one (1) week advance notification provided that changes cannot go below the amount of Sites Water already allocated in Sites Reservoir to that Storage Partner in that diversion season. For example, if a Storage Partner originally requested its Storage Allocation to be filled but seeks to modify this request to a partial fill, but has already been allocated 50,000 AF in that diversion season in its Storage Allocation, the Storage Partner cannot reduce its partial fill request below 50,000 AF.

¹⁵ The Colusa County MOU allows for water originating from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks, and their tributaries, and from the watershed of Sites Reservoir to be allocated to others in the future, such as Glenn County. If additional parties are beneficiaries of the Colusa County MOU in the future, then the water diverted from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks, and their tributaries, and from the watershed of Sites Reservoir would be first allocated to those parties before being allocated to the inactive storage pool or other Storage Partners.

Storage Partners may opt out of receiving diversions into their Storage Allocation. If a Storage Partner opts out of receiving diversions, the amount of unused storage space will remain empty. B&O Section 4.3.3 states that Participants will make efforts to optimize diversion and beneficial use of Sites Water during the Sites Water Right Development Period (prior to the Sites Water Right being perfected to license) and not interfere with the Sites Authority's efforts to do the same. During this time, if a Storage Partner chooses to opt out of fully filling its Storage Allocation with Sites Water, the Authority will evaluate if leaving that Storage Allocation empty would result in forgoing diversion of Sites Water from the Sacramento River in a way that may result in negative consequences when the Authority proceeds to license its water right. If the analysis determines that negative consequences are possible, then the Authority will work with the Storage Partner to strongly encourage the Storage Partner to make arrangements to fill the empty Storage Allocation through voluntary actions (such as a Lease of Capacity Interest or filling and selling the water to other Storage Partners). If the Storage Partner continues to choose to leave their Storage Allocation empty, then the concern will be elevated to the Authority Board of Directors for resolution. The purpose of this activity is to maximize the Sites Water Right when moving to water right licensing in the future for the benefit of all Storage Partners. A Storage Partner opting out of diversions in a year when leaving that Storage Allocation empty would result in forgoing diversion of Sites Water from the Sacramento River in a way that may result in negative consequences to the Sites Water Right development is expected to be an exceptionally rare occurrence.

Storage Partners are not permitted to request specific timing or location for Sacramento River diversions.

3.6.3 Priority of Diversions

The diversion of Sites Water from the Sacramento River will take priority over the release of water from Sites Reservoir using the I/O Works and over the diversion of Other Water (see Section 7.0). Each Storage Partner has equal priority to its share of diverted water consistent with its respective contract.

3.6.4 Losses During Diversions and Conveyance

Anticipated and unanticipated water losses may occur during diversion and conveyance of Sites Water to Sites Reservoir from seepage, operational considerations, or emergency conditions, and similar occurrences. Sites Water diverted by the Authority will be allocated to Storage Partners in Sites Reservoir after losses during diversions and conveyance to Sites Reservoir have been accounted for. In this way, anticipated and unanticipated water losses during diversions and conveyance are spread proportionally among all Storage Partners that are allocated Sites Water during the diversion period.

3.6.5 Deliveries During Diversions

No delivery of Sites Water upstream of Sites Reservoir is allowed in the Sites Water Right. All Sites Water diverted must be placed into storage in Sites Reservoir first, minus any losses. Potential operational and delivery location flexibility may be provided through exchanges which are described in Section 8.0.

4.0 Storage in Sites Reservoir

4.1 Sites Reservoir Storage Capacity

The current estimate for Sites Reservoir storage capacity is 1,470,000 AF based on the most [current recent](#) surveying data. Sites Reservoir storage space available to Storage Partners is 1,410,000 AF after considering an inactive storage pool volume of 60,000 AF.

Storage Partner Storage Allocations are based on each Storage Partner's Base Facilities Capacity Interest and field measurements of reservoir storage capacity, as updated from time to time. Following construction of Sites Reservoir, the actual storage volume will be measured and/or calculated. If the storage volume changes at any time, the available storage will be allocated to Storage Partners based on their Base Facilities Capacity Interest.

4.2 Losses from Storage

Regular losses of water held in storage in Sites Reservoir are expected to result from, but are not limited to, evaporation and seepage. Periodic losses may occur from such things as, but not limited to, facility testing and releases during testing. Infrequent and unusual losses may occur from such things as, but not limited to, emergency releases and firefighting needs. The approach to assessing losses is yet to be determined and will be addressed in a future update to this Operations Plan. All losses of water held in Sites Reservoir storage—including evaporation and seepage—will be estimated on a daily basis. These losses will be allocated to each Storage Partner in proportion to the amount of water in storage that day. No losses will be allocated to the inactive storage pool unless it is the only water in the reservoir.

4.3 Inactive Storage Pool

Sites Reservoir will have a physical inactive storage pool of approximately 11,250 AF, below which water cannot physically be removed from the reservoir using the I/O Works. However, the Authority is currently planning to operate to an operational inactive storage pool of 60,000 ~~±~~ AF under normal conditions.

When filling Sites Reservoir from the Sacramento River, the inactive storage pool (physical and operational) will be filled first. In the event that Colusa County's or other beneficiaries' Storage Allocation is not available or is full under the Colusa County MOU, then diverted Sites Water from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks, and their tributaries, and from the watershed of Sites Reservoir will be allocated first to fill inactive storage and second proportionally to the Storage Allocation of all Storage Partners who have available Storage Allocation remaining. The cost of diverting and conveying water to fill and maintain the inactive storage pool volume will be distributed to Storage Partners based on their Base Facilities Capacity Interest.

Reservoir losses as described in Section 4.2 will not be applied to the inactive storage pool unless it is the only water in the reservoir.

4.4 Storage Allocation

Sites Reservoir storage is allocated to each Storage Partner proportionate to their Base Facilities Capacity Interest in their respective contract. Base Facilities Capacity Interest of each Storage Partner will be tracked and maintained as part of the real-time tracking and accounting described in Section 2.3.

5.0 Releases from Sites Reservoir

5.1 Overall Project Releases

Project releases for the Storage Partners will generally occur in the late spring, summer, and fall months but could happen throughout the year. Export of Sites Water to Storage Partners SOD must occur during the CVP/SWP transfer window¹⁶ each year. Sites Water releases and deliveries to Storage Partners in the Delta (including for rediversion at the Barker Slough Pumping Plant) and NOD, including Reclamation (as an exchange partner or a Storage Partner) and DWR (as the acquirer or an exchange partner), can occur outside the transfer window but will be limited to periods when the Delta is in a Balanced Condition. Further discussions of exchanges are included in Section 8.

5.2 Release and Conveyance Facilities

Releases from Sites Reservoir will be made through the I/O Works. The Delivery Point will be Funks Reservoir, TRR, or the Sacramento River at KLOG, ~~or a nearby location~~ as specified by each Storage Partner in their Release Request Form. Releases to Funks Reservoir may be used along the TC Canal. Releases intended for delivery to the Sacramento River will use the Funks Reservoir, TC Canal, then the Dunnigan Pipeline, then the Colusa Basin Drain pathway, where it will outflow to the Sacramento River. Releases to TRR and the GCID Main Canal are considered for use by GCID or as environmental water for NOD wildlife refuges under Proposition 1. These facilities are shown in Figure 2 and **Error! Reference source not found.** and further described in Attachment B.

5.3 Releases to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks

In the construction of Sites Reservoir, Funks and Stone Corral Creeks will be impounded by the construction of the Golden Gate Dam and the Sites Dam, respectively. Releases will be made from Sites Reservoir into Funks and Stone Corral Creeks to comply with California Fish and Game Code Section 5937 and to ensure no injury to downstream water right holders.

Detailed release schedules for releases into Funks and Stone Corral Creeks have not been developed due to lack of information on the conditions in these creeks. Field studies are and will continue being conducted as access is obtained and before final designs for Sites Dam and Golden Gate Dam are completed to determine the following:

- Existing fish assemblage in these creeks, including fish species presence and habitat use;
- Characterization of habitats available (e.g., spawning, rearing, foraging, and sheltering habitats) at varying flow levels;
- Characterization of flows, including assessing the base flow during the summer months;

¹⁶ See footnote 3 on page 6.

