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**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/1/2023 8:24:41 AM  
**To:** John Bezdek [jbezdek@waterpowerlaw.com]  
**Subject:** FW: FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species RE: [EXTERNAL] Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

UFSWS's comments on the Admin Draft BA

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Millsap, Stephanie D <stephanie\_millsap@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 4:12 PM  
**To:** Hunt, Shane D <shunt@usbr.gov>; Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>  
**Cc:** Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Schoenberg, Steven <steven\_schoenberg@fws.gov>; garwin.yip <garwin.yip@noaa.gov>; Reaves, Brittany L <brittany\_reaves@fws.gov>; Stephen Maurano <stephen.maurano@noaa.gov>; Welsh, Daniel <daniel\_welsh@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species RE: [EXTERNAL] Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

Shane:

These comments are limited to the terrestrial species potentially affected by construction impacts.

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Additional details regarding Species Considered but Not Addressed Further should be provided:

- If parts of the project site have not been visited yet other than through aerial imagery, it is unclear how the depth of vernal pools can be accurately identified to the extent that they may eliminate federally listed species such as Greene's tuctoria (*Tuctoria greenei*), hairy Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia pilosa*), Hoover's spurge (*Euphorbia hooveri*), and slender Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia tenuis*) from evaluation.
  - Habitat models in Appendix 5P only describe habitat models for species that are analyzed in the BA.
  - In the absence of ground-truthing, more detailed explanations of how potentially suitable habitat was modeled and evaluated for these species that were eliminated from consideration would be useful in determining whether the identification of absence of habitat is accurate.

Maps of occurrence records/habitat should be included:

- there weren't any maps in the BA showing the nearest records, the 5-mile criterion seemed arbitrary and short especially for a large area which is rarely/infrequently surveyed

- Instead, I recommend including relevant maps within the document and stating where the nearest records are for each species. For example, rather than saying the nearest record of X species in CDNDDB is Y miles away from the Action Area. This would be more helpful in identifying and evaluating proposed impacts to wildlife resources.
  - For instance, regarding the listed plants, Keck's and PBBB, my first impression of the analysis was favorable but the information was incomplete; where is the 1 record of Keck's within 5 miles (not a long distance) and where are the other 6 records? How far away is the nearest record of PBBB? (again, "none within 5 miles", isn't as informative as the actual distance - is it 6 or 60 miles?)
- I recommend including maps of the Action Area, CNDDDB occurrence maps, critical habitat maps, and other relevant figures in the BA to better illustrate proposed impacts.

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- The total area of potentially affected suitable habitat appear to be overestimates that are based upon a worst-case scenario that would later be reduced after site habitat assessments, formal wetland delineations, and protocol-level biological and botanical surveys are conducted by qualified biologists
- These modeled large areas are not helpful in a consultation because it becomes more difficult to determine if the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, quantify potential take, and make it more difficult to determine whether a project effect can reasonably be compensated.
- It's better to state the modeled number then, using whatever other criteria your best professional opinion or other information you have, and state those factors (that is, don't say "my best professional opinion", but rather, say, it is my best professional opinion that factors XYZ greatly reduce the likelihood of presence over such a broad area). After this justification, provide a lower number, or range, that you feel is probable to be achieved during the eventual on-the-ground surveys.
  - For example, 12,545 acres of modeled VELB habitat is far too much that can be reasonably mitigated by any offset. Elsewhere in the BA it states the expectation "based on previous surveys" <250 shrubs would be impacted. State how this estimate was derived, and what area would be associated with it. I did note the document referenced earlier studies in the late 90s documenting 18 exit holes among 672 stems, though not within the "action area". It's not entirely clear what is meant by this; if the surveys were in a different area entirely, adjacent, or different type of habitat from that which would be impacted. This should be clarified.
  - I recommend using existing information about soils, topography, or elevational distribution of the VP species, to further refine the VP estimate. The existing estimate of 359 acres is a very large number.

Put past surveys in context:

- Listed species are routinely difficult to detect unless surveyed sufficiently, in the right way, at the right time.
- Results of past surveys in 2000, 2003, etc. for various species are included, but no additional context is provided, and no information is given regarding what surveys were actually done.
- Previously conducted surveys should include more context, including how they relate to detection of each species referenced in them. For instance, were these surveys done using recommended methods for these species, at the recommended times of year, and conducted by qualified biologists?

Mitigation for unoccupied habitat should be included:

- The restriction of proposed compensation for most species (CRLF, VELB, VPS) to occupied habitat impacts is not appropriate. Most VELB habitat is technically unoccupied even when it is present in an area, because it doesn't occur on every bush, and isn't detectable until it makes an exit hole. CRLF, if present in a region, can and does disperse and occupy unoccupied habitat at some time other than when the survey was done.
  - Different mitigation ratios are customarily used for such occupied and unoccupied habitat; but unoccupied habitat should not imply uncompensated.
  - The way the BA treats GGS is more appropriate by proposing 3:1 regardless of occupation due to the high likelihood of presence. The habitat impact numbers are rational (1 ac aquatic; 20 ac upland) and more likely to be mitigable.

Additional details regarding mitigation location should be provided:

- As part of the consultation, the Service will need to make a determination that the proposed mitigation is reasonably likely to be sufficient and implemented (in the ground), at time of first impact.

- In addition to using the refined estimate of impact to calculate a range of likely mitigation requirement in acres, enough information should be provided with details regarding where and how mitigation could occur.
  - This may include identifying the locations of potential mitigation lands or banks for each of the species and/or habitat types for which mitigation is proposed and if sufficient acres/credits are available
  - This may also include identifying candidate opportunities, examining areas identified in recovery plans, and/or researching long term development of mitigation banks.

Consider inclusion of candidate species:

- A candidate species is one for which the Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support a proposal for listing as endangered or threatened but is not yet listed or proposed for listing. Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7 of the ESA is not required for candidate species; however, it may be required if the species is listed or proposed for listing during the ongoing process of biological evaluation.
  - Due to the extended proposed timeline of this project, it may be prudent to evaluate potential impacts to monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), which is a candidate species.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide technical assistance regarding these federally-listed terrestrial species. I hope these comments are helpful and the Service looks forward to continuing to provide input on these topics.

Sincerely,  
-Stephanie

>>> I am working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic. All calls to my office phone are being forwarded to my cellphone. <<<

\*\*\*\*\*

Stephanie Millsap, Ph.D.  
Watershed Planning Division Manager  
[stephanie\\_millsap@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_millsap@fws.gov)  
916-930-2658  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
SF Bay Delta Fish and Wildlife Office  
650 Capital Mall, Suite 8-300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

\*\*\*\*\*

---

**From:** Spranza, John <[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Spranza@hdrinc.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 10:42 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Dekar, Melissa D <[mdekar@usbr.gov](mailto:mdekar@usbr.gov)>; Hunt, Shane D <[shunt@usbr.gov](mailto:shunt@usbr.gov)>; Millsap, Stephanie D <[stephanie\\_millsap@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_millsap@fws.gov)>; Jacobson, Allison M <[ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)>; Reaves, Brittany L <[brittany\\_reaves@fws.gov](mailto:brittany_reaves@fws.gov)>; Schoenberg, Steven <[steven\\_schoenberg@fws.gov](mailto:steven_schoenberg@fws.gov)>; garwin.yip <[garwin.yip@noaa.gov](mailto:garwin.yip@noaa.gov)>; Stephen Maurano <[stephen.maurano@noaa.gov](mailto:stephen.maurano@noaa.gov)>; Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

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## Spranza, John shared a folder with you


Hello,

This shared file contains the Sites Project's administrative draft BA. The Authority would appreciate your technical assistance with the further preparation of the document by providing comments and feedback on this draft and identifying any concerns or areas that need additional revision.

Your help is much appreciated, please let me know if you have any questions or if you are having trouble accessing this folder.

Regards,  
John

 [2022-Nov Admin Draft BA](#)

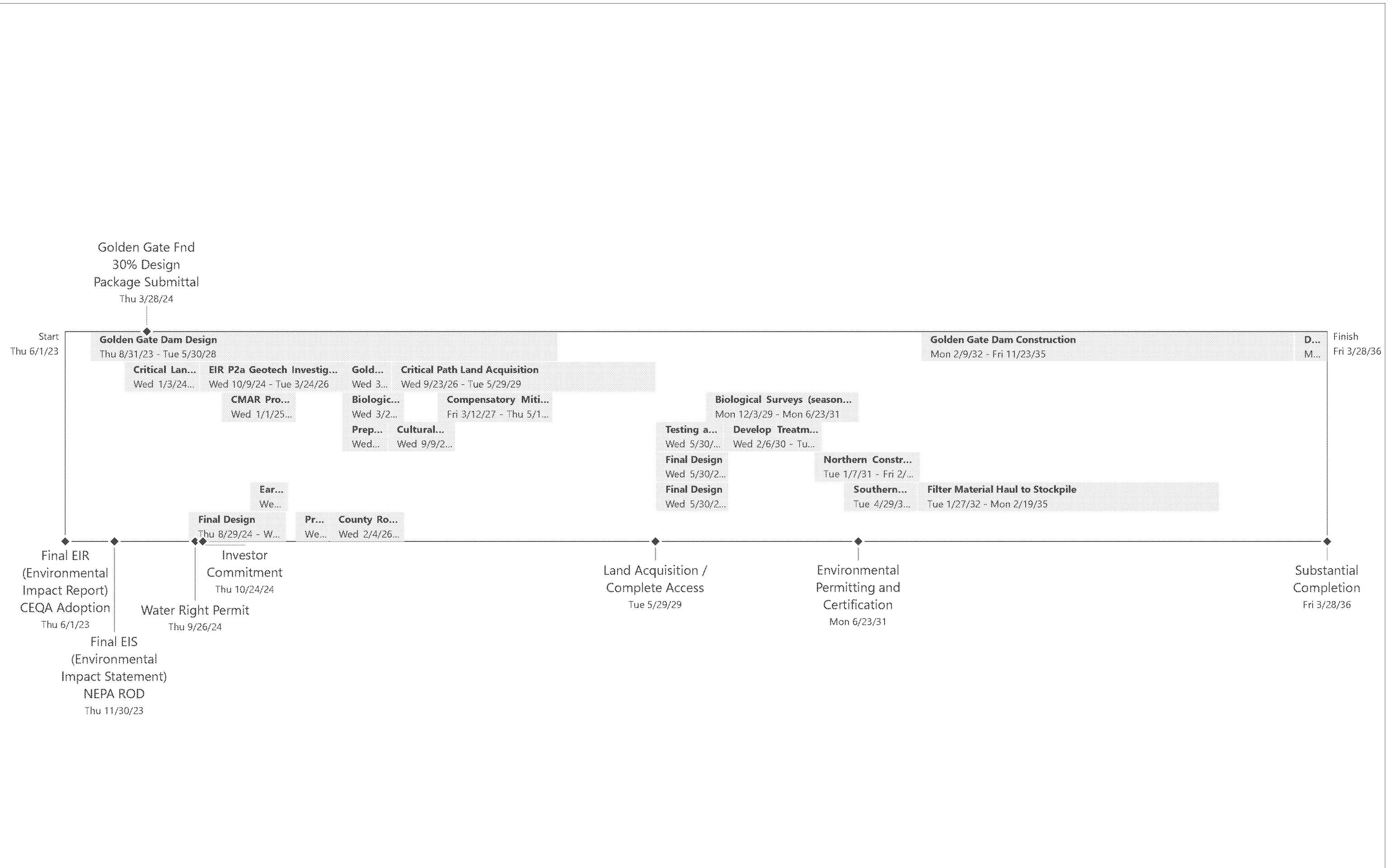
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## Sites RO&E WG – Possible Agenda Items for February 8, 2023 Meeting

- I. Next meeting RO&E items by Kunde:
  - A. Refresher on Sites release modeling incl assumptions on diversion & capacity & operational differences among Storage Partners - goal of info regarding Storage Allocations and mid-year soft call
  - B. Update on CBD and Dunnigan Pipeline design
  - C. Report from Land Mgmt Comm
  - D. Geotech status report
  - E. Review how the design schedule integrates with the Level 3 cost estimate and DSOD feedback on the dam design.
  - F. Planning for ProForma 2.0 model update given the changing interest rate environment and the need for information for the June 2023 Participant “soft call”. (Probably a B&F Comm item)
  
- II. Next meeting RO&E items from 3 Month Look Ahead
  - A. Update on Sites/DWR/Reclamation Operations Agreement (Bezzone)
  - B. Update on GCID canal modeling and considerations for TRR sizing (Luu)
  - C. Update on DSOD engagement (Luu)
  - D. Assumptions and considerations related to the CAISO Interconnection Application (Luu)
  - E. Options related to reservoir storage size based on latest survey and mapping information (Luu)
  - F. Review Project Baseline Schedule and alternatives analyses including potential accelerated activities, schedule in the WIFIA application (Luu)

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**From:** Spranza, John [John.Spranza@hdrinc.com]  
**Sent:** 2/1/2023 3:01:14 PM  
**To:** Hunt, Shane D [shunt@usbr.gov]; Brick, David A [dbrick@usbr.gov]  
**CC:** Berryman, Ellen (Ellen.Berryman@icf.com) [ellen.berryman@icf.com]; Webber, Lisa [lisa.webber@icf.com]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Briard, Monique (Monique.Briard@icfi.com) [Monique.Briard@icfi.com]; Hendrick, Mike [mike.hendrick@icf.com]  
**Subject:** FW: FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species RE: [EXTERNAL] Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

Hi Shane and David,

We had a chance to review this input with ICF and would like to opportunity to meet with FWS and discuss the following items:

- 1) Modeled suitable habitat amounts, how we approached it and why. We'd also like to get more detail on the Service's statement on suitable habitat.
- 2) Unoccupied habitat mitigation requirements are a topic we have broached previously and would like to continue that discussion.
- 3) Additional mitigation details are being worked up to the extent we can. We would like to discuss what we are proposing and what the limitations on identifying mitigation are at this time to develop something that works with the limited information we have.
- 4) Whether or not there are any candidate species that would be in addition to the Monarch, which we will add for conference opinion.

As we discussed, the BA schedule has become a focus of the Members and the Strike Team. To meet those expectations we are going to have ICF wrap up the BA by the end of February and submit it to Reclamation in mid-March.

Thanks.  
John

*John Spranza*

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 4:12 PM  
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Sincerely,  
-Stephanie

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\*\*\*\*\*

Stephanie Millsap, Ph.D.  
Watershed Planning Division Manager  
[stephanie\\_millsap@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_millsap@fws.gov)  
916-930-2658  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
SF Bay Delta Fish and Wildlife Office  
650 Capital Mall, Suite 8-300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 10:42 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforssythe@sitesproject.org>; Dekar, Melissa D <mdekar@usbr.gov>; Hunt, Shane D <shunt@usbr.gov>; Millsap, Stephanie D <stephanie\_millsap@fws.gov>; Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; Reaves, Brittany L <brittany\_reaves@fws.gov>; Schoenberg, Steven <steven\_schoenberg@fws.gov>; garwin.yip <garwin.yip@noaa.gov>; Stephen Maurano <stephen.maurano@noaa.gov>; Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

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Your help is much appreciated, please let me know if you have any questions or if you are having trouble accessing this folder.

Regards,  
John



[2022-Nov Admin Draft BA](#)



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**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/1/2023 4:58:48 PM  
**To:** Michael Azevedo [mjazevedo@countyofcolusa.com]; Gary Evans [gevans@countyofcolusa.com]; Thad Bettner (tbettner@gcid.net) [tbettner@gcid.net]; 'Jeffrey P Sutton (jsutton@tccanal.com)' [jsutton@tccanal.com]  
**CC:** Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Ready for Review around February 1  
**Attachments:** 202301\_Admin Final EIR\_EIS Review Prep\_Final\_V3.pdf

Hello all! Attached is the presentation that I ran through quickly today. Its mostly just for your reference if anything comes up.

If you haven't gotten notification of SharePoint access, you should get a notification in the next couple of days. A number of files are already posted and ready for review.

And as always, don't panic or get frustrated. Reach out to Laurie or myself. We're happy to help!

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 4:03 PM  
**To:** Michael Azevedo <mjazevedo@countyofcolusa.com>; Gary Evans <gevans@countyofcolusa.com>; Thad Bettner (tbettner@gcid.net) <tbettner@gcid.net>; 'Jeffrey P Sutton (jsutton@tccanal.com)' <jsutton@tccanal.com>  
**Cc:** Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Ready for Review around February 1

Hello Jeff, Thad, Mike and Gary, I wanted to give you all a heads up on this and forgot to mention this today when I saw you all --

We are in the final landing pattern for the admin Final EIR/EIS for the Sites Reservoir Project. We expect to have Volume 1 of the admin Final ready for review around February 1. Volumes 2 and 3 are expected to be ready for review around February 10. The different volumes consist of the following:

Volume 1 – main document (changes in track changes)  
Volume 2 – appendices (changes in track changes)  
Volume 3 – response to comments

All comments would be due on February 28.

We are happy to schedule a call to provide an overview of the document and how it will “look” when released to the public to help your review. I am substantially time constrained as I’m having foot surgery on 2/2 that is expected to take me out for a few days. So please let me know your availability for the following dates/times for this overview presentation:

Wednesday, February 1 – anytime from 12:30 PM to 5 PM

Thursday, February 9 – anytime from 9 am to noon

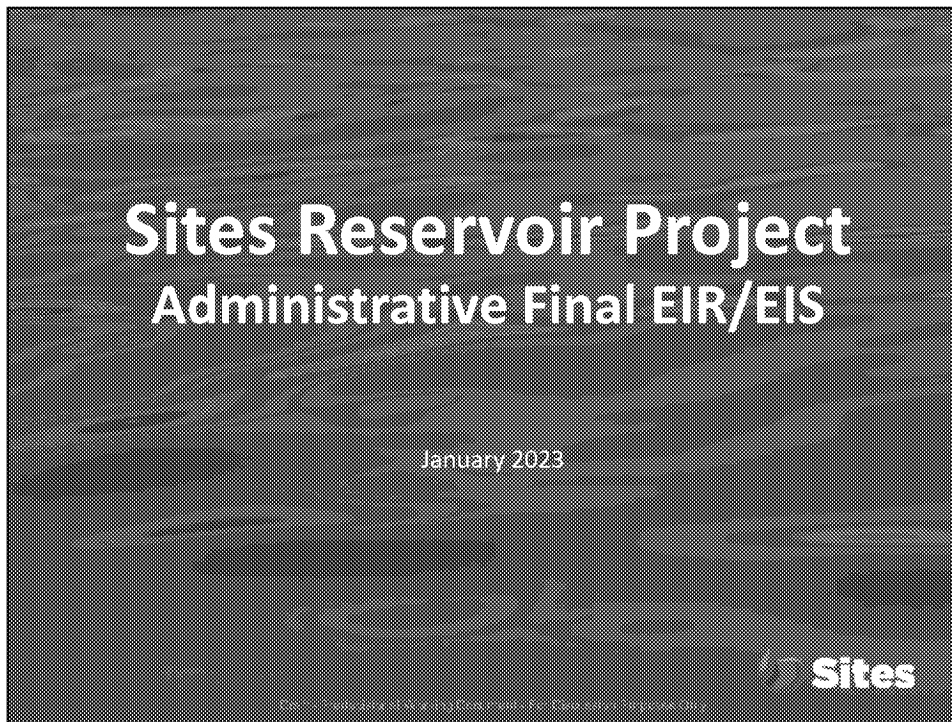
Friday, February 10 - anytime

Thanks all!

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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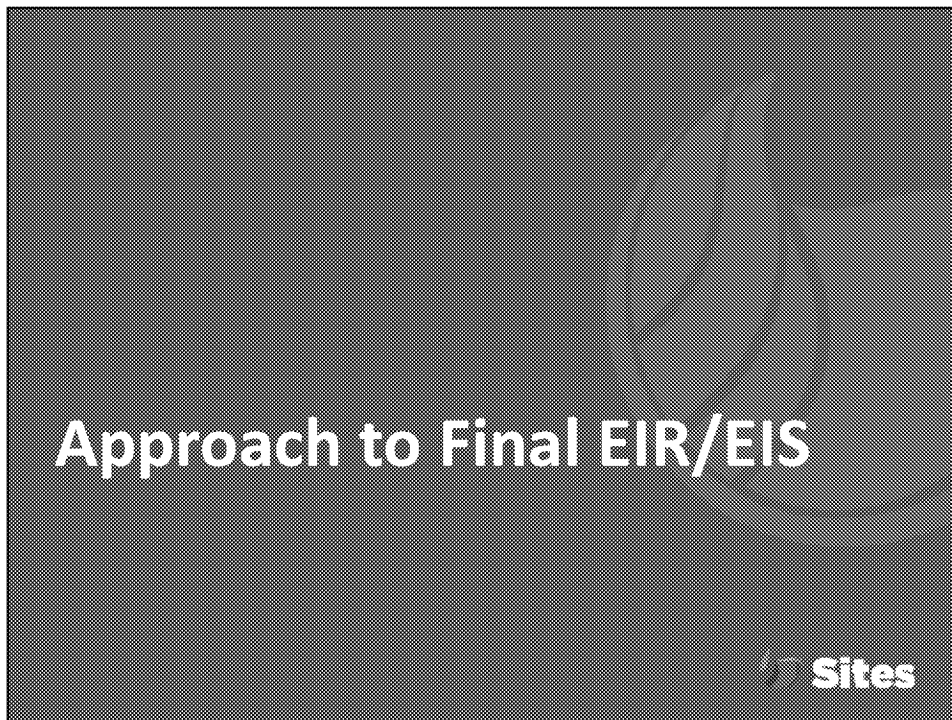
1

## Agenda

- Purpose of Meeting
  - Provide overview of the Administrative Final EIR/EIS and the review process and schedule
- Approach to the Final EIR/EIS:
  - Final EIR/EIS Development
  - Content and Format
  - Approach to Responses to Comments
- Project Refinements:
  - Preferred Alternative
  - Comparison of RDEIR/SDEIS and Final EIR/EIS Operational Criteria
  - Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1
  - Updated Modeling
  - Facility Refinements
- Review Process and Schedule

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3

## Final EIR/EIS Development

- RDEIR/SDEIS released November 12, 2021
- Close of public review January 28, 2022
  - 101 comment letters
  - Some comments submitted in form letters and in a petition
  - Approximately 1,000 individual comments
- Efforts since RDEIR/SDEIS:
  - Identification of refinements to the Project, both facilities and operations
  - Revisions to diversion criteria and associated modeling
  - Developed master and individual responses to comments
  - Revisions to EIR/EIS text based on comment/responses and/or based on project modifications (e.g., facility changes, operation modifications)

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## Final EIR/EIS Format

- Volume 1 – Chapters
  - Include all chapters from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Volume 2 – Appendices
  - Include all appendices from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Chapters and appendices without changes are not included
- Changes shown as
  - Admin Final – Changes shown in track changes
  - Final EIR/EIS – Changes shown as margin line only

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## Final EIR/EIS Format (continued)

- Volume 3 – Response to Comments
  - Chapter 1 – Introduction and Approach
  - Chapter 2 – Commenter Indices and Form Letter Introduction
  - Chapter 3 – Master Responses Introduction and Master Responses
  - Chapter 4 – Responses to Comments Tables
  - Appendix – Response to 2017 Comments required by NEPA

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## General Approach To Responding to Comments

- Master Responses
  - Identified common themes and comments in order to draft Master Responses
- Individual Responses
  - Prepared responses to all individual comments
  - Currently organized by topics in comment response tables
  - Individual comments and responses will be reorganized by **letter** prior to publication of the Final EIR/EIS

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## Master Response Topics

- MR1, CEQA and NEPA Process, Regulatory Requirements, and General Comments
- MR2, Alternatives Description and Baseline
- MR3, Hydrology and Hydrologic Modeling
- MR4, Water Quality
- MR5, Aquatic Biological Resources
- MR6, Vegetation, Wetland, and Wildlife Resources
- MR7, Tribal Coordination, Consultation, and Engagement
- MR8, Trinity River
- MR9, Alternatives Development

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## Chapters/Appendices with No Changes – Revised on 2/1/2023

- Chapters
  - 13, Minerals
  - 19, Noise
  - 22, Cultural Resources
  - 24, Visual Resources
  - 25, Population and Housing
- Appendix 2A, 2C, 8B, 9A, 9B, 10B, 12A, 12B, 19A, 20A, 20C, 20D, 22A, 24A, 24B, 27A, 33A, 33B, 33C

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## Project Refinements

 Sites

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## Key Differences

- Changes between RDEIR/SDEIS and Final EIR/EIS:
  - Preferred Alternative is now Alternative 3
  - Revisions to diversion criteria
  - Incorporation of Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 into Project
  - Revised modeling
  - Minor changes in facilities due to design refinements
  - Corrections or clarifications needed in response to comments
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## Changed to Alt 3 as Preferred Alternative

Facilities / Operations	Alternative 1 – Authority's Preferred Project in RDEIR/SDEIS	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 – Preferred Alt in the Final EIR/EIS
Reservoir Size	1.5 MAF	1.3 MAF	1.5 MAF
Hydropower	Incidental upon release	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Diversion Locations	Red Bluff Pumping Plant and Hamilton City	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Conveyance Release / Dunnigan Release	1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain	1,000 cfs into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Sacramento River. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain	Same as Alt 1
Reclamation Involvement	1. Funding Partner, up to 7% 2. Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Same as Alt 1, but up to 25% investment
DWR Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge across reservoir	Paved road around southern end of reservoir	Same as Alt 1

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## Revised Diversion Criteria

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Bend Bridge Pulse Protection	Protection of all qualified precipitation-generated pulse events (i.e., peaks in river flow rather than scheduled operational events) from October to May based on the detection of fish presence and migration during the beginning of the flow event. For each event where fish presence and migration are detected, diversions from the Sacramento River would cease for 7 days.	Similar except the following: (1) a qualified precipitation-generated pulse event is determined based on forecasted flows, (2) hourly gage monitoring at Bend Bridge gage detects the predicted flow of 8,000 cfs, and migrating anadromous fish are detected at RBDD, and (3) pulse protection may cease earlier than 7 days if flows at Bend Bridge exceed 25,320 cfs and Project diversions subtracted from Bend Bridge flows continue to be at least 25,000 cfs.
Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at the RBPP	3,250 cfs minimum bypass flow at all times; rate of diversion controlled by fish screen design.	No change
Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at the Hamilton City Pump Station	4,000 cfs minimum bypass flow at all times; rate of diversion controlled by fish screen design.	No change

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## Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough	Chapter 21 in addition to the minimum bypass flows in the Sacramento River at RBPP and the Hamilton City Pump Station, a minimum bypass flow of 5,000 cfs in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough would be in place in April and May and 5,000 cfs during the rest of the year.  Mitigation Measure EIR-2.1: 10,700 cfs in March through May; 5,000 cfs all other times.	10,700 cfs October 1 through June 14; 5,000 cfs September (not diverting from June 15 to end of August)
Fremont Weir Notch Protections	No more than 1% reduction in flow over weir when spill over the weir is less than 600 cfs. No more than a 10% reduction in flow over weir when spills over the weir are between 600 cfs and 5,000 cfs. No restriction when flows over the weir are greater than 6,000 cfs.	No longer included. Revised minimum bypass flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough and Bend Bridge pulse protection provide protections for Fremont Weir Notch.

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## Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Sacramento River Fully Appropriated Stream	Diversion allowed only when the Sacramento River is not fully appropriated (September 1 through June 14)	No change
Excess conditions, as determined by DWR and Reclamation and defined in 2018 COA Addendum	Delta must be in excess for Sites Reservoir diversions	No change
Freeport, Net Delta Outflow Index, X2, and Delta Water Quality	Operations consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, biological opinions and incidental take permits, and court orders in place at the time that diversion occurs	No change

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## Incorporation of Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 into Project

- RDEIR/SDEIS
  - Included Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1 to reduce potential life stage effects on salmonids by increasing the bypass flow requirement at Wilkins Slough
    - Minimum bypass flow requirement of 10,700 cfs at Wilkins Slough in March-May
- Final EIR/EIS
  - Project description now incorporates the requirements of Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1, which have been refined and made more restrictive (the revised diversion criteria on the previous slide)
  - The bypass flow requirement at Wilkins Slough has been developed as an integral component of how the Project is proposed to operate in terms of its water diversion criteria
  - The modeling performed for the Final EIR/EIS includes the revised diversion criteria
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## Revised Modeling

- Adjustments made in the CALSIM II modeling between the RDEIR/SDEIS and the Final EIR/EIS to better represent the most up-to-date modeling procedures and actual operations, including:
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  - Deadpool Volume – reduced from generally 120 TAF to 60 TAF
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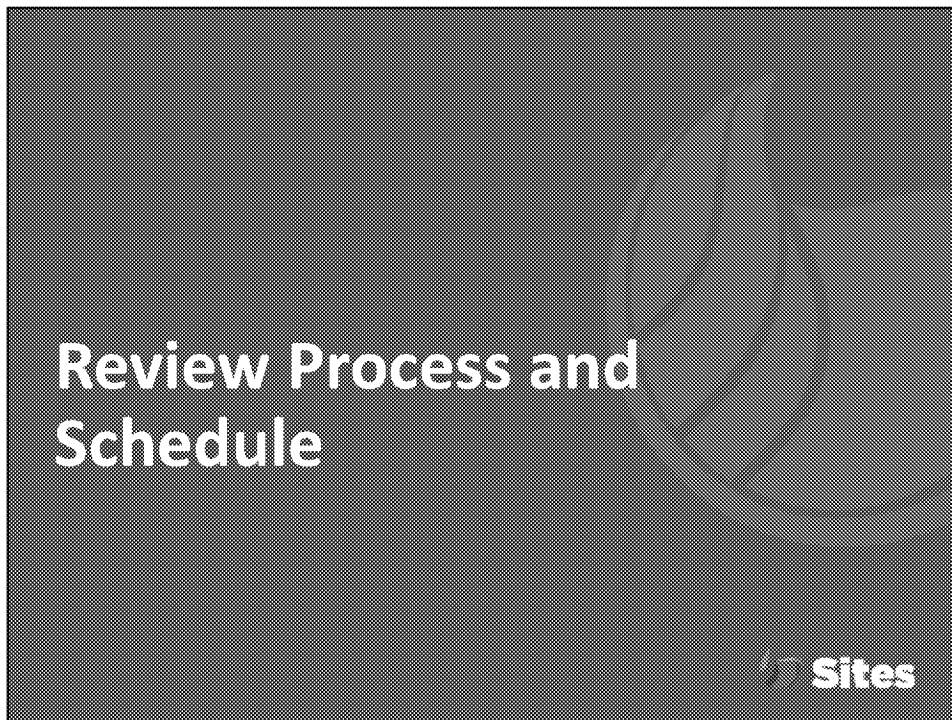
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## Review Process and Schedule

- Starting February 1 files will be available for online review
  - Email will be sent with link to everyone invited to these meetings
- Additional files added as they are ready with all files posted by February 10
  - Additional emails sent as new files are uploaded
- Final editing and formatting not finished – its good but still working on great!
  - Focus comments on substantive issues
  - We appreciate pointing out number inconsistencies
  - Don't bother to comment on edits and format
- All comments due by February 28

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## Format for Comments

- Please provide comments in comment bubbles
- Prefer no track change edits but recommended text changes can be added in bubbles
- Prefer comments all on SharePoint so everyone can see each others comments
- If you copy/download a file for your internal agency review, please upload back onto SharePoint with your agency name on the end
  - 01\_ExecutiveSummary\_Sites
- Each person accessing SharePoint needs “individual” access

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## Where To Go With Questions

- File access issues/challenges
  - Laurie Warner Herson at [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)
- CEQA Responsible Agencies
  - Ali Forsythe at [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)
  - Laurie Warner Herson
- Reclamation staff and NEPA Cooperating Agencies
  - David Brick at [dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)
  - Allison Jacobson at [ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/1/2023 5:03:00 PM  
**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards [Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov]; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' [Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov]; Okita, David@DWR [David.Okita@water.ca.gov]; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' [Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov]; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards [Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov]; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards [Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov]; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' [Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov]; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' [annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov]; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife [Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov]; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife [Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov]; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards [Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov]; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; 'Laurie Warner Herson' [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]; Spranza, John [John.Spranza@hdrinc.com]; 'Jelica Arsenijevic' [Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com]; Jacobson, Allison M [ajacobson@usbr.gov]; Brick, David A [dbrick@usbr.gov]; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife [Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov]; Sandino, David@DWR [David.Sandino@water.ca.gov]; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards [Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov]; Leahigh, John@DWR [John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov]; Roberts, Matthew J CIV USARMY CESP (USA) [Matthew.J.Roberts@usace.army.mil]; Haley, Nancy A CIV USARMY CESP (USA) [Nancy.A.Haley@usace.army.mil]; Kelly, Elizabeth [EKelly@WAPA.GOV]; Stephen Maurano [stephen.maurano@noaa.gov]; evan.sawyer [evan.sawyer@noaa.gov]; elif.wilkins@noaa.gov; Schoenberg, Steven [steven\_schoenberg@fws.gov]; Gordon, Stephanie (Skophammer) [GORDON.STEPHANIES@EPA.GOV]; Morgan, Joseph [Morgan.Joseph@epa.gov]; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife [April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov]; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov  
**CC:** Miller, Jeffrey [JAMiller@WAPA.GOV]; amanda.cranford@noaa.gov; Bolden, Amy [Bolden@WAPA.GOV]; Macon, Michael@Waterboards [Michael.Macon@Waterboards.ca.gov]; Stevens, Nina C [ncstevens@usbr.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing  
**Attachments:** 202301\_Admin Final EIR\_EIS Review Prep\_Final\_V3.pdf

Hello all! Thanks for joining us this afternoon for the Admin Final EIR/EIS review briefing. Attached is the presentation.

I updated Slide 9 of the presentation to reflect the correct chapters that have not changed.

Thank you all for your time and effort on the review of the document. We look forward to your comments!

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Alicia Forsythe

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 1:37 PM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe; Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards; Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-

Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov); Okita, David@DWR; Cooke, Robert@DWR; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards; 'Tores, Juan Lopez'; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards'; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Laurie Warner Herson; Spranza, John; 'Jelica Arsenijevic'; Jacobson, Allison M; Brick, David A; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife; Sandino, David@DWR; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards; Leahigh, John@DWR; Roberts, Matthew J CIV USARMY CESP (USA); Haley, Nancy A CIV USARMY CESP (USA); Kelly, Elizabeth; Stephen Maurano; evan.sawyer; elif.wilkins@noaa.gov; Schoenberg, Steven; Gordon, Stephanie (Skophammer); Morgan, Joseph; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov

**Cc:** Miller, Jeffrey; amanda.cranford@noaa.gov; Bolden, Amy; Macon, Michael@Waterboards; Stevens, Nina C

**Subject:** Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

**When:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 3:00 PM-4:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Purpose: Overview of the admin Final EIR/EIS in preparation for the NEPA Cooperating Agency and CEQA Responsible Agency review.

Agenda: Purpose of Meeting

- Approach to the Final EIR/EIS

- Project Refinements

- Review Process and Schedule

- Any Remaining Questions or Related Topics

This is the second of 2 meetings on this topic. Both meetings have the same agenda and presentation – and will be repetitive. You do not need to attend both meetings.

I tried to get everyone on Reclamation's and Sites' distribution list along with everyone that responded to the doodle poll. Apologies if I missed anyone. Please forward to those I may have missed or email me and I can forward.

Thanks all!

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 278 687 496 553

Passcode: Wz9qAo

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

+1 916-538-7066,909002510# United States, Sacramento

Phone Conference ID: 909 002 510#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

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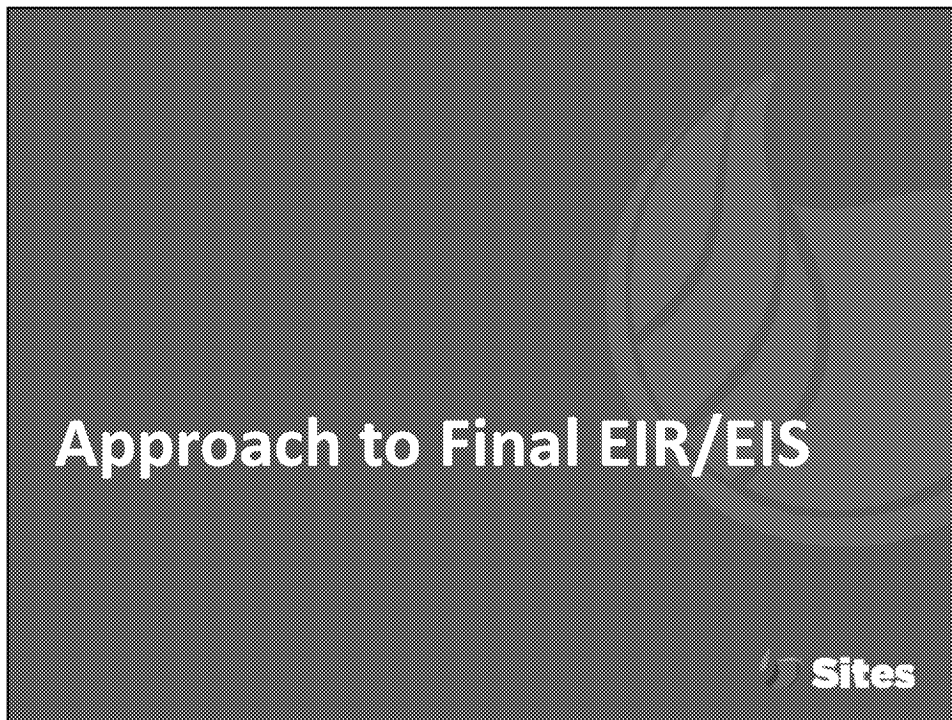
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## Agenda

- Purpose of Meeting
  - Provide overview of the Administrative Final EIR/EIS and the review process and schedule
- Approach to the Final EIR/EIS:
  - Final EIR/EIS Development
  - Content and Format
  - Approach to Responses to Comments
- Project Refinements:
  - Preferred Alternative
  - Comparison of RDEIR/SDEIS and Final EIR/EIS Operational Criteria
  - Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1
  - Updated Modeling
  - Facility Refinements
- Review Process and Schedule

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## Final EIR/EIS Development

- RDEIR/SDEIS released November 12, 2021
- Close of public review January 28, 2022
  - 101 comment letters
  - Some comments submitted in form letters and in a petition
  - Approximately 1,000 individual comments
- Efforts since RDEIR/SDEIS:
  - Identification of refinements to the Project, both facilities and operations
  - Revisions to diversion criteria and associated modeling
  - Developed master and individual responses to comments
  - Revisions to EIR/EIS text based on comment/responses and/or based on project modifications (e.g., facility changes, operation modifications)

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## Final EIR/EIS Format

- Volume 1 – Chapters
  - Include all chapters from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Volume 2 – Appendices
  - Include all appendices from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Chapters and appendices without changes are not included
- Changes shown as
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## Final EIR/EIS Format (continued)

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## Master Response Topics

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## Chapters/Appendices with No Changes – Revised on 2/1/2023

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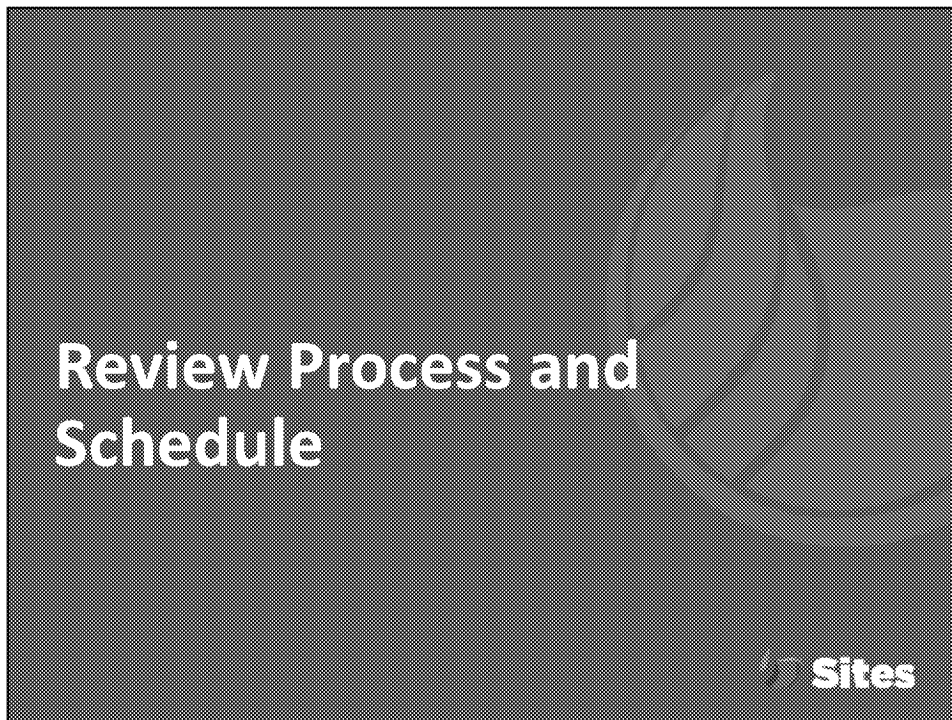
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- Additional files added as they are ready with all files posted by February 10
  - Additional emails sent as new files are uploaded
- Final editing and formatting not finished – its good but still working on great!
  - Focus comments on substantive issues
  - We appreciate pointing out number inconsistencies
  - Don't bother to comment on edits and format
- All comments due by February 28

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## Format for Comments

- Please provide comments in comment bubbles
- Prefer no track change edits but recommended text changes can be added in bubbles
- Prefer comments all on SharePoint so everyone can see each others comments
- If you copy/download a file for your internal agency review, please upload back onto SharePoint with your agency name on the end
  - 01\_ExecutiveSummary\_Sites
- Each person accessing SharePoint needs “individual” access

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## Where To Go With Questions

- File access issues/challenges
  - Laurie Warner Herson at [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)
- CEQA Responsible Agencies
  - Ali Forsythe at [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)
  - Laurie Warner Herson
- Reclamation staff and NEPA Cooperating Agencies
  - David Brick at [dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)
  - Allison Jacobson at [ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)

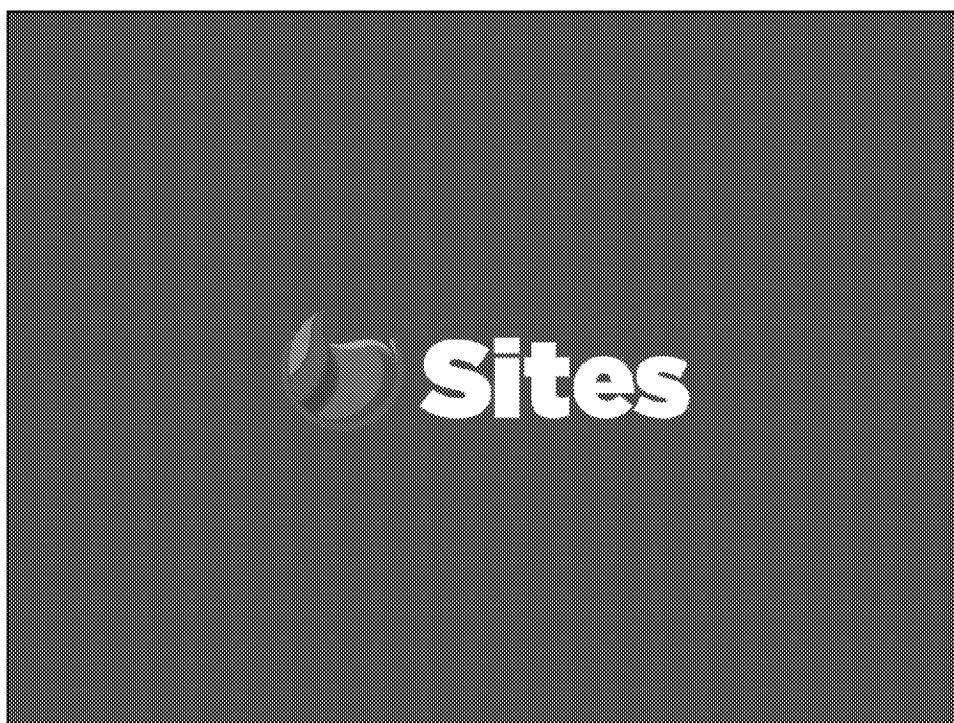
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**From:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 2/1/2023 5:03:00 PM  
**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards [Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov]; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' [Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov]; Okita, David@DWR [David.Okita@water.ca.gov]; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' [Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov]; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards [Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov]; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards [Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov]; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' [Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov]; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' [annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov]; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife [Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov]; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife [Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov]; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards [Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov]; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; 'Laurie Warner Herson' [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]; Spranza, John [john.spranza@hdrinc.com]; 'Jelica Arsenijevic' [Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com]; Jacobson, Allison M [ajacobson@usbr.gov]; Brick, David A [dbrick@usbr.gov]; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife [Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov]; Sandino, David@DWR [David.Sandino@water.ca.gov]; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards [Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov]; Leahigh, John@DWR [John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov]; Roberts, Matthew J CIV USARMY CESPK (USA) [Matthew.J.Roberts@usace.army.mil]; Haley, Nancy A CIV USARMY CESPK (USA) [Nancy.A.Haley@usace.army.mil]; Kelly, Elizabeth [EKelly@WAPA.GOV]; Stephen Maurano [stephen.maurano@noaa.gov]; evan.sawyer [evan.sawyer@noaa.gov]; elif.wilkins@noaa.gov; Schoenberg, Steven [steven\_schoenberg@fws.gov]; Gordon, Stephanie (Skophammer) [GORDON.STEPHANIES@EPA.GOV]; Morgan, Joseph [Morgan.Joseph@epa.gov]; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife [April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov]; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov  
**CC:** Miller, Jeffrey [JAMiller@WAPA.GOV]; amanda.cranford@noaa.gov; Bolden, Amy [Bolden@WAPA.GOV]; Macon, Michael@Waterboards [Michael.Macon@Waterboards.ca.gov]; Stevens, Nina C [ncstevens@usbr.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing  
**Attachments:** 202301\_Admin Final EIR\_EIS Review Prep\_Final\_V3.pdf

EXTERNAL:

Hello all! Thanks for joining us this afternoon for the Admin Final EIR/EIS review briefing. Attached is the presentation.

I updated Slide 9 of the presentation to reflect the correct chapters that have not changed.

Thank you all for your time and effort on the review of the document. We look forward to your comments!

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Alicia Forsythe

Draft\_0022164

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 1:37 PM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe; Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards; Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov); Okita, David@DWR; Cooke, Robert@DWR; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards; 'Tores, Juan Lopez'; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards'; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Laurie Warner Herson; Spranza, John; 'Jelica Arsenijevic'; Jacobson, Allison M; Brick, David A; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife; Sandino, David@DWR; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards; Leahigh, John@DWR; Roberts, Matthew J CIV USARMY CESP (USA); Haley, Nancy A CIV USARMY CESP (USA); Kelly, Elizabeth; Stephen Maurano; evan.sawyer; elif.wilkins@noaa.gov; Schoenberg, Steven; Gordon, Stephanie (Skophammer); Morgan, Joseph; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov

**Cc:** Miller, Jeffrey; amanda.cranford@noaa.gov; Bolden, Amy; Macon, Michael@Waterboards; Stevens, Nina C

**Subject:** Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

**When:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 3:00 PM-4:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Purpose: Overview of the admin Final EIR/EIS in preparation for the NEPA Cooperating Agency and CEQA Responsible Agency review.

Agenda: Purpose of Meeting

- Approach to the Final EIR/EIS

- Project Refinements

- Review Process and Schedule

- Any Remaining Questions or Related Topics

This is the second of 2 meetings on this topic. Both meetings have the same agenda and presentation – and will be repetitive. You do not need to attend both meetings.

I tried to get everyone on Reclamation's and Sites' distribution list along with everyone that responded to the doodle poll. Apologies if I missed anyone. Please forward to those I may have missed or email me and I can forward.

Thanks all!

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 278 687 496 553

Passcode: Wz9qAo

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

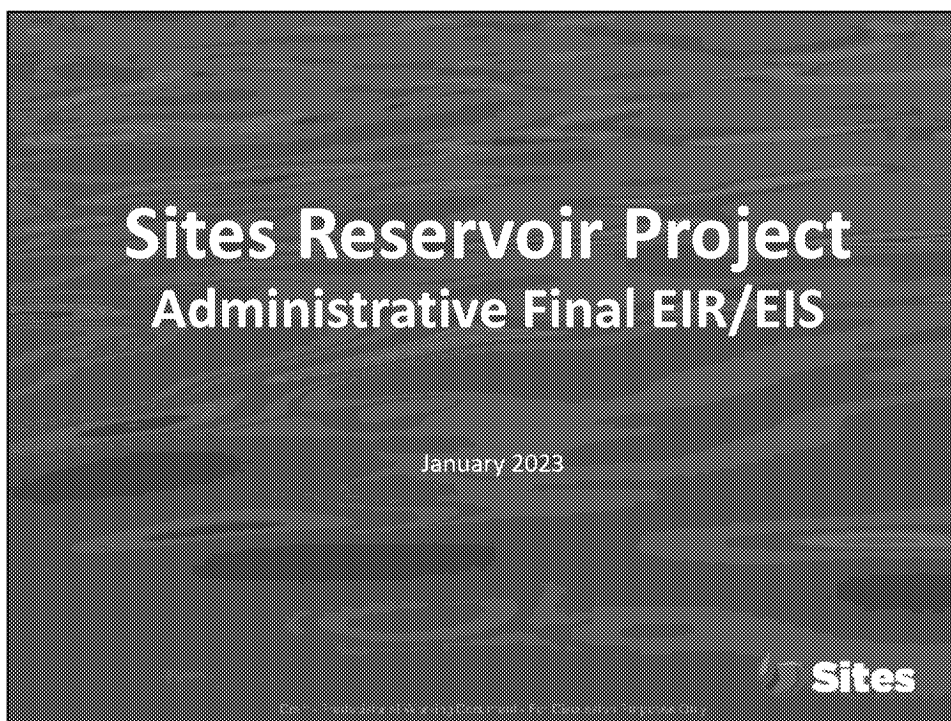
[+1 916-538-7066,,909002510#](#) United States, Sacramento

Phone Conference ID: 909 002 510#

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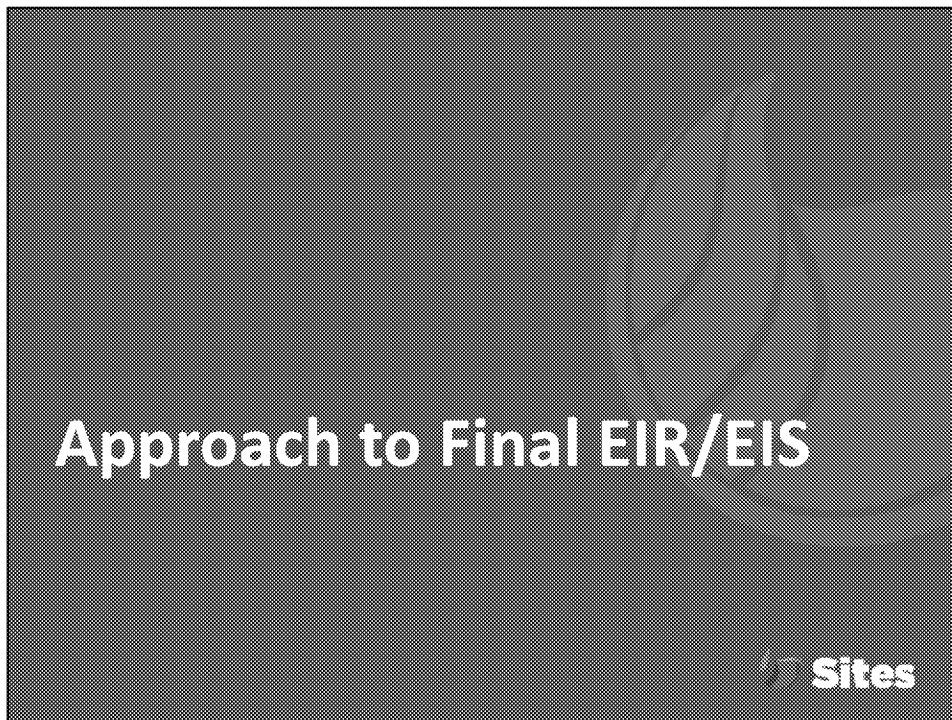
## Agenda

- Purpose of Meeting
  - Provide overview of the Administrative Final EIR/EIS and the review process and schedule
- Approach to the Final EIR/EIS:
  - Final EIR/EIS Development
  - Content and Format
  - Approach to Responses to Comments
- Project Refinements:
  - Preferred Alternative
  - Comparison of RDEIR/SDEIS and Final EIR/EIS Operational Criteria
  - Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1
  - Updated Modeling
  - Facility Refinements
- Review Process and Schedule

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## Final EIR/EIS Development

- RDEIR/SDEIS released November 12, 2021
- Close of public review January 28, 2022
  - 101 comment letters
  - Some comments submitted in form letters and in a petition
  - Approximately 1,000 individual comments
- Efforts since RDEIR/SDEIS:
  - Identification of refinements to the Project, both facilities and operations
  - Revisions to diversion criteria and associated modeling
  - Developed master and individual responses to comments
  - Revisions to EIR/EIS text based on comment/responses and/or based on project modifications (e.g., facility changes, operation modifications)

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## Final EIR/EIS Format

- Volume 1 – Chapters
  - Include all chapters from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Volume 2 – Appendices
  - Include all appendices from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Chapters and appendices without changes are not included
- Changes shown as
  - Admin Final – Changes shown in track changes
  - Final EIR/EIS – Changes shown as margin line only

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## Final EIR/EIS Format (continued)

- Volume 3 – Response to Comments
  - Chapter 1 – Introduction and Approach
  - Chapter 2 – Commenter Indices and Form Letter Introduction
  - Chapter 3 – Master Responses Introduction and Master Responses
  - Chapter 4 – Responses to Comments Tables
  - Appendix – Response to 2017 Comments required by NEPA

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## General Approach To Responding to Comments

- Master Responses
  - Identified common themes and comments in order to draft Master Responses
- Individual Responses
  - Prepared responses to all individual comments
  - Currently organized by topics in comment response tables
  - Individual comments and responses will be reorganized by **letter** prior to publication of the Final EIR/EIS

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## Master Response Topics

- MR1, CEQA and NEPA Process, Regulatory Requirements, and General Comments
- MR2, Alternatives Description and Baseline
- MR3, Hydrology and Hydrologic Modeling
- MR4, Water Quality
- MR5, Aquatic Biological Resources
- MR6, Vegetation, Wetland, and Wildlife Resources
- MR7, Tribal Coordination, Consultation, and Engagement
- MR8, Trinity River
- MR9, Alternatives Development

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## Chapters/Appendices with No Changes – Revised on 2/1/2023

- Chapters
  - 13, Minerals
  - 19, Noise
  - 22, Cultural Resources
  - 24, Visual Resources
  - 25, Population and Housing
- Appendix 2A, 2C, 8B, 9A, 9B, 10B, 12A, 12B, 19A, 20A, 20C, 20D, 22A, 24A, 24B, 27A, 33A, 33B, 33C

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## Project Refinements

 Sites

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## Key Differences

- Changes between RDEIR/SDEIS and Final EIR/EIS:
  - Preferred Alternative is now Alternative 3
  - Revisions to diversion criteria
  - Incorporation of Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 into Project
  - Revised modeling
  - Minor changes in facilities due to design refinements
  - Corrections or clarifications needed in response to comments
- No new or substantial greater impacts identified that would require recirculation

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## Changed to Alt 3 as Preferred Alternative

Facilities / Operations	Alternative 1 – Authority's Preferred Project in RDEIR/SDEIS	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 – Preferred Alt in the Final EIR/EIS
Reservoir Size	1.5 MAF	1.3 MAF	1.5 MAF
Hydropower	Incidental upon release	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Diversion Locations	Red Bluff Pumping Plant and Hamilton City	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Conveyance Release / Dunnigan Release	1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain	1,000 cfs into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Sacramento River. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain	Same as Alt 1
Reclamation Involvement	1. Funding Partner, up to 7% 2. Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Same as Alt 1, but up to 25% investment
DWR Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge across reservoir	Paved road around southern end of reservoir	Same as Alt 1

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## Revised Diversion Criteria

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Bend Bridge Pulse Protection	Protection of all qualified precipitation-generated pulse events (i.e., peaks in river flow rather than scheduled operational events) from October to May based on the detection of fish presence and migration during the beginning of the flow event. For each event where fish presence and migration are detected, diversions from the Sacramento River would cease for 7 days.	Similar except the following: (1) a qualified precipitation-generated pulse event is determined based on forecasted flows, (2) hourly gage monitoring at Bend Bridge gage detects the predicted flow of 8,000 cfs, and migrating anadromous fish are detected at RBDD, and (3) pulse protection may cease earlier than 7 days if flows at Bend Bridge exceed 25,000 cfs and Project diversions subtracted from Bend Bridge flows continue to be at least 25,000 cfs.
Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at the RBPP	3,250 cfs minimum bypass flow at all times; rate of diversion controlled by fish screen design.	No change
Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at the Hamilton City Pump Station	4,000 cfs minimum bypass flow at all times; rate of diversion controlled by fish screen design.	No change

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## Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough	Chapter 21 in addition to the minimum bypass flows in the Sacramento River at RBPP and the Hamilton City Pump Station, a minimum bypass flow of 8,000 cfs in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough would be in place in April and May and 5,000 cfs during the rest of the year.  Mitigation Measure EIR-2.1: 10,700 cfs in March through May; 5,000 cfs all other times.	10,700 cfs October 1 through June 14; 5,000 cfs September (not diverting from June 15 to end of August)
Fremont Weir Notch Protections	No more than 1% reduction in flow over weir when spill over the weir is less than 600 cfs. No more than a 10% reduction in flow over weir when spills over the weir are between 600 cfs and 5,000 cfs. No restriction when flows over the weir are greater than 6,000 cfs.	No longer included. Revised minimum bypass flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough and Bend Bridge pulse protection provide protections for Fremont Weir Notch.

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## Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Sacramento River Fully Appropriated Stream	Diversion allowed only when the Sacramento River is not fully appropriated (September 1 through June 14)	No change
Excess conditions, as determined by DWR and Reclamation and defined in 2018 COA Addendum	Delta must be in excess for Sites Reservoir diversions	No change
Freeport, Net Delta Outflow Index, X2, and Delta Water Quality	Operations consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, biological opinions and incidental take permits, and court orders in place at the time that diversion occurs	No change

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## Incorporation of Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 into Project

- RDEIR/SDEIS
  - Included Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1 to reduce potential life stage effects on salmonids by increasing the bypass flow requirement at Wilkins Slough
    - Minimum bypass flow requirement of 10,700 cfs at Wilkins Slough in March-May
- Final EIR/EIS
  - Project description now incorporates the requirements of Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1, which have been refined and made more restrictive (the revised diversion criteria on the previous slide)
  - The bypass flow requirement at Wilkins Slough has been developed as an integral component of how the Project is proposed to operate in terms of its water diversion criteria
  - The modeling performed for the Final EIR/EIS includes the revised diversion criteria
  - This eliminates the need for Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1 in the Final EIR/EIS

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## Revised Modeling

- Adjustments made in the CALSIM II modeling between the RDEIR/SDEIS and the Final EIR/EIS to better represent the most up-to-date modeling procedures and actual operations, including:
  - Shasta Lake Operations – expanded exchanges to include more opportunities for fall flow stability and spring pulse enhancement
  - Deadpool Volume – reduced from generally 120 TAF to 60 TAF
  - Delta Salinity Accounting – slightly refined based on revisions to Calsim II coding
  - Period of Diversion to Sites Storage – revised to only include Sept 1 to June 14 to match water right application
  - South of Delta Water Delivery – revised to allow in any year that capacity is available (previously limited to below normal, dry and critically dry years)
  - Updates to Diversion Criteria – revised diversion criteria incorporated

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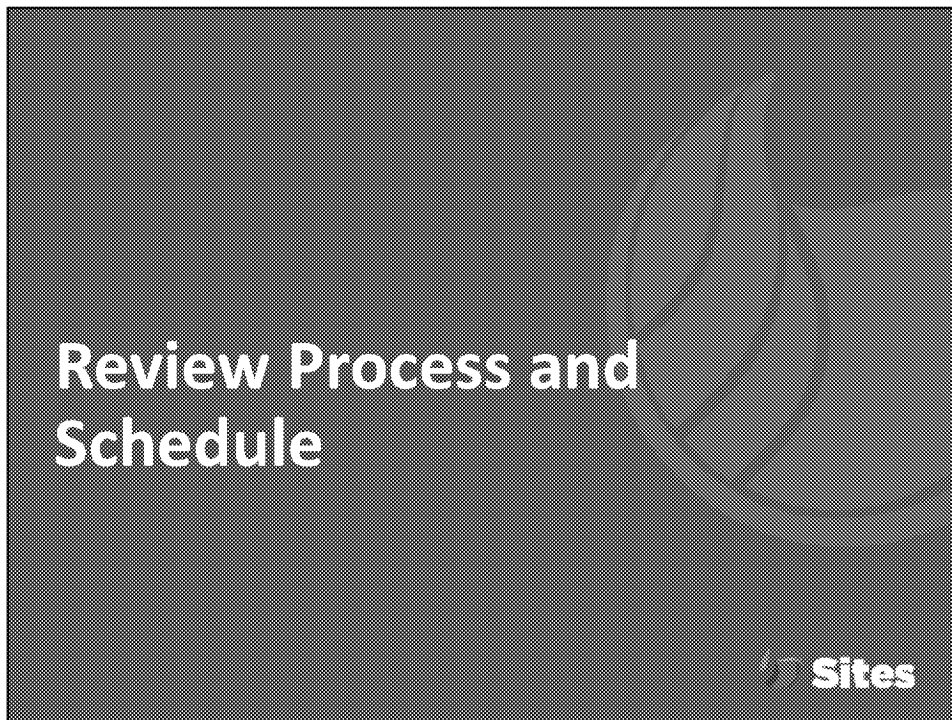
## Facility Refinements

- The RDEIR/SDEIS noted that:
  - “Preliminary design for facilities described herein will continue to be refined and modifications may occur as needed as the Project proceeds to final design and as part of the ongoing value engineering process undertaken by the Authority.”
- Admin Final EIR/EIS includes:
  - Sloped rather than vertical Inlet/Outlet (I/O) Tower
  - Single 32' diameter I/O tunnel replaces two 23' tunnels
  - Removal of two emergency release structures, eliminating emergency drawdown releases to Hunters Creek

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## Review Process and Schedule

- Starting February 1 files will be available for online review
  - Email will be sent with link to everyone invited to these meetings
- Additional files added as they are ready with all files posted by February 10
  - Additional emails sent as new files are uploaded
- Final editing and formatting not finished – its good but still working on great!
  - Focus comments on substantive issues
  - We appreciate pointing out number inconsistencies
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- All comments due by February 28

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- Each person accessing SharePoint needs “individual” access

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## Where To Go With Questions

- File access issues/challenges
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- CEQA Responsible Agencies
  - Ali Forsythe at [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)
  - Laurie Warner Herson
- Reclamation staff and NEPA Cooperating Agencies
  - David Brick at [dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)
  - Allison Jacobson at [ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/1/2023 5:04:54 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Allison M [ajacobson@usbr.gov]; Brick, David A [dbrick@usbr.gov]; Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Briefings  
**Attachments:** 202301\_Admin Final EIR\_EIS Review Prep\_Final\_V3.pdf; 202301\_Admin Final EIR\_EIS Review Prep\_Final\_V3.pptx

Hi Allison and David – Not sure its worth sending to the Reclamation team, but attached is a revised presentation with updates to Slide 9. Some of the chapters listed on the previous version of the presentation had changes after all and will now be available for review. Wanted you all to have this in case you think it would be helpful to send to the Reclamation team.

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 4:42 PM  
**To:** 'Jacobson, Allison M' <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; 'Brick, David A' <dbrick@usbr.gov>; 'Laurie Warner Herson' <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Briefings

Hi all – I changed OneDrive to SharePoint in the presentation. Attached are the updated files.

Allison and David – Do you want to get this out to the Reclamation team? I am so backed up in emails, you may have already sent it out. But just let me know if you want me to send this to those on the meeting invite. Happy to do so.

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 8:42 AM



To: 'Jacobson, Allison M' <[ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)>; 'Brick, David A' <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>; 'Laurie Warner Herson' <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>

Subject: RE: Sites Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Briefings

Hi all – Attached is the final presentation for our meetings today and tomorrow. I've incorporated changes based on David's comments.

Let me know if you see anything more that needs to be changed. Otherwise, we'll just roll with it.

I did make a PDF file already (attached). I was going to wait to send it out until after the presentation. Figured we might make some tweaks to the presentation if we get comments/questions that indicate some things are unclear.

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 1:53 PM

**To:** Jacobson, Allison M <[ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)>; Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>

**Cc:** Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>

**Subject:** Sites Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Briefings

Hi Allison and David – It looks like the 2 best days for the Cooperating and Responsible Agency briefings are as follows:

Monday, January 30 from 1 to 2 PM

Wednesday, February 1 from either 2 to 3 pm or 3 to 4 pm (my preference would be 3 to 4 pm)

David, do these days/times work for you?

Allison, I think you may have a conflict with the January 30 one. Are you okay with us moving forward if David can attend?

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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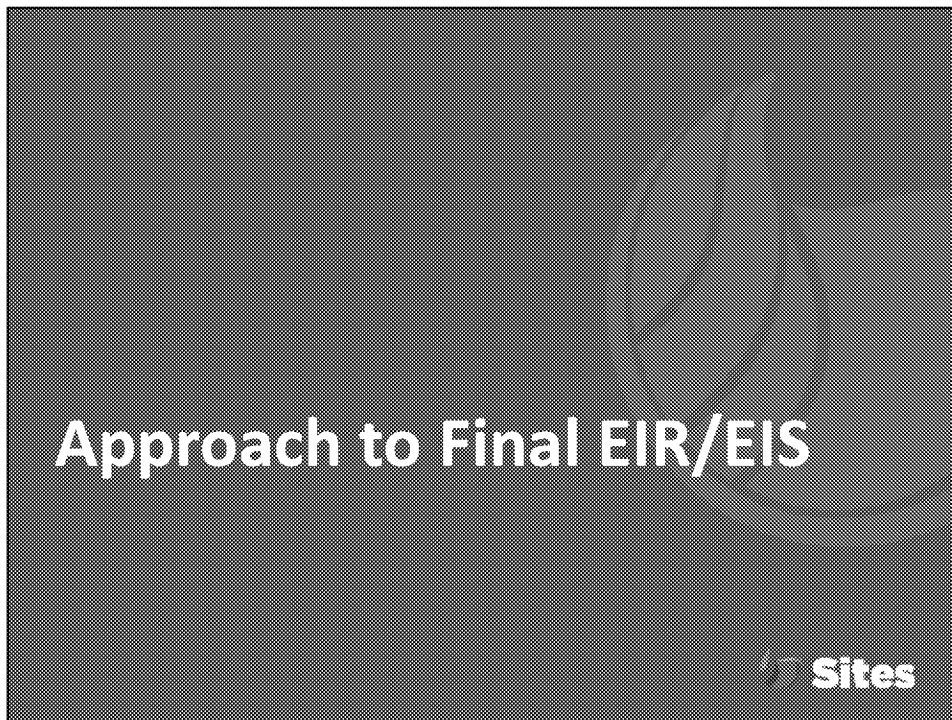
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- RDEIR/SDEIS released November 12, 2021
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- Efforts since RDEIR/SDEIS:
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  - Revisions to diversion criteria and associated modeling
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  - Revisions to EIR/EIS text based on comment/responses and/or based on project modifications (e.g., facility changes, operation modifications)

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## Final EIR/EIS Format

- Volume 1 – Chapters
  - Include all chapters from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Volume 2 – Appendices
  - Include all appendices from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Chapters and appendices without changes are not included
- Changes shown as
  - Admin Final – Changes shown in track changes
  - Final EIR/EIS – Changes shown as margin line only

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## Final EIR/EIS Format (continued)

- Volume 3 – Response to Comments
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  - Chapter 2 – Commenter Indices and Form Letter Introduction
  - Chapter 3 – Master Responses Introduction and Master Responses
  - Chapter 4 – Responses to Comments Tables
  - Appendix – Response to 2017 Comments required by NEPA

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## General Approach To Responding to Comments

- Master Responses
  - Identified common themes and comments in order to draft Master Responses
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  - Prepared responses to all individual comments
  - Currently organized by topics in comment response tables
  - Individual comments and responses will be reorganized by **letter** prior to publication of the Final EIR/EIS

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## Master Response Topics

- MR1, CEQA and NEPA Process, Regulatory Requirements, and General Comments
- MR2, Alternatives Description and Baseline
- MR3, Hydrology and Hydrologic Modeling
- MR4, Water Quality
- MR5, Aquatic Biological Resources
- MR6, Vegetation, Wetland, and Wildlife Resources
- MR7, Tribal Coordination, Consultation, and Engagement
- MR8, Trinity River
- MR9, Alternatives Development

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## Chapters/Appendices with No Changes – Revised on 2/1/2023

- Chapters
  - 13, Minerals
  - 19, Noise
  - 22, Cultural Resources
  - 24, Visual Resources
  - 25, Population and Housing
- Appendix 2A, 2C, 8B, 9A, 9B, 10B, 12A, 12B, 19A, 20A, 20C, 20D, 22A, 24A, 24B, 27A, 33A, 33B, 33C

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## Project Refinements

 Sites

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## Key Differences

- Changes between RDEIR/SDEIS and Final EIR/EIS:
  - Preferred Alternative is now Alternative 3
  - Revisions to diversion criteria
  - Incorporation of Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 into Project
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## Changed to Alt 3 as Preferred Alternative

Facilities / Operations	Alternative 1 – Authority's Preferred Project in RDEIR/SDEIS	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 – Preferred Alt in the Final EIR/EIS
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Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge across reservoir	Paved road around southern end of reservoir	Same as Alt 1

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## Revised Diversion Criteria

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
<b>Bend Bridge Pulse Protection</b>	Protection of all qualified precipitation-generated pulse events (i.e., peaks in river flow rather than scheduled operational events) from October to May based on the detection of fish presence and migration during the beginning of the flow event. For each event where fish presence and migration are detected, diversions from the Sacramento River would cease for 7 days.	Similar except the following: (1) a qualified precipitation-generated pulse event is determined based on forecasted flows, (2) hourly gage monitoring at Bend Bridge gage detects the predicted flow of 8,000 cfs, and migrating anadromous fish are detected at RBDD, and (3) pulse protection may cease earlier than 7 days if flows at Bend Bridge exceed 25,320 cfs and Project diversions subtracted from Bend Bridge flows continue to be at least 25,000 cfs.
<b>Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at the RBPP</b>	3,250 cfs minimum bypass flow at all times; rate of diversion controlled by fish screen design.	No change
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## Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
<b>Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough</b>	Chapter 21 in addition to the minimum bypass flows in the Sacramento River at RBPP and the Hamilton City Pump Station, a minimum bypass flow of 8,000 cfs in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough would be in place in April and May and 5,000 cfs during the rest of the year.  Mitigation Measure EIR-2.1: 10,700 cfs in March through May; 5,000 cfs all other times.	10,700 cfs October 1 through June 14; 5,000 cfs September (not diverting from June 15 to end of August)
<b>Fremont Weir Notch Protections</b>	No more than 1% reduction in flow over weir when spill over the weir is less than 600 cfs. No more than a 10% reduction in flow over weir when spills over the weir are between 600 cfs and 5,000 cfs. No restriction when flows over the weir are greater than 6,000 cfs.	No longer included. Revised minimum bypass flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough and Bend Bridge pulse protection provide protections for Fremont Weir Notch.

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## Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Sacramento River Fully Appropriated Stream	Diversion allowed only when the Sacramento River is not fully appropriated (September 1 through June 14)	No change
Excess conditions, as determined by DWR and Reclamation and defined in 2018 COA Addendum	Delta must be in excess for Sites Reservoir diversions	No change
Freeport, Net Delta Outflow Index, X2, and Delta Water Quality	Operations consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, biological opinions and incidental take permits, and court orders in place at the time that diversion occurs	No change

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## Incorporation of Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 into Project

- RDEIR/SDEIS
  - Included Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1 to reduce potential life stage effects on salmonids by increasing the bypass flow requirement at Wilkins Slough
    - Minimum bypass flow requirement of 10,700 cfs at Wilkins Slough in March-May
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  - The bypass flow requirement at Wilkins Slough has been developed as an integral component of how the Project is proposed to operate in terms of its water diversion criteria
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  - This eliminates the need for Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1 in the Final EIR/EIS

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## Revised Modeling

- Adjustments made in the CALSIM II modeling between the RDEIR/SDEIS and the Final EIR/EIS to better represent the most up-to-date modeling procedures and actual operations, including:
  - Shasta Lake Operations – expanded exchanges to include more opportunities for fall flow stability and spring pulse enhancement
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  - Delta Salinity Accounting – slightly refined based on revisions to Calsim II coding
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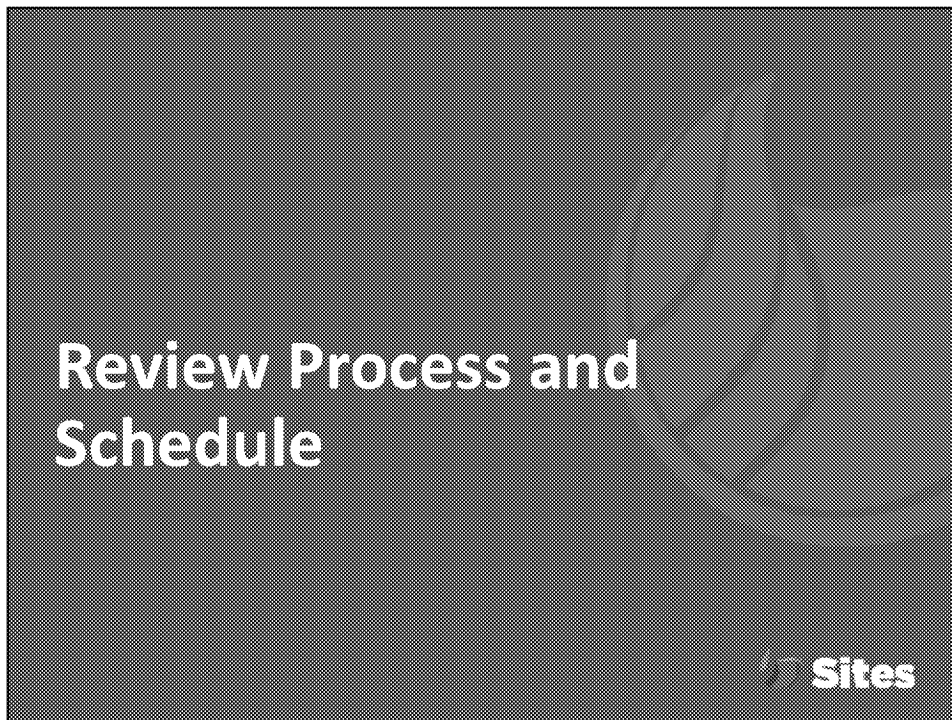
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  - “Preliminary design for facilities described herein will continue to be refined and modifications may occur as needed as the Project proceeds to final design and as part of the ongoing value engineering process undertaken by the Authority.”
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  - Single 32' diameter I/O tunnel replaces two 23' tunnels
  - Removal of two emergency release structures, eliminating emergency drawdown releases to Hunters Creek

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## Review Process and Schedule

- Starting February 1 files will be available for online review
  - Email will be sent with link to everyone invited to these meetings
- Additional files added as they are ready with all files posted by February 10
  - Additional emails sent as new files are uploaded
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  - Focus comments on substantive issues
  - We appreciate pointing out number inconsistencies
  - Don't bother to comment on edits and format
- All comments due by February 28

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## Format for Comments

- Please provide comments in comment bubbles
- Prefer no track change edits but recommended text changes can be added in bubbles
- Prefer comments all on SharePoint so everyone can see each others comments
- If you copy/download a file for your internal agency review, please upload back onto SharePoint with your agency name on the end
  - 01\_ExecutiveSummary\_Sites
- Each person accessing SharePoint needs “individual” access

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## Where To Go With Questions

- File access issues/challenges
  - Laurie Warner Herson at [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)
- CEQA Responsible Agencies
  - Ali Forsythe at [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)
  - Laurie Warner Herson
- Reclamation staff and NEPA Cooperating Agencies
  - David Brick at [dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)
  - Allison Jacobson at [ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)

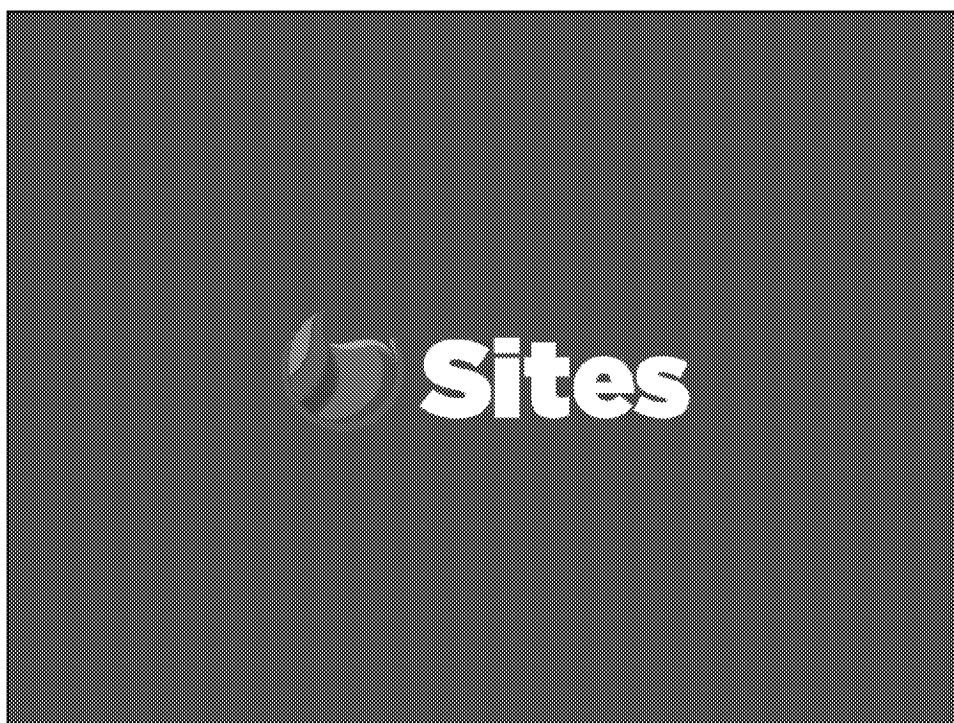
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# Sites Reservoir Project Administrative Final EIR/EIS

January 2023



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# Agenda

- Purpose of Meeting
  - Provide overview of the Administrative Final EIR/EIS and the review process and schedule
- Approach to the Final EIR/EIS:
  - Final EIR/EIS Development
  - Content and Format
  - Approach to Responses to Comments
- Project Refinements:
  - Preferred Alternative
  - Comparison of RDEIR/SDEIS and Final EIR/EIS Operational Criteria
  - Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1
  - Updated Modeling
  - Facility Refinements
- Review Process and Schedule

Speaker: Ali



# Approach to Final EIR/EIS



# Final EIR/EIS Development

- RDEIR/SDEIS released November 12, 2021
- Close of public review January 28, 2022
  - 101 comment letters
  - Some comments submitted in form letters and in a petition
  - Approximately 1,000 individual comments
- Efforts since RDEIR/SDEIS:
  - Identification of refinements to the Project, both facilities and operations
  - Revisions to diversion criteria and associated modeling
  - Developed master and individual responses to comments
  - Revisions to EIR/EIS text based on comment/responses and/or based on project modifications (e.g., facility changes, operation modifications)

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Speaker: Laurie/ICF?

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# Final EIR/EIS Format

- Volume 1 – Chapters
  - Include all chapters from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
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Speaker: Laurie/ICF?

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Speaker: Laurie/ICF?

Potential Speaking Notes in case people are interested in Master Responses

Master responses will ultimately be informed by comments in comment response tables and revised hydrologic modeling results

Preliminary Master Responses Currently Include:

Responses to General Comments: May have separate public outreach and Tribal engagement, coordination, consultation master response

Alternatives Description and Baseline

Hydrology & Hydrologic Modeling

Water Quality

Aquatic Biological Resources

Trinity River

Alternatives Screening and Selection

Other Analyses and/or Other Modeling (e.g., climate change)

# Master Response Topics

- MR1, CEQA and NEPA Process, Regulatory Requirements, and General Comments
- MR2, Alternatives Description and Baseline
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- MR5, Aquatic Biological Resources
- MR6, Vegetation, Wetland, and Wildlife Resources
- MR7, Tribal Coordination, Consultation, and Engagement
- MR8, Trinity River
- MR9, Alternatives Development

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## Key Differences

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Speaker: Ali

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# Revised Diversion Criteria

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# Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	ROBR/SDBIS with Mitigation Included	Final ER/EIS
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# Review Process and Schedule



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Speaker: Ali

# Where To Go With Questions

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- CEQA Responsible Agencies
  - Ali Forsythe at [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)
  - Laurie Warner Herson
- Reclamation staff and NEPA Cooperating Agencies
  - David Brick at [dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)
  - Allison Jacobson at [ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)

Speaker: Ali

Questions?





## 60TAF Operational Dead Pool

- RDEIR/SDEIS assumed operational dead pool at 120TAF
- Revised operational dead pool of 60TAF results in:
  - occasional periods of lower storage and increased evapoconcentration of metals
  - Negligible change in temperature of receiving waters and release of metals to receiving waters
  - When near or at operational dead pool, releases, if needed, into Stone Corral and Funks Creeks:
    - Could have higher concentrations cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins (HABs) than with the 120 TAF dead pool
    - Could have higher metal concentrations than with the 120 TAF dead pool
  - Effects addressed in MR4, Water Quality

Speaker: John, 60 TAF = 323 ft ASL

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## Key Topics in Comments

- Comments address:
  - Trinity River impacts
  - Water rights
  - Level of Tribal consultation
  - Need to disclose operations plan
  - Fisheries impacts
  - Flood impacts
  - Faults and earthquake scenarios
  - Groundwater, seepage
  - Feasibility and project costs
  - Need to better define ecosystem benefits
  - Service needs due to changes to the town of Maxwell

Speaker: Laurie



# Public Agency Comments

- Tribal:
  - United Auburn Indian Council
  - Winnemem Wintu Tribe (with NGO group)
  - Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
- Federal:
  - National Marine Fisheries Service
  - US Environmental Protection Agency
- State:
  - California Department of Fish and Wildlife
  - CA Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment
  - Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
  - State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights Division
- Regional:
  - Contra Costa Water District
  - East Bay Municipal Utility District
  - Local Agencies of the North Delta
- Local:
  - Colusa County Board of Supervisors
  - Maxwell Fire Protection District
  - Maxwell Public Utility District
  - Maxwell Unified School District
- Water NGOs:
  - State Water Contractors
  - Northern California Water Association

Speaker: Laurie

## Non-Governmental Organizations Comments

- AquAlliance
- Bay Institute
- California Indian Environmental Alliance
- California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
- CalWild
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Friends of the River
- Golden State Salmon Association
- Golden West Women Flyfishers
- Institute for Fisheries Resources
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Northern California Council Fly Fishers International
- North Coast Rivers Alliance
- Planning and Conservation League
- Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
- Restore the Delta
- San Francisco Baykeeper
- Save California Salmon
- Sierra Club California

Speaker: Laurie

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**From:** Jacobson, Allison M [ajacobson@usbr.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/1/2023 5:19:39 PM  
**To:** Hunt, Shane D [shunt@usbr.gov]; Thielen, Kevin D [kthielen@usbr.gov]; Mitchell, Allison B [allison.mitchell@sol.doi.gov]; Nelson, Kirk E [KENelson@usbr.gov]; Carper, Mark A [mcarper@usbr.gov]; Buttermore, Elissa N [ebuttermore@usbr.gov]; Taylor, Natalie L [ntaylor@usbr.gov]; Harrison, John (Wes) [JHarrison@usbr.gov]; Sanchez, Richard E [rsanchez@usbr.gov]; Clancy, Kevin M [KClancy@usbr.gov]; Lawson, Michael A [mlawson@usbr.gov]; Windler, Grace K [gwindler@usbr.gov]; Lopez, Brian R [blopez@usbr.gov]; Sumer, Derya [dsumer@usbr.gov]; Koizumi, Cameron A [ckoizumi@usbr.gov]; Johnson, Levi E [lejohnson@usbr.gov]; Garcia, Donna [dgc Garcia@usbr.gov]; Sturm, Joel F [Jsturm@usbr.gov]; Mongano, Gregory S [GMongano@usbr.gov]; Stevens, Nina C [ncstevens@usbr.gov]; Sahlberg, Ray B [RSahlberg@usbr.gov]; Holm, Lisa M [lholm@usbr.gov]; Hadley, Elizabeth W [ehadley@usbr.gov]; Barnum, Emelia H [ebarnum@usbr.gov]; Walden, Spencer D [swalden@usbr.gov]; Casillas, Heather M [hcasillas@usbr.gov]; Davis, Leisa N [Indavis@usbr.gov]; Emerson, Rain L [remerson@usbr.gov]; Barbara, Vincent F [vbarbara@usbr.gov]  
**CC:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]; Brick, David A [dbrick@usbr.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Admin Final EIS/EIR Review Briefing  
**Attachments:** 202301\_Admin Final EIR\_EIS Review Prep\_Final\_V3.pdf

Hi All,

I'm providing a slightly revised version of the briefing slides. There were additional chapters with changes, and slide 9 was updated to reflect the updated list.

Thank you,

**Allison Jacobson**

Project Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation, Interior Region 10 · California-Great Basin  
Willows Construction Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825  
Office: 916-978-5075  
Work Cell: 916-200-6353

---

**From:** Jacobson, Allison M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 9:36 AM  
**To:** Hunt, Shane D <shunt@usbr.gov>; Thielen, Kevin D <kthielen@usbr.gov>; Mitchell, Allison B <allison.mitchell@sol.doi.gov>; Nelson, Kirk E <KENelson@usbr.gov>; Carper, Mark A <mcarper@usbr.gov>; Buttermore, Elissa N <ebuttermore@usbr.gov>; Taylor, Natalie L <ntaylor@usbr.gov>; Harrison, John (Wes) <JHarrison@usbr.gov>; Sanchez, Richard E <rsanchez@usbr.gov>; Clancy, Kevin M <KClancy@usbr.gov>; Lawson, Michael A <mlawson@usbr.gov>; Windler, Grace K <gwindler@usbr.gov>; Lopez, Brian R <blopez@usbr.gov>; Sumer, Derya <dsumer@usbr.gov>; Koizumi, Cameron A <ckoizumi@usbr.gov>; Johnson, Levi E <lejohnson@usbr.gov>; Garcia, Donna <dgc Garcia@usbr.gov>; Sturm, Joel F <Jsturm@usbr.gov>; Mongano, Gregory S <GMongano@usbr.gov>; Stevens, Nina C <ncstevens@usbr.gov>; Sahlberg, Ray B <RSahlberg@usbr.gov>; Holm, Lisa M <lholm@usbr.gov>; Hadley, Elizabeth W <ehadley@usbr.gov>; Barnum, Emelia H <ebarnum@usbr.gov>; Walden, Spencer D <swalden@usbr.gov>; Casillas, Heather M <hcasillas@usbr.gov>; Davis, Leisa N <Indavis@usbr.gov>; Emerson, Rain L <remerson@usbr.gov>; Barbara, Vincent F <vbarbara@usbr.gov>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>; Brick,

David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Admin Final EIS/EIR Review Briefing

Good Morning!

ICF has delivered initial chapters and appendices of the Sites administrative Final EIR/EIS. They have been copied to folder at the following location on the Sites Project State and Federal Agencies SharePoint site for your review:  
<https://sitesreservoirproject.sharepoint.com/sites/SitesProjectStateandFederalAgencies>.

There is a revised index of the chapters and appendices with the files on SharePoint. The preliminary list provided last week has changed and will be updated as we receive additional chapters and appendices. The files uploaded today include:

#### Chapters

2. Project Description and Alternatives
3. Environmental Analysis
4. Regulatory and Environmental Compliance
5. Surface Water Resources
9. Vegetation and Wetland Resources
10. Wildlife Resources
12. Geology and Soil
14. Land Use
15. Agriculture and Forestry Resources
16. Recreation Resources
17. Energy
18. Navigation, Transportation, and Traffic
20. Air Quality
23. Tribal Cultural Resources
26. Public Services and Utilities
27. Public Health and Environmental Health
34. Final EIR/EIS Document Distribution

#### Appendices

- 2D, Environmental Commitments and BMPs
- 2D1, Assessment of Mystery Snail Technical Memorandum (NEW)
- 6A, California State Water Resources Control Board Constituents of Concern
- 7A, Fluvial Geomorphic Setting Information
- 7B, Hydrodynamic Geomorphic Modeling Results
8. Groundwater Resources
- 8A, Groundwater Resources Basin Setting

All documents were uploaded in a protected state, allowing comment bubbles but not changes to the document text. ICF is still doing editing in parallel so no changes should be made to the documents to avoid version control issues.

ICF provided the following instruction for reviewers:

- Please provide comments in comment bubbles where the change is needed.
- Please be specific and detailed in every comment bubble and avoid referencing another comment bubble (i.e.: "See previous comment") as all comments are compiled and individual reviewer names may not be retained.
- If referencing a previous comment made on a document in Volume 3, please add the comment to the Volume 3 document and reference the associated Comment Report number (i.e.: "Table 5, Comment 1.")
- Focus on substantial issues not editorial changes.
- Changes to the project description are described in detail in Chapter 2 and updated throughout the EIR/EIS chapters.

Everyone on this email should have access to the files. Please reach out to me if you are having trouble accessing the files. If there are any other questions that come up during the review, feel free to reach out to myself or anyone copied on this email. **Comments are due 2/28.**

Thank you,

**Allison Jacobson**

Project Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation, Interior Region 10 · California-Great Basin  
Willows Construction Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825  
Office: 916-978-5075  
Work Cell: 916-200-6353

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**From:** Jacobson, Allison M

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 11:57 AM

**To:** Hunt, Shane D <[shunt@usbr.gov](mailto:shunt@usbr.gov)>; Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>; Thielen, Kevin D <[kthielen@usbr.gov](mailto:kthielen@usbr.gov)>; Mitchell, Allison B <[allison.mitchell@sol.doi.gov](mailto:allison.mitchell@sol.doi.gov)>; Nelson, Kirk E <[KENelson@usbr.gov](mailto:KENelson@usbr.gov)>; Carper, Mark A <[mcarper@usbr.gov](mailto:mcarper@usbr.gov)>; Buttermore, Elissa N <[ebuttermore@usbr.gov](mailto:ebuttermore@usbr.gov)>; Taylor, Natalie L <[ntaylor@usbr.gov](mailto:ntaylor@usbr.gov)>; Harrison, John (Wes) <[JHarrison@usbr.gov](mailto:JHarrison@usbr.gov)>; Sanchez, Richard E <[rsanchez@usbr.gov](mailto:rsanchez@usbr.gov)>; Clancy, Kevin M <[KClancy@usbr.gov](mailto:KClancy@usbr.gov)>; Lawson, Michael A <[mlawson@usbr.gov](mailto:mlawson@usbr.gov)>; Windler, Grace K <[gwindler@usbr.gov](mailto:gwindler@usbr.gov)>; Lopez, Brian R <[blopez@usbr.gov](mailto:blopez@usbr.gov)>; Sumer, Derya <[dsumer@usbr.gov](mailto:dsumer@usbr.gov)>; Koizumi, Cameron A <[cckoizumi@usbr.gov](mailto:cckoizumi@usbr.gov)>; Johnson, Levi E <[lejohnson@usbr.gov](mailto:lejohnson@usbr.gov)>; Garcia, Donna <[dcgarcia@usbr.gov](mailto:dcgarcia@usbr.gov)>; Sturm, Joel F <[jsturm@usbr.gov](mailto:jsturm@usbr.gov)>; Mongano, Gregory S <[GMongano@usbr.gov](mailto:GMongano@usbr.gov)>; Stevens, Nina C <[ncstevens@usbr.gov](mailto:ncstevens@usbr.gov)>; Sahlberg, Ray B <[RSahlberg@usbr.gov](mailto:RSahlberg@usbr.gov)>; Holm, Lisa M <[lhholm@usbr.gov](mailto:lhholm@usbr.gov)>; Hadley, Elizabeth W <[ehadley@usbr.gov](mailto:ehadley@usbr.gov)>; Barnum, Emelia H <[ebarnum@usbr.gov](mailto:ebarnum@usbr.gov)>; Walden, Spencer D <[swalden@usbr.gov](mailto:swalden@usbr.gov)>; Casillas, Heather M <[hcasillas@usbr.gov](mailto:hcasillas@usbr.gov)>; Davis, Leisa N <[Indavis@usbr.gov](mailto:Indavis@usbr.gov)>  
**Cc:** Barbara, Vincent F <[vbarbara@usbr.gov](mailto:vbarbara@usbr.gov)>; Emerson, Rain L <[remerson@usbr.gov](mailto:remerson@usbr.gov)>; Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Admin Final EIS/EIR Review Briefing

Hi All,

Here are the slides from yesterday's briefing on the Sites Admin Final EIS/EIR. Let me know if you don't see a link to the files by the end of the day tomorrow.

Thank you,

**Allison Jacobson**

Project Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation, Interior Region 10 · California-Great Basin  
Willows Construction Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825  
Office: 916-978-5075  
Work Cell: 916-200-6353

---

**From:** Jacobson, Allison M

**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 3:46 PM

**To:** Hunt, Shane D <[shunt@usbr.gov](mailto:shunt@usbr.gov)>; Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>; Thielen, Kevin D <[kthielen@usbr.gov](mailto:kthielen@usbr.gov)>; Mitchell, Allison B <[allison.mitchell@sol.doi.gov](mailto:allison.mitchell@sol.doi.gov)>; Nelson, Kirk E <[KENelson@usbr.gov](mailto:KENelson@usbr.gov)>; Carper, Mark A <[mcarper@usbr.gov](mailto:mcarper@usbr.gov)>; Buttermore, Elissa N <[ebuttermore@usbr.gov](mailto:ebuttermore@usbr.gov)>; Taylor, Natalie L <[ntaylor@usbr.gov](mailto:ntaylor@usbr.gov)>; Harrison, John (Wes) <[JHarrison@usbr.gov](mailto:JHarrison@usbr.gov)>; Sanchez, Richard E <[rsanchez@usbr.gov](mailto:rsanchez@usbr.gov)>; Clancy, Kevin M <[KClancy@usbr.gov](mailto:KClancy@usbr.gov)>; Lawson, Michael A <[mlawson@usbr.gov](mailto:mlawson@usbr.gov)>; Windler, Grace K <[gwindler@usbr.gov](mailto:gwindler@usbr.gov)>; Lopez, Brian R <[blopez@usbr.gov](mailto:blopez@usbr.gov)>; Sumer, Derya <[dsumer@usbr.gov](mailto:dsumer@usbr.gov)>; Koizumi, Cameron A <[ckoizumi@usbr.gov](mailto:ckoizumi@usbr.gov)>; Johnson, Levi E <[lejohnson@usbr.gov](mailto:lejohnson@usbr.gov)>; Garcia, Donna <[dcgarcia@usbr.gov](mailto:dcgarcia@usbr.gov)>; Sturm, Joel F <[jsturm@usbr.gov](mailto:jsturm@usbr.gov)>; Mongano, Gregory S <[GMongano@usbr.gov](mailto:GMongano@usbr.gov)>; Stevens, Nina C <[ncstevens@usbr.gov](mailto:ncstevens@usbr.gov)>; Sahlberg, Ray B <[RSahlberg@usbr.gov](mailto:RSahlberg@usbr.gov)>; Holm, Lisa M <[lholm@usbr.gov](mailto:lholm@usbr.gov)>; Hadley, Elizabeth W <[ehadley@usbr.gov](mailto:ehadley@usbr.gov)>; Barnum, Emelia H <[ebarnum@usbr.gov](mailto:ebarnum@usbr.gov)>; Walden, Spencer D <[swalden@usbr.gov](mailto:swalden@usbr.gov)>; Casillas, Heather M <[hcasillas@usbr.gov](mailto:hcasillas@usbr.gov)>; Davis, Leisa N <[Indavis@usbr.gov](mailto:Indavis@usbr.gov)>  
**Cc:** Barbara, Vincent F <[ybarbara@usbr.gov](mailto:ybarbara@usbr.gov)>; Emerson, Rain L <[remerson@usbr.gov](mailto:remerson@usbr.gov)>; Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>  
**Subject:** Sites Admin Final EIS/EIR Review Briefing

Hi All,

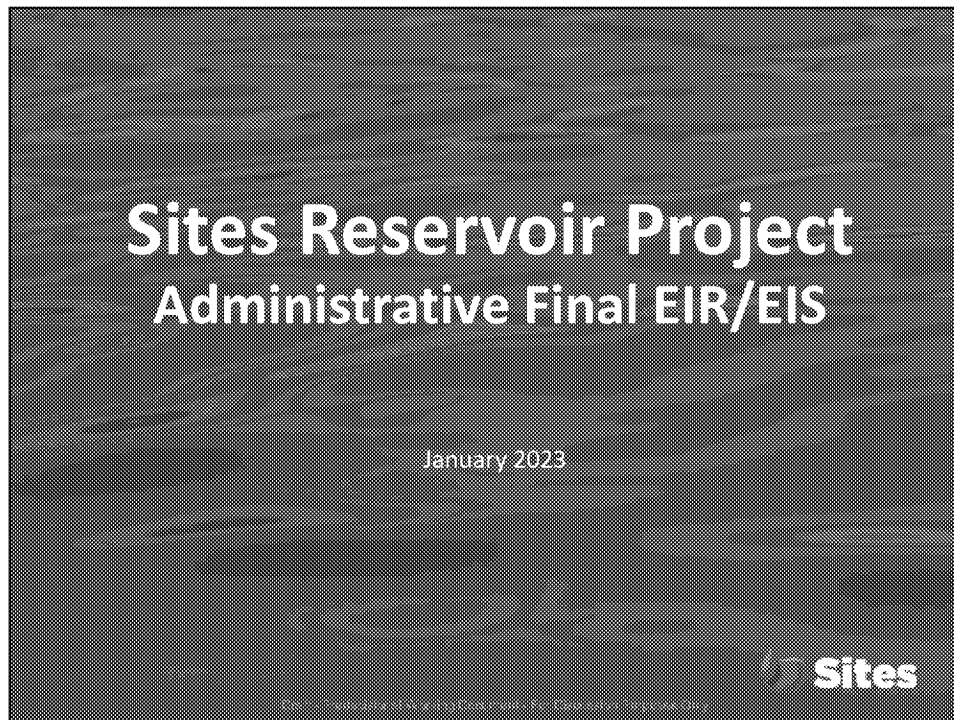
Thank you for attending the briefing on the Sites Admin Final EIS/EIR. If you missed the briefing, had to step away, or would like to hear the presentation again, there is another meeting scheduled for 2/1 at 3 PM.

Let me know if you'd like me to add you to the 2/1 briefing.

Thank you,

**Allison Jacobson**

Project Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation, Interior Region 10 · California-Great Basin  
Willows Construction Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825  
Office: 916-978-5075  
Work Cell: 916-200-6353



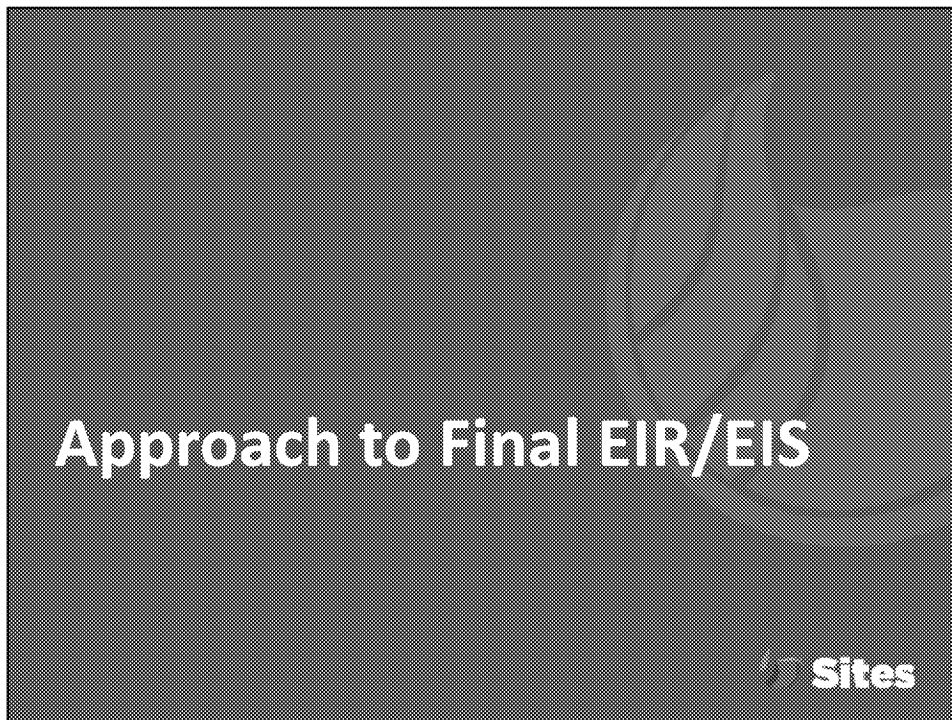
1

## Agenda

- Purpose of Meeting
  - Provide overview of the Administrative Final EIR/EIS and the review process and schedule
- Approach to the Final EIR/EIS:
  - Final EIR/EIS Development
  - Content and Format
  - Approach to Responses to Comments
- Project Refinements:
  - Preferred Alternative
  - Comparison of RDEIR/SDEIS and Final EIR/EIS Operational Criteria
  - Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1
  - Updated Modeling
  - Facility Refinements
- Review Process and Schedule

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## Final EIR/EIS Development

- RDEIR/SDEIS released November 12, 2021
- Close of public review January 28, 2022
  - 101 comment letters
  - Some comments submitted in form letters and in a petition
  - Approximately 1,000 individual comments
- Efforts since RDEIR/SDEIS:
  - Identification of refinements to the Project, both facilities and operations
  - Revisions to diversion criteria and associated modeling
  - Developed master and individual responses to comments
  - Revisions to EIR/EIS text based on comment/responses and/or based on project modifications (e.g., facility changes, operation modifications)

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## Final EIR/EIS Format

- Volume 1 – Chapters
  - Include all chapters from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Volume 2 – Appendices
  - Include all appendices from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Chapters and appendices without changes are not included
- Changes shown as
  - Admin Final – Changes shown in track changes
  - Final EIR/EIS – Changes shown as margin line only

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## Final EIR/EIS Format (continued)

- Volume 3 – Response to Comments
  - Chapter 1 – Introduction and Approach
  - Chapter 2 – Commenter Indices and Form Letter Introduction
  - Chapter 3 – Master Responses Introduction and Master Responses
  - Chapter 4 – Responses to Comments Tables
  - Appendix – Response to 2017 Comments required by NEPA

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## General Approach To Responding to Comments

- Master Responses
  - Identified common themes and comments in order to draft Master Responses
- Individual Responses
  - Prepared responses to all individual comments
  - Currently organized by topics in comment response tables
  - Individual comments and responses will be reorganized by **letter** prior to publication of the Final EIR/EIS

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## Master Response Topics

- MR1, CEQA and NEPA Process, Regulatory Requirements, and General Comments
- MR2, Alternatives Description and Baseline
- MR3, Hydrology and Hydrologic Modeling
- MR4, Water Quality
- MR5, Aquatic Biological Resources
- MR6, Vegetation, Wetland, and Wildlife Resources
- MR7, Tribal Coordination, Consultation, and Engagement
- MR8, Trinity River
- MR9, Alternatives Development

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## Chapters/Appendices with No Changes – Revised on 2/1/2023

- Chapters
  - 13, Minerals
  - 19, Noise
  - 22, Cultural Resources
  - 24, Visual Resources
  - 25, Population and Housing
- Appendix 2A, 2C, 8B, 9A, 9B, 10B, 12A, 12B, 19A, 20A, 20C, 20D, 22A, 24A, 24B, 27A, 33A, 33B, 33C

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## Project Refinements

 Sites

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## Key Differences

- Changes between RDEIR/SDEIS and Final EIR/EIS:
  - Preferred Alternative is now Alternative 3
  - Revisions to diversion criteria
  - Incorporation of Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 into Project
  - Revised modeling
  - Minor changes in facilities due to design refinements
  - Corrections or clarifications needed in response to comments
- No new or substantial greater impacts identified that would require recirculation

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## Changed to Alt 3 as Preferred Alternative

Facilities / Operations	Alternative 1 – Authority's Preferred Project in RDEIR/SDEIS	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 – Preferred Alt in the Final EIR/EIS
Reservoir Size	1.5 MAF	1.3 MAF	1.5 MAF
Hydropower	Incidental upon release	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Diversion Locations	Red Bluff Pumping Plant and Hamilton City	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Conveyance Release / Dunnigan Release	1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain	1,000 cfs into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Sacramento River. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain	Same as Alt 1
Reclamation Involvement	1. Funding Partner, up to 7% 2. Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Same as Alt 1, but up to 25% investment
DWR Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge across reservoir	Paved road around southern end of reservoir	Same as Alt 1

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## Revised Diversion Criteria

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
<b>Bend Bridge Pulse Protection</b>	Protection of all qualified precipitation-generated pulse events (i.e., peaks in river flow rather than scheduled operational events) from October to May based on the detection of fish presence and migration during the beginning of the flow event. For each event where fish presence and migration are detected, diversions from the Sacramento River would cease for 7 days.	Similar except the following: (1) a qualified precipitation-generated pulse event is determined based on forecasted flows, (2) hourly gage monitoring at Bend Bridge gage detects the predicted flow of 8,000 cfs, and migrating anadromous fish are detected at RBDD, and (3) pulse protection may cease earlier than 7 days if flows at Bend Bridge exceed 25,320 cfs and Project diversions subtracted from Bend Bridge flows continue to be at least 25,000 cfs.
<b>Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at the RBPP</b>	3,250 cfs minimum bypass flow at all times; rate of diversion controlled by fish screen design.	No change
<b>Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at the Hamilton City Pump Station</b>	4,000 cfs minimum bypass flow at all times; rate of diversion controlled by fish screen design.	No change

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## Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
<b>Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough</b>	Chapter 21 in addition to the minimum bypass flows in the Sacramento River at RBPP and the Hamilton City Pump Station, a minimum bypass flow of 5,000 cfs in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough would be in place in April and May and 5,000 cfs during the rest of the year.  Mitigation Measure EIR-2.1: 10,700 cfs in March through May; 5,000 cfs all other times.	10,700 cfs October 1 through June 14; 5,000 cfs September (not diverting from June 15 to end of August)
<b>Fremont Weir Notch Protections</b>	No more than 1% reduction in flow over weir when spill over the weir is less than 600 cfs. No more than a 10% reduction in flow over weir when spills over the weir are between 600 cfs and 5,000 cfs. No restriction when flows over the weir are greater than 6,000 cfs.	No longer included. Revised minimum bypass flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough and Bend Bridge pulse protection provide protections for Fremont Weir Notch.

