

# Reservoir Committee Meeting

Agenda Item 2-1, Authorize Release of the Revised  
Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS

July 15, 2021



# Agenda

- Cumulative analysis
- NEPA required chapters
- Air quality and water quality
- Public review
- Request for authorization to release the RDEIR/SDEIS

# Cumulative Analysis Preliminary Determinations

- Approach
  - Considers over 60 closely related past, present, or reasonably foreseeable probable future projects
  - Each resource area is evaluated
- Preliminary Cumulatively Considerable Impacts
  - Water Quality: mercury and methylmercury
  - Vegetation: loss of oak woodlands
  - Wildlife: effects to special status wildlife and changes in wildlife movement
  - Agriculture: loss of important farmland; cancellation of Williamson Act contracts
  - Air Quality: emissions during construction

# NEPA-Required Chapters Preliminary Determinations

- Ch 28, Climate Change
  - Operations – No effect to beneficial effects
- Ch 29, Indian Trust Assets
  - Construction – No effect
  - Operations – No adverse effect
- Ch 30, Environmental Justice
  - All Alts Construction – substantially adverse effects associated with air quality and visual resources to minority and low-income populations
  - All Alts Operation – substantially adverse effects associated with air quality
  - Alt 2 Operations – substantially adverse effects associated with land use and transportation to minority and low-income populations
- Ch 30, Socioeconomics
  - Construction and Operation – No adverse effect to beneficial effect

# Air Quality and Water Quality Preliminary Determinations

Chapter (# and Title)	Impacts Requiring Mitigation	Significant and Unavoidable Impacts
6, Surface Water Quality	All Alts – Implement mercury and methylmercury control and reduction measures; Evaluate metal concentrations and effects in Stone Corral Creek; Evaluate metal and pesticide concentrations and effects in the Yolo Bypass	All Alts – Increased methylmercury concentrations downstream of Sites Reservoir
20, Air Quality	All Alts – Increase in criteria pollutant for which region is nonattainment during construction; recreational boat emissions during operations	All Alts – Increase in criteria pollutant for which region is nonattainment during construction
21, Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)	All Alts – Develop a GHG Reduction Plan to achieve net-zero emissions during construction and operations	None

# GHG Preliminary Determinations

- All Alternatives construction and operations:
  - Would generate substantial emissions of GHGs that constitute a net increase in emissions
  - Would not meet the carbon-neutral threshold
- Mitigation Measure GHG-1.1: Achieve Net-Zero Emissions by Developing a GHG Reduction Plan
  - Reduction commitment of up to 348,796 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e total for construction and up to 48,644 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually to meet the net zero performance standard
  - Allows flexibility to adapt to changing technologies that have increasing effectiveness at reducing emissions and/or changes in expected construction emissions or available mitigation approaches
  - On site measures first, then off site measures

# Public Review

- Staff currently in the planning stages
- Target release
  - Under CEQA on August 26
  - Under NEPA on September 3
- 60-day review period from September 3
- Public Meetings
  - 2 virtual meetings; 1 during day, 1 in evening
  - 1 in-person meeting in Maxwell

# Request for Authorization to Release

- Staff requests that the Reservoir Committee
  - Authorize the release the RDEIR/SDEIS when it is ready
  - Authorize the Executive Director to file Notice of Completion and complete other noticing requirements to initiate public review process
- Release of the RDEIR/SDEIS would not occur until the following:
  - The team addresses the comments received on administrative draft versions of the document
  - TCCA and GCID consent to the release consistent with Section 2.5 of the Authority's Joint Powers Agreement
  - Reclamation has scheduled the release of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register



# Questions