- Conducting a fluvial geomorphologic study to characterize bed load and flow levels necessary for mobilization;
- Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program technical study (i.e., bioassessment) that focuses on relationships between physical habitat, water quality, and benthic macroinvertebrates; and
- Hydrological studies to define flow temperature relationships.

Using information from these field studies, along with currently available information on water right holders downstream of the reservoir, and consistent with the operational agreements described below, the Authority will prepare a Funks and Stone Corral Creeks flow schedule that will be incorporated into this Operations Plan. The flow schedule will identify the approach for releases, including release schedules and volumes, a monitoring plan, and an adaptive management plan. Releases into these creeks will be made in consideration of the flood control benefits of the Project and will not overtop the stream banks and flood downstream areas unless required by emergency conditions.

The operations agreements relative to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks described in Section 3.3.5 also have operational components related to releases to the creeks as described below. Note that this description does not summarize the respective agreements in [their](#) entirety, but rather focuses on the release-related operational components. Executed agreements can be found in Attachment A.

- Colusa County MOU – The amount of Sites Water diverted from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks will be the net amount stored in Sites Reservoir and is dependent on the required releases. Development of the flow schedule, coupled with monitoring and measurement of water released to the creeks, will be important to successful implementation of the MOU and will be addressed in a separate Measurement and Monitoring Plan that Authority staff are developing.
- Maxwell ID Agreement – In the event that diversions from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks affect Maxwell ID operations, the Authority will work with Maxwell ID to address the Project effects to Maxwell ID's operations. This may include increased releases of inflows from the creeks (i.e., passed through the reservoir) in consideration of Maxwell ID's existing water rights.¹⁷
- Anticipated Colusa Drain MWC Agreement – In the event that diversions from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks affect senior water [right holders'](#)~~user~~ operations along the Colusa Basin Drain, increased releases of inflow will be made (i.e., passed through the reservoir) up to the amount of inflow coming into the reservoir but not more (i.e., does not include release of previously stored water) in consideration of existing senior water rights.

As with existing conditions, water released or passed through for environmental purposes into Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek will be available for downstream water right holders after serving its environmental purpose(s), consistent with California water right law. In other words, releases being made for environmental purposes and downstream water right holders are not additive. The amount of water to be passed through in consideration of existing downstream water rights will not exceed the inflow from Funks or Stone Corral Creeks on any given day.

Releases into Funks Creek will be made through a new pipeline that terminates at Funks Creek below Golden Gate Dam that is designed to have an operating release range of 0 to 100 cfs into Funks Creek.

¹⁷ The Maxwell ID Agreement allows for the Authority and Maxwell ID to work out possible ways to address impacts to Maxwell ID's operations. This may include increased release of water into Stone Corral Creeks or other operational or monetary considerations.

Releases into Stone Corral Creek will be made through the permanent outlet at Sites Dam that is designed to have an operating release of 0 to 100 cfs, with an emergency release capacity of up to 4,700 cfs.

5.4 Release Criteria

Sites Water may be released for uses NOD or in Delta any time the I/O Works are not diverting water to storage. Sites Water for uses along the North Bay Aqueduct may be released: (1) anytime the I/O Works are not diverting water to storage; (2) when the Delta is in Balanced Conditions; and, (3) when opportunities exist for movement of water through the North Bay Aqueduct. Sites Water for uses SOD will be released: (1) when the I/O Works are not diverting water to storage; (2) when the Delta is in Balanced Conditions; ~~and, (3) when opportunities exist for movement of Sites Water non-CVP/SWP project water through the planned redirection facility(ies) Delta Export Facilities if these facilities are planned for redirection of Sites Water (i.e., the transfer window);~~ and (4) if being redirected at the Delta Export Facilities, only in the transfer window of July 1 through November 30 (Source: Water Right Permit Term 45). All releases of Sites Water are subject to downstream capacity constraints and need to be coordinated with TCCA/Reclamation and GCID, as appropriate. All releases of Sites Water for uses beyond the TC Canal and GCID Canal systems require coordination with Reclamation, DWR, and organizations along the lower Colusa Basin Drain. Coordination and notification procedures for releases will be developed in a future version of this Operations Plan. Releases of Sites Water for redirection at the North Bay Aqueduct is subject to concurrence by DWR. Releases of Sites Water for export at the Delta Export Facilities are subject to concurrence by DWR and Reclamation and are further subject to the terms and conditions of the conveyance agreements to be developed for such deliveries.

To the extent possible, the I/O Works ports/tiers will be operated to meet a rice-growing temperature objective of 65°F or higher during the rice growing season (May through September) because cooler water temperatures may inhibit rice growth. When water of this temperature is not available, the Authority will target release flow temperatures to be greater than or equal to the water temperature in the TC Canal and/or GCID Canal. Information regarding this temperature objective is included in the Project Final EIR/EIS.

Releases shall meet the following requirements:

- Releases through the Knights Landing Outfall Gates (KLOG)
 - Releases through KLOG may not be conducted until a temperature monitoring and modeling study is conducted and results are approved by CDFW. Releases must then be implemented consistent with the approved final report. See Source: Operations ITP Term 9.23.
 - Releases through KLOG may not be conducted until a Sacramento River dissolved oxygen (DO) study is conducted and results are approved by CDFW. Releases must then be implemented consistent with the approved final report. Source: See Operations ITP Term 9.25.
 - Releases through KLOG may not be conducted until the Water Quality Portfolio is approved by the State Water Board and being implemented consistent with the Sites Water Right Permit Term 34 through 43. Once the Water Quality Portfolio has been prepared and approved, a future version of this Operations Plan will be updated to reflect the more detailed release requirements in the Portfolio.

- Rediversion of Sites Water at the Export Facilities shall only occur when the following Bay-Delta Plan numeric water quality objectives are met: salinity, including chloride and electrical conductivity; Sacramento River at Rio Vista flows; base Delta outflows; and numeric interior Delta flows, including export limits and Delta Cross Channel Gate closures. Source: Water Right Permit Term 46.
- Rediversion of Sites Water at the Export Facilities is prohibited unless the Water Level Response Plan required by Decision 1641 is updated and approved by the State Water Board. No rediversion of Sites Water is authorized except in compliance with the updated and approved Water Level Response Plan. If the Water Level Response Plan is not updated and approved by the State Water Board prior to the operation of Sites Reservoir, the Authority may work with the State Water Board to adjust this requirement. Source: Water Right Permit Term 49.
- Releases through the Knights Landing Ridgecut are no longer envisioned as part of the Project, but were covered in the Project Final EIR/EIS and Operations ITP. Releases through the Knights Landing Ridgecut, if implemented in the future, require the following:
 - Releases to the Yolo Bypass via the Knights Landing Ridgecut shall only occur from August 1 to October 31. Source:See Operations ITP Term 9.22.
 - Releases to the Yolo Bypass via the Knights Landing Ridgecut shall not result in water temperatures that would exceed 70 degrees F as measured at the Wallace Weir Fish Collection Facility. Source:See Operations ITP Term 9.24.
 - No releases shall occur to the Yolo Bypass via the Knights Landing Ridgecut when dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in the Ridge Cut Slough at Highway 113 (Station A0D84761435)¹⁸ are 5.0 mg/L or lower. Another station may be used or installed by the Sites Authority if Station A0D84761435 is not functional. Source:See Operations ITP Term 9.26.
 - No releases shall occur to the Yolo Bypass via the Knights Landing Ridgecut if adult salmonids are present at the Wallace Weir Fish Rescue Facility. Source:See Operations ITP Term 9.27.

Additionally, the rediversion of Sites Project water at the SOD Export Facilities (Jones and Banks pumping plants) is subject to compliance with the objectives currently required of DWR and Reclamation set forth in Tables 1, 2, and 3 on pages 181 to 187 of [State Water Board Revised Decision 1641 \(D-1641\)](#), or any future State Water Board order or decision implementing Bay-Delta water quality objectives at [either or both of those facilitiesplants](#), including compliance with the various plans required under D-1641 as prerequisites for the use of the Joint Points of Diversion by DWR and Reclamation. Rediversion of water at the Clifton Court Forebay and the Jones Pumping Plant is also subject to compliance with the Record of Decision for the Long-Term Operation of the CVP and SWP, including all applicable biological opinions, Incidental Take Permits, court orders, and any other conditions imposed by other regulatory agencies applicable to these operations.