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## Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Sacramento River Fully Appropriated Stream	Diversion allowed only when the Sacramento River is not fully appropriated (September 1 through June 14)	No change
Excess conditions, as determined by DWR and Reclamation and defined in 2018 COA Addendum	Delta must be in excess for Sites Reservoir diversions	No change
Freeport, Net Delta Outflow Index, X2, and Delta Water Quality	Operations consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, biological opinions and incidental take permits, and court orders in place at the time that diversion occurs	No change

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## Incorporation of Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 into Project

- RDEIR/SDEIS
  - Included Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1 to reduce potential life stage effects on salmonids by increasing the bypass flow requirement at Wilkins Slough
    - Minimum bypass flow requirement of 10,700 cfs at Wilkins Slough in March-May
- Final EIR/EIS
  - Project description now incorporates the requirements of Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1, which have been refined and made more restrictive (the revised diversion criteria on the previous slide)
  - The bypass flow requirement at Wilkins Slough has been developed as an integral component of how the Project is proposed to operate in terms of its water diversion criteria
  - The modeling performed for the Final EIR/EIS includes the revised diversion criteria
  - This eliminates the need for Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1 in the Final EIR/EIS

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## Revised Modeling

- Adjustments made in the CALSIM II modeling between the RDEIR/SDEIS and the Final EIR/EIS to better represent the most up-to-date modeling procedures and actual operations, including:
  - Shasta Lake Operations – expanded exchanges to include more opportunities for fall flow stability and spring pulse enhancement
  - Deadpool Volume – reduced from generally 120 TAF to 60 TAF
  - Delta Salinity Accounting – slightly refined based on revisions to Calsim II coding
  - Period of Diversion to Sites Storage – revised to only include Sept 1 to June 14 to match water right application
  - South of Delta Water Delivery – revised to allow in any year that capacity is available (previously limited to below normal, dry and critically dry years)
  - Updates to Diversion Criteria – revised diversion criteria incorporated

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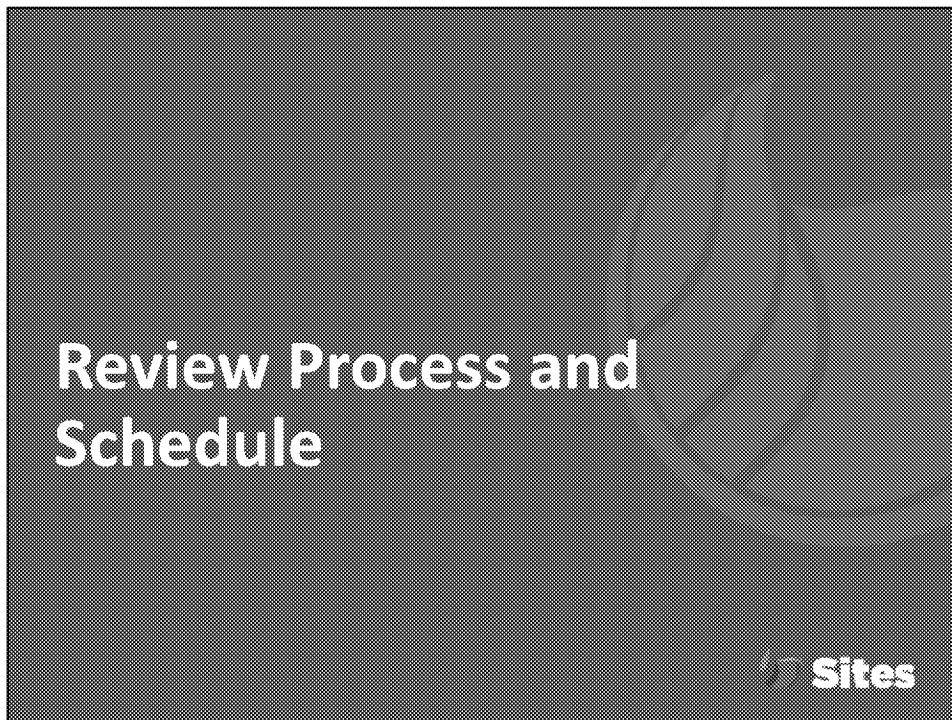
## Facility Refinements

- The RDEIR/SDEIS noted that:
  - “Preliminary design for facilities described herein will continue to be refined and modifications may occur as needed as the Project proceeds to final design and as part of the ongoing value engineering process undertaken by the Authority.”
- Admin Final EIR/EIS includes:
  - Sloped rather than vertical Inlet/Outlet (I/O) Tower
  - Single 32' diameter I/O tunnel replaces two 23' tunnels
  - Removal of two emergency release structures, eliminating emergency drawdown releases to Hunters Creek

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## Review Process and Schedule

- Starting February 1 files will be available for online review
  - Email will be sent with link to everyone invited to these meetings
- Additional files added as they are ready with all files posted by February 10
  - Additional emails sent as new files are uploaded
- Final editing and formatting not finished – its good but still working on great!
  - Focus comments on substantive issues
  - We appreciate pointing out number inconsistencies
  - Don't bother to comment on edits and format
- All comments due by February 28

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## Format for Comments

- Please provide comments in comment bubbles
- Prefer no track change edits but recommended text changes can be added in bubbles
- Prefer comments all on SharePoint so everyone can see each others comments
- If you copy/download a file for your internal agency review, please upload back onto SharePoint with your agency name on the end
  - 01\_ExecutiveSummary\_Sites
- Each person accessing SharePoint needs “individual” access

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## Where To Go With Questions

- File access issues/challenges
  - Laurie Warner Herson at [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)
- CEQA Responsible Agencies
  - Ali Forsythe at [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)
  - Laurie Warner Herson
- Reclamation staff and NEPA Cooperating Agencies
  - David Brick at [dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)
  - Allison Jacobson at [ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)

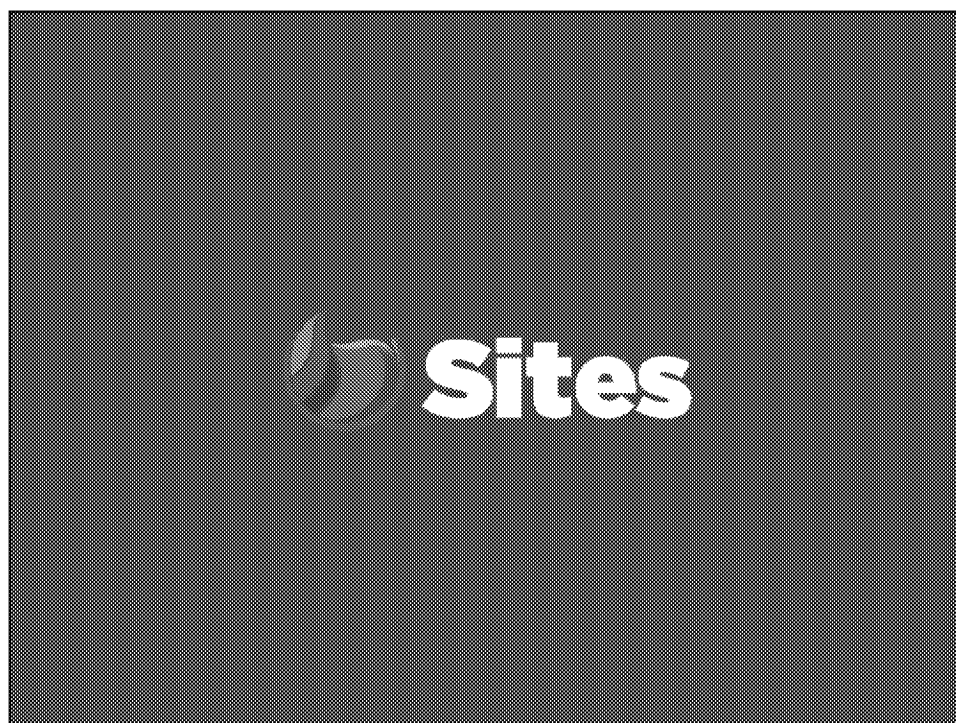
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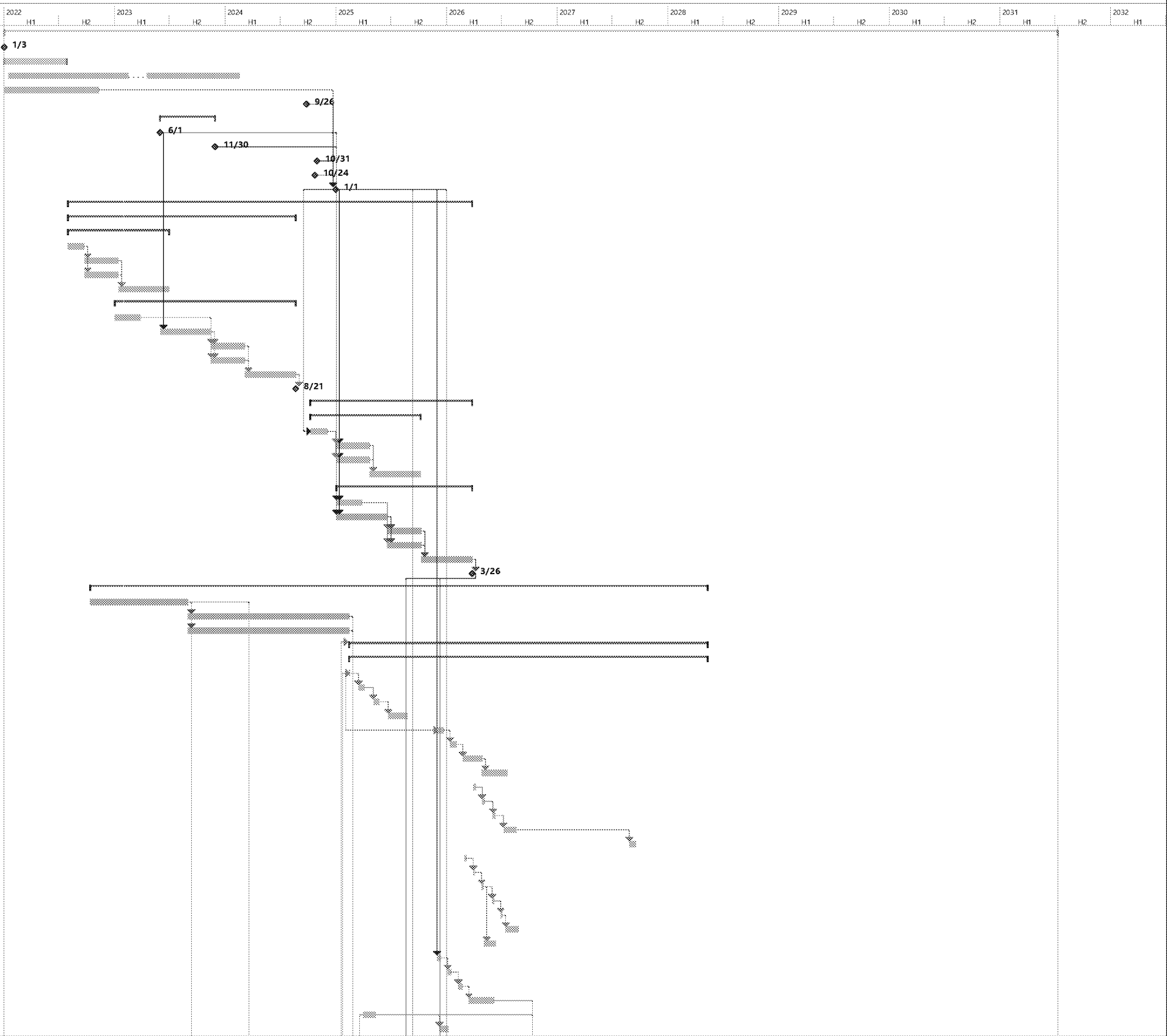
# Sites Reservoir Project

## Work Plan Progress Reporting

#	Activity Name	Start	Finish	2023												2024												2025								
				Dec	Jan	Feb	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	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
1	<b>What do we get?</b>																																			
2	Final Operating Agreement - Sites/DWR/Reclamation	19-Apr-22 A	26-May-23	Final Operating Agreement - Sites/DWR/Reclamation																																
3	Submit Water Right Permit Application		11-May-22 A	lication																																
4	Develop Participant Specific Model	10-Apr-23	21-Feb-24	Develop Participant Specific Model																																
5	Final EIR / EIS - Complete		05-May-23	◆ Final EIR / EIS - Complete																																
6	CWA 404 / 401 - Submit Final Permit Applications		31-May-23	◆ CWA 404 / 401 - Submit Final Permit Applications																																
7	Receive CESA ITP - Operations		15-Sep-23	◆◆ Receive CESA ITP - Operations																																
8	Receive CESA ITP - Construction		15-Sep-23	◆◆ Receive CESA ITP - Construction																																
9	Operations Plan, Version 2	18-Sep-23	21-May-24	Operations Plan, Version 2																																
10	Federal ESA - Receive Biological Opinions		31-Oct-23	◆ Federal ESA - Receive Biological Opinions																																
11	Water Right Permit Issued		26-Sep-24	◆ Water Right Permit Issued																																
12	<b>What does it cost?</b>																																			
13	Geotech EA/IS	03-Jan-22 A	28-Jul-22 A																																	
14	Landowners Access Agreements for Geotech	22-Mar-22 A	30-May-24	Landowners Access Agreements for Geotech																																
15	Geotech Work Package #1	06-Sep-22 A	30-Dec-22 A																																	
16	Geotech Work Package #2	02-Jan-23 A	30-Jun-23	Geotech Work Package #2																																
17	Mitigation Cost Estimate Update	01-Mar-23	25-Apr-23	Mitigation Cost Estimate Update																																
18	Geotech Work Package #3	03-Jul-23	29-Dec-23	Geotech Work Package #3																																
19	Geotech Work Package #4	02-Jan-24	28-Jun-24	Geotech Work Package #4																																
20	Land Cost Established		27-Jun-24	◆ Land Cost Established																																
21	Project Unit Cost Update Complete		30-Jul-24	◆ Project Unit Cost Update Complete																																
22	<b>How do we pay?</b>																																			
23	Financing Check-In Q2-2022		01-Jul-22 A	2022																																
24	WIFIA Loan Application	05-Jul-22 A	28-Mar-23	WIFIA Loan Application																																
25	Financing Check-In Q3-2022		07-Oct-22 A	Financing Check-In Q3-2022																																
26	Financing Check-In Q4-2022		02-Feb-23	◆ Financing Check-In Q4-2022																																
27	Submittal of Final WIFIA Application		29-Mar-23	◆ Submittal of Final WIFIA Application																																
28	WIFIA Loan Negotiation	30-Mar-23	25-Mar-24	WIFIA Loan Negotiation																																
29	Financing Check-In Q1-2023		03-Apr-23	◆ Financing Check-In Q1-2023																																
30	Participants Ready for Finance		03-Jul-23	◆ Participants Ready for Finance																																
31	<b>Investor Commitment</b>																																			
32	Investor Commitment		24-Oct-24	◆ Investor Commitment																																
33	<b>Construction</b>																																			
34	Construction Groundbreaking	10-Feb-25		★ Construction Groundbreaking																																

Sites Reservoir  
Preliminary Construction Schedule  
Maxwell - Sites Pumping and Generating (MSPG) Facilities  
January 2023

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors
0	<b>Maxwell Sites Pumping and Generating Facilities CP2</b>	<b>2484 days?</b>	<b>Mon 1/3/22</b>	<b>Thu 7/10/31</b>	
1	Start Task Order 3 - Preliminary Engineering	0 days	Mon 1/3/22	Mon 1/3/22	
2	Determine Construction Packaging & Delivery Methods	149 days	Mon 1/3/22	Thu 7/28/22	
3	Real Estate Team Gain Access for Surveying & Geotech Investigation	500 days	Mon 1/17/22	Fri 2/16/24	
4	Topographic Survey and Mapping	225 days	Mon 1/3/22	Fri 11/11/22	
5	Water Rights Permit Issued	0 days	Thu 9/26/24	Thu 9/26/24	
6	<b>Final EIR / EIS</b>	<b>130 days</b>	<b>Thu 6/1/23</b>	<b>Thu 11/30/23</b>	
7	Final EIR CEQA Adoption	0 days	Thu 6/1/23	Thu 6/1/23	
8	Final EIS NEPA ROD	0 days	Thu 11/30/23	Thu 11/30/23	
9	WIFEA EPA Loan Closed	0 days	Thu 10/31/24	Thu 10/31/24	
10	Investor Commitment	0 days	Thu 10/24/24	Thu 10/24/24	
11	NTP for 60% Design Activities	0 days	Wed 1/1/25	Wed 1/1/25	4,5,9,10,7
12	<b>Geotech Investigations MSPG Investigations</b>	<b>954 days</b>	<b>Mon 8/1/22</b>	<b>Thu 3/26/26</b>	
13	<b>Phase 1 Geotech investigation for Preliminary (30%) Design</b>	<b>538 days</b>	<b>Mon 8/1/22</b>	<b>Wed 8/21/24</b>	
14	<b>Federal Access (USBR)</b>	<b>240 days</b>	<b>Mon 8/1/22</b>	<b>Fri 6/30/23</b>	
15	Right of Entry, Negotiated	2 mons	Mon 8/1/22	Fri 9/23/22	
16	Environmental Survey, Report Prep & Clearance	4 mons	Mon 9/26/22	Fri 1/13/23	15
17	Cultural Survey Report Prep and Clearance	4 mons	Mon 9/26/22	Fri 1/13/23	15
18	Geotechnical Field Investigation and Report	6 mons	Mon 1/16/23	Fri 6/30/23	16,17
19	<b>Private Access</b>	<b>427 days</b>	<b>Tue 1/3/23</b>	<b>Wed 8/21/24</b>	
20	Right of Entry Negotiated	3 mons	Tue 1/3/23	Mon 3/27/23	
21	Right of Entry Court Ordered	6 mons	Thu 6/1/23	Wed 11/15/23	
22	Environmental Survey, Report Prep & Clearance	4 mons	Thu 11/16/23	Wed 3/6/24	20,21
23	Cultural Survey Report Prep and Clearance	4 mons	Thu 11/16/23	Wed 3/6/24	20,21
24	Geotechnical Field Investigation and Report	6 mons	Thu 3/7/24	Wed 8/21/24	22,23
25	P1 Geotechnical Investigation Complete	0 days	Wed 8/21/24	Wed 8/21/24	24
26	<b>Phase 2 Geotech Investigation for All MSPG Design</b>	<b>382 days</b>	<b>Wed 10/9/24</b>	<b>Thu 3/26/26</b>	
27	<b>Federal Access (USBR)</b>	<b>260 days</b>	<b>Wed 10/9/24</b>	<b>Tue 10/7/25</b>	
28	Right of Entry, Negotiated	2 mons	Wed 10/9/24	Tue 12/3/24	11SS-60 days
29	Environmental Survey, Report Prep & Clearance	4 mons	Wed 1/1/25	Tue 4/22/25	28,11
30	Cultural Survey Report Prep and Clearance	4 mons	Wed 1/1/25	Tue 4/22/25	28,11
31	Geotechnical Field Investigation and Report	6 mons	Wed 4/23/25	Tue 10/7/25	29,30
32	<b>Private Access</b>	<b>320 days</b>	<b>Fri 1/3/25</b>	<b>Thu 3/26/26</b>	
33	Right of Entry Negotiated	3 mons	Fri 1/3/25	Thu 3/27/25	11,7,8
34	Right of Entry Court Ordered	6 mons	Fri 1/3/25	Thu 6/19/25	11,7
35	Environmental Survey, Report Prep & Clearance	4 mons	Fri 6/20/25	Thu 10/9/25	33,34
36	Cultural Survey Report Prep and Clearance	4 mons	Fri 6/20/25	Thu 10/9/25	33,34
37	Geotechnical Field Investigation and Report	6 mons	Fri 10/10/25	Thu 3/26/26	35,36
38	P2 Geotechnical Investigation Complete	0 days	Thu 3/26/26	Thu 3/26/26	37
39	<b>IO Tunnel and Tower Geotechnical Investigations</b>	<b>1455 days?</b>	<b>Fri 10/14/22</b>	<b>Thu 5/11/28</b>	
40	P1 Geotech Investigation (30% Cutoff)	230 days	Fri 10/14/22	Thu 8/31/23	
41	P2a Geotech Investigation (Dam Foundations & Grouting)(and I-O)	76 wks	Fri 9/1/23	Thu 2/13/25	40
42	P2a Geotech Investigation (Roads)	76 wks	Fri 9/1/23	Thu 2/13/25	40
43	<b>Permitting</b>	<b>845 days?</b>	<b>Fri 2/14/25</b>	<b>Thu 5/11/28</b>	<b>101SS</b>
44	<b>Baseline Surveys and Revised ESA Consultation</b>	<b>845 days?</b>	<b>Fri 2/14/25</b>	<b>Thu 5/11/28</b>	
45	Access Granted for Biological Surveys	1 day	Fri 2/14/25	Fri 2/14/25	101SS
46	Plant Survey 1	15 days	Mon 3/17/25	Fri 4/4/25	45FS+7 days
47	Plant Survey 2	15 days	Mon 5/5/25	Fri 5/23/25	46FS+20 days
48	Plant Survey 3 and Report	45 days	Mon 6/23/25	Fri 8/22/25	47FS+20 days
49	Land Cover Verification/Aquatic Delineation #1	15 days	Tue 12/2/25	Mon 12/22/25	45SS
50	Land Cover Verification/Aquatic Delineation #2	15 days	Tue 1/13/26	Mon 2/2/26	49FS+15 days
51	Land Cover Verification/Aquatic Delineation and Report	45 days	Tue 2/24/26	Mon 4/27/26	50FS+15 days
52	Revise Impact Acers and Work with Agendas	60 days	Tue 4/28/26	Mon 7/20/26	51
53	BUOW #1	5 days	Wed 4/1/26	Thu 4/7/26	
54	BUOW #2	5 days	Wed 4/29/26	Tue 5/5/26	53FS+15 days
55	BUOW #3	5 days	Wed 6/3/26	Tue 6/9/26	54FS+20 days
56	BUOW #4 and Report	30 days	Wed 7/8/26	Tue 8/18/26	55FS+20 days
57	BUOW Relocation	15 days	Fri 8/27/27	Thu 9/16/27	56
58	SWHA #1 and TCBB #1	5 days	Mon 3/2/26	Fri 3/6/26	
59	SWHA #2 and TCBB #2	5 days	Mon 3/30/26	Fri 4/3/26	58FS+15 days
60	SWHA #3 and TCBB #3	5 days	Mon 4/27/26	Fri 5/1/26	59FS+15 days
61	SWHA #4	5 days	Mon 6/1/26	Fri 6/5/26	60FS+20 days
62	SWHA #5	5 days	Mon 6/29/26	Fri 7/3/26	61FS+15 days
63	SWHA #6 and Report	30 days	Wed 7/15/26	Tue 8/25/26	62FS+7 days
64	TCBB Report	30 days	Mon 5/4/26	Fri 6/12/26	60
65	Vernal Pool Wet Season Survey 1	10 days	Mon 12/1/25	Fri 12/12/25	11
66	Vernal Pool Wet Season Survey 2	10 days	Mon 1/5/26	Fri 1/16/26	65FS+15 days
67	Vernal Pool Wet Season Survey 3	10 days	Mon 2/9/26	Fri 2/20/26	66FS+15 days
68	Vernal Pool Wet Season Survey 4 (more may be needed) and	160 days	Mon 3/16/26	Fri 6/5/26	67FS+15 days
69	VELB Survey and Report	30 days	Tue 4/1/25	Mon 5/12/25	
70	VELB Transplant	20 days	Tue 12/9/25	Mon 1/5/26	69FS+150 days



Project: Maxwell Sites Pumping	Task	Summary	Inactive Milestone	Duration-only	Start-only	External Milestone	Critical Split
Date: Thu 2/2/23	Split	Project Summary	Inactive Summary	Manual Summary Rollup	Finish-only	Deadline	Progress
	Milestone	Inactive Task	Manual Task	Manual Summary	External Tasks	Critical	Manual Progress

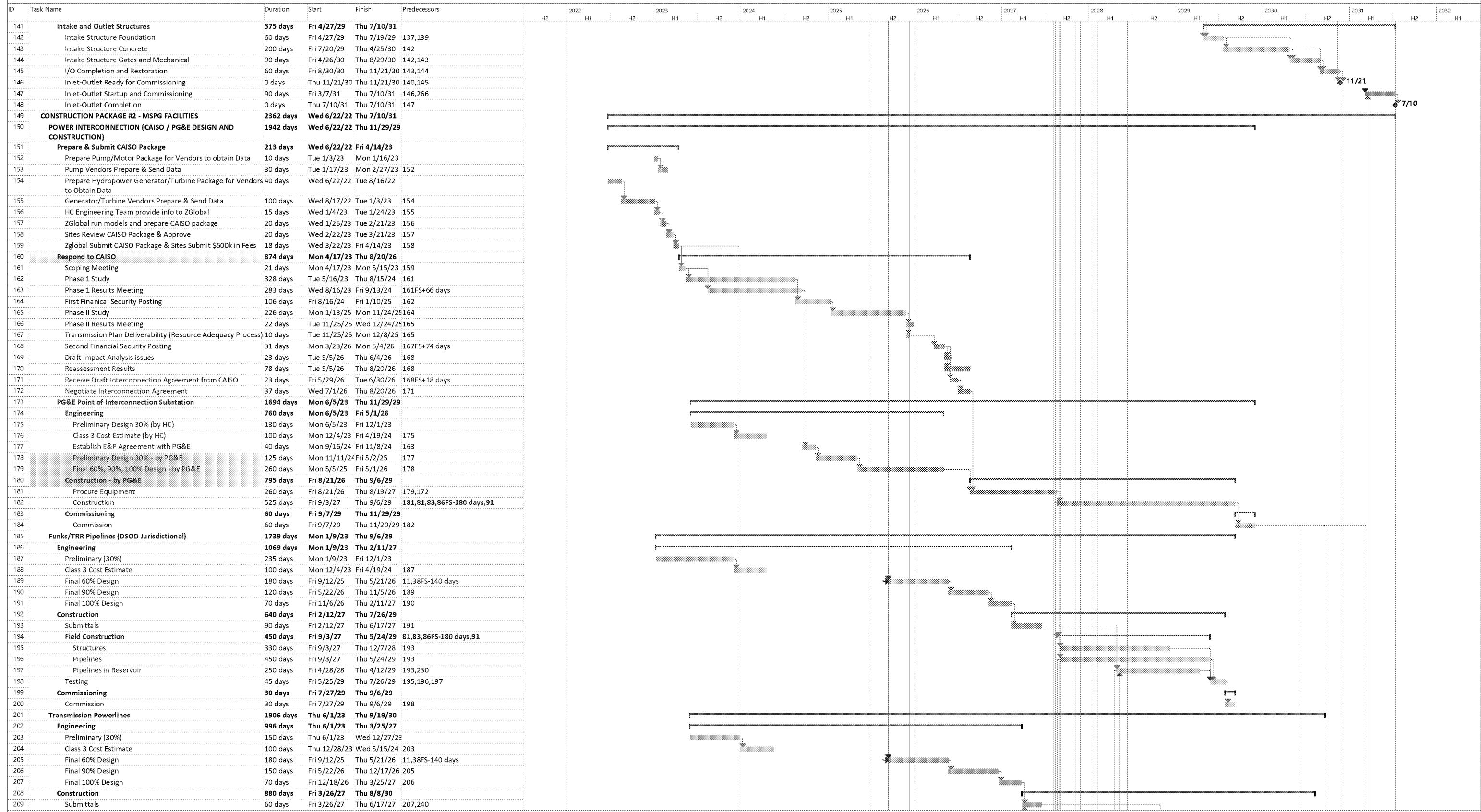
Sites Reservoir  
Preliminary Construction Schedule  
Maxwell - Sites Pumping and Generating (MSPG) Facilities  
January 2023



Project: Maxwell Sites Pumping  
Date: Thu 2/2/23

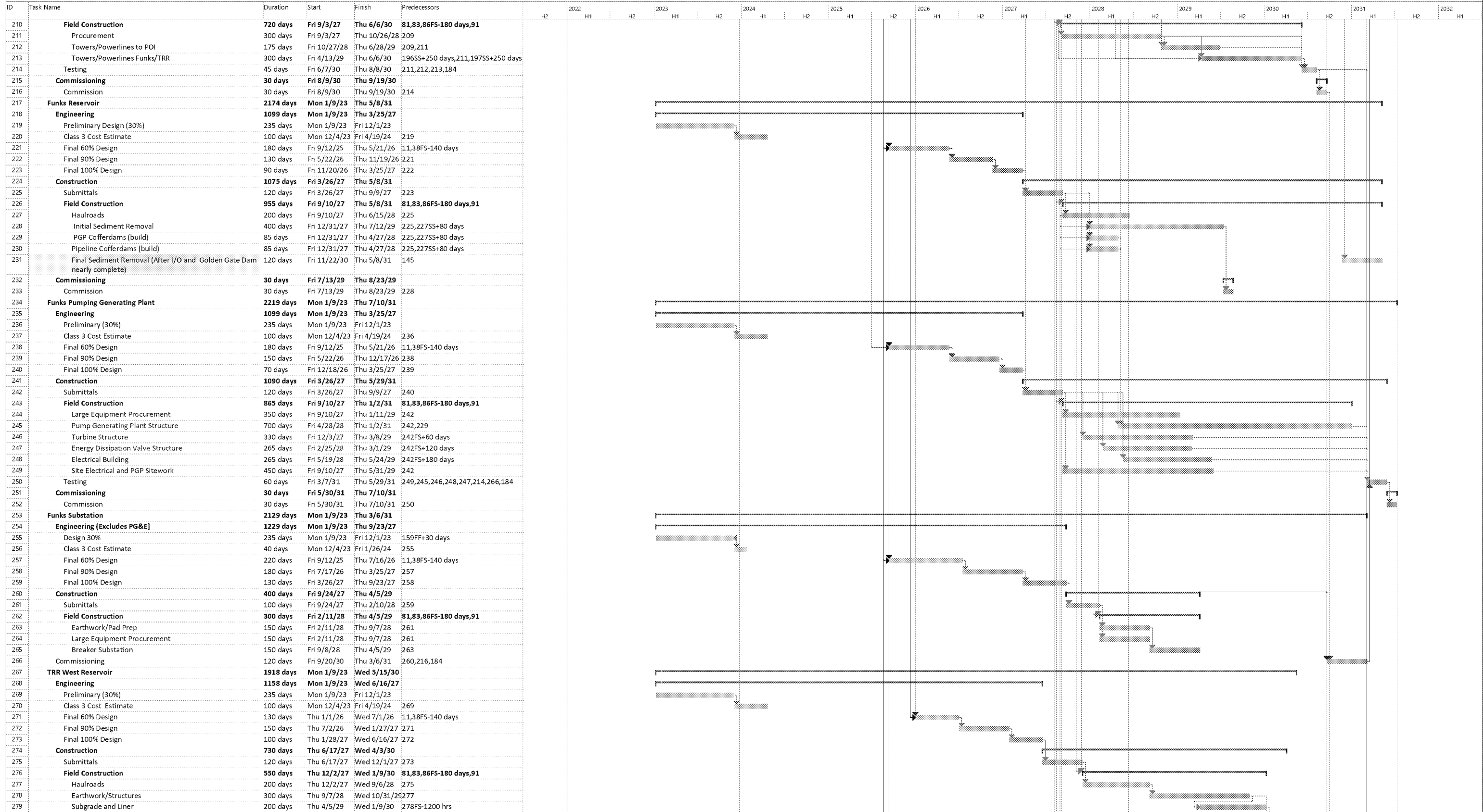
Task	Summary	Inactive Milestone	Duration-only	Start-only	External Milestone	Critical Split
Split	Project Summary	Inactive Summary	Manual Summary Rollup	Finish-only	Deadline	Progress
Milestone	Inactive Task	Manual Task	Manual Summary	External Tasks	Critical	Manual Progress

Sites Reservoir  
Preliminary Construction Schedule  
Maxwell - Sites Pumping and Generating (MSPG) Facilities  
January 2023



Project: Maxwell Sites Pumping Date: Thu 2/2/23	Task		Summary		Inactive Milestone		Duration-only		Start-only		External Milestone		Critical Split
	Split		Project Summary		Inactive Summary		Manual Summary Rollup		Finish-only		Deadline		Progress
	Milestone		Inactive Task		Manual Task		Manual Summary		External Tasks		Critical		Manual Progress

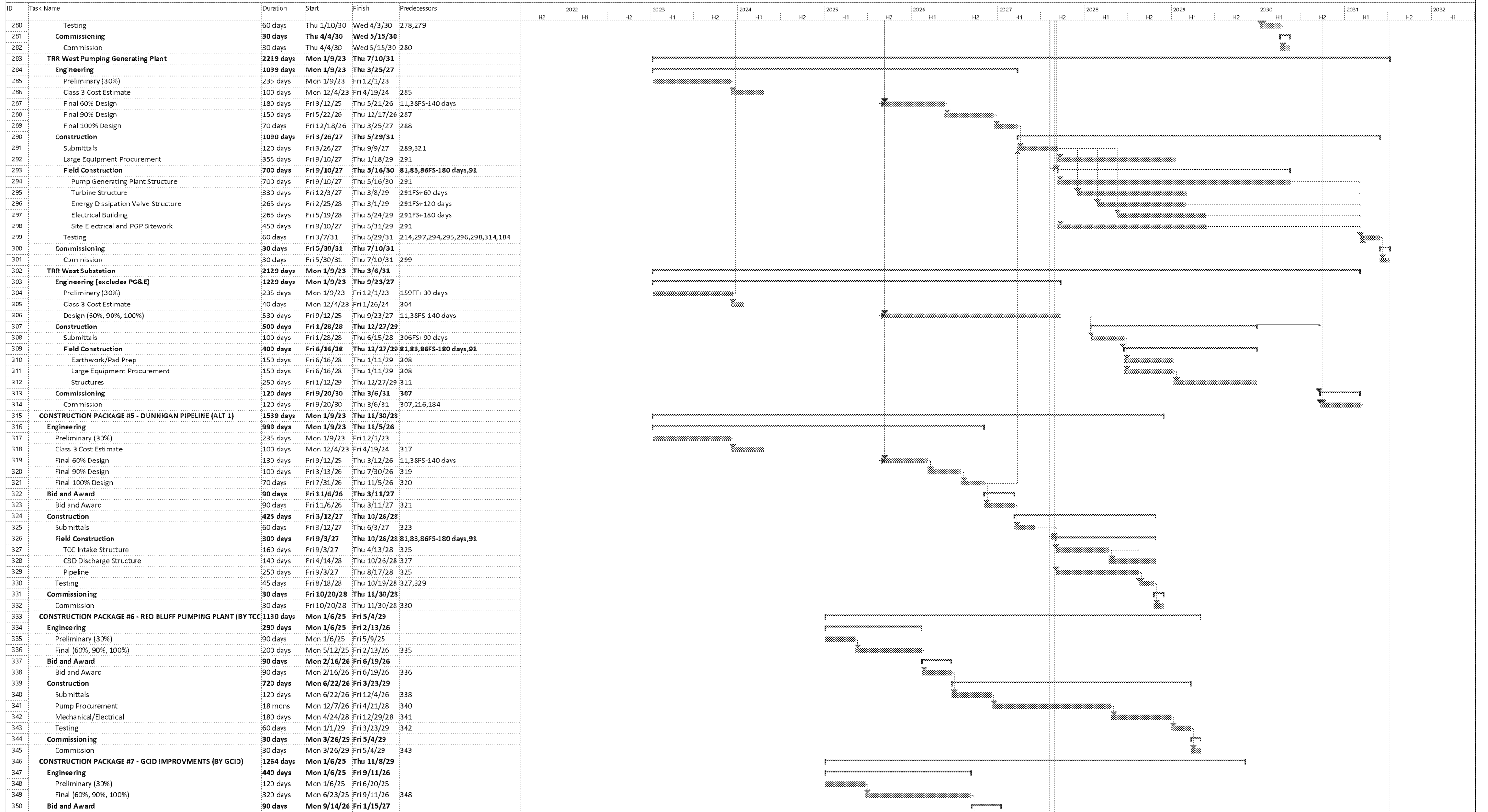
Sites Reservoir  
 Preliminary Construction Schedule  
 Maxwell - Sites Pumping and Generating (MSPG) Facilities  
 January 2023



Project: Maxwell Sites Pumping  
 Date: Thu 2/2/23

Task	Summary	Inactive Milestone	Duration-only	Start-only	External Milestone	Critical Split
Split	Project Summary	Inactive Summary	Manual Summary Rollup	Finish-only	Deadline	Progress
Milestone	Inactive Task	Manual Task	Manual Summary	External Tasks	Critical	Manual Progress

Sites Reservoir  
Preliminary Construction Schedule  
Maxwell - Sites Pumping and Generating (MSPG) Facilities  
January 2023



Project: Maxwell Sites Pumping  
Date: Thu 2/2/23

Task	Summary	Inactive Milestone	Duration-only	Start-only	External Milestone	Critical Split
Split	Project Summary	Inactive Summary	Manual Summary Rollup	Finish-only	Deadline	Progress
Milestone	Inactive Task	Manual Task	Manual Summary	External Tasks	Critical	Manual Progress



Sites Reservoir  
Preliminary Construction Schedule  
Maxwell - Sites Pumping and Generating (MSPG) Facilities  
January 2023

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
351	Bid and Award	90 days	Mon 9/14/26	Fri 1/15/27	349											
352	Construction	704 days	Mon 1/18/27	Thu 9/27/29												
353	Submittals	120 days	Mon 1/18/27	Fri 7/2/27	351											
354	Field Construction	480 days	Fri 9/3/27	Thu 7/5/29	81,83,86FS-180 days,91											
355	Structures	24 mons	Fri 9/3/27	Thu 7/5/29	353											
356	Earthwork	24 mons	Fri 9/3/27	Thu 7/5/29	353											
357	Testing	60 days	Fri 7/6/29	Thu 9/27/29	356											
358	Commissioning	30 days	Fri 9/28/29	Thu 11/8/29												
359	Commission	30 days	Fri 9/28/29	Thu 11/8/29	357											

Project: Maxwell Sites Pumping Date: Thu 2/2/23	Task		Summary		Inactive Milestone		Duration-only		Start-only		External Milestone		Critical Split	
	Split		Project Summary		Inactive Summary		Manual Summary Rollup		Finish-only		Deadline		Progress	
	Milestone		Inactive Task		Manual Task		Manual Summary		External Tasks		Critical		Manual Progress	

**File Provided Natively**

**Sites Reservoir, Construction Package 2 (CP-2) Maxwell Sites Pumping Generating(MSPG)  
Facilities – Draft Design/Construction Schedule  
List of Assumptions and Constraints – Draft  
2/2/2023**

**Real Estate, Permitting, Environmental, EIR, Geotechnical Investigations:**

- 1) Predecessors and successors for this group of tasks are based on input from the environmental permitting team. Real estate and environmental permitting precedes and controls design and construction.
- 2) The Final EIR & CEQA Adoption (line 7 - June 1, 2023) is used as the basis for predecessors. Final EIS & NEPA ROD is completed 6 months later (line 8 - Nov 20, 2023).
- 3) Real Estate is the most critical task that controls schedule
  - a) MSPG involves about 45 parcels (less than 10% of total 498 parcels for Program)
  - b) For unwilling landowners, we have assumed court ordered right of entry to conduct Phase 1 geotechnical and other investigations (line 21) can occur after Final EIR & CEQA Adoption (line 7).
  - c) For unwilling landowners, we have assumed court ordered right of entry to conduct Phase 2 geotechnical and other investigations (line 34) can occur after Final EIR & CEQA Adoption (line 7) and after NTP for 60% design (line 11). Completing geotechnical investigations is tied to 60% design of all facilities.
  - d) We assumed that to access the last parcels of land to do geotechnical investigations, etc. via court order is June 2025, so that our phase 2 geotechnical investigations are complete by March 2026.
- 4) The Inlet/Outlet Facilities design/ construction and associated access roads schedule was developed by AECOM. It hinges on three items:
  - a) The geotechnical investigations are assumed to be completed prior to the start of 60% design (lines 40,41 and 42)
  - b) The intensive environmental work starts (line 45) when the 60% design starts (line 101)
  - c) Some constraints for environmental studies are based on specific month of year (spring only). Due to timing, this can move the schedule out nearly a year.
- 5) The Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Procurement (line 108) has been moved back 8 months, from award in January 2025 to award in August 2025. This allows lessons learned from CMAR procurement for CP #1 (Dams & Roads) and brings the CMAR in at the beginning of 60% design for conveyance facilities and during the 60% design of I/O facilities. Getting the CMAR in early will help solidify the construction schedule. We can evaluate the timing of the CMAR procurement as we develop the 30% design.
- 6) The CA ISO process for interconnection to the California Electrical Grid (line 160) is assumed to be a “Super Cluster” extending their normal 2.5 year process to a 3.5 year process.
  - a) The CA ISO process is not on the critical path. We will be submitting our package by April 14, 2023 with a \$250,000 study deposit and a refundable \$250,000 land security deposit.
  - b) We found out that PGE design can start after the Phase 1 study is complete. This changed the predecessor on line 179 and took the CA ISO Process off the critical path and brought and saved 4 months on the CP No.2 overall schedule.

- c) The Phase 1 study will verify what the PGE point of Interconnection (POI) will contain, where it will be located, and if there any impacts to the grid upstream or downstream of the POI.
  - d) We will know more about the 3.5 year process later in 2023.
- 7) Field Construction does not start until:
- a) all permits are obtained (lines 81 and 83) and a cultural treatment plan and implementation is completed (line 91).
  - b) It is also constrained by securing a letter of credit (LOC) for mitigation and implementing mitigation prior to take (line 86), but we have accelerated field construction to start 180 days (Jan 30 schedule had 140 days) prior to the LOC end date, because of CP No. 2's smaller footprint compared to CP No.1. This saved 1.5 months on the CP No.2 overall schedule.

**Design & Construction:**

- 1) CMAR approach and multiple construction packages assumed.
- 2) Geotechnical data for the Inlet/Outlet facilities needs to be received prior to the start of 60% design.
- 3) Geotechnical data for the conveyance facilities will be received during the 60% design. We believe this is fine because we don't anticipate much of a change in our design approach and typically on conveyance projects we don't receive the final geotechnical data until during the 60% design process.
- 4) California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) reviews/approval for the Inlet/Outlet Facilities are assumed to be Six (6) months each for 30, 60, 90% reviews; design continues while DSOD reviews taking place. Three (3) months for 100% review and approval. Assumes quarterly update meetings with DSOD.
- 5) DSOD reviews/approval for the pipelines/energy dissipation valves east of the the Inlet/Outlet facilities are assumed to be three (3) months each for 30, 60, 90% reviews; design continues while DSOD reviews taking place. Three (3) months for 100% review and approval. Assumes quarterly update meetings with DSOD.
- 6) Facility productions and durations are based on past experience on similar projects.
  - a) Inlet/Outlet facility productions and durations are calculated on 10-hour work shifts, 90% efficiency five days per week. The tunnel excavation and support, are scheduled as double shift work as needed to maintain the critical path, and for logistics reasons, as well as weather make-up.
  - b) Conveyance facility productions and durations at any given facility are calculated on 8-hour work shifts, five days per week.

**Risks:**

Risks that could adversely affect schedule, but not yet accounted for in the schedule. Risk categories are:

- 1) Administrative and Agency Issues
- 2) Environmental/Cultural
- 3) Contractor Resources
- 4) Unexpected/Unforeseen Construction Conditions
- 5) Uncontrollable Conditions

---

**From:** Zarchi, Idit [Idit.Zarchi@aecom.com]  
**Sent:** 2/3/2023 12:46:53 PM  
**To:** Luu, Henry [Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com]; JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]  
**CC:** Smith, Michael (orange) [michael.g.smith@aecom.com]; Wisniewski, Jeffrey [jeffrey.wisniewski@aecom.com]; Rude, Pete/RDD [Pete.Rude@jacobs.com]; jeff.herrin@aecom.com; Forrest, Mike [michael.forrest@aecom.com]  
**Subject:** Sites - Outlet Size Optimization TM  
**Attachments:** INT-QC Review form Sites TO03.pdf

Hi Henry,

I've sent the Outlet Size Optimization TM for Sites reservoir via WeTransfer ([download link](#)). The TM explores options for a few design parameters that will impact sizing for the main I/O works and the Sites outlet.

Please let me know if there are questions and concerns. As always, thanks for the opportunity to work on this unique project!

Cheers!

Idit

---

Idit Zarchi  
Water Resources Engineer, PE  
D 1-510-874-3049 C 1-424-220-0431  
[Idit.Zarchi@aecom.com](mailto:Idit.Zarchi@aecom.com)

AECOM  
300 Lakeside Drive, Suite 400  
Oakland, CA 94612, USA  
[www.aecom.com](http://www.aecom.com)

---

**From:** Luu, Henry [Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com]  
**Sent:** 2/3/2023 2:13:09 PM  
**To:** Zarchi, Idit [Idit.Zarchi@aecom.com]  
**CC:** Smith, Michael (orange) [michael.g.smith@aecom.com]; Wisniewski, Jeffrey [jeffrey.wisniewski@aecom.com]; Rude, Pete/RDD [Pete.Rude@jacobs.com]; jeff.herrin@aecom.com; Forrest, Mike [michael.forrest@aecom.com]; JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites - Outlet Size Optimization TM

Received – thank you, Idit. I uploaded the TM to the Project SharePoint site @[Outlet Size Optimization TM 2023-02-03\\_clean.pdf](#).

Have a wonderful weekend,  
**Henry H. Luu, PE**  
D 916.679.8857 M 916.754.7566

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](http://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

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**From:** Zarchi, Idit <Idit.Zarchi@aecom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 12:47 PM  
**To:** Luu, Henry <Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Smith, Michael (orange) <michael.g.smith@aecom.com>; Wisniewski, Jeffrey <jeffrey.wisniewski@aecom.com>; Rude, Pete/RDD <Pete.Rude@jacobs.com>; Herrin, Jeff <jeff.herrin@aecom.com>; Forrest, Mike <michael.forrest@aecom.com>  
**Subject:** Sites - Outlet Size Optimization TM

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Henry,

I've sent the Outlet Size Optimization TM for Sites reservoir via WeTransfer ([download link](#)). The TM explores options for a few design parameters that will impact sizing for the main I/O works and the Sites outlet.

Please let me know if there are questions and concerns. As always, thanks for the opportunity to work on this unique project!

Cheers!  
Idit

---

Idit Zarchi  
Water Resources Engineer, PE  
D 1-510-874-3049 C 1-424-220-0431  
[Idit.Zarchi@aecom.com](mailto:Idit.Zarchi@aecom.com)

AECOM  
300 Lakeside Drive, Suite 400  
Oakland, CA 94612, USA  
[www.aecom.com](http://www.aecom.com)

---

**From:** JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 2/3/2023 2:14:05 PM  
**To:** Smith, Michael (orange) [michael.g.smith@aecom.com]; mmaltby@brwnald.com  
**CC:** Luu, Henry [Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com]; Wisniewski, Jeffrey [jeffrey.wisniewski@aecom.com]; Forrest, Mike [michael.forrest@aecom.com]; jeff.herrin@aecom.com; Dan Hertel [dhertel@engineering-solutionsmt.com]; Dave Hardy [dhardy@engineering-solutionsmt.com]  
**Subject:** Re: Reservoir Package Construction Schedule - Assumptions Discussion - Opportunities

Wow, Mike and team. Thanks for sharing. Excellent input. More to come from our side. Have a great weekend.

JP

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**From:** Smith, Michael (orange) <michael.g.smith@aecom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 1:00:18 PM  
**To:** mmaltby@brwnald.com <mmaltby@brwnald.com>  
**Cc:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Luu, Henry <Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com>; Wisniewski, Jeffrey <jeffrey.wisniewski@aecom.com>; Forrest, Mike <michael.forrest@aecom.com>; jeff.herrin@aecom.com <jeff.herrin@aecom.com>; Dan Hertel <dhertel@engineering-solutionsmt.com>; Dave Hardy <dhardy@engineering-solutionsmt.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Reservoir Package Construction Schedule - Assumptions Discussion - Opportunities

Marcus

As requested, we are providing a list of opportunities to reduce or eliminate gaps and shorten the schedule for the Reservoir Engineering (HR) service area below. Any potential time savings indicated below are rough estimates and need to be evaluated. Also, note that all of these time savings may not be cumulative. We would also like to echo the suggestion from Jacobs for a meeting of service area leads to delve deeper into the schedule. Some opportunities could shorten the schedule without affecting the critical path. For Golden Gate Dam, it is especially important to find ways to advance the start of construction. It is important to note that time savings that fail to advance the start of construction will do little to move up the completion date.

Here are opportunities we have developed:

1. Engineering to accelerate roadway design - Set the roads with high level of confidence during 30 percent design. This will require close coordination with engineering, environmental, real estate, and the LMC to come to agreement on routes and the start of construction to advance the roads. We recommend finalizing the limits of work during preliminary engineering to expedite permitting. This could potentially save approximately a year. This likely includes prioritizing design and development of access roads to provide for earliest possible site access to critical path activities.
2. Engineering to set limits of work for construction and for permanent reservoir facilities to a high level of confidence during 30 percent design. This would allow real estate and environmental to acquire properties and perform surveys earlier and the CMAR to start construction earlier. This could potentially save approximately 2 years.
3. Engineering to reduce design submittals from 30, 60, 90, Final to 30, 80, Final. Potentially save approximately 3 to 6 months on design durations by reducing the cycles of review. Needs coordination with DSOD and CMAR.
4. CMAR on board in 2024. The CMAR could provide critical input to sequencing which could impact schedule either positively or negatively. CMAR input may impact the project schedule, but would provide confidence going forward.
5. Stagger geotechnical investigations to focus on key features first. This includes critical roads, borrow areas (including rock borrow test blast and test fill to expedite DSOD approvals), Golden Gate and Sites Dams. This would enable engineering to perform designs sooner. For example, there is significant benefit to completing critical road geotech investigations in 2025 instead of 2026. Some roads are on the critical path.

5. The current design calls for the construction of new access roads and widening of narrow, rural roads. There is an existing service road for the Tehama Colusa Canal that could be enlarged to support investigation and construction activities, including hauling. Reclamation already owns this road, so no real estate would be required, only an agreement with Reclamation. This road can be accessed from Road 69 in Glenn County. It may also be possible to access it with a short extension of the new access road to TRR west. This would provide access to the downstream side of Golden Gate Dam and Sites Lodoga Road. This could shorten the schedule by approximately 1 to 2 years and might also reduce cost.
6. Design Staffing – Use global resources to staff 24-hour design process to reduce the duration of design. Will need to identify any funding restrictions or security concerns that restrict international design. Leverage USBR staff participation on geotechnical investigation, lab testing, and engineering review to accomplish more in-parallel design (will require schedule commitments from USBR staff).
7. Utilize on-site material for transition zones and roadway aggregate (need geotechnical data to confirm source is available). This is one of the proposed cost saving measures, but it will also save time and reduce schedule risk, if we can get an onsite source of suitable rock materials developed early. Using an on-site source lowers the demand and dependency on offsite aggregate plants and offsite trucking. Savings of approximately 3 to 6 months.
8. Use the upstream axis for Golden Gate Dam. This is another one of the potential VE opportunities that was previously defined. Using the upstream axis reduces the time needed to construct Golden Gate Dam. Additional geotechnical data are needed to verify feasibility and will be needed to support DSOD permitting of this alignment.

For discussion of the critical path with Sites Team leads - In order to advance the schedule completion date, will need to advance the environmental process (Precon Avoidance), even if for localized areas. Critical land acquisition is needed for the environmental surveys. This controls the start of construction.

We are available to discuss these opportunities with the Sites Team.

Thank you,

**Michael Smith, PE, GE**  
Principal Engineer  
US West Region Water  
D 1-714-567-2791 C 1-714-697-5239  
[Michael.g.smith@aecom.com](mailto:Michael.g.smith@aecom.com)

**AECOM**  
999 Town and Country Road  
Orange, CA 92868  
[www.aecom.com](http://www.aecom.com)

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**From:** Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@BrwnCald.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 10:55 AM

**To:** Marcia Kivett <MKivett@sitesproject.org>; Luu, Henry <henry.luu@hdrinc.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>; Smith, Michael (orange) <michael.g.smith@aecom.com>; Wisniewski, Jeffrey <jeffrey.wisniewski@aecom.com>; Forrest, Mike <michael.forrest@aecom.com>; Dan Hertel <dhertel@engineering-solutionsmt.com>; Pete.Rude <Pete.Rude@jacobs.com>; Nuss, Gary S. <Gary.Nuss@jacobs.com>; Smith, Jeff/SAC <jeff.smith1@jacobs.com>; Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>; laurie.warner.herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>; conner <conner@cmdwest.com>; Patel, Trishna <Trishna.Patel@hdrinc.com>; jelica.arsenijevic <jelica.arsenijevic@hdrinc.com>; David Hubbard <Dhubbard@BrwnCald.com>; Risse, Danielle <danielle.risse@hdrinc.com>; Edwards, Dawn <Dawn.Edwards@hdrinc.com>; Michael Cadei <michael.cadei@hdrinc.com>; Herrin, Jeff <jeff.herrin@aecom.com>; Dave Hardy <dhardy@engineering-solutionsmt.com>; Jeff Mathews <jeff@cmdwest.com>; Collins, Geoff <Geoff.Collins@jacobs.com>; Lloyd, John <john.lloyd@hdrinc.com>; Jeff Kivett <jkivett@brwnCald.com>; Pat Tangora <ptangora@BrwnCald.com>; Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>

**Subject:** RE: Reservoir Package Construction Schedule - Assumptions Discussion



Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed today! Attached is our presentation along with a timeline graphic that Henry shared during the meeting.

As a reminder, please have the assignment shown on Slide 8 emailed to myself by COB Friday (2/3).

Thanks,

**Marcus Maltby, PE\***

Brown and Caldwell

[MMaltby@brwncauld.com](mailto:MMaltby@brwncauld.com)

T 714.689.4826 | C 714.392.1909

\*Professional Registration in Specific States



-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Marcia Kivett <[MKivett@sitesproject.org](mailto:MKivett@sitesproject.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 7:43 AM

**To:** Marcia Kivett; Luu, Henry; JP Robinette; Alicia Forsythe; Kevin Spesert; Smith, Michael (orange); Wisniewski, Jeffrey; michael.forrest; Dan Hertel; Pete.Rude; Nuss, Gary S.; Smith, Jeff/SAC; Spranza, John; laurie.warner.herson; Marcus Maltby; conner; Patel, Trishna; jelica.arsenijevic; David Hubbard; Risse, Danielle; Edwards, Dawn; Michael Cadei; [jeff.herrin@aecom.com](mailto:jeff.herrin@aecom.com); Dave Hardy; Jeff Mathews; Collins, Geoff; Lloyd, John; Jeff Kivett; Pat Tangora; Cheyanne Harris

**Subject:** Reservoir Package Construction Schedule - Assumptions Discussion

**When:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:00 AM-9:00 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Teams information below.

We are inviting the same group from the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. I realize there is a lot going on this day.

Please use the MS teams information below.

The latest schedule will be added to the meeting invite before this meeting.

**Happy Birthday, JP!**

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/3/2023 5:32:23 PM  
**To:** Bradshaw,Dee [VBradshaw@mwdh2o.com]  
**CC:** Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Subject:** Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Ready for Review  
**Attachments:** 202301\_Admin Final EIR\_EIS Review Prep\_Final\_V3.pdf

Dee – I inadvertently left MWD out of this. My apologies. But I just realized that you all are likely to want to review the Admin Final EIR/EIS.

We are in the final landing pattern for the Admin Final EIR/EIS for the Sites Reservoir Project. Volume 1 and portions of Volume 2 of the Admin Final are ready now. The rest of Volume 2 and all of Volume 3 are expected to be ready for review around February 10. The different volumes consist of the following:

Volume 1 – main document (changes in track changes)  
Volume 2 – appendices (changes in track changes)  
Volume 3 – response to comments

All comments are due on February 28.

We are happy to schedule a call to provide an overview of the document and how it will “look” when released to the public to help your review. I am substantially time constrained next week but happy to work to set something up asap. Attached is the presentation we’ve been using for these Admin Final review meetings. Below are some dates/times that work for me next week to chat.

Wednesday, February 8 from 11 am to 1 pm OR 3 to 4 pm  
Friday, February 10 from 9 to 11 am OR 2:30 to 4:30 pm

In the very near term, everyone who will be accessing the file will need SharePoint access. For this, we just need emails addresses. Can you send us email addresses for anyone in MWD that would be reviewing the files? We can get them access so they can get going.

Again, apologies for not thinking about this earlier and giving you all a heads up that the document is coming.

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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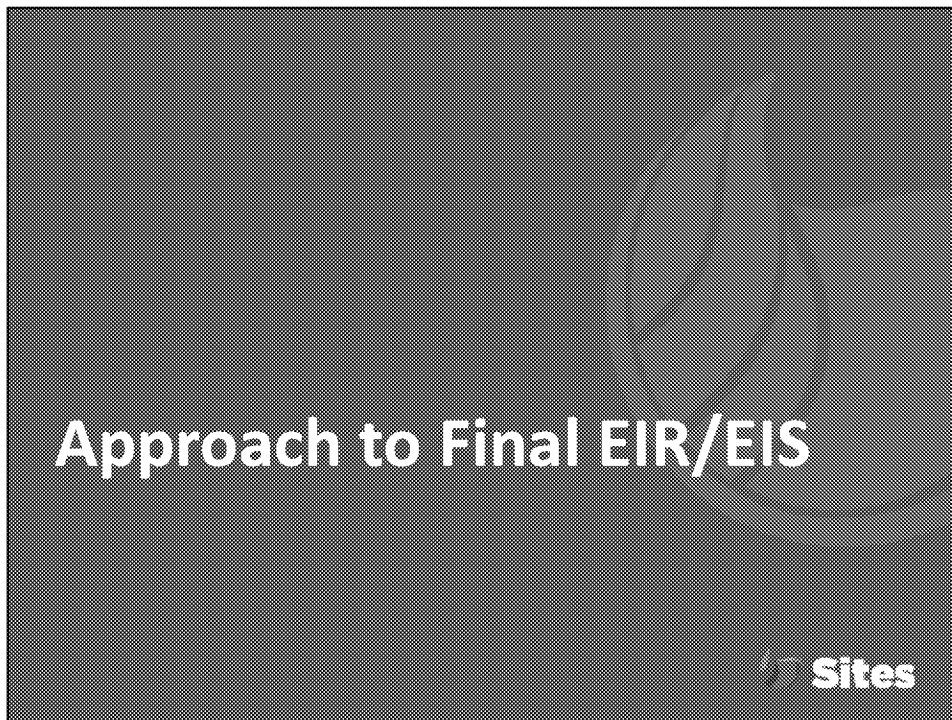
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## Agenda

- Purpose of Meeting
  - Provide overview of the Administrative Final EIR/EIS and the review process and schedule
- Approach to the Final EIR/EIS:
  - Final EIR/EIS Development
  - Content and Format
  - Approach to Responses to Comments
- Project Refinements:
  - Preferred Alternative
  - Comparison of RDEIR/SDEIS and Final EIR/EIS Operational Criteria
  - Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1
  - Updated Modeling
  - Facility Refinements
- Review Process and Schedule

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## Final EIR/EIS Development

- RDEIR/SDEIS released November 12, 2021
- Close of public review January 28, 2022
  - 101 comment letters
  - Some comments submitted in form letters and in a petition
  - Approximately 1,000 individual comments
- Efforts since RDEIR/SDEIS:
  - Identification of refinements to the Project, both facilities and operations
  - Revisions to diversion criteria and associated modeling
  - Developed master and individual responses to comments
  - Revisions to EIR/EIS text based on comment/responses and/or based on project modifications (e.g., facility changes, operation modifications)

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## Final EIR/EIS Format

- Volume 1 – Chapters
  - Include all chapters from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Volume 2 – Appendices
  - Include all appendices from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Chapters and appendices without changes are not included
- Changes shown as
  - Admin Final – Changes shown in track changes
  - Final EIR/EIS – Changes shown as margin line only

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## Final EIR/EIS Format (continued)

- Volume 3 – Response to Comments
  - Chapter 1 – Introduction and Approach
  - Chapter 2 – Commenter Indices and Form Letter Introduction
  - Chapter 3 – Master Responses Introduction and Master Responses
  - Chapter 4 – Responses to Comments Tables
  - Appendix – Response to 2017 Comments required by NEPA

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## General Approach To Responding to Comments

- Master Responses
  - Identified common themes and comments in order to draft Master Responses
- Individual Responses
  - Prepared responses to all individual comments
  - Currently organized by topics in comment response tables
  - Individual comments and responses will be reorganized by **letter** prior to publication of the Final EIR/EIS

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## Master Response Topics

- MR1, CEQA and NEPA Process, Regulatory Requirements, and General Comments
- MR2, Alternatives Description and Baseline
- MR3, Hydrology and Hydrologic Modeling
- MR4, Water Quality
- MR5, Aquatic Biological Resources
- MR6, Vegetation, Wetland, and Wildlife Resources
- MR7, Tribal Coordination, Consultation, and Engagement
- MR8, Trinity River
- MR9, Alternatives Development

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## Chapters/Appendices with No Changes – Revised on 2/1/2023

- Chapters
  - 13, Minerals
  - 19, Noise
  - 22, Cultural Resources
  - 24, Visual Resources
  - 25, Population and Housing
- Appendix 2A, 2C, 8B, 9A, 9B, 10B, 12A, 12B, 19A, 20A, 20C, 20D, 22A, 24A, 24B, 27A, 33A, 33B, 33C

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## Project Refinements

 Sites

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## Key Differences

- Changes between RDEIR/SDEIS and Final EIR/EIS:
  - Preferred Alternative is now Alternative 3
  - Revisions to diversion criteria
  - Incorporation of Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 into Project
  - Revised modeling
  - Minor changes in facilities due to design refinements
  - Corrections or clarifications needed in response to comments
- No new or substantial greater impacts identified that would require recirculation

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## Changed to Alt 3 as Preferred Alternative

Facilities / Operations	Alternative 1 – Authority's Preferred Project in RDEIR/SDEIS	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 – Preferred Alt in the Final EIR/EIS
Reservoir Size	1.5 MAF	1.3 MAF	1.5 MAF
Hydropower	Incidental upon release	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Diversion Locations	Red Bluff Pumping Plant and Hamilton City	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Conveyance Release / Dunnigan Release	1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain	1,000 cfs into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Sacramento River. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain	Same as Alt 1
Reclamation Involvement	1. Funding Partner, up to 7% 2. Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Same as Alt 1, but up to 25% investment
DWR Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge across reservoir	Paved road around southern end of reservoir	Same as Alt 1

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## Revised Diversion Criteria

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
<b>Bend Bridge Pulse Protection</b>	Protection of all qualified precipitation-generated pulse events (i.e., peaks in river flow rather than scheduled operational events) from October to May based on the detection of fish presence and migration during the beginning of the flow event. For each event where fish presence and migration are detected, diversions from the Sacramento River would cease for 7 days.	Similar except the following: (1) a qualified precipitation-generated pulse event is determined based on forecasted flows, (2) hourly gage monitoring at Bend Bridge gage detects the predicted flow of 8,000 cfs, and migrating anadromous fish are detected at RBDD, and (3) pulse protection may cease earlier than 7 days if flows at Bend Bridge exceed 25,320 cfs and Project diversions subtracted from Bend Bridge flows continue to be at least 25,000 cfs.
<b>Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at the RBPP</b>	3,250 cfs minimum bypass flow at all times; rate of diversion controlled by fish screen design.	No change
<b>Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at the Hamilton City Pump Station</b>	4,000 cfs minimum bypass flow at all times; rate of diversion controlled by fish screen design.	No change

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## Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
<b>Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough</b>	Chapter 21 in addition to the minimum bypass flows in the Sacramento River at RBPP and the Hamilton City Pump Station, a minimum bypass flow of 8,000 cfs in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough would be in place in April and May and 5,000 cfs during the rest of the year.  Mitigation Measure EIR-2.1: 10,700 cfs in March through May; 5,000 cfs all other times.	10,700 cfs October 1 through June 14; 5,000 cfs September (not diverting from June 15 to end of August)
<b>Fremont Weir Notch Protections</b>	No more than 1% reduction in flow over weir when spill over the weir is less than 600 cfs. No more than a 10% reduction in flow over weir when spills over the weir are between 600 cfs and 5,000 cfs. No restriction when flows over the weir are greater than 6,000 cfs.	No longer included. Revised minimum bypass flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough and Bend Bridge pulse protection provide protections for Fremont Weir Notch.

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## Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Sacramento River Fully Appropriated Stream	Diversion allowed only when the Sacramento River is not fully appropriated (September 1 through June 14)	No change
Excess conditions, as determined by DWR and Reclamation and defined in 2018 COA Addendum	Delta must be in excess for Sites Reservoir diversions	No change
Freeport, Net Delta Outflow Index, X2, and Delta Water Quality	Operations consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, biological opinions and incidental take permits, and court orders in place at the time that diversion occurs	No change

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## Incorporation of Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 into Project

- RDEIR/SDEIS
  - Included Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1 to reduce potential life stage effects on salmonids by increasing the bypass flow requirement at Wilkins Slough
    - Minimum bypass flow requirement of 10,700 cfs at Wilkins Slough in March-May
- Final EIR/EIS
  - Project description now incorporates the requirements of Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1, which have been refined and made more restrictive (the revised diversion criteria on the previous slide)
  - The bypass flow requirement at Wilkins Slough has been developed as an integral component of how the Project is proposed to operate in terms of its water diversion criteria
  - The modeling performed for the Final EIR/EIS includes the revised diversion criteria
  - This eliminates the need for Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1 in the Final EIR/EIS

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## Revised Modeling

- Adjustments made in the CALSIM II modeling between the RDEIR/SDEIS and the Final EIR/EIS to better represent the most up-to-date modeling procedures and actual operations, including:
  - Shasta Lake Operations – expanded exchanges to include more opportunities for fall flow stability and spring pulse enhancement
  - Deadpool Volume – reduced from generally 120 TAF to 60 TAF
  - Delta Salinity Accounting – slightly refined based on revisions to Calsim II coding
  - Period of Diversion to Sites Storage – revised to only include Sept 1 to June 14 to match water right application
  - South of Delta Water Delivery – revised to allow in any year that capacity is available (previously limited to below normal, dry and critically dry years)
  - Updates to Diversion Criteria – revised diversion criteria incorporated

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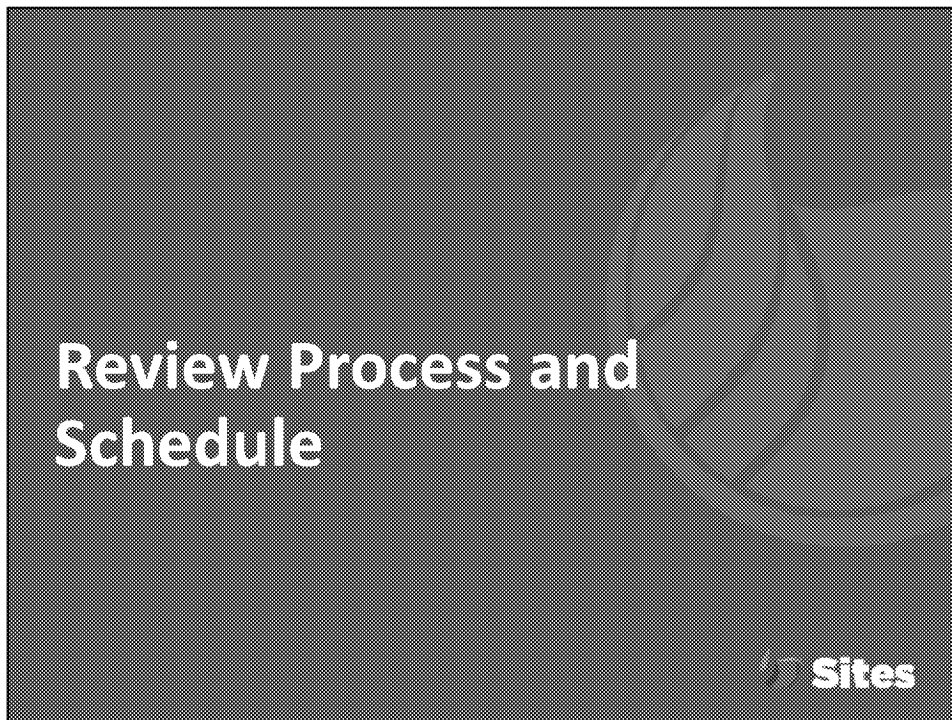
## Facility Refinements

- The RDEIR/SDEIS noted that:
  - “Preliminary design for facilities described herein will continue to be refined and modifications may occur as needed as the Project proceeds to final design and as part of the ongoing value engineering process undertaken by the Authority.”
- Admin Final EIR/EIS includes:
  - Sloped rather than vertical Inlet/Outlet (I/O) Tower
  - Single 32' diameter I/O tunnel replaces two 23' tunnels
  - Removal of two emergency release structures, eliminating emergency drawdown releases to Hunters Creek

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## Review Process and Schedule

- Starting February 1 files will be available for online review
  - Email will be sent with link to everyone invited to these meetings
- Additional files added as they are ready with all files posted by February 10
  - Additional emails sent as new files are uploaded
- Final editing and formatting not finished – its good but still working on great!
  - Focus comments on substantive issues
  - We appreciate pointing out number inconsistencies
  - Don't bother to comment on edits and format
- All comments due by February 28

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## Format for Comments

- Please provide comments in comment bubbles
- Prefer no track change edits but recommended text changes can be added in bubbles
- Prefer comments all on SharePoint so everyone can see each others comments
- If you copy/download a file for your internal agency review, please upload back onto SharePoint with your agency name on the end
  - 01\_ExecutiveSummary\_Sites
- Each person accessing SharePoint needs “individual” access

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## Where To Go With Questions

- File access issues/challenges
  - Laurie Warner Herson at [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)
- CEQA Responsible Agencies
  - Ali Forsythe at [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)
  - Laurie Warner Herson
- Reclamation staff and NEPA Cooperating Agencies
  - David Brick at [dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)
  - Allison Jacobson at [ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)

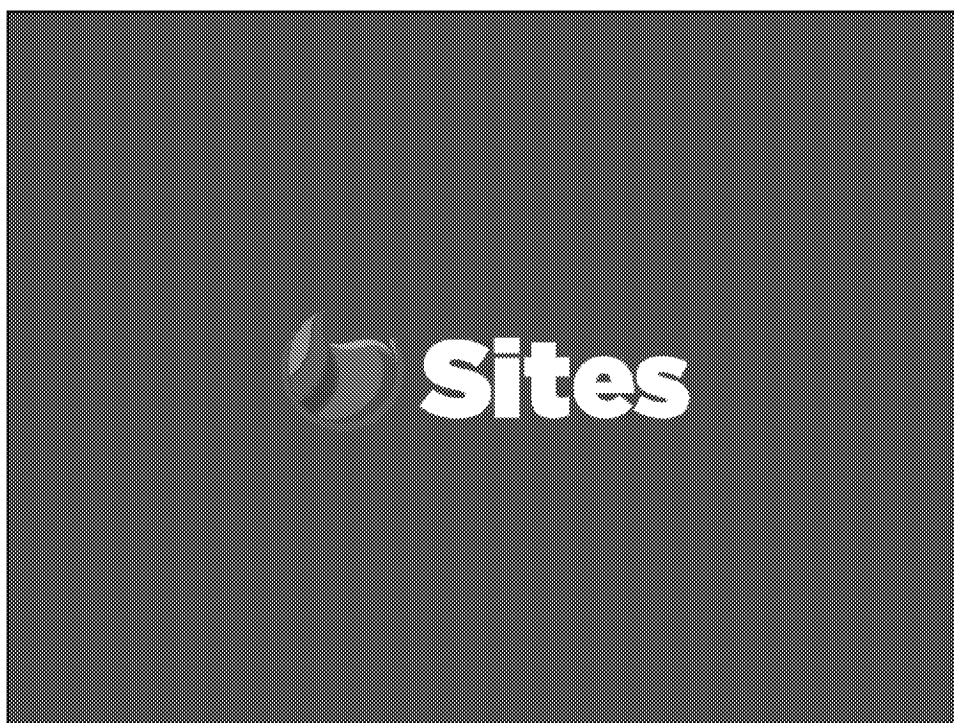
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Topic: **Sites Project Authority – Real Estate** **2019-Sept-417**  
**Feb 2023**

Subject: **Temporary Right-of-Entry (TROE) Program Compensation Protocol**

### SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY REAL ESTATE PROGRAM

The Sites Project Authority Board of Directors (Authority) approved the Sites Project Real Property & Land Management Policy at its May 20, 2019 meeting. It outlined the general policies that the Authority will use to implement all real estate activities associated with the development of the Sites Reservoir project and its associated facilities.

To implement the policies outlined in the Sites Project Real Property & Land Management Policy, the Authority Ad Hoc Land Use Land Management Committee, the Reservoir Committee Site Facilities Work Group, and Committee and Authority staff have developed this set of protocols that will help guide the implementation of specific components of the project’s real estate program.

**Commented [KS1]:** Updating the name of the committee and removing the RC Workgroup that was disbanded

These protocols will be included in the Sites Project Authority’s Right-of-Way Manual which will serve as the operations manual for the implementation of the Authority’s Real Property & Land Management Policy. The Right-of-Way Manual will be updated regularly with additional operating protocols to support the project’s real estate program and revised based on changing project conditions.

### TEMPORARY RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PROGRAM

The Temporary Right-of-Entry Program (TROE) for the Sites Project covers the acquisition of temporary access to private property for the purpose of conducting technical field studies, including geotechnical, environmental, cultural, and surveying activities.

These technical field studies often create a burden to the Landowner who grants access to their property. These burdens can be physical impacts to their property, impacts to the use and operations of their property, financial impacts, legal review and the value of their time to negotiate the conditions of the access and their oversight of the activities being conducted.

In recognition of this, the Authority Ad Hoc Land Use Committee, the Reservoir Committee Site Facilities Work Group, Land Management Committee and Authority staff have developed the following TROE Compensation Protocol that provides a consistent methodology to compensate Landowners who agree to provide the Authority temporary access to their property for the purpose of conducting technical field activities, in an effort to offset any burdens on the Landowner.

**Commented [KS2]:** Updating the name of the committee and removing the RC Workgroup that was disbanded

### TROE COMPENSATION PROTOCOL

Under the TROE Compensation Protocol, the Property Owner is provided **Project-Engagement Compensation** based on a flat amount, or a “per-ownership” basis, and an additional **Project-Activity Compensation** tied to the type and number of activities that are proposed to occur on the Landowner’s property.

- **Project-Engagement Compensation** – The Project-Engagement Compensation is a flat amount of compensation offered to the Property Owner to compensate for the value of their time to negotiate the conditions of the access and their oversight of the activities being conducted. This flat amount of compensation is fixed, regardless of how many Assessor’s

Status:	FINAL	Prepared:	McDonald	Phase:	1	Version:	A
Purpose:	Sites Project Authority – Real Estate	Checked:	Spesert	Date:			
Category:	Informational	QA/QC:		Ref/Proj #:	45.100-010.115		
Notes:				Page:	1	of	5



Parcels the Owner has. The Project-Engagement Compensation is **\$1,500**. All Landowners who grant temporary access to their property will receive the same amount of Project-Engagement Compensation.

- **Project-Activity Compensation** – in addition to the Project-Engagement Compensation, the Landowner will be compensated for the Project Activities that will take place during the entry on their property. These activities include **Non-Invasive Activities** and **Invasive Activities**.

<p><b>Non-Invasive Activities</b></p>	<p>Pedestrian Activities and Surveys – including Environmental, Cultural, Biological, Cadastral, etc.          ---no use of vehicles upon the Owner’s Land, except passenger vehicles on established roads.          ----passenger vehicles as described in the California Vehicle Code 465; and/or all-terrain vehicles (ATV) or other types of utility, non-construction, vehicles</p> <p>----established roads may be dirt, gravel, or other, and as agreed to with the Property Owner          --no use of tools greater than hand tools</p> <p>This section also includes the use of Drones, to perform...          --remote sensing and data collection; mapping – geologic, topographic, vegetation type, habitat, infrared, etc.</p> <p><b>\$1,000 – flat fee</b> <del>for each non-invasive activity regardless of number, or type, of non-invasive activities</del></p>
<p><b>Invasive Activities</b></p>	<p>Use of Equipment and Ground Disturbance Activities and Surveys – including, but not limited to, Geotechnical, Geophysical, CPT, trenching          --anticipated use of vehicles and equipment on Owner’s Land          --anticipated use of tools and equipment exceeding that of hand tools</p> <p><b>\$500 per Cone Penetration Test Study (Entire Study)</b>  <b>\$500 per Geotechnical Bore Hole*</b>  <b>\$500 per Geophysical Study</b>  <b>\$2,000 per Geotechnical Trench* **</b>  <del>\$10,000 per Geotechnical Quarry Production Study***</del></p>

**Commented [KS3]:** The existing language is confusing...revising for clarity

**Commented [KS4]:** Adding the Geotechnical Quarry Study/Dozer Line as discussed in the Land Management meeting

**Commented [JB5R4]:** Please define "Dozer Line" and how it is distinct from "geotechnical trench". Also define "geotechnical quarry study" and how it is distinct from a "geotechnical bore hole".

**NOTE:** Activities that are governed by the "Surveyor’s Right of Entry Law" California Code, Civil Code - CIV § 846.5, which includes activities that are customarily performed under the direction of a CA licensed land surveyor, are exempt by this law from requiring a TROE Agreement. For the purposes of this compensation protocol, these activities are deemed to be neither a non-invasive nor invasive activity.

~~\*NOTE 2: Geotechnical Bore Hole --- Purpose --- Used to identify inform the project team regarding the variation in geological characteristics of the land in the vicinity of potential project improvements; subsurface testing is proposed to be conducted using drilling and coring equipment, which allow includes the collection of subsurface earth materials and bedrock units which are, which can then be examined by field staff and submitted for geotechnical laboratory testing. Sample core barrels are driven into the subsurface at various intervals to allow samples to be collected. This activity is conducted with a drill rig, developing a bore hole of varying diameter from approximately 4 Inches to 10 Inches, and sampling subsurface material.~~

~~\*\*NOTE 3: Geotechnical Trench --- Purpose --- To inform the project team regarding Used to identify the geological characteristics of subsurface stratigraphy in the area of planned project improvements and in areas where earthquake faults have been identified previously, fault studies are proposed to be conducted. These studies allow a more definitive assessment of the fault alignment, and will document observed fault offsets. This activity is performed by an excavator/backhoe, excavating a 4-6 foot wide, up to 200 feet long, and 8-12 foot deep trench along a section of survey line, affording geologic personnel the ability to enter the trench, and visually observe subsurface conditions.~~

~~\*\*\*NOTE 4: Quarry Production Studies --- Purpose --- To Used to gather information regarding the quality and quantity of borrow materials proposed for dam and reservoir feature construction fill, and to assess the means and methods needed to remove overburden and rock materials during construction, geotechnical quarry production studies are proposed. This construction. This activity is proposed to be conducted by trenching in areas of planned quarries for the proposed Sites Reservoir. Each trench would~~

be up to 20 feet wide; range from 300 to 1,500 feet long; vary from 1.5 to 20 feet deep; and be excavated using a bulldozer. Work areas for the quarry production studies, which would include spoils, and equipment and vehicle staging areas, would be approximately 40 feet wide and range from 1,000 to 2,300 feet long.

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• **Total Compensation**

Total Compensation will be estimated prior to engaging in negotiations with the Property Owner. The Total Compensation will be based upon the sum of Project-Engagement Compensation plus Project-Activity Compensation, as shown below. An example is included as Attachment No. 1.

Project-Engagement Compensation + Project-Activity Compensation = Total Compensation  
("PEC") ("PAC")

Additional activities may be identified in the future, beyond those discussed at the time of the initial negotiations (such as the need for an extra bore hole; or an additional geophysical study). If additional activities are identified after a Right-of-Entry Agreement is reached, the Landowner will be re-engaged in negotiations, and offered additional Project-Activity Compensation commensurate with the proposed activities. However, there will not be any additional Project-Engagement Compensation offered.

• **Payment**

Payment to the Property Owner will occur after a signed Right-of-Entry Agreement is secured. Within 60 Days of a fully executed Agreement, the Owner will be paid the Project-Engagement Compensation:

Project-Activity Compensation will be made with at least 30 Days in advance of the commencement of the approved field work, and pending receipt of any needed paperwork from the Landowner, such as a W-9. Proposed activities. For example, if a Geotechnical boring is proposed to commence on October 31, payment to the Owner shall have been made by October 31.

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Commented [KS6]: Revised the payment section that would provide payment within 30 days of the start of the approved field work. This revision ties payment to the time of the actual work

• **Future Changes to Compensation Structure**

If, in the future, the compensation structure changes, and there are different values for PEC and/or PAC, such changes will not affect signed Right-of-Entry Agreements; or Right-of-Entry Agreements that are already in negotiations. Signed Agreements, or negotiations where an offer has already been made, will remain at the agreed to, or as presented, compensation amounts.

Any changes to the compensation structure will not be retroactive and will affect only new negotiations that are initiated after the change.

**OPERATIONAL IMPACTS TO LANDOWNERS AND PRIVATE LANDS**

The presence of field activities may often create direct and indirect operational impacts and coordination needs for a Landowner's use of the land during and following completion of the work. For example, Landowners may need to take extra efforts such as fencing, gating, water access or road alterations to accommodate the presence of project field teams which can result in direct and indirect impacts significant affects to a landowner's operations/business – and to their land and infrastructure.

To offset these effects, this protocol allows for reasonable and unavoidable operational impacts to be compensated for. Compensation for these direct and indirect operational impacts will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The Board will establish established and administered under the Executive Director's the levels of authority required to financial authority authorize agreements including these costs in accordance with as assigned by the Authority's Procurement and Contract Delegation of Authority Policy

(DOA). Authority Staff will document their evaluation of operations impacts and how the amount necessary to reasonably offset the effects was determined.

**Commented [KS7]:** Adding text that allows of the compensation of operational impacts to be administered under the EDs authority established as part of the DOA Policy

**Commented [KS8]:** Adding text that allows of the compensation of operational impacts to be administered under the EDs authority established as part of the DOA Policy

## RESTORATION

In any TROE program, the project activities may cause physical damage to the Landowner's property, disturb the Landowner's operation and/or use of the land during the field activities, or impact future operations/use in some way.

Restoration is dealt with as a separate matter than TROE compensation and is generally addressed by the Authority outside of the TROE compensation. However, ~~any~~ Any damage caused to a Landowner's property, that is created by the Authority's activities on the property, will be restored to pre-access conditions, or as negotiated with the Landowner in the TROE Agreement.

Customarily, in nearly every TROE matter, the Project restores any project-affected lands to as-good, or better, condition, as that which existed prior to project activities and warrants the work for a reasonable period of time. This commitment is captured in the TROE Agreement. ~~In the case of the Sites Project's preliminary planning activities, it is understood that the Geotechnical Field Teams will have sufficient resources to physically restore disturbed areas.~~

In the atypical event that a Landowner wishes to self-perform restoration, and/or receive monetary compensation to offset the project impacts, such scenarios can be addressed on a case-by-case basis; evaluated and approved by the Authority and the wishes of the Parties which will be captured in the TROE Agreement. These determinations will be considered in conjunction with the evaluation of operational impacts as noted in the section above.

## CROP DAMAGE

Crop Damage is a potential impact of any TROE activities. Whether there is crop on the ground that the activity will damage, or if the Owner must leave an area fallow to allow the activity, the impacts to an Owner's agricultural operations can be significant.

Crop Damage is a separate matter than TROE compensation. However, any crop damage, or loss of agricultural production that is created by the Authority's activities on the property, will be compensated, as negotiated with the Landowner in the TROE agreement. If the project activities are anticipated to cause a loss to the Landowner, such loss will become part of the negotiations for the TROE.

Crop Damage is often a highly individualized impact to the Landowner, depending on the nature and scope of the project activities. The overall process for determination of Crop Damage is a function of discussions with the Landowner regarding project activities; analysis of the impacts upon the crop; and an approved, negotiated settlement between the Parties, capturing any offset to the losses.

Each Crop Damage scenario will be unique, but the process will always include communications with the Landowner and an analysis of the impacts.

For the purposes of this compensation protocol, Crop Damage refers to impacts as a direct result of TROE activities to actively cultivated agricultural operations (e.g. row crops, orchard crops, rice) and not impacts to pasture, grazing, or rangeland.

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**Commented [KS9]:** Removing this paragraph as current and future field activities will have impacts to grazing land and pasture that will require compensation

**ATTACHMENT No. 1**

**EXAMPLE**

Outlined below is a fictitious example demonstrating the Total Compensation calculation associated with access to multiple Assessor's Parcels owned by one Property Owner.

Property Owner: Bob G Landowner

Assessor's Parcels: 100-99-010  
100-99-011  
100-99-012

Proposed Activities: 100-99-010 – Nesting Bird Survey; ~~Cultural Survey~~; Geotechnical Boring x 2  
100-99-011 – ~~Salamander Survey~~; Geotechnical Trench; CPT Study  
100-99-012 – no anticipated project activities

Larger Parcel: 100-99-010-BGL  
--this is the combined Ownership of Bob G Landowner, capturing all three Assessor's Parcels  
--for negotiation purposes, all three Assessor's Parcels are rolled into one lump

Compensation:	100-99-010-BGL			
	---Project-Engagement Compensation			\$1,500
	---Non-Invasive Activities (Surveys – Bird; <del>Cultural</del> ; Salamander)			_____
	\$1,000			
	-----Land surveying in accordance with California Code;			
	-----Civil Code – CIV § 846.5			
		\$ 0	@ 1	\$ 0
	---Invasive – Geotechnical Boring	\$500 /each	@ 2	\$1,000
	---Invasive – <u>CPT Study</u>		-----\$500 /study @	
1	\$ 500			
	---Invasive – Geotechnical Trench	\$2,000 /each	@ 1	\$2,000
	---Total			-----
				<b>\$6,000</b>

Before any offer of compensation is made to the Property Owner, the Real Estate Team, with information from the Geotechnical Team and Environmental Team, will create a list of activities proposed for the Property Owner's parcels. This list will provide the proposed Project-Activity Compensation. The proposed Project-Activity Compensation will be added to the Project-Engagement Compensation to develop a proposed Total Compensation, as shown above.

The Authority's Authorized Agent will review the proposed compensation and approve it for negotiations prior to any offer being made to the Property Owner.

Property Restoration, ~~and~~ Crop Damage Compensation, ~~and~~ Operational Impacts will be negotiated with the Landowner, and memorialized in the TROE agreement, as discussed in the body of this protocol

---

**From:** Arsenijevic, Jelica [Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com]  
**Sent:** 2/6/2023 8:08:31 AM  
**To:** mmaltby@brwncald.com  
**CC:** Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Spranza, John [john.spranza@hdrinc.com]; Conner McDonald [conner@cmdwest.com]; JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]; Luu, Henry [henry.luu@hdrinc.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Reservoir Package Construction Schedule - Assumptions Discussion  
**Attachments:** Geotech P2A Assumptions\_Accelerated Schedules.docx

Marcus

Please see attached. Key note here is that east side access may happen by end of this year (willing landowner(s)) . West side is going to take it to acquisition plus surveys (Johns schedule)\

Good news is that EIR geotech p2A gets moved from 10/24 to 12/31 (if all works out).

Note 1 – needs Ali’s review/blessing

Note 2 – needs Kevin/Conner review/blessing

**Jelica Arsenijevic**  
*Environmental Project Manager*

**HR**  
2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
D 916-679-8854  
M 209-329-6897

[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](http://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

---

**From:** Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@BrwnCald.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 10:55 AM  
**To:** Marcia Kivett <MKivett@sitesproject.org>; Luu, Henry <henry.luu@hdrinc.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>; Smith, Michael (orange) <michael.g.smith@aecom.com>; Wisniewski, Jeffrey <jeffrey.wisniewski@aecom.com>; michael.forrest <michael.forrest@aecom.com>; Dan Hertel <dhertel@engineering-solutionsmt.com>; Pete.Rude <Pete.Rude@jacobs.com>; Nuss, Gary S. <Gary.Nuss@jacobs.com>; Smith, Jeff/SAC <jeff.smith1@jacobs.com>; Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>; conner <conner@cmdwest.com>; Patel, Trishna <Trishna.Patel@hdrinc.com>; Arsenijevic, Jelica <jelica.arsenijevic@hdrinc.com>; David Hubbard <Dhubbard@BrwnCald.com>; Risse, Danielle <danielle.risse@hdrinc.com>; Edwards, Dawn <Dawn.Edwards@hdrinc.com>; Cadei, Michael <michael.cadei@hdrinc.com>; jeff.herrin@aecom.com; Dave Hardy <Dhardy@Engineering-Solutionsmt.com>; Jeff Mathews <jeff@cmdwest.com>; Collins, Geoff <Geoff.Collins@jacobs.com>; Lloyd, John <john.lloyd@hdrinc.com>; Jeff Kivett <JKivett@BrwnCald.com>; Pat Tangora <ptangora@BrwnCald.com>; Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Reservoir Package Construction Schedule - Assumptions Discussion

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed today! Attached is our presentation along with a timeline graphic that Henry shared during the meeting.

As a reminder, please have the assignment shown on Slide 8 emailed to myself by COB Friday (2/3).

Thanks,

**Marcus Maltby, PE\***

Brown and Caldwell

[MMaltby@brwncald.com](mailto:MMaltby@brwncald.com)

T 714.689.4826 | C 714.392.1909

\*Professional Registration in Specific States



-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Marcia Kivett <[MKivett@sitesproject.org](mailto:MKivett@sitesproject.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 7:43 AM

**To:** Marcia Kivett; Luu, Henry; JP Robinette; Alicia Forsythe; Kevin Spesert; Smith, Michael (orange); Wisniewski, Jeffrey; michael.forrest; Dan Hertel; Pete.Rude; Nuss, Gary S.; Smith, Jeff/SAC; Spranza, John; laurie.warner.herson; Marcus Maltby; conner; Patel, Trishna; jelica.arsenijevic; David Hubbard; Risse, Danielle; Edwards, Dawn; Michael Cadei; jeff.herrin@aecom.com; Dave Hardy; Jeff Mathews; Collins, Geoff; Lloyd, John; Jeff Kivett; Pat Tangora; Cheyanne Harris

**Subject:** Reservoir Package Construction Schedule - Assumptions Discussion

**When:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:00 AM-9:00 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Teams information below.

We are inviting the same group from the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. I realize there is a lot going on this day.

Please use the MS teams information below.

The latest schedule will be added to the meeting invite before this meeting.

**Happy Birthday, JP!**

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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Passcode: fFUtAo

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+1 916-538-7066,,391943556# United States, Sacramento

Phone Conference ID: 391 943 556#

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# WRLCM Report 2035, Sites Alt3A\_Mod, Alt3B\_Mod, and NAA DRAFT

QEDA Consulting, LLC

Jan 23, 2023

Note: For the WRLCM figures that are broken out by WYT, results for some lifestages (e.g., egg survival) will be summarized by the Water Year that matches the broodyear, whereas other lifestages (e.g., fry survival, smolt survival) will be summarized by the following year, when fry rearing and smolt outmigration occurs (water year = broodyear + 1).



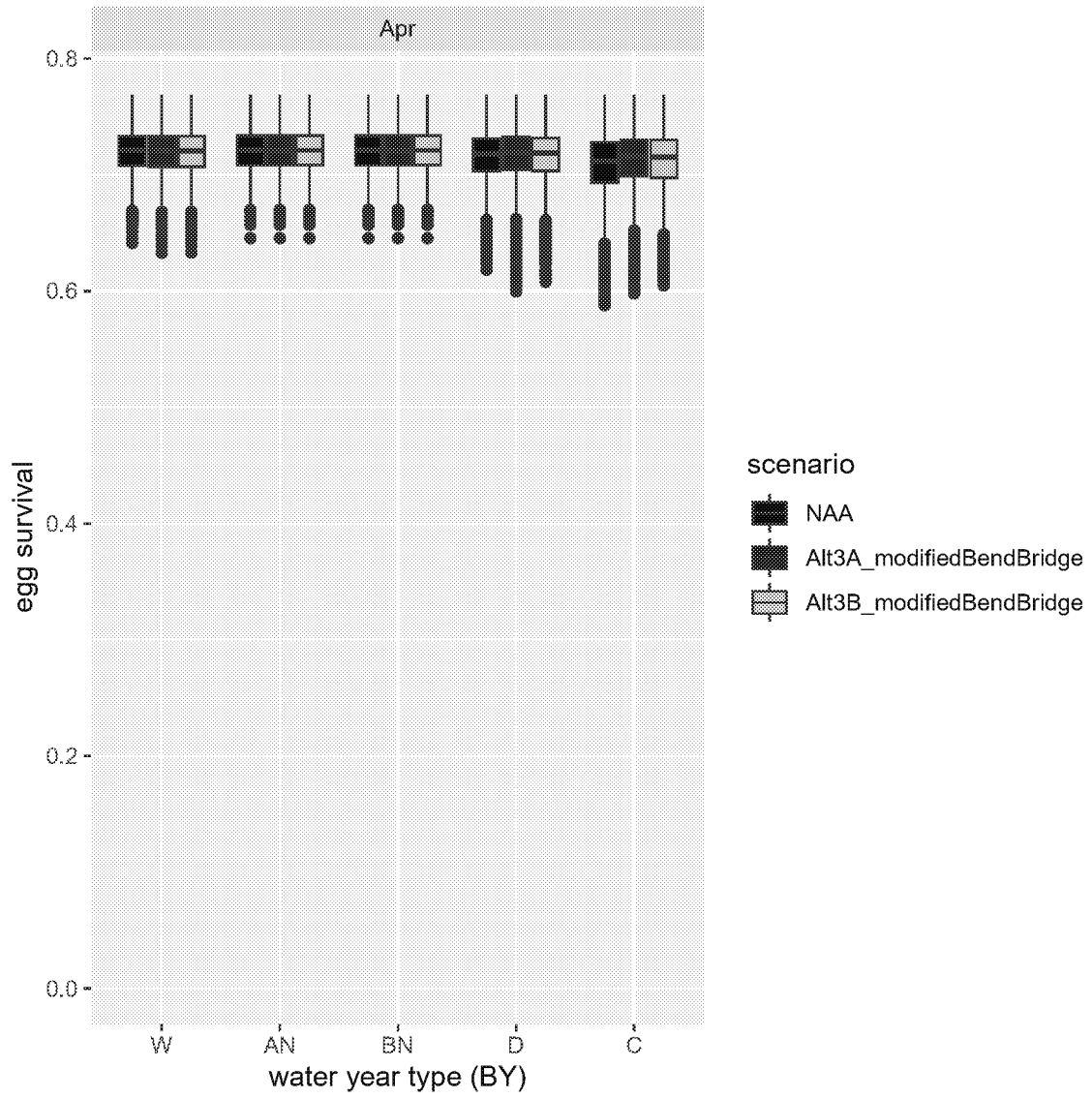


Figure 1: Apr egg survival by water year type.

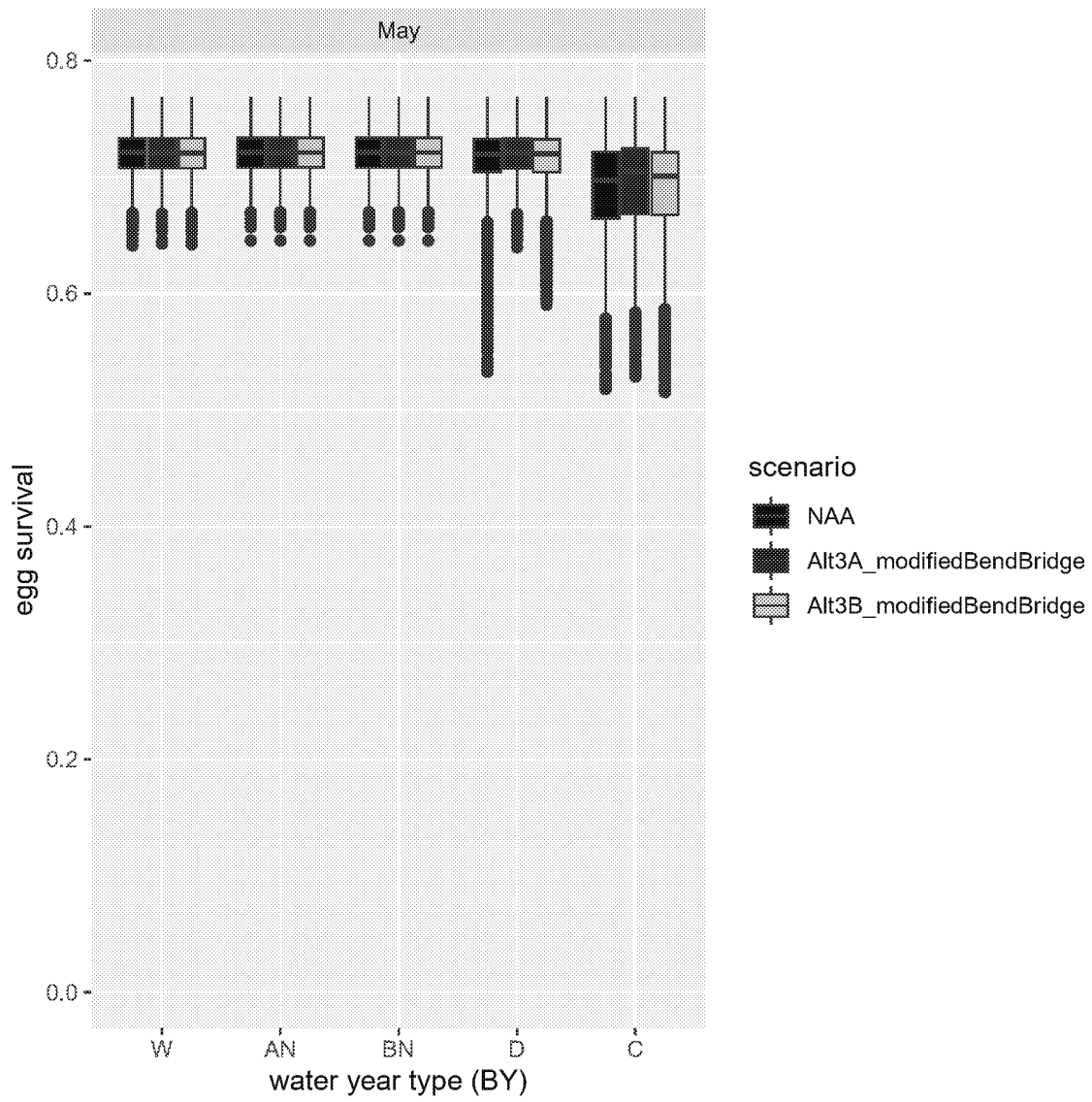


Figure 2: May egg survival by water year type.

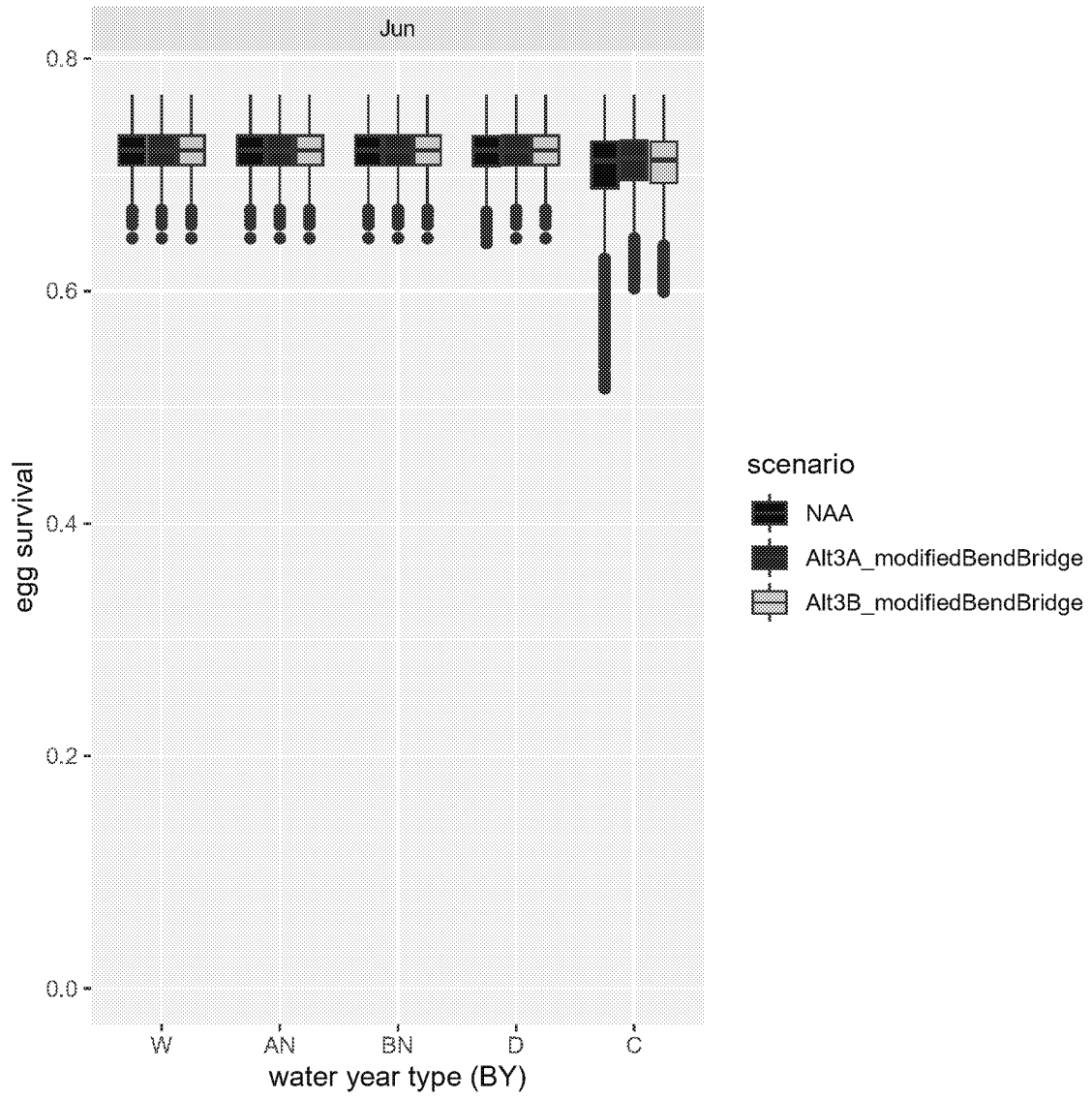


Figure 3: Jun egg survival by water year type.

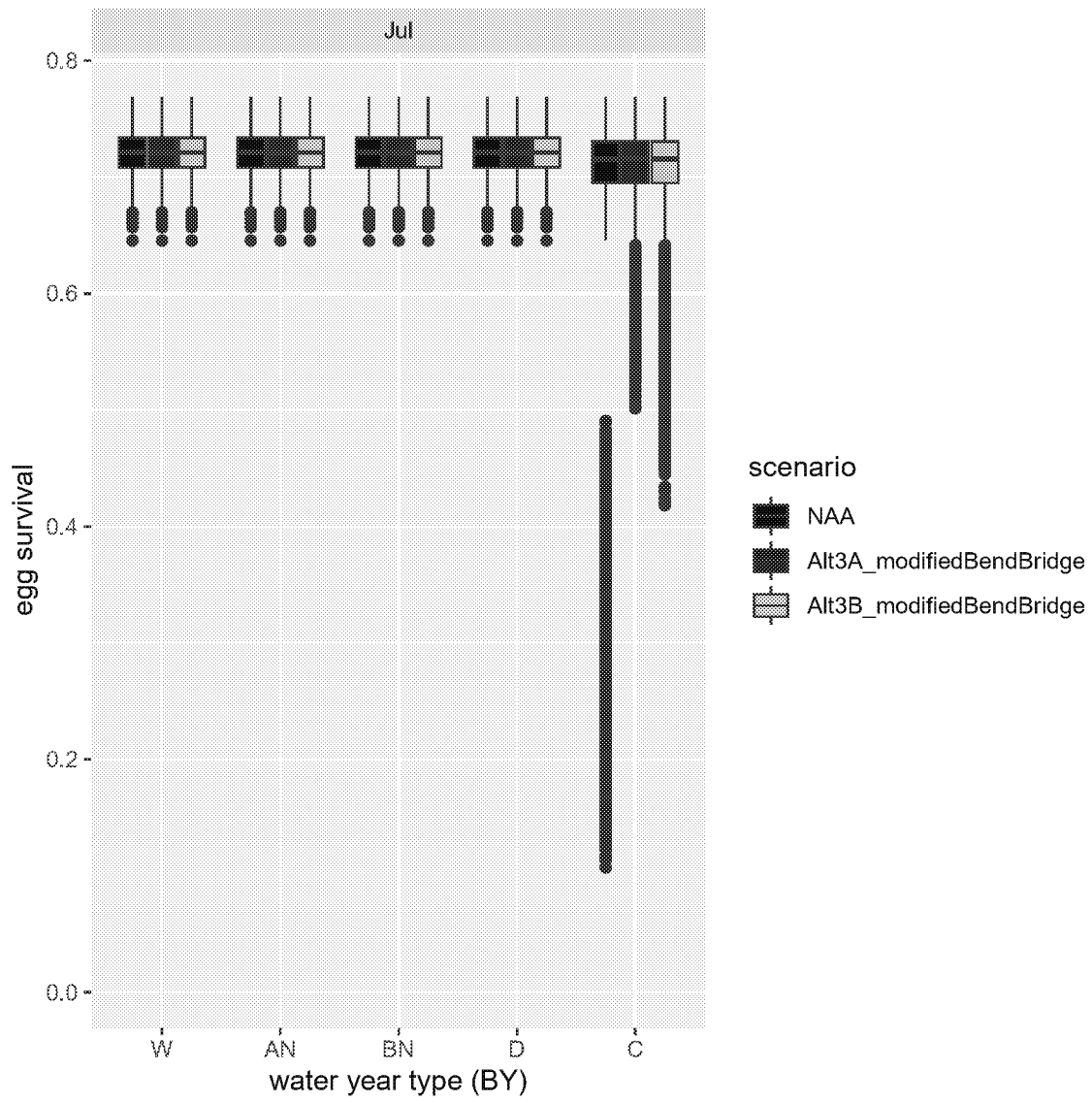


Figure 4: Jul egg survival by water year type.

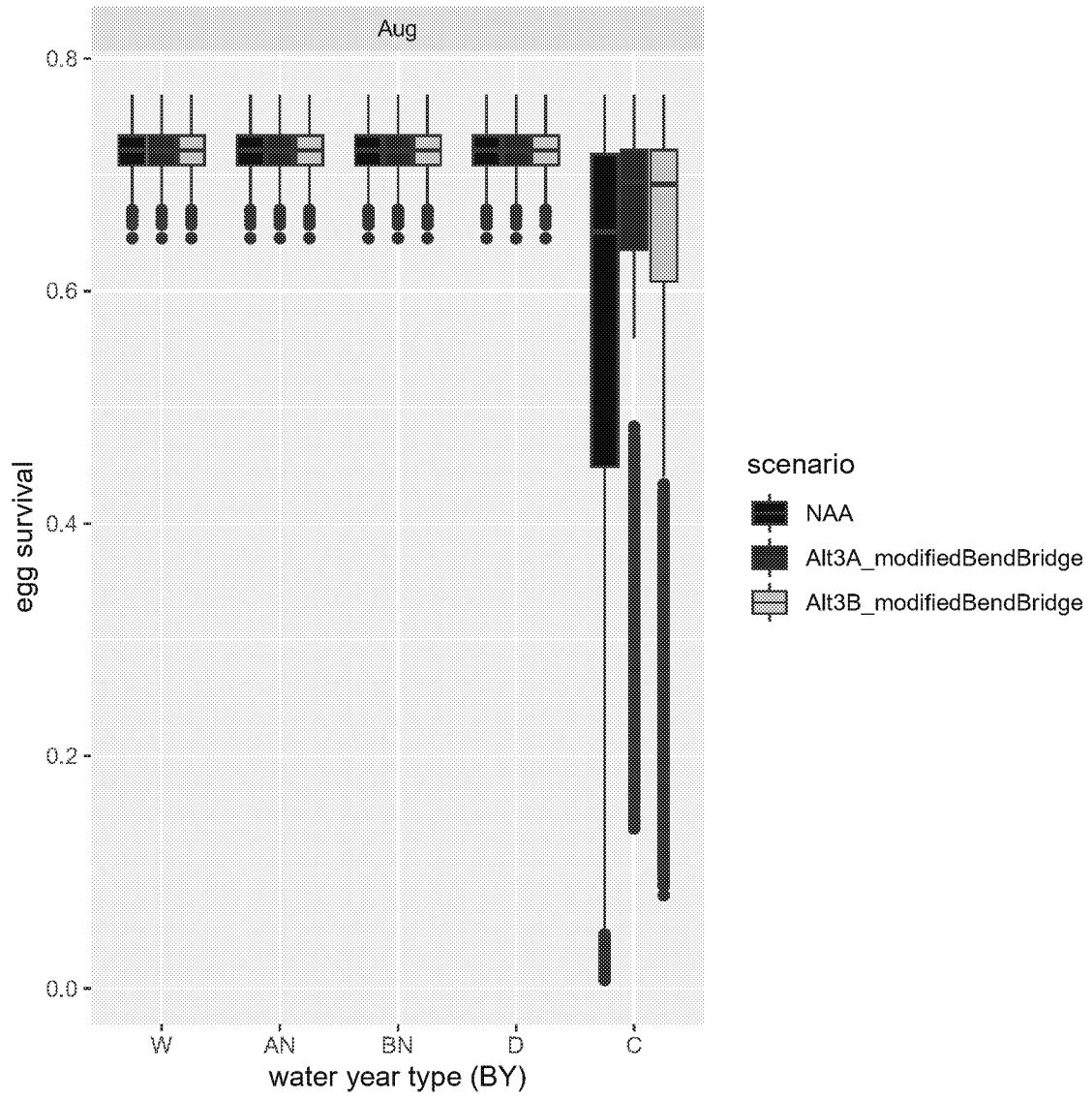


Figure 5: Aug egg survival by water year type.

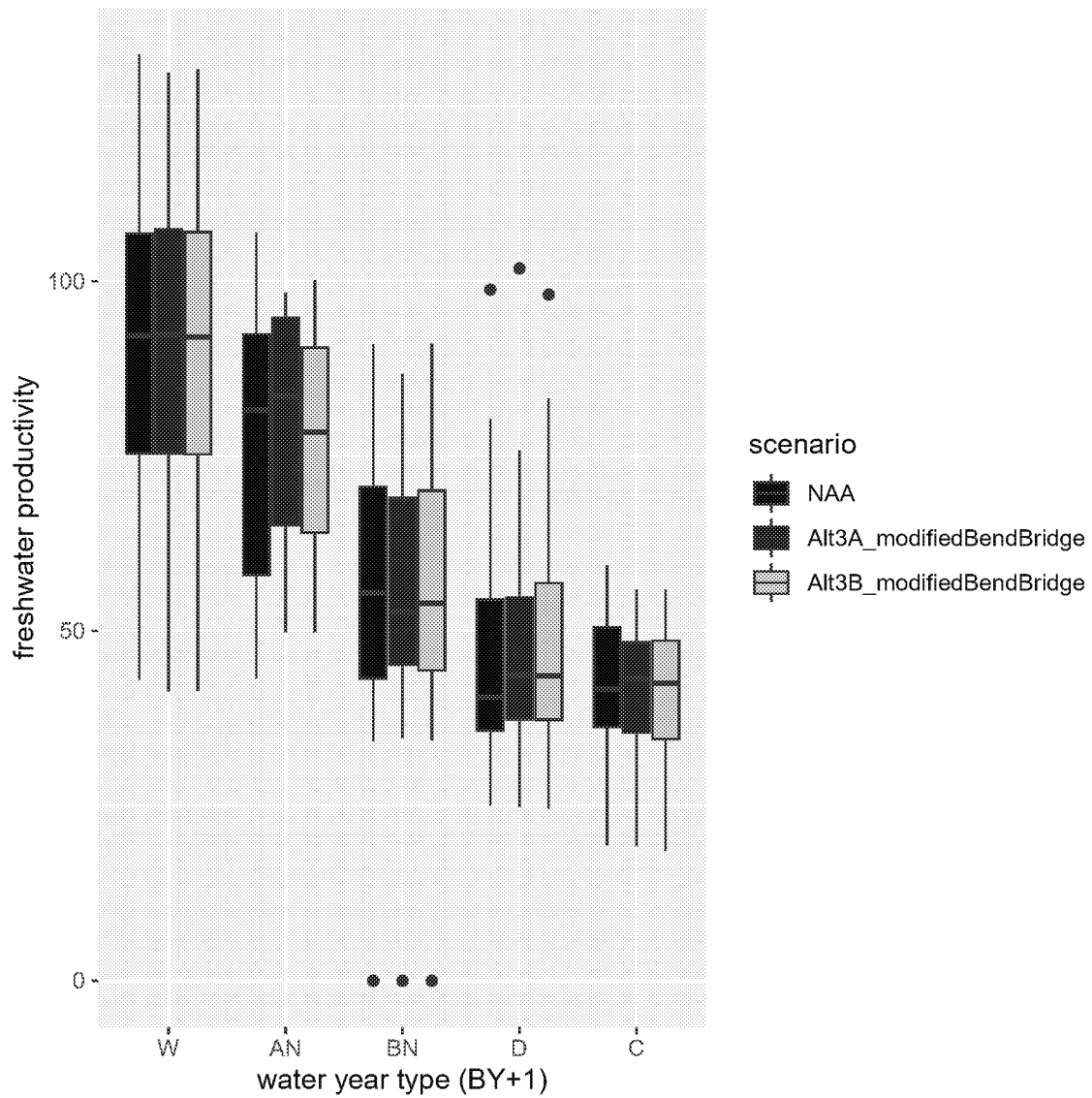


Figure 6: Boxplots of median freshwater productivity (gulf smolts per spawner) by water year type.

