

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project, Phase 1** **2017 Mar 12**

Subject: **Monthly Status Report** Report Period: **2017 February**

Purpose: To provide a concise, monthly, status of efforts underway to advance the Sites Reservoir Project.

Executive Summary: The principle activities approved as part of the amended Phase 1 work plan are underway with consultant work products being submitted for review and comment. Based on the Water Commission's schedule, work is on track to have the application ready in June and to be able to start Phase 2 in July 2018. The target completion date for Phase 2 is December 31, 2022.

Program Management & Administration:

Onboarding: Receipt of executed agreements to participate in the Authority (11 of 12 seats) and/or Reservoir Committee (23 of 27) continues. Work is in progress to address the 2 alternative proposals and 1 contingent proposal. Total participation by the end of March is expected to be 32 participants with additional inquiries continuing to come in. Allocation of 10,000 acre-ft. is in progress.

Work Groups: Several ad hoc and joint (Authority and Reservoir Committee) work groups are being formed to focus on key areas needed to support completion of the phase 1 deliverables: WSIP Application, draft EIR/S, and draft federal feasibility study.

Accounting: Invoices for signatories to Reservoir Committee and Authority have been issued. As additional members sign, invoices will be distributed. Next steps are (1) to verify prior Reservoir Committee invoices correctly reflect the level of participation and (2) update the budget to match the approved amended phase 1 work plan.

Office Flooding: On February 18, Stone Corral Creek overtopped its banks and flooded the northern portion of Maxwell – including the Authority's office. Before the end of the first week, all equipment and salvageable furniture were removed to enable Colusa County unrestricted access to make repairs. AECOM has been tasked with managing the recovery actions.

Engagement & Outreach:

Two public Scoping meetings were conducted on Feb 15 (Sacramento) and Feb 16 (Maxwell) in conjunction with the supplemental NOP. Work continues to monitor social media and to respond to comments generated from the website. A two-page project summary was prepared focusing on the features and benefits. Plans are underway for additional landowner communications.

Proposition 1 (WSIP) Application:

The Water Commission's published schedule requires all applications be received before August 14. They plan to make an early decision in January 2018 with the

“maximum determination of eligibility” by July 2018, which coincides with the end of Phase 1.

AECOM and CH2M HILL are coordinating on the modeling needs for the WSIP application. The California Water Commission released an overview schedule for application submittal and review. Applications will be due in late July or early August. Workshops by the California Water Commission for developing applications are tentatively scheduled for late March.

CH2M HILL continued to update the analytical tools framework to include the latest available tools prescribed in the CWC WSIP regulations including new data into the tools to address climate change and sea level rise. Implemented model code changes and continued coordination efforts with Authority, SWCs, and Reclamation as necessary including related to key assumptions. Refined specific public benefit operations criteria and assumptions to better align with CWC ecosystem objectives.

Environmental Documentation (EIR/S):

CH2M HILL supported/attended public scoping presentations/meetings held February 15th and 16th. Continued coordination with Perkins Coie (including field review February 14th), Authority, Reclamation, DWR, and AECOM related to updating and revising of all chapters of the preliminary draft EIR/EIS and to include Alternative D and associated CALSIM II and related modeling. Provided “schedule 3” chapter revisions in early February for Authority, Reclamation, DWR, and Reservoir Committee review.

Reclamation staff is currently conducting a technical review of the recently submitted chapters.

AECOM and CH2M HILL provided support at the two scoping meetings. AECOM addressed questions on reservoir induced seismicity and the peak ground acceleration. AECOM also supported the EIR/S Team with information on emissions and further clarification of the project features.

Federal Feasibility Study:

Reclamation is continuing to develop scenarios for cost assignment for the NED and Locally Preferred Alternatives. Reclamation completed review of the economic benefits. A special assessment by the Design, Estimating, and Construction group from the Denver Technical Service Center has been scheduled for February 28 through March 2. The Authority has been invited to the outbriefing for the presentation of findings.

Engineering & Technical:

AECOM provided an updated cost estimate for construction of the Authority’s alternative at the Reservoir Committee Meeting in February. The updated costs included refinement of the design for the Sites Pumping/Generating Plant. The revised design relies on dual-speed pumps, rather than variable frequency drives for a cost savings of \$150M. Other project feature costs have increased.