



Report of Conversation

Conversation Type: Phone meeting

Meeting organized by John Spranza

Client: Sites Project Authority

Job: Sites Reservoir EIR/EIS

Project/Task
Number: 00537.20 052.02

Date: June 8, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

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ICF
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Subject: **Impacts as a result of the proposed Sites Reservoir releases**

There are three possible effects as a result of Sites Reservoir releases on rice:

- **Arsenic.** Concern is in concentrations of irrigation water. The arsenic accumulates in rice grains and presents a risk for food safety. Baseline levels do not approach these thresholds and projection of arsenic in Sites Reservoir releases would not affect baseline substantially.
- **Methylmercury.** Concentrations of water has a greater effect on rice grains than the soil— BUT soil plays a factor because methylmercury is formed in inundated areas where organic matter is present. Recycled water from agricultural water reuse has higher methylmercury levels than reservoir releases. Baseline levels are below regulatory levels and Sites would not further contribute.

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- Water temperature varying across the season. Blanking occurs when irrigation water is below 58°F, and productivity is affected when irrigation water is below 65°F. Need to investigate water temperatures from Sites Reservoir to determine whether there is an effect.