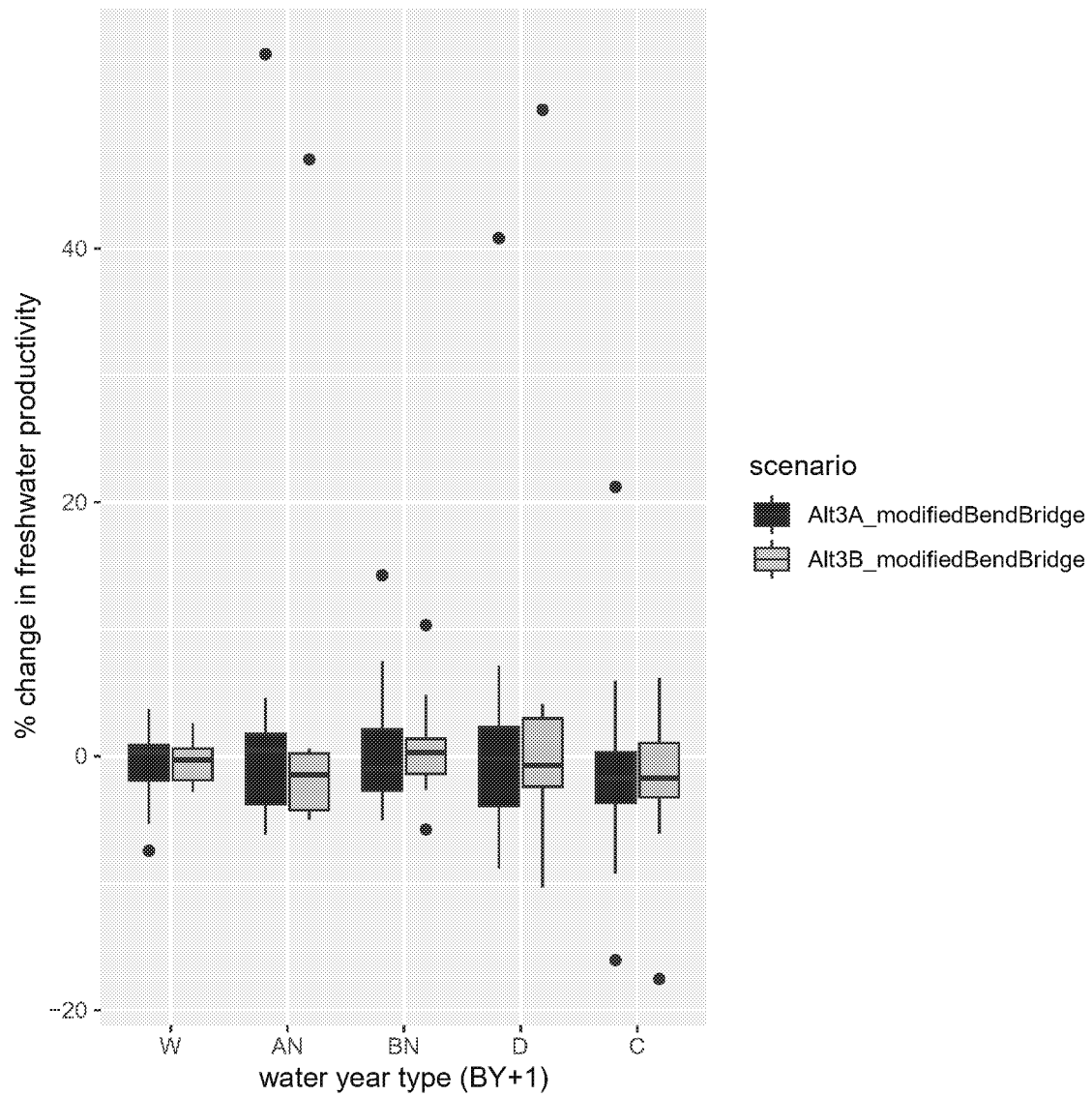


Figure 7: Boxplots of percent change in median freshwater productivity (gulf smolts per spawner) by water year type.

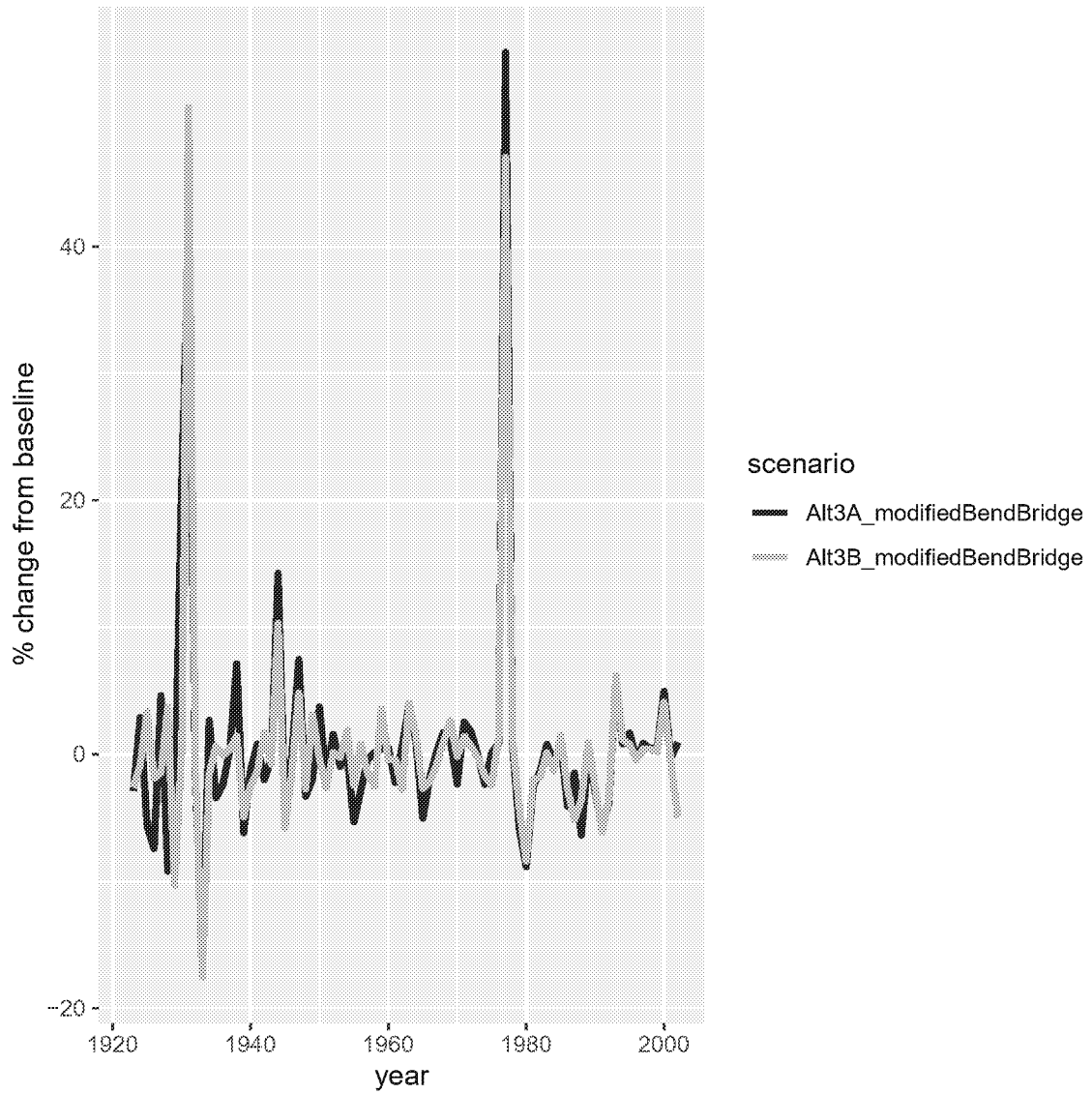


Figure 8: Percent change in freshwater productivity (gulf smolts per spawner).



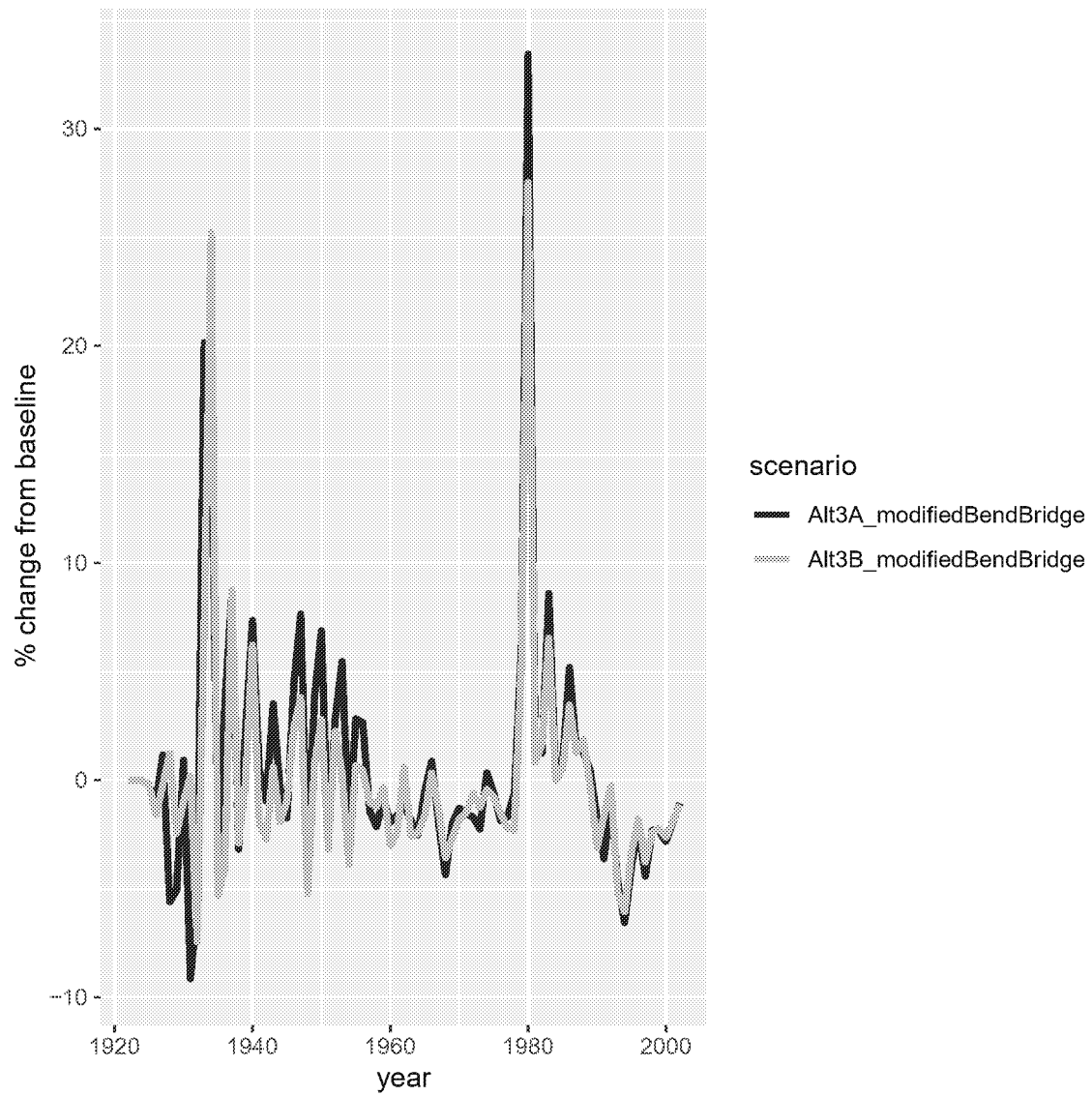


Figure 9: Percent change in annual escapement.

scenario	mean % change in abundance	95% CI	Pr(Alt>baseline)
Alt3A_modifiedBendBridge	1.08	[0.73, 1.43]	0.65
Alt3B_modifiedBendBridge	0.34	[-0.05, 0.73]	0.55

Table 1: Mean of percent change in annual abundance (sum of in-river, natural, and hatchery-origin spawners) averaged across all years. Pr(Alt>baseline) is the probability that a realization of the alternative scenario will have a positive percent change averaged across all years.

scenario	mean % change in productivity
Alt3A_modifiedBendBridge	0.67
Alt3B_modifiedBendBridge	0.45

Table 2: Mean percent change in freshwater productivity (gulf smolt per spawner) relative to baseline

scenario	mean % change in CRR	95% CI	Pr(Alt>baseline)
Alt3A_modifiedBendBridge	1.37	[0.36, 2.37]	0.76
Alt3B_modifiedBendBridge	1.31	[-0.07, 2.68]	0.67

Table 3: Mean of percent change in cohort replacement rate (CRR) averaged across all years. Pr(Alt>baseline) is the probability that a realization of the alternative scenario will have a positive percent change averaged across all years.

**Sites Project – Federal and State ESA Compliance Approach for Sites Project Operations  
Project Versus Program Activities  
July 11, 2022 ---- Predecisional Working Draft, Subject to Change, Not For Public Distribution**

<b>Sites Project Operations Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dependence on the CVP and SWP</b>	<b>Level of ESA Compliance</b>
Diversions at Red Bluff Pumping Plant (PP) and Hamilton City Pump Station (PS)	Sites Project diversions at Red Bluff PP and Hamilton City PS under the Project’s diversion criteria, which generally are: (1) Delta in excess conditions; (2) 10,700 cfs at Wilkins Slough; and (3) Sites pulse flow criteria satisfied (based on flows at Bend Bridge and in the tributaries below Keswick).	Independent of the CVP and SWP operations. Sites Project diversions are based on (generally) no injury to senior water right holders (including the CVP and SWP) and flows in the Sacramento River. These actions are triggered independent of the CVP and SWP operations and Sites would continue to avoid injury to the CVP and SWP as the operations of these two facilities changes (or not) in Long-term Operations Reconsultation (LTO ROC).	Project Level
Use of Excess Capacity in the Tehama-Colusa (TC) Canal and Glenn Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Main Canal	Conveyance of Sites Water (water diverted under Sites water right) in the TC Canal and GCID Main Canal.	Independent of the CVP and SWP operations. Conveyance would utilize excess capacity, when such capacity exists.	Project Level
Storage of Water in Sites Reservoir	The pumping of Sites Water into Sites Reservoir and the storage of that water.	Independent of the CVP and SWP operations. Pumping and the Sites reservoir storage do not rely on CVP or SWP operations.	Project Level
Release of Sites Water at the Colusa Basin Drain	Release of water from Sites Reservoir into the TC Canal and ultimately into the Colusa Basin Drain.	Independent of the CVP and SWP operations. Conveyance of releases would utilize excess capacity in the TC Canal, when such capacity exists. Releases to the Colusa Basin Drain do not rely on CVP or SWP operations.	Project Level

Sites Project Operations Activity	Description	Dependence on the CVP and SWP	Level of ESA Compliance
Use of Sites Water			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Along TC Canal and GCID Main Canal</li> </ul>	Release of Sites Water from Sites Reservoir into the TC Canal and GCID Main Canal for uses along the canals.	Independent of the CVP and SWP operations. Conveyance would utilize excess capacity, when such capacity exists. Deliveries would be made under a contract between Sites and the respective district – independent of any CVP contract.	Project Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the Yolo Bypass for Prop 1 Benefits</li> </ul>	Release of Sites Water from Sites Reservoir into the TC Canal, into the Sites Dunnigan Pipeline, into the Colusa Basin Drain, into the Knights Landing Ridge Cut and into the Upper Yolo Bypass.	Independent of the CVP and SWP operations. For the TC Canal, conveyance would utilize excess capacity, when such capacity exists. All other facilities are locally operated.	Project Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Sacramento River, Delta for Sites Members</li> </ul>	Release of Sites Water from Sites Reservoir into the TC Canal, into the Sites Dunnigan Pipeline, into the Colusa Basin Drain and through the Knights Landing Outfall Gates for conveyance in the Sacramento River.	Independent of the CVP and SWP operations. For the TC Canal, conveyance would utilize excess capacity, when such capacity exists. All other facilities are locally operated or operated by DWR as flood control facilities (outside of its SWP operations).	Project Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conveyed through Delta and Rediverted at Banks and Jones Pumping Plants for Sites Members</li> </ul>	Release of Sites Water from Sites Reservoir into the TC Canal, into the Sites Dunnigan Pipeline, into the Colusa Basin Drain and through the Knights Landing Outfall Gates for conveyance in the Sacramento River. Rediversion of Sites Water in the South Delta as transfer water in the transfer window.	Independent of the CVP and SWP operations. Sites Water would be rediverted at the South Delta facilities as transfer water in the transfer window. All transfer water is typically “group” together in the CVP/SWP consultations – Sites Water would merely be part of this grouping. Any changes to the transfer window as part of LTO ROC would affect all transfer water, including Sites Water.	Project Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conveyed through Delta and Rediverted at Banks and Jones Pumping Plants for Refuges</li> </ul>	Same as above. This water is assumed to move only through the transfer window as is current practice for Incremental Level 4 refuge water.	Same as above.	Project Level

Sites Project Operations Activity	Description	Dependence on the CVP and SWP	Level of ESA Compliance
Exchanges of Sites Water			
• With Reclamation into Shasta or Folsom	Exchanges of water between Sites and Reclamation at either Shasta or Folsom to provide anadromous fish benefits in the Sacramento and American rivers.	Dependent on the CVP. Changes in the operations at Shasta or Folsom could affect the timing, nature, and extent of these exchanges.	Program Level
• With DWR into Oroville	Exchanges of water between Sites and DWR at Oroville to provide anadromous fish benefits in the Feather River and flexibility in operations for both Sites and DWR.	Dependent on the SWP. Changes in the operations at Oroville could affect the timing, nature, and extent of these exchanges.	Program Level
Reclamation's Investment in Sites and Subsequent use of Sites Water	Reclamations investment amount in the Sites Project and how the resulting water supply realized from the investment may be used by Reclamation.	Dependent on the CVP. Generally, as Reclamation has identified its investment as Operational Flexibility, this investment is dependent on the CVP operations.	Program Level

Similar approaches to that outlined above have been used for the Yuba River Accord and the San Joaquin River Restoration Program. For example:

- Yuba River Accord – The Yuba River Accord has its own State and Federal ESA compliance. Even though Accord water is transferred through the Delta and sold south-of-Delta, previous CVP and SWP re-consultation efforts did not include re-consultation on the Accord. In this way, the Accord was treated as a component of transfer water.
- San Joaquin River Restoration Program – The San Joaquin River Restoration Program both:
  - Considered components of the Program's operations (flows in the San Joaquin River and recapture of water downstream) at a mixed project-level and program-level of analysis in its ESA compliance. For example, release of flows from Friant Dam were covered at a Project level up to 1,660 cfs in the NMFS Biological Opinion, with full Restoration Flow releases of up to 4,500 cfs covered at a Program level. Recapture of Restoration Flows was also covered at a project-level for some locations and program for others.
  - Was not included in the previous CVP and SWP re-consultation efforts even though SJRRP water is CVP water, recaptured at the south Delta facilities.

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/6/2023 11:34:15 AM  
**To:** Herrin, Jeff [jjeff.herrin@aecom.com]; Cheyanne Harris [CHarris@BrwnCald.com]; Patel, Trishna [Trishna.Patel@hdrinc.com]  
**CC:** Carlson, Nik [nik.carlson@aecom.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Project - New FEMA maps for portions of Colusa County

Thanks Jeff! This is all super helpful!

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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---

**From:** Herrin, Jeff <jjeff.herrin@aecom.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 5:40 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>; Patel, Trishna <Trishna.Patel@hdrinc.com>  
**Cc:** Carlson, Nik <nik.carlson@aecom.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Project - New FEMA maps for portions of Colusa County

Ali,

The estimates for flood damage reduction were developed using the FEMA 100-year flood maps. I think it is possible the State would ask for an updated analysis, but wouldn't assume that they will. Regarding the prior analysis:

- Colusa County had some disagreement with the old FEMA maps. They felt that it underestimated the scope of flooding that has been observed in the past.
- I'm not up to speed on recent changes in the FEMA methodology for flood mapping, but my understanding is that with climate change the hydrology is getting worse, not better. This would tend to increase flooding and as a result the flood damage reduction benefits would also increase. Note that changes in land use (crop changes or new structures) would also tend to drive the benefits up over time.
- AECOM disagrees with the way that DWR estimated the benefits, but so far direction from the Authority has been to avoid pushing back on DWR's approach. We believe their application of the FRAM model did not account for flooding that is recurring on less than a 100-year basis. The dollars associated with the flood benefit are less than the Prop 1 dollars for other purposes, so we have not pursued this as an opportunity.
- You may be aware that Jacobs has developed some TMs on flooding and I believe they considered without Project conditions.

It will be interesting to see if DWR brings this up in the contracting process for State benefits.

Jeff

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>

**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2023 5:41 PM

**To:** Herrin, Jeff <[jeff.herrin@aecom.com](mailto:jeff.herrin@aecom.com)>; Cheyanne Harris <[CHarris@BrwnCald.com](mailto:CHarris@BrwnCald.com)>; Patel, Trishna <[Trishna.Patel@hdrinc.com](mailto:Trishna.Patel@hdrinc.com)>

**Subject:** Sites Project - New FEMA maps for portions of Colusa County

Jeff – I saw that FEMA released some new draft maps for portions of Colusa County. I know that I should know this, but how much were these maps used to determine our flood benefits under Prop 1? As we haven't yet finalized the public benefits contract, I am wondering if this may trigger us or the State to re-evaluate the flood benefits prior to finalizing our contract.

[FEMA outlines flood risk in Colusa, Williams and surrounding areas | Colusa Sun Herald | appeal-democrat.com](#)

Would just love your insight on this.

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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# EVALUATION OF SITES RESERVOIR POTENTIAL IMPACT ON YOLO BYPASS BNP

## TUFLOW MODELING APPROACH

INITIALLY SUBMITTED: FEBRUARY 2, 2022

RESUBMITTED: MARCH 1, 2022

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### Situation

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) recently completed the 95% design of the Yolo Bypass Big Notch Project (BNP). The purpose of the BNP is to provide floodplain rearing habitat and entrainment for young salmon and upstream fish passage for adult salmon and sturgeon. To support the BNP Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS), DWR developed a 1D/2D TUFLOW hydraulic model. The EIR/EIS TUFLOW model includes the Yolo Bypass, a portion of the Sutter Bypass, and adjacent rivers and streams. The TUFLOW model was originally developed in 2017 to evaluate the ability of BNP alternatives to create floodplain habitat and improve fish passage within the Yolo Bypass, and to evaluate the relative differences between the alternatives' impacts to the environment (DWR, 2017a). Recently, the TUFLOW model was updated to the latest version (2020-10-AB-Beta1) and modified to take advantage of new functionality within the software.

Sites Reservoir is a planned reservoir approximately 10 miles west of Maxwell, California in Glenn and Colusa Counties. Sites would be an off-river reservoir that will capture excess water and reserve it for periods of drier weather. Flows from the Sacramento River would be diverted at Red Bluff and Hamilton City and conveyed to Sites Reservoir. Releases from Sites would enter into the Colusa Basin Drain near Dunnigan and re-enter the Sacramento River at Knights Landing or south of the Yolo Bypass near Rio Vista. It would create an additional 1.3 to 1.5 million acre-feet of storage (Sites Reservoir Authority, 2021a).

HDR is engineer of record for various components of the Yolo Bypass Big Notch Project (BNP) and the Integration Manager for the Sites Reservoir Project.

### Task

DWR requested modeling and analysis to quantify the potential hydraulic impact of Sites Reservoir Diversions on Yolo Bypass Big Notch Project (BNP) entrainment for various scenarios, as shown in Table 1. Diversion discharges were specified from the Daily Divertible and Storable Flow Tool, developed as part of the Sites Reservoir Environment Impact Report (Sites Reservoir Authority, 2021b). This information was provided to HDR by DWR. Scenario 1

includes the full Sites Reservoir diversions without any decreases to protect the BNP. The other scenarios decrease Sites Reservoir diversions to limit the impact on the BNP.

Estimated changes in entrainment were predicted using insights from the fish entrainment modeling performed for the EIR/EIS (DWR, 2017b).

**Table 1. TUFLOW Evaluation Scenarios**

Scenario	Description	Time Window	Specifications*
Baseline	Unmodified TUFLOW baseline scenario	No Diversions	No Diversions
1	Full Sites Reservoir Diversions without BNP Protection	November to March 15	Sites Reservoir diversions are restricted by Bend Br. Pulse Protection, Wilkins Minimum Bypass (10,700 Mar-May), and Delta Conditions.
2	Sites-Proposed Percent Impact Limits	November to March 15	<p>If predicted BNP flows 0-600 cfs, Sites diversion must decrease BNP flow less than 1%</p> <p>If predicted BNP flows 600-6,000 cfs, Sites diversion must decrease BNP flow less than 10%</p>
3	CDFW**-Proposed Stage/Percent of Verona Flow	November to March 15	<p>FRE*** stage 15-21 ft, no diversions</p> <p>FRE stage 21-28 ft, allow diversion up to 2% of Verona flow</p> <p>FRE stage 28-32 ft, allow diversion up to 5% of Verona flow</p> <p>FRE stage 32-33.25 ft, pause diversion for up to 7 days</p>
4	CDFW-Proposed Stage, up to 29 ft	November to March 15	<p>FRE stage 15-21 ft, no diversions</p> <p>FRE stage 21-28 ft, allow diversion up to 2% of Verona flow</p> <p>FRE stage 28-29 ft, allow diversion up to 5% of Verona flow</p> <p>FRE stage 29-32 ft, no restrictions on diversions</p> <p>FRE stage 32-33.25 ft, pause diversion for up to 7 days</p>

\*All references to stages and water surface elevations (WSE) are referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88).

\*\*California Department of Fish and Wildlife

\*\*\*FRE = Sacramento River channel stage at Fremont Weir

## Analysis

Sites Reservoir discharges from the Daily Divertible and Storable Flow Tool include water years 2009-2018. These data could be used as input to the TUFLOW model for this analysis.

However, the TUFLOW model is currently setup for water years 1997-2012, therefore, only the subset of water years where Sites Reservoir discharges were available (2009-2012) were used as input. The baseline scenario was run for the original TUFLOW modeling period (October 2 through June 30). Sites Reservoir planned diversions would only occur in limited periods of each water year because of all the constraints that must be met. The alternatives were only modeled for periods when diversions occur because the model is identical when no diversions are occurring.

The periods in each water year modeled for the alternative simulations include:

- 2009 – February 1 through April 1
- 2010 – January 1 through April 1
- 2011 – Full modeled period (October 2 through June 30)
- 2012 – October 2 through April 15

The baseline scenario for this analysis is consistent with the baseline scenario used in evaluation of the BNP. The baseline scenario includes other projects in the Yolo Bypass region, such as the Adult Fish Passage project at the Fremont Weir, constructed in 2019; the Lower Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback (LEBLS) project, currently under construction; and the Sacramento Weir Widening and Fish Passage projects, currently going through 95% design and slated for construction in 2022. To model the other scenarios, the TUFLOW boundary conditions were modified to reflect the Sites Reservoir discharges. The Sacramento River change at Wilkins Slough was used to modify the TUFLOW inflow boundary on the Sacramento River. The inflow boundary condition for the Sutter Bypass was decreased by total discharge of the diversions at the Moulton, Colusa, and Tisdale weirs delayed 1 day for travel time similar to what was used when deriving the original TUFLOW boundary conditions. Figure 1 shows the Sites Diversions and Yolo Bypass Model inflow boundaries.

Figures 2 through 5 show the discharges at the TUFLOW Sacramento River Boundary for each scenario in the top pane and the discharge difference for each of the scenarios in the bottom pane. Figures 6 through 9 show the same information for the Sutter Bypass boundary condition.

TUFLOW model results were evaluated by comparing the WSE for the baseline to each evaluation scenario at three locations within the Sacramento River:

- Near Knights Landing
- Near the west side of the Fremont Weir
- Near the BNP

Entrainment percentages were predicted using WSE results from TUFLOW at Sacramento River near the BNP and a rating curve developed for the EIR/EIS (DWR, 2017b). The entrainment percentage was linearly interpolated from the rating curve. For WSEs below the rating curve, a value of 0.0% entrainment was used. For values above the rating curve, a value of 13.8%, which is the highest value in the rating curve, was used. The entrainment rating curve was applied to the full model simulation window and did not consider BNP gate closures. As such, the entrainment best represents the adaptive management scenario where gates are left open. Incorporating gate closures into the entrainment analysis, would make entrainment 0% for non-overtopping periods when the gates are closed and there is no flow through the BNP. Because this change would affect both baseline and alternative scenarios, the overall impact on the results is likely small. Figure 10 shows the Entrainment percent vs WSE.

Daily catch data was analyzed from Acierto et al. Juvenile Knights Landing Rotary Screw Trap Salmon catch data. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) operates two rotary screw traps at this location, which they check for juvenile salmon every one to six days. As with any sampling regime, the number of fish caught in these traps is not representative of the entire population of juvenile salmon in the Sacramento River and should be considered a sample. Additionally, the traps may have reduced efficiency during high flow events when juvenile salmon are most likely to be present. The fish count data only included water years 2009-2011, so TUFLOW results for 2012 are not used to estimate entrainment. As CDFW would often fish the traps for multiple days, sample hours varied widely from day to day which made a simple daily fish count comparison impossible. For this reason, fish counts were standardized as a daily catch per unit effort (CPUE). Because of this, fish CPUE was not provided for every day of the simulation period, and these data were only used for the dates provided (gaps were not filled). However, there were likely juvenile salmon present on these gap days, which means entrainment is underestimated in this analysis.

For periods that were not modeled for the alternatives (No Sites Reservoir diversions), the baseline discharges and entrainment were used for the alternatives.

## Results

Figures 11 through 22 show the WSE results through time near Knight's Landing, the west side of Fremont Weir, and the Sacramento River near BNP for the water years modeled.

Figures 23 through 26 show the predicted entrainment percentage for water years 2009, 2010, and 2011 respectively.

Table 2 Shows the overall change in entrainment between the baseline and scenarios utilizing fish count data. The change in entrainment is weighted based upon the fish count data so the results are relative to when fish are in the river.

**Table 2. Change in Entrainment from Baseline Scenario under Adaptive Management Operations Based upon Fish Counts**

Water Year	Change in Spring Run Percent Entrained				Change in Winter Run Percent Entrained			
	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
2009	-41%	-21%	-19%	-20%	-42%	-21%	-19%	-20%
2010	-14%	-6%	-5%	-5%	-7%	-3%	-3%	-3%
2011	-5%	-2%	-2%	-2%	-16%	-5%	-3%	-3%

## Discussion

Due to the decrease in river discharges (and therefore stages), all the evaluation scenarios suggest some decrease in the entrainment of juvenile salmon into the Yolo Bypass with Sites diversions. As shown in Table 2 the decrease in entrainment (as a percentage) for the 2009 water year is significantly higher than for the 2010 and 2011 water years. This decrease is likely due to the timing, duration, and magnitude of the 2009 flows and resulting stages. For 2009, the WSE at the entrance to the BNP exceeds 20 feet for about a month between mid-February and mid-March, but does not overtop the Fremont Weir. Entrainment is most sensitive to changes in discharge and stage during non-overtopping periods when the WSE exceeds 20 feet. This combination of non-overtopping and WSE over 20 feet for a month-long period coincides with when fish were identified in the system. This is likely the reason model results show a higher impact due to Sites diversions in the 2009 water year.

## Limitations of Analysis and Use of Results

The largest limitation in the analysis is the short amount of overlap between the time-periods in data availability. Specifically, overlap in data is needed for: 1) data input modeled in TUFLOW, 2) potential Sites Reservoir diversions, and 3) sampled fish count data. Due to limited data availability, the analysis only included 3 years out of the 16 water years evaluated in the TUFLOW model for BNP design. The largest limiting factor was dates when fish count data were available. The BNP TUFLOW analysis only included days with available fish count data and no interpolation was performed.

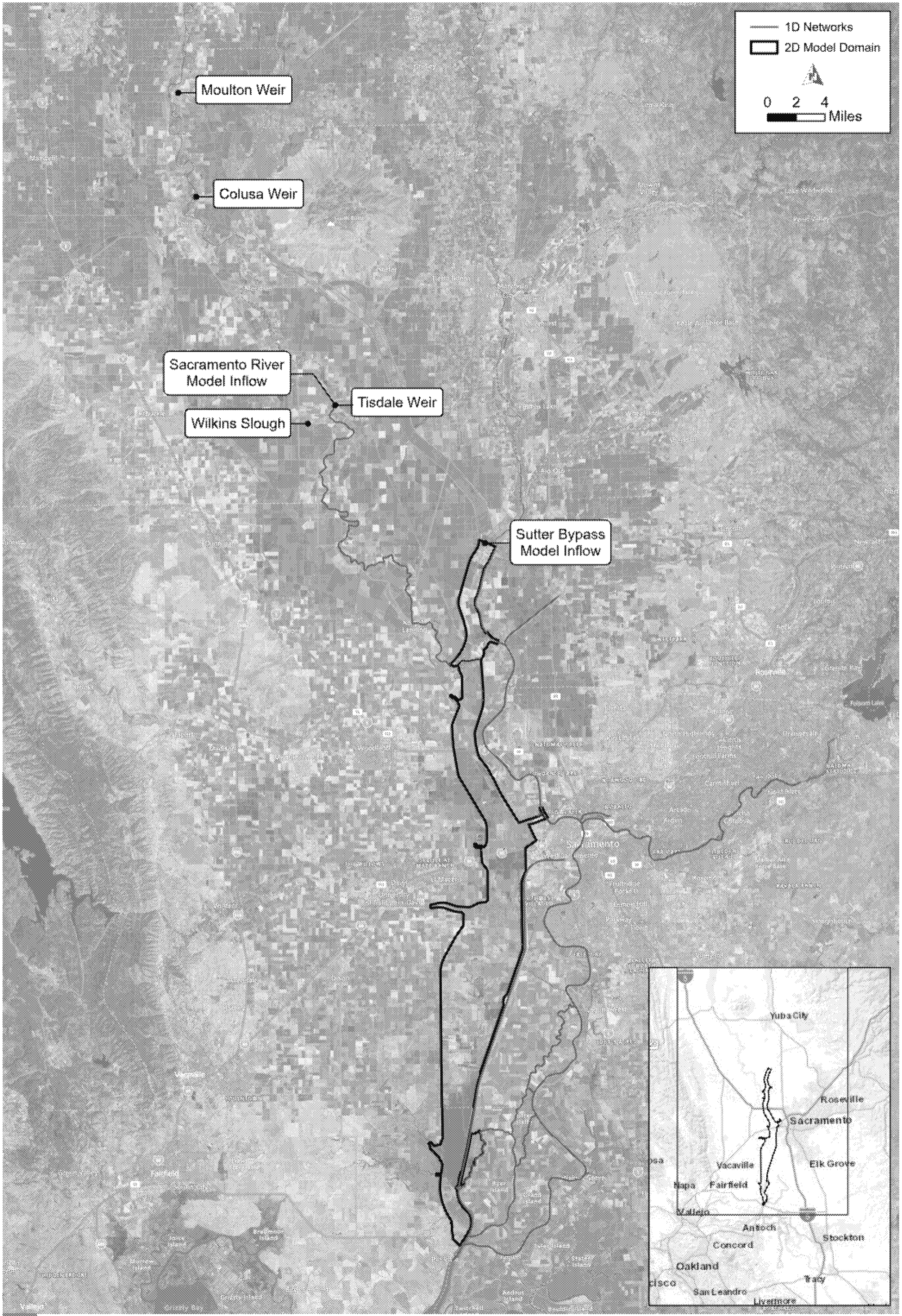
The provided fish entrainment curve was provided by DWR based upon separate investigations conducted for the EIR/EIS. The EIR/EIS investigation and analyses include their own assumptions and uncertainties that were not quantified for this TUFLOW model analysis. Most notably, the fish entrainment curve did not account for overtopping periods.

Due to the limitations of this analysis, particularly the limited period of record used, an expanded analysis is suggested that uses additional water years, any recent refinements to Sites Reservoir diversions, and additional fish count data.

## References

- California Department of Water Resources. 2017a. Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Hydrodynamic Modeling Report. Prepared by HDR and cbec. June 2017.
- California Department of Water Resources. 2017b. Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix G1 Scenario Analysis of Fremont Weir Notch – integration of engineering designs, telemetry, and flow fields.
- Sites Reservoir Authority. 2021a. Sites Reservoir Project Preliminary Project Description and Alternatives. Maxwell, CA.
- Sites Reservoir Authority. 2021b. Sites Reservoir Project Revised Draft Environment Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Appendix 11P, Attachment 11P-1.

# Figures



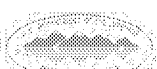
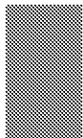
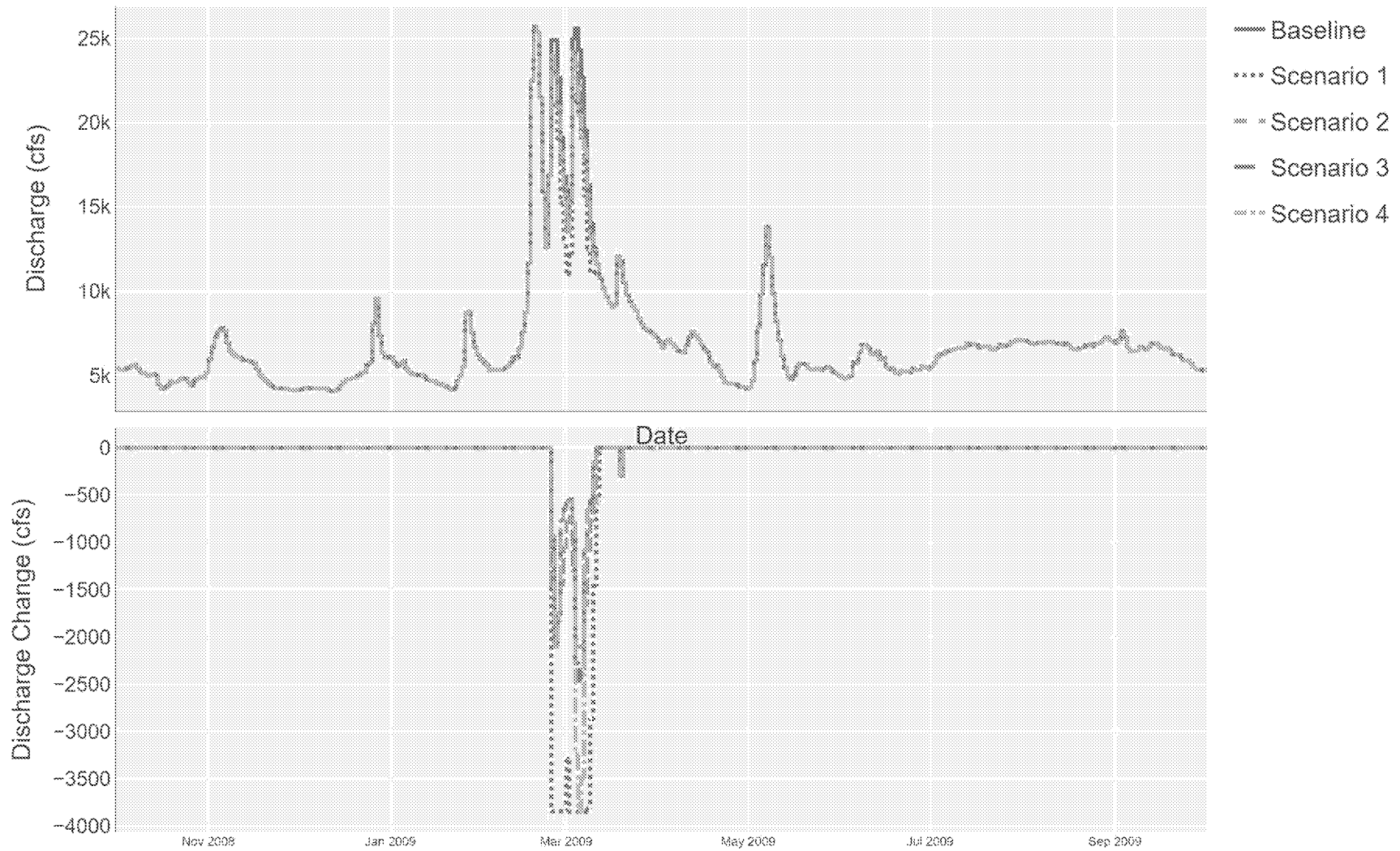
SITES DIVERSION LOCATIONS AND TUFLOW INFLOW BOUNDARY LOCATIONS  
 MODEL 2D AREA AND 1D CHANNELS ALSO SHOWN

FIGURE 1





# Boundary Condition Discharge Sacramento River at Wilkins 2009

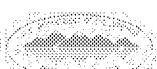
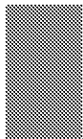
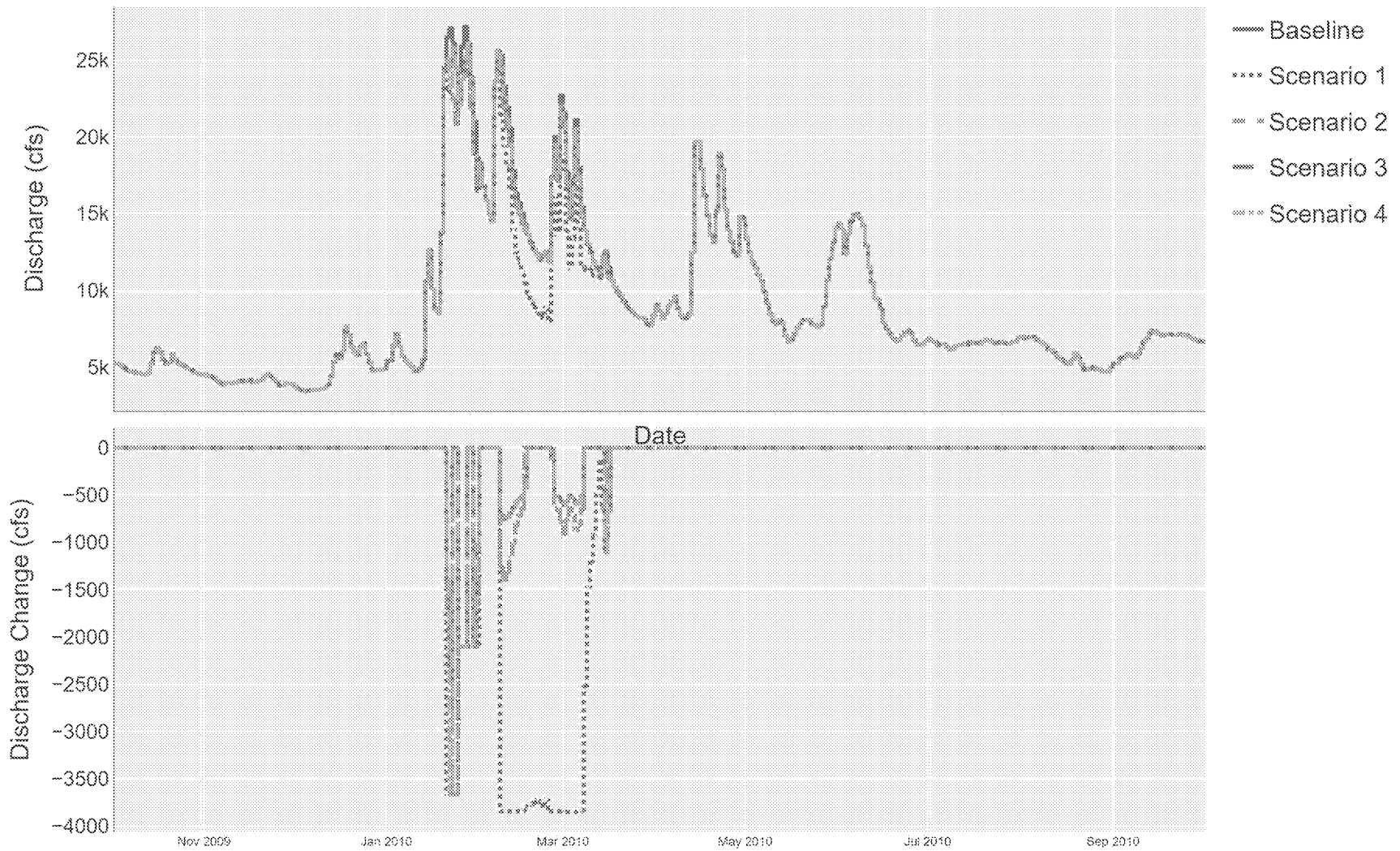


TUFLOW BC DISCHARGES  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR WILKINS SLOUGH 2009

FIGURE 2

YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT

# Boundary Condition Discharge Sacramento River at Wilkins 2010

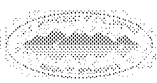
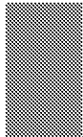
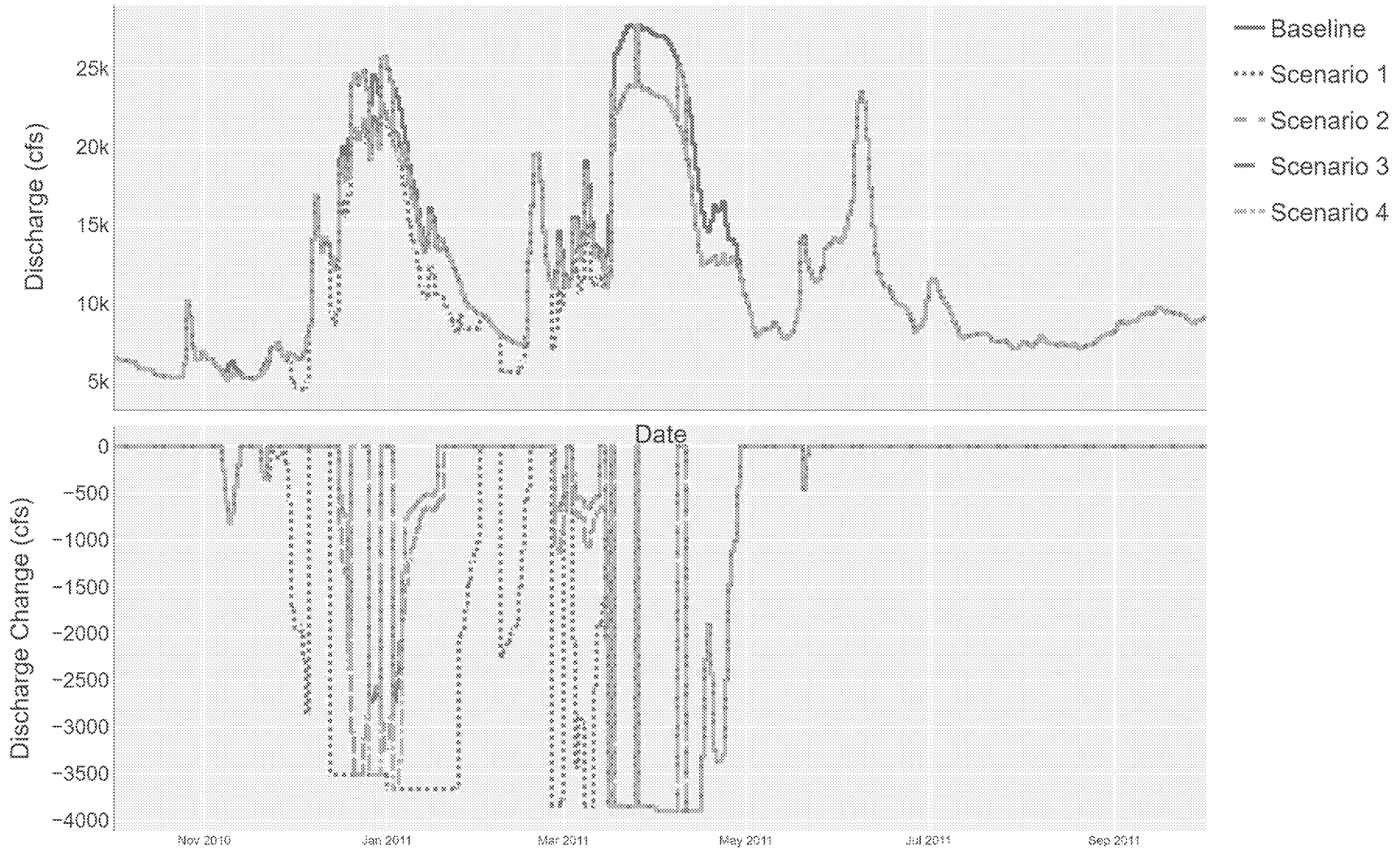


TUFLOW BC DISCHARGES  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR WILKINS SLOUGH 2010

FIGURE 3

YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT

# Boundary Condition Discharge Sacramento River at Wilkins 2011

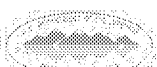
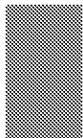
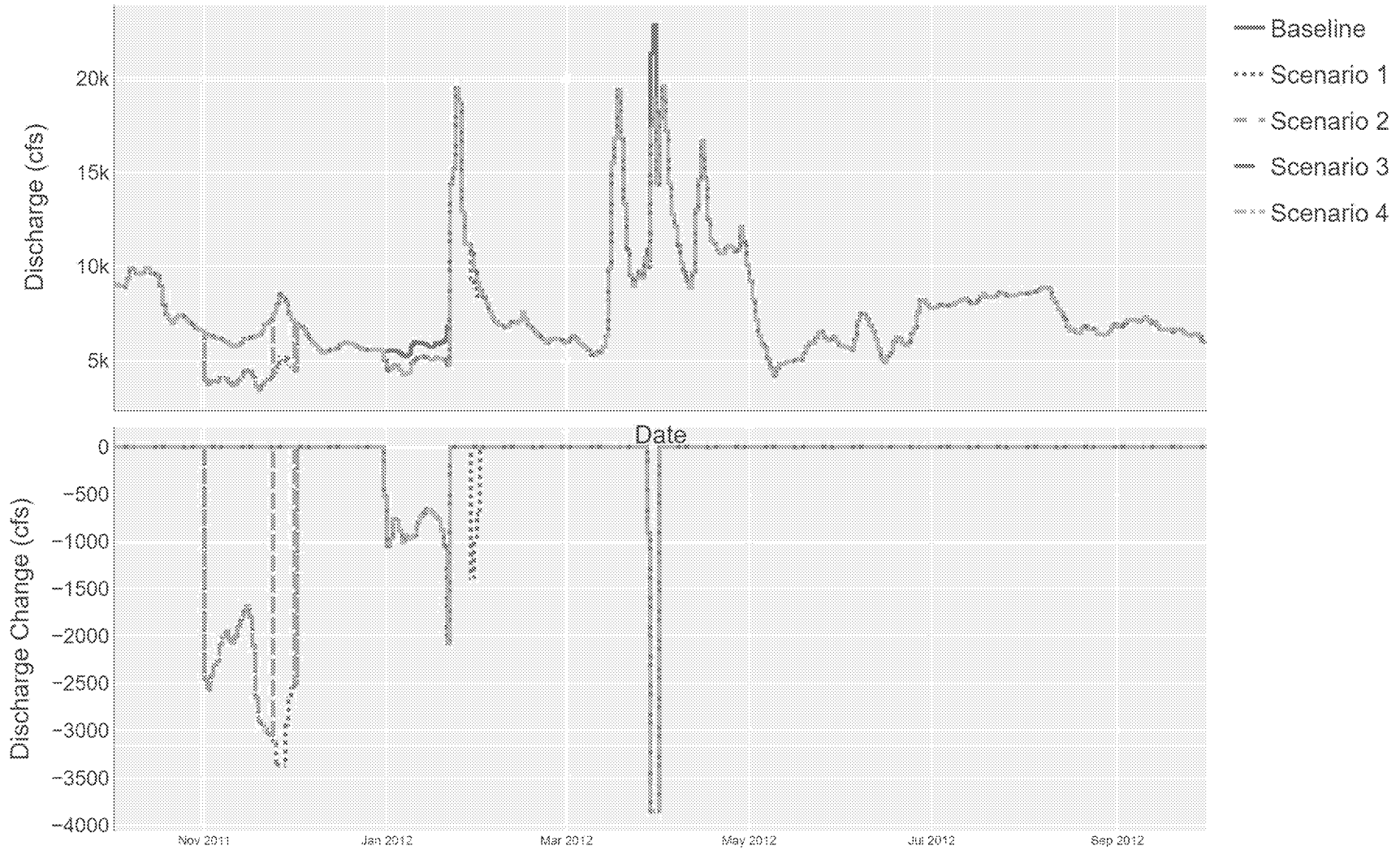


TUFLOW BC DISCHARGES  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR WILKINS SLOUGH 2011

FIGURE 4

YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT

# Boundary Condition Discharge Sacramento River at Wilkins 2012

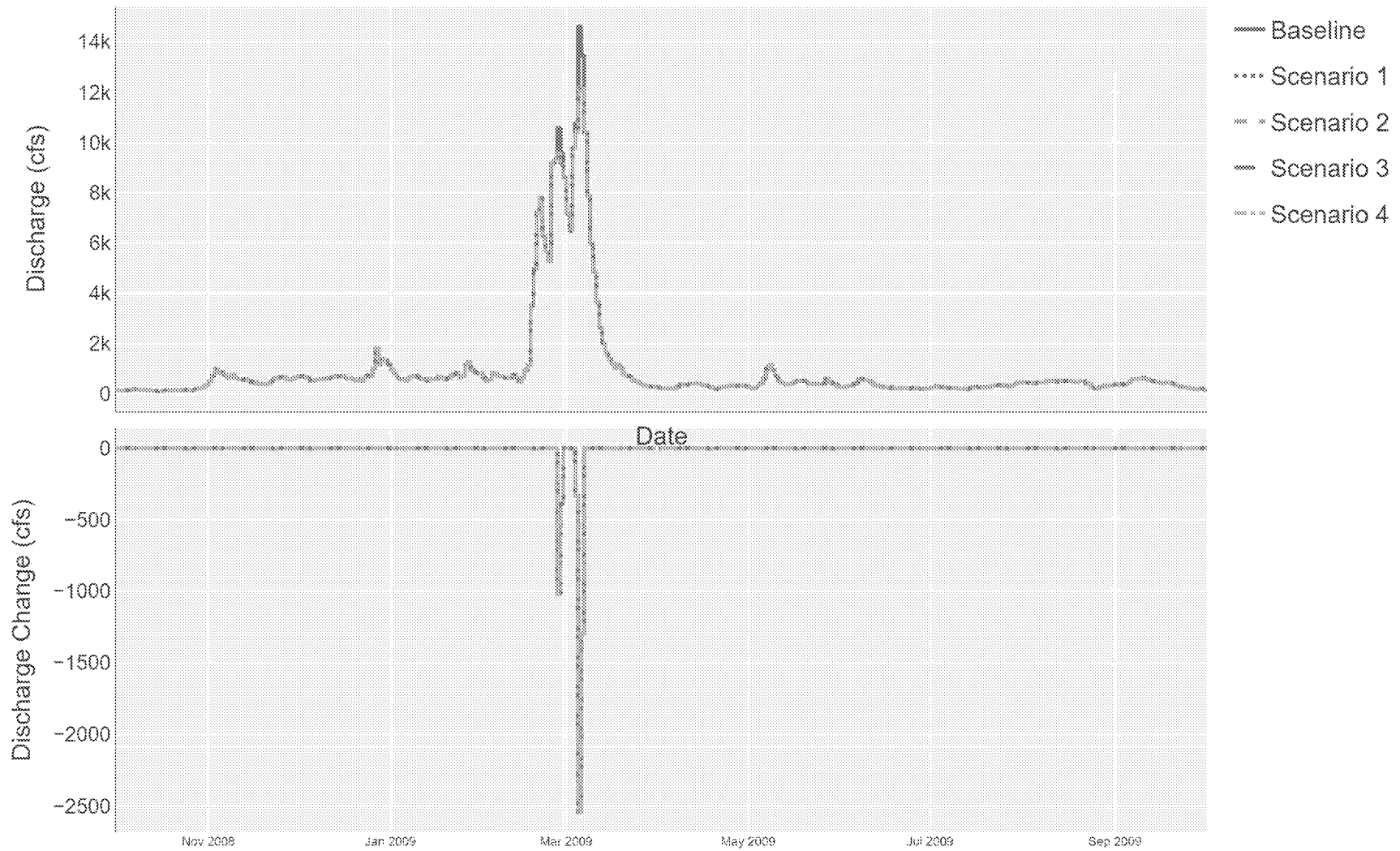


TUFLOW BC DISCHARGES  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR WILKINS SLOUGH 2012

FIGURE 5

YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT

# Boundary Condition Discharge Sutter Bypass 2009

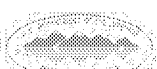
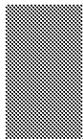
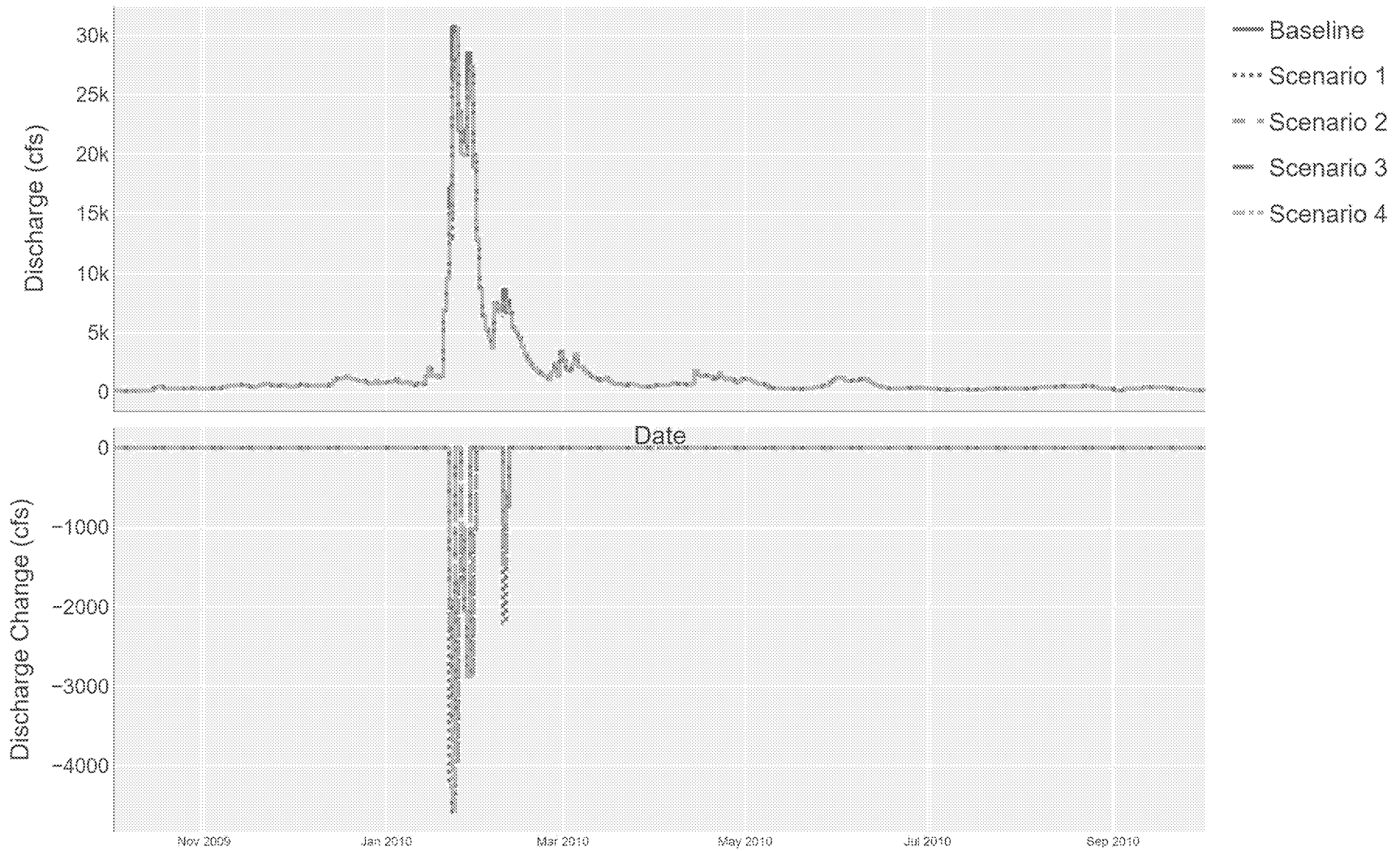


TUFLOW BC DISCHARGES  
SUTTER BYPASS INFLOW 2009

FIGURE 6

YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT

# Boundary Condition Discharge Sutter Bypass 2010

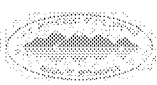
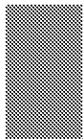
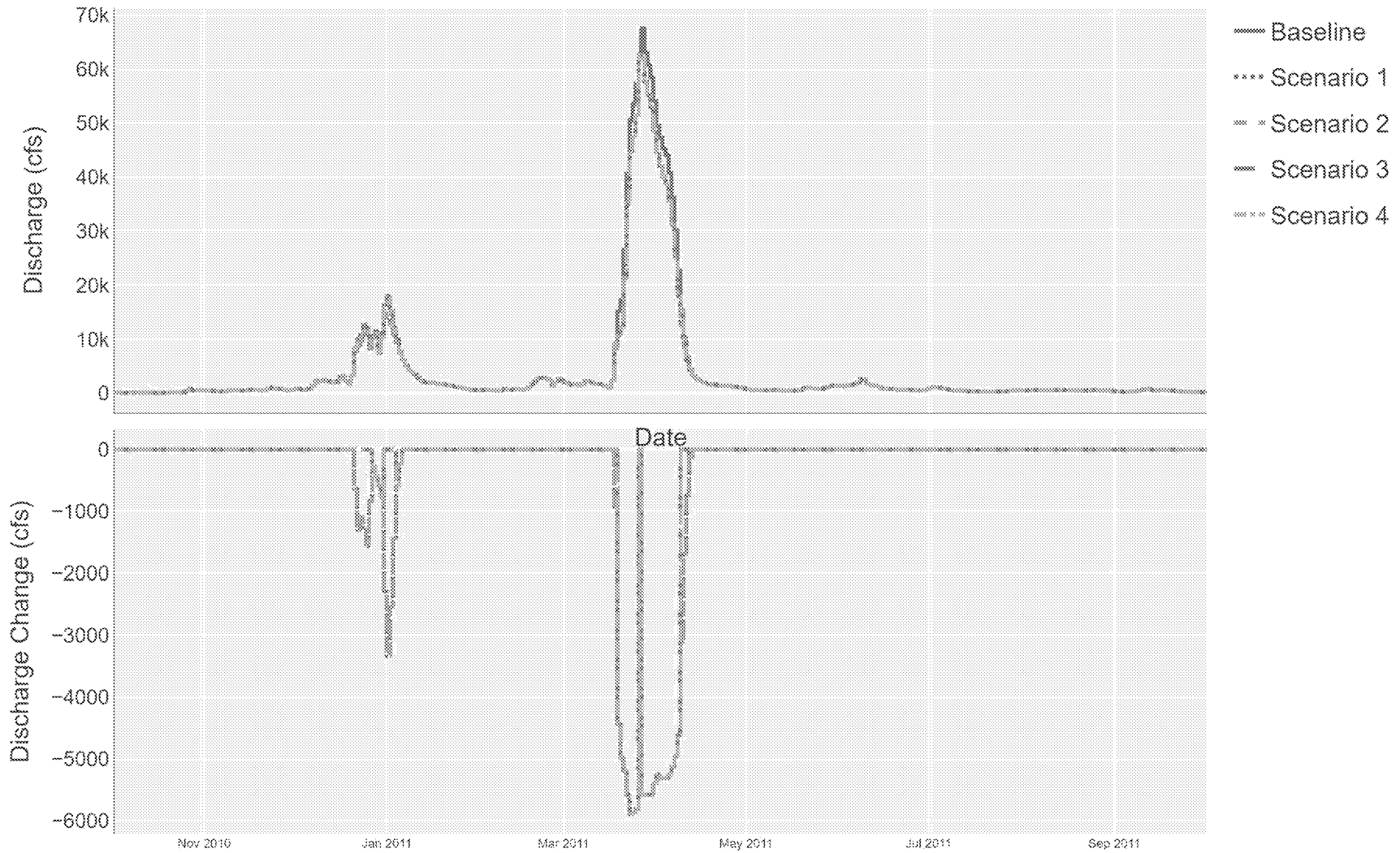


**TUFLOW BC DISCHARGES  
SUTTER BYPASS INFLOW 2010**

FIGURE 7

YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT

# Boundary Condition Discharge Sutter Bypass 2011

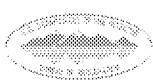
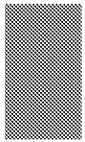
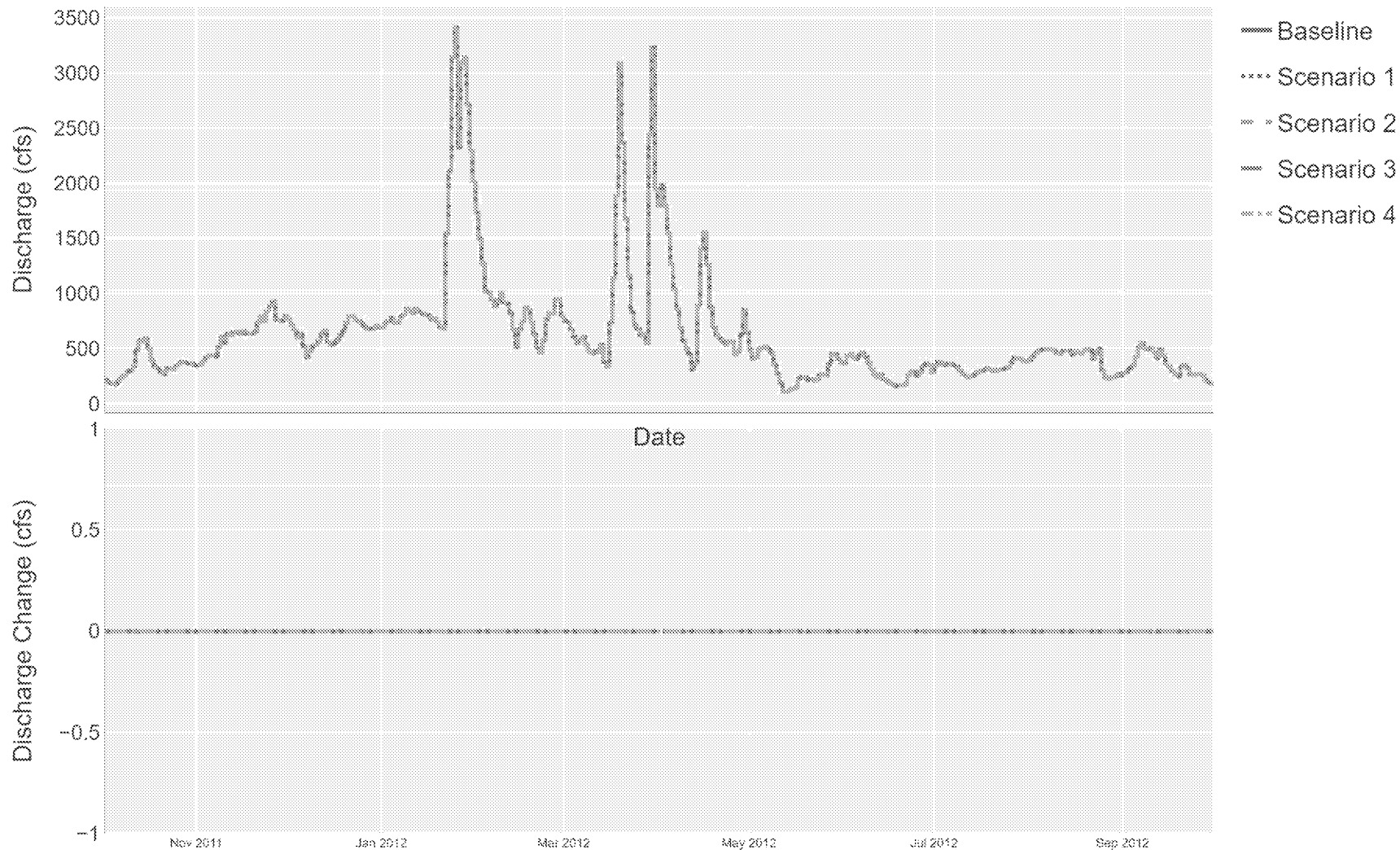


TUFLOW BC DISCHARGES  
SUTTER BYPASS INFLOW 2011

FIGURE 8

YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT

# Boundary Condition Discharge Sutter Bypass 2012

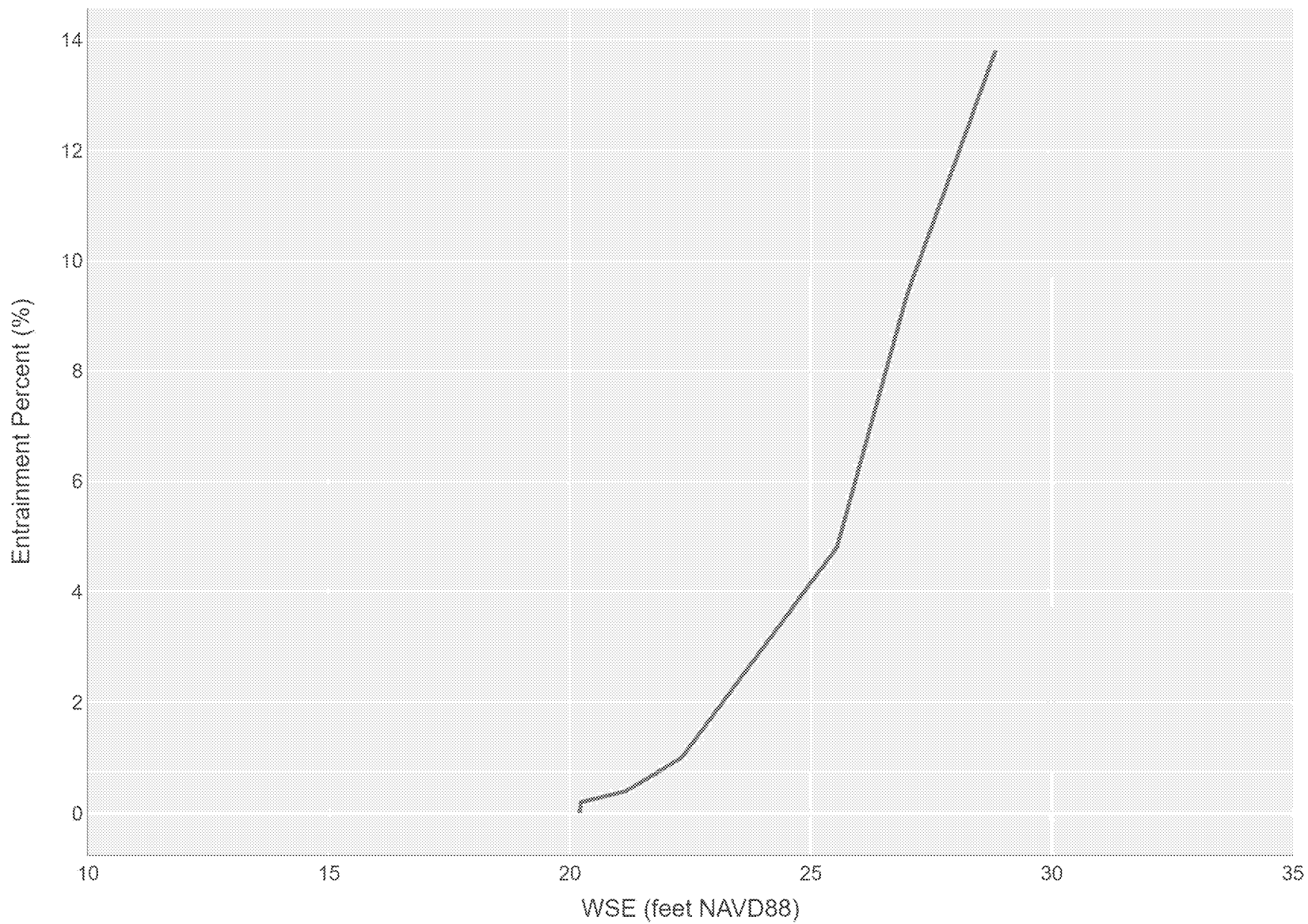


TUFLOW BC DISCHARGES  
SUTTER BYPASS INFLOW 2012

FIGURE 9

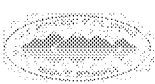
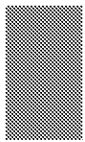
YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT



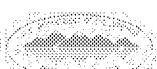
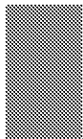
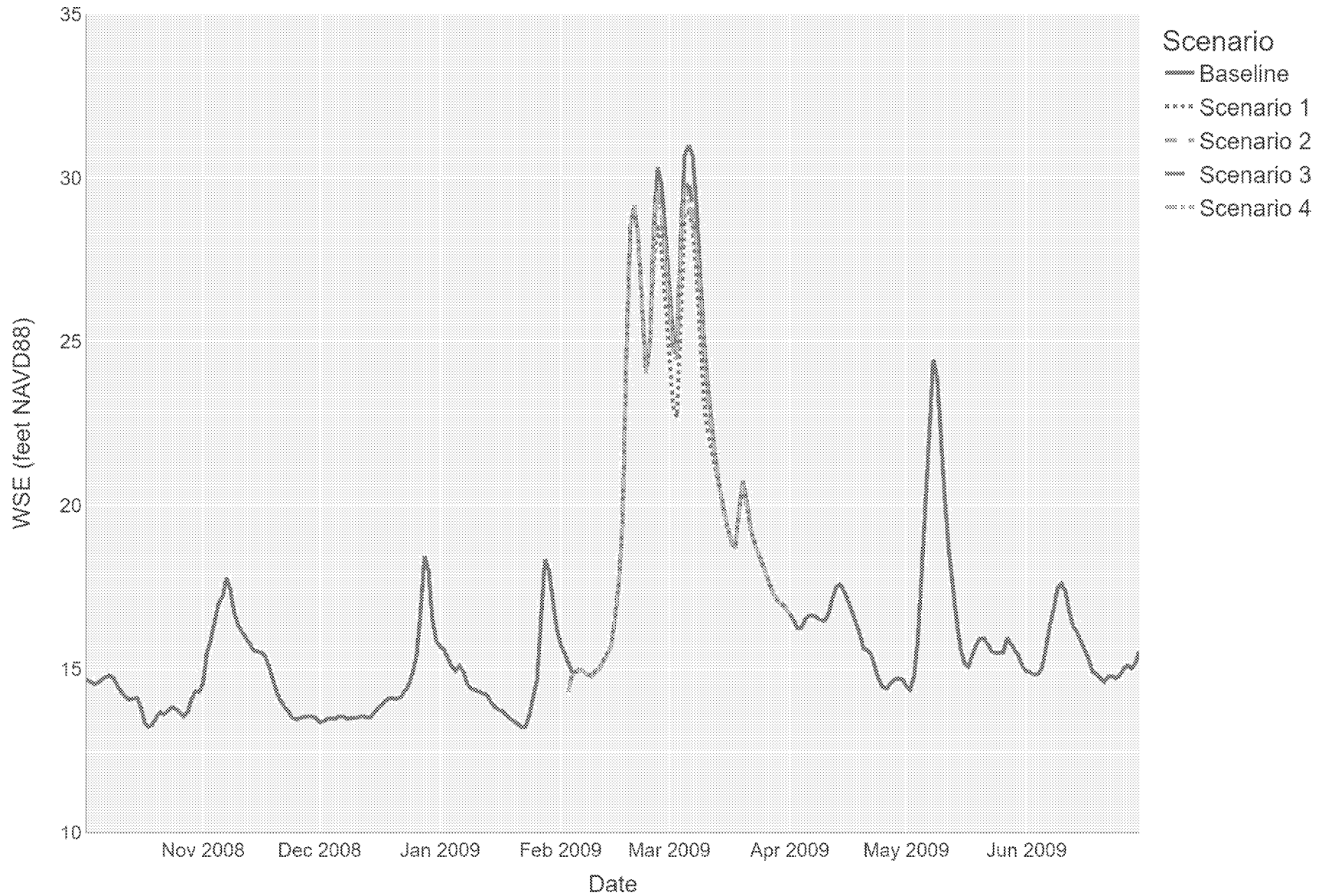


**ENTRAINMENT PERCENTAGE VS WSE FOR BNP  
FROM BNP EIR/EIS ANALYSIS**

FIGURE 10



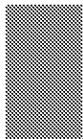
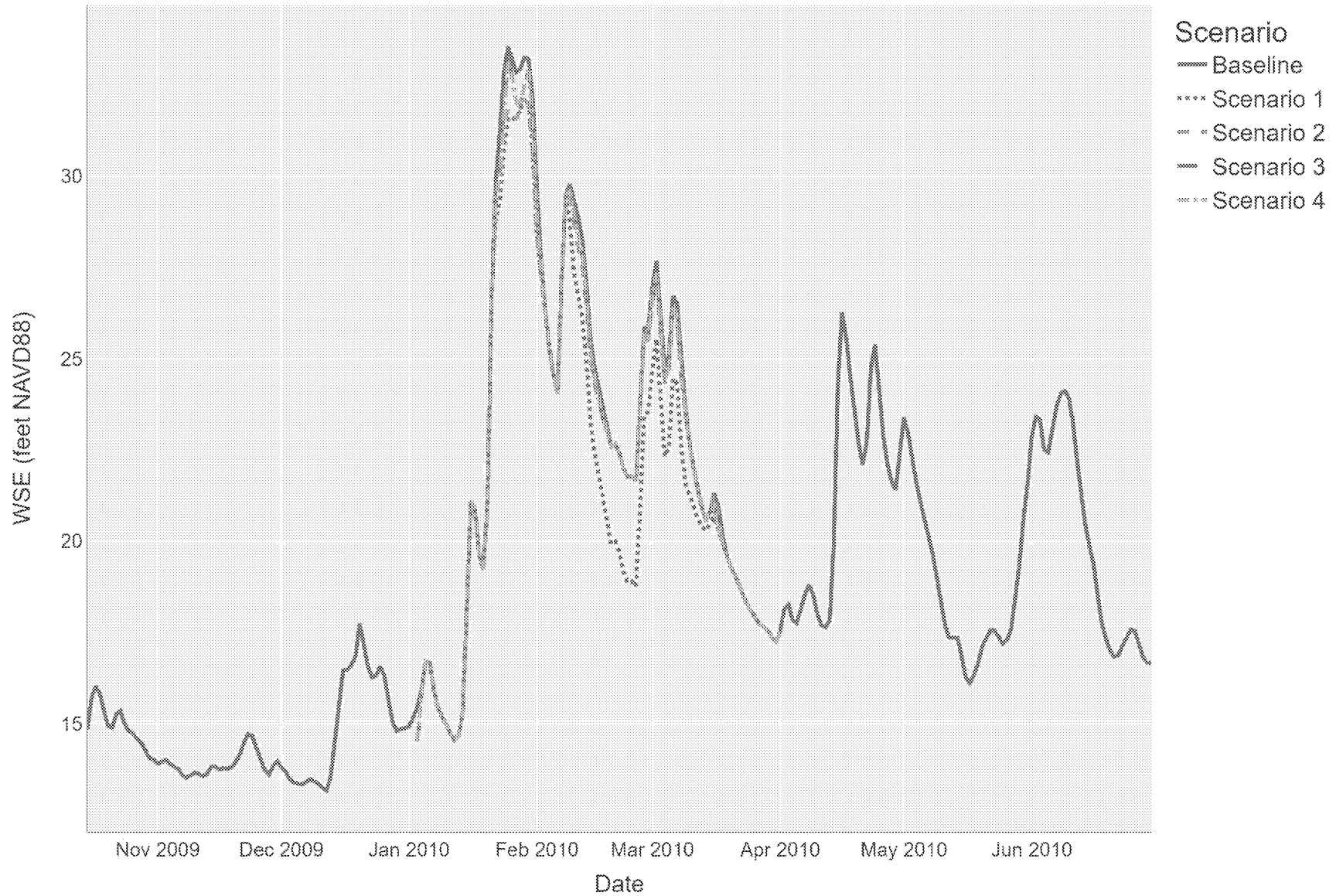
# WSE Time-series 2009 Near Knights Landing



TUFLOW WSE VS TIME  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR KNIGHTS LANDING 2009

FIGURE 11

# WSE Time-series 2010 Near Knights Landing

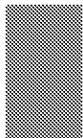
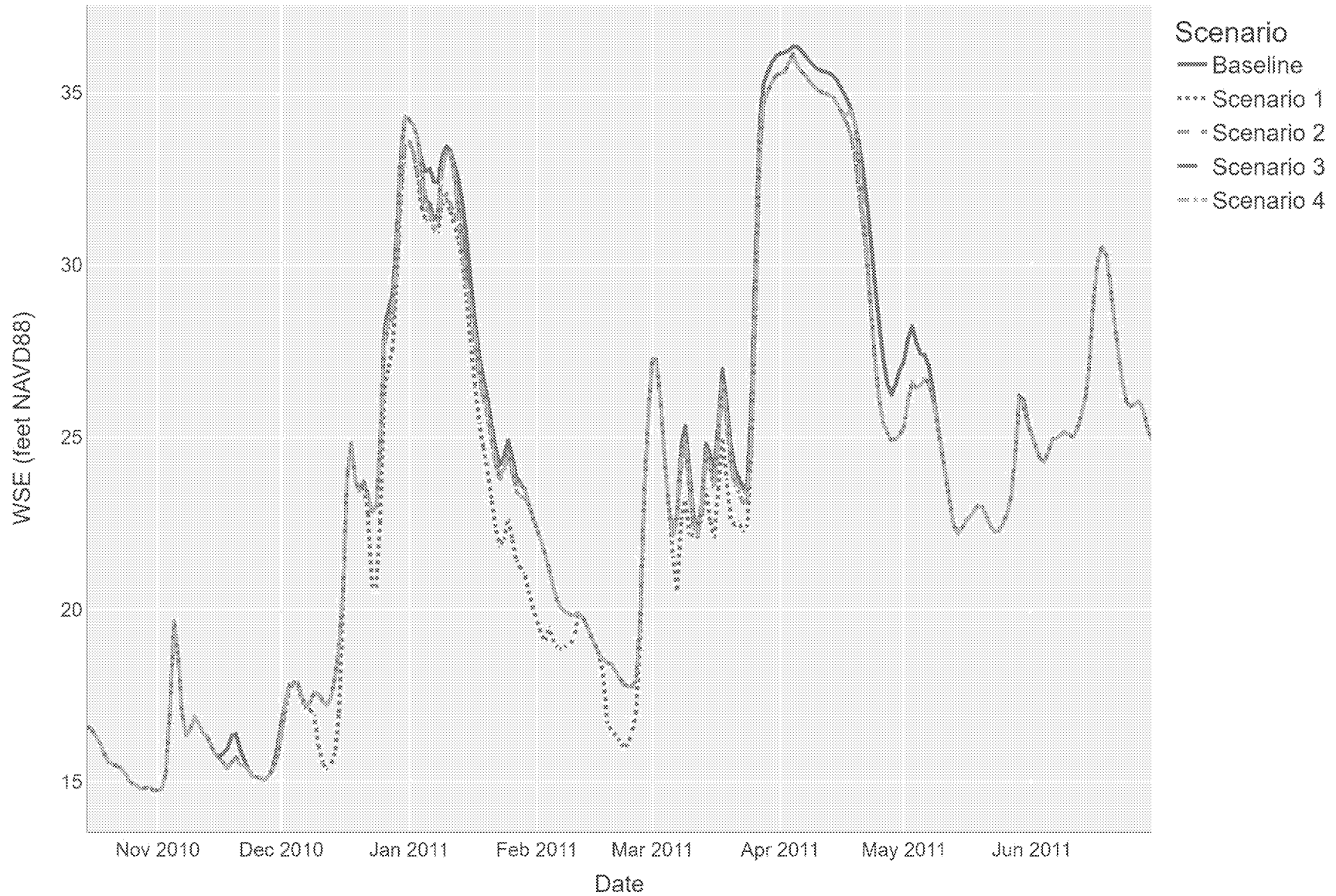


TUFLOW WSE VS TIME  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR KNIGHTS LANDING 2010

FIGURE 12

YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT

# WSE Time-series 2011 Near Knights Landing

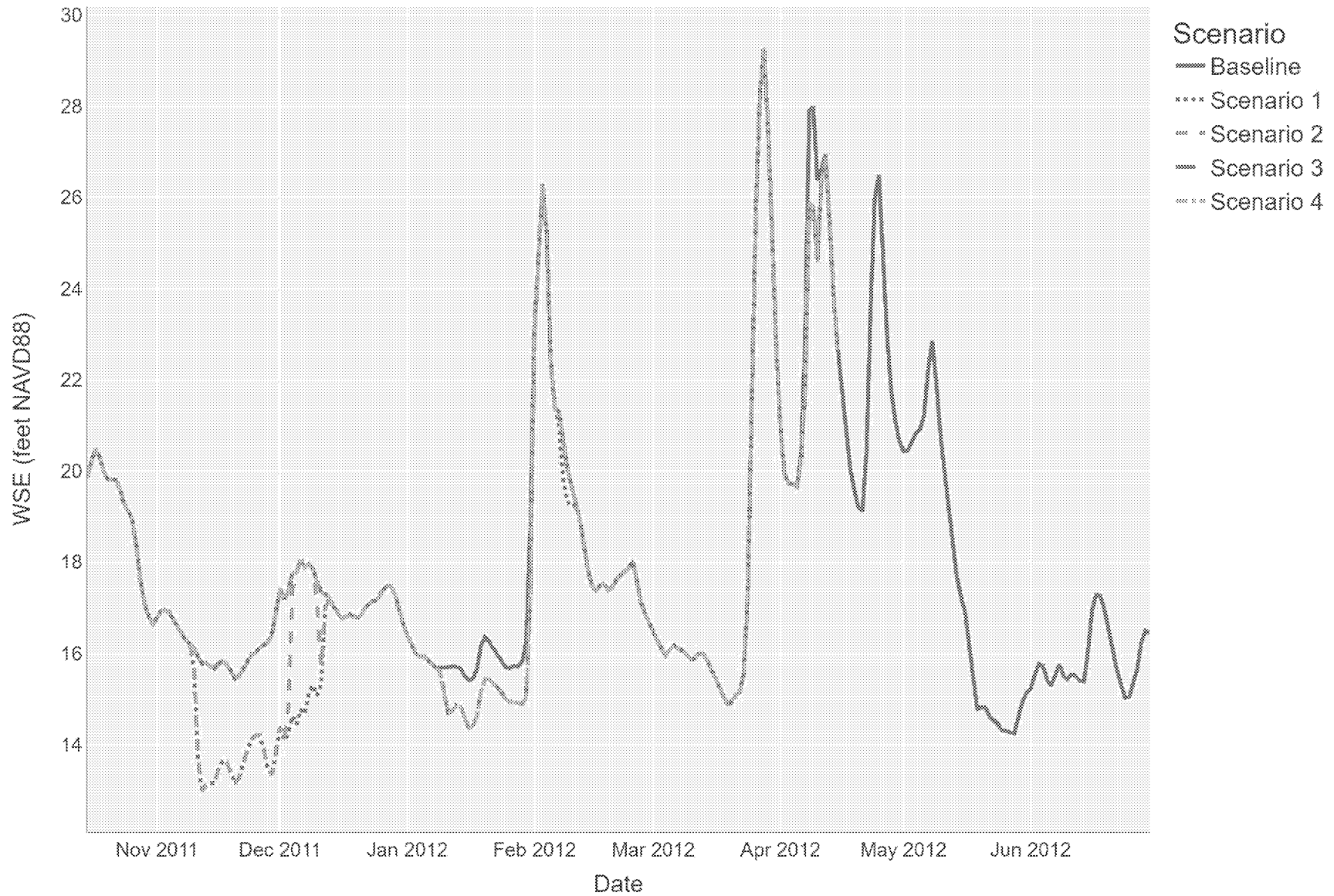


TUFLOW WSE VS TIME  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR KNIGHTS LANDING 2011

FIGURE 13

YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT

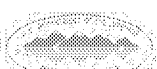
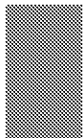
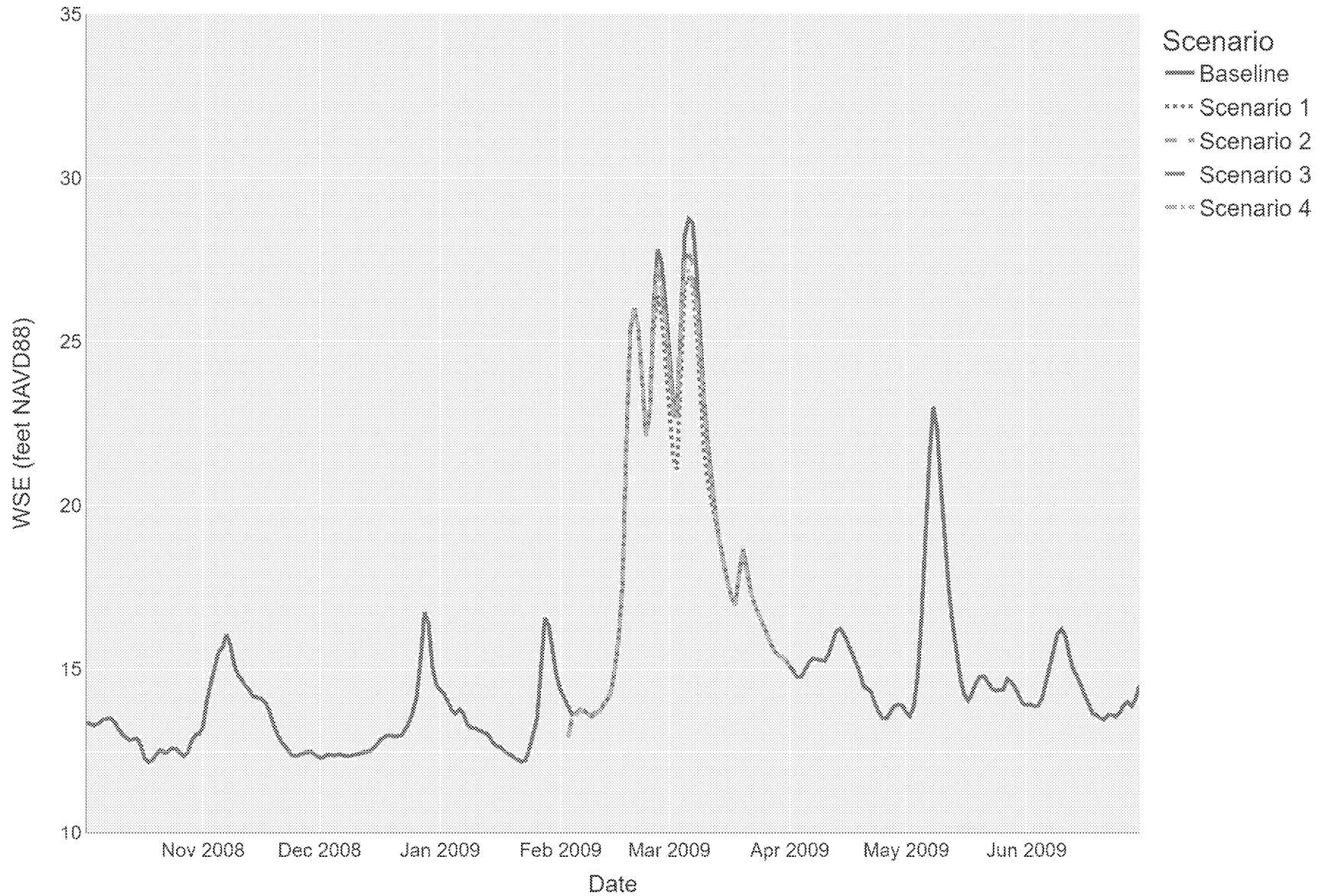
# WSE Time-series 2012 Near Knights Landing



TUFLOW WSE VS TIME  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR KNIGHTS LANDING 2012

FIGURE 14

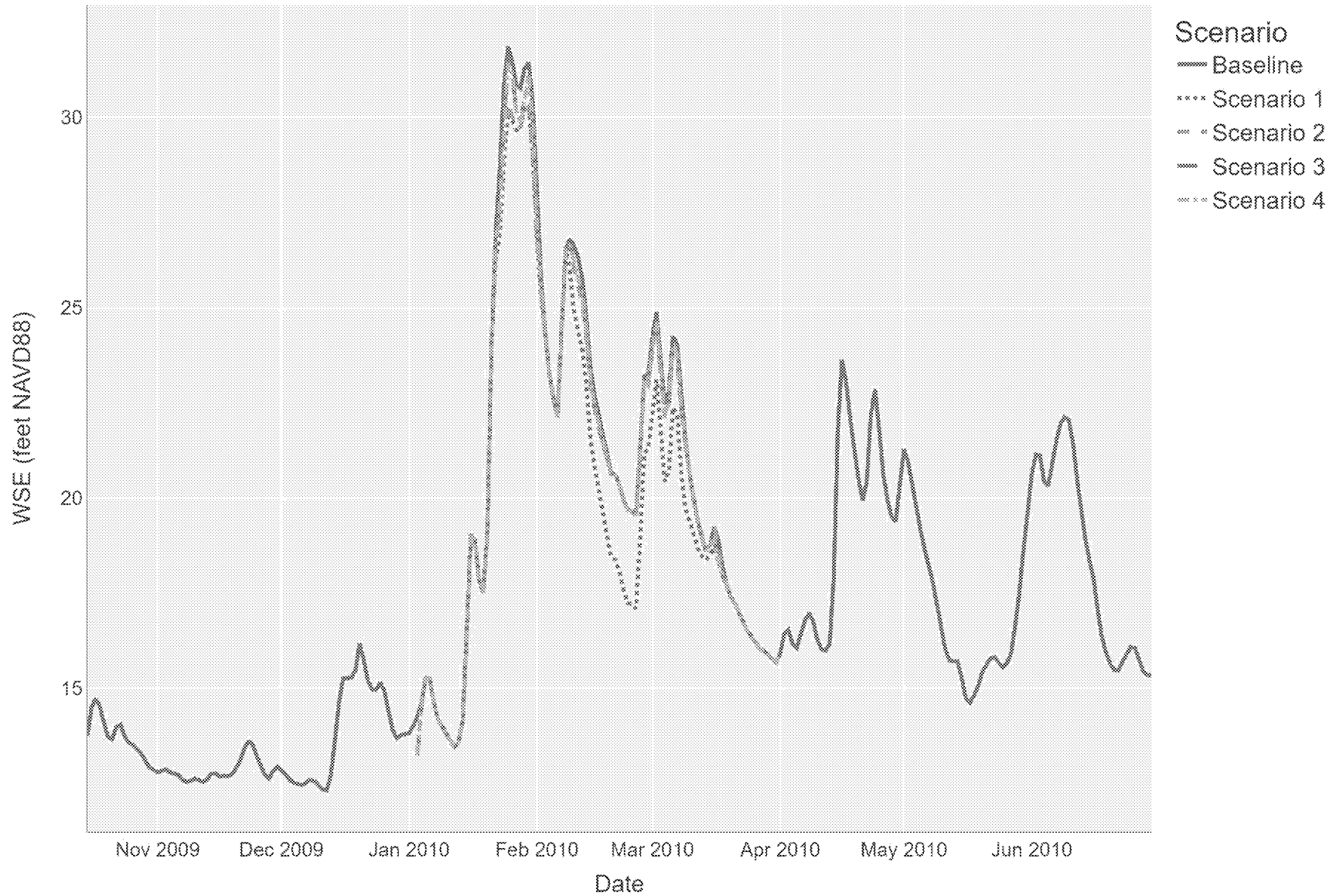
# WSE Time-series 2009 West side of Fremont Weir



TUFLOW WSE VS TIME  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR WEST SIDE OF FREMONT WEIR 2009

FIGURE 15

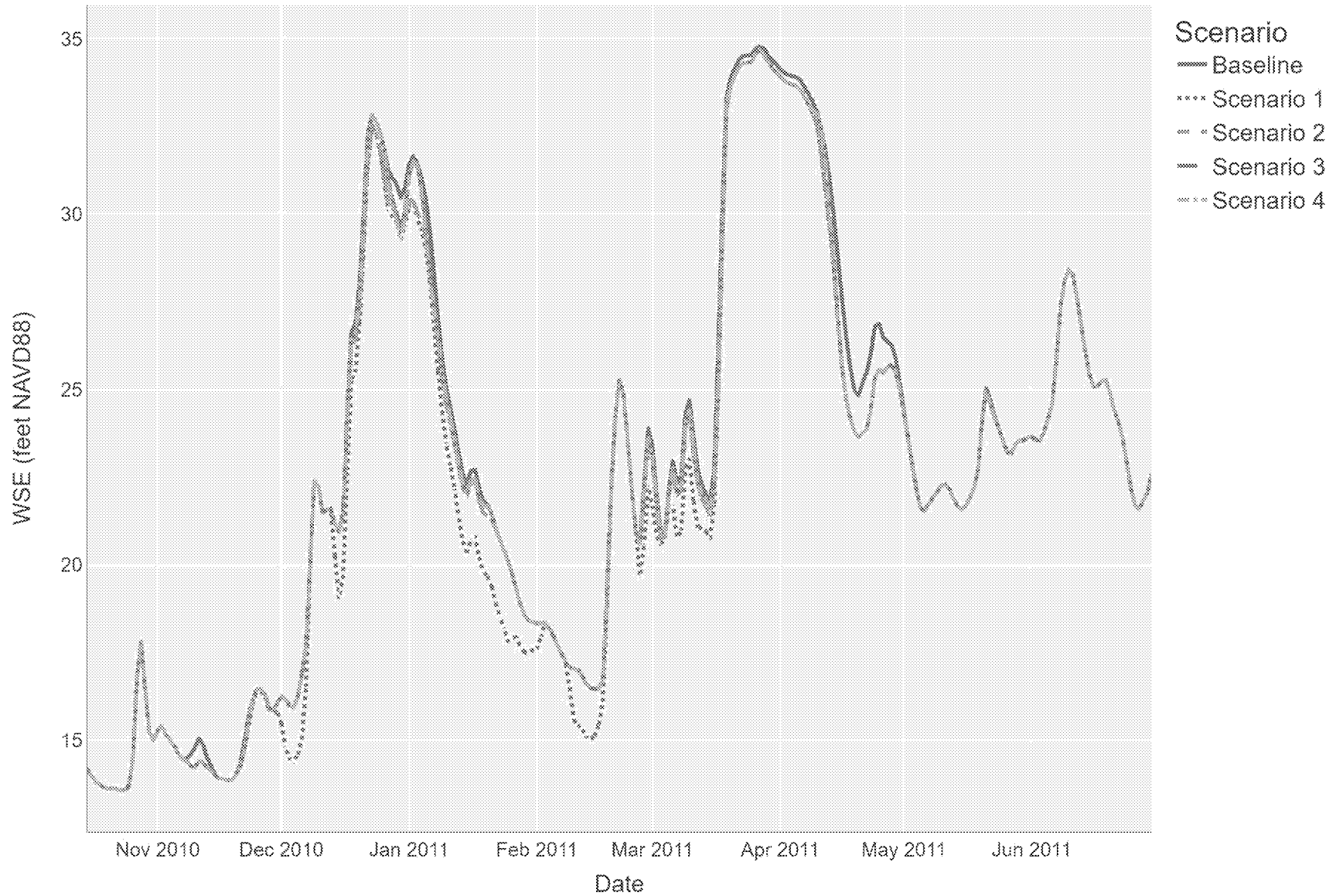
# WSE Time-series 2010 West side of Fremont Weir



TUFLOW WSE VS TIME  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR WEST SIDE OF FREMONT WEIR 2010

FIGURE 16

# WSE Time-series 2011 West side of Fremont Weir

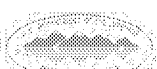
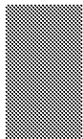
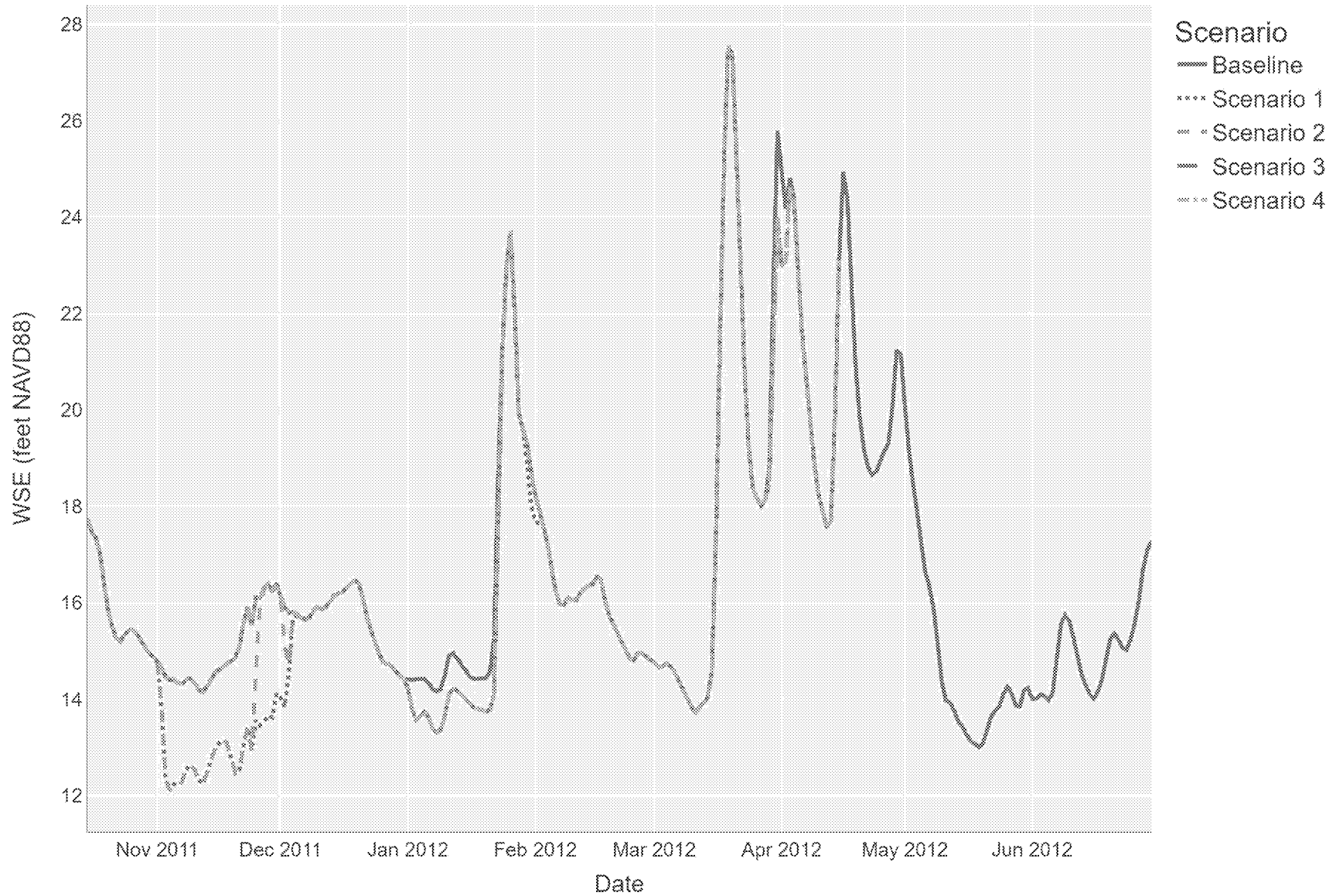


TUFLOW WSE VS TIME  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR WEST SIDE OF FREMONT WEIR 2011

FIGURE 17



# WSE Time-series 2012 West side of Fremont Weir

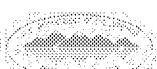
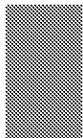
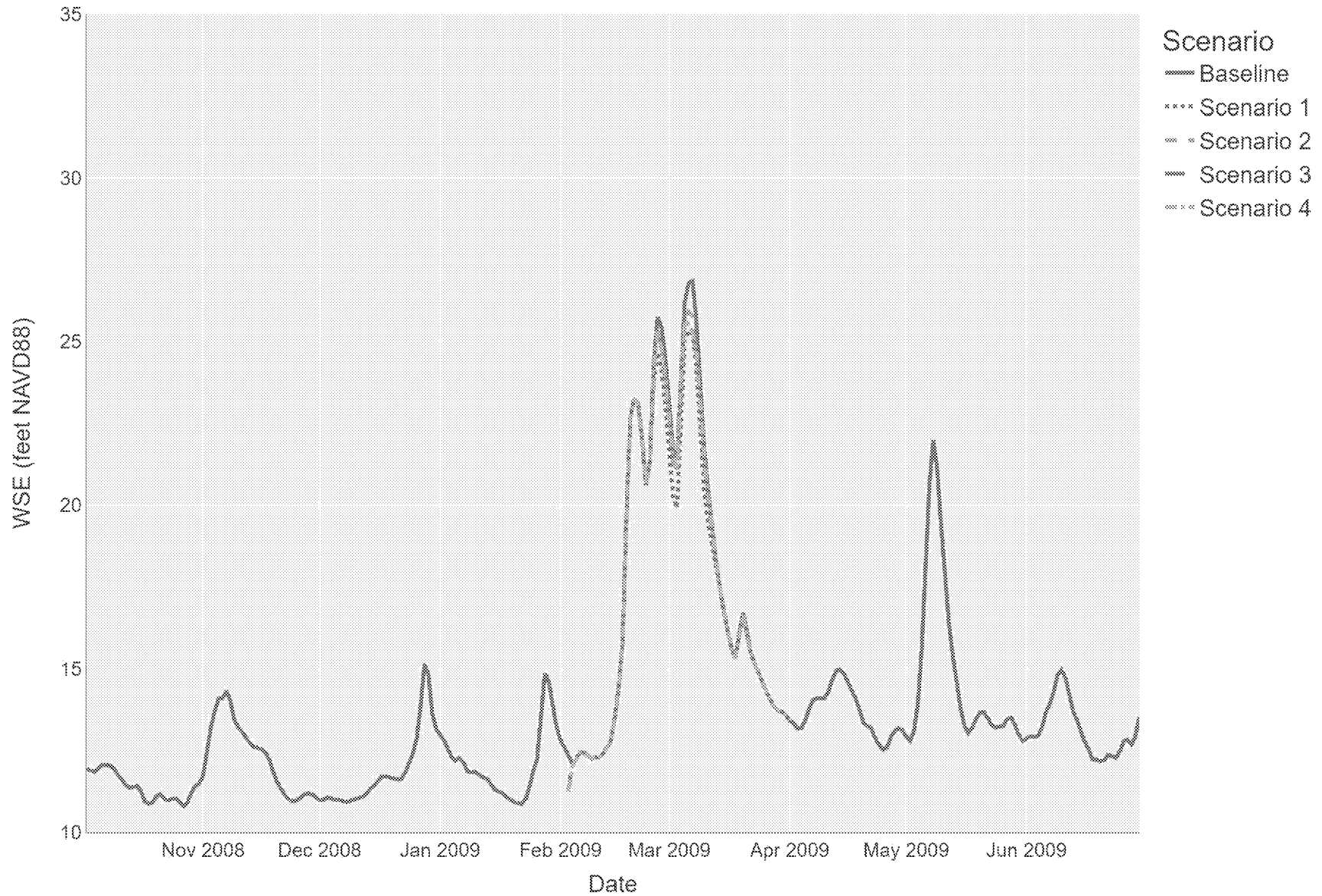


TUFLOW WSE VS TIME  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR WEST SIDE OF FREMONT WEIR 2012

FIGURE 18

YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT

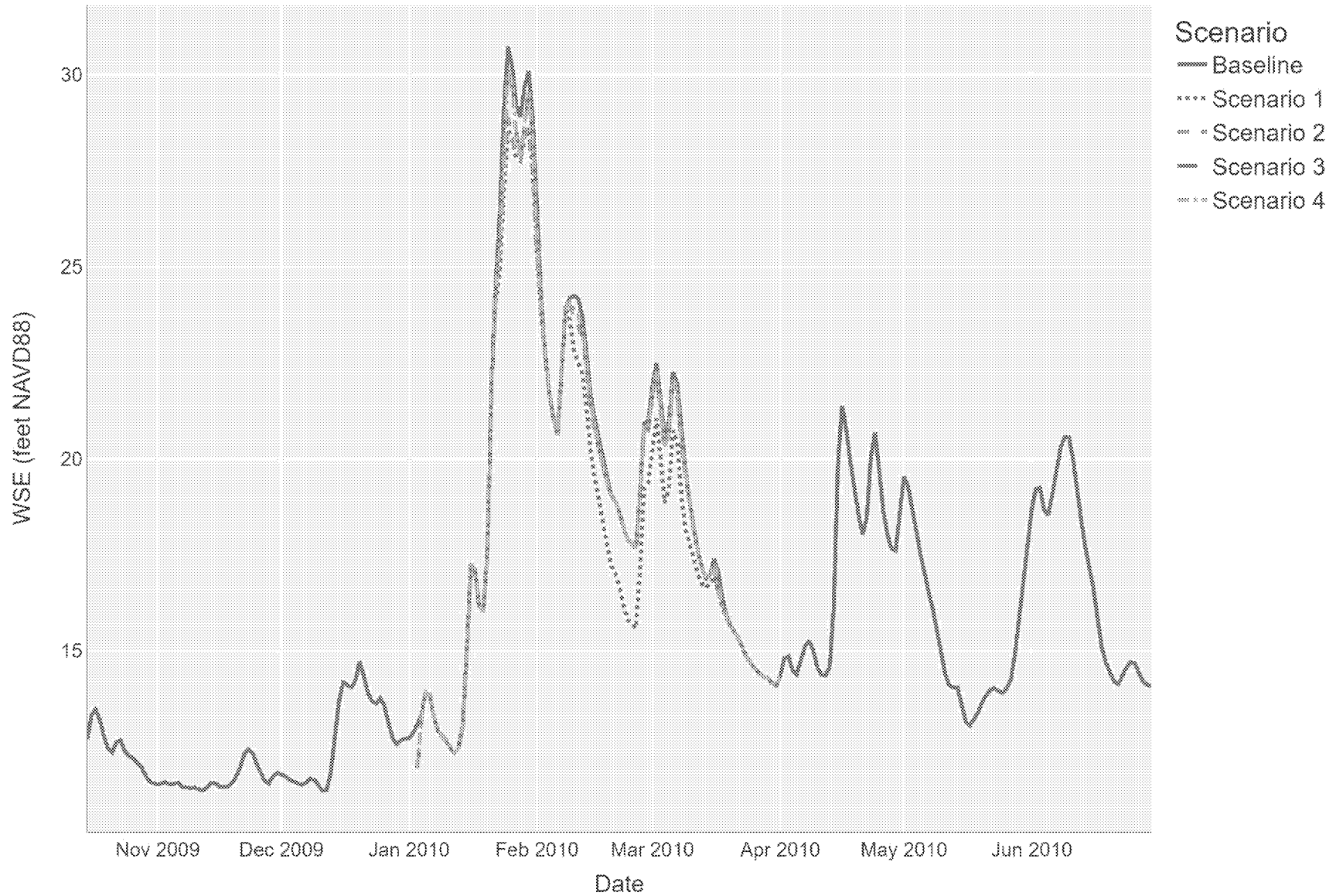
# WSE Time-series 2009 Near BNP



TUFLOW WSE VS TIME  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR BNP 2009

