

Local Government Tribal Consultation List Request

Native American Heritage Commission

1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
916-373-3710
916-373-5471 – Fax
nahc@nahc.ca.gov

Type of List Requested

CEQA Tribal Consultation List (AB 52) – *Per Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1, subs. (b), (d), (e) and 21080.3.2*

General Plan (SB 18) - *Per Government Code § 65352.3.*

Local Action Type:

General Plan General Plan Element General Plan Amendment

Specific Plan Specific Plan Amendment Pre-planning Outreach Activity

Required Information

Project Title: Sites Reservoir Project - Primary Study Area

Local Government/Lead Agency: Sites Project Authority

Contact Person: Rob Thomson

Street Address: P.O. Box 517

City: Maxwell Zip: 95955

Phone: 805-689-5854 Fax: _____

Email: rthomson@sitesproject.org

Specific Area Subject to Proposed Action

County: Glenn, Colusa City/Community: Sites, Maxwell

Project Description:

The Sites Project Authority is proposing to construct a new reservoir in Antelope Valley, about 18 miles west of Maxwell in Colusa and Glenn counties. The total construction area of the reservoir and temporary construction disturbance will be approximately 13,710 acres. Numerous other facilities, including an enlargement of Funks Reservoir, construction of a regulating reservoir, a 13.5-mile-long pipeline to the Sacramento River and river intake/discharge facilities are also included in the project, in addition to access roads and transmission lines (see attached map). This area is referred to as the Primary Study Area.

Additional Request

Sacred Lands File Search - *Required Information:* Please review the entire quad

USGS Quadrangle Name(s): Rail Canyon, Logan Ridge, Lodoga, Sites, Maxwell, Moulton Weir,
Manor Slough, Foster Island, Willows

Township: _____ Range: _____ Section(s): _____

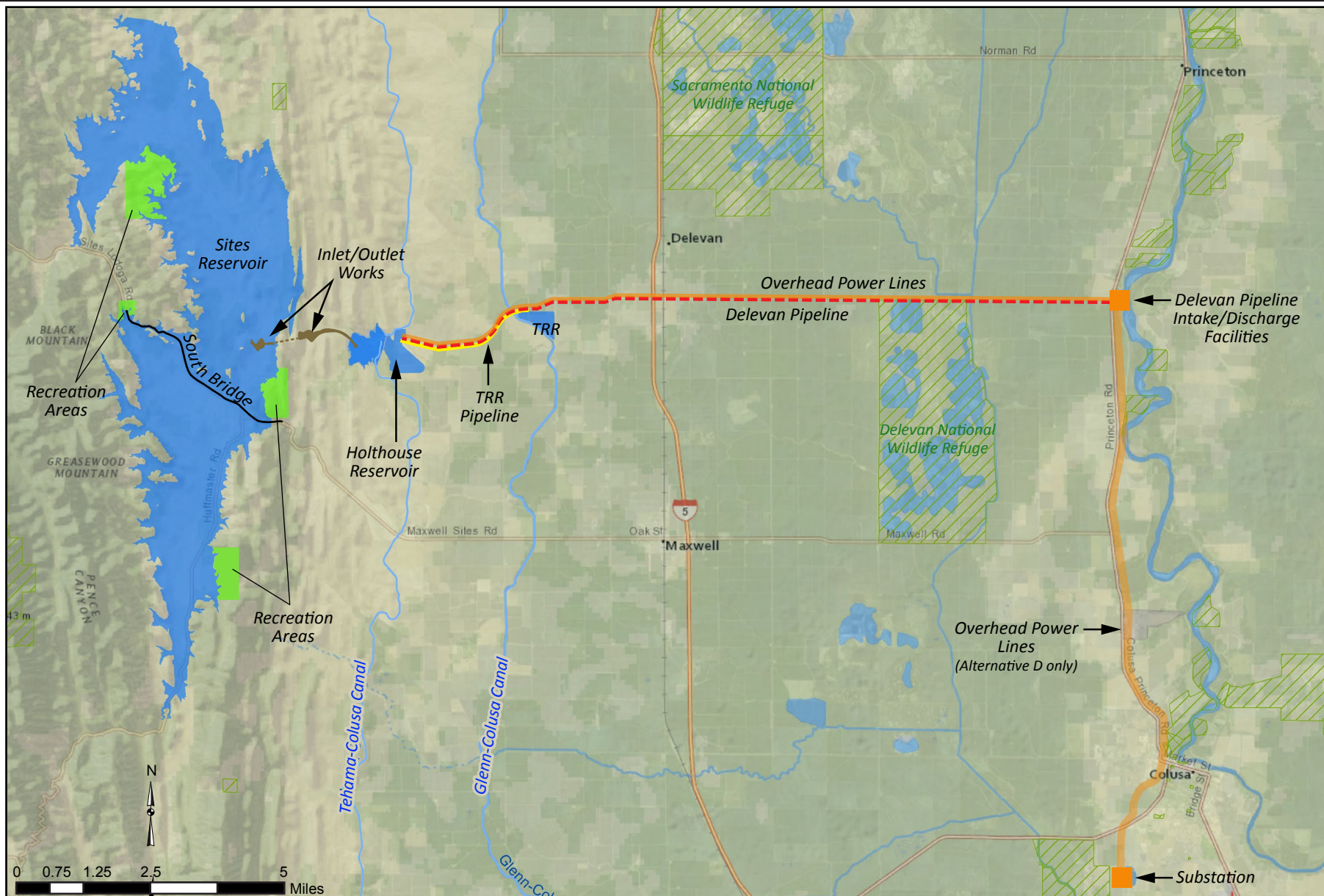


FIGURE 2
Proposed Sites Reservoir Project Overview
 Supplemental Notice of Preparation

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

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(916) 373-3710
(916) 373-5471 FAX



February 8, 2017

Rob Thomson
Sites Project Authority

Sent by: rthomas@sitesproject.org

RE: Sites Reservoir Project Primary Study Area, Glenn, Colusa Counties

Dear Mr. Thomson,

Attached is a consultation list of tribes with traditional lands or cultural places located within the boundaries of the above referenced counties. Please note that the intent of the referenced codes is to avoid or mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources, as defined, for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) projects.

As of July 1, 2015, Public Resources Code Sections 21080.1, 21080.3.1 and 21080.3.2 require public agencies to consult with California Native American tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating impacts to tribal cultural resources:

Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.1(d))

The law does not preclude agencies from initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated with their jurisdictions. The NAHC believes that in fact that this is the best practice to ensure that tribes are consulted commensurate with the intent of the law.

In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21080.1(d), formal notification must include a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation. The NAHC believes that agencies should also include with their notification letters information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the APE, such as:

1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:
 - A listing of any and all known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE;
 - Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
 - If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
 - Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the potential APE; and

- If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:
 - Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code Section 6254.10.
 3. The results of any Sacred Lands File (SFL) check conducted through Native American Heritage Commission. Site(s) were located. For more information about this site please contact Chairman Daniel Gomez of the Colusa Indian Community Council, 530-458-8231.
 4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the potential APE; and
 5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the potential APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS is not exhaustive, and a negative response to these searches does not preclude the existence of a cultural place. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the case that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our consultation list contains current information.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address: frank.lienert@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Frank Lienert
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contacts**

2/8/2017

Mechoopda Indian Tribe
Dennis E. Ramirez, Chairperson
125 Mission Ranch Blvd
Chico, CA 95926
dramirez@mechoopda-nsn.gov
(530) 899-8922
(530) 899-8517 - Fax

**Mechoopda Maidu
Concow**

Colusa Indian Community Council
Daniel Gomez, Chairman
3730 Highway 45
Colusa, CA 95932
Wintun (Patwin)
(530) 458-8231
(530) 458-4186

Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki
Ronald Kirk, Chairperson
P.O. Box 63
Elk Creek, CA 95939
(530) 968-5365
(530) 968-5366 Fax

**Nomlaki
Wintun (Patwin)
Wailaki
Muimok**

Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria
Glenda Nelson, Chairperson
2133 Monte Vista Avenue
Oroville, CA 95966
Maidu
info@enterpriserancheria.com
(530) 532-9214
(530) 532-1768 Fax

Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians
Andrew Alejandro, Chairperson
P.O. Box 709
Corning, CA 96021
office@paskenta.org
530-528-3538
530-528-3553 fax

**Nomlaki
Wintun**

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Leland Kinter, Chairperson
P.O. Box 18
Brooks, CA 95606
lkinter@yochadehe-nsn.gov
(530) 796-3400
(530) 796-2143 Fax

Wintun (Patwin)

Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians
Charlie Wright, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1630
Williams, CA 95987
Wintun / Patwin
(530) 473-3274 Office
(530) 473-3301 Fax

This list is current only as of the date of this document and is based on the information available to the Commission on the date it was produced.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessments for the Sites Reservoir Project Primary Study Area, Glenn, Colusa Counties

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Rob Thomson
Sites Project Authority

Sent by: rthomas@sitesproject.org

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This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessments for the Sites Reservoir Project Primary Study Area, Glenn, Colusa Counties



February 10, 2017

Mr. Oscar Serrano, P.E.
Principal Engineer
Colusa Indian Community Council
3730 Highway 45
Colusa, CA 95932

From: Kim Dolbow Vann/ Sites Project Authority Board Chair

Subject: Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014). Formal Notification of Decision to Consider Undertaking a Project, and Notification of Consultation Opportunity for the Sites Reservoir Project, Colusa and Glenn Counties, California, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1

Dear Mr. Serrano,

The Sites Project Authority has decided to consider undertaking the following project: the Sites Reservoir Project. Below please find a description of the proposed project, the project's location, and the name of our project point of contact, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d).

Description of the Proposed Project

The Sites Project Authority proposes to construct the Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir with a capacity of up to 1.9 million acre feet, located in Colusa and Glenn counties, California, about 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell. The new reservoir would be in Antelope Valley, on the eastern edge of the North Coast Ranges. The Sites Reservoir Project is proposed to provide storage and operational benefits for water quality and other programs throughout California. For more information regarding the proposed project, please see the attached Notice of Preparation.

Project Location

Please see the attached map showing the project's location.

Lead Agency Point of Contact

Jim Watson, General Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309

Phone: (530) 438-2309

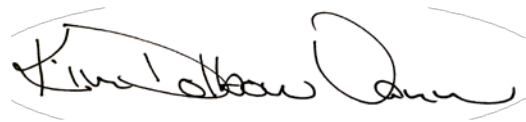
Email: jwatson@sitesproject.org

Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (b), you have 30 days from the receipt of this letter to request consultation, in writing, with the Sites Project Authority. If you wish to request consultation, or if you have any questions, please contact me at the above address.

If consultation is requested, please provide the name and contact information of the designated lead contact person as part of your request. The Sites Project Authority will contact the designated person to set a meeting date to begin consultation within 30 days of our receipt of your request.

Thank you for giving this matter your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

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Kim Dolbow Vann
Sites Project Authority



February 10, 2017

Mr. Charlie Wright, Chairperson
Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians
P.O. Box 1630
Williams, CA 95987

From: Kim Dolbow Vann/ Sites Project Authority Board Chair

Subject: Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014). Formal Notification of Decision to Consider Undertaking a Project, and Notification of Consultation Opportunity for the Sites Reservoir Project, Colusa and Glenn Counties, California, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1

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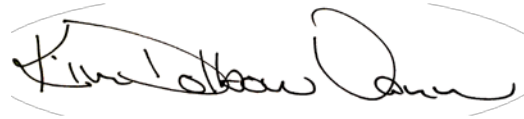
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Sites Project Authority



February 10, 2017

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Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria
2133 Monte Vista Avenue
Oroville, CA 95966

From: Kim Dolbow Vann/ Sites Project Authority Board Chair

Subject: Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014). Formal Notification of Decision to Consider Undertaking a Project, and Notification of Consultation Opportunity for the Sites Reservoir Project, Colusa and Glenn Counties, California, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1

Dear Honorable Chairperson Nelson,

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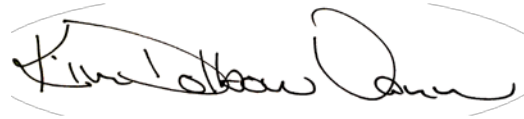
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Kim Dolbow Vann
Sites Project Authority



February 10, 2017

Mr. Ronald Kirk, Chairperson
Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki
P.O. Box 63
Elk Creek, CA 95939

From: Kim Dolbow Vann/ Sites Project Authority Board Chair

Subject: Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014). Formal Notification of Decision to Consider Undertaking a Project, and Notification of Consultation Opportunity for the Sites Reservoir Project, Colusa and Glenn Counties, California, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1

Dear Honorable Chairperson Kirk,

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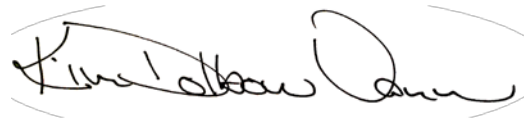
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Sites Project Authority



February 10, 2017

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Mechoopda Indian Tribe
125 Mission Ranch Blvd.
Chico, CA 95926

From: Kim Dolbow Vann/ Sites Project Authority Board Chair

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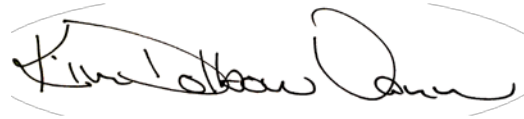
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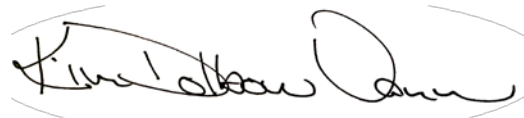
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Sincerely,

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Kim Dolbow Vann
Sites Project Authority



February 10, 2017

Mr. Leland Kinter, Chairperson
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
P.O. Box 18
Brooks, CA 95606

From: Kim Dolbow Vann/ Sites Project Authority Board Chair

Subject: Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014). Formal Notification of Decision to Consider Undertaking a Project, and Notification of Consultation Opportunity for the Sites Reservoir Project, Colusa and Glenn Counties, California, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1

Dear Honorable Chairperson Kinter,

The Sites Project Authority has decided to consider undertaking the following project: the Sites Reservoir Project. Below please find a description of the proposed project, the project's location, and the name of our project point of contact, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d).

Description of the Proposed Project

The Sites Project Authority proposes to construct the Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir with a capacity of up to 1.9 million acre feet, located in Colusa and Glenn counties, California, about 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell. The new reservoir would be in Antelope Valley, on the eastern edge of the North Coast Ranges. The Sites Reservoir Project is proposed to provide storage and operational benefits for water quality and other programs throughout California. For more information regarding the proposed project, please see the attached Notice of Preparation.

Project Location

Please see the attached map showing the project's location.

Lead Agency Point of Contact

Jim Watson, General Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
Phone: (530) 438-2309



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309

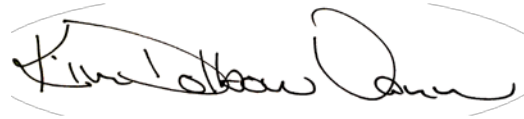
Email: jwatson@sitesproject.org

Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (b), you have 30 days from the receipt of this letter to request consultation, in writing, with the Sites Project Authority. If you wish to request consultation, or if you have any questions, please contact me at the above address.

If consultation is requested, please provide the name and contact information of the designated lead contact person as part of your request. The Sites Project Authority will contact the designated person to set a meeting date to begin consultation within 30 days of our receipt of your request.

Thank you for giving this matter your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Dolbow Vann". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a faint, hand-drawn rectangular border.

Kim Dolbow Vann
Sites Project Authority



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955

Mr. Daniel Gomez
Tribal Chairman
Colusa Indian Community Council
3730 Highway 45
Colusa, CA 95932



February 15, 2019

Mr. Daniel Gomez
Tribal Chairman
Colusa Indian Community Council
3730 Highway 45
Colusa, CA 95932

Subject: Formal Notification pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (Public Resources Code 21080.3.1) for the proposed Sites Geotechnical Field Investigations

Dear Honorable Chairperson Gomez,

This letter is a formal invitation to the Colusa Indian Community Council to consult with the Authority regarding the proposed Sites Geotechnical Field Investigations (Project) under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21080.3.1, concerning Tribal Cultural Resources. This Project is undergoing environmental review separately from the overall Sites Project, on which you are already consulting.

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) is initiating environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for geologic, geotechnical, and geophysical exploration and testing needed to support the design of the proposed Sites Project. The Authority is the lead agency under the CEQA for both this Project and the Sites Project.

From our letter of April 2017, the proposed Sites Project would be an approximately 1.8 million acre-foot off-stream storage reservoir and associated water management facilities near the town of Maxwell in Colusa and Glenn Counties in the Sacramento Valley in Northern California. Figure 1, attached, shows the location and the approximate areas where explorations and testing could occur. The specific locations of explorations and testing activities would occur within the broad areas within the locations identified. The exact locations, equipment used and other details are not known at this time. These details are likely to be further adjusted to reduce or avoid environmentally and culturally sensitive areas. Exploration and testing activities will not occur on privately held lands until access to the land has been obtained. The field sample collection and testing activities would begin in the second half of 2019.

Tribal Cultural Resources, as defined under PRC § 21074, include sites, features, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe. The Authority intends to prepare a CEQA initial study/mitigated negative declaration (combined with a National Environmental Policy Act environmental assessment) for this proposed Project, unless information indicating impacts on cultural resources comes to light through the consultation process.



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309

We appreciate your assistance to date in cultural resource consultations under AB 52 and other state and federal legal provisions. In order to verify that all potential resources of concern to Native American communities are identified and considered in the planning and implementation of the proposed Project, we respectfully request any information you can provide on the location and nature of Tribal Cultural Resources that may be found within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Specifically, we seek your input on the following types of resources so that we may avoid or protect them to the maximum extent possible.

- Prehistoric archaeological sites and features
- Sacred lands or locations that are important in Native American culture
- Places that the Native American community continues to use for ongoing cultural practices
- Historic-era resources.

We understand that the locations of these resources are sensitive. Resource locations will not be disclosed in public documents and will be kept confidential as provided for under California Government Code § 6254.10.

If you would like to participate in formal AB 52 consultation concerning the proposed project, please notify me in writing within 30 calendar days of the receipt of this formal notice. After we receive your written request, we will contact you within 30 calendar days to begin consultation.

If the Tribe notifies the Authority in writing that the project does not involve any Tribal Cultural Resources of concern, then consultation under AB 52 will be considered concluded. If the Authority does not receive a written request to consult within 30 calendar days, we will assume the Tribe declines the invitation to formally consult under AB 52. However, the Authority is committed to working with you to properly account for and manage resources important to the Colusa Indian Community Council, and we welcome any recommendations regarding appropriate management or treatment of resources that occur within the project area. This notification does not limit the ability of the Tribe to submit information to the Authority (PRC § 21080.3.2(c)(1)). If you have any questions regarding this invitation or the AB 52 process, please contact me, or in my absence contact Rob Thomson at 805-689-5854.

Sincerely,



Jim Watson
General Manager, Sites Project Authority

Cc: Oscar Serrano, P.E., CICC
Attachment



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955

Mr. Leland Kinter, Chair
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
P.O. Box 18
Brooks, CA 95606



February 15, 2019

Mr. Leland Kinter, Chair
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
P.O. Box 18
Brooks, CA 95606

Subject: Formal Notification pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (Public Resources Code 21080.3.1) for the proposed Sites Geotechnical Field Investigations

Dear Honorable Chairperson Kinter,

This letter is a formal invitation to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation to consult with the Authority regarding the proposed Sites Geotechnical Field Investigations (Project) under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21080.3.1, concerning Tribal Cultural Resources. This Project is undergoing environmental review separately from the overall Sites Project, on which you are already consulting.

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) is initiating environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for geologic, geotechnical, and geophysical exploration and testing needed to support the design of the proposed Sites Project. The Authority is the lead agency under the CEQA for both this Project and the Sites Project.

From our letter of April 2017, the proposed Sites Project would be an approximately 1.8 million acre-foot off-stream storage reservoir and associated water management facilities near the town of Maxwell in Colusa and Glenn Counties in the Sacramento Valley in Northern California. Figure 1, attached, shows the location and the approximate areas where explorations and testing could occur. The specific locations of explorations and testing activities would occur within the broad areas within the locations identified. The exact locations, equipment used and other details are not known at this time. These details are likely to be further adjusted to reduce or avoid environmentally and culturally sensitive areas. Exploration and testing activities will not occur on privately held lands until access to the land has been obtained. The field sample collection and testing activities would begin in the second half of 2019.

Tribal Cultural Resources, as defined under PRC § 21074, include sites, features, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe. The Authority intends to prepare a CEQA initial study/mitigated negative declaration (combined with a National Environmental Policy Act environmental assessment) for this proposed Project, unless information indicating impacts on cultural resources comes to light through the consultation process.



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309

We appreciate your assistance to date in cultural resource consultations under AB 52 and other state and federal legal provisions. In order to verify that all potential resources of concern to Native American communities are identified and considered in the planning and implementation of the proposed Project, we respectfully request any information you can provide on the location and nature of Tribal Cultural Resources that may be found within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Specifically, we seek your input on the following types of resources so that we may avoid or protect them to the maximum extent possible.

- Prehistoric archaeological sites and features
- Sacred lands or locations that are important in Native American culture
- Places that the Native American community continues to use for ongoing cultural practices
- Historic-era resources.

We understand that the locations of these resources are sensitive. Resource locations will not be disclosed in public documents and will be kept confidential as provided for under California Government Code § 6254.10.

If you would like to participate in formal AB 52 consultation concerning the proposed project, please notify me in writing within 30 calendar days of the receipt of this formal notice. After we receive your written request, we will contact you within 30 calendar days to begin consultation.

If the Tribe notifies the Authority in writing that the project does not involve any Tribal Cultural Resources of concern, then consultation under AB 52 will be considered concluded. If the Authority does not receive a written request to consult within 30 calendar days, we will assume the Tribe declines the invitation to formally consult under AB 52. However, the Authority is committed to working with you to properly account for and manage resources important to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, and we welcome any recommendations regarding appropriate management or treatment of resources that occur within the project area. This notification does not limit the ability of the Tribe to submit information to the Authority (PRC § 21080.3.2(c)(1)). If you have any questions regarding this invitation or the AB 52 process, please contact me, or in my absence contact Rob Thomson at 805-689-5854.

Sincerely,



Jim Watson
General Manager, Sites Project Authority

Attachment



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955

Mr. Charlie Wright, Chair
Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians
P.O. Box 1630
Williams, CA 95987



February 22, 2019

Mr. Charlie Wright, Chair
Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians
P.O. Box 1630
Williams, CA 95987

Subject: Formal Notification pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (Public Resources Code 21080.3.1) for the proposed Sites Geotechnical Field Investigations

Dear Honorable Chairperson Wright,

This letter is a formal invitation to the Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians to consult with the Authority regarding the proposed Sites Geotechnical Field Investigations (Project) under Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21080.3.1, concerning Tribal Cultural Resources. This Project is undergoing environmental review separately from the overall Sites Project. Although not related to PRC Section 21080.3.1 consultation, the Cortina Band previously submitted their 2010 report to the Authority, expressing their wish to be consulted for “site testing, borings, and soil column sampling” related to the Sites Project.

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) is initiating environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for geologic, geotechnical, and geophysical exploration and testing needed to support the design of the proposed Sites Project. The Authority is the lead agency under the CEQA for both this Project and the Sites Project.

From our letter of April 2017, the proposed Sites Project would be an approximately 1.8 million acre-foot off-stream storage reservoir and associated water management facilities near the town of Maxwell in Colusa and Glenn Counties in the Sacramento Valley in Northern California. Figure 1, attached, shows the location and the approximate areas where explorations and testing could occur. The specific locations of explorations and testing activities would occur within the broad areas within the locations identified. The exact locations, equipment used and other details are not known at this time. These details are likely to be further adjusted to reduce or avoid environmentally and culturally sensitive areas. Exploration and testing activities will not occur on privately held lands until access to the land has been obtained. The field sample collection and testing activities would begin in the second half of 2019.

Tribal Cultural Resources, as defined under PRC § 21074, include sites, features, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe. The Authority intends to prepare a CEQA initial study/mitigated negative declaration (combined with a National Environmental Policy Act environmental assessment) for this proposed Project, unless information



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309

indicating impacts on cultural resources comes to light through the consultation process.

In order to verify that all potential resources of concern to Native American communities are identified and considered in the planning and implementation of the proposed Project, we respectfully request any information you can provide on the location and nature of Tribal Cultural Resources that may be found within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Specifically, we seek your input on the following types of resources so that we may avoid or protect them to the maximum extent possible.

- Prehistoric archaeological sites and features
- Sacred lands or locations that are important in Native American culture
- Places that the Native American community continues to use for ongoing cultural practices
- Historic-era resources.

We understand that the locations of these resources are sensitive. Resource locations will not be disclosed in public documents and will be kept confidential as provided for under California Government Code § 6254.10.

If you would like to participate in formal AB 52 consultation concerning the proposed project, please notify me in writing within 30 calendar days of the receipt of this formal notice. After we receive your written request, we will contact you within 30 calendar days to begin consultation.

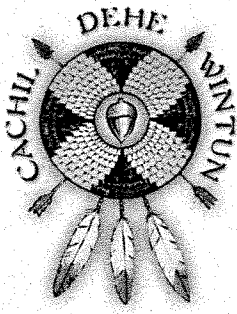
If the Tribe notifies the Authority in writing that the project does not involve any Tribal Cultural Resources of concern, then consultation under AB 52 will be considered concluded. If the Authority does not receive a written request to consult within 30 calendar days, we will assume the Tribe declines the invitation to formally consult under AB 52. However, the Authority is committed to working with you to properly account for and manage resources important to the Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians, and we welcome any recommendations regarding appropriate management or treatment of resources that occur within the project area. This notification does not limit the ability of the Tribe to submit information to the Authority (PRC § 21080.3.2(c)(1)). If you have any questions regarding this invitation or the AB 52 process, please contact me, or in my absence contact Rob Thomson at 805-689-5854.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line.

Jim Watson
General Manager, Sites Project Authority

Attachment



COLUSA INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CACHIL DEHE BAND OF WINTUN INDIANS

RECEIVED

MAR 04 2019

SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY

February 26, 2019

Jim Watson
General Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955

RE: Tribal Consultation for the proposed Sites Geotechnical Field Investigations

Dear Mr. Watson:

Thank you for the notification dated February 15, 2019 and received February 19, 2019 regarding cultural information on or near the proposed Sites Geotechnical Field Investigations in Colusa County. We appreciate your effort to contact us and wish to respond.

Based on the review of the proposed project by the Tribe's Cultural Preservation Department, the Tribe has concerns that the project could impact archaeological/cultural sites and are requesting Tribal Consultation. The Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community (CICC) highly recommends including cultural monitors during development or ground disturbing activity, including backhoe trenching and excavations. Please refer to the attached Fee Schedule.

To set up a consultation meeting and a monitoring agreement, please contact:

Samaurrii Coleman
Executive Affairs Manager
Office: (530) 458-8231
Email: scoleman@colusa-nsn.gov

Please refer to identification number CICC-021919-01 in any correspondence concerning this project. The CICC expects to begin consultation on this project within 30 days of your receipt of this letter. Please provide our Cultural Preservation Department with a project timeline, detailed project information and the latest cultural study for the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Clifford Mota
Cultural Preservation Liaison

Fee Schedule

The fee schedule below is a listing of fees used to pay the Cultural Preservation Liaison and the Cultural Preservation Monitor fees, or other consultants. This listing of fee maximums is used to reimburse the Cultural Preservation Liaison and/or other Service provider(s) on a fee-for-service basis.

“Executive Order 13175 – Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments:

Section 5 (b): To the extent practicable and permitted by law, no agency shall promulgate any regulation that has tribal implication, that imposes substantial direct compliance costs on Indian tribal governments, and that is not required by statute, unless: (1) funds necessary to pay the direct costs incurred by the Indian tribal government of the tribe in complying with the regulation are provided by the federal government.”

Services provided by the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community’s Cultural Preservation Department:

Tribal Record Search	\$400.00
Tribal Record Search + Site Visit	\$450.00 (Plus travel expenses)
Cultural Preservation Liaison	\$200.00 (per hour)
Cultural Preservation Monitor (4 hour minimum)	\$75.00 (per hour)

Time is billed in increments of 15 minutes. Cachil Dehe’s monitors will bill for time spent traveling to and from any Project site. In addition, Cachil Dehe shall be reimbursed for all costs associated with travel to and from the Project. Eligible items for cost-reimbursement shall include, but not be limited to, mileage (or fuel purchases, at the submitter’s election), hotel, and per diem (GSA rate).

Cultural preservation monitor crew size to be determined by the Cultural Preservation Liaison, in accordance with Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community Cultural Law.

Payments should be made to:

Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community
Department of Cultural Preservation
3730 Highway 45, Colusa, CA 95932

Please contact the following individual if you have any questions or concerns:

Clifford Mota
Cultural Preservation Liaison
Office: (530) 458-8231
Email: cmota@colusa-nsn.gov

cc: Samaurii Coleman, Executive Affairs Manager, CICC
Oscar Serrano, Principal Engineer, CICC



YOCHA DEHE
CULTURAL RESOURCES

RECEIVED

MAR 25 2019

SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY

March 7, 2019

Sites

Attn: Jim Watson, General Manager
PO Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955

RE: Sites Reservoir Project

Dear Mr. Watson:

Thank you for your project notification letter dated, February 15, 2019, regarding cultural information on or near the proposed Sites Reservoir Project, Maxwell, Colusa and Glenn Counties. We appreciate your effort to contact us and wish to respond.

The Cultural Resources Department has reviewed the project and concluded that it is within the aboriginal territories of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Therefore, we have a cultural interest and authority in the proposed project area and would like to participate in ongoing consultation with the lead agency. Please continue to provide our Cultural Resources Department with updates regarding this project.

Should you have any questions, please contact the following individual:

Laverne Bill, Cultural Resources Manager
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Office: (530) 723-3891
Email: lbill@yochadehe-nsn.gov

Please refer to identification number YD - 04142017-03 in any correspondence concerning this project.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Burnam Lowell, Sr.
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer



November 13, 2020

Mr. Andrew Alejandre, Chairperson
Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians
P.O. Box 709
Corning, CA 96021

From: Fritz Durst/ Sites Project Authority Board Chair

Subject: Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, Assembly Bill (AB) 52. Formal Notification of the Preferred Project for the Purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Analysis and Notification of Consultation Opportunity for the Sites Reservoir Project, Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Yolo Counties, California, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1

Dear Honorable Chairperson Alejandre,

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) initially contacted you in February 2017 in compliance with the project notification requirements pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d) for the Sites Reservoir Project. A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was published for public review in August 2017. After receipt of public comments on the Draft EIR, the Authority reconsidered elements of the project. In October 2019, representatives from both the Authority Board and Reservoir Committee began undertaking a “value planning” process, an effort to identify and evaluate additional alternatives. As a result of the the “value planning process,” the Authority identified a project that reduced the size of the proposed Sites Reservoir from 1.8 million acre feet to 1.5 million acre feet, removed the Delevan Pipeline and associated facilities, and made minor adjustments to other project features.

On April 22, 2020, the Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft EIR consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the environmental effects of the facility options identified in the Sites Project Value Planning Report.¹ The Revised Draft EIR is anticipated to be released for public review in the summer of 2021. In response to preparing the Revised Draft EIR, the Authority is providing you with a description of the revised project for your consideration pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d).

Description of the Proposed Project

The Authority proposes to construct the revised Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir and associated water conveyance facilities located in Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Yolo counties, California. The new reservoir would be located in Antelope Valley, on the eastern edge of the North Coast Ranges and approximately 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell.

¹ https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/02-01.a-Authority-Board_Value-Planning.pdf



The Sites Reservoir Project is proposed to provide storage and operational benefits including including water supply resiliency, water dedicated to environmental uses, and other programs throughout California.

Two alternatives (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2) are currently under consideration. The primary differences in the alternatives is that Alternative 1 will impound up to 1.5 million acre feet of water and discharge water into the Colusa Drain, via the Tehama Colusa Canal, in the vicinity of Dunnigan, Yolo County. In contrast, Alternative 2 will hold up to 1.3 million acre feet of water and discharge water via the Tehama Colusa Canal into the Sacramento River; again, in the vicinity of Dunnigan. Alternative 1 also includes a bridge to extend the Sites Lodoga Road directly across the reservoir, while Alternative 2 re-routes the road around the south end of the reservoir and continues to Lodoga along the west side of the reservoir. Alternative 1 was designated by the Authority as the preferred project for the purposes of the CEQA analysis and permit development on September 17, 2020.

For more information regarding the proposed project alternatives, please see the attached Preliminary Project Description.

Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (b), please respond, in writing, within 30 days if you wish to request consultation. If you have any questions or wish to consult on this project, please contact the Authority's Lead Agency Point of Contact for AB 52 consultations:

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
Phone: (530) 632-4071
Email: kspesert@sitesproject.org

If consultation is requested, please provide the name and contact information of the designated lead contact person as part of your request. The Authority will contact the designated person to set a meeting date to begin consultation within 30 days of our receipt of your request.

Thank you for giving this matter your prompt attention.

Sincerely,



Fritz Durst
Sites Project Authority



Topic: **Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Committee Meeting Agenda Item 2.3** **2020 September 17**

Subject: **Preferred Project for the Purposes of the CEQA Analysis and Federal/State ESA Analysis**

Requested Action:

Designate Alternative 1, based on VP-7 of the Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report (Value Planning Report), as the Authority's preferred project for the purposes of the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analysis and for the purposes of the Biological Assessment and State Incidental Take Permit applications.

Detailed Description/Background:

In April 2020, the Authority accepted the Value Planning Report and its findings and directed staff to analyze the environmental effects of the new alternatives in the Value Planning Report, including VP7. The Authority also directed that a revised and recirculated Draft EIR be prepared for public review¹. Staff began development of the revised Draft EIR and is at the point where the Board needs to identify a preferred alternative based on a more complete project description (see attachment A).

During the Reservoir Committee and Board meetings in June, staff provided an overview of the alternatives under consideration as well as revised draft objectives for the project, requesting review and input in order to focus efforts in developing a more complete project description. At that time, staff presented Alternatives 1 and 2 which combined components of VP5, VP6, and VP7 from the Value Planning Report. Staff recommended these two alternatives as they define the reasonable range of alternatives given the previous analyses of the project and potential alternatives.

Staff is returning to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board with a Preliminary Project Description (Attachment A), and revised objectives (Attachment B). Changes have been made to both the alternatives and objectives in response to Reservoir Committee and Authority Board input and in further development of project details and information by the project team. The key changes to the alternatives are as follows:

- Transportation/circulation components have been clarified. Both alternatives provide access to residents at the south end of the reservoir via a realigned Huffmaster Road. To provide access to the west side of the reservoir, Alternative 1 crosses the reservoir with a bridge on Sites Lodoga

¹ Staff has worked cooperatively with the Bureau of Reclamation to identify the appropriate approach to proceed with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and a Supplemental EIS will be prepared as part of the joint California Environmental Quality Act/National Environmental Policy Act documentation.

Road. Alternative 2 includes a south road continuing from Huffmaster Road around the west side of the reservoir to Ladoga, with no bridge.

- The Dunnigan pipeline alignment and proposal to release into the Colusa Basin Drain has been further assessed and confirmed as the proposed component for conveyance release under Alternative 1.

Key changes to the objectives are as follows:

- All objectives have been revised to focus on the statewide benefits of the Project and the needs of all Participants.
- Objective 1 addresses the amount of water supply required to meet participants' water demands and the need for an affordable, cost-effective Project.
- Objective 2 addresses the Water Storage and Investment Program public benefits.
- Objective 3 addresses federal participation and clarifies the intent of the Project to provide operational flexibility to the Central Valley Project.
- Objective 4 addresses intended benefits to the Delta ecosystem beyond the requirements of the Water Storage and Investment Program public benefits.
- Minor changes have also been made to Objective 5 regarding roadway connectivity.

Due to the project schedule, staff is preparing the Revised EIR at the same time as the engineering team is conducting preliminary design activities. The following assumptions represent the variations being taken from the project described in VP7 of the Value Planning Report and have been incorporated in the development of Alternative 1 to allow the EIR/EIS and engineering activities to move forward simultaneously and achieve the project schedule:

- Bridge – The EIR/EIS will move forward with Bridge Option 1B, Shorter Bridge with Fill Prisms, including the Cast-in-Place Prestressed Concrete Box Girder bridge type. This option was identified as a lowest cost bridge alternative in the Value Planning Report while meeting the functional requirements for efficient traffic flow.
- Dam Fill materials – The EIR/EIS will move forward with Dam Fill Option 1A, Earth and Rockfill, which is anticipated to be preferred by California Division of Safety of Dams and will assist in meeting the schedule and affordability goals; it also provides maximum coverage for potential environmental effects as the rockfill involves blasting associated with rock quarrying.
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir – The EIR/EIS will continue to analyze the original proposed location for this reservoir and carries forward additional potential locations as more is learned in the coming months regarding soils conditions.

- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – The EIR/EIS will address the type and magnitude of improvements needed to convey Sites water through existing facilities, pending future agreements on any specific improvements that may be warranted by the Project.
- Emergency Releases – In the rare and unanticipated condition that the Sites Reservoir has to conduct emergency releases, these releases are currently planned to be made into Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dam 3, 5, and 8b. Emergency release locations and the extent of potential impacts will be evaluated in further detail as part of the on-going feasibility study.
- Dunnigan Release – Based on preliminary hydraulic study, the EIR/EIS will assume release to the Colusa Basin Drain under Alternative 1 and will carry forward an extension to the Sacramento River under Alternative 2.
- Hydropower Generation – Based on the current Project information, the EIR/EIS will address incidental in-line conduit hydropower generation at a level that is below the threshold for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – Based on the current Project information, the EIR/EIS will evaluate obtaining water temporarily for construction supply on site via existing groundwater or surface water facilities or existing or new groundwater wells, including any onsite treatment that may be warranted depending on water quality.

It is important to note that the engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for various facility components in order to optimize design and reduce costs, including potentially considering alternatives to account for reduced participation levels to maintain affordability. In the event that the final project facilities are different than the assumptions above, staff will consider appropriate modifications to the process and documents consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. The goal is to make any modifications on a timeline that does not impact the ability to deliver the EIR/EIS documents for public review any later than July 2021.

The California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project while avoiding or substantially lessening significant effects of the project. While an EIR must analyze reasonable alternatives, it also needs to identify a proposed project, which is also referred to as the preferred alternative. At this time, staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's proposed project based on its meeting the intent and the goals of the Value Planning effort, its close alignment with VP-7, and its ability to meet the project objectives. The EIR/EIS will also analyze Alternative 2 and the No Project/No Action Alternative.

If designated by the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board, Alternative 1 would also be used as the proposed project for the purposes of the Biological Assessment under the Federal Endangered Species Act and State Incidental Take Permit applications under the California Endangered Species Act.

Prior Action:

April 22, 2020: The Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze the environmental effects of the options identified in the Final Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report dated April 2020, including VP7.

April 22, 2020: The Authority accepted: the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, dated April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within, and; a recommendation to the Sites Project Authority to approve the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within.

February 26, 2020: The Authority approved a recommendation to re-start efforts on the EIR for the Sites Reservoir Project and assess the most appropriate approach for completing the EIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

July 20, 2017: The Reservoir Committee approved a recommendation to forward the Draft EIR/EIS to the Authority Board for its consideration to formally receive and adopt the document for inclusion in the Authority's Water Storage Investment Project application.

July 31, 2017: The Authority approved the release of the Draft EIR for public and agency review, in connection with the Authority's application to the California Water Commission by August 14, 2017. The document was published as joint Draft EIR/EIS by the Authority under the California Environmental Quality Act and Reclamation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

December 19, 2016: The Authority approved release of a Supplemental Notice of Preparation (released February 2, 2017) to transfer the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency status from the Department of Water Resources to the Sites Project Authority. Public scoping meetings were conducted on February 14 and 15, 2017.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

Actual costs to prepare the project description and the supporting evaluations were within the amounts budgeted in the Phase 1B Work Plan which was approved by the Sites Project Authority at its January 22, 2020 Board meeting.

Sufficient funds to complete the recirculated Draft EIR/EIS and begin preparation of the Final EIR/EIS are included in the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget), which was approved by the Authority at its August 26, 2020 Board meeting.

Costs to complete and circulate the Final EIR/EIS will be considered in a future Work Plan.

Staff Contact:

Ali Forsythe

Attachments:

Attachment A – Sites Reservoir Project, Preliminary Project Description –
September 8, 2020.

Attachment B – Revised Recommended EIR Objectives.

Sites Reservoir Project Preliminary Project Description September 2020

On April 22, 2020, the Sites Project Authority (Authority) directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the environmental effects of the facility options identified in the Sites Project Value Planning Report (Value Planning Report), dated April 2020. Since that time, Authority staff and environmental, engineering and modeling consultants have been developing and refining alternatives. In June, staff recommended that the Draft Revised EIR¹/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)² (Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS) evaluate two action alternatives, Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, and provided an initial overview of the two alternatives.

This preliminary project description summarizes the alternatives presented in the preliminary Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS Chapter 2, Alternatives Description, which was completed on August 31, 2020. That preliminary draft Chapter 2 reflects preliminary design efforts, including the preparation of technical memos and preliminary drawings, and coordination between the service providers and staff. Modeling and engineering efforts are ongoing, and additional information related to operations and construction means and methods will likely supplement the preliminary Draft Chapter 2 in the coming weeks.

1.0 Overview of Alternatives

The following table compares facilities and operational considerations under Alternatives 1 and 2. This table is an updated version of a table provided at the June 24 Authority Board meeting (Agenda Item 3.3 Attachment B) and identifies existing as well as new facilities that will be constructed to implement each alternative.

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Diversion/Reservoir Infrastructure Details		
Reservoir Size	1.5 million acre feet (MAF)	1.3 MAF
Dams [Scaled to the size of the reservoir]	2 main dams, Golden Gate Dam and Sites Dam 7 saddle dams 2 saddle dikes	2 main dams, Golden Gate and Sites Dam 6 saddle dams 2 saddle dikes
Spillway	One spillway on Saddle Dam 8b	Similar to Alternative 1
Funks Reservoir and Funks Pumping Generating Plant	Funks Reservoir excavated to original capacity; same footprint as existing Funks Reservoir. New Funks Pump Generating Plant (PGP). New Funks pipeline alignment with 2 pipelines.	Similar to Alternative 1

¹ The Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will also address the No Project/No Action Alternative.

² A Supplemental EIS will be prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR); TRR Pumping Generating Plant; TRR Pipeline	New TRR facilities (TRR and TRR PGP) adjacent to the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Main Canal. New TRR pipeline alignment with 2 pipelines.	Same as Alternative 1
Hydropower	Power generation incidental upon release.	Same as Alternative 1
Diversion(s)	Diversion from Sacramento River into existing Tehama-Colusa Canal at Red Bluff and the existing GCID Main Canal at Hamilton City. Adding 2 pumps in existing bays at the plant at the Red Bluff Pumping Plant.	Same as Alternative 1
Emergency Release Flow	Releases into Funks Creek via Inlet/Outlet Works. Releases into Stone Corral Creek via Site Dam permanent discharge outlet. Emergency outflow pipeline and structures in Saddle Dam 3 and 5 to release north to Hunters Creek Watershed. Release from spillway on Saddle Dam 8b.	Similar to Alternative 1
Flood Control	Flood damage reduction benefit for local watersheds from reservoir storage.	Same as Alternative 1
Reservoir Management	Reservoir Management Plan and Reservoir Operations Plan.	Same as Alternative 1
Electrical Facilities	Transmission Lines, substations, switchyards; interconnection with Western Area Power Administration or Pacific Gas and Electric.	Same as Alternative 1
Recreation		
Multiple Facilities Consistent with WSIP Application	Two primary areas with infrastructure (with phased construction): 1. Peninsula Hills Area 2. Stone Corral Creek One day-use boat ramp w/parking located on the west side of the reservoir and south of the bridge.	Same as Alternative 1
Transportation/Circulation		
Provide Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge crossing the reservoir as a result of the relocation of existing Sites Lodoga Road. Relocation of Huffmaster Road with gravel road to residents at the south end of the reservoir terminating at the south end of the reservoir.	No bridge. Relocation of Sites Lodoga Road to residents at south end of the reservoir continues to Lodoga. Huffmaster Road is integrated into Sites Lodoga Road and is paved the entire way.
Multiple Maintenance and Local Access Roads	Approximately 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads would provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as provide public access to the proposed recreation areas.	Similar to Alternative 1

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
	Approximate number of roads related to the reservoir: 5 local/construction roads 2 construction/maintenance roads 7 local roads 4 maintenance roads Approximate number of access roads related to conveyance facilities: 1 to the TRR 1 to Funks complex Multiple within pipeline easements	
Operations		
Operational Criteria	Option based on Value Planning Report, Table 3.1 Scenario B, anticipated to be modified by future modeling efforts.	Same as Alternative 1
Reclamation Involvement	Two Options: 1. Funding Partner 2. Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Same as Alternative 1
State Water Project (SWP) Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta.	Same as Alternative 1
Bypass Releases into Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek	Develop specific bypass criteria to protect downstream water right holders and ecological function.	Same as Alternative 1
Conveyance Dunnigan Release	Release 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain to meet member participant demands and Proposition 1 needs.	Release into new pipeline to Sacramento River to meet member participant demands. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain to fulfill the Proposition 1 needs.

2.0 Facilities

The project will utilize both existing and proposed new facilities, all of which will be located within northern California in Glenn, Colusa, Tehama and Yolo Counties (see Figures 1 and 2 at the end of this document). As summarized in the Table 1 above, most facilities are the same or similar under Alternatives 1 and 2 although features may differ in scale or location due to the size of the reservoir. Facilities that have substantial differences between alternatives, such as the proposed dams, Dunnigan Pipeline and the Sites Lodoga Road realignment/relocation, are described in more detail below.