¹⁸ Ridge Cut Slough at HWY 113 – (Station A0D84761435) - <https://wdl.water.ca.gov/WaterDataLibrary/StationDetails.aspx?Station=A0D84761435&source=map>

5.5 Storage Partner Release Requests, Delivery Locations and Losses

5.5.1 Release Requests

Storage Partners have discretion regarding the amount of water held in their Storage Allocation that they request to be scheduled for release for their use and will have control over the use of their Storage Allocation based on the conditions outlined in their respective contract.

Each Storage Partner shall provide the Authority with a projected request for the volume of Sites Water the Storage Partner would like to be released from the available supply in its Storage Allocation or other Storage Allocation leased or acquired in the format requested by the Authority ("Release Request Form"). An example Release Request Form is provided in Attachment E. The timing for providing an initial Release Request Form will be determined in a future version of this Operations Plan.

The Authority will work with DWR and Reclamation to schedule deliveries south of the Delta. Beginning in February of each year, operations of the reservoir, along with conditions in the Delta, will be reevaluated at least weekly. From such analysis, the Authority will update release and delivery schedules and will coordinate with Storage Partners should any conflicts arise.

5.5.1.1 Conveyance Capacity

Project releases to the CBD may be constrained by capacity in both the Dunnigan Pipeline and the lower CBD. Exports to SOD may be further constrained by export capacity or other Delta operating restrictions. If it is anticipated that releases are constrained, the Authority will coordinate closely with Storage Partners, DWR, Reclamation, TCCA, GCID, and entities along the lower CBD in an attempt to meet the requested water release schedules. If there is a release constraint that will affect the ability to meet the requested schedules, the Authority will work with the conflicted Storage Partners to determine whether accommodations can be made (i.e., Storage Partners voluntarily adjust their release requests). If the conflict cannot be resolved, releases will be made in proportion to the Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest attributable to the conflicted Storage Partners thereby providing Storage Partners with Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest equal priority for releases.

Storage Partners with Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest (through contract rights or lease) determine the use of their Capacity Interest and have first priority rights to use available conveyance capacity in the Downstream Facilities for conveyance of Sites Water and Other Water. This first priority to available conveyance capacity in the Downstream Facilities includes first priority to available capacity above their respective Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest. Storage Partners with Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest will be assessed a wheeling charge for use of Downstream Facilities above their Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest. Possible scenarios are provided below for illustrative purposes only.

- **Downstream Facilities are Capacity Limited**— Storage Partners with Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest seek to convey water through Downstream Facilities and the capacity desired exceeds the capacity available. In this case, each Storage Partner with Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest would be limited to their Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest. As each Storage Partner is limited to their Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest, no additional wheeling charges will be applied. No excess capacity exists for second priority users of Downstream Facilities. This situation is likely rare as it would mean that all Storage Partners with Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest are seeking to use their full Downstream Facilities Capacity at exactly the same time. This is not currently envisioned as a routine operation.

- Downstream Facilities are Capacity Limited, Storage Partners NOT Limited to Downstream Capacity Interest – Storage Partners with Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest seek to convey water through Downstream Facilities. Some Storage Partners are using their full Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest and will exceed their Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest, some Storage Partners are not using their full Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest. In this case, an additional wheeling charge⁵ will be applied for those Storage Partners that are using more than their Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest to ONLY the increment conveyed above their Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest. The proceeds from this wheeling charge will be applied to those Storage Partners that are NOT using their full Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest.
 - If capacity continues to be limited and not all requests for capacity by first priority users can be satisfied, then the increment of available capacity above the sum of each Storage Partners with Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest shall be apportioned proportional based on the Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest of those seeking to use this unused capacity.
 - If capacity remains after all needs of the Storage Partners with Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest are satisfied, then any unused capacity can be utilized by second priority users (those without Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest). A wheeling charges will be applied for: (1) Storage Partners with Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest to ONLY the increment conveyed above their Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest; and (2) to those Storage Partners WITHOUT Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest for all water conveyed. The proceeds from this wheeling charge will be applied to those Storage Partners that are NOT using their full Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest.

Storage Partners with Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest control the use of their Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest but cannot unreasonably withhold such use by others. The Authority will administer the availability of excess capacity upon confirmation by the holder of the Downstream Facility Capacity Interest that all or a portion of their Capacity Interest is being made available to others. The State, [through the Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program Contract for Administration of Public Ecosystem Benefits with CDFW](#), is a passive operator of its Capacity Interest and the Authority will assume the responsibility for determining excess use of their Capacity Interest.

Storage Partners without Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest have second priority for conveyance of releases through the Downstream Facilities. Storage Partners without Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest will have access to unused capacity after all the needs of the first priority users are met and may need to adjust their schedule to avoid constraints. If available capacity changes, and unused capacity is no longer available, then Storage Partners without Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest will need to adjust their schedule to avoid constraints. The Sites Authority will work to communicate with second priority users as soon as possible if adjustments are anticipated or need to be made.

Wheeling costs through Downstream Facilities will be described in a future version of this Operations Plan. Wheeling costs shall follow beneficiary pays principles and be consistent with State law.

5.5.1.2 Low Storage Level Considerations

As Sites Reservoir is new and not yet constructed, there is uncertainty as to water quality at low reservoir elevations. If poor water quality conditions occur at low reservoir elevations, then management actions may be needed to ensure that releases into Funks Reservoir, TRR and/or Funks and

Stone Corral Creeks continue to be of sufficient quality¹⁹ and that the Authority can meet all Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals.

The Authority will annually conduct an analysis of projected reservoir elevations with anticipated Storage Partner release requests. If projected reservoir elevations are estimated to reach or go below elevation 358 feet or approximately 173,500 AF of storage (which corresponds with 30 feet above the 60,000 AF operational inactive storage pool elevation), then the Authority will conduct additional evaluation^s to determine if water quality issues are likely to occur such that the Authority may not be able to make all requested releases and meet all Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals. If this analysis determines that the Authority may not be able to make all requested releases and meet all Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals, then meeting all Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals will take priority over Storage Partner requested releases. In this situation, Storage Partner requested releases may need to be reduced, postponed, or ceased to ensure that the Authority can comply with all Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals. If Storage Partner requested releases are reduced, release amounts will be in proportion to Base Facilities Capacity Interest. If Storage Partner requested releases are postponed or ceased, then the Reservoir Committee and/or Authority Board, as appropriate, will determine how best to equitably address this situation.

It is important to note that low storage levels occur infrequently in the Project modelling. Low storage levels will develop over time (months or possibly a year or more) such that there will be time to plan and adjust. The Project Final EIR/EIS and Reservoir Management Plan (to be developed) include monitoring actions within and downstream of the reservoir that will inform the analysis called for in this section.

5.5.2 Release Order Adjustments

The Authority will provide regular updates on the scheduling of releases and deliveries. Storage Partners may request changes to their initial release request. The timing and frequency of changes allowed to the Release Request Form will be determined in a future version of this Operations Plan. Current considerations for changes to requested releases include the following.

- Storage Partners receiving water not conveyed through Dunnigan Pipeline – It is anticipated that increases or decreases in requested release amounts can be accommodated with one (1) week advance notice.
- Storage Partners receiving water downstream from Dunnigan Pipeline, not through Delta Export Facilities – It is anticipated that decreases in requested release amounts can be accommodated with one (1) week advance notice. Increases in requested release amounts are anticipated to be needed by the 15th of the preceding month (e.g., an increase in September releases must be requested by August 15).
- Storage Partners receiving water through Delta Export Facilities – It is anticipated that decreases in requested release amounts can be accommodated with one (1) week advance notice. Increases in requested release amounts are anticipated to be needed by the 15th of the preceding month (e.g., an increase in September releases must be requested by August 15) and are subject to approval by DWR and/or Reclamation, as applicable.

¹⁹ This uncertainty was addressed in Chapter 6, Surface Water Quality, of the Final EIR/EIS and in Appendix 2D.

Weekly releases, particularly for those deliveries that must be exported through the Delta, are highly dependent on coordination with DWR and Reclamation. The Authority may shift weekly deliveries as needed. The Authority will notify Storage Partners of any shifts, should they occur.

