

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project**

**2017 July 31**

Subject: **Environmental Analysis - Release Status for Aug 14, 2017**

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## **Reservoir Committee Report and Recommendation**

**Purpose:** To provide a recommendation to the Sites Authority Board for its consideration regarding the status of the environmental analysis. This recommendation relates to a decision on the form of the environmental information to be included in the WSIP application and the continuance of the CEQA and NEPA evaluation of the Sites Project.

**Background:** The Document Review Work Group, a working group within the Reservoir Committee, has provided direction and comments to the staff and consulting teams on matters related to advancing the current Administrative Draft EIR/S regarding the incomplete sections, analysis and mitigation approach and other considerations related to the Sites Project EIR/S. The Work Group presented its report and recommendation to the Reservoir Committee on July 20, 2017.

**Status:** On June 19, 2017 the Authority Board voted to accept the conditional recommendation<sup>1</sup> of the Reservoir Committee and provided no further direction regarding the need for additional information.

Since the June 16 Reservoir Committee meeting, staff and the consulting teams have:

1. Modified the Administrative Draft EIR/S to address the unresolved items in a manner that is consistent with the direction provided;
2. Coordinated the updated chapters and/or sections with Reclamation as the NEPA Lead Agency as well as coordinating the schedule for release as a joint document;
3. Provided updated chapters and/or sections primarily to the Reservoir Committee’s Document Review Work Group for additional comments and direction.

This work has now been completed

**Recommendation:** The Reservoir Committee provides the following recommendations for the Authority Board’s consideration:

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<sup>1</sup> The four chapters included in the conditional recommendation were: Land Use, Aquatic Resources, Power, and Growth Inducing.

1. The current Administrative Draft EIR/S is sufficiently complete to allow the Authority Board to consider and direct staff to release for agency and public review as a Draft EIR/S. This summary recommendation is based on the following findings:

In summary,

- The document provides an analysis of environmental consequences of the Sites Reservoir Project consistent with the direction provided by the Authority on December 5, 2016 and the supplemental scoping NOP and comments received.
  - The four sections are deemed to be complete
  - The significance determinations and mitigation measures included are appropriate. The project includes components and the EIR/S identifies mitigation measures to reduce construction and operational impacts of the project.
2. The current administrative draft EIR/S is sufficiently complete to allow the Authority to include the EIR/S in the WSIP application in accordance with the decision associated with Agenda Item 8-3.

Respectfully Submitted by:

- Thad Bettner, Reservoir Committee Chair
- Doug Headrick, Phase 1 Reservoir Committee Co-Chair