2.1 Existing Facilities

The project will utilize certain existing water supply infrastructure, including:

- Existing Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure operated by the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA):
 - Red Bluff Pumping Plant
 - Tehama-Colusa Canal

- Funks Reservoir located approximately 65 miles south of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant
- Existing GCID Hamilton City Diversion and the GCID Main Canal
- Colusa Basin Drain (CBD)

Both action alternatives would require pumping capacity that exceeds the existing total installed capacity of 2,000 cfs of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant to convey flow to Funks Reservoir and ultimately Sites Reservoir. Both action alternatives would require installation of two additional 250-cfs vertical axial-flow pumps into existing concrete pump bays at the pumping plant.

Both action alternatives would also require a new 3,000-cfs GCID Main Canal headgate structure about 0.25 mile downstream of Hamilton City Pump Station. The existing headgate structure would be inadequate for proposed winter operation during high river flows. To streamline maintenance during the winter shutdown period (i.e., reduce it from the current shutdown window of 6 weeks to 2 weeks), smaller improvements would be required to integrate Sites Reservoir into the GCID system.

Use of the existing Funks Reservoir would require excavation of sediment to return it to its original capacity. The bottom of Funks Reservoir would be reshaped to allow large, unimpeded flows to and from the new Funks PGP.

Proposed access during construction will avoid the town of Maxwell, utilizing County Roads 68 and 69, McDermott Road, Maxwell Sites Road and Sites Lodoga Road. Several of these existing roads would require improvement to support construction activities. Other local roads would need to be relocated or developed to accommodate access due to the construction of reservoir facilities. These include portions of Sites Lodoga Road, Huffmaster Road, and Communication Road.

2.2 Proposed Conveyance Facilities

Implementation of either Alternative 1 or 2 would require various facilities to control the conveyance of water between Sites Reservoir and the Tehama-Colusa Canal and GCID Main Canal. These facilities would include regulating reservoirs, pipelines, PGPs, electrical substations, and administration and maintenance buildings.

The two regulating reservoirs would be the existing Funks Reservoir and the new Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR). Both regulating reservoirs would have two 12-foot-diameter pipelines extending to and from Sites Reservoir just below Golden Gate Dam. At each regulating reservoir, the pipelines would be connected to a pumping generating plant that pumps water from the regulating reservoir to Sites Reservoir, as well as turbines that would generate power when flows were released from Sites Reservoir. There would also be energy dissipation equipment adjacent to each PGP (e.g., fixed cone valve[s]) to throttle the flow of water into each regulating reservoir when the turbines are not being used.

A transition manifold would be constructed at the base of Golden Gate Dam to connect pipelines from Sites Reservoir to Funks Reservoir and the TRR pipelines. In

addition, a point of interconnection to a high-voltage electric transmission line would be required to power the facilities at the proposed TRR and Funks electrical substations.

Water released from Sites Reservoir would be conveyed south of Sites Reservoir using the existing Tehama-Colusa Canal and a new Dunnigan pipeline. The water would flow south about 40 miles to the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal, where it would be diverted into the proposed Dunnigan Pipeline. Under Alternative 1, the flows would subsequently be conveyed to the CBD and released through the proposed CBD Outlet Structure, eventually reaching the Sacramento River at Knights Landing or to the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough complex through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut. Under Alternative 2 water would flow south to the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal but would be diverted into an extended Dunnigan Pipeline, with release directly to the Sacramento River with some flows released to the CBD to flow into the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough complex through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut for environmental benefits under Proposition 1.

2.3 Proposed Reservoir Facilities

Under either alternative, water would be impounded by the Golden Gate Dam on Funks Creek and the Sites Dam on Stone Corral Creek; a series of saddle dams along the eastern and northern rims of reservoir would close off topographic saddles in the surrounding ridges to form Sites Reservoir. Two saddle dikes are also needed at topographic saddle low points along the northern end of the reservoir. These components of the reservoir would be scaled according to the alternative.

Under Alternative 1, the proposed 1.5-MAF reservoir would have a Normal Maximum Water Surface (NMWS) elevation of 498 feet. Under Alternative 2, the proposed 1.3-MAF reservoir would have an NMWS elevation of 482 feet. Nominal crest would be at elevation 517 feet for all dams for 1.5-MAF capacity, and at elevation 500 feet for 1.3-MAF capacity. Table 2 presents a summary of dam heights required to impound Sites Reservoir for the 1.5-MAF capacity and 1.3-MAF capacity.

Table 2. Dam Heights for 1.5-MAF and 1.3-MAF Sites Reservoir Alternatives

Dam/Dike	1.5-MAF Reservoir Maximum Height Above Streambed (feet)	1.3-MAF Reservoir Maximum Height Above Streambed (feet)
Golden Gate Dam	287	270
Sites Dam	267	250
Saddle Dam 1	27	None
Saddle Dam 2	57	40
Saddle Dam 3	107	90
Saddle Dam 5	77	60
Saddle Dam 6	47	None
Saddle Dam 8A	82	65
Saddle Dam 8B	37	5
Saddle Dike 1	12	10 (near Saddle Dam 1)
Saddle Dike 2	12	10 (near Saddle Dam 6)
Saddle Dam 10 ^a	Not required for 1.5-MAF Reservoir	30

^a For the 1.3-MAF Reservoir, Golden Gate Dam would be reconfigured and Saddle Dam 10 added to close off a topographic saddle in the ridge that is closed in the 1.5-MAF Golden Gate Dam configuration.

The engineering team is continuing to evaluate different options for dam fill that would be utilized under either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. One option is an earth- and rockfill dam and another option is an earthfill dam. The proposed inlet/outlet works for an earthfill dam would be located to the south of Golden Gate Dam and would be used both to fill the reservoir through conveyance facilities located to the East and to make releases from Sites Reservoir. The inlet/outlet works include:

1. A multi-level intake tower including a low-level intake.
2. Two 23 foot inside diameter inlet/outlet tunnels through the ridge on the right abutment of Golden Gate Dam.

2.4 Proposed Recreational Facilities

As specified in the Sites Water Storage Investment Program application, either alternative would include two primary recreation areas and a day-use boat ramp which are to be phased in over a period of time. Located on the northwest shore of the proposed Sites Reservoir, to the north of the existing Sites Lodoga Road, the Peninsula Hills Recreation Area would include approximately:

- 200 campsites (car and recreational vehicle)
- one group camp area
- 10 picnic sites (with parking at each site)
- hiking trails
- electricity
- potable water
- one kiosk
- 19 vault toilets

Located on the eastern shore of the Sites Reservoir, north of the existing Maxwell Sites Road and proposed Sites Dam, the Stone Corral Creek Recreational Area would include:

- 50 campsites (car and recreational vehicle)
- electricity

- 10 picnic sites (with parking at each site)
- six-lane boat launch site
- hiking trails
- potable water
- one kiosk
- 10 vault toilets

Each alternative would also include a Day-Use Boat Ramp/Parking Recreation Area, located on the western side of the reservoir where the existing Sites Lodoga Road intersects with the proposed inundation area for the reservoir. Facilities would include:

- one kiosk
- one vault toilet
- potable water
- parking area

2.5 Proposed Roads and South Bridge

In addition to modifying existing roads for construction access, the project will require up to 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads to provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as public access to the proposed recreation areas. Sites Lodoga Road provides access to and from the town of Maxwell, which is adjacent to Interstate 5. Sites Lodoga Road becomes Maxwell Sites Road east of the rural community of Sites that is within the inundation area. The reservoir would eliminate east-west access to Interstate 5 (east of the reservoir) from the rural communities of Stonyford and Lodoga (west of the reservoir) because it would inundate the current route of Sites Lodoga Road. The current Sites Lodoga Road is an east-west, two-lane rural collector road and provides an emergency and evacuation route to and from these rural communities. Because construction of the Sites Dam would eliminate access on the Sites Lodoga Road, this collector road would need to be relocated/realigned prior to project construction.

Under Alternative 1, the realigned Sites Lodoga Road would include the construction of a bridge across the reservoir. Various bridge types and options have been evaluated. One option for a bridge is a full-length bridge that would offer navigational passage along the entire width of the reservoir. Another option for a bridge is a causeway with partial fill, which would limit the navigational passage within the reaches of the shorter bridges; however, the approach to implementing fill prism in the reservoir would significantly reduce construction cost. Alternative 1 would also include the realignment of the existing Huffmaster Road to provide access to properties otherwise inaccessible due to reservoir construction.

Under Alternative 2, the realignment of Sites Lodoga Road would result in a road that ultimately extends from Maxwell to the community of Lodoga around the southern end and western side of the proposed Sites Reservoir. This road, referred to as the Maxwell Lodoga Road, would include the realignment and repavement of the existing Huffmaster Road.

2.6 Project Buffer

The proposed project buffer would consist of the total amount of land that would be acquired beyond the facility footprints for each alternative. The preliminary approach to the buffer is outlined below.

- The buffer would include 100 feet around all buildings and most ground facilities (e.g., substations, any aboveground pipelines) along with 100 feet around the Sites Reservoir Complex and recreation areas.
- The buffer may be less than 100 feet if the facility is near a property boundary and the proposed uses do not conflict with the adjacent land uses.
- No project buffers are anticipated for underground or buried facilities (i.e., Dunnigan Pipeline), overhead power lines, or roads (both public and project maintenance access roads).
- The Authority would evaluate the need for the buffer (and if implemented, an appropriate width) on a case-by-case basis in coordination with adjacent landowners. The buffer would likely be acquired in fee title by the Authority; however, acquisition of buffer areas in an easement may be feasible under certain circumstances.
- The lands within the buffer would generally remain undeveloped. Limited features may be installed to reduce future maintenance activities and fire hazards. These features may include limited fencing, regrading to construct fire breaks or fire trails, or similar actions.
- The lands within the buffer would be maintained by the Authority. Maintenance activities that are proposed to be undertaken within the project buffer include vegetation maintenance and periodic fire break maintenance. Such activities may include grazing, periodic tilling or disking, and performing limited controlled/prescribed burns. Where appropriate, the buffer may be managed as wildlife habitat. Fence maintenance would occur within the buffer.

3.0 Operations

The operation of the project under each alternative will be defined in upcoming months as the modeling and development of diversion criteria are further advanced. The member participants of the Authority have a collective demand of approximately 240,000 acre-feet, of which 192,892 acre-feet is needed by participating public water agencies³. Reclamation is also a participant through funding and/or operational exchanges with Shasta Lake. The State would also be involved through operational exchanges with Oroville Reservoir and storage in State Water Project facilities south-of-Delta.

Sites Reservoir would be filled by diverting unregulated/unappropriated flow in the Sacramento River. This water originates during winter storm events, which increase flows in the tributaries to the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam and avoiding any effects on the Trinity River. Water would be available for diversion after senior water rights are met, in-river aquatic species protection requirements are met, and delta water quality requirements have been met. Diversions would occur at the fish screened Red Bluff Pumping Plant and the GCID Hamilton City location when applicable regulatory requirements are met and existing pumping and conveyance capacity is available to convey water through the canals to the reservoir. TRR and Funks Reservoir, PGPs, and pipelines connect directly to the inlet/outlet works and would be operated in parallel to

³ April 2020 Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report.

pump water into and out of Sites Reservoir. Water would enter (and be released from) the reservoir through the inlet/outlet works.

Reservoir releases include releases to meet participant demands and to deliver water for a range of environmental benefits that will be finalized during project development and permitting.

- Sites Reservoir would be operated in cooperation with Central Valley Project (CVP) and SWP operations to coordinate with releases made with the CVP and SWP from Shasta Lake, Lake Oroville, and Folsom Lake. Sites Reservoir releases could supplement and/or allow reduced releases from other reservoirs while maintaining minimum instream flow objectives, Sacramento River temperature requirements, and Delta salinity control requirements assigned to CVP and SWP.
- Releases would be made mostly in dry and critical water years. Water users north of the Delta would mostly receive deliveries from the TCCA canal and GCID canal. Water users south of the Delta would receive water primarily via SWP pumping facilities.
- Using the CBD for conveyance of Sites Reservoir water would include coordination with the local landowners regarding the project operation and timing of the additional flows.

Releases would also be made to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks for downstream water right holders and to maintain ecological function in the sections of these creeks affected by the project. A proposed Reservoir Operations Plan would describe the management of water operations, including releases to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks.

Operation of either alternative would require power to run facilities and pump water. The identification of a power source and the location of transmission facilities is pending coordination with Western Area Power Administration and/or Pacific Gas and Electric. Each of the alternatives would also generate incidental power when water is released from Sites Reservoir at the Funks PGP and TRR PGP. The capacity of the project power generation facilities is anticipated to be below the threshold such that no license would be required from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the facilities would satisfy the criteria for a "Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility" under the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013, as amended by America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

4.0 Maintenance and Management

Under either alternative, maintenance activities for the project facilities would include debris removal, dredging, vegetation control, rodent control, erosion control and protection, routine inspections (dams, tunnels, pipelines, PGPs, inlet/outlet works, fencing, signs, and gates), painting, cleaning, repairs, and other routine tasks to maintain facilities in accordance with design standards after construction and commissioning. Routine visual inspection of the facilities would be conducted to monitor performance and prevent mechanical and structural failures of project elements. Maintenance activities associated with proposed river intakes could include

cleaning, removal of sediment, debris, and biofouling materials. These maintenance actions could require dewatering; suction dredging or mechanical excavation around intake structures; or the use of underwater diving crews, boom trucks, rubber-wheel cranes, and raft- or barge-mounted equipment. Proposed maintenance activities could occur on a daily, annually, periodically (as needed), and long-term basis.

The Authority would also develop and implement a Reservoir Management Plan to define the land uses of project lands controlled by the Authority, fish stocking and vector control practices, and the resources associated with project lands. The Reservoir Management Plan would include the following types of information:

- **Fisheries Management.** This would target species composition for Sites Reservoir, including stocking strategies, habitat enhancement measures, and monitoring efforts.
- **Land Use Management and Recreation.** This would outline how decisions regarding future amenities would be made and what land use considerations would be factored into Authority operations and activities.
- **Easement Management:** Right-of-ways and/or permanent easements would be required for long-term operation and maintenance of all the large-diameter pipelines. This would outline management and maintenance activities for easement areas.
- **Emergency Management.** This would establish protocol on how the Authority would be involved in controlling and resolving emergency situations, including those arising as a result of recreationists.
- **Vector Management.** This would establish protocols and practices for communicating and coordinating with vector control authorities in determining how vector control would be managed at the project facilities.
- **Sediment Management and Removal.** This would consolidate information on the frequency and locations of dredging, testing of sediment before disposal, disposal locations, and procedures to follow if sediment contaminant levels exceed regulatory standards for constituents of concern (e.g., pesticides).

5.0 Best Management Practices

A number of Best Management Practices and environmental commitments are proposed to be included in Project design, construction and operation/maintenance. The following proposed list of Best Management Practices and environmental commitments would be considered part of the Project.

- Conform with Applicable Design Standards and Building Codes
- Perform Geotechnical Evaluations and Prepare Geotechnical Data Reports
- Utility and Infrastructure Verification and/or Relocation
- Natural Gas Well Decommissioning
- Water Wells Decommissioning
- Road Abandonment
- Environmental Site Assessment(s)

- Salvage, Stockpile, and Replace Topsoil and Prepare a Topsoil Storage and Handling Plan
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan(s) and Best Management Practices (storm water and non-storm water)
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for Operation and Maintenance
- Spill Prevention and Hazardous Materials Management / Accidental Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasure Plans and Response Measures
- Minimize Soil Disturbance
- Comply with Requirements of RWQCB Order 5-00-175
- Groundwater/ Dewatering Water Supply
- Construction Equipment, Truck, and Traffic Management Plan
- Visual/Aesthetic Design, Construction, and Operation Practices
- Fire Safety and Suppression / Fire Prevention and Control Plan
- Worker Health and Safety Plan
- Blasting Standard Requirements
- Mosquito and Vector Control During Construction
- Construction Noise Management
- Operation and Maintenance Noise Management
- Construction Emergency Action Plan
- Emergency Action Plan for Reservoir Operations
- Electrical Power Guidelines and EMF Field Management Plan
- Construction Equipment Exhaust Reduction Plan
- Fugitive Dust Control Plans
- Construction Best Management Practices to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazardous Materials Management Plans
- Construction Site Security
- Notification of Maintenance Activities in Waterways
- Worker Environmental Awareness Program
- Fish Rescue and Salvage Plans for Funks Reservoir, Stone Corral Creek, and Funks Creek for Alternative 1; for Sacramento River for Alternative 2
- Construction Best Management Practices and Monitoring for Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species Habitats, and Natural Communities
- Control of Invasive Plant Species during Construction and Operation

6.0 Pre-Construction Activities

In addition to items/activities addressed in the above list of proposed BMPs and ECs, there are other activities that would be required prior to the initiation of construction of the different physical components of either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. These activities include: finalizing criteria and standards used for final design, including emergency management/release requirements; preparing a Dam Monitoring Program; conducting additional geotechnical and related field investigations to support design; relocation of two private cemeteries (Sites Cemetery and a Rancheria Cemetery); and the development and implementation of a Resident Relocation Program.

7.0 Timing of Environmental Review and Feasibility Report

The current schedule contemplates release of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS in July 2021. This is roughly the same timing for the engineering team's finalization of the Feasibility Report for the California Water Commission. As such, preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS and Feasibility Report are proceeding simultaneously. To accommodate the project schedule and the simultaneous preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS and Feasibility Report, the following project components will be utilized for the analysis:

- Sites Lodoga Road and Bridge – Under Alternative 1, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the option of the shorter bridge with fill prisms, including the cast-in-place prestressed concrete box girder bridge type. This option was identified as a lowest cost bridge alternative in the Value Planning Report while meeting the functional requirements for efficient traffic flow.
- Dam Fill Materials – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the option of using earth and rockfill. This option is anticipated to be preferred by the Division of Safety of Dams and will assist in meeting the schedule and affordability goals; it also provides maximum coverage for potential environmental effects as the rockfill involves blasting associated with rock quarrying.
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR) – Under Alternative 1 and 2, it is anticipated that the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the current TRR location. Other locations currently are under review due to the extent and costs associated with ground preparation needed for construction at the current site.
- GCID and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will describe the types of improvements needed to convey water through existing facilities and reduce GCID's current maintenance winter shutdown period from 6 weeks to 2 weeks, pending agreement between GCID and the Authority on any specific improvements that may be warranted due to implementation of the project. Improvements may also be needed to the Colusa Basin Drain to convey Sites water.
- Emergency Releases – In the rare and unanticipated condition that the Sites Reservoir has to conduct emergency releases, these releases are currently planned to be made into Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dam 3, 5, and 8b. Emergency release locations and the extent of potential impacts will be evaluated in further detail as part of the on-going feasibility study.
- Dunnigan Release – Under Alternative 1, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate a release to the CBD based on a preliminary hydraulic analysis. Alternatives 2 will carry forward an extension of the Dunnigan pipeline to the Sacramento River.
- Hydropower Generation – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate incidental in-line conduit hydropower generation below the threshold for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate options for obtaining temporary water supply for construction, such as obtaining water on site via existing groundwater

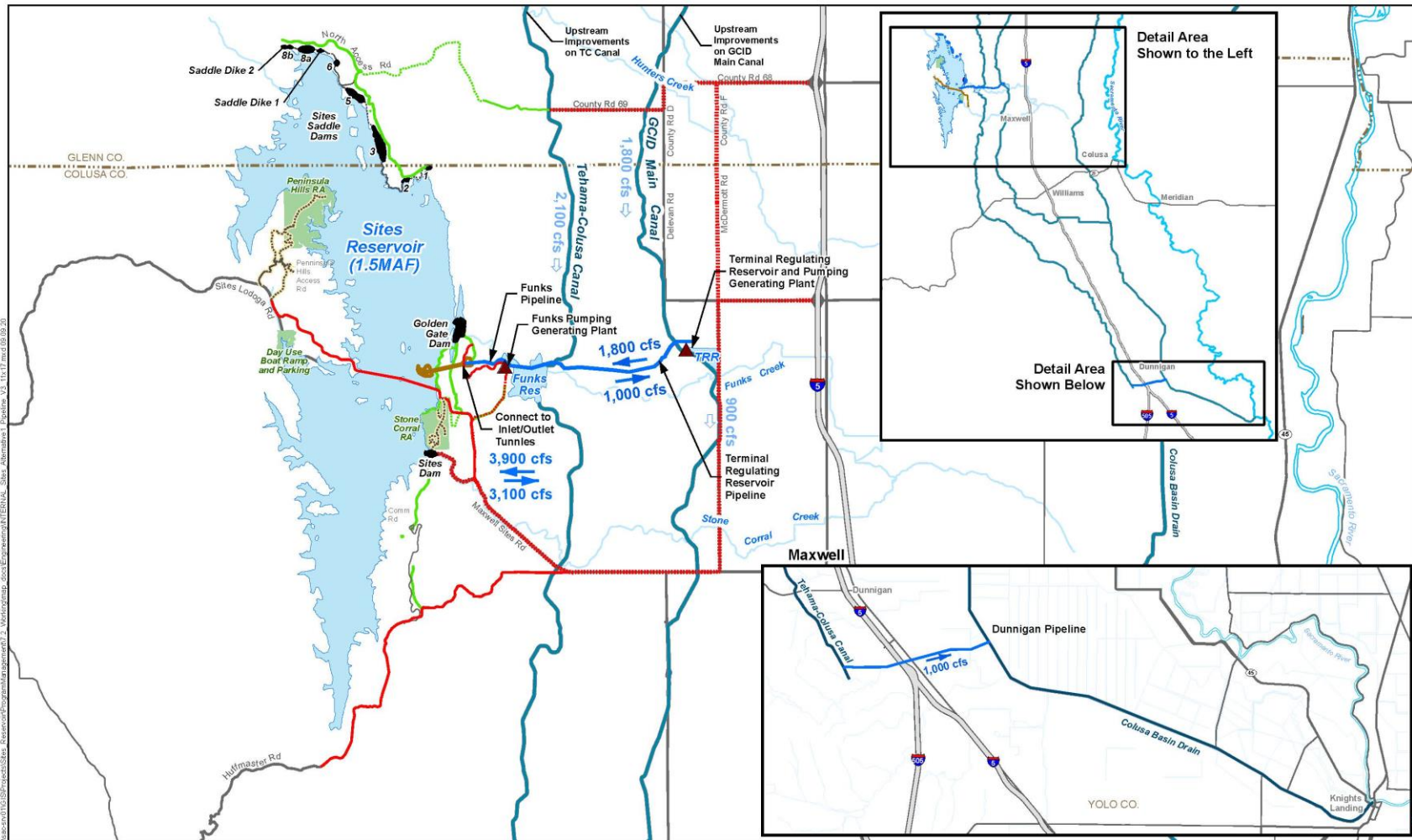
or surface water facilities and/or utilizing existing or drilling new wells, including any necessary treatment depending on the water quality.

The engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for various facility components, consistent with CEQA and NEPA requirements, in order to optimize design considerations and reduce costs.

It should also be noted that in the upcoming weeks, there will be further definition of project operations through modeling, clarification of water rights, and consultation with resource agencies. This information and any resulting changes to the alternatives described in the preliminary draft will be incorporated into the complete Chapter 2, Alternatives Description, to be completed by December 2020.

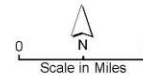
8.0 Identification of the Preferred Alternative for the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS Analysis

The CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project and avoid or substantially lessen the significant effects of the project. An EIR also needs to identify a proposed project, i.e., a preferred alternative. At this time, Authority staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's proposed project based on it meeting the objectives identified in the Value Planning Report and being most closely aligned with Alternative VP-7, and its ability to meet the revised draft CEQA project objectives. The Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will also evaluate Alternative 2 and the No Project/No Action Alternative.

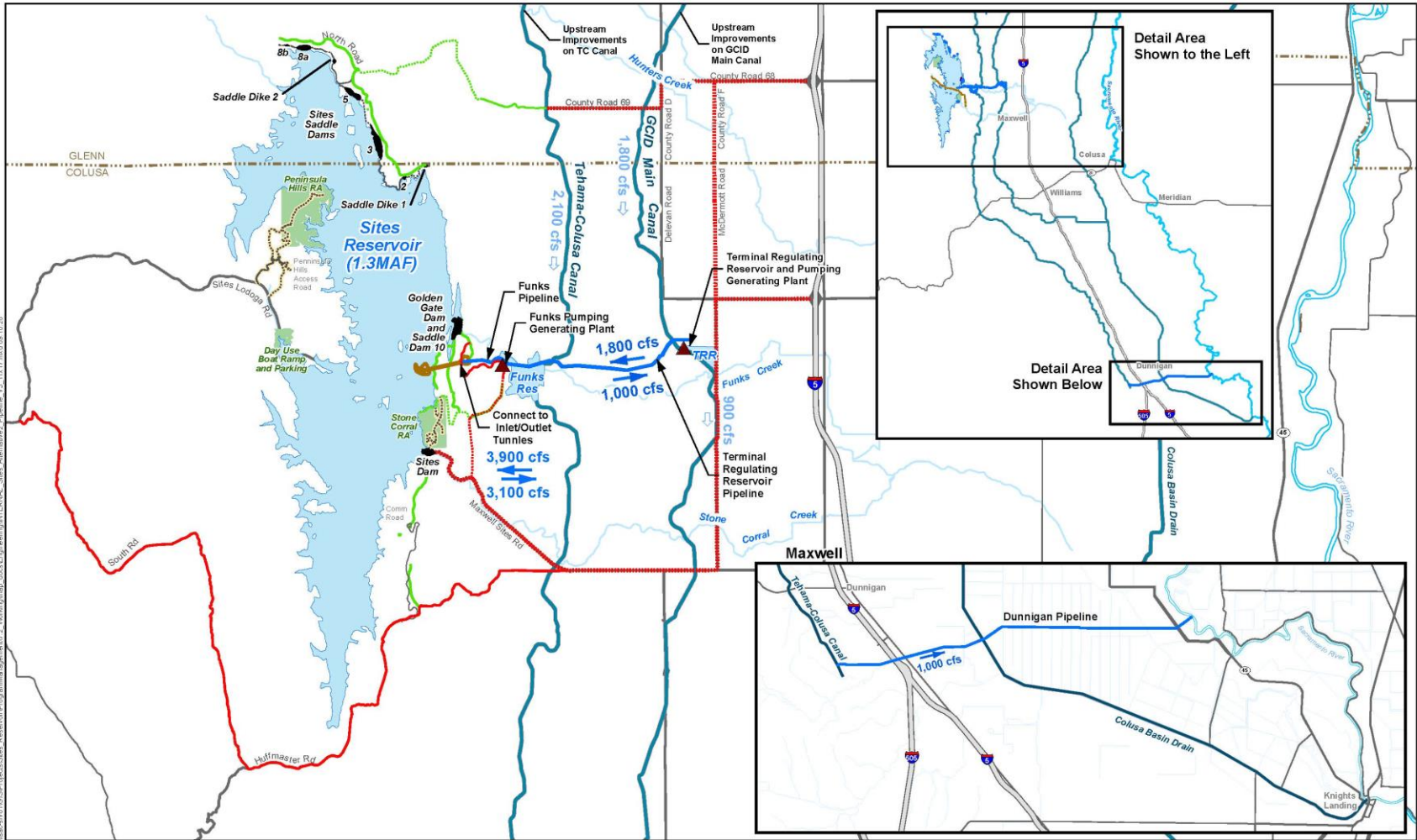


Legend

- Canal
- Maintenance Access Road
- New/Realigned Permanent Road
- Existing Roads
- Pipeline
- - - Construction/Maintenance Route
- - - Construction Route (Existing Road)
- Waterways

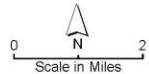


ALTERNATIVE 1



Legend

- Canal
- Maintenance Access Road
- New/Realigned Permanent Road
- Existing Roads
- Pipeline
- Construction/Maintenance Route
- Construction Route (Existing Road)
- Waterways



ALTERNATIVE 2

Sites Reservoir Project
Revised Recommended EIR Objectives
September 8, 2020

- OBJ-1: Improve water supply reliability and resiliency to meet member participants' agricultural and municipal long-term average annual water demand in a cost-effective manner for all member participants', including those that are the most cost-sensitive.
- OBJ-2: Provide public benefits consistent with Proposition 1 of 2014 and use Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) funds to improve statewide surface water supply reliability and flexibility to enhance opportunities for fisheries and habitat management for the public benefit through a designated long-term average annual water supply.
- OBJ-3: Provide public benefits consistent with the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) of 2016 by using federal funds, if available, provided by Reclamation to improve Central Valley Project (CVP) operational flexibility in meeting CVP environmental and contractual water supply needs and improving cold pool management in Shasta Reservoir to benefit anadromous fish
- OBJ-4: Provide surface water to convey biomass from the floodplain to the Delta to enhance the Delta ecosystem for the benefit of pelagic fishes¹ in the north Delta (e.g., Cache Slough).
- OBJ-5: Provide local and regional amenities, such as developing recreational facilities, reducing local flood damage, and maintaining roadway connectivity through modifications.

¹ Pelagic fish are species that spend most of their life swimming in the water column, having little contact or dependency with the bottom.



November 13, 2020

Mr. Daniel Gomez, Chairperson
Colusa Indian Community Council
3730 Highway 45
Colusa, CA 95932

From: Fritz Durst/ Sites Project Authority Board Chair

Subject: Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, Assembly Bill (AB) 52. Formal Notification of the Preferred Project for the Purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Analysis and Notification of Consultation Opportunity for the Sites Reservoir Project, Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Yolo Counties, California, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1

Dear Honorable Chairperson Gomez,

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) initially contacted your tribe in February 2017 in compliance with the project notification requirements pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d) for the Sites Reservoir Project. A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was published for public review in August 2017. After receipt of public comments on the Draft EIR, the Authority reconsidered elements of the project. In October 2019, representatives from both the Authority Board and Reservoir Committee began undertaking a “value planning” process, an effort to identify and evaluate additional alternatives. As a result of the the “value planning process,” the Authority identified a project that reduced the size of the proposed Sites Reservoir from 1.8 million acre feet to 1.5 million acre feet, removed the Delevan Pipeline and associated facilities, and made minor adjustments to other project features.

On April 22, 2020, the Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft EIR consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the environmental effects of the facility options identified in the Sites Project Value Planning Report.¹ The Revised Draft EIR is anticipated to be released for public review in the summer of 2021. In response to preparing the Revised Draft EIR, the Authority is providing you with a description of the revised project for your consideration pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d).

Description of the Proposed Project

The Authority proposes to construct the revised Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir and associated water conveyance facilities located in Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Yolo counties, California. The new reservoir would be located in Antelope Valley, on the eastern edge of the North Coast Ranges and approximately 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell.

¹ https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/02-01.a-Authority-Board_Value-Planning.pdf



The Sites Reservoir Project is proposed to provide storage and operational benefits including water supply resiliency, water dedicated to environmental uses, and other programs throughout California.

Two alternatives (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2) are currently under consideration. The primary differences in the alternatives is that Alternative 1 will impound up to 1.5 million acre feet of water and discharge water into the Colusa Drain, via the Tehama Colusa Canal, in the vicinity of Dunnigan, Yolo County. In contrast, Alternative 2 will hold up to 1.3 million acre feet of water and discharge water via the Tehama Colusa Canal into the Sacramento River; again, in the vicinity of Dunnigan. Alternative 1 also includes a bridge to extend the Sites Lodoga Road directly across the reservoir, while Alternative 2 re-routes the road around the south end of the reservoir and continues to Lodoga along the west side of the reservoir. Alternative 1 was designated by the Authority as the preferred project for the purposes of the CEQA analysis and permit development on September 17, 2020.

For more information regarding the proposed project alternatives, please see the attached Preliminary Project Description.

Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (b), please respond, in writing, within 30 days if you wish to request consultation. If you have any questions or wish to consult on this project, please contact the Authority's Lead Agency Point of Contact for AB 52 consultations:

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
Phone: (530) 632-4071
Email: kspesert@sitesproject.org

If consultation is requested, please provide the name and contact information of the designated lead contact person as part of your request. The Authority will contact the designated person to set a meeting date to begin consultation within 30 days of our receipt of your request.

Thank you for giving this matter your prompt attention.

Sincerely,



Fritz Durst
Sites Project Authority



Topic: **Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Committee Meeting Agenda Item 2.3** **2020 September 17**

Subject: **Preferred Project for the Purposes of the CEQA Analysis and Federal/State ESA Analysis**

Requested Action:

Designate Alternative 1, based on VP-7 of the Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report (Value Planning Report), as the Authority's preferred project for the purposes of the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analysis and for the purposes of the Biological Assessment and State Incidental Take Permit applications.

Detailed Description/Background:

In April 2020, the Authority accepted the Value Planning Report and its findings and directed staff to analyze the environmental effects of the new alternatives in the Value Planning Report, including VP7. The Authority also directed that a revised and recirculated Draft EIR be prepared for public review¹. Staff began development of the revised Draft EIR and is at the point where the Board needs to identify a preferred alternative based on a more complete project description (see attachment A).

During the Reservoir Committee and Board meetings in June, staff provided an overview of the alternatives under consideration as well as revised draft objectives for the project, requesting review and input in order to focus efforts in developing a more complete project description. At that time, staff presented Alternatives 1 and 2 which combined components of VP5, VP6, and VP7 from the Value Planning Report. Staff recommended these two alternatives as they define the reasonable range of alternatives given the previous analyses of the project and potential alternatives.

Staff is returning to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board with a Preliminary Project Description (Attachment A), and revised objectives (Attachment B). Changes have been made to both the alternatives and objectives in response to Reservoir Committee and Authority Board input and in further development of project details and information by the project team. The key changes to the alternatives are as follows:

- Transportation/circulation components have been clarified. Both alternatives provide access to residents at the south end of the reservoir via a realigned Huffmaster Road. To provide access to the west side of the reservoir, Alternative 1 crosses the reservoir with a bridge on Sites Lodoga

¹ Staff has worked cooperatively with the Bureau of Reclamation to identify the appropriate approach to proceed with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and a Supplemental EIS will be prepared as part of the joint California Environmental Quality Act/National Environmental Policy Act documentation.

Road. Alternative 2 includes a south road continuing from Huffmaster Road around the west side of the reservoir to Ladoga, with no bridge.

- The Dunnigan pipeline alignment and proposal to release into the Colusa Basin Drain has been further assessed and confirmed as the proposed component for conveyance release under Alternative 1.

Key changes to the objectives are as follows:

- All objectives have been revised to focus on the statewide benefits of the Project and the needs of all Participants.
- Objective 1 addresses the amount of water supply required to meet participants' water demands and the need for an affordable, cost-effective Project.
- Objective 2 addresses the Water Storage and Investment Program public benefits.
- Objective 3 addresses federal participation and clarifies the intent of the Project to provide operational flexibility to the Central Valley Project.
- Objective 4 addresses intended benefits to the Delta ecosystem beyond the requirements of the Water Storage and Investment Program public benefits.
- Minor changes have also been made to Objective 5 regarding roadway connectivity.

Due to the project schedule, staff is preparing the Revised EIR at the same time as the engineering team is conducting preliminary design activities. The following assumptions represent the variations being taken from the project described in VP7 of the Value Planning Report and have been incorporated in the development of Alternative 1 to allow the EIR/EIS and engineering activities to move forward simultaneously and achieve the project schedule:

- Bridge – The EIR/EIS will move forward with Bridge Option 1B, Shorter Bridge with Fill Prisms, including the Cast-in-Place Prestressed Concrete Box Girder bridge type. This option was identified as a lowest cost bridge alternative in the Value Planning Report while meeting the functional requirements for efficient traffic flow.
- Dam Fill materials – The EIR/EIS will move forward with Dam Fill Option 1A, Earth and Rockfill, which is anticipated to be preferred by California Division of Safety of Dams and will assist in meeting the schedule and affordability goals; it also provides maximum coverage for potential environmental effects as the rockfill involves blasting associated with rock quarrying.
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir – The EIR/EIS will continue to analyze the original proposed location for this reservoir and carries forward additional potential locations as more is learned in the coming months regarding soils conditions.

- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – The EIR/EIS will address the type and magnitude of improvements needed to convey Sites water through existing facilities, pending future agreements on any specific improvements that may be warranted by the Project.
- Emergency Releases – In the rare and unanticipated condition that the Sites Reservoir has to conduct emergency releases, these releases are currently planned to be made into Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dam 3, 5, and 8b. Emergency release locations and the extent of potential impacts will be evaluated in further detail as part of the on-going feasibility study.
- Dunnigan Release – Based on preliminary hydraulic study, the EIR/EIS will assume release to the Colusa Basin Drain under Alternative 1 and will carry forward an extension to the Sacramento River under Alternative 2.
- Hydropower Generation – Based on the current Project information, the EIR/EIS will address incidental in-line conduit hydropower generation at a level that is below the threshold for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – Based on the current Project information, the EIR/EIS will evaluate obtaining water temporarily for construction supply on site via existing groundwater or surface water facilities or existing or new groundwater wells, including any onsite treatment that may be warranted depending on water quality.

It is important to note that the engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for various facility components in order to optimize design and reduce costs, including potentially considering alternatives to account for reduced participation levels to maintain affordability. In the event that the final project facilities are different than the assumptions above, staff will consider appropriate modifications to the process and documents consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. The goal is to make any modifications on a timeline that does not impact the ability to deliver the EIR/EIS documents for public review any later than July 2021.

The California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project while avoiding or substantially lessening significant effects of the project. While an EIR must analyze reasonable alternatives, it also needs to identify a proposed project, which is also referred to as the preferred alternative. At this time, staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's proposed project based on its meeting the intent and the goals of the Value Planning effort, its close alignment with VP-7, and its ability to meet the project objectives. The EIR/EIS will also analyze Alternative 2 and the No Project/No Action Alternative.

If designated by the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board, Alternative 1 would also be used as the proposed project for the purposes of the Biological Assessment under the Federal Endangered Species Act and State Incidental Take Permit applications under the California Endangered Species Act.

Prior Action:

April 22, 2020: The Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze the environmental effects of the options identified in the Final Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report dated April 2020, including VP7.

April 22, 2020: The Authority accepted: the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, dated April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within, and; a recommendation to the Sites Project Authority to approve the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within.

February 26, 2020: The Authority approved a recommendation to re-start efforts on the EIR for the Sites Reservoir Project and assess the most appropriate approach for completing the EIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

July 20, 2017: The Reservoir Committee approved a recommendation to forward the Draft EIR/EIS to the Authority Board for its consideration to formally receive and adopt the document for inclusion in the Authority's Water Storage Investment Project application.

July 31, 2017: The Authority approved the release of the Draft EIR for public and agency review, in connection with the Authority's application to the California Water Commission by August 14, 2017. The document was published as joint Draft EIR/EIS by the Authority under the California Environmental Quality Act and Reclamation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

December 19, 2016: The Authority approved release of a Supplemental Notice of Preparation (released February 2, 2017) to transfer the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency status from the Department of Water Resources to the Sites Project Authority. Public scoping meetings were conducted on February 14 and 15, 2017.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

Actual costs to prepare the project description and the supporting evaluations were within the amounts budgeted in the Phase 1B Work Plan which was approved by the Sites Project Authority at its January 22, 2020 Board meeting.

Sufficient funds to complete the recirculated Draft EIR/EIS and begin preparation of the Final EIR/EIS are included in the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget), which was approved by the Authority at its August 26, 2020 Board meeting.

Costs to complete and circulate the Final EIR/EIS will be considered in a future Work Plan.

Staff Contact:

Ali Forsythe

Attachments:

Attachment A – Sites Reservoir Project, Preliminary Project Description –
September 8, 2020.

Attachment B – Revised Recommended EIR Objectives.

Sites Reservoir Project Preliminary Project Description September 2020

On April 22, 2020, the Sites Project Authority (Authority) directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the environmental effects of the facility options identified in the Sites Project Value Planning Report (Value Planning Report), dated April 2020. Since that time, Authority staff and environmental, engineering and modeling consultants have been developing and refining alternatives. In June, staff recommended that the Draft Revised EIR¹/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)² (Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS) evaluate two action alternatives, Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, and provided an initial overview of the two alternatives.

This preliminary project description summarizes the alternatives presented in the preliminary Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS Chapter 2, Alternatives Description, which was completed on August 31, 2020. That preliminary draft Chapter 2 reflects preliminary design efforts, including the preparation of technical memos and preliminary drawings, and coordination between the service providers and staff. Modeling and engineering efforts are ongoing, and additional information related to operations and construction means and methods will likely supplement the preliminary Draft Chapter 2 in the coming weeks.

1.0 Overview of Alternatives

The following table compares facilities and operational considerations under Alternatives 1 and 2. This table is an updated version of a table provided at the June 24 Authority Board meeting (Agenda Item 3.3 Attachment B) and identifies existing as well as new facilities that will be constructed to implement each alternative.

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Diversion/Reservoir Infrastructure Details		
Reservoir Size	1.5 million acre feet (MAF)	1.3 MAF
Dams [Scaled to the size of the reservoir]	2 main dams, Golden Gate Dam and Sites Dam 7 saddle dams 2 saddle dikes	2 main dams, Golden Gate and Sites Dam 6 saddle dams 2 saddle dikes
Spillway	One spillway on Saddle Dam 8b	Similar to Alternative 1
Funks Reservoir and Funks Pumping Generating Plant	Funks Reservoir excavated to original capacity; same footprint as existing Funks Reservoir. New Funks Pump Generating Plant (PGP). New Funks pipeline alignment with 2 pipelines.	Similar to Alternative 1

¹ The Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will also address the No Project/No Action Alternative.

² A Supplemental EIS will be prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR); TRR Pumping Generating Plant; TRR Pipeline	New TRR facilities (TRR and TRR PGP) adjacent to the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Main Canal. New TRR pipeline alignment with 2 pipelines.	Same as Alternative 1
Hydropower	Power generation incidental upon release.	Same as Alternative 1
Diversion(s)	Diversion from Sacramento River into existing Tehama-Colusa Canal at Red Bluff and the existing GCID Main Canal at Hamilton City. Adding 2 pumps in existing bays at the plant at the Red Bluff Pumping Plant.	Same as Alternative 1
Emergency Release Flow	Releases into Funks Creek via Inlet/Outlet Works. Releases into Stone Corral Creek via Site Dam permanent discharge outlet. Emergency outflow pipeline and structures in Saddle Dam 3 and 5 to release north to Hunters Creek Watershed. Release from spillway on Saddle Dam 8b.	Similar to Alternative 1
Flood Control	Flood damage reduction benefit for local watersheds from reservoir storage.	Same as Alternative 1
Reservoir Management	Reservoir Management Plan and Reservoir Operations Plan.	Same as Alternative 1
Electrical Facilities	Transmission Lines, substations, switchyards; interconnection with Western Area Power Administration or Pacific Gas and Electric.	Same as Alternative 1
Recreation		
Multiple Facilities Consistent with WSIP Application	Two primary areas with infrastructure (with phased construction): 1. Peninsula Hills Area 2. Stone Corral Creek One day-use boat ramp w/parking located on the west side of the reservoir and south of the bridge.	Same as Alternative 1
Transportation/Circulation		
Provide Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge crossing the reservoir as a result of the relocation of existing Sites Lodoga Road. Relocation of Huffmaster Road with gravel road to residents at the south end of the reservoir terminating at the south end of the reservoir.	No bridge. Relocation of Sites Lodoga Road to residents at south end of the reservoir continues to Lodoga. Huffmaster Road is integrated into Sites Lodoga Road and is paved the entire way.
Multiple Maintenance and Local Access Roads	Approximately 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads would provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as provide public access to the proposed recreation areas.	Similar to Alternative 1

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
	Approximate number of roads related to the reservoir: 5 local/construction roads 2 construction/maintenance roads 7 local roads 4 maintenance roads Approximate number of access roads related to conveyance facilities: 1 to the TRR 1 to Funks complex Multiple within pipeline easements	
Operations		
Operational Criteria	Option based on Value Planning Report, Table 3.1 Scenario B, anticipated to be modified by future modeling efforts.	Same as Alternative 1
Reclamation Involvement	Two Options: 1. Funding Partner 2. Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Same as Alternative 1
State Water Project (SWP) Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta.	Same as Alternative 1
Bypass Releases into Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek	Develop specific bypass criteria to protect downstream water right holders and ecological function.	Same as Alternative 1
Conveyance Dunnigan Release	Release 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain to meet member participant demands and Proposition 1 needs.	Release into new pipeline to Sacramento River to meet member participant demands. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain to fulfill the Proposition 1 needs.

2.0 Facilities

The project will utilize both existing and proposed new facilities, all of which will be located within northern California in Glenn, Colusa, Tehama and Yolo Counties (see Figures 1 and 2 at the end of this document). As summarized in the Table 1 above, most facilities are the same or similar under Alternatives 1 and 2 although features may differ in scale or location due to the size of the reservoir. Facilities that have substantial differences between alternatives, such as the proposed dams, Dunnigan Pipeline and the Sites Lodoga Road realignment/relocation, are described in more detail below.

2.1 Existing Facilities

The project will utilize certain existing water supply infrastructure, including:

- Existing Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure operated by the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA):
 - Red Bluff Pumping Plant
 - Tehama-Colusa Canal

- Funks Reservoir located approximately 65 miles south of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant
- Existing GCID Hamilton City Diversion and the GCID Main Canal
- Colusa Basin Drain (CBD)

Both action alternatives would require pumping capacity that exceeds the existing total installed capacity of 2,000 cfs of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant to convey flow to Funks Reservoir and ultimately Sites Reservoir. Both action alternatives would require installation of two additional 250-cfs vertical axial-flow pumps into existing concrete pump bays at the pumping plant.

Both action alternatives would also require a new 3,000-cfs GCID Main Canal headgate structure about 0.25 mile downstream of Hamilton City Pump Station. The existing headgate structure would be inadequate for proposed winter operation during high river flows. To streamline maintenance during the winter shutdown period (i.e., reduce it from the current shutdown window of 6 weeks to 2 weeks), smaller improvements would be required to integrate Sites Reservoir into the GCID system.

