



Topic: **Reservoir Committee Agenda Item 3.6** **2020 June 18**

Subject: **Regulatory Agency Technical Working Group**

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**Requested Action:**

Receive status update on the approach for Regulatory Agency Technical Working Group.

**Detailed Description/Background:**

Staff have reinitiated efforts on the development and submittal of key permits for the Sites Project as reflected in the Amendment 1B Work Plan. As part of this effort, the team has developed an approach to facilitate regular communication and coordination with state, federal and local agencies with jurisdiction over all or portions of the Project. The attached, *Regulatory Agency Technical Working Groups Approach* document, details this effort. This approach is also in response to Action 2.4 in the November 2019 Organizational Assessment. The activities of the regulatory coordination will be reported to the Environmental Planning and Permitting Workgroup.

**Prior Action:**

None.

**Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:**

Conducting regulatory coordination is within the scope of work for the Amendment 1B and 2 work plans.

**Staff Contact:**

Ali Forsythe

**Attachments:**

Attachment A - Regulatory Agency Technical Working Groups Approach.

# Regulatory Agency Technical Working Groups Approach



The following two technical working groups will be established to facilitate regular communication and coordination with state, federal and local agencies during the permitting efforts for the Sites Reservoir Project. These groups are expected to be in place thru Amendment 2 efforts (e.g., the end of 2021) and likely into Phase 3 efforts (post 2021). Additional technical working groups may be added as permitting activities progress depending on need. It is important to note that these groups are not intended to replace or supersede focused discussions and meetings with specific agencies, but rather facilitate a common understanding and basis of Project-wide and Fisheries/Operations knowledge and dialogue. These would be staff and consultant run meetings. Reservoir Committee and Authority Board members could attend to observe if desired. Results of the meetings will be reported out to the appropriate Reservoir Committee and Authority Board workgroups.

## Group 1: Interagency General Update and Coordination Meetings

- **Purpose:** Quarterly meetings to efficiently update and coordinate with all and state, federal and local regulatory and/or partnering agencies. Items to be include in the meeting agenda would include general updates on project status, design efforts, status of permit development, status of working thru any key considerations that may affect all permits and upcoming items. Attendees would also be asked to update on permit processing status (if a permit application has been submitted and permit development is in process), update on any changes in their organizations, law or regulation that may affect Sites and identify any information needs or concerns they may have. Specific items, information requests or concerns would be identified, and a process developed for resolution with the relevant agencies and the Sites team.
- **Potential Attendees:** This meeting would be open to any agency that had an interest. Potential attendees would be broad and could include the following:
  - United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
  - Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
  - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
  - United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
  - United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
  - Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)
  - California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
  - California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- California Office of Historic Preservation - State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
- California State Water Resources Control Board
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board
- County of Colusa, Planning
- County of Yolo, Planning

## **Group 2: Fishery and Operations Technical Meetings**

- **Purpose:** Focused, as needed, fishery and operations meetings to review and discuss the modeling approach, analysis approach, operational criteria and the resulting effects to species of the Project. These meetings are intended to stimulate collaboration and early input into the fisheries and operational components and analysis and are anticipated to include technical, detailed discussion of topics.
  
- **Potential Attendees:** Potential attendees could include the following:
  - United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
  - Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)
  - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
  - California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
  - Additional agencies, depending on topics and authority