FIGURE 19

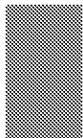
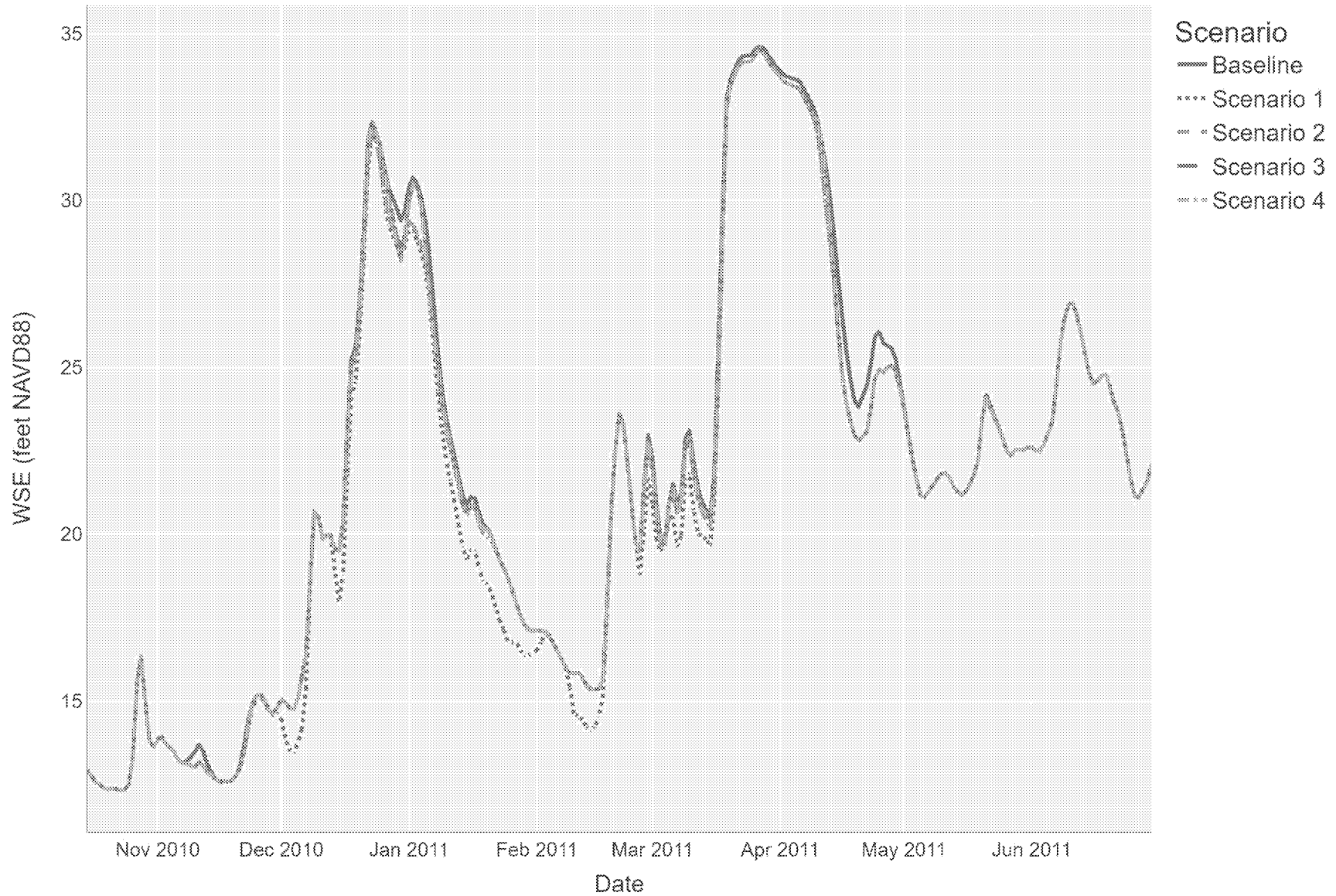
# WSE Time-series 2010 Near BNP



TUFLOW WSE VS TIME  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR BNP 2010

FIGURE 20

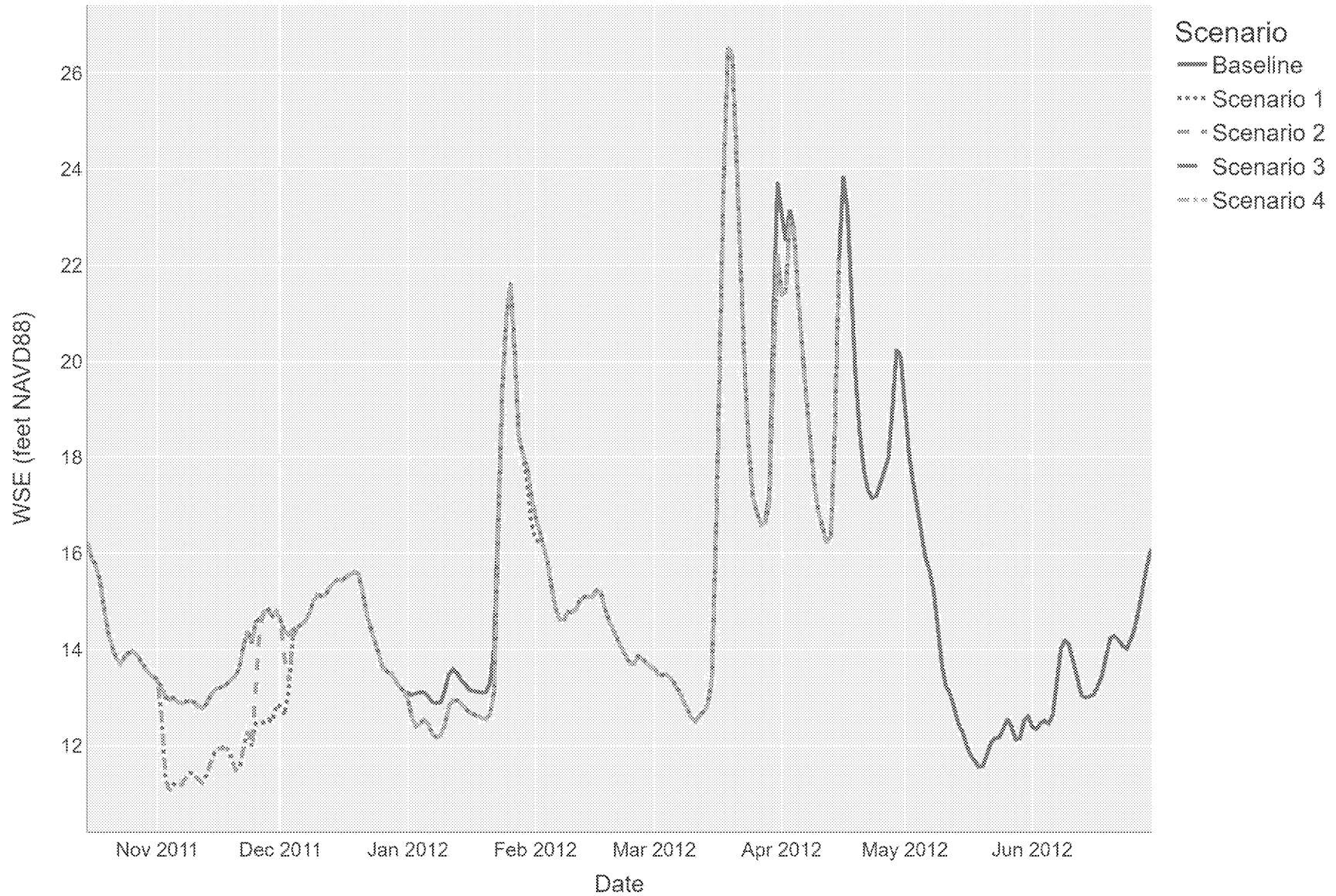
# WSE Time-series 2011 Near BNP



TUFLOW WSE VS TIME  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR BNP 2011

FIGURE 21

# WSE Time-series 2012 Near BNP

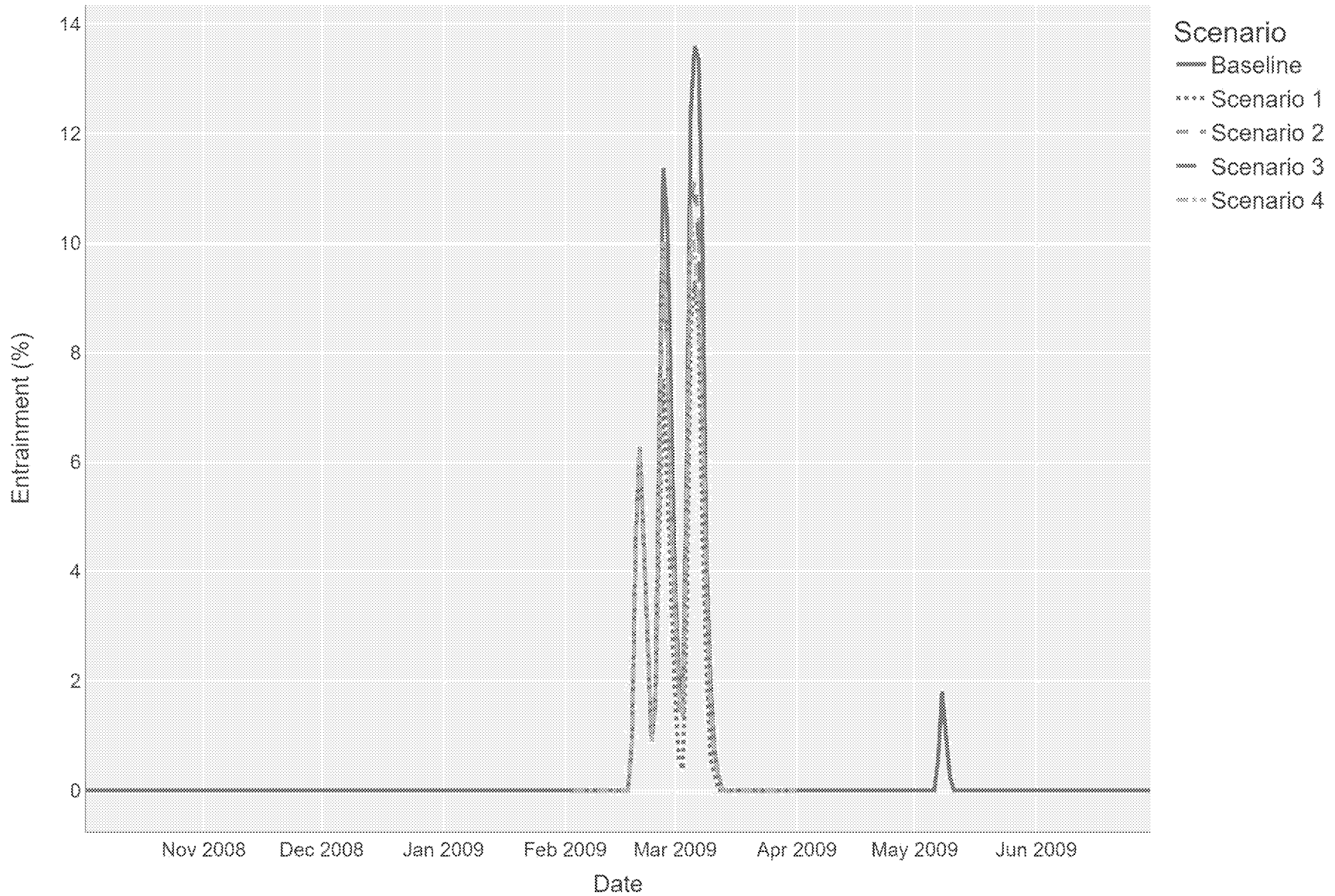


TUFLOW WSE VS TIME  
SACRAMENTO RIVER NEAR BNP 2012

FIGURE 22



# WSE Time-series 2009 Entrainment

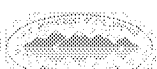
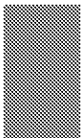


**BNP ENTRAINMENT PERCENT VS TIME**

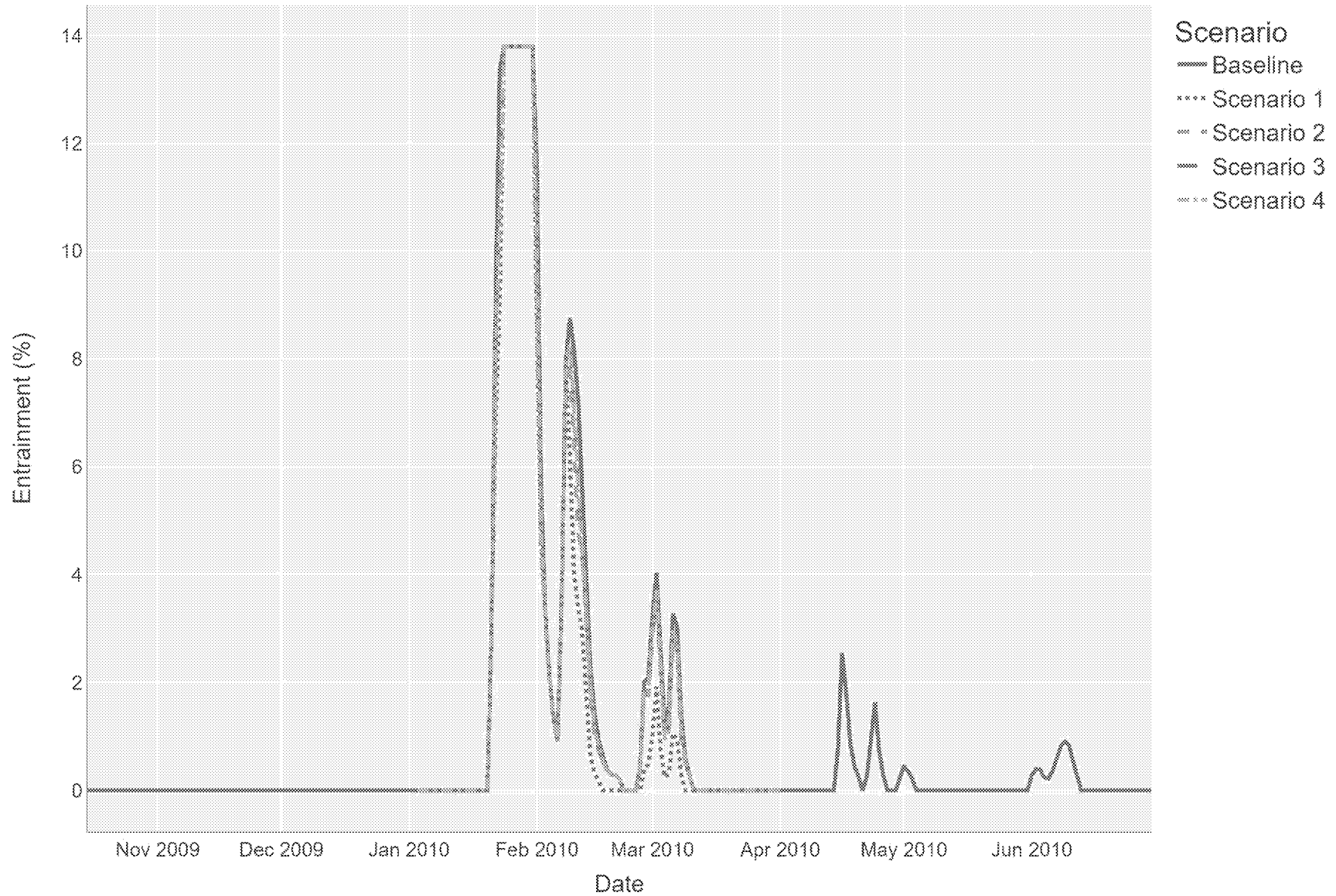
2009

FIGURE 23

YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT



# WSE Time-series 2010 Entrainment

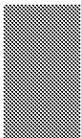


**BNP ENTRAINMENT PERCENT VS TIME**

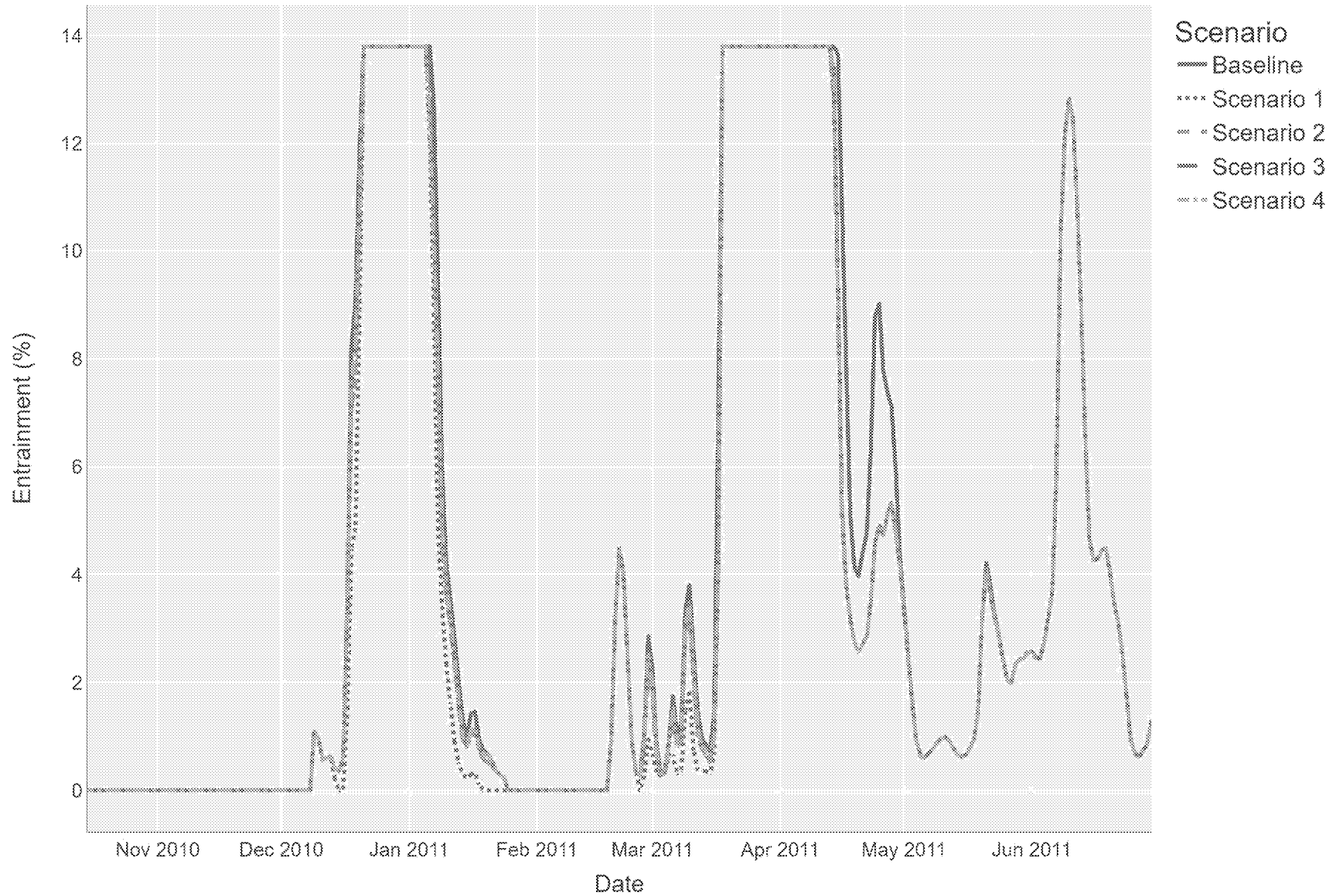
2010

FIGURE 24

YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT



# WSE Time-series 2011 Entrainment

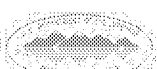
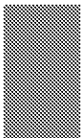


**BNP ENTRAINMENT PERCENT VS TIME**

2011

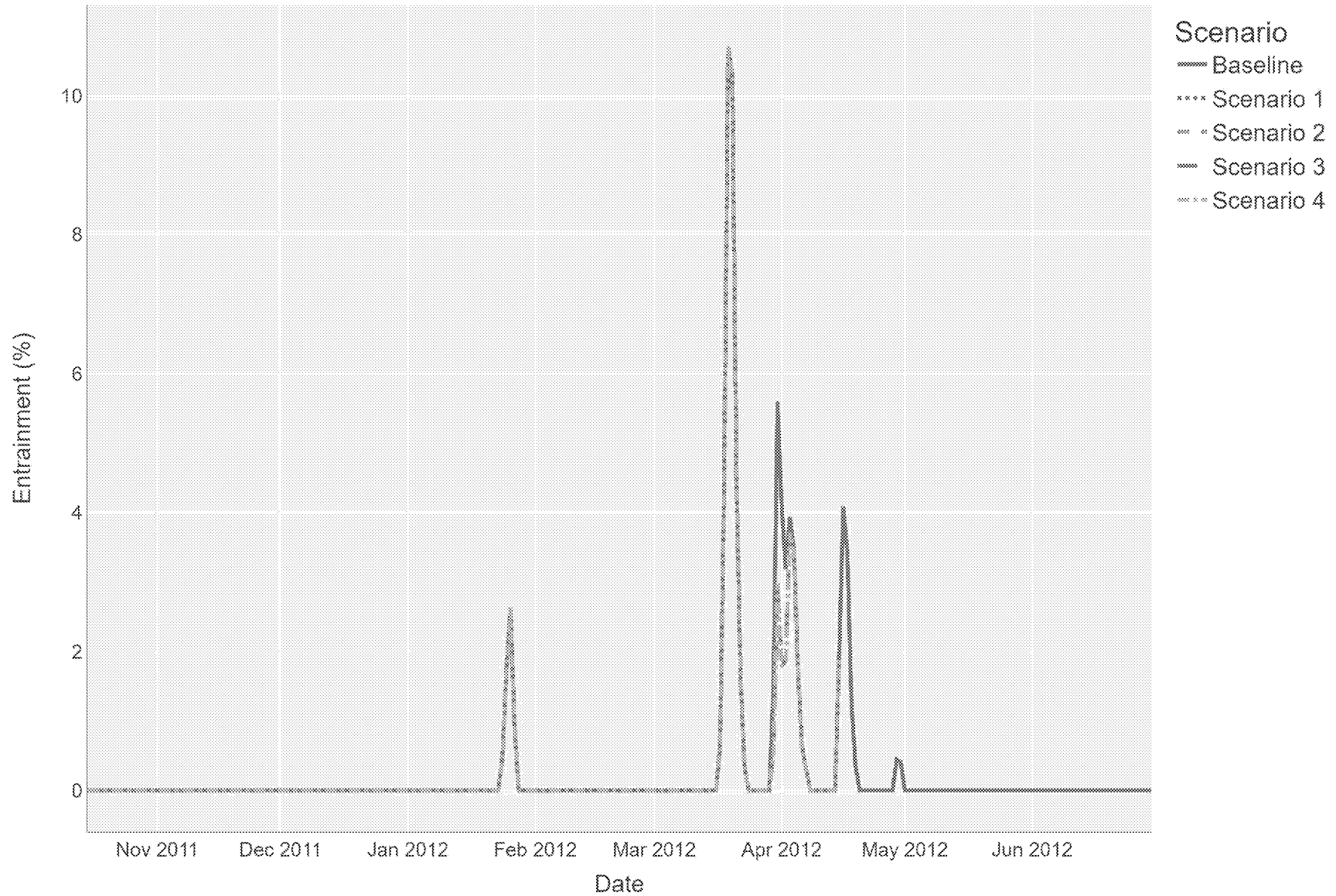
FIGURE 25

YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT





# WSE Time-series 2012 Entrainment

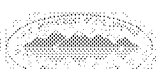
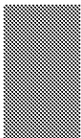


**BNP ENTRAINMENT PERCENT VS TIME**

2012

FIGURE 26

YOLO BYPASS BNP SITES RESERVOIR IMPACT



## Summary of Technical Information Developed

**Review of 2021 Evaluation – Juvenile Salmon Entrainment:** In 2021, the DWR Big Notch Project (BNP) Team collaborated with CDFW and the Sites Project Team to evaluate how Sites Reservoir operations might impact the BNP with and without various protective measures in place (Table 1). Each protective measure was designed to restrict Sites Reservoir diversions during BNP operations (i.e., Nov 1 – Mar 15, Sacramento River stage at FRE gage >15'), with the specific intent of reducing negative impacts to the BNP's ability to entrain migrating juvenile salmonids.

*Table 1. Description of potential Sites Reservoir operational scenarios to be modeled.*

Scenario	Description	Specifications
Baseline	No Sites Reservoir	BNP baseline entrainment
1	No BNP-Specific Protections	Sites ops limited by Wilkins Slough min flow (10,700 cfs), Bend Bridge pulse protection, and Delta is in excess
2	Sites-Proposed Measure	BNP <600 cfs: Sites ops can decrease BNP flow by up to 1%  BNP >600 cfs: Sites ops can reduce BNP flow by up to 10%
3	CDFW-Proposed Measure: FRE stage/% of Verona Flow	FRE stage 15-21': No diversions  FRE stage 21-28': Up to 2% of Verona Flow  FRE stage 28-32': Up to 5% of Verona Flow  FRE stage 32-33.5': Pause diversion for up to 7 days (preserve Fremont Weir overtopping)
4	CDFW-Proposed Measure: Up to 29' at FRE	Similar to #3 with more restrictions above FRE stage of 29' (preserve BNP ability to reach 6,000 cfs max flow rate)

The Sites Project Team provided modeled Sites diversion data to DWR and CDFW for this analysis. DWR consultants (cbec and HDR) modeled impacts to juvenile salmon entrainment through the BNP during years with overlapping data for BNP flow, juvenile salmon presence and abundance, and Sites diversion data (2009 – 2012). BNP hydrodynamic data inputs are from peer reviewed TUFLOW modeled outputs of BNP operations. Fish catch data is based on daily CDFW Knights Landing rotary screw trap catch data. Model results indicated the potential for substantial reductions in the number of juvenile winter- and spring-run Chinook salmon entrained through the BNP as a result of Sites Reservoir operations (Tables 2 and 3, respectively). Further, the model indicates the risk for markedly high reductions in BNP entrainment potential with even the most restrictive protective measures in place.

*Table 2. Modeled results for the 2021 analysis of the change in Big Notch entrainment of juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon due to Sites Reservoir operations.*

Water Year	Scenario 1 No BNP-Specific Protections	Scenario 2 Sites BNP Protections	Scenario 3 CDFW FW Overtopping	Scenario 4 CDFW 6,000 cfs
2009	-42%	-21%	-19%	-20%
2010	-7%	-3%	-3%	-3%
2011	-16%	-5%	-3%	-3%

Table 3. Modeled results for the 2021 analysis of the change in Big Notch entrainment of juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon due to Sites Reservoir operations.

Water Year	Scenario 1 No BNP-Specific Protections	Scenario 2 Sites BNP Protections	Scenario 3 CDFW FW Overtopping	Scenario 4 CDFW 6,000 cfs
2009	-41%	-21%	-19%	-20%
2010	-14%	-6%	-5%	-5%
2011	-5%	-2%	-2%	-2%

**Overview of 2022 Evaluation – Big Notch Flow:** DWR and the Sites Team agreed that limited fish abundance data for these CESA/ESA-protected species used in the 2021 evaluation has the potential to affect the accuracy of the modeled results, but a consensus could not be reached as to the severity of the potential variance. Once all BNP-specific protective measures were removed from the Sites Reservoir Public Draft EIS/EIR, the BNP Team opted to omit fish presence from the next round of modeling and focus on changes in flow to increase the statistical confidence in modeled results.

CDFW staff notified DWR that the Sites Team believed the existing Wilkins Slough protective measure (i.e., no Sites Diversions until flow at Wilkins Slough exceeds 10,700 cfs) would adequately protect the BNP. In the summer of 2022, the BNP Team evaluated the relationship between 10,700 cfs and BNP operations for the 16-year BNP modeled period of record (1997 – 2012; Figure 1). Across all water years (WY), this effort showed that 10,700 cfs at Wilkins Slough is exceeded before the river stage at BNP reaches a sufficient level to begin entraining juvenile salmonids. Entrainment, or the diversion of juvenile salmonids from the river through the BNP, is largely a function of flow diversion as the limited swimming ability of these small fish prohibits them from actively avoiding major flow vectors. Therefore, this protective measure is unlikely to provide much benefit for BNP entrainment.

Further, the BNP Team used the TUFLOW hydrodynamic model (BNP EIS/EIR, Appendix D) to examine how flow through BNP would be affected with this protective measure in place (Table 3). Of the four years with overlapping hydrodynamic data (2009 – 2012), the river stage in WY 2012 was too low during the BNP operational period to have resulted in measurable juvenile salmon entrainment. WYs 2009 – 2011, Sites operations would have reduced BNP cumulative annual diversions by 24%, 21%, and 10%, respectively. For this analysis, periods where BNP flow was <1,000 cfs were omitted because juvenile entrainment is expected to be minimal during such low flows. Including this flow rate would result in an even greater reduction in total flow because of Sites operations, but this would present an unfair characterization of the Sites-induced impacts to BNP entrainment potential.

Entrainment modeling by the USACE (Eulerian-Lagrangian-agent Method behavioral forecasting of fish movement and location) and USGS (application of diversion critical streakline calculations) indicated that volume of water diverted through BNP is the most important factor in determining rate of entrainment (BNP EIS/EIR, Appendices G1 and G2). As such, reductions in BNP flow would yield similar reductions in entrainment.

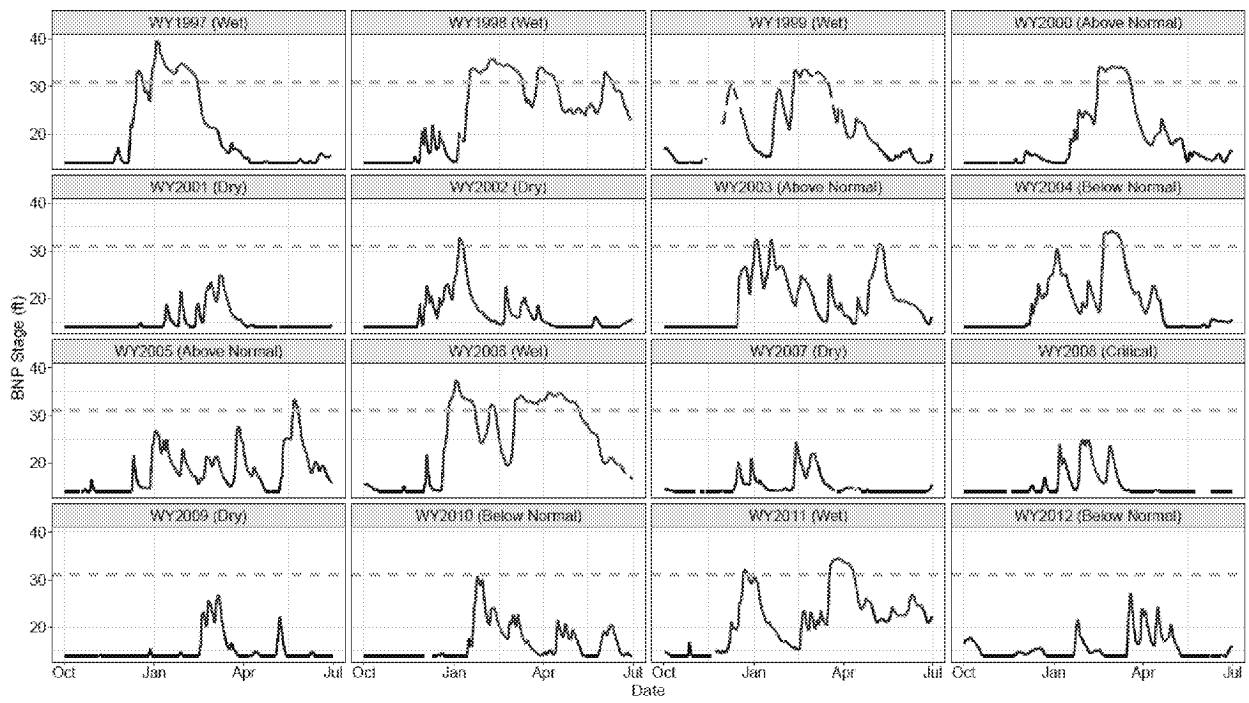


Figure 1. Sacramento River stage at the Big Notch Project during water years 1997-2012. The black line indicates Wilkins Slough was <10,700 cfs and Sites would not be operational. The gray dashed line is the point at which the Sacramento River overtops the Fremont Weir (32' NAVD 88).

Table 4. Modeled results from 2022 analysis of the cumulative annual flow reduction to the Big Notch Project due to Sites Reservoir diversions. Data is from peer reviewed TUFLOW hydrodynamic modeled outputs of Big Notch Project operations.

Water Year	Water Year Type	Total Reduction in Big Notch Flow
2009	Dry	24%
2010	Below Normal	21%
2011	Wet	10%
2012*	Below Normal	5%

\*Information for the 2012 WY has been included in this table as the modeling indicated a reduction in flow. However, it is likely that the river stage in WY 2012 was too low during the BNP operational period to have resulted in measurable juvenile salmon entrainment. The BNP Team also evaluated how the Wilkins Slough protective measure could minimize impacts to adult fish passage through BNP. Across the 16-year period of record for BNP flows (1997 – 2012), the protective measure was never in place coincident with the river stage at BNP exceeding the minimum design criteria passage depth for sturgeon of 19'. However, this protective measure appears to provide some protection for salmon passage in many years, primarily on the descending limb of the hydrograph. Figure 2 uses WY 2002 as an example, displaying where the protective measure occurs during the hydrograph coupled with key fish passage stages for the BNP. Similar graphs are available for all WYs in the 1997 – 2012 period of record.

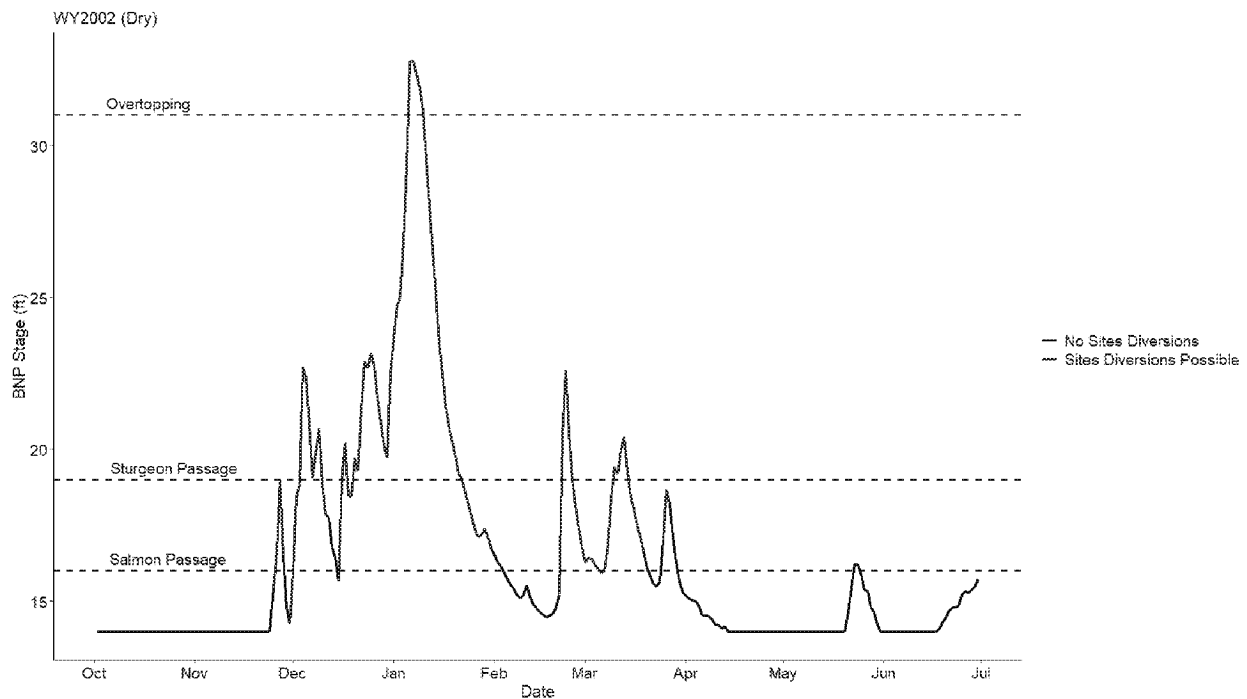


Figure 2. This example hydrograph from Water Year 2002 highlights when Sites Reservoir diversions would occur based on Wilkins Slough flow criteria. No other diversion criteria were included. The red line indicates periods when the Wilkins Slough minimum outflow standard would allow for Sites diversion. The stage at which adult sturgeon and salmon Big Notch Project design passage criteria are indicated by dashed lines.

## Conclusion

- The operation of Site reservoir results in a reduction of juvenile salmonid entrainment through the BNP in all WYs analyzed.
- The volume of flow diverted is the primary variable influencing entrainment rate, and Sites operations resulted in significant reductions in BNP flow in three of the four WYs analyzed, and minor reductions in the remaining WY.
- The Wilkins Slough Protective Measure does not protect salmon entrainment at BNP as this measure does not provide protections in the mid- to upper stages of the hydrograph where entrainment is predicted to occur.
- The Wilkins Slough Protective Measure may provide limited protection from Sites impacts for adult salmonid passage through BNP, but it is unlikely to benefit adult sturgeon.
- The DWR, CDFW, and NMFS evaluation team agree that the level of impacts to the BNP project from Sites operations are too detrimental to go unmitigated. Further discussion of mitigation measures is a recommended next step.
- It is possible that non-flow related salmon entrainment mitigation measures may ameliorate impacts to BNP in a manner that is more acceptable to the Sites team.
- Further discussion is needed to better identify options to reduce impacts to BNP adult fish passage.

**From:** [Heydinger, Erin](#)  
**To:** [Alicia Forsythe](#); [Spranza, John](#)  
**Subject:** TUFLOW Update  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 10, 2022 9:26:04 AM

---

John and Ali,

FYI – I just got off the call with CDFW to follow up on our discussions with DWR on TUFLOW. Bjarni, Jonathan, and Kristal were on the call. A few notes:

- CDFW had not heard anything specific from Josh or anyone else at DWR following up from our meeting
- Kristal understands that expanding TUFLOW would be a significant undertaking and may not provide the information they need. That said, they still want to understand the potential effect of Sites on the BNP
- They are hopeful that the updated diversion criteria will minimize any effects, but of course haven't seen any of the updated analysis
- They are thinking about how to address this in the ITP
- Rob Sherrick is working on a tool we may be able to use that looks at how diversions further up in the system may affect inundation on flood plains downstream. But, Kristal wasn't sure when that tool would be ready and seemed a little unsure on the details of it.
- Kristal thought one possibility would be to rerun TUFLOW with our updated modeling to get a sense of relative difference.
- I told her we would discuss internally what options we may have to provide data near the BNP (e.g. rerun some of the sensitivity analysis Jacobs did last year).

They didn't seem especially concerned we weren't moving forward with TUFLOW, but still want a better understanding of whether Sites might result in changes there.

That's about it – they noted they are eager for the next agency meeting to discuss updates.

Erin

**Erin Heydinger, PE, PMP**  
*Project Manager - Water*

**HDR**  
2379 Gateway Oaks Dr, #200  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
☎ 916.679.8863 ✉ 651.307.9758

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](http://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

---

**From:** Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 2/6/2023 3:11:30 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]; Jerry Brown [jbrown@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** Re: Socioeconomic Report

I have not seen anything like this from the counties...but I will ask Wendy if Colusa has something

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 2:02 PM  
**To:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Socioeconomic Report

We have some of this in the EIR/EIS as NEPA requires a socioeconomics analysis. But not all of this. So we could build on the EIR/EIS info but it only addresses some of these issues, not all. And its not necessarily all apples to apples in the data that it has (not necessarily all from the same year but more from readily available sources, such as census data, etc where years may not match up).

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
aforsythe@sitesproject.org | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 8:50 AM  
**To:** Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Socioeconomic Report

Not that I have seen, but would be interested to hear from Ali and Kevin.

> On Feb 6, 2023, at 8:35 AM, Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org> wrote:

>

> Has anything like this been done for Colusa and Glenn County?

>

> <IMG\_20230206\_0001.pdf>

# Sites Reservoir Committee Meeting

Agenda Item 03-02: Amendment 3 Project  
Schedule Update

April 22, 2022





# Background

## Focus:

- Amendment 3 Work Period (1/1/22 - 12/31/24)
- End of Amendment 3 = Investor Commitment

## Goals:

- Develop a detailed planning level schedule to help guide decision making.
- Establish “Baseline” schedule to track progress and manage changes

PL/AN/Estimate/High/Document/Info/Document/Project/Only

## Schedule Takeaways

1. Critical path for Investor Commitment goes through Updated Project Cost Estimate and Geotech Work Packages 3 & 4.
2. Other key activities narrowly off the critical path are:
  - WIFIA Negotiations with approximately 4 months of float
  - Water Right Permit with approximately 7 months of float
3. Contract Strategy will drive the development of the schedule through project completion

PL/AN/ENR/001/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100

# 3 Paths to Investor Commitment

## Construction



### Investor Commitment – “3 Big Questions”



#### What do we get?

- Water Right Permit
- Participant Specific Model
- ESA Permits

#### What does it cost?

- Updated Project Cost Estimate
- Geo Work Packages 3 & 4
- Mitigation Cost Estimate
- Land Cost Established

#### How do we pay for it?

- WIFIA Negotiations
- Finalize WIFIA Application
- Indicative Rating Assessment

Public Meeting Discussion - For Decisions - Project Only

# 3 Paths to Investor Commitment

## Construction



### Investor Commitment – July 2024



#### What do we get?

- Water Right Permit
- Participant Specific Model
- ESA Permits

**December 2023**

#### What does it cost?

- Updated Project Cost Estimate
- Geo Work Packages 3 & 4
- Mitigation Cost Estimate
- Land Cost Established

**July 2024**

#### How do we pay for it?

- WIFIA Negotiations
- Finalize WIFIA Application
- Indicative Rating Assessment

**March 2024**

Public Meeting Discussion - for Decisions - Project Only

## Next Steps

1. Track Against Established Baseline (ongoing)
2. Master Schedule through Project Completion
  - Target completion date: *Fall 2022*
  - Predecessor: Contract Strategy – *Summer 2022*

PL/AN/Estimate/High/Document/Info/Document/Process/Only

**Thank you!**





---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Sent:** 2/6/2023 4:55:03 PM  
**To:** Bradshaw,Dee [VBradshaw@mwdh2o.com]; Sheehan,Rebecca D [RSheehan@mwdh2o.com]; Schlotterbeck,John D [jschlotterbeck@mwdh2o.com]; Acuna,Shawn C [SAcuna@mwdh2o.com]  
**CC:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Ready for Review  
**Attachments:** IndexChpApp\_AdminFinal\_Ver3\_02062023.docx

Good afternoon,

We received additional Admin Final EIR/EIS files and have uploaded them to SharePoint for your review. The attached index lists the files that are currently available. Please let me know if you have any trouble accessing the files or any other questions.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 1:31 PM  
**To:** Bradshaw,Dee <VBradshaw@mwdh2o.com>  
**Cc:** Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>; Sheehan,Rebecca D <RSheehan@mwdh2o.com>; Schlotterbeck,John D <jschlotterbeck@mwdh2o.com>; Acuna,Shawn C <SAcuna@mwdh2o.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Ready for Review

Thanks Dee. Admin Final EIR/EIS comments are due 2/28.

The Admin Draft Operation ITP Application and Admin Draft BA comments are a little more in flux so its been difficult to identify a specific date. Right now I would say – Admin Draft BA comments due 2/17 and Admin Draft Operations ITP application due 2/28. Things keep shifting around on these and the BA is suddenly moving way faster than I expected but its not a clear path to getting it finalized and into the agencies so the schedule might relax a little. Apologies for not having clear, hard dates on these – there has just been so much change as we work out some of these last items. I will also let you know if things move and these dates let up a bit.

Laurie, can you get the MWD team added to SharePoint?

Thanks so much Dee!

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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---

**From:** Bradshaw,Dee <VBradshaw@mwdh2o.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 11:19 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>; Sheehan,Rebecca D <RSheehan@mwdh2o.com>; Schlotterbeck,John D <jschlotterbeck@mwdh2o.com>; Acuna,Shawn C <SAcuna@mwdh2o.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Ready for Review

Ali,

Please include my email, Becky, John, and Shawn – included in the cc. Also, please let me know when high level/must consider comments are due for the draft BA and draft ITP-operations are due. We received the documents, but no due date. I requested the due date from John S., but have not heard back from him.

Dee

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 5:32 PM  
**To:** Bradshaw,Dee <VBradshaw@mwdh2o.com>  
**Cc:** Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Ready for Review

Dee – I inadvertently left MWD out of this. My apologies. But I just realized that you all are likely to want to review the Admin Final EIR/EIS.

We are in the final landing pattern for the Admin Final EIR/EIS for the Sites Reservoir Project. Volume 1 and portions of Volume 2 of the Admin Final are ready now. The rest of Volume 2 and all of Volume 3 are expected to be ready for review around February 10. The different volumes consist of the following:

- Volume 1 – main document (changes in track changes)
- Volume 2 – appendices (changes in track changes)
- Volume 3 – response to comments

All comments are due on February 28.

We are happy to schedule a call to provide an overview of the document and how it will “look” when released to the public to help your review. I am substantially time constrained next week but happy to work to set something up asap. Attached is the presentation we’ve been using for these Admin Final review meetings. Below are some dates/times that work for me next week to chat.

- Wednesday, February 8 from 11 am to 1 pm OR 3 to 4 pm
- Friday, February 10 from 9 to 11 am OR 2:30 to 4:30 pm

In the very near term, everyone who will be accessing the file will need SharePoint access. For this, we just need emails addresses. Can you send us email addresses for anyone in MWD that would be reviewing the files? We can get them access so they can get going.

Again, apologies for not thinking about this earlier and giving you all a heads up that the document is coming.

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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## Summary of Technical Information Developed

**Review of 2021 Evaluation – Juvenile Salmon Entrainment:** In 2021, the DWR Big Notch Project (BNP) Team collaborated with CDFW and the Sites Project Team to evaluate how Sites Reservoir operations might impact the BNP with and without various protective measures in place (Table 1). Each protective measure was designed to restrict Sites Reservoir diversions during BNP operations (i.e., Nov 1 – Mar 15, Sacramento River stage at FRE gage >15'), with the specific intent of reducing negative impacts to the BNP's ability to entrain migrating juvenile salmonids.

*Table 1. Description of potential Sites Reservoir operational scenarios to be modeled.*

Scenario	Description	Specifications
Baseline	No Sites Reservoir	BNP baseline entrainment
1	No BNP-Specific Protections	Sites ops limited by Wilkins Slough min flow (10,700 cfs), Bend Bridge pulse protection, and Delta is in excess
2	Sites-Proposed Measure	BNP <600 cfs: Sites ops can decrease BNP flow by up to 1%  BNP >600 cfs: Sites ops can reduce BNP flow by up to 10%
3	CDFW-Proposed Measure: FRE stage/% of Verona Flow	FRE stage 15-21': No diversions  FRE stage 21-28': Up to 2% of Verona Flow  FRE stage 28-32': Up to 5% of Verona Flow  FRE stage 32-33.5': Pause diversion for up to 7 days (preserve Fremont Weir overtopping)
4	CDFW-Proposed Measure: Up to 29' at FRE	Similar to #3 with more restrictions above FRE stage of 29' (preserve BNP ability to reach 6,000 cfs max flow rate)

The Sites Project Team provided modeled Sites diversion data to DWR and CDFW for this analysis. DWR consultants (cbec and HDR) modeled impacts to juvenile salmon entrainment through the BNP during years with overlapping data for BNP flow, juvenile salmon presence and abundance, and Sites diversion data (2009 – 2012). BNP hydrodynamic data inputs are from peer reviewed TUFLOW modeled outputs of BNP operations. Fish catch data is based on daily CDFW Knights Landing rotary screw trap catch data. Model results indicated the potential for substantial reductions in the number of juvenile winter- and spring-run Chinook salmon entrained through the BNP as a result of Sites Reservoir operations (Tables 2 and 3, respectively). Further, the model indicates the risk for markedly high reductions in BNP entrainment potential with even the most restrictive protective measures in place.

*Table 2. Modeled results for the 2021 analysis of the change in Big Notch entrainment of juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon due to Sites Reservoir operations.*

Water Year	Scenario 1 No BNP-Specific Protections	Scenario 2 Sites BNP Protections	Scenario 3 CDFW FW Overtopping	Scenario 4 CDFW 6,000 cfs
2009	-42%	-21%	-19%	-20%
2010	-7%	-3%	-3%	-3%
2011	-16%	-5%	-3%	-3%

Table 3. Modeled results for the 2021 analysis of the change in Big Notch entrainment of juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon due to Sites Reservoir operations.

Water Year	Scenario 1 No BNP-Specific Protections	Scenario 2 Sites BNP Protections	Scenario 3 CDFW FW Overtopping	Scenario 4 CDFW 6,000 cfs
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**Overview of 2022 Evaluation – Big Notch Flow:** DWR and the Sites Team agreed that limited fish abundance data for these CESA/ESA-protected species used in the 2021 evaluation has the potential to affect the accuracy of the modeled results, but a consensus could not be reached as to the severity of the potential variance. Once all BNP-specific protective measures were removed from the Sites Reservoir Public Draft EIS/EIR, the BNP Team opted to omit fish presence from the next round of modeling and focus on changes in flow to increase the statistical confidence in modeled results.

CDFW staff notified DWR that the Sites Team believed the existing Wilkins Slough protective measure (i.e., no Sites Diversions until flow at Wilkins Slough exceeds 10,700 cfs) would adequately protect the BNP. In the summer of 2022, the BNP Team evaluated the relationship between 10,700 cfs and BNP operations for the 16-year BNP modeled period of record (1997 – 2012; Figure 1). Across all water years (WY), this effort showed that 10,700 cfs at Wilkins Slough is exceeded before the river stage at BNP reaches a sufficient level to begin entraining juvenile salmonids. Entrainment, or the diversion of juvenile salmonids from the river through the BNP, is largely a function of flow diversion as the limited swimming ability of these small fish prohibits them from actively avoiding major flow vectors. Therefore, this protective measure is unlikely to provide much benefit for BNP entrainment.

Further, the BNP Team used the TUFLOW hydrodynamic model (BNP EIS/EIR, Appendix D) to examine how flow through BNP would be affected with this protective measure in place (Table 3). Of the four years with overlapping hydrodynamic data (2009 – 2012), the river stage in WY 2012 was too low during the BNP operational period to have resulted in measurable juvenile salmon entrainment. WYs 2009 – 2011, Sites operations would have reduced BNP cumulative annual diversions by 24%, 21%, and 10%, respectively. For this analysis, periods where BNP flow was <1,000 cfs were omitted because juvenile entrainment is expected to be minimal during such low flows. Including this flow rate would result in an even greater reduction in total flow because of Sites operations, but this would present an unfair characterization of the Sites-induced impacts to BNP entrainment potential.

Entrainment modeling by the USACE (Eulerian-Lagrangian-agent Method behavioral forecasting of fish movement and location) and USGS (application of diversion critical streakline calculations) indicated that volume of water diverted through BNP is the most important factor in determining rate of entrainment (BNP EIS/EIR, Appendices G1 and G2). As such, reductions in BNP flow would yield similar reductions in entrainment.

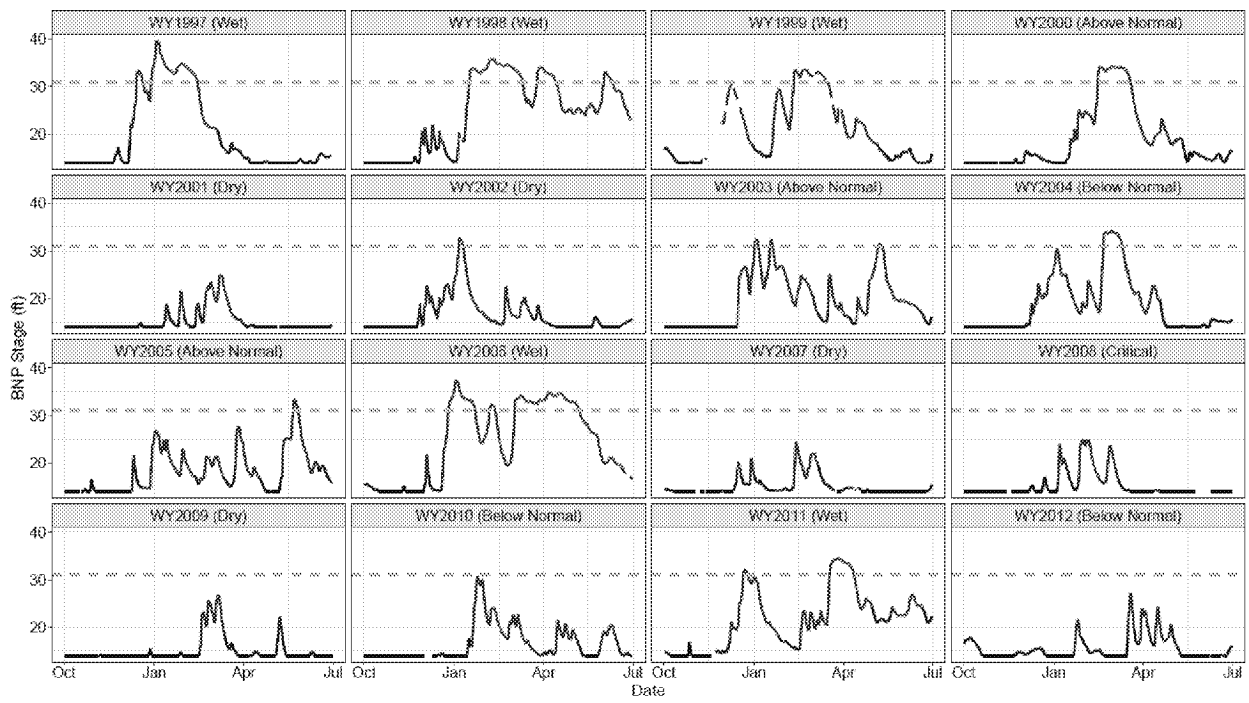


Figure 1. Sacramento River stage at the Big Notch Project during water years 1997-2012. The black line indicates Wilkins Slough was <10,700 cfs and Sites would not be operational. The gray dashed line is the point at which the Sacramento River overtops the Fremont Weir (32' NAVD 88).

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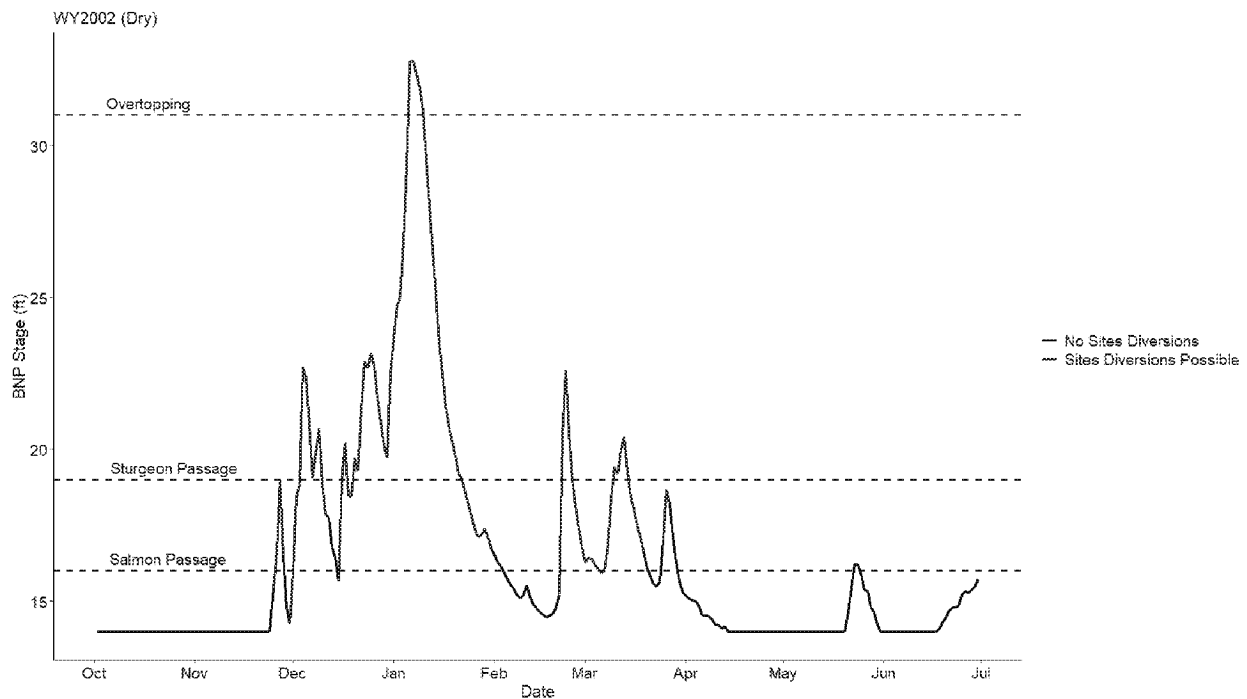


Figure 2. This example hydrograph from Water Year 2002 highlights when Sites Reservoir diversions would occur based on Wilkins Slough flow criteria. No other diversion criteria were included. The red line indicates periods when the Wilkins Slough minimum outflow standard would allow for Sites diversion. The stage at which adult sturgeon and salmon Big Notch Project design passage criteria are indicated by dashed lines.

## Conclusion

- The operation of Site reservoir results in a reduction of juvenile salmonid entrainment through the BNP in all WYs analyzed.
- The volume of flow diverted is the primary variable influencing entrainment rate, and Sites operations resulted in significant reductions in BNP flow in three of the four WYs analyzed, and minor reductions in the remaining WY.
- The Wilkins Slough Protective Measure does not protect salmon entrainment at BNP as this measure does not provide protections in the mid- to upper stages of the hydrograph where entrainment is predicted to occur.
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- The DWR, CDFW, and NMFS evaluation team agree that the level of impacts to the BNP project from Sites operations are too detrimental to go unmitigated. Further discussion of mitigation measures is a recommended next step.
- It is possible that non-flow related salmon entrainment mitigation measures may ameliorate impacts to BNP in a manner that is more acceptable to the Sites team.
- Further discussion is needed to better identify options to reduce impacts to BNP adult fish passage.

## Environmental and Permitting Workgroup Charting Document

### **Status:** Standing

- **Leader:** See primary roster.
- **Members:** See primary roster.
- **Note:** Workgroup membership is by agency. In evaluating the quorum, the agency and not the individual is the member. Authority Board members may attend, may participate in the workgroup meetings and be assigned by the Chair to be involved in ad hoc activities of the workgroup, but they are not members of the workgroup.
- **Staff Support:**
  1. Lead Staff – Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager.
  2. Legal counsel on an as-needed basis.
  3. Other specialty advisors or experts on an as-needed basis.
- **Formation:** February 19, 2021 (Elections)
- **Expires:** End of the Third Amendment to 2019 Reservoir Project Agreement which is anticipated to conclude December 31, 2024.

### **Related Documents:**

- Attachment A: Charter Documents, General Requirements.

**Purpose:** To advise the Authority Board and Reservoir Committee on all environmental planning and permitting aspects of the development and implementation of pre-construction, construction, and mitigation actions for the Sites Reservoir Project.

**Meeting Frequency:** Scheduled meetings will occur monthly with ad-hoc meetings to be scheduled as needed to support Authority Board and Reservoir Committee decision-making. The frequency of scheduled meetings is likely to reduce to every 8 weeks after completion of the Final EIR/EIS.

### **Workgroup's Roles and Responsibilities:**

- The primary focus areas of this workgroup are providing recommendations on:
  - a. The Authority's adoption of CEQA Guidelines, revisions to those Guidelines, if any, and proposed environmental policies.
  - b. The Authority's development, completion, and implementation of all environmental planning and permitting aspects of pre-construction, construction, environmental commitments, and mitigation actions for the Sites Reservoir Project.

**Voting/Consensus Procedures:** The Workgroup Chair shall have the authority to rely on consensus, or call for a voice or roll call vote, on any recommendation proposed to be made to the Reservoir Project Committee and Authority Board.

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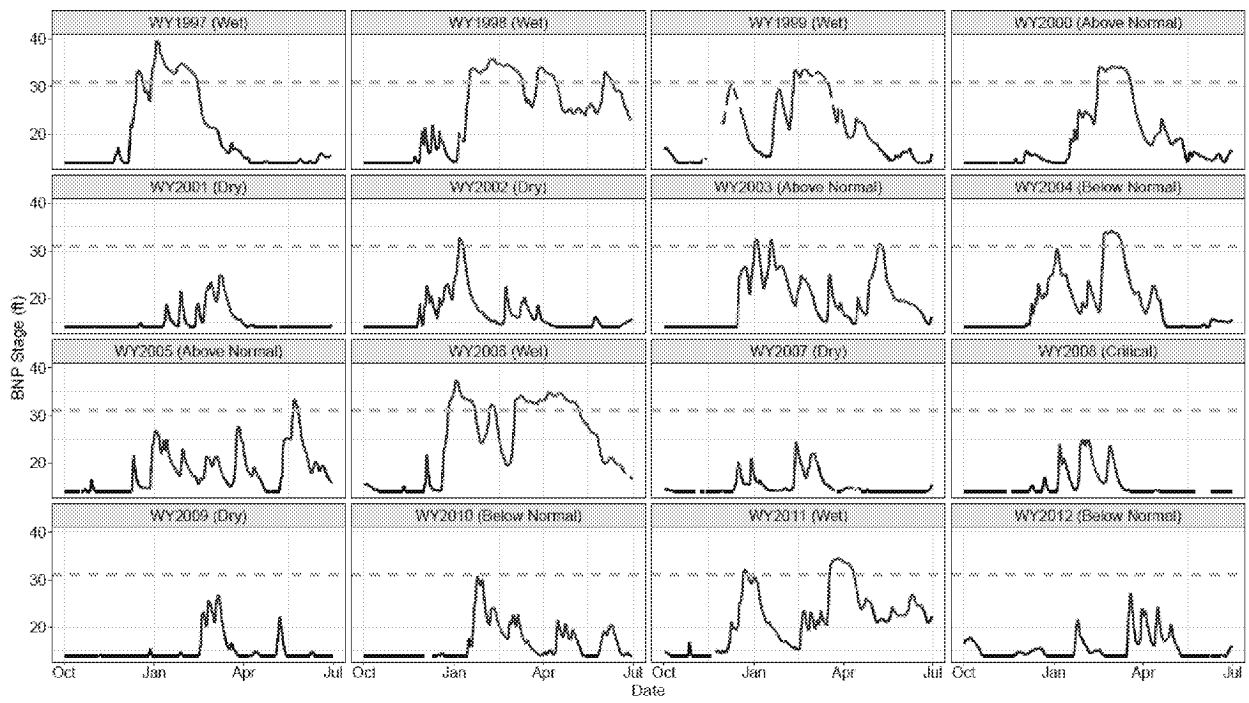


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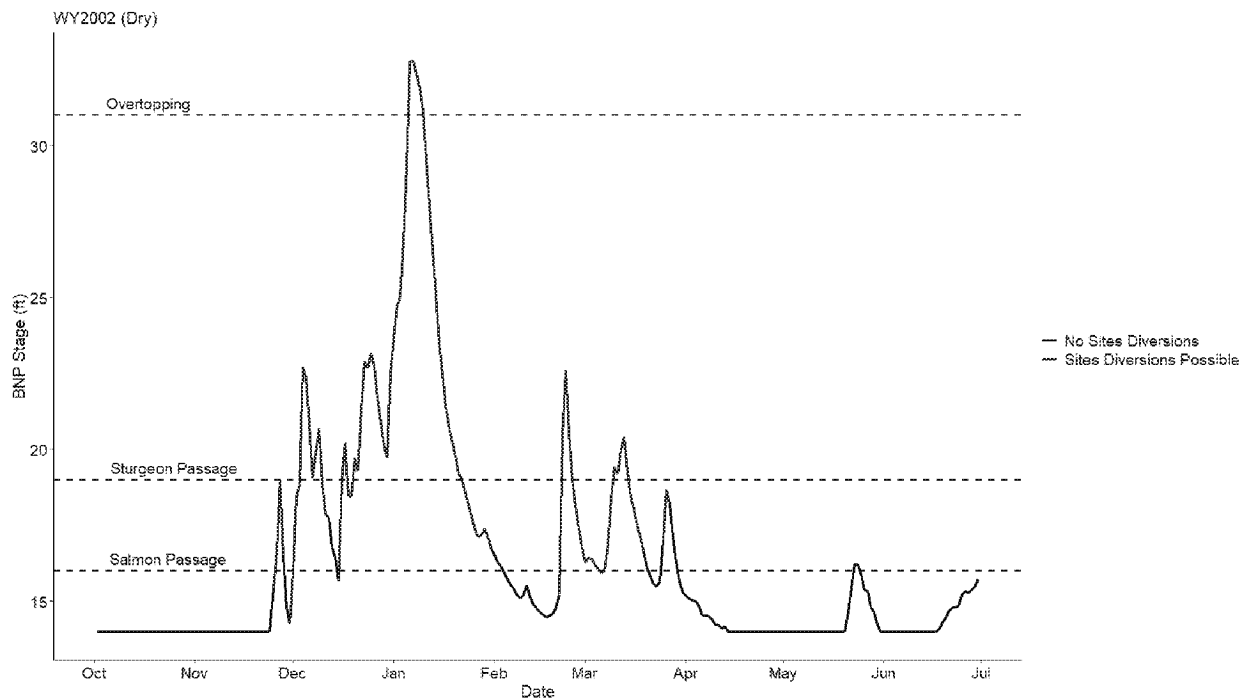


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### Colusa County – Local Inflows to Sites Reservoir

Background: Each Sites Member will have a Storage Allocation which will be used to establish their percentage of active storage and proportionate allocation of reservoir inflow to their Storage Account.

Local inflows to Sites Reservoir – Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and precipitation – will be prioritized as contribution to Colusa County’s Storage Account. This document generally summarizes the concepts to account for Colusa County’s daily storage accrual.

$$TS_{CC} = \min(TS_{CC-1} + D_{CC}, SA_{CC})$$

Where,

$$D_{CC} = I_{SR} + I_F + I_{SC} + P - R_{bypass} - E_{CC}$$

$TS_{CC}$  = The current day’s end of day total storage in Colusa County’s Storage Account;  $TS_{CC}$  is limited to the available space in Colusa County’s Storage Allocation

$SA_{CC}$  = Colusa County’s Storage Allocation (i.e., maximum volume of water Colusa County can have in storage in Sites Reservoir)

$D_{CC}$  = Daily Colusa County storage accrual, maximum

$I_{SR}$  = Colusa County’s calculated inflow volume from Sacramento River (i.e., proportion of diversion based on percent of active storage investment)

$I_F$  = Funks Creek calculated inflow volume

$I_{SC}$  = Stone Corral Creek calculated inflow volume

$P$  = Daily volume of precipitation on Sites Reservoir

$R_{bypass}$  = Current day’s required release to Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek; if  $R_{bypass}$  is greater than the combined creek inflow ( $I_F + I_{SC}$ ), then the volume exceeding the combined creek inflow will be shared among Sites Members as determined by the Authority

$E_{CC}$  = Daily volume of evaporation proportionate to Colusa County’s storage volume in Sites Reservoir

Note: All volumes are based on end of day (EOD) measurements. Additional explanation for each variable is provided below.

#### Funks and Stone Corral Creeks Inflow ( $I_F$ and $I_{SC}$ )

- Flow gages will be installed on Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek upstream from the reservoir and as close to the maximum reservoir surface elevation as possible.
- These gages will be set to record flows on at least an hourly basis to calculate the daily inflow volume from each creek.

**Commented [AB1]:** Note: This measurement recording frequency will be required to comply with SWRCB Measurement Regulation.

#### Precipitation and Evaporation (P and $E_{CC}$ )

- Following construction of the reservoir, a relationship between water depth and surface area will be developed.
  - Surface area will be used for determining the daily volume of rainfall on the reservoir and the daily volume of evaporation from the reservoir.
- Sites will install and maintain rainfall gages at appropriate locations around the reservoir. The number and location of these gages will be determined following evaluation of existing data.

- Daily rainfall data will be averaged (potentially using a weighted average) across the gages and multiplied by the EOD surface area to calculate the volume of precipitation (P).
- All precipitation on Sites Reservoir will be accounted for as water stored for Colusa County ( $D_{CC}$ ).
- Sites is evaluating the best method for calculating evaporation from the reservoir. The selected method will be applied to all Sites Members.
  - Daily evaporation (measured in centimeters or inches) will be multiplied by the EOD surface area to calculate the volume of evaporation.
  - Colusa County will be charged a proportionate share of daily evaporation based on total storage in Sites Reservoir ( $E_{CC}$ ), which will be subtracted from its Storage account.

Required Release/Bypass from Funks and Stone Corral Creeks ( $R_{bypass}$ )

- Required releases to Funks and Stone Corral creeks downstream from Sites Reservoir are still being determined and will likely be finalized through the water right hearing process for inclusion in Sites' water right permit.
- It is currently assumed that these releases will be based on a combination of flows needed to satisfy downstream senior water rights and flows for the environment.
- The required releases to Funks and Stone Corral creeks, as a daily volume ( $R_{bypass}$ ), will be subtracted from the inflow to Sites Reservoir from these creeks.
- If the required release exceeds the combined Funks and Stone Corral creeks inflow on any given day, then the volume exceeding the combined creek inflow will be shared among Sites Members as determined by the Authority.

Calculation of Colusa County Total Storage ( $D_{CC}$  and  $TS_{CC}$ )

- The above daily variables will be used to calculate the maximum EOD Colusa County daily storage accrual ( $D_{CC}$ ).
- The daily storage accrual will then be added to the prior day's Total Storage for Colusa County ( $TS_{CC-1}$ ) to calculate the EOD Total Storage ( $TS_{CC}$ ) which cannot exceed Colusa County's Storage Allocation ( $SA_{CC}$ ).
- If the daily storage accrual would result in a Total Storage which exceeds Colusa County's Storage Allocation, then the remaining volume would be shared among other Sites Members as determined by the Authority.

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**From:** Janis Offermann [janis@horizonh2o.com]  
**Sent:** 2/7/2023 10:11:44 AM  
**To:** LBill@yochadehe.gov  
**CC:** Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** Sites Reservoir Tribal Working Group  
**Attachments:** 20230112\_TWG Notificaiton Letter\_Formatted\_PaskentaBand\_Alejandro.pdf

Good morning, Laverne

I hope you are enjoying your new position with Paskenta and settling in. I imagine it is keeping you quite busy.

Now that you are with the tribe, we are hoping that Paskenta will elect to be more involved with the Sites Reservoir Project. Most recently, we sent the attached invitation to Chairman Alejandro about participating in the Tribal Working Group (TWG), which we had previously discussed with you. If you have any questions about the TWG, please don't hesitate to give me a call, or follow up with either Kevin or Ali via email (both cc'd here), or by phone. Kevin can be reached at (530) 632-4071 and Ali is available at (916) 880-0676.

We look forward to hearing from you about the TWG or any other ways that Paskenta would like to participate in the project.

Many thanks  
janis

Janis Offermann, MA, RPA  
Cultural Resources Practice Lead  
Horizon Water and Environment  
1801 7th Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
530.220.4918

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January 12, 2023

Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians  
Mr. Andrew Alejandro, Chairperson  
22580 Olivewood Avenue  
Corning, CA 96021

Subject: Invitation to Participate in a Tribal Working Group; Sites Reservoir Project in Glenn, Colusa, Tehama, and Yolo Counties, California

Dear Honorable Chairperson Alejandro:

The Sites Project Authority has periodically reached out to you over the past several years to provide you information about the progress of the Sites Reservoir Project (Proposed Project or Project), and to invite you to consult on the Project under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1, as a tribe with a traditional and cultural affiliation with the Proposed Project area. We understand that not all tribes have the availability to consult under AB 52, but we continue to value your input on the Proposed Project. To this end, we are inviting you to participate in a Tribal Working Group (TWG) to address topics of concern and interest to tribes who have a traditional and cultural affiliation with the Proposed Project area.

We envision the TWG to include only those tribes with a direct ancestral relationship with the Project area: Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians; Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation; Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation; Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki Indians; and Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians. The TWG would be organized and facilitated by Ali Forsythe, the Authority's Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager, and Kevin Spesert, the Authority's External Affairs Manager, along with the Authority's consultant team currently working with Yocha Dehe under AB 52. To facilitate communication within the Authority, a member of the Sites Reservoir Board of Directors and a Sites Reservoir Committee would be invited to attend meetings.

The need for confidentiality regarding information shared about sensitive topics is fully acknowledged and understood by the Authority which is one of the reasons we propose the meetings be held by invitation only. It is anticipated that sensitive topics, such as tribal cultural resources, would only be addressed at a very general level within the TWG. It is understood that individual tribes may not wish to share some information with their neighboring tribes and that such discussions would be managed appropriately and respectfully.



P.O. Box 517  
Maxwell, CA 95955  
530.438.2309



It is expected that the first meeting would be held in February 2023 with an expected frequency of bi-monthly. This meeting would be introductory, be about 2 hours and would provide a status update about the Proposed Project and a discussion with participants about administrative items such as meeting schedule and time, holding in-person or virtual meetings, and agreeing on goals and objectives for the group through mutual development of a TWG chartering document. The Authority will staff and pay for the meeting facilitation and provide all of the technical support needed for the meetings. Subsequent meetings would address topics generated by the interests of the TWG members. To kickstart the process, we have considered the following as potential topics for discussion:

- Workforce development including jobs for Tribal members during construction and implementation of the Project;
- Discussing any Tribal member concerns with local transportation impacts that might be associated with construction of the Project;
- Tribal interests in the recreational areas and amenities planned for the Project;
- Tribal interests in the biological mitigation sites to be developed as part of the project, including use of Tribal Ecological Knowledge; and
- Tribal interests in stewardship and future access to Project lands and resources that are not otherwise used for Project activities.

We anticipate that there will be other topics that you will want to address and are open to discussing topics of interest to the TWG members.

We hope that you will accept this invitation to be part of the TWG and help us better understand the challenges and concerns of the local Native American community relative to the Proposed Project, as well as explore opportunities to productively address these same issues. Both Ali and Kevin (mentioned above) are available if you have any questions about the TWG. Ali can be reached at [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) or (916) 880-0676 , and Kevin at [kspesert@sitesproject.org](mailto:kspesert@sitesproject.org) or (530) 632-4071. One of them will be contacting you directly in the upcoming weeks to further discuss formation of the TWG.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Fritz Durst'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fritz Durst  
Chair



P.O. Box 517  
Maxwell, CA 95955  
530.438.2309



# Sites Reservoir Project - 3 Month Look Ahead

Primary	Assigned To	Governing Body
<b>February 2023</b>		
<b>Consent Items</b>		
Minutes	Sandra Yarbrough	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Treasurer's Report	Joe Trapasso	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Payment of Claims	Joe Trapasso	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
4th Quarter Financial Report - Report on actuals for 2022 compared to budget and determine the final 2022 carryover.	Joe Trapasso	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
CWC EFA amendment increase funding amount	Joe Trapasso	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Katz Task Order Amendment	Joe Trapasso	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Action Items</b>		
Conduct Elections of RC/AB Officers	Jerry Brown	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Chairpersons Assignments of Committees and Workgroups	Jerry Brown	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Approve revisions to the Real Estate TROE Compensation Policy	Kevin Spesert	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Approve 2023 Federal/State Legislative Priorities	Kevin Spesert	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Facility Partner Cooperative Agreement	Cheyenne Harris, JP Robinette	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Discussion and Informational Items</b>		
Final EIR/EIS Status Briefing - Part 1 of 3 in Preparation for Approval of Project	aforsythe@sitesproject.org, Laurie Warner Herson	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Baseline Schedule - Discussion of alternatives and possible accelerated schedule, schedule in WIFIA application	Henry Luu, JP Robinette	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Kick off B&O Contract Development - Layout Roadmap to getting these completed	Cheyenne Harris, Elizabeth Cousins, JP Robinette	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Status update on A3 Cash Call 2A - Has everyone paid?	Marcus Maltby	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Monthly Reporting (Monthly Status Report, Work Plan, Action Items)	All	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Closed Session</b>		
<b>Committees/Workgroups</b>		
Governance AdHoc	Jerry Brown	Governance Ad Hoc Committee
Governance Ad Hoc - Review Charter Document	Jerry Brown	Governance Ad Hoc Committee
O&E - Review Charter Document	Henry Luu, JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Update on Sites/DWR/Reclamation Operations Agreement	Angela Bezzone, Jerry Brown	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Update on GCID canal modeling and considerations for TRR sizing	Henry Luu, JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Update on DSOD engagement	Henry Luu, JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Assumptions and considerations related to the CAISO Interconnection Application	Henry Luu, JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Options related to reservoir storage size based on latest survey and mapping information	Henry Luu, JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Review Project Baseline Schedule and alternatives analyses including potential accelerated activities, schedule in the WIFIA application	Henry Luu, JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Final EIR/EIS Status Briefing - Part 1 of 3 in Preparation for Approval of Project	aforsythe@sitesproject.org, Laurie Warner Herson	Environmental Planning & Permitting Workgroup
EPP - Review Charter Document	aforsythe@sitesproject.org	Environmental Planning & Permitting Workgroup
Payment of Claims	Joe Trapasso	Budget & Finance Committee
B&F - Review Charter Document	Joe Trapasso	Budget & Finance Committee
4th Quarter Financial Report	Joe Trapasso	Budget & Finance Committee
CWC EFA amendment increase funding amount	Joe Trapasso	Budget & Finance Committee
2023 State/Federal Leg Priorities	Kevin Spesert	Legislative & Outreach Committee
2023 Communications Planning	Kevin Spesert	Legislative & Outreach Committee
L&O - Review Charter Document	Kevin Spesert	Legislative & Outreach Committee
Tribal Engagement Working Group - Kick-off Meeting	Ali Forsythe, Kevin Spesert	
<b>March 2, 2023 @10:00 - Discuss Framework for Lease/Sell Transactions</b>		

Primary	Assigned To	Governing Body
<b>March 2023</b>		
<b>Consent Items</b>		
Minutes	Sandra Yarbrough	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Treasurer's Report	Joe Trapasso	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Payment of Claims	Joe Trapasso	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Master Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Application - Approval to Submit	Ali Forsythe, John Spranza	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Action Items</b>		
Short-term Eagle Permit - Approve Executive Director Signing and Pay Mitigation Fees	John Spranza	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Authorize submittal of WIFIA Application	Cheyenne Harris, Derek Gardels, JP Robinette	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Discussion and Informational Items</b>		
Final EIR/EIS Status Briefing - Part 2 of 3 in Preparation for Approval of Project	aforsythe@sitesproject.org, Laurie Warner Herson	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Placeholder - Water Rights - Protests Status Update Briefing (Want to have this after the protest period closes)	aforsythe@sitesproject.org	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Procurement Strategy Informational Item	Cheyenne Harris, Joe Trapasso, JP Robinette, Pat Tangora	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Governance Committee Update	Jerry Brown	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Monthly Reporting (Monthly Status Report, Work Plan, Action Items)	All	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Closed Session</b>		
<b>Committees/Workgroups</b>		
<b>No O&amp;E Work Group This Month</b>		
Governance Meeting	Jerry Brown	Joint Governance Committee
Final EIR/EIS Status Briefing - Part 2 of 3 in Preparation for Approval of Project	aforsythe@sitesproject.org, Laurie Warner Herson	Environmental Planning & Permitting Workgroup
Clean Water Act 404 and 401 Permit Applications - Overview in Prep to Approve Submittal next Month	Ali Forsythe, Jelica Arsenijevic	Environmental Planning & Permitting Workgroup
Section 106 - Cultural Resources Status Update	Ali Forsythe	Environmental Planning & Permitting Workgroup
Water Rights - Protests Status Update Briefing (Want to have this after the protest period closes)	Ali Forsythe, John Spranza	Environmental Planning & Permitting Workgroup
Payment of Claims	Joe Trapasso	Budget & Finance Committee
Submittal of WIFIA Application	Cheyenne Harris, JP Robinette	WIFIA Ad Hoc Subcommittee
WIFIA - Review Charter Document	Cheyenne Harris, JP Robinette	WIFIA Ad Hoc Subcommittee
report out on WIFIA Ad Hoc Subcommittee Meeting	Cheyenne Harris, JP Robinette	Budget & Finance Committee
Placeholder - Proforma 2.0 Update to Support mid-2023 Participant 'Soft Call'	bgtmwd@gmail.com, JP Robinette	Budget & Finance Committee
Procurement Strategy Informational Item [Contract Strategy Workgroup]	Cheyenne Harris, JP Robinette, Pat Tangora	O&E Ad Hoc Sub-Workgroup
Local Community Working Group	Kevin Spesert	
<b>April 2023</b>		
<b>Consent Items</b>		
Minutes	Sandra Yarbrough	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Treasurer's Report	Joe Trapasso	Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Payment of Claims	Joe Trapasso	Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Action Items</b>		
Review and adopt a Project Baseline Schedule	Henry Luu, JP Robinette, Marcus Maltby	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Procurement Strategy Approval - for the purpose of 1) adopt Procurement Strategy and 2) Board policy decision to issue CMAR Contract RFQ in advance of water right and execution of Benefits and Obligations Contract with Participants	Cheyenne Harris, Joe Trapasso, JP Robinette, Pat Tangora	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
CAISO Interconnection Application - Approval to Submit	Henry Luu, JP Robinette	Authority Board & Reservoir Committee

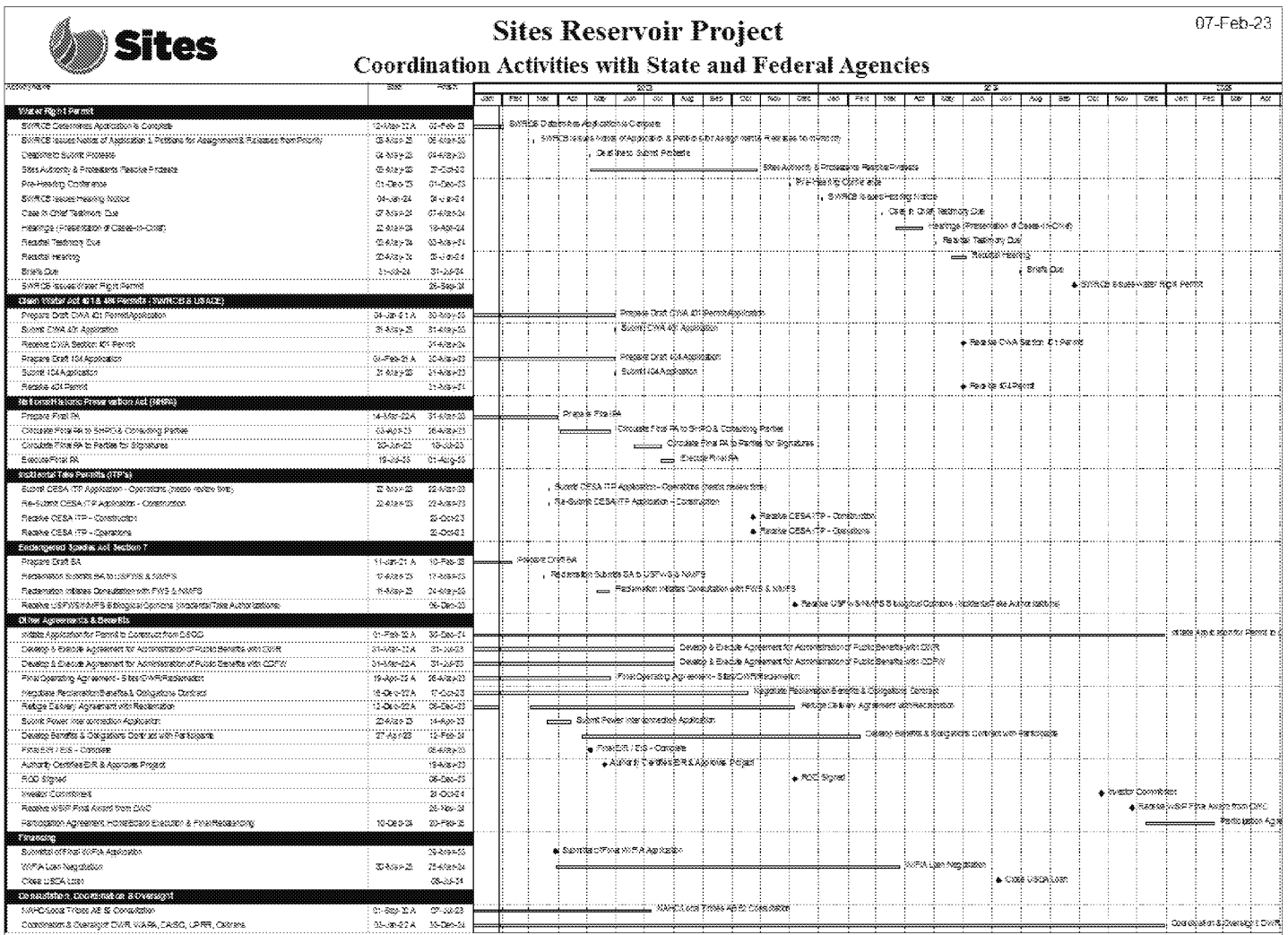
Primary	Assigned To	Governing Body
<b>Discussion and Informational Items</b>		
Final EIR/EIS Status Briefing - Part 3 of 3 in Preparation for Approval of Project	aforsythe@sitesproject.org, Laurie Warner Herson	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Clean Water Act 404 and 401 Permit Applications - Overview in Prep to Approve Submittal next Month - pls make sure Section 2.5 is met prior to board presentation	Ali Forsythe, Jelica Arsenijevic	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Section 106 - Cultural Resources Status Update	Ali Forsythe	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Placeholder - Proforma 2.0 Update to Support mid-2023 Participant 'Soft Call'	Brian Thomas, JP Robinette	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Review of Conveyance and Storage Loss Assumptions and Deadpool risk	JP Robinette	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Monthly Reporting (Monthly Status Report, Work Plan, Action Items)	All	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Closed Session</b>		
<b>Committees/Workgroups</b>		
Governance Adhoc	Jerry Brown	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Review of Conveyance and Storage Loss Assumptions	JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Cost Estimate - Market Conditions Update	Henry Luu, JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Review and Recommend submitting CAISO Interconnection Application	Henry Luu, JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Informational report out from Ad Hoc Contract Strategy O&E Subworkgroup	JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Recommend Procurement Strategy for Approval [Contract Strategy Subworkgroup]	Cheyenne Harris, Joe Trapasso, JP Robinette, Pat Tangora	O&E Ad Hoc Sub-Workgroup
Final EIR/EIS Status Briefing - Part 3 of 3 in Preparation for Approval of Project	aforsythe@sitesproject.org, Laurie Warner Herson	Environmental Planning & Permitting Workgroup

**From:** David Hubbard [Dhubbard@BrwnCald.com]  
**Sent:** 2/7/2023 11:15:40 AM  
**To:** Spranza, John [john.spranza@hdrinc.com]; mmaltby@brwncald.com; Jerry Brown [jbrown@sitesproject.org]  
**CC:** Marcia Kivett [MKivett@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Amendment 3 Schedule Update to January 29, 2023  
**Attachments:** Sites\_Strike Team\_2023.02.07.pdf

**Thanks John.** See below/attached. With the BA revisions from Agency Comments pushing the Submits BA activity, everything downstream moved in lock-step.

**Jerry** – attaching the final Strike Team version here and will post on the SharePoint site in a few minutes.

**Marcus** – see second snip below, the WPPR milestone for Federal ESA – Receive BO's has also slipped as a result of this final change. I will send you shortly the Final WPPR shortly and post on SharePoint.



#	Activity Name	Start	Finish	Last Month Finish	Variance Last Month Finish
1	<b>What do we get?</b>	12-Apr-22 A	26-Sep-24	26-Sep-24	0
2	Final Operating Agreement - Sites/DWR/Reclamat	19-Apr-22 A	26-May-23	26-May-23	0
3	Submit Water Right Permit Application		11-May-22 A	11-May-22	0
4	Develop Participant Specific Model	10-Apr-23	21-Feb-24	21-Feb-24	0
5	Final EIR / EIS - Complete		05-May-23	05-May-23	0
6	CWA 404 / 401 - Submit Final Permit Applications		31-May-23	31-May-23	0
7	Receive CESA ITP - Operations		23-Oct-23	15-Sep-23	-26
8	Receive CESA ITP - Construction		23-Oct-23	15-Sep-23	-26
9	Operations Plan, Version 2	24-Oct-23	27-Jun-24	21-May-24	-26
10	Federal ESA - Receive Biological Opinions		06-Dec-23	31-Oct-23	-24
11	Water Right Permit Issued		26-Sep-24	26-Sep-24	0

**Dave Hubbard**

Project Controls

**Brown and Caldwell**

Cell: 832.840.1789

dhubbard@brwnald.com



**From:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 12:23 PM

**To:** David Hubbard <Dhubbard@BrwnCald.com>; Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@BrwnCald.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Amendment 3 Schedule Update to January 29, 2023

BA revisions from agency comments will be complete Feb 28<sup>th</sup> and Authority/Legal review of final packet would require 2 weeks.

**John Spranza**

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

**From:** David Hubbard <Dhubbard@BrwnCald.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:16 AM

**To:** Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>; Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@BrwnCald.com>

**Subject:** Re: Sites Amendment 3 Schedule Update to January 29, 2023

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks John.

Can you put a few words around moving the Submits BA activity to March 17?

Get Outlook for iOS

**From:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 11:58:32 AM

**To:** David Hubbard <Dhubbard@BrwnCald.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Amendment 3 Schedule Update to January 29, 2023

Hi David,

I have 2 edits for the BA, please see attached.

**John Spranza**

**From:** David Hubbard <Dhubbard@BrwnCald.com>

**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 6:48 AM

**To:** Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@BrwnCald.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; 'bezzone@mbkengineers.com' <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>; conner <conner@cmdwest.com>; Risse, Danielle <danielle.risse@hdrinc.com>; Edwards, Dawn <Dawn.Edwards@hdrinc.com>; Luu, Henry <henry.luu@hdrinc.com>; Arsenijevic, Jelica <jelica.arsenijevic@hdrinc.com>; Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>; Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>; Marcia Kivett <MKivett@sitesproject.org>; Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@BrwnCald.com>; Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>; Justin Davies <JDavies@BrwnCald.com>; bezzone@mbkengineers.com; Lee Lambert <LLambert@BrwnCald.com>

**Cc:** Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Amendment 3 Schedule Update to January 29, 2023

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

**Good morning, Sites Team** – thanks for everyone’s help with end of January 2023 Schedule updates to the Amendment 3 Schedule through 2025.

Below folder contains different layouts after the updates and would ask that you guys take some time to review and advise me if we need to change anything.


I will finalize everything next Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> ahead of our due date for: Staff Reports & Supporting Documents Due COB.

2023.02 February '23



Schedules Library > Schedules - Amendment 3 > 2023.02 February '23 



 Name 

  Sites\_WBS\_2023.02.03.pdf



  Sites\_All with Pred+ Succ\_2023.02.03.pdf



  Sites\_Strike Team Compare to Prior\_2023.02.02.pdf

  Sites\_Reclamation\_2023.02.02.pdf

  Sites\_Key Milestones\_2023.02.02.pdf

  Sites\_Key Deliverables\_2023.02.02.pdf

  Sites\_WPPR\_Compare to Prior Month\_2023.02.02.pdf

  Sites\_Compare to Prior Month\_2023.02.02.pdf

Thanks,  
**Dave Hubbard**  
Project Controls  
**Brown and Caldwell**  
Cell: 832.840.1789  
dhubbard@brwncaid.com



**From:** David Hubbard

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 12:04 PM

**To:** Marcus Maltby <maltby@BrwnCald.com>; jrobinette@sitesproject.org; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; bezzone@mbkengineers.com; Conner McDonald <conner@cmdwest.com>; Risse, Danielle <danielle.risse@hdrinc.com>; Edwards, Dawn <Dawn.Edwards@hdrinc.com>; Henry Luu <henry.luu@hdrinc.com>; Arsenijevic, Jelica <Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com>; Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>; Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>; Marcia Kivett <MKivett@sitesproject.org>; Marcus Maltby <maltby@BrwnCald.com>; Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>; Justin Davies <JDavies@BrwnCald.com>; bezzone@mbkengineers.com; Lee Lambert <LLambert@BrwnCald.com>

**Cc:** jbrown@sitesproject.org

**Subject:** Sites Amendment 3 Schedule Update to January 29, 2023

### Howdy Sites Team!

We've just about made it through January and it's time to update our Sites Schedule, moving our Data Date to this Sunday January 29, 2023. Below folder (follow link) contains all of the activities that are either ongoing, planned to start or planned to complete during the update period. Also added screenshots below for those that want to provide email reply updates – refer to the row, use the ID or Name. I will add some other Schedules in the same folder for reference. Email updates are welcome as I know most folks are busy and hard to get a Teams session setup.


**Marcia** – can you please setup Teams sessions for the below groups? I will set up a session with Cheyanne, Lee & Justin. Need to do this ASAP as we will be plugging in the CP1 Schedule that AECOM is working on. (Marcus and JP can added as optional to all sessions and are welcome to join as they see fit)

- Dave & Henry (30 minutes)
- Dave, Ali, John, Jelica, Danielle, Dawn, Laurie, Angela – (get as many as possible at 1 hour if possible, or smaller half hour sessions if this larger group's calendars don't work)
- Dave, Conner with Kevin optional (30 minutes; if doesn't work then Conner and I can trade messages and find the time)

2023.02 February '23

Schedules Library > Schedules - Amendment 3 > 2023.02 February '23

 Name ▾

 Sites Schedule for update to 29-Jan-2023\_2023.01.27.pdf

#	Activity ID	Activity Name	Duration	Start	Finish	2023												2024												2025											
						D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
1	<b>Sites Reservoir Project DD: 28-Jan-2023 (without CP-1)</b>																																								
2	<b>Geotech Program</b>																																								
3	<b>Real Estate</b>																																								
4	<b>Land Access Agreements</b>																																								
5	<b>Colusa County</b>																																								
6	LAAG-1300	Colusa Co. Landowners Access Agreements for Geotech Work Pkg #2	119	03-Jan-23	19-Jun-23	Colusa Co. Landowners Access Agreements for Geotech Work Pkg #2																																			
7	<b>Yolo County</b>																																								
8	LAAG-1360	Yolo Co. Landowners Access Agreements for Geotech Work Pkg #2	119	03-Jan-23	19-Jun-23	Yolo Co. Landowners Access Agreements for Geotech Work Pkg #2																																			
9	<b>Glenn County</b>																																								
10	LAAG-1505	Glenn Co. Landowners Access Agreements for Geotech Work Pkg #2	119	03-Jan-23	19-Jun-23	Glenn Co. Landowners Access Agreements for Geotech Work Pkg #2																																			
11	<b>Geotechnical Engineering</b>																																								
12	<b>Geotechnical Investigations</b>																																								
13	<b>Work Packages</b>																																								
14	GWPP-1206	Geotech Work Package #2	126	02-Jan-23 A	30-Jun-23	Geotech Work Package #2																																			
15	<b>Preliminary Engineering</b>																																								
16	<b>Cost Estimate</b>																																								
17	<b>Class 4 Cost Estimate Variance Reporting</b>																																								
18	CAF-1166	Class 4 Cost Estimate Variance Reporting (reset to Sort G)	304	24-Jan-23	03-Apr-24	Class 4 Cost Estimate Variance Reporting (reset to Sort G)																																			
19	<b>Project Development</b>																																								
20	<b>Planning</b>																																								
21	<b>Key Deliverables</b>																																								
22	KD-1159	Complete Updated Master Project Schedule (Baseline Established)	84	24-Jan-22 A	28-Apr-23	Complete Updated Master Project Schedule (Baseline Established)																																			
23	KD-1250	Finalize AB/RD Governance & Delegation of Authority for Phase 3 (UBROW)	364	08-Sep-22 A	31-Dec-23	Finalize AB/RD Governance & Delegation of Authority for Phase 3 (UBROW)																																			
24	<b>NAHC/Local Tribes AB 52 Consultation</b>																																								
25	STA-120	NAHC/Local Tribes AB 52 Consultation	152	01-Sep-24	07-Jun-25	NAHC/Local Tribes AB 52 Consultation																																			
26	<b>Reservoir Operations &amp; Modeling</b>																																								
27	<b>Final Sites DWR/Reclamation Operating Agreement</b>																																								
28	OP-1005	Final Operating Agreement - Sites/DWR/Reclamation	103	19-Apr-22 A	25-May-23	Final Operating Agreement - Sites/DWR/Reclamation																																			
29	<b>Water Rights Modeling</b>																																								
30	A1205	Water Rights Modeling Support	482	03-Jan-23 A	21-Nov-24	Water Rights Modeling Support																																			
31	A1215	Documentation for Water Rights	482	03-Jan-23 A	21-Nov-24	Documentation for Water Rights																																			
32	<b>Refined Daily Operations Model</b>																																								
33	A1225	Refined Daily Operations Model	69	03-Oct-22 A	07-Apr-23	Refined Daily Operations Model																																			
34	<b>Project Agreements &amp; Funding</b>																																								
35	<b>Inter-Agency Agreements</b>																																								
36	<b>Facility Use Agreements</b>																																								
37	FD-1029	TCC/WROD Cooperative Agreement	34	27-Aug-21 A	17-Feb-23	TCC/WROD Cooperative Agreement																																			
38	<b>Agreements for Administration of Public Benefits</b>																																								
39	PB-1108	Develop & Execute Agreement for Administration of Public Benefits w/ In DW	148	31-Mar-22 A	21-Jun-22	Develop & Execute Agreement for Administration of Public Benefits w/ In DW																																			
40	PB-1206	Develop & Execute Agreement for Administration of Public Benefits w/ In CDY	148	31-Mar-22 A	31-Jun-23	Develop & Execute Agreement for Administration of Public Benefits w/ In CDY																																			
41	<b>Federal Funding Commitment</b>																																								
42	Refuge	Refuge Delivery Agreement with Reclamation	202	12-Dec-22 A	19-Oct-23	Refuge Delivery Agreement with Reclamation																																			
43	WRR-1170	Negotiate Reclamation Benefits & Obligations Contract	203	18-Dec-22 A	17-Oct-23	Negotiate Reclamation Benefits & Obligations Contract																																			

#	Activity ID	Activity Name	Duration	Start	Finish	2023												2024												2025											
						D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
44	<b>US Bureau of Reclamation Warren Act</b>																																								
45	FEQ-090	Final Warren Act Contract (AA JP)	231	01-Jun-21 A	26-Nov-23	Final Warren Act Contract (AA JP)																																			
46	<b>Federal Funding</b>																																								
47	<b>WIIN Act FAA</b>																																								
48	WRR-1190	Review by Bureau of Reclamation (Joe, Cathy, Elena)	89	16-Jun-22 A	31-Mar-23	Review by Bureau of Reclamation (Joe, Cathy, Elena)																																			
49	<b>WIFIA Loan</b>																																								
50	<b>WFA Application</b>																																								
51	WFA-110	WFA Agreement in Principle (Indicative Rating)	41	05-Jul-22 A	28-Feb-23	WFA Agreement in Principle (Indicative Rating)																																			
52	<b>USDA Loan</b>																																								
53	USDA-1050	Satisfy USDA Loan Conditions	380	02-Sep-22 A	28-Jun-24	Satisfy USDA Loan Conditions																																			
54	<b>State Funding (Water Storage Investment Program, WSIP)</b>																																								
55	<b>WSIP Early Funding Administration</b>																																								
56	WSIP-1240	WSIP Quarterly Report (Period October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022)	15	03-Jan-23	23-Jan-23	WSIP Quarterly Report (Period October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022)																																			
57	<b>Permitting</b>																																								
58	<b>Key Deliverables</b>																																								
59	KD-1460	Develop Mitigation Strategy (version 1 of final document)	41	21-Nov-22 A	25-Feb-23	Develop Mitigation Strategy (version 1 of final document)																																			
60	<b>Field Surveys</b>																																								
61	RE-1035	Cultural Surveys	479	03-Jan-23	18-Nov-24	Cultural Surveys																																			
62	RE-1040	Biological Surveys	479	03-Jan-23	18-Nov-24	Biological Surveys																																			
63	<b>Federal Agency Agreements &amp; Permits</b>																																								
64	<b>Clean Water Act Section 404</b>																																								
65	404-050	Prepare Draft 404 Application	165	04-Feb-21 A	30-May-23	Prepare Draft 404 Application																																			
66	<b>Advisory Council on Historic Preservation NHPA Section 106</b>																																								
67	106-051	Prepare Final PA	84	14-Mar-22 A	31-Mar-23	Prepare Final PA																																			
68	<b>USFWS &amp; NMFS Endangered Species Act Section 7</b>																																								
69	BA-200	Prepare Draft BA	29	11-Jan-21 A	16-Feb-23	Prepare Draft BA																																			
70	<b>USFWS Bald Eagle Protection Act</b>																																								
71	<b>Long Term Permit</b>																																								
72	UBFWS-190	Prepare Long Term Permit Application	205	27-Jul-22 A	04-Dec-23	Prepare Long Term Permit Application																																			
73	<b>State Agency Agreements &amp; Permits</b>																																								
74	<b>SWRCB Water Right Permit</b>																																								
75	WRP-115a	SWRCB Determines Application is Complete	22	12-May-22 A	02-Feb-23	SWRCB Determines Application is Complete																																			
76	WRP-115ac	Respond to Request for More Information	4	28-Aug-22 A	08-Jan-23	Respond to Request for More Information																																			
77	<b>SWB CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification</b>																																								
78	401-200	Prepare Draft CWA 401 Permit Application	165	04-Jan-21 A	30-May-23	Prepare Draft CWA 401 Permit Application																																			
79	<b>CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreements</b>																																								
80	180A-200	Prepare LSAA Application - John	25	16-Jan-22 A	28-Jan-23	Prepare LSAA Application - John																																			
81	<b>CDFW Incidental Take Permits</b>																																								
82	ITP-CESA (2024) Operations																																								
83	2021-190	Prepare CESA ITP Application - Operations - John	20	11-Jan-21 A	28-Jan-23	Prepare CESA ITP Application - Operations - John																																			
84	<b>Environmental</b>																																								
85	<b>EIR/EIS</b>																																								
86	<b>Final EIR/Final EIS</b>																																								
87	ER-110	Preparation of Admin Final EIR/EIS (Issue: resolving responses to comments)	21	03-Jan-22 A	31-Jan-23	Preparation of Admin Final EIR/EIS (Issue: resolving responses to comments)																																			







# Sites Reservoir Project

07-Feb-23

## Coordination Activities with State and Federal Agencies

Activity Name	Start	Finish	2023												2024												2025			
			Jan	Feb	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	Apr
<b>Water Right Permit</b>																														
SWRCB Determines Application is Complete	12-May-22	02-Feb-23	SWRCB Determines Application is Complete																											
SWRCB Issues Notice of Application & Petitions for Assignment & Releases from Priority	06-Mar-23	06-Mar-23	SWRCB Issues Notice of Application & Petitions for Assignment & Releases from Priority																											
Deadline to Submit Protests	04-May-23	04-May-23	Deadline to Submit Protests																											
Sites Authority & Protestants Resolve Protests	05-May-23	27-Oct-23	Sites Authority & Protestants Resolve Protests																											
Pre-Hearing Conference	01-Dec-23	01-Dec-23	Pre-Hearing Conference																											
SWRCB Issues Hearing Notice	04-Jan-24	04-Jan-24	SWRCB Issues Hearing Notice																											
Case in Chief Testimony Due	07-Mar-24	07-Mar-24	Case in Chief Testimony Due																											
Hearings (Presentation of Cases-in-Chief)	22-Mar-24	18-Apr-24	Hearings (Presentation of Cases-in-Chief)																											
Rebuttal Testimony Due	03-May-24	03-May-24	Rebuttal Testimony Due																											
Rebuttal Hearing	20-May-24	03-Jun-24	Rebuttal Hearing																											
Briefs Due	31-Jul-24	31-Jul-24	Briefs Due																											
SWRCB Issues Water Right Permit		26-Sep-24	SWRCB Issues Water Right Permit																											
<b>Clean Water Act 401 &amp; 404 Permits (SWRCB &amp; USACE)</b>																														
Prepare Draft CWA 401 Permit Application	04-Jan-21 A	30-May-23	Prepare Draft CWA 401 Permit Application																											
Submit CWA 401 Application	31-May-23	31-May-23	Submit CWA 401 Application																											
Receive CWA Section 401 Permit		31-May-24	Receive CWA Section 401 Permit																											
Prepare Draft 404 Application	04-Feb-21 A	30-May-23	Prepare Draft 404 Application																											
Submit 404 Application	31-May-23	31-May-23	Submit 404 Application																											
Receive 404 Permit		31-May-24	Receive 404 Permit																											
<b>National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)</b>																														
Prepare Final PA	14-Mar-22 A	31-Mar-23	Prepare Final PA																											
Circulate Final PA to SHPO & Consulting Parties	03-Apr-23	26-May-23	Circulate Final PA to SHPO & Consulting Parties																											
Circulate Final PA to Parties for Signatures	20-Jun-23	18-Jul-23	Circulate Final PA to Parties for Signatures																											
Execute Final PA	19-Jul-23	01-Aug-23	Execute Final PA																											
<b>Incidental Take Permits (ITP's)</b>																														
Submit CESA ITP Application - Operations (needs review time)	22-Mar-23	22-Mar-23	Submit CESA ITP Application - Operations (needs review time)																											
Re-Submit CESA ITP Application - Construction	22-Mar-23	22-Mar-23	Re-Submit CESA ITP Application - Construction																											
Receive CESA ITP - Construction		23-Oct-23	Receive CESA ITP - Construction																											
Receive CESA ITP - Operations		23-Oct-23	Receive CESA ITP - Operations																											
<b>Endangered Species Act Section 7</b>																														
Prepare Draft BA	11-Jan-21 A	10-Feb-23	Prepare Draft BA																											
Reclamation Submits BA to USFWS & NMFS	17-Mar-23	17-Mar-23	Reclamation Submits BA to USFWS & NMFS																											
Reclamation Initiates Consultation with FWS & NMFS	11-May-23	24-May-23	Reclamation Initiates Consultation with FWS & NMFS																											
Receive USFWS/NMFS Biological Opinions (Incidental Take Authorizations)		06-Dec-23	Receive USFWS/NMFS Biological Opinions (Incidental Take Authorizations)																											
<b>Other Agreements &amp; Benefits</b>																														
Initiate Application for Permit to Construct from DSOD	01-Feb-22 A	30-Dec-24	Initiate Application for Permit																											
Develop & Execute Agreement for Administration of Public Benefits with DWR	31-Mar-22 A	31-Jul-23	Develop & Execute Agreement for Administration of Public Benefits with DWR																											
Develop & Execute Agreement for Administration of Public Benefits with CDFW	31-Mar-22 A	31-Jul-23	Develop & Execute Agreement for Administration of Public Benefits with CDFW																											
Final Operating Agreement - Sites/DWR/Reclamation	19-Apr-22 A	25-May-23	Final Operating Agreement - Sites/DWR/Reclamation																											
Negotiate Reclamation Benefits & Obligations Contract	16-Dec-22 A	17-Oct-23	Negotiate Reclamation Benefits & Obligations Contract																											
Refuge Delivery Agreement with Reclamation	12-Dec-22 A	06-Dec-23	Refuge Delivery Agreement with Reclamation																											
Submit Power Interconnection Application	20-Mar-23	14-Apr-23	Submit Power Interconnection Application																											
Develop Benefits & Obligations Contract with Participants	27-Apr-23	12-Feb-24	Develop Benefits & Obligations Contract with Participants																											
Final EIR / EIS - Complete		05-May-23	Final EIR / EIS - Complete																											
Authority Certifies EIR & Approves Project		19-May-23	Authority Certifies EIR & Approves Project																											
ROD Signed		06-Dec-23	ROD Signed																											
Investor Commitment		24-Oct-24	Investor Commitment																											
Receive WSIP Final Award from CWC		25-Nov-24	Receive WSIP Final Award from CWC																											
Participation Agreement: Home Board Execution & Final Rebalancing	10-Dec-24	20-Feb-25	Participation Agreement																											
<b>Financing</b>																														
Submittal of Final WIFIA Application		29-Mar-23	Submittal of Final WIFIA Application																											
WIFIA Loan Negotiation	30-Mar-23	25-Mar-24	WIFIA Loan Negotiation																											
Close USDA Loan		08-Jul-24	Close USDA Loan																											
<b>Consultation, Coordination &amp; Oversight</b>																														
NAHC/Local Tribes AB 52 Consultation	01-Sep-20 A	07-Jul-23	NAHC/Local Tribes AB 52 Consultation																											
Coordination & Oversight: DWR, WAPA, CAISO, UPRR, Caltrans	03-Jan-22 A	30-Dec-24	Coordination & Oversight: DWR, WAPA, CAISO, UPRR, Caltrans																											

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**From:** David Hubbard [Dhubbard@BrwnCald.com]  
**Sent:** 2/7/2023 11:56:46 AM  
**To:** Spranza, John [john.spranza@hdrinc.com]; mmaltby@brwncaled.com; Jerry Brown [jbrown@sitesproject.org]  
**CC:** Marcia Kivett [MKivett@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Amendment 3 Schedule Update to January 29, 2023  
**Attachments:** Sites\_Strike Team\_2023.02.07.pdf

Here and also on SharePoint is the Strike Team Schedule to use. If you look below, there was a gap on the Refuge Delivery Agreement. I've corrected that.

**Dave Hubbard**

Project Controls  
**Brown and Caldwell**  
Cell: 832.840.1789  
[dhubbard@brwncaled.com](mailto:dhubbard@brwncaled.com)



---

**From:** David Hubbard  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 1:16 PM  
**To:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>; Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@BrwnCald.com>; jbrown@sitesproject.org  
**Cc:** Marcia Kivett (MKivett@sitesproject.org) <MKivett@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Amendment 3 Schedule Update to January 29, 2023

**Thanks John.** See below/attached. With the BA revisions from Agency Comments pushing the Submits BA activity, everything downstream moved in lock-step.

**Jerry** – attaching the final Strike Team version here and will post on the SharePoint site in a few minutes.

**Marcus** – see second snip below, the WPPR milestone for Federal ESA – Receive BO's has also slipped as a result of this final change. I will send you shortly the Final WPPR shortly and post on SharePoint.



BA revisions from agency comments will be complete Feb 28<sup>th</sup> and Authority/Legal review of final packet would require 2 weeks.

John Spranza

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

---

**From:** David Hubbard <Dhubbard@BrwnCald.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:16 AM  
**To:** Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>; Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Sites Amendment 3 Schedule Update to January 29, 2023

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks John.

Can you put a few words around moving the Submits BA activity to March 17?

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023 11:58:32 AM  
**To:** David Hubbard <Dhubbard@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Amendment 3 Schedule Update to January 29, 2023

Hi David,  
I have 2 edits for the BA, please see attached.

John Spranza

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

---

**From:** David Hubbard <Dhubbard@BrwnCald.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 6:48 AM  
**To:** Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@BrwnCald.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; 'bezzone@mbkengineers.com' <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>; conner <conner@cmdwest.com>; Risse, Danielle <danielle.risse@hdrinc.com>; Edwards, Dawn <Dawn.Edwards@hdrinc.com>; Luu, Henry <henry.luu@hdrinc.com>; Arsenijevic, Jelica <jelica.arsenijevic@hdrinc.com>; Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>; Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>; Marcia Kivett <MKivett@sitesproject.org>; Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@BrwnCald.com>; Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>; Justin Davies <JDavies@BrwnCald.com>; bezzone@mbkengineers.com; Lee Lambert <LLambert@BrwnCald.com>  
**Cc:** Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Amendment 3 Schedule Update to January 29, 2023

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

**Good morning, Sites Team** – thanks for everyone’s help with end of January 2023 Schedule updates to the Amendment 3 Schedule through 2025.