Use of the existing Funks Reservoir would require excavation of sediment to return it to its original capacity. The bottom of Funks Reservoir would be reshaped to allow large, unimpeded flows to and from the new Funks PGP.

Proposed access during construction will avoid the town of Maxwell, utilizing County Roads 68 and 69, McDermott Road, Maxwell Sites Road and Sites Lodoga Road. Several of these existing roads would require improvement to support construction activities. Other local roads would need to be relocated or developed to accommodate access due to the construction of reservoir facilities. These include portions of Sites Lodoga Road, Huffmaster Road, and Communication Road.

2.2 Proposed Conveyance Facilities

Implementation of either Alternative 1 or 2 would require various facilities to control the conveyance of water between Sites Reservoir and the Tehama-Colusa Canal and GCID Main Canal. These facilities would include regulating reservoirs, pipelines, PGPs, electrical substations, and administration and maintenance buildings.

The two regulating reservoirs would be the existing Funks Reservoir and the new Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR). Both regulating reservoirs would have two 12-foot-diameter pipelines extending to and from Sites Reservoir just below Golden Gate Dam. At each regulating reservoir, the pipelines would be connected to a pumping generating plant that pumps water from the regulating reservoir to Sites Reservoir, as well as turbines that would generate power when flows were released from Sites Reservoir. There would also be energy dissipation equipment adjacent to each PGP (e.g., fixed cone valve[s]) to throttle the flow of water into each regulating reservoir when the turbines are not being used.

A transition manifold would be constructed at the base of Golden Gate Dam to connect pipelines from Sites Reservoir to Funks Reservoir and the TRR pipelines. In

addition, a point of interconnection to a high-voltage electric transmission line would be required to power the facilities at the proposed TRR and Funks electrical substations.

Water released from Sites Reservoir would be conveyed south of Sites Reservoir using the existing Tehama-Colusa Canal and a new Dunnigan pipeline. The water would flow south about 40 miles to the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal, where it would be diverted into the proposed Dunnigan Pipeline. Under Alternative 1, the flows would subsequently be conveyed to the CBD and released through the proposed CBD Outlet Structure, eventually reaching the Sacramento River at Knights Landing or to the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough complex through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut. Under Alternative 2 water would flow south to the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal but would be diverted into an extended Dunnigan Pipeline, with release directly to the Sacramento River with some flows released to the CBD to flow into the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough complex through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut for environmental benefits under Proposition 1.

2.3 Proposed Reservoir Facilities

Under either alternative, water would be impounded by the Golden Gate Dam on Funks Creek and the Sites Dam on Stone Corral Creek; a series of saddle dams along the eastern and northern rims of reservoir would close off topographic saddles in the surrounding ridges to form Sites Reservoir. Two saddle dikes are also needed at topographic saddle low points along the northern end of the reservoir. These components of the reservoir would be scaled according to the alternative.

Under Alternative 1, the proposed 1.5-MAF reservoir would have a Normal Maximum Water Surface (NMWS) elevation of 498 feet. Under Alternative 2, the proposed 1.3-MAF reservoir would have an NMWS elevation of 482 feet. Nominal crest would be at elevation 517 feet for all dams for 1.5-MAF capacity, and at elevation 500 feet for 1.3-MAF capacity. Table 2 presents a summary of dam heights required to impound Sites Reservoir for the 1.5-MAF capacity and 1.3-MAF capacity.

Table 2. Dam Heights for 1.5-MAF and 1.3-MAF Sites Reservoir Alternatives

Dam/Dike	1.5-MAF Reservoir Maximum Height Above Streambed (feet)	1.3-MAF Reservoir Maximum Height Above Streambed (feet)
Golden Gate Dam	287	270
Sites Dam	267	250
Saddle Dam 1	27	None
Saddle Dam 2	57	40
Saddle Dam 3	107	90
Saddle Dam 5	77	60
Saddle Dam 6	47	None
Saddle Dam 8A	82	65
Saddle Dam 8B	37	5
Saddle Dike 1	12	10 (near Saddle Dam 1)
Saddle Dike 2	12	10 (near Saddle Dam 6)
Saddle Dam 10 ^a	Not required for 1.5-MAF Reservoir	30

^a For the 1.3-MAF Reservoir, Golden Gate Dam would be reconfigured and Saddle Dam 10 added to close off a topographic saddle in the ridge that is closed in the 1.5-MAF Golden Gate Dam configuration.

The engineering team is continuing to evaluate different options for dam fill that would be utilized under either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. One option is an earth- and rockfill dam and another option is an earthfill dam. The proposed inlet/outlet works for an earthfill dam would be located to the south of Golden Gate Dam and would be used both to fill the reservoir through conveyance facilities located to the East and to make releases from Sites Reservoir. The inlet/outlet works include:

1. A multi-level intake tower including a low-level intake.
2. Two 23 foot inside diameter inlet/outlet tunnels through the ridge on the right abutment of Golden Gate Dam.

2.4 Proposed Recreational Facilities

As specified in the Sites Water Storage Investment Program application, either alternative would include two primary recreation areas and a day-use boat ramp which are to be phased in over a period of time. Located on the northwest shore of the proposed Sites Reservoir, to the north of the existing Sites Lodoga Road, the Peninsula Hills Recreation Area would include approximately:

- 200 campsites (car and recreational vehicle)
- one group camp area
- 10 picnic sites (with parking at each site)
- hiking trails
- electricity
- potable water
- one kiosk
- 19 vault toilets

Located on the eastern shore of the Sites Reservoir, north of the existing Maxwell Sites Road and proposed Sites Dam, the Stone Corral Creek Recreational Area would include:

- 50 campsites (car and recreational vehicle)
- electricity

- 10 picnic sites (with parking at each site)
- six-lane boat launch site
- hiking trails
- potable water
- one kiosk
- 10 vault toilets

Each alternative would also include a Day-Use Boat Ramp/Parking Recreation Area, located on the western side of the reservoir where the existing Sites Lodoga Road intersects with the proposed inundation area for the reservoir. Facilities would include:

- one kiosk
- one vault toilet
- potable water
- parking area

2.5 Proposed Roads and South Bridge

In addition to modifying existing roads for construction access, the project will require up to 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads to provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as public access to the proposed recreation areas. Sites Lodoga Road provides access to and from the town of Maxwell, which is adjacent to Interstate 5. Sites Lodoga Road becomes Maxwell Sites Road east of the rural community of Sites that is within the inundation area. The reservoir would eliminate east-west access to Interstate 5 (east of the reservoir) from the rural communities of Stonyford and Lodoga (west of the reservoir) because it would inundate the current route of Sites Lodoga Road. The current Sites Lodoga Road is an east-west, two-lane rural collector road and provides an emergency and evacuation route to and from these rural communities. Because construction of the Sites Dam would eliminate access on the Sites Lodoga Road, this collector road would need to be relocated/realigned prior to project construction.

Under Alternative 1, the realigned Sites Lodoga Road would include the construction of a bridge across the reservoir. Various bridge types and options have been evaluated. One option for a bridge is a full-length bridge that would offer navigational passage along the entire width of the reservoir. Another option for a bridge is a causeway with partial fill, which would limit the navigational passage within the reaches of the shorter bridges; however, the approach to implementing fill prism in the reservoir would significantly reduce construction cost. Alternative 1 would also include the realignment of the existing Huffmaster Road to provide access to properties otherwise inaccessible due to reservoir construction.

Under Alternative 2, the realignment of Sites Lodoga Road would result in a road that ultimately extends from Maxwell to the community of Lodoga around the southern end and western side of the proposed Sites Reservoir. This road, referred to as the Maxwell Lodoga Road, would include the realignment and repavement of the existing Huffmaster Road.

2.6 Project Buffer

The proposed project buffer would consist of the total amount of land that would be acquired beyond the facility footprints for each alternative. The preliminary approach to the buffer is outlined below.

- The buffer would include 100 feet around all buildings and most ground facilities (e.g., substations, any aboveground pipelines) along with 100 feet around the Sites Reservoir Complex and recreation areas.
- The buffer may be less than 100 feet if the facility is near a property boundary and the proposed uses do not conflict with the adjacent land uses.
- No project buffers are anticipated for underground or buried facilities (i.e., Dunnigan Pipeline), overhead power lines, or roads (both public and project maintenance access roads).
- The Authority would evaluate the need for the buffer (and if implemented, an appropriate width) on a case-by-case basis in coordination with adjacent landowners. The buffer would likely be acquired in fee title by the Authority; however, acquisition of buffer areas in an easement may be feasible under certain circumstances.
- The lands within the buffer would generally remain undeveloped. Limited features may be installed to reduce future maintenance activities and fire hazards. These features may include limited fencing, regrading to construct fire breaks or fire trails, or similar actions.
- The lands within the buffer would be maintained by the Authority. Maintenance activities that are proposed to be undertaken within the project buffer include vegetation maintenance and periodic fire break maintenance. Such activities may include grazing, periodic tilling or disking, and performing limited controlled/prescribed burns. Where appropriate, the buffer may be managed as wildlife habitat. Fence maintenance would occur within the buffer.

3.0 Operations

The operation of the project under each alternative will be defined in upcoming months as the modeling and development of diversion criteria are further advanced. The member participants of the Authority have a collective demand of approximately 240,000 acre-feet, of which 192,892 acre-feet is needed by participating public water agencies³. Reclamation is also a participant through funding and/or operational exchanges with Shasta Lake. The State would also be involved through operational exchanges with Oroville Reservoir and storage in State Water Project facilities south-of-Delta.

Sites Reservoir would be filled by diverting unregulated/unappropriated flow in the Sacramento River. This water originates during winter storm events, which increase flows in the tributaries to the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam and avoiding any effects on the Trinity River. Water would be available for diversion after senior water rights are met, in-river aquatic species protection requirements are met, and delta water quality requirements have been met. Diversions would occur at the fish screened Red Bluff Pumping Plant and the GCID Hamilton City location when applicable regulatory requirements are met and existing pumping and conveyance capacity is available to convey water through the canals to the reservoir. TRR and Funks Reservoir, PGPs, and pipelines connect directly to the inlet/outlet works and would be operated in parallel to

³ April 2020 Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report.

pump water into and out of Sites Reservoir. Water would enter (and be released from) the reservoir through the inlet/outlet works.

Reservoir releases include releases to meet participant demands and to deliver water for a range of environmental benefits that will be finalized during project development and permitting.

- Sites Reservoir would be operated in cooperation with Central Valley Project (CVP) and SWP operations to coordinate with releases made with the CVP and SWP from Shasta Lake, Lake Oroville, and Folsom Lake. Sites Reservoir releases could supplement and/or allow reduced releases from other reservoirs while maintaining minimum instream flow objectives, Sacramento River temperature requirements, and Delta salinity control requirements assigned to CVP and SWP.
- Releases would be made mostly in dry and critical water years. Water users north of the Delta would mostly receive deliveries from the TCCA canal and GCID canal. Water users south of the Delta would receive water primarily via SWP pumping facilities.
- Using the CBD for conveyance of Sites Reservoir water would include coordination with the local landowners regarding the project operation and timing of the additional flows.

Releases would also be made to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks for downstream water right holders and to maintain ecological function in the sections of these creeks affected by the project. A proposed Reservoir Operations Plan would describe the management of water operations, including releases to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks.

Operation of either alternative would require power to run facilities and pump water. The identification of a power source and the location of transmission facilities is pending coordination with Western Area Power Administration and/or Pacific Gas and Electric. Each of the alternatives would also generate incidental power when water is released from Sites Reservoir at the Funks PGP and TRR PGP. The capacity of the project power generation facilities is anticipated to be below the threshold such that no license would be required from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the facilities would satisfy the criteria for a "Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility" under the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013, as amended by America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

4.0 Maintenance and Management

Under either alternative, maintenance activities for the project facilities would include debris removal, dredging, vegetation control, rodent control, erosion control and protection, routine inspections (dams, tunnels, pipelines, PGPs, inlet/outlet works, fencing, signs, and gates), painting, cleaning, repairs, and other routine tasks to maintain facilities in accordance with design standards after construction and commissioning. Routine visual inspection of the facilities would be conducted to monitor performance and prevent mechanical and structural failures of project elements. Maintenance activities associated with proposed river intakes could include

cleaning, removal of sediment, debris, and biofouling materials. These maintenance actions could require dewatering; suction dredging or mechanical excavation around intake structures; or the use of underwater diving crews, boom trucks, rubber-wheel cranes, and raft- or barge-mounted equipment. Proposed maintenance activities could occur on a daily, annually, periodically (as needed), and long-term basis.

The Authority would also develop and implement a Reservoir Management Plan to define the land uses of project lands controlled by the Authority, fish stocking and vector control practices, and the resources associated with project lands. The Reservoir Management Plan would include the following types of information:

- **Fisheries Management.** This would target species composition for Sites Reservoir, including stocking strategies, habitat enhancement measures, and monitoring efforts.
- **Land Use Management and Recreation.** This would outline how decisions regarding future amenities would be made and what land use considerations would be factored into Authority operations and activities.
- **Easement Management:** Right-of-ways and/or permanent easements would be required for long-term operation and maintenance of all the large-diameter pipelines. This would outline management and maintenance activities for easement areas.
- **Emergency Management.** This would establish protocol on how the Authority would be involved in controlling and resolving emergency situations, including those arising as a result of recreationists.
- **Vector Management.** This would establish protocols and practices for communicating and coordinating with vector control authorities in determining how vector control would be managed at the project facilities.
- **Sediment Management and Removal.** This would consolidate information on the frequency and locations of dredging, testing of sediment before disposal, disposal locations, and procedures to follow if sediment contaminant levels exceed regulatory standards for constituents of concern (e.g., pesticides).

5.0 Best Management Practices

A number of Best Management Practices and environmental commitments are proposed to be included in Project design, construction and operation/maintenance. The following proposed list of Best Management Practices and environmental commitments would be considered part of the Project.

- Conform with Applicable Design Standards and Building Codes
- Perform Geotechnical Evaluations and Prepare Geotechnical Data Reports
- Utility and Infrastructure Verification and/or Relocation
- Natural Gas Well Decommissioning
- Water Wells Decommissioning
- Road Abandonment
- Environmental Site Assessment(s)

- Salvage, Stockpile, and Replace Topsoil and Prepare a Topsoil Storage and Handling Plan
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan(s) and Best Management Practices (storm water and non-storm water)
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for Operation and Maintenance
- Spill Prevention and Hazardous Materials Management / Accidental Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasure Plans and Response Measures
- Minimize Soil Disturbance
- Comply with Requirements of RWQCB Order 5-00-175
- Groundwater/ Dewatering Water Supply
- Construction Equipment, Truck, and Traffic Management Plan
- Visual/Aesthetic Design, Construction, and Operation Practices
- Fire Safety and Suppression / Fire Prevention and Control Plan
- Worker Health and Safety Plan
- Blasting Standard Requirements
- Mosquito and Vector Control During Construction
- Construction Noise Management
- Operation and Maintenance Noise Management
- Construction Emergency Action Plan
- Emergency Action Plan for Reservoir Operations
- Electrical Power Guidelines and EMF Field Management Plan
- Construction Equipment Exhaust Reduction Plan
- Fugitive Dust Control Plans
- Construction Best Management Practices to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazardous Materials Management Plans
- Construction Site Security
- Notification of Maintenance Activities in Waterways
- Worker Environmental Awareness Program
- Fish Rescue and Salvage Plans for Funks Reservoir, Stone Corral Creek, and Funks Creek for Alternative 1; for Sacramento River for Alternative 2
- Construction Best Management Practices and Monitoring for Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species Habitats, and Natural Communities
- Control of Invasive Plant Species during Construction and Operation

6.0 Pre-Construction Activities

In addition to items/activities addressed in the above list of proposed BMPs and ECs, there are other activities that would be required prior to the initiation of construction of the different physical components of either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. These activities include: finalizing criteria and standards used for final design, including emergency management/release requirements; preparing a Dam Monitoring Program; conducting additional geotechnical and related field investigations to support design; relocation of two private cemeteries (Sites Cemetery and a Rancheria Cemetery); and the development and implementation of a Resident Relocation Program.

7.0 Timing of Environmental Review and Feasibility Report

The current schedule contemplates release of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS in July 2021. This is roughly the same timing for the engineering team's finalization of the Feasibility Report for the California Water Commission. As such, preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS and Feasibility Report are proceeding simultaneously. To accommodate the project schedule and the simultaneous preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS and Feasibility Report, the following project components will be utilized for the analysis:

- Sites Lodoga Road and Bridge – Under Alternative 1, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the option of the shorter bridge with fill prisms, including the cast-in-place prestressed concrete box girder bridge type. This option was identified as a lowest cost bridge alternative in the Value Planning Report while meeting the functional requirements for efficient traffic flow.
- Dam Fill Materials – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the option of using earth and rockfill. This option is anticipated to be preferred by the Division of Safety of Dams and will assist in meeting the schedule and affordability goals; it also provides maximum coverage for potential environmental effects as the rockfill involves blasting associated with rock quarrying.
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR) – Under Alternative 1 and 2, it is anticipated that the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the current TRR location. Other locations currently are under review due to the extent and costs associated with ground preparation needed for construction at the current site.
- GCID and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will describe the types of improvements needed to convey water through existing facilities and reduce GCID's current maintenance winter shutdown period from 6 weeks to 2 weeks, pending agreement between GCID and the Authority on any specific improvements that may be warranted due to implementation of the project. Improvements may also be needed to the Colusa Basin Drain to convey Sites water.
- Emergency Releases – In the rare and unanticipated condition that the Sites Reservoir has to conduct emergency releases, these releases are currently planned to be made into Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dam 3, 5, and 8b. Emergency release locations and the extent of potential impacts will be evaluated in further detail as part of the on-going feasibility study.
- Dunnigan Release – Under Alternative 1, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate a release to the CBD based on a preliminary hydraulic analysis. Alternatives 2 will carry forward an extension of the Dunnigan pipeline to the Sacramento River.
- Hydropower Generation – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate incidental in-line conduit hydropower generation below the threshold for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate options for obtaining temporary water supply for construction, such as obtaining water on site via existing groundwater

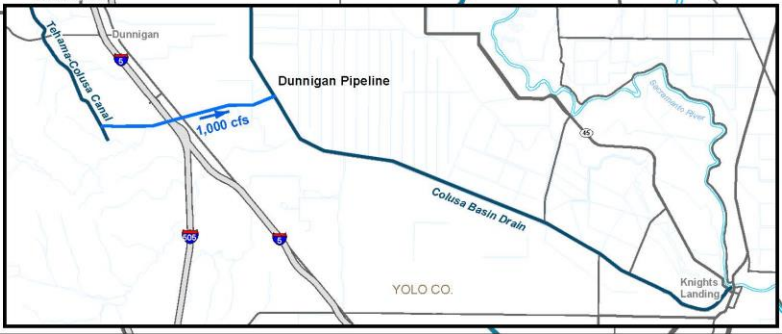
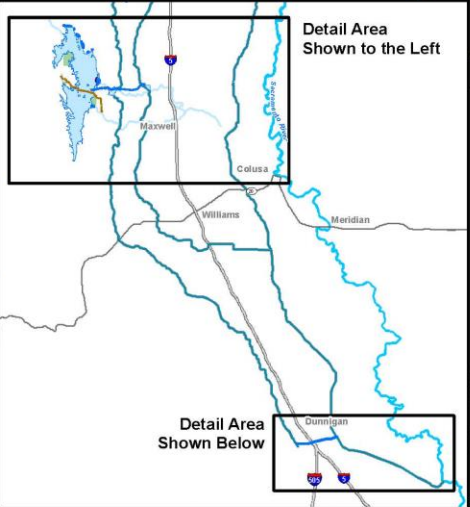
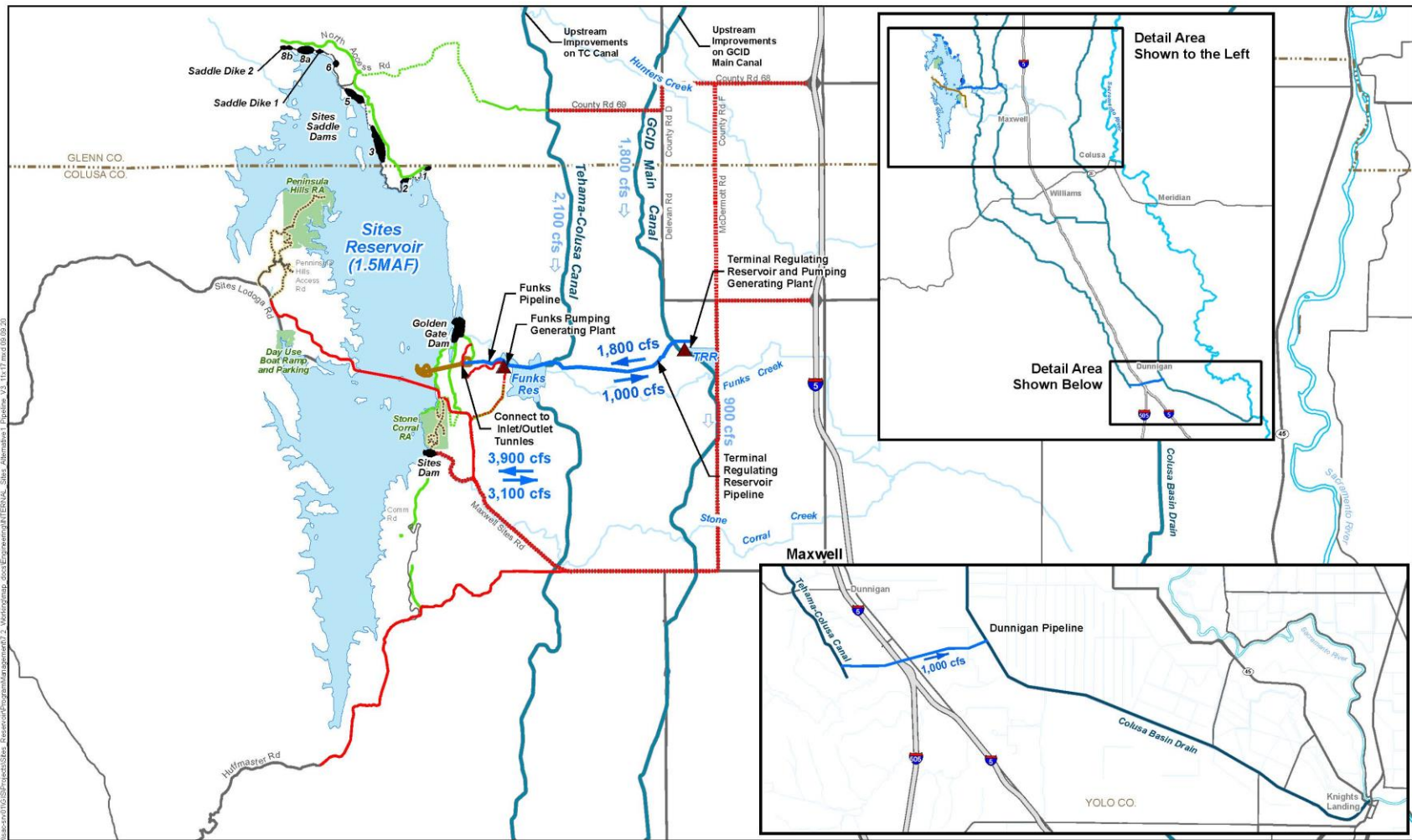
or surface water facilities and/or utilizing existing or drilling new wells, including any necessary treatment depending on the water quality.

The engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for various facility components, consistent with CEQA and NEPA requirements, in order to optimize design considerations and reduce costs.

It should also be noted that in the upcoming weeks, there will be further definition of project operations through modeling, clarification of water rights, and consultation with resource agencies. This information and any resulting changes to the alternatives described in the preliminary draft will be incorporated into the complete Chapter 2, Alternatives Description, to be completed by December 2020.

8.0 Identification of the Preferred Alternative for the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS Analysis

The CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project and avoid or substantially lessen the significant effects of the project. An EIR also needs to identify a proposed project, i.e., a preferred alternative. At this time, Authority staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's proposed project based on it meeting the objectives identified in the Value Planning Report and being most closely aligned with Alternative VP-7, and its ability to meet the revised draft CEQA project objectives. The Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will also evaluate Alternative 2 and the No Project/No Action Alternative.

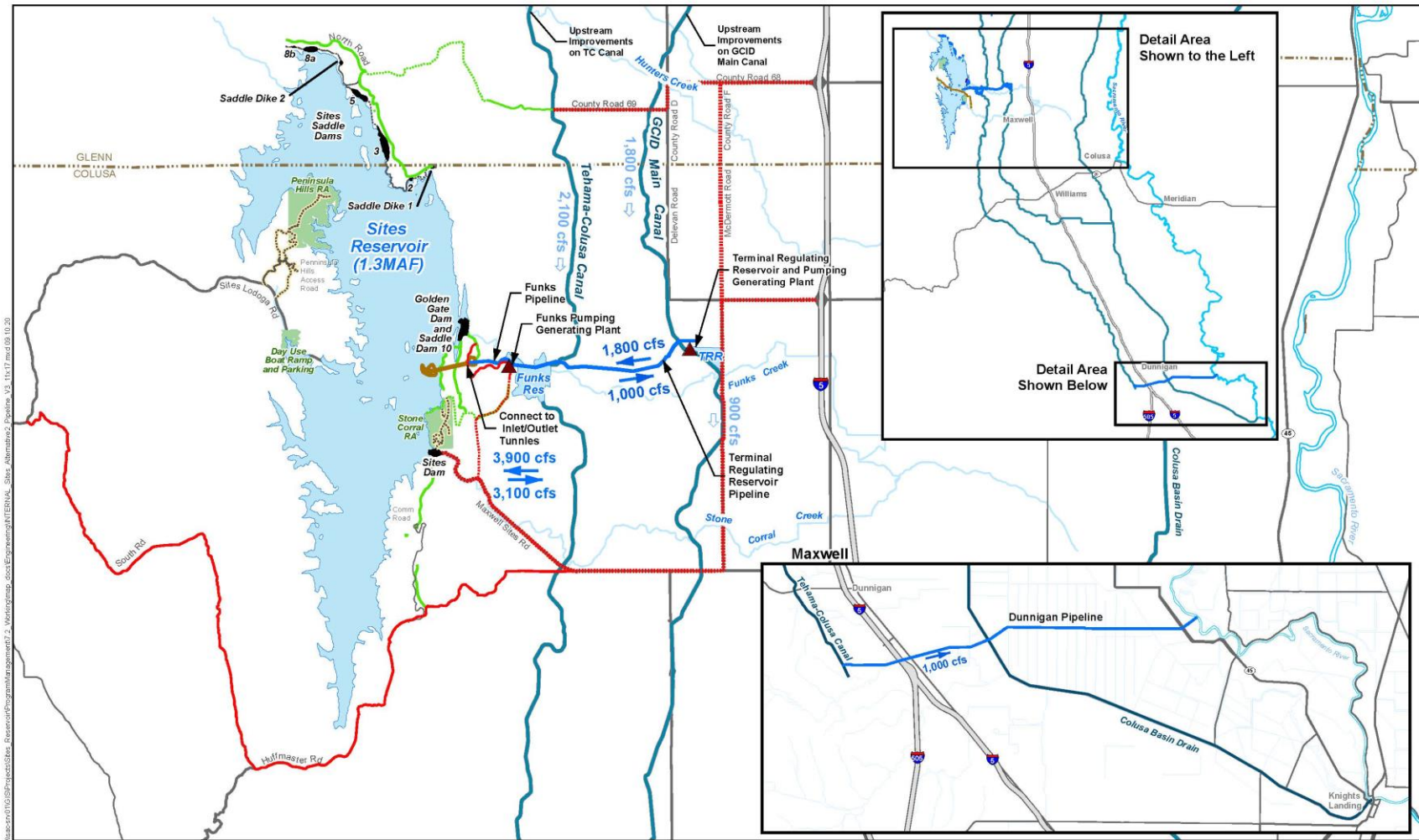


Legend

- Canal
- Pipeline
- Maintenance Access Road
- - - Construction/Maintenance Route
- New/Realigned Permanent Road
- - - Construction Route (Existing Road)
- Existing Roads
- Waterways

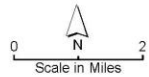


ALTERNATIVE 1



Legend

- Canal
- Maintenance Access Road
- New/Realigned Permanent Road
- Existing Roads
- Pipeline
- - - Construction/Maintenance Route
- - - Construction Route (Existing Road)
- Waterways



ALTERNATIVE 2

Sites Reservoir Project
Revised Recommended EIR Objectives
September 8, 2020

- OBJ-1: Improve water supply reliability and resiliency to meet member participants' agricultural and municipal long-term average annual water demand in a cost-effective manner for all member participants', including those that are the most cost-sensitive.
- OBJ-2: Provide public benefits consistent with Proposition 1 of 2014 and use Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) funds to improve statewide surface water supply reliability and flexibility to enhance opportunities for fisheries and habitat management for the public benefit through a designated long-term average annual water supply.
- OBJ-3: Provide public benefits consistent with the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) of 2016 by using federal funds, if available, provided by Reclamation to improve Central Valley Project (CVP) operational flexibility in meeting CVP environmental and contractual water supply needs and improving cold pool management in Shasta Reservoir to benefit anadromous fish
- OBJ-4: Provide surface water to convey biomass from the floodplain to the Delta to enhance the Delta ecosystem for the benefit of pelagic fishes¹ in the north Delta (e.g., Cache Slough).
- OBJ-5: Provide local and regional amenities, such as developing recreational facilities, reducing local flood damage, and maintaining roadway connectivity through modifications.

¹ Pelagic fish are species that spend most of their life swimming in the water column, having little contact or dependency with the bottom.



November 13, 2020

Mr. Ronald Kirk, Chairperson
Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki
P.O. Box 63
Elk Creek, CA 95939

From: Fritz Durst/ Sites Project Authority Board Chair

Subject: Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, Assembly Bill (AB) 52. Formal Notification of the Preferred Project for the Purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Analysis and Notification of Consultation Opportunity for the Sites Reservoir Project, Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Yolo Counties, California, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1

Dear Honorable Chairperson Kirk,

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) initially contacted you in February 2017 in compliance with the project notification requirements pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d) for the Sites Reservoir Project. A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was published for public review in August 2017. After receipt of public comments on the Draft EIR, the Authority reconsidered elements of the project. In October 2019, representatives from both the Authority Board and Reservoir Committee began undertaking a “value planning” process, an effort to identify and evaluate additional alternatives. As a result of the the “value planning process,” the Authority identified a project that reduced the size of the proposed Sites Reservoir from 1.8 million acre feet to 1.5 million acre feet, removed the Delevan Pipeline and associated facilities, and made minor adjustments to other project features.

On April 22, 2020, the Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft EIR consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the environmental effects of the facility options identified in the Sites Project Value Planning Report.¹ The Revised Draft EIR is anticipated to be released for public review in the summer of 2021. In response to preparing the Revised Draft EIR, the Authority is providing you with a description of the revised project for your consideration pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d).

Description of the Proposed Project

The Authority proposes to construct the revised Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir and associated water conveyance facilities located in Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Yolo counties, California. The new reservoir would be located in Antelope Valley, on the eastern edge of the North Coast Ranges and approximately 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell.

¹ https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/02-01.a-Authority-Board_Value-Planning.pdf



The Sites Reservoir Project is proposed to provide storage and operational benefits including water supply resiliency, water dedicated to environmental uses, and other programs throughout California.

Two alternatives (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2) are currently under consideration. The primary differences in the alternatives is that Alternative 1 will impound up to 1.5 million acre feet of water and discharge water into the Colusa Drain, via the Tehama Colusa Canal, in the vicinity of Dunnigan, Yolo County. In contrast, Alternative 2 will hold up to 1.3 million acre feet of water and discharge water via the Tehama Colusa Canal into the Sacramento River; again, in the vicinity of Dunnigan. Alternative 1 also includes a bridge to extend the Sites Lodoga Road directly across the reservoir, while Alternative 2 re-routes the road around the south end of the reservoir and continues to Lodoga along the west side of the reservoir. Alternative 1 was designated by the Authority as the preferred project for the purposes of the CEQA analysis and permit development on September 17, 2020.

For more information regarding the proposed project alternatives, please see the attached Preliminary Project Description.

Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (b), please respond, in writing, within 30 days if you wish to request consultation. If you have any questions or wish to consult on this project, please contact the Authority's Lead Agency Point of Contact for AB 52 consultations:

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
Phone: (530) 632-4071
Email: kspesert@sitesproject.org

If consultation is requested, please provide the name and contact information of the designated lead contact person as part of your request. The Authority will contact the designated person to set a meeting date to begin consultation within 30 days of our receipt of your request.

Thank you for giving this matter your prompt attention.

Sincerely,



Fritz Durst
Sites Project Authority



Topic: **Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Committee Meeting Agenda Item 2.3** **2020 September 17**

Subject: **Preferred Project for the Purposes of the CEQA Analysis and Federal/State ESA Analysis**

Requested Action:

Designate Alternative 1, based on VP-7 of the Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report (Value Planning Report), as the Authority's preferred project for the purposes of the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analysis and for the purposes of the Biological Assessment and State Incidental Take Permit applications.

Detailed Description/Background:

In April 2020, the Authority accepted the Value Planning Report and its findings and directed staff to analyze the environmental effects of the new alternatives in the Value Planning Report, including VP7. The Authority also directed that a revised and recirculated Draft EIR be prepared for public review¹. Staff began development of the revised Draft EIR and is at the point where the Board needs to identify a preferred alternative based on a more complete project description (see attachment A).

During the Reservoir Committee and Board meetings in June, staff provided an overview of the alternatives under consideration as well as revised draft objectives for the project, requesting review and input in order to focus efforts in developing a more complete project description. At that time, staff presented Alternatives 1 and 2 which combined components of VP5, VP6, and VP7 from the Value Planning Report. Staff recommended these two alternatives as they define the reasonable range of alternatives given the previous analyses of the project and potential alternatives.

Staff is returning to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board with a Preliminary Project Description (Attachment A), and revised objectives (Attachment B). Changes have been made to both the alternatives and objectives in response to Reservoir Committee and Authority Board input and in further development of project details and information by the project team. The key changes to the alternatives are as follows:

- Transportation/circulation components have been clarified. Both alternatives provide access to residents at the south end of the reservoir via a realigned Huffmaster Road. To provide access to the west side of the reservoir, Alternative 1 crosses the reservoir with a bridge on Sites Lodoga

¹ Staff has worked cooperatively with the Bureau of Reclamation to identify the appropriate approach to proceed with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and a Supplemental EIS will be prepared as part of the joint California Environmental Quality Act/National Environmental Policy Act documentation.

Road. Alternative 2 includes a south road continuing from Huffmaster Road around the west side of the reservoir to Ladoga, with no bridge.

- The Dunnigan pipeline alignment and proposal to release into the Colusa Basin Drain has been further assessed and confirmed as the proposed component for conveyance release under Alternative 1.

Key changes to the objectives are as follows:

- All objectives have been revised to focus on the statewide benefits of the Project and the needs of all Participants.
- Objective 1 addresses the amount of water supply required to meet participants' water demands and the need for an affordable, cost-effective Project.
- Objective 2 addresses the Water Storage and Investment Program public benefits.
- Objective 3 addresses federal participation and clarifies the intent of the Project to provide operational flexibility to the Central Valley Project.
- Objective 4 addresses intended benefits to the Delta ecosystem beyond the requirements of the Water Storage and Investment Program public benefits.
- Minor changes have also been made to Objective 5 regarding roadway connectivity.

Due to the project schedule, staff is preparing the Revised EIR at the same time as the engineering team is conducting preliminary design activities. The following assumptions represent the variations being taken from the project described in VP7 of the Value Planning Report and have been incorporated in the development of Alternative 1 to allow the EIR/EIS and engineering activities to move forward simultaneously and achieve the project schedule:

- Bridge – The EIR/EIS will move forward with Bridge Option 1B, Shorter Bridge with Fill Prisms, including the Cast-in-Place Prestressed Concrete Box Girder bridge type. This option was identified as a lowest cost bridge alternative in the Value Planning Report while meeting the functional requirements for efficient traffic flow.
- Dam Fill materials – The EIR/EIS will move forward with Dam Fill Option 1A, Earth and Rockfill, which is anticipated to be preferred by California Division of Safety of Dams and will assist in meeting the schedule and affordability goals; it also provides maximum coverage for potential environmental effects as the rockfill involves blasting associated with rock quarrying.
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir – The EIR/EIS will continue to analyze the original proposed location for this reservoir and carries forward additional potential locations as more is learned in the coming months regarding soils conditions.

- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – The EIR/EIS will address the type and magnitude of improvements needed to convey Sites water through existing facilities, pending future agreements on any specific improvements that may be warranted by the Project.
- Emergency Releases – In the rare and unanticipated condition that the Sites Reservoir has to conduct emergency releases, these releases are currently planned to be made into Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dam 3, 5, and 8b. Emergency release locations and the extent of potential impacts will be evaluated in further detail as part of the on-going feasibility study.
- Dunnigan Release – Based on preliminary hydraulic study, the EIR/EIS will assume release to the Colusa Basin Drain under Alternative 1 and will carry forward an extension to the Sacramento River under Alternative 2.
- Hydropower Generation – Based on the current Project information, the EIR/EIS will address incidental in-line conduit hydropower generation at a level that is below the threshold for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – Based on the current Project information, the EIR/EIS will evaluate obtaining water temporarily for construction supply on site via existing groundwater or surface water facilities or existing or new groundwater wells, including any onsite treatment that may be warranted depending on water quality.

It is important to note that the engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for various facility components in order to optimize design and reduce costs, including potentially considering alternatives to account for reduced participation levels to maintain affordability. In the event that the final project facilities are different than the assumptions above, staff will consider appropriate modifications to the process and documents consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. The goal is to make any modifications on a timeline that does not impact the ability to deliver the EIR/EIS documents for public review any later than July 2021.

The California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project while avoiding or substantially lessening significant effects of the project. While an EIR must analyze reasonable alternatives, it also needs to identify a proposed project, which is also referred to as the preferred alternative. At this time, staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's proposed project based on its meeting the intent and the goals of the Value Planning effort, its close alignment with VP-7, and its ability to meet the project objectives. The EIR/EIS will also analyze Alternative 2 and the No Project/No Action Alternative.

If designated by the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board, Alternative 1 would also be used as the proposed project for the purposes of the Biological Assessment under the Federal Endangered Species Act and State Incidental Take Permit applications under the California Endangered Species Act.

Prior Action:

April 22, 2020: The Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze the environmental effects of the options identified in the Final Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report dated April 2020, including VP7.

April 22, 2020: The Authority accepted: the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, dated April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within, and; a recommendation to the Sites Project Authority to approve the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within.

February 26, 2020: The Authority approved a recommendation to re-start efforts on the EIR for the Sites Reservoir Project and assess the most appropriate approach for completing the EIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

July 20, 2017: The Reservoir Committee approved a recommendation to forward the Draft EIR/EIS to the Authority Board for its consideration to formally receive and adopt the document for inclusion in the Authority's Water Storage Investment Project application.

July 31, 2017: The Authority approved the release of the Draft EIR for public and agency review, in connection with the Authority's application to the California Water Commission by August 14, 2017. The document was published as joint Draft EIR/EIS by the Authority under the California Environmental Quality Act and Reclamation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

December 19, 2016: The Authority approved release of a Supplemental Notice of Preparation (released February 2, 2017) to transfer the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency status from the Department of Water Resources to the Sites Project Authority. Public scoping meetings were conducted on February 14 and 15, 2017.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

Actual costs to prepare the project description and the supporting evaluations were within the amounts budgeted in the Phase 1B Work Plan which was approved by the Sites Project Authority at its January 22, 2020 Board meeting.

Sufficient funds to complete the recirculated Draft EIR/EIS and begin preparation of the Final EIR/EIS are included in the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget), which was approved by the Authority at its August 26, 2020 Board meeting.

Costs to complete and circulate the Final EIR/EIS will be considered in a future Work Plan.

Staff Contact:

Ali Forsythe

Attachments:

Attachment A – Sites Reservoir Project, Preliminary Project Description –
September 8, 2020.

Attachment B – Revised Recommended EIR Objectives.

Sites Reservoir Project Preliminary Project Description September 2020

On April 22, 2020, the Sites Project Authority (Authority) directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the environmental effects of the facility options identified in the Sites Project Value Planning Report (Value Planning Report), dated April 2020. Since that time, Authority staff and environmental, engineering and modeling consultants have been developing and refining alternatives. In June, staff recommended that the Draft Revised EIR¹/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)² (Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS) evaluate two action alternatives, Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, and provided an initial overview of the two alternatives.

This preliminary project description summarizes the alternatives presented in the preliminary Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS Chapter 2, Alternatives Description, which was completed on August 31, 2020. That preliminary draft Chapter 2 reflects preliminary design efforts, including the preparation of technical memos and preliminary drawings, and coordination between the service providers and staff. Modeling and engineering efforts are ongoing, and additional information related to operations and construction means and methods will likely supplement the preliminary Draft Chapter 2 in the coming weeks.

1.0 Overview of Alternatives

The following table compares facilities and operational considerations under Alternatives 1 and 2. This table is an updated version of a table provided at the June 24 Authority Board meeting (Agenda Item 3.3 Attachment B) and identifies existing as well as new facilities that will be constructed to implement each alternative.

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Diversion/Reservoir Infrastructure Details		
Reservoir Size	1.5 million acre feet (MAF)	1.3 MAF
Dams [Scaled to the size of the reservoir]	2 main dams, Golden Gate Dam and Sites Dam 7 saddle dams 2 saddle dikes	2 main dams, Golden Gate and Sites Dam 6 saddle dams 2 saddle dikes
Spillway	One spillway on Saddle Dam 8b	Similar to Alternative 1
Funks Reservoir and Funks Pumping Generating Plant	Funks Reservoir excavated to original capacity; same footprint as existing Funks Reservoir. New Funks Pump Generating Plant (PGP). New Funks pipeline alignment with 2 pipelines.	Similar to Alternative 1

¹ The Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will also address the No Project/No Action Alternative.

² A Supplemental EIS will be prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR); TRR Pumping Generating Plant; TRR Pipeline	New TRR facilities (TRR and TRR PGP) adjacent to the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Main Canal. New TRR pipeline alignment with 2 pipelines.	Same as Alternative 1
Hydropower	Power generation incidental upon release.	Same as Alternative 1
Diversion(s)	Diversion from Sacramento River into existing Tehama-Colusa Canal at Red Bluff and the existing GCID Main Canal at Hamilton City. Adding 2 pumps in existing bays at the plant at the Red Bluff Pumping Plant.	Same as Alternative 1
Emergency Release Flow	Releases into Funks Creek via Inlet/Outlet Works. Releases into Stone Corral Creek via Site Dam permanent discharge outlet. Emergency outflow pipeline and structures in Saddle Dam 3 and 5 to release north to Hunters Creek Watershed. Release from spillway on Saddle Dam 8b.	Similar to Alternative 1
Flood Control	Flood damage reduction benefit for local watersheds from reservoir storage.	Same as Alternative 1
Reservoir Management	Reservoir Management Plan and Reservoir Operations Plan.	Same as Alternative 1
Electrical Facilities	Transmission Lines, substations, switchyards; interconnection with Western Area Power Administration or Pacific Gas and Electric.	Same as Alternative 1
Recreation		
Multiple Facilities Consistent with WSIP Application	Two primary areas with infrastructure (with phased construction): 1. Peninsula Hills Area 2. Stone Corral Creek One day-use boat ramp w/parking located on the west side of the reservoir and south of the bridge.	Same as Alternative 1
Transportation/Circulation		
Provide Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge crossing the reservoir as a result of the relocation of existing Sites Lodoga Road. Relocation of Huffmaster Road with gravel road to residents at the south end of the reservoir terminating at the south end of the reservoir.	No bridge. Relocation of Sites Lodoga Road to residents at south end of the reservoir continues to Lodoga. Huffmaster Road is integrated into Sites Lodoga Road and is paved the entire way.
Multiple Maintenance and Local Access Roads	Approximately 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads would provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as provide public access to the proposed recreation areas.	Similar to Alternative 1

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
	Approximate number of roads related to the reservoir: 5 local/construction roads 2 construction/maintenance roads 7 local roads 4 maintenance roads Approximate number of access roads related to conveyance facilities: 1 to the TRR 1 to Funks complex Multiple within pipeline easements	
Operations		
Operational Criteria	Option based on Value Planning Report, Table 3.1 Scenario B, anticipated to be modified by future modeling efforts.	Same as Alternative 1
Reclamation Involvement	Two Options: 1. Funding Partner 2. Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Same as Alternative 1
State Water Project (SWP) Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta.	Same as Alternative 1
Bypass Releases into Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek	Develop specific bypass criteria to protect downstream water right holders and ecological function.	Same as Alternative 1
Conveyance Dunnigan Release	Release 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain to meet member participant demands and Proposition 1 needs.	Release into new pipeline to Sacramento River to meet member participant demands. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain to fulfill the Proposition 1 needs.

2.0 Facilities

The project will utilize both existing and proposed new facilities, all of which will be located within northern California in Glenn, Colusa, Tehama and Yolo Counties (see Figures 1 and 2 at the end of this document). As summarized in the Table 1 above, most facilities are the same or similar under Alternatives 1 and 2 although features may differ in scale or location due to the size of the reservoir. Facilities that have substantial differences between alternatives, such as the proposed dams, Dunnigan Pipeline and the Sites Lodoga Road realignment/relocation, are described in more detail below.