5.5.3 Deliveries and Losses

The Delivery Point for all Storage Partner releases will be Funks Reservoir, TRR, ~~or~~ the Sacramento River at KLOG, ~~or a nearby location~~ as specified by each Storage Partner in their Release Request Form. The Sites Authority will convey Water beyond the Delivery Point (including through Base and Downstream Facilities) to a Secondary Delivery Point in accordance with Partner Agreements described in Section 9.0 and any other agreements that are relevant to Downstream Facilities. Releases from Sites Reservoir to the Delivery Point and releases conveyed to a Secondary Delivery Point are subject to conveyance losses, including but not limited to conveyance losses in the TC Canal, lower ~~CBDelusa Basin Drain~~, Sacramento River, ~~Knights Landing Ridgecut, Yolo Bypass~~, and carriage water²⁰ associated with export of water from the Delta Export Facilities, as appropriate.

The Sites Water Right allows for the redirection of Sites Water at a number of facilities located throughout the state which are anticipated to be used as Secondary Delivery Point(s) – termed points of redirection in the Sites Water Right. Storage Partners may specify a Secondary Delivery Point(s) in their respective Release Request Form. The Authority will review the Secondary Delivery Point(s) to ensure that delivery of Sites Water is consistent with the Sites Water Right. Identification of Storage Partner’s Secondary Delivery Point(s) for the year will also provide key information needed by the Authority to evaluate Downstream Facilities capacity availability, consider timing of deliveries to all Storage Partners, and coordinate with DWR and/or Reclamation for redirection at Delta Export Facilities. The Sites Authority will take actions reasonably practicable to assist Storage Partners in conveying their Water to a Secondary Delivery Point(s). Such actions taken by the Sites Authority are subject to Applicable Law, Governmental Approvals and Partner Agreements. Storage Partners shall bear all costs (monetary or otherwise), including the risk of loss and any shortfall or reduction in water between the Delivery Point and the Secondary Delivery Point(s).

Costs (monetary or otherwise) associated with the Authority’s efforts to convey water to a Secondary Delivery Point, including equitable distribution of costs, cost recovery, and similar, will follow the beneficiary pays principle and will be addressed in a separate document in the future.

5.6 Releases to Satisfy Terms of Operations Agreements

Although expected to be infrequent, releases may be necessary to satisfy the terms of existing operations agreements. These releases would occur consistent with all Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals. These releases will have priority over all other releases as these releases are necessary for the Project to comply with Applicable Laws and/or Governmental Approvals. Releases to satisfy the terms of existing operations agreements are expected to be infrequent as actions in the

²⁰ Carriage Water is the additional water needed for Delta outflow to compensate for the additional export of Sites Water to assure compliance with the water quality requirements of the SWP and CVP. DWR and Reclamation will determine the amount of Carriage Water that is needed for the Sites Water releases to the Sacramento River for SOD water users in a similar manner as DWR and Reclamation calculate Carriage Water for water transfers originating from the Sacramento River. The methodology for determining Carriage Water will follow similar principles as described in the Draft Carriage Water Overview for Non-Project Water Transfers, dated October 2019, and as updated. See https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/State-Water-Project/Management/Water-Transfers/Files/Draft_CarriageWaterOverview_20240215.pdf.

operations agreements are intended to avoid circumstances which would result in the need for “payback” releases. As such, the Reservoir Committee and/or Authority Board, as appropriate, will determine how best to equitably, based on beneficiary pays principles, address costs, including wheeling costs, and how to account for such releases among the Storage Partners (including adjusting the amount of water in Storage Partners’ Storage Allocations to make such releases available).

6.0 Sites Water Sales or Exchanges

Storage Partners may sell or exchange their Sites Water to other Storage Partners or other entities. The terms of sales or exchanges of Sites Water are at the sole discretion of the Storage Partner(s) and/or entities. The concepts of specific exchanges are still being developed and additional detail will be included in a future version of the Operations Plan. The Authority will continue to endeavor to ensure all details of any potential exchange maintain compliance with all Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals.

The Authority will develop and maintain a database accessible to other Storage Partners where individual Storage Partners can identify their interest in a sale or exchange of Sites Water or leasing or sale of Base and/or Downstream Facilities Capacity Interest (both buyers and sellers). Participation in the database will be voluntary and is only intended to facilitate connection of interested parties in these transactions.

Terms of a sale or exchange must not negatively impact other Storage Partners’ rights to store or convey water consistent with their respective contract. The factors that determine what constitutes a negative impact to other Storage Partners will be reflected in a subsequent version of this Operations Plan. Any sale or exchange of Sites Water cannot negatively impact the Sites Water Right. The selling entity should also consider that if the Authority is to convey the sold water to a Secondary Delivery Point, this action will need to be consistent with all relevant Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals for the Sites Project.

Following agreement between the two entities, notice of the sale or exchange shall be provided to the Authority so that Project operations and Sites Water accounting may be maintained.

7.0 Other Water

The respective Storage Partners’ contracts are anticipated to allow for the diversion, storage and release of Other Water (water not appropriated under the Sites Water Right) in Project facilities in the future, subject to compliance with all Applicable Laws and Governmental Approval. The Authority will take reasonable steps to facilitate these requests. The use of Project facilities for Other Water will be addressed and considered by the Authority on a case-by-case basis, subject to compliance with all Applicable Laws and Governmental Approvals. The use of Project Facilities for Other Water must not negatively impact other Storage Partners’ rights as set forth in the B&O Contract or the State and Federal Contracts (as applicable).

8.0 Exchanges

The operation of the Project includes the potential for exchanges of water with the CVP and SWP. Exchanges have the potential to assist the CVP and SWP in meeting their regulatory obligations and their

authorized purposes including to protect, restore and enhance fish, wildlife, and associated habitats, provide water supply and generate power. Exchanges would only be conducted when they would be neutral or net beneficial to CVP and SWP operations and not affect the ability of the CVP or SWP to meet applicable laws, regulations, biological opinions and incidental take permits, contractual deliveries, and court orders in place at the time. The exchanges are expected to primarily occur with Lake Oroville. Exchanges are also expected to take place in real-time with local Storage Partners.

All exchanges contemplated by the Authority can be accomplished through the Sites Water Right and existing water rights of the CVP and SWP.

A Storage Partner's, DWR's, Reclamation's, and any real time exchange partner's participation in any exchange is voluntary. Exchanges are not mandatory on any party.

- Real-time exchanges will be used to support timing of releases and deliveries to both NOD and SOD Storage Partners. These exchanges will be initiated by Storage Partners and are expected to help minimize capacity constraints along the Dunnigan Pipeline as well as the delivery of water to Storage Partners upstream of the release facilities.
- Exchanges with Oroville will be used primarily to increase the flexibility and yield of Sites Reservoir. Upon request of a Storage Partner, and contingent on approval by DWR, water would be released from Sites Reservoir to meet SWP purposes, resulting in reduced releases from Lake Oroville which would be stored for use later in the year.
- Exchanges with the CVP will generally be for a portion of another Sites Participant's water, that will be made in a single year, voluntarily purchased by Reclamation, and as coordinated between Reclamation and the Authority.

Attachment D provides additional information regarding exchanges and the associated operational parameters.

Exchanges must meet the following parameters²¹:

- Be consistent with the Operations ITP. ~~Source:See~~ Operations ITP Term 9.18.
- Exchanges with Oroville Reservoir may not result in DWR not meeting its regulatory requirements. ~~Source:See~~ Operations ITP Term 9.20.
- Exchanges may not be conducted until a Water Exchange and Temperature Management Plan is developed and approved by CDFW. Exchanges must then be implemented consistent with the approved Water Exchange and Temperature Management Plan. ~~Source:See~~ Operations ITP Term 9.21.
- Water cannot be releases from Sites Reservoir in exchange for water to be diverted or rediverted at the Delta Export Facilities unless the diversion or rediversion of the exchanged

²¹ Exchanges with Shasta Lake have been removed from this Operations Plan consistent with Reclamation's request. It is noted that if these are implemented in the future, exchanges with Shasta Lake may not result in Reclamation not meeting its regulatory requirements. See Operations ITP Term 9.19.

