



Topic: **Authority Board Meeting Agenda Item 3.1**

2021 April 21

Subject: **Part 1 Revised Draft EIR/ Supplemental Draft EIS Review (CEQA Process & NGO Outreach)**

Requested Action:

Review and comment on the CEQA process, the status of the RDEIR/SDEIS introductory chapters, and the status of outreach efforts to non-governmental organizations.

Detailed Description/Background:

Staff is continuing to make progress on the development of the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS (RDEIR/SDEIS). As part of a series of briefings in preparation for the release of the RDEIR/SDEIS, staff will provide an overview presentation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and key components of the process. In addition, staff will also provide a focused overview of the status of the RDEIR/SDEIS introductory chapters. This is leading up to the anticipated release of the documents in August 2021 for public review and comment.

In keeping with the Environmental Permitting approach, the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board approved in September 2020, Staff has been having collaborative discussions with several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to obtain their input on the Project along with getting early feedback on Project effects and mitigation measures to be represented in the RDEIR/SDEIS. Two workshops were held in December 2020 to provide an overview of the Project, alternatives, and the schedule. As part of the workshops and in a follow-on survey distributed in January 2021, individuals were asked to identify specific follow-on topics they would like addressed in more detail. Out of this effort, six technical small groups were formed. The technical small groups, their key topic areas, and status of each group is provided in Table 1.

Staff will review key areas of feedback and questions to date from these meetings in the presentation.

Table 1. Technical Small Groups, Key Topic Areas and Status

Technical Small Group	Key Topics Areas (examples, not intended to be all inclusive)	Meetings	Status
Fisheries Protections and Effects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diversion criteria, bypass flows, minimum flows 2. Modeling approach, including baseline 3. Fisheries effects (Sacramento River and Delta) 4. Temperature of releases 5. Sites Operations Plan 6. Other topics as identified by the group 	Currently scheduling first meeting	Currently scheduling first meeting
Project Benefits - Proposition 1 - WSIP Benefits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timing, amount, and target species/activities 2. Management of benefit water 3. Ensuring benefits are realized 4. Other topics as identified by the group 	March 11 and March 24	Completed
Terrestrial Species Effects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impacts (species and acres) 2. Mitigation approach 3. Other topics as identified by the group 	March 26	Scheduling follow on meeting
Trinity River Effects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CalSim modeling for the Trinity River 2. Next Steps for Trinity River considerations 3. Other topics as identified by the group 	March 22	Scheduling follow on meeting
Water Quality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Source water quality (Sacramento River and local watersheds) 2. Reservoir water quality 3. Release water quality 4. Salt seepage in reservoir 5. Other topics as identified by the group 	April 7	Scheduling follow on meeting
Water Rights	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water right approach and key application parameters 2. Water right schedule 3. Other topics as identified by the group 	February 23 and March 23	Completed – Follow up in August timeframe

Prior Action:

March 2021: Reviewed and commented on staff’s proposed approach for Reservoir Committee and Authority Board review and approval of the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report for release to the public.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source: None.

Staff Contact: Ali Forsythe

Attachments: None