2.1 Existing Facilities

The project will utilize certain existing water supply infrastructure, including:

- Existing Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure operated by the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA):
 - Red Bluff Pumping Plant
 - Tehama-Colusa Canal

- Funks Reservoir located approximately 65 miles south of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant
- Existing GCID Hamilton City Diversion and the GCID Main Canal
- Colusa Basin Drain (CBD)

Both action alternatives would require pumping capacity that exceeds the existing total installed capacity of 2,000 cfs of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant to convey flow to Funks Reservoir and ultimately Sites Reservoir. Both action alternatives would require installation of two additional 250-cfs vertical axial-flow pumps into existing concrete pump bays at the pumping plant.

Both action alternatives would also require a new 3,000-cfs GCID Main Canal headgate structure about 0.25 mile downstream of Hamilton City Pump Station. The existing headgate structure would be inadequate for proposed winter operation during high river flows. To streamline maintenance during the winter shutdown period (i.e., reduce it from the current shutdown window of 6 weeks to 2 weeks), smaller improvements would be required to integrate Sites Reservoir into the GCID system.

Use of the existing Funks Reservoir would require excavation of sediment to return it to its original capacity. The bottom of Funks Reservoir would be reshaped to allow large, unimpeded flows to and from the new Funks PGP.

Proposed access during construction will avoid the town of Maxwell, utilizing County Roads 68 and 69, McDermott Road, Maxwell Sites Road and Sites Lodoga Road. Several of these existing roads would require improvement to support construction activities. Other local roads would need to be relocated or developed to accommodate access due to the construction of reservoir facilities. These include portions of Sites Lodoga Road, Huffmaster Road, and Communication Road.

2.2 Proposed Conveyance Facilities

Implementation of either Alternative 1 or 2 would require various facilities to control the conveyance of water between Sites Reservoir and the Tehama-Colusa Canal and GCID Main Canal. These facilities would include regulating reservoirs, pipelines, PGPs, electrical substations, and administration and maintenance buildings.

The two regulating reservoirs would be the existing Funks Reservoir and the new Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR). Both regulating reservoirs would have two 12-foot-diameter pipelines extending to and from Sites Reservoir just below Golden Gate Dam. At each regulating reservoir, the pipelines would be connected to a pumping generating plant that pumps water from the regulating reservoir to Sites Reservoir, as well as turbines that would generate power when flows were released from Sites Reservoir. There would also be energy dissipation equipment adjacent to each PGP (e.g., fixed cone valve[s]) to throttle the flow of water into each regulating reservoir when the turbines are not being used.

A transition manifold would be constructed at the base of Golden Gate Dam to connect pipelines from Sites Reservoir to Funks Reservoir and the TRR pipelines. In

addition, a point of interconnection to a high-voltage electric transmission line would be required to power the facilities at the proposed TRR and Funks electrical substations.

Water released from Sites Reservoir would be conveyed south of Sites Reservoir using the existing Tehama-Colusa Canal and a new Dunnigan pipeline. The water would flow south about 40 miles to the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal, where it would be diverted into the proposed Dunnigan Pipeline. Under Alternative 1, the flows would subsequently be conveyed to the CBD and released through the proposed CBD Outlet Structure, eventually reaching the Sacramento River at Knights Landing or to the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough complex through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut. Under Alternative 2 water would flow south to the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal but would be diverted into an extended Dunnigan Pipeline, with release directly to the Sacramento River with some flows released to the CBD to flow into the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough complex through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut for environmental benefits under Proposition 1.

2.3 Proposed Reservoir Facilities

Under either alternative, water would be impounded by the Golden Gate Dam on Funks Creek and the Sites Dam on Stone Corral Creek; a series of saddle dams along the eastern and northern rims of reservoir would close off topographic saddles in the surrounding ridges to form Sites Reservoir. Two saddle dikes are also needed at topographic saddle low points along the northern end of the reservoir. These components of the reservoir would be scaled according to the alternative.

Under Alternative 1, the proposed 1.5-MAF reservoir would have a Normal Maximum Water Surface (NMWS) elevation of 498 feet. Under Alternative 2, the proposed 1.3-MAF reservoir would have an NMWS elevation of 482 feet. Nominal crest would be at elevation 517 feet for all dams for 1.5-MAF capacity, and at elevation 500 feet for 1.3-MAF capacity. Table 2 presents a summary of dam heights required to impound Sites Reservoir for the 1.5-MAF capacity and 1.3-MAF capacity.

Table 2. Dam Heights for 1.5-MAF and 1.3-MAF Sites Reservoir Alternatives

Dam/Dike	1.5-MAF Reservoir Maximum Height Above Streambed (feet)	1.3-MAF Reservoir Maximum Height Above Streambed (feet)
Golden Gate Dam	287	270
Sites Dam	267	250
Saddle Dam 1	27	None
Saddle Dam 2	57	40
Saddle Dam 3	107	90
Saddle Dam 5	77	60
Saddle Dam 6	47	None
Saddle Dam 8A	82	65
Saddle Dam 8B	37	5
Saddle Dike 1	12	10 (near Saddle Dam 1)
Saddle Dike 2	12	10 (near Saddle Dam 6)
Saddle Dam 10 ^a	Not required for 1.5-MAF Reservoir	30

^a For the 1.3-MAF Reservoir, Golden Gate Dam would be reconfigured and Saddle Dam 10 added to close off a topographic saddle in the ridge that is closed in the 1.5-MAF Golden Gate Dam configuration.

The engineering team is continuing to evaluate different options for dam fill that would be utilized under either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. One option is an earth- and rockfill dam and another option is an earthfill dam. The proposed inlet/outlet works for an earthfill dam would be located to the south of Golden Gate Dam and would be used both to fill the reservoir through conveyance facilities located to the East and to make releases from Sites Reservoir. The inlet/outlet works include:

1. A multi-level intake tower including a low-level intake.
2. Two 23 foot inside diameter inlet/outlet tunnels through the ridge on the right abutment of Golden Gate Dam.

2.4 Proposed Recreational Facilities

As specified in the Sites Water Storage Investment Program application, either alternative would include two primary recreation areas and a day-use boat ramp which are to be phased in over a period of time. Located on the northwest shore of the proposed Sites Reservoir, to the north of the existing Sites Lodoga Road, the Peninsula Hills Recreation Area would include approximately:

- 200 campsites (car and recreational vehicle)
- one group camp area
- 10 picnic sites (with parking at each site)
- hiking trails
- electricity
- potable water
- one kiosk
- 19 vault toilets

Located on the eastern shore of the Sites Reservoir, north of the existing Maxwell Sites Road and proposed Sites Dam, the Stone Corral Creek Recreational Area would include:

- 50 campsites (car and recreational vehicle)
- electricity

- 10 picnic sites (with parking at each site)
- six-lane boat launch site
- hiking trails
- potable water
- one kiosk
- 10 vault toilets

Each alternative would also include a Day-Use Boat Ramp/Parking Recreation Area, located on the western side of the reservoir where the existing Sites Lodoga Road intersects with the proposed inundation area for the reservoir. Facilities would include:

- one kiosk
- one vault toilet
- potable water
- parking area

2.5 Proposed Roads and South Bridge

In addition to modifying existing roads for construction access, the project will require up to 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads to provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as public access to the proposed recreation areas. Sites Lodoga Road provides access to and from the town of Maxwell, which is adjacent to Interstate 5. Sites Lodoga Road becomes Maxwell Sites Road east of the rural community of Sites that is within the inundation area. The reservoir would eliminate east-west access to Interstate 5 (east of the reservoir) from the rural communities of Stonyford and Lodoga (west of the reservoir) because it would inundate the current route of Sites Lodoga Road. The current Sites Lodoga Road is an east-west, two-lane rural collector road and provides an emergency and evacuation route to and from these rural communities. Because construction of the Sites Dam would eliminate access on the Sites Lodoga Road, this collector road would need to be relocated/realigned prior to project construction.

Under Alternative 1, the realigned Sites Lodoga Road would include the construction of a bridge across the reservoir. Various bridge types and options have been evaluated. One option for a bridge is a full-length bridge that would offer navigational passage along the entire width of the reservoir. Another option for a bridge is a causeway with partial fill, which would limit the navigational passage within the reaches of the shorter bridges; however, the approach to implementing fill prism in the reservoir would significantly reduce construction cost. Alternative 1 would also include the realignment of the existing Huffmaster Road to provide access to properties otherwise inaccessible due to reservoir construction.

Under Alternative 2, the realignment of Sites Lodoga Road would result in a road that ultimately extends from Maxwell to the community of Lodoga around the southern end and western side of the proposed Sites Reservoir. This road, referred to as the Maxwell Lodoga Road, would include the realignment and repavement of the existing Huffmaster Road.

2.6 Project Buffer

The proposed project buffer would consist of the total amount of land that would be acquired beyond the facility footprints for each alternative. The preliminary approach to the buffer is outlined below.

- The buffer would include 100 feet around all buildings and most ground facilities (e.g., substations, any aboveground pipelines) along with 100 feet around the Sites Reservoir Complex and recreation areas.
- The buffer may be less than 100 feet if the facility is near a property boundary and the proposed uses do not conflict with the adjacent land uses.
- No project buffers are anticipated for underground or buried facilities (i.e., Dunnigan Pipeline), overhead power lines, or roads (both public and project maintenance access roads).
- The Authority would evaluate the need for the buffer (and if implemented, an appropriate width) on a case-by-case basis in coordination with adjacent landowners. The buffer would likely be acquired in fee title by the Authority; however, acquisition of buffer areas in an easement may be feasible under certain circumstances.
- The lands within the buffer would generally remain undeveloped. Limited features may be installed to reduce future maintenance activities and fire hazards. These features may include limited fencing, regrading to construct fire breaks or fire trails, or similar actions.
- The lands within the buffer would be maintained by the Authority. Maintenance activities that are proposed to be undertaken within the project buffer include vegetation maintenance and periodic fire break maintenance. Such activities may include grazing, periodic tilling or disking, and performing limited controlled/prescribed burns. Where appropriate, the buffer may be managed as wildlife habitat. Fence maintenance would occur within the buffer.

3.0 Operations

The operation of the project under each alternative will be defined in upcoming months as the modeling and development of diversion criteria are further advanced. The member participants of the Authority have a collective demand of approximately 240,000 acre-feet, of which 192,892 acre-feet is needed by participating public water agencies³. Reclamation is also a participant through funding and/or operational exchanges with Shasta Lake. The State would also be involved through operational exchanges with Oroville Reservoir and storage in State Water Project facilities south-of-Delta.

Sites Reservoir would be filled by diverting unregulated/unappropriated flow in the Sacramento River. This water originates during winter storm events, which increase flows in the tributaries to the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam and avoiding any effects on the Trinity River. Water would be available for diversion after senior water rights are met, in-river aquatic species protection requirements are met, and delta water quality requirements have been met. Diversions would occur at the fish screened Red Bluff Pumping Plant and the GCID Hamilton City location when applicable regulatory requirements are met and existing pumping and conveyance capacity is available to convey water through the canals to the reservoir. TRR and Funks Reservoir, PGPs, and pipelines connect directly to the inlet/outlet works and would be operated in parallel to

³ April 2020 Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report.

pump water into and out of Sites Reservoir. Water would enter (and be released from) the reservoir through the inlet/outlet works.

Reservoir releases include releases to meet participant demands and to deliver water for a range of environmental benefits that will be finalized during project development and permitting.

- Sites Reservoir would be operated in cooperation with Central Valley Project (CVP) and SWP operations to coordinate with releases made with the CVP and SWP from Shasta Lake, Lake Oroville, and Folsom Lake. Sites Reservoir releases could supplement and/or allow reduced releases from other reservoirs while maintaining minimum instream flow objectives, Sacramento River temperature requirements, and Delta salinity control requirements assigned to CVP and SWP.
- Releases would be made mostly in dry and critical water years. Water users north of the Delta would mostly receive deliveries from the TCCA canal and GCID canal. Water users south of the Delta would receive water primarily via SWP pumping facilities.
- Using the CBD for conveyance of Sites Reservoir water would include coordination with the local landowners regarding the project operation and timing of the additional flows.

Releases would also be made to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks for downstream water right holders and to maintain ecological function in the sections of these creeks affected by the project. A proposed Reservoir Operations Plan would describe the management of water operations, including releases to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks.

Operation of either alternative would require power to run facilities and pump water. The identification of a power source and the location of transmission facilities is pending coordination with Western Area Power Administration and/or Pacific Gas and Electric. Each of the alternatives would also generate incidental power when water is released from Sites Reservoir at the Funks PGP and TRR PGP. The capacity of the project power generation facilities is anticipated to be below the threshold such that no license would be required from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the facilities would satisfy the criteria for a "Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility" under the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013, as amended by America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

4.0 Maintenance and Management

Under either alternative, maintenance activities for the project facilities would include debris removal, dredging, vegetation control, rodent control, erosion control and protection, routine inspections (dams, tunnels, pipelines, PGPs, inlet/outlet works, fencing, signs, and gates), painting, cleaning, repairs, and other routine tasks to maintain facilities in accordance with design standards after construction and commissioning. Routine visual inspection of the facilities would be conducted to monitor performance and prevent mechanical and structural failures of project elements. Maintenance activities associated with proposed river intakes could include

cleaning, removal of sediment, debris, and biofouling materials. These maintenance actions could require dewatering; suction dredging or mechanical excavation around intake structures; or the use of underwater diving crews, boom trucks, rubber-wheel cranes, and raft- or barge-mounted equipment. Proposed maintenance activities could occur on a daily, annually, periodically (as needed), and long-term basis.

The Authority would also develop and implement a Reservoir Management Plan to define the land uses of project lands controlled by the Authority, fish stocking and vector control practices, and the resources associated with project lands. The Reservoir Management Plan would include the following types of information:

- **Fisheries Management.** This would target species composition for Sites Reservoir, including stocking strategies, habitat enhancement measures, and monitoring efforts.
- **Land Use Management and Recreation.** This would outline how decisions regarding future amenities would be made and what land use considerations would be factored into Authority operations and activities.
- **Easement Management:** Right-of-ways and/or permanent easements would be required for long-term operation and maintenance of all the large-diameter pipelines. This would outline management and maintenance activities for easement areas.
- **Emergency Management.** This would establish protocol on how the Authority would be involved in controlling and resolving emergency situations, including those arising as a result of recreationists.
- **Vector Management.** This would establish protocols and practices for communicating and coordinating with vector control authorities in determining how vector control would be managed at the project facilities.
- **Sediment Management and Removal.** This would consolidate information on the frequency and locations of dredging, testing of sediment before disposal, disposal locations, and procedures to follow if sediment contaminant levels exceed regulatory standards for constituents of concern (e.g., pesticides).

5.0 Best Management Practices

A number of Best Management Practices and environmental commitments are proposed to be included in Project design, construction and operation/maintenance. The following proposed list of Best Management Practices and environmental commitments would be considered part of the Project.

- Conform with Applicable Design Standards and Building Codes
- Perform Geotechnical Evaluations and Prepare Geotechnical Data Reports
- Utility and Infrastructure Verification and/or Relocation
- Natural Gas Well Decommissioning
- Water Wells Decommissioning
- Road Abandonment
- Environmental Site Assessment(s)

- Salvage, Stockpile, and Replace Topsoil and Prepare a Topsoil Storage and Handling Plan
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan(s) and Best Management Practices (storm water and non-storm water)
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for Operation and Maintenance
- Spill Prevention and Hazardous Materials Management / Accidental Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasure Plans and Response Measures
- Minimize Soil Disturbance
- Comply with Requirements of RWQCB Order 5-00-175
- Groundwater/ Dewatering Water Supply
- Construction Equipment, Truck, and Traffic Management Plan
- Visual/Aesthetic Design, Construction, and Operation Practices
- Fire Safety and Suppression / Fire Prevention and Control Plan
- Worker Health and Safety Plan
- Blasting Standard Requirements
- Mosquito and Vector Control During Construction
- Construction Noise Management
- Operation and Maintenance Noise Management
- Construction Emergency Action Plan
- Emergency Action Plan for Reservoir Operations
- Electrical Power Guidelines and EMF Field Management Plan
- Construction Equipment Exhaust Reduction Plan
- Fugitive Dust Control Plans
- Construction Best Management Practices to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazardous Materials Management Plans
- Construction Site Security
- Notification of Maintenance Activities in Waterways
- Worker Environmental Awareness Program
- Fish Rescue and Salvage Plans for Funks Reservoir, Stone Corral Creek, and Funks Creek for Alternative 1; for Sacramento River for Alternative 2
- Construction Best Management Practices and Monitoring for Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species Habitats, and Natural Communities
- Control of Invasive Plant Species during Construction and Operation

6.0 Pre-Construction Activities

In addition to items/activities addressed in the above list of proposed BMPs and ECs, there are other activities that would be required prior to the initiation of construction of the different physical components of either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. These activities include: finalizing criteria and standards used for final design, including emergency management/release requirements; preparing a Dam Monitoring Program; conducting additional geotechnical and related field investigations to support design; relocation of two private cemeteries (Sites Cemetery and a Rancheria Cemetery); and the development and implementation of a Resident Relocation Program.

7.0 Timing of Environmental Review and Feasibility Report

The current schedule contemplates release of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS in July 2021. This is roughly the same timing for the engineering team's finalization of the Feasibility Report for the California Water Commission. As such, preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS and Feasibility Report are proceeding simultaneously. To accommodate the project schedule and the simultaneous preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS and Feasibility Report, the following project components will be utilized for the analysis:

- Sites Lodoga Road and Bridge – Under Alternative 1, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the option of the shorter bridge with fill prisms, including the cast-in-place prestressed concrete box girder bridge type. This option was identified as a lowest cost bridge alternative in the Value Planning Report while meeting the functional requirements for efficient traffic flow.
- Dam Fill Materials – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the option of using earth and rockfill. This option is anticipated to be preferred by the Division of Safety of Dams and will assist in meeting the schedule and affordability goals; it also provides maximum coverage for potential environmental effects as the rockfill involves blasting associated with rock quarrying.
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR) – Under Alternative 1 and 2, it is anticipated that the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the current TRR location. Other locations currently are under review due to the extent and costs associated with ground preparation needed for construction at the current site.
- GCID and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will describe the types of improvements needed to convey water through existing facilities and reduce GCID's current maintenance winter shutdown period from 6 weeks to 2 weeks, pending agreement between GCID and the Authority on any specific improvements that may be warranted due to implementation of the project. Improvements may also be needed to the Colusa Basin Drain to convey Sites water.
- Emergency Releases – In the rare and unanticipated condition that the Sites Reservoir has to conduct emergency releases, these releases are currently planned to be made into Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dam 3, 5, and 8b. Emergency release locations and the extent of potential impacts will be evaluated in further detail as part of the on-going feasibility study.
- Dunnigan Release – Under Alternative 1, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate a release to the CBD based on a preliminary hydraulic analysis. Alternatives 2 will carry forward an extension of the Dunnigan pipeline to the Sacramento River.
- Hydropower Generation – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate incidental in-line conduit hydropower generation below the threshold for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate options for obtaining temporary water supply for construction, such as obtaining water on site via existing groundwater

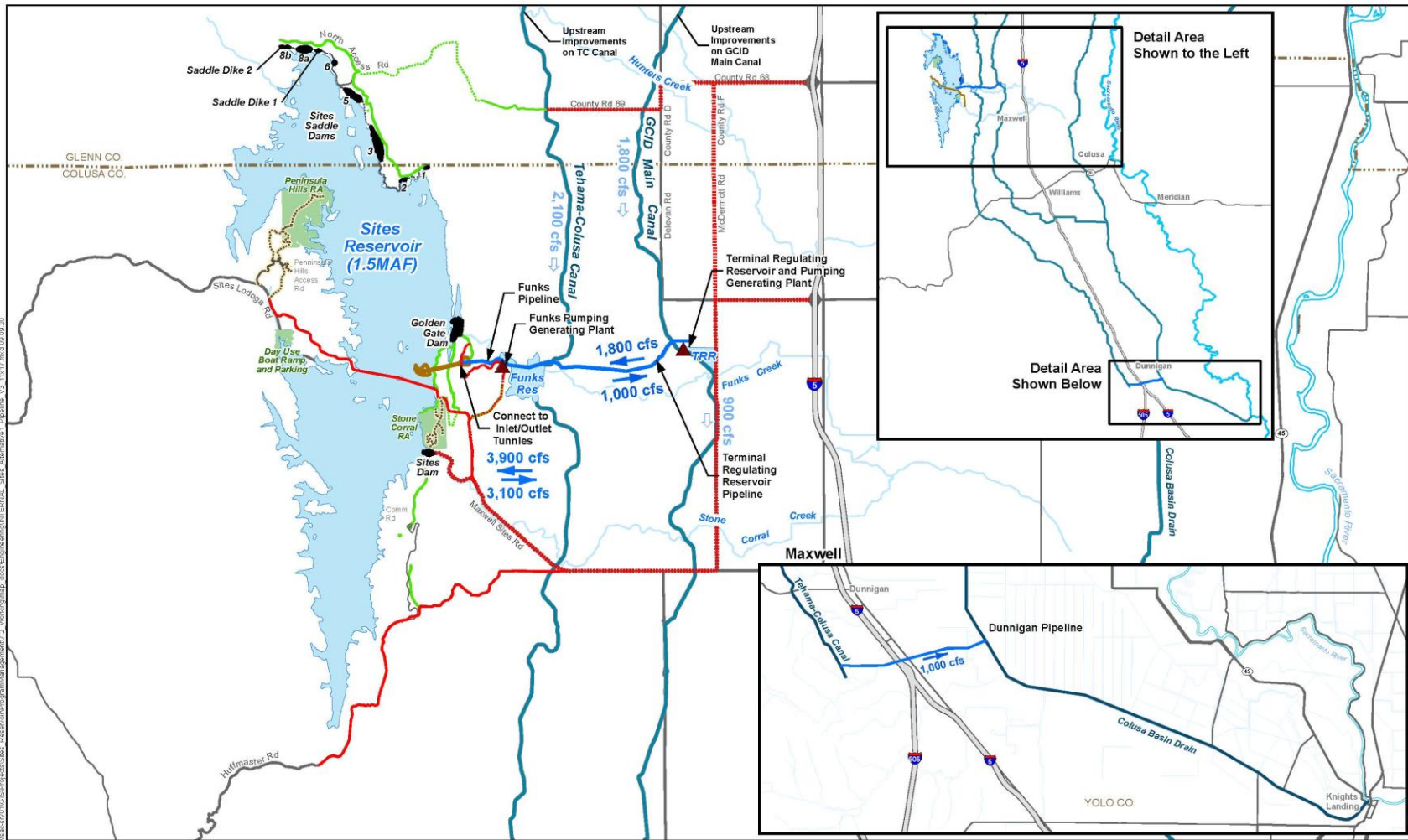
or surface water facilities and/or utilizing existing or drilling new wells, including any necessary treatment depending on the water quality.

The engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for various facility components, consistent with CEQA and NEPA requirements, in order to optimize design considerations and reduce costs.

It should also be noted that in the upcoming weeks, there will be further definition of project operations through modeling, clarification of water rights, and consultation with resource agencies. This information and any resulting changes to the alternatives described in the preliminary draft will be incorporated into the complete Chapter 2, Alternatives Description, to be completed by December 2020.

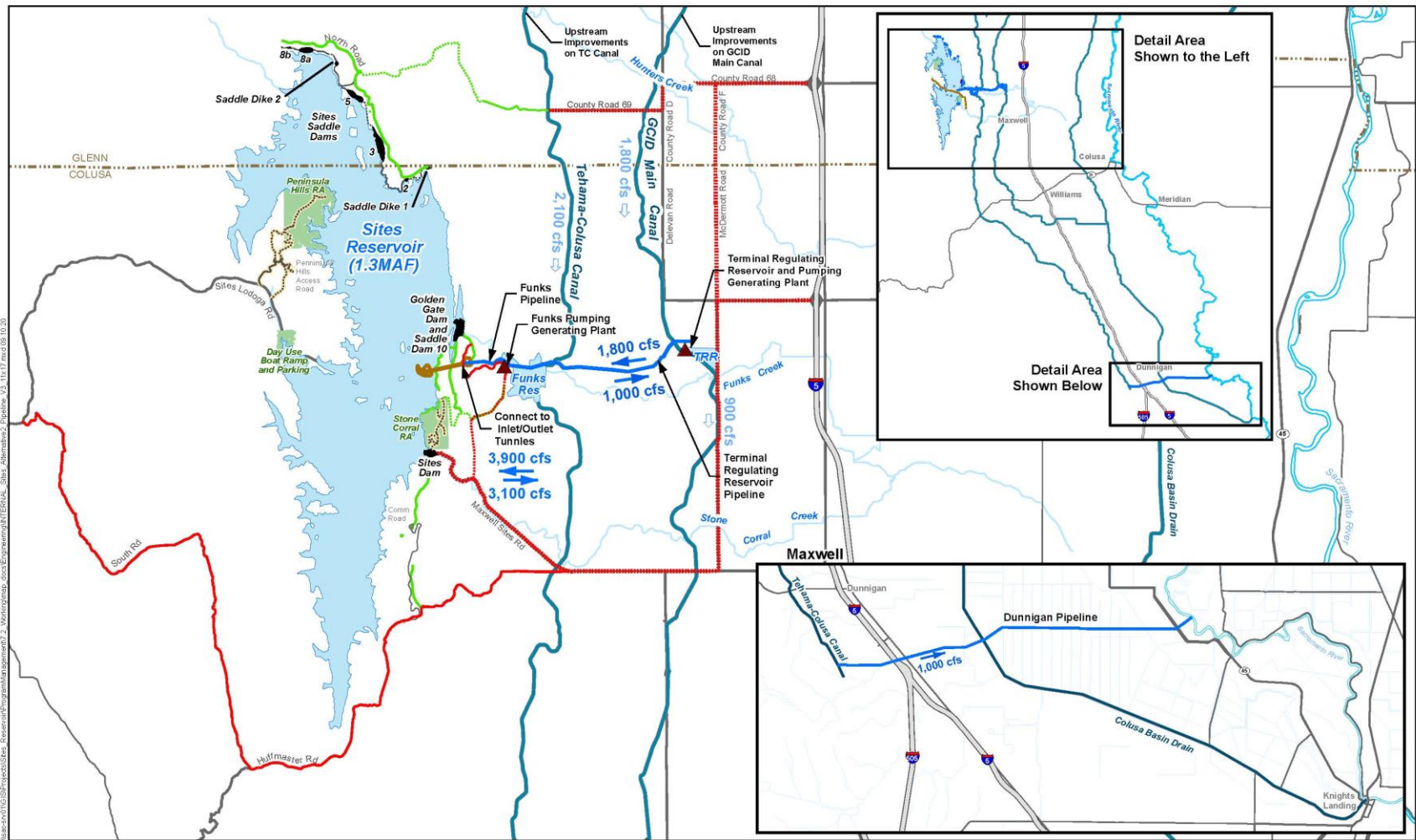
8.0 Identification of the Preferred Alternative for the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS Analysis

The CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project and avoid or substantially lessen the significant effects of the project. An EIR also needs to identify a proposed project, i.e., a preferred alternative. At this time, Authority staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's proposed project based on it meeting the objectives identified in the Value Planning Report and being most closely aligned with Alternative VP-7, and its ability to meet the revised draft CEQA project objectives. The Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will also evaluate Alternative 2 and the No Project/No Action Alternative.



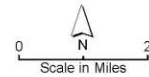
ALTERNATIVE 1





Legend

- Canal
- Maintenance Access Road
- New/Realigned Permanent Road
- Existing Roads
- Pipeline
- - - Construction/Maintenance Route
- - - Construction Route (Existing Road)
- Waterways



ALTERNATIVE 2

Sites Reservoir Project
Revised Recommended EIR Objectives
September 8, 2020

- OBJ-1: Improve water supply reliability and resiliency to meet member participants' agricultural and municipal long-term average annual water demand in a cost-effective manner for all member participants', including those that are the most cost-sensitive.
- OBJ-2: Provide public benefits consistent with Proposition 1 of 2014 and use Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) funds to improve statewide surface water supply reliability and flexibility to enhance opportunities for fisheries and habitat management for the public benefit through a designated long-term average annual water supply.
- OBJ-3: Provide public benefits consistent with the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) of 2016 by using federal funds, if available, provided by Reclamation to improve Central Valley Project (CVP) operational flexibility in meeting CVP environmental and contractual water supply needs and improving cold pool management in Shasta Reservoir to benefit anadromous fish
- OBJ-4: Provide surface water to convey biomass from the floodplain to the Delta to enhance the Delta ecosystem for the benefit of pelagic fishes¹ in the north Delta (e.g., Cache Slough).
- OBJ-5: Provide local and regional amenities, such as developing recreational facilities, reducing local flood damage, and maintaining roadway connectivity through modifications.

¹ Pelagic fish are species that spend most of their life swimming in the water column, having little contact or dependency with the bottom.



November 13, 2020

Ms. Glenda Nelson, Chairperson
Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria
2133 Monte Vista Avenue
Oroville, CA 95966

From: Fritz Durst/ Sites Project Authority Board Chair

Subject: Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, Assembly Bill (AB) 52. Formal Notification of the Preferred Project for the Purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Analysis and Notification of Consultation Opportunity for the Sites Reservoir Project, Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Yolo Counties, California, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1

Dear Honorable Chairperson Nelson,

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) initially contacted you in February 2017 in compliance with the project notification requirements pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d) for the Sites Reservoir Project. A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was published for public review in August 2017. After receipt of public comments on the Draft EIR, the Authority reconsidered elements of the project. In October 2019, representatives from both the Authority Board and Reservoir Committee began undertaking a “value planning” process, an effort to identify and evaluate additional alternatives. As a result of the the “value planning process,” the Authority identified a project that reduced the size of the proposed Sites Reservoir from 1.8 million acre feet to 1.5 million acre feet, removed the Delevan Pipeline and associated facilities, and made minor adjustments to other project features.

On April 22, 2020, the Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft EIR consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the environmental effects of the facility options identified in the Sites Project Value Planning Report.¹ The Revised Draft EIR is anticipated to be released for public review in the summer of 2021. In response to preparing the Revised Draft EIR, the Authority is providing you with a description of the revised project for your consideration pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d).

Description of the Proposed Project

The Authority proposes to construct the revised Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir and associated water conveyance facilities located in Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Yolo counties, California. The new reservoir would be located in Antelope Valley, on the eastern edge of the North Coast Ranges and approximately 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell.

¹ https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/02-01.a-Authority-Board_Value-Planning.pdf



The Sites Reservoir Project is proposed to provide storage and operational benefits including water supply resiliency, water dedicated to environmental uses, and other programs throughout California.

Two alternatives (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2) are currently under consideration. The primary differences in the alternatives is that Alternative 1 will impound up to 1.5 million acre feet of water and discharge water into the Colusa Drain, via the Tehama Colusa Canal, in the vicinity of Dunnigan, Yolo County. In contrast, Alternative 2 will hold up to 1.3 million acre feet of water and discharge water via the Tehama Colusa Canal into the Sacramento River; again, in the vicinity of Dunnigan. Alternative 1 also includes a bridge to extend the Sites Lodoga Road directly across the reservoir, while Alternative 2 re-routes the road around the south end of the reservoir and continues to Lodoga along the west side of the reservoir. Alternative 1 was designated by the Authority as the preferred project for the purposes of the CEQA analysis and permit development on September 17, 2020.

For more information regarding the proposed project alternatives, please see the attached Preliminary Project Description.

Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (b), please respond, in writing, within 30 days if you wish to request consultation. If you have any questions or wish to consult on this project, please contact the Authority's Lead Agency Point of Contact for AB 52 consultations:

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
Phone: (530) 632-4071
Email: kspesert@sitesproject.org

If consultation is requested, please provide the name and contact information of the designated lead contact person as part of your request. The Authority will contact the designated person to set a meeting date to begin consultation within 30 days of our receipt of your request.

Thank you for giving this matter your prompt attention.

Sincerely,



Fritz Durst
Sites Project Authority



Topic: **Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Committee Meeting Agenda Item 2.3** **2020 September 17**

Subject: **Preferred Project for the Purposes of the CEQA Analysis and Federal/State ESA Analysis**

Requested Action:

Designate Alternative 1, based on VP-7 of the Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report (Value Planning Report), as the Authority's preferred project for the purposes of the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analysis and for the purposes of the Biological Assessment and State Incidental Take Permit applications.

Detailed Description/Background:

In April 2020, the Authority accepted the Value Planning Report and its findings and directed staff to analyze the environmental effects of the new alternatives in the Value Planning Report, including VP7. The Authority also directed that a revised and recirculated Draft EIR be prepared for public review¹. Staff began development of the revised Draft EIR and is at the point where the Board needs to identify a preferred alternative based on a more complete project description (see attachment A).

During the Reservoir Committee and Board meetings in June, staff provided an overview of the alternatives under consideration as well as revised draft objectives for the project, requesting review and input in order to focus efforts in developing a more complete project description. At that time, staff presented Alternatives 1 and 2 which combined components of VP5, VP6, and VP7 from the Value Planning Report. Staff recommended these two alternatives as they define the reasonable range of alternatives given the previous analyses of the project and potential alternatives.

Staff is returning to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board with a Preliminary Project Description (Attachment A), and revised objectives (Attachment B). Changes have been made to both the alternatives and objectives in response to Reservoir Committee and Authority Board input and in further development of project details and information by the project team. The key changes to the alternatives are as follows:

- Transportation/circulation components have been clarified. Both alternatives provide access to residents at the south end of the reservoir via a realigned Huffmaster Road. To provide access to the west side of the reservoir, Alternative 1 crosses the reservoir with a bridge on Sites Lodoga

¹ Staff has worked cooperatively with the Bureau of Reclamation to identify the appropriate approach to proceed with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and a Supplemental EIS will be prepared as part of the joint California Environmental Quality Act/National Environmental Policy Act documentation.

Road. Alternative 2 includes a south road continuing from Huffmaster Road around the west side of the reservoir to Ladoga, with no bridge.

- The Dunnigan pipeline alignment and proposal to release into the Colusa Basin Drain has been further assessed and confirmed as the proposed component for conveyance release under Alternative 1.

Key changes to the objectives are as follows:

- All objectives have been revised to focus on the statewide benefits of the Project and the needs of all Participants.
- Objective 1 addresses the amount of water supply required to meet participants' water demands and the need for an affordable, cost-effective Project.
- Objective 2 addresses the Water Storage and Investment Program public benefits.
- Objective 3 addresses federal participation and clarifies the intent of the Project to provide operational flexibility to the Central Valley Project.
- Objective 4 addresses intended benefits to the Delta ecosystem beyond the requirements of the Water Storage and Investment Program public benefits.
- Minor changes have also been made to Objective 5 regarding roadway connectivity.

Due to the project schedule, staff is preparing the Revised EIR at the same time as the engineering team is conducting preliminary design activities. The following assumptions represent the variations being taken from the project described in VP7 of the Value Planning Report and have been incorporated in the development of Alternative 1 to allow the EIR/EIS and engineering activities to move forward simultaneously and achieve the project schedule:

- Bridge – The EIR/EIS will move forward with Bridge Option 1B, Shorter Bridge with Fill Prisms, including the Cast-in-Place Prestressed Concrete Box Girder bridge type. This option was identified as a lowest cost bridge alternative in the Value Planning Report while meeting the functional requirements for efficient traffic flow.
- Dam Fill materials – The EIR/EIS will move forward with Dam Fill Option 1A, Earth and Rockfill, which is anticipated to be preferred by California Division of Safety of Dams and will assist in meeting the schedule and affordability goals; it also provides maximum coverage for potential environmental effects as the rockfill involves blasting associated with rock quarrying.
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir – The EIR/EIS will continue to analyze the original proposed location for this reservoir and carries forward additional potential locations as more is learned in the coming months regarding soils conditions.

- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – The EIR/EIS will address the type and magnitude of improvements needed to convey Sites water through existing facilities, pending future agreements on any specific improvements that may be warranted by the Project.
- Emergency Releases – In the rare and unanticipated condition that the Sites Reservoir has to conduct emergency releases, these releases are currently planned to be made into Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dam 3, 5, and 8b. Emergency release locations and the extent of potential impacts will be evaluated in further detail as part of the on-going feasibility study.
- Dunnigan Release – Based on preliminary hydraulic study, the EIR/EIS will assume release to the Colusa Basin Drain under Alternative 1 and will carry forward an extension to the Sacramento River under Alternative 2.
- Hydropower Generation – Based on the current Project information, the EIR/EIS will address incidental in-line conduit hydropower generation at a level that is below the threshold for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – Based on the current Project information, the EIR/EIS will evaluate obtaining water temporarily for construction supply on site via existing groundwater or surface water facilities or existing or new groundwater wells, including any onsite treatment that may be warranted depending on water quality.

It is important to note that the engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for various facility components in order to optimize design and reduce costs, including potentially considering alternatives to account for reduced participation levels to maintain affordability. In the event that the final project facilities are different than the assumptions above, staff will consider appropriate modifications to the process and documents consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. The goal is to make any modifications on a timeline that does not impact the ability to deliver the EIR/EIS documents for public review any later than July 2021.

The California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project while avoiding or substantially lessening significant effects of the project. While an EIR must analyze reasonable alternatives, it also needs to identify a proposed project, which is also referred to as the preferred alternative. At this time, staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's proposed project based on its meeting the intent and the goals of the Value Planning effort, its close alignment with VP-7, and its ability to meet the project objectives. The EIR/EIS will also analyze Alternative 2 and the No Project/No Action Alternative.

If designated by the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board, Alternative 1 would also be used as the proposed project for the purposes of the Biological Assessment under the Federal Endangered Species Act and State Incidental Take Permit applications under the California Endangered Species Act.

Prior Action:

April 22, 2020: The Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze the environmental effects of the options identified in the Final Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report dated April 2020, including VP7.

April 22, 2020: The Authority accepted: the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, dated April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within, and; a recommendation to the Sites Project Authority to approve the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within.

February 26, 2020: The Authority approved a recommendation to re-start efforts on the EIR for the Sites Reservoir Project and assess the most appropriate approach for completing the EIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

July 20, 2017: The Reservoir Committee approved a recommendation to forward the Draft EIR/EIS to the Authority Board for its consideration to formally receive and adopt the document for inclusion in the Authority's Water Storage Investment Project application.

July 31, 2017: The Authority approved the release of the Draft EIR for public and agency review, in connection with the Authority's application to the California Water Commission by August 14, 2017. The document was published as joint Draft EIR/EIS by the Authority under the California Environmental Quality Act and Reclamation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

December 19, 2016: The Authority approved release of a Supplemental Notice of Preparation (released February 2, 2017) to transfer the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency status from the Department of Water Resources to the Sites Project Authority. Public scoping meetings were conducted on February 14 and 15, 2017.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

Actual costs to prepare the project description and the supporting evaluations were within the amounts budgeted in the Phase 1B Work Plan which was approved by the Sites Project Authority at its January 22, 2020 Board meeting.

Sufficient funds to complete the recirculated Draft EIR/EIS and begin preparation of the Final EIR/EIS are included in the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget), which was approved by the Authority at its August 26, 2020 Board meeting.

Costs to complete and circulate the Final EIR/EIS will be considered in a future Work Plan.

Staff Contact:

Ali Forsythe

Attachments:

Attachment A – Sites Reservoir Project, Preliminary Project Description –
September 8, 2020.

Attachment B – Revised Recommended EIR Objectives.

Sites Reservoir Project Preliminary Project Description September 2020

On April 22, 2020, the Sites Project Authority (Authority) directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the environmental effects of the facility options identified in the Sites Project Value Planning Report (Value Planning Report), dated April 2020. Since that time, Authority staff and environmental, engineering and modeling consultants have been developing and refining alternatives. In June, staff recommended that the Draft Revised EIR¹/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)² (Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS) evaluate two action alternatives, Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, and provided an initial overview of the two alternatives.

This preliminary project description summarizes the alternatives presented in the preliminary Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS Chapter 2, Alternatives Description, which was completed on August 31, 2020. That preliminary draft Chapter 2 reflects preliminary design efforts, including the preparation of technical memos and preliminary drawings, and coordination between the service providers and staff. Modeling and engineering efforts are ongoing, and additional information related to operations and construction means and methods will likely supplement the preliminary Draft Chapter 2 in the coming weeks.

1.0 Overview of Alternatives

The following table compares facilities and operational considerations under Alternatives 1 and 2. This table is an updated version of a table provided at the June 24 Authority Board meeting (Agenda Item 3.3 Attachment B) and identifies existing as well as new facilities that will be constructed to implement each alternative.

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Diversion/Reservoir Infrastructure Details		
Reservoir Size	1.5 million acre feet (MAF)	1.3 MAF
Dams [Scaled to the size of the reservoir]	2 main dams, Golden Gate Dam and Sites Dam 7 saddle dams 2 saddle dikes	2 main dams, Golden Gate and Sites Dam 6 saddle dams 2 saddle dikes
Spillway	One spillway on Saddle Dam 8b	Similar to Alternative 1
Funks Reservoir and Funks Pumping Generating Plant	Funks Reservoir excavated to original capacity; same footprint as existing Funks Reservoir. New Funks Pump Generating Plant (PGP). New Funks pipeline alignment with 2 pipelines.	Similar to Alternative 1

¹ The Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will also address the No Project/No Action Alternative.

² A Supplemental EIS will be prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR); TRR Pumping Generating Plant; TRR Pipeline	New TRR facilities (TRR and TRR PGP) adjacent to the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Main Canal. New TRR pipeline alignment with 2 pipelines.	Same as Alternative 1
Hydropower	Power generation incidental upon release.	Same as Alternative 1
Diversion(s)	Diversion from Sacramento River into existing Tehama-Colusa Canal at Red Bluff and the existing GCID Main Canal at Hamilton City. Adding 2 pumps in existing bays at the plant at the Red Bluff Pumping Plant.	Same as Alternative 1
Emergency Release Flow	Releases into Funks Creek via Inlet/Outlet Works. Releases into Stone Corral Creek via Site Dam permanent discharge outlet. Emergency outflow pipeline and structures in Saddle Dam 3 and 5 to release north to Hunters Creek Watershed. Release from spillway on Saddle Dam 8b.	Similar to Alternative 1
Flood Control	Flood damage reduction benefit for local watersheds from reservoir storage.	Same as Alternative 1
Reservoir Management	Reservoir Management Plan and Reservoir Operations Plan.	Same as Alternative 1
Electrical Facilities	Transmission Lines, substations, switchyards; interconnection with Western Area Power Administration or Pacific Gas and Electric.	Same as Alternative 1
Recreation		
Multiple Facilities Consistent with WSIP Application	Two primary areas with infrastructure (with phased construction): 1. Peninsula Hills Area 2. Stone Corral Creek One day-use boat ramp w/parking located on the west side of the reservoir and south of the bridge.	Same as Alternative 1
Transportation/Circulation		
Provide Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge crossing the reservoir as a result of the relocation of existing Sites Lodoga Road. Relocation of Huffmaster Road with gravel road to residents at the south end of the reservoir terminating at the south end of the reservoir.	No bridge. Relocation of Sites Lodoga Road to residents at south end of the reservoir continues to Lodoga. Huffmaster Road is integrated into Sites Lodoga Road and is paved the entire way.
Multiple Maintenance and Local Access Roads	Approximately 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads would provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as provide public access to the proposed recreation areas.	Similar to Alternative 1

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
	Approximate number of roads related to the reservoir: 5 local/construction roads 2 construction/maintenance roads 7 local roads 4 maintenance roads Approximate number of access roads related to conveyance facilities: 1 to the TRR 1 to Funks complex Multiple within pipeline easements	
Operations		
Operational Criteria	Option based on Value Planning Report, Table 3.1 Scenario B, anticipated to be modified by future modeling efforts.	Same as Alternative 1
Reclamation Involvement	Two Options: 1. Funding Partner 2. Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Same as Alternative 1
State Water Project (SWP) Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta.	Same as Alternative 1
Bypass Releases into Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek	Develop specific bypass criteria to protect downstream water right holders and ecological function.	Same as Alternative 1
Conveyance Dunnigan Release	Release 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain to meet member participant demands and Proposition 1 needs.	Release into new pipeline to Sacramento River to meet member participant demands. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain to fulfill the Proposition 1 needs.

2.0 Facilities

The project will utilize both existing and proposed new facilities, all of which will be located within northern California in Glenn, Colusa, Tehama and Yolo Counties (see Figures 1 and 2 at the end of this document). As summarized in the Table 1 above, most facilities are the same or similar under Alternatives 1 and 2 although features may differ in scale or location due to the size of the reservoir. Facilities that have substantial differences between alternatives, such as the proposed dams, Dunnigan Pipeline and the Sites Lodoga Road realignment/relocation, are described in more detail below.

2.1 Existing Facilities

The project will utilize certain existing water supply infrastructure, including:

- Existing Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure operated by the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA):
 - Red Bluff Pumping Plant
 - Tehama-Colusa Canal

- Funks Reservoir located approximately 65 miles south of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant
- Existing GCID Hamilton City Diversion and the GCID Main Canal
- Colusa Basin Drain (CBD)

Both action alternatives would require pumping capacity that exceeds the existing total installed capacity of 2,000 cfs of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant to convey flow to Funks Reservoir and ultimately Sites Reservoir. Both action alternatives would require installation of two additional 250-cfs vertical axial-flow pumps into existing concrete pump bays at the pumping plant.

Both action alternatives would also require a new 3,000-cfs GCID Main Canal headgate structure about 0.25 mile downstream of Hamilton City Pump Station. The existing headgate structure would be inadequate for proposed winter operation during high river flows. To streamline maintenance during the winter shutdown period (i.e., reduce it from the current shutdown window of 6 weeks to 2 weeks), smaller improvements would be required to integrate Sites Reservoir into the GCID system.

Use of the existing Funks Reservoir would require excavation of sediment to return it to its original capacity. The bottom of Funks Reservoir would be reshaped to allow large, unimpeded flows to and from the new Funks PGP.

Proposed access during construction will avoid the town of Maxwell, utilizing County Roads 68 and 69, McDermott Road, Maxwell Sites Road and Sites Lodoga Road. Several of these existing roads would require improvement to support construction activities. Other local roads would need to be relocated or developed to accommodate access due to the construction of reservoir facilities. These include portions of Sites Lodoga Road, Huffmaster Road, and Communication Road.

