

AD-HOC ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND PERMITTING WORKGROUP

MAY 2020





Agenda

- Previous Action Item Review
- Project Description Update
 - Baseline
 - Project Objectives
 - Alternatives
- ICF EIR/EIS Work Plan Overview
- Environmental Process Flow Chart
- Upcoming Work and Priorities
- Next Meeting
- New Action Item Review

Previous Action Item Review

Previous Action Item Review

Action Item	Owner	Deadline	Notes
1 Schedule (carried over from previous mtg)	Ali/Sites Integration	Next Work Group Meeting	Provide clarity on critical path schedule items with a focus on what is needed for the January 1, 2022 requirements (graphic is desired). Develop simplified chart of schedule for April package.
2 Align Contract Amendment 2 Task Breakdowns among the service areas	Sites Integration/ Controls	--	Work with Controls to line up the task breakdowns (i.e. Project Description, DEIR/EIS, BA, ITP, etc.) among the service providers (specifically ICF and Integration Environmental Planning and Permitting) so it is clearer how much is spent for a specific task.
3 Organizational Assessment Comments	Work Group Members	Next Work Group Meeting	Provide comments in either track changes mode or comment bubbles on the Organizational Assessment

Project Description Update





Project Description Update

- Baseline
- Project Objectives
- Alternatives



Project Description Update – Baseline

- Baseline is needed for both the CEQA/NEPA document and Permitting purposes to:
 - Evaluate impacts/effects by comparing with project conditions to the environmental setting/No Action Alternative
 - Give the public and decision makers the most accurate and understandable picture practically possible of a project's likely near-term and long-term impacts
- Ideally baseline would:
 - Be the same for the CEQA/NEPA and Permitting documents
 - Be representative of both existing conditions and as well as the No Action Alternative



Project Description Update – Baseline

- CEQA “Environmental Setting” is normally the baseline
 - May be subject to some fluctuation, seasonal variations, or cycles within reason
 - Can include a combination of existing conditions and projected future conditions supported by facts
 - Is used to evaluate impacts/effects by comparing with project conditions to the environmental setting/No Action Alternative
 - Is defined for each resource analysis



Project Description Update – Baseline

- Hydrologic-Based
 - Internal consideration of ROC on LTO & SWP ITP
 - Ops work group, in conjunction with environmental and permitting input, is working through defining the modeling baseline
 - Recommendation to go to Ops Work Group
- Land-Based
 - Identifying potential approaches to modify the environmental setting per resource and ensure appropriate impact evaluation (i.e., repackage and/or update)
 - Limited survey activities



Project Description Update – CEQA Project Objectives

- Statement of the objectives sought by the proposed project (should include the underlying purpose of the project)
- Establishes parameters for the reasonable range of alternatives to evaluate in the EIR
- Can aid decision makers in preparing Findings or a Statement of Overriding Considerations, if necessary



Project Description Update – CEQA Project Objectives

Preliminary Revised CEQA Objectives:

- Improve cold water pool management in Shasta Reservoir
- Enhance Delta ecosystem by increasing food production in Yolo Bypass for the benefit of pelagic fishes in the north Delta (e.g. Cache Slough)
- Improve water supply reliability for participating members in a cost-effective manner
- Provide improvements in state-wide water supply reliability to enhance opportunities for fish protection, habitat management, and other environmental needs
- Provide local and regional amenities, including recreation, incremental local flood damage reduction, and roadway improvements

Project Description Update – Alternatives

CEQA/EIRs

- Analyze No Project Alternative
- Analyze a reasonable range of feasible alternatives to the project:
 - May include alternative approaches, alternative project sites, or both
 - Alternatives expected to be “potentially feasible;” feasibility not expected to be extensively analyzed
- Alternatives may be analyzed at lesser detail than project:
 - Must identify significant effects and mitigation measures
- Must compare relative effects of the alternatives

NEPA/EISs

- Analyze No Action Alternative
- Analyze range of feasible alternatives
- CEQ NEPA Regulations state that an EIS must “Devote substantial treatment to each alternative, including the proposed action, so that reviewers may evaluate their comparative merits” [40 C.F.R. 1502.14]
- This is taken to mean that the alternatives are to be examined at an equal level of detail



Project Description Update – Alternatives

- Status
 - Prepared initial conceptual description of alternatives based on value planning efforts
 - Discussed preliminary ideas with Reclamation
- Refer to handout