Below folder contains different layouts after the updates and would ask that you guys take some time to review and advise me if we need to change anything.

I will finalize everything next Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> ahead of our due date for: Staff Reports & Supporting Documents Due COB.

2023.02 February '23


Schedules Library > Schedules - Amendment 3 > 2023.02 February '23 


 Name 

 [Sites WBS\\_2023.02.03.pdf](#)


 [Sites\\_All with Pred+ Succ\\_2023.02.03.pdf](#)


 [Sites\\_Strike Team Compare to Prior\\_2023.02.02.pdf](#)

 [Sites\\_Reclamation\\_2023.02.02.pdf](#)

 [Sites\\_Key Milestones\\_2023.02.02.pdf](#)

 [Sites\\_Key Deliverables\\_2023.02.02.pdf](#)

 [Sites\\_WPPR\\_Compare to Prior Month\\_2023.02.02.pdf](#)

 [Sites\\_Compare to Prior Month\\_2023.02.02.pdf](#)

Thanks,

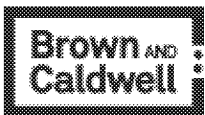
**Dave Hubbard**

Project Controls

**Brown and Caldwell**

Cell: 832.840.1789

[dhubbard@brwncald.com](mailto:dhubbard@brwncald.com)



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**From:** David Hubbard

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 12:04 PM

**To:** Marcus Maltby <[mmaltby@BrwnCald.com](mailto:mmaltby@BrwnCald.com)>; jrobinette@sitesproject.org; Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; bezzone@mbkengineers.com; Conner McDonald <[conner@cmdwest.com](mailto:conner@cmdwest.com)>; Risse, Danielle <[danielle.risse@hdrinc.com](mailto:danielle.risse@hdrinc.com)>; Edwards, Dawn <[Dawn.Edwards@hdrinc.com](mailto:Dawn.Edwards@hdrinc.com)>; Henry Luu <[henry.luu@hdrinc.com](mailto:henry.luu@hdrinc.com)>; Arsenijevic, Jelica <[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)>; Spranza, John <[john.spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:john.spranza@hdrinc.com)>; Kevin Spesert <[kspesert@sitesproject.org](mailto:kspesert@sitesproject.org)>; Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>; Marcia Kivett <[MKivett@sitesproject.org](mailto:MKivett@sitesproject.org)>; Marcus Maltby <[mmaltby@BrwnCald.com](mailto:mmaltby@BrwnCald.com)>; Cheyanne Harris <[CHarris@BrwnCald.com](mailto:CHarris@BrwnCald.com)>; Justin Davies <[JDavies@BrwnCald.com](mailto:JDavies@BrwnCald.com)>; bezzone@mbkengineers.com; Lee Lambert <[LLambert@BrwnCald.com](mailto:LLambert@BrwnCald.com)>

Cc: [jbrown@sitesproject.org](mailto:jbrown@sitesproject.org)

Subject: Sites Amendment 3 Schedule Update to January 29, 2023

## Howdy Sites Team!

We've just about made it through January and it's time to update our Sites Schedule, moving our Data Date to this Sunday January 29, 2023. Below folder (follow link) contains all of the activities that are either ongoing, planned to start or planned to complete during the update period. Also added screenshots below for those that want to provide email reply updates – refer to the row, use the ID or Name. I will add some other Schedules in the same folder for reference. Email updates are welcome as I know most folks are busy and hard to get a Teams session setup.

**Marcia** – can you please setup Teams sessions for the below groups? I will set up a session with Cheyanne, Lee & Justin. Need to do this ASAP as we will be plugging in the CP1 Schedule that AECOM is working on.

(Marcus and JP can added as optional to all sessions and are welcome to join as they see fit)


- Dave & Henry (30 minutes)
- Dave, Ali, John, Jelica, Danielle, Dawn, Laurie, Angela – (get as many as possible at 1 hour if possible, or smaller half hour sessions if this larger group's calendars don't work)
- Dave, Conner with Kevin optional (30 minutes; if doesn't work then Conner and I can trade messages and find the time)

[2023.02 February '23](#)

[Schedules Library](#) > [Schedules - Amendment 3](#) > [2023.02 February '23](#) 

 Name 

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 Sites Schedule for update to 29-Jan-2023\_2023.01.27.pdf







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**From:** Greg A. Krzys [gkrzys@gcid.net]  
**Sent:** 2/7/2023 1:44:16 PM  
**To:** JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** RE: TRR FERC Memo - Request for Feedback by Feb 3

Just a quick follow up

I read through last week and saw no issues, red flags, etc

I am curious if FERC will take a "small handle" approach to their review or a more expansive approach like some regulatory entities take



**Greg Krzys**  
*Assistant General Manager*

**OFFICE:** 530.934.8881 | **CELL:** 530.804.3756  
**EMAIL:** [gkrzys@gcid.net](mailto:gkrzys@gcid.net)

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District  
Post Office Box 150, Willows, California 95988

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**From:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 10:45 AM  
**To:** Thad Bettner <tbettner@gcid.net>; Greg A. Krzys <gkrzys@gcid.net>  
**Cc:** Luu, Henry <henry.luu@hdrinc.com>; Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** TRR FERC Memo - Request for Feedback by Feb 3

Thad / Greg,

Please find attached a draft "Notice of Intent to Construct Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility". This document will be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for review and determination of qualifications. The intent is to receive confirmation from FERC that the Project qualifies for an exemption and does not require a FERC license for a variety of reasons detailed in the memo. This is an important determination for the Project from a schedule and affordability perspective.

I am sharing this with you based on the mention of your facilities. Based on my understanding, this process should not impact your operations. As a vital Project partner and with JPA provision 2.5 in mind, I am asking that you please review this document and let me know by the end of next week (Feb 3) if your organization has concerns or issues we should discuss prior to submittal. Thanks in advance and feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thanks!

JP Robinette, P.E.  
Engineering and Construction Manager | Sites Reservoir Project  
801-819-4306  
[www.sitesproject.org](http://www.sitesproject.org)

---

**From:** Sara M. Katz [skatz@katzandassociates.com]  
**Sent:** 2/7/2023 8:49:04 PM  
**To:** Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Ann Newton [anewton@katzandassociates.com]; Sarah Rossetto [srossetto@katzandassociates.com]; Quin La Capra [qlacpra@katzandassociates.com]; kim@floydcommunications.com  
**Subject:** Sites Communications Team Meeting Agenda for 2/8/23 - 9am

1. Kevin update
2. L&O Committee – debrief/board report
3. 2022 Year in Review copy approval
4. Media interview with CalMatters
5. EIR Process Topics Briefings – schedule set
  - a. 4-5 topics: produce subject specific fact sheets
  - b. Website updates
  - c. Update Community Guide
  - d. FAQ
  - e. All materials also produced in Spanish
  - f. Media support – press release upon board approval
  - g. Video clips – discussed three as a target
  - h. Other
6. Meeting with Jerry on Friday 2/10
  - a. Press release
  - b. Tweets
  - c. Q&A – expanded; methodically address concerns, demonstrate all we have done

Topics such as:

- i. Impacts to SWP
- ii. Impacts to CVP
- iii. Trinity River
- iv. Environment
- v. Fisheries
- vi. Water Quality
  - d. Blog on water availability analysis
  - e. Strong profile on the website – ease for media and possible protestors to see all we have done
  - f. Consider letters to support, geared to the efforts, need for water, benefits, etc. Used 10 as a suggested target for letters.
7. Virtual Tour – need to understand what SWRCB might be looking for – various versions can be produced but need to understand THEIR interests and see how we can meet those as well as use for other purposes.
8. Other



**Sara M. Katz**  
Founder/CEO  
mobile: 619.813.9551  
San Diego · Los Angeles · San Francisco

# Sites Project Community Working Group Meeting Highlights



*Our Core Values – Safety, Trust and Integrity, Respect for Local Communities, Environmental Stewardship, Shared Responsibility and Shared Benefits, Accountability and Transparency, Proactive Innovation, Diversity, and Inclusivity  
Our Commitment – To live up to these values in everything we do*

## Meeting Information:

<b>Date:</b>	January 19, 2023	<b>Location:</b>	122 Old Hwy 99W, Maxwell
<b>Start Time:</b>	2:30 p.m.	<b>Finish Time:</b>	4:30 p.m.
<b>Purpose:</b>	Community Working Group		

## Meeting Participants:

Jennifer Diaz – Colusa County Chamber of Commerce	Gary Evans – Supervisor, Colusa County
Summer Shadley – Maxwell Unified School District8	Breyden Coma – Senator Dahle
Mike Bradwell – Colusa County Sheriff’s Dept.	Juleah Cordi –Assemblymember Gallagher
Joyce Bond – Stonyford Museum	Brenda Haynes – Congressman LaMalfa
Randal Toews – Kanawha Glenn Fire District	Rita Durgin – Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry
Anastacia Allen – Colusa County Agriculture	Mary Hester – Interested Citizen
Wendy Tyler – Colusa County	Mike Azevedo – Colusa County Public Works
Jerry Brown – Sites Project Authority	Keith Dunn – Dunn Consulting
Ali Forsythe – Sites Project Authority	Building Trades Guy
JP Robinette – Sites Project Authority	Conner McDonald – CMD West
Kevin Spesert – Sites Project Authority	Kim Floyd – Floyd Communications

## Welcome & Introductions

Kim Floyd (meeting facilitator) welcomed attendees to the second meeting of the Sites Project Authority’s Community Working Group. Meeting attendees introduced themselves and the organizations they represent.

## Sites Reservoir Project Update

Sites Project Authority Executive Director Jerry Brown provided an update on the Sites Reservoir Project with an emphasis on project progress since the group last met. He opened by noting that had Sites Reservoir been operational during the recent January storm events, about 120,000 acre feet of water could have been diverted and stored for dry years. Other updates included:

- The waiting list for Project Participants recently expanded to 13 with the addition of Palmdale Water District and Western Municipal Water District.
- Regarding facilities, recent aerial surveys confirmed final reservoir elevations and dam siting, which are within two percent of prior estimates. The first round of geotechnical field work (Package 1) was completed in December 2022. Temporary right-of-entry agreements are being executed to support the next round of geotechnical field studies.

- The final Revised Environmental Impact Report is expected to be completed in May 2023, which is approximately the same time the State Water Resources Control Board will notice the public review and protest period for the Authority's water right permit.
- The Bureau of Reclamation has increased its interest its capacity participation to 16 percent, which amounts to about \$700M in funding.

## **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Process**

Ali Forsythe, the Authority's Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager, provided an overview of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as it relates to the Sites Reservoir Project. CEQA is intended to provide decision makers and the public with information about a proposed project's significant impacts on the environment and how those impacts can be prevented, if possible. The document produced under CEQA is called an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). As the lead agency, the Sites Project Authority is responsible for development and adoption of the EIR. Ms. Forsythe emphasized that the EIR doesn't address every possible impact. Although it's useful in evaluating changes to the natural environment, such as physical changes that would require new or expanded facilities (e.g. utilities, schools), it's not effective for considering smaller impacts that can be handled within existing infrastructure (e.g. changes in traffic that are consistent with existing levels of service for roads). The EIR also considers conflicts between programs, plans and/or policies (e.g. zoning). However, the Sites Project Authority recognizes that less significant impacts as per the EIR may seem significant, especially in a small community. The Sites Project Authority is interested in developing Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with individual agencies, like law enforcement and schools, to navigate changes and needs. Kevin Spesert is the Authority's lead to work on development of MOUs. It was also noted that one of the purposes of the Community Working Group is to address and work through the community changes that aren't considered significant for purposes of the EIR. The EIR addresses dozens of areas of potential impact, but Ms. Forsythe focused on three that generated a lot interest: Traffic; Emergency and Law Enforcement Services; and Utilities (water/wastewater, energy).

### Traffic

A number of changes were made to the project to account for concerns about traffic, such as the paved ("shoefly) road detour for Sites Ladoga Road during construction. All construction (big truck) traffic will be routed around the community, and safety improvements will be made to roads used for construction traffic (e.g. widening intersections and turns). Traffic during operations is a little trickier since types and seasons for recreation have yet to be determined. Although there are target numbers for recreators, the Authority is not yet sure how many will travel through the area. The Authority is committed to continuing to look at improvements along Oak Street and throughout the community to ensure it's safe for residents, especially school children. The group discussed the potential for balance between encouraging and prohibiting construction-related and recreation-based traffic through town, such as prohibiting big truck traffic but encouraging workers/recreators to patronize local businesses.

### Law Enforcement/Emergency Services

The Authority recognizes that construction and later the addition of recreation, like camping, will increase demand for fire and law enforcement, to include water-based patrols/rescue. It intends to work with local agencies to navigate through the nearer-term issues related to construction but has also committed to adding fire and law enforcement facilities near reservoir recreation areas. Additionally, helicopter pads will be placed near both dams and one of the recreation areas. The Authority will work with local law enforcement and fire on facility type and siting. The Authority's construction management

and recreation plans will include emergency response elements, such as evacuation routes in the event of fire, and it will coordinate with local agencies on tabletop exercises to ensure coordination on emergency response. The potential for state/federal funding for additional staffing and services to address both existing and future unmet needs was also briefly discussed.

### Utilities

The Project will include incidental generation of energy (hydro) upon release of water from the facility. The Authority is targeting 100 percent renewable, carbon-free by 2045. Building and facilities will have self-contained water and wastewater utilities. Project operations facilities will be minimally staffed, but there will be a larger demand on recreation facilities. Best management practices will be used to protect water quality and prevent sediment from being deposited into creeks and for the decommissioning of wells and wastewater facilities that exist within the reservoir footprint.

### EIR Timeline

To date, the Authority has received 101 comment letters on the draft EIR. It is in the process of preparing a final EIR that will include responses to comments and related changes to the document where appropriate. The document will be released in May 2023, as per the current schedule. Agencies that provided comment will receive responses at least 10 days before the document can be considered for adoption by the Authority Board. Ms. Forsythe pointed out again that the EIR doesn't address all impacts and that the Authority understands its work with the community doesn't end with the adoption of the EIR.

Questions that led to group discussion included the following:

- Q: Will some of the areas covered by the EIR have significant impacts?  
A: Yes, some will, including visual because of the construction of the reservoir, and air quality due to construction activities. The Community Guide to the EIR that was sent out via email prior to the meeting has a detailed chart on potential impacts that are significant and unavoidable.
- Q: Will all construction traffic be detoured, or just heavy trucks?  
A: As per the EIR, all construction traffic will be routed around town. Concerns of construction-related traffic effecting schools, commutes, and foot traffic are currently being taken into consideration.
- Q: Will construction vehicles bypass the town?  
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A: The Authority will own it and either manage it, or contract with a concessionaire. There may be some opportunities to partner with another agency – perhaps realizing some synergies with other reservoirs, but we haven't gotten that far along in planning to broach that question.

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A: Sites Project Authority representatives have been meeting with potentially impacted landowners in groups and one-on-one for many years. The group has evolved and changed as the project elements have changed, but the outreach continues. The Authority is discussing with them the logistical issues related to farming operations, taking into consideration types of crops and operations.

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Responses to the “What does good look like” and supporting questions will help the group establish principles to use as a guide for future discussions and as a tool to frame input. For example, one principle may be “No heavy truck traffic along Oak Street.” Another might be, “Encouraging construction workers to patronize local businesses.” During group discussion, participants brainstormed the following:

- Create sustainable interest in recreation facility use for local economic benefit
- Restore and/or improve roads used for construction and operations
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- Coordinate with agriculture traffic during harvest
- Consider commuter impacts at origin (e.g. Yuba City)
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- Talk to other communities about lessons learned from disaster clean-up camps
- Identify synergies between recreation facilities and housing
- Expand broadband throughout community when installing it for project construction/operations
- Implement contract incentives for desired behavior (ie. construction traffic management)

Because the discussion was not completed prior to the close of the meeting, the group agreed to spend time thinking about the four questions in context of their organizations and revisit the “Principles of Good” at the March 16 meeting. The goal of that meeting will be to develop principles to be used by staff as project design and planning continues.

Kim Floyd announced that the next meeting is to be held from 2:30-4:30 p.m., Thursday, March 16, at the Sites Project Authority Office. She adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

## **Future Meetings**

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- May 18, 2023
- July 20, 2023
- September 21, 2023
- November 16, 2023

**Is Sites being built to send more water South?**

Sites is being built to provide resiliency, reliability and flexibility to the statewide water supplies for all of California to adapt to the impacts of climate change to the state's water management infrastructure. The new water created by the Project and the added flexibility that comes from being able to store water will improve and enhance water management throughout California.

**Is this reservoir a stand-alone, or does it work with other regional reservoirs?**

Sites Reservoir is uniquely located in relation to other major components of the state and federal water projects like Shasta Lake, Lake Oroville and Folsom Lake. Sites is complementary to these existing crucial elements of statewide water management and could act to extend the functions they serve by creating flexibility to adapt to changing river and Delta management conditions. For example, Sites can be operated in coordination with Shasta Lake to preserve and enhance cold water for endangered salmon in the Sacramento River. Or Sites could contribute to the increased fresh-water flow into the Delta during drier periods to assist with salinity management of this critical estuary. Sites would not compete for the water resources stored in these state and federal facilities but would increase the total amount of managed water in storage. With the uncertainty California water managers face in the next century, having the Sites Reservoir is a necessity for statewide water management.

**Does Sites Reservoir need new Delta conveyance?**

No. The project is not dependent on the construction of Delta tunnels. Sites Reservoir will function independently, with or without a new Delta conveyance system. The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement evaluates Sites Reservoir as a standalone project.

**Since Sites only receives water when there is "surplus" flow in the Sacramento River, how long is it projected now before the reservoir is full under "normal" precipitation patterns?**

In California water there is no "normal" water year. Based on 82 years of past hydrology analyzed using standard models and methods, it would take, on average, approximately five to seven years for the reservoir to fill completely on first fill. In contrast, in a single water year like 2016-2017 it would have been possible to fill the reservoir in one year. Similarly, if a string of dry years was to occur, it would take longer to fill, maybe as much 10 years. Surprisingly, there tends to be "surplus" flow in the river in all years. Even in dry and critically dry years, there would be filling opportunities, albeit fairly limited.

The original construction of Los Vaqueros Reservoir in Contra Costa County provides a real-life example of the possible variability in fill rates. The first fill of the 100,000 acre-foot reservoir was expected to take five to seven years. However, the first year of operation was 1997-1998, a fairly wet year of high-quality water being available at the intakes, which allowed the reservoir first fill to be completed in just two years.

**How much above the statistical normal for rainfall in the region does rainfall have to be for Sites to receive "surplus" water from the Sacramento River?**

Sites is designed to divert water through existing state-of-the-art fish screens only when actual flows on the Sacramento River exceed that needed by more senior water right holders, the Delta is in "excess" conditions, and based on stringent criteria to protect aquatic resources. Sites primarily diverts flows into the Sacramento River from streams and creeks downstream of Shasta/Keswick Dams. The exception is that Sites could pick up water that gets released from these dams under flood control conditions. The operations modeling typically conducted for water projects does not rely on rainfall statistics. Instead, model simulations (CalSim) calibrated to actual flow conditions for an 82-year period covering 1921-2003 are overlaid with current permit and operating constraints to evaluate with project conditions.



**How much above the statistical normal for rainfall in the region does rainfall have to be for Sites to receive “surplus” water from the Sacramento River? *(continued)***

The beneficial thing about this approach is that you can simulate future with climate change conditions which has been done for the Sites Project. The results of these with climate change simulations demonstrate that the performance of the project actually improves 5 to 10 percent with climate change. This is good for all of the project partners including the state and federal governments which are approximately 25 percent shareholders for environmental purposes.

**How will this project utilize and capitalize on existing infrastructure and what does that mean for the project footprint?**

Extending the performance of existing infrastructure is good public policy, good business practice and makes for a more sustainable footprint by reducing the environmental impact of the constructed work. The Project will utilize existing facilities and infrastructure to a great extent and the existing topography of the reservoir site itself is a natural bowl perfectly situated to accommodate a water reservoir. A significant portion of the 100+ miles of conveyance (canals and pipelines) involved in the Project will be existing facilities. The only new conveyance envisioned is the inlet/outlet works for the reservoir and the four miles of 10-foot diameter pipeline to convey water back to the Sacramento River between the Tehama-Colusa Canal and the Colusa Basin Drain.



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**From:** Kim Floyd [kim@floydcommunications.com]  
**Sent:** 2/8/2023 2:07:47 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Alice [alice.bennett@asm.ca.gov]; brenda.haynes@mail.house.gov; breyden.coma@sen.ca.gov; Denise Sagara [denise@yolofarmbureau.org]; don.harmon@yolocounty.org; gcsoadmin@countyofglenn.net; henry.luu@hdrinc.com; info@colusachamber.org; jgarofalo@colusasheriff.com; juleah.cordi@asm.ca.gov; kanawhachief80@gmail.com; keli.teuscher@yolocounty.org; Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Lisa Humphreys [lisa@glennfarmbureau.com]; Anastacia Allen [mallen@countyofcolusa.com]; maxwellfire@frontiernet.net; maxwellinnbg@gmail.com; Marcie Skelton [mskelton@countyofglenn.net]; Nadine Bailey [nadine@familywateralliance.com]; ppw@yolocounty.org; rita.durgin@asm.ca.gov; Stephanie Cormier [stephanie.cormier@yolocounty.org]; stephen.guthrie@yolocounty.org; summershadley@maxwell.k12.ca.us; thewillowschamber@gmail.com; tom.arnold@countyofglenn.net; Wendy Tyler [wtyler@countyofcolusa.com]; wtyler@countyofcolusa.org; yolocountysheriffs@yolocounty.org  
**CC:** Conner McDonald [conner@cmdwest.com]; Jerry Brown [jbrown@sitesproject.org]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** Sites Community Working Group - Jan. 19 Meeting Notes and Materials  
**Attachments:** Sites\_CWG\_1.19.23\_MeetingNotes.pdf; Sites\_Community Work Group\_19Jan23 Final.pdf

All:

Thanks again to everyone who participated in our January 19 Sites Community Working Group meeting. The meeting notes and presentation are attached for your information and review. We had a really great dialogue on the Environmental Impact Report for the project, followed by some engaging discussion on considerations for engineering design and construction. We ran out of time during discussion on the latter, so we plan to revisit the topic at the next meeting on March 16. With that in mind, we ask everyone to give some thought to the following between now and our next meeting:

- What does “good” look like as it relates to mitigating impacts from construction and operations?
- How can local businesses and residents benefit from the project during construction? How about during operations?
- How will Sites impact your organization's responsibilities during construction? How about during operations?
- What are some mutually beneficial projects or “shared purposes” between Sites and your organization or group?

The meeting notes can provide some additional context for those who were unable to attend, but please feel free to contact us with questions. Thank you again for your ongoing interest and participation and we look forward to seeing you in March!

Thanks,

Kim

Kim Floyd  
Sac Valley Outreach Manager  
Sites Project Authority  
(916) 838-2666 (c)  
[kim@floydcommunications.com](mailto:kim@floydcommunications.com)

# Sites Project Community Working Group Meeting Highlights



*Our Core Values – Safety, Trust and Integrity, Respect for Local Communities, Environmental Stewardship, Shared Responsibility and Shared Benefits, Accountability and Transparency, Proactive Innovation, Diversity, and Inclusivity  
Our Commitment – To live up to these values in everything we do*

## Meeting Information:

<b>Date:</b>	January 19, 2023	<b>Location:</b>	122 Old Hwy 99W, Maxwell
<b>Start Time:</b>	2:30 p.m.	<b>Finish Time:</b>	4:30 p.m.
<b>Purpose:</b>	Community Working Group		

## Meeting Participants:

Jennifer Diaz – Colusa County Chamber of Commerce	Gary Evans – Supervisor, Colusa County
Summer Shadley – Maxwell Unified School District8	Breyden Coma – Senator Dahle
Mike Bradwell – Colusa County Sheriff’s Dept.	Juleah Cordi –Assemblymember Gallagher
Joyce Bond – Stonyford Museum	Brenda Haynes – Congressman LaMalfa
Randal Toews – Kanawha Glenn Fire District	Rita Durgin – Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry
Anastacia Allen – Colusa County Agriculture	Mary Hester – Interested Citizen
Wendy Tyler – Colusa County	Mike Azevedo – Colusa County Public Works
Jerry Brown – Sites Project Authority	Keith Dunn – Dunn Consulting
Ali Forsythe – Sites Project Authority	John Hanna – California Alliance for Jobs
JP Robinette – Sites Project Authority	Conner McDonald – CMD West
Kevin Spesert – Sites Project Authority	Kim Floyd – Floyd Communications

## Welcome & Introductions

Kim Floyd (meeting facilitator) welcomed attendees to the second meeting of the Sites Project Authority’s Community Working Group. Meeting attendees introduced themselves and the organizations they represent.

## Sites Reservoir Project Update

Sites Project Authority Executive Director Jerry Brown provided an update on the Sites Reservoir Project with an emphasis on project progress since the group last met. He opened by noting that had Sites Reservoir been operational during the recent January storm events, about 120,000 acre feet of water could have been diverted and stored for dry years. Other updates included:

- The waiting list for Project Participants recently expanded to 13 with the addition of Palmdale Water District and Western Municipal Water District.
- Regarding facilities, recent aerial surveys confirmed final reservoir elevations and dam siting, which are within two percent of prior estimates. The first round of geotechnical field work (Package 1) was completed in December 2022. Temporary right-of-entry agreements are being executed to support the next round of geotechnical field studies.

- The final Revised Environmental Impact Report is expected to be completed in May 2023, which is approximately the same time the State Water Resources Control Board will notice the public review and protest period for the Authority's water right permit.
- The Bureau of Reclamation has increased its interest its capacity participation to 16 percent, which amounts to about \$700M in funding.

## **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Process**

Ali Forsythe, the Authority's Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager, provided an overview of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as it relates to the Sites Reservoir Project. CEQA is intended to provide decision makers and the public with information about a proposed project's significant impacts on the environment and how those impacts can be prevented, if possible. The document produced under CEQA is called an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). As the lead agency, the Sites Project Authority is responsible for development and adoption of the EIR. Ms. Forsythe emphasized that the EIR doesn't address every possible impact. Although it's useful in evaluating changes to the natural environment, such as physical changes that would require new or expanded facilities (e.g. utilities, schools), it's not effective for considering smaller impacts that can be handled within existing infrastructure (e.g. changes in traffic that are consistent with existing levels of service for roads). The EIR also considers conflicts between programs, plans and/or policies (e.g. zoning). However, the Sites Project Authority recognizes that less significant impacts as per the EIR may seem significant, especially in a small community. The Sites Project Authority is interested in developing Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with individual agencies, like law enforcement and schools, to navigate changes and needs. Kevin Spesert is the Authority's lead to work on development of MOUs. It was also noted that one of the purposes of the Community Working Group is to address and work through the community changes that aren't considered significant for purposes of the EIR. The EIR addresses dozens of areas of potential impact, but Ms. Forsythe focused on three that generated a lot interest: Traffic; Emergency and Law Enforcement Services; and Utilities (water/wastewater, energy).

### Traffic

A number of changes were made to the project to account for concerns about traffic, such as the paved ("shoefly) road detour for Sites Ladoga Road during construction. All construction (big truck) traffic will be routed around the community, and safety improvements will be made to roads used for construction traffic (e.g. widening intersections and turns). Traffic during operations is a little trickier since types and seasons for recreation have yet to be determined. Although there are target numbers for recreators, the Authority is not yet sure how many will travel through the area. The Authority is committed to continuing to look at improvements along Oak Street and throughout the community to ensure it's safe for residents, especially school children. The group discussed the potential for balance between encouraging and prohibiting construction-related and recreation-based traffic through town, such as prohibiting big truck traffic but encouraging workers/recreators to patronize local businesses.

### Law Enforcement/Emergency Services

The Authority recognizes that construction and later the addition of recreation, like camping, will increase demand for fire and law enforcement, to include water-based patrols/rescue. It intends to work with local agencies to navigate through the nearer-term issues related to construction but has also committed to adding fire and law enforcement facilities near reservoir recreation areas. Additionally, helicopter pads will be placed near both dams and one of the recreation areas. The Authority will work with local law enforcement and fire on facility type and siting. The Authority's construction management

and recreation plans will include emergency response elements, such as evacuation routes in the event of fire, and it will coordinate with local agencies on tabletop exercises to ensure coordination on emergency response. The potential for state/federal funding for additional staffing and services to address both existing and future unmet needs was also briefly discussed.

### Utilities

The Project will include incidental generation of energy (hydro) upon release of water from the facility. The Authority is targeting 100 percent renewable, carbon-free by 2045. Building and facilities will have self-contained water and wastewater utilities. Project operations facilities will be minimally staffed, but there will be a larger demand on recreation facilities. Best management practices will be used to protect water quality and prevent sediment from being deposited into creeks and for the decommissioning of wells and wastewater facilities that exist within the reservoir footprint.

### EIR Timeline

To date, the Authority has received 101 comment letters on the draft EIR. It is in the process of preparing a final EIR that will include responses to comments and related changes to the document where appropriate. The document will be released in May 2023, as per the current schedule. Agencies that provided comment will receive responses at least 10 days before the document can be considered for adoption by the Authority Board. Ms. Forsythe pointed out again that the EIR doesn't address all impacts and that the Authority understands its work with the community doesn't end with the adoption of the EIR.

Questions that led to group discussion included the following:

- Q: Will some of the areas covered by the EIR have significant impacts?  
A: Yes, some will, including visual because of the construction of the reservoir, and air quality due to construction activities. The Community Guide to the EIR that was sent out via email prior to the meeting has a detailed chart on potential impacts that are significant and unavoidable.
- Q: Will all construction traffic be detoured, or just heavy trucks?  
A: As per the EIR, all construction traffic will be routed around town. Concerns of construction-related traffic effecting schools, commutes, and foot traffic are currently being taken into consideration.
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**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/8/2023 6:00:32 PM  
**To:** Okita, David@DWR [David.Okita@water.ca.gov]  
**CC:** Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing  
**Attachments:** V1\_009\_Ch04\_Reg\_Env\_DWR Addition\_Draft.docx

David – Apologies that this took a few more days for me to get to than I expected. The DWR actions on Sites should be listed in the State Table 4-2 in Chapter 4. I double checked and it wasn't added in there.

So, I have started a draft in the attached that would be added to Chapter 4. Can you and your team review/modify as you see fit? I am not totally sure what would be in each of these agreements so I may be way off base here with my initial draft.

We will add this to the Final EIR/EIS before its released.

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 9:51 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

I was looking for changes in the Project Description that listed DWR actions to be taken like approving agreements so that those are covered by the Sites CEQA part of the document. I did not see it there although I did not read every page. Would it be somewhere else?

David Okita, PE  
Department of Water Resources  
530 902-7588

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 5:03 PM  
**To:** Young, Amy@DWR <Amy.Young@water.ca.gov>; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; Davis-Fadtke, Kristal@Wildlife <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; Cooke, Robert@DWR <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards

<[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Torres, Juan@Wildlife <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Maroney, Jagruti@DWR <[Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov)>; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Wood, Dylan@Wildlife <[Dylan.Wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Dylan.Wood@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Laurie Warner Herson' <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>; Spranza, John <[john.spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:john.spranza@hdrinc.com)>; 'Jelica Arsenijevic' <[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)>; Jacobson, Allison M <[ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)>; Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Sandino, David@DWR <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Leahigh, John@DWR <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; Roberts, Matthew J CIV USARMY CESPCK (USA) <[Matthew.J.Roberts@usace.army.mil](mailto:Matthew.J.Roberts@usace.army.mil)>; Haley, Nancy A CIV USARMY CESPCK (USA) <[Nancy.A.Haley@usace.army.mil](mailto:Nancy.A.Haley@usace.army.mil)>; Kelly, Elizabeth <[EKelly@WAPA.GOV](mailto:EKelly@WAPA.GOV)>; [stephen.maurano@noaa.gov](mailto:stephen.maurano@noaa.gov) <[stephen.maurano@noaa.gov](mailto:stephen.maurano@noaa.gov)>; [evan.sawyer@noaa.gov](mailto:evan.sawyer@noaa.gov) <[evan.sawyer@noaa.gov](mailto:evan.sawyer@noaa.gov)>; [elif.wilkins@noaa.gov](mailto:elif.wilkins@noaa.gov) <[elif.wilkins@noaa.gov](mailto:elif.wilkins@noaa.gov)>; Schoenberg, Steven <[steven.schoenberg@fws.gov](mailto:steven.schoenberg@fws.gov)>; Gordon, Stephanie (Skophammer) <[GORDON.STEPHANIES@EPA.GOV](mailto:GORDON.STEPHANIES@EPA.GOV)>; Morgan, Joseph <[morgan.joseph@epa.gov](mailto:morgan.joseph@epa.gov)>; Wadsworth, Derek@Waterboards <[Derek.Wadsworth@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Derek.Wadsworth@Waterboards.ca.gov)>; O'Donnell, Daniel@Wildlife <[Daniel.Odonnell@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Daniel.Odonnell@Wildlife.ca.gov)>; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Paccassi, Michael@Wildlife <[Michael.Paccassi@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Paccassi@Wildlife.ca.gov)>; Lupoli, Christina@Wildlife <[Christina.Lupoli@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Christina.Lupoli@Wildlife.ca.gov)>  
**Cc:** Miller, Jeffrey <[JAMiller@WAPA.GOV](mailto:JAMiller@WAPA.GOV)>; Cranford, Amanda@NOAA <[amanda.cranford@noaa.gov](mailto:amanda.cranford@noaa.gov)>; Bolden, Amy <[Bolden@WAPA.GOV](mailto:Bolden@WAPA.GOV)>; Macon, Michael@Waterboards <[Michael.Macon@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Macon@Waterboards.ca.gov)>; Stevens, Nina C <[ncstevens@usbr.gov](mailto:ncstevens@usbr.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Hello all! Thanks for joining us this afternoon for the Admin Final EIR/EIS review briefing. Attached is the presentation.

I updated Slide 9 of the presentation to reflect the correct chapters that have not changed.

Thank you all for your time and effort on the review of the document. We look forward to your comments!

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Alicia Forsythe

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 1:37 PM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe; [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards; Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)); Okita, David@DWR; Cooke, Robert@DWR; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards; 'Tores, Juan Lopez'; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards'; [Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); Uttley, Paige@Wildlife; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards; [dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov); Laurie Warner Herson; Spranza, John; 'Jelica Arsenijevic'; Jacobson, Allison M; Brick, David A; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife; Sandino, David@DWR; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards; Leahigh, John@DWR; Roberts, Matthew J CIV USARMY CESPCK (USA); Haley,

Nancy A CIV USARMY CESP (USA); Kelly, Elizabeth; Stephen Maurano; [evan.sawyer](mailto:evan.sawyer@noaa.gov); [elif.wilkins@noaa.gov](mailto:elif.wilkins@noaa.gov); Schoenberg, Steven; Gordon, Stephanie (Skophammer); Morgan, Joseph; [derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov); [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); Hennessy, April@Wildlife; [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov)  
**Cc:** Miller, Jeffrey; [amanda.cranford@noaa.gov](mailto:amanda.cranford@noaa.gov); Bolden, Amy; Macon, Michael@Waterboards; Stevens, Nina C  
**Subject:** Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing  
**When:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 3:00 PM-4:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Purpose: Overview of the admin Final EIR/EIS in preparation for the NEPA Cooperating Agency and CEQA Responsible Agency review.

Agenda: Purpose of Meeting  
Approach to the Final EIR/EIS  
Project Refinements  
Review Process and Schedule  
Any Remaining Questions or Related Topics

This is the second of 2 meetings on this topic. Both meetings have the same agenda and presentation – and will be repetitive. You do not need to attend both meetings.

I tried to get everyone on Reclamation's and Sites' distribution list along with everyone that responded to the doodle poll. Apologies if I missed anyone. Please forward to those I may have missed or email me and I can forward.

Thanks all!

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**From:** Janis Offermann [janis@horizonh2o.com]  
**Sent:** 2/9/2023 8:24:49 AM  
**To:** EHernandez@yochadehe.gov  
**CC:** SReyes-Gutierrez@yochadehe.gov; Victoria Delgado [vdelgado@yochadehe.gov]; Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** Agenda for today's Sites Reservoir meeting  
**Attachments:** 20230209\_Sites-Yocha Dehe AB52\_Meeting-Agenda.docx

Good morning, Eric

Attached please find the agenda for our meeting today at 10am. We are looking forward to catching up with you.

Thanks

janis

Janis Offermann, MA, RPA  
Cultural Resources Practice Lead  
Horizon Water and Environment  
1801 7th Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
530.220.4918

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# Sites Reservoir Project - Yocha Dehe Meeting Agenda



*Our Core Values – Safety, Trust and Integrity, Respect for Local Communities, Environmental Stewardship, Shared Responsibility and Shared Benefits, Accountability and Transparency, Proactive Innovation, Diversity and Inclusivity  
Our Commitment – To live up to these values in everything we do*

## Meeting Information:

**Date:** February 9, 2023      **Location:** Microsoft Teams meeting  
**Start Time:** 10:00 a.m.      **Finish Time:** 11:00 a.m.  
**Purpose:** Ongoing AB 52 Consultation with Representatives of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

## Meeting Participants:

Eric Hernandez, Yocha Dehe	Laurie Warner Herson, Sites
Ali Forsythe, Sites Authority	Integration
Kevin Spesert, Sites Authority	Janis Offermann, Horizon

## Agenda:

Discussion Topic	Topic Leader	Time Allotted
1. Welcome	All	5 mins
2. RDEIR/SDEIS Comments	Ali	5 min
3. Proposed MOA	Janis/Ali	5 min
4. Tribal Working Group	Ali	5 min
5. Geotechnical Work	Ali	5 min
6. Action Items/Follow Up	All	5 min

# RO&E WG      February 8, 2023

## 1. Roll Call

### Sites Reservoir Operations and Engineering Workgroup

02/08/23

#### Primary Member (10)

Coachella Valley WD	no
Colusa County	Azevedo
Glenn-Colusa ID	no
Metropolitan WD of SC	Neudeck
Reclamation District 108	Vanderwaal
San Bernardino Valley MWD	Tincher
Santa Clarita Valley WA	Ali Elhassan
Westside WD	no
WRMWSD	Kunde
Zone 7 WA	Xie

#### Alternate Member (2)

City of American Canyon	no
Santa Clara Valley WD	Gavin Downs

#### Sites Project Authority (1)

Tehema Colusa Canal Auth	Sutton
--------------------------	--------

#### Staff & Consultants

JP, Spesert	JP, KS
JBrown, Luu, Bezzone	JB, HL
MMaltby, JSpranza	JS

#### Public

none

## 2. Public Comments - none

## 3. DSOD Engagement

- a. Lots of links to material changes, schedule, etc
- b. DSOD open to ideas for meeting schedule
  - i. Have setup monthly management mtgs with lead DSOD staff, already fruitful
  - ii. Geotech investig results sent to DSOD timely
  - iii. Looks like DSOD will determine they have no jurisdiction on TRR; DSOD has jurisdiction based on min. height and size, but Sites working to describe exemption from jurisdiction
- c. DSOD concurrence sought on design approach to geotech/seismic and emergency, drawdown requirements, will influence costs
- d. DSOD very data driven organization
- e. Submittal review durations can influence schedule
- f. Have to meet CWC Prop 1 requirements for “all permits and agreements”; this is non-starter for Sites to meet CWC EOY 2024, so working with CWC and DSOD



- to find a solution like a letter from DSOD to CWC - a “no red flags” letter; this is critical for timing of state funding
  - g. Will need agmt with DSOD re application which usually takes 100% design which we can’t meet
  - h. Kunde suggests Plan B to have DSOD subcontract some review that Sites might be willing to pay for; DSOD application fee is supposed to cover all review costs
- 4. CAISO assumptions/considerations (Luu)
  - a. Application takes about 2.5 years concluding with an interconnection agreement, but CAISO could extend
  - b. Typical application window is April 1-15
  - c. Typically transmission studies re interconnections, reliability upgrades, other transmission upgrades
  - d. 2 phases including Financial Security requirements to remain in study process
    - i. Initial cost \$650K deposit
    - ii. Could be add’l costs for Interconnection/transmission improvements
    - iii. Security postings are conditionally partially refundable, ISO deposits could be 30% of improvements (shared with others)
  - e. Potential material changes
    - i. Costs for unanticipated system improvements
    - ii. If 2.5 year application period is extended by 1 year, could put this activity on Sites critical path
  - f. There is cost risk since non-Sites transmission facility upgrades (which are not known at this timne) are not in cost estimate
  - g. Sites will submit its application 1st week of April
- 5. Project Baseline Schedule (JP)
  - a. Per current assumptions, schedule extends into 2033 operational date, so need to develop measures to meeting 2030 date
  - b. Working on two schedules
    - i. non-optimized (current trajectory of waiting for water right before starting other schedules) means 2033 operational
    - ii. Optimized schedule goal (in development) is to initiate operations by EOY 2031 assuming 2025 groundbreaking = 6 year construction duration which is aggressive
    - iii. Sutton/Neudeck - EOY 2031 probably still optimistic
  - c. See Slide 1 on possible optimization actions
  - d. 2 main optimization areas requiring policy input re Real estate acquisitions
    - i. early land acquisition
    - ii. negotiations with recalcitrant L/O
  - e. Slide 2 - options for early acquisition funding
  - f. Bringing on CMAR in budget for 2024
  - g. Consensus in support of staff recommendation
- 6. Soft Call Ops Workshop
  - a. Neudeck - notes “soft call” is a staff recommendation, does not want to go back to

his board for this

- i. Does not want to take haircut on participation in favor of BuRec if there are other options
  - ii. Suggests some members don't need the water in some years, so wants Sites to contact parties to see if they are willing to "give up" year types
  - iii. If a soft call, re-assessment may produce add'l water
  - iv. Make a cut from "unwanted water" in some years, but keep storage in order to keep NorCal participants in
  - v. In other projects, when get to the end folks tend to pull out
  - vi. Before Workshop, staff should talk to Members about whether they need water for each year type, and if not, use this to help meet BuRec/WaitList need
- b. Tincher - likes WS idea to keep topic in front of us
- i. Thinks Neudeck is suggesting a lease of capacity to help BuRec rather than a haircut (Kunde aside: someone has to pay for the storage space)
- c. Sutton - small working group more productive at this juncture
- i. Sees a path for meeting BuRec through flexibility
  - ii. As Sites gets closer to reality, expects Wait List to grow
  - iii. Hard to predict how any Member will operate
  - iv. Respect "stake in the ground" amounts already requested/funded
  - v. Has "small group" thoughts for how this can work
- d. Vanderwaal
- i. Would like a workshop to meet P218 purpose info needs
  - ii. For Dunnigan WD, they need a better understanding of how to operate

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Sent:** 2/9/2023 10:33:22 AM  
**To:** EHernandez@yochadehe.gov [ehernandez@yochadehe.gov]; SReyes-Gutierrez@yochadehe.gov  
**CC:** Victoria Delgado [vdelgado@yochadehe.gov]; Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Janis Offermann (Janis@Horizonh2o.com) [janis@horizonh2o.com]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Discussion and Catch Up with Yocha Dehe  
**Attachments:** 202301\_Admin Final EIR\_EIS Review Prep\_Final\_V3.pdf

As discussed this morning, please see the attached presentation. It provides an overview of the format and content of the Final EIR/EIS, including a description of project refinements that are being addressed in the Final EIR/EIS. As Ali mentioned, we recently provided this presentation to state responsible agencies, Reclamation, and the federal cooperating agencies.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Laurie

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>

**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 12:46 PM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe; Janis Offermann (Janis@Horizonh2o.com); EHernandez@yochadehe.gov; SReyes-Gutierrez@yochadehe.gov; Laurie Warner Herson; Kevin Spesert

**Cc:** Victoria Delgado

**Subject:** Sites Reservoir Discussion and Catch Up with Yocha Dehe

**When:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 10:00 AM-11:00 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Agenda will be sent out a few days in advance of each meeting.

Updated to correct recurrence to the second Thursday.

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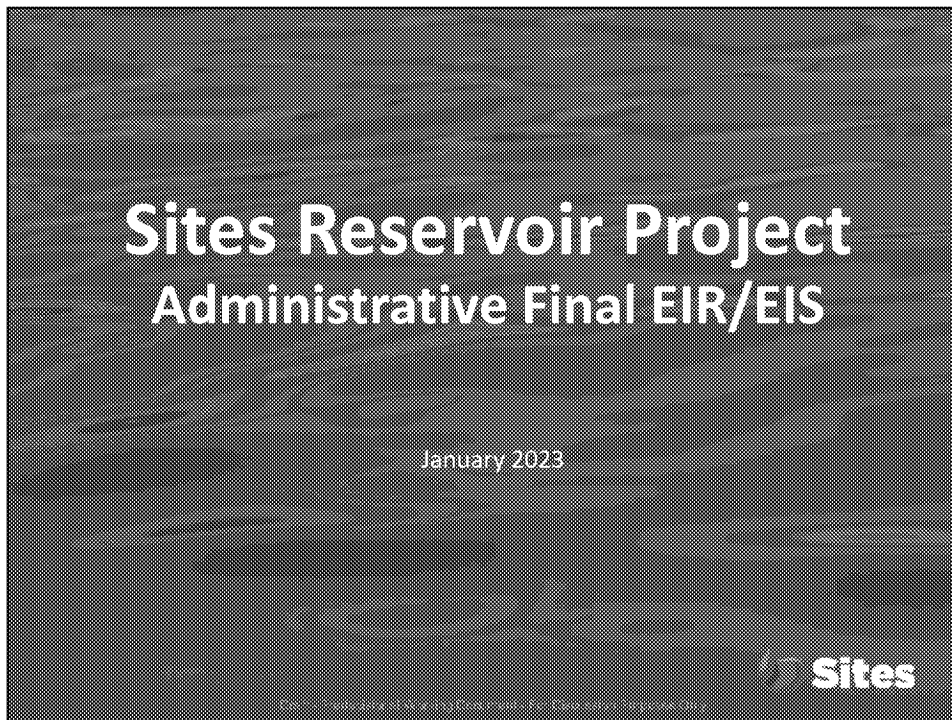
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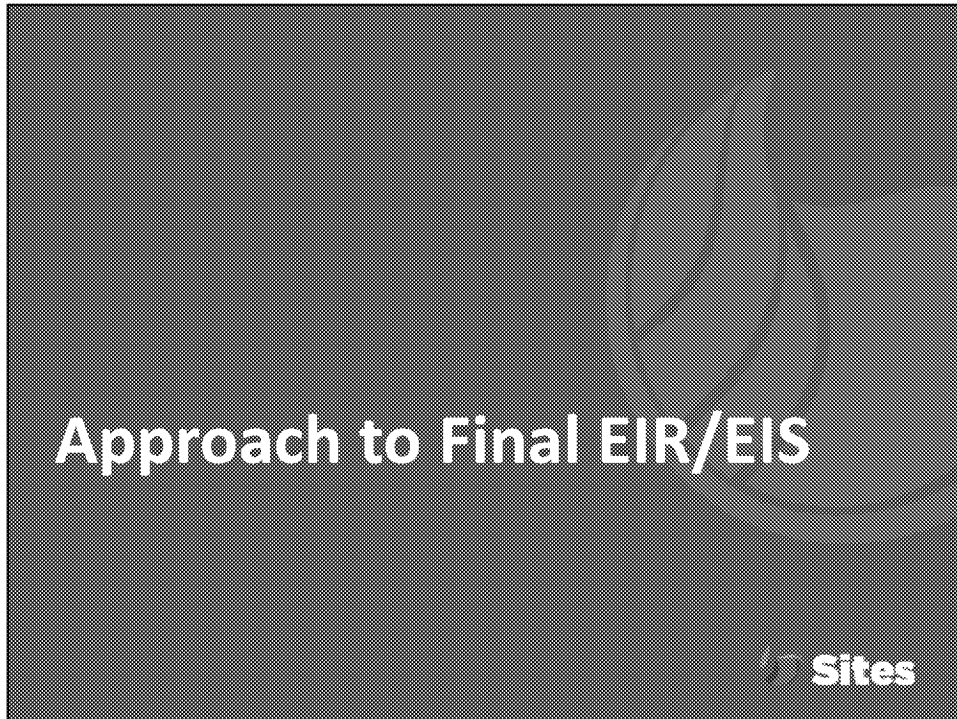
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## Agenda

- Purpose of Meeting
  - Provide overview of the Administrative Final EIR/EIS and the review process and schedule
- Approach to the Final EIR/EIS:
  - Final EIR/EIS Development
  - Content and Format
  - Approach to Responses to Comments
- Project Refinements:
  - Preferred Alternative
  - Comparison of RDEIR/SDEIS and Final EIR/EIS Operational Criteria
  - Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1
  - Updated Modeling
  - Facility Refinements
- Review Process and Schedule

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## Final EIR/EIS Development

- RDEIR/SDEIS released November 12, 2021
- Close of public review January 28, 2022
  - 101 comment letters
  - Some comments submitted in form letters and in a petition
  - Approximately 1,000 individual comments
- Efforts since RDEIR/SDEIS:
  - Identification of refinements to the Project, both facilities and operations
  - Revisions to diversion criteria and associated modeling
  - Developed master and individual responses to comments
  - Revisions to EIR/EIS text based on comment/responses and/or based on project modifications (e.g., facility changes, operation modifications)

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## Final EIR/EIS Format

- Volume 1 – Chapters
  - Include all chapters from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Volume 2 – Appendices
  - Include all appendices from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Chapters and appendices without changes are not included
- Changes shown as
  - Admin Final – Changes shown in track changes
  - Final EIR/EIS – Changes shown as margin line only

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## Final EIR/EIS Format (continued)

- Volume 3 – Response to Comments
  - Chapter 1 – Introduction and Approach
  - Chapter 2 – Commenter Indices and Form Letter Introduction
  - Chapter 3 – Master Responses Introduction and Master Responses
  - Chapter 4 – Responses to Comments Tables
  - Appendix – Response to 2017 Comments required by NEPA

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## General Approach To Responding to Comments

- Master Responses
  - Identified common themes and comments in order to draft Master Responses
- Individual Responses
  - Prepared responses to all individual comments
  - Currently organized by topics in comment response tables
  - Individual comments and responses will be reorganized by **letter** prior to publication of the Final EIR/EIS

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## Master Response Topics

- MR1, CEQA and NEPA Process, Regulatory Requirements, and General Comments
- MR2, Alternatives Description and Baseline
- MR3, Hydrology and Hydrologic Modeling
- MR4, Water Quality
- MR5, Aquatic Biological Resources
- MR6, Vegetation, Wetland, and Wildlife Resources
- MR7, Tribal Coordination, Consultation, and Engagement
- MR8, Trinity River
- MR9, Alternatives Development

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## Chapters/Appendices with No Changes – Revised on 2/1/2023

- Chapters
  - 13, Minerals
  - 19, Noise
  - 22, Cultural Resources
  - 24, Visual Resources
  - 25, Population and Housing
- Appendix 2A, 2C, 8B, 9A, 9B, 10B, 12A, 12B, 19A, 20A, 20C, 20D, 22A, 24A, 24B, 27A, 33A, 33B, 33C

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## Project Refinements

 Sites

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## Key Differences

- Changes between RDEIR/SDEIS and Final EIR/EIS:
  - Preferred Alternative is now Alternative 3
  - Revisions to diversion criteria
  - Incorporation of Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 into Project
  - Revised modeling
  - Minor changes in facilities due to design refinements
  - Corrections or clarifications needed in response to comments
- No new or substantial greater impacts identified that would require recirculation

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## Changed to Alt 3 as Preferred Alternative

Facilities / Operations	Alternative 1 – Authority's Preferred Project in RDEIR/SDEIS	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 – Preferred Alt in the Final EIR/EIS
Reservoir Size	1.5 MAF	1.3 MAF	1.5 MAF
Hydropower	Incidental upon release	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Diversion Locations	Red Bluff Pumping Plant and Hamilton City	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Conveyance Release / Dunnigan Release	1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain	1,000 cfs into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Sacramento River. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain	Same as Alt 1
Reclamation Involvement	1. Funding Partner, up to 7% 2. Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Same as Alt 1, but up to 25% investment
DWR Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge across reservoir	Paved road around southern end of reservoir	Same as Alt 1

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## Revised Diversion Criteria

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Bend Bridge Pulse Protection	Protection of all qualified precipitation-generated pulse events (i.e., peaks in over flow rather than scheduled operational events) from October to May based on the detection of fish presence and migration during the beginning of the flow event. For each event where fish presence and migration are detected, diversions from the Sacramento River would cease for 7 days.	Similar except the following: (1) a qualified precipitation-generated pulse event is determined based on forecasted flows, (2) hourly gage monitoring at Bend Bridge gage detects the predicted flow of 8,000 cfs, and migrating anadromous fish are detected at RBDD, and (3) pulse protection may cease earlier than 7 days if flows at Bend Bridge exceed 25,320 cfs and Project diversions subtracted from Bend Bridge flows continue to be at least 25,000 cfs.
Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at the RBPP	3,250 cfs minimum bypass flow at all times; rate of diversion controlled by fish screen design.	No change
Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at the Hamilton City Pump Station	4,000 cfs minimum bypass flow at all times; rate of diversion controlled by fish screen design.	No change

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## Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough	Chapter 21 in addition to the minimum bypass flows in the Sacramento River at RBPP and the Hamilton City Pump Station, a minimum bypass flow of 8,000 cfs in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough would be in place in April and May and 5,000 cfs during the rest of the year.  Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1: 10,700 cfs in March through May; 5,000 cfs all other times.	10,700 cfs October 1 through June 14; 5,000 cfs September (not diverting from June 15 to end of August)
Fremont Weir Notch Protections	No more than 1% reduction in flow over weir when spill over the weir is less than 600 cfs. No more than a 10% reduction in flow over weir when spills over the weir are between 600 cfs and 5,000 cfs. No restriction when flows over the weir are greater than 6,000 cfs.	No longer included. Revised minimum bypass flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough and Bend Bridge pulse protection provide protections for Fremont Weir Notch.

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## Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Sacramento River Fully Appropriated Stream	Diversion allowed only when the Sacramento River is not fully appropriated (September 1 through June 14)	No change
Excess conditions, as determined by DWR and Reclamation and defined in 2018 COA Addendum	Delta must be in excess for Sites Reservoir diversions	No change
Freeport, Net Delta Outflow Index, X2, and Delta Water Quality	Operations consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, biological opinions and incidental take permits, and court orders in place at the time that diversion occurs	No change

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## Incorporation of Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 into Project

- RDEIR/SDEIS
  - Included Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1 to reduce potential life stage effects on salmonids by increasing the bypass flow requirement at Wilkins Slough
    - Minimum bypass flow requirement of 10,700 cfs at Wilkins Slough in March-May
- Final EIR/EIS
  - Project description now incorporates the requirements of Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1, which have been refined and made more restrictive (the revised diversion criteria on the previous slide)
  - The bypass flow requirement at Wilkins Slough has been developed as an integral component of how the Project is proposed to operate in terms of its water diversion criteria
  - The modeling performed for the Final EIR/EIS includes the revised diversion criteria
  - This eliminates the need for Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1 in the Final EIR/EIS

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## Revised Modeling

- Adjustments made in the CALSIM II modeling between the RDEIR/SDEIS and the Final EIR/EIS to better represent the most up-to-date modeling procedures and actual operations, including:
  - Shasta Lake Operations – expanded exchanges to include more opportunities for fall flow stability and spring pulse enhancement
  - Deadpool Volume – reduced from generally 120 TAF to 60 TAF
  - Delta Salinity Accounting – slightly refined based on revisions to Calsim II coding
  - Period of Diversion to Sites Storage – revised to only include Sept 1 to June 14 to match water right application
  - South of Delta Water Delivery – revised to allow in any year that capacity is available (previously limited to below normal, dry and critically dry years)
  - Updates to Diversion Criteria – revised diversion criteria incorporated

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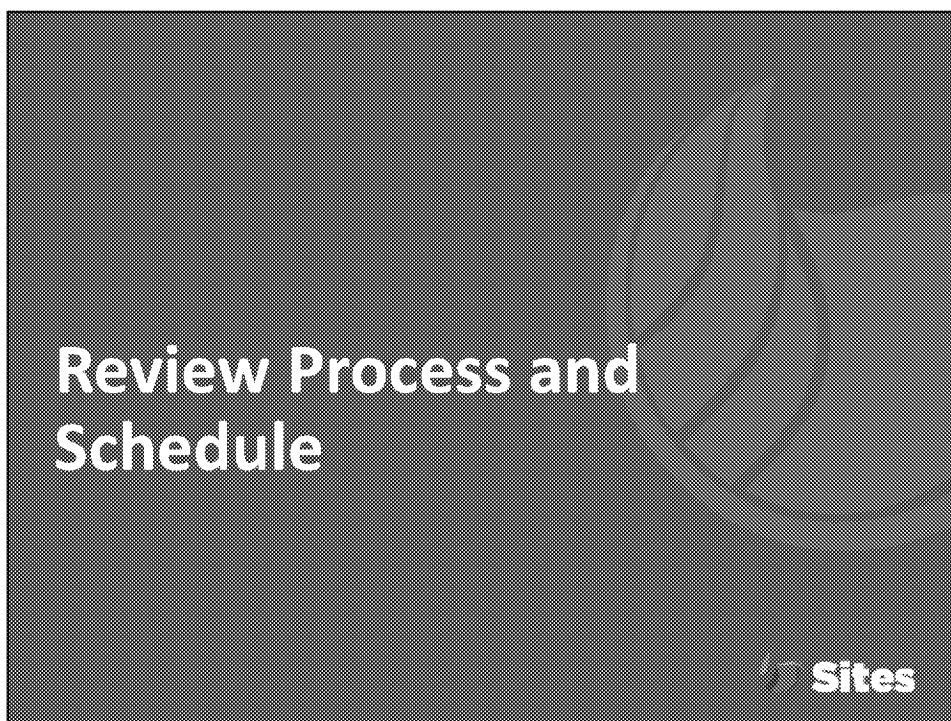
## Facility Refinements

- The RDEIR/SDEIS noted that:
  - “Preliminary design for facilities described herein will continue to be refined and modifications may occur as needed as the Project proceeds to final design and as part of the ongoing value engineering process undertaken by the Authority.”
- Admin Final EIR/EIS includes:
  - Sloped rather than vertical Inlet/Outlet (I/O) Tower
  - Single 32' diameter I/O tunnel replaces two 23' tunnels
  - Removal of two emergency release structures, eliminating emergency drawdown releases to Hunters Creek

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## Review Process and Schedule

- Starting February 1 files will be available for online review
  - Email will be sent with link to everyone invited to these meetings
- Additional files added as they are ready with all files posted by February 10
  - Additional emails sent as new files are uploaded
- Final editing and formatting not finished – its good but still working on great!
  - Focus comments on substantive issues
  - We appreciate pointing out number inconsistencies
  - Don't bother to comment on edits and format
- All comments due by February 28

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## Format for Comments

- Please provide comments in comment bubbles
- Prefer no track change edits but recommended text changes can be added in bubbles
- Prefer comments all on SharePoint so everyone can see each others comments
- If you copy/download a file for your internal agency review, please upload back onto SharePoint with your agency name on the end
  - 01\_ExecutiveSummary\_Sites
- Each person accessing SharePoint needs “individual” access

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## Where To Go With Questions

- File access issues/challenges
  - Laurie Warner Herson at [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)
- CEQA Responsible Agencies
  - Ali Forsythe at [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)
  - Laurie Warner Herson
- Reclamation staff and NEPA Cooperating Agencies
  - David Brick at [dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)
  - Allison Jacobson at [ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)

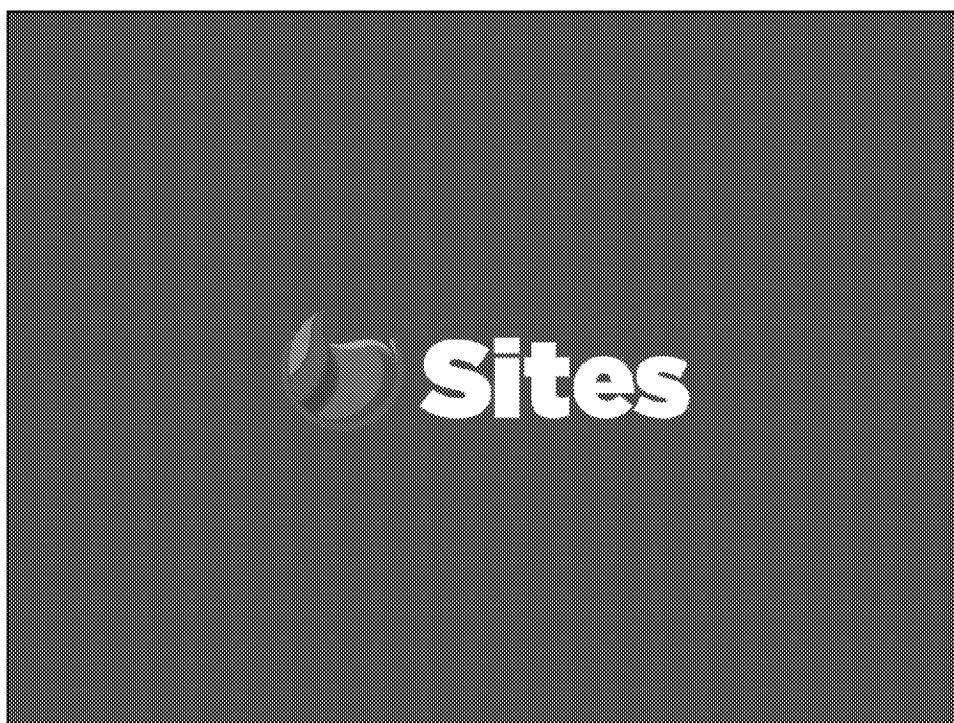
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22



23



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**From:** Janis Offermann [janis@horizonh2o.com]  
**Sent:** 2/9/2023 10:46:11 AM  
**To:** EHernandez@yochadehe.gov; SReyes-Gutierrez@yochadehe.gov  
**CC:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Subject:** Sites Reservoir MOA Brief  
**Attachments:** Draft\_MOA brief\_10182022.pdf

Hi, Eric and Socorro

Thanks for meeting with us today. Attached is the MOA brief we discussed.

Thanks

janis

Janis Offermann, MA, RPA  
Cultural Resources Practice Lead  
Horizon Water and Environment  
1801 7th Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
530.220.4918

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## **DRAFT**

### **Brief Outline on Development of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Sites Project Authority and Native American Tribes Consulting on the Sites Reservoir Project under AB52**

**October 18, 2022**

#### **Purpose and Need**

Mitigation measures for addressing significant impacts to tribal cultural resources by the Sites Reservoir Project (Project) have been identified but need to be refined and further developed through consultations between tribes formally consulting on the Project pursuant to AB 52 (the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation [Yocha Dehe] and Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians [Cachil Dehe]) and the Sites Project Authority (Authority). Although the Authority and Yocha Dehe have been working diligently on consultation efforts, activities have taken longer than expected for a variety of reasons including delays in getting agreement from DWR to release data, formatting data for use by the tribe, tribal access to Project lands to review areas of cultural significance, and the overall challenges of workload balancing during COVID restrictions. The Authority is proposing to complete the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Project in May 2023, and it is recognized by all parties that identification of tribal cultural resources within the Project footprint and preparation of appropriate mitigation and treatment measures cannot be concluded by that time.

Preparation of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) would formalize the collaborative partnership between the Authority, Yocha Dehe, Cachil Dehe, and the additional three tribes that are traditionally or culturally affiliated with the Project area to continue to work together to identify tribal cultural resources, and methods to mitigate impacts to and manage tribal cultural resources. The partnership defined by the MOA would allow conclusion of consultation under AB 52, while providing a framework for continued collaboration between the Authority and the tribes during Project planning, implementation, and operations.

#### **Potential MOA Preamble topics:**

- Identification of participants in the MOA
  - Yocha Dehe
  - Cachil Dehe
  - Authority
  - Invite Kletsel Dehe (Cortina Rancheria Band of Wintun Indians), Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, and Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki Indians
- Mitigation Measures in the EIR
- Acknowledgement that participation in the MOA by Yocha Dehe and other tribes does not imply their approval of the project
- Formalization of collaborative partnership

#### **Potential MOA Stipulations topics:**

- Continuing consultation/engagement with Tribal partners
- Confidentiality of information provided by the Tribes
- Continue tribal cultural resources identification

- Various administration stipulations

*Potential identification topics for discussion*

- Interests/concerns of the Tribes
- Compensation plan/agreements
- Confidentiality
- Ethnographic Study
  - Work with tribal elders to document locations of significance
  - Compensation for informants
  - Hiring tribal members to assist with elder interviews and research

*Potential topics for avoidance, minimization and mitigation discussion*

- Interests/concerns of the Tribes
- Treatment of burials within the Project footprint, including identification of permanent, private and secure areas for reburial of human remains in perpetuity
- Participation in future archaeological studies (survey, testing, data recovery)
  - Monitoring
  - Hiring tribal members as archaeological trainees
- Curation of recovered materials during archaeological studies
- Ethnobotanical studies (could be included under Ethnographic study)
- Tribal participation in developing trails, interpretive signage, etc. for recreation
- Tribal participation in developing a museum/visitor center, if one is developed

---

**From:** Janis Offermann [janis@horizonh2o.com]  
**Sent:** 2/9/2023 1:01:36 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Subject:** Heard from Laverne

Hi, all

I received a brief email from Laverne in response to my email to him yesterday. I asked if Paskenta was interested in the TWG and he said “we need to consult first individually before and decide if we want to participate in the working group.” He also asked who else was participating and I let him know that only Colusa has expressed interest, to date. I’m not sure what he meant by “consult first individually” but he did request a copy of the USBR letter requesting consultation, which I was able to send him. I asked if he meant consult with the Authority, but he hasn’t yet responded.

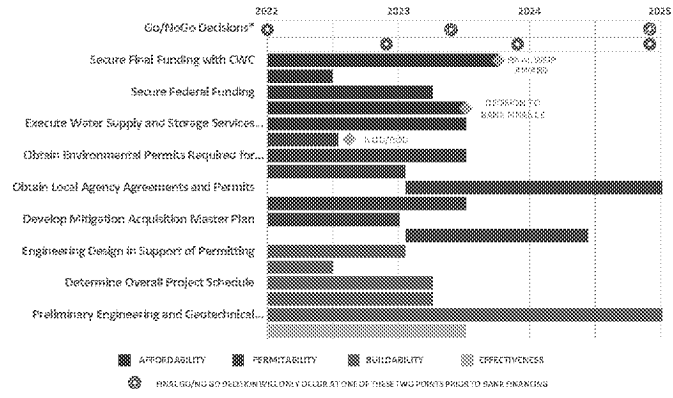
I am happy that we have his attention. We will see where this leads.

Thanks

janis

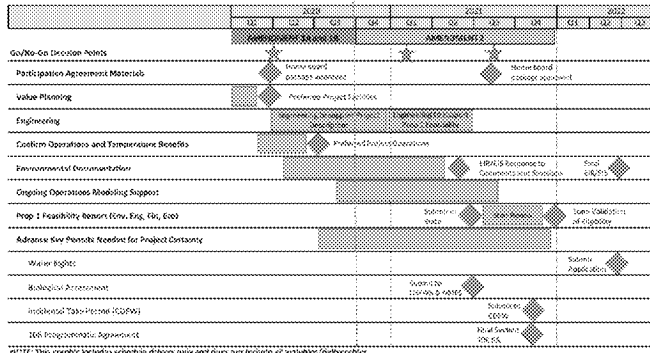
Janis Offermann, MA, RPA  
Cultural Resources Practice Lead  
Horizon Water and Environment  
1801 7th Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
530.220.4918

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Sites Reservoir Program  
*Updated* 2020-2021 Schedule Drivers

Worksheet: 1 of 6



This work plan is based on current participation commitments.

Sites Reservoir Project Cash Flow to Construction Completion:

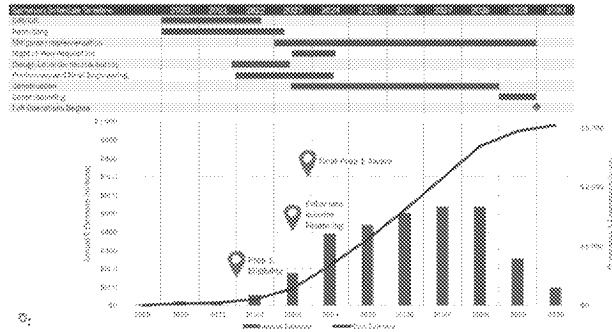


Figure 1. Sites Project Construction Estimated Cost Loading (2019 Dollars)

---

**From:** Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards [Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/9/2023 3:11:50 PM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**CC:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; WB-Sites WR Application [Sites-WR-Application@Waterboards.ca.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Application Check-In

Hi Angela-

Thank you for reaching out to offer assistance with the noticing material. I will check with staff working on that if this may be of help and will let you know.

There is a short list of admin items to straighten out so that the application material is as easy to navigate as possible. Would you have time for a quick call to go over this? Please let me know if sometime tomorrow 11 am-2 pm would work, or feel free to propose some time slots next week. I anticipate we would need one hour for this.

Finally, can you help me understand the difference in the CalSim results for historical hydrology summarized in Table B-1 of the Sites WAA Report and Table 5B1-3-4c in the February 2023 admin Final EIR? There are minor differences sprinkled across year types and month, however the differences for December are substantial. The CalSim II model in the WAA Report is the one produce in support of the FEIR, so I'm wondering if there is an error in one of the table or if there is another explanation for the discrepancy.

Looking forward to connecting soon.

Best,

Jelena

-----  
Jelena Hartman  
Environmental Program Manager  
Division of Water Rights, Bay-Delta  
California State Water Board  
[jelena.hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jelena.hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)

---

**From:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 2:48 PM  
**To:** Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Cc:** aforsythe (aforsythe@sitesproject.org) <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** Sites Application Check-In

EXTERNAL:

Hi Jelena,

Based on recent conversations, it sounds like we can expect the Sites Reservoir water right application to be noticed relatively soon. I wanted to reach out to you to offer our assistance in anyway in drafting noticing materials. We have drafted a summary of the application based on a recent example of an application notice that might be of use to you. Alternatively, if there is anything you have prepared and would like our review, please feel free to send it our way, or we can set up a call to talk through things. Please let me know how we can help!



Thanks,

Angela Bezzone, P.E.

## **MBK Engineers**

455 University Ave Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95825

(916) 456-4400 – Phone

(775) 450-6408 – Cell

(916) 456-0253 – Fax

---

**From:** Berryman, Ellen [Ellen.Berryman@icf.com]  
**Sent:** 2/9/2023 3:45:46 PM  
**To:** Spranza, John [john.spranza@hdrinc.com]; Webber, Lisa [Lisa.Webber@icf.com]; Arsenijevic, Jelica [Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com]  
**CC:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Briard, Monique [Monique.Briard@icf.com]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species

Those times work for me.

---

**From:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 12:46 PM  
**To:** Berryman, Ellen <Ellen.Berryman@icf.com>; Webber, Lisa <Lisa.Webber@icf.com>; Arsenijevic, Jelica <Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Briard, Monique <Monique.Briard@icf.com>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] FW: FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species

Hi All,

Are you available to meet on Monday before 10 or between 11 and 1? Tuesday is jammed for me.

John Spranza

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

---

**From:** Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 12:41 PM  
**To:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>; Hunt, Shane D <shunt@usbr.gov>  
**Cc:** Berryman, Ellen (Ellen.Berryman@icf.com) <ellen.berryman@icf.com>; Webber, Lisa <lisa.webber@icf.com>; Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi John,

I've been coordinating with USFWS. Do either of these times work for you?

Monday before 10am or 11am-1pm, and on Tuesday ending before 3:30pm

I'll also propose that we add the Geotech topic as an agenda item to discuss the CRLF measures.

Thanks all,  
David

---

**From:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 12:22 PM  
**To:** Hunt, Shane D <shunt@usbr.gov>; Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>  
**Cc:** Berryman, Ellen (Ellen.Berryman@icf.com) <ellen.berryman@icf.com>; Webber, Lisa <lisa.webber@icf.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species

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Hi Shane and David,

We have had a chance to review these comments with the team and while many are able to be addressed, were hoping we could schedule a call to go over a few questions with you and the FWS. We wanted to discuss the following items:

- 1) Modeled suitable habitat, why we have approached it as we did and what we could do to better address the comment, and
- 2) Unoccupied habitat mitigation, specifically how to find an approach that is consistent with the Cattleman's litigation but still addresses FWS comments to the extent possible.

If you would like, I could send over some potential meeting times that work on our end.

Thanks,  
John

**John Spranza**

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

---

**From:** Millsap, Stephanie D <[stephanie\\_millsap@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_millsap@fws.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 4:12 PM

**To:** Hunt, Shane D <[shunt@usbr.gov](mailto:shunt@usbr.gov)>; Jacobson, Allison M <[ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)>; Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>

**Cc:** Spranza, John <[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Spranza@hdrinc.com)>; Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Schoenberg, Steven <[steven\\_schoenberg@fws.gov](mailto:steven_schoenberg@fws.gov)>; garwin.yip <[garwin.yip@noaa.gov](mailto:garwin.yip@noaa.gov)>; Reaves, Brittany L <[brittany\\_reaves@fws.gov](mailto:brittany_reaves@fws.gov)>; Stephen Maurano <[stephen.maurano@noaa.gov](mailto:stephen.maurano@noaa.gov)>; Welsh, Daniel <[daniel\\_welsh@fws.gov](mailto:daniel_welsh@fws.gov)>

**Subject:** FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species RE: [EXTERNAL] Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

**CAUTION: [EXTERNAL]** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Shane:

These comments are limited to the terrestrial species potentially affected by construction impacts.

Staff from my office have not reviewed the consultation approach for operations or any of the underlying data or models that are used to identify the effects of operations on aquatic species, such as Delta and longfin smelt, in the administrative draft BA. My understanding is that the Directors from Reclamation, USFWS, NMFS, DWR, and CDFW have recommended a programmatic approach be developed for operations of all the CVP and SWP storage and conveyance projects, including Sites reservoir. Once the approach for consultation has been determined, my office will be in a much better position to provide technical assistance regarding potential effects to aquatic species.

Additional details regarding Species Considered but Not Addressed Further should be provided:

- If parts of the project site have not been visited yet other than through aerial imagery, it is unclear how the depth of vernal pools can be accurately identified to the extent that they may eliminate federally listed species such as Greene's tuctoria (*Tuctoria greenei*), hairy Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia pilosa*), Hoover's spurge (*Euphorbia hooveri*), and slender Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia tenuis*) from evaluation.
- Habitat models in Appendix 5P only describe habitat models for species that are analyzed in the BA.
- In the absence of ground-truthing, more detailed explanations of how potentially suitable habitat was modeled and evaluated for these species that were eliminated from consideration would be useful in determining whether the identification of absence of habitat is accurate.

Maps of occurrence records/habitat should be included:

- there weren't any maps in the BA showing the nearest records, the 5-mile criterion seemed arbitrary and short especially for a large area which is rarely/infrequently surveyed
- Instead, I recommend including relevant maps within the document and stating where the nearest records are for each species. For example, rather than saying the nearest record of X species in CDNDDDB is Y miles away from the Action Area. This would be more helpful in identifying and evaluating proposed impacts to wildlife resources.
- For instance, regarding the listed plants, Keck's and PBBBB, my first impression of the analysis was favorable but the information was incomplete; where is the 1 record of Keck's within 5 miles (not a long distance) and where are the other 6 records? How far away is the nearest record of PBBBB? (again, "none within 5 miles", isn't as informative as the actual distance - is it 6 or 60 miles?)
- I recommend including maps of the Action Area, CNDDDB occurrence maps, critical habitat maps, and other relevant figures in the BA to better illustrate proposed impacts.

Modeled suitable habitat amounts should be refined:

- The total area of potentially affected suitable habitat appear to be overestimates that are based upon a worst-case scenario that would later be reduced after site habitat assessments, formal wetland delineations, and protocol-level biological and botanical surveys are conducted by qualified biologists
- These modeled large areas are not helpful in a consultation because it becomes more difficult to determine if the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, quantify potential take, and make it more difficult to determine whether a project effect can reasonably be compensated.
- It's better to state the modeled number then, using whatever other criteria your best professional opinion or other information you have, and state those factors (that is, don't say "my best professional opinion", but rather, say, it is my best professional opinion that factors XYZ greatly reduce the likelihood of presence over such a broad area). After this justification provide a lower number, or range, that you feel is probable to be achieved during the eventual on-the-ground surveys.
- For example, 12,545 acres of modeled VELB habitat is far too much that can be reasonably mitigated by any offset. Elsewhere in the BA it states the expectation "based on previous surveys" <250 shrubs would be impacted. State how this estimate was derived, and what area would be associated with it. I did note the document referenced earlier studies in the late 90s documenting 18 exit holes among 672 stems, though not within the "action area". It's not entirely clear what is meant by this; if the surveys were in a different area entirely, adjacent, or different type of habitat from that which would be impacted. This should be clarified.
- I recommend using existing information about soils, topography, or elevational distribution of the VP species, to further refine the VP estimate. The existing estimate of 359 acres is a very large number.

Put past surveys in context:

- Listed species are routinely difficult to detect unless surveyed sufficiently, in the right way, at the right time.
- Results of past surveys in 2000, 2003, etc. for various species are included, but no additional context is provided, and no information is given regarding what surveys were actually done.
- Previously conducted surveys should include more context, including how they relate to detection of each species referenced in them. For instance, were these surveys done using recommended methods for these species, at the recommended times of year, and conducted by qualified biologists?

Mitigation for unoccupied habitat should be included:

- The restriction of proposed compensation for most species (CRLF, VELB, VPS) to occupied habitat impacts is not appropriate. Most VELB habitat is technically unoccupied even when it is present in an area, because it doesn't occur on every bush, and isn't detectable until it makes an exit hole. CRLF, if present in a region, can and does disperse and occupy unoccupied habitat at some time other than when the survey was done.
  - Different mitigation ratios are customarily used for such occupied and unoccupied habitat; but unoccupied habitat should not imply uncompensated.
  - The way the BA treats GGS is more appropriate by proposing 3:1 regardless of occupation due to the high likelihood of presence. The habitat impact numbers are rational (1 ac aquatic; 20 ac upland) and more likely to be mitigable.

Additional details regarding mitigation location should be provided:

- As part of the consultation, the Service will need to make a determination that the proposed mitigation is reasonably likely to be sufficient and implemented (in the ground), at time of first impact.
- In addition to using the refined estimate of impact to calculate a range of likely mitigation requirement in acres, enough information should be provided with details regarding where and how mitigation could occur.
  - This may include identifying the locations of potential mitigation lands or banks for each of the species and/or habitat types for which mitigation is proposed and if sufficient acres/credits are available
  - This may also include identifying candidate opportunities, examining areas identified in recovery plans, and/or researching long term development of mitigation banks.

Consider inclusion of candidate species:

- A candidate species is one for which the Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support a proposal for listing as endangered or threatened but is not yet listed or proposed for listing. Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7 of the ESA is not required for candidate species; however, it may be required if the species is listed or proposed for listing during the ongoing process of biological evaluation.
  - Due to the extended proposed timeline of this project, it may be prudent to evaluate potential impacts to monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), which is a candidate species.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide technical assistance regarding these federally-listed terrestrial species. I hope these comments are helpful and the Service looks forward to continuing to provide input on these topics.

Sincerely,  
-Stephanie

>>> I am working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic. All calls to my office phone are being forwarded to my cellphone. <<<

\*\*\*\*\*

Stephanie Millsap, Ph.D.  
Watershed Planning Division Manager  
[stephanie\\_millsap@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_millsap@fws.gov)  
916-930-2658  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
SF Bay Delta Fish and Wildlife Office  
650 Capital Mall, Suite 8-300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

\*\*\*\*\*

---

**From:** Spranza, John <[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Spranza@hdrinc.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 10:42 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Dekar, Melissa D <[mdekar@usbr.gov](mailto:mdekar@usbr.gov)>; Hunt, Shane D

<shunt@usbr.gov>; Millsap, Stephanie D <stephanie\_millsap@fws.gov>; Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; Reaves, Brittany L <brittany\_reaves@fws.gov>; Schoenberg, Steven <steven\_schoenberg@fws.gov>; garwin.yip <garwin.yip@noaa.gov>; Stephen Maurano <stephen.maurano@noaa.gov>; Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**



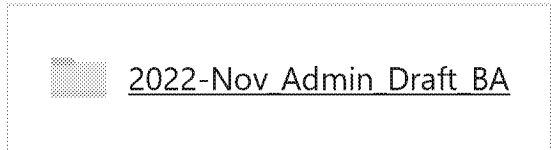
## Spranza, John shared a folder with you


Hello,

This shared file contains the Sites Project's administrative draft BA. The Authority would appreciate your technical assistance with the further preparation of the document by providing comments and feedback on this draft and identifying any concerns or areas that need additional revision.

Your help is much appreciated, please let me know if you have any questions or if you are having trouble accessing this folder.

Regards,  
John



 This link only works for the direct recipients of this message.





---

**From:** Brick, David A [dbrick@usbr.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/9/2023 4:11:05 PM  
**To:** Spranza, John [john.spranza@hdrinc.com]; Hunt, Shane D [shunt@usbr.gov]  
**CC:** Berryman, Ellen (Ellen.Berryman@icf.com) [ellen.berryman@icf.com]; Webber, Lisa [lisa.webber@icf.com]; Jacobson, Allison M [ajacobson@usbr.gov]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species

Hi John, sounds like Monday 11am-noon works for folks. I can get an invite out tomorrow morning. I play on sending it to everyone CCd on this email +USFWS, let me know if you'd like to add anyone.

David

---

**From:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 4:05 PM  
**To:** Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>; Hunt, Shane D <shunt@usbr.gov>  
**Cc:** Berryman, Ellen (Ellen.Berryman@icf.com) <ellen.berryman@icf.com>; Webber, Lisa <lisa.webber@icf.com>; Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species

David,  
Monday before 10am or 11am-1pm works, with the 11-1 timeslot being best.

John Spranza

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

---

**From:** Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 12:41 PM  
**To:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>; Hunt, Shane D <shunt@usbr.gov>  
**Cc:** Berryman, Ellen (Ellen.Berryman@icf.com) <ellen.berryman@icf.com>; Webber, Lisa <lisa.webber@icf.com>; Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species

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Hi John,

I've been coordinating with USFWS. Do either of these times work for you?

Monday before 10am or 11am-1pm, and on Tuesday ending before 3:30pm

I'll also propose that we add the Geotech topic as an agenda item to discuss the CRLF measures.

Thanks all,  
David

---

**From:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 12:22 PM

Draft\_0022427



**To:** Hunt, Shane D <[shunt@usbr.gov](mailto:shunt@usbr.gov)>; Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>  
**Cc:** Berryman, Ellen ([Ellen.Berryman@icf.com](mailto:Ellen.Berryman@icf.com)) <[ellen.berryman@icf.com](mailto:ellen.berryman@icf.com)>; Webber, Lisa <[lisa.webber@icf.com](mailto:lisa.webber@icf.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species

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Hi Shane and David,

We have had a chance to review these comments with the team and while many are able to be addressed, were hoping we could schedule a call to go over a few questions with you and the FWS. We wanted to discuss the following items:

- 1) Modeled suitable habitat, why we have approached it as we did and what we could do to better address the comment, and
- 2) Unoccupied habitat mitigation, specifically how to find an approach that is consistent with the Cattleman's litigation but still addresses FWS comments to the extent possible.

If you would like, I could send over some potential meeting times that work on our end.

Thanks,  
John

John Spranza

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

---

**From:** Millsap, Stephanie D <[stephanie\\_millsap@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_millsap@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 4:12 PM  
**To:** Hunt, Shane D <[shunt@usbr.gov](mailto:shunt@usbr.gov)>; Jacobson, Allison M <[ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)>; Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>  
**Cc:** Spranza, John <[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Spranza@hdrinc.com)>; Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Schoenberg, Steven <[steven\\_schoenberg@fws.gov](mailto:steven_schoenberg@fws.gov)>; garwin.yip <[garwin.yip@noaa.gov](mailto:garwin.yip@noaa.gov)>; Reaves, Brittany L <[brittany\\_reaves@fws.gov](mailto:brittany_reaves@fws.gov)>; Stephen Maurano <[stephen.maurano@noaa.gov](mailto:stephen.maurano@noaa.gov)>; Welsh, Daniel <[daniel\\_welsh@fws.gov](mailto:daniel_welsh@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species RE: [EXTERNAL] Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

**CAUTION: [EXTERNAL]** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Shane:

These comments are limited to the terrestrial species potentially affected by construction impacts.

Staff from my office have not reviewed the consultation approach for operations or any of the underlying data or models that are used to identify the effects of operations on aquatic species, such as Delta and longfin smelt, in the administrative draft BA. My understanding is that the Directors from Reclamation, USFWS, NMFS, DWR, and CDFW have recommended a programmatic approach be developed for operations of all the CVP and SWP storage and conveyance projects, including Sites reservoir. Once the approach for consultation has been determined, my office will be in a much better position to provide technical assistance regarding potential effects to aquatic species.

Draft\_0022428

Additional details regarding Species Considered but Not Addressed Further should be provided:

- If parts of the project site have not been visited yet other than through aerial imagery, it is unclear how the depth of vernal pools can be accurately identified to the extent that they may eliminate federally listed species such as Greene's tuctoria (*Tuctoria greenei*), hairy Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia pilosa*), Hoover's spurge (*Euphorbia hooveri*), and slender Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia tenuis*) from evaluation.
- Habitat models in Appendix 5P only describe habitat models for species that are analyzed in the BA.
- In the absence of ground-truthing, more detailed explanations of how potentially suitable habitat was modeled and evaluated for these species that were eliminated from consideration would be useful in determining whether the identification of absence of habitat is accurate.

Maps of occurrence records/habitat should be included:

- there weren't any maps in the BA showing the nearest records, the 5-mile criterion seemed arbitrary and short especially for a large area which is rarely/infrequently surveyed
- Instead, I recommend including relevant maps within the document and stating where the nearest records are for each species. For example, rather than saying the nearest record of X species in CDNDDB is Y miles away from the Action Area. This would be more helpful in identifying and evaluating proposed impacts to wildlife resources.
- For instance, regarding the listed plants, Keck's and PBBB, my first impression of the analysis was favorable but the information was incomplete; where is the 1 record of Keck's within 5 miles (not a long distance) and where are the other 6 records? How far away is the nearest record of PBBB? (again, "none within 5 miles", isn't as informative as the actual distance - is it 6 or 60 miles?)
- I recommend including maps of the Action Area, CDNDDB occurrence maps, critical habitat maps, and other relevant figures in the BA to better illustrate proposed impacts.

Modeled suitable habitat amounts should be refined:

- The total area of potentially affected suitable habitat appear to be overestimates that are based upon a worst-case scenario that would later be reduced after site habitat assessments, formal wetland delineations, and protocol-level biological and botanical surveys are conducted by qualified biologists
- These modeled large areas are not helpful in a consultation because it becomes more difficult to determine if the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, quantify potential take, and make it more difficult to determine whether a project effect can reasonably be compensated.
- It's better to state the modeled number then, using whatever other criteria your best professional opinion or other information you have, and state those factors (that is, don't say "my best professional opinion", but rather, say, it is my best professional opinion that factors XYZ greatly reduce the likelihood of presence over such a broad area). After this justification, provide a lower number, or range, that you feel is probable to be achieved during the eventual on-the-ground surveys.
- For example, 12,545 acres of modeled VELB habitat is far too much that can be reasonably mitigated by any offset. Elsewhere in the BA it states the expectation "based on previous surveys" <250 shrubs would be impacted. State how this estimate was derived, and what area would be associated with it. I did note the document referenced earlier studies in the late 90s documenting 18 exit holes among 672 stems, though not within the "action area". It's not entirely clear what is meant by this; if the surveys were in a different area entirely, adjacent, or different type of habitat from that which would be impacted. This should be clarified.
- I recommend using existing information about soils, topography, or elevational distribution of the VP species, to further refine the VP estimate. The existing estimate of 359 acres is a very large number.

Put past surveys in context:

- Listed species are routinely difficult to detect unless surveyed sufficiently, in the right way, at the right time.
- Results of past surveys in 2000, 2003, etc. for various species are included, but no additional context is provided, and no information is given regarding what surveys were actually done.
- Previously conducted surveys should include more context, including how they relate to detection of each species referenced in them. For instance, were these surveys done using recommended methods for these species, at the recommended times of year, and conducted by qualified biologists?

Mitigation for unoccupied habitat should be included:

- The restriction of proposed compensation for most species (CRLF, VELB, VPS) to occupied habitat impacts is not appropriate. Most VELB habitat is technically unoccupied even when it is present in an area, because it doesn't occur on every bush, and isn't detectable until it makes an exit hole. CRLF, if present in a region, can and does disperse and occupy unoccupied habitat at some time other than when the survey was done.
  - Different mitigation ratios are customarily used for such occupied and unoccupied habitat; but unoccupied habitat should not imply uncompensated.
  - The way the BA treats GGS is more appropriate by proposing 3:1 regardless of occupation due to the high likelihood of presence. The habitat impact numbers are rational (1 ac aquatic; 20 ac upland) and more likely to be mitigable.

Additional details regarding mitigation location should be provided:

- As part of the consultation, the Service will need to make a determination that the proposed mitigation is reasonably likely to be sufficient and implemented (in the ground), at time of first impact.
- In addition to using the refined estimate of impact to calculate a range of likely mitigation requirement in acres, enough information should be provided with details regarding where and how mitigation could occur.
  - This may include identifying the locations of potential mitigation lands or banks for each of the species and/or habitat types for which mitigation is proposed and if sufficient acres/credits are available
  - This may also include identifying candidate opportunities, examining areas identified in recovery plans, and/or researching long term development of mitigation banks.

Consider inclusion of candidate species:

- A candidate species is one for which the Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support a proposal for listing as endangered or threatened but is not yet listed or proposed for listing. Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7 of the ESA is not required for candidate species; however, it may be required if the species is listed or proposed for listing during the ongoing process of biological evaluation.
  - Due to the extended proposed timeline of this project, it may be prudent to evaluate potential impacts to monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), which is a candidate species.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide technical assistance regarding these federally-listed terrestrial species. I hope these comments are helpful and the Service looks forward to continuing to provide input on these topics.

Sincerely,  
-Stephanie

>>> I am working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic. All calls to my office phone are being forwarded to my cellphone. <<<

\*\*\*\*\*

Stephanie Millsap, Ph.D.  
Watershed Planning Division Manager  
[stephanie\\_millsap@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_millsap@fws.gov)  
916-930-2658  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
SF Bay Delta Fish and Wildlife Office  
650 Capital Mall, Suite 8-300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

\*\*\*\*\*

---

**From:** Spranza, John <[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Spranza@hdrinc.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 10:42 AM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Dekar, Melissa D <[mdekar@usbr.gov](mailto:mdekar@usbr.gov)>; Hunt, Shane D <[shunt@usbr.gov](mailto:shunt@usbr.gov)>; Millsap, Stephanie D <[stephanie\\_millsap@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_millsap@fws.gov)>; Jacobson, Allison M <[ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)>; Reaves, Brittany L <[brittany\\_reaves@fws.gov](mailto:brittany_reaves@fws.gov)>; Schoenberg, Steven <[steven\\_schoenberg@fws.gov](mailto:steven_schoenberg@fws.gov)>; garwin.yip <[garwin.yip@noaa.gov](mailto:garwin.yip@noaa.gov)>; Stephen Maurano <[stephen.maurano@noaa.gov](mailto:stephen.maurano@noaa.gov)>; Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

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## Spranza, John shared a folder with you


Hello,

This shared file contains the Sites Project's administrative draft BA. The Authority would appreciate your technical assistance with the further preparation of the document by providing comments and feedback on this draft and identifying any concerns or areas that need additional revision.

Your help is much appreciated, please let me know if you have any questions or if you are having trouble accessing this folder.

Regards,  
John

 [2022-Nov Admin Draft BA](#)

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/10/2023 9:09:05 AM  
**To:** Cheyanne Harris [CHarris@BrwnCald.com]; Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**CC:** JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]; Marcia Kivett [MKivett@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Participant Two-Way Check Ins  
**Attachments:** 202301\_Admin Final EIR\_EIS Review Prep\_Final\_V3.pdf

Hi all – I think Steve is asking for our current diversion criteria. We have some slides in the attached presentation that speak to this. I wonder if we clip these out and send them? Its slides 13-17 starting on page 6.

Otherwise, we could clip out sections of the project description, but it's a lot of text.

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 2:49 PM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Cc:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Marcia Kivett <MKivett@sitesproject.org>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Participant Two-Way Check Ins

Angela,

Feel free to respond directly to Steve (just in case there's some additional back and forth). I think the high level overview video you shared is a good starting point. In your response to Steve it might be good to offer to schedule a time to meet to discuss in more detail/get insight on what they're specifically looking for and go from there.

Thanks for your help!

**Cheyenne Harris, P.E.\***  
Brown and Caldwell  
CHarris@brwncald.com  
T 916.853.5349 | C 916.628.2352  
\*Professional Registration in California  
Pronouns: she/her/hers



---

**From:** Angela Bezzone <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023 10:25 AM  
**To:** Cheyanne Harris <[CHarris@BrwnCald.com](mailto:CHarris@BrwnCald.com)>  
**Cc:** JP Robinette <[jrobinette@sitesproject.org](mailto:jrobinette@sitesproject.org)>; Marcia Kivett <[MKivett@sitesproject.org](mailto:MKivett@sitesproject.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Participant Two-Way Check Ins

Hi Cheyanne,

It would be great to understand if there are certain operations aspects that Santa Clarita Valley is interested in. There is a video that I like sharing that provides a high level overview: <https://hdr.wistia.com/medias/3k2t9on7ie>

Other than this, the best summary I can think of is Chapter 2 of the EIS/R; however, Chapter 2 is being updated in the final document and the draft relied on some now-outdated assumptions. We could schedule a time to meet with Santa Clarita to present current operations information and answer any questions.

Please let me know if I can be of any more help in responding! Feel free to forward this email on, or I can respond directly to Steve if you prefer.

Angela

---

**From:** Cheyanne Harris <[CHarris@BrwnCald.com](mailto:CHarris@BrwnCald.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 9:31 AM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Cc:** JP Robinette <[jrobinette@sitesproject.org](mailto:jrobinette@sitesproject.org)>; Marcia Kivett <[MKivett@sitesproject.org](mailto:MKivett@sitesproject.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Sites Participant Two-Way Check Ins

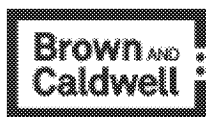
**CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Only open links from **TRUSTED** sources.

Angela,

Per my comment in today's Leadership meeting, see the below from Santa Clarita Valley regarding their request of the current operating criteria for the project/ a summary document they could review related to this.

Thanks.

**Cheyenne Harris, P.E.\***  
Brown and Caldwell  
[CHarris@brwncald.com](mailto:CHarris@brwncald.com)  
T 916.853.5349 | C 916.628.2352  
\*Professional Registration in California  
Pronouns: she/her/hers



On Feb 2, 2023, at 9:27 AM, Marcia Kivett <[MKivett@sitesproject.org](mailto:MKivett@sitesproject.org)> wrote:

I wanted to respond with the below, but then thought that question might go to Angela.

---

Great question. I am pointing that one to JP and Cheyanne.

---

**From:** Steve Cole <[scole@scvwa.org](mailto:scole@scvwa.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2023 9:22 AM  
**To:** Marcia Kivett <[MKivett@sitesproject.org](mailto:MKivett@sitesproject.org)>; Ali Elhassan <[aelhassan@scvwa.org](mailto:aelhassan@scvwa.org)>  
**Cc:** Amy Aguer <[aaguer@scvwa.org](mailto:aaguer@scvwa.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Participant Two-Way Check Ins

Thanks Marcia,

Eunie please coordinate with Marcia for Ali, Amy and myself on the dates times below.

Marcia,

Favor, could you please point us in the best direction to better understand the current operating criteria for the project, is there a summary document we could review?

**Stephen L. Cole**

*Assistant General Manager  
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency  
26501 Summit Circle  
Santa Clarita, Ca 91350  
Direct (661) 705-7915 ext. 115  
Cell (661) 810-7089  
E-Mail: [scole@scvwa.org](mailto:scole@scvwa.org)*  
<image001.jpg>  
SERVICE, COMMUNITY, VALUES

---

**From:** Marcia Kivett <[MKivett@sitesproject.org](mailto:MKivett@sitesproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2023 5:44 AM  
**To:** Steve Cole <[scole@scvwa.org](mailto:scole@scvwa.org)>; Ali Elhassan <[aelhassan@scvwa.org](mailto:aelhassan@scvwa.org)>  
**Cc:** Amy Aguer <[aaguer@scvwa.org](mailto:aaguer@scvwa.org)>  
**Subject:** Sites Participant Two-Way Check Ins

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Good Morning,

To continue preparations for financing, the staff would like to schedule a two-way individual check-in with you. This meeting will discuss your agency's informational needs for the mid-2023 soft call and to hear an update from the Sites Authority on financing activities.

Preliminary Agenda:

- Sites Authority WIFIA Application Update.
- Participant discusses preparation for financing activities.
- Participant information needs to support the mid-2023 soft call?



- Next Steps.

We also encourage you to invite your agency's finance staff to attend this meeting.

Please let me know a few options below that work with your schedule for this **30-minute** discussion.

April 4 - any time except 8:00 to 11:00 and 2:00 to 3:00

April 11 - any time before noon or at/after 3:30

April 13 - between 8:00 and 12:00 and 2:00 to 5:00

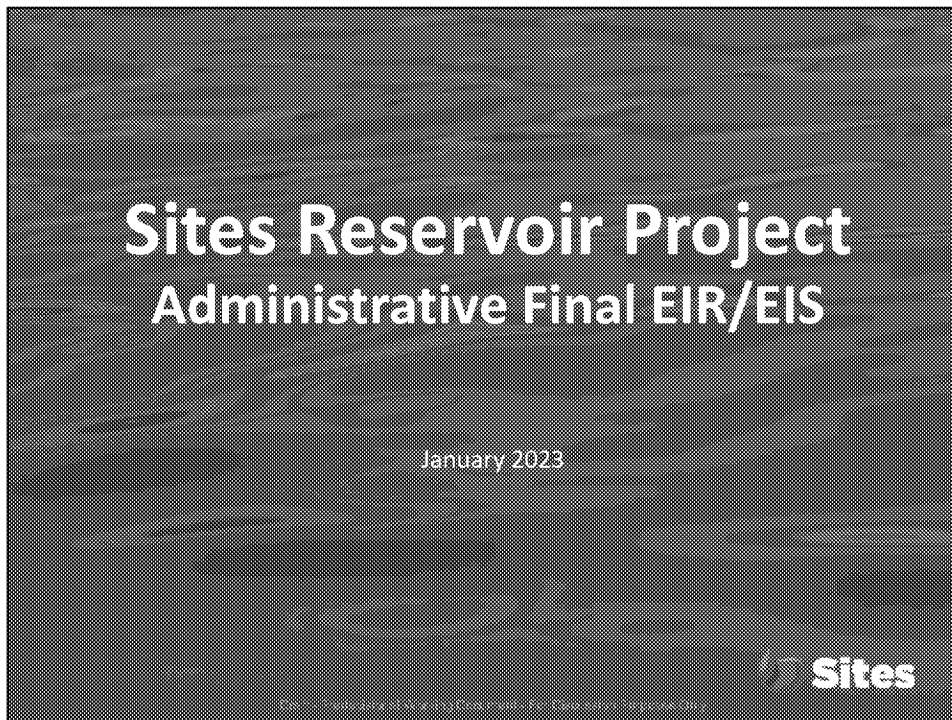
April 14 - any time starting at/after 10:30

April 26 - Any time except 3:00

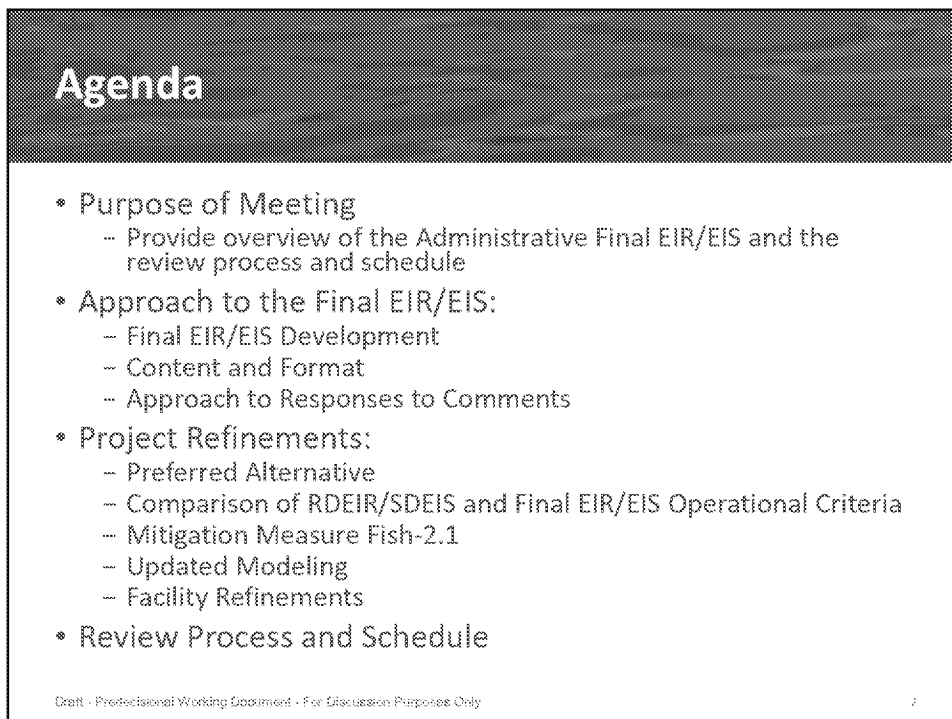
April 27 - Any time starting at/after 9:30

Thank you,

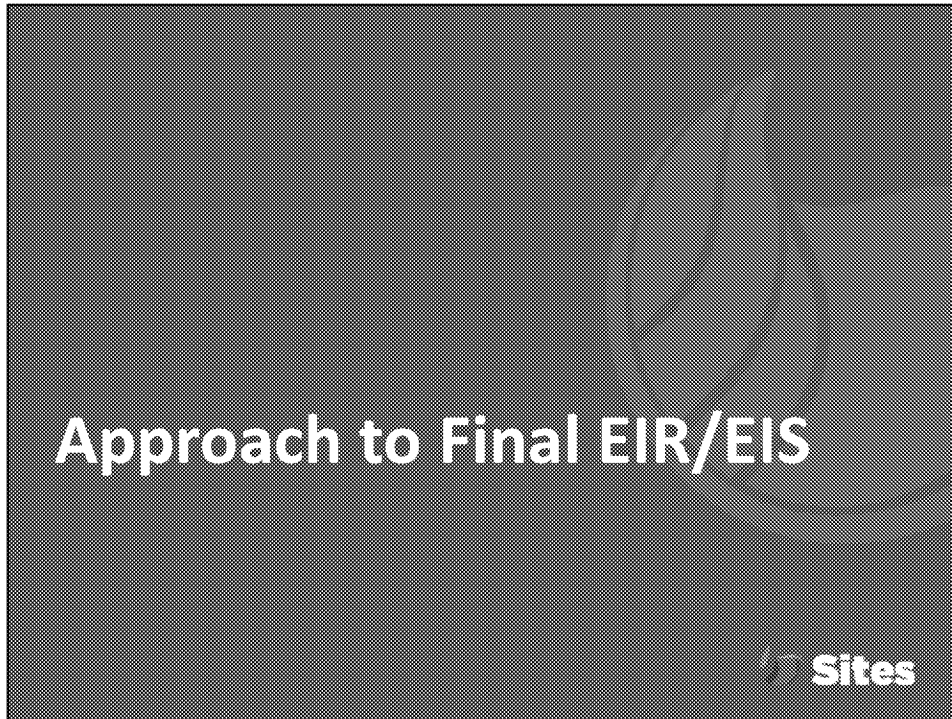
Marcia Kivett  
Sites Project Coordinator  
561.843.9740  
[mkivett@sitesproject.org](mailto:mkivett@sitesproject.org)  
P.O. Box 517  
122 Old Hwy 99W  
Maxwell, CA 95955



1



2



3

## Final EIR/EIS Development

- RDEIR/SDEIS released November 12, 2021
- Close of public review January 28, 2022
  - 101 comment letters
  - Some comments submitted in form letters and in a petition
  - Approximately 1,000 individual comments
- Efforts since RDEIR/SDEIS:
  - Identification of refinements to the Project, both facilities and operations
  - Revisions to diversion criteria and associated modeling
  - Developed master and individual responses to comments
  - Revisions to EIR/EIS text based on comment/responses and/or based on project modifications (e.g., facility changes, operation modifications)

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## Final EIR/EIS Format

- Volume 1 – Chapters
  - Include all chapters from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Volume 2 – Appendices
  - Include all appendices from RDEIR/SDEIS *with changes*
- Chapters and appendices without changes are not included
- Changes shown as
  - Admin Final – Changes shown in track changes
  - Final EIR/EIS – Changes shown as margin line only

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## Final EIR/EIS Format (continued)

- Volume 3 – Response to Comments
  - Chapter 1 – Introduction and Approach
  - Chapter 2 – Commenter Indices and Form Letter Introduction
  - Chapter 3 – Master Responses Introduction and Master Responses
  - Chapter 4 – Responses to Comments Tables
  - Appendix – Response to 2017 Comments required by NEPA

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## General Approach To Responding to Comments

- Master Responses
  - Identified common themes and comments in order to draft Master Responses
- Individual Responses
  - Prepared responses to all individual comments
  - Currently organized by topics in comment response tables
  - Individual comments and responses will be reorganized by **letter** prior to publication of the Final EIR/EIS

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## Master Response Topics

- MR1, CEQA and NEPA Process, Regulatory Requirements, and General Comments
- MR2, Alternatives Description and Baseline
- MR3, Hydrology and Hydrologic Modeling
- MR4, Water Quality
- MR5, Aquatic Biological Resources
- MR6, Vegetation, Wetland, and Wildlife Resources
- MR7, Tribal Coordination, Consultation, and Engagement
- MR8, Trinity River
- MR9, Alternatives Development

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## Chapters/Appendices with No Changes – Revised on 2/1/2023

- Chapters
  - 13, Minerals
  - 19, Noise
  - 22, Cultural Resources
  - 24, Visual Resources
  - 25, Population and Housing
- Appendix 2A, 2C, 8B, 9A, 9B, 10B, 12A, 12B, 19A, 20A, 20C, 20D, 22A, 24A, 24B, 27A, 33A, 33B, 33C

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## Project Refinements

 Sites

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## Key Differences

- Changes between RDEIR/SDEIS and Final EIR/EIS:
  - Preferred Alternative is now Alternative 3
  - Revisions to diversion criteria
  - Incorporation of Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 into Project
  - Revised modeling
  - Minor changes in facilities due to design refinements
  - Corrections or clarifications needed in response to comments
- No new or substantial greater impacts identified that would require recirculation

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## Changed to Alt 3 as Preferred Alternative

Facilities / Operations	Alternative 1 – Authority's Preferred Project in RDEIR/SDEIS	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 – Preferred Alt in the Final EIR/EIS
Reservoir Size	1.5 MAF	1.3 MAF	1.5 MAF
Hydropower	Incidental upon release	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Diversion Locations	Red Bluff Pumping Plant and Hamilton City	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Conveyance Release / Dunnigan Release	1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain	1,000 cfs into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Sacramento River. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain	Same as Alt 1
Reclamation Involvement	1. Funding Partner, up to 7% 2. Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Same as Alt 1, but up to 25% investment
DWR Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge across reservoir	Paved road around southern end of reservoir	Same as Alt 1

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## Revised Diversion Criteria

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Bend Bridge Pulse Protection	Protection of all qualified precipitation-generated pulse events (i.e., peaks in river flow rather than scheduled operational events) from October to May based on the detection of fish presence and migration during the beginning of the flow event. For each event where fish presence and migration are detected, diversions from the Sacramento River would cease for 7 days.	Similar except the following: (1) a qualified precipitation-generated pulse event is determined based on forecasted flows, (2) hourly gage monitoring at Bend Bridge gage detects the predicted flow of 8,000 cfs, and migrating anadromous fish are detected at RBDD, and (3) pulse protection may cease earlier than 7 days if flows at Bend Bridge exceed 25,320 cfs and Project diversions subtracted from Bend Bridge flows continue to be at least 25,000 cfs.
Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at the RBPP	3,250 cfs minimum bypass flow at all times; rate of diversion controlled by fish screen design.	No change
Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at the Hamilton City Pump Station	4,000 cfs minimum bypass flow at all times; rate of diversion controlled by fish screen design.	No change

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## Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough	Chapter 21 in addition to the minimum bypass flows in the Sacramento River at RBPP and the Hamilton City Pump Station, a minimum bypass flow of 5,000 cfs in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough would be in place in April and May and 5,000 cfs during the rest of the year.  Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1: 10,700 cfs in March through May; 5,000 cfs all other times.	10,700 cfs October 1 through June 14; 5,000 cfs September (not diverting from June 15 to end of August)
Fremont Weir Notch Protections	No more than 1% reduction in flow over weir when spill over the weir is less than 600 cfs. No more than a 10% reduction in flow over weir when spills over the weir are between 600 cfs and 5,000 cfs. No restriction when flows over the weir are greater than 6,000 cfs.	No longer included. Revised minimum bypass flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough and Bend Bridge pulse protection provide protections for Fremont Weir Notch.