2.2 Proposed Conveyance Facilities

Implementation of either Alternative 1 or 2 would require various facilities to control the conveyance of water between Sites Reservoir and the Tehama-Colusa Canal and GCID Main Canal. These facilities would include regulating reservoirs, pipelines, PGPs, electrical substations, and administration and maintenance buildings.

The two regulating reservoirs would be the existing Funks Reservoir and the new Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR). Both regulating reservoirs would have two 12-foot-diameter pipelines extending to and from Sites Reservoir just below Golden Gate Dam. At each regulating reservoir, the pipelines would be connected to a pumping generating plant that pumps water from the regulating reservoir to Sites Reservoir, as well as turbines that would generate power when flows were released from Sites Reservoir. There would also be energy dissipation equipment adjacent to each PGP (e.g., fixed cone valve[s]) to throttle the flow of water into each regulating reservoir when the turbines are not being used.

A transition manifold would be constructed at the base of Golden Gate Dam to connect pipelines from Sites Reservoir to Funks Reservoir and the TRR pipelines. In

addition, a point of interconnection to a high-voltage electric transmission line would be required to power the facilities at the proposed TRR and Funks electrical substations.

Water released from Sites Reservoir would be conveyed south of Sites Reservoir using the existing Tehama-Colusa Canal and a new Dunnigan pipeline. The water would flow south about 40 miles to the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal, where it would be diverted into the proposed Dunnigan Pipeline. Under Alternative 1, the flows would subsequently be conveyed to the CBD and released through the proposed CBD Outlet Structure, eventually reaching the Sacramento River at Knights Landing or to the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough complex through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut. Under Alternative 2 water would flow south to the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal but would be diverted into an extended Dunnigan Pipeline, with release directly to the Sacramento River with some flows released to the CBD to flow into the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough complex through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut for environmental benefits under Proposition 1.

2.3 Proposed Reservoir Facilities

Under either alternative, water would be impounded by the Golden Gate Dam on Funks Creek and the Sites Dam on Stone Corral Creek; a series of saddle dams along the eastern and northern rims of reservoir would close off topographic saddles in the surrounding ridges to form Sites Reservoir. Two saddle dikes are also needed at topographic saddle low points along the northern end of the reservoir. These components of the reservoir would be scaled according to the alternative.

Under Alternative 1, the proposed 1.5-MAF reservoir would have a Normal Maximum Water Surface (NMWS) elevation of 498 feet. Under Alternative 2, the proposed 1.3-MAF reservoir would have an NMWS elevation of 482 feet. Nominal crest would be at elevation 517 feet for all dams for 1.5-MAF capacity, and at elevation 500 feet for 1.3-MAF capacity. Table 2 presents a summary of dam heights required to impound Sites Reservoir for the 1.5-MAF capacity and 1.3-MAF capacity.

Table 2. Dam Heights for 1.5-MAF and 1.3-MAF Sites Reservoir Alternatives

Dam/Dike	1.5-MAF Reservoir Maximum Height Above Streambed (feet)	1.3-MAF Reservoir Maximum Height Above Streambed (feet)
Golden Gate Dam	287	270
Sites Dam	267	250
Saddle Dam 1	27	None
Saddle Dam 2	57	40
Saddle Dam 3	107	90
Saddle Dam 5	77	60
Saddle Dam 6	47	None
Saddle Dam 8A	82	65
Saddle Dam 8B	37	5
Saddle Dike 1	12	10 (near Saddle Dam 1)
Saddle Dike 2	12	10 (near Saddle Dam 6)
Saddle Dam 10 ^a	Not required for 1.5-MAF Reservoir	30

^a For the 1.3-MAF Reservoir, Golden Gate Dam would be reconfigured and Saddle Dam 10 added to close off a topographic saddle in the ridge that is closed in the 1.5-MAF Golden Gate Dam configuration.

The engineering team is continuing to evaluate different options for dam fill that would be utilized under either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. One option is an earth- and rockfill dam and another option is an earthfill dam. The proposed inlet/outlet works for an earthfill dam would be located to the south of Golden Gate Dam and would be used both to fill the reservoir through conveyance facilities located to the East and to make releases from Sites Reservoir. The inlet/outlet works include:

1. A multi-level intake tower including a low-level intake.
2. Two 23 foot inside diameter inlet/outlet tunnels through the ridge on the right abutment of Golden Gate Dam.

2.4 Proposed Recreational Facilities

As specified in the Sites Water Storage Investment Program application, either alternative would include two primary recreation areas and a day-use boat ramp which are to be phased in over a period of time. Located on the northwest shore of the proposed Sites Reservoir, to the north of the existing Sites Lodoga Road, the Peninsula Hills Recreation Area would include approximately:

- 200 campsites (car and recreational vehicle)
- one group camp area
- 10 picnic sites (with parking at each site)
- hiking trails
- electricity
- potable water
- one kiosk
- 19 vault toilets

Located on the eastern shore of the Sites Reservoir, north of the existing Maxwell Sites Road and proposed Sites Dam, the Stone Corral Creek Recreational Area would include:

- 50 campsites (car and recreational vehicle)
- electricity

- 10 picnic sites (with parking at each site)
- six-lane boat launch site
- hiking trails
- potable water
- one kiosk
- 10 vault toilets

Each alternative would also include a Day-Use Boat Ramp/Parking Recreation Area, located on the western side of the reservoir where the existing Sites Lodoga Road intersects with the proposed inundation area for the reservoir. Facilities would include:

- one kiosk
- one vault toilet
- potable water
- parking area

2.5 Proposed Roads and South Bridge

In addition to modifying existing roads for construction access, the project will require up to 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads to provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as public access to the proposed recreation areas. Sites Lodoga Road provides access to and from the town of Maxwell, which is adjacent to Interstate 5. Sites Lodoga Road becomes Maxwell Sites Road east of the rural community of Sites that is within the inundation area. The reservoir would eliminate east-west access to Interstate 5 (east of the reservoir) from the rural communities of Stonyford and Lodoga (west of the reservoir) because it would inundate the current route of Sites Lodoga Road. The current Sites Lodoga Road is an east-west, two-lane rural collector road and provides an emergency and evacuation route to and from these rural communities. Because construction of the Sites Dam would eliminate access on the Sites Lodoga Road, this collector road would need to be relocated/realigned prior to project construction.

Under Alternative 1, the realigned Sites Lodoga Road would include the construction of a bridge across the reservoir. Various bridge types and options have been evaluated. One option for a bridge is a full-length bridge that would offer navigational passage along the entire width of the reservoir. Another option for a bridge is a causeway with partial fill, which would limit the navigational passage within the reaches of the shorter bridges; however, the approach to implementing fill prism in the reservoir would significantly reduce construction cost. Alternative 1 would also include the realignment of the existing Huffmaster Road to provide access to properties otherwise inaccessible due to reservoir construction.

Under Alternative 2, the realignment of Sites Lodoga Road would result in a road that ultimately extends from Maxwell to the community of Lodoga around the southern end and western side of the proposed Sites Reservoir. This road, referred to as the Maxwell Lodoga Road, would include the realignment and repavement of the existing Huffmaster Road.

2.6 Project Buffer

The proposed project buffer would consist of the total amount of land that would be acquired beyond the facility footprints for each alternative. The preliminary approach to the buffer is outlined below.

- The buffer would include 100 feet around all buildings and most ground facilities (e.g., substations, any aboveground pipelines) along with 100 feet around the Sites Reservoir Complex and recreation areas.
- The buffer may be less than 100 feet if the facility is near a property boundary and the proposed uses do not conflict with the adjacent land uses.
- No project buffers are anticipated for underground or buried facilities (i.e., Dunnigan Pipeline), overhead power lines, or roads (both public and project maintenance access roads).
- The Authority would evaluate the need for the buffer (and if implemented, an appropriate width) on a case-by-case basis in coordination with adjacent landowners. The buffer would likely be acquired in fee title by the Authority; however, acquisition of buffer areas in an easement may be feasible under certain circumstances.
- The lands within the buffer would generally remain undeveloped. Limited features may be installed to reduce future maintenance activities and fire hazards. These features may include limited fencing, regrading to construct fire breaks or fire trails, or similar actions.
- The lands within the buffer would be maintained by the Authority. Maintenance activities that are proposed to be undertaken within the project buffer include vegetation maintenance and periodic fire break maintenance. Such activities may include grazing, periodic tilling or disking, and performing limited controlled/prescribed burns. Where appropriate, the buffer may be managed as wildlife habitat. Fence maintenance would occur within the buffer.

3.0 Operations

The operation of the project under each alternative will be defined in upcoming months as the modeling and development of diversion criteria are further advanced. The member participants of the Authority have a collective demand of approximately 240,000 acre-feet, of which 192,892 acre-feet is needed by participating public water agencies³. Reclamation is also a participant through funding and/or operational exchanges with Shasta Lake. The State would also be involved through operational exchanges with Oroville Reservoir and storage in State Water Project facilities south-of-Delta.

Sites Reservoir would be filled by diverting unregulated/unappropriated flow in the Sacramento River. This water originates during winter storm events, which increase flows in the tributaries to the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam and avoiding any effects on the Trinity River. Water would be available for diversion after senior water rights are met, in-river aquatic species protection requirements are met, and delta water quality requirements have been met. Diversions would occur at the fish screened Red Bluff Pumping Plant and the GCID Hamilton City location when applicable regulatory requirements are met and existing pumping and conveyance capacity is available to convey water through the canals to the reservoir. TRR and Funks Reservoir, PGPs, and pipelines connect directly to the inlet/outlet works and would be operated in parallel to

³ April 2020 Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report.

pump water into and out of Sites Reservoir. Water would enter (and be released from) the reservoir through the inlet/outlet works.

Reservoir releases include releases to meet participant demands and to deliver water for a range of environmental benefits that will be finalized during project development and permitting.

- Sites Reservoir would be operated in cooperation with Central Valley Project (CVP) and SWP operations to coordinate with releases made with the CVP and SWP from Shasta Lake, Lake Oroville, and Folsom Lake. Sites Reservoir releases could supplement and/or allow reduced releases from other reservoirs while maintaining minimum instream flow objectives, Sacramento River temperature requirements, and Delta salinity control requirements assigned to CVP and SWP.
- Releases would be made mostly in dry and critical water years. Water users north of the Delta would mostly receive deliveries from the TCCA canal and GCID canal. Water users south of the Delta would receive water primarily via SWP pumping facilities.
- Using the CBD for conveyance of Sites Reservoir water would include coordination with the local landowners regarding the project operation and timing of the additional flows.

Releases would also be made to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks for downstream water right holders and to maintain ecological function in the sections of these creeks affected by the project. A proposed Reservoir Operations Plan would describe the management of water operations, including releases to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks.

Operation of either alternative would require power to run facilities and pump water. The identification of a power source and the location of transmission facilities is pending coordination with Western Area Power Administration and/or Pacific Gas and Electric. Each of the alternatives would also generate incidental power when water is released from Sites Reservoir at the Funks PGP and TRR PGP. The capacity of the project power generation facilities is anticipated to be below the threshold such that no license would be required from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the facilities would satisfy the criteria for a "Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility" under the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013, as amended by America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

4.0 Maintenance and Management

Under either alternative, maintenance activities for the project facilities would include debris removal, dredging, vegetation control, rodent control, erosion control and protection, routine inspections (dams, tunnels, pipelines, PGPs, inlet/outlet works, fencing, signs, and gates), painting, cleaning, repairs, and other routine tasks to maintain facilities in accordance with design standards after construction and commissioning. Routine visual inspection of the facilities would be conducted to monitor performance and prevent mechanical and structural failures of project elements. Maintenance activities associated with proposed river intakes could include

cleaning, removal of sediment, debris, and biofouling materials. These maintenance actions could require dewatering; suction dredging or mechanical excavation around intake structures; or the use of underwater diving crews, boom trucks, rubber-wheel cranes, and raft- or barge-mounted equipment. Proposed maintenance activities could occur on a daily, annually, periodically (as needed), and long-term basis.

The Authority would also develop and implement a Reservoir Management Plan to define the land uses of project lands controlled by the Authority, fish stocking and vector control practices, and the resources associated with project lands. The Reservoir Management Plan would include the following types of information:

- **Fisheries Management.** This would target species composition for Sites Reservoir, including stocking strategies, habitat enhancement measures, and monitoring efforts.
- **Land Use Management and Recreation.** This would outline how decisions regarding future amenities would be made and what land use considerations would be factored into Authority operations and activities.
- **Easement Management:** Right-of-ways and/or permanent easements would be required for long-term operation and maintenance of all the large-diameter pipelines. This would outline management and maintenance activities for easement areas.
- **Emergency Management.** This would establish protocol on how the Authority would be involved in controlling and resolving emergency situations, including those arising as a result of recreationists.
- **Vector Management.** This would establish protocols and practices for communicating and coordinating with vector control authorities in determining how vector control would be managed at the project facilities.
- **Sediment Management and Removal.** This would consolidate information on the frequency and locations of dredging, testing of sediment before disposal, disposal locations, and procedures to follow if sediment contaminant levels exceed regulatory standards for constituents of concern (e.g., pesticides).

5.0 Best Management Practices

A number of Best Management Practices and environmental commitments are proposed to be included in Project design, construction and operation/maintenance. The following proposed list of Best Management Practices and environmental commitments would be considered part of the Project.

- Conform with Applicable Design Standards and Building Codes
- Perform Geotechnical Evaluations and Prepare Geotechnical Data Reports
- Utility and Infrastructure Verification and/or Relocation
- Natural Gas Well Decommissioning
- Water Wells Decommissioning
- Road Abandonment
- Environmental Site Assessment(s)

- Salvage, Stockpile, and Replace Topsoil and Prepare a Topsoil Storage and Handling Plan
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan(s) and Best Management Practices (storm water and non-storm water)
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for Operation and Maintenance
- Spill Prevention and Hazardous Materials Management / Accidental Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasure Plans and Response Measures
- Minimize Soil Disturbance
- Comply with Requirements of RWQCB Order 5-00-175
- Groundwater/ Dewatering Water Supply
- Construction Equipment, Truck, and Traffic Management Plan
- Visual/Aesthetic Design, Construction, and Operation Practices
- Fire Safety and Suppression / Fire Prevention and Control Plan
- Worker Health and Safety Plan
- Blasting Standard Requirements
- Mosquito and Vector Control During Construction
- Construction Noise Management
- Operation and Maintenance Noise Management
- Construction Emergency Action Plan
- Emergency Action Plan for Reservoir Operations
- Electrical Power Guidelines and EMF Field Management Plan
- Construction Equipment Exhaust Reduction Plan
- Fugitive Dust Control Plans
- Construction Best Management Practices to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazardous Materials Management Plans
- Construction Site Security
- Notification of Maintenance Activities in Waterways
- Worker Environmental Awareness Program
- Fish Rescue and Salvage Plans for Funks Reservoir, Stone Corral Creek, and Funks Creek for Alternative 1; for Sacramento River for Alternative 2
- Construction Best Management Practices and Monitoring for Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species Habitats, and Natural Communities
- Control of Invasive Plant Species during Construction and Operation

6.0 Pre-Construction Activities

In addition to items/activities addressed in the above list of proposed BMPs and ECs, there are other activities that would be required prior to the initiation of construction of the different physical components of either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. These activities include: finalizing criteria and standards used for final design, including emergency management/release requirements; preparing a Dam Monitoring Program; conducting additional geotechnical and related field investigations to support design; relocation of two private cemeteries (Sites Cemetery and a Rancheria Cemetery); and the development and implementation of a Resident Relocation Program.

7.0 Timing of Environmental Review and Feasibility Report

The current schedule contemplates release of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS in July 2021. This is roughly the same timing for the engineering team's finalization of the Feasibility Report for the California Water Commission. As such, preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS and Feasibility Report are proceeding simultaneously. To accommodate the project schedule and the simultaneous preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS and Feasibility Report, the following project components will be utilized for the analysis:

- Sites Lodoga Road and Bridge – Under Alternative 1, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the option of the shorter bridge with fill prisms, including the cast-in-place prestressed concrete box girder bridge type. This option was identified as a lowest cost bridge alternative in the Value Planning Report while meeting the functional requirements for efficient traffic flow.
- Dam Fill Materials – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the option of using earth and rockfill. This option is anticipated to be preferred by the Division of Safety of Dams and will assist in meeting the schedule and affordability goals; it also provides maximum coverage for potential environmental effects as the rockfill involves blasting associated with rock quarrying.
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR) – Under Alternative 1 and 2, it is anticipated that the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the current TRR location. Other locations currently are under review due to the extent and costs associated with ground preparation needed for construction at the current site.
- GCID and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will describe the types of improvements needed to convey water through existing facilities and reduce GCID's current maintenance winter shutdown period from 6 weeks to 2 weeks, pending agreement between GCID and the Authority on any specific improvements that may be warranted due to implementation of the project. Improvements may also be needed to the Colusa Basin Drain to convey Sites water.
- Emergency Releases – In the rare and unanticipated condition that the Sites Reservoir has to conduct emergency releases, these releases are currently planned to be made into Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dam 3, 5, and 8b. Emergency release locations and the extent of potential impacts will be evaluated in further detail as part of the on-going feasibility study.
- Dunnigan Release – Under Alternative 1, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate a release to the CBD based on a preliminary hydraulic analysis. Alternatives 2 will carry forward an extension of the Dunnigan pipeline to the Sacramento River.
- Hydropower Generation – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate incidental in-line conduit hydropower generation below the threshold for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate options for obtaining temporary water supply for construction, such as obtaining water on site via existing groundwater

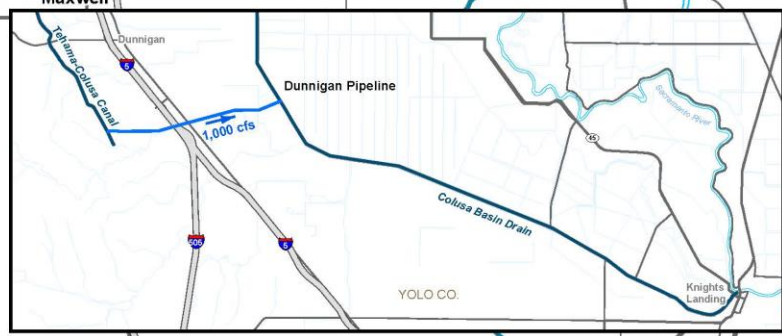
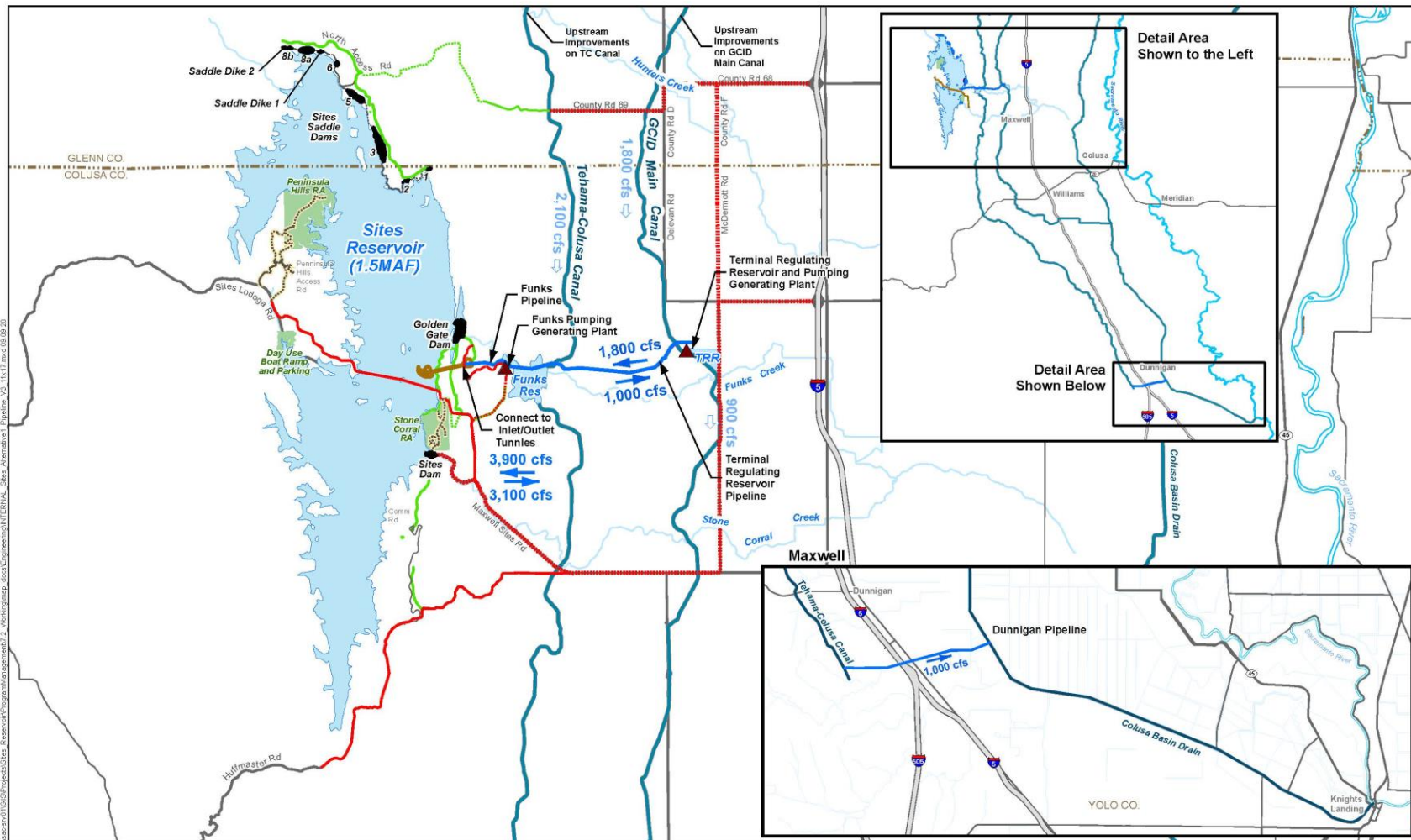
or surface water facilities and/or utilizing existing or drilling new wells, including any necessary treatment depending on the water quality.

The engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for various facility components, consistent with CEQA and NEPA requirements, in order to optimize design considerations and reduce costs.

It should also be noted that in the upcoming weeks, there will be further definition of project operations through modeling, clarification of water rights, and consultation with resource agencies. This information and any resulting changes to the alternatives described in the preliminary draft will be incorporated into the complete Chapter 2, Alternatives Description, to be completed by December 2020.

8.0 Identification of the Preferred Alternative for the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS Analysis

The CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project and avoid or substantially lessen the significant effects of the project. An EIR also needs to identify a proposed project, i.e., a preferred alternative. At this time, Authority staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's proposed project based on it meeting the objectives identified in the Value Planning Report and being most closely aligned with Alternative VP-7, and its ability to meet the revised draft CEQA project objectives. The Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will also evaluate Alternative 2 and the No Project/No Action Alternative.

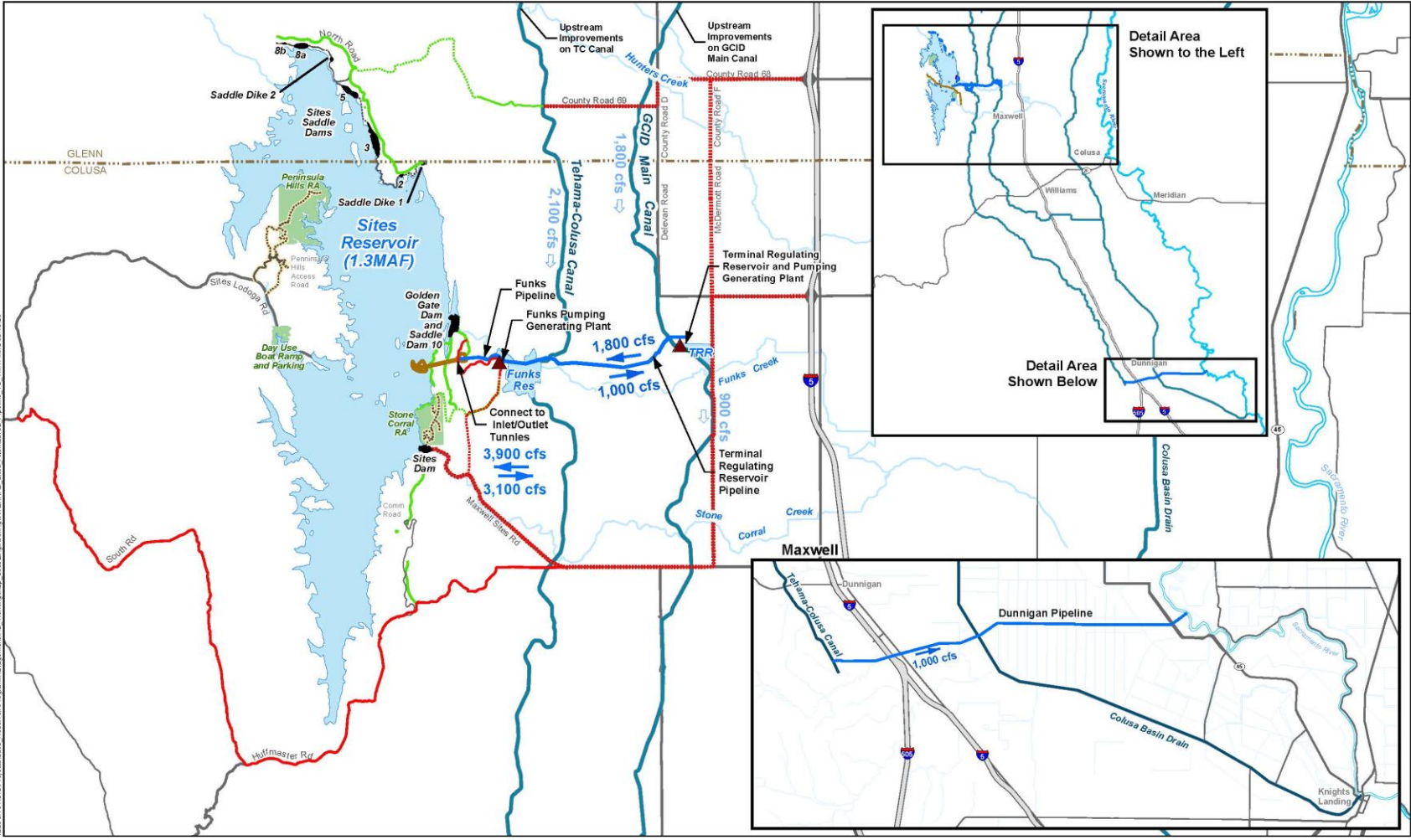


Legend

- Canal
- Maintenance Access Road
- New/Realigned Permanent Road
- Existing Roads
- Pipeline
- - - Construction/Maintenance Route
- - - Construction Route (Existing Road)
- Waterways



ALTERNATIVE 1



Legend

- Canal
 - Pipeline
- Maintenance Access Road
 - - - Construction/Maintenance Route
- New/Realigned Permanent Road
 - - - Construction Route (Existing Road)
- Existing Roads
 - Waterways



ALTERNATIVE 2

Sites Reservoir Project
Revised Recommended EIR Objectives
September 8, 2020

- OBJ-1: Improve water supply reliability and resiliency to meet member participants' agricultural and municipal long-term average annual water demand in a cost-effective manner for all member participants', including those that are the most cost-sensitive.
- OBJ-2: Provide public benefits consistent with Proposition 1 of 2014 and use Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) funds to improve statewide surface water supply reliability and flexibility to enhance opportunities for fisheries and habitat management for the public benefit through a designated long-term average annual water supply.
- OBJ-3: Provide public benefits consistent with the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) of 2016 by using federal funds, if available, provided by Reclamation to improve Central Valley Project (CVP) operational flexibility in meeting CVP environmental and contractual water supply needs and improving cold pool management in Shasta Reservoir to benefit anadromous fish
- OBJ-4: Provide surface water to convey biomass from the floodplain to the Delta to enhance the Delta ecosystem for the benefit of pelagic fishes¹ in the north Delta (e.g., Cache Slough).
- OBJ-5: Provide local and regional amenities, such as developing recreational facilities, reducing local flood damage, and maintaining roadway connectivity through modifications.

¹ Pelagic fish are species that spend most of their life swimming in the water column, having little contact or dependency with the bottom.



November 13, 2020

Mr. Dennis Ramirez, Chairperson
Mechoopda Indian Tribe
125 Mission Ranch Blvd.
Chico, CA 95926

From: Fritz Durst/ Sites Project Authority Board Chair

Subject: Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, Assembly Bill (AB) 52. Formal Notification of the Preferred Project for the Purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Analysis and Notification of Consultation Opportunity for the Sites Reservoir Project, Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Yolo Counties, California, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1

Dear Honorable Chairperson Ramirez,

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) initially contacted you in February 2017 in compliance with the project notification requirements pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d) for the Sites Reservoir Project. A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was published for public review in August 2017. After receipt of public comments on the Draft EIR, the Authority reconsidered elements of the project. In October 2019, representatives from both the Authority Board and Reservoir Committee began undertaking a “value planning” process, an effort to identify and evaluate additional alternatives. As a result of the the “value planning process,” the Authority identified a project that reduced the size of the proposed Sites Reservoir from 1.8 million acre feet to 1.5 million acre feet, removed the Delevan Pipeline and associated facilities, and made minor adjustments to other project features.

On April 22, 2020, the Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft EIR consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the environmental effects of the facility options identified in the Sites Project Value Planning Report.¹ The Revised Draft EIR is anticipated to be released for public review in the summer of 2021. In response to preparing the Revised Draft EIR, the Authority is providing you with a description of the revised project for your consideration pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d).

Description of the Proposed Project

The Authority proposes to construct the revised Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir and associated water conveyance facilities located in Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Yolo counties, California. The new reservoir would be located in Antelope Valley, on the eastern edge of the North Coast Ranges and approximately 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell.

¹ https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/02-01.a-Authority-Board_Value-Planning.pdf



The Sites Reservoir Project is proposed to provide storage and operational benefits including water supply resiliency, water dedicated to environmental uses, and other programs throughout California.

Two alternatives (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2) are currently under consideration. The primary differences in the alternatives is that Alternative 1 will impound up to 1.5 million acre feet of water and discharge water into the Colusa Drain, via the Tehama Colusa Canal, in the vicinity of Dunnigan, Yolo County. In contrast, Alternative 2 will hold up to 1.3 million acre feet of water and discharge water via the Tehama Colusa Canal into the Sacramento River; again, in the vicinity of Dunnigan. Alternative 1 also includes a bridge to extend the Sites Lodoga Road directly across the reservoir, while Alternative 2 re-routes the road around the south end of the reservoir and continues to Lodoga along the west side of the reservoir. Alternative 1 was designated by the Authority as the preferred project for the purposes of the CEQA analysis and permit development on September 17, 2020.

For more information regarding the proposed project alternatives, please see the attached Preliminary Project Description.

Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (b), please respond, in writing, within 30 days if you wish to request consultation. If you have any questions or wish to consult on this project, please contact the Authority's Lead Agency Point of Contact for AB 52 consultations:

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
Phone: (530) 632-4071
Email: kspesert@sitesproject.org

If consultation is requested, please provide the name and contact information of the designated lead contact person as part of your request. The Authority will contact the designated person to set a meeting date to begin consultation within 30 days of our receipt of your request.

Thank you for giving this matter your prompt attention.

Sincerely,



Fritz Durst
Sites Project Authority



Topic: **Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Committee Meeting Agenda Item 2.3** **2020 September 17**

Subject: **Preferred Project for the Purposes of the CEQA Analysis and Federal/State ESA Analysis**

Requested Action:

Designate Alternative 1, based on VP-7 of the Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report (Value Planning Report), as the Authority's preferred project for the purposes of the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analysis and for the purposes of the Biological Assessment and State Incidental Take Permit applications.

Detailed Description/Background:

In April 2020, the Authority accepted the Value Planning Report and its findings and directed staff to analyze the environmental effects of the new alternatives in the Value Planning Report, including VP7. The Authority also directed that a revised and recirculated Draft EIR be prepared for public review¹. Staff began development of the revised Draft EIR and is at the point where the Board needs to identify a preferred alternative based on a more complete project description (see attachment A).

During the Reservoir Committee and Board meetings in June, staff provided an overview of the alternatives under consideration as well as revised draft objectives for the project, requesting review and input in order to focus efforts in developing a more complete project description. At that time, staff presented Alternatives 1 and 2 which combined components of VP5, VP6, and VP7 from the Value Planning Report. Staff recommended these two alternatives as they define the reasonable range of alternatives given the previous analyses of the project and potential alternatives.

Staff is returning to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board with a Preliminary Project Description (Attachment A), and revised objectives (Attachment B). Changes have been made to both the alternatives and objectives in response to Reservoir Committee and Authority Board input and in further development of project details and information by the project team. The key changes to the alternatives are as follows:

- Transportation/circulation components have been clarified. Both alternatives provide access to residents at the south end of the reservoir via a realigned Huffmaster Road. To provide access to the west side of the reservoir, Alternative 1 crosses the reservoir with a bridge on Sites Lodoga

¹ Staff has worked cooperatively with the Bureau of Reclamation to identify the appropriate approach to proceed with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and a Supplemental EIS will be prepared as part of the joint California Environmental Quality Act/National Environmental Policy Act documentation.

Road. Alternative 2 includes a south road continuing from Huffmaster Road around the west side of the reservoir to Ladoga, with no bridge.

- The Dunnigan pipeline alignment and proposal to release into the Colusa Basin Drain has been further assessed and confirmed as the proposed component for conveyance release under Alternative 1.

Key changes to the objectives are as follows:

- All objectives have been revised to focus on the statewide benefits of the Project and the needs of all Participants.
- Objective 1 addresses the amount of water supply required to meet participants' water demands and the need for an affordable, cost-effective Project.
- Objective 2 addresses the Water Storage and Investment Program public benefits.
- Objective 3 addresses federal participation and clarifies the intent of the Project to provide operational flexibility to the Central Valley Project.
- Objective 4 addresses intended benefits to the Delta ecosystem beyond the requirements of the Water Storage and Investment Program public benefits.
- Minor changes have also been made to Objective 5 regarding roadway connectivity.

Due to the project schedule, staff is preparing the Revised EIR at the same time as the engineering team is conducting preliminary design activities. The following assumptions represent the variations being taken from the project described in VP7 of the Value Planning Report and have been incorporated in the development of Alternative 1 to allow the EIR/EIS and engineering activities to move forward simultaneously and achieve the project schedule:

- Bridge – The EIR/EIS will move forward with Bridge Option 1B, Shorter Bridge with Fill Prisms, including the Cast-in-Place Prestressed Concrete Box Girder bridge type. This option was identified as a lowest cost bridge alternative in the Value Planning Report while meeting the functional requirements for efficient traffic flow.
- Dam Fill materials – The EIR/EIS will move forward with Dam Fill Option 1A, Earth and Rockfill, which is anticipated to be preferred by California Division of Safety of Dams and will assist in meeting the schedule and affordability goals; it also provides maximum coverage for potential environmental effects as the rockfill involves blasting associated with rock quarrying.
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir – The EIR/EIS will continue to analyze the original proposed location for this reservoir and carries forward additional potential locations as more is learned in the coming months regarding soils conditions.

- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – The EIR/EIS will address the type and magnitude of improvements needed to convey Sites water through existing facilities, pending future agreements on any specific improvements that may be warranted by the Project.
- Emergency Releases – In the rare and unanticipated condition that the Sites Reservoir has to conduct emergency releases, these releases are currently planned to be made into Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dam 3, 5, and 8b. Emergency release locations and the extent of potential impacts will be evaluated in further detail as part of the on-going feasibility study.
- Dunnigan Release – Based on preliminary hydraulic study, the EIR/EIS will assume release to the Colusa Basin Drain under Alternative 1 and will carry forward an extension to the Sacramento River under Alternative 2.
- Hydropower Generation – Based on the current Project information, the EIR/EIS will address incidental in-line conduit hydropower generation at a level that is below the threshold for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – Based on the current Project information, the EIR/EIS will evaluate obtaining water temporarily for construction supply on site via existing groundwater or surface water facilities or existing or new groundwater wells, including any onsite treatment that may be warranted depending on water quality.

It is important to note that the engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for various facility components in order to optimize design and reduce costs, including potentially considering alternatives to account for reduced participation levels to maintain affordability. In the event that the final project facilities are different than the assumptions above, staff will consider appropriate modifications to the process and documents consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. The goal is to make any modifications on a timeline that does not impact the ability to deliver the EIR/EIS documents for public review any later than July 2021.

The California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project while avoiding or substantially lessening significant effects of the project. While an EIR must analyze reasonable alternatives, it also needs to identify a proposed project, which is also referred to as the preferred alternative. At this time, staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's proposed project based on its meeting the intent and the goals of the Value Planning effort, its close alignment with VP-7, and its ability to meet the project objectives. The EIR/EIS will also analyze Alternative 2 and the No Project/No Action Alternative.

If designated by the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board, Alternative 1 would also be used as the proposed project for the purposes of the Biological Assessment under the Federal Endangered Species Act and State Incidental Take Permit applications under the California Endangered Species Act.

Prior Action:

April 22, 2020: The Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze the environmental effects of the options identified in the Final Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report dated April 2020, including VP7.

April 22, 2020: The Authority accepted: the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, dated April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within, and; a recommendation to the Sites Project Authority to approve the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within.

February 26, 2020: The Authority approved a recommendation to re-start efforts on the EIR for the Sites Reservoir Project and assess the most appropriate approach for completing the EIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

July 20, 2017: The Reservoir Committee approved a recommendation to forward the Draft EIR/EIS to the Authority Board for its consideration to formally receive and adopt the document for inclusion in the Authority's Water Storage Investment Project application.

July 31, 2017: The Authority approved the release of the Draft EIR for public and agency review, in connection with the Authority's application to the California Water Commission by August 14, 2017. The document was published as joint Draft EIR/EIS by the Authority under the California Environmental Quality Act and Reclamation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

December 19, 2016: The Authority approved release of a Supplemental Notice of Preparation (released February 2, 2017) to transfer the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency status from the Department of Water Resources to the Sites Project Authority. Public scoping meetings were conducted on February 14 and 15, 2017.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

Actual costs to prepare the project description and the supporting evaluations were within the amounts budgeted in the Phase 1B Work Plan which was approved by the Sites Project Authority at its January 22, 2020 Board meeting.

Sufficient funds to complete the recirculated Draft EIR/EIS and begin preparation of the Final EIR/EIS are included in the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget), which was approved by the Authority at its August 26, 2020 Board meeting.

Costs to complete and circulate the Final EIR/EIS will be considered in a future Work Plan.

Staff Contact:

Ali Forsythe

Attachments:

Attachment A – Sites Reservoir Project, Preliminary Project Description –
September 8, 2020.

Attachment B – Revised Recommended EIR Objectives.

Sites Reservoir Project Preliminary Project Description September 2020

On April 22, 2020, the Sites Project Authority (Authority) directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the environmental effects of the facility options identified in the Sites Project Value Planning Report (Value Planning Report), dated April 2020. Since that time, Authority staff and environmental, engineering and modeling consultants have been developing and refining alternatives. In June, staff recommended that the Draft Revised EIR¹/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)² (Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS) evaluate two action alternatives, Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, and provided an initial overview of the two alternatives.

This preliminary project description summarizes the alternatives presented in the preliminary Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS Chapter 2, Alternatives Description, which was completed on August 31, 2020. That preliminary draft Chapter 2 reflects preliminary design efforts, including the preparation of technical memos and preliminary drawings, and coordination between the service providers and staff. Modeling and engineering efforts are ongoing, and additional information related to operations and construction means and methods will likely supplement the preliminary Draft Chapter 2 in the coming weeks.

1.0 Overview of Alternatives

The following table compares facilities and operational considerations under Alternatives 1 and 2. This table is an updated version of a table provided at the June 24 Authority Board meeting (Agenda Item 3.3 Attachment B) and identifies existing as well as new facilities that will be constructed to implement each alternative.

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Diversion/Reservoir Infrastructure Details		
Reservoir Size	1.5 million acre feet (MAF)	1.3 MAF
Dams [Scaled to the size of the reservoir]	2 main dams, Golden Gate Dam and Sites Dam 7 saddle dams 2 saddle dikes	2 main dams, Golden Gate and Sites Dam 6 saddle dams 2 saddle dikes
Spillway	One spillway on Saddle Dam 8b	Similar to Alternative 1
Funks Reservoir and Funks Pumping Generating Plant	Funks Reservoir excavated to original capacity; same footprint as existing Funks Reservoir. New Funks Pump Generating Plant (PGP). New Funks pipeline alignment with 2 pipelines.	Similar to Alternative 1

¹ The Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will also address the No Project/No Action Alternative.

² A Supplemental EIS will be prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR); TRR Pumping Generating Plant; TRR Pipeline	New TRR facilities (TRR and TRR PGP) adjacent to the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Main Canal. New TRR pipeline alignment with 2 pipelines.	Same as Alternative 1
Hydropower	Power generation incidental upon release.	Same as Alternative 1
Diversion(s)	Diversion from Sacramento River into existing Tehama-Colusa Canal at Red Bluff and the existing GCID Main Canal at Hamilton City. Adding 2 pumps in existing bays at the plant at the Red Bluff Pumping Plant.	Same as Alternative 1
Emergency Release Flow	Releases into Funks Creek via Inlet/Outlet Works. Releases into Stone Corral Creek via Site Dam permanent discharge outlet. Emergency outflow pipeline and structures in Saddle Dam 3 and 5 to release north to Hunters Creek Watershed. Release from spillway on Saddle Dam 8b.	Similar to Alternative 1
Flood Control	Flood damage reduction benefit for local watersheds from reservoir storage.	Same as Alternative 1
Reservoir Management	Reservoir Management Plan and Reservoir Operations Plan.	Same as Alternative 1
Electrical Facilities	Transmission Lines, substations, switchyards; interconnection with Western Area Power Administration or Pacific Gas and Electric.	Same as Alternative 1
Recreation		
Multiple Facilities Consistent with WSIP Application	Two primary areas with infrastructure (with phased construction): 1. Peninsula Hills Area 2. Stone Corral Creek One day-use boat ramp w/parking located on the west side of the reservoir and south of the bridge.	Same as Alternative 1
Transportation/Circulation		
Provide Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge crossing the reservoir as a result of the relocation of existing Sites Lodoga Road. Relocation of Huffmaster Road with gravel road to residents at the south end of the reservoir terminating at the south end of the reservoir.	No bridge. Relocation of Sites Lodoga Road to residents at south end of the reservoir continues to Lodoga. Huffmaster Road is integrated into Sites Lodoga Road and is paved the entire way.
Multiple Maintenance and Local Access Roads	Approximately 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads would provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as provide public access to the proposed recreation areas.	Similar to Alternative 1

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
	Approximate number of roads related to the reservoir: 5 local/construction roads 2 construction/maintenance roads 7 local roads 4 maintenance roads Approximate number of access roads related to conveyance facilities: 1 to the TRR 1 to Funks complex Multiple within pipeline easements	
Operations		
Operational Criteria	Option based on Value Planning Report, Table 3.1 Scenario B, anticipated to be modified by future modeling efforts.	Same as Alternative 1
Reclamation Involvement	Two Options: 1. Funding Partner 2. Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Same as Alternative 1
State Water Project (SWP) Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta.	Same as Alternative 1
Bypass Releases into Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek	Develop specific bypass criteria to protect downstream water right holders and ecological function.	Same as Alternative 1
Conveyance Dunnigan Release	Release 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain to meet member participant demands and Proposition 1 needs.	Release into new pipeline to Sacramento River to meet member participant demands. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain to fulfill the Proposition 1 needs.

2.0 Facilities

The project will utilize both existing and proposed new facilities, all of which will be located within northern California in Glenn, Colusa, Tehama and Yolo Counties (see Figures 1 and 2 at the end of this document). As summarized in the Table 1 above, most facilities are the same or similar under Alternatives 1 and 2 although features may differ in scale or location due to the size of the reservoir. Facilities that have substantial differences between alternatives, such as the proposed dams, Dunnigan Pipeline and the Sites Lodoga Road realignment/relocation, are described in more detail below.

2.1 Existing Facilities

The project will utilize certain existing water supply infrastructure, including:

- Existing Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure operated by the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA):
 - Red Bluff Pumping Plant
 - Tehama-Colusa Canal

- Funks Reservoir located approximately 65 miles south of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant
- Existing GCID Hamilton City Diversion and the GCID Main Canal
- Colusa Basin Drain (CBD)

Both action alternatives would require pumping capacity that exceeds the existing total installed capacity of 2,000 cfs of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant to convey flow to Funks Reservoir and ultimately Sites Reservoir. Both action alternatives would require installation of two additional 250-cfs vertical axial-flow pumps into existing concrete pump bays at the pumping plant.

Both action alternatives would also require a new 3,000-cfs GCID Main Canal headgate structure about 0.25 mile downstream of Hamilton City Pump Station. The existing headgate structure would be inadequate for proposed winter operation during high river flows. To streamline maintenance during the winter shutdown period (i.e., reduce it from the current shutdown window of 6 weeks to 2 weeks), smaller improvements would be required to integrate Sites Reservoir into the GCID system.

Use of the existing Funks Reservoir would require excavation of sediment to return it to its original capacity. The bottom of Funks Reservoir would be reshaped to allow large, unimpeded flows to and from the new Funks PGP.

Proposed access during construction will avoid the town of Maxwell, utilizing County Roads 68 and 69, McDermott Road, Maxwell Sites Road and Sites Lodoga Road. Several of these existing roads would require improvement to support construction activities. Other local roads would need to be relocated or developed to accommodate access due to the construction of reservoir facilities. These include portions of Sites Lodoga Road, Huffmaster Road, and Communication Road.

