

AD-HOC ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND PERMITTING WORK GROUP

SEPTEMBER 2020



Agenda

- Previous Action Item Review
- Revisions to Objectives
- Revisions to Alternatives and Selection of a Preferred Alternative
- Reclamation Coordination Status
- Upcoming Priorities
- Timing of Next Meeting

Previous Action Item Review

Previous Action Item Review

Previous Action Items	Owner	Deadline	Notes
1 Develop graphic for Alternatives 1 and 2 (carried over from previous meeting)	Integration/Engineering	August 21, 2020	Completed – See Res Comm Staff Report Item 2.3A
2 Review order of Objectives	Authority/Integration	Ongoing	Completed – See Res Comm Staff Report Item 2.3B
3 Update/revise Alternatives Table	Authority/Integration	Ongoing	Completed – See Res Comm Staff Report Item 2.3A

- No new action items from August Work Group meeting

Revisions to Objectives

Revisions to CEQA Objectives

- Provided preliminary CEQA Objectives to Workgroup in May 2020
- Input received from:
 - Workgroup
 - Reservoir Committee
 - Authority Board
 - Legal
- Revised CEQA Objectives are in handout 02-03B of the Reservoir Committee Staff Report

Revisions to CEQA Objectives

- Key Revisions
 - Refined OBJ-1, -2, and -3 to focus on member participants needs, fisheries and habitat management under WSIP, and Reclamation involvement under WIIN
 - OBJ-4 identified potential benefit to biomass and Delta Ecosystem beyond WSIP
 - Edited OBJ-5
- The revised CEQA Objectives will be incorporated into the Admin Draft REIR/SEIS

Revisions to Alternatives and Selection of Preferred Alternative

Overview

- Staff and team have been working on the preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS, updates to the Biological Assessment, and design efforts
- Key first step is the development of a Revised Project Description
 - Serves as the foundation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS
 - Preferred Alternative is foundation of the Biological Assessment, all permitting efforts, and Sites Feasibility Report
- Soliciting your continued input to reduce rework and maintain schedule

Building Block to EIR/EIS, BA, and All Permitting Efforts

Environmental Planning and Permitting Key Milestones



- September, RC and AB to review and approve –
 - Preliminary project description (review)
 - Recommendation on Preferred Alternative (approve)
- Necessary to stay on schedule

Alternatives – Key Components and Differences

- Key changes since June 2020:
 - Refinements, details added
 - Transportation/circulation clarified
 - Dunnigan pipeline alignment and proposal to release into the Colusa Basin Drain confirmed

Facilities / Operations	Action Alternative 1 (Derived from VP7)	Action Alternative 2 (Includes Parts of VP5 and VP6)
Reservoir Size	1.5 MAF	1.3 MAF
Hydropower	Incidental upon release	Same as Alt 1
Diversion Locations	Red Bluff Pumping Plant and Hamilton City	Same as Alt 1
Operations Criteria	Option based on Value Planning Report, Table 3.1 Scenario B, anticipated to be modified by future modeling efforts	Same as Alt 1

Alternatives – Key Components and Differences (cont)

Facilities / Operations	Action Alternative 1 (Derived from VP7)	Action Alternative 2 (Includes Parts of VP5 and VP6)
Reclamation Involvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding Partner 2. Operational Exchanges <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges 	Same as Alt 1
DWR Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta	Same as Alt 1
Conveyance Release / Dunnigan Release	Release 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain to meet member participant demands and Proposition 1 needs	Release into new pipeline to Sacramento River to meet member participant demands. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain to fulfill the Proposition 1 needs.
Provide Route to West Side of Reservoir	<p>Bridge crossing the reservoir as a result of the relocation of existing Sites Lodoga Road.</p> <p>Relocation of Huffmaster Road with gravel road to residents at the south end of the reservoir terminating at the south end of the reservoir.</p>	<p>No bridge.</p> <p>Relocation of Sites Lodoga Road to residents at south end of the reservoir continues to Lodoga. Huffmaster Road is integrated into Sites Lodoga Road and is paved the entire way.</p>

Assumptions in Alternatives

- Due to schedule constraints, preparing Revised EIR at same time engineering team is conducting preliminary design activities
- EIR will include a series of assumptions on key components:
 - Allows efforts to move forward simultaneously
 - Meets schedule constraints
- Engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for facility components to optimize design and reduce costs

Key Assumptions in Alternatives

- Bridge – Shorter Bridge with Fill Prisms
- Dam Fill materials – Earth and Rockfill
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir – Continue to analyze the original proposed location
- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – Type and magnitude of improvements needed to convey Sites water through existing facilities

Key Assumptions in Alternatives (cont)

- Emergency Releases – Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dams
- Dunnigan Release – Release to the Colusa Basin Drain under Alternative 1
 - Extension of Dunnigan Pipeline to the Sacramento River under Alternative 2
- Hydropower Generation – Incidental hydropower generation, below the threshold for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – On site via existing surface water facilities or existing or new groundwater wells

Selection of a Preferred Alternative

- CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR identify a proposed project / preferred alternative
- Staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's preferred alternative
 - Meets the intent and the goals of the Value Planning effort
 - Close alignment with VP-7, the Authority's recommended project in Value Planning
 - Meets the project objectives
- Would also be the proposed project for all permitting efforts

Next Steps for Alternatives

- Continue refinements based on:
 - Analyses and engineering design efforts
 - Discussions with non-governmental organizations (beginning in October), stakeholders, local agencies, landowners
 - Operations components
 - Do not expect key components of alternatives will change, but if they do, will come back to workgroup
- Complete project description in December

Reclamation Coordination - Approach

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- Reinitiated Coordination with Reclamation on NEPA Approach in April
- Confirmed Joint Document – Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS
- Secretarial Order 3355 – Constraints
 - 150 pages or 300 pages for unusually complex projects, excluding appendices
 - Final EIS within 1 year of issuance of Notice of Intent

Reclamation Coordination - Approach

- Existing Waiver – Time Limits
- Proposed Waiver – Page Limits
- Joint Document Approach
 - Prepare Administrative Draft Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS, limiting pages to the extent possible
 - Request Waiver
 - If Waiver Approved – release joint document
 - If Waiver Not Approved – Separate Supplemental EIS will incorporate by reference Revised EIR

Final Stretch . . .



Upcoming Work and Priorities – Oct/Nov

- Continue work on the Draft Project Description for the REIR/SEIS and Biological Assessment:
 - Working with modeling team on ops criteria
 - Continue adding detail and refining throughout
 - Funks and Stone Corral creek releases
 - Engineering components
 - Water quality considerations
 - Species models and initial desktop analysis

Upcoming Work and Priorities – Oct/Nov (cont)

- Begin mitigation planning
- Begin adaptive management plan
- Reinitiate discussions with CDFW, NMFS and USFWS on fisheries
- Reinitiate discussions with CDFW and USFWS on terrestrial species effects
- Prepare for and host NGO discussions in October
- Begin water right strategy development
- Complete and bring reimbursable agreement for CDFW to Res Comm and Authority Board in October
- Post 2021 project schedule

Timing of Next Meeting

- Next meeting – Target week of October 5
 - Topics –
 - MBK and Perkins Coie Task Orders
 - Water right strategy status
 - CDFW Reimbursable Agreement
 - Organizational Assessment Items, major regulatory decisions and permitting strategy (items 1.1, 1.3, and 2.1)