[water at the Delta eExport fFacilities complies with Sites Water Right Permit tTerms 45, 46, 48, 49, and 50. Source: Water Right Permit Term 44.](#)

- [Exchanges cannot result in violation of any law, regulation, biological opinion, incidental take permit, court order, or State Water Board decision or order, applicable to the other water right or, if the exchange involves SWP or CVP water rights or infrastructure, operation of the SWP or CVP. Source: Water Right Permit Term 51.](#)
- [Note that Water Right Permit Term 50 requires posting certain information related to the exchange on a publicly available website prior to starting releases for the exchange. Source: Water Right Term 50.](#)

9.0 GCID and TCCA Considerations

The Authority intends to enter into Partner Agreements with GCID and TCCA. Because the RBPP and TC Canal are owned by Reclamation, the agreement with TCCA will be in addition to an Excess Capacity Contract required for the use of federal facilities. Close coordination will be required between the Authority and operators at TCCA/Reclamation and GCID.

The Authority will make decisions on when and how much water to divert at RBPP and HCPS for the purposes of the Project. Similarly, the Authority will make the decision on when and how much water to release from Sites Reservoir to a specific location (Funks Reservoir or TRR). These decisions cannot be delegated to GCID and TCCA/Reclamation but must be made in close coordination with GCID and TCCA/Reclamation. As they currently do, GCID and TCCA/Reclamation will continue to own and operate their facilities, including the diversion of Sites Water and conveyance of Sites Water in their facilities to either Funks Reservoir or TRR and, upon release of Sites Water, from either Funks Reservoir or TRR to the location requested by the Authority.

Operation of the Project and use of capacity in partner facilities must not negatively impact GCID and TCCA/Reclamation's ability to meet existing legal and contractual obligations or negatively impact their regular customers.

9.1 Coordination

The Authority will coordinate annually with GCID and TCCA/Reclamation on diversion and release schedules of Sites Water, availability and scheduling of exchanges, and planned maintenance windows and conveyance facility downtime. The purpose of this annual coordination is to share information and begin planning for opportunities and constraints anticipated in the upcoming year. The timing of this annual coordination will be addressed in a future version of this Operations Plan.

It is also anticipated that the Authority, GCID, and TCCA/Reclamation will develop a coordination procedure and coordination templates to quickly and efficiently coordinate operations on a monthly, weekly and daily basis.

9.1.1 TCCA Coordination

Daily operations will be coordinated closely with the Red Bluff and Willows Offices of TCCA. In particular, operations will be closely coordinated in the shoulder and transition seasons, when diversions for the Project are occurring at the same time as diversions and deliveries for TCCA contractors. Close

operations will also be necessary for frost water, which could occur when the Project is diverting and may require water to pass through Funks Reservoir for TCCA users on the downstream portion of the TC Canal. TCCA will remain the lead operator for the RBPP and the TC Canal. The Authority will have an operator responsible for the diversions into Sites Reservoir at Funks via the Funks [Pumping Generating Plant](#) (PGP). TCCA operations will take priority over Sites operations, although the two entities will coordinate closely to adjust operations to achieve operational objectives.

The Authority operator will also be responsible for the releases from Sites Reservoir to Funks Reservoir for downstream conveyance. These releases will be coordinated with TCCA operations to ensure the appropriate flow of TC water passes through Funks Reservoir for downstream TCCA users, in addition to the Water released from Sites Reservoir for delivery to Storage Partners.

It is anticipated that the Project's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system will also duplicate some of the TCCA system. This will allow logic and alarms to respond appropriately to changing conditions at the RBPP, along the TC Canal, and in Funks Reservoir. The Authority will work with TCCA in responding to any emergency operations required, and coordination with TCCA will be included in Project's Emergency Action Plan.

9.1.2 GCID Coordination

Daily operations will be coordinated closely with GCID's operations in Hamilton City. In particular, operations will be coordinated during the shoulder and transition seasons, when diversions for the Project are occurring at the same time as [diversions and](#) deliveries for GCID. Close operations will also be necessary for real-time exchanges, when GCID will receive water from the Project in lieu of [GCID](#) diversions from the Sacramento River. GCID will remain the lead operator of the HCPS and the GCID Main Canal. The Authority will have an operator responsible for the diversions into the Sites Reservoir at TRR via the TRR PGP. GCID operations will take priority over Project operations, although the two entities will coordinate closely to adjust operations to achieve operational objectives.

The Authority operator will also be responsible for the releases from Sites Reservoir to TRR. These releases will be coordinated with GCID operations.

It is anticipated that the Project's SCADA system will also duplicate some of the GCID system. This will allow logic and alarms to respond appropriately to changing conditions at the HCPS, along the canal, and in the TRR. The Authority will work with GCID in responding to any emergency operations required, and coordination with GCID will be included in Project's Emergency Action Plan.

9.2 Losses

GCID, TCCA/Reclamation, and the Authority will determine a process to agree upon reasonable loss rates for water transportation losses in partner facilities. Changes in loss assumptions will go through a process of verification and approval by GCID, TCCA/Reclamation, and the Authority, as appropriate for that facility. Losses for these facilities will be addressed in a future version of this Operations Plan.

10.0 Coordination with CVP and SWP

Success of the Project requires close coordination with Reclamation and DWR. The Authority is currently developing the [Anticipated Sites/Reclamation/DWR Operations Agreement](#) with these agencies to address issues related to operations of the Project. Through the implementation of this agreement, it is

expected that the Project will cooperatively interface with the existing and ongoing real-time decision-making processes. The goal is to avoid adverse effects and, potentially, provide benefits to CVP and SWP facilities, operational plans, listed species, public health, safety, and water supply reliability.

The anticipated Sites/Reclamation/DWR Operations Agreement will be focused on day-to-day coordination and communications protocols and procedures among the parties to ensure compliance with the proposed water right permit term. The Authority, DWR, and Reclamation are engaged in technical discussions to evaluate coordination and communications protocols and continue to work towards finalizing the Operations Agreement. It is expected that the final Sites/Reclamation/DWR Operations Agreement, to implement the Sites Project water right term and condition, would be executed prior to Sites Storage Partners executing contracts with the Authority for Capacity Interest in the Sites Project, which is expected to occur after the receipt of critical permits and approvals, including the final water right decision.

11.0 Drought Emergency Response Program

At the time of preparation of this Operations Plan, the Sites Authority is pursuing a Contract for Administration for Public Benefits with the Department of Water Resources (CAPB-DWR) to receive State Proposition 1 funds relating to the Sites Project delivering public benefits associated with drought emergency response and associated adaptive management requirements. The CAPB-DWR is expected to require that the Sites Authority prepare a Drought Emergency Response Program (DERP). As described in the draft CAPB-DWR, the DERP will need to consider hydrological conditions, system-wide and Sites facilities operations constraints, Sites Participants anticipated use of their Capacity Interest, and an examination of drought conditions throughout the State. The DERP is to be developed and adopted within 7 years from the execution of the Funding Agreement with the California Water Commission and reevaluated every 5 years after implementation based on best available science and the most current forecast informed reservoir operation approach.

The DERP is proposed to be incorporated into a future version of this Operations Plan consistent with the following general outline:

1. Project operations will prioritize and maximize diversions of Sites Water into storage which will be allocated as provided for consistent with the respective Storage Partner contracts.
2. A portion of the State's Proposition 1 funding is intended to achieve a drought emergency public benefit and all Participants have agreed to reasonably cooperate with any actions and provide any information reasonably necessary to demonstrate CAPB-DWR compliance. Such actions and information by Participants may include:
 - a. Consideration of voluntary transfer of Sites Water to Participant areas in drought emergency where the Participant has deemed additional supplies necessary.
 - b. Data and records necessary to account for storage of Sites Water and demonstrate Sites Water deliveries during drought emergency conditions.
 - c. Actively participate in DERP implementation upon activation and associated coordination.
 - d. Future consideration of advanced approaches to reservoir storage management such as conjunctive use with groundwater storage, forecast informed reservoir operations.

- e. Participate in good faith to assist the Sites Authority in fulfilling the adaptive management actions specified in the CAPB-DWR.
 - f. The DERP will include accounting requirements for the use and delivery of Sites Water delivery in emergency years from SOD storage.
3. The Sites Authority would ensure the Sites Water made available from the Sites Reservoir for drought emergency is delivered to the Secondary Point of Delivery designated by the applicable Participant. The Participant would be responsible for ensuring and demonstrating Sites Water delivered during drought emergency that has previously been moved SOD is delivered to the Participant's designated location.