2.2 Proposed Conveyance Facilities

Implementation of either Alternative 1 or 2 would require various facilities to control the conveyance of water between Sites Reservoir and the Tehama-Colusa Canal and GCID Main Canal. These facilities would include regulating reservoirs, pipelines, PGPs, electrical substations, and administration and maintenance buildings.

The two regulating reservoirs would be the existing Funks Reservoir and the new Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR). Both regulating reservoirs would have two 12-foot-diameter pipelines extending to and from Sites Reservoir just below Golden Gate Dam. At each regulating reservoir, the pipelines would be connected to a pumping generating plant that pumps water from the regulating reservoir to Sites Reservoir, as well as turbines that would generate power when flows were released from Sites Reservoir. There would also be energy dissipation equipment adjacent to each PGP (e.g., fixed cone valve[s]) to throttle the flow of water into each regulating reservoir when the turbines are not being used.

A transition manifold would be constructed at the base of Golden Gate Dam to connect pipelines from Sites Reservoir to Funks Reservoir and the TRR pipelines. In

addition, a point of interconnection to a high-voltage electric transmission line would be required to power the facilities at the proposed TRR and Funks electrical substations.

Water released from Sites Reservoir would be conveyed south of Sites Reservoir using the existing Tehama-Colusa Canal and a new Dunnigan pipeline. The water would flow south about 40 miles to the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal, where it would be diverted into the proposed Dunnigan Pipeline. Under Alternative 1, the flows would subsequently be conveyed to the CBD and released through the proposed CBD Outlet Structure, eventually reaching the Sacramento River at Knights Landing or to the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough complex through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut. Under Alternative 2 water would flow south to the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal but would be diverted into an extended Dunnigan Pipeline, with release directly to the Sacramento River with some flows released to the CBD to flow into the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough complex through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut for environmental benefits under Proposition 1.

2.3 Proposed Reservoir Facilities

Under either alternative, water would be impounded by the Golden Gate Dam on Funks Creek and the Sites Dam on Stone Corral Creek; a series of saddle dams along the eastern and northern rims of reservoir would close off topographic saddles in the surrounding ridges to form Sites Reservoir. Two saddle dikes are also needed at topographic saddle low points along the northern end of the reservoir. These components of the reservoir would be scaled according to the alternative.

Under Alternative 1, the proposed 1.5-MAF reservoir would have a Normal Maximum Water Surface (NMWS) elevation of 498 feet. Under Alternative 2, the proposed 1.3-MAF reservoir would have an NMWS elevation of 482 feet. Nominal crest would be at elevation 517 feet for all dams for 1.5-MAF capacity, and at elevation 500 feet for 1.3-MAF capacity. Table 2 presents a summary of dam heights required to impound Sites Reservoir for the 1.5-MAF capacity and 1.3-MAF capacity.

Table 2. Dam Heights for 1.5-MAF and 1.3-MAF Sites Reservoir Alternatives

Dam/Dike	1.5-MAF Reservoir Maximum Height Above Streambed (feet)	1.3-MAF Reservoir Maximum Height Above Streambed (feet)
Golden Gate Dam	287	270
Sites Dam	267	250
Saddle Dam 1	27	None
Saddle Dam 2	57	40
Saddle Dam 3	107	90
Saddle Dam 5	77	60
Saddle Dam 6	47	None
Saddle Dam 8A	82	65
Saddle Dam 8B	37	5
Saddle Dike 1	12	10 (near Saddle Dam 1)
Saddle Dike 2	12	10 (near Saddle Dam 6)
Saddle Dam 10 ^a	Not required for 1.5-MAF Reservoir	30

^a For the 1.3-MAF Reservoir, Golden Gate Dam would be reconfigured and Saddle Dam 10 added to close off a topographic saddle in the ridge that is closed in the 1.5-MAF Golden Gate Dam configuration.

The engineering team is continuing to evaluate different options for dam fill that would be utilized under either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. One option is an earth- and rockfill dam and another option is an earthfill dam. The proposed inlet/outlet works for an earthfill dam would be located to the south of Golden Gate Dam and would be used both to fill the reservoir through conveyance facilities located to the East and to make releases from Sites Reservoir. The inlet/outlet works include:

1. A multi-level intake tower including a low-level intake.
2. Two 23 foot inside diameter inlet/outlet tunnels through the ridge on the right abutment of Golden Gate Dam.

2.4 Proposed Recreational Facilities

As specified in the Sites Water Storage Investment Program application, either alternative would include two primary recreation areas and a day-use boat ramp which are to be phased in over a period of time. Located on the northwest shore of the proposed Sites Reservoir, to the north of the existing Sites Lodoga Road, the Peninsula Hills Recreation Area would include approximately:

- 200 campsites (car and recreational vehicle)
- one group camp area
- 10 picnic sites (with parking at each site)
- hiking trails
- electricity
- potable water
- one kiosk
- 19 vault toilets

Located on the eastern shore of the Sites Reservoir, north of the existing Maxwell Sites Road and proposed Sites Dam, the Stone Corral Creek Recreational Area would include:

- 50 campsites (car and recreational vehicle)
- electricity

- 10 picnic sites (with parking at each site)
- six-lane boat launch site
- hiking trails
- potable water
- one kiosk
- 10 vault toilets

Each alternative would also include a Day-Use Boat Ramp/Parking Recreation Area, located on the western side of the reservoir where the existing Sites Lodoga Road intersects with the proposed inundation area for the reservoir. Facilities would include:

- one kiosk
- one vault toilet
- potable water
- parking area

2.5 Proposed Roads and South Bridge

In addition to modifying existing roads for construction access, the project will require up to 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads to provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as public access to the proposed recreation areas. Sites Lodoga Road provides access to and from the town of Maxwell, which is adjacent to Interstate 5. Sites Lodoga Road becomes Maxwell Sites Road east of the rural community of Sites that is within the inundation area. The reservoir would eliminate east-west access to Interstate 5 (east of the reservoir) from the rural communities of Stonyford and Lodoga (west of the reservoir) because it would inundate the current route of Sites Lodoga Road. The current Sites Lodoga Road is an east-west, two-lane rural collector road and provides an emergency and evacuation route to and from these rural communities. Because construction of the Sites Dam would eliminate access on the Sites Lodoga Road, this collector road would need to be relocated/realigned prior to project construction.

Under Alternative 1, the realigned Sites Lodoga Road would include the construction of a bridge across the reservoir. Various bridge types and options have been evaluated. One option for a bridge is a full-length bridge that would offer navigational passage along the entire width of the reservoir. Another option for a bridge is a causeway with partial fill, which would limit the navigational passage within the reaches of the shorter bridges; however, the approach to implementing fill prism in the reservoir would significantly reduce construction cost. Alternative 1 would also include the realignment of the existing Huffmaster Road to provide access to properties otherwise inaccessible due to reservoir construction.

Under Alternative 2, the realignment of Sites Lodoga Road would result in a road that ultimately extends from Maxwell to the community of Lodoga around the southern end and western side of the proposed Sites Reservoir. This road, referred to as the Maxwell Lodoga Road, would include the realignment and repavement of the existing Huffmaster Road.

2.6 Project Buffer

The proposed project buffer would consist of the total amount of land that would be acquired beyond the facility footprints for each alternative. The preliminary approach to the buffer is outlined below.

- The buffer would include 100 feet around all buildings and most ground facilities (e.g., substations, any aboveground pipelines) along with 100 feet around the Sites Reservoir Complex and recreation areas.
- The buffer may be less than 100 feet if the facility is near a property boundary and the proposed uses do not conflict with the adjacent land uses.
- No project buffers are anticipated for underground or buried facilities (i.e., Dunnigan Pipeline), overhead power lines, or roads (both public and project maintenance access roads).
- The Authority would evaluate the need for the buffer (and if implemented, an appropriate width) on a case-by-case basis in coordination with adjacent landowners. The buffer would likely be acquired in fee title by the Authority; however, acquisition of buffer areas in an easement may be feasible under certain circumstances.
- The lands within the buffer would generally remain undeveloped. Limited features may be installed to reduce future maintenance activities and fire hazards. These features may include limited fencing, regrading to construct fire breaks or fire trails, or similar actions.
- The lands within the buffer would be maintained by the Authority. Maintenance activities that are proposed to be undertaken within the project buffer include vegetation maintenance and periodic fire break maintenance. Such activities may include grazing, periodic tilling or disking, and performing limited controlled/prescribed burns. Where appropriate, the buffer may be managed as wildlife habitat. Fence maintenance would occur within the buffer.

3.0 Operations

The operation of the project under each alternative will be defined in upcoming months as the modeling and development of diversion criteria are further advanced. The member participants of the Authority have a collective demand of approximately 240,000 acre-feet, of which 192,892 acre-feet is needed by participating public water agencies³. Reclamation is also a participant through funding and/or operational exchanges with Shasta Lake. The State would also be involved through operational exchanges with Oroville Reservoir and storage in State Water Project facilities south-of-Delta.

Sites Reservoir would be filled by diverting unregulated/unappropriated flow in the Sacramento River. This water originates during winter storm events, which increase flows in the tributaries to the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam and avoiding any effects on the Trinity River. Water would be available for diversion after senior water rights are met, in-river aquatic species protection requirements are met, and delta water quality requirements have been met. Diversions would occur at the fish screened Red Bluff Pumping Plant and the GCID Hamilton City location when applicable regulatory requirements are met and existing pumping and conveyance capacity is available to convey water through the canals to the reservoir. TRR and Funks Reservoir, PGPs, and pipelines connect directly to the inlet/outlet works and would be operated in parallel to

³ April 2020 Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report.

pump water into and out of Sites Reservoir. Water would enter (and be released from) the reservoir through the inlet/outlet works.

Reservoir releases include releases to meet participant demands and to deliver water for a range of environmental benefits that will be finalized during project development and permitting.

- Sites Reservoir would be operated in cooperation with Central Valley Project (CVP) and SWP operations to coordinate with releases made with the CVP and SWP from Shasta Lake, Lake Oroville, and Folsom Lake. Sites Reservoir releases could supplement and/or allow reduced releases from other reservoirs while maintaining minimum instream flow objectives, Sacramento River temperature requirements, and Delta salinity control requirements assigned to CVP and SWP.
- Releases would be made mostly in dry and critical water years. Water users north of the Delta would mostly receive deliveries from the TCCA canal and GCID canal. Water users south of the Delta would receive water primarily via SWP pumping facilities.
- Using the CBD for conveyance of Sites Reservoir water would include coordination with the local landowners regarding the project operation and timing of the additional flows.

Releases would also be made to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks for downstream water right holders and to maintain ecological function in the sections of these creeks affected by the project. A proposed Reservoir Operations Plan would describe the management of water operations, including releases to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks.

Operation of either alternative would require power to run facilities and pump water. The identification of a power source and the location of transmission facilities is pending coordination with Western Area Power Administration and/or Pacific Gas and Electric. Each of the alternatives would also generate incidental power when water is released from Sites Reservoir at the Funks PGP and TRR PGP. The capacity of the project power generation facilities is anticipated to be below the threshold such that no license would be required from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the facilities would satisfy the criteria for a "Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility" under the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013, as amended by America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

4.0 Maintenance and Management

Under either alternative, maintenance activities for the project facilities would include debris removal, dredging, vegetation control, rodent control, erosion control and protection, routine inspections (dams, tunnels, pipelines, PGPs, inlet/outlet works, fencing, signs, and gates), painting, cleaning, repairs, and other routine tasks to maintain facilities in accordance with design standards after construction and commissioning. Routine visual inspection of the facilities would be conducted to monitor performance and prevent mechanical and structural failures of project elements. Maintenance activities associated with proposed river intakes could include

cleaning, removal of sediment, debris, and biofouling materials. These maintenance actions could require dewatering; suction dredging or mechanical excavation around intake structures; or the use of underwater diving crews, boom trucks, rubber-wheel cranes, and raft- or barge-mounted equipment. Proposed maintenance activities could occur on a daily, annually, periodically (as needed), and long-term basis.

The Authority would also develop and implement a Reservoir Management Plan to define the land uses of project lands controlled by the Authority, fish stocking and vector control practices, and the resources associated with project lands. The Reservoir Management Plan would include the following types of information:

- **Fisheries Management.** This would target species composition for Sites Reservoir, including stocking strategies, habitat enhancement measures, and monitoring efforts.
- **Land Use Management and Recreation.** This would outline how decisions regarding future amenities would be made and what land use considerations would be factored into Authority operations and activities.
- **Easement Management:** Right-of-ways and/or permanent easements would be required for long-term operation and maintenance of all the large-diameter pipelines. This would outline management and maintenance activities for easement areas.
- **Emergency Management.** This would establish protocol on how the Authority would be involved in controlling and resolving emergency situations, including those arising as a result of recreationists.
- **Vector Management.** This would establish protocols and practices for communicating and coordinating with vector control authorities in determining how vector control would be managed at the project facilities.
- **Sediment Management and Removal.** This would consolidate information on the frequency and locations of dredging, testing of sediment before disposal, disposal locations, and procedures to follow if sediment contaminant levels exceed regulatory standards for constituents of concern (e.g., pesticides).

5.0 Best Management Practices

A number of Best Management Practices and environmental commitments are proposed to be included in Project design, construction and operation/maintenance. The following proposed list of Best Management Practices and environmental commitments would be considered part of the Project.

- Conform with Applicable Design Standards and Building Codes
- Perform Geotechnical Evaluations and Prepare Geotechnical Data Reports
- Utility and Infrastructure Verification and/or Relocation
- Natural Gas Well Decommissioning
- Water Wells Decommissioning
- Road Abandonment
- Environmental Site Assessment(s)

- Salvage, Stockpile, and Replace Topsoil and Prepare a Topsoil Storage and Handling Plan
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan(s) and Best Management Practices (storm water and non-storm water)
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for Operation and Maintenance
- Spill Prevention and Hazardous Materials Management / Accidental Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasure Plans and Response Measures
- Minimize Soil Disturbance
- Comply with Requirements of RWQCB Order 5-00-175
- Groundwater/ Dewatering Water Supply
- Construction Equipment, Truck, and Traffic Management Plan
- Visual/Aesthetic Design, Construction, and Operation Practices
- Fire Safety and Suppression / Fire Prevention and Control Plan
- Worker Health and Safety Plan
- Blasting Standard Requirements
- Mosquito and Vector Control During Construction
- Construction Noise Management
- Operation and Maintenance Noise Management
- Construction Emergency Action Plan
- Emergency Action Plan for Reservoir Operations
- Electrical Power Guidelines and EMF Field Management Plan
- Construction Equipment Exhaust Reduction Plan
- Fugitive Dust Control Plans
- Construction Best Management Practices to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazardous Materials Management Plans
- Construction Site Security
- Notification of Maintenance Activities in Waterways
- Worker Environmental Awareness Program
- Fish Rescue and Salvage Plans for Funks Reservoir, Stone Corral Creek, and Funks Creek for Alternative 1; for Sacramento River for Alternative 2
- Construction Best Management Practices and Monitoring for Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species Habitats, and Natural Communities
- Control of Invasive Plant Species during Construction and Operation

6.0 Pre-Construction Activities

In addition to items/activities addressed in the above list of proposed BMPs and ECs, there are other activities that would be required prior to the initiation of construction of the different physical components of either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. These activities include: finalizing criteria and standards used for final design, including emergency management/release requirements; preparing a Dam Monitoring Program; conducting additional geotechnical and related field investigations to support design; relocation of two private cemeteries (Sites Cemetery and a Rancheria Cemetery); and the development and implementation of a Resident Relocation Program.

7.0 Timing of Environmental Review and Feasibility Report

The current schedule contemplates release of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS in July 2021. This is roughly the same timing for the engineering team's finalization of the Feasibility Report for the California Water Commission. As such, preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS and Feasibility Report are proceeding simultaneously. To accommodate the project schedule and the simultaneous preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS and Feasibility Report, the following project components will be utilized for the analysis:

- Sites Lodoga Road and Bridge – Under Alternative 1, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the option of the shorter bridge with fill prisms, including the cast-in-place prestressed concrete box girder bridge type. This option was identified as a lowest cost bridge alternative in the Value Planning Report while meeting the functional requirements for efficient traffic flow.
- Dam Fill Materials – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the option of using earth and rockfill. This option is anticipated to be preferred by the Division of Safety of Dams and will assist in meeting the schedule and affordability goals; it also provides maximum coverage for potential environmental effects as the rockfill involves blasting associated with rock quarrying.
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR) – Under Alternative 1 and 2, it is anticipated that the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the current TRR location. Other locations currently are under review due to the extent and costs associated with ground preparation needed for construction at the current site.
- GCID and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will describe the types of improvements needed to convey water through existing facilities and reduce GCID's current maintenance winter shutdown period from 6 weeks to 2 weeks, pending agreement between GCID and the Authority on any specific improvements that may be warranted due to implementation of the project. Improvements may also be needed to the Colusa Basin Drain to convey Sites water.
- Emergency Releases – In the rare and unanticipated condition that the Sites Reservoir has to conduct emergency releases, these releases are currently planned to be made into Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dam 3, 5, and 8b. Emergency release locations and the extent of potential impacts will be evaluated in further detail as part of the on-going feasibility study.
- Dunnigan Release – Under Alternative 1, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate a release to the CBD based on a preliminary hydraulic analysis. Alternatives 2 will carry forward an extension of the Dunnigan pipeline to the Sacramento River.
- Hydropower Generation – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate incidental in-line conduit hydropower generation below the threshold for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate options for obtaining temporary water supply for construction, such as obtaining water on site via existing groundwater

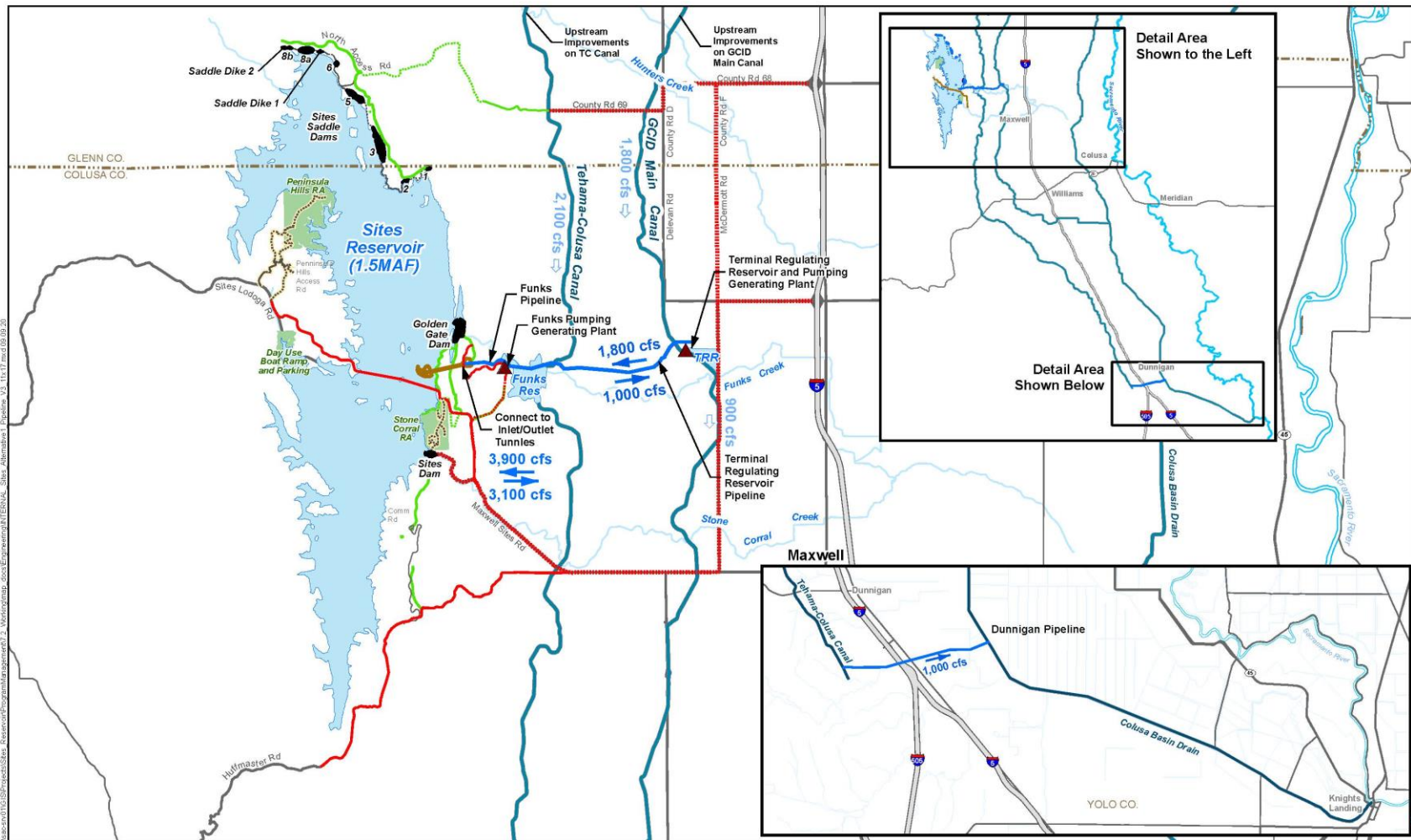
or surface water facilities and/or utilizing existing or drilling new wells, including any necessary treatment depending on the water quality.

The engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for various facility components, consistent with CEQA and NEPA requirements, in order to optimize design considerations and reduce costs.

It should also be noted that in the upcoming weeks, there will be further definition of project operations through modeling, clarification of water rights, and consultation with resource agencies. This information and any resulting changes to the alternatives described in the preliminary draft will be incorporated into the complete Chapter 2, Alternatives Description, to be completed by December 2020.

8.0 Identification of the Preferred Alternative for the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS Analysis

The CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project and avoid or substantially lessen the significant effects of the project. An EIR also needs to identify a proposed project, i.e., a preferred alternative. At this time, Authority staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's proposed project based on it meeting the objectives identified in the Value Planning Report and being most closely aligned with Alternative VP-7, and its ability to meet the revised draft CEQA project objectives. The Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will also evaluate Alternative 2 and the No Project/No Action Alternative.

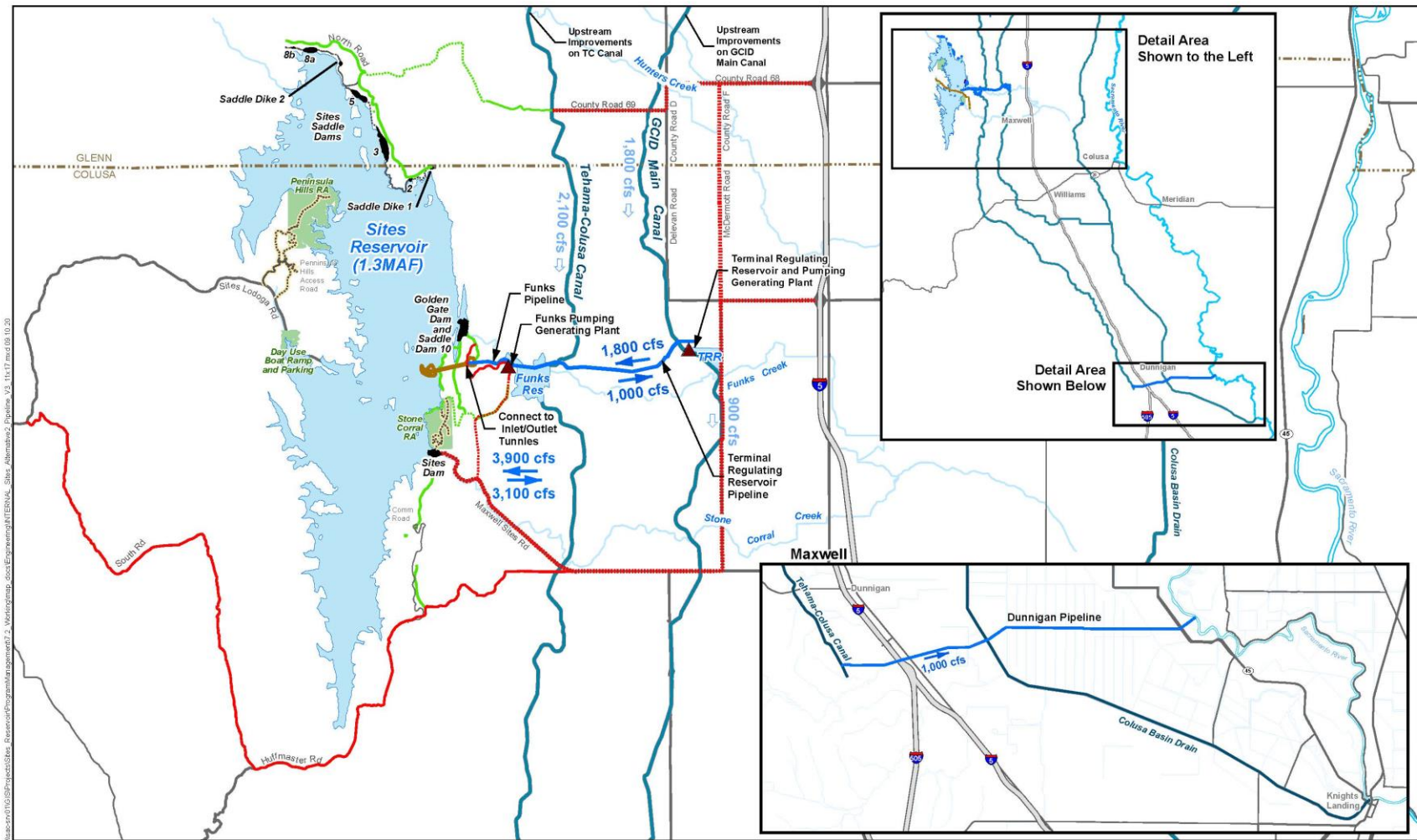


Legend

- Canal
- Pipeline
- Maintenance Access Road
- - - Construction/Maintenance Route
- New/Realigned Permanent Road
- - - Construction Route (Existing Road)
- Existing Roads
- Waterways

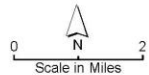


ALTERNATIVE 1



Legend

- Canal
- Maintenance Access Road
- Pipeline
- Construction/Maintenance Route
- New/Realigned Permanent Road
- - - Construction Route (Existing Road)
- Existing Roads
- Waterways



ALTERNATIVE 2

Sites Reservoir Project
Revised Recommended EIR Objectives
September 8, 2020

- OBJ-1: Improve water supply reliability and resiliency to meet member participants' agricultural and municipal long-term average annual water demand in a cost-effective manner for all member participants', including those that are the most cost-sensitive.
- OBJ-2: Provide public benefits consistent with Proposition 1 of 2014 and use Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) funds to improve statewide surface water supply reliability and flexibility to enhance opportunities for fisheries and habitat management for the public benefit through a designated long-term average annual water supply.
- OBJ-3: Provide public benefits consistent with the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) of 2016 by using federal funds, if available, provided by Reclamation to improve Central Valley Project (CVP) operational flexibility in meeting CVP environmental and contractual water supply needs and improving cold pool management in Shasta Reservoir to benefit anadromous fish
- OBJ-4: Provide surface water to convey biomass from the floodplain to the Delta to enhance the Delta ecosystem for the benefit of pelagic fishes¹ in the north Delta (e.g., Cache Slough).
- OBJ-5: Provide local and regional amenities, such as developing recreational facilities, reducing local flood damage, and maintaining roadway connectivity through modifications.

¹ Pelagic fish are species that spend most of their life swimming in the water column, having little contact or dependency with the bottom.



November 13, 2020

Mr. Anthony Roberts, Chairperson
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
P.O. Box 18
Brooks, CA 95606

From: Fritz Durst/ Sites Project Authority Board Chair

Subject: Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, Assembly Bill (AB) 52. Formal Notification of the Preferred Project for the Purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Analysis and Notification of Consultation Opportunity for the Sites Reservoir Project, Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Yolo Counties, California, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1

Dear Honorable Chairperson Roberts,

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) initially contacted your tribe in February 2017 in compliance with the project notification requirements pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d) for the Sites Reservoir Project. A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was published for public review in August 2017. After receipt of public comments on the Draft EIR, the Authority reconsidered elements of the project. In October 2019, representatives from both the Authority Board and Reservoir Committee began undertaking a “value planning” process, an effort to identify and evaluate additional alternatives. As a result of the the “value planning process,” the Authority identified a project that reduced the size of the proposed Sites Reservoir from 1.8 million acre feet to 1.5 million acre feet, removed the Delevan Pipeline and associated facilities, and made minor adjustments to other project features.

On April 22, 2020, the Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft EIR consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the environmental effects of the facility options identified in the Sites Project Value Planning Report.¹ The Revised Draft EIR is anticipated to be released for public review in the summer of 2021. In response to preparing the Revised Draft EIR, the Authority is providing you with a description of the revised project for your consideration pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d).

Description of the Proposed Project

The Authority proposes to construct the revised Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir and associated water conveyance facilities located in Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Yolo counties, California. The new reservoir would be located in Antelope Valley, on the eastern edge of the North Coast Ranges and approximately 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell.

¹ https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/02-01.a-Authority-Board_Value-Planning.pdf



The Sites Reservoir Project is proposed to provide storage and operational benefits including water supply resiliency, water dedicated to environmental uses, and other programs throughout California.

Two alternatives (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2) are currently under consideration. The primary differences in the alternatives is that Alternative 1 will impound up to 1.5 million acre feet of water and discharge water into the Colusa Drain, via the Tehama Colusa Canal, in the vicinity of Dunnigan, Yolo County. In contrast, Alternative 2 will hold up to 1.3 million acre feet of water and discharge water via the Tehama Colusa Canal into the Sacramento River; again, in the vicinity of Dunnigan. Alternative 1 also includes a bridge to extend the Sites Lodoga Road directly across the reservoir, while Alternative 2 re-routes the road around the south end of the reservoir and continues to Lodoga along the west side of the reservoir. Alternative 1 was designated by the Authority as the preferred project for the purposes of the CEQA analysis and permit development on September 17, 2020.

For more information regarding the proposed project alternatives, please see the attached Preliminary Project Description.

Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (b), please respond, in writing, within 30 days if you wish to request consultation. If you have any questions or wish to consult on this project, please contact the Authority's Lead Agency Point of Contact for AB 52 consultations:

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
Phone: (530) 632-4071
Email: kspesert@sitesproject.org

If consultation is requested, please provide the name and contact information of the designated lead contact person as part of your request. The Authority will contact the designated person to set a meeting date to begin consultation within 30 days of our receipt of your request.

Thank you for giving this matter your prompt attention.

Sincerely,



Fritz Durst
Sites Project Authority



Topic: **Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Committee Meeting Agenda Item 2.3** **2020 September 17**

Subject: **Preferred Project for the Purposes of the CEQA Analysis and Federal/State ESA Analysis**

Requested Action:

Designate Alternative 1, based on VP-7 of the Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report (Value Planning Report), as the Authority's preferred project for the purposes of the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analysis and for the purposes of the Biological Assessment and State Incidental Take Permit applications.

Detailed Description/Background:

In April 2020, the Authority accepted the Value Planning Report and its findings and directed staff to analyze the environmental effects of the new alternatives in the Value Planning Report, including VP7. The Authority also directed that a revised and recirculated Draft EIR be prepared for public review¹. Staff began development of the revised Draft EIR and is at the point where the Board needs to identify a preferred alternative based on a more complete project description (see attachment A).

During the Reservoir Committee and Board meetings in June, staff provided an overview of the alternatives under consideration as well as revised draft objectives for the project, requesting review and input in order to focus efforts in developing a more complete project description. At that time, staff presented Alternatives 1 and 2 which combined components of VP5, VP6, and VP7 from the Value Planning Report. Staff recommended these two alternatives as they define the reasonable range of alternatives given the previous analyses of the project and potential alternatives.

Staff is returning to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board with a Preliminary Project Description (Attachment A), and revised objectives (Attachment B). Changes have been made to both the alternatives and objectives in response to Reservoir Committee and Authority Board input and in further development of project details and information by the project team. The key changes to the alternatives are as follows:

- Transportation/circulation components have been clarified. Both alternatives provide access to residents at the south end of the reservoir via a realigned Huffmaster Road. To provide access to the west side of the reservoir, Alternative 1 crosses the reservoir with a bridge on Sites Lodoga

¹ Staff has worked cooperatively with the Bureau of Reclamation to identify the appropriate approach to proceed with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and a Supplemental EIS will be prepared as part of the joint California Environmental Quality Act/National Environmental Policy Act documentation.

Road. Alternative 2 includes a south road continuing from Huffmaster Road around the west side of the reservoir to Ladoga, with no bridge.

- The Dunnigan pipeline alignment and proposal to release into the Colusa Basin Drain has been further assessed and confirmed as the proposed component for conveyance release under Alternative 1.

Key changes to the objectives are as follows:

- All objectives have been revised to focus on the statewide benefits of the Project and the needs of all Participants.
- Objective 1 addresses the amount of water supply required to meet participants' water demands and the need for an affordable, cost-effective Project.
- Objective 2 addresses the Water Storage and Investment Program public benefits.
- Objective 3 addresses federal participation and clarifies the intent of the Project to provide operational flexibility to the Central Valley Project.
- Objective 4 addresses intended benefits to the Delta ecosystem beyond the requirements of the Water Storage and Investment Program public benefits.
- Minor changes have also been made to Objective 5 regarding roadway connectivity.

Due to the project schedule, staff is preparing the Revised EIR at the same time as the engineering team is conducting preliminary design activities. The following assumptions represent the variations being taken from the project described in VP7 of the Value Planning Report and have been incorporated in the development of Alternative 1 to allow the EIR/EIS and engineering activities to move forward simultaneously and achieve the project schedule:

- Bridge – The EIR/EIS will move forward with Bridge Option 1B, Shorter Bridge with Fill Prisms, including the Cast-in-Place Prestressed Concrete Box Girder bridge type. This option was identified as a lowest cost bridge alternative in the Value Planning Report while meeting the functional requirements for efficient traffic flow.
- Dam Fill materials – The EIR/EIS will move forward with Dam Fill Option 1A, Earth and Rockfill, which is anticipated to be preferred by California Division of Safety of Dams and will assist in meeting the schedule and affordability goals; it also provides maximum coverage for potential environmental effects as the rockfill involves blasting associated with rock quarrying.
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir – The EIR/EIS will continue to analyze the original proposed location for this reservoir and carries forward additional potential locations as more is learned in the coming months regarding soils conditions.

- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – The EIR/EIS will address the type and magnitude of improvements needed to convey Sites water through existing facilities, pending future agreements on any specific improvements that may be warranted by the Project.
- Emergency Releases – In the rare and unanticipated condition that the Sites Reservoir has to conduct emergency releases, these releases are currently planned to be made into Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dam 3, 5, and 8b. Emergency release locations and the extent of potential impacts will be evaluated in further detail as part of the on-going feasibility study.
- Dunnigan Release – Based on preliminary hydraulic study, the EIR/EIS will assume release to the Colusa Basin Drain under Alternative 1 and will carry forward an extension to the Sacramento River under Alternative 2.
- Hydropower Generation – Based on the current Project information, the EIR/EIS will address incidental in-line conduit hydropower generation at a level that is below the threshold for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – Based on the current Project information, the EIR/EIS will evaluate obtaining water temporarily for construction supply on site via existing groundwater or surface water facilities or existing or new groundwater wells, including any onsite treatment that may be warranted depending on water quality.

It is important to note that the engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for various facility components in order to optimize design and reduce costs, including potentially considering alternatives to account for reduced participation levels to maintain affordability. In the event that the final project facilities are different than the assumptions above, staff will consider appropriate modifications to the process and documents consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. The goal is to make any modifications on a timeline that does not impact the ability to deliver the EIR/EIS documents for public review any later than July 2021.

The California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project while avoiding or substantially lessening significant effects of the project. While an EIR must analyze reasonable alternatives, it also needs to identify a proposed project, which is also referred to as the preferred alternative. At this time, staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's proposed project based on its meeting the intent and the goals of the Value Planning effort, its close alignment with VP-7, and its ability to meet the project objectives. The EIR/EIS will also analyze Alternative 2 and the No Project/No Action Alternative.

If designated by the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board, Alternative 1 would also be used as the proposed project for the purposes of the Biological Assessment under the Federal Endangered Species Act and State Incidental Take Permit applications under the California Endangered Species Act.

Prior Action:

April 22, 2020: The Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze the environmental effects of the options identified in the Final Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report dated April 2020, including VP7.

April 22, 2020: The Authority accepted: the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, dated April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within, and; a recommendation to the Sites Project Authority to approve the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within.

February 26, 2020: The Authority approved a recommendation to re-start efforts on the EIR for the Sites Reservoir Project and assess the most appropriate approach for completing the EIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

July 20, 2017: The Reservoir Committee approved a recommendation to forward the Draft EIR/EIS to the Authority Board for its consideration to formally receive and adopt the document for inclusion in the Authority's Water Storage Investment Project application.

July 31, 2017: The Authority approved the release of the Draft EIR for public and agency review, in connection with the Authority's application to the California Water Commission by August 14, 2017. The document was published as joint Draft EIR/EIS by the Authority under the California Environmental Quality Act and Reclamation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

December 19, 2016: The Authority approved release of a Supplemental Notice of Preparation (released February 2, 2017) to transfer the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency status from the Department of Water Resources to the Sites Project Authority. Public scoping meetings were conducted on February 14 and 15, 2017.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

Actual costs to prepare the project description and the supporting evaluations were within the amounts budgeted in the Phase 1B Work Plan which was approved by the Sites Project Authority at its January 22, 2020 Board meeting.

Sufficient funds to complete the recirculated Draft EIR/EIS and begin preparation of the Final EIR/EIS are included in the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget), which was approved by the Authority at its August 26, 2020 Board meeting.

Costs to complete and circulate the Final EIR/EIS will be considered in a future Work Plan.

Staff Contact:

Ali Forsythe

Attachments:

Attachment A – Sites Reservoir Project, Preliminary Project Description –
September 8, 2020.

Attachment B – Revised Recommended EIR Objectives.

Sites Reservoir Project Preliminary Project Description September 2020

On April 22, 2020, the Sites Project Authority (Authority) directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the environmental effects of the facility options identified in the Sites Project Value Planning Report (Value Planning Report), dated April 2020. Since that time, Authority staff and environmental, engineering and modeling consultants have been developing and refining alternatives. In June, staff recommended that the Draft Revised EIR¹/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)² (Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS) evaluate two action alternatives, Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, and provided an initial overview of the two alternatives.

This preliminary project description summarizes the alternatives presented in the preliminary Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS Chapter 2, Alternatives Description, which was completed on August 31, 2020. That preliminary draft Chapter 2 reflects preliminary design efforts, including the preparation of technical memos and preliminary drawings, and coordination between the service providers and staff. Modeling and engineering efforts are ongoing, and additional information related to operations and construction means and methods will likely supplement the preliminary Draft Chapter 2 in the coming weeks.

1.0 Overview of Alternatives

The following table compares facilities and operational considerations under Alternatives 1 and 2. This table is an updated version of a table provided at the June 24 Authority Board meeting (Agenda Item 3.3 Attachment B) and identifies existing as well as new facilities that will be constructed to implement each alternative.

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Diversion/Reservoir Infrastructure Details		
Reservoir Size	1.5 million acre feet (MAF)	1.3 MAF
Dams [Scaled to the size of the reservoir]	2 main dams, Golden Gate Dam and Sites Dam 7 saddle dams 2 saddle dikes	2 main dams, Golden Gate and Sites Dam 6 saddle dams 2 saddle dikes
Spillway	One spillway on Saddle Dam 8b	Similar to Alternative 1
Funks Reservoir and Funks Pumping Generating Plant	Funks Reservoir excavated to original capacity; same footprint as existing Funks Reservoir. New Funks Pump Generating Plant (PGP). New Funks pipeline alignment with 2 pipelines.	Similar to Alternative 1

¹ The Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will also address the No Project/No Action Alternative.

² A Supplemental EIS will be prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR); TRR Pumping Generating Plant; TRR Pipeline	New TRR facilities (TRR and TRR PGP) adjacent to the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Main Canal. New TRR pipeline alignment with 2 pipelines.	Same as Alternative 1
Hydropower	Power generation incidental upon release.	Same as Alternative 1
Diversion(s)	Diversion from Sacramento River into existing Tehama-Colusa Canal at Red Bluff and the existing GCID Main Canal at Hamilton City. Adding 2 pumps in existing bays at the plant at the Red Bluff Pumping Plant.	Same as Alternative 1
Emergency Release Flow	Releases into Funks Creek via Inlet/Outlet Works. Releases into Stone Corral Creek via Site Dam permanent discharge outlet. Emergency outflow pipeline and structures in Saddle Dam 3 and 5 to release north to Hunters Creek Watershed. Release from spillway on Saddle Dam 8b.	Similar to Alternative 1
Flood Control	Flood damage reduction benefit for local watersheds from reservoir storage.	Same as Alternative 1
Reservoir Management	Reservoir Management Plan and Reservoir Operations Plan.	Same as Alternative 1
Electrical Facilities	Transmission Lines, substations, switchyards; interconnection with Western Area Power Administration or Pacific Gas and Electric.	Same as Alternative 1
Recreation		
Multiple Facilities Consistent with WSIP Application	Two primary areas with infrastructure (with phased construction): 1. Peninsula Hills Area 2. Stone Corral Creek One day-use boat ramp w/parking located on the west side of the reservoir and south of the bridge.	Same as Alternative 1
Transportation/Circulation		
Provide Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge crossing the reservoir as a result of the relocation of existing Sites Lodoga Road. Relocation of Huffmaster Road with gravel road to residents at the south end of the reservoir terminating at the south end of the reservoir.	No bridge. Relocation of Sites Lodoga Road to residents at south end of the reservoir continues to Lodoga. Huffmaster Road is integrated into Sites Lodoga Road and is paved the entire way.
Multiple Maintenance and Local Access Roads	Approximately 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads would provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as provide public access to the proposed recreation areas.	Similar to Alternative 1

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
	Approximate number of roads related to the reservoir: 5 local/construction roads 2 construction/maintenance roads 7 local roads 4 maintenance roads Approximate number of access roads related to conveyance facilities: 1 to the TRR 1 to Funks complex Multiple within pipeline easements	
Operations		
Operational Criteria	Option based on Value Planning Report, Table 3.1 Scenario B, anticipated to be modified by future modeling efforts.	Same as Alternative 1
Reclamation Involvement	Two Options: 1. Funding Partner 2. Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Same as Alternative 1
State Water Project (SWP) Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta.	Same as Alternative 1
Bypass Releases into Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek	Develop specific bypass criteria to protect downstream water right holders and ecological function.	Same as Alternative 1
Conveyance Dunnigan Release	Release 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain to meet member participant demands and Proposition 1 needs.	Release into new pipeline to Sacramento River to meet member participant demands. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain to fulfill the Proposition 1 needs.

2.0 Facilities

The project will utilize both existing and proposed new facilities, all of which will be located within northern California in Glenn, Colusa, Tehama and Yolo Counties (see Figures 1 and 2 at the end of this document). As summarized in the Table 1 above, most facilities are the same or similar under Alternatives 1 and 2 although features may differ in scale or location due to the size of the reservoir. Facilities that have substantial differences between alternatives, such as the proposed dams, Dunnigan Pipeline and the Sites Lodoga Road realignment/relocation, are described in more detail below.

2.1 Existing Facilities

The project will utilize certain existing water supply infrastructure, including:

- Existing Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure operated by the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA):
 - Red Bluff Pumping Plant
 - Tehama-Colusa Canal

- Funks Reservoir located approximately 65 miles south of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant
- Existing GCID Hamilton City Diversion and the GCID Main Canal
- Colusa Basin Drain (CBD)

Both action alternatives would require pumping capacity that exceeds the existing total installed capacity of 2,000 cfs of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant to convey flow to Funks Reservoir and ultimately Sites Reservoir. Both action alternatives would require installation of two additional 250-cfs vertical axial-flow pumps into existing concrete pump bays at the pumping plant.

Both action alternatives would also require a new 3,000-cfs GCID Main Canal headgate structure about 0.25 mile downstream of Hamilton City Pump Station. The existing headgate structure would be inadequate for proposed winter operation during high river flows. To streamline maintenance during the winter shutdown period (i.e., reduce it from the current shutdown window of 6 weeks to 2 weeks), smaller improvements would be required to integrate Sites Reservoir into the GCID system.

Use of the existing Funks Reservoir would require excavation of sediment to return it to its original capacity. The bottom of Funks Reservoir would be reshaped to allow large, unimpeded flows to and from the new Funks PGP.

Proposed access during construction will avoid the town of Maxwell, utilizing County Roads 68 and 69, McDermott Road, Maxwell Sites Road and Sites Lodoga Road. Several of these existing roads would require improvement to support construction activities. Other local roads would need to be relocated or developed to accommodate access due to the construction of reservoir facilities. These include portions of Sites Lodoga Road, Huffmaster Road, and Communication Road.

2.2 Proposed Conveyance Facilities

Implementation of either Alternative 1 or 2 would require various facilities to control the conveyance of water between Sites Reservoir and the Tehama-Colusa Canal and GCID Main Canal. These facilities would include regulating reservoirs, pipelines, PGPs, electrical substations, and administration and maintenance buildings.

The two regulating reservoirs would be the existing Funks Reservoir and the new Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR). Both regulating reservoirs would have two 12-foot-diameter pipelines extending to and from Sites Reservoir just below Golden Gate Dam. At each regulating reservoir, the pipelines would be connected to a pumping generating plant that pumps water from the regulating reservoir to Sites Reservoir, as well as turbines that would generate power when flows were released from Sites Reservoir. There would also be energy dissipation equipment adjacent to each PGP (e.g., fixed cone valve[s]) to throttle the flow of water into each regulating reservoir when the turbines are not being used.