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## Revised Diversion Criteria (Continued)

Location (Listed from North to South)	RDEIR/SDEIS with Mitigation Included	Final EIR/EIS
Sacramento River Fully Appropriated Stream	Diversion allowed only when the Sacramento River is not fully appropriated (September 1 through June 14)	No change
Excess conditions, as determined by DWR and Reclamation and defined in 2018 COA Addendum	Delta must be in excess for Sites Reservoir diversions	No change
Freeport, Net Delta Outflow Index, X2, and Delta Water Quality	Operations consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, biological opinions and incidental take permits, and court orders in place at the time that diversion occurs	No change

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## Incorporation of Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 into Project

- RDEIR/SDEIS
  - Included Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1 to reduce potential life stage effects on salmonids by increasing the bypass flow requirement at Wilkins Slough
    - Minimum bypass flow requirement of 10,700 cfs at Wilkins Slough in March-May
- Final EIR/EIS
  - Project description now incorporates the requirements of Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1, which have been refined and made more restrictive (the revised diversion criteria on the previous slide)
  - The bypass flow requirement at Wilkins Slough has been developed as an integral component of how the Project is proposed to operate in terms of its water diversion criteria
  - The modeling performed for the Final EIR/EIS includes the revised diversion criteria
  - This eliminates the need for Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1 in the Final EIR/EIS

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## Revised Modeling

- Adjustments made in the CALSIM II modeling between the RDEIR/SDEIS and the Final EIR/EIS to better represent the most up-to-date modeling procedures and actual operations, including:
  - Shasta Lake Operations – expanded exchanges to include more opportunities for fall flow stability and spring pulse enhancement
  - Deadpool Volume – reduced from generally 120 TAF to 60 TAF
  - Delta Salinity Accounting – slightly refined based on revisions to Calsim II coding
  - Period of Diversion to Sites Storage – revised to only include Sept 1 to June 14 to match water right application
  - South of Delta Water Delivery – revised to allow in any year that capacity is available (previously limited to below normal, dry and critically dry years)
  - Updates to Diversion Criteria – revised diversion criteria incorporated

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## Facility Refinements

- The RDEIR/SDEIS noted that:
  - “Preliminary design for facilities described herein will continue to be refined and modifications may occur as needed as the Project proceeds to final design and as part of the ongoing value engineering process undertaken by the Authority.”
- Admin Final EIR/EIS includes:
  - Sloped rather than vertical Inlet/Outlet (I/O) Tower
  - Single 32' diameter I/O tunnel replaces two 23' tunnels
  - Removal of two emergency release structures, eliminating emergency drawdown releases to Hunters Creek

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## Review Process and Schedule

- Starting February 1 files will be available for online review
  - Email will be sent with link to everyone invited to these meetings
- Additional files added as they are ready with all files posted by February 10
  - Additional emails sent as new files are uploaded
- Final editing and formatting not finished – its good but still working on great!
  - Focus comments on substantive issues
  - We appreciate pointing out number inconsistencies
  - Don't bother to comment on edits and format
- All comments due by February 28

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## Format for Comments

- Please provide comments in comment bubbles
- Prefer no track change edits but recommended text changes can be added in bubbles
- Prefer comments all on SharePoint so everyone can see each others comments
- If you copy/download a file for your internal agency review, please upload back onto SharePoint with your agency name on the end
  - 01\_ExecutiveSummary\_Sites
- Each person accessing SharePoint needs “individual” access

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## Where To Go With Questions

- File access issues/challenges
  - Laurie Warner Herson at [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)
- CEQA Responsible Agencies
  - Ali Forsythe at [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)
  - Laurie Warner Herson
- Reclamation staff and NEPA Cooperating Agencies
  - David Brick at [dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)
  - Allison Jacobson at [ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)

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22



23



24

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**From:** Millsap, Stephanie D [stephanie\_millsap@fws.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/24/2023 4:12:03 PM  
**To:** Hunt, Shane D [shunt@usbr.gov]; Jacobson, Allison M [ajacobson@usbr.gov]; Brick, David A [dbrick@usbr.gov]  
**CC:** Spranza, John [john.spranza@hdrinc.com]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Schoenberg, Steven [steven\_schoenberg@fws.gov]; garwin.yip [garwin.yip@noaa.gov]; Reaves, Brittany L [brittany\_reaves@fws.gov]; Stephen Maurano [stephen.maurano@noaa.gov]; Welsh, Daniel [daniel\_welsh@fws.gov]  
**Subject:** FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species RE: [EXTERNAL] Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

**Flag:** Follow up

Shane:

These comments are limited to the terrestrial species potentially affected by construction impacts.

Staff from my office have not reviewed the consultation approach for operations or any of the underlying data or models that are used to identify the effects of operations on aquatic species, such as Delta and longfin smelt, in the administrative draft BA. My understanding is that the Directors from Reclamation, USFWS, NMFS, DWR, and CDFW have recommended a programmatic approach be developed for operations of all the CVP and SWP storage and conveyance projects, including Sites reservoir. Once the approach for consultation has been determined, my office will be in a much better position to provide technical assistance regarding potential effects to aquatic species.

Additional details regarding Species Considered but Not Addressed Further should be provided:

- If parts of the project site have not been visited yet other than through aerial imagery, it is unclear how the depth of vernal pools can be accurately identified to the extent that they may eliminate federally listed species such as Greene's tuctoria (*Tuctoria greenei*), hairy Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia pilosa*), Hoover's spurge (*Euphorbia hooveri*), and slender Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia tenuis*) from evaluation.
  - Habitat models in Appendix 5P only describe habitat models for species that are analyzed in the BA.
  - In the absence of ground-truthing, more detailed explanations of how potentially suitable habitat was modeled and evaluated for these species that were eliminated from consideration would be useful in determining whether the identification of absence of habitat is accurate.

Maps of occurrence records/habitat should be included:

- there weren't any maps in the BA showing the nearest records, the 5-mile criterion seemed arbitrary and short especially for a large area which is rarely/infrequently surveyed
- Instead, I recommend including relevant maps within the document and stating where the nearest records are for each species. For example, rather than saying the nearest record of X species in CNDDB is Y miles away from the Action Area. This would be more helpful in identifying and evaluating proposed impacts to wildlife resources.
  - For instance, regarding the listed plants, Keck's and PBBBB, my first impression of the analysis was favorable but the information was incomplete; where is the 1 record of Keck's within 5 miles (not a long distance) and where are the other 6 records? How far away is the nearest record of PBBBB? (again, "none within 5 miles", isn't as informative as the actual distance - is it 6 or 60 miles?)
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- The total area of potentially affected suitable habitat appear to be overestimates that are based upon a worst-case scenario that would later be reduced after site habitat assessments, formal wetland delineations, and protocol-level biological and botanical surveys are conducted by qualified biologists
- These modeled large areas are not helpful in a consultation because it becomes more difficult to determine if the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, quantify potential take, and make it more difficult to determine whether a project effect can reasonably be compensated.

- It's better to state the modeled number then, using whatever other criteria your best professional opinion or other information you have, and state those factors (that is, don't say "my best professional opinion", but rather, say, it is my best professional opinion that factors XYZ greatly reduce the likelihood of presence over such a broad area). After this justification, provide a lower number, or range, that you feel is probable to be achieved during the eventual on-the-ground surveys.
  - For example, 12,545 acres of modeled VELB habitat is far too much that can be reasonably mitigated by any offset. Elsewhere in the BA it states the expectation "based on previous surveys" <250 shrubs would be impacted. State how this estimate was derived, and what area would be associated with it. I did note the document referenced earlier studies in the late 90s documenting 18 exit holes among 672 stems, though not within the "action area". It's not entirely clear what is meant by this; if the surveys were in a different area entirely, adjacent, or different type of habitat from that which would be impacted. This should be clarified.
  - I recommend using existing information about soils, topography, or elevational distribution of the VP species, to further refine the VP estimate. The existing estimate of 359 acres is a very large number.

Put past surveys in context:

- Listed species are routinely difficult to detect unless surveyed sufficiently, in the right way, at the right time.
- Results of past surveys in 2000, 2003, etc. for various species are included, but no additional context is provided, and no information is given regarding what surveys were actually done.
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  - Different mitigation ratios are customarily used for such occupied and unoccupied habitat; but unoccupied habitat should not imply uncompensated.
  - The way the BA treats GGS is more appropriate by proposing 3:1 regardless of occupation due to the high likelihood of presence. The habitat impact numbers are rational (1 ac aquatic; 20 ac upland) and more likely to be mitigable.

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  - Due to the extended proposed timeline of this project, it may be prudent to evaluate potential impacts to monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), which is a candidate species.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide technical assistance regarding these federally-listed terrestrial species. I hope these comments are helpful and the Service looks forward to continuing to provide input on these topics.

Sincerely,  
-Stephanie

>>> I am working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic. All calls to my office phone are being forwarded to my cellphone. <<<

\*\*\*\*\*

Stephanie Millsap, Ph.D.  
Watershed Planning Division Manager  
[stephanie\\_millsap@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_millsap@fws.gov)  
916-930-2658  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
SF Bay Delta Fish and Wildlife Office  
650 Capital Mall, Suite 8-300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

\*\*\*\*\*

---

**From:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 10:42 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Dekar, Melissa D <mdekar@usbr.gov>; Hunt, Shane D <shunt@usbr.gov>; Millsap, Stephanie D <stephanie\_millsap@fws.gov>; Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; Reaves, Brittany L <brittany\_reaves@fws.gov>; Schoenberg, Steven <steven\_schoenberg@fws.gov>; garwin.yip <garwin.yip@noaa.gov>; Stephen Maurano <stephen.maurano@noaa.gov>; Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

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appreciate your technical assistance with the further preparation of the document by providing comments and feedback on this draft and identifying any concerns or areas that need additional revision.

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Regards,  
John

 [2022-Nov Admin Draft BA](#)

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**CC:** Spranza, John [john.spranza@hdrinc.com]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Schoenberg, Steven [steven\_schoenberg@fws.gov]; garwin.yip [garwin.yip@noaa.gov]; Reaves, Brittany L [brittany\_reaves@fws.gov]; Stephen Maurano [stephen.maurano@noaa.gov]; Welsh, Daniel [daniel\_welsh@fws.gov]  
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-Stephanie

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\*\*\*\*\*

Stephanie Millsap, Ph.D.  
Watershed Planning Division Manager  
[stephanie\\_millsap@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_millsap@fws.gov)  
916-930-2658  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
SF Bay Delta Fish and Wildlife Office  
650 Capital Mall, Suite 8-300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

\*\*\*\*\*

---

**From:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 10:42 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Dekar, Melissa D <mdekar@usbr.gov>; Hunt, Shane D <shunt@usbr.gov>; Millsap, Stephanie D <stephanie\_millsap@fws.gov>; Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; Reaves, Brittany L <brittany\_reaves@fws.gov>; Schoenberg, Steven <steven\_schoenberg@fws.gov>; garwin.yip <garwin.yip@noaa.gov>; Stephen Maurano <stephen.maurano@noaa.gov>; Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

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Regards,  
John

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/11/2023 3:58:03 PM  
**To:** Spranza, John [John.Spranza@hdrinc.com]; steve.micko@jacobs.com; Hendrick, Mike [mike.hendrick@icf.com]  
**CC:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**Subject:** RE: SITES BA and NMFS comment/response discussion

This is great information. Thanks Steve.

John, lets see where the discussion goes. I'd like NMFS to articulate an impact to the species before we change the criteria. Their comment is more like, it would be nice to apply 10,700 cfs in September. Not that there is an impact to the species that they are concerned about in September.

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023 1:48 PM  
**To:** steve.micko@jacobs.com; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Hendrick, Mike <mike.hendrick@icf.com>  
**Cc:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Subject:** RE: SITES BA and NMFS comment/response discussion

Very helpful. Thank you for the quick response.

John Spranza

D 916.679.8858 M 618.640.2487

---

**From:** Micko, Steve <Steve.Micko@jacobs.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023 1:21 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>; Hendrick, Mike <mike.hendrick@icf.com>  
**Cc:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Subject:** RE: SITES BA and NMFS comment/response discussion

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Ali, John and Mike,

Following-up on Sites diversions in Septembers...  
In Alternative 3A, there are no diversions in any Septembers.

Draft\_0022458

In Alternative 3B, there is one September with Sites diversions. The volume of water diverted in that single month is 97.5 TAF.

During this month, Sac R near Wilkins Slough flow is roughly 6,000 cfs (well below 10,700 cfs).

When I remove the September diversion volume from the Alt 3B long-term average annual diversion volume, the value moves from 292 TAF to 291 TAF..

The tables below summarize this information.

Long-story short, as Ali mentioned, Sites diversions are minimal in September.

Hope this helps,  
Steve

Alternative	Count of Septembers with Sites Diversions	Total Volume of Diversions in Septembers (TAF)
Alt 3A 041122 2035CT	0	0
Alt 3B 041122 2035CT	1	97.5

Alternative	Long-term Average Annual Sites Diversions (TAF)	Modified <sup>1</sup> Long-term Average Annual Sites Diversions (TAF)	Difference (TAF)
Alt 3A 041122 2035CT	302	302	0
Alt 3B 041122 2035CT	292	291	-1

<sup>1</sup>After removal of diversions during the month of September

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Hendrick, Mike <Mike.Hendrick@icf.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 7:36 PM

**To:** Hendrick, Mike; Greenwood, Marin; Pitts, Adrian; Spranza, John; Micko, Steve; Huber, Anne; Wilder, Rick

**Cc:** Briard, Monique; Lecky, Jim

**Subject:** SITES BA and NMFS comment/response discussion

**When:** Monday, February 6, 2023 3:30 PM-5:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Refer to email sent on Wednesday February 1 at 3:47PM.

Mike H

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**Colusa County – Local Inflows to Sites Reservoir**  
**Draft – February 13, 2023**

**Summary:**

Local inflows to Sites Reservoir – Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and precipitation – will be prioritized as contribution to Colusa County’s Storage Account. This document generally summarizes the concepts to account for Colusa County’s daily storage accrual.

- Funks and Stone Corral Creek Inflows – Funks and Stone Corral Creek inflows will be credited to Colusa County’s Storage Allocation on a daily basis. Creek inflows will be measured via flow gages installed upstream, but as close as possible to the maximum reservoir surface elevation. Actual measurement device and location will be determined in the future once site access is obtained. Creek inflows will be measured on at least an hourly basis to calculate the daily inflow volume from each creek.
- Precipitation – Precipitation on the reservoir will be credited to Colusa County’s Storage Allocation on a daily basis. The Authority will install and maintain rainfall gages at appropriate locations around the reservoir.
- Evaporation and Evapotranspiration – Evaporation and evapotranspiration from the proportionate share of Colusa County’s Storage Allocation will be deducted from Colusa County’s Storage Allocation on a daily basis. Sites is evaluating the best method for calculating evaporation and evapotranspiration (if determined necessary in the development of the Operations Plan) from the reservoir. The selected method will be applied to all Sites Members.
- Downstream Releases into Funks and Stone Corral Creeks – Required releases to Funks and Stone Corral creeks downstream from Sites Reservoir are still being determined and will likely be finalized through the water right hearing process for inclusion in Sites’ water right permit. The required releases to Funks and Stone Corral creeks, as a daily volume, will be subtracted from the inflow to Sites Reservoir from these creeks. If the required release exceeds the combined Funks and Stone Corral creeks inflow on any given day, then the volume exceeding the combined creek inflow will be shared among Sites Members as determined by the Authority.
- Seepage – Seepage losses from the proportionate share of Colusa County’s Storage Allocation will be deducted from Colusa County’s Storage Allocation on a daily basis in a manner similar to the calculation of seepage losses for all members. The methodology for calculation of seepage losses, if determined necessary in the development of the Operations Plan, will be developed in the future.
- Precipitation in the Reservoir Watershed – Precipitation in the reservoir watershed will not be credited to the Colusa County’s Storage Allocation. Generally, this precipitation is assumed to largely be either (1) captured in Funks and Stone Corral creeks, and thus credited above; or (2) used by vegetation and/or infiltrate into local soils.

**Calculation:**

Colusa County's end of day total storage will be calculated as follows:

$$TS_{CC} = \min(TS_{CC-1} + D_{CC}, SA_{CC})$$

Where,

$$D_{CC} = I_{SR} + I_F + I_{SC} + P - R_{bypass} - E_{CC}$$

$TS_{CC}$  = The current day's end of day total storage in Colusa County's Storage Account;  $TS_{CC}$  is limited to the available space in Colusa County's Storage Allocation

$SA_{CC}$  = Colusa County's Storage Allocation (i.e., maximum volume of water Colusa County can have in storage in Sites Reservoir)

$D_{CC}$  = Daily Colusa County storage accrual, maximum

$I_{SR}$  = Colusa County's calculated inflow volume from Sacramento River (i.e., proportion of diversion based on percent of active storage investment)

$I_F$  = Funks Creek calculated inflow volume

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$P$  = Daily volume of precipitation on Sites Reservoir

$R_{bypass}$  = Current day's required release to Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek; if  $R_{bypass}$  is greater than the combined creek inflow ( $I_F + I_{SC}$ ), then the volume exceeding the combined creek inflow will be shared among Sites Members as determined by the Authority

$E_{CC}$  = Daily volume of evaporation proportionate to Colusa County's storage volume in Sites Reservoir

Note: All volumes are based on end of day (EOD) measurements. Additional explanation for each variable is provided below.

Funks and Stone Corral Creeks Inflow ( $I_F$  and  $I_{SC}$ )

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Precipitation and Evaporation ( $P$  and  $E_{CC}$ )

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**Commented [SJ1]:** Would we want to tie downstream gages to measure outflow?

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**From:** Jerry Brown [jbrown@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 2/13/2023 11:59:40 AM  
**To:** Marcia Kivett [MKivett@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** Re: Status Update - Agenda Packet

Thanks

1. Please add a "revision date" to the delegation of authority matrix.
2. Modified action item response

Upon completing these items I think the packet is ready to go. thanks

---

**From:** Marcia Kivett <MKivett@sitesproject.org>  
**Date:** Monday, February 13, 2023 at 11:44 AM  
**To:** Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>, Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>, Joe Trapasso <jtrapasso@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** Fw: Status Update - Agenda Packet

- 1.4 - Waiting on the updated report.
- 2.2 - Jerry's review.
- 4.2C from Angela:

When looking at conversion to storage allocation, consider extending the analysis to include 2003 to current and how future Delta operations might affect the ability to move Sites water through the Delta.	Although CalSim II only extends through 2003, current Delta operations and requirements are considered for the entire model period of WY 1922-2003. Staff will evaluate options to present information considering recent hydrology.
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**Subject:** Fw: Status Update - Agenda Packet

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- ~~4.2A - **Kevin**, do you have any items for the monthly report?~~
- ~~4.2C - Action items - **Kevin & Angela**, can you add the status to your items?~~

Action items.

When looking at conversion to storage allocation, consider extending the analysis to include 2003 to current and how future Delta operations might affect the ability to move Sites water through the Delta.	Angela
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**From:** Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2023 5:20 PM  
**To:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Marcia Kivett <MKivett@sitesproject.org>; charris@brwncald.com <charris@brwncald.com>; Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com <Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com>; mmaltby@brwncald.com <mmaltby@brwncald.com>; Sandra Yarbrough <syarbrough@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Status Update - Agenda Packet

All looks good and thank you!

---

**From:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Date:** Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 9:41 AM  
**To:** Marcia Kivett <MKivett@sitesproject.org>, "charris@brwncald.com" <charris@brwncald.com>, "Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com" <Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com>, "mmaltby@brwncald.com" <mmaltby@brwncald.com>, Sandra Yarbrough <syarbrough@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Status Update - Agenda Packet

Marcia,

3.2 has been addressed. There is some pesky highlighting on the  
3.3 has been addressed, process is ready for Jerry's review [here](#)

JP

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**From:** Marcia Kivett <MKivett@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2023 6:34 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>; Joe Trapasso <jtrapasso@sitesproject.org>; charris@brwncald.com <charris@brwncald.com>; laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>; Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>; Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com <Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com>; mmaltby@brwncald.com <mmaltby@brwncald.com>; Sandra Yarbrough <syarbrough@sitesproject.org>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
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**From:** Marcia Kivett <MKivett@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:34 AM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>; Joe Trapasso <jtrapasso@sitesproject.org>; Cathy.Westcot@hdrinc.com <Cathy.Westcot@hdrinc.com>; charris@brwncald.com <charris@brwncald.com>; laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>; Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>; Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com <Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com>; mmaltby@brwncald.com <mmaltby@brwncald.com>; Sandra Yarbrough <syarbrough@sitesproject.org>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Arsenijevic, Jelica <Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com>  
**Cc:** Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** Status Update - Agenda Packet

We are in good shape. Here are a few items to follow up on:

- 1.2 to 1.6 - adjustments after the B&F if needed.
- 3.1 - Baseline Schedule - **JP**.
- 3.3 - B & O Contract - **JP**, I wonder if your note is old and should be deleted.
- 3.4 - Cash Call - **Joe**, let me know if I can remove your note.
- 4.4A** - there are a couple of items that need to be added.
- 4.4C - Action items -**Ali, Angela, Kevin and Marcus** can you review?

Jerry is reviewing the documents today at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you.

**From:** Joe Trapasso [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D38ACFCF2D414E8F84F4921FE20C1D91-JTRAPASSO00]  
**Sent:** 2/13/2023 1:10:13 PM  
**To:** Marcia Kivett [MKivett@sitesproject.org]; Jerry Brown [jbrown@sitesproject.org]; Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** RE: Status Update - Agenda Packet

Marcia, sorry I thought you were informed that the comment Jerry requested for the Quarterly Report was done, I believe last Friday.

---

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- 4.2C - Action items - **Kevin & Angela**, can you add the status to your items?

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**From:** Marcia Kivett <[MKivett@sitesproject.org](mailto:MKivett@sitesproject.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:34 AM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Kevin Spesert <[kspesert@sitesproject.org](mailto:kspesert@sitesproject.org)>; Joe Trapasso <[jtrapasso@sitesproject.org](mailto:jtrapasso@sitesproject.org)>; [Cathy.Westcot@hdrinc.com](mailto:Cathy.Westcot@hdrinc.com) <[Cathy.Westcot@hdrinc.com](mailto:Cathy.Westcot@hdrinc.com)>; [charris@brwncald.com](mailto:charris@brwncald.com)

<charris@brwncald.com>; [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com) <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>; Spranza, John <[john.spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:john.spranza@hdrinc.com)>; [Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com](mailto:Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com) <[Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com](mailto:Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com)>; [mmaltby@brwncald.com](mailto:mmaltby@brwncald.com) <[mmaltby@brwncald.com](mailto:mmaltby@brwncald.com)>; Sandra Yarbrough <[syarbrough@sitesproject.org](mailto:syarbrough@sitesproject.org)>; JP Robinette <[jrobinette@sitesproject.org](mailto:jrobinette@sitesproject.org)>; Arsenijevic, Jelica <[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)>  
**Cc:** Jerry Brown <[jbrown@sitesproject.org](mailto:jbrown@sitesproject.org)>  
**Subject:** Status Update - Agenda Packet

We are in good shape. Here are a few items to follow up on:

- 1.2 to 1.6 - adjustments after the B&F if needed.
- 3.1 - Baseline Schedule - **JP**.
- 3.3 - B & O Contract - **JP**, I wonder if your note is old and should be deleted.
- 3.4 - Cash Call - **Joe**, let me know if I can remove your note.
- 4.4A** - there are a couple of items that need to be added.
- 4.4C - Action items -**Ali, Angela, Kevin and Marcus** can you review?

Jerry is reviewing the documents today at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you.

# Real Estate Team

## Weekly Check-In – Agenda



*Our Core Values – Safety, Trust and Integrity, Respect for Local Communities, Environmental Stewardship, Shared Responsibility and Shared Benefits, Accountability and Transparency, Proactive Innovation, Diversity and Inclusivity*  
*Our Commitment – To live up to these values in everything we do*

### Meeting Information:

**Date:** February 13, 2023      **Location:** Virtual – Microsoft Teams  
**Start Time:** 2:00 p.m.      **Finish Time:** 3:00 p.m.  
**Purpose:** Real Estate Team – Weekly Check-In

### Meeting Participants:

Kevin Spesert	Jeff Mathews	Trishna Patel
Conner McDonald	Caitlin Nielsen	

### Agenda:

Discussion Topic	Topic Leader
1. Overview and Opening Comments	Kevin
2. Field Work – Previous Week’s Recap <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. FNK-B-016, FNK-B-015 -- Completed</li> <li>b. HM-B-002b - postponed</li> </ul>	Conner / All
3. Field Work – Current and Upcoming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Appx March 1-3 - TCCA Geologic Mapping</li> <li>b. March - TCCA TRR-B-025</li> </ul>	Conner / All
4. Landowner Engagement – Recap, Current Engagement, Look-Ahead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Red Stick Conner working with John, Jelica for specific Environmental Scope, Schedule, Locations, Expectations</li> <li>b. Wells Ranch Conner working with John, Jelica for specific Environmental Scope, Schedule, Locations, Expectations</li> <li>c. Banyan -- Conner working with John and Jelica for specific Environmental Scope, Schedule, Locations, Expectations; Eagle Permit still pending - anticipated between 4/1 and 5/1; Cattle on both parcels; coordinating meeting with Landowner</li> <li>d. LaGrande - Figures in Process</li> <li>e. Owens - Discussing with Jeriann re Insurance, Re-Seeding, Gravel</li> <li>f. Jensen</li> <li>g. Kellogg</li> </ul>	Conner / Jeff / All

5. Local Coordination – Recap, Current Engagement, Look-Ahead	Conner / Jeff / All
a. USBR / TCCA – Funks Coordination With Don Babb	
b. GCID Coordination – Geotech Work Package 2	
b. Reservoir Re-Filling	
6. Right-of-Way Manual	Conner / Jeff / Trishna
a. Conner and Jeff will be working to finish Draft by March 3	
7. Project Team – Interdisciplinary Coordination	Conner / All
a. Engineering Team -- Roadway Design Meeting - March 1	
b. Environmental Team – Coordination with John, Jelica	
c. Cultural Team - Previous Week Meeting	
d. Construction Traffic -- Truck Circulation	
g. Land Survey - Field Work - Georeferenced Locations -- Sutton Road, Wadleigh Road, Maxwell-Sites, Old Highway 99, I-5 -- pending Controls approval -- Field Work in late Winter / early Spring?	
8. Administrative	Conner
9. Open Discussion	All
10. Action-Item Recap	Caitlin
11. Next Steps	Kevin / Conner / All
12. Closing Thoughts	Kevin











Number	Owner	County	Schedule Work Package 2-1/23 to 6/30/23	Activities
1	USA TCCA Government	Colusa	Work Package 2.01 - Start Timeframe of January 2023	2 Geo Mapping; 1 Seismic Line; 13 Borings
2	GCID Canal	Colusa	Work Package 2.02 - Start Timeframe of February 2023	2 CPTs
3	Sites Park Recreation Association	Colusa	Work Package 2.03 - Start Timeframe of March 2023	1 Test Pit
4	Red Stick Farms, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 2.04 - Start Timeframe of April 2023	5 Seismic Lines; 7 Borings; 1 Trench; 4 Test Pits; 1 Dozer Line
5	Banyan Transport Systems	Colusa	Work Package 2.05 - Start Timeframe of May 2023	1 Geo Mapping; 7 Seismic Lines; 12 Borings; 2 Trenches; 1 Test Pit

Number	Owner	County	Schedule Work Package 3 - 7/1/23 to 12/31/23	Activities
1	Wells, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 3.07	2 Geo Mapping; 1 Seismic Line; 4 Borings; 2 Trenches; 9 Test Pits
2	Owens, Glenn County	Glenn	Work Package 3.07	
3	Holthouse, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 3.08	3 CPTs; 7 Borings
4	Tays Frank P & Marilyn E Family 15 Revoc Tr	Colusa	Work Package 3.09	Geologic Mapping
5	Cody Arnold, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 3.10	1 Geo Mapping; 6 Seismic Lines; 5 Borings; 3 Test Pits
6	GCID Canal	Colusa	Work Package 3.10	5 CPTs; 2 Borings
7	Jensen, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 3.11	2 Geo Mapping; 11 Seismic Lines; 14 Borings
8	USA TCCA Government	Yolo	Work Package 3.11	1 Geo Mapping; 1 CPT; 2 Borings
9	Yolo County Bird Creek Drainage	Yolo	Work Package 3.11	1 Boring
10	Mumma, Yolo County	Yolo	Work Package 3.12	1 Geo Mapping; 1 CPT; 2 Borings

Kellogg → SB-TP-008 → Eagle Area → Yes



DNG-B-005	
DNG-B-005	
FID	9
Explorer	DNG-B-005
Work_Pack	Work Package 3
Priority	P1A
Location	DNG
Objective	franchise crossing design; material properties; pipeline excavation and backfill; groundwater
Criteria	Piezometer
Explorer_1	Mad Rotary
Access	
Est_Depth	50

DNG-C-002	
DNG-C-002	
FID	15
Explorer	DNG-C-002
Work_Pack	Work Package 3
Priority	P1A
Location	DNG
Objective	Paired with DNG-B-006; material properties; franchise crossing; inspection check; corrosive strata
Criteria	Grout
Explorer_1	Selermic CPT
Access	
Est_Depth	50

DNG-B-006	
DNG-B-006	
FID	19
Explorer	DNG-B-006
Work_Pack	Work Package 3
Priority	P1A
Location	DNG
Objective	franchise crossing design; material properties; pipeline excavation; and backfill; paired with DNG-C-002
Criteria	Grout
Explorer_1	Mad Rotary
Access	
Est_Depth	50





DNG-B-007	
	DNG-B-007
FID	11
Exploratio	DNG-B-007
Work_Packa	Work Package 3
Priority	P14
Location	DNG
Objective	trenchless crossing design, material properties, pipe excavation and backfill, groundwater
Criteria	Piezometer
Exploratio_1	Mud Rotary
Access	
Est_Depth	50

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**From:** JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 2/14/2023 8:49:03 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**CC:** Cheyanne Harris [charris@brwnald.com]  
**Subject:** Re: Sites Diversions for GCID  
**Attachments:** 2023-01-25 Potential Diversions from Sites Historical WAA Tool.xlsx

Hi Ali,

I am good with you sharing the attached along with your notes. Please cc Cheyanne and me. Note that we are developing a work plan with GCID to reimburse them for these efforts, so this will fit into one of those tasks.

JP

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 2:15 PM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Diversions for GCID

This is really good. Thanks Angela!

JP – Do you want me to send this onto Thad and Greg? A few additional notes, written as though I am sending them to GCID below.

A few things I note on this in addition to Angela’s notes --

1. The models have perfect foresight and perfect accuracy. We should discuss what increments GCID can operate to with what accuracy so we can have an understanding of the operational framework.
2. In the daily data, we generally see diversions come on, ramp up to the full 2,000 cfs quickly (in a day or 2) and then hold for a few days, weeks, month or slightly more. The modeling shows diversions of only a day or 2 in some cases but, in real life, we’re not sure that these are realistic. We should discuss the “minimum” length of time that we’d want to divert at GCID to make it effective and efficient for all of us.

We’re still working on the daily model, which will continue to provide more insight. I wouldn’t expect it to be substantially different than the attached, but once we have it, we’ll send it over. After that, we should likely set up another meeting in the following couple of weeks to continue the dialogue.

We’d also love to continue to take you up on a fish screen/pumping plant/headworks tour. Could we schedule this middle to end of March? Maybe with our next meeting?

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 5:21 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** Sites Diversions for GCID

Hi Ali & JP –

I have been going back through task lists and found a note to provide the modeled diversions to GCID. The attached file contains diversions from two of the water availability analyses.

The Historical Analysis provides daily diversions at each diversion facility during January 1, 2000 through September 30, 2020. Results from two scenarios are provided: 1) “Including Face Value Demands” which was submitted with the water right application and includes a conservation assumption that all water right holders are diverting their maximum allowed diversion rate every day, and 2) “No Face Value Demands” which does not layer in the face value assumption and calculated the potential diversion for each day based on historical flows and diversion criteria only.

The CalSim Analysis provides the monthly diversions at each diversion facility during Water Years 1922-2003. Results are for Alternative 3A for the historical hydrology and 2035 CT climate change, and for Alternative 3 for the 2070 CT climate change.

It is important to note that under both analyses diversions at the TCC facility are prioritized; however, that may not always be the case under actual operations. So the TCC, GCID, and Total diversions should be looked at together to evaluate the potential of diversions at each facility. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like me to send this to Thad.

Thanks,  
Angela

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**From:** Wesley Walker <walker@mbkengineers.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 11:36 AM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Subject:** Sites Diversions

**Wesley Walker, P.E.**  
**MBK Engineers**  
455 University Avenue, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
Phone: (916) 456-4400  
Cell: (714) 350-6184  
Fax: (916) 456-0253

**File Provided Natively**

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**From:** Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 2/14/2023 10:47:44 AM  
**To:** Jamie [jamie@tnpfarms.com]  
**Subject:** Re: Sites Mitigation

Wow...thank you for the heads-up!

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**From:** Jamie <jamie@tnpfarms.com>  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 10:46 AM  
**To:** Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** Sites Mitigation

Hi Kevin,

I wanted to let you know T&P Farms was contacted by Forest Halford (card attached) regarding selling rangeland into a conservation easement with his company. When he came to look at the hill ground (west of Arbuckle and west of Dunnigan) he brought the attached map and left it in Tom's pickup. The gist of his proposal is to get like and kind land under easement now so he can sell the mitigation acreage to Sites after the biological studies are complete. Tom and Perry would rather work directly with Sites if their rangeland outside of the Sites footprint is suitable to help with mitigation. I just wanted you to know that everyone on the attached list is likely being contacted by Natural Resources Group, Inc.

Jamie

T & P FARMS  
P. O. Box 83  
Arbuckle, CA 95912

(530) 476-3137 ext. #1006

---

**From:** Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 2/14/2023 11:24:02 AM  
**To:** jeff@cmdwest.com  
**Subject:** FW: Sites Mitigation  
**Attachments:** DOC290.pdf; DOC289.pdf

---

**From:** Jamie <jamie@tnpfarms.com>  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 10:46 AM  
**To:** Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** Sites Mitigation

Hi Kevin,

I wanted to let you know T&P Farms was contacted by Forest Halford (card attached) regarding selling rangeland into a conservation easement with his company. When he came to look at the hill ground (west of Arbuckle and west of Dunnigan) he brought the attached map and left it in Tom's pickup. The gist of his proposal is to get like and kind land under easement now so he can sell the mitigation acreage to Sites after the biological studies are complete. Tom and Perry would rather work directly with Sites if their rangeland outside of the Sites footprint is suitable to help with mitigation. I just wanted you to know that everyone on the attached list is likely being contacted by Natural Resources Group, Inc.

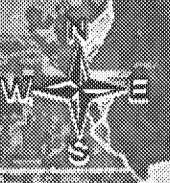
Jamie

T & P FARMS  
P. O. Box 83  
Arbuckle, CA 95912





















































(530) 476-3137 ext. #1006

# Sites Reservoir Mitigation Glenn & Colusa Counties Foothill Ranches over 3000 acres

Tehama County



## Legend

-  Sites Reservoir
-  Glenn-Colusa & Tehama-Colusa Canal
-  Pipeline Intake & Drainage
-  B & G RANCHES LP A CA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
-  B I GLENN LLC
-  BAKER GLENN G TR ET AL
-  BARTHEL'S RICHARD P & MCCULLOUGH JEANMARIE TR ET AL
-  BEAR VALLEY RANCH LLC A CA LLC
-  BEE GREEN VALLEY LLC
-  BIG W RANCH CORP
-  BOREL ALEXANDER A
-  COLUSA BASIN DRAINAGE DIST
-  COLUSA INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEV
-  DENNIS JEANNETTE S & NIESEN LORILEE D JT WROS
-  ELWORTHY JEAN R TRS
-  FAVERO PAUL & JERALYN K CP ET AL
-  FOLEY PATRICK TRS
-  FOLEY RANCHES
-  FROST JAMES R
-  GILLILAND DAVID RON & THERESE JANE FAM LIVING TR
-  H J & C NYE LLC
-  H J & S SWAN LLC
-  HOLTHOUSE TIC LLC AN OREGON LLC
-  HUMANE FARMING ASSOCIATION
-  JENNINGS RICHARD L
-  K CUBED LAND & CATTLE LLC
-  KEEGAN MATTHEW JAMES III
-  KING LINDA A ET
-  KNIGHT JOHN RICHARD S/S KNIGHT ALICE BAILEY TRS
-  LELYS GP
-  LOGAN LAND & STOCK CO
-  M & R LAGRANDE A CA GENERAL CORPORATION
-  MAST FAMILY PARTNERSHIP
-  MATHIS RANCHES LLC A CA LLC
-  MILANO LAND & CATTLE CO LLC
-  MURPHY RAYMOND
-  ORLAND ALMONDS ACQUISITION COMPANY LLC
-  OWENS EDWARD R & OWENS KAREN A TRS ETAL
-  PARKER DOUGLAS E & JUDY A FAMILY TR
-  REIMERS HOLLIS E TRS
-  SILLER ANDREA M S/S
-  SPRING VALLEY RANCH PARTNERSHIP A CA GENERAL PARTN
-  STEELE CAROLYN M ET AL
-  STEIDLMEYER J PETER
-  STONE VALLEY LAND & CATTLE LLC
-  STONY CREEK RANCH LLC
-  STONYFORD RANCH LLC
-  STRAIN FREDERICK S & VALERIE L TRUSTEE
-  T & P FARM A CA GENERAL PARTNERSHIP
-  TRAYNHAM LEE V TR TRAYNHAM FAM MARITAL TR C ET AL
-  TURTLE CREEK RANCH LLC
-  VOGT CHESTER N JR TRS



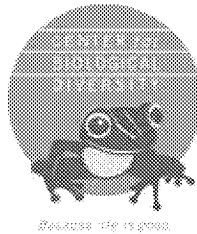
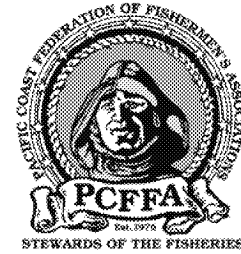
Glenn County

Colusa County



Created 04/26/2022 NRG





January 15, 2018

Jim Watson  
Sites Project Authority  
P.O. Box 517  
Maxwell, CA 95955

Michael Dietl  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825

*Sent via email to: [EIR-EIS-Comments@SitesProject.org](mailto:EIR-EIS-Comments@SitesProject.org)*

**Re: Comments on Sites Reservoir Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report**

Dear Mr. Watson and Mr. Dietl,

This letter is submitted as the comments of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Defenders of Wildlife, The Bay Institute, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Institute for Fisheries Resources, Center for Biological Diversity, and Golden Gate Salmon Association on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Sites Reservoir Project ("DEIS/DEIR"). Our organizations have worked for decades to improve the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta and its watershed, and are dedicated to protecting and restoring fish and wildlife populations and habitats that the proposed Sites Reservoir Project would affect. Our organizations have not taken a formal position on the Sites Reservoir project, in large part because of the absence of reliable information regarding potential impacts on fish and wildlife beneficial uses in the estuary and watershed, including potential impacts to several species on the brink of extinction.

To evaluate the potential impacts and benefits of this project, it is essential that the DEIS/DEIR provides a meaningful and accurate assessment of the project's potential effects. After reviewing the DEIS/DEIR, however, we are concerned that the document suffers from several flaws that substantially undermine its informational value for decision makers and the public. Among other problems, the DEIS/DEIR fails to consider a reasonable range of alternatives, uses an inaccurate environmental baseline, and does not adequately assess climate change impacts. It also fails to adequately analyze impacts to aquatic species like Chinook salmon, Delta smelt, and longfin smelt, and terrestrial species like giant garter snakes and migratory birds, fails to disclose significant impacts of the project to these and other species, and inappropriately defers the formulation of mitigation measures. Because the modifications necessary to remedy these and other flaws are substantial and the revised document will include significant new information, the revised DEIS/DEIR should be recirculated in order to provide the public with a more meaningful opportunity to assess the project's impacts and submit comments.

### **I. The DEIS/DEIR Fails to Consider a Reasonable Range of Alternatives**

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") require that the DEIS/DEIR consider a reasonable range of alternatives. Cal. Pub. Res. Code §§ 21002, 21061, 21100; tit. 14, Cal. Code Regs. ("CEQA Guidelines") § 15126.6; 42 U.S.C. § 4332; 40 C.F.R. §§ 1502.1, 1502.14, 1508.25(b). However, the DEIS/DEIR fails to consider a reasonable range of alternatives because it only considers a single operational alternative, whereas other operational alternatives could reduce or avoid adverse environmental impacts.<sup>1</sup> The failure to include any operational alternatives that could reduce or avoid adverse environmental impacts violates NEPA and CEQA. See, e.g., *Citizens of Goleta Valley v. Board of Supervisors*, 52 Cal.3d 553, 566 (1990) (EIR must consider a reasonable range of alternatives that offer substantial environmental benefits and may feasibly be accomplished); *Muckleshoot Indian Tribe v. U.S. Forest Serv.*, 177 F.3d 800, 813 (9th Cir. 1999) (NEPA analysis failed to consider reasonable range of alternatives where it "considered only a no action alternative along with two virtually identical alternatives"); *Natural Res. Def. Council v. U.S. Forest Serv.*, 421 F.3d 797, 813 (9th Cir. 2005).

Alternatives that result in comparatively reduced water diversions from the Sacramento River (particularly during all but Wet water year types and during periods of moderate and low flows) are reasonable and feasible, would result in reduced adverse effects on native fish and wildlife in the Sacramento River and Bay-Delta estuary, and should have been evaluated in the DEIS/DEIR. The best available science shows that increased flows in the Sacramento River during the winter-

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<sup>1</sup> In addition, the DEIS/DEIR improperly claims that it tiers off of the 2000 CALFED ROD. See DEIS/DEIR at 1-10. This is improper because the CALFED program was superseded by other entities nearly a decade ago, and the programmatic environmental review of CALFED is outdated and inconsistent with more recent scientific information. Reliance on the eighteen-year old CALFED ROD and programmatic EIS/EIR is inappropriate.

spring period and increased Delta outflows are necessary to protect and restore native fish and wildlife populations and their habitats and comply with state and federal law.<sup>2</sup>

Several commenters, including NRDC *et al* and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”), submitted NEPA/CEQA scoping comments specifically stating that the DEIS/DEIR must analyze more than one operational alternative in order to identify alternatives that would minimize or avoid adverse environmental impacts of the project. NRDC *et al*’s scoping comments stated that the DEIS/DEIR should evaluate one or more operational scenarios that do not result in substantial reductions in Delta outflow during the winter and spring months, as well as one or more operational alternatives that result in increased Delta outflow during these months. CDFW’s scoping comments directed that several operational scenarios should be analyzed, including one that was consistent with the water operational requirements being proposed for the California WaterFix project<sup>3</sup> and another that would fully minimize operational impacts. Moreover, in 2016 and 2017, CDFW submitted potential operational criteria to the project proponents that included Sacramento River bypass flows and Delta outflow requirements that were designed to reduce adverse environmental impacts of the project on salmon, sturgeon, longfin smelt, Delta smelt, and other native fish species. *See* Exhibit A.<sup>4</sup>

However, none of these proposed operational criteria were evaluated in the DEIS/DEIR. Instead, the DEIS/DEIR only analyzes a single operational scenario in the alternatives that are analyzed. *See, e.g.*, DEIS/DEIR at 3-102, 105-107. As discussed on the pages that follow, that operational scenario results in significant adverse environmental impacts and could not lawfully be permitted by state and federal agencies. As a result, the DEIS/DEIR violates NEPA and CEQA because it fails to consider a reasonable range of alternatives.

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<sup>2</sup> As the DEIS/DEIR mentions, the State Water Resources Control Board (“SWRCB”) is updating the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, and the SWRCB’s 2016 draft scientific basis report recommends increasing Sacramento River flows and Delta outflow to protect native fish and wildlife. *See* DEIS/DEIR at 2-12. The SWRCB’s final scientific basis report was peer reviewed and released to the public in October 2017, and it also recommends increased Delta outflow to protect fish and wildlife. The DEIS/DEIR should evaluate one or more operational alternatives that are consistent with the flow recommendations in the final scientific basis report, such as an alternative that requires Sacramento River flows and Delta outflows that are 65 percent and 75 percent of unimpaired flow (while meeting existing summer/fall outflow requirements of D-1641, and the 2008 Delta Smelt biological opinion).

<sup>3</sup> For instance, the final California Endangered Species Act (“CESA”) permit for the California WaterFix project prohibits diversions from the Delta when Delta outflows are less than 44,500 cfs during the months of March, April and May, and the CESA permit and NMFS biological opinion require cessation of diversions from the North Delta when salmon are migrating in the lower Sacramento River and flows in the lower Sacramento River are less than 35,000 cfs.

<sup>4</sup> The documents provided by CDFW that are included as Exhibit A were obtained pursuant to a California Public Records Act request filed by NRDC in 2017.



In addition, NRDC *et al* and others submitted NEPA/CEQA scoping comments stating that the DEIS/DEIR must consider one or more alternatives that did not include a surface water reservoir and instead relied on groundwater storage, conjunctive use, and/or reoperation of reservoirs to improve water supplies and ecosystem protection. Such an alternative would likely cost dramatically less money to construct and operate, and could result in lower environmental impacts, making it a potentially feasible and reasonable alternative. However, the DEIS/DEIR failed to consider such an alternative, in violation of NEPA and CEQA.

## **II. The Bureau of Reclamation has Violated the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act in Preparing the DEIS/DEIR**

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (“FWCA”) requires that the Bureau of Reclamation consult with and fully consider recommendations from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“FWS”), National Marine Fisheries Service (“NMFS”), and CDFW regarding potential project alternatives and mitigation measures that could reduce or mitigate adverse environmental impacts. 16 U.S.C. §§ 661 *et seq.* The FWCA also requires the Bureau of Reclamation to include the mandatory FWCA report as part of the DEIS/DEIR. *Id.* § 662. The FWCA report must estimate wildlife benefits and losses from the potential project, *id.* § 662(f), and must include proposed measures to reduce or avoid such impacts, *id.* § 662(a)-(b). The DEIS/DEIR acknowledges the duty to consult with state and federal fish and wildlife agencies pursuant to the FWCA. DEIS/DEIR at 4-11. However, the DEIS/DEIR does not include the mandatory FWCA report, fails to consider the recommendations of CDFW, *see* Exhibit A, and fails to demonstrate that the Bureau of Reclamation consulted with FWS and NMFS as required by the FWCA. Indeed, the DEIS/DEIR states that, “FWS will coordinate with CDFW and NMFS and solicit recommendations for the action agency to consider for the conservation or improvement of fish and wildlife habitat for any or all species during the life of the project.” DEIS/DEIR at 4-11. If the Bureau of Reclamation had consulted with NMFS as required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the DEIS/DEIR could have evaluated the Sacramento River flow criteria that NMFS has prepared in order to reduce or avoid impacts to salmon. *See* Exhibit B.<sup>5</sup>

In preparing the DEIS/DEIR, the Bureau of Reclamation has violated the FWCA by failing to include the mandatory FWCA report, failing to demonstrate consultation with federal fish and wildlife agencies, and by failing to meaningfully consider the recommendations of CDFW. In order to comply with the FWCA, the DEIS/DEIR must be revised to meaningfully consider the recommendations of state and federal wildlife agencies and to include the mandatory FWCA report. Because the Bureau of Reclamation has deprived the public of the opportunity to review the FWCA report during the public comment period on the DEIS, Reclamation must reopen the public comment period upon release of the required report.

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<sup>5</sup> The presentation from NMFS that is included as Exhibit B was obtained pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act request filed by NRDC in 2017.

### III. The DEIS/DEIR Fails to Use an Accurate Environmental Baseline to Evaluate Potential Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Project

Under both NEPA and CEQA, the DEIS/DEIR must evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the project as compared to the existing environmental conditions (the “environmental baseline”), so that the Project’s environmental impacts can be meaningfully analyzed and compared to alternatives. 40 C.F.R. § 1502.15; CEQA Guidelines § 15125(a); *see County of Amador v. El Dorado County Water Agency*, 76 Cal.App.4th 931, 952 (1999); *Neighbors for Smart Rail v. LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority*, 57 Cal. 4th 310, 315 (2013). In general, the environmental conditions at the time the Notice of Preparation (“NOP”) are issued constitute the environmental baseline. CEQA Guidelines § 15125(a). However, when an analysis based on existing conditions would be misleading to the public, CEQA requires use of a different baseline in order to give the public and decision makers the most accurate analysis of the project’s likely impacts. *Neighbors for Smart Rail*, 57 Cal. 4th at 449, 457. In particular, when environmental conditions will be improved in the near future as compared to existing conditions, the use of the existing conditions baseline would be misleading and contrary to CEQA. *Id.* at 453, fn. 5.

In this instance, substantial evidence demonstrates that the use of the existing baseline conditions, which excludes mandatory permit conditions imposed to protect the environment, misleads the public and decision makers as to the actual environmental impacts, and that in this case the environmental impacts should be assessed against an environmental baseline that includes these regulatory requirements. *See Communities for a Better Environment v. South Coast Air Management District*, 48 Cal.4th 310, 322-326, 328 (2010); *Neighbors for Smart Rail*, 57 Cal. 4th at 451-453. The environmental baseline used in the DEIS/DEIR fails to include several existing permit requirements that were imposed before issuance of the NOP, and which will be implemented before the proposed project could be constructed and operational in 2030.

Most importantly, the environmental baseline in the DEIS/DEIR fails to include the proposed amendment to Action Suite I.2 of the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative in the 2009 NMFS biological opinion (“Revised Shasta RPA”).<sup>6</sup> The Revised Shasta RPA was adopted because the best available science showed that the existing RPA actions were failing to prevent Central Valley Project (“CVP”) operations from jeopardizing the continued existence of Endangered Species Act (“ESA”)-listed salmon and did not use the best available science. The Revised Shasta RPA makes significant changes in CVP operations at Shasta Dam, including requirements that the Bureau of Reclamation maintain higher storage in Shasta reservoir (imposing minimum water storage requirements for the end of April and end of September), as well as colder water temperature requirements in the Sacramento River necessary to protect winter run Chinook

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<sup>6</sup> The Revised Shasta RPA is available online at: [http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/Central\\_Valley/Water%20Operations/nmfs\\_draft\\_proposed\\_2017\\_rpa\\_amendment\\_-\\_january\\_19\\_2017.pdf](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/Central_Valley/Water%20Operations/nmfs_draft_proposed_2017_rpa_amendment_-_january_19_2017.pdf) and is incorporated by reference.

salmon. The Revised Shasta RPA was issued by NMFS on January 19, 2017, and the NOP for the Sites Reservoir project was issued on January 23, 2017. However, the DEIS/DEIR fails to include compliance with the Revised Shasta RPA in the environmental baseline. *See* DEIS/DEIR, Appendix 6A, at 6A-1. As compared to the modeling in the DEIS/DEIR, the Revised Shasta RPA would result in significantly higher reservoir storage in Shasta Reservoir, would maintain a greater volume of cold water for salmonids, and would result in colder water in the Sacramento River during the summer and fall months. *See, e.g.*, NMFS-Reclamation Stakeholder Workshop #3, Shasta RPA Draft Proposed Amendment, June 22, 2017, attached as Exhibit C. Modeling in the DEIS/DEIR shows that baseline conditions and alternatives would not achieve the minimum Shasta reservoir storage requirements under the Revised Shasta RPA. *See, e.g.*, DEIS/DEIR, Appendix 6B, at Table SW-07-3a. Implementation of the Revised Shasta RPA may also result in lower Sacramento River flows during some years, and the proposed project could cause environmental impacts by further reducing flows in the Sacramento River. Because the DEIS/DEIR fails to include these updated permit conditions in the environmental baseline, the DEIS/DEIR misleads the public and decision makers of the potential environmental impacts of the Sites Reservoir project.

Second, the environmental baseline in the DEIS/DEIR fails to include compliance with the Shasta RPA action in the NMFS 2009 biological opinion. *See* DEIS/DEIR, Appendix 6A, at 6A-8. The RPA action in the 2009 biological opinion is a mandatory permit condition that provides substantial environmental benefits for salmon, even if the RPA action (prior to the 2017 amendment) was insufficient to prevent CVP/State Water Project (“SWP”) operations from jeopardizing the continued existence of winter run Chinook salmon. As a result, modeling of Shasta Reservoir water storage levels and Sacramento River water temperatures in the DEIS/DEIR fail to comply with the requirements of the 2009 Shasta RPA action. *See, e.g.*, DEIS/DEIR, Appendix 6B, at Table SW-07-3a. By failing to ensure that the environmental baseline in the DEIS/DEIR includes existing permit terms and conditions, the DEIS/DEIR fails to adequately assess environmental impacts of the proposed project and fails to disclose potentially significant adverse impacts.

Third, the environmental baseline in the DEIS/DEIR appears to omit compliance with the permit obligation of the CVP and SWP to restore floodplain habitat in the Yolo Bypass, including modifications to the Fremont Weir to increase the frequency of inundation, pursuant to the 2009 NMFS biological opinion. The federal Notice of Intent for this project was published in the Federal Register on March 4, 2013, and in December 2017 the Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Water Resources released a DEIS/DEIR for the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration & Fish Passage project.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> That DEIS/DEIR is available online at: [https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_details.php?Project\\_ID=30484](https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_project_details.php?Project_ID=30484) and is incorporated by reference.

Appendix 12N of the DEIS/DEIR evaluates potential changes to the extent and frequency of inundating floodplain habitat in the Yolo Bypass. However, as the table below demonstrates, the data presented in Appendix 12N is inconsistent with data on the frequency and extent of inundation of the Yolo Bypass that the Bureau of Reclamation prepared as part of the California WaterFix project (the latter assumes completion of the Yolo Bypass restoration project as required by the 2009 NMFS biological opinion). *Compare* DEIS/DEIR, Appendix 12N, at Table SF-1a with California WaterFix draft biological assessment, June 2017, Appendix 5A, Attachment 4, at Table 5.A.A.4-5.<sup>8</sup>

	Fremont Weir spills greater than 3,000 cfs that last > 30 days under No Action Alternative
DEIS/DEIR, Appendix 12N, Table SF-1a	21 years
WaterFix Biological Assessment, June 2017, Appendix 5A, Attachment 4, at Table 5.A.A.4-5	70 years with notched weir

Because the DEIS/DEIR appears to exclude the notched weir, it fails to accurately assess the frequency, duration and extent of floodplain inundation in the Yolo Bypass under no action alternatives as well as under the proposed project and action alternatives. As discussed *supra*, reductions in floodplain inundation as a result of the project are likely to cause significant adverse effects on salmon. The DEIS/DEIR therefore fails to provide the public and decisionmakers with accurate information about the effect of the proposed project on floodplain inundation in the Yolo Bypass.

In addition, the DEIS/DEIR uses a flawed environmental baseline because it fails to accurately model compliance with the Fall X2 action in the 2008 Delta Smelt biological opinion. The Fall X2 action requires that the CVP and SWP “provide sufficient Delta outflow to maintain average X2 for September and October no greater (more eastward) than 74 km in the fall following wet years and 81km in the fall following above normal years.” 2008 FWS biological opinion at 369.<sup>9</sup> The biological opinion requires that “[t]he monthly average X2 must be maintained at or seaward of these values for each individual month and not averaged over the two month period.” *Id.* However, the modeling of the environmental baseline and alternatives in the DEIS/DEIR

<sup>8</sup> That biological assessment is available online at: [http://cms.capitoltechsolutions.com/ClientData/CaliforniaWaterFix/uploads/App\\_5.A\\_CALSIM.pdf](http://cms.capitoltechsolutions.com/ClientData/CaliforniaWaterFix/uploads/App_5.A_CALSIM.pdf) and is incorporated by reference.

<sup>9</sup> In general, the monthly Delta outflow necessary to achieve these X2 requirements is approximately 11,400 cfs (wet) and 7,100 cfs (above normal), although the specific amounts of outflow necessary will depend on multiple factors including antecedent conditions (the location of X2 prior to imposition of the Fall X2 RPA action).

fails to achieve the Fall X2 requirements in the month of October. *See, e.g.*, DEIS/DEIR, Appendix 6B at Table SW-30-3a; DEIS/DEIR, Appendix 12G at 12G-2.

Finally, the DEIS/DEIR uses a flawed environmental baseline because it assumes full contract deliveries to Sacramento River Settlement Contractors, resulting in higher diversions from the Sacramento River. To our knowledge, the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors have never utilized their full contract amounts, and have diverted significantly less water than the full contract amounts. Data from the Bureau of Reclamation indicates that during 2009-2014, these contractors never diverted more than 75 percent of their full contract amounts. *See* Bureau of Reclamation, Water Delivered 2009-2014, available online at: <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvp-water/docs/cvp-water-deliveries.pdf>. Yet the DEIS/DEIR assumes full contract demands by these contractors, and it provides no explanation why it would make this assumption, which is inconsistent with the historical record. *See* DEIS/DEIR, Appendix 6A, at 6A-4.

By failing to utilize an accurate environmental baseline, the DEIS/DEIR fails to accurately assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. The environmental baseline must be revised to incorporate the 2017 Revised Shasta RPA, to incorporate changes to the Yolo Bypass (including the notched Fremont Weir) required under the 2009 NMFS biological opinion, to accurately model compliance with the Fall X2 action in the 2008 FWS biological opinion, and to include reasonable assumptions regarding water demands by Sacramento River Settlement Contractors. Because of the significance of these changes, the DEIS/DEIR must be recirculated for comment after it is revised.

#### **IV. The DEIS/DEIR Fails to Accurately Assess Environmental Impacts Because it Excludes Climate Change from the Environmental Baseline and Fails to Evaluate Long Term Impacts of the Project**

CEQA and NEPA both require that the analysis of potential environmental impacts address the full duration of the project, not just the environmental impacts at the very beginning of the project. The CEQA Guidelines explicitly require the consideration of “both the short-term and long-term effects.” 14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15126.2(a). In *Neighbors for Smart Rail*, the California Supreme Court reiterated that an EIR must evaluate both the near term and long term environmental impacts of a proposed project. 57 Cal. 4th at 455. However, the DEIS/DEIR fails to evaluate the long term environmental impacts of the proposed project, because it only analyzes environmental impacts based on anticipated conditions in the year 2030. *See, e.g.*, DEIS/DEIR Appendix 6A at 6A-1, 6A-2. As a result, the DEIS/DEIR fails to consider the longer term environmental impacts in a future with climate change, violating NEPA and CEQA.

Climate change is anticipated to significantly increase air temperatures, increase the severity of droughts and frequency of floods, and alter precipitation patterns and amounts. *See, e.g.*, DEIS/DEIR at 25-30 to 25-31. The adverse effects of climate change are expected to be more severe in the coming decades than in the near future. *See, e.g.*, DEIS/DEIR at 25-30. This is anticipated to significantly alter hydrologic conditions and stress aquatic resources. However,

despite acknowledging these likely effects, *see, e.g.*, DEIS/DEIR Appendix 25B at 25B-1, 25B-2, the DEIS/DEIR only examines potential environmental impacts in the year 2030. *See, e.g.*, DEIS/DEIR Appendix 6A at 6A-1, 6A-2. If approved, the Sites Reservoir project is anticipated to be under construction until the year 2030, and would operate for many decades thereafter.

Moreover, the analysis of conditions in 2030 does not consider the likely effects of climate change. *See* DEIS/DEIR at 2-8 to 2-9. However, CALSIM modeling exists that incorporates the effects of climate change in the year 2030 and in the year 2070, and has been used for multiple analyses, including the CEQA/NEPA analysis of the California WaterFix project, the sensitivity analysis described in DEIS/DEIR Appendix 25A, and water storage project modeling and analysis for the California Water Commission summarized in DEIS/DEIR Appendix 25B. Appendix 25B's conclusion that incremental changes in stream flows and Delta outflows due to the project "could increase if the updated climate change assumptions were used in the CALSIM II model simulations presented in Appendix 25A" is correct, and highlights the importance of incorporating climate change impacts in the assessment of environmental impacts in the DEIS/DEIR (rather than relegating this analysis to an appendix). For instance, the assumption in Appendix 25A that the greatest adverse impacts would be under current climate conditions is false, particularly when compared to the LLT Q2 scenario results. *See* DEIS/DEIR Appendix 25A at 25A-1, 25A-4. Similarly, under the climate sensitivity analysis, the DEIS/DEIR predicts that the project would eliminate many of the purported ecosystem benefits, including providing no Delta outflow for Delta smelt habitat improvement or Sacramento River fall flow stabilization under ELT and LLT climate scenarios, and no Sacramento River flows for temperature control under LLT. *See* DEIS/DEIR Appendix 25A at 25A-19. These results demonstrate that climate change is likely to cause significant changes in the project and to the effects of the project, and that the DEIS/DEIR must be revised to incorporate the projected effects of climate change in the assessment of potential impacts. Appendix 25A inappropriately states that the sensitivity analysis should not be used for detailed evaluation, and provides a recommendation for a multiagency review. *See* DEIS/DEIR Appendix 25A at 25A-20. The failure to assess potential impacts over the duration of the project, deferring the analysis to a multiagency review at some unspecified date, significantly understates the likely environmental impacts of the proposed project over the longer-term period that it would be in operation and fails to accurately assess environmental impacts under NEPA and CEQA.

**V. The DEIS/DEIR Fails to Accurately Assess Environmental Impacts Because it Uses the Outdated 2010 CALSIM Model Instead of the Current Version of the CALSIM Model**

The DEIS/DEIR acknowledges that it uses an outdated version of the CALSIM model, despite the availability of a more recent model. Using the more recent model would likely address several of the flaws identified in this comment letter, including the failure to include certain regulatory requirements in the environmental baseline and the exclusion of the effects of climate change from the analysis. Moreover, on July 28, 2014, several members of the Sites JPA

submitted comments to the State of California regarding the use of the 2010 CALSIM model in DEIS/DEIR for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, stating that,

the errors inherent in the use of the 2010 CalSim II model mean that the BDCP modeling analysis fails to satisfy the demands of CEQA Guidelines section 15151. In that regard, the use of the 2010 CalSim II model is like the use of outdated emissions information in *Berkeley Keep Jets Over the Bay*. (91 Cal.App.4th at p. 1367.) Consequently, it is improper for the DEIR/EIS to rely on the modeling contained in that document; instead, the modeling must be redone and the DEIR/EIS revised to reflect the correct methodology and results, and recirculated for public review.

North State Water Alliance (NSWA) comments on the Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan, EIS/EIR, and Implementing Agreement, July 28, 2014, at 41; *see id.* at Exhibit A (list of Commenting Parties). The sensitivity analysis conducted comparing the 2010 and 2015 versions of the model in Appendix 6D shows major differences in the model output. Table 6D-1 shows average Delta outflow in Alternative D is 21,507 cfs in the 2010 model and 25,592 cfs in the 2015 model. *See* DEIS/DEIR Appendix 6D at 6D-6. This difference of over 4,000 cfs in average outflow—a 19% difference—far exceeds the 5 percent threshold for results to be considered “similar” and described as “model noise” in the comparative results within a model version. *See* DEIS/DEIR at 25-38. The DEIS/DEIR should be revised to use updated CALSIM modeling to ensure that the document accurately assesses environmental impacts.

## **VI. The DEIS/DEIR Fails to Accurately Assess Environmental Impacts to Aquatic Resources from Proposed Operations**

### **A. Because it uses arbitrary thresholds of significance, the DEIS/DEIR fails to disclose the likely significant adverse impacts of the proposed project on aquatic resources**

The DEIS/DEIR fails to accurately assess potential adverse impacts to aquatic resources because it assumes that flow changes of 5 percent or less are similar to existing conditions. *See, e.g.*, DEIS/DEIR at 5-14, 6-13. In other cases the DEIS/DEIR asserts that only flow changes greater than 10 percent constitute “a potentially meaningful difference.” DEIS/DEIR at 12-58. However, these 5 percent and 10 percent thresholds of significance are arbitrary, inconsistent with other NEPA/CEQA documents prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation, and not supported by substantial evidence. As a result, the DEIS/DEIR fails to disclose significant adverse effects on aquatic species of the proposed project and alternatives.

First, the DEIS/DEIR fails to justify using these thresholds. While the DEIS/DEIR provides some explanation for the 5 percent threshold, the document wholly fails to provide any justification why flow changes must be greater than 10 percent to constitute a meaningful difference. *See, e.g.*, DEIS/DEIR at 12-58. Moreover, the justification for the 5 percent threshold is arbitrary and capricious. The DEIS/DEIR claims to justify the 5 percent threshold

because CALSIM modeling uses a monthly time step. *Id.* However, even if this threshold were justified for flow or water storage results at the daily time step, it does not justify using this threshold for monthly or seasonal CALSIM modeling results, including changes in monthly or seasonal flows or storage levels and resulting analysis of effects on aquatic resources.

In addition, because CALSIM modeling is used in a comparative manner, and is used to model conditions under both the environmental baseline and action alternatives, there is no need for the 5 percent (or 10 percent) threshold(s). Importantly, there is no basis to conclude that Sacramento River flow reductions due to diversions to storage under the proposed project are an illusory modeling artifact; instead, reduced flow is an effect of the proposed project in the real world. While the CALSIM model does have significant flaws, failing to disclose changes in flow that are 5 percent or less as a significant impact misleads the public and decisionmakers.

Equally important, reductions in flow that are less than 5 percent can and will have significant adverse effects on aquatic resources. For instance, the modeling shows that Alternative A would reduce the abundance of longfin smelt, a species listed as threatened under CESA, by approximately 2.4 percent. *See* DEIS/DEIR, Appendix 12G, at Table AQ-12-3c.<sup>10</sup> Yet CDFW determined that a reduction of longfin smelt abundance greater than 0 percent would be inconsistent with the requirements of CESA, in CDFW's CESA findings for the California WaterFix project.<sup>11</sup> By using the 5 percent threshold, the DEIS/DEIR claims that the project and alternatives would have no effect on longfin smelt, even though this same effect would violate CESA because it would further reduce the abundance of longfin smelt, which have experienced record or near-record low population levels under recent conditions. Indeed, any reduction in abundance of longfin smelt would cause the population of longfin smelt to drop further below self-sustaining levels, which constitutes a mandatory finding of significance under CEQA. *See* CEQA Guidelines § 15065(a)(1), (c).

Second, numerous other CEQA/NEPA documents that use CALSIM modeling do not use a 5 percent or 10 percent thresholds for determining whether changes in flow or storage constitute

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<sup>10</sup> In addition, Table AQ-12-3c of the DEIS/DEIR incorrectly states this is a 0.0% reduction in abundance. The actual reduction is 2.4%, based on comparing the abundance estimates in this table for the No Action Alternative and Alternative A. Similar errors occur on the Tables AQ-12-5c (reported as 0.0%, actual reduction in abundance is 2.8%), Table AQ-12-7c (reported as 0.0%, actual reduction in abundance is 3.2%), and Table AQ-12-9c (reported as 0.0%, actual reduction in abundance is 3.0%).

<sup>11</sup> *See* California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Findings of Fact of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Under the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.) for the project proposed by the California Department of Water Resources in reliance on and regarding the Construction and Operation of Dual Conveyance Facilities of the State Water Project (California WaterFix) and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix Final Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement, Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2016-055-03, July 2017, at 327, available online at: <https://ftp.waterboards.ca.gov/NRDC/TBI/DOW/NRDC-20.pdf>. This document is incorporated by reference.



significant effects. For instance, the CEQA/NEPA documents for the California WaterFix project do not use these thresholds. It is unclear what would distinguish the DEIS/DEIR's use of CALSIM modeling results with these arbitrary thresholds from these other CEQA/NEPA documents that used CALSIM modeling without these arbitrary thresholds.

Further, the DEIS/DEIR inappropriately applies the 5 percent threshold of significance to averaged modeling results instead of operational criteria. This leaves exceedances of the 5 percent threshold unidentified in the DEIS/DEIR. For example, Funks to Sites exceedances imply that in January, at times 2,000-3,000 cfs could be diverted out of a total 15,000 cfs in the river, or 15 to 20 percent of the river's flow. This far exceeds the arbitrary 5 percent threshold of significance.

The recirculated DEIS/DEIR should not use these 5 percent and 10 percent thresholds of significance.<sup>12</sup> By using the 5 percent and 10 percent thresholds of significance, the DEIS/DEIR fails to disclose significant adverse effects on aquatic resources. The DEIS/DEIR must be revised to eliminate the use of these thresholds in determining what constitutes significant adverse effects on aquatic resources as a result of changes in river flows or reservoir storage levels.

B. The DEIS/DEIR fails to accurately assess environmental impacts to salmon and steelhead

As discussed above, the DEIS/DEIR fails to adequately assess potential impacts to salmon because it uses an improper environmental baseline that excludes existing regulatory requirements that protect salmon, because it uses arbitrary and inappropriate thresholds of significance, and because it excludes the anticipated effects of climate change in assessing whether the Project would result in significant environmental impacts. As discussed in more detail below, the DEIS/DEIR also fails to adequately assess potential impacts to salmon because it (i) ignores adverse impacts to salmon that will result from reduced flows in the Sacramento River; (ii) arbitrarily assumes no impacts from increased predation or impingement at fish screens; and, (iii) fails to accurately assess the adverse effects on salmon from reduced floodplain inundation. In addition, the DEIS/DEIR relies on ineffective mitigation measures (single pulse flow) that are inadequate to reduce or avoid these impacts. Finally, the DEIS/DEIR also fails to use existing life cycle models that would more accurately assessment impacts to

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<sup>12</sup> However, to the extent that the DEIS/DEIR assumes that flow changes less than 5 percent are not significant, this should be applied to the actual river flows whenever flows are less than unimpaired. For example, a diversion of 5,000 cfs would only be allowed when Delta outflow exceeds 100,000 cfs (<5 percent impact), a 1,000 cfs diversion could be allowed when flows exceed 20,000 cfs, and 500 cfs could be allowed when flows exceed 10,000 cfs, assuming no other thresholds were impacted. The 5 percent limit would almost never apply to July-September diversions, because flow in the Sacramento River during that time typically exceeds 100 percent of unimpaired flow, however October through June diversions usually would have to comply with the limitation.

salmon, and instead relies on flawed and outdated modeling approaches. As a result, the DEIS/DEIR must be revised and recirculated.

1. *The DEIS/DEIR fails to accurately assess impacts to salmon because it ignores the effects of reduced Sacramento River flows on salmon survival*

The DEIS/DEIR fails to accurately assess impacts to migrating salmon because it fails to quantitatively analyze the effect of reduced Sacramento River flows on survival of migrating salmon. Numerous scientific studies have documented that reduced flow in the upper Sacramento River results in reduced survival of salmon. *See, e.g.,* Michel et al 2015; Klimley et al 2017; Notch 2017. The DEIS/DEIR wholly ignores these studies, and fails to use these models and analyses in the DEIS/DEIR to evaluate impacts on salmon from Sites Reservoir diversions that reduce flow in the Sacramento River. *See, e.g.,* DEIS/DEIR, Appendix 12B, at 12B-7 (no analysis of the effects of reduced flows on survival).

In recent years NMFS and CDFW have demonstrated that the survival of acoustically tagged salmon is strongly correlated with Sacramento River flows, and that survival of migrating salmon is lower when flows are less than 20,000 cfs, with a more significant reduction in survival when flows are less than 12,000 cfs. As a result, NMFS has recommended minimum base Sacramento River flows during the winter months (4,500 to 8,000 cfs, depending on water year type) and spring months (10,000 cfs to 14,000 cfs, depending on water year type) to protect salmon, as well as additional functional flows during these months. *See* Exhibit 2. More specifically with respect to potential operations of Sites Reservoir, CDFW has identified potential flow thresholds in the upper Sacramento River necessary to reduce or minimize impacts to migrating salmon, including minimum bypass flows of approximately 12,000 - 15,000 cfs at Wilkins Slough, before diversions to Sites could occur. *See* Exhibit 1. However, the DEIS/DEIR entirely fails to consider these studies and analyses, and fails to analyze the effects of reduced flows on salmon survival in the upper Sacramento River. While the document makes qualitative statements about the effects of potential increases in flow during low flow conditions, the DEIS/DEIR ignores the effects on salmon from water diversions to Sites reducing flows in the Sacramento River during higher flow conditions.

Similarly, studies have shown that reduced flow in the lower Sacramento River results in the reduced survival of migrating salmon. For instance, NMFS' biological opinion for the California WaterFix project demonstrates that in the lower Sacramento River, salmon survival is reduced when flows are less than approximately 35,000 cfs. NMFS 2017; *see* Perry *et al* 2017. As with the effect of reduced flow upstream, the DEIS/DEIR wholly fails to analyze the effects of reduced flows on salmon survival in the lower Sacramento River, caused by water diversions to Sites Reservoir.

The DEIS/DEIR must be revised to include the likely adverse effects of Sacramento River diversions to Sites Reservoir when flows are less than 22,000 cfs (upper Sacramento River) or less than 35,000 cfs (lower Sacramento River). Reductions in Sacramento River flows below

these thresholds have been demonstrated to reduce salmon survival, yet the DEIS/DEIR wholly ignores these adverse impacts, fails to acknowledge that proposed operations likely will cause significant impacts, and fails to consider feasible mitigation measures to address these impacts. To avoid and/or mitigate significant impacts to imperiled salmon, the recirculated DEIS/DEIR should evaluate mitigations measures that provide for minimum flows of 22,000 cfs (upper Sacramento River) and 35,000 cfs (lower Sacramento River) from November to May.

2. *The DEIS/DEIR fails to accurately assess impacts to salmon because it ignores increased predation and impingement as a result of the new Sacramento River water diversion facility*

The DEIS/DEIR improperly concludes that there will be no adverse impacts from increased predation at the new diversion facilities (or from reduced flow) or as a result of impingement on fish screens as a result of the proposed project, as long as the fish screen meets sweeping and approach velocity requirements. *See* DEIS/DEIR, Chapter 12, at 12-71. However, the 2017 NMFS biological opinion for the WaterFix Project concludes that even when fish screens are operated to meet sweeping and approach velocity requirements, 3-5 percent of migrating salmon would suffer adverse impacts from injury or mortality on a single fish screen. NMFS 2017 at 588. The biological opinion also estimates that increased predation at the fish screens could result in a range of impacts from 0.3 percent to 5 percent mortality, with the latter estimate based on predation mortality studies at the GCID fish screen. *Id.* at 593. The DEIS/DEIR must be revised to consider the likely reductions in survival from increased predation and impingement on fish screens for the new Sacramento River intake.

3. *The DEIS/DEIR fails to accurately assess impacts to salmon because it inaccurately assesses reduced floodplain inundation and ignores the effects of reduced floodplain inundation on salmon survival*

The DEIS/DEIR fails to adequately assess the adverse effects of reduced floodplain inundation on salmon. The DEIS/DEIR appropriately acknowledges that salmon that rear on floodplains are larger and are assumed to have improved survival. However, the DEIS/DEIR's analysis of the extent to which proposed operations reduce inundation of floodplains is flawed, and the DEIS/DEIR improperly concludes that these reductions in inundation would be less than significant. The analysis in the DEIS/DEIR appropriately looks at a range of inundation periods, but it only looks at the effects on inundation at flows less than 10,000 cfs, despite acknowledging that floodplain inundation increases rapidly at flows up to 40,000 cfs. *See* DEIS/DEIR at 12-63.<sup>13</sup> Even at the flow levels that are analyzed, the DEIS/DEIR demonstrates that proposed

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<sup>13</sup> The DEIS/DEIR also does not appear to quantitatively analyze potential effects of operations on the frequency and magnitude of Tisdale Weir spills that result in floodplain inundation. In contrast, CDFW recommended specific bypass criteria to ensure that proposed operations would not reduce Tisdale Weir spills up to 5,000 cfs. *See* Exhibit 1. The DEIS/DEIR should be revised

operations will reduce the frequency of Fremont Weir spills; for instance, Table SF-1a shows that Alternative A would reduce Fremont Weir spills of 10,000 cfs that last more than 10 days by more than 10 percent, and would reduce Fremont Weir spills of 10,000 cfs that last more than 20 days by approximately 10 percent. DEIS/DEIR, Appendix 12N, at Table SF-1a. Alternative A also results in reductions in the frequency of Fremont Weir spills at lower flow levels as well. *Id.* Alternative A also results in a reduction in Sutter Bypass Flows, which would also harm salmon. DEIS/DEIR, Appendix 12N, at Table SF-1e. However, the DEIS/DEIR fails to acknowledge that the reduction in the frequency and magnitude of Fremont Weir spills that inundate floodplain habitat would cause a significant adverse impact on salmon. The DEIS/DEIR should be revised to acknowledge this significant impact and to consider feasible mitigation measures that would ensure that the proposed project and alternatives would not reduce the frequency and magnitude of floodplain inundation as a result of Fremont Weir spills.

4. *The proposed mitigation measure in the DEIS/DEIR (Pulse Flows) are inadequate to mitigate impacts on salmon from proposed operations*

The proposed mitigation measure (pulse flows) are inadequate to mitigate these impacts to a less than significant level. Pulse flows can improve survival of those salmon that migrate during the pulse flow event, assuming the pulse flow is of sufficient duration and magnitude. However, salmon that migrate during non-pulse flow events would suffer reduced survival as a result of flow reductions due to diversions to Sites Reservoir storage. NMFS demonstrated that the first storm event of approximately 15,000-20,000 cfs at Wilkins Slough triggers the migration of approximately 50 percent of the population of winter run Chinook salmon. *See* Del Rosario 2013. However, the remaining proportion of this endangered salmon run would not be protected by the proposed pulse flows, *id.*; *see also* SWRCB 2017, and reduced Sacramento River flow as a result of diversions to Sites reservoir would reduce salmon survival as shown above. Equally important, because only those fish expressing the life history trait of migrating on the first storm pulse, this proposed mitigation measure would cause a reduction in life history diversity of salmon, which is one of the critical factors in ensuring viable salmonid populations.

5. *The DEIS/DEIR fails to accurately assess impacts to salmon because it uses flawed temperature thresholds and flawed models*

Finally, the DEIS/DEIR generally relies on outdated, inaccurate models to assess impacts to salmon, and fails to utilize more accurate and updated models, particularly with respect to the adverse effects of water temperature on salmon. For instance, the DEIS/DEIR relies on flawed temperature thresholds and models analyzing potential effects of water temperature on egg and juvenile salmon survival, which have been shown to be highly inaccurate. While the DEIS/DEIR uses Reclamation models to assess temperature impacts on salmon, *see* DEIS/DEIR at 12B-10, NMFS' 2017 WaterFix Biological Opinion states that the Reclamation Egg Mortality

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to analyze Tisdale Weir flows and floodplain inundation frequency and extent, as part of its analysis of effects on salmon.

Model “is based on a relationship between temperature and Chinook salmon egg mortality that likely substantially underestimates actual mortality in the field.” NMFS 2017 at 450. The biological opinion rejects use of that model to assess potential temperature impacts to winter run Chinook salmon, spring run Chinook salmon, or fall run Chinook salmon, and only uses it to assess potential impacts to late fall run Chinook salmon because results from more accurate models (the Southwest Fishery Science Center’s temperature-dependent egg mortality model) were not available. *Id.*; see NMFS 2017 (Revised Shasta RPA, documenting significant flaws with Reclamation temperature mortality models and showing estimated temperature dependent mortality by year, which is significantly higher than that estimated in the DEIS/DEIR using the Reclamation models). The DEIS/DEIR should be revised to use the Southwest Fishery Science Center’s temperature-dependent egg mortality model to assess temperature effects on salmon.

Equally important, the DEIS/DEIR relies on flawed temperature thresholds to assess impacts to salmon. *Compare* DEIS/DEIR, Appendix 12D, at 12D-5 (using 56, 58, 60 and 62 degree temperature thresholds for impacts on salmon spawning and egg incubation) *with* NMFS 2017 (Revised Shasta RPA, using Martin et al 2017 temperature threshold of 53.7 degrees). The DEIS/DEIR must be revised to use accurate temperature thresholds and models in order to accurately assess potential impacts to salmon.

6. *The DEIS/DEIR must be revised to consider feasible mitigation measures to address the significant adverse impacts from proposed operations*

Taken together, proposed operations analyzed in the DEIS/DEIR will have significant, adverse effects on fall run Chinook salmon, spring run Chinook salmon, winter run Chinook salmon, and other salmonids. The proposed operations will reduce Sacramento River flows in ways that will reduce survival of salmon, will reduce inundation of floodplains that will harm salmon, and will increase predation and impingement mortality that harms salmon. Even if each of these effects individually only reduces survival by a few percentage points, cumulatively they result in a significant reduction in survival, which could be fatal for several salmon runs that are at high risk of extinction.

The DEIS/DEIR must consider alternative operational scenarios that include the base flows and bypass flows recommended by CDFW and NMFS, including minimum bypass flows of 14,000 cfs at Wilkins Slough during the months of November to May. Because proposed operations would reduce survival of salmon, causing a significant adverse impact to species listed under CESA, the DEIS/DEIR must consider feasible mitigation measures, including these minimum bypass flows.

C. The DEIS/DEIR fails to accurately assess environmental impacts to longfin smelt

The DEIS/DEIR improperly concludes that proposed operations will not cause a significant adverse effect to longfin smelt because it assumes that changes less than 5 percent are not significant. However, as discussed above, this arbitrary threshold results in the DEIS/DEIR

failing to identify an impact that constitutes a mandatory finding of significance under CEQA, because the modeling used in the DEIS/DEIR demonstrates that proposed operations will reduce the abundance of this CESA-listed species below self-sustaining levels.

In addition, the analysis of impacts to longfin smelt in the DEIS/DEIR is flawed because: (1) it fails to consider existing life cycle models that more accurately assess impacts, and which consider the effects of prior stock abundance in assessing the effects of flow; and (2) it fails to consider the effects of reduced outflow on meeting flow thresholds necessary to achieve a 50 percent chance of positive population growth. The DEIS/DEIR also fails to consider feasible mitigation measures that would avoid or reduce these significant impacts.

First, reliance on the Kimmerer 2009 equation to analyze impacts to longfin smelt from reduced flow underestimates adverse impacts to longfin smelt from reduced Delta outflow during the winter and spring months. Because it does not consider the effects of prior stock abundance, the Kimmerer et al. (2009) regression relationships will show that years with the same winter-spring X2 produce the same estimate of longfin smelt abundance, regardless of the abundance in previous years. However, more recent published scientific studies demonstrate that prior stock abundance has a significant effect on abundance in subsequent years (stock-recruit effect). *See* Nobriga and Rosenfield 2016. Because longfin smelt population size in any given year is affected by both Delta outflow and abundance of the previous generation, the sequence of annual winter-spring Delta outflow conditions has a large impact on population abundance – for example, several dry years in a row can produce abundance declines that cannot be reversed by occasional wet years. The Kimmerer 2009 regression therefore leads to overestimation of longfin smelt abundance when wet years follow dry years and underestimates environmental impacts of the alternatives on longfin smelt. As a result, the DEIS/DEIR significantly underestimates the adverse effects on abundance from reduced Delta outflow caused by proposed operations. Given that longfin smelt abundance has already declined by 99 percent over the past several decades, further declines in the abundance of the species would cause a mandatory finding of significance and are inconsistent with the requirements of CESA. As a result, CDFW recently concluded that WaterFix must not result in any reduction in abundance of this species, and prohibited that project from reducing Delta outflow during the months of March to May, unless Delta outflows exceeds 44,500 cfs. *See supra* note 11.<sup>14</sup> CDFW recommended a similar mitigation measure for Sites Reservoir operation. *See* Exhibit 1.

Similarly, the SWRCB's final scientific basis report for the Phase 2 update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan concluded that average Delta outflow of 42,800 cfs during the January to June time period is necessary to achieve a 50 percent chance of positive population

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<sup>14</sup> Unfortunately, CDFW's CESA findings demonstrate that WaterFix will reduce the abundance of longfin smelt, in large part because WaterFix will reduce Delta outflow during the winter months. Separately, CDFW has submitted written comments to the SWRCB confirming that Delta outflow during the January to June period is the appropriate time period to analyze impacts to longfin smelt and to ensure adequate Delta outflows to protect the species.

growth, and determined that such flows would be protective of longfin smelt. SWRCB 2017 at 3-56, 3-60. The DEIS/DEIR should be revised to analyze whether proposed operations would reduce the frequency of achieving this flow threshold.

Because the proposed operations would result in significant adverse impacts on longfin smelt, the DEIS/DEIR must consider feasible mitigation measures. The DEIS/DEIR should be revised to consider a mitigation measure that would only allow diversions to storage when Delta outflows are in excess of 42,800 cfs during the months of January, February and June, and in excess of 44,500 cfs during the March through May time period. This proposed mitigation measure would also provide significant benefits to other species, including salmon and sturgeon, whose survival and abundance is dependent on Sacramento River flows and/or Delta outflows.

D. The DEIS/DEIR fails to accurately assess environmental impacts to Delta smelt

The DEIS/DEIR fails to accurately assess potential impacts of operations on Delta smelt because it fails to consider the effects of reduced Delta outflow during the winter and spring months on the survival and abundance of Delta smelt. The DEIS/DEIR appropriately acknowledges that increases in outflow during the summer and fall months benefit Delta Smelt,<sup>15</sup> as recent scientific information from CDFW, FWS, and the Interagency Ecological Program have shown. However, the DEIS/DEIR does not analyze how reductions in Delta outflow during the spring, summer or fall, as a result of proposed operations, would reduce the survival and abundance of Delta Smelt, despite recent scientific information from FWS and other agencies documenting this effect.<sup>16</sup> The DEIS/DEIR should be revised to consider these studies and evaluate whether the proposed operations would reduce spring Delta outflow, thereby harming delta smelt.

**VII. The DEIS/DEIR Fails to Accurately Assess Environmental Impacts to Terrestrial Biological Resources**

A. The DEIS/DEIR inappropriately defers formulation of mitigation measures and fails to adequately describe mitigation for potentially significant impacts to terrestrial species

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<sup>15</sup> However, while the DEIS/DEIR claims that shifting X2 0.5 or 1 km east during the winter or spring would not have an effect on longfin smelt, due to the arbitrary 5 percent and 10 percent thresholds, the DEIS/DEIR concludes that shifts in X2 of 0.5 or 1 km west could have a beneficial effect on Delta Smelt.

<sup>16</sup> See, e.g., Interagency Ecological Program, Management, Analysis, and Synthesis Team: An Updated Conceptual Model of Delta Smelt Biology 2015, available online at: [http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/docs/Delta\\_Smelt\\_MAST\\_Synthesis\\_Report\\_January%202015.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/iep/docs/Delta_Smelt_MAST_Synthesis_Report_January%202015.pdf); email from Leo Polansky to Doug Obegi dated September 29, 2017, available online at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/california\\_waterfix/exhibits/docs/NRDC\\_TBI\\_DOW/NRDC-37.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/california_waterfix/exhibits/docs/NRDC_TBI_DOW/NRDC-37.pdf). These documents are incorporated by reference.

The DEIS/DEIR makes clear that proposed project is likely to have significant, negative impacts on a substantial number of terrestrial species, including golden eagles, bald eagles, Western pond turtles, and giant garter snakes, among many others. Because the impacts to these species are potentially significant, the EIS/EIR must describe feasible mitigation measures that could minimize the significant adverse impacts. CEQA Guidelines § 15126.4(a)(1). Generally, the formulation of mitigation measures may not be deferred until a later time. *Id.* § 15126.4(a)(1)(B). If an agency chooses to defer formulation of specific measures in a CEQA document, it must “commit itself to specific performance criteria for evaluating the efficacy of the measures implemented.” *POET, LLC v. California Air Res. Bd.*, 217 Cal. App. 4th 1214, 737-38 (2013). As explained further below, the DEIS/DEIR fails to meet these standards because it provides vague descriptions of mitigation measures with a promise of future formulation, but fails to include any performance criteria for the ultimate evaluation of those measures.

The general mitigation measure (“Mitigation Measure Wild-1b”) suffers from precisely this flaw. Instead of providing a specific mitigation plan, it merely promises future consultation with specific state and federal agencies, and indicates that compensation ratios will follow “appropriate protocols”:

For unavoidable Project footprint impacts, suitable habitat shall be identified in coordination and consultation with USFWS, CDFW, and the USACE and appropriate actions/agreements developed ranging from on-site restoration, enhancement, acquisition of conservation easements, land purchases, or mitigation bank credit acquisition. Compensation of such habitat lands shall occur per all appropriate protocols (including replacement ratios) for each such species.

DEIS/DEIR at 14-128 to 129. This vague promise of future formulation is insufficient to provide the public with any reasonable assurance that the proposed project’s significant wildlife impacts will be properly mitigated because it lacks specific performance criteria or other measures that could be used to evaluate the mitigation measures’ efficacy. While the DEIS/DEIR proposes additional mitigation measures for some species, several animals, like the western pond turtle, are entirely dependent on Mitigation Measure Wild-1b. *See* DEIS/DEIR at 14-138 (describing avoidance measures and stating “[l]oss of western pond turtle habitat would be compensated for with through the implementation of Mitigation Measure Wild-1b identified above”); *see also, e.g.*, DEIS/DEIR at 14-138 (mitigation for western yellow-billed cuckoo provided exclusively under Mitigation Measure Wild-1b); DEIS/DEIR at 14-137 (mitigation for loss of grassland habitat for western burrowing owls provided exclusively under Mitigation Measure Wild-1b). Further, while USFWS and CDFW may have clearly-defined mitigation protocols for some species, we do not believe such protocols exist for all species that the project will impact. If agencies have multiple, potentially conflicting guidelines, it is unclear which protocols they would follow. Because Mitigation Measure Wild-1b defers formulation of specific mitigation measures for admittedly significant impacts and lacks meaningful



performance criteria, it is unlawful and must be substantially modified in the revised and recirculated DEIS/DEIR.

Several of the species-specific mitigation measures also unlawfully defer formulation of mitigation measures, creating concern that the project's significant wildlife impacts will not be adequately mitigated. For example, for giant garter snakes, the DEIS/DEIR states that “[p]ermanent loss of GGS habitat will be compensated at a ratio and at a manner agreed upon in consultation with the USFWS. Compensation may include preservation and enhancement of existing populations, restoration or creation of suitable habitat, or purchase of credits at a regulatory agency approved mitigation bank in a sufficient quantity to compensate for the effect.” DEIS/DEIR at 14-134. The mitigation measure fails to define what “a sufficient quantity to compensate” for the impacts means, and does not provide any performance standards. Further, formulating mitigation based on consultation with only USFWS is inadequate because giant garter snakes are also listed under CESA, and the state law includes a more stringent standard—i.e., minimize and fully mitigate—than the federal ESA.

The DEIS/DEIR similarly defers mitigation for golden eagle habitat loss, fails to provide any performance standards, and fails to include a requirement for consultation with CDFW. DEIS/DEIR at 14-135 (“The specific methods for mitigating the loss of the annual grassland habitat shall be determined in consultation with USFWS.”). This is legally inadequate and must be remedied in the revised DEIS/DEIR. Similar problems exist for other species-specific mitigation measures. *See, e.g.*, DEIS/DEIR at 14-137 (burrowing owl mitigation “will include the creation of artificial burrows in adjacent suitable habitat as determined appropriate by a qualified biologist in consultation and coordination with CDFW and USFWS”).

The DEIS/DEIR also inappropriately defers formulation of mitigation for impacts to giant garter snakes caused by modifications to the GCID main canal. The giant garter snake mitigation measure—Mitigation Measure Wild-2d—states that “[c]onstruction activity within giant garter snake habitat shall be conducted between May 1 and October 1. If work outside of this time period is necessary, USFWS’s Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office shall be contacted to determine if additional protection measures are necessary.” DEIS/DEIR at 14-133. Conducting work between May 1 and October 1 is important because giant garter snakes are active during that period, and therefore more likely to move away from construction equipment. However, the DEIS/DEIR states that “[t]he GCID Main Canal is typically out of service each year between early January 7 and late February for maintenance. Construction activities would be scheduled during this maintenance period whenever possible.” DEIS/DEIR at 3-64. The project description thus indicates that, in contrast to the time period specified in Mitigation Measure Wild-2d, modifications to the GCID main canal would occur during the giant garter snake’s inactive season. This is particularly problematic because the proposed modifications include lining the earthen canal, and the earthen canal is likely to include burrows used by giant garter snakes during their winter inactive period. All modifications to the GCID canal should occur during the time period prescribed in the giant garter snake mitigation measure—between May 1 and October 1. If that is not possible, it is not appropriate to defer formulation of mitigation

measures related to construction during the inactive season because construction during that time is foreseeable based on the project description. Rather, Mitigation Measure Wild-2d should be modified to specify avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures appropriate for significant impacts to giant garter snakes caused by construction during the snakes' inactive period.

Proposed mitigation measures for temporary impacts to giant garter snake habitat are also inadequate. According to the DEIS/DEIR, giant garter snakes are known to use rice fields within the construction disturbance area, and construction of the Delevan Pipeline will cause temporary impacts to 1,358.9 acres of rice habitat. DEIS/DEIR at 14-96, 14-99. The DEIS/DEIR acknowledges that “[f]allowing of rice fields would not only temporarily remove giant garter snake habitat, but could also have adverse effects on the reproduction, recruitment, and survival of the species that could continue beyond the 2-year construction schedule.” DEIS/DEIR at 14-99. The document concludes that loss of fresh emergent wetland habitat along with “the extensive temporary loss of rice habitat” will have a potentially significant impact on giant garter snakes. DEIS/DEIR at 14-99.

In spite of these admittedly significant impacts, the DEIS/DEIR fails to include adequate mitigation measures. First, the document relies on inappropriate mitigation guidelines. It states that “[p]rotective actions and mitigation measures shall comply with the USFWS’s Programmatic Biological Opinion (USFWS, 1997), or USFWS mitigation guidelines current at the time of the surveys.” DEIS/DEIR at 14-132. However, the referenced biological opinion states that it is intended to be used for projects “with relatively small effects on the giant garter snake and its habitat,” including “permanent impacts of less than 3.00 acres (1.21 hectares) and temporary impacts of less than 20.00 acres (8.09 hectares) of giant garter snake habitat.”<sup>17</sup> Here, in contrast, construction of the Delevan Pipeline is expected to cause temporary impacts to more than 1,358 acres of giant garter snake habitat and permanent impacts to additional habitat acreage. Reliance on the 1997 Programmatic Biological Opinion is clearly improper, and the DEIS/DEIR’s reference to other “USFWS mitigation guidelines current at the time of the surveys” does not cure the problem because it fails to allow for any assessment of the appropriateness of whatever mitigation guidelines may be used in the future. Further, because giant garter snakes are listed under both CESA and the federal ESA, an exclusive focus on USFWS mitigation guidelines is inappropriate and CDFW should also play a role in formulating appropriate mitigation.

Second, the DEIS/DEIR does not clearly indicate how temporary loss of rice habitat will be compensated.<sup>18</sup> In light of the extent of temporary habitat loss (more than 1,358 acres), the

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<sup>17</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1997 Programmatic Formal Consultation for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permitted Projects with Relatively Small Effects on the Giant Garter Snake within Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Fresno, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, and Yolo Counties, at p. 1, available at [http://www.water.ca.gov/fishpassage/docs/butte/butte\\_app\\_K.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/fishpassage/docs/butte/butte_app_K.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> Though this discussion focuses on mitigation for impacts to giant garter snakes, the DEIS/DEIR indicates that up to 196 species may be found within rice habitat in the Extended

substantial duration of the loss (at least two years), and the seriousness of the impacts (adverse effects on reproduction, recruitment, and survival), the temporary impacts must be fully mitigated. However, Mitigation Measure Wild-2d only explicitly discusses compensation with respect to permanent impacts. *See* DEIS/DEIR at 14-133 (“Permanent loss of GGS habitat will be compensated at a ratio and at a manner agreed upon in consultation with the USFWS.”). The DEIS/DEIR’s one statement regarding compensation for lost rice habitat is inadequate and confusing. It states that “[m]itigation for rice habitat would already be partially compensated for by implementation of the mitigation measures for loss of wildlife habitat types described above.” DEIS/DEIR at 14-133. To the extent this statement means that loss of rice habitat will be compensated for by implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures discussed in the bullet points that precede the statement, it is incorrect because those measures do not include any compensation for the lost habitat. To the extent it means that loss off rice habitat will be compensated by mitigation already being provided for the loss of other habitat types, the statement improperly suggests that mitigation acres will be double counted. The final EIS/EIR must clearly explain how impacts to giant garter snakes from a two-year loss of rice habitat will be fully mitigated, including appropriate compensation.<sup>19</sup>

B. The DEIS/DEIR’s reliance on old information renders its assessment of impacts to terrestrial species unreliable

Field surveys are critical for understanding the presence and distribution of wildlife within the project area, and for determining whether the proposed project is likely to impact terrestrial species. Yet the DEIS/DEIR relies upon extremely dated survey information. The document explains that “[i]nitial field surveys were conducted within the Primary Study Area from 1998 to 2004 at all Project facility locations, then again in 2010 to 2011 at newly proposed Project facility locations.” DEIS/DEIR at 14-16. This means that for the inundation area and other large swaths of land, field surveys that the impacts analysis relies upon are between 14 and 20 years old. Particularly in light of climate change, there is a substantial risk that the information regarding species’ presence and distribution derived from the survey data is no longer accurate.<sup>20</sup>

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Study Area. DEIS/DEIR at 14-3. Many of these species will be impacted by fallowing and construction associated with the Delevan Pipeline, and significant impacts to all of these species must be mitigated.

<sup>19</sup> As a point of reference, the inappropriately relied upon 1997 Programmatic Biological Opinion indicates that temporary impacts to giant garter snake habitat lasting two seasons should be compensated by restoration plus 1:1 replacement. For temporary impacts lasting more than two seasons, compensation must be restoration plus 2:1 replacement. *See* [http://www.water.ca.gov/fishpassage/docs/butte/butte\\_app\\_K.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/fishpassage/docs/butte/butte_app_K.pdf) at p. 7.

<sup>20</sup> Field survey information regarding the presence of wetlands and other waters within the Primary Study Area is similarly outdated. According to the DEIS/DEIR, wetlands and other waters within the inundation area were surveyed during 1998 and 1999. DEIS/DEIR at 15-5. Because of changing hydrology and land use, there is a substantial risk that this old survey data no longer provides accurate information regarding the distribution of wetlands and other waters within the project area.

The DEIS/DEIR's discussion of bald eagles illustrates the problem. According to the document, "[d]uring initial field surveys, no nests, adult pairs, or nesting behavior were observed at any Project facility location. However, during subsequent visit to the Primary Study Area a nesting pair of bald eagles was observed at the proposed Golden Gate Dam site." DEIS/DEIR at 14-26. While the species was absent during the initial surveys, it was later found to be present within the project area. As this example suggests, the old survey data is not reliable. Particularly for smaller, more elusive species like California red-legged frogs, California tiger salamanders, giant garter snakes, vernal pool fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, and ringtails, reliance on decades old survey data likely creates an unrealistic picture of their presence and distribution, and an inaccurate assessment of the project's impacts.<sup>21</sup>

The DEIS/DEIR recognizes that the survey data may not accurately represent species presence and distribution, but fails to remedy the problem. According to the document, "[i]t is recognized that [t]he distribution of special-status species or important habitat features (e.g., nest sites) may change during the period prior to construction, which could influence the location and extent of mitigation. Accordingly prior to construction, additional special-status species surveys will be conducted as necessary in consultation with USFWS and CDFW." DEIS/DEIR at 14-17; *see also* Mitigation Measure Wild-1a (requiring preconstruction surveys). While it is helpful that the DEIS/DEIR recognizes the need to update information regarding species presence and distribution prior to construction, deferring additional survey work until after the EIS/EIR is finalized significantly undermines the accuracy and informational value of the environmental document, and makes it difficult for the public to assess and compare the environmental impacts of the proposed alternatives.

Accordingly, to ensure the EIS/EIR's analysis of impacts to terrestrial species is accurate and meaningful, we recommend that the lead agencies conduct additional field surveys and make the information from the additional field surveys available in the revised and recirculated DEIS/DEIR. Additional field surveys are particularly important for species like California red-legged frogs and California tiger salamanders, which have potentially suitable habitat within the Primary Study Area, but which were not found during the initial field surveys. Without additional field surveys for these and other species, conclusions regarding the absence of significant impacts are unsubstantiated and unreliable.

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<sup>21</sup> In addition to relying on old field survey data, the DEIS/DEIR makes unsubstantiated assertions about the quality of some habitat types within the Primary Study Area. For example, with respect to habitat for conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, and vernal pool fairy shrimp, the DEIS/DEIR states that "[t]he quality of potential habitat found within the proposed reservoir footprint is marginal. Many of the pools do not remain ponded for entire seasons, and some potential habitats do not pond at all." DEIS/EIR at 14-24. The revised and recirculated DEIS/DEIR should include source information for this and similar assertions, and to the extent the conclusions regarding habitat quality are based on old field survey information, the lead agencies should conduct additional follow-up field studies.

C. The DEIS/DEIR's assessment of impacts to wildlife refuges is inadequate

Wildlife refuges in the Central Valley provide some of the region's last-remaining wetland habitats, and are essential for the health of Pacific Flyway birds, ESA-listed species like giant garter snakes, and many other creatures. We are concerned about several flaws in the DEIS/DEIR's analysis of impacts to Central Valley refuges.

First, the DEIS/DEIR states that "[t]he project would replace at least some volume of Level 4 water supplies with a more reliable water supply than interim water transfers, but would not change the volume of water delivered to the refuges under either Level 2 or Level 4."

DEIS/DEIR at 14-52. However, the Water Storage Investment Project ("WSIP") application for the Sites Reservoir project indicates that the project will provide 19,000 acre feet of Level 4 refuge water in drier years, and 33,000 acre feet of Level 4 refuge water in average years.<sup>22</sup>

This is a major inconsistency that raises questions about both the accuracy of the water supply related information in the DEIS/DEIR, and the project's ability to provide the Level 4 water supplies proposed in the project's WSIP application.

Second, the DEIS/DEIR fails to adequately assess the risks to wildlife from siting overhead power lines along the northern edge of Delevan National Wildlife Refuge ("Delevan NWR"). For its assessment of Alternative A, which proposes to site the power lines adjacent to Delevan NWR, the DEIS/DEIR merely states that "[t]he eastern end of the Sites/Delevan Overhead Power Line would be located adjacent to the Delevan NWR, and could, therefore, disrupt a migratory corridor by causing collisions." DEIS/DEIR at 14-103. This cursory analysis fails to answer many critical questions. For example, how many birds utilize Delevan NWR each year and how many could be impacted by the proposed power lines? What species are likely to be impacted? Are collisions likely to cause mortality? Are there particular risks for birds traveling between Delevan NWR and Sacramento NWR, and how frequent is such travel? Are there risks to birds that make daily trips between Delevan NWR and other wildlife refuges in the Sacramento Valley and nearby rice fields? Without answers to these and other questions, it is impossible for the public to understand the impacts that Alternative A could have to migratory and resident birds that utilize Delevan NWR and other nearby refuges. This shortcoming is particularly problematic because other alternatives propose different configurations for overhead power lines that could reduce the likelihood of bird strikes, but without an adequate assessment of the potential impacts from Alternative A, the public and decision makers will be unable to assess the comparative benefits of the other proposed alternatives. We believe an adequate assessment of potential impacts to birds from the Sites/Delevan Overhead Power Line will reveal that siting the power lines away from Delevan NWR and along existing power line corridors, as

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<sup>22</sup> See Sites WSIP Application Executive Summary at p. 4, available at [https://cms.capitoltechsolutions.com/ClientData/SitesProject/Uploads/SitesExecutiveSummary\\_Final\\_August2017.pdf](https://cms.capitoltechsolutions.com/ClientData/SitesProject/Uploads/SitesExecutiveSummary_Final_August2017.pdf)

appears to be proposed in Alternative D, will substantially reduce wildlife impacts, and we urge the lead agencies to include such an assessment in the revised DEIS/DEIR.

Third, the DEIS/DEIR contains almost no information regarding the possibility of construction-related impacts to wildlife that reside within and migrate to and from Delevan NWR. This omission is surprising and problematic given that construction of the Delevan Pipeline is expected to take two years and will occur along the entire northern edge of the refuge. The DEIS/DEIR acknowledges, for example, that there is suitable nesting habitat for tricolored blackbirds within Delevan NWR along the proposed Delevan Pipeline route, but fails to discuss the impacts that noise and other aspects of pipeline construction could have on tricolored blackbirds within the refuge. *See* DEIS/DEIR at 14-28 and 14-95 to 100. The revised DEIS/DEIR should provide substantially more information regarding potential impacts to Delevan NWR from construction of the Delevan Pipeline, the Sites/Delevan Overhead Power Line, and associated project facilities. Among other information, the expanded discussion should address potential impacts to the area in the northern part of Delevan NWR that serves as a sanctuary from hunting. It should also address how construction will be timed to minimize disturbance at the refuge, particularly with respect to the hunting season when sanctuary areas in the northern part of the refuge are critical for Pacific Flyway birds.

Fourth, the DEIS/DEIR fails to discuss potential impacts to private lands surrounding Sacramento Valley wildlife refuges that are enrolled in USFWS and NRCS easement programs. According to the final recovery plan for the giant garter snake, “about 2,226 hectares (5,500 acres) of private lands are enrolled in our wetland easement program in the area north and south of Delevan NWR.”<sup>23</sup> Several important NRCS wetland easements also exist within the project area. Impacts to these lands could cause significant impacts to sensitive wildlife, and must be disclosed and analyzed in the revised and recirculated DEIS/DEIR. Among other things, the final EIS/EIR must identify wetland easements in the Primary Study Area, describe any construction-related impacts to those properties, and analyze potential impacts to birds that must cross new power lines to move to and from refuges and easement properties.

Fifth, the list of wildlife refuges on page 15-2 of the DEIS/DEIR is incomplete. Among other omissions, the list fails to include Sutter NWR and Colusa NWR, both of which are located near the proposed new reservoir in the Sacramento Valley. Including a meaningful discussion of potential water supply impacts to Sutter NWR is particularly important because this Sacramento Valley refuge continues to struggle from inadequate water supplies, particularly during dry years.

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<sup>23</sup> FWS Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake (2017) at II-5, available at [https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery\\_plan/20170928\\_Signed%20Final\\_GGS\\_Recovery\\_Plan.pdf](https://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/20170928_Signed%20Final_GGS_Recovery_Plan.pdf).

D. The DEIS/DEIR's analysis of impacts to giant garter snakes is inadequate

On September 28, 2017, USFWS finalized a recovery plan for the threatened giant garter snake. The DEIS/DEIR includes information from the 1999 draft recovery plan and must be updated to reflect information included in the final recovery plan. *See* DEIS/DEIR at 14-13. Importantly, the Primary Study Area lies within the Colusa Basin Recovery Unit, and the recovery plan describes specific recovery criteria for that unit. *See* Final GGS Recovery Plan at II-15 to 16. The revised DEIS/DEIR should describe how the proposed project could impede recovery efforts, and also explain how mitigation for giant garter snake impacts will advance the goals that the final recovery plan establishes.

There are several additional problems with the DEIS/DEIR's analysis of impacts to giant garter snakes that need to be remedied. First, the DEIS/DEIR indicates that the proposed modifications to the GCID Main Canal Facilities would temporarily disturb 3.1 acres within the existing canal. DEIS/DEIR at 14-91. However, the proposed modification includes lining 200 feet of earthen canal that currently provides habitat for giant garter snakes, which will permanently eliminate burrows and other habitat that is suitable for use during the snake's dormant period. Accordingly, this impact must be considered permanent and must be mitigated accordingly.

Second, there appear to be impacts to giant garter snake habitat that are not accounted for in Chapter 14. In particular, Chapter 15 describes the possibility of significant impacts to agricultural ditches and canals:

A total of approximately 42 acres (24 miles) of waters could be permanently lost or adversely affected through construction of the buried pipelines and other activities associated with construction of the Delevan and TRR pipelines, TRR Pipeline Road, and Delevan Pipeline Electrical Switchyard. All affected waters consist of agricultural ditches and canals between 3 and 30 feet in width. If the water was not redirected back into the farmers' irrigation systems so that the water would still be available for surrounding fields, temporary or permanent disruption of most of these canal waters by the pipelines would represent a hydrological interruption and would be a potentially significant impact . . . .

DEIS/DEIR at 15-36 to 37. To the extent these agricultural ditches and canal are associated with rice fields, they are likely to provide habitat for giant garter snakes, and we were unable to identify a discussion of these potential impacts in Chapter 14. If these impacts are already addressed within Chapter 14, we request that you identify the relevant discussion. If the impacts are not discussed in Chapter 14, we request that you address these potentially significant impacts to giant garter snakes in Chapter 14, including a discussion of appropriate mitigation.

Third, the DEIS/DEIR fails to discuss potentially significant impacts to giant garter snakes from possible construction of a temporary bypass channel for the GCID main canal. As a part of the project description, the DEIS/DEIR explains that:

If construction activities are required outside of the maintenance period, a temporary bypass channel would be built around the construction site to allow diversion water to flow past and maintain regular canal operation. The temporary bypass channel would be constructed within the existing GCID right-of-way using a combination of excavation, earth embankment, and sheetpile walls to isolate the construction site from the canal. After completion of construction, the temporary bypass would be filled in, earthen embankments and sheetpile walls would be removed, and the area would be restored to preconstruction conditions.

DEIS/DEIR at 3-64. As discussed above, it is likely that construction on the GCID main canal will have to occur outside of the winter maintenance period because of increased likelihood of giant garter snake impacts during this time. It therefore seems likely that the briefly referenced temporary bypass channel may be constructed, and the channel's potentially significant impacts to giant garter snakes and other species must be identified and fully mitigated.

Fourth, the DEIS/DEIR inappropriately concludes that there will be no impacts to special status species from construction of the proposed Terminal Regulating Reservoir ("TRR") and related facilities. The document explains that construction of the TRR and associated facilities would result in permanent loss of 120.9 acres of rice habitat and temporary disturbance of 13.6 acres of rice habitat. DEIS/DEIR at 14-93. Yet it concludes that there will not be significant impacts to special status wildlife because "[n]o special status species were observed within the vicinity of the proposed construction footprint of the TRR or associated facilities." DEIS/DEIR at 14-94. Giant garter snakes, however, are known to inhabit rice fields throughout the project area, and the lack of observation of this elusive species does not indicate its absence. The DEIS/DEIR must discuss impacts to giant garter snakes from the permanent loss and temporary disturbance of rice habitat within in the footprint of the TRR and related facilities, and must propose appropriate mitigation for this significant impact.

#### **VIII. The DEIS/DEIR Fails to Adequately Analyze Cumulative Impacts, and it Fails to Disclose that the Project is Likely to Result in Cumulatively Significant Adverse Impacts to Aquatic Resources**

Finally, Chapter 35 of the DEIS/DEIR fails to adequately analyze cumulative impacts because it fails to consider the cumulative reductions in Sacramento River flows and Delta outflows that would result from the proposed project, California WaterFix, and several other water storage and diversion projects that the Bureau of Reclamation is currently evaluating. It completely ignores the fact that the Bureau of Reclamation has finalized NEPA analysis, including CALSIM modeling, for the California WaterFix project and Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation, and has prepared draft NEPA analysis including CALSIM modeling for other proposed water storage projects. The failure to quantitatively consider the cumulative effect of these projects, using the existing CALSIM modeling, is inappropriate and violates NEPA and CEQA. These projects cumulatively would significantly reduce flows in the Sacramento River and significantly



reduce Delta outflow, harming longfin smelt, Delta smelt, spring run Chinook salmon, winter run Chinook salmon, fall run Chinook salmon, and other species. Moreover, MBK engineers has prepared CALSIM modeling of a suite of water storage projects and the California WaterFix project, which also shows these projects have the potential to significantly reduce Delta outflow and significantly reduce Sacramento river flows.<sup>24</sup> However, the DEIS/DEIR ignores all of this modeling and instead assumes that certain other planning processes will result in increased flows that offset or mitigate these impacts. See DEIS/DEIR at 35-22 to 35-23. This is improper. At a minimum, Chapter 35 of the DEIS/DEIR should be revised to include modeling of the cumulative effects of the action alternatives with the California WaterFix project and Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation on Sacramento River flows and Delta outflows.