12.0 Storage Partner Reporting

The Sites Authority is responsible for reporting and accounting for Sites Water under the Sites Water Right. The Sites Authority anticipates that to complete the Annual Water Right report for the Sites Water Right, it may need information from individual Storage Partners, including how Sites Water was beneficially used by Storage Partners. The type of information and timeframes for submittal of such information to the Sites Authority will be developed in a future version of the Operations Plan after the Sites Water Right is issued and accounting/reporting procedures and needs are better understood.

The Sites Authority will also be responsible for reporting and accounting for other operations-related activities in its other permits, approvals, and Project-related agreements. Although the Sites Authority currently anticipates that it will have / collect all of the data necessary for this reporting, if any information is needed from Storage Partners to complete such reporting activities, this section would be updated in the future to reflect the type of information and timeframes for submittal of such information.

13.0 Other Considerations

13.1 Emergencies

The Project includes the design and operation of facilities to meet California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) criteria and requirements for emergency reservoir drawdown. Emergency releases will be governed by the Project's Emergency Action Plan, which is required by law and is prepared as part of the DSOD review and approval process; the details of emergency release are not covered here. The Reservoir Committee and/or Authority Board, as appropriate, will determine how best to equitably share losses due to emergency releases, if any occur in the future.

13.2 Flood Situations

The Project will provide flood damage reduction benefits to portions of Colusa County, including the town of Maxwell and the surrounding agricultural areas. The Authority is intending to receive Proposition 1 funds in exchange for providing these benefits. The Authority is currently negotiating a Flood Adaptive Management Plan for the purposes of the Public Benefits Contract required under Proposition 1, which is anticipated to require the development of a Flood Management Plan. The Flood Management Plan is anticipated to be a separate document from this Operations Plan and must be

developed and adopted within 6 years from the execution of the Funding Agreement with the California Water Commission and reevaluated every 5 years.

The Authority currently anticipates that the flood damage reduction benefits being paid for by Proposition 1 will be provided when the reservoir is operated within the normal operating reservoir levels, and thus the parameters developed below are intended to ensure that compliance is not expected to infringe on any Storage Partner's capacity rights.

While the specific operational details of the Flood Management Plan have not yet been developed, the Authority anticipates that it may need to maintain *empty* storage space during the flood season ("Flood Storage Space"); in an amount that is sufficient to capture potential incoming water from the Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek watersheds and provide the Project's flood damage reduction benefits. The Authority may address the need for Flood Storage Space in the following ways:

1. If Sites Reservoir is not full and not near full, then any necessary Flood Storage Space would occupy unused Storage Partner Storage Allocations.
2. If Sites Reservoir is near full, diversions from the Sacramento River are ongoing, and these diversions will encroach into the necessary Flood Storage Space, then the Authority will ramp down or cease Sacramento River water diversions. In this situation, the Authority will track how much Sacramento River water could have been diverted and allocated to Storage Partner(s), by each individual Storage Partner, up to each Storage Partner's Storage Allocation or maximum request in their Storage Opportunity Request Form. This amount will be allocated on a daily basis and will be tracked as "removed" from the inactive storage pool. In this situation, the Storage Partners allocated water from the inactive storage pool will incur a variable cost for the Water that was allocated from the inactive storage pool that is equal to the average cost of diversions for all other Storage Partners.
3. If Sites Reservoir is near full or is full such that water needs to be released to create the Flood Storage Space, then any necessary Flood Storage Space would be created through either method:
 - Voluntary means, such as encouraging Storage Partners to release previously stored Water from their Storage Allocation in sufficient quantities to create the necessary Flood Storage Space. In this situation, those Storage Partners that voluntarily release water will be credited for Sacramento River diversions and will need to pay the variable cost in the same way as described above in #2, up to the initial amount of water released for the purposes of creating Flood Storage Space.
 - Authority will release water from the inactive storage pool to create any necessary Flood Storage Space. In this situation, refilling of the inactive storage pool will continue to be consistent with Section 3.6.1.

Situations could also arise in which both strategies 2 and 3 are used in combination. For example, if a total of 30,000 AF of Flood Storage Space is needed and there is 20,000 AF of empty capacity available for Flood Storage Space. An additional 10,000 AF of Water would need to be released either through voluntary means or from the inactive storage pool (situation #3 above) to create the total 30,000 AF of Flood Storage Space needed. In this scenario, some Storage Partners may also be prevented from fully filling their Storage Allocation to ensure that the Flood Storage Space is maintained (20,000 AF in this

scenario) as the Project's Sacramento River diversions would cease. Crediting this lost opportunity to fill a Storage Partner's Storage Allocation would follow situation #2 above.

This section will be revisited once the Flood Management Plan is in its final stages of development to ensure consistency and confirm and finalize the approach proposed.

The Authority will work with local, state, or federal entities in the future to adjust operations to protect life and property in flood situations.

13.3 Recreation and Power

The Project's recreation benefits, power use, and power generation benefits are secondary to the Project's water supply and flood damage reduction benefits. However, to the extent possible consistent with this principle, the Authority will work to schedule Project activities to be considerate of recreational uses along with working to minimize power use and maximize power production.

14.0 Pro-rata Calculations

The Benefits and Obligations Contract and the Partnership Agreement require pro-rata calculations in the following sections:

- Benefits and Obligations Contract - Sections 4.2.3, 4.3.4, 4.4.3, 6.13.26, 8.1.1, 8.2.1, 10.3.2, 10.3.6, 10.3.7 and 11.1.
- Partnership Agreement – Sections 10(a), 11, and Exhibit E.

The Reservoir Management Board shall approve equations for each of those pro-rata allocation calculations before the Reservoir Management Board approves a resolution confirming commencement of all or a portion of construction of the Project pursuant to Section 3.2.1 of the Benefits and Obligations Contract. Examples applying these equations will be provided in an appendix to this Operations Plan in a future version of this Plan.

~~14.0~~15.0 Changes to this Operations Plan

This ~~Draft for Distribution~~ Version 2.3 of the Operations Plan is being included as an attachment to provided to the Storage Partners as they consider the Benefits and Obligations Contract ~~and their participation in the Project. The Final Version 2.3 and~~ is expected to be considered by the Authority's Reservoir Committee and Board of Directors ~~in late summer/fall 2026.~~

This Operations Plan will continue to be updated as details surrounding Project operations permits, including the water right, are further defined. Subject to the Authority Bylaws ~~and the Sites Joint Powers Authority Agreement,~~ changes to the Operations Plan are subject to approval by the Reservoir Committee and the Board of Directors (as applicable, assuming changes occur prior to the full execution of the Benefits and Obligations Contract and formation of the Reservoir Management Board), ~~or the Reservoir Management Board, as applicable at the time of the revision and~~ as described in the then-applicable Authority Bylaws. Prior to any such approval, the prior version of the Operations Plan shall remain in full force and effect.

Attachment A

MOUs and Agreements Related to Project Operations

The following MOUs and agreements have been executed by the Authority and are included herein:

- Memorandum of Understanding Between Colusa County and the Authority Regarding Area of Origin Water Rights Claims to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks, and Related Matters dated November 22, 2021 (Colusa County MOU);
- Agreement between the Authority and Contra Costa Water District to Coordinate in the Operations of the Sites Reservoir Project dated December 20, 2023 (CCWD Agreement);
- Agreement between the Authority and Maxwell Irrigation District to Avoid Impacts of Sites Reservoir Project to Maxwell Irrigation District Water Rights dated April 9, 2024 (Maxwell ID Agreement);
- Memorandum of Understanding Between the North Delta Water Agency and the Authority dated August 30, 2023 (NDWA MOU); and
- Settlement Agreement between the Authority, the State Water Contractors, and the Department of Water Resources dated June 7, 2024 (Sites/SWC/DWR Settlement Agreement).

Additional MOUs and agreement will be added in the future as described in Section 1.0 of this Operations Plan as they are completed and executed by the Authority.

Insert agreements file – page 1

Page 52 – last page

Attachment B

Facility Descriptions

The following sections describe the facilities that may be used in the operation of the Project. The location of these facilities is shown in Figure 2 and **Error! Reference source not found.** of the Operations Plan. Facilities are described below in order of operational process (i.e., diversion, storage, release).