A transition manifold would be constructed at the base of Golden Gate Dam to connect pipelines from Sites Reservoir to Funks Reservoir and the TRR pipelines. In

addition, a point of interconnection to a high-voltage electric transmission line would be required to power the facilities at the proposed TRR and Funks electrical substations.

Water released from Sites Reservoir would be conveyed south of Sites Reservoir using the existing Tehama-Colusa Canal and a new Dunnigan pipeline. The water would flow south about 40 miles to the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal, where it would be diverted into the proposed Dunnigan Pipeline. Under Alternative 1, the flows would subsequently be conveyed to the CBD and released through the proposed CBD Outlet Structure, eventually reaching the Sacramento River at Knights Landing or to the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough complex through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut. Under Alternative 2 water would flow south to the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal but would be diverted into an extended Dunnigan Pipeline, with release directly to the Sacramento River with some flows released to the CBD to flow into the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough complex through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut for environmental benefits under Proposition 1.

2.3 Proposed Reservoir Facilities

Under either alternative, water would be impounded by the Golden Gate Dam on Funks Creek and the Sites Dam on Stone Corral Creek; a series of saddle dams along the eastern and northern rims of reservoir would close off topographic saddles in the surrounding ridges to form Sites Reservoir. Two saddle dikes are also needed at topographic saddle low points along the northern end of the reservoir. These components of the reservoir would be scaled according to the alternative.

Under Alternative 1, the proposed 1.5-MAF reservoir would have a Normal Maximum Water Surface (NMWS) elevation of 498 feet. Under Alternative 2, the proposed 1.3-MAF reservoir would have an NMWS elevation of 482 feet. Nominal crest would be at elevation 517 feet for all dams for 1.5-MAF capacity, and at elevation 500 feet for 1.3-MAF capacity. Table 2 presents a summary of dam heights required to impound Sites Reservoir for the 1.5-MAF capacity and 1.3-MAF capacity.

Table 2. Dam Heights for 1.5-MAF and 1.3-MAF Sites Reservoir Alternatives

Dam/Dike	1.5-MAF Reservoir Maximum Height Above Streambed (feet)	1.3-MAF Reservoir Maximum Height Above Streambed (feet)
Golden Gate Dam	287	270
Sites Dam	267	250
Saddle Dam 1	27	None
Saddle Dam 2	57	40
Saddle Dam 3	107	90
Saddle Dam 5	77	60
Saddle Dam 6	47	None
Saddle Dam 8A	82	65
Saddle Dam 8B	37	5
Saddle Dike 1	12	10 (near Saddle Dam 1)
Saddle Dike 2	12	10 (near Saddle Dam 6)
Saddle Dam 10 ^a	Not required for 1.5-MAF Reservoir	30

^a For the 1.3-MAF Reservoir, Golden Gate Dam would be reconfigured and Saddle Dam 10 added to close off a topographic saddle in the ridge that is closed in the 1.5-MAF Golden Gate Dam configuration.

The engineering team is continuing to evaluate different options for dam fill that would be utilized under either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. One option is an earth- and rockfill dam and another option is an earthfill dam. The proposed inlet/outlet works for an earthfill dam would be located to the south of Golden Gate Dam and would be used both to fill the reservoir through conveyance facilities located to the East and to make releases from Sites Reservoir. The inlet/outlet works include:

1. A multi-level intake tower including a low-level intake.
2. Two 23 foot inside diameter inlet/outlet tunnels through the ridge on the right abutment of Golden Gate Dam.

2.4 Proposed Recreational Facilities

As specified in the Sites Water Storage Investment Program application, either alternative would include two primary recreation areas and a day-use boat ramp which are to be phased in over a period of time. Located on the northwest shore of the proposed Sites Reservoir, to the north of the existing Sites Lodoga Road, the Peninsula Hills Recreation Area would include approximately:

- 200 campsites (car and recreational vehicle)
- one group camp area
- 10 picnic sites (with parking at each site)
- hiking trails
- electricity
- potable water
- one kiosk
- 19 vault toilets

Located on the eastern shore of the Sites Reservoir, north of the existing Maxwell Sites Road and proposed Sites Dam, the Stone Corral Creek Recreational Area would include:

- 50 campsites (car and recreational vehicle)
- electricity

- 10 picnic sites (with parking at each site)
- six-lane boat launch site
- hiking trails
- potable water
- one kiosk
- 10 vault toilets

Each alternative would also include a Day-Use Boat Ramp/Parking Recreation Area, located on the western side of the reservoir where the existing Sites Lodoga Road intersects with the proposed inundation area for the reservoir. Facilities would include:

- one kiosk
- one vault toilet
- potable water
- parking area

2.5 Proposed Roads and South Bridge

In addition to modifying existing roads for construction access, the project will require up to 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads to provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as public access to the proposed recreation areas. Sites Lodoga Road provides access to and from the town of Maxwell, which is adjacent to Interstate 5. Sites Lodoga Road becomes Maxwell Sites Road east of the rural community of Sites that is within the inundation area. The reservoir would eliminate east-west access to Interstate 5 (east of the reservoir) from the rural communities of Stonyford and Lodoga (west of the reservoir) because it would inundate the current route of Sites Lodoga Road. The current Sites Lodoga Road is an east-west, two-lane rural collector road and provides an emergency and evacuation route to and from these rural communities. Because construction of the Sites Dam would eliminate access on the Sites Lodoga Road, this collector road would need to be relocated/realigned prior to project construction.

Under Alternative 1, the realigned Sites Lodoga Road would include the construction of a bridge across the reservoir. Various bridge types and options have been evaluated. One option for a bridge is a full-length bridge that would offer navigational passage along the entire width of the reservoir. Another option for a bridge is a causeway with partial fill, which would limit the navigational passage within the reaches of the shorter bridges; however, the approach to implementing fill prism in the reservoir would significantly reduce construction cost. Alternative 1 would also include the realignment of the existing Huffmaster Road to provide access to properties otherwise inaccessible due to reservoir construction.

Under Alternative 2, the realignment of Sites Lodoga Road would result in a road that ultimately extends from Maxwell to the community of Lodoga around the southern end and western side of the proposed Sites Reservoir. This road, referred to as the Maxwell Lodoga Road, would include the realignment and repavement of the existing Huffmaster Road.

2.6 Project Buffer

The proposed project buffer would consist of the total amount of land that would be acquired beyond the facility footprints for each alternative. The preliminary approach to the buffer is outlined below.

- The buffer would include 100 feet around all buildings and most ground facilities (e.g., substations, any aboveground pipelines) along with 100 feet around the Sites Reservoir Complex and recreation areas.
- The buffer may be less than 100 feet if the facility is near a property boundary and the proposed uses do not conflict with the adjacent land uses.
- No project buffers are anticipated for underground or buried facilities (i.e., Dunnigan Pipeline), overhead power lines, or roads (both public and project maintenance access roads).
- The Authority would evaluate the need for the buffer (and if implemented, an appropriate width) on a case-by-case basis in coordination with adjacent landowners. The buffer would likely be acquired in fee title by the Authority; however, acquisition of buffer areas in an easement may be feasible under certain circumstances.
- The lands within the buffer would generally remain undeveloped. Limited features may be installed to reduce future maintenance activities and fire hazards. These features may include limited fencing, regrading to construct fire breaks or fire trails, or similar actions.
- The lands within the buffer would be maintained by the Authority. Maintenance activities that are proposed to be undertaken within the project buffer include vegetation maintenance and periodic fire break maintenance. Such activities may include grazing, periodic tilling or disking, and performing limited controlled/prescribed burns. Where appropriate, the buffer may be managed as wildlife habitat. Fence maintenance would occur within the buffer.

3.0 Operations

The operation of the project under each alternative will be defined in upcoming months as the modeling and development of diversion criteria are further advanced. The member participants of the Authority have a collective demand of approximately 240,000 acre-feet, of which 192,892 acre-feet is needed by participating public water agencies³. Reclamation is also a participant through funding and/or operational exchanges with Shasta Lake. The State would also be involved through operational exchanges with Oroville Reservoir and storage in State Water Project facilities south-of-Delta.

Sites Reservoir would be filled by diverting unregulated/unappropriated flow in the Sacramento River. This water originates during winter storm events, which increase flows in the tributaries to the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam and avoiding any effects on the Trinity River. Water would be available for diversion after senior water rights are met, in-river aquatic species protection requirements are met, and delta water quality requirements have been met. Diversions would occur at the fish screened Red Bluff Pumping Plant and the GCID Hamilton City location when applicable regulatory requirements are met and existing pumping and conveyance capacity is available to convey water through the canals to the reservoir. TRR and Funks Reservoir, PGPs, and pipelines connect directly to the inlet/outlet works and would be operated in parallel to

³ April 2020 Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report.

pump water into and out of Sites Reservoir. Water would enter (and be released from) the reservoir through the inlet/outlet works.

Reservoir releases include releases to meet participant demands and to deliver water for a range of environmental benefits that will be finalized during project development and permitting.

- Sites Reservoir would be operated in cooperation with Central Valley Project (CVP) and SWP operations to coordinate with releases made with the CVP and SWP from Shasta Lake, Lake Oroville, and Folsom Lake. Sites Reservoir releases could supplement and/or allow reduced releases from other reservoirs while maintaining minimum instream flow objectives, Sacramento River temperature requirements, and Delta salinity control requirements assigned to CVP and SWP.
- Releases would be made mostly in dry and critical water years. Water users north of the Delta would mostly receive deliveries from the TCCA canal and GCID canal. Water users south of the Delta would receive water primarily via SWP pumping facilities.
- Using the CBD for conveyance of Sites Reservoir water would include coordination with the local landowners regarding the project operation and timing of the additional flows.

Releases would also be made to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks for downstream water right holders and to maintain ecological function in the sections of these creeks affected by the project. A proposed Reservoir Operations Plan would describe the management of water operations, including releases to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks.

Operation of either alternative would require power to run facilities and pump water. The identification of a power source and the location of transmission facilities is pending coordination with Western Area Power Administration and/or Pacific Gas and Electric. Each of the alternatives would also generate incidental power when water is released from Sites Reservoir at the Funks PGP and TRR PGP. The capacity of the project power generation facilities is anticipated to be below the threshold such that no license would be required from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the facilities would satisfy the criteria for a "Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility" under the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013, as amended by America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

4.0 Maintenance and Management

Under either alternative, maintenance activities for the project facilities would include debris removal, dredging, vegetation control, rodent control, erosion control and protection, routine inspections (dams, tunnels, pipelines, PGPs, inlet/outlet works, fencing, signs, and gates), painting, cleaning, repairs, and other routine tasks to maintain facilities in accordance with design standards after construction and commissioning. Routine visual inspection of the facilities would be conducted to monitor performance and prevent mechanical and structural failures of project elements. Maintenance activities associated with proposed river intakes could include

cleaning, removal of sediment, debris, and biofouling materials. These maintenance actions could require dewatering; suction dredging or mechanical excavation around intake structures; or the use of underwater diving crews, boom trucks, rubber-wheel cranes, and raft- or barge-mounted equipment. Proposed maintenance activities could occur on a daily, annually, periodically (as needed), and long-term basis.

The Authority would also develop and implement a Reservoir Management Plan to define the land uses of project lands controlled by the Authority, fish stocking and vector control practices, and the resources associated with project lands. The Reservoir Management Plan would include the following types of information:

- **Fisheries Management.** This would target species composition for Sites Reservoir, including stocking strategies, habitat enhancement measures, and monitoring efforts.
- **Land Use Management and Recreation.** This would outline how decisions regarding future amenities would be made and what land use considerations would be factored into Authority operations and activities.
- **Easement Management:** Right-of-ways and/or permanent easements would be required for long-term operation and maintenance of all the large-diameter pipelines. This would outline management and maintenance activities for easement areas.
- **Emergency Management.** This would establish protocol on how the Authority would be involved in controlling and resolving emergency situations, including those arising as a result of recreationists.
- **Vector Management.** This would establish protocols and practices for communicating and coordinating with vector control authorities in determining how vector control would be managed at the project facilities.
- **Sediment Management and Removal.** This would consolidate information on the frequency and locations of dredging, testing of sediment before disposal, disposal locations, and procedures to follow if sediment contaminant levels exceed regulatory standards for constituents of concern (e.g., pesticides).

5.0 Best Management Practices

A number of Best Management Practices and environmental commitments are proposed to be included in Project design, construction and operation/maintenance. The following proposed list of Best Management Practices and environmental commitments would be considered part of the Project.

- Conform with Applicable Design Standards and Building Codes
- Perform Geotechnical Evaluations and Prepare Geotechnical Data Reports
- Utility and Infrastructure Verification and/or Relocation
- Natural Gas Well Decommissioning
- Water Wells Decommissioning
- Road Abandonment
- Environmental Site Assessment(s)

- Salvage, Stockpile, and Replace Topsoil and Prepare a Topsoil Storage and Handling Plan
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan(s) and Best Management Practices (storm water and non-storm water)
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for Operation and Maintenance
- Spill Prevention and Hazardous Materials Management / Accidental Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasure Plans and Response Measures
- Minimize Soil Disturbance
- Comply with Requirements of RWQCB Order 5-00-175
- Groundwater/ Dewatering Water Supply
- Construction Equipment, Truck, and Traffic Management Plan
- Visual/Aesthetic Design, Construction, and Operation Practices
- Fire Safety and Suppression / Fire Prevention and Control Plan
- Worker Health and Safety Plan
- Blasting Standard Requirements
- Mosquito and Vector Control During Construction
- Construction Noise Management
- Operation and Maintenance Noise Management
- Construction Emergency Action Plan
- Emergency Action Plan for Reservoir Operations
- Electrical Power Guidelines and EMF Field Management Plan
- Construction Equipment Exhaust Reduction Plan
- Fugitive Dust Control Plans
- Construction Best Management Practices to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazardous Materials Management Plans
- Construction Site Security
- Notification of Maintenance Activities in Waterways
- Worker Environmental Awareness Program
- Fish Rescue and Salvage Plans for Funks Reservoir, Stone Corral Creek, and Funks Creek for Alternative 1; for Sacramento River for Alternative 2
- Construction Best Management Practices and Monitoring for Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species Habitats, and Natural Communities
- Control of Invasive Plant Species during Construction and Operation

6.0 Pre-Construction Activities

In addition to items/activities addressed in the above list of proposed BMPs and ECs, there are other activities that would be required prior to the initiation of construction of the different physical components of either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. These activities include: finalizing criteria and standards used for final design, including emergency management/release requirements; preparing a Dam Monitoring Program; conducting additional geotechnical and related field investigations to support design; relocation of two private cemeteries (Sites Cemetery and a Rancheria Cemetery); and the development and implementation of a Resident Relocation Program.

7.0 Timing of Environmental Review and Feasibility Report

The current schedule contemplates release of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS in July 2021. This is roughly the same timing for the engineering team's finalization of the Feasibility Report for the California Water Commission. As such, preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS and Feasibility Report are proceeding simultaneously. To accommodate the project schedule and the simultaneous preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS and Feasibility Report, the following project components will be utilized for the analysis:

- Sites Lodoga Road and Bridge – Under Alternative 1, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the option of the shorter bridge with fill prisms, including the cast-in-place prestressed concrete box girder bridge type. This option was identified as a lowest cost bridge alternative in the Value Planning Report while meeting the functional requirements for efficient traffic flow.
- Dam Fill Materials – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the option of using earth and rockfill. This option is anticipated to be preferred by the Division of Safety of Dams and will assist in meeting the schedule and affordability goals; it also provides maximum coverage for potential environmental effects as the rockfill involves blasting associated with rock quarrying.
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR) – Under Alternative 1 and 2, it is anticipated that the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the current TRR location. Other locations currently are under review due to the extent and costs associated with ground preparation needed for construction at the current site.
- GCID and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will describe the types of improvements needed to convey water through existing facilities and reduce GCID's current maintenance winter shutdown period from 6 weeks to 2 weeks, pending agreement between GCID and the Authority on any specific improvements that may be warranted due to implementation of the project. Improvements may also be needed to the Colusa Basin Drain to convey Sites water.
- Emergency Releases – In the rare and unanticipated condition that the Sites Reservoir has to conduct emergency releases, these releases are currently planned to be made into Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dam 3, 5, and 8b. Emergency release locations and the extent of potential impacts will be evaluated in further detail as part of the on-going feasibility study.
- Dunnigan Release – Under Alternative 1, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate a release to the CBD based on a preliminary hydraulic analysis. Alternatives 2 will carry forward an extension of the Dunnigan pipeline to the Sacramento River.
- Hydropower Generation – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate incidental in-line conduit hydropower generation below the threshold for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate options for obtaining temporary water supply for construction, such as obtaining water on site via existing groundwater

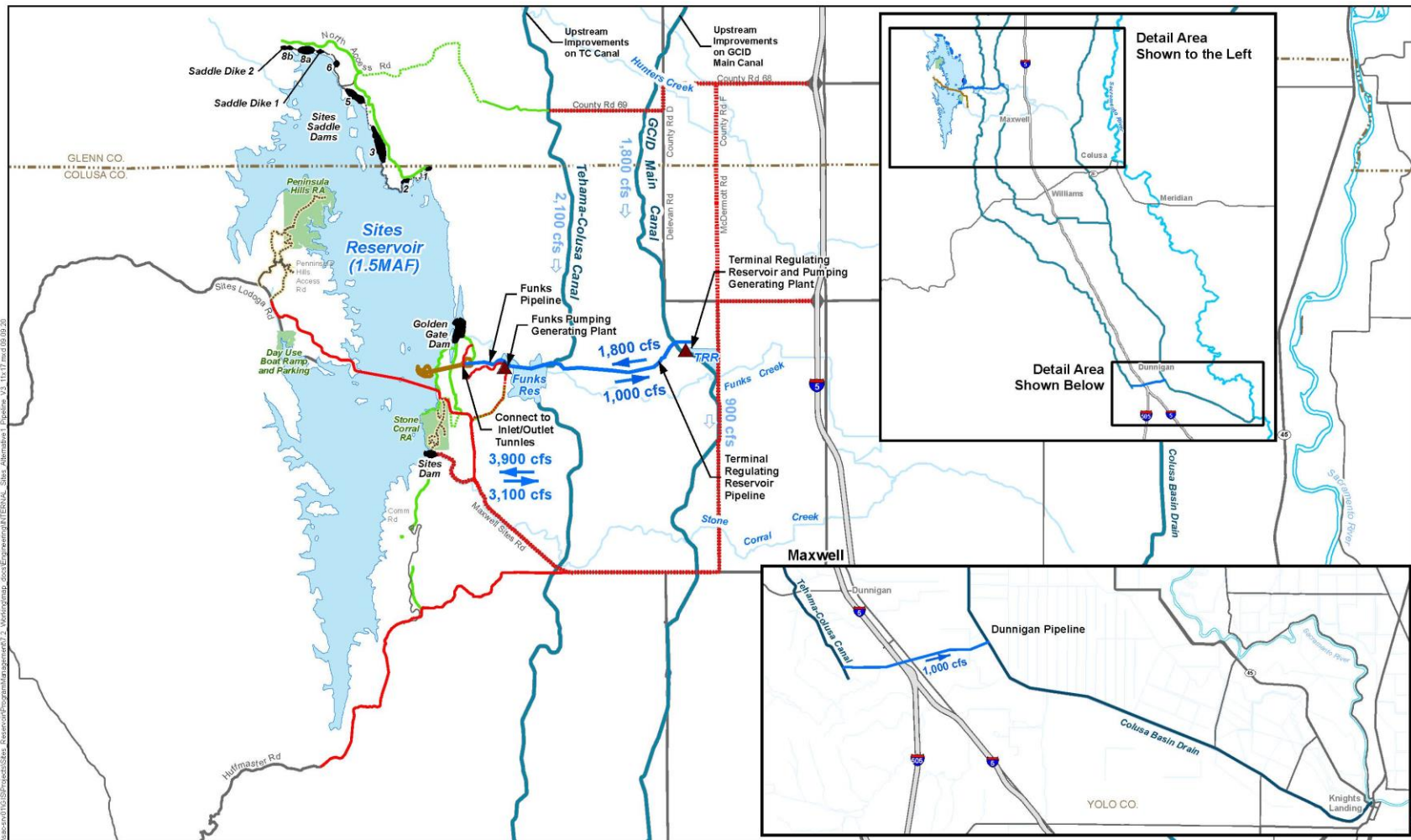
or surface water facilities and/or utilizing existing or drilling new wells, including any necessary treatment depending on the water quality.

The engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for various facility components, consistent with CEQA and NEPA requirements, in order to optimize design considerations and reduce costs.

It should also be noted that in the upcoming weeks, there will be further definition of project operations through modeling, clarification of water rights, and consultation with resource agencies. This information and any resulting changes to the alternatives described in the preliminary draft will be incorporated into the complete Chapter 2, Alternatives Description, to be completed by December 2020.

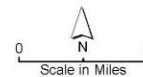
8.0 Identification of the Preferred Alternative for the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS Analysis

The CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project and avoid or substantially lessen the significant effects of the project. An EIR also needs to identify a proposed project, i.e., a preferred alternative. At this time, Authority staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's proposed project based on it meeting the objectives identified in the Value Planning Report and being most closely aligned with Alternative VP-7, and its ability to meet the revised draft CEQA project objectives. The Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will also evaluate Alternative 2 and the No Project/No Action Alternative.



Legend

- Canal
- Maintenance Access Road
- New/Realigned Permanent Road
- Existing Roads
- Pipeline
- - - Construction/Maintenance Route
- - - Construction Route (Existing Road)
- Waterways



ALTERNATIVE 1

Sites Reservoir Project
Revised Recommended EIR Objectives
September 8, 2020

- OBJ-1: Improve water supply reliability and resiliency to meet member participants' agricultural and municipal long-term average annual water demand in a cost-effective manner for all member participants', including those that are the most cost-sensitive.
- OBJ-2: Provide public benefits consistent with Proposition 1 of 2014 and use Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) funds to improve statewide surface water supply reliability and flexibility to enhance opportunities for fisheries and habitat management for the public benefit through a designated long-term average annual water supply.
- OBJ-3: Provide public benefits consistent with the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) of 2016 by using federal funds, if available, provided by Reclamation to improve Central Valley Project (CVP) operational flexibility in meeting CVP environmental and contractual water supply needs and improving cold pool management in Shasta Reservoir to benefit anadromous fish
- OBJ-4: Provide surface water to convey biomass from the floodplain to the Delta to enhance the Delta ecosystem for the benefit of pelagic fishes¹ in the north Delta (e.g., Cache Slough).
- OBJ-5: Provide local and regional amenities, such as developing recreational facilities, reducing local flood damage, and maintaining roadway connectivity through modifications.

¹ Pelagic fish are species that spend most of their life swimming in the water column, having little contact or dependency with the bottom.



November 13, 2020

Mr. Charlie Wright, Chairperson
Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians
P.O. Box 1630
Williams, CA 95987

From: Fritz Durst/ Sites Project Authority Board Chair

Subject: Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, Assembly Bill (AB) 52. Formal Notification of the Preferred Project for the Purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Analysis and Notification of Consultation Opportunity for the Sites Reservoir Project, Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Yolo Counties, California, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1

Dear Honorable Chairperson Wright,

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) initially contacted you in February 2017 in compliance with the project notification requirements pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d) for the Sites Reservoir Project. A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was published for public review in August 2017. After receipt of public comments on the Draft EIR, the Authority reconsidered elements of the project. In October 2019, representatives from both the Authority Board and Reservoir Committee began undertaking a “value planning” process, an effort to identify and evaluate additional alternatives. As a result of the the “value planning process,” the Authority identified a project that reduced the size of the proposed Sites Reservoir from 1.8 million acre feet to 1.5 million acre feet, removed the Delevan Pipeline and associated facilities, and made minor adjustments to other project features.

On April 22, 2020, the Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft EIR consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the environmental effects of the facility options identified in the Sites Project Value Planning Report.¹ The Revised Draft EIR is anticipated to be released for public review in the summer of 2021. In response to preparing the Revised Draft EIR, the Authority is providing you with a description of the revised project for your consideration pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1(d).

Description of the Proposed Project

The Authority proposes to construct the revised Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir and associated water conveyance facilities located in Colusa, Tehama, Glenn, and Yolo counties, California. The new reservoir would be located in Antelope Valley, on the eastern edge of the North Coast Ranges and approximately 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell.

¹ https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/02-01.a-Authority-Board_Value-Planning.pdf



The Sites Reservoir Project is proposed to provide storage and operational benefits including water supply resiliency, water dedicated to environmental uses, and other programs throughout California.

Two alternatives (Alternative 1 and Alternative 2) are currently under consideration. The primary differences in the alternatives is that Alternative 1 will impound up to 1.5 million acre feet of water and discharge water into the Colusa Drain, via the Tehama Colusa Canal, in the vicinity of Dunnigan, Yolo County. In contrast, Alternative 2 will hold up to 1.3 million acre feet of water and discharge water via the Tehama Colusa Canal into the Sacramento River; again, in the vicinity of Dunnigan. Alternative 1 also includes a bridge to extend the Sites Lodoga Road directly across the reservoir, while Alternative 2 re-routes the road around the south end of the reservoir and continues to Lodoga along the west side of the reservoir. Alternative 1 was designated by the Authority as the preferred project for the purposes of the CEQA analysis and permit development on September 17, 2020.

For more information regarding the proposed project alternatives, please see the attached Preliminary Project Description.

Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (b), please respond, in writing, within 30 days if you wish to request consultation. If you have any questions or wish to consult on this project, please contact the Authority's Lead Agency Point of Contact for AB 52 consultations:

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
Phone: (530) 632-4071
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If consultation is requested, please provide the name and contact information of the designated lead contact person as part of your request. The Authority will contact the designated person to set a meeting date to begin consultation within 30 days of our receipt of your request.

Thank you for giving this matter your prompt attention.

Sincerely,



Fritz Durst
Sites Project Authority



Topic: **Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Committee Meeting Agenda Item 2.3** **2020 September 17**

Subject: **Preferred Project for the Purposes of the CEQA Analysis and Federal/State ESA Analysis**

Requested Action:

Designate Alternative 1, based on VP-7 of the Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report (Value Planning Report), as the Authority's preferred project for the purposes of the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analysis and for the purposes of the Biological Assessment and State Incidental Take Permit applications.

Detailed Description/Background:

In April 2020, the Authority accepted the Value Planning Report and its findings and directed staff to analyze the environmental effects of the new alternatives in the Value Planning Report, including VP7. The Authority also directed that a revised and recirculated Draft EIR be prepared for public review¹. Staff began development of the revised Draft EIR and is at the point where the Board needs to identify a preferred alternative based on a more complete project description (see attachment A).

During the Reservoir Committee and Board meetings in June, staff provided an overview of the alternatives under consideration as well as revised draft objectives for the project, requesting review and input in order to focus efforts in developing a more complete project description. At that time, staff presented Alternatives 1 and 2 which combined components of VP5, VP6, and VP7 from the Value Planning Report. Staff recommended these two alternatives as they define the reasonable range of alternatives given the previous analyses of the project and potential alternatives.

Staff is returning to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board with a Preliminary Project Description (Attachment A), and revised objectives (Attachment B). Changes have been made to both the alternatives and objectives in response to Reservoir Committee and Authority Board input and in further development of project details and information by the project team. The key changes to the alternatives are as follows:

- Transportation/circulation components have been clarified. Both alternatives provide access to residents at the south end of the reservoir via a realigned Huffmaster Road. To provide access to the west side of the reservoir, Alternative 1 crosses the reservoir with a bridge on Sites Lodoga

¹ Staff has worked cooperatively with the Bureau of Reclamation to identify the appropriate approach to proceed with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and a Supplemental EIS will be prepared as part of the joint California Environmental Quality Act/National Environmental Policy Act documentation.

Road. Alternative 2 includes a south road continuing from Huffmaster Road around the west side of the reservoir to Ladoga, with no bridge.

- The Dunnigan pipeline alignment and proposal to release into the Colusa Basin Drain has been further assessed and confirmed as the proposed component for conveyance release under Alternative 1.

Key changes to the objectives are as follows:

- All objectives have been revised to focus on the statewide benefits of the Project and the needs of all Participants.
- Objective 1 addresses the amount of water supply required to meet participants' water demands and the need for an affordable, cost-effective Project.
- Objective 2 addresses the Water Storage and Investment Program public benefits.
- Objective 3 addresses federal participation and clarifies the intent of the Project to provide operational flexibility to the Central Valley Project.
- Objective 4 addresses intended benefits to the Delta ecosystem beyond the requirements of the Water Storage and Investment Program public benefits.
- Minor changes have also been made to Objective 5 regarding roadway connectivity.

Due to the project schedule, staff is preparing the Revised EIR at the same time as the engineering team is conducting preliminary design activities. The following assumptions represent the variations being taken from the project described in VP7 of the Value Planning Report and have been incorporated in the development of Alternative 1 to allow the EIR/EIS and engineering activities to move forward simultaneously and achieve the project schedule:

- Bridge – The EIR/EIS will move forward with Bridge Option 1B, Shorter Bridge with Fill Prisms, including the Cast-in-Place Prestressed Concrete Box Girder bridge type. This option was identified as a lowest cost bridge alternative in the Value Planning Report while meeting the functional requirements for efficient traffic flow.
- Dam Fill materials – The EIR/EIS will move forward with Dam Fill Option 1A, Earth and Rockfill, which is anticipated to be preferred by California Division of Safety of Dams and will assist in meeting the schedule and affordability goals; it also provides maximum coverage for potential environmental effects as the rockfill involves blasting associated with rock quarrying.
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir – The EIR/EIS will continue to analyze the original proposed location for this reservoir and carries forward additional potential locations as more is learned in the coming months regarding soils conditions.

- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – The EIR/EIS will address the type and magnitude of improvements needed to convey Sites water through existing facilities, pending future agreements on any specific improvements that may be warranted by the Project.
- Emergency Releases – In the rare and unanticipated condition that the Sites Reservoir has to conduct emergency releases, these releases are currently planned to be made into Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dam 3, 5, and 8b. Emergency release locations and the extent of potential impacts will be evaluated in further detail as part of the on-going feasibility study.
- Dunnigan Release – Based on preliminary hydraulic study, the EIR/EIS will assume release to the Colusa Basin Drain under Alternative 1 and will carry forward an extension to the Sacramento River under Alternative 2.
- Hydropower Generation – Based on the current Project information, the EIR/EIS will address incidental in-line conduit hydropower generation at a level that is below the threshold for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – Based on the current Project information, the EIR/EIS will evaluate obtaining water temporarily for construction supply on site via existing groundwater or surface water facilities or existing or new groundwater wells, including any onsite treatment that may be warranted depending on water quality.

It is important to note that the engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for various facility components in order to optimize design and reduce costs, including potentially considering alternatives to account for reduced participation levels to maintain affordability. In the event that the final project facilities are different than the assumptions above, staff will consider appropriate modifications to the process and documents consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. The goal is to make any modifications on a timeline that does not impact the ability to deliver the EIR/EIS documents for public review any later than July 2021.

The California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project while avoiding or substantially lessening significant effects of the project. While an EIR must analyze reasonable alternatives, it also needs to identify a proposed project, which is also referred to as the preferred alternative. At this time, staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's proposed project based on its meeting the intent and the goals of the Value Planning effort, its close alignment with VP-7, and its ability to meet the project objectives. The EIR/EIS will also analyze Alternative 2 and the No Project/No Action Alternative.

If designated by the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board, Alternative 1 would also be used as the proposed project for the purposes of the Biological Assessment under the Federal Endangered Species Act and State Incidental Take Permit applications under the California Endangered Species Act.

Prior Action:

April 22, 2020: The Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze the environmental effects of the options identified in the Final Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report dated April 2020, including VP7.

April 22, 2020: The Authority accepted: the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, dated April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within, and; a recommendation to the Sites Project Authority to approve the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within.

February 26, 2020: The Authority approved a recommendation to re-start efforts on the EIR for the Sites Reservoir Project and assess the most appropriate approach for completing the EIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

July 20, 2017: The Reservoir Committee approved a recommendation to forward the Draft EIR/EIS to the Authority Board for its consideration to formally receive and adopt the document for inclusion in the Authority's Water Storage Investment Project application.

July 31, 2017: The Authority approved the release of the Draft EIR for public and agency review, in connection with the Authority's application to the California Water Commission by August 14, 2017. The document was published as joint Draft EIR/EIS by the Authority under the California Environmental Quality Act and Reclamation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

December 19, 2016: The Authority approved release of a Supplemental Notice of Preparation (released February 2, 2017) to transfer the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency status from the Department of Water Resources to the Sites Project Authority. Public scoping meetings were conducted on February 14 and 15, 2017.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

Actual costs to prepare the project description and the supporting evaluations were within the amounts budgeted in the Phase 1B Work Plan which was approved by the Sites Project Authority at its January 22, 2020 Board meeting.

Sufficient funds to complete the recirculated Draft EIR/EIS and begin preparation of the Final EIR/EIS are included in the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget), which was approved by the Authority at its August 26, 2020 Board meeting.

Costs to complete and circulate the Final EIR/EIS will be considered in a future Work Plan.

Staff Contact:

Ali Forsythe

Attachments:

Attachment A – Sites Reservoir Project, Preliminary Project Description –
September 8, 2020.

Attachment B – Revised Recommended EIR Objectives.

Sites Reservoir Project Preliminary Project Description September 2020

On April 22, 2020, the Sites Project Authority (Authority) directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the environmental effects of the facility options identified in the Sites Project Value Planning Report (Value Planning Report), dated April 2020. Since that time, Authority staff and environmental, engineering and modeling consultants have been developing and refining alternatives. In June, staff recommended that the Draft Revised EIR¹/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)² (Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS) evaluate two action alternatives, Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, and provided an initial overview of the two alternatives.

This preliminary project description summarizes the alternatives presented in the preliminary Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS Chapter 2, Alternatives Description, which was completed on August 31, 2020. That preliminary draft Chapter 2 reflects preliminary design efforts, including the preparation of technical memos and preliminary drawings, and coordination between the service providers and staff. Modeling and engineering efforts are ongoing, and additional information related to operations and construction means and methods will likely supplement the preliminary Draft Chapter 2 in the coming weeks.

1.0 Overview of Alternatives

The following table compares facilities and operational considerations under Alternatives 1 and 2. This table is an updated version of a table provided at the June 24 Authority Board meeting (Agenda Item 3.3 Attachment B) and identifies existing as well as new facilities that will be constructed to implement each alternative.

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Diversion/Reservoir Infrastructure Details		
Reservoir Size	1.5 million acre feet (MAF)	1.3 MAF
Dams [Scaled to the size of the reservoir]	2 main dams, Golden Gate Dam and Sites Dam 7 saddle dams 2 saddle dikes	2 main dams, Golden Gate and Sites Dam 6 saddle dams 2 saddle dikes
Spillway	One spillway on Saddle Dam 8b	Similar to Alternative 1
Funks Reservoir and Funks Pumping Generating Plant	Funks Reservoir excavated to original capacity; same footprint as existing Funks Reservoir. New Funks Pump Generating Plant (PGP). New Funks pipeline alignment with 2 pipelines.	Similar to Alternative 1

¹ The Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will also address the No Project/No Action Alternative.

² A Supplemental EIS will be prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR); TRR Pumping Generating Plant; TRR Pipeline	New TRR facilities (TRR and TRR PGP) adjacent to the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Main Canal. New TRR pipeline alignment with 2 pipelines.	Same as Alternative 1
Hydropower	Power generation incidental upon release.	Same as Alternative 1
Diversion(s)	Diversion from Sacramento River into existing Tehama-Colusa Canal at Red Bluff and the existing GCID Main Canal at Hamilton City. Adding 2 pumps in existing bays at the plant at the Red Bluff Pumping Plant.	Same as Alternative 1
Emergency Release Flow	Releases into Funks Creek via Inlet/Outlet Works. Releases into Stone Corral Creek via Site Dam permanent discharge outlet. Emergency outflow pipeline and structures in Saddle Dam 3 and 5 to release north to Hunters Creek Watershed. Release from spillway on Saddle Dam 8b.	Similar to Alternative 1
Flood Control	Flood damage reduction benefit for local watersheds from reservoir storage.	Same as Alternative 1
Reservoir Management	Reservoir Management Plan and Reservoir Operations Plan.	Same as Alternative 1
Electrical Facilities	Transmission Lines, substations, switchyards; interconnection with Western Area Power Administration or Pacific Gas and Electric.	Same as Alternative 1
Recreation		
Multiple Facilities Consistent with WSIP Application	Two primary areas with infrastructure (with phased construction): 1. Peninsula Hills Area 2. Stone Corral Creek One day-use boat ramp w/parking located on the west side of the reservoir and south of the bridge.	Same as Alternative 1
Transportation/Circulation		
Provide Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge crossing the reservoir as a result of the relocation of existing Sites Lodoga Road. Relocation of Huffmaster Road with gravel road to residents at the south end of the reservoir terminating at the south end of the reservoir.	No bridge. Relocation of Sites Lodoga Road to residents at south end of the reservoir continues to Lodoga. Huffmaster Road is integrated into Sites Lodoga Road and is paved the entire way.
Multiple Maintenance and Local Access Roads	Approximately 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads would provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as provide public access to the proposed recreation areas.	Similar to Alternative 1

Table 1. Revised Alternatives Summary Table

Facilities/Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
	Approximate number of roads related to the reservoir: 5 local/construction roads 2 construction/maintenance roads 7 local roads 4 maintenance roads Approximate number of access roads related to conveyance facilities: 1 to the TRR 1 to Funks complex Multiple within pipeline easements	
Operations		
Operational Criteria	Option based on Value Planning Report, Table 3.1 Scenario B, anticipated to be modified by future modeling efforts.	Same as Alternative 1
Reclamation Involvement	Two Options: 1. Funding Partner 2. Operational Exchanges a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges	Same as Alternative 1
State Water Project (SWP) Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and storage in SWP facilities South-of-Delta.	Same as Alternative 1
Bypass Releases into Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek	Develop specific bypass criteria to protect downstream water right holders and ecological function.	Same as Alternative 1
Conveyance Dunnigan Release	Release 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain to meet member participant demands and Proposition 1 needs.	Release into new pipeline to Sacramento River to meet member participant demands. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain to fulfill the Proposition 1 needs.

2.0 Facilities

The project will utilize both existing and proposed new facilities, all of which will be located within northern California in Glenn, Colusa, Tehama and Yolo Counties (see Figures 1 and 2 at the end of this document). As summarized in the Table 1 above, most facilities are the same or similar under Alternatives 1 and 2 although features may differ in scale or location due to the size of the reservoir. Facilities that have substantial differences between alternatives, such as the proposed dams, Dunnigan Pipeline and the Sites Lodoga Road realignment/relocation, are described in more detail below.

2.1 Existing Facilities

The project will utilize certain existing water supply infrastructure, including:

- Existing Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure operated by the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA):
 - Red Bluff Pumping Plant
 - Tehama-Colusa Canal

- Funks Reservoir located approximately 65 miles south of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant
- Existing GCID Hamilton City Diversion and the GCID Main Canal
- Colusa Basin Drain (CBD)

Both action alternatives would require pumping capacity that exceeds the existing total installed capacity of 2,000 cfs of the Red Bluff Pumping Plant to convey flow to Funks Reservoir and ultimately Sites Reservoir. Both action alternatives would require installation of two additional 250-cfs vertical axial-flow pumps into existing concrete pump bays at the pumping plant.

Both action alternatives would also require a new 3,000-cfs GCID Main Canal headgate structure about 0.25 mile downstream of Hamilton City Pump Station. The existing headgate structure would be inadequate for proposed winter operation during high river flows. To streamline maintenance during the winter shutdown period (i.e., reduce it from the current shutdown window of 6 weeks to 2 weeks), smaller improvements would be required to integrate Sites Reservoir into the GCID system.

Use of the existing Funks Reservoir would require excavation of sediment to return it to its original capacity. The bottom of Funks Reservoir would be reshaped to allow large, unimpeded flows to and from the new Funks PGP.

Proposed access during construction will avoid the town of Maxwell, utilizing County Roads 68 and 69, McDermott Road, Maxwell Sites Road and Sites Lodoga Road. Several of these existing roads would require improvement to support construction activities. Other local roads would need to be relocated or developed to accommodate access due to the construction of reservoir facilities. These include portions of Sites Lodoga Road, Huffmaster Road, and Communication Road.

2.2 Proposed Conveyance Facilities

Implementation of either Alternative 1 or 2 would require various facilities to control the conveyance of water between Sites Reservoir and the Tehama-Colusa Canal and GCID Main Canal. These facilities would include regulating reservoirs, pipelines, PGPs, electrical substations, and administration and maintenance buildings.

The two regulating reservoirs would be the existing Funks Reservoir and the new Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR). Both regulating reservoirs would have two 12-foot-diameter pipelines extending to and from Sites Reservoir just below Golden Gate Dam. At each regulating reservoir, the pipelines would be connected to a pumping generating plant that pumps water from the regulating reservoir to Sites Reservoir, as well as turbines that would generate power when flows were released from Sites Reservoir. There would also be energy dissipation equipment adjacent to each PGP (e.g., fixed cone valve[s]) to throttle the flow of water into each regulating reservoir when the turbines are not being used.

A transition manifold would be constructed at the base of Golden Gate Dam to connect pipelines from Sites Reservoir to Funks Reservoir and the TRR pipelines. In

addition, a point of interconnection to a high-voltage electric transmission line would be required to power the facilities at the proposed TRR and Funks electrical substations.

Water released from Sites Reservoir would be conveyed south of Sites Reservoir using the existing Tehama-Colusa Canal and a new Dunnigan pipeline. The water would flow south about 40 miles to the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal, where it would be diverted into the proposed Dunnigan Pipeline. Under Alternative 1, the flows would subsequently be conveyed to the CBD and released through the proposed CBD Outlet Structure, eventually reaching the Sacramento River at Knights Landing or to the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough complex through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut. Under Alternative 2 water would flow south to the end of the Tehama-Colusa Canal but would be diverted into an extended Dunnigan Pipeline, with release directly to the Sacramento River with some flows released to the CBD to flow into the Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough complex through the Knights Landing Ridge Cut for environmental benefits under Proposition 1.

2.3 Proposed Reservoir Facilities

Under either alternative, water would be impounded by the Golden Gate Dam on Funks Creek and the Sites Dam on Stone Corral Creek; a series of saddle dams along the eastern and northern rims of reservoir would close off topographic saddles in the surrounding ridges to form Sites Reservoir. Two saddle dikes are also needed at topographic saddle low points along the northern end of the reservoir. These components of the reservoir would be scaled according to the alternative.

Under Alternative 1, the proposed 1.5-MAF reservoir would have a Normal Maximum Water Surface (NMWS) elevation of 498 feet. Under Alternative 2, the proposed 1.3-MAF reservoir would have an NMWS elevation of 482 feet. Nominal crest would be at elevation 517 feet for all dams for 1.5-MAF capacity, and at elevation 500 feet for 1.3-MAF capacity. Table 2 presents a summary of dam heights required to impound Sites Reservoir for the 1.5-MAF capacity and 1.3-MAF capacity.

Table 2. Dam Heights for 1.5-MAF and 1.3-MAF Sites Reservoir Alternatives

Dam/Dike	1.5-MAF Reservoir Maximum Height Above Streambed (feet)	1.3-MAF Reservoir Maximum Height Above Streambed (feet)
Golden Gate Dam	287	270
Sites Dam	267	250
Saddle Dam 1	27	None
Saddle Dam 2	57	40
Saddle Dam 3	107	90
Saddle Dam 5	77	60
Saddle Dam 6	47	None
Saddle Dam 8A	82	65
Saddle Dam 8B	37	5
Saddle Dike 1	12	10 (near Saddle Dam 1)
Saddle Dike 2	12	10 (near Saddle Dam 6)
Saddle Dam 10 ^a	Not required for 1.5-MAF Reservoir	30

^a For the 1.3-MAF Reservoir, Golden Gate Dam would be reconfigured and Saddle Dam 10 added to close off a topographic saddle in the ridge that is closed in the 1.5-MAF Golden Gate Dam configuration.

The engineering team is continuing to evaluate different options for dam fill that would be utilized under either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. One option is an earth- and rockfill dam and another option is an earthfill dam. The proposed inlet/outlet works for an earthfill dam would be located to the south of Golden Gate Dam and would be used both to fill the reservoir through conveyance facilities located to the East and to make releases from Sites Reservoir. The inlet/outlet works include:

1. A multi-level intake tower including a low-level intake.
2. Two 23 foot inside diameter inlet/outlet tunnels through the ridge on the right abutment of Golden Gate Dam.

2.4 Proposed Recreational Facilities

As specified in the Sites Water Storage Investment Program application, either alternative would include two primary recreation areas and a day-use boat ramp which are to be phased in over a period of time. Located on the northwest shore of the proposed Sites Reservoir, to the north of the existing Sites Lodoga Road, the Peninsula Hills Recreation Area would include approximately:

- 200 campsites (car and recreational vehicle)
- one group camp area
- 10 picnic sites (with parking at each site)
- hiking trails
- electricity
- potable water
- one kiosk
- 19 vault toilets

Located on the eastern shore of the Sites Reservoir, north of the existing Maxwell Sites Road and proposed Sites Dam, the Stone Corral Creek Recreational Area would include:

- 50 campsites (car and recreational vehicle)
- electricity

- 10 picnic sites (with parking at each site)
- six-lane boat launch site
- hiking trails
- potable water
- one kiosk
- 10 vault toilets

Each alternative would also include a Day-Use Boat Ramp/Parking Recreation Area, located on the western side of the reservoir where the existing Sites Lodoga Road intersects with the proposed inundation area for the reservoir. Facilities would include:

- one kiosk
- one vault toilet
- potable water
- parking area

2.5 Proposed Roads and South Bridge

In addition to modifying existing roads for construction access, the project will require up to 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads to provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as public access to the proposed recreation areas. Sites Lodoga Road provides access to and from the town of Maxwell, which is adjacent to Interstate 5. Sites Lodoga Road becomes Maxwell Sites Road east of the rural community of Sites that is within the inundation area. The reservoir would eliminate east-west access to Interstate 5 (east of the reservoir) from the rural communities of Stonyford and Lodoga (west of the reservoir) because it would inundate the current route of Sites Lodoga Road. The current Sites Lodoga Road is an east-west, two-lane rural collector road and provides an emergency and evacuation route to and from these rural communities. Because construction of the Sites Dam would eliminate access on the Sites Lodoga Road, this collector road would need to be relocated/realigned prior to project construction.