## **IX. The DEIS/DEIR's Presentation of Information is Flawed and Obscures Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts**

### **A. The DEIS/DEIR labels results for "existing conditions" in a confusing, inconsistent and misleading manner**

Chapter 2 reveals no differences between NAA and baseline, and defines them as equal to each other. It is therefore confusing when differences appear elsewhere in the DEIS/DEIR. Appendix 12F is one section of the DEIS/DEIR where this change between Existing Conditions/Baseline and NAA is evident, but poorly labeled. The methodology in this section is inadequately described, since there is no description of what the alternatives are being compared to in the first table for each reservoir (Tables 12F-1a, 12F-2a, 12F-3a, 12F-4a, 12F-5a), or what the assumptions for the baseline are. The first tables for each reservoir in Appendix 12F show changes in the NAA, but nowhere does it describe changes from what.

For example, the NAA itself causes reservoirs to be 6 feet lower (than baseline) in many years, usually in May and June. For June, the percentage of time that the reservoirs are six or more feet lower (than baseline): Trinity 25%, Shasta 83%, Oroville 55%, Folsom 21%. San Luis is more than six feet lower almost all the time (96-99% of time) April-June. Big April-June drawdowns appear to be planned for San Luis under NAA, and the proposed Sites Reservoir project doesn't appear to change that.

Similarly, Appendix 6A tables showing "existing condition" in comparison to the NAA are confusing, since no explanation of "Existing Conditions" is given. Each table caption reminds the reader that the NAA represents "Existing Conditions/No Project/No Action Condition" in the DEIS/DEIR, but fails to describe the existing condition shown by the tables. If the term "existing condition," when not referring to the NAA, is describing the Existing Conditions under

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<sup>24</sup> This study is available online at: <https://www.acwa.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/2017-06-05-ACWA-Integrated-Storage-Final-Report.pdf> and is incorporated by reference. Figure 6 estimates that these projects would reduce Sacramento River flows by 0.9 million acre feet per year on average, including reduced flows in dry (0.5 MAF) and critical years (0.1 MAF).

the administrative draft EIR, or under CALSIM II modeling, then the text should be modified to read “Existing Condition-NODOS” or “Existing Condition-CALSIM 2010” or in some similar way identify that these tables refer to modeling assumptions from a former Administrative Draft EIR. Appendix 6D is another location where Existing Conditions are described for model results. Since results for existing conditions exist, that condition should be compared to all the alternatives so as not to hide cumulative impacts, and to avoid confusion.

B. The DEIS/DEIR includes misleading and inaccurate descriptions of model results

The DEIS/DEIR provides misleading and inaccurate descriptions of model results, as the following examples demonstrate:

- Page 6-50: States September-June Delta outflow would be similar to NAA, and increase in July-August. This is misleading because it implies an overall increase in Delta outflow would occur, yet this is not the case. The only decrease described is January-March in Dry and Critical years, however this text contradicts the SW-33-7 tables/figures with modeling results that show December-March reductions in median years, reductions in some months of all year types, and reductions in all months at times outside of June-August. In addition to these averages, the exceedance tables show reductions in Delta outflow in all months at certain times.
- Pages 6-50 and 6-51: State that OMR Reverse flows would be larger September-November of all years and November, January, August-September of Dry and Critical years with Sites, but compliant with regulatory criteria. This is inaccurate and should be revised to reflect the modeling results in tables/figures SW-35-7, which show more negative OMR in July-November of most years. Also, as we state elsewhere, regulatory criteria are changing, and compliance with current inadequate regulations does not necessarily indicate a lack of impact.
- Table 7-4: Should say “< 56” and “< 68” (less than), instead of > (greater than).
- Page 7-44: Salinity at Rock Slough in AN years November-December would increase up to 16.5 percent, however this impact is not identified as significant. This fails to use the DEIS/DEIR’s own criteria of >10 percent changes being significant.
- Chapter 7: Under the action alternatives, X2 is described as similar to NAA, however model results in the exceedance tables in Appendix 6B show increases up to 5 km. In the driest February, X2 increasing from 83 km to 87 km would result in a significant impact on estuarine habitat that must be mitigated.
- Appendix 6B: Monthly results sorted by exceedance probability showing differences between the NAA and the alternatives may be mixing years and hiding larger variation in year to year results. While the display of total amounts is helpful, the proper way to display the absolute difference would be to subtract the results sorted by year prior to ordering by exceedance. In this way, the differences in each year can be evaluated.

C. Unexplained model results and confusing sentences require further explanation

Below are examples of model results and text that require additional explanation in order for the public and decisionmakers to understand:

- Page 6-38: The last paragraph is difficult to understand. Why would the delivery of water from Sites Reservoir to SOD users cause San Luis Reservoir storage to decrease June-December?
- Page 6-44: Why are there Clear Creek flow increases in July?
- Page 6-46: The short phrases explaining increases/decreases in flow are generally inadequate. For example, downstream of Delevan Pipeline, “[i]n July through November under Alternatives A, B, C, and D flows would increase as compared to the Existing Conditions/No Project/No Action Condition due to increased Shasta Lake releases to stabilize flows.” The location where flows need stabilizing and the reason flow stabilization would result in flow increases from Shasta is never explained.
- Appendix 6B: Results labeled “Funks” should be changed to “Holthouse” to avoid confusion.
- Appendix 6C-1: Mentions the concept of “excess flow.” This term should be defined in terms of flow that is in excess of that needed to maintain downstream ecosystems, and not in terms of current regulations, as existing regulations result in instream flows that demonstrably fail to adequately protect fish and wildlife.
- Page 25-41: Cites a 12-41 inch sea level rise, but doesn’t say what period the sea level rise is projected over.

D. The modeling results make clear that proposed operations would result in ecosystem degradation and omits consideration of opportunities to improve environmental conditions

Sites Reservoir is touted as a project that would provide public benefits, however the priority operations on 6A-15 are water supply-focused and would cause significant impacts to fish, wildlife and aquatic ecosystems. The operations criteria on page 6A-23 only show releases to the river in summer given one-way operation of the pipeline. This is a missed opportunity. For instance, the reservoir could be used to improve the Sacramento River hydrograph if releases in other months were considered.

Table 3-24 as well as model results in Appendix 6B indicate an operation with limited ecosystem benefits and a missed opportunity. Decreases in Sacramento River flows in the winter/spring, and increased flows from June-October, are generally inconsistent with reducing the impairment of the Sacramento River hydrograph, which would generally require reducing summer flows and increasing winter/spring flows. Improving the spring-summer hydrograph to be more reflective of unimpaired runoff patterns (high flows in early spring declining through early summer) could deliver significant benefits to the riparian systems of the Sacramento River. Currently, the

spring-summer hydrograph in the Sacramento River is reversed, with April-May flows rising instead of falling; combined with Army Corps and private riprap projects, this has prevented riparian growth and regeneration since about 1974. For instance, a 2002 study by The Nature Conservancy showed that providing adequate flows to restore riparian growth and regeneration near Hamilton City would take little or no additional water in wet years, 6 percent on average, and would mainly require reshaping the hydrograph to fix these problems.<sup>25</sup>

June-September Delevan pipeline flows would augment an already augmented summer period in the Sacramento River, potentially worsening ecological conditions in a river ecosystem adapted to lower flows during these months.<sup>26</sup>

At the TCC Intake at Red Bluff, diversions exceeding 1,000 cfs in up to 60 percent of Januaries and Februaries in Alternative A (and 2000 cfs in January-March for Alternative B) would cause a significant impact in Below Normal year types, reducing Sacramento River flows when higher flows are needed to help outmigrating salmon and higher Delta outflows are needed for maintaining the health of the estuary. At the GCC Intake at Hamilton City, large diversions April-May also miss the opportunity to lessen the impairment of the hydrograph in the spring months. While the diversions in the driest years are reduced compared to the NAA (although not in April in Alternative B), the operation of Sites Reservoir could be used to improve this further by focusing diversions on the augmented flows of the July-September period, when upstream reservoir releases almost always cause flows to be well above what the natural flows would be.

Sites Reservoir end of month storage for Alternative A shows October-March increases in storage to over 1 MAF almost independent of year type in Above Critical water years. For Alternatives A and B the greatest increases in storage are in Dry years. November to March diversions on the Sacramento River are already at an ecological tipping point, with river flows at Ord Ferry currently averaging near 75 percent of unimpaired flow. Below 75 percent of unimpaired flow, ecosystem impacts generally increase.<sup>27</sup> Increasing diversions in drier water year types runs counter to the goal of benefitting the ecosystem.

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<sup>25</sup> A Pilot Investigation of Cottonwood Recruitment On The Sacramento River M. D. Roberts, D. R. Peterson, D. E. Jukkola, V. L. Snowden, The Nature Conservancy, Sacramento River Project, May 2002, available at [http://www.sacramentoriver.org/forum/scripts/library/file.php?file\\_id=36](http://www.sacramentoriver.org/forum/scripts/library/file.php?file_id=36).

<sup>26</sup> While increased Delta outflow during the summer would benefit Delta smelt, increased flows in the Sacramento River appear unlikely to provide benefits for native fish species in the riverine environment.

<sup>27</sup> Richter, B. D., M. M. Davis, C. Apse, and C. Konrad. 2011. A presumptive standard for environmental flow protection. *River Research and Applications* 28:1312-1321. *See also* State Water Resources Control Board. 2010. Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem. Prepared Pursuant to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009, available at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/deltaflow/docs/final\\_rpt080310.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/deltaflow/docs/final_rpt080310.pdf).

Increased diversions from the already-reduced December-March period are very problematic except under very high flow conditions, both in the Sacramento River and in terms of reduced Delta outflows December-March. These will result in significant impacts that could be addressed with more beneficial operations.

**X. Conclusion**

As explained above, the DEIS/DEIR contains substantial flaws and inaccuracies, fails to disclose significant impacts, and fails to consider reasonable mitigation measures. The DEIS/DEIR should be revised to address these issues and recirculated for public comment.

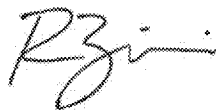
Thank you for considering these comments. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, or to further discuss the proposed project.

Sincerely,



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Doug Obegi  
Natural Resources Defense Council



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Rachel Zwillinger  
Defenders of Wildlife



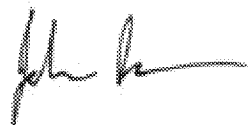
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Gary Bobker  
The Bay Institute



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Noah Oppenheim  
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations  
Institute for Fisheries Resources



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John Rose  
Center for Biological Diversity



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John McManus  
Golden Gate Salmon Association

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**From:** Spranza, John  
**Sent:** 2/14/2023 2:17:42 PM  
**To:** Marcia Kivett [MKivett@sitesproject.org]; Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Quin La Capra [qlacapra@katzandassociates.com]; Emily Fan Michaelson [emichaelson@katzandassociates.com]; Sara M. Katz [skatz@katzandassociates.com]; Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Spranza, John [john.spranza@hdrinc.com]

- CDFW operational criteria to protect flows and reduce adverse effects on salmon, sturgeon, longfin smelt, Delta smelt, and other native fish species need to be evaluated
- Includes arbitrary thresholds of significance for
- Longfin smelt impacts greater than 0 are significant (mandatory finding of significance)
- Operational impacts of greater than 5% are not called significant
- Does not adequately account for importance of flow fluctuations and fishery habitat needs
- Impacts to important floodplains (including Sutter and Yolo bypasses) need to be identified
- Assumes no impact at fish screens
- Diversion will further impact water temperatures downstream of the proposed diversions
- Failure to assess impacts from reduced floodplain inundation
- Fail to use existing life cycle models
- Consider feasible mitigation measures, including minimum bypass flows
- Need to demonstrate compliance with California Endangered Species Act (CESA)
- Overstates project benefits for threatened and endangered salmonids – not a net benefit

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**From:** Sara M. Katz [skatz@katzandassociates.com]  
**Sent:** 2/14/2023 3:33:15 PM  
**To:** Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Ann Newton [anewton@katzandassociates.com]; Sarah Rossetto [srossetto@katzandassociates.com]; Quin La Capra [qlacpra@katzandassociates.com]; kim@floydcommunications.com  
**CC:** Emily Fan Michaelson [emichaelson@katzandassociates.com]  
**Subject:** Sites Comms Team Agenda for 2/15/23

1. Kevin update
  2. 2022 Year in Review – sent to graphics
  3. Media interview with CalMatters - Update
  4. EIR Process Communications Components:
    - a. 4-5 topics: produce subject specific fact sheets (or other format – TBD). Fisheries discussion held 2/14/23.
    - b. Website updates - completed
    - c. Update Community Guide – schedule updates (Mid-March)
    - d. FAQ – revise and expand (late March)
    - e. Media support – press release upon board approval (late May)
    - f. Video clips – Discussed three (3) – Video primer under development (late February)
  - i. We listened. We learned. We improved.
  - ii. Local, State, Federal
    - g. Other
    5. State Water Board Meeting overview from Friday 2/10
      - a. Meeting outline with tasks discussed (completed)
      - b. Q&A – expanded; methodically address concerns, demonstrate all we have done
- Topics such as:
- i. Impacts to SWP
  - ii. Impacts to CVP
  - iii. Trinity River
  - iv. Environment
  - v. Fisheries
  - vi. Water Quality
    - c. Blog on water availability analysis
    - d. Strong profile on the website – ease for media and possible protestors to see all we have done
    - e. Consider letters to support, geared to the efforts, need for water, benefits, etc. (**Draft List 2/15/23**)
    6. 2023 Program Messaging Document – **draft provided to Kevin 2/14/23**
    7. Virtual Tour – need to understand what SWRCB might be looking for – various versions can be produced but need to understand THEIR interests and see how we can meet those as well as use for other purposes. Kevin to inquire of Jerry.
    8. Other



**Sara M. Katz**  
Founder/CEO  
mobile: [619.813.9551](tel:619.813.9551)  
[San Diego](#) · [Los Angeles](#) · [San Francisco](#)

# Stone Corral Creek and Funks Creek Study Plan

Briefing for Colusa County

Date 14, 2023

Jason Hassrick, Senior Fish Biologist

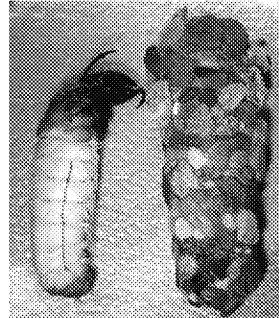
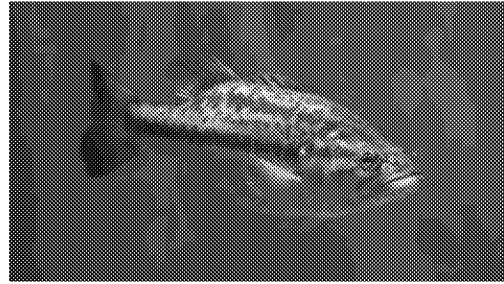
Jeff Peters, Senior Geomorphologist and Restoration Specialist





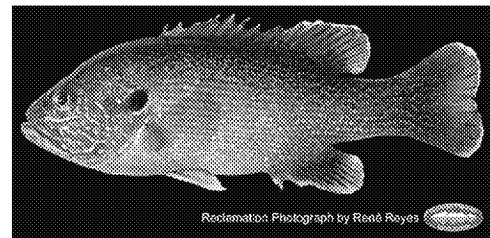
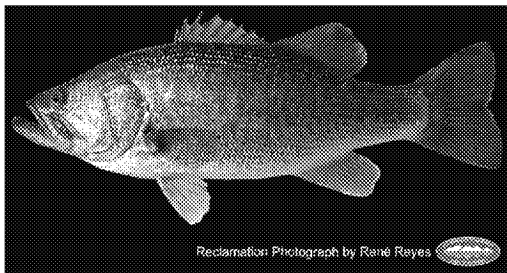
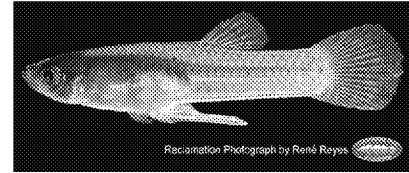
# Overview

- Purpose
  - Address CDFW, SWRCB, and public comments
  - **Address Fish and Game Code 5937**
- Setting
  - Update status of information from the 1990s
  - Scalable
- Studies
  - Fish Monitoring
  - Bioassessment
  - Hydrogeomorphic Study
  - Temperature Study



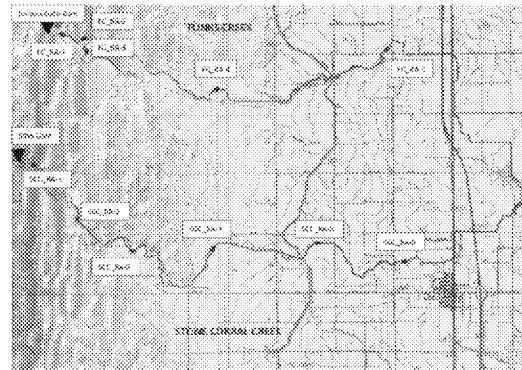
## Technical Studies (Fish Community)

- determine the baseline condition for fish species composition and density in the two creeks
- mechanisms for changes (declines) to the fish community will be identified
- meet the objective of CDFW Code 5937 "Fish in Good Condition".



## Technical Studies (Fish Community cont.)

- BACI Study Design using local streams as controls measuring abundance, condition and distribution
- Electrofishing or seining depending on field conditions
- Sample locations paired with other proposed studies (11 impact sites, 3 control sites)
- 5 years of pre-project and 5-10 years of post-project monitoring (scalable)



## Summary

- **Address Fish and Game Code 5937**
- Studies to determine existing aquatic community
  - Fish Monitoring
  - Bioassessment
  - Hydrogeomorphic Study
  - Temperature Study
- Next steps
  - Finalize with agencies
  - Secure access
  - Procure equipment



Questions?





# Sites Reservoir Project

## Schedule

#	Activity Name	Duration	Start	Finish	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038
					Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q
1	<b>Sites Reservoir Project DD: 29-Jan-2023</b>																			
2	Final EIR / EIS (ROD) - Complete	0		05-May-23	◆															
3	NTP for Final Design Data Acquisition	23	01-Dec-23*	05-Jan-24	□															
4	Authority Approval to Proceed with P2 Access (NTP)	0	08-Jan-24		◆															
5	Critical Land Access - P2a Geotech (Dam Foundation & Grouting)	200	08-Jan-24	16-Oct-24	■															
6	Water Right Permit	0		26-Sep-24	◆															
7	EIR P2a Geotech Investigation (Dam Foundations & Grouting)	380	17-Oct-24	17-Apr-26	■															
8	Investor Commitment	0		24-Oct-24	◆															
9	Secure LOC/Implement Mitigation Prior to Take (Compensatory)	305	20-Apr-26	18-Jun-27	■															
10	Prepare and Consult on Construction Phase Work Plan (per Section 106 I	120	20-Apr-26	02-Oct-26	■															
11	Golden Gate Foundation 60% Design	130	20-Apr-26	16-Oct-26	■															
12	Plant Survey & Land Cover	158	29-Apr-26	04-Dec-26	■															
13	Cultural Survey	180	05-Oct-26	11-Jun-27	■															
14	Critical Path Land Acquisition	300	19-Oct-26	10-Dec-27	■															
15	Land Acquisition / Complete Access	0	13-Dec-27		◆															
16	Testing and Evaluation of Resources	180	13-Dec-27	18-Aug-28	■															
17	Species Protocol Surveys; USFWS & CDFW Acceptance	358	01-Mar-28	13-Jul-29	■															
18	Develop Treatment Plan and Implementation	260	21-Aug-28	17-Aug-29	■															
19	Northern Construction Access Roads (CR 68, CR 69, N. Rd)	284	05-Mar-29	04-Apr-30	■															
20	Southern Construction Access Roads (Maxwell-Sites, Shoo-fly, A-1)	195	25-Jun-29	22-Mar-30	■															
21	Filter Material Haul to Stockpile	800	25-Mar-30	15-Apr-33	■															
22	Golden Gate Access and Staging	100	05-Apr-30	22-Aug-30	■															
23	Implement Avoidance/Minimization Activities During Construction	260	23-Aug-30	21-Aug-31	■															
24	GG Dam - Foundation Excavation (Some Dbl Shift)	200	15-Nov-30	21-Aug-31	■															
25	Dental Excavation and Concrete	80	30-May-31	18-Sep-31	■															
26	Grout Cap	100	27-Jun-31	13-Nov-31	■															
27	Consolidation Grouting	125	11-Jul-31	01-Jan-32	■															
28	Curtain Grouting	150	25-Jul-31	19-Feb-32	■															
29	Place Zone 1 - Core	525	14-Nov-31	17-Nov-33	■															
30	Place Zone 2A & 2B - Filters, Drains and Transitions	525	14-Nov-31	17-Nov-33	■															
31	Place Zone 3 - Rockfill (Some Dbl Shift)	525	14-Nov-31	17-Nov-33	■															
32	Place Zone 4 - Random (Some Dbl Shift)	525	14-Nov-31	17-Nov-33	■															
33	Place Rip Rap	475	13-Feb-32	08-Dec-33	■															
34	Site Reclamation and Topsoil Replacement	120	18-Jul-33	30-Dec-33	■															
35	Substantial Completion - Dams Ready for Commissioning	0		30-Dec-33	◆															

**From:** Millsap, Stephanie D [stephanie\_millsap@fws.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/24/2023 4:12:03 PM  
**To:** Hunt, Shane D [shunt@usbr.gov]; Jacobson, Allison M [ajacobson@usbr.gov]; Brick, David A [dbrick@usbr.gov]  
**CC:** Spranza, John [john.spranza@hdrinc.com]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Schoenberg, Steven [steven\_schoenberg@fws.gov]; garwin.yip [garwin.yip@noaa.gov]; Reaves, Brittany L [brittany\_reaves@fws.gov]; Stephen Maurano [stephen.maurano@noaa.gov]; Welsh, Daniel [daniel\_welsh@fws.gov]  
**Subject:** FWS technical assistance on Sites Reservoir terrestrial species RE: [EXTERNAL] Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Shane:

These comments are limited to the terrestrial species potentially affected by construction impacts.

Staff from my office have not reviewed the consultation approach for operations or any of the underlying data or models that are used to identify the effects of operations on aquatic species, such as Delta and longfin smelt, in the administrative draft BA. My understanding is that the Directors from Reclamation, USFWS, NMFS, DWR, and CDFW have recommended a programmatic approach be developed for operations of all the CVP and SWP storage and conveyance projects, including Sites reservoir. Once the approach for consultation has been determined, my office will be in a much better position to provide technical assistance regarding potential effects to aquatic species.

Additional details regarding Species Considered but Not Addressed Further should be provided:

- If parts of the project site have not been visited yet other than through aerial imagery, it is unclear how the depth of vernal pools can be accurately identified to the extent that they may eliminate federally listed species such as Greene's tuctoria (*Tuctoria greenei*), hairy Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia pilosa*), Hoover's spurge (*Euphorbia hooveri*), and slender Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia tenuis*) from evaluation.
  - Habitat models in Appendix 5P only describe habitat models for species that are analyzed in the BA.
  - In the absence of ground-truthing, more detailed explanations of how potentially suitable habitat was modeled and evaluated for these species that were eliminated from consideration would be useful in determining whether the identification of absence of habitat is accurate.

Maps of occurrence records/habitat should be included:

- there weren't any maps in the BA showing the nearest records, the 5-mile criterion seemed arbitrary and short especially for a large area which is rarely/infrequently surveyed
- Instead, I recommend including relevant maps within the document and stating where the nearest records are for each species. For example, rather than saying the nearest record of X species in CDNDDDB is Y miles away from the Action Area. This would be more helpful in identifying and evaluating proposed impacts to wildlife resources.
  - For instance, regarding the listed plants, Keck's and PBBB, my first impression of the analysis was favorable but the information was incomplete; where is the 1 record of Keck's within 5 miles (not a long distance) and where are the other 6 records? How far away is the nearest record of PBBB? (again, "none within 5 miles", isn't as informative as the actual distance - is it 6 or 60 miles?)
- I recommend including maps of the Action Area, CNDDDB occurrence maps, critical habitat maps, and other relevant figures in the BA to better illustrate proposed impacts.

Modeled suitable habitat amounts should be refined:

- The total area of potentially affected suitable habitat appear to be overestimates that are based upon a worst-case scenario that would later be reduced after site habitat assessments, formal wetland delineations, and protocol-level biological and botanical surveys are conducted by qualified biologists



- These modeled large areas are not helpful in a consultation because it becomes more difficult to determine if the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, quantify potential take, and make it more difficult to determine whether a project effect can reasonably be compensated.
- It's better to state the modeled number then, using whatever other criteria your best professional opinion or other information you have, and state those factors (that is, don't say "my best professional opinion", but rather, say, it is my best professional opinion that factors XYZ greatly reduce the likelihood of presence over such a broad area). After this justification, provide a lower number, or range, that you feel is probable to be achieved during the eventual on-the-ground surveys.
  - For example, 12,545 acres of modeled VELB habitat is far too much that can be reasonably mitigated by any offset. Elsewhere in the BA it states the expectation "based on previous surveys" <250 shrubs would be impacted. State how this estimate was derived, and what area would be associated with it. I did note the document referenced earlier studies in the late 90s documenting 18 exit holes among 672 stems, though not within the "action area". It's not entirely clear what is meant by this; if the surveys were in a different area entirely, adjacent, or different type of habitat from that which would be impacted. This should be clarified.
  - I recommend using existing information about soils, topography, or elevational distribution of the VP species, to further refine the VP estimate. The existing estimate of 359 acres is a very large number.

Put past surveys in context:

- Listed species are routinely difficult to detect unless surveyed sufficiently, in the right way, at the right time.
- Results of past surveys in 2000, 2003, etc. for various species are included, but no additional context is provided, and no information is given regarding what surveys were actually done.
- Previously conducted surveys should include more context, including how they relate to detection of each species referenced in them. For instance, were these surveys done using recommended methods for these species, at the recommended times of year, and conducted by qualified biologists?

Mitigation for unoccupied habitat should be included:

- The restriction of proposed compensation for most species (CRLF, VELB, VPS) to occupied habitat impacts is not appropriate. Most VELB habitat is technically unoccupied even when it is present in an area, because it doesn't occur on every bush, and isn't detectable until it makes an exit hole. CRLF, if present in a region, can and does disperse and occupy unoccupied habitat at some time other than when the survey was done.
  - Different mitigation ratios are customarily used for such occupied and unoccupied habitat; but unoccupied habitat should not imply uncompensated.
  - The way the BA treats GGS is more appropriate by proposing 3:1 regardless of occupation due to the high likelihood of presence. The habitat impact numbers are rational (1 ac aquatic; 20 ac upland) and more likely to be mitigable.

Additional details regarding mitigation location should be provided:

- As part of the consultation, the Service will need to make a determination that the proposed mitigation is reasonably likely to be sufficient and implemented (in the ground), at time of first impact.
- In addition to using the refined estimate of impact to calculate a range of likely mitigation requirement in acres, enough information should be provided with details regarding where and how mitigation could occur.
  - This may include identifying the locations of potential mitigation lands or banks for each of the species and/or habitat types for which mitigation is proposed and if sufficient acres/credits are available
  - This may also include identifying candidate opportunities, examining areas identified in recovery plans, and/or researching long term development of mitigation banks.

Consider inclusion of candidate species:

- A candidate species is one for which the Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support a proposal for listing as endangered or threatened but is not yet listed or proposed for listing. Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7 of the ESA is not required for candidate species; however, it may be required if the species is listed or proposed for listing during the ongoing process of biological evaluation.

- Due to the extended proposed timeline of this project, it may be prudent to evaluate potential impacts to monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), which is a candidate species.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide technical assistance regarding these federally-listed terrestrial species. I hope these comments are helpful and the Service looks forward to continuing to provide input on these topics.

Sincerely,  
-Stephanie

>>> I am working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic. All calls to my office phone are being forwarded to my cellphone. <<<

\*\*\*\*\*  
Stephanie Millsap, Ph.D.  
Watershed Planning Division Manager  
[stephanie\\_millsap@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_millsap@fws.gov)  
916-930-2658  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
SF Bay Delta Fish and Wildlife Office  
650 Capital Mall, Suite 8-300  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
\*\*\*\*\*

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**From:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 10:42 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforseythe@sitesproject.org>; Dekar, Melissa D <mdekar@usbr.gov>; Hunt, Shane D <shunt@usbr.gov>; Millsap, Stephanie D <stephanie\_millsap@fws.gov>; Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; Reaves, Brittany L <brittany\_reaves@fws.gov>; Schoenberg, Steven <steven\_schoenberg@fws.gov>; garwin.yip <garwin.yip@noaa.gov>; Stephen Maurano <stephen.maurano@noaa.gov>; Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**



**Spranza, John shared a folder with you**


Hello,

This shared file contains the Sites Project's administrative draft BA. The Authority would appreciate your technical assistance with the further preparation of the document by providing comments and feedback on this draft and identifying any concerns or areas that need additional revision.

Your help is much appreciated, please let me know if you have any questions or if you are having trouble accessing this folder.

Regards,  
John

 [2022-Nov Admin Draft BA](#)

 This link only works for the direct recipients of this message.

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**From:** Jerry Brown [jbrown@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 2/15/2023 6:37:46 PM  
**To:** Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Sara M. Katz [skatz@katzandassociates.com]  
**Subject:** FW: Talking Points about Sites  
**Attachments:** Sites Reservoir Talking Points 2023-02.docx; Sites\_Frequently-Asked-Questions-Operations\_1.12.22.pdf;  
Sites\_GeneralFS\_V2\_5-4-2020.pdf

I think Randall handled Nina's request well. We don't need to do anything further for this request. But this does tell us we to disseminate our message platform for 2023 when complete this month. thanks

---

**From:** "Neudeck,Randall D" <rneudeck@mwdh2o.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 11:50 AM  
**To:** "Hawk,Nina E" <NHawk@mwdh2o.com>, Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Talking Points about Sites

Nina - Attached are a set of talking points, plus a few Sites fact sheets. Let me know if this works for you. -- Randall

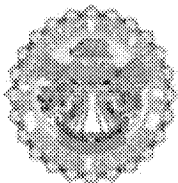
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**From:** Hawk,Nina E <NHawk@mwdh2o.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023 9:22 AM  
**To:** Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Neudeck,Randall D <rneudeck@mwdh2o.com>  
**Subject:** Talking Points about Sites

Hi Jerry,

If you can forward talking points you or your team have prepared for media needs (the basics). Randall is preparing MWD specific talking points as we have a current inquiry for Sites.

Thanks!



**Nina Hawk**  
Chief of Bay-Delta Resources  
Bay-Delta Initiatives  
Metropolitan Water District  
1121 L Street, Suite 900, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (510) 299-8289 (mobile)  
[nhawk@mwdh2o.com](mailto:nhawk@mwdh2o.com)

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# SITES RESERVOIR TALKING POINTS

## **Key Points**

- Sites represents a fundamentally new approach for combined environmental and water supply benefits, oriented toward the evolving conditions we face today and into the future, due to climate change and other challenges.
- If the reservoir had been in existence today, we would be in a much better position to manage both environmental and species conflicts, as well as water supply shortages to water users and contractors.
- During the recent storm events Sites Reservoir could have diverted 120,000 acre-feet of water from Jan. 3 to Jan. 15, and potentially 382,000 acre-feet of water through at Feb. 15, less than 4% of Delta outflow.
- About 40% of the project's annual water supplies are for environmental flows to improve conditions for native fish and Pacific Flyway habitat.
- Sites Reservoir would assist in strengthening Southern California's water resiliency by:
  - Reducing the risk of concurrent low SWP and Colorado River allocations during drought
  - Reducing supply imbalances in SWP dependent areas
  - Maintains needed low-salinity supplies for groundwater recharge
  - Helps us meet salinity blend goal for water quality purposes
- Sites Reservoir works complementary with the proposed Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) in providing water supply reliability benefits. The current annual water yield of Sites is based on a without DCP scenario. In essence, the projects are complementary but not tied together to realize water supply benefits.
- Metropolitan's agreement to participate in funding for the current planning effort does not commit Metropolitan to the proposed Project implementation or further funding.
- The reasons to invest in Sites Reservoir are many and the cost of Sites water is extremely competitive compared to other water supply options.

## **Background**

- Metropolitan's Board has authorized \$30,712,500 (\$1.5 million in 2017, \$4,212,500 in 2019, \$5,000,000 in 2020, & \$20,000,000 in 2022) to participate in the planning of the proposed Sites Reservoir.
- Metropolitan's investment allows for participation in the planning effort and to reserve 311,700 acre-feet (AF) of storage rights, equivalent to approximately 50,000 AF of annual water supply reservoir releases.
- The remaining planning effort through 2024 will focus on finalizing the environmental documents, project construction/operation permits, and a coordinated operations plan with the federal and state agencies.
- The overall project is estimated to cost \$3.9 billion (in 2021 dollars). The annual costs for operations, maintenance, and power are estimated at \$83 million to \$100 million annually.
- The estimated average cost per AF of yield ranges from \$700 to \$900 per AF at the reservoir, depending on the loan interest rate. For Metropolitan, an additional \$300 to 450 per AF would be added to the yield cost to take care of conveyance losses in the Delta, SWP pumping costs, and Metropolitan water treatment costs.
- Current operations modeling estimates the annual yield at approximately 207,000 to 260,000 AF per year. This model utilizes fishery regulatory criteria to protect instream river flows and water temperatures for salmon and other native species.



## SITES RESERVOIR TALKING POINTS

- The proposed Project is one of only two priority surface water reservoir projects in the Governor’s Water Resilience Portfolio and is one of the first multi-benefit reservoirs in California that would have dedicated water storage and yield to be used for fishery enhancement, instream flow releases in drier periods, and improved habitat for native species.
- Significant local and statewide support from local, statewide, and bipartisan support from more than 175 organizations, agencies, businesses, and elected officials.
- Sites Project Authority has been conducting an extensive outreach process to meet with local stakeholders, including environmental, salmon fishing, and tribal interests. Over 40 meetings and workshops have been conducted to communicate and listen to additional input. This includes reaching out to over a dozen Native American tribes. The Sites Project team has also been holding monthly meetings with two local tribes with known historic connection to the proposed Project area. In addition, the USBR has consulted with federally recognized tribes. The proposed Project does not occur in an area that would affect tribal hunting or water rights, nor is the alternative on tribal trust lands.

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**Is Sites being built to send more water South?**

Sites is being built to provide resiliency, reliability and flexibility to the statewide water supplies for all of California to adapt to the impacts of climate change to the state's water management infrastructure. The new water created by the Project and the added flexibility that comes from being able to store water will improve and enhance water management throughout California.

**Is this reservoir a stand-alone, or does it work with other regional reservoirs?**

Sites Reservoir is uniquely located in relation to other major components of the state and federal water projects like Shasta Lake, Lake Oroville and Folsom Lake. Sites is complementary to these existing crucial elements of statewide water management and could act to extend the functions they serve by creating flexibility to adapt to changing river and Delta management conditions. For example, Sites can be operated in coordination with Shasta Lake to preserve and enhance cold water for endangered salmon in the Sacramento River. Or Sites could contribute to the increased fresh-water flow into the Delta during drier periods to assist with salinity management of this critical estuary. Sites would not compete for the water resources stored in these state and federal facilities but would increase the total amount of managed water in storage. With the uncertainty California water managers face in the next century, having the Sites Reservoir is a necessity for statewide water management.

**Does Sites Reservoir need new Delta conveyance?**

No. The project is not dependent on the construction of Delta tunnels. Sites Reservoir will function independently, with or without a new Delta conveyance system. The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement evaluates Sites Reservoir as a standalone project.

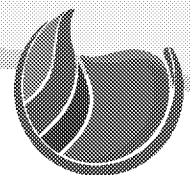
**Since Sites only receives water when there is "surplus" flow in the Sacramento River, how long is it projected now before the reservoir is full under "normal" precipitation patterns?**

In California water there is no "normal" water year. Based on 82 years of past hydrology analyzed using standard models and methods, it would take, on average, approximately five to seven years for the reservoir to fill completely on first fill. In contrast, in a single water year like 2016-2017 it would have been possible to fill the reservoir in one year. Similarly, if a string of dry years was to occur, it would take longer to fill, maybe as much 10 years. Surprisingly, there tends to be "surplus" flow in the river in all years. Even in dry and critically dry years, there would be filling opportunities, albeit fairly limited.

The original construction of Los Vaqueros Reservoir in Contra Costa County provides a real-life example of the possible variability in fill rates. The first fill of the 100,000 acre-foot reservoir was expected to take five to seven years. However, the first year of operation was 1997-1998, a fairly wet year of high-quality water being available at the intakes, which allowed the reservoir first fill to be completed in just two years.

**How much above the statistical normal for rainfall in the region does rainfall have to be for Sites to receive "surplus" water from the Sacramento River?**

Sites is designed to divert water through existing state-of-the-art fish screens only when actual flows on the Sacramento River exceed that needed by more senior water right holders, the Delta is in "excess" conditions, and based on stringent criteria to protect aquatic resources. Sites primarily diverts flows into the Sacramento River from streams and creeks downstream of Shasta/Keswick Dams. The exception is that Sites could pick up water that gets released from these dams under flood control conditions. The operations modeling typically conducted for water projects does not rely on rainfall statistics. Instead, model simulations (CalSim) calibrated to actual flow conditions for an 82-year period covering 1921-2003 are overlaid with current permit and operating constraints to evaluate with project conditions.

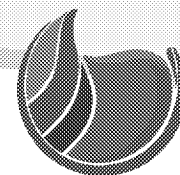


**How much above the statistical normal for rainfall in the region does rainfall have to be for Sites to receive “surplus” water from the Sacramento River? *(continued)***

The beneficial thing about this approach is that you can simulate future with climate change conditions which has been done for the Sites Project. The results of these with climate change simulations demonstrate that the performance of the project actually improves 5 to 10 percent with climate change. This is good for all of the project partners including the state and federal governments which are approximately 25 percent shareholders for environmental purposes.

**How will this project utilize and capitalize on existing infrastructure and what does that mean for the project footprint?**

Extending the performance of existing infrastructure is good public policy, good business practice and makes for a more sustainable footprint by reducing the environmental impact of the constructed work. The Project will utilize existing facilities and infrastructure to a great extent and the existing topography of the reservoir site itself is a natural bowl perfectly situated to accommodate a water reservoir. A significant portion of the 100+ miles of conveyance (canals and pipelines) involved in the Project will be existing facilities. The only new conveyance envisioned is the inlet/outlet works for the reservoir and the four miles of 10-foot diameter pipeline to convey water back to the Sacramento River between the Tehama-Colusa Canal and the Colusa Basin Drain.





Sites Reservoir is a generational opportunity to construct a multi-benefit water storage project that helps restore flexibility, reliability, and resiliency to our statewide water supply. Simply put, no other storage project currently under consideration in California can positively influence the operational efficiencies of our existing statewide water.

Perhaps what makes Sites Reservoir so unique is that it is not a “traditional” reservoir project. It is an off-stream facility that does not dam a major river system and would not block fish migration or spawning. Rather, Sites Reservoir offers a significant water storage opportunity that benefits both people and the environment.

Sites Reservoir captures and stores stormwater flows from the Sacramento River—after all other water rights and regulatory requirements are met—for release primarily in dry and critical years for environmental use and for California communities, farms, and businesses when it is so desperately needed. Sites Reservoir is designed to be adaptable to a changing climate. As snowpack declines due to climate change and more of our water comes in the form of atmospheric rivers – Sites Reservoir will become even more vital to the future resiliency of our statewide water supply.

### How It Works

Located 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell in rural Glenn and Colusa counties, the Sites Reservoir would be an off-stream storage facility that captures and stores stormwater flows in the Sacramento River—after all other water rights and regulatory requirements are met—for release in dry and critical years for environmental use and for California communities, farms and businesses when it is so desperately needed.

When operated in coordination with other Northern California reservoirs such as Shasta, Oroville and Folsom, which function as the backbone to both the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, Sites Reservoir will greatly increase flexibility, reliability and resiliency of statewide water supplies in drier periods.

With Sites Reservoir, California has a rare opportunity to enhance statewide water supplies and provide a dedicated allocation of water specifically for the environment.

It provides federal and state resource agencies with a dedicated and reliable supply of water they can manage to provide environmental benefits, especially during drier years.

A significant portion of the project's annual water supplies will be provided for environmental flows, which will help to improve conditions for Delta smelt; help preserve cold-water pools in Shasta later into the summer months to support salmon development, spawning and rearing; and improve Pacific Flyway habitat for migratory birds and other native species.

### Sites Reservoir Fast Facts



Provide water for up to **1.5 million homes and businesses** for one year.



Increases Sacramento Valley water storage capacity.



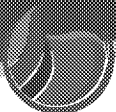
Creates **reliable supplies** for environmental, agricultural, and municipal uses.



**29 participating agencies** representing communities across California.

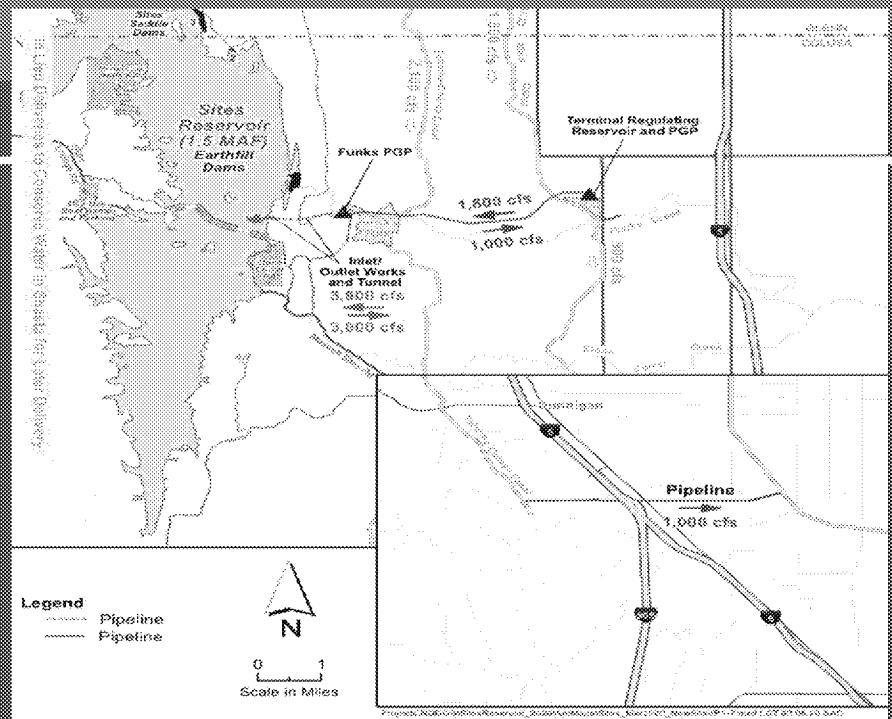
### Sites Reservoir Benefits

- **Reliable dry-year water supply for California communities, farms and businesses**
- **Improved water quality**
- **Groundwater recharge**
- **Flood management**
- **Contribution to California's renewable energy goals**
- **Environmental water in drier periods for native fish and Pacific Flyway habitat for migratory birds and other native species**
- **Recreational opportunities**
- **Creation and protection of middle class jobs, including a large skilled work force during seven-year construction**



## Support and Funding

Widely supported both regionally and statewide, the project has made significant progress. A bipartisan group of more than 175 organizations, agencies, businesses and elected officials support the Sites Reservoir Project. In 2018, the project was awarded \$816 million in funding from California's Proposition 1 water bond, and secured a \$449 million investment from the United States Department of Agriculture. The United States Bureau of Reclamation is also a significant project partner.



The Sites Reservoir would be an off-stream storage facility located 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell, California in rural Colusa County.

## Sites Reservoir Participating Entities

- Colusa County \*
- Colusa County Water District \*
- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District \*
- Glenn County \*
- Placer County Water Agency & City of Roseville \*
- Reclamation District 108 \*
- Sacramento County Water Agency & City of Sacramento \*
- Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority \*
- Westside Water District \*
- TC 4 \*\*
- Western Canal Water District \*\*
- American Canyon, City of
- Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency
- CA Department of Water Resources (Ex Officio)
- Carter Municipal Water Company
- Coachella Valley Water District
- Cortina Water District
- Davis Water District
- Desert Water Agency
- Dunnigan Water District
- LaGrande Water District
- Metropolitan Water District
- San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
- San Geronimo Pass Water Agency
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
- US Bureau of Reclamation (Cost-share)
- Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
- Zone 7 Water Agency

\* Authority Board Member  
 \*\* Associate Board Member



## What Makes Sites Reservoir Different?

Features	Benefits
Off-stream storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not create barriers to native fish migration</li> <li>Improves local flood management</li> <li>Improved conservation of stored water to be available when it is needed most</li> </ul>
Cooperative operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases effectiveness and efficiency of existing water storage infrastructure</li> </ul>
Sacramento Valley-led	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aligns with Sacramento Valley's values</li> <li>Authority will be an integral part of community</li> <li>Fosters regional and statewide collaboration</li> </ul>
Beneficiary pays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides equity among participating partners</li> <li>Improves accountability and value creation</li> </ul>
Federal and state agencies manage environmental water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptable to current and future conditions and priorities</li> <li>Ensures federal and state environmental priorities are met—today and into the future</li> </ul>
Adaptable to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational flexibility to ensure the water will be applied to the highest beneficial uses despite an uncertain future</li> </ul>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.SITESPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.SITESPROJECT.ORG)

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe[/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]

**Sent:** Fri 2/17/2023 9:40:28 AM (UTC-08:00)

**To:** Davis-Fadtke, Kristal@Wildlife[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov]; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov]; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov]; steve.micko@jacobs.com[steve.micko@jacobs.com]; Angela Bezzone[bezzone@mbkengineers.com]; Spranza, John[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com]; Pitts, Adrian[Adrian.Pitts@icf.com]; Greenwood, Marin[Marin.Greenwood@icf.com]; Hassrick, Jason (Jason.Hassrick@icf.com)[jason.hassrick@icf.com]; Wilder, Rick[Rick.Wilder@icf.com]; Lecky, Jim[jim.lecky@icf.com]; Moderan, Julien[Julien.Moderan@icf.com]; Clabaugh, Anna[Anna.Clabaugh@hdrinc.com]; Briard, Monique (Monique.Briard@icfi.com)[Monique.Briard@icfi.com]

**Subject:** Sites Project - Operations ITP, Reclamation Investment and Exchange Information

**Attachment:** NODOS\_Trend\_Reporting\_rev52dpcye\_DV6\_MultiClim\_CALSIM\_\_2035CT\_NAA\_041222\_2035CT\_ALT3A\_041122\_2035CT\_ALT3B\_041122\_2035CT\_ALT1A\_062222\_2035CT\_ALT1A\_062222\_NoShaE.xlsm

**Attachment:** Sites\_ITP\_ShastaOrovilleExchangeCriteria\_rev02\_20230213.docx

**Attachment:** Sites\_OrovilleExchangeVolumeTimeseries\_20230208\_\_ALT3A\_041122\_2035CT\_ALT3B\_041122\_2035CT.xlsx

Hi all – I wanted to follow up on a few items around the Sites Project CESA Operations ITP application.

Below and attached are follow up on a few items:

1. Summary of Shasta and Oroville Exchange Modeling Parameters and why they are important – The attached Word document (Sites\_ITP\_ShastaOrovilleExchangeCriteria\_rev02\_20230213.docx) is a draft of Oroville exchange criteria descriptions on page 1 and Shasta exchange criteria descriptions on page 2.
2. Oroville Exchange Volumes by month by year – The attached Excel spreadsheet contains Oroville exchange volume timeseries data for Alt 3A (in column B) and Alt 3B (in column C).
3. Following-up on the CalSim II sensitivity (Alt 1A without Shasta exchanges at 2035CT).

A trend report with the following CalSim II results is attached:

- NAA 041222 2035CT
  - No Action Alternative (for the BA/ITP)
- ALT 3A 041122 2035CT
  - Alternative 3A (for the BA/ITP)
  - 1.5 MAF Sites Reservoir
  - 25% Reclamation Investment
  - Includes Shasta exchanges
- ALT 3B 041122 2035CT
  - Alternative 3B (for the BA/ITP)
  - 1.5 MAF Sites Reservoir
  - 16% Reclamation investment

- Includes Shasta exchanges
- ALT 1A 062222 2035CT
  - Sensitivity analysis
  - 1.5 MAF Sites Reservoir
  - No Reclamation investment
  - Includes Shasta exchanges
- ALT 1A 062222 noShaEXCH 2035CT
  - Sensitivity analysis
  - 1.5 MAF Sites Reservoir
  - No Reclamation investment
  - No Shasta exchanges

I've highlighted two: First - Alt 1A 06222 2035 CT as this in the new run – WITH exchanges but NO Reclamation investment. I think this is the run that we are looking forward to isolate the project, including exchanges but Without Reclamation investment. Second – Alt 1A 062222 noShaEXCH 2035CT as this in the new run – with NO exchanges but NO Reclamation investment. These two runs are new and help us “piece apart” the different components of the Project. The other runs are provided in the sheet for comparative purposes.

I thought I would give folks some time to review all of this material and coordinate internally. Below is a doodle poll to schedule a group call about 2 to 3 weeks out. Please complete the poll ASAP and we will get a meeting scheduled to continue the dialogue.

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/e36xM2Od>

Thanks all!

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**File Provided Natively**



Meeting: **Joint Sites Reservoir Committee & Authority Board**

**February 17, 2023  
9:00 AM – Noon**

Locations: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

122 Old Hwy 99W, Maxwell, CA 95955

See additional locations below.

Call in: **1-916-538-7066**

Code: **916 475 053#**

Authority Board Chair:	Fritz Durst (Reclamation District 108)
Authority Board Vice Chair:	Jeff Sutton (Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority)
Reservoir Committee Chair:	Thad Bettner (Glenn Colusa Irrigation District )
Reservoir Committee Vice-Chair:	Valerie Pryor (Zone 7 Water Agency)
Treasurer:	Jamie Traynham (Davis Water District)

## **AGENDA**

### **ROLL CALL & CALL TO ORDER:**

- Introductions.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of February 17, 2023, Joint Meeting Agenda.
- Announcement of Closed Session.
- Period for Public Comment.

*Any person may speak about any subject of concern, provided it is within the Reservoir Committee’s and Authority Board’s jurisdiction and a public comment card is submitted. The time allotted for receiving such public communication shall be limited to 3 minutes per person. Note: No action shall be taken on comments made during this period.*

### **1. Consent Agenda:**

Approximate start time 9:10 am

*The Executive Director reviewed the following items. To his knowledge, there is no opposition to the action. The items can be acted on in one consolidated motion as recommended or may be removed from the Consent Calendar and separately considered at the request of any person. Each item indicates the body authorized to approve such actions according to the JPA, Bylaws and Project Agreement.*

- 1.1 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of January 20, 2023, Joint Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting Minutes. **(Attachments A & B)**
- 1.2 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider acceptance of the Sites Project Authority Treasurer’s Report. **(Attachment A)**
- 1.3 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of the Payment of Claims. **(Attachments A & B)**

- 1.4 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider acceptance of the Sites Project Authority's Q4 2022 Budget Year Quarterly Financial Report. **(Attachment A & B)**
- 1.5 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider authorization for the Executive Director to submit a request to the California Water Commission to amend the Early Funding Agreement for the increased Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determination and project schedule changes.
- 1.6 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider authorization of Task Order Amendment No. 1 to Katz Task Order No. 5, which would increase their total task order amount by \$100,000, bringing the authorized not to exceed 2023 budget amount to \$651,801 and 3-year contract ceiling to \$1,555,369. Authorize a transfer of \$100,000 of Program Operations unrestricted contingency funds to offset the increased task order budget amount.

**2. Action Items:**

Approximate start time 9:15 am

- 2.1 Conduct the 2023 Election of Officers:
  - a) Elect Reservoir Committee Chair, Vice-Chair. Consider acceptance of the Authority Board's designation of Treasurer.
  - b) Elect Authority Board Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
  - c) Reservoir Committee and Authority Board confirms current committee and workgroup designations and participation.

**(Attachments A, B, C)**

- 2.2 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board considers approval of the amended Real Estate Temporary Right of Entry Compensation Protocol and revision of the Delegation of Authority matrix. **(Attachments A & B)**
- 2.3 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board considers accepting the Federal and State Legislative 2023 priorities. **(Attachments A & B)**
- 2.4 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval and authorize the Executive Director to execute a Cooperative Agreement between the Sites Project Authority, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, and the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority regarding the use of existing Partner Facilities. **(Attachment A)**

**3. Discussion and Information Items:**

Approximate start time 9:50 am

*No action from the Reservoir Committee or Authority Board.*

- 3.1 Review and comment on the Final EIR/EIS, Part 1 of 3 status briefing in preparation for approval of the Project.

- 3.2 Review and comment on development of a overall project schedule through completion of construction.
- 3.3 Receive an update on the Benefits & Obligations Contract development. **(Attachment A)**
- 3.4 Receive an update on Amendment 3 2023 cash call funds received to date.
- 4. **Reports:** Approximate start time 10:00 am
  - 4.1 Chairpersons’ Reports:  
This time is set aside to allow the Reservoir Committee & Authority Board Chair/Co-Chair an opportunity to disclose/discuss items related to the Sites Project.
  - 4.2 Committee & Workgroup Chairpersons’ Reports:  
This time is set aside to allow the Committee & Workgroup Chairpersons an opportunity to disclose/discuss items related to the Sites Project.
  - 4.3 Authority Board & Reservoir Committee Participant Reports:  
This time is set aside to allow Representatives or their Alternates an opportunity to disclose/discuss items related to the Sites Project.
  - 4.4 Executive Director’s Reports:
    - Monthly status report. **(Attachment A)**
    - Work Plan Key Deliverables Report. **(Attachment B)**
    - Meetings Action Items Summary. **(Attachment C)**
- 5. **Closed Session:** Approximate start time 10:20 am
  - 5.1 Conference with legal counsel regarding significant exposure to litigation or adjudicatory proceedings (Gov. Code §§54956.9(d)(2) and (4)).
  - 5.2 Negotiations concerning Sites Project operation terms, conditions, and agreements with the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Gov. Code 54956.6(c)).
  - 5.3 Negotiations concerning water rights permit terms and conditions (Govt. Code §54956.9(c) and §54956.9(d)(4)).
  - 5.4 Negotiations concerning Sites Project operation terms, conditions and agreements with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (Govt. Code §§54956.9(c)).



- 6. **Report from Closed Session** Approximate start time 11:50 am
- 7. **Recap:** Approximate start time 11:55 am
  - 7.1 Suggested Future Agenda Items.
  - 7.2 Upcoming Meetings:

**Workshop - Discuss Framework for Lease/Sell Transactions**  
Thursday, March 2, 2023 (10:00 – 11:30 am)

**Joint Reservoir Committee & Authority Board**  
Friday, March 17, 2023 (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Both meetings are in the Maxwell Project Office & Virtual

Virtual Information will be provided before all meetings at [Sitesproject.org](https://sitesproject.org).

**ADJOURN**

ADA COMPLIANCE: Upon request, agendas will be made available in alternative formats to accommodate persons with disabilities. In addition, any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation to participate or attend this meeting may request the necessary accommodation. Please make your request to the Board Clerk, specifying your disability, the format in which you would like to receive this Agenda and any other accommodation required no later than 24 hours before the start of the meeting.

This meeting will be recorded.

**Alternate Meeting Locations:**

City of American Canyon, 4381 Broadway Street, American Canyon, CA 94503

Desert Water Agency, 1200 S. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618

Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, 849 Allen Road, Bakersfield, CA 93314

San Bernardino Valley Municipal WD, 380 E. Vanderbuilt Way, San Bernardino, CA 92408

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 26501 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/17/2023 2:29:17 PM  
**To:** Thad Bettner (tbettner@gcid.net) [tbettner@gcid.net]; Greg A. Krzys [gkrzys@gcid.net]; jhancock@gcid.net; zdickens@gcid.net; cprivitera@gcid.net; sbanchio@gcid.net  
**CC:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]; JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]; Cheyanne Harris [CHarris@BrwnCald.com]; Spranza, John [john.spranza@hdrinc.com]  
**Subject:** Sites Project - Daily Diversions  
**Attachments:** 2023-01-25 Potential Diversions from Sites Historical WAA Tool.xlsx

Thad, Greg and the GCID Team – Thank you for the discussion on operations at your office on November 21. Apologies that it has taken us so long to circle back on this item.

At our meeting, we talked about looking at the result of the Water Availability Analysis and Daily Sites Operations model to better understand daily diversions for Sites.

The attached file contains diversions from two of the Water Availability Analyses. A few notes :

- The Historical Analysis provides daily diversions at each diversion facility during January 1, 2000 through September 30, 2020. Results from two scenarios are provided: 1) “Including Face Value Demands” which was submitted with the water right application and includes a conservation assumption that all water right holders are diverting their maximum allowed diversion rate every day, and 2) “No Face Value Demands” which does not layer in the face value assumption and calculated the potential diversion for each day based on historical flows and diversion criteria only. Face Value Demands is a really conservative assumption while “No Face Value Demands” may be a little generous to the Project. So actual operations are likely somewhere between these two.
- The CalSim Analysis provides the monthly diversions at each diversion facility during Water Years 1922-2003. Results are for Alternative 3A for the historical hydrology and 2035 CT climate change, and for Alternative 3 for the 2070 CT climate change. These are monthly diversions – so the focus should be more on general timing of year as this doesn’t really help us with daily diversions.
- It is important to note that under both analyses diversions at the TCC facility are prioritized; however, that may not always be the case under actual operations. So the TCC, GCID, and Total diversions should be looked at together to evaluate the potential of diversions at each facility.

A few things that I thought about when initially review these --

- The models have perfect foresight and perfect accuracy. We should discuss what increments GCID can operate to with what accuracy so we can have an understanding of the operational framework.
- In the daily data, we generally see diversions come on, ramp up to the full 2,000 cfs quickly (in a day or 2) and then hold for a few days, weeks, month or slightly more. The modeling shows diversions of only a day or 2 in some cases but, in real life, we’re not sure that these are realistic. We should discuss the “minimum” length of time that we’d want to divert at GCID to make it effective and efficient for all of us. There may be some testing and refinement of this in actual operations and in specific conditions, but I can see some of these very short duration diversions as not worth the effort/wear and tear/risk of violating a diversion criteria. I just don’t have a sense of where is that cut off point.

We're still working on the daily model, which will continue to provide more insight. I wouldn't expect it to be substantially different than the attached, but we will work with Jacobs to take a look at diversions in the context of the daily model also.

We should likely set up another meeting in the following couple of weeks to continue the dialogue. Would sometime mid-March work for you all?

We'd also love to continue to take you up on a fish screen/pumping plant/headworks tour. Could we schedule this toward the end of March? Maybe with our next meeting?

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Hunt, Shane D [shunt@usbr.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/9/2023 1:54:08 PM  
**To:** Stephen Maurano [stephen.maurano@noaa.gov]  
**CC:** garwin.yip [garwin.yip@noaa.gov]; Brick, David A [dbrick@usbr.gov]; cathy.marcinkevage [cathy.marcinkevage@noaa.gov]; barbara.byrne [barbara.byrne@noaa.gov]; Naseem Alston [naseem.alston@noaa.gov]; Jacobson, Allison M [ajacobson@usbr.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

Hi Stephen,

After reviewing the NOAA Fisheries' admin draft BA comments, representatives from the Sites Project have requested to meet with the you to discuss the items listed below. If you are amenable to that, I'd like to have David Brick work with whomever you would like to serve as your POC to find a time to get a meeting scheduled with NOAA Fisheries, Sites, and Reclamation. Please let me know how you would prefer to proceed.

- 1) Mercury impacts on sturgeon
- 2) Bend Bridge pulse protection updates and new diversion tool to demonstrate its operation
- 3) Wilkins Slough September bypass volume
- 4) Winter run life-cycle model update
- 5) Big notch (potentially)

Thanks,  
Shane

Shane Hunt (he/him)  
Environmental Compliance and Conservation Branch  
Bureau of Reclamation, CGB-152  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 978-5051 (office)  
(916) 202-7158 (cell)

---

**From:** Stephen Maurano - NOAA Federal <stephen.maurano@noaa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 29, 2022 11:59 AM  
**To:** Hunt, Shane D <shunt@usbr.gov>; Dekar, Melissa D <mdekar@usbr.gov>; Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Millsap, Stephanie D <stephanie\_millsap@fws.gov>; Reaves, Brittany L <brittany\_reaves@fws.gov>; Schoenberg, Steven <steven\_schoenberg@fws.gov>; garwin.yip <garwin.yip@noaa.gov>; Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>; Cathy Marcinkevage <cathy.marcinkevage@noaa.gov>; barbara.byrne <barbara.byrne@noaa.gov>; Naseem Alston <naseem.alston@noaa.gov>; Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Spranza, John shared the folder "2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA" with you.

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Good Morning,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Sites Reservoir Biological Assessment. We understand that Reclamation requested a high level review and identification of some of the items

needing further discussion, and would like to highlight the topics below. The topics are organized by Project Description, Diversion Criteria, Impacts to the Big Notch Project, and Surface Water Quality. We'd be happy to discuss further with Reclamation and coordinate discussions with the Sites Project Authority as appropriate.

Best,

- Stephen

## **Project Description**

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- **Consultation Approach**
- NMFS noted the consultation approach proposed in the draft BA by Reclamation and looks forward
- to discussing the appropriate path forward for this consultation given its connection to other ongoing CVP actions. Additional details regarding the coordinated operations agreement between Sites and the CVP/SWP may also be necessary in order to provide sufficient
- information to determine the effects of the proposed action.
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- **Lifecycle Model**
- NMFS is interested to review the results of the Winter-run Chinook salmon Lifecycle Model,
- discuss their interpretation, and see them integrated into the biological assessment effects analysis.
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## **Diversion Criteria**

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- **Refining Pulse Protection and Bypass Flows**
- NMFS made suggestions to the Sites Project Authority in meetings earlier this year (1/26/22
- and 1/31/22) as well as comments under NEPA to help further refine the diversion criteria for project operations. NMFS would welcome a discussion with Reclamation to explain the rationale underlying these suggestions, some of which are summarized below, for
- Bend Bridge Pulse Protection, Minimum Bypass Flows at Red Bluff Pumping Plant, Hamilton City Pump Station, and Wilkins Slough.
- NMFS would appreciate hearing from Reclamation about the rationale behind the proposed criteria which may offer limited
- protections.
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- **Bend Bridge**
- The requirement that there be a simultaneously detected pulse of fish, mainstem flows, and

- tributary flows, adds complexity and contingencies to the Bend Bridge Pulse Protection potentially limiting its effectiveness. Moreover, the protection may be belated by several days, since the triggering flows are measured as three-day trailing averages,
- and the triggering fish passage monitoring will require time to process that data, communicate it to the operators and adjust diversions accordingly. In order to be effective, NMFS has suggested that the protection be scheduled based on forecasted river flows
- to avoid harm to fish pulses during the ascending limb of the hydrograph. If no fish are detected after a number of days, then the protection can be truncated. NMFS would also suggest that protection should also not be contingent on increases in tributary inflows
- since there's recent experience that indicates fish can be mobilized downstream by mainstem Sacramento operational pulse events that are not precipitation generated (e.g. the October 2019 dry weather pulse releases for rice decomposition from Keswick that
- caused a contemporaneous increase in winter run chinook passage). Similarly, the complicated requirements for when another pulse event can be triggered (based on flows at Bend Bridge, Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Battle Creek) should be simplified to a
- relevant biological metric (e.g. when the pulse of fish passage has subsided). NMFS is not aware of how these flow triggers on the tributaries were derived, and in the absence of that information, they seem unsubstantiated. In summary, and as noted previously
- in comments on the EIS, a protective Bend Bridge Pulse Protection could be especially important for earlier migrants in the first pulse after a relatively drier period, as well as for later migrants facing small windows when downstream and Delta conditions
- are suitable. Protecting life history diversity, especially in outmigration timing, is key to salmonid population viability.

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#### **Red Bluff and Hamilton City**

- The Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at the RBPP and Hamilton City Pump Station
- need further refinement. Modeling from reports referenced in the draft BA indicates risk of stranding at low flows in the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam concluding that "...substantial juvenile stranding could be avoided by keeping flows above 3,750 cfs."
- Considering that average flows in the Sacramento River can be approximately 2,000 cfs higher at Red Bluff Diversion Dam compared to Keswick Dam, the proposed 3,250 cfs bypass target could result in substantial stranding of juvenile chinook salmon. Moreover,
- in the December through February timeframe, flows may need to be substantially higher to reduce Fall-Run redd dewatering and ensure consistency with CVP LTO Keswick Fall Base Flows. The minimum bypass flows at Hamilton City should also be adjusted correspondingly.

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#### **Wilkins Slough**

- The Minimum Bypass Flows in the Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough drop from 10,700 cfs
- during much of the year to 5,000 cfs in September. However, there can be substantial juvenile Winter-run Chinook Salmon passage at RBDD during September (e.g. 2009, 2019 and 2020). NMFS would like to discuss the protection of rearing and outmigration during
- this period.

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## Impacts to the Big Notch Project

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- **Big Notch**
- NMFS appreciates the commitment from Reclamation to avoid any adverse impacts from Sites Reservoir to the Big Notch Project with the draft BA stating, "The [Sites] Project will operate to preclude any adverse effects to the Big Notch Project's ability to achieve the same level of performance for salmonids in the Sacramento River as it would absent the Project." However, the NMFS has been informed that the final EIR/SEIR intends to remove the previously proposed Fremont Weir Notch Protections and no protections were listed in the draft BA. Initial modeling based on 2009-2012 hydrology shows Sites negatively
- impacting Big Notch in all water year types - including a 24% cumulative Big Notch flow reduction in the dry year (2009) of the analysis. NMFS would appreciate further discussions with Reclamation regarding the operational changes needed to mitigate these
- impacts.
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## Surface Water Quality

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- **Mercury**
- Mercury impacts on aquatic life should be further analyzed in the effects analysis, especially for sturgeon which have
- been reported to have higher levels of mercury in tissues, and specifically for the Green Sturgeon sDPS in California's Central Valley for which mercury was part of the cause of species listing.
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- **Temperature**

- The Water Temperature Index Value Analysis obscures temperature impacts of the project. In particular, the biologically meaningful criteria are too narrow in their definition: requiring both a 5% difference in days/month and 0.5 F change. For example, temperatures
- could exceed the targets by 10°F for a single day or increase temperatures by 0.25°F for the entire spawning season. Raising temperatures could result in lethality for salmonids, if that temperature crosses the physiological threshold for the species.
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- **Colusa Basin Drain (CBD) and Yolo Bypass**

- The proposed monitoring of water quality impacts to Yolo Bypass is sparse and there's a
- substantial amount of river miles between Wallace Wier to Lisbon Wier and downstream to the Cache Slough complex - with variable intervening habitat, land use, and hydrology. The mitigation measure (to reduce flows when the temperatures are too high and dissolved



- oxygen is too low) seems counterintuitive since it will potentially increase residence time and reduce reaeration. The monitoring strategy proposed may also not be effective if, for example, the causes of hypoxia are nitrogen and phosphorus loadings from the
- CBD into the bypass during the winter, but those don't drive eutrophication until the summer. Similarly, loadings of mercury may methylate under certain conditions, and, along with pesticides and herbicides, accumulate in fish tissues or sediments - so that
- they're not adequately detected in the proposed water column monitoring. For mitigation measures FISH-8.1 and WQ-2.2 a more effective approach may be to develop a water quality model for the relevant parameters (metals, nutrients, Hg, Se, temperature, DO,
- etc.) for the receiving waters of interest (CBD and Yolo Bypass).
- A hydrodynamic water quality model would allow forecasting of water quality impacts of Sites
- Reservoir to determine the fate and transport of pollutants and prioritize locations to mitigate pollutant loadings.
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- **Reservoir Water Quality**
- Likewise, applying a water quality model for the proposed reservoir to anticipate trophic status and risk of mercury methylation should be considered.
- The use of CALSIM monthly data (for metals, pesticides, salinity, HABs) lacks the temporal resolution to analyze acute
- water quality exceedances. The CE-QUAL-W2 model being used for temperature analysis in Sites could be further developed to analyze the other potential water quality impacts in reservoir: namely metals, including mercury, salinity, and especially eutrophication
- and HABs.
- 

On Wed, Nov 2, 2022 at 10:42 AM Spranza, John <[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Spranza@hdrinc.com)> wrote:



## Spranza, John shared a folder with you

Hello,


This shared file contains the Sites Project's administrative draft BA. The Authority would appreciate your technical assistance with the further preparation of the document by providing comments and feedback on this draft and identifying any concerns or areas that need additional revision.

Your help is much appreciated, please let me know if you have any questions or if you are having trouble accessing this folder.

Regards,  
John



2022-Nov\_Admin\_Draft\_BA

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Stephen Maurano (he/him/his)  
California Central Valley Office | NOAA Fisheries  
(916) 214-2675

[www.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov)



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**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/17/2023 4:24:21 PM  
**To:** Spranza, John [John.Spranza@hdrinc.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion  
**Attachments:** Sites Reservoir Recon-Level Biological Surveys Fact Sheet\_Rev 2023\_0216\_dnt\_ali.docx

Thanks John. Here's some suggested changes to simplify the sensitive species issue. I don't want to make too big of a deal about it – so I put in a Bald Eagle example that is relatable to a landowner.

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:14 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion

Hi,  
I made some edits per your email (scroll down) and we are proposing to separate out the protocol components. There are some comments in there that you can respond to and then I'll have Danielle wrap this up as Real Estate needs this ASAP.  
Thank you

John Spranza

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

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**From:** Tannourji, Danielle <Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2023 12:27 PM  
**To:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>  
**Cc:** Arsenijevic, Jelica <Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion

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Sorry, updated factsheet attached, LOL 😊

**Danielle Tannourji, MS** | Senior Biologist – Conservation Planning | 408-887-3414 (cell – primary phone) | [Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com](mailto:Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com)

Draft\_0022559

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**From:** Tannourji, Danielle  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2023 12:25 PM  
**To:** Spranza, John <[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Spranza@hdrinc.com)>  
**Cc:** Arsenijevic, Jelica <[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion

Thanks John, here are my updates. Please see my comment for the two bullets under the Risks subheading. Since this is a factsheet covers the recon surveys, including land cover mapping and general habitats (i.e., wildlife habitat assessments), could we remove the second bullet entirely?

We can certainly create other factsheets that describe the different protocol level surveys and include more refined language that would decrease balking from the landowner when the time comes for that.

Once we nail down a path forward on this, I can finish up the other bio factsheets this week.

Thanks!

**Danielle Tannourji, MS** | Senior Biologist – Conservation Planning | 408-887-3414 (cell – primary phone) | [Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com](mailto:Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com)

---

**From:** Spranza, John <[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Spranza@hdrinc.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2023 11:06 AM  
**To:** Tannourji, Danielle <[Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com](mailto:Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com)>  
**Cc:** Arsenijevic, Jelica <[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion

Hi,  
I made some edits per Ali's comments. Do we think that we could break out the protocol surveys into it's own sheet? The landowners may balk at the revised language that I added and separating it may help get us clearance for general surveys and landcover.

**John Spranza**

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

---

**From:** Tannourji, Danielle <[Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com](mailto:Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2023 10:16 AM  
**To:** Spranza, John <[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Spranza@hdrinc.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hey John,

In light of Ali's concerns, would it be possible to arrange the first survey day to be with just the botany team so they can verify the land cover, then have a wildlife fact sheet on habitat assessment surveys and plan those a few weeks after the initial March visit with botanical and Geotech. We could also pair fish bio assessment with the wildlife visit, thoughts?

Thanks,  
D

**Danielle Tannourji, MS** | Senior Biologist – Conservation Planning | 408-887-3414 (cell – primary phone) | [Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com](mailto:Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com)

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**From:** Spranza, John <[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Spranza@hdrinc.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 12:39 PM  
**To:** Tannourji, Danielle <[Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com](mailto:Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com)>  
**Subject:** FW: Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion

**John Spranza**

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

---

**From:** Arsenijevic, Jelica <[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 9:59 AM  
**To:** Spranza, John <[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Spranza@hdrinc.com)>  
**Subject:** FW: Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion

Hey, circling back on this. Conner was asking for status of fact sheets, and Danielle T looking for direction with finishing up the remainder of the sheets.

Should I schedule a call between you, me, Danielle ?

**Jelica Arsenijevic**  
*Environmental Project Manager*



2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
D 916-679-8854  
M 209-329-6897

[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](https://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 4:18 PM  
**To:** Spranza, John <[john.spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:john.spranza@hdrinc.com)>; Arsenijevic, Jelica <[jelica.arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:jelica.arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion

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Hi John and Jelica – I think we need to rework this one a bit. I am not sure we are totally accurate on the risk level. ESA, CESA and LSAA apply to the landowner irrespective of a project. Meaning, even if a project isn't going on on their property, they are still subject to ESA, CESA, and LSAA. Yes, the chance of an individual landowner getting prosecuted for a take is extremely low, its not zero and technically, they are subject to these laws as landowners.

Are we really going to map sensitive species locations on these initial surveys? I am wondering if we can break these into two fact sheets – land cover mapping and then species-specific protocol level surveys. It was be hugely helpful to get the land cover mapping completed to confirm/refine our data. And then come back for protocol level surveys after the landowner is more comfortable with us.

I realize that if we actually see a listed species, there is some duty to report that, but cant we get landcover done first to have some initial data/success and then come back for protocol level species surveys?

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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---

**From:** Spranza, John <[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Spranza@hdrinc.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 10:37 AM  
**To:** Arsenijevic, Jelica <[jelica.arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:jelica.arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)>; Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Cc:** Risse, Danielle <[danielle.risse@hdrinc.com](mailto:danielle.risse@hdrinc.com)>; Lloyd, John <[John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion

I've included my comments and some edits.

John Spranza

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

---

**From:** Arsenijevic, Jelica <[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 10:08 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Spranza, John <[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Spranza@hdrinc.com)>  
**Cc:** Risse, Danielle <[danielle.risse@hdrinc.com](mailto:danielle.risse@hdrinc.com)>; Lloyd, John <[John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion

Thanks Ali!

Attached is bio one that we'll need your blessing on. Sent it to John earlier, but forgot to include you. Based on our input, they'll proceed forward with the remainder of the fact sheets. Fact sheets remaining include:

- Wetland and waters mapping
- Botanical surveys
- Aquatic studies (Stone corral and funks creek)

Jelica Arsenijevic  
Environmental Project Manager



2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
D 916-679-8854  
M 209-329-6897

[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](https://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 9:58 AM  
**To:** Arsenijevic, Jelica <[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)>; Spranza, John <[john.spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:john.spranza@hdrinc.com)>  
**Cc:** Risse, Danielle <[danielle.risse@hdrinc.com](mailto:danielle.risse@hdrinc.com)>; Lloyd, John <[John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion

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This looks really good to me. I do wonder if we give examples as to what is considered eligible and not. It may help the realty team talk with landowners and calm fears on the extent of our efforts.

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Arsenijevic, Jelica <[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 8:44 AM  
**To:** Spranza, John <[john.spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:john.spranza@hdrinc.com)>; Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Cc:** Risse, Danielle <[danielle.risse@hdrinc.com](mailto:danielle.risse@hdrinc.com)>; Lloyd, John <[John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com)>  
**Subject:** FW: Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion  
**Importance:** High

John/Ali

Per real-estate request we are preparing fact sheets to serve as a reference guide for negotiations with landowners. Landowners have specific questions and they will certainly help (fingers crossed) with access. Bio specific survey fact sheets are still pending (hopefully this week), but we have cultural.

The list of questions that Jay / Danielle provided answers to in the fact sheet came from real-estate team.

Please review. We are hoping to get this over to Conner by end of week so that he and Kevin can have them handy for discussions with the Banyan property owner. They are finalizing the access agreement with Banyan early February.

Many thanks to Jay/Danielle for your hard work 😊

Jelica Arsenijevic  
Environmental Project Manager

Draft\_0022563





2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
D 916-679-8854  
M 209-329-6897

[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](http://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

---

**From:** Lloyd, John <[John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2023 4:30 PM  
**To:** Arsenijevic, Jelica <[jelica.arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:jelica.arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)>; Tannourji, Danielle <[Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com](mailto:Danielle.Tannourji@icf.com)>  
**Cc:** Risse, Danielle <[danielle.risse@hdrinc.com](mailto:danielle.risse@hdrinc.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion

Hey all – here is the cultural resource fact sheet/talking points Danielle R and I came up with. Happy to get back any comments/edits.

Have a good weekend.

Jay

**John “Jay” Lloyd, M.A., RPA (#15577)**  
D 916.679.8715 M 559.287.2137

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](http://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Arsenijevic, Jelica <[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2023 11:13 AM  
**To:** Arsenijevic, Jelica; Risse, Danielle; Lloyd, John; Tannourji, Danielle  
**Subject:** Sites: Field Fact Sheet Discussion  
**When:** Monday, January 9, 2023 10:00 AM-10:30 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Meeting to discuss developing fact sheets for real/estate team.

Questions for fact sheets that we should cover include what’s listed below. Also , for us to help Conner identify where surveys will occur on specific properties. For example, Banyan Property (011-150-021 and 011-150-022 )

1) Why are we doing this survey / these survey(s)

- what Permit are they required for?
- what Agency is asking for this information?
- 401? 404? ITP? SHPO Requirements, etc?
- why does the Project need this data?

2) What data is collected?

- where does the data go?
- who has access to the data?
- what protections are there to Landowners’ data?

--what, if any, are the potential risks to the Landowner based on the observation, recording, databasing, or distributing of this data?

--what are the potential upsides to the Landowner of having the information from this / these surveys?

--any historical examples of upsides or downsides?

3) What qualifications do the individuals who collect this data typically have?

--special training in observing frogs, for example?

--state licenses in collecting endangered plants, for example?

4) What duties do the individuals who collect this data have?

--their plant license requires them to report plant observations to the national plant database, for example?

5) What are the impacts / challenges to the Project if we cannot collect this data at this time?

>Considerations with regard to future sale or transfer – we can discuss...

>Sources and References for further information and research

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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**From:** Spranza, John [John.Spranza@hdrinc.com]  
**Sent:** 2/18/2023 9:32:45 AM  
**To:** Quin La Capra [qlacapra@katzandassociates.com]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]; Emily Fan Michaelson [emichaelson@katzandassociates.com]  
**CC:** Sara M. Katz [skatz@katzandassociates.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Fisheries EIR/EIS Meeting Notes & Follow up  
**Attachments:** Chinook\_KenDavis.jpg; WRSalmon.jpg; Chinook\_Bodega Trip\_2022.jpg; CohoSalmonLarvae\_USFWS-Florian Graner Phot.jpg; yubachinook\_jakatz.jpg

Thanks for sending this over. Here are photos and Pacific salmon factoids.

- Salmon are “anadromous.” That means they live in both freshwater and salt water over the source of their lives
- Salmon can migrate more than 1,800 miles upstream through freshwater to spawn
- Salmon return to their birth stream to spawn after spending several years at sea
- Once adult salmon return to freshwater, they do not eat. This means that adults can go six months without food prior to spawning.
- There are 7 species of pacific salmon
- Pink salmon are the smallest and most abundant species and chinook salmon are the largest and can weigh over 100 lbs.
- A female salmon can carry up to 10,000 eggs
- Pacific salmon are also semelparous, meaning that the most adults die after reproduction and become nutrients and food in the freshwater systems their young will hatch in
- Pacific salmon are named *Oncorhynchus*. The name is derived from the greek onkos (“hook”) and rynchos (“nose”)

John Spranza

D 916.679.8858 M 618.640.2487

---

**From:** Quin La Capra <qlacapra@katzandassociates.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2023 10:45 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>; Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>; Emily Fan Michaelson <emichaelson@katzandassociates.com>  
**Cc:** Sara M. Katz <skatz@katzandassociates.com>  
**Subject:** Sites Fisheries EIR/EIS Meeting Notes & Follow up

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Hi everyone,

Attached are the notes from Tuesday’s EIR/EIS topic meeting on fisheries. Please note the action items at the end of the document and please let me know if any edits are needed.

Best,  
Quin



Quin La Capra  
Senior Account Executive  
San Diego · Los Angeles · San Francisco

Draft\_0022566



---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/18/2023 11:16:15 AM  
**To:** Okita, David@DWR [David.Okita@water.ca.gov]  
**CC:** Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Looks great David! We'll get this over to ICF and get it into the Final EIR/EIS.

Much appreciated.

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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---

**From:** Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2023 2:39 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

David Okita, PE  
Department of Water Resources  
530 902-7588

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023 6:00 PM  
**To:** Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>  
**Cc:** Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

David – Apologies that this took a few more days for me to get to than I expected. The DWR actions on Sites should be listed in the State Table 4-2 in Chapter 4. I double checked and it wasn't added in there.

So, I have started a draft in the attached that would be added to Chapter 4. Can you and your team review/modify as you see fit? I am not totally sure what would be in each of these agreements so I may be way off base here with my initial draft.

We will add this to the Final EIR/EIS before its released.

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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---

**From:** Okita, David@DWR <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 9:51 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

I was looking for changes in the Project Description that listed DWR actions to be taken like approving agreements so that those are covered by the Sites CEQA part of the document. I did not see it there although I did not read every page. Would it be somewhere else?

David Okita, PE  
Department of Water Resources  
530 902-7588

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 5:03 PM  
**To:** Young, Amy@DWR <[Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov)>; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Davis-Fadtke, Kristal@Wildlife <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Okita, David@DWR <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; Cooke, Robert@DWR <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Torres, Juan@Wildlife <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Maroney, Jagruti@DWR <[Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov)>; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Wood, Dylan@Wildlife <[Dylan.Wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Dylan.Wood@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Laurie Warner Herson' <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>; Spranza, John <[john.spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:john.spranza@hdrinc.com)>; 'Jelica Arsenijevic' <[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)>; Jacobson, Allison M <[ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)>; Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Sandino, David@DWR <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Leahigh, John@DWR <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; Roberts, Matthew J CIV USARMY CESPCK (USA) <[Matthew.J.Roberts@usace.army.mil](mailto:Matthew.J.Roberts@usace.army.mil)>; Haley, Nancy A CIV USARMY CESPCK (USA) <[Nancy.A.Haley@usace.army.mil](mailto:Nancy.A.Haley@usace.army.mil)>; Kelly, Elizabeth <[EKelly@WAPA.GOV](mailto:EKelly@WAPA.GOV)>; [stephen.maurano@noaa.gov](mailto:stephen.maurano@noaa.gov) <[stephen.maurano@noaa.gov](mailto:stephen.maurano@noaa.gov)>; [evan.sawyer@noaa.gov](mailto:evan.sawyer@noaa.gov) <[evan.sawyer@noaa.gov](mailto:evan.sawyer@noaa.gov)>; [elif.wilkins@noaa.gov](mailto:elif.wilkins@noaa.gov) <[elif.wilkins@noaa.gov](mailto:elif.wilkins@noaa.gov)>

<elif.wilkins@noaa.gov>; Schoenberg, Steven <steven.schoenberg@fws.gov>; Gordon, Stephanie (Skophammer) <GORDON.STEPHANIES@EPA.GOV>; Morgan, Joseph <morgan.joseph@epa.gov>; Wadsworth, Derek@Waterboards <Derek.Wadsworth@Waterboards.ca.gov>; O'Donnell, Daniel@Wildlife <Daniel.Odonnell@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; Paccassi, Michael@Wildlife <Michael.Paccassi@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Lupoli, Christina@Wildlife <Christina.Lupoli@Wildlife.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Miller, Jeffrey <JAMiller@WAPA.GOV>; Cranford, Amanda@NOAA <amanda.cranford@noaa.gov>; Bolden, Amy <Bolden@WAPA.GOV>; Macon, Michael@Waterboards <Michael.Macon@Waterboards.ca.gov>; Stevens, Nina C <ncstevens@usbr.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Hello all! Thanks for joining us this afternoon for the Admin Final EIR/EIS review briefing. Attached is the presentation.

I updated Slide 9 of the presentation to reflect the correct chapters that have not changed.

Thank you all for your time and effort on the review of the document. We look forward to your comments!

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Alicia Forsythe

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 1:37 PM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe; [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards; Kristal Davis Fadtko ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtko@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtko@wildlife.ca.gov)); Okita, David@DWR; Cooke, Robert@DWR; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards; 'Tores, Juan Lopez'; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards'; [Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); Uttley, Paige@Wildlife; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards; [dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov); Laurie Warner Herson; Spranza, John; 'Jelica Arsenijevic'; Jacobson, Allison M; Brick, David A; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife; Sandino, David@DWR; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards; Leahigh, John@DWR; Roberts, Matthew J CIV USARMY CESP (USA); Haley, Nancy A CIV USARMY CESP (USA); Kelly, Elizabeth; Stephen Maurano; [evan.sawyer](mailto:evan.sawyer); [elif.wilkins@noaa.gov](mailto:elif.wilkins@noaa.gov); Schoenberg, Steven; Gordon, Stephanie (Skophammer); Morgan, Joseph; [derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov); [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); Hennessy, April@Wildlife; [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov)

**Cc:** Miller, Jeffrey; [amanda.cranford@noaa.gov](mailto:amanda.cranford@noaa.gov); Bolden, Amy; Macon, Michael@Waterboards; Stevens, Nina C

**Subject:** Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

**When:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 3:00 PM-4:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Purpose: Overview of the admin Final EIR/EIS in preparation for the NEPA Cooperating Agency and CEQA Responsible Agency review.

Agenda: Purpose of Meeting

Approach to the Final EIR/EIS

Project Refinements

Review Process and Schedule

Any Remaining Questions or Related Topics

This is the second of 2 meetings on this topic. Both meetings have the same agenda and presentation – and will be repetitive. You do not need to attend both meetings.

I tried to get everyone on Reclamation's and Sites' distribution list along with everyone that responded to the doodle poll. Apologies if I missed anyone. Please forward to those I may have missed or email me and I can forward.

Thanks all!

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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**From:** Spranza, John [John.Spranza@hdrinc.com]  
**Sent:** 2/21/2023 4:01:35 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Cheyanne Harris [CHarris@BrwnCald.com]; Patel, Trishna [Trishna.Patel@hdrinc.com]; Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Project - Discussion of Agreements Necessary for Prop 1 Ecosystem Benefits  
**Attachments:** Refuge Water Supply Program.docx

Hi,  
The link to the CVPIA viewer and refuge water supply program are here:

Refuge Water Conveyance Map Viewer: [CVPIA Refuge Water Conveyance \(arcgis.com\)](#)  
Source: [Refuge Water Supply Program Details \(ca.gov\)](#)

I've also included a briefing summary we put together for the refuge program and a link to the graphic from Conaway Ranch is here: <https://norcalwater.org/wp-content/uploads/Farmed-Floodplain-Reactivation-and-Tule-Canal.pdf>

John Spranza

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023 2:58 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe; Cheyanne Harris; Patel, Trishna; Spranza, John; Angela Bezzone  
**Subject:** Sites Project - Discussion of Agreements Necessary for Prop 1 Ecosystem Benefits  
**When:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 3:00 PM-4:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi all – I'd like to chat later in February as to the agreements necessary to deliver/achieve our Prop 1 Ecosystem Benefits. This will be a little more of a brainstorming session where I am thinking of just "tracking" the water out of the reservoir and to the benefit as a mechanism to start framing this up.

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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Phone Conference ID: 234 825 223#

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## Refuge Water Supply Program

### Background

The 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) created the Refuge Water Supply Program (RWSP), which includes 19 wetland habitat areas in the Central Valley or CVPIA refuges. Prior to the enactment of CVPIA legislation most of these refuges relied upon surplus water, agricultural return flows, junior water rights and groundwater for their supply, all sources that were either unreliable or of marginal quality, or both. The RWSP's overarching goal is to ensure that all CVPIA identified wetland habitat areas annually receive water of a specified quantity, of suitable flow rate and timing, and suitable quality to maintain and improve wetland habitat areas. CVPIA RWSP mandates are to acquire or secure the water supply necessary to meet delivery requirements, convey this water, and upgrade or build new conveyance facilities.

### CVPIA RWSP Partners

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) implements long-term water supply contracts through the refuge managing agencies, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Grassland Resource Conservation District. Each refuge managing agency provides an annual water delivery schedule and updates them monthly based on their allocated Level 2 water supply and the estimated acquisition of Incremental Level 4 water supply. The federal agencies, represented by the Reclamation and USFWS, manage the Restoration Fund and other sources of money to fund all CVPIA related activities, including the RWSP. These activities are planned annually through the CVPIA Annual Work Plan public process which includes participation from the Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV) and its participating members. The CVJV is organized through government agencies, non-profit organizations, corporations, tribes, and individuals for the purpose of implementing the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and habitat goals for the California Central Valley portion of the Pacific Flyway.

### CVPIA Wetland Habitat Areas

There are 19 wetland habitat areas included in the CVPIA RWSP. Twelve habitat areas are Federal National Wildlife Refuges/Units, 6 are State Wildlife Areas/Units, and 1 is a privately managed complex within the Grassland Resource Conservation District. Five CVPIA refuge units are located in the Sacramento River Basin, 12 are in the San Joaquin River Basin, and the remaining 2 are in the Tulare Lake Basin.

### CVPIA Refuge Water Supply

CVPIA refuge water supplies are categorized into the following:

- Level 2 represents the historical average amount of water deliveries prior to CVPIA enactment in 1992 and is the baseline water required for wildlife habitat management.
  - 422,251 acre-feet per year
  - CVPIA obligates Reclamation to pay for acquisition and delivery of Level 2 water supplies
  - Provided primarily from CVP yield (contract allocations)
  - Costs are 100% reimbursable by CVP contractors

- Incremental Level 4 represents the additional increment of water required for optimal wetland habitat development.
  - 133,264 acre-feet per year
  - Acquired by Reclamation through cooperation with CDFW and consultation with CVJV
  - Must be acquired through voluntary measures which do not require involuntary reallocation of CVP yield
  - Costs are 75% Federal (primarily from the CVPIA Restoration Fund) and 25% by State of California through reimbursements or in-kind contributions

Annually, full Level 4 water delivery totals 555,515 acre-feet and is satisfied when both Level 2 and Incremental Level 4 supply requirements are met in full. Almost all of the Level 2 requirement is secure and annually received by refuges due to long-term contracts with Reclamation, but only 43% of Incremental Level 4 allocations were acquired and delivered each year (annual average from 2005-2014) from willing sellers. In most cases there are too few willing sellers, too little funding to buy their water, or both. Incremental Level 4 water supplies may be acquired through voluntary measures such as water conservation, conjunctive use, purchase, lease, donation, or similar activities. Currently four refuges are not able to receive full Level 4 water based on incomplete water conveyance infrastructure: Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, Mendota Wildlife Area, Pixley National Wildlife Refuge, and Sutter National Wildlife Refuge.

Delta water quality or Delta pumping export limitations may restrict the timing and supply of CVPIA refuge water supply deliveries. CVPIA water supply contracts and water supply allocations are therefore divided into refuges that are north of the Delta and those south of the Delta. Refuges that are south of the Delta will typically pool Incremental Level 4 water supply acquisitions and split them 67/18/15 among private, state, and federal refuges respectively.

#### Cost Share Requirement

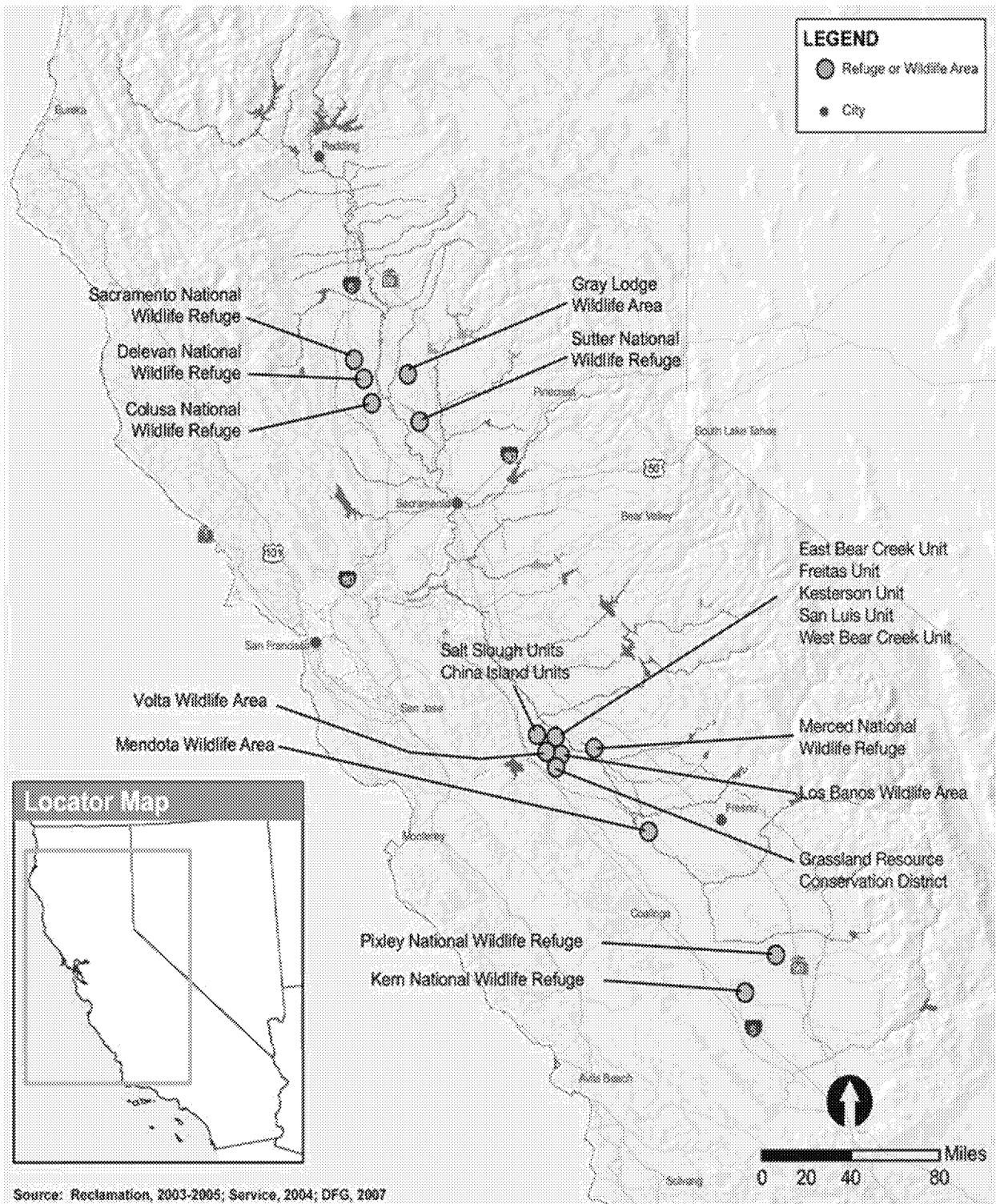
Only the acquisition and delivery of Incremental Level 4 water requires a State cost share of 25% for all 19 CVPIA habitat areas. Costs associated with the CVPIA RWSP require preparation of State-federal cost share “Task Orders” consistent with the Sharing of Costs Agreement for Mitigation Projects and Improvements (SCAMPI II). In order for expenditures to contribute to State cost share under the CVPIA RWSP, CDFW will need to include State expenditures in Task Orders, which identify final (actual) federal and state costs subject to Incremental Level 4 expenditures agreed to by State and federal partners.

#### Annual Work Plans

Reclamation and the USFWS develop Annual Work Plans to disclose and solicit public feedback on activities planned for the upcoming federal fiscal year using the federal Central Valley Project Restoration Fund (Restoration Fund) and authorities under CVPIA. The Annual Work Plan identifies funding from the Restoration Fund and State cost-share for each program activity under CVPIA. Federal funding for CVPIA programs fluctuates annually based on federal appropriations. The RWSP identifies proposed activities and costs in the Annual Work Plan in partnership with State and federal partners, and the CVJV.

Refuge Water Conveyance Map Viewer: CVPIA Refuge Water Conveyance ([arcgis.com](http://arcgis.com))

Source: Refuge Water Supply Program Details ([ca.gov](http://ca.gov))



**Figure x.**  
CVPIA Refuge Area Locations

Additional resources:

CVJV\_2020\_Implementation\_Plan.pdf ([centralvalleyjointventure.org](http://centralvalleyjointventure.org))

M & E Plans > Science > Central Valley Joint Venture

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Sent:** 2/22/2023 12:44:45 PM  
**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards [Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov]; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' [Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov]; Okita, David@DWR [David.Okita@water.ca.gov]; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' [Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov]; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards [Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov]; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards [Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov]; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' [Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov]; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' [annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov]; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife [Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov]; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife [Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov]; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards [Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov]; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife [Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov]; Sandino, David@DWR [David.Sandino@water.ca.gov]; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards [Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov]; Leahigh, John@DWR [John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov]; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife [April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov]; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov; Miller, Aaron@DWR [Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov]; Ely, Terri@DWR [Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov]  
**CC:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Cohen, Ariel [Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good afternoon all -

We are checking in on the status of your review and comments on the Sites Reservoir Administrative Final EIR/EIS. Please let me know if there are any ongoing issues with access and your ability to add comments (in comment bubbles) to the files. We also would like to know if there are any problems in meeting the schedule to submit your comments by February 28<sup>th</sup>, which is next Tuesday.

Thank you for providing your review and comments, we very much value your input.

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2023 8:00 AM  
**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning,

ICF delivered the last of the Sites Reservoir Administrative Final EIR/EIS yesterday evening. These files include responses to individual comments in table format. The tables are organized by topic and an index of table numbers and topics has been provided. All files have been upload to the Volume 3 folder on SharePoint: [Vol3 RTC](#)

This concludes the daily emails but I'm still available should there be any questions or issues in accessing files. We look forward to receiving your comments at the end of the month.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2023 8:55 AM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Okita, David@DWR <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov); Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Sandino, David@DWR <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Leahigh, John@DWR <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; [derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov); [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); Hennessy, April@Wildlife <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov); Miller, Aaron@DWR <[Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov](mailto:Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov)>; Ely, Terri@DWR <[Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov](mailto:Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Cohen, Ariel <[Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com](mailto:Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning everyone,

The following master responses to comments on the Sites Reservoir RDEIR/SDEIS have been uploaded for your review:

- Master Responses 1, CEQA and NEPA Process, Regulatory Requirements, and General Comments
- Master Response 2, Alternatives Description and Baseline
- Master Response 3, Hydrology and Hydrologic Modeling
- Master Response 4, Water Quality
- Master Response 5, Aquatic Biological Resources
- Master Response 6, Vegetation, Wetland, and Wildlife Resources
- Master Response 7, Tribal Coordination, Consultation, and Engagement
- Master Response 8, Trinity River
- Master Response 9, Alternatives Development

Individual responses to comments, organized by topic in table format, will be uploaded later today. I will notify you when they are available.

Thank you,

Laurie



---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 10:45 AM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Okita, David@DWR <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Sandino, David@DWR <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Leahigh, John@DWR <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov; Miller, Aaron@DWR <[Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov](mailto:Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov)>; Ely, Terri@DWR <[Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov](mailto:Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Cohen, Ariel <[Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com](mailto:Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning all –

The following additional files have been uploaded for your review:

Chapters

ES. Executive Summary

ES. Table ES2

28. Climate Change

Appendices

4A, Regulatory Requirements

30B, Comparison of Regional Hydrologic Model Results to Inform Economic Analyses

These are the last of the chapter and appendix files that have been updated (see attached revised index). Volume 3, Responses to Comments will start being uploaded later today and I will notify you when they are available.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023 8:25 AM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Okita, David@DWR <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Sandino, David@DWR <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Leahigh, John@DWR <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov;

Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov;  
christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR  
<Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning all,

The following additional files have been uploaded for your review:

Chapters

- 6. Surface Water Quality
- 7. Fluvial Geomorphology
- 29. Indian Trust Assets
- 31. Cumulative Impacts
- 32. Other Required Analyses
- 33. Consultation and Coordination and List of Preparers

Appendices

- 21A, Reservoir GHG Calculations (NEW)

A revised index has also been uploaded and a copy is attached to this email. We are almost done with Volumes 1 and 2 and ICF has informed me that they will start uploading Volume 3 files soon. As always, please contact us if you have any issues accessing these files.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 5:01 PM

**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>;  
'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR  
<David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards  
<Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan  
Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>;  
Jagruiti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife  
<Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>;  
dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR  
<David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh,  
John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov;  
Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov;  
christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR  
<Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good evening,

The following files have been uploaded today:

Chapter:

## 30. Environmental Justice and Socioeconomics

Appendices:

- 10A, Wildlife Database Results
- 20A, Methodology for Air Quality and GHG Emissions Calculations
- 20C, Ambient Air Quality and Health Risk Analysis Technical Report
- 20C1, AERMOD Equivalency Model Demonstration (NEW)\*
- 20C2, Model Construction Figures (NEW)\*
- 20C3, Modeled Emissions (NEW)\*
- 20D, Photochemical Modeling Study to Support a Health Impact Analysis

A revised index has also been uploaded and a copy is attached to this email. Please let me know if you have any issues with access or any other questions.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Sunday, February 5, 2023 4:01 PM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Okita, David@DWR <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Sandino, David@DWR <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Leahigh, John@DWR <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; [derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov); [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); Hennessy, April@Wildlife <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov); Miller, Aaron@DWR <[Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov](mailto:Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov)>; Ely, Terri@DWR <[Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov](mailto:Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Hello all,

The EIR/EIS Team has submitted Chapter 11, *Aquatic Biological Resources* and all remaining Chapter 11 appendices. They have also submitted the following additional appendices:

- 6B3, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, X2 Results (DSM2-QUAL)\*
- 6B4, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, Export Loading\*
- 6B5, Water Quality Compliance\*

We have added those files to the State and Federal Agency SharePoint site for your review. We also added an updated index of chapters and appendices (attached) to SharePoint. Please let us know if you have any questions or issues with access. If there are others that need access to review the files, please forward their name and email address.

Thank you for your time and input,

Laurie

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 7:57 AM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); [Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>](mailto:Montgomery,Amanda@Waterboards.ca.gov); 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>](mailto:Okita,David@DWR); 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; [Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>](mailto:Biondi,Oscar@Waterboards.ca.gov); [Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>](mailto:Heinrich,Dana@Waterboards.ca.gov); 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); [Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>](mailto:Uttley,Paige@Wildlife.ca.gov); [Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>](mailto:Williams,Jonathan@Wildlife.ca.gov); [Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>](mailto:Hartman,Jelena@Waterboards.ca.gov); [dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov); [Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>](mailto:Sheya,Tanya@Wildlife.ca.gov); [Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>](mailto:Sandino,David@DWR); [Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>](mailto:Riddle,Diane@Waterboards.ca.gov); [Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>](mailto:Leahigh,John@DWR); [derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov); [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); [Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>](mailto:Hennessy,April@Wildlife.ca.gov); [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov)

**Cc:** [Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Good morning,

We have uploaded additional chapters for your review. These include:

Chapters

1. Introduction

21. Greenhouse Gases

Appendices

1A Introduction to Appendices and Models

2B, Additional Alternatives Screening and Evaluation

5A, Surface Water Resources Modeling of Alternatives

5A1, Model Assumptions

5A2, CALSIM II Model Assumptions Callouts

5A3, DSM2 Model Assumptions Callouts

5A4, HEC5Q and Reclamation Temperature Model Assumptions Callouts

5A5, CALSIM II Model Delivery Specifications

5A6, Model Limitations and Improvements

5A7, Daily Pattern Development for the Estimation of Daily Flows and Weir Spills in CALSIM II

5B, Water Resources System Modeling

5B1, Project Operations

5B2, River Operations

5B3, Delta Operations

5B4, Regional Deliveries

5B5, Water Supply

5C, Upper Sacramento River Daily River Flow and Operations Model (2 parts)

6B1, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, Salinity Results (DSM2-QUAL)

6B2, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, Chloride Results (DSM2-QUAL)

6C, River Temperature Modeling

6D, Sites Reservoir Discharge Temperature Modeling\*

6D1, Sites Reservoir Discharge Temperature Modeling, Attachment 1 Reservoir Surface Water and Release Temperature

6D2, Sites Reservoir Discharge Temperature Modeling, Attachment 2 Water Temperature at Downstream Locations

6E, Water Quality Data

6F, Mercury and Methylmercury

11D, Fisheries Water Temperature Assessment Summary Table

11N, Other Flow-Related Upstream Analyses

15A, Natural Resources Conservation Service Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Explanations and Calculations for the Sites Reservoir Project (NEW

17A, CVP/SWP Power Modeling

28A, Climate Change

Please let me know if there is any problem in accessing files or any other questions.

Thank you,

Laurie

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**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 4:31 PM

**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Dear Responsible Agencies,

We have uploaded initial chapters and appendices of the Sites Administrative Final EIR/EIS for your review. The files have been copied to folders at the following location on the Sites Project State and Federal Agencies SharePoint site: <https://sitesreservoirproject.sharepoint.com/sites/SitesProjectStateandFederalAgencies>.

We have included an index of chapters and appendices with the files on SharePoint. The index identifies which chapters and appendices will be revised as well as the date they are uploaded. We will update the index as we receive additional chapters and appendices to SharePoint. The files uploaded to-date include:

Chapters

2. Project Description and Alternatives
3. Environmental Analysis
4. Regulatory and Environmental Compliance
5. Surface Water Resources
8. Groundwater Resources
9. Vegetation and Wetland Resources
10. Wildlife Resources
12. Geology and Soil
14. Land Use
15. Agriculture and Forestry Resources
16. Recreation Resources
17. Energy
18. Navigation, Transportation, and Traffic

- 20. Air Quality
- 23. Tribal Cultural Resources
- 26. Public Services and Utilities
- 27. Public Health and Environmental Health
- 34. Final EIR/EIS Document Distribution

Appendices

- 2D, Environmental Commitments and BMPs
- 2D1, Assessment of Mystery Snail Technical Memorandum (NEW)
- 6A, California State Water Resources Control Board Constituents of Concern
- 7A, Fluvial Geomorphic Setting Information
- 7B, Hydrodynamic Geomorphic Modeling Results
- 8A, Groundwater Resources Basin Setting

All documents were uploaded in a protected state, allowing comment bubbles but not changes to the document text. The ICF team is still doing editing in parallel so no changes should be made to the documents to avoid version control issues. Also:

- Please provide comments in comment bubbles where the change is needed.
- Please be specific and detailed in every comment bubble and avoid referencing another comment bubble (i.e.: "See previous comment") as all comments are compiled and individual reviewer names may not be retained.
- If referencing a previous comment made on a document in Volume 3, please add the comment to the Volume 3 document and reference the associated Comment Report number (i.e.: "Table 5, Comment 1.")
- Focus on substantial issues not editorial changes.
- Changes to the project description are described in detail in Chapter 2 and updated throughout the EIR/EIS chapters.

Please let us know if there are issues with access to files or any other questions. We will notify you when additional files are available for review; we ask that you complete your review by February 28, 2023.

Thank you,

Laurie

Laurie Warner Herson  
Principal/Owner



916.201.3935  
[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)  
State of California Small Business (#1796182)  
Supplier Clearinghouse Women Business Enterprise (#16000323)

<http://phenixenv.com/>

---

**Sent:** 2/22/2023 12:53:39 PM  
**To:** steve.micko@jacobs.com  
**CC:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**Subject:** Sites Project - NGO Response

Steve – The NGO group asked the following: Confirm / identify inches per year reservoir losses

The CALSIM II model considers losses due to net evaporation at its reservoirs. For the Final EIR/EIS Alternative 3, the long-term average evaporative losses are 27 TAF per year. These evaporative losses are roughly 10% of the long-term average annual diversion volume.

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Jerry Brown [jbrown@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 2/23/2023 8:10:09 AM  
**To:** Bob Tincher [bobt@sbvmwd.com]  
**CC:** Marcia Kivett [MKivett@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** Re: Slide deck?  
**Attachments:** Sites Overview - General Policy Level.pptx

Here you go. This was what I did for SGPWA Board Update and was based on a slide deck that Mark Krause used to present on Sites to his new Board members. Let me know any questions or if you need anything else.

---

**From:** Bob Tincher <bobt@sbvmwd.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 2:17 PM  
**To:** Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** Slide deck?

Good afternoon Jerry,

I am going to be presenting the Sites Reservoir Project to our largest retail water agency and was hoping to get a copy of the latest informational slide deck. The audience will be a Board of Directors so I am interested in high-level overview type slides

Thanks,

*Bob*

**Robert M. Tincher, P.E., M.S.**  
*Chief Water Resources Officer/Deputy General Manager*  
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District  
380 E. Vanderbilt Way  
San Bernardino, CA 92408  
Cell 909.226.2812



# Sites Reservoir Project Overview

San Geronio Pass Water  
Agency Board of Directors

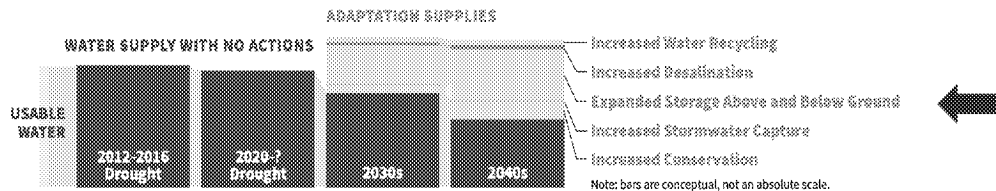
Meeting  
January 23,  
2023

 Sites

# What Problem Does the Sites Project Help Solve?

Over the next 20 years, California could lose 10 percent<sup>1</sup> of its water supplies.

Our climate has changed, and the West continues to get hotter and drier. As it does, we will see on average less snowfall, more evaporation, and greater consumption of water by vegetation, soil, and the atmosphere itself.



In previous droughts the ratio of precipitation to evaporation to runoff has been similar. However, as temperatures rise, evaporation increases, with the consequence of a fall in runoff. As average temperatures continue to increase, the increase in evaporation will continue, with a concurrent drop in runoff.

