

AB 52 Sites Reservoir Project Update Meeting Minutes



Sites Reservoir Project

Meeting Information:

Date: June 30, 2020 **Location:** Conference Call
Start Time: 2:00 p.m. **Finish Time:** 2:50 p.m.
Notes By: Janis Offermann **Reviewed By:** Laurie Warner Herson
Purpose: Update Yocha Dehe on the new project description for Sites Reservoir

Meeting Participants (indicate absent invitees):

Kevin Spesert, Sites Authority Laverne Bill, Yocha Dehe Janis Offermann, Horizon
Ali Forsythe, Sites Authority Isaac Bojorquez, Yocha Dehe Laurie Warner Herson, Sites Integration

Key Takeaways/Decisions/Action Items:

Takeaways: Yocha Dehe is extremely interested in participating in this project. The tribe will review GIS information when it is available, and provide comments/input on potential impacts to ancestral resources.

Decisions:

Action Items:

Action Item	Owner	Deadline	Notes
Provide Yocha Dehe monitoring and burial protocols to USBR archaeologist	JO	Will send to USBR archaeologist when identified/assigned by USBR	

Agenda:

1. Introductions/Purpose of the Meeting
2. Changes to the Project
 - Value Planning Process and Report
 - New Alternatives
3. CEQA Schedule
 - Re-initiation of AB 52
4. Reclamation Involvement
5. Yocha Dehe Questions and Concerns
6. Next Steps

Meeting Minutes (issues discussed and decisions made):

During the introductions, Laverne mentioned that he felt like he lost connection with the project over the last year, and with coordination with the Cachil Dehe. He was happy to have this meeting to catch up.

Kevin initiated the meeting by providing an overview of the Authority's Value Planning process and the development of new alternatives. Ali provided an update on the status of the Environmental Impact Report

(EIR), noting that the Authority expects to recirculate the public draft EIR in July 2021. Laurie also noted that the document would be a joint EIR/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), with the United State Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) acting as the federal lead agency.

Ali acknowledged Yocha Dehe's desire to coordinate the CEQA/NEPA process and try to have consistent, coordinated mitigation measures between the two lead agencies. This is the Authority's desire, too; particularly because the Authority will have to implement the Section 106 mitigation measures.

Laverne said that the Yocha Dehe have developed documents on burial treatment and monitoring protocols, and it would be good to send those to USBR now, before they begin development of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement. Janis has copies of those documents and will send them to USBR archaeologist.

A general discussion followed regarding Yocha Dehe concerns and about how to potentially treat impacted sites in the reservoir pool, particularly since the reservoir will be subject to a great deal of fluctuation. Laverne requested GIS data on the new reservoir footprint and roads, which will allow him to better determine impacts on significant tribal resources. Ali said that GIS information should be ready in September/October and will be made available to the tribe.

There was also a discussion of recreational uses and Kevin indicated that there will be future outreach to interested parties to address proposed recreational uses, including the potential for a history exhibit at the future visitor's center.

Laverne expressed a desire to schedule regular quarterly meetings. He subsequently sent a meeting invitation to all for the next meeting to be held from 2-3:00 pm on September 30, 2020.