Project Description Update – Alternatives

- Next Steps
 - Staff to confirm and describe Reclamation's participation in the alternatives
 - Work Group to provide input on the description of the alternatives by May 29
 - Staff make updates and distribute revised alternatives to Work Group week of June 8
 - Work Group meeting sometime between June 11 and 17
 - ✓ Work Group to review and recommended revised alternatives description to Reservoir Committee

ICF EIR/EIS Work Plan Overview



ICF EIR/EIS Work Plan Overview

- Status
 - Draft Work Plan Submitted
 - Sites Authority reviewed and ICF is revising
- General Contents
 - Overall approach to revising the CEQA/NEPA document
 - Reviewed all chapters and propose modifications
 - Reviewed all appendices and propose elimination and/or modifications

Environmental Process Flow Chart

Environmental Planning and Permitting Key Milestones



2020

2021

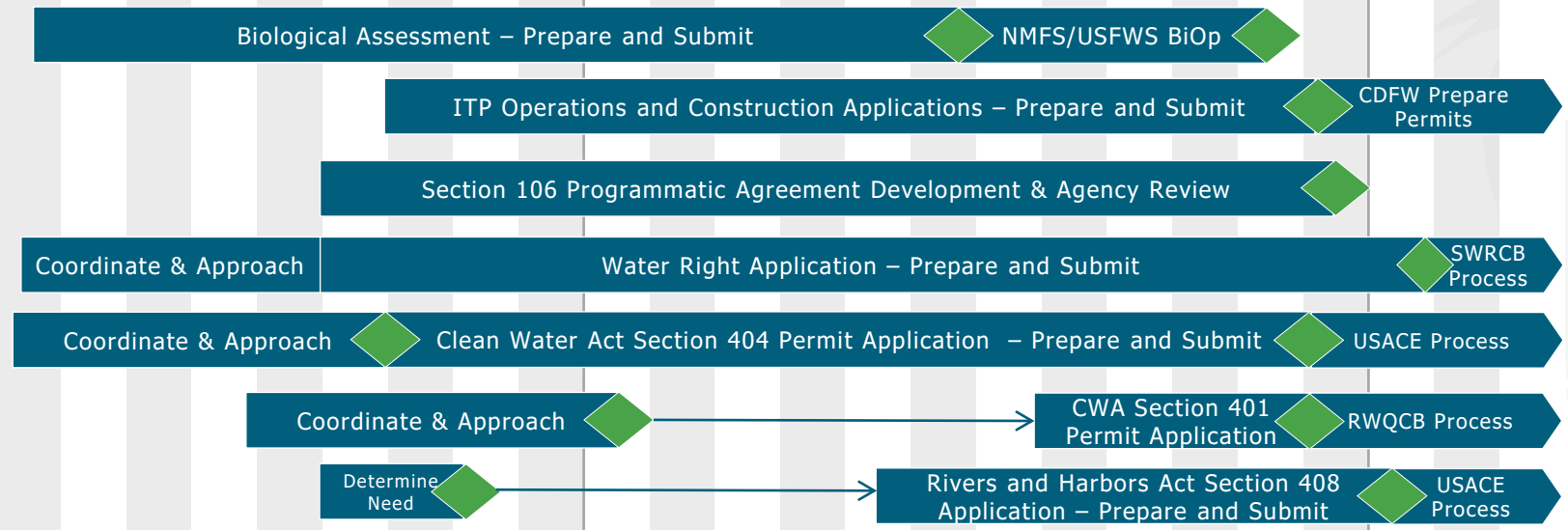
2022

Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar

Joint EIR/EIS:



Permits/Authorizations:



Deliverable Milestones

Final Stretch . . .





Upcoming Work and Priorities – May / June Focus

- Continue Project Description Development
 - Finalize revisions to objectives and alternatives for June Reservoir Committee and Board meetings
- Continue updates to EIR/EIS Work Plan and provide a detailed overview at the June Work Group meeting
- Continue coordination with Reclamation and regulatory agencies
- Organizational Assessment
 - Near term items
- Amendment 2 Task Orders (9/2020 to 12/2021) drafting and costing
 - Start in June, Work Group review in July



Schedule Next Meeting

- Before June Reservoir Committee meeting (June 19)
 - Topics –
 - ✓ Baseline
 - ✓ Objectives
 - ✓ Alternatives
 - ✓ EIR/EIS Work Plan
 - ✓ Organizational Assessment Items



New Action Item Review

- Identify and Assign Action Items