Excerpted from Aug 2022 "California's Water Supply Strategy, Adapting to a Hotter Drier Future"

# Sites Project Authority

- Joint Powers Authority established under California law
- Authority member agencies located in the Sacramento Valley
- Reservoir Committee made up statewide agencies investing in the Sites Project
- The Sites Project Authority will own and operate Sites Reservoir

## Board of Directors:

Colusa County  
Colusa County Water District  
Glenn County  
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District  
Placer County Water Agency/City of Roseville  
Reclamation District 108  
Sacramento/Sac County Water Agency  
Tehama-Colusa Canal

# Our Strength is in Our Broad Statewide Participation

## Sacramento Valley

City of American Canyon  
Colusa County  
Colusa County Water Agency  
Cortina Water District  
Davis Water District  
Dunnigan Water District  
Glenn County  
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District  
LaGrande Water District  
Placer County Water Agency  
Reclamation District 108  
City of Roseville  
Sacramento County Water Agency  
City of Sacramento  
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority  
Westside Water District  
Western Canal Water District

## Bay Area

Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Zone 7 Water Agency

## San Joaquin Valley

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage  
District  
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage  
District

## Southern California

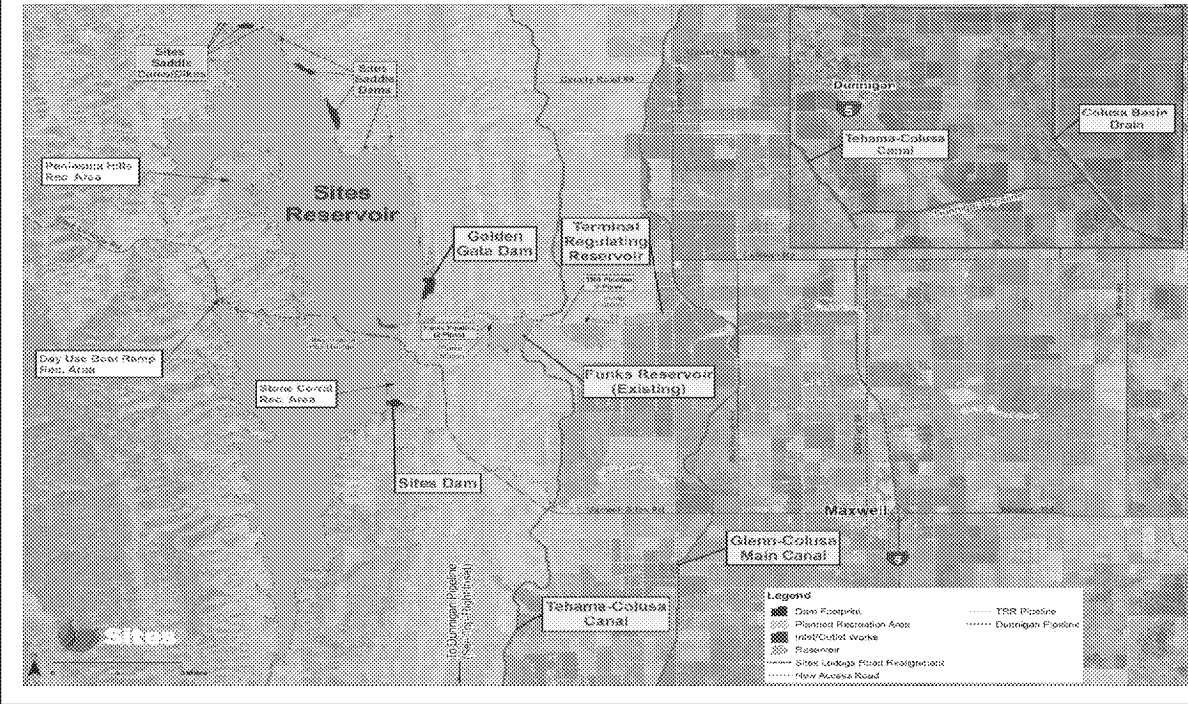
Antelope Valley - East Kern Water  
Agency  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Desert Water Agency  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Metropolitan Water District  
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water  
District

## Waiting List

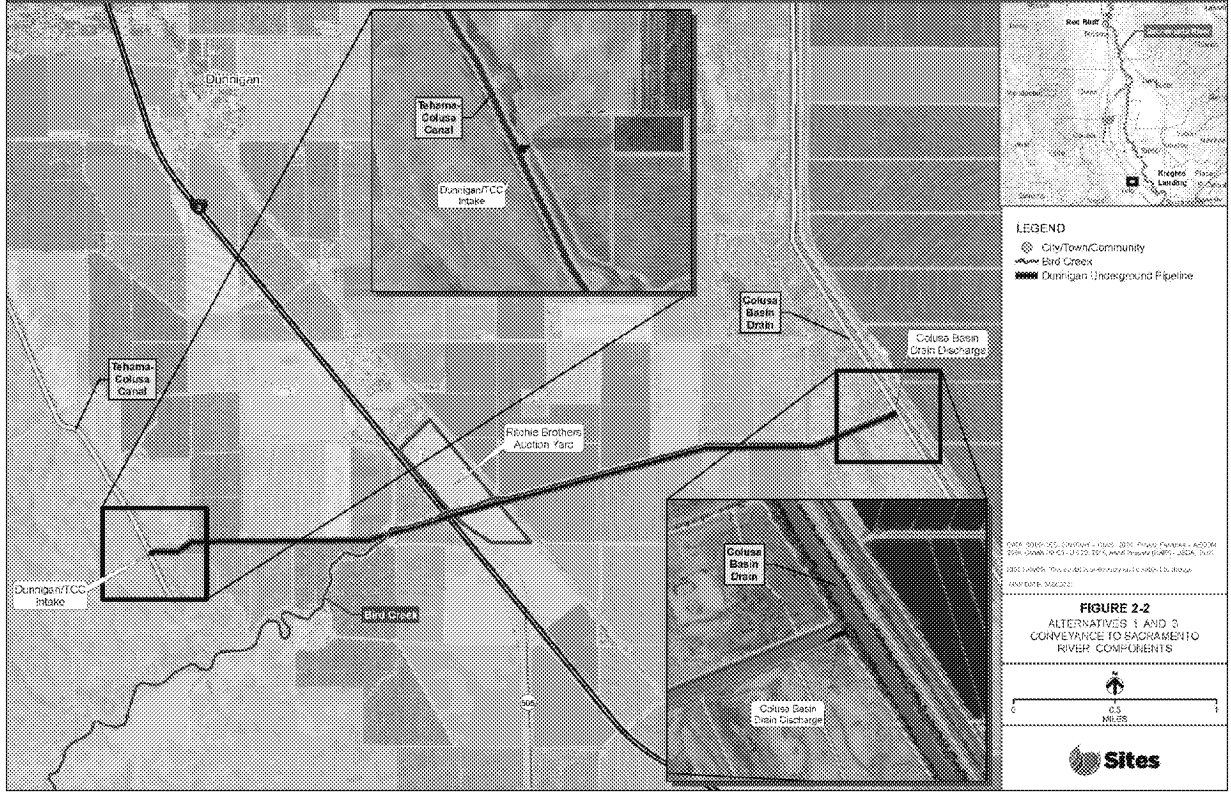
Cal-Am Sacramento  
City of Napa  
Delta View WQA  
Glenn County  
La Cumbre MWC  
Madera County  
Pacific Resources MWC  
Palmdale WD  
Santa Clara Valley WD  
Western Municipal WD  
Westlands WD  
Wheeler Ridge Maricopa WSD  
Woodland Davis CWA



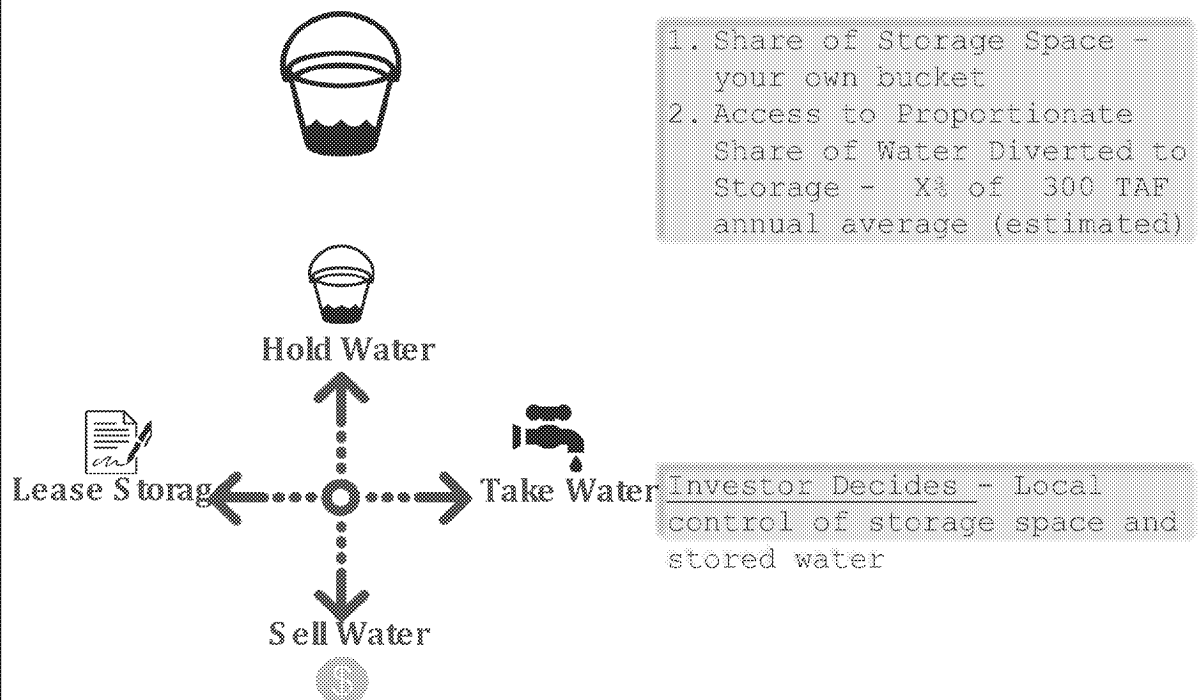
# Project Facilities



# Project Facilities

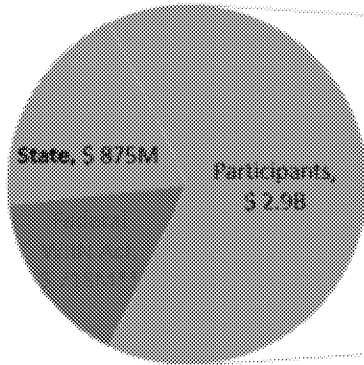


# What Do You Get With Your Investment in Sites?

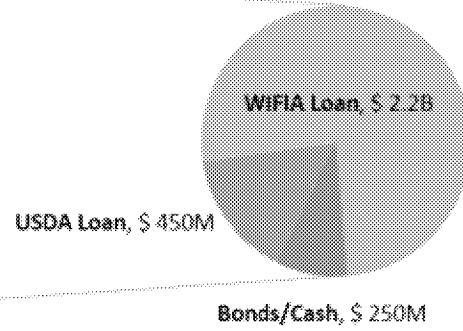


# Project Funding Sources

## Project Investors



## Participant Funding Sources

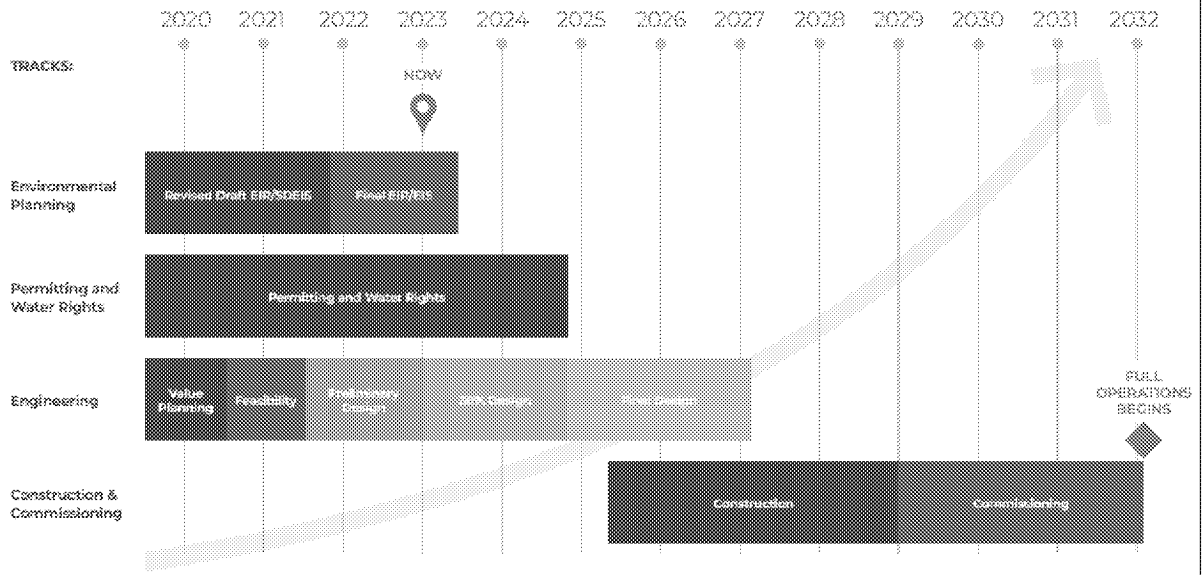


\*\*WIFIA Act funding is based on 16% Reclamation investment under Alternative 3 (Preferred Project) and is reported in future dollars.



# Project Schedule

## Sites Reservoir Project Schedule




Draft - Predecisional Working Document - For Discussion Purposes Only

9

Speaker: Laurie

Draft - Predecisional Working Document - For Discussion Purposes Only

## Project Next Steps/Goals: 2022 - 2024

- ✓ Secure Final Prop 1 Funding award with CWC
- ✓ Execute Final Operations Agreement
- ✓ Secure WIIN and BIL Federal Funding
- ✓ Complete WIFIA/USDA Loan Agreements
- ✓ Execute Benefits and Obligations Contracts
- ✓ Complete Final EIR/EIS
- ✓ Obtain Critical Environmental Permits (BO, ITP, 404)
- ✓ Receive Water Right Order and Permit
- ✓ Obtain Local Agency Agreements and Permits
- ✓ Execute Benefits Contracts with DWR and 

## Project Next Steps/Goals: 2022 - 2024

- ④ Develop Mitigation Acquisition Master Plan
- ④ Initiate Application for DSOD Permit to Construct
- ④ Advance Engineering Design to achieve Level 3 cost estimate
- ④ Determine Procurement and Delivery Strategy
- ④ Determine Overall Project Schedule
- ④ Develop and Implement Land Acquisition Master Plan
- ④ Conduct Geotech Investigations and Evaluations
- ④ Perform Geotech Evaluation of all "Willing Seller" Properties
- ④ Determine Organization Structure and Governance



# Questions



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**From:** Cheyanne Harris [CHarris@BrwnCald.com]  
**Sent:** 2/23/2023 11:03:09 AM  
**To:** JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]; Amparo Flores [AFlores@BrwnCald.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Cooperative Agreement Workplan

Draft workplan (largely outline) – is here for reference: [DRAFT Sites Cooperative Agreement Workplan.docx](#)

**Cheyenne Harris, P.E.\***

Brown and Caldwell

CHarris@brwncald.com

T 916.853.5349 | C 916.628.2352

\*Professional Registration in California

Pronouns: she/her/hers



---

**From:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 10:17 AM  
**To:** Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>; Amparo Flores <AFlores@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Cooperative Agreement Workplan

My notes, as discussed. Also, most recent term sheets shared with Facility Partners here (as of September 2021):

[GCID Term Sheet](#)

[TCCA Term Sheet](#)

Notes from today:

- Approach
  - Lori and Joe are thinking about a cover page / task order (for each agency), with common scope attachment.
  - Leverage Bartle Wells LVRE wheeling report example
  - Decision: start with one agreement, work toward a common methodology
- Tasks for Workplan
  1. Sites Project permit application and planning document reviews
    - List examples: FERC, EIR, Army Corps
    - Resource: Facility Partner Staff
  2. Development of Facilities Use Agreements
    - Process for establishing and updating wheeling rates (true-up), escalation, etc.
    - Wheeling rate development
    - Cost basis

- Share of costs (modeling)
  - Resource: Facility Partner Staff and a wheeling rate consultant
  - Assumptions
  - Contract drafting led by Authority
3. Development of Design and Construction Agreements
- Allocation of costs and responsibilities for construction of improvements
  - Assumptions
  - Contract drafting led by Authority
- Schedule and term
    - Through the end of A3, Dec 31, 2024
    - Simple schedule showing three tasks, to be developed with the partners

---

**From:** Cheyanne Harris

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023 8:35 AM

**To:** Cheyanne Harris <[CHarris@BrwnCald.com](mailto:CHarris@BrwnCald.com)>; JP Robinette <[jrobinette@sitesproject.org](mailto:jrobinette@sitesproject.org)>; Amparo Flores <[AFlores@BrwnCald.com](mailto:AFlores@BrwnCald.com)>

**Subject:** Cooperative Agreement Workplan

**When:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 9:00 AM-10:00 AM.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Moving due to JP's jury duty.

Holding some time to discuss the TCCA/GCID Cooperative Agreement Workplan development.

Amparo: we'll explain more context (either in our 2/2 call or during this call) – charge your time to 159435.031.002.

This is not time-sensitive so can move in case of a conflict.

Thanks.

**Cheyenne Harris, P.E.\***

Brown and Caldwell

[CHarris@brwncald.com](mailto:CHarris@brwncald.com)

T 916.853.5349 | C 916.628.2352

\*Professional Registration in California

Pronouns: she/her/hers



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A Brown and Caldwell Teams meeting has been created for this event.

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**From:** Jacobson, Allison M [ajacobson@usbr.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/23/2023 3:11:08 PM  
**To:** Brick, David A [dbrick@usbr.gov]; Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**CC:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Hi All,

The folks that requested more time are reviewing climate change, water quality, fisheries/aquatic, and there is a general NEPA reviewer filling in for Rain Emerson.

**Allison Jacobson**

Project Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation, Interior Region 10 · California-Great Basin  
Willows Construction Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825  
Office: 916-978-5075  
Work Cell: 916-200-6353

---

**From:** Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 2:20 PM  
**To:** Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>; Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Hi Laurie, for cooperating agencies here is our current status:

WAPA – completed, with minimal/no comments.

USFWS – will not have comments by the 28<sup>th</sup>, and has alluded to the review taking much longer if we need their comments.

EPA – No response to my request for an update on meeting the deadline, will followup again and see.

NMFS – Previously requested additional time before beginning the review period, have not followed up with another request during the review period. No respond to my request for an update on meeting the deadline. Will followup again and see.

I'm unsure if we will have all non-aquatics/modeling comments in by the 28<sup>th</sup>. Allison mentioned she had heard back from several internal folks that needed additional time. Were any of those non-aquatics/modeling?

Thanks,  
David

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 2:11 PM  
**To:** Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>; Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review



Hi David and Allison,

We are looking for ways to start working on comments while agencies finish their review. We assume that the reviewers are needing more time primarily for their review of major topics, such as aquatics and modeling. If we could get WAPA's comments and comments on any other non-water/biological resource components (chapters, appendices and responses to comments) by the 28<sup>th</sup> it will help us keep moving. Do you think that is possible?

Thanks,

Laurie

---

**From:** Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 8:27 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Allison M <[ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Hi Ali,

WAPA has finished their review, USFWS will need additional time, and I haven't heard back from anyone else yet. EPA and NMFS had previously indicated they would need more time, but didn't respond yet to my last email. I can followup and see if they have any updates.

David

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 8:24 AM  
**To:** Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>; Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

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David – How are the NEPA Cooperating Agencies doing in their review? CDFW has asked for additional time – until March 8. I am contemplating what to do but wanted to check in to see if you have heard anything from the NEPA Cooperating agency side of the house.

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

---

**From:** Davis-Fadtke, Kristal@Wildlife <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 5:17 PM

**To:** Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>; Young, Amy@DWR <Amy.Young@water.ca.gov>; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; Cooke, Robert@DWR <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; Torres, Juan@Wildlife <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Maroney, Jagruti@DWR <Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov>; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; Wood, Dylan@Wildlife <Dylan.Wood@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; Wadsworth, Derek@Waterboards <Derek.Wadsworth@Waterboards.ca.gov>; O'Donnell, Daniel@Wildlife <Daniel.Odonnell@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; Paccassi, Michael@Wildlife <Michael.Paccassi@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Lupoli, Christina@Wildlife <Christina.Lupoli@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Hi Laurie,

We have been able to access all the files and are in the middle of our review. Given that the last of the files were received on February 11, we will not be able to provide comments until March 8.

Best,

Kristal

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 12:45 PM

**To:** Young, Amy@DWR <Amy.Young@water.ca.gov>; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; Davis-Fadtke, Kristal@Wildlife <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; Cooke, Robert@DWR <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; Torres, Juan@Wildlife <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Maroney, Jagruti@DWR <Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov>; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; Wood, Dylan@Wildlife <Dylan.Wood@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; Wadsworth, Derek@Waterboards <Derek.Wadsworth@Waterboards.ca.gov>; O'Donnell, Daniel@Wildlife <Daniel.Odonnell@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; Paccassi, Michael@Wildlife <Michael.Paccassi@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Lupoli, Christina@Wildlife <Christina.Lupoli@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

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Good afternoon all -

We are checking in on the status of your review and comments on the Sites Reservoir Administrative Final EIR/EIS. Please let me know if there are any ongoing issues with access and your ability to add comments (in comment bubbles) to the files. We also would like to know if there are any problems in meeting the schedule to submit your comments by February 28<sup>th</sup>, which is next Tuesday.

Thank you for providing your review and comments, we very much value your input.

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2023 8:00 AM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); [Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards](mailto:Montgomery,Amanda@Waterboards) <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Okita, David@DWR](mailto:Okita,David@DWR) <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; [Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards](mailto:Biondi,Oscar@Waterboards) <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards](mailto:Heinrich,Dana@Waterboards) <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); [Uttley, Paige@Wildlife](mailto:Uttley,Paige@Wildlife) <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife](mailto:Williams,Jonathan@Wildlife) <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards](mailto:Hartman,Jelena@Waterboards) <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov); [Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife](mailto:Sheya,Tanya@Wildlife) <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Sandino, David@DWR](mailto:Sandino,David@DWR) <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; [Riddle, Diane@Waterboards](mailto:Riddle,Diane@Waterboards) <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Leahigh, John@DWR](mailto:Leahigh,John@DWR) <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; [derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov); [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); [Hennessy, April@Wildlife](mailto:Hennessy, April@Wildlife) <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov); [Miller, Aaron@DWR](mailto:Miller,Aaron@DWR) <[Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov](mailto:Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov)>; [Ely, Terri@DWR](mailto:Ely,Terri@DWR) <[Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov](mailto:Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** [Alicia Forsythe](mailto:Alicia.Forsythe@sitesproject.org) <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; [Cohen, Ariel](mailto:Cohen,Ariel) <[Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com](mailto:Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning,

ICF delivered the last of the Sites Reservoir Administrative Final EIR/EIS yesterday evening. These files include responses to individual comments in table format. The tables are organized by topic and an index of table numbers and topics has been provided. All files have been upload to the Volume 3 folder on SharePoint: [Vol3 RTC](#)

This concludes the daily emails but I'm still available should there be any questions or issues in accessing files. We look forward to receiving your comments at the end of the month.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2023 8:55 AM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); [Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards](mailto:Montgomery,Amanda@Waterboards) <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Okita, David@DWR](mailto:Okita,David@DWR) <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; [Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards](mailto:Biondi,Oscar@Waterboards) <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards](mailto:Heinrich,Dana@Waterboards) <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); [Uttley, Paige@Wildlife](mailto:Uttley,Paige@Wildlife) <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife](mailto:Williams,Jonathan@Wildlife)

<Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning everyone,

The following master responses to comments on the Sites Reservoir RDEIR/SDEIS have been uploaded for your review:

- Master Responses 1, CEQA and NEPA Process, Regulatory Requirements, and General Comments
- Master Response 2, Alternatives Description and Baseline
- Master Response 3, Hydrology and Hydrologic Modeling
- Master Response 4, Water Quality
- Master Response 5, Aquatic Biological Resources
- Master Response 6, Vegetation, Wetland, and Wildlife Resources
- Master Response 7, Tribal Coordination, Consultation, and Engagement
- Master Response 8, Trinity River
- Master Response 9, Alternatives Development

Individual responses to comments, organized by topic in table format, will be uploaded later today. I will notify you when they are available.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 10:45 AM

**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning all –

The following additional files have been uploaded for your review:

Chapters

ES. Executive Summary  
ES. Table ES2  
28. Climate Change

Appendices

4A, Regulatory Requirements  
30B, Comparison of Regional Hydrologic Model Results to Inform Economic Analyses

These are the last of the chapter and appendix files that have been updated (see attached revised index). Volume 3, Responses to Comments will start being uploaded later today and I will notify you when they are available.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023 8:25 AM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Okita, David@DWR <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov); Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Sandino, David@DWR <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Leahigh, John@DWR <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; [derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov); [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); Hennessy, April@Wildlife <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov); Miller, Aaron@DWR <[Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov](mailto:Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov)>; Ely, Terri@DWR <[Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov](mailto:Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Cohen, Ariel <[Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com](mailto:Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning all,

The following additional files have been uploaded for your review:

Chapters

6. Surface Water Quality  
7. Fluvial Geomorphology  
29. Indian Trust Assets  
31. Cumulative Impacts  
32. Other Required Analyses  
33. Consultation and Coordination and List of Preparers

Appendices

21A, Reservoir GHG Calculations (NEW)

A revised index has also been uploaded and a copy is attached to this email. We are almost done with Volumes 1 and 2 and ICF has informed me that they will start uploading Volume 3 files soon. As always, please contact us if you have any issues accessing these files.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 5:01 PM

**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good evening,

The following files have been uploaded today:

Chapter:

30. Environmental Justice and Socioeconomics

Appendices:

10A, Wildlife Database Results

20A, Methodology for Air Quality and GHG Emissions Calculations

20C, Ambient Air Quality and Health Risk Analysis Technical Report

20C1, AERMOD Equivalency Model Demonstration (NEW)\*

20C2, Model Construction Figures (NEW)\*

20C3, Modeled Emissions (NEW)\*

20D, Photochemical Modeling Study to Support a Health Impact Analysis

A revised index has also been uploaded and a copy is attached to this email. Please let me know if you have any issues with access or any other questions.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Sunday, February 5, 2023 4:01 PM

**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Hello all,

The EIR/EIS Team has submitted Chapter 11, *Aquatic Biological Resources* and all remaining Chapter 11 appendices. They have also submitted the following additional appendices:

6B3, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, X2 Results (DSM2-QUAL)\*

6B4, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, Export Loading\*

6B5, Water Quality Compliance\*

We have added those files to the State and Federal Agency SharePoint site for your review. We also added an updated index of chapters and appendices (attached) to SharePoint. Please let us know if you have any questions or issues with access. If there are others that need access to review the files, please forward their name and email address.

Thank you for your time and input,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 7:57 AM

**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Good morning,

We have uploaded additional chapters for your review. These include:

Chapters

1. Introduction

21. Greenhouse Gases

Appendices

1A Introduction to Appendices and Models

2B, Additional Alternatives Screening and Evaluation

5A, Surface Water Resources Modeling of Alternatives

5A1, Model Assumptions

5A2, CALSIM II Model Assumptions Callouts

5A3, DSM2 Model Assumptions Callouts

5A4, HEC5Q and Reclamation Temperature Model Assumptions Callouts

5A5, CALSIM II Model Delivery Specifications

5A6, Model Limitations and Improvements

5A7, Daily Pattern Development for the Estimation of Daily Flows and Weir Spills in CALSIM II

5B, Water Resources System Modeling

5B1, Project Operations

5B2, River Operations

5B3, Delta Operations

5B4, Regional Deliveries

5B5, Water Supply

5C, Upper Sacramento River Daily River Flow and Operations Model (2 parts)

6B1, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, Salinity Results (DSM2-QUAL)

6B2, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, Chloride Results (DSM2-QUAL)

6C, River Temperature Modeling

6D, Sites Reservoir Discharge Temperature Modeling\*

6D1, Sites Reservoir Discharge Temperature Modeling, Attachment 1 Reservoir Surface Water and Release Temperature

6D2, Sites Reservoir Discharge Temperature Modeling, Attachment 2 Water Temperature at Downstream Locations

6E, Water Quality Data

6F, Mercury and Methylmercury

11D, Fisheries Water Temperature Assessment Summary Table

11N, Other Flow-Related Upstream Analyses

15A, Natural Resources Conservation Service Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Explanations and Calculations for the Sites Reservoir Project (NEW)

17A, CVP/SWP Power Modeling

28A, Climate Change

Please let me know if there is any problem in accessing files or any other questions.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 4:31 PM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); [Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards](mailto:Montgomery,Amanda@Waterboards) <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>;

'[Kristal Davis Fadtke \(Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov\)](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Okita, David@DWR](mailto:Okita,David@DWR)

<[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; '[Cooke, Robert@DWR](mailto:Cooke,Robert@DWR)' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; [Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards](mailto:Biondi,Oscar@Waterboards)

<[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards](mailto:Heinrich,Dana@Waterboards) <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; '[Tores, Juan](mailto:Tores,Juan)



Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Dear Responsible Agencies,

We have uploaded initial chapters and appendices of the Sites Administrative Final EIR/EIS for your review. The files have been copied to folders at the following location on the Sites Project State and Federal Agencies SharePoint site: <https://sitesreservoirproject.sharepoint.com/sites/SitesProjectStateandFederalAgencies>.

We have included an index of chapters and appendices with the files on SharePoint. The index identifies which chapters and appendices will be revised as well as the date they are uploaded. We will update the index as we receive additional chapters and appendices to SharePoint. The files uploaded to-date include:

#### Chapters

2. Project Description and Alternatives
3. Environmental Analysis
4. Regulatory and Environmental Compliance
5. Surface Water Resources
8. Groundwater Resources
9. Vegetation and Wetland Resources
10. Wildlife Resources
12. Geology and Soil
14. Land Use
15. Agriculture and Forestry Resources
16. Recreation Resources
17. Energy
18. Navigation, Transportation, and Traffic
20. Air Quality
23. Tribal Cultural Resources
26. Public Services and Utilities
27. Public Health and Environmental Health
34. Final EIR/EIS Document Distribution

#### Appendices

- 2D, Environmental Commitments and BMPs
- 2D1, Assessment of Mystery Snail Technical Memorandum (NEW)
- 6A, California State Water Resources Control Board Constituents of Concern
- 7A, Fluvial Geomorphic Setting Information
- 7B, Hydrodynamic Geomorphic Modeling Results
- 8A, Groundwater Resources Basin Setting

All documents were uploaded in a protected state, allowing comment bubbles but not changes to the document text. The ICF team is still doing editing in parallel so no changes should be made to the documents to avoid version control issues. Also:

- Please provide comments in comment bubbles where the change is needed.

- Please be specific and detailed in every comment bubble and avoid referencing another comment bubble (i.e.: “See previous comment”) as all comments are compiled and individual reviewer names may not be retained.
- If referencing a previous comment made on a document in Volume 3, please add the comment to the Volume 3 document and reference the associated Comment Report number (i.e.: “Table 5, Comment 1.”)
- Focus on substantial issues not editorial changes.
- Changes to the project description are described in detail in Chapter 2 and updated throughout the EIR/EIS chapters.

Please let us know if there are issues with access to files or any other questions. We will notify you when additional files are available for review; we ask that you complete your review by February 28, 2023.

Thank you,

Laurie

Laurie Warner Herson  
Principal/Owner



**Environmental Planning**

916.201.3935

[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)

State of California Small Business (#1796182)

Supplier Clearinghouse Women Business Enterprise (#16000323)

<http://phenixenv.com/>

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/24/2023 8:17:29 AM  
**To:** Jacobson, Allison M [ajacobson@usbr.gov]; Brick, David A [dbrick@usbr.gov]; Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review  
**Attachments:** 20230224\_Sites EIREIS Review Adjustment.docx

Hi Allison and David – Laurie and I worked up a revised plan. See attached. We’re proposing to have those chapters, appendices and tables that don’t rely on the new modeling due on March 3. So a few extra days for these. All of the rest of the chapters, appendices, and tables would be due on March 14. So 2 more weeks for these.

Does this look good to you all? This at least allows us to start moving on some of the document – really the sections that I expect to have less comments/changes, but at least we can keep ICF moving forward.

Let me know what you all think. I am hoping to get this out to all of the reviewers today so they know about the extra time and can adjust.

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 8:41 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Thanks Ali.

I also had 4 Reclamation reviewers request an extension until 3/10. I just provided this information to Laurie in a separate email, and though I’d share on this thread too.

**Allison Jacobson**

Project Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation, Interior Region 10 · California-Great Basin  
Willows Construction Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825  
Office: 916-978-5075  
Work Cell: 916-200-6353

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 8:36 AM  
**To:** Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>; Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Allison M <[ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Thanks all. I will talk to Jerry today about giving additional time. I'll circle back later today.

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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---

**From:** Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 8:27 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Allison M <[ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Hi Ali,

WAPA has finished their review, USFWS will need additional time, and I haven't heard back from anyone else yet. EPA and NMFS had previously indicated they would need more time, but didn't respond yet to my last email. I can followup and see if they have any updates.

David

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 8:24 AM  
**To:** Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>; Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

David – How are the NEPA Cooperating Agencies doing in their review? CDFW has asked for additional time – until March 8. I am contemplating what to do but wanted to check in to see if you have heard anything from the NEPA Cooperating agency side of the house.

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Davis-Fadtke, Kristal@Wildlife <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 5:17 PM

**To:** Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>; Young, Amy@DWR <[Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov)>; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Okita, David@DWR <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; Cooke, Robert@DWR <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Torres, Juan@Wildlife <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Maroney, Jagruti@DWR <[Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov)>; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Wood, Dylan@Wildlife <[Dylan.Wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Dylan.Wood@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Sandino, David@DWR <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Leahigh, John@DWR <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; Wadsworth, Derek@Waterboards <[Derek.Wadsworth@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Derek.Wadsworth@Waterboards.ca.gov)>; O'Donnell, Daniel@Wildlife <[Daniel.Odonnell@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Daniel.Odonnell@Wildlife.ca.gov)>; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Paccassi, Michael@Wildlife <[Michael.Paccassi@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Paccassi@Wildlife.ca.gov)>; Lupoli, Christina@Wildlife <[Christina.Lupoli@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Christina.Lupoli@Wildlife.ca.gov)>; Miller, Aaron@DWR <[Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov](mailto:Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov)>; Ely, Terri@DWR <[Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov](mailto:Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Cohen, Ariel <[Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com](mailto:Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Hi Laurie,

We have been able to access all the files and are in the middle of our review. Given that the last of the files were received on February 11, we will not be able to provide comments until March 8.

Best,

Kristal

-----  
**From:** Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 12:45 PM

**To:** Young, Amy@DWR <[Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov)>; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Davis-Fadtke, Kristal@Wildlife <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Okita, David@DWR <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; Cooke, Robert@DWR <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Torres, Juan@Wildlife <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Maroney, Jagruti@DWR <[Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov)>; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife

<Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; Wood, Dylan@Wildlife <Dylan.Wood@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; Wadsworth, Derek@Waterboards <Derek.Wadsworth@Waterboards.ca.gov>; O'Donnell, Daniel@Wildlife <Daniel.Odonnell@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; Paccassi, Michael@Wildlife <Michael.Paccassi@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Lupoli, Christina@Wildlife <Christina.Lupoli@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon all -

We are checking in on the status of your review and comments on the Sites Reservoir Administrative Final EIR/EIS. Please let me know if there are any ongoing issues with access and your ability to add comments (in comment bubbles) to the files. We also would like to know if there are any problems in meeting the schedule to submit your comments by February 28<sup>th</sup>, which is next Tuesday.

Thank you for providing your review and comments, we very much value your input.

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2023 8:00 AM

**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning,

ICF delivered the last of the Sites Reservoir Administrative Final EIR/EIS yesterday evening. These files include responses to individual comments in table format. The tables are organized by topic and an index of table numbers and topics has been provided. All files have been upload to the Volume 3 folder on SharePoint: [Vol3 RTC](#)

This concludes the daily emails but I'm still available should there be any questions or issues in accessing files. We look forward to receiving your comments at the end of the month.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2023 8:55 AM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); [Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>](mailto:Montgomery,Amanda@Waterboards.ca.gov); 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>](mailto:Okita,David@DWR); 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; [Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>](mailto:Biondi,Oscar@Waterboards.ca.gov); [Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>](mailto:Heinrich,Dana@Waterboards.ca.gov); 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); [Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>](mailto:Uttley,Paige@Wildlife.ca.gov); [Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>](mailto:Williams,Jonathan@Wildlife.ca.gov); [Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>](mailto:Hartman,Jelena@Waterboards.ca.gov); [dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov); [Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>](mailto:Sheya,Tanya@Wildlife.ca.gov); [Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>](mailto:Sandino,David@DWR.ca.gov); [Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>](mailto:Riddle,Diane@Waterboards.ca.gov); [Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>](mailto:Leahigh,John@DWR.ca.gov); [derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov); [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); [Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>](mailto:Hennessy,April@Wildlife.ca.gov); [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov); [Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>](mailto:Miller,Aaron@DWR.ca.gov); [Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>](mailto:Ely,Terri@DWR.ca.gov)

**Cc:** [Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org); [Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>](mailto:Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com)

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning everyone,

The following master responses to comments on the Sites Reservoir RDEIR/SDEIS have been uploaded for your review:

- Master Responses 1, CEQA and NEPA Process, Regulatory Requirements, and General Comments
- Master Response 2, Alternatives Description and Baseline
- Master Response 3, Hydrology and Hydrologic Modeling
- Master Response 4, Water Quality
- Master Response 5, Aquatic Biological Resources
- Master Response 6, Vegetation, Wetland, and Wildlife Resources
- Master Response 7, Tribal Coordination, Consultation, and Engagement
- Master Response 8, Trinity River
- Master Response 9, Alternatives Development

Individual responses to comments, organized by topic in table format, will be uploaded later today. I will notify you when they are available.

Thank you,

Laurie

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**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 10:45 AM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); [Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>](mailto:Montgomery,Amanda@Waterboards.ca.gov); 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Okita, David@DWR](mailto:Okita,David@DWR)

<David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning all –

The following additional files have been uploaded for your review:

Chapters

ES. Executive Summary

ES. Table ES2

28. Climate Change

Appendices

4A, Regulatory Requirements

30B, Comparison of Regional Hydrologic Model Results to Inform Economic Analyses

These are the last of the chapter and appendix files that have been updated (see attached revised index). Volume 3, Responses to Comments will start being uploaded later today and I will notify you when they are available.

Thank you,

Laurie

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**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023 8:25 AM

**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review



Good morning all,

The following additional files have been uploaded for your review:

Chapters

- 6. Surface Water Quality
- 7. Fluvial Geomorphology
- 29. Indian Trust Assets
- 31. Cumulative Impacts
- 32. Other Required Analyses
- 33. Consultation and Coordination and List of Preparers

Appendices

- 21A, Reservoir GHG Calculations (NEW)

A revised index has also been uploaded and a copy is attached to this email. We are almost done with Volumes 1 and 2 and ICF has informed me that they will start uploading Volume 3 files soon. As always, please contact us if you have any issues accessing these files.

Thank you,

Laurie

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**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 5:01 PM

**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good evening,

The following files have been uploaded today:

Chapter:

- 30. Environmental Justice and Socioeconomics

Appendices:

- 10A, Wildlife Database Results
- 20A, Methodology for Air Quality and GHG Emissions Calculations

20C, Ambient Air Quality and Health Risk Analysis Technical Report  
20C1, AERMOD Equivalency Model Demonstration (NEW)\*  
20C2, Model Construction Figures (NEW)\*  
20C3, Modeled Emissions (NEW)\*  
20D, Photochemical Modeling Study to Support a Health Impact Analysis

A revised index has also been uploaded and a copy is attached to this email. Please let me know if you have any issues with access or any other questions.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Sunday, February 5, 2023 4:01 PM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); [Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards](mailto:Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards) <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Okita, David@DWR](mailto:Okita, David@DWR) <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; [Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards](mailto:Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards) <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards](mailto:Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards) <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); [Uttley, Paige@Wildlife](mailto:Uttley, Paige@Wildlife) <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife](mailto:Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife) <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards](mailto:Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards) <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov); [Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife](mailto:Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife) <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Sandino, David@DWR](mailto:Sandino, David@DWR) <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; [Riddle, Diane@Waterboards](mailto:Riddle, Diane@Waterboards) <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Leahigh, John@DWR](mailto:Leahigh, John@DWR) <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; [derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov); [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); [Hennessy, April@Wildlife](mailto:Hennessy, April@Wildlife) <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov); [Miller, Aaron@DWR](mailto:Miller, Aaron@DWR) <[Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov](mailto:Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov)>; [Ely, Terri@DWR](mailto:Ely, Terri@DWR) <[Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov](mailto:Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** [Alicia Forsythe](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Hello all,

The EIR/EIS Team has submitted Chapter 11, *Aquatic Biological Resources* and all remaining Chapter 11 appendices. They have also submitted the following additional appendices:

6B3, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, X2 Results (DSM2-QUAL)\*

6B4, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, Export Loading\*

6B5, Water Quality Compliance\*

We have added those files to the State and Federal Agency SharePoint site for your review. We also added an updated index of chapters and appendices (attached) to SharePoint. Please let us know if you have any questions or issues with access. If there are others that need access to review the files, please forward their name and email address.

Thank you for your time and input,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 7:57 AM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); [Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards](mailto:Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards) <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Okita, David@DWR](mailto:Okita, David@DWR)

<David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Good morning,

We have uploaded additional chapters for your review. These include:

#### Chapters

1. Introduction

21. Greenhouse Gases

#### Appendices

1A Introduction to Appendices and Models

2B, Additional Alternatives Screening and Evaluation

5A, Surface Water Resources Modeling of Alternatives

5A1, Model Assumptions

5A2, CALSIM II Model Assumptions Callouts

5A3, DSM2 Model Assumptions Callouts

5A4, HEC5Q and Reclamation Temperature Model Assumptions Callouts

5A5, CALSIM II Model Delivery Specifications

5A6, Model Limitations and Improvements

5A7, Daily Pattern Development for the Estimation of Daily Flows and Weir Spills in CALSIM II

5B, Water Resources System Modeling

5B1, Project Operations

5B2, River Operations

5B3, Delta Operations

5B4, Regional Deliveries

5B5, Water Supply

5C, Upper Sacramento River Daily River Flow and Operations Model (2 parts)

6B1, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, Salinity Results (DSM2-QUAL)

6B2, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, Chloride Results (DSM2-QUAL)

6C, River Temperature Modeling

6D, Sites Reservoir Discharge Temperature Modeling\*

6D1, Sites Reservoir Discharge Temperature Modeling, Attachment 1 Reservoir Surface Water and Release Temperature

6D2, Sites Reservoir Discharge Temperature Modeling, Attachment 2 Water Temperature at Downstream Locations

6E, Water Quality Data

6F, Mercury and Methylmercury

11D, Fisheries Water Temperature Assessment Summary Table

11N, Other Flow-Related Upstream Analyses

15A, Natural Resources Conservation Service Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Explanations and Calculations for the Sites Reservoir Project (NEW)

17A, CVP/SWP Power Modeling

28A, Climate Change

Please let me know if there is any problem in accessing files or any other questions.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 4:31 PM

**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtko (Kristal.Davis-Fadtko@wildlife.ca.gov)' <Kristal.Davis-Fadtko@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Dear Responsible Agencies,

We have uploaded initial chapters and appendices of the Sites Administrative Final EIR/EIS for your review. The files have been copied to folders at the following location on the Sites Project State and Federal Agencies SharePoint site: <https://sitesreservoirproject.sharepoint.com/sites/SitesProjectStateandFederalAgencies>.

We have included an index of chapters and appendices with the files on SharePoint. The index identifies which chapters and appendices will be revised as well as the date they are uploaded. We will update the index as we receive additional chapters and appendices to SharePoint. The files uploaded to-date include:

#### Chapters

2. Project Description and Alternatives
3. Environmental Analysis
4. Regulatory and Environmental Compliance
5. Surface Water Resources
8. Groundwater Resources
9. Vegetation and Wetland Resources
10. Wildlife Resources
12. Geology and Soil
14. Land Use
15. Agriculture and Forestry Resources
16. Recreation Resources
17. Energy
18. Navigation, Transportation, and Traffic
20. Air Quality
23. Tribal Cultural Resources
26. Public Services and Utilities
27. Public Health and Environmental Health
34. Final EIR/EIS Document Distribution

## Appendices

2D, Environmental Commitments and BMPs

2D1, Assessment of Mystery Snail Technical Memorandum (NEW)

6A, California State Water Resources Control Board Constituents of Concern

7A, Fluvial Geomorphic Setting Information

7B, Hydrodynamic Geomorphic Modeling Results

8A, Groundwater Resources Basin Setting

All documents were uploaded in a protected state, allowing comment bubbles but not changes to the document text. The ICF team is still doing editing in parallel so no changes should be made to the documents to avoid version control issues. Also:

- Please provide comments in comment bubbles where the change is needed.
- Please be specific and detailed in every comment bubble and avoid referencing another comment bubble (i.e.: "See previous comment") as all comments are compiled and individual reviewer names may not be retained.
- If referencing a previous comment made on a document in Volume 3, please add the comment to the Volume 3 document and reference the associated Comment Report number (i.e.: "Table 5, Comment 1.")
- Focus on substantial issues not editorial changes.
- Changes to the project description are described in detail in Chapter 2 and updated throughout the EIR/EIS chapters.

Please let us know if there are issues with access to files or any other questions. We will notify you when additional files are available for review; we ask that you complete your review by February 28, 2023.

Thank you,

Laurie

Laurie Warner Herson  
Principal/Owner



**Environmental Planning**

916.201.3935

[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)

State of California Small Business (#1796182)

Supplier Clearinghouse Women Business Enterprise (#16000323)

<http://phenixenv.com/>

---

**From:** Ken Mercer [kmercerc@awwa.org]  
**Sent:** 2/24/2023 8:51:55 AM  
**To:** anewton@katzandassociates.com  
**CC:** Sites Project [info@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** Sites Reservoir - Journal AWWA Article?

**Flag:** Flag for follow up

Hi Ann,

My name is Ken Mercer and I'm the editor-in-chief of Journal AWWA. I'm following up on the Sites Reservoir project, which sounds like a very timely collaboration for water agencies in CA, and I was wondering if there is any potential to capture the results and findings in a JAWWA article. It would be useful for the water industry to better understand all aspects of project, so if you or someone on your team is interested in summarizing or extending the presentation in an article, a good target for word count is ~3,000 words (up to 6k) with not many more than 8 tables/figures, where longer is okay as long as it's a compelling read.

On tone, JAWWA is the forum for thought and practice leaders in the industry, so you can get by without framing some of the issues if they are already well understood by water professionals. Useful and interesting are the goals. On schedule, it typically takes 6-7 months from first submission until publication, and if I got a first draft soon it could publish in Q3 of 2023. If you're game, you can email me the manuscript directly and we'll go from there; likewise, if you want any feedback on outlines or early drafts, just let me know. Here's a link to the full JAWWA author guidelines.

Happy to answer any questions in the meantime, otherwise thanks for your consideration and all the best - Ken

**Kenneth Mercer, Ph.D.**

Editor-in-Chief, AWWA Water Science & Journal AWWA  
American Water Works Association  
kmercerc@awwa.org | Direct: 303.347.6191

---

**From:** Sites Project <info@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 2:23 PM  
**Cc:** Ann Newton <anewton@katzandassociates.com>  
**Subject:** For Immediate Release: Recent Storms Would Have Yielded Water for Up to 2 Million People, Farms, and Businesses if Sites Reservoir Were Operational Today

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached press release for Sites Reservoir, and reach out with any questions.



*Note to Media: If you are interested in interviewing a representative from Sites Project Authority on this topic, please contact Ann Newton at [anewton@katzandassociates.com](mailto:anewton@katzandassociates.com) or (310) 774-7639 to schedule an interview with the Authority's executive director, Jerry Brown.*

**For Immediate Release:**

January 18, 2023

Contact: Ann Newton

(310) 774-7639

**New Analysis Reveals Recent Storms Would Have Yielded Water for  
Up to 2 Million People, Farms, and Businesses if Sites Reservoir Were Operational Today**

Sacramento, CA - The Sites Project Authority today announced findings from a new analysis that projected Sites Reservoir could have diverted and captured 120,000 acre-feet of water in just two weeks if the reservoir had been operational from Jan. 3 through Jan. 15. Based on forecasted flows, the analysis shows that the reservoir would continue to capture water over the next few weeks as flows continue to run high.

“This is exactly the type of scenario that Sites is being built for—short windows of extremely high flows. There is an untapped opportunity to capture and store a portion of the significant amount of flow from the Sacramento River that occurs during these rare but major storms without impacting the value of these high flows for our environment,” said Jerry Brown, Executive Director of the Sites Project Authority.

Sites Reservoir is specifically designed to divert and store water generated by storm events, like the atmospheric rivers that drenched the state in recent weeks, to increase water flexibility, reliability, and resiliency in drier years.

The analysis found Sites Reservoir could have diverted 120,000 acre-feet of water—less than 4% of Delta outflow—from Jan. 3 to Jan. 15. Long-range forecasts estimated that Sites Reservoir would continue to divert stormwater through at least Feb. 15, for a total 382,000 acre-feet of water. A single acre-foot of water is enough to exceed the average annual indoor and outdoor water use of one to two California households, according to the Water Education Foundation.

“The rainstorms that pummeled Northern California would have been Sites’ time to shine,” said Alicia Forsythe, Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager of the Sites Project Authority. “It would have captured a portion of the flood waters for use in future dry times by farms, families, and ecosystems, while leaving lots of water in the Sacramento River and Delta for our environment and fisheries.”

While Sacramento River flows started increasing in late December, the Project would have implemented its 7-day pulse flow protection criteria and not started diverting until January 3. The pulse flow protection criteria protects these initial high flow events as they provide value for outmigrating salmon and our river ecosystems.

Periods of heavy rainfall are ideal opportunities to divert and capture water that accumulates quickly but is often lost to flooding and rapid runoff. Sites will not divert any water until all other water rights and regulatory requirements are

met. The analysis shows that during these major storms, all these other needs can be met, and Sites would still be able to store excess water while meeting the project's protective diversion criteria.

Sites Reservoir is an off-stream reservoir that will capture and store a portion of stormwater from the Sacramento River and release water to California communities, farms, business, and wildlife during drier years. Sites Reservoir has broad statewide support from cities, counties, water agencies, and irrigation districts throughout the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Bay Area, and Southern California which are working together to advance the project. The Sites Reservoir Project is locally led by the Sites Project Authority which is made up Sacramento Valley water districts, cities, and counties.

*Sites is an off-stream reservoir proposed north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, where it would provide unique water supply and environmental benefits during dry periods, especially during extended drought. Additional information can be found at [sitesproject.org](http://sitesproject.org) or on Facebook and Twitter at @SitesProject.*

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/24/2023 1:56:27 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Allison M [ajacobson@usbr.gov]; Brick, David A [dbrick@usbr.gov]; Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Awesome! I'll draft up an email now and get it to the CEQA Responsible agencies and copy you all so you can use it with the NEPA Cooperating agencies also.

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 1:08 PM  
**To:** Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

I agree. This plan seems feasible based on the feedback we received.

Thank you for thinking through the revised timeline.

**Allison Jacobson**

Project Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation, Interior Region 10 · California-Great Basin  
Willows Construction Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825  
Office: 916-978-5075  
Work Cell: 916-200-6353

---

**From:** Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 1:04 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; Laurie Warner Herson

<laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Hi Ali, this plan seems good to me. I haven't heard concrete requests back for timing from some folks, but this seems to fit for those we have heard back from.

David

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>

**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 8:17 AM

**To:** Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Hi Allison and David – Laurie and I worked up a revised plan. See attached. We're proposing to have those chapters, appendices and tables that don't rely on the new modeling due on March 3. So a few extra days for these. All of the rest of the chapters, appendices, and tables would be due on March 14. So 2 more weeks for these.

Does this look good to you all? This at least allows us to start moving on some of the document – really the sections that I expect to have less comments/changes, but at least we can keep ICF moving forward.

Let me know what you all think. I am hoping to get this out to all of the reviewers today so they know about the extra time and can adjust.

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 8:41 AM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Thanks Ali.

I also had 4 Reclamation reviewers request an extension until 3/10. I just provided this information to Laurie in a separate email, and though I'd share on this thread too.

**Allison Jacobson**

Project Manager

Bureau of Reclamation, Interior Region 10 · California-Great Basin  
Willows Construction Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825  
Office: 916-978-5075  
Work Cell: 916-200-6353

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 8:36 AM  
**To:** Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>; Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Allison M <[ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Thanks all. I will talk to Jerry today about giving additional time. I'll circle back later today.

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 8:27 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Allison M <[ajacobson@usbr.gov](mailto:ajacobson@usbr.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Hi Ali,

WAPA has finished their review, USFWS will need additional time, and I haven't heard back from anyone else yet. EPA and NMFS had previously indicated they would need more time, but didn't respond yet to my last email. I can followup and see if they have any updates.

David

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 8:24 AM  
**To:** Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>; Brick, David A <[dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

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David – How are the NEPA Cooperating Agencies doing in their review? CDFW has asked for additional time – until March 8. I am contemplating what to do but wanted to check in to see if you have heard anything from the NEPA Cooperating agency side of the house.

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Davis-Fadtke, Kristal@Wildlife <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 5:17 PM

**To:** Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>; Young, Amy@DWR <[Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov)>; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Okita, David@DWR <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; Cooke, Robert@DWR <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Torres, Juan@Wildlife <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Maroney, Jagruti@DWR <[Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov)>; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Wood, Dylan@Wildlife <[Dylan.Wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Dylan.Wood@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Sandino, David@DWR <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Leahigh, John@DWR <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; Wadsworth, Derek@Waterboards <[Derek.Wadsworth@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Derek.Wadsworth@Waterboards.ca.gov)>; O'Donnell, Daniel@Wildlife <[Daniel.Odonnell@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Daniel.Odonnell@Wildlife.ca.gov)>; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Paccassi, Michael@Wildlife <[Michael.Paccassi@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Paccassi@Wildlife.ca.gov)>; Lupoli, Christina@Wildlife <[Christina.Lupoli@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Christina.Lupoli@Wildlife.ca.gov)>; Miller, Aaron@DWR <[Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov](mailto:Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov)>; Ely, Terri@DWR <[Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov](mailto:Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Cohen, Ariel <[Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com](mailto:Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Hi Laurie,

We have been able to access all the files and are in the middle of our review. Given that the last of the files were received on February 11, we will not be able to provide comments until March 8.

Best,

Kristal

-----  
**From:** Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 12:45 PM

**To:** Young, Amy@DWR <[Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov)>; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards

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<Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; Davis-Fadtke, Kristal@Wildlife <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; Cooke, Robert@DWR <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; Torres, Juan@Wildlife <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Maroney, Jagruti@DWR <Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov>; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; Wood, Dylan@Wildlife <Dylan.Wood@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; Wadsworth, Derek@Waterboards <Derek.Wadsworth@Waterboards.ca.gov>; O'Donnell, Daniel@Wildlife <Daniel.Odonnell@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; Paccassi, Michael@Wildlife <Michael.Paccassi@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Lupoli, Christina@Wildlife <Christina.Lupoli@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

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Good afternoon all -

We are checking in on the status of your review and comments on the Sites Reservoir Administrative Final EIR/EIS. Please let me know if there are any ongoing issues with access and your ability to add comments (in comment bubbles) to the files. We also would like to know if there are any problems in meeting the schedule to submit your comments by February 28<sup>th</sup>, which is next Tuesday.

Thank you for providing your review and comments, we very much value your input.

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2023 8:00 AM

**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov; Miller, Aaron@DWR <Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov>; Ely, Terri@DWR <Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Cohen, Ariel <Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning,

ICF delivered the last of the Sites Reservoir Administrative Final EIR/EIS yesterday evening. These files include responses to individual comments in table format. The tables are organized by topic and an index of table numbers and topics has been provided. All files have been upload to the Volume 3 folder on SharePoint: [Vol3 RTC](#)

This concludes the daily emails but I'm still available should there be any questions or issues in accessing files. We look forward to receiving your comments at the end of the month.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2023 8:55 AM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); [Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards](mailto:Montgomery,Amanda@Waterboards) <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Okita, David@DWR](mailto:Okita,David@DWR) <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; [Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards](mailto:Biondi,Oscar@Waterboards) <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards](mailto:Heinrich,Dana@Waterboards) <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); [Uttley, Paige@Wildlife](mailto:Uttley,Paige@Wildlife) <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife](mailto:Williams,Jonathan@Wildlife) <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards](mailto:Hartman,Jelena@Waterboards) <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov); [Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife](mailto:Sheya,Tanya@Wildlife) <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Sandino, David@DWR](mailto:Sandino,David@DWR) <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; [Riddle, Diane@Waterboards](mailto:Riddle,Diane@Waterboards) <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Leahigh, John@DWR](mailto:Leahigh,John@DWR) <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; [derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov); [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); [Hennessy, April@Wildlife](mailto:Hennessy,April@Wildlife) <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov); [Miller, Aaron@DWR](mailto:Miller,Aaron@DWR) <[Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov](mailto:Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov)>; [Ely, Terri@DWR](mailto:Ely,Terri@DWR) <[Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov](mailto:Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** [Alicia Forsythe](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; [Cohen, Ariel](mailto:Cohen,Ariel) <[Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com](mailto:Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning everyone,

The following master responses to comments on the Sites Reservoir RDEIR/SDEIS have been uploaded for your review:

- Master Responses 1, CEQA and NEPA Process, Regulatory Requirements, and General Comments
- Master Response 2, Alternatives Description and Baseline
- Master Response 3, Hydrology and Hydrologic Modeling
- Master Response 4, Water Quality
- Master Response 5, Aquatic Biological Resources
- Master Response 6, Vegetation, Wetland, and Wildlife Resources
- Master Response 7, Tribal Coordination, Consultation, and Engagement
- Master Response 8, Trinity River
- Master Response 9, Alternatives Development

Individual responses to comments, organized by topic in table format, will be uploaded later today. I will notify you when they are available.

Thank you,

Laurie

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**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 10:45 AM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); [Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards](mailto:Montgomery,Amanda@Waterboards) <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Okita, David@DWR](mailto:Okita,David@DWR) <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; [Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards](mailto:Biondi,Oscar@Waterboards) <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards](mailto:Heinrich,Dana@Waterboards) <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); [Uttley, Paige@Wildlife](mailto:Uttley,Paige@Wildlife) <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife](mailto:Williams,Jonathan@Wildlife) <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards](mailto:Hartman,Jelena@Waterboards) <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov); [Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife](mailto:Sheya,Tanya@Wildlife) <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Sandino, David@DWR](mailto:Sandino,David@DWR) <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; [Riddle, Diane@Waterboards](mailto:Riddle,Diane@Waterboards) <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Leahigh, John@DWR](mailto:Leahigh,John@DWR) <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; [derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov); [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); [Hennessy, April@Wildlife](mailto:Hennessy,April@Wildlife) <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov); [Miller, Aaron@DWR](mailto:Miller,Aaron@DWR) <[Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov](mailto:Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov)>; [Ely, Terri@DWR](mailto:Ely,Terri@DWR) <[Terri.Fly@water.ca.gov](mailto:Terri.Fly@water.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** [Alicia Forsythe](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; [Cohen, Ariel](mailto:Cohen,Ariel) <[Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com](mailto:Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning all –

The following additional files have been uploaded for your review:

Chapters

ES. Executive Summary

ES. Table ES2

28. Climate Change

Appendices

4A, Regulatory Requirements

30B, Comparison of Regional Hydrologic Model Results to Inform Economic Analyses

These are the last of the chapter and appendix files that have been updated (see attached revised index). Volume 3, Responses to Comments will start being uploaded later today and I will notify you when they are available.

Thank you,

Laurie

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**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023 8:25 AM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); [Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards](mailto:Montgomery,Amanda@Waterboards) <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Okita, David@DWR](mailto:Okita,David@DWR) <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; [Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards](mailto:Biondi,Oscar@Waterboards) <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards](mailto:Heinrich,Dana@Waterboards) <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); [Uttley, Paige@Wildlife](mailto:Uttley,Paige@Wildlife) <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife](mailto:Williams,Jonathan@Wildlife) <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards](mailto:Hartman,Jelena@Waterboards) <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>;

[dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov); Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Sandino, David@DWR <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Leahigh, John@DWR <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); Hennessy, April@Wildlife <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov); Miller, Aaron@DWR <[Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov](mailto:Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov)>; Ely, Terri@DWR <[Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov](mailto:Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Cohen, Ariel <[Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com](mailto:Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good morning all,

The following additional files have been uploaded for your review:

Chapters

- 6. Surface Water Quality
- 7. Fluvial Geomorphology
- 29. Indian Trust Assets
- 31. Cumulative Impacts
- 32. Other Required Analyses
- 33. Consultation and Coordination and List of Preparers

Appendices

21A, Reservoir GHG Calculations (NEW)

A revised index has also been uploaded and a copy is attached to this email. We are almost done with Volumes 1 and 2 and ICF has informed me that they will start uploading Volume 3 files soon. As always, please contact us if you have any issues accessing these files.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 5:01 PM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Okita, David@DWR <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Jagruiti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruiti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov); Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; Sandino, David@DWR <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; Leahigh, John@DWR <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); Hennessy, April@Wildlife <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov); Miller, Aaron@DWR <[Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov](mailto:Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov)>; Ely, Terri@DWR <[Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov](mailto:Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Cohen, Ariel <[Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com](mailto:Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Files Available for Review

Good evening,



The following files have been uploaded today:

Chapter:

30. Environmental Justice and Socioeconomics

Appendices:

10A, Wildlife Database Results

20A, Methodology for Air Quality and GHG Emissions Calculations

20C, Ambient Air Quality and Health Risk Analysis Technical Report

20C1, AERMOD Equivalency Model Demonstration (NEW)\*

20C2, Model Construction Figures (NEW)\*

20C3, Modeled Emissions (NEW)\*

20D, Photochemical Modeling Study to Support a Health Impact Analysis

A revised index has also been uploaded and a copy is attached to this email. Please let me know if you have any issues with access or any other questions.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Sunday, February 5, 2023 4:01 PM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); [Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards](mailto:Montgomery,Amanda@Waterboards) <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Okita, David@DWR](mailto:Okita,David@DWR) <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; [Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards](mailto:Biondi,Oscar@Waterboards) <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards](mailto:Heinrich,Dana@Waterboards) <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); [Uttley, Paige@Wildlife](mailto:Uttley,Paige@Wildlife) <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife](mailto:Williams,Jonathan@Wildlife) <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards](mailto:Hartman,Jelena@Waterboards) <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov); [Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife](mailto:Sheya,Tanya@Wildlife) <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Sandino, David@DWR](mailto:Sandino,David@DWR) <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; [Riddle, Diane@Waterboards](mailto:Riddle,Diane@Waterboards) <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Leahigh, John@DWR](mailto:Leahigh,John@DWR) <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; [derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov); [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); [Hennessy, April@Wildlife](mailto:Hennessy, April@Wildlife) <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov); [Miller, Aaron@DWR](mailto:Miller,Aaron@DWR) <[Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov](mailto:Aaron.Miller@water.ca.gov)>; [Ely, Terri@DWR](mailto:Ely,Terri@DWR) <[Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov](mailto:Terri.Ely@water.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** [Alicia Forsythe](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Hello all,

The EIR/EIS Team has submitted Chapter 11, *Aquatic Biological Resources* and all remaining Chapter 11 appendices. They have also submitted the following additional appendices:

6B3, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, X2 Results (DSM2-QUAL)\*

6B4, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, Export Loading\*

6B5, Water Quality Compliance\*

We have added those files to the State and Federal Agency SharePoint site for your review. We also added an updated index of chapters and appendices (attached) to SharePoint. Please let us know if you have any questions or issues with access. If there are others that need access to review the files, please forward their name and email address.

Thank you for your time and input,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 7:57 AM

**To:** [Amy.Young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Young@water.ca.gov); [Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards](mailto:Montgomery,Amanda@Waterboards) <[Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke ([Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov))' <[Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Okita, David@DWR](mailto:Okita,David@DWR) <[David.Okita@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Okita@water.ca.gov)>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <[Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov)>; [Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards](mailto:Biondi,Oscar@Waterboards) <[Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards](mailto:Heinrich,Dana@Waterboards) <[Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <[Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov)>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <[annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov); [Uttley, Paige@Wildlife](mailto:Uttley,Paige@Wildlife) <[Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife](mailto:Williams,Jonathan@Wildlife) <[Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards](mailto:Hartman,Jelena@Waterboards) <[Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov); [Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife](mailto:Sheya,Tanya@Wildlife) <[Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [Sandino, David@DWR](mailto:Sandino,David@DWR) <[David.Sandino@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sandino@water.ca.gov)>; [Riddle, Diane@Waterboards](mailto:Riddle,Diane@Waterboards) <[Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov)>; [Leahigh, John@DWR](mailto:Leahigh,John@DWR) <[John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov](mailto:John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov)>; [derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov); [daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov); [Hennessy, April@Wildlife](mailto:Hennessy,April@Wildlife) <[April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov)>; [michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov); [christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov)

**Cc:** [Alicia Forsythe](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Good morning,

We have uploaded additional chapters for your review. These include:

Chapters

- 1. Introduction
- 21. Greenhouse Gases

Appendices

- 1A Introduction to Appendices and Models
- 2B, Additional Alternatives Screening and Evaluation
- 5A, Surface Water Resources Modeling of Alternatives
  - 5A1, Model Assumptions
  - 5A2, CALSIM II Model Assumptions Callouts
  - 5A3, DSM2 Model Assumptions Callouts
  - 5A4, HEC5Q and Reclamation Temperature Model Assumptions Callouts
  - 5A5, CALSIM II Model Delivery Specifications
  - 5A6, Model Limitations and Improvements
  - 5A7, Daily Pattern Development for the Estimation of Daily Flows and Weir Spills in CALSIM II
- 5B, Water Resources System Modeling
  - 5B1, Project Operations
  - 5B2, River Operations
  - 5B3, Delta Operations
  - 5B4, Regional Deliveries
  - 5B5, Water Supply
- 5C, Upper Sacramento River Daily River Flow and Operations Model (2 parts)
- 6B1, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, Salinity Results (DSM2-QUAL)
- 6B2, Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta Modeling, Chloride Results (DSM2-QUAL)
- 6C, River Temperature Modeling
- 6D, Sites Reservoir Discharge Temperature Modeling\*
  - 6D1, Sites Reservoir Discharge Temperature Modeling, Attachment 1 Reservoir Surface Water and Release Temperature
  - 6D2, Sites Reservoir Discharge Temperature Modeling, Attachment 2 Water Temperature at Downstream Locations

6E, Water Quality Data  
6F, Mercury and Methylmercury  
11D, Fisheries Water Temperature Assessment Summary Table  
11N, Other Flow-Related Upstream Analyses  
15A, Natural Resources Conservation Service Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Explanations and Calculations for the Sites Reservoir Project (NEW)  
17A, CVP/SWP Power Modeling  
28A, Climate Change

Please let me know if there is any problem in accessing files or any other questions.

Thank you,

Laurie

---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 4:31 PM

**To:** Amy.Young@water.ca.gov; Montgomery, Amanda@Waterboards <Amanda.Montgomery@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Kristal Davis Fadtke (Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov)' <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Okita, David@DWR <David.Okita@water.ca.gov>; 'Cooke, Robert@DWR' <Robert.Cooke@water.ca.gov>; Biondi, Oscar@Waterboards <Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov>; Heinrich, Dana@Waterboards <Dana.Heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov>; 'Tores, Juan Lopez' <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>; 'Ore, AnnMarie@Waterboards' <annmarie.ore@waterboards.ca.gov>; Jagruti.Maroney@water.ca.gov; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; Hartman, Jelena@Waterboards <Jelena.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov>; dylan.wood@wildlife.ca.gov; Sheya, Tanya@Wildlife <Tanya.Sheya@wildlife.ca.gov>; Sandino, David@DWR <David.Sandino@water.ca.gov>; Riddle, Diane@Waterboards <Diane.Riddle@waterboards.ca.gov>; Leahigh, John@DWR <John.Leahigh@water.ca.gov>; derek.wadsworth@waterboards.ca.gov; daniel.odonnell@wildlife.ca.gov; Hennessy, April@Wildlife <April.Hennessy@wildlife.ca.gov>; michael.paccassi@wildlife.ca.gov; christina.lupoli@wildlife.ca.gov

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Admin Final EIR/EIS Review Briefing

Dear Responsible Agencies,

We have uploaded initial chapters and appendices of the Sites Administrative Final EIR/EIS for your review. The files have been copied to folders at the following location on the Sites Project State and Federal Agencies SharePoint site: <https://sitesreservoirproject.sharepoint.com/sites/SitesProjectStateandFederalAgencies>.

We have included an index of chapters and appendices with the files on SharePoint. The index identifies which chapters and appendices will be revised as well as the date they are uploaded. We will update the index as we receive additional chapters and appendices to SharePoint. The files uploaded to-date include:

Chapters

2. Project Description and Alternatives
3. Environmental Analysis
4. Regulatory and Environmental Compliance
5. Surface Water Resources
8. Groundwater Resources
9. Vegetation and Wetland Resources
10. Wildlife Resources
12. Geology and Soil
14. Land Use
15. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

- 16. Recreation Resources
- 17. Energy
- 18. Navigation, Transportation, and Traffic
- 20. Air Quality
- 23. Tribal Cultural Resources
- 26. Public Services and Utilities
- 27. Public Health and Environmental Health
- 34. Final EIR/EIS Document Distribution

Appendices

- 2D, Environmental Commitments and BMPs
- 2D1, Assessment of Mystery Snail Technical Memorandum (NEW)
- 6A, California State Water Resources Control Board Constituents of Concern
- 7A, Fluvial Geomorphic Setting Information
- 7B, Hydrodynamic Geomorphic Modeling Results
- 8A, Groundwater Resources Basin Setting

All documents were uploaded in a protected state, allowing comment bubbles but not changes to the document text. The ICF team is still doing editing in parallel so no changes should be made to the documents to avoid version control issues. Also:

- Please provide comments in comment bubbles where the change is needed.
- Please be specific and detailed in every comment bubble and avoid referencing another comment bubble (i.e.: "See previous comment") as all comments are compiled and individual reviewer names may not be retained.
- If referencing a previous comment made on a document in Volume 3, please add the comment to the Volume 3 document and reference the associated Comment Report number (i.e.: "Table 5, Comment 1.")
- Focus on substantial issues not editorial changes.
- Changes to the project description are described in detail in Chapter 2 and updated throughout the EIR/EIS chapters.

Please let us know if there are issues with access to files or any other questions. We will notify you when additional files are available for review; we ask that you complete your review by February 28, 2023.

Thank you,

Laurie

Laurie Warner Herson  
Principal/Owner



916.201.3935  
[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)  
State of California Small Business (#1796182)  
Supplier Clearinghouse Women Business Enterprise (#16000323)

<http://phenixenv.com/>

---

**From:** Janis Offermann [janis@horizonh2o.com]  
**Sent:** 2/24/2023 2:21:44 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]; Risse, Danielle [Danielle.Risse@hdrinc.com]  
**CC:** Lassell, Susan [susan.lassell@icf.com]; Havelaar, Christiaan [christiaan.havelaar@icf.com]  
**Subject:** Colusa Tribe

Hi, everyone

This is just to let you know that the Cachil Dehe/Colusa Indian Community have a new Cultural Preservation Director, Jennie Mitchum ([jmitchum@colusa-nsn.gov](mailto:jmitchum@colusa-nsn.gov)). Molly "introduced" her to me when I submitted the Post-Investigation Cultural Resources Monitoring Report Summary to the tribe.

Since Colusa is formally consulting on Sites Reservoir, perhaps we should reach out to her to and offer to meet, just to get to know her and provide information about the project. We have been deferring to YD, with the assumption that they also spoke for Colusa, but that might not be the case anymore.

Thanks  
janis

Janis Offermann, MA, RPA  
Cultural Resources Practice Lead  
Horizon Water and Environment  
1801 7th Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
530.220.4918

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# Sites Reservoir Project - 3 Month Look Ahead

Primary	Assigned To	Governing Body
<b>April 2023</b>		
<b>Consent Items</b>		
Minutes	Sandra Yarbrough	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Treasurer's Report	Joe Trapasso	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Payment of Claims	Joe Trapasso	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Action Items</b>		
Placeholder - Review and concur with allocations of Storage space and proportionate shares of diverted water for Participants based on conditional State and Federal participation.	Angela Bezzone	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Reclamation Preconstruction MOA - Authorization to Sign	Ali Forsythe	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Discussion and Informational Items</b>		
Final EIR/EIS Status Briefing - Part 3 of 3 in Preparation for Approval of Project	Ali Forsythe, Laurie Warner Herson	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
1) Review of Conveyance and Storage Loss Assumptions, 2) confirm the Deadpool assumption of 60taf, and 3) evaluate considerations to be included in the B&O contract related to the risks associated with actual conditions limiting the ability to deliver Sites water when storage is approaching Deadpool but no actually reaching the assumed level.	JP Robinette	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Monthly Reporting (Monthly Status Report, Work Plan, Action Items)	All	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Closed Session</b>		
Update on Water Rights Resubmittal	Ali Forsythe	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Negotiations of Terms with USFWS/NMFS	Ali Forsythe	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Committees/Workgroups</b>		
Governance Adhoc	Jerry Brown	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Payment of Claims	Joe Trapasso	Budget & Finance Committee
Placeholder - Proforma 2.0 Update to Support mid-2023 Participant 'Soft Call'	Brian Thomas, JP Robinette	Budget & Finance Committee
Review of Conveyance and Storage Loss Assumptions	Angela Bezzone, JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Soft Call Prep, Cost Estimate - Market Conditions Update	Henry Luu, JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Informational report out from Ad Hoc Contract Strategy O&E Subworkgroup	JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Final EIR/EIS Status Briefing - Part 3 of 3 in Preparation for Approval of Project	Ali Forsythe, Laurie Warner Herson	Environmental Planning & Permitting Workgroup
<b>May 2023</b>		
<b>Consent Items</b>		
Minutes	Sandra Yarbrough	Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Treasurer's Report	Joe Trapasso	Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Payment of Claims	Joe Trapasso	Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
First Quarter 2023 Quarterly Report	Joe Trapasso	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Investment Policy	Brian Thomas, Joe Trapasso	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Placeholder Asset Policy	Brian Thomas, Joe Trapasso	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Action Items</b>		
Procurement Strategy Adoption	Cheyenne Harris, Joe Trapasso, JP Robinette, Pat Tangora	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
NMFS Reimbursable Agreement - Approve ED entering into reimbursable agreement with NMFS	Ali Forsythe, John Spranza	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Discussion and Informational Items</b>		
Plan of Finance / Big 3 Questions Update to Support mid-2023 Participant 'Soft Call'	Brian Thomas, JP Robinette	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Final EIR/EIS Status Briefing - Additional Briefing in Preparation for Approval of Project	Ali Forsythe, Laurie Warner Herson	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Monthly Reporting (Monthly Status Report, Work Plan, Action Items)	All	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Closed Session</b>		

Primary	Assigned To	Governing Body
Placeholder - Property Acquisition Update	Kevin Spesert	
Placeholder - Tribal MOA - Principles and Parameters	Ali Forsythe	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Placeholder - Water Rights - Protests Status Update Briefing (Want to have this after the protest period closes)	Ali Forsythe	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Placeholder - B & O Contract Principles	Cheyenne Harris, Elizabeth Cousins, JP Robinette	Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Committees/Workgroups</b>		
<b>No O&amp;E Workgroup This Month</b>		
ROW Manual Discussion	Kevin Spesert	Land Management Committee
Project Roadway Discussion	Kevin Spesert	Land Management Committee
Placeholder - TROE/Acquisition Update	Kevin Spesert	Land Management Committee
Federal/State Legislative Update	Kevin Spesert	Legislative & Outreach Committee
Comms Program Update	Kevin Spesert	Legislative & Outreach Committee
Payment of Claims	Joe Trapasso	Budget & Finance Committee
First Quarter 2023 Quarterly Report	Joe Trapasso	Budget & Finance Committee
Investment Policy	Joe Trapasso	Budget & Finance Committee
Asset Policy	Joe Trapasso	Budget & Finance Committee
Final EIR/EIS Status Briefing - Additional Briefing in Preparation for Approval of Project	Ali Forsythe, Laurie Warner Herson	Environmental Planning & Permitting Workgroup
NMFS Reimbursable Agreement - Approve ED entering into reimbursable agreement with NMFS	Ali Forsythe, John Spranza	Environmental Planning & Permitting Workgroup
<b>June 2023</b>		
<b>Consent Items</b>		
Minutes	Sandra Yarbrough	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Treasurer's Report	Joe Trapasso	Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Payment of Claims	Joe Trapasso	Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Action Items</b>		
Final EIR/EIS - Approval of Project	Ali Forsythe, Laurie Warner Herson	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Placeholder - Authority Board Approval to proceed with negotiation of Benefits and Obligations Contract with Participants and distribute first draft of Contract for Participant review/comment	Cheyenne Harris, Elizabeth Cousins, JP Robinette	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Discussion and Informational Items</b>		
Clean Water Act 404 and 401 Permit Applications	Ali Forsythe, Jelica Arsenijevic	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Section 106 - Cultural Resources Status Update	Ali Forsythe	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Participant Soft Call - Request participant response within 60 days	Brian Thomas, Cheyenne Harris, JP Robinette	Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Placeholder Consider follow-up related to Sell/Lease Transactions Framework. Letter to waitlisted entities identifying next steps	Jerry Brown	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Governance Committee Update-preliminary term sheet	Jerry Brown	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Monthly Reporting (Monthly Status Report, Work Plan, Action Items)	All	
<b>Closed Session</b>		
Placeholder Clean Water Act 404 and 401 Permit Applications	Ali Forsythe, Jelica Arsenijevic	Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Placeholder Section 106 - Cultural Resources Negotiations	Ali Forsythe	Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Water Right Terms - Protest Negotiations	Ali Forsythe	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
<b>Committees/Workgroups</b>		
Governance Adhoc	Jerry Brown	Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee
Update on TRR sizing and considerations	Henry Luu, JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Approach to be taken with wait listed entities	Henry Luu, JP Robinette	Reservoir Operations & Engineering Workgroup
Section 106 - Cultural Resources Status Update	Ali Forsythe	Environmental Planning & Permitting Workgroup
Local Community Working Group (Bi-Monthly)	Kevin Spesert	

Meeting: **Sites Reservoir Committee's Environmental Planning and Permitting Workgroup**

---

Locations: Maxwell Project Office, 122 Old Highway 99W, Maxwell, CA 95955  
See below for alternate meeting locations.

---

Call in: **1-916-538-7066** Code: **209 737 511#** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Workgroup Chair: Heather Dyer (SBVMWD)

Staff Lead: Ali Forsythe, Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager

## AGENDA

**Monday, March 6, 2023; 10:00am – 11:00am**

**NO ACTION or DECISION WILL BE TAKEN**

### **ROLL CALL & CALL TO ORDER:**

- Introductions
- Period for Public Comment

*Any person may speak about any subject of concern, provided it is within the workgroup's jurisdiction and a public comment card is submitted. The time allotted for receiving such public communication shall be limited to 3 minutes per person.*

### **1. Discussion and Information Items:**

- 1.1 Review and comment on the Final EIR/EIS, Part 2 of 3 status briefing in preparation for approval of the Project.
- 1.2 Review and comment on initial results of the Winter-Run Life Cycle Model.
- 1.3 Review and comment on short-term eagle permit mitigation requirements and consideration of entering into a contract to complete compensatory mitigation requirements.

### **2. Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager's Report:**

- Key Planning and Permitting Activities Report

### **3. Upcoming Meetings:**

**Joint Reservoir Committee and Authority Board**

Friday, March 17, 2023 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

**Environmental Planning and Permitting Workgroup**

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 - 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Virtual Information will be provided before all meetings at [Sitesproject.org](https://sitesproject.org).



**ADJOURN**

ADA COMPLIANCE: Upon request, agendas will be made available in alternative formats to accommodate persons with disabilities. In addition, any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation to participate or attend this meeting may request necessary accommodation. Please make your request to the Board Clerk, specifying your disability, the format in which you would like to receive this Agenda and any other accommodation required no later than 24 hours before the start of the meeting.

**Alternate Meeting Locations:**

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, 344 East Laurel St, Willows, CA 95988

San Bernardino Valley Municipal WD, 380 E. Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, CA 92408

Coachella Valley Water District, 51501 Tyler Street, Coachella CA 92236

Reclamation District 108, 975 Wilson Bend Rd., Grimes, CA 95950

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District, 12109 Hwy 166, Bakersfield, CA 93313

Meeting: **Sites Reservoir Committee's Environmental Planning and Permitting Workgroup**

---

Locations: Maxwell Project Office, 122 Old Highway 99W, Maxwell, CA 95955  
See below for alternate meeting locations.

---

Call in: **1-916-538-7066** Code: **209 737 511#** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

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# Real Estate Team

## Weekly Check-In – Agenda



*Our Core Values – Safety, Trust and Integrity, Respect for Local Communities, Environmental Stewardship, Shared Responsibility and Shared Benefits, Accountability and Transparency, Proactive Innovation, Diversity and Inclusivity*  
*Our Commitment – To live up to these values in everything we do*

### Meeting Information:

**Date:** February 13, 2023      **Location:** Virtual – Microsoft Teams  
**Start Time:** 2:00 p.m.      **Finish Time:** 3:00 p.m.  
**Purpose:** Real Estate Team – Weekly Check-In

### Meeting Participants:

Kevin Spesert	Jeff Mathews	Trishna Patel
Conner McDonald	Caitlin Nielsen	

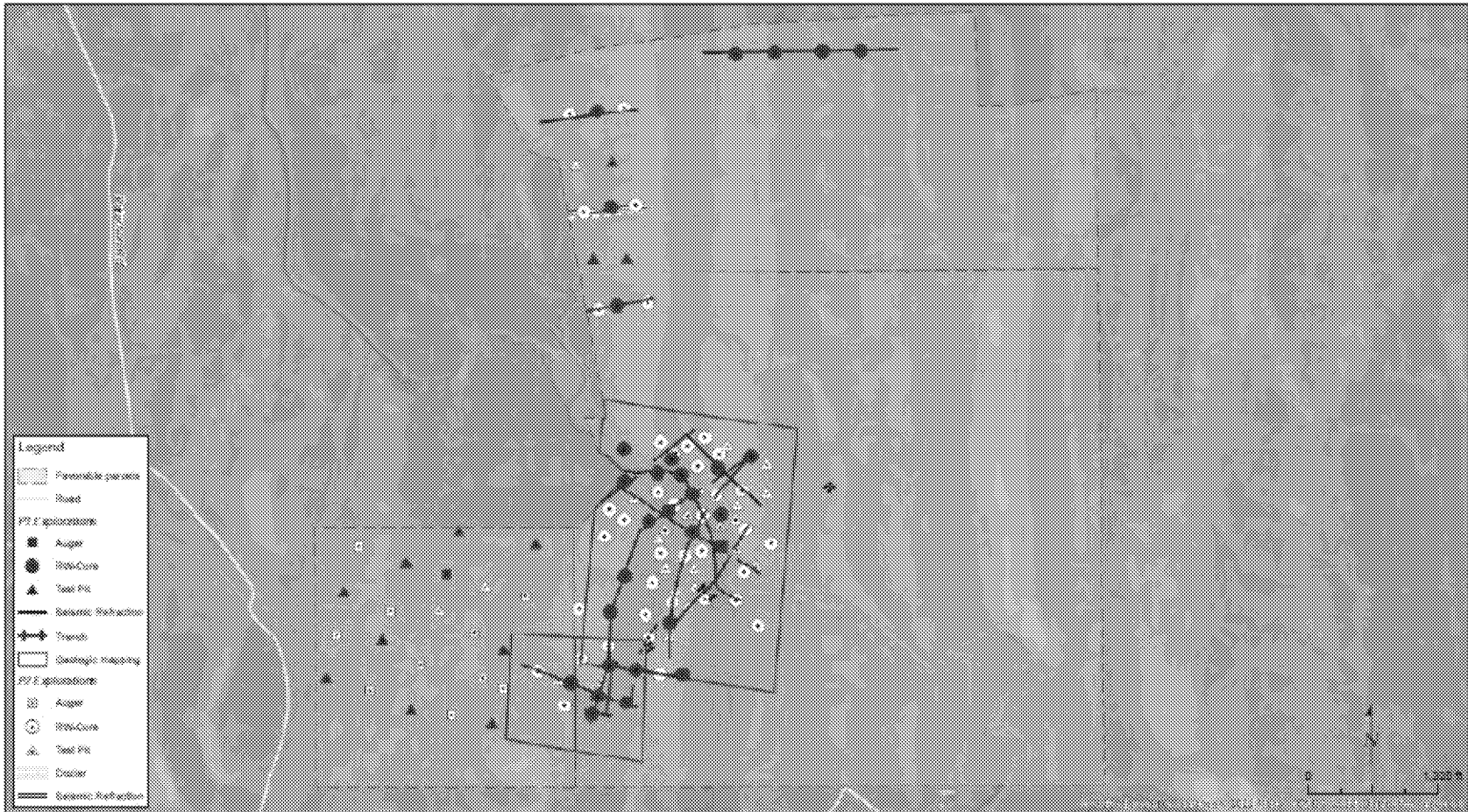
### Agenda:

Discussion Topic	Topic Leader
1. Overview and Opening Comments	Kevin
2. Field Work – Previous Week’s Recap	Conner / All
a. No Work -- Just Planning	
3. Field Work – Current and Upcoming	Conner / All
a. March 1-3 - TCCA Geologic Mapping	
b. March 6, 9, 10 - GCID CPTs	
4. Landowner Engagement – Recap, Current Engagement, Look-Ahead	Conner / Jeff / All
a. Red Stick	
Conner working with John, Jelica for specific Environmental Scope, Schedule, Locations, Expectations	
b. Wells Ranch	
Conner working with John, Jelica for specific Environmental Scope, Schedule, Locations, Expectations	
c. Banyan -- Conner working with John and Jelica for specific Environmental Scope, Schedule, Locations, Expectations; Eagle Permit anticipated 3/15; Work anticipated 4/1; Spoke with Landowner re Appraisal Site Visit, Cattle, Bee Boxes, Gate Access, Historic DWR Wells, Quarry Materials Meeting	
d. LaGrande - Meeting 2/16	
e. Owens - Estimates from Jeriann re Gravel, Grading - compensate Owens?	
f. Jensen - Spoke with Landowner re Appraisal Site Visit	
g. Kellogg	

h. Cody Arnold - Figures in process with GIS	
5. Local Coordination – Recap, Current Engagement, Look-Ahead	Conner / Jeff / All
a. USBR / TCCA – Funks Coordination With Don Babb	
b. GCID Coordination – Geotech Work Package 2	
c. Mike Azevedo - County GIS	
6. Right-of-Way Manual	Conner / Jeff / Trishna
a. Conner and Jeff working on Draft	
7. Project Team – Interdisciplinary Coordination	Conner / All
a. Environmental Team - Dennis Property Tour	
b. Environmental Team - ICF requesting to see Funks Creek, upstream of Funks Reservoir, during Geotech - USBR / TCCA Considerations	
c. Engineering Team -- Roadway Design Meeting - March 1	
d. Environmental Team – Coordination with John, Jelica, Danielle Tannourji for Field Surveys	
e. Cultural Team - Danielle Risse - Observation from Public Right-of- Way - Eagle Survey Approach	
f. Mitigation Team - Meeting with Dawn	
g. Golden Gate Dam - Geotech Figures	
a) Productive vs Non-Productive	
g. Land Survey - Field Work - Georeferenced Locations -- Sutton Road, Wadleigh Road, Maxwell-Sites, Old Highway 99, I-5 -- pending Controls approval	
8. Administrative	Conner
a. Colliers Appraisal Tour and Site Visits - 3/3 - Overview at Office; customary stops - Brownstone Quarry, Funks? Jensen from afar? Holthouse from afar? Contact Don Babb	
b. Doc Bill - Colusa Indian Community - called today	
c. Geotech Estimating	
9. Open Discussion	All
10. Action-Item Recap	Caitlin
11. Next Steps	Kevin / Conner / All
12. Closing Thoughts	Kevin







"Draft - Pre-decisional Working Document - For Discussion Purposes Only"

Figure 2: Favorable Parcels with P1 and P2 Points, Lines, and Polygons

04.03.2014 10:08 [State Project Authority USA Research]  
D:\projects\02100\_SeaProject\1100-0000.dwg P1 10110000\_0000.dwg 11\_20\_10\_SeaProject\02100\_P1\_P1.dwg 10040000.dwg







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**From:** Marcus Maltby [mmaltby@BrwnCald.com]  
**Sent:** 2/27/2023 5:15:23 PM  
**To:** Smith, Michael (orange) [michael.g.smith@aecom.com]  
**CC:** JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]; Luu, Henry [henry.luu@hdrinc.com]; jeff.herrin@aecom.com; Dan Hertel [dhertel@engineering-solutionsmt.com]; Dave Hardy [dhardy@engineering-solutionsmt.com]; Wisniewski, Jeffrey [jeffrey.wisniewski@aecom.com]; michael.forrest [michael.forrest@aecom.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Reservoir Package Construction Schedule - Assumptions Discussion - Opportunities

Hi Mike –

We're still in the process of working with the Agents to identify which of the opportunities should be applied to our recommended baseline schedule. We had a good session last week discussing what your team and others have provided and are working through some follow up items as a result of that meeting. I imagine we will still need a couple sessions to hone in on a schedule the team feels comfortable with.

I think a meeting to review the schedule is a great idea. Let me regroup with JP when he is back from PTO and we can plan for a time to meet.

---

**From:** Smith, Michael (orange) <michael.g.smith@aecom.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2023 4:05 PM  
**To:** Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@BrwnCald.com>  
**Cc:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Luu, Henry <henry.luu@hdrinc.com>; Herrin, Jeff <jeff.herrin@aecom.com>; Dan Hertel <dhertel@engineering-solutionsmt.com>; Dave Hardy <dhardy@engineering-solutionsmt.com>; Wisniewski, Jeffrey <jeffrey.wisniewski@aecom.com>; michael.forrest <michael.forrest@aecom.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Reservoir Package Construction Schedule - Assumptions Discussion - Opportunities

Marcus:

Thank you for sending us the schedule. We were wondering which of the opportunities in the list below were implemented. The ones highlighted below are potentially most impactful.

We also think it would be good to have a meeting where you run through the schedule with us. This meeting would be interactive, that is, during the presentation we would have Q&A. This could spark a good conversation. Please let us know when this meeting can occur.

Thank you.

**Michael Smith, PE, GE**  
Principal Engineer  
US West Region Water  
D 1-714-567-2791 C 1-714-697-5239  
[Michael.g.smith@aecom.com](mailto:Michael.g.smith@aecom.com)

**AECOM**  
999 Town and Country Road  
Orange, CA 92868  
[www.aecom.com](http://www.aecom.com)

---

**From:** Smith, Michael (orange)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 1:00 PM

**To:** Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@BrwnCald.com>

**Cc:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Luu, Henry <Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com>; Wisniewski, Jeffrey <jeffrey.wisniewski@aecom.com>; Forrest, Mike <michael.forrest@aecom.com>; Herrin, Jeff <jeff.herrin@aecom.com>; Dan Hertel (Dhertel@Engineering-Solutionsmt.com) <dhertel@engineering-solutionsmt.com>; Dave Hardy <dhardy@engineering-solutionsmt.com>

**Subject:** RE: Reservoir Package Construction Schedule - Assumptions Discussion - Opportunities

Marcus

As requested, we are providing a list of opportunities to reduce or eliminate gaps and shorten the schedule for the Reservoir Engineering (HR) service area below. Any potential time savings indicated below are rough estimates and need to be evaluated. Also, note that all of these time savings may not be cumulative. We would also like to echo the suggestion from Jacobs for a meeting of service area leads to delve deeper into the schedule. Some opportunities could shorten the schedule without affecting the critical path. For Golden Gate Dam, it is especially important to find ways to advance the start of construction. It is important to note that time savings that fail to advance the start of construction will do little to move up the completion date.

Here are opportunities we have developed:

- 1- Engineering to accelerate roadway design - Set the roads with high level of confidence during 30 percent design. This will require close coordination with engineering, environmental, real estate, and the LMC to come to agreement on routes and the start of construction to advance the roads. We recommend finalizing the limits of work during preliminary engineering to expedite permitting. This could potentially save approximately a year. This likely includes prioritizing design and development of access roads to provide for earliest possible site access to critical path activities.
- 2- Engineering to set limits of work for construction and for permanent reservoir facilities to a high level of confidence during 30 percent design. This would allow real estate and environmental to acquire properties and perform surveys earlier and the CMAR to start construction earlier. This could potentially save approximately 2 years.
- 3- Engineering to reduce design submittals from 30, 60, 90, Final to 30, 80, Final. Potentially save approximately 3 to 6 months on design durations by reducing the cycles of review. Needs coordination with DSOD and CMAR.
- 4- CMAR on board in 2024. The CMAR could provide critical input to sequencing which could impact schedule either positively or negatively. CMAR input may impact the project schedule, but would provide confidence going forward.
- 5- Stagger geotechnical investigations to focus on key features first. This includes critical roads, borrow areas (including rock borrow test blast and test fill to expedite DSOD approvals), Golden Gate and Sites Dams. This would enable engineering to perform designs sooner. For example, there is significant benefit to completing critical road geotech investigations in 2025 instead of 2026. Some roads are on the critical path.
- 5- The current design calls for the construction of new access roads and widening of narrow, rural roads. There is an existing service road for the Tehama Colusa Canal that could be enlarged to support investigation and construction activities, including hauling. Reclamation already owns this road, so no real estate would be required, only an agreement with Reclamation. This road can be accessed from Road 69 in Glenn County. It may also be possible to access it with a short extension of the new access road to TRR west. This would provide access to the downstream side of Golden Gate Dam and Sites Lodoga Road. This could shorten the schedule by approximately 1 to 2 years and might also reduce cost.
- 6- Design Staffing – Use global resources to staff 24-hour design process to reduce the duration of design. Will need to identify any funding restrictions or security concerns that restrict international design. Leverage USBR staff participation on geotechnical investigation, lab testing, and engineering review to accomplish more in-parallel design (will require schedule commitments from USBR staff).
- 7- Utilize on-site material for transition zones and roadway aggregate (need geotechnical data to confirm source is available). This is one of the proposed cost saving measures, but it will also save time and reduce schedule risk, if we can get an onsite source of suitable rock materials developed early. Using an on-site source lowers the demand and dependency on offsite aggregate plants and offsite trucking. Savings of approximately 3 to 6 months.
- 8- Use the upstream axis for Golden Gate Dam. This is another one of the potential VE opportunities that was previously defined. Using the upstream axis reduces the time needed to construct Golden Gate Dam. Additional geotechnical data are needed to verify feasibility and will be needed to support DSOD permitting of this alignment.

For discussion of the critical path with Sites Team leads - In order to advance the schedule completion date, will need to advance the environmental process (Precon Avoidance), even if for localized areas. Critical land acquisition is needed for the environmental surveys. This controls the start of construction.

We are available to discuss these opportunities with the Sites Team.

Thank you,

**Michael Smith, PE, GE**

Principal Engineer  
US West Region Water  
D 1-714-567-2791 C 1-714-697-5239  
[Michael.g.smith@aecom.com](mailto:Michael.g.smith@aecom.com)

**AECOM**

999 Town and Country Road  
Orange, CA 92868  
[www.aecom.com](http://www.aecom.com)

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**From:** Marcus Maltby <[mmaltby@BrwnCald.com](mailto:mmaltby@BrwnCald.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 10:55 AM

**To:** Marcia Kivett <[MKivett@sitesproject.org](mailto:MKivett@sitesproject.org)>; Luu, Henry <[henry.luu@hdrinc.com](mailto:henry.luu@hdrinc.com)>; JP Robinette <[jrobinette@sitesproject.org](mailto:jrobinette@sitesproject.org)>; Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Kevin Spesert <[kspesert@sitesproject.org](mailto:kspesert@sitesproject.org)>; Smith, Michael (orange) <[michael.g.smith@aecom.com](mailto:michael.g.smith@aecom.com)>; Wisniewski, Jeffrey <[jeffrey.wisniewski@aecom.com](mailto:jeffrey.wisniewski@aecom.com)>; Forrest, Mike <[michael.forrest@aecom.com](mailto:michael.forrest@aecom.com)>; Dan Hertel <[dhertel@engineering-solutionsmt.com](mailto:dhertel@engineering-solutionsmt.com)>; Pete.Rude <[Pete.Rude@jacobs.com](mailto:Pete.Rude@jacobs.com)>; Nuss, Gary S. <[Gary.Nuss@jacobs.com](mailto:Gary.Nuss@jacobs.com)>; Smith, Jeff/SAC <[jeff.smith1@jacobs.com](mailto:jeff.smith1@jacobs.com)>; Spranza, John <[john.spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:john.spranza@hdrinc.com)>; laurie.warner.herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>; conner <[conner@cmdwest.com](mailto:conner@cmdwest.com)>; Patel, Trishna <[Trishna.Patel@hdrinc.com](mailto:Trishna.Patel@hdrinc.com)>; jelica.arsenijevec <[jelica.arsenijevec@hdrinc.com](mailto:jelica.arsenijevec@hdrinc.com)>; David Hubbard <[Dhubbard@BrwnCald.com](mailto:Dhubbard@BrwnCald.com)>; Risse, Danielle <[danielle.risse@hdrinc.com](mailto:danielle.risse@hdrinc.com)>; Edwards, Dawn <[Dawn.Edwards@hdrinc.com](mailto:Dawn.Edwards@hdrinc.com)>; Michael Cadei <[michael.cadei@hdrinc.com](mailto:michael.cadei@hdrinc.com)>; Herrin, Jeff <[jeff.herrin@aecom.com](mailto:jeff.herrin@aecom.com)>; Dave Hardy <[dhardy@engineering-solutionsmt.com](mailto:dhardy@engineering-solutionsmt.com)>; Jeff Mathews <[jeff@cmdwest.com](mailto:jeff@cmdwest.com)>; Collins, Geoff <[Geoff.Collins@jacobs.com](mailto:Geoff.Collins@jacobs.com)>; Lloyd, John <[john.lloyd@hdrinc.com](mailto:john.lloyd@hdrinc.com)>; Jeff Kivett <[jkivett@brwn Caldwell.com](mailto:jkivett@brwn Caldwell.com)>; Pat Tangora <[ptangora@BrwnCald.com](mailto:ptangora@BrwnCald.com)>; Cheyanne Harris <[CHarris@BrwnCald.com](mailto:CHarris@BrwnCald.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Reservoir Package Construction Schedule - Assumptions Discussion

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed today! Attached is our presentation along with a timeline graphic that Henry shared during the meeting.

As a reminder, please have the assignment shown on Slide 8 emailed to myself by COB Friday (2/3).

Thanks,

**Marcus Maltby, PE\***

Brown and Caldwell  
[MMaltby@brwn Caldwell.com](mailto:MMaltby@brwn Caldwell.com)  
T 714.689.4826 | C 714.392.1909  
\*Professional Registration in Specific States



-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Marcia Kivett <MKivett@sitesproject.org>

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 7:43 AM

**To:** Marcia Kivett; Luu, Henry; JP Robinette; Alicia Forsythe; Kevin Spesert; Smith, Michael (orange); Wisniewski, Jeffrey; michael.forrest; Dan Hertel; Pete.Rude; Nuss, Gary S.; Smith, Jeff/SAC; Spranza, John; laurie.warner.herson; Marcus Maltby; conner; Patel, Trishna; jelica.arsenijevic; David Hubbard; Risse, Danielle; Edwards, Dawn; Michael Cadei; jeff.herrin@aecom.com; Dave Hardy; Jeff Mathews; Collins, Geoff; Lloyd, John; Jeff Kivett; Pat Tangora; Cheyanne Harris

**Subject:** Reservoir Package Construction Schedule - Assumptions Discussion

**When:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:00 AM-9:00 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Teams information below.

We are inviting the same group from the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. I realize there is a lot going on this day.

Please use the MS teams information below.

The latest schedule will be added to the meeting invite before this meeting.

**Happy Birthday, JP!**

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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+1 916-538-7066,,391943556# United States, Sacramento

Phone Conference ID: 391 943 556#

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[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

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**From:** Spranza, John [John.Spranza@hdrinc.com]  
**Sent:** 2/28/2023 8:02:01 AM  
**To:** Ann Marie Osterback - NOAA Affiliate [annmarie.osterback@noaa.gov]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]; Eric Danner - NOAA Federal [eric.danner@noaa.gov]; Noble Hendrix [noble@qedaconsulting.com]; Lecky, Jim [jim.lecky@icf.com]; Wilder, Rick [Rick.Wilder@icf.com]; Greenwood, Marin [Marin.Greenwood@icf.com]; Clabaugh, Anna [Anna.Clabaugh@hdrinc.com]; Hassrick, Jason (Jason.Hassrick@icf.com) [jason.hassrick@icf.com]; Pitts, Adrian [Adrian.Pitts@icf.com]; Hendrick, Mike [mike.hendrick@icf.com]; Briard, Monique (Monique.Briard@icfi.com) [Monique.Briard@icfi.com]; steve.micko@jacobs.com; Davis-Fadtke, Kristal@Wildlife [kristal.davis-fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov]; Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov; Stephen Maurano - NOAA Federal [stephen.maurano@noaa.gov]; Amanda Cranford - NOAA Federal [amanda.cranford@noaa.gov]; Brick, David A [dbrick@usbr.gov]; Hunt, Shane D [shunt@usbr.gov]; Jacobson, Allison M [ajacobson@usbr.gov]; Buttermore, Elissa N [ebuttermore@usbr.gov]; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife [jonathan.williams@wildlife.ca.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: WRLCM Results Briefing for Sites Project- Doodle Poll

Hi All,

Just a reminder to please take a moment and provide you availability if you have not done so already. I will be closing out the poll and sending an invite COB today.

Thank you.

John

John Spranza

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

---

**From:** Spranza, John  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 1:50 PM  
**To:** Ann Marie Osterback - NOAA Affiliate <annmarie.osterback@noaa.gov>; aforsythe (aforsythe@sitesproject.org) <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>; Eric Danner - NOAA Federal <eric.danner@noaa.gov>; Noble Hendrix <noble@qedaconsulting.com>; jim.lecky@icf.com; Wilder, Rick <Rick.Wilder@icf.com>; Greenwood, Marin <Marin.Greenwood@icf.com>; Clabaugh, Anna <Anna.Clabaugh@hdrinc.com>; Hassrick, Jason (Jason.Hassrick@icf.com) <jason.hassrick@icf.com>; Pitts, Adrian <Adrian.Pitts@icf.com>; Hendrick, Mike (Mike.Hendrick@icf.com) <mike.hendrick@icf.com>; Briard, Monique (Monique.Briard@icfi.com) <Monique.Briard@icfi.com>; Micko, Steve/SAC (Steve.Micko@jacobs.com) <steve.micko@jacobs.com>; Davis-Fadtke, Kristal@Wildlife <kristal.davis-fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov; Stephen Maurano - NOAA Federal <stephen.maurano@noaa.gov>; Amanda Cranford - NOAA Federal <amanda.cranford@noaa.gov>; Brick, David A <dbrick@usbr.gov>; shunt@usbr.gov; Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; Buttermore, Elissa N <ebuttermore@usbr.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <jonathan.williams@wildlife.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** WRLCM Results Briefing for Sites Project- Doodle Poll

Hello,

The results from the project's WRLCM using the current diversion/operations scenario for Alternative 3 (preferred project) are complete and the Authority has asked the Southwest Fisheries Science Center team to present the results to this group. If you could please use the link below to provide your availability I would appreciate it. If there are people at your agency that should be at this briefing but are not on the current distribution list please forward the doodle poll to them.

Thank you

John

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/ax6ED1Ed>

**John Spranza, MS, CCN**  
*Senior Ecologist / Regulatory Specialist*  
*He/Him*

**HDR**  
2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2457  
[john.spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:john.spranza@hdrinc.com)

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](https://hdrinc.com/follow-us)  
[hdrinc.com/follow-us](https://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

---

**Sent:** 2/28/2023 9:05:23 AM  
**To:** Davis-Fadtke, Kristal@Wildlife [Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov]; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife [Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov]; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife [Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov]; steve.micko@jacobs.com; Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]; Spranza, John [John.Spranza@hdrinc.com]; Pitts, Adrian [Adrian.Pitts@icf.com]; Greenwood, Marin [Marin.Greenwood@icf.com]; Hassrick, Jason (Jason.Hassrick@icf.com) [jason.hassrick@icf.com]; Wilder, Rick [Rick.Wilder@icf.com]; Lecky, Jim [jim.lecky@icf.com]; Moderan, Julien [Julien.Moderan@icf.com]; Clabaugh, Anna [Anna.Clabaugh@hdrinc.com]; Briard, Monique (Monique.Briard@icfi.com) [Monique.Briard@icfi.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Project - Operations ITP, Reclamation Investment and Exchange Information

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2023 9:40 AM  
**To:** Davis-Fadtke, Kristal@Wildlife <Kristal.Davis-Fadtke@wildlife.ca.gov>; Uttley, Paige@Wildlife <Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov>; Williams, Jonathan@Wildlife <Jonathan.Williams@wildlife.ca.gov>; steve.micko@jacobs.com; Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>; Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>; Pitts, Adrian <Adrian.Pitts@icf.com>; Greenwood, Marin <Marin.Greenwood@icf.com>; Hassrick, Jason (Jason.Hassrick@icf.com) <jason.hassrick@icf.com>; Wilder, Rick <Rick.Wilder@icf.com>; Lecky, Jim <jim.lecky@icf.com>; Moderan, Julien <Julien.Moderan@icf.com>; Clabaugh, Anna <Anna.Clabaugh@hdrinc.com>; Briard, Monique (Monique.Briard@icfi.com) <Monique.Briard@icfi.com>  
**Subject:** Sites Project - Operations ITP, Reclamation Investment and Exchange Information

Hi all – I wanted to follow up on a few items around the Sites Project CESA Operations ITP application.

Below and attached are follow up on a few items:

1. Summary of Shasta and Oroville Exchange Modeling Parameters and why they are important – The attached Word document (Sites\_ITP\_ShastaOrovilleExchangeCriteria\_rev02\_20230213.docx) is a draft of Oroville exchange criteria descriptions on page 1 and Shasta exchange criteria descriptions on page 2.
2. Oroville Exchange Volumes by month by year – The attached Excel spreadsheet contains Oroville exchange volume timeseries data for Alt 3A (in column B) and Alt 3B (in column C).
3. Following-up on the CalSim II sensitivity (Alt 1A without Shasta exchanges at 2035CT).

A trend report with the following CalSim II results is attached:

- NAA 041222 2035CT
- No Action Alternative (for the BA/ITP)
- ALT 3A 041122 2035CT
- Alternative 3A (for the BA/ITP)



- 1.5 MAF Sites Reservoir
- 25% Reclamation Investment
- Includes Shasta exchanges
- ALT 3B 041122 2035CT
- Alternative 3B (for the BA/ITP)
- 1.5 MAF Sites Reservoir
- 16% Reclamation investment
- Includes Shasta exchanges
- ALT 1A 062222 2035CT
- Sensitivity analysis
- 1.5 MAF Sites Reservoir
- No Reclamation investment
- Includes Shasta exchanges
- ALT 1A 062222 noShaEXCH 2035CT
- Sensitivity analysis
- 1.5 MAF Sites Reservoir
- No Reclamation investment
- No Shasta exchanges

I've highlighted two: First - Alt 1A 06222 2035 CT as this in the new run – WITH exchanges but NO Reclamation investment. I think this is the run that we are looking forward to isolate the project, including exchanges but Without Reclamation investment. Second – Alt 1A 062222 noShaEXCH 2035CT as this in the new run – with NO exchanges but NO Reclamation investment. These two runs are new and help us “piece apart” the different components of the Project. The other runs are provided in the sheet for comparative purposes.

I thought I would give folks some time to review all of this material and coordinate internally. Below is a doodle poll to schedule a group call about 2 to 3 weeks out. Please complete the poll ASAP and we will get a meeting scheduled to continue the dialogue.

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/e36xM2Od>

Thanks all!

Ali

-----  
 Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 2/28/2023 4:41:55 PM  
**To:** Thad Bettner (tbettner@gcid.net) [tbettner@gcid.net]; Lewis Bair [LBair@RD108.org]; 'Neudeck, Randall D (rneudeck@mwdh2o.com)' [rneudeck@mwdh2o.com]; 'WVanderwaal@rd108.org' [wvanderwaal@rd108.org]  
**CC:** Spranza, John [john.spranza@hdrinc.com]  
**Subject:** Sites Project - NMFS' Winter-run Life Cycle Model Results  
**Attachments:** WRLCMreportMultiScenSitesAlt3AMod\_Alt3BMod 2023\_02\_27.pdf

Hi all – You all have expressed interest in further discussion of the Sites Project winter-run life cycle model results.

We have revised model results from the winter-run life cycle model. The results are attached.

We plan to have a quick overview of these at the upcoming EPP Work Group meeting which is Monday, March 6 from 10 to 11 AM. We're working on talking points and messages, but the super high summary level is that the Project has a positive mean change in abundance and positive cohort replacement ratio – meaning we increase the population of winter run as a result of the Project. These were run on Alternative 3 at both a 25% investment by Reclamation (Alt 3A) and a 16% investment by Reclamation (Alt 3B) with a 2035 climate change baseline. Alt 3A has greater benefits than Alt 3B.

Let me know if you'd like me to schedule a focused call where we can go into these in more detail than we will be able to in work group. But wanted to give you all a bit of a sneak peak before the work group call on Monday.

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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Meeting: **Sites Reservoir Committee's Environmental Planning and Permitting Workgroup**

---

Locations: Maxwell Project Office, 122 Old Highway 99W, Maxwell, CA 95955  
See below for alternate meeting locations.

---

Call in: **1-916-538-7066** Code: **209 737 511#** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Workgroup Chair: Heather Dyer (SBVMWD)

Staff Lead: Ali Forsythe, Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager

## AGENDA

**Monday, March 6, 2023; 10:00am – 11:00am**

**NO ACTION or DECISION WILL BE TAKEN**

### **ROLL CALL & CALL TO ORDER:**

- Introductions
- Period for Public Comment

*Any person may speak about any subject of concern, provided it is within the workgroup's jurisdiction and a public comment card is submitted. The time allotted for receiving such public communication shall be limited to 3 minutes per person.*

### **1. Discussion and Information Items:**

- 1.1 Review and comment on the Final EIR/EIS, Part 2 of 3 status briefing in preparation for approval of the Project.
- 1.2 Review and comment on initial results of the Winter-Run Life Cycle Model.
- 1.3 Review and comment on short-term eagle permit mitigation requirements and consideration of entering into a contract to complete compensatory mitigation requirements.

### **2. Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager's Report:**

- Key Planning and Permitting Activities Report

### **3. Upcoming Meetings:**

#### **Joint Reservoir Committee and Authority Board**

Friday, March 17, 2023 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

#### **Environmental Planning and Permitting Workgroup**

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 - 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Virtual Information will be provided before all meetings at [Sitesproject.org](https://sitesproject.org).

**ADJOURN**

ADA COMPLIANCE: Upon request, agendas will be made available in alternative formats to accommodate persons with disabilities. In addition, any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation to participate or attend this meeting may request necessary accommodation. Please make your request to the Board Clerk, specifying your disability, the format in which you would like to receive this Agenda and any other accommodation required no later than 24 hours before the start of the meeting.

**Alternate Meeting Locations:**

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, 344 East Laurel St, Willows, CA 95988

San Bernardino Valley Municipal WD, 380 E. Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, CA 92408

Coachella Valley Water District, 51501 Tyler Street, Coachella CA 92236

Reclamation District 108, 975 Wilson Bend Rd., Grimes, CA 95950

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District, 12109 Hwy 166, Bakersfield, CA 93313

Meeting: **Sites Reservoir Committee's Environmental Planning and Permitting Workgroup**

---

Locations: Maxwell Project Office, 122 Old Highway 99W, Maxwell, CA 95955  
See below for alternate meeting locations.

---

Call in: **1-916-538-7066** Code: **209 737 511#** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Workgroup Chair: Heather Dyer (SBVMWD)

Staff Lead: Ali Forsythe, Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager

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