



Topic: Reservoir Committee Agenda Item 3-1

2019 October 18

Subject: Monthly Status Report

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**Requested Action:**

No action requested. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding the Sites Project's monthly status report.

**Detailed Description/Background:**

General Manager and staff to provide an update on project activities performed in September 2019 for; Program Management & Administration, Engagement & Outreach, Proposition 1, Environmental, Feasibility Study and Engineering & Technical Support.

**Prior Reservoir Committee Board Action:**

None.

**Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:**

None.

**Staff Contact:**

Jim Watson

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: September 2019 Status Report.

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project, Phase 2**

Subject: **Monthly Status Report**

Report Period: **2019 September**

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### Monthly Status Summary:

The development of the Sites Project continues to make progress in the critical areas associated with the reprioritized Phase 2 (2019) budget and work plan, including the following activities:

- Continued detailed consultations with CDFW on pre-application permit consultation.
- Continued supporting Reclamation on completion of their Feasibility Report, including the coordination of permit applications and access with Reclamation for the NODOS Feasibility Geotechnical Investigations.
- Held a Joint Reservoir Committee and Authority Board work shop on September 12, 2019 to discuss the Phase 2 (2020-2021) Work Plan, Operations and Repayment that are related to the project's Affordability.

The following highlights the status of activities conducted during the month:

### Coordination with Reclamation:

- Continued coordination of Project activities funded by Reclamation and those funded by the Authority.
- Continued coordination and support for feasibility geotechnical investigation.

### Permitting and Environmental Planning:

- Continued development of the federal Biological Assessment, response to comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) and development of the Final EIR/EIS. Reinitiated meetings with the National Marine Fisheries Service.
- Continued pre-construction permit discussions with CDFW on both construction and operational effects of the project to state-listed and state fully-protected species.
- Completed the environmental analyses and permit applications and successfully obtained permits and approvals to undertake additional geotechnical testing and sampling work that will advance the design and the Reclamation Feasibility Report's cost estimate. The National Historic Preservation Act consultation was completed on September 26, 2019. The Geotechnical Biological Opinion was completed on September 30, 2019. Began implementing the environmental commitments and monitoring activities for drilling which initiated on October 2, 2019.
- Continued development of analysis tools for daily operations, bypass criteria, floodplain inundation and other operational effects.
- Completed AB 52 coordination with the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians and the Yoche Dehe Wintun Nation for geotechnical investigations including tribal cultural sensitivity training and began field monitoring.

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Status: Issued for Use

Preparer: RDT, JAT, KMS

Phase: 2 Version: A

Purpose: Informational

QA/QC: Watson

Date: 2019 October 18

Caveat: Subject to change

Authority Agent: Watson

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Notes:

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- Initiated a water rights coordination meeting with Sites staff, Integration Leads and water rights contractors.

**Engineering:**

- Continued to advance the near-term geotechnical exploration program to support the federal Feasibility Report's cost estimate.
- Continue to advance the affordability analysis and to document the process and key assumptions.
- Initiated development of a draft Principles and Requirements to guide the development of Feasibility Studies.

**Real Estate, Stakeholder Engagement & Public Outreach:**

Continued ongoing coordination efforts with landowners, local community members, state and federal elected officials, government agencies and coalitions of regional and statewide organizations including the following activities:

- Responded to landowner requests for project information, facilitated coordination activities with local government agencies and organizations and planned for future landowner, stakeholders and general public outreach activities and events.
- Coordinated Temporary Right of Entry (TROE) activities in support of the 2019 focused Geotechnical field studies scheduled for October 2019.
- Conducted project site tours/presentations with project participants including Metropolitan Water District and the Ag Leadership DC Exchange Program.
- Facilitated a Washington DC trip to meet and discuss the project with key elected officials and legislative staff, Department of Interior and Reclamation leadership and Office of Management and Budget staff.

**Program Management & Administration:**

- Submitted Invoice Number 1 and associated Progress Report to the California Water Commission.
- Presented results from analysis of operations and repayment (affordability) scenarios including operations, engineering and finance input for presentation at September workshop for Reservoir Committee and Authority Board.
- Developed standard operating procedures related to invoice approval, consultant change management, consultant staff approval and continued development of additional controls processes and procedures.
- Presented a draft Phase 2 (2020-2021) work plan at workshop for both Reservoir Committee and Authority Board.
- Coordinated review of key draft documents including a successor Participation Agreement to the Phase 2 (2019) agreement, Bank Line of Credit RFP and Plan of Finance with respective work groups.