Under Alternative 1, the realigned Sites Lodoga Road would include the construction of a bridge across the reservoir. Various bridge types and options have been evaluated. One option for a bridge is a full-length bridge that would offer navigational passage along the entire width of the reservoir. Another option for a bridge is a causeway with partial fill, which would limit the navigational passage within the reaches of the shorter bridges; however, the approach to implementing fill prism in the reservoir would significantly reduce construction cost. Alternative 1 would also include the realignment of the existing Huffmaster Road to provide access to properties otherwise inaccessible due to reservoir construction.

Under Alternative 2, the realignment of Sites Lodoga Road would result in a road that ultimately extends from Maxwell to the community of Lodoga around the southern end and western side of the proposed Sites Reservoir. This road, referred to as the Maxwell Lodoga Road, would include the realignment and repavement of the existing Huffmaster Road.

2.6 Project Buffer

The proposed project buffer would consist of the total amount of land that would be acquired beyond the facility footprints for each alternative. The preliminary approach to the buffer is outlined below.

- The buffer would include 100 feet around all buildings and most ground facilities (e.g., substations, any aboveground pipelines) along with 100 feet around the Sites Reservoir Complex and recreation areas.
- The buffer may be less than 100 feet if the facility is near a property boundary and the proposed uses do not conflict with the adjacent land uses.
- No project buffers are anticipated for underground or buried facilities (i.e., Dunnigan Pipeline), overhead power lines, or roads (both public and project maintenance access roads).
- The Authority would evaluate the need for the buffer (and if implemented, an appropriate width) on a case-by-case basis in coordination with adjacent landowners. The buffer would likely be acquired in fee title by the Authority; however, acquisition of buffer areas in an easement may be feasible under certain circumstances.
- The lands within the buffer would generally remain undeveloped. Limited features may be installed to reduce future maintenance activities and fire hazards. These features may include limited fencing, regrading to construct fire breaks or fire trails, or similar actions.
- The lands within the buffer would be maintained by the Authority. Maintenance activities that are proposed to be undertaken within the project buffer include vegetation maintenance and periodic fire break maintenance. Such activities may include grazing, periodic tilling or disking, and performing limited controlled/prescribed burns. Where appropriate, the buffer may be managed as wildlife habitat. Fence maintenance would occur within the buffer.

3.0 Operations

The operation of the project under each alternative will be defined in upcoming months as the modeling and development of diversion criteria are further advanced. The member participants of the Authority have a collective demand of approximately 240,000 acre-feet, of which 192,892 acre-feet is needed by participating public water agencies³. Reclamation is also a participant through funding and/or operational exchanges with Shasta Lake. The State would also be involved through operational exchanges with Oroville Reservoir and storage in State Water Project facilities south-of-Delta.

Sites Reservoir would be filled by diverting unregulated/unappropriated flow in the Sacramento River. This water originates during winter storm events, which increase flows in the tributaries to the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam and avoiding any effects on the Trinity River. Water would be available for diversion after senior water rights are met, in-river aquatic species protection requirements are met, and delta water quality requirements have been met. Diversions would occur at the fish screened Red Bluff Pumping Plant and the GCID Hamilton City location when applicable regulatory requirements are met and existing pumping and conveyance capacity is available to convey water through the canals to the reservoir. TRR and Funks Reservoir, PGPs, and pipelines connect directly to the inlet/outlet works and would be operated in parallel to

³ April 2020 Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report.

pump water into and out of Sites Reservoir. Water would enter (and be released from) the reservoir through the inlet/outlet works.

Reservoir releases include releases to meet participant demands and to deliver water for a range of environmental benefits that will be finalized during project development and permitting.

- Sites Reservoir would be operated in cooperation with Central Valley Project (CVP) and SWP operations to coordinate with releases made with the CVP and SWP from Shasta Lake, Lake Oroville, and Folsom Lake. Sites Reservoir releases could supplement and/or allow reduced releases from other reservoirs while maintaining minimum instream flow objectives, Sacramento River temperature requirements, and Delta salinity control requirements assigned to CVP and SWP.
- Releases would be made mostly in dry and critical water years. Water users north of the Delta would mostly receive deliveries from the TCCA canal and GCID canal. Water users south of the Delta would receive water primarily via SWP pumping facilities.
- Using the CBD for conveyance of Sites Reservoir water would include coordination with the local landowners regarding the project operation and timing of the additional flows.

Releases would also be made to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks for downstream water right holders and to maintain ecological function in the sections of these creeks affected by the project. A proposed Reservoir Operations Plan would describe the management of water operations, including releases to Funks and Stone Corral Creeks.

Operation of either alternative would require power to run facilities and pump water. The identification of a power source and the location of transmission facilities is pending coordination with Western Area Power Administration and/or Pacific Gas and Electric. Each of the alternatives would also generate incidental power when water is released from Sites Reservoir at the Funks PGP and TRR PGP. The capacity of the project power generation facilities is anticipated to be below the threshold such that no license would be required from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the facilities would satisfy the criteria for a "Qualifying Conduit Hydropower Facility" under the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013, as amended by America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

4.0 Maintenance and Management

Under either alternative, maintenance activities for the project facilities would include debris removal, dredging, vegetation control, rodent control, erosion control and protection, routine inspections (dams, tunnels, pipelines, PGPs, inlet/outlet works, fencing, signs, and gates), painting, cleaning, repairs, and other routine tasks to maintain facilities in accordance with design standards after construction and commissioning. Routine visual inspection of the facilities would be conducted to monitor performance and prevent mechanical and structural failures of project elements. Maintenance activities associated with proposed river intakes could include

cleaning, removal of sediment, debris, and biofouling materials. These maintenance actions could require dewatering; suction dredging or mechanical excavation around intake structures; or the use of underwater diving crews, boom trucks, rubber-wheel cranes, and raft- or barge-mounted equipment. Proposed maintenance activities could occur on a daily, annually, periodically (as needed), and long-term basis.

The Authority would also develop and implement a Reservoir Management Plan to define the land uses of project lands controlled by the Authority, fish stocking and vector control practices, and the resources associated with project lands. The Reservoir Management Plan would include the following types of information:

- **Fisheries Management.** This would target species composition for Sites Reservoir, including stocking strategies, habitat enhancement measures, and monitoring efforts.
- **Land Use Management and Recreation.** This would outline how decisions regarding future amenities would be made and what land use considerations would be factored into Authority operations and activities.
- **Easement Management:** Right-of-ways and/or permanent easements would be required for long-term operation and maintenance of all the large-diameter pipelines. This would outline management and maintenance activities for easement areas.
- **Emergency Management.** This would establish protocol on how the Authority would be involved in controlling and resolving emergency situations, including those arising as a result of recreationists.
- **Vector Management.** This would establish protocols and practices for communicating and coordinating with vector control authorities in determining how vector control would be managed at the project facilities.
- **Sediment Management and Removal.** This would consolidate information on the frequency and locations of dredging, testing of sediment before disposal, disposal locations, and procedures to follow if sediment contaminant levels exceed regulatory standards for constituents of concern (e.g., pesticides).

5.0 Best Management Practices

A number of Best Management Practices and environmental commitments are proposed to be included in Project design, construction and operation/maintenance. The following proposed list of Best Management Practices and environmental commitments would be considered part of the Project.

- Conform with Applicable Design Standards and Building Codes
- Perform Geotechnical Evaluations and Prepare Geotechnical Data Reports
- Utility and Infrastructure Verification and/or Relocation
- Natural Gas Well Decommissioning
- Water Wells Decommissioning
- Road Abandonment
- Environmental Site Assessment(s)

- Salvage, Stockpile, and Replace Topsoil and Prepare a Topsoil Storage and Handling Plan
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan(s) and Best Management Practices (storm water and non-storm water)
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for Operation and Maintenance
- Spill Prevention and Hazardous Materials Management / Accidental Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasure Plans and Response Measures
- Minimize Soil Disturbance
- Comply with Requirements of RWQCB Order 5-00-175
- Groundwater/ Dewatering Water Supply
- Construction Equipment, Truck, and Traffic Management Plan
- Visual/Aesthetic Design, Construction, and Operation Practices
- Fire Safety and Suppression / Fire Prevention and Control Plan
- Worker Health and Safety Plan
- Blasting Standard Requirements
- Mosquito and Vector Control During Construction
- Construction Noise Management
- Operation and Maintenance Noise Management
- Construction Emergency Action Plan
- Emergency Action Plan for Reservoir Operations
- Electrical Power Guidelines and EMF Field Management Plan
- Construction Equipment Exhaust Reduction Plan
- Fugitive Dust Control Plans
- Construction Best Management Practices to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazardous Materials Management Plans
- Construction Site Security
- Notification of Maintenance Activities in Waterways
- Worker Environmental Awareness Program
- Fish Rescue and Salvage Plans for Funks Reservoir, Stone Corral Creek, and Funks Creek for Alternative 1; for Sacramento River for Alternative 2
- Construction Best Management Practices and Monitoring for Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species Habitats, and Natural Communities
- Control of Invasive Plant Species during Construction and Operation

6.0 Pre-Construction Activities

In addition to items/activities addressed in the above list of proposed BMPs and ECs, there are other activities that would be required prior to the initiation of construction of the different physical components of either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2. These activities include: finalizing criteria and standards used for final design, including emergency management/release requirements; preparing a Dam Monitoring Program; conducting additional geotechnical and related field investigations to support design; relocation of two private cemeteries (Sites Cemetery and a Rancheria Cemetery); and the development and implementation of a Resident Relocation Program.

7.0 Timing of Environmental Review and Feasibility Report

The current schedule contemplates release of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS in July 2021. This is roughly the same timing for the engineering team's finalization of the Feasibility Report for the California Water Commission. As such, preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS and Feasibility Report are proceeding simultaneously. To accommodate the project schedule and the simultaneous preparation of the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS and Feasibility Report, the following project components will be utilized for the analysis:

- Sites Lodoga Road and Bridge – Under Alternative 1, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the option of the shorter bridge with fill prisms, including the cast-in-place prestressed concrete box girder bridge type. This option was identified as a lowest cost bridge alternative in the Value Planning Report while meeting the functional requirements for efficient traffic flow.
- Dam Fill Materials – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the option of using earth and rockfill. This option is anticipated to be preferred by the Division of Safety of Dams and will assist in meeting the schedule and affordability goals; it also provides maximum coverage for potential environmental effects as the rockfill involves blasting associated with rock quarrying.
- Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TRR) – Under Alternative 1 and 2, it is anticipated that the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will include the current TRR location. Other locations currently are under review due to the extent and costs associated with ground preparation needed for construction at the current site.
- GCID and Colusa Basin Drain Facility Improvements – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will describe the types of improvements needed to convey water through existing facilities and reduce GCID's current maintenance winter shutdown period from 6 weeks to 2 weeks, pending agreement between GCID and the Authority on any specific improvements that may be warranted due to implementation of the project. Improvements may also be needed to the Colusa Basin Drain to convey Sites water.
- Emergency Releases – In the rare and unanticipated condition that the Sites Reservoir has to conduct emergency releases, these releases are currently planned to be made into Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and into the Hunters Creek watershed via Saddle Dam 3, 5, and 8b. Emergency release locations and the extent of potential impacts will be evaluated in further detail as part of the on-going feasibility study.
- Dunnigan Release – Under Alternative 1, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate a release to the CBD based on a preliminary hydraulic analysis. Alternatives 2 will carry forward an extension of the Dunnigan pipeline to the Sacramento River.
- Hydropower Generation – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate incidental in-line conduit hydropower generation below the threshold for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.
- Temporary Water Supply for Construction – Under Alternative 1 and 2, the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will evaluate options for obtaining temporary water supply for construction, such as obtaining water on site via existing groundwater

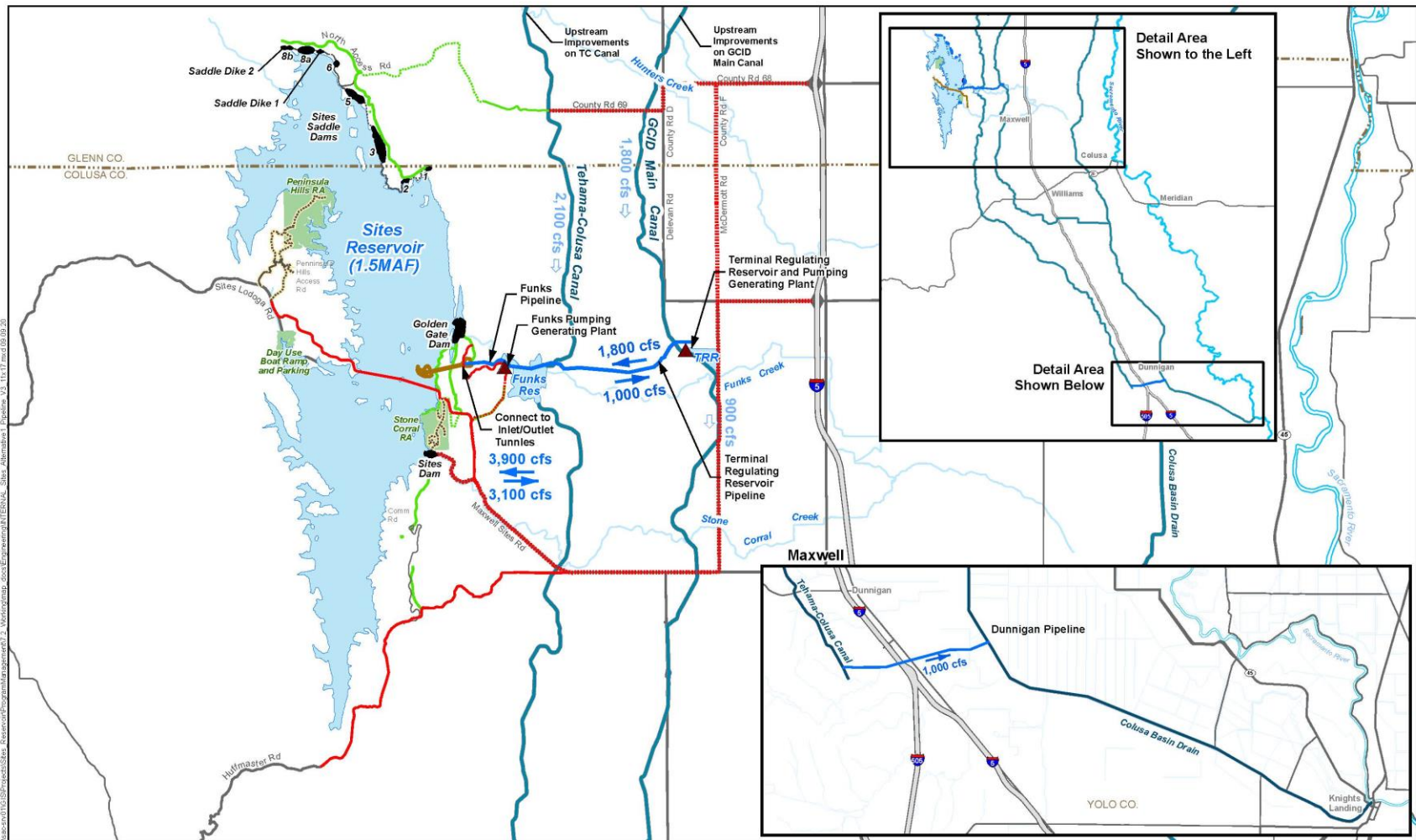
or surface water facilities and/or utilizing existing or drilling new wells, including any necessary treatment depending on the water quality.

The engineering team will continue to consider and analyze options for various facility components, consistent with CEQA and NEPA requirements, in order to optimize design considerations and reduce costs.

It should also be noted that in the upcoming weeks, there will be further definition of project operations through modeling, clarification of water rights, and consultation with resource agencies. This information and any resulting changes to the alternatives described in the preliminary draft will be incorporated into the complete Chapter 2, Alternatives Description, to be completed by December 2020.

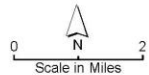
8.0 Identification of the Preferred Alternative for the Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS Analysis

The CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the project which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project and avoid or substantially lessen the significant effects of the project. An EIR also needs to identify a proposed project, i.e., a preferred alternative. At this time, Authority staff is recommending the designation of Alternative 1 as the Authority's proposed project based on it meeting the objectives identified in the Value Planning Report and being most closely aligned with Alternative VP-7, and its ability to meet the revised draft CEQA project objectives. The Revised EIR/Supplemental EIS will also evaluate Alternative 2 and the No Project/No Action Alternative.



Legend

- Canal
- Pipeline
- - - Maintenance Access Road
- - - Construction/Maintenance Route
- New/Realigned Permanent Road
- - - Construction Route (Existing Road)
- Existing Roads
- Waterways



ALTERNATIVE 1

Sites Reservoir Project
Revised Recommended EIR Objectives
September 8, 2020

- OBJ-1: Improve water supply reliability and resiliency to meet member participants' agricultural and municipal long-term average annual water demand in a cost-effective manner for all member participants', including those that are the most cost-sensitive.
- OBJ-2: Provide public benefits consistent with Proposition 1 of 2014 and use Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) funds to improve statewide surface water supply reliability and flexibility to enhance opportunities for fisheries and habitat management for the public benefit through a designated long-term average annual water supply.
- OBJ-3: Provide public benefits consistent with the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) of 2016 by using federal funds, if available, provided by Reclamation to improve Central Valley Project (CVP) operational flexibility in meeting CVP environmental and contractual water supply needs and improving cold pool management in Shasta Reservoir to benefit anadromous fish
- OBJ-4: Provide surface water to convey biomass from the floodplain to the Delta to enhance the Delta ecosystem for the benefit of pelagic fishes¹ in the north Delta (e.g., Cache Slough).
- OBJ-5: Provide local and regional amenities, such as developing recreational facilities, reducing local flood damage, and maintaining roadway connectivity through modifications.

¹ Pelagic fish are species that spend most of their life swimming in the water column, having little contact or dependency with the bottom.

From: [Lyons, Amy@DWR](mailto:Lyons.Amy@DWR)
To: [Janis Offermann](mailto:Janis.Offermann)
Subject: RE: Site Reservoir info
Date: Thursday, July 08, 2021 4:16:06 PM
Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Hi Janis –

Anecita and I met with several DWR attorneys and Ajay, Jim, and Sean this afternoon to continue discussions related to this information request. Anecita asked me to reach out to you to find out which tribes were listed by the NAHC/contacted by the JPA under AB 52 and whether any responses were received. Could you provide that information to us? Thank you - Amy



Amy Lyons
Manager, Environmental Services Section
California Department of Water Resources
Northern Region Office
2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 528-7439

From: Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 6:56 AM
To: Agustinez, Anecita S.@DWR <Anecita.Agustinez@water.ca.gov>; Velagic, Sanita@DWR <Sanita.Velagic@water.ca.gov>
Cc: Lyons, Amy@DWR <Amy.Lyons@water.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Site Reservoir info

Hi, Anecita

I am just checking to see if we are still on track to have a call on Thursday or Friday since I haven't seen a meeting invitation come through yet. I am wide open both days.

Thanks

janis

From: Agustinez, Anecita S.@DWR <Anecita.Agustinez@water.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Velagic, Sanita@DWR <Sanita.Velagic@water.ca.gov>
Cc: Lyons, Amy@DWR <Amy.Lyons@water.ca.gov>; Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>
Subject: FW: Site Reservoir info

Sanita, can you please work on calendaring this meeting with all three calendars. Thank you.

From: Lyons, Amy@DWR <Amy.Lyons@water.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 9:59 AM
To: Agustinez, Anecita S.@DWR <Anecita.Agustinez@water.ca.gov>; Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>; Wait, Jacqueline@DWR <Jacqueline.Wait@water.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Site Reservoir info

Hi Anecita -

I will be on vacation Monday-Wednesday next week, but am available all day Thursday and any time after 11:30 on Friday. - Amy

From: Agustinez, Anecita S.@DWR <Anecita.Agustinez@water.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 9:56 AM
To: Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>; Lyons, Amy@DWR <Amy.Lyons@water.ca.gov>; Wait, Jacqueline@DWR <Jacqueline.Wait@water.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Site Reservoir info

Thank you Amy and Janis for researching this infor and for the important notes on the history of the agreement with the private landowners. I do believe there is a need for us to take a new look at our approach and make a determination on how to respond to requests from our Tribal partners.

Please let me know when we can schedule an appointment for further discussion.

~Anecita

From: Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 9:40 AM
To: Agustinez, Anecita S.@DWR <Anecita.Agustinez@water.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: Site Reservoir info

Hi, Anecita

This is a quick follow up to my voice mail this morning. Below is the recent email I received from Amy Lyons about sharing the site records with Yocha Dehe.

I am taking off for a bit but perhaps we will be able to connect when I get back at 11am or so.

Hope all is well

janis

From: Lyons, Amy@DWR <Amy.Lyons@water.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2021 10:36 AM
To: Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>
Subject: RE: Site Reservoir info

Hi Janis –

I met with Jim Wieking, Sean Sou, and Ajay Goyal today about releasing the data. We are in agreement that it shouldn't be released, but will schedule a meeting with DWR Legal to discuss. I wanted to update you so that you know we are still looking into it. - Amy



Amy Lyons

Environmental Services Section Supervisor
California Department of Water Resources
Northern Region Office
2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 528-7439

From: Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 3:17 PM
To: Lyons, Amy@DWR <Amy.Lyons@water.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Site Reservoir info

Hi, Amy

Thanks so much for your quick reply. I never saw a TEP, myself, but I remember James telling me about the restrictions on submitting our site records to the Information Center. Hopefully he will respond and give us some guidance. I will let you know!!

Thanks again

janis

From: Lyons, Amy@DWR <Amy.Lyons@water.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 3:12 PM
To: Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>
Subject: RE: Site Reservoir info

Hi Janis –

Of course I remember you! This topic comes up every few years and is a strange one. The Temporary Entry Permits (TEPs) that were used to gain property access have a lot of conditions on them, but no mention of data or how it is to be handled. I just looked through several of the TEPs to confirm. They date back to a time when a typewriter was used (!). The language didn't change over the years. The story that I was told when I started (and that most people recall) is that Naser Bateni made a 'handshake' agreement with the landowners to hold onto the data gathered from their properties until the project was approved and land acquisition was imminent. They did not want

anyone to be able to trace data back to their individual properties, likely out of safe harbor concerns.

Barbara Castro, our lead botanist, desperately tried to get permission to submit her Sites/Newville plant data to the CDFW California Natural Diversity Database before she retired. Ultimately, she was told that she shouldn't, but it was based on this word-of-mouth agreement. Ultimately, I think it will be up to Jim Wieking since he is considered to be the DWR project manager.

I wish I had a more definitive answer for you. Please let me know if you hear back from Sean or Jim.
Thanks - Amy



Amy Lyons
Environmental Services Section Supervisor
California Department of Water Resources
Northern Region Office
2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 528-7439

From: Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Lyons, Amy@DWR <Amy.Lyons@water.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: Site Reservoir info

Hi, Amy

You may not remember me, but I was the DWR archaeologist when the department was doing the Sites Reservoir project. The archaeological surveys of the Sites Reservoir had already begun when I started at DWR and it is my recollection that property owners agreed to the archaeological and biological surveys as long as the data were kept by DWR and not submitted to the Information Centers (for archaeological data) or the regulatory agencies or other organizations (for biological data). This was specified in the permissions to enter signed by DWR and the property owners. I remember seeing a copy of that agreement, but I never had one in my possession. The DWR Department of Environmental Services continues to curate the archaeological site records generated during those studies.

I am currently working on the Sites Project as a sub consultant to ICF. Jackie Wait, DES' lead cultural resources manager, let us borrow the hard copy versions of the site records to do the analysis needed for the upcoming revised Environmental Impact Report for the Sites Reservoir Project. My primary job is working with the Native American tribes who once lived in the project area. They are requesting copies of the site records; however, the Authority is hesitant to provide them the records due to the original agreement with the landowners. The Authority would like to review the original

agreement to better understand the nature of the agreement.

My questions for you are, do you happen to still have a copy of that agreement in your files, or do you know where to track it down? Or do you remember the language contained in the agreement? Is there anything that would indicate that sharing the information with Native American tribes would violate the terms of the agreement? Was there a sunset clause? I have also reached out to Sean Sou and James Wieking, but since the contract was run out of the Red Bluff office, I thought you might have some knowledge of it.

I am sorry to bombard you with all of these questions out of the blue, but it is becoming a critical point in the Authority's relationship with the tribes. Any bit of advice or information would be much appreciated.

Many thanks

janis

Janis Offermann

Cultural Resources Practice Leader

Horizon Water and Environment

400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500

Sacramento, CA 95814

916.465.8076 – office

530.220.4918 – mobile



June 15, 2021

Mr. Thaddeus Cason, Chairman
Konkow Valley Band of Maidu
13006 Concow Road
Oroville, CA 95965

Subject: Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis

Dear Honorable Chairman Cason:

The Sites Project Authority is preparing a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the proposed Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir located in Colusa and Glenn counties, California, about 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell. The Authority published a Draft EIR for the Project in 2017. The Authority has since modified the Project, including revisions to the Project footprint, as depicted in the attached staff report on the Project description. For more detailed information regarding the Project, please see the preliminary draft Project description, which can be found at https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Sites_Preliminary-Project-Description_20210219.pdf.

The Authority has identified the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu as potentially having an interest in this Project and its operations, as revised. The Authority welcomes your input on the Project and the Authority's evaluation of tribal cultural resources under CEQA. If you would like to discuss the Project with us, we respectfully request that you respond, in writing, within 30 days to our designated contact person below, and that you provide a designated contact person for the discussions:

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
Phone: (530) 632-4071
Email: kspesert@sitesproject.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "FRITZ DURST".

Fritz Durst, Chair



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309



Topic: **Reservoir Committee Meeting Agenda Item 2.1** **2021 January 21**

Subject: **Posting RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description**

Requested Action:

Approve release of the RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description (with Operations) to regulatory agencies and interested parties, including posting on the Authority’s website, to improve Project transparency and facilitate more detailed Project discussions.

Detailed Description/Background:

At the Reservoir Committee and Board meetings in June, September and December 2020, staff provided an overview of the alternatives under consideration for the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS). Staff has continued to refine the alternatives and, with the consulting team, is nearing completion of a draft of the RDEIR/SDEIS project description.

The project description comprises Chapter 2 of the RDEIR/SDEIS. The project description includes a summary overview of the alternatives screening and selection process, an overview of the action alternatives and the no action alternative along with a detailed description for each of the three action alternatives. Also included in the project description are best management practices and environmental commitments that would be implemented under all the alternatives.

The project description continues to include three alternatives as discussed with the Reservoir Committee and Board in prior meetings. Table 1 provides a high-level summary of the three alternatives. Attachment A provides a more expansive summary table of the alternatives. The key changes to the alternatives that have been made since the previous presentations to the Reservoir Committee and Board are as follows:

- Hydropower – All alternatives include power generation incidental upon release up to 40 megawatts at Funks Reservoir and up to 40 megawatts at the Terminal Regulating Reservoir. Staff has conferred with staff at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and believes that incidental power generation at these two separate facilities would qualify for separate FERC exemptions. With this generation capacity built into the Project, power consumption for Project operations will be partially self-generated renewable energy. It is expected that the remaining operating power needs will be met with renewable sources to ensure no net increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the operations of the Project.
- Regulatory Required Emergency Drawdown and Release Flows, Alternative 2 – Refinements to emergency drawdown and release locations have been made to Alternative 2. Emergency releases under this alternative would occur at the Inlet/Outlet Works, Sites Dam, and Saddle Dam 8B into Hunters Creek watershed. On net the frequent flood control benefits far outweigh the very low risk of infrequent, if ever, emergency releases. To improve understanding of the risk and the potential scale of these rare emergency events, an inundation review encompassing the potential release areas will be conducted.

- Stored water Release Location, Alternative 3 – The release location for Alternative 3 will be the Colusa Basin Drain as it was determined that the Colusa Basin Drain likely has sufficient capacity to handle the flows.
- Diversion Criteria and More Detailed Operations Criteria – Diversion criteria were refined, and more detailed operations criteria were added to all the alternatives. The team conducted an extensive analysis of different possible diversion criteria, including an extensive review of the current scientific literature. Through these efforts, the diversion criteria have been shifted upstream into the Sacramento River to allow for practical operations at the diversion locations. Additional pulse protections to protect migrating juvenile salmonids have also been added. While the species effects analysis and modeling is being completed in January and February, the team believes that the revised diversion criteria are more protective of migrating juvenile salmonids throughout the Sacramento River and Delta and also result in little changes in Sacramento River flows in downstream locations, such as Freeport, and little changes to Delta flows, including net Delta outflow index and Delta salinity. The team will be sharing the outcomes of the species effects analyses in the coming months.

Table 1. Summary of the Alternatives In the RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description

Facilities / Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
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 2. Operational Exchanges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges 	Operational Exchanges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges 	Same as Alt 1, Funding Partner up to 25% investment
DWR Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and use of 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

The project description identifies Alternative 1 as the Authority’s proposed project based on the alternative meeting the intent and the goals of the Value Planning effort, its close alignment with VP-7, and its ability to meet the project objectives.

Staff recommends posting the RDEIR/SDEIS project description on the Authority's website. The project description would be posted for informational purposes to aide in the discussion of permitting approaches with regulatory agencies and in discussions with non-governmental organizations. It is important to note that the Authority is not taking public comments nor responding to comments on the project description and a preamble to the project description would make this clear to the reader. Making the project description available to the public increases transparency and provides a common foundation for regulatory agencies, non-governmental agencies, and other interested stakeholders to understand the project components. Refinements would continue to be made to the project description after posting on the Authority's website until the release of the RDEIR/SDEIS and any significant or material changes would be brought back to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board for consideration before the change is made.

Prior Action:

December 18, 2020: Reviewed and commented on option to add Alternative 3 with Reclamation at 25% investment to EIR/EIS project description.

September 17, 2020: Approved to designate Alternative 1, based on VP-7 of the Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report (Value Planning Report), as the Authority's preferred project for the purposes of the RDEIR analysis and for the purposes of the Biological Assessment and State Incidental Take Permit applications.

April 22, 2020: The Authority directed staff to revise and recirculate a Draft EIR to analyze the environmental effects of the options identified in the Final Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report dated April 2020, including VP7.

April 22, 2020: The Authority accepted: the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, dated April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within, and a recommendation to the Sites Project Authority to approve the final report titled "Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report, April 13, 2020" and the recommendations presented within.

February 26, 2020: The Authority approved a recommendation to re-start efforts on the EIR for the Sites Reservoir Project and assess the most appropriate approach for completing the EIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

July 20, 2017: The Reservoir Committee approved a recommendation to forward the Draft EIR/EIS to the Authority Board for its consideration to formally receive and adopt the document for inclusion in the Authority's Water Storage Investment Project application.

July 31, 2017: The Authority approved the release of the Draft EIR for public and agency review, in connection with the Authority's application to the California Water Commission by August 14, 2017. The document was published as joint Draft EIR/EIS by the Authority under the California Environmental Quality Act and Reclamation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

December 19, 2016: The Authority approved release of a Supplemental Notice of Preparation (released February 2, 2017) to transfer the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency status from the Department of Water Resources to the Sites Project Authority. Public scoping meetings were conducted on February 14 and 15, 2017.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

Staff reported in December that sufficient funds to incorporate Alternative 3 into the RDEIR/SDEIS were included in the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget), which was approved by the Authority at its August 26, 2020 Board meeting. Since that time, staff has become aware of additional fisheries analysis and document formatting needs that will be necessary to incorporate Alternative 3 into the RDEIR/SDEIS. Staff is working with ICF to understand these potential costs and will determine how to incorporate these costs into the Amendment 2

Work Plan within existing revenue sources. Staff is also working with Reclamation to include these costs in an amendment to the existing Financial Assistance Agreement that will incorporate a portion of the \$13.7 million Federal Appropriation signed into law last month. The February 2021 update to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board on the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget) will reflect these changes and these added costs will not impact the second cash call amount to Reservoir Committee Members.

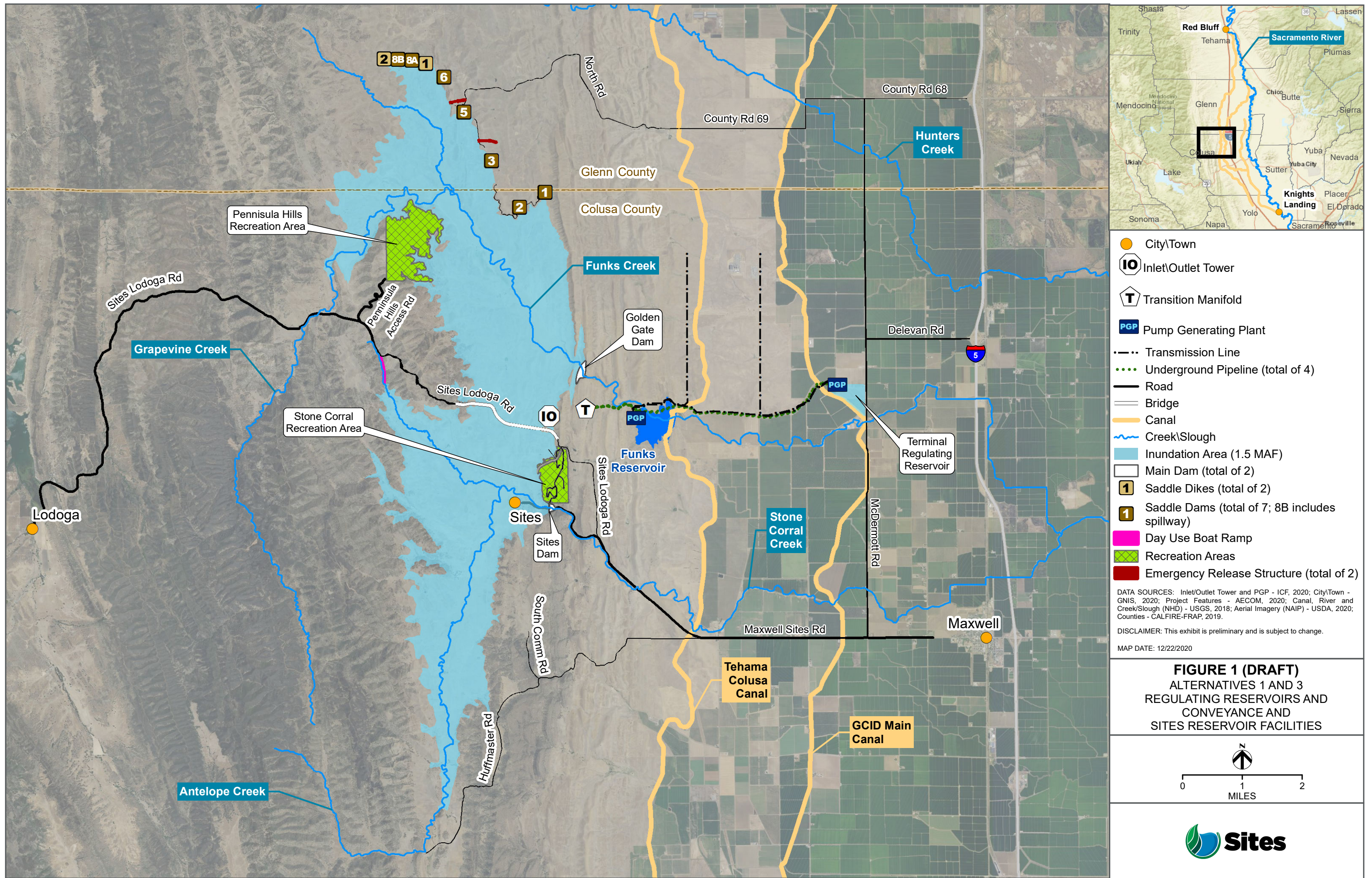
Costs to complete and circulate the Final EIR/EIS will be considered in a future Work Plan.

Staff Contact:

Ali Forsythe

Attachments:

Attachment A – Sites Reservoir Project, Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS Project Alternatives



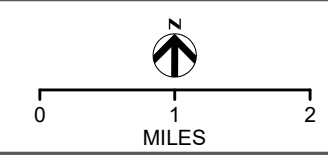
- City/Town
- Inlet/Outlet Tower
- Transition Manifold
- Pump Generating Plant
- Transmission Line
- Underground Pipeline (total of 4)
- Road
- Bridge
- Canal
- Creek/Slough
- Inundation Area (1.5 MAF)
- Main Dam (total of 2)
- Saddle Dikes (total of 2)
- Saddle Dams (total of 7; 8B includes spillway)
- Day Use Boat Ramp
- Recreation Areas
- Emergency Release Structure (total of 2)

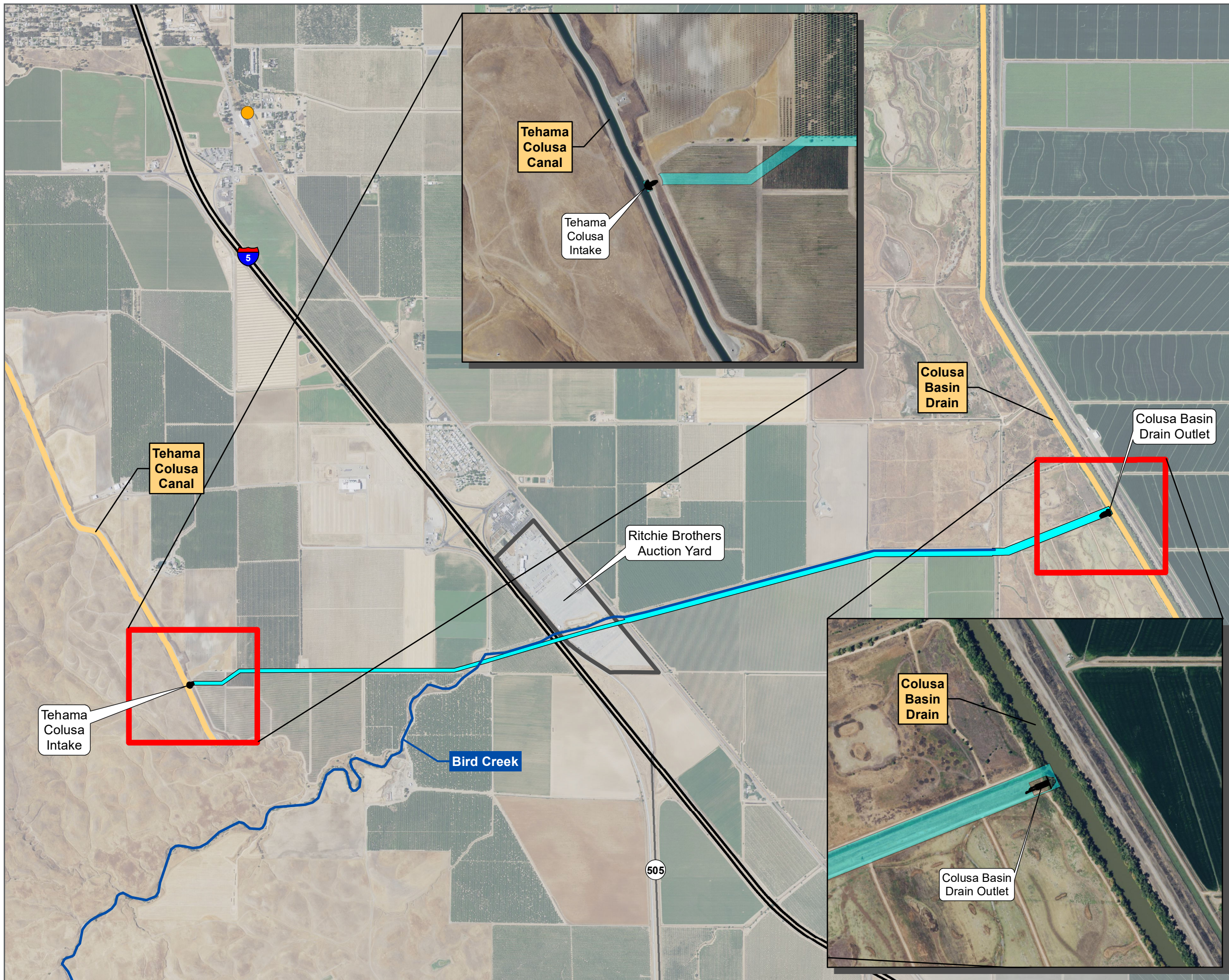
DATA SOURCES: Inlet/Outlet Tower and PGP - ICF, 2020; City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canal, River and Creek/Slough (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020; Counties - CALFIRE-FRAP, 2019.

DISCLAIMER: This exhibit is preliminary and is subject to change.

MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

FIGURE 1 (DRAFT)
ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 3
REGULATING RESERVOIRS AND
CONVEYANCE AND
SITES RESERVOIR FACILITIES





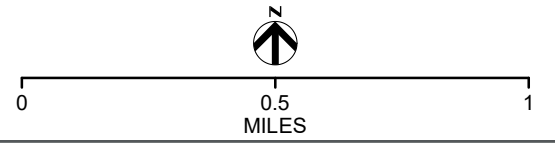
- LEGEND**
- City/Town
 - ~ Bird Creek
 - Dunnigan Underground Pipeline

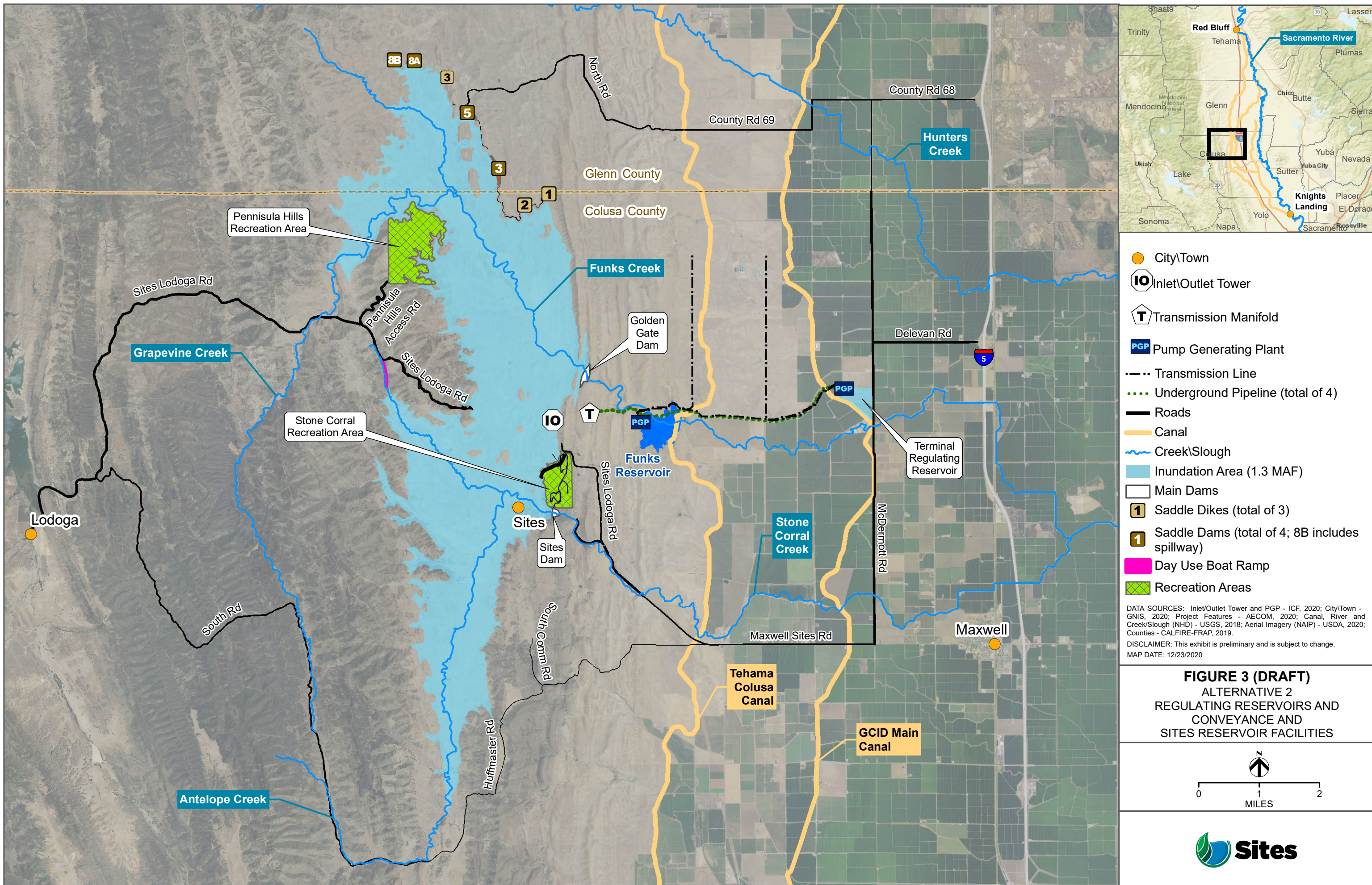
DATA SOURCES: City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canals (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020.

DISCLAIMER: This exhibit is preliminary and is subject to change.

MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

FIGURE 2 (DRAFT)
 ALTERNATIVES 1 and 3
 CONVEYANCE TO COLUSA BASIN
 DRAIN COMPONENTS

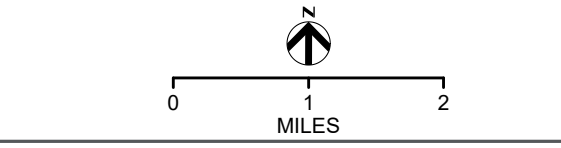