Diversion and Conveyance Facilities

i. Red Bluff Pumping Plant, Tehama-Colusa Canal, and Funks Reservoir

The Project would divert water from the Sacramento River at the existing RBPP and HCPS (described below). Water diverted at the RBPP enters the TC Canal to be conveyed to Sites Reservoir. The RBPP and TC Canal are owned by Reclamation and operated by the TCCA. Diversions at the RBPP will be in addition to those occurring for TCCA members as part of their CVP contracts. The RBPP will have a capacity of 2,500 cfs after capacity improvements are made to serve the Project. The facility has a fish screen that meets National Marine Fisheries Service and CDFW criteria for 2,500 cfs. The total conveyance capacity of the TC Canal at the upstream end of the canal is 2,530 cfs and 2,100 cfs at Funks Reservoir (described below).

The TC Canal is concrete lined, resulting in relatively minor seepage losses during the conveyance of Sites Water. Losses occurring between the RBPP and Sites Reservoir are estimated to be 1 ~~to 2~~ percent. However, the actual losses incurred will be estimated during Project operations. The TC Canal can be out of service for maintenance periodically during the mid-December to mid-February timeframe.

The existing Funks Reservoir will be used as a regulating reservoir to temporarily store water from the TC Canal for pumping to, and for release from, Sites Reservoir. Funks Reservoir will have an estimated storage capacity of 2,250 AF following dredging to restore the regulating reservoir's original design capacity. Funks Reservoir is periodically drained from mid-December to mid-February during the canal maintenance period. Funks Reservoir operates at a water surface elevation of 200 to 205 feet, with a preferred operational water surface elevation range of 202 to 204 feet.

The newly constructed Funks Pumping Generating Plant (PPGP) will be used to pump water from Funks Reservoir to Sites Reservoir with a pumping capacity of 2,100 cfs and a generating capacity of up to 2,000 cfs. The ~~pumping-generating plant~~PPGP will require a substation to provide electricity to the associated facilities. The newly constructed Funks Pipeline will convey water approximately 1 mile between the ~~pumping-generating plant~~PPGP and Sites Reservoir.

ii. Hamilton City Pump Station, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Main Canal, and Terminal Regulating Reservoir

Water diverted from the Sacramento River at the existing HCPS enters the GCID Main Canal. The HCPS and the GCID Main Canal are owned and operated by GCID. Diversions at the HCPS will be in addition to those occurring for uses in the GCID system. The HCPS has a diversion capacity of approximately 3,000 cfs at the Sacramento River intake. The facility has a fish screen that meets National Marine Fisheries

Service and CDFW criteria. The total conveyance capacity of the GCID Main Canal is ~~assumed to be 1,800~~2,100 cfs at the TRR, described below.

The GCID Main Canal is unlined, resulting in larger seepage losses than the TC Canal during the conveyance of Sites Water. Losses from the HCPS to Sites Reservoir are estimated to be 2 percent from November to March and 13 percent from April to October. However, the actual losses incurred from the HCPS to Sites Reservoir will be estimated during Project operations. The GCID Main Canal can be out of service for maintenance periodically from time is generally 2 weeks in late~~early~~ January ~~or early~~to late February.

The newly constructed TRR will be a regulating reservoir with up to 600 AF capacity constructed adjacent to the GCID Main Canal, approximately 2 miles east of Funks Reservoir. The TRR will be excavated below grade and has been deemed non-jurisdictional by DSOD. The TRR would have earthen embankments at the perimeter with impermeable lining consisting of a geomembrane overlying geocomposite placed over compacted earth. The TRR would be hydraulically connected to the GCID Main Canal to allow water to be conveyed to and from Sites Reservoir. The TRR would accommodate inflows of up to 1,800 cfs.

The newly constructed TRR PGP will be used to pump water from the TRR to Sites Reservoir with a pumping capacity of 1,800 cfs. The generating plant will have a capacity of 1,000 cfs. TRR pipelines would convey water approximately ~~4 to 4.5~~3 miles between the TRR PGP and Sites Reservoir.

Release and Conveyance Facilities

The following sections provide a general description of the release and conveyance facilities that may be used in the operation of Sites Reservoir. The location of these facilities is shown in Figure 2 and **Error! Reference source not found..**

i. Tehama-Colusa Canal

Most releases from Sites Reservoir would flow into the existing Funks Reservoir and into the existing TC Canal. Sites Water would flow within the TC Canal and would either be diverted for delivery to local Storage Partners or would flow 40 miles south to the new Dunnigan Pipeline. Releases to the TC Canal would be limited by available downstream capacity in the TC Canal, Dunnigan Pipeline, lower Colusa Basin Drain, and capacity at the Delta Export Facilities or other points of redirection (if applicable). Water would be released from the TC Canal into the Dunnigan Pipeline through a gravity outlet structure.

ii. Dunnigan Pipeline

The Dunnigan Pipeline will convey Sites Water from the TC Canal to the Colusa Basin Drain. The conveyance through the Dunnigan Pipeline to the Colusa Basin Drain would use gravity and has a proposed capacity of 1,000 cfs.

iii. Colusa Basin Drain

The Dunnigan Pipeline will convey Sites Water to the existing Colusa Basin Drain at a maximum flow of 1,000 cfs. From the Colusa Basin Drain, water may either be discharged into the Yolo Bypass or into the Sacramento River via the Knights Landing Outfall Gates for redirection downstream. Releases into the Yolo Bypass are no longer envisioned as part of the Project, but were covered in the Project Final EIR/EIS

and Operations ITP. Releases into the Yolo Bypass would flow from the Colusa Basin Drain through the Knights Landing Ridgecut.

iv. Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Main Canal

Sites Water will also be released into the TRR and the GCID Main Canal for use by GCID or NOD wildlife refuges as environmental water for Proposition 1. Sites Water may be released to the GCID system for delivery to NOD wildlife refuges in all water year types but is generally not needed in wet year types. The water could be delivered any time of the year, although it is expected that it rarely would be released for this purpose from January through March during the Project's primary diversion season.

Attachment C

Additional Appropriative Water Rights that are Senior to Project Diversions From Funks and Stone Corral Creeks

Priority Date	Application Number	Permit Number	Owner
Those Generally Applicable to Diversions from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks			
11/29/1979	A026141	19426	Buckhorn Ranch
3/12/1987	A028985	20401	Garreth B Schaad
05/30/1995	A030445	21004	Maxwell Irrigation District
11/5/1980	A026604	19117	Mumma Bros A Partnership
4/13/1992	A029471	20615	Knaggs Farming Land Company, LP & Hersey Land Company, Neal J Dow Family LP
8/4/1992	A030169	20721	Silver Bullet Farms
Those Generally Applicable to Diversions from the Sacramento River			
12/22/1977	A025616	18150	City Of West Sacramento
9/28/1983	A027893	19856	Contra Costa Water District
06/13/1995	A030454	21209	County of Sacramento and Sacramento County Water Agency
02/18/1999	A030838	21101	Glenn Colusa Irrigation District
05/01/1978	A025727	19400	Natomas Central Mutual Water Company
11/02/1994	A030410	20933	Pelger Mutual Water Company
11/19/1998	A030812	21132	Princeton Codora Glenn Irrigation District
11/19/1998	A030813	21133	Provident Irrigation District
05/13/2003	A031436	21274	Reclamation District #108
01/20/2012	A031919	21378	River Garden Farms
09/07/1984	A028238	13351	Willow Creek Mutual Water Company
04/19/1994	A030358	20281	Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency

Attachment D

Exchanges and Related Operational Parameters

The proposed operation of the Project includes exchanges of water with the CVP and SWP. Exchanges have the potential to assist the CVP and SWP in meeting their regulatory obligations and their authorized purposes including to protect, restore and enhance fish, wildlife, and associated habitats, provide water supply and generate power. Exchanges would only be conducted when they would be neutral or net beneficial to CVP and SWP operations and not affect the ability of the CVP or SWP to meet applicable laws, regulations, biological opinions and incidental take permits, contractual deliveries, and court orders in place at the time. The exchanges are expected to primarily occur with Lake Oroville.

To support timing of releases and deliveries to both NOD and SOD Storage Partners, real-time exchanges or transfers with local Storage Partners may occur. This type of exchange or transfer is most likely to occur with GCID but could also occur with other Sacramento River Settlement Contractors and Reclamation. Instead of diverting all or a portion of its water from the Sacramento River, the local Storage Partner would receive a portion of its water from Sites Reservoir. A portion of the local agencies' supply would be left in the Sacramento River (i.e., not diverted by that contractor or agency) and used for other Storage Partners. This exchange is expected to occur to minimize capacity constraints along the Dunnigan Pipeline as well as the delivery of water to Storage Partners upstream of the release facilities.

Exchanges with Lake Oroville would be done primarily to increase the operational flexibility and yield of Sites Reservoir. Exchanges with Lake Oroville would be formulated to facilitate Project deliveries to Storage Partners and may also improve cold-water pool conditions at Lake Oroville. Under a Lake Oroville exchange, water would be released from Sites Reservoir primarily in June and July to meet SWP purposes. By reducing releases from Lake Oroville in these months, the storage in Lake Oroville would be preserved for use later in the year, typically during critical months of the cold-water pool management season (August and September). In late summer and fall (i.e., August through November), DWR would release an equivalent amount of water from Lake Oroville for Storage Partners.

The following information is based on Appendix 5A1 (pages 5A1-29 through 5A1-31) of the Final EIR/EIS regarding modeled and assumed operational parameters for exchanges. Additional information on exchanges will be developed and will likely replace the information below in a future version of the Operations Plan.

Real-Time Exchange

Sites Reservoir may release water via an in-lieu transfer with GCID. Instead of pumping water from the Sacramento River, GCID would receive its contracted CVP supply via Sites Reservoir and forego diversions in a corresponding volume from the Sacramento River. The foregone diversion that remains in the Sacramento River would remain instream and serve as a Sites release to other Storage Partners.

Oroville Exchange

The Lake Oroville exchange period would be limited to June and July. This exchange period would start in June due to the high degree of uncertainty in forecasting through Delta transfers during spring months. Forecasting through Delta transfers any earlier than June would pose a substantial risk to losing

Sites water via spills from Lake Oroville. The exchange period would end in July to protect green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*) habitat in August.

In Wet and Above Normal Water Years, Sites transfers to SOD Storage Partners would be limited. As such, the majority of Lake Oroville exchanges are expected to occur in Below Normal, Dry, and Critically Dry Water Year types.

The majority of exchange water would be released in August and September because releases from October 15 through November 30 are required to comply with Feather River fall stability flow requirements. Per fall stability flow requirements, total Lake Oroville releases to the Feather River below the Thermalito Afterbay Outlet are limited to 2,500 cfs from October 16 through November (California Department of Water Resources, 2008). All exchange water must be released in the August through November period. If exchange water is not released by the end of November, it would be subject to spill.

The Oroville Exchange operation is summarized in Table 5A1-16.

Table 5A1-16. Modeled Criteria for Oroville Exchange

	Modeled Criteria	Notes
Exchange Period	June – July	
Exchange Constraints		
Water year types	Below Normal, Dry and Critically Dry water years	
Release Period	August – November	
Release Constraints		
Max Feather River Flow	Oct: 4,000 cfs Nov: 2,250 cfs	Feather River fall stability flow requirements. Maximum October average flow of 4,000 cfs assumes flow requirement of 2,500 cfs for the 16 th through 31 st . Maximum November average of 2,250 cfs to protect fall stability flow requirement.
Spills	Spill Sites water in December	Unused Sites water in Oroville is subject to spill

Attachment E

Example Forms

This attachment provides examples of the Storage Opportunity Request Form and Release Request Form. Authority staff, in consultation with the Operations and Engineering Workgroup, may adjust these forms as needed without approval of the Reservoir Committee and the Board of Directors (as applicable) as described in the Authority Bylaws. However, each form must allow for at least the following parameters (which cannot be changed without approval of the Reservoir Committee and the Board of Directors, as applicable, as described in the Authority Bylaws):

- Storage Opportunity Request Form
 - Ability for a Storage Partner to entirely fill, partially fill or not fill their Storage Allocation
- Release Request Form
 - Ability for a Storage Partner to leave all of their water in storage or request releases up to all of their water in their Storage Allocation
 - Ability for a Storage Partner to request releases be conveyed to one or multiple Delivery Points and/or Secondary Delivery Points
 - Ability for a Storage Partner to request releases by month, by Delivery Point and/or Secondary Delivery Point(s)

DRAFT Storage Opportunity Request Form – Example



Draft form for review and input. Prior to actual reservoir operations, the Authority anticipates converting this form into an electronic format that will auto fill and calculate most values.

Contact Information:

Name:	Contact Name Here	Date of Submission:	Date Submitted Here
Contact Name:	Contact Name Here	Water Year:	Effective Water Year Here
Email:	Contact Email Here	Phone Number:	Contact Phone Number Here

Opportunity Request:

Total Storage Allocation [AF] _____ Total Water Available in Storage Allocation [AF] _____

☐ Fill Entire Available Storage Allocation
Estimated Available Storage Allocation [AF] x Estimated Variable O&M Cost [\$X/AF] =
Total Estimated Variable O&M Cost [\$] *

☐ Partially Fill Available Storage Allocation
Fill _____ AF
Fill _____ AF of Storage Allocation [AF] x Estimated Variable O&M Cost [\$X/AF] =
Total Estimated Variable O&M Cost [\$] *

☐ Do Not Fill Any Available Storage Allocation

*Estimated Variable O&M Costs for illustrative and planning purposes only. Variable O&M costs will be collected and trued-up consistent with the respective contract. The electronic form will autofill / auto calculate all information except the "Fill _____ AF".

Note: Fill opportunity requests are not guaranteed. The Authority will seek to optimize diversions within its permits and approvals, but may not be able to satisfy the entire request.

Storage Allocation is the sum of Storage Allocation owned plus any Storage Allocation shared, leased, or acquired as reflected by the Authority's database. If this amount is not correct, please contact Authority staff immediately.

Opportunity For Lease of Storage or Sale/Exchange of Sites Water:

☐ Storage Allocation Available for Lease
_____ AF

☐ Sites Water Available for Sale
_____ AF

☐ Sites Water Available for Exchange
_____ AF

Contact Information for lease or sale discussions if different than above

Contact Name: Contact Name Here

Phone Number: Contact Phone Number Here

Email: Contact Email Here

Note: Information provided in this section will be added to the Sites Storage Partners Lease/Sale List maintained by the Authority and available to all Sites Storage Partners. Do not complete this section if you do not want your information added to this list.

DRAFT Release Request Form for Sites Water – Example



*Draft form for review and input. Prior to actual reservoir operations,
the Authority anticipates converting this form into an electronic format that will auto fill and calculate some values.*

Contact Information:

Name:	Contact Name Here	Date of Submission:	Date Submitted Here
Contact Name:	Contact Name Here	Water Year:	Effective Water Year Here
Email:	Contact Email Here	Phone Number:	Contact Phone Number Here

Release Request:

☐ Do Not Release Stored Water

☐ Total Release Request (in AF)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jly	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total

Delivery Location(s):

☐	Delivery Point: <u>[Specify location here through drop down menu]</u> ☐ Deliver all to this location ☐ Partial delivery to this location (see page 2)
☐	Delivery or Secondary Delivery Point Included in Sites Water Right: <u>[Specify location here through drop down menu]</u> ☐ Deliver all to this location ☐ Partial delivery to this location (see page 2)
☐	Additional Secondary Delivery Point Included in Sites Water Right: <u>[Specify location here through drop down menu]</u> (Electronic form will allow additional lines to be added) ☐ Deliver all to this location ☐ Partial delivery to this location (see page 2)
☐	Other Delivery Point Not Included in Sites Water Right*: <u>[Specify location]</u> ☐ Deliver all to this location ☐ Partial delivery to this location (see page 2) *Deliveries to locations not in the Sites Water Right will require additional review and approval by the Authority. The Authority does not guarantee that Sites Water can be delivered

	to a point not included in the Sites Water Right during this calendar year. Please contact Authority staff as soon as possible to discuss.
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Note: Release requests are not guaranteed. The Authority coordinate amongst Storage Partners in an effort to optimize releases within its contractual obligations, permits and approvals, but may not be able to satisfy the entire request.

This form is for the purpose of releasing Sites Water only (water developed under the Sites Water Right). Releases of Other Water should be coordinated directly with Authority staff.

Partial Delivery Amounts by Location:

Location	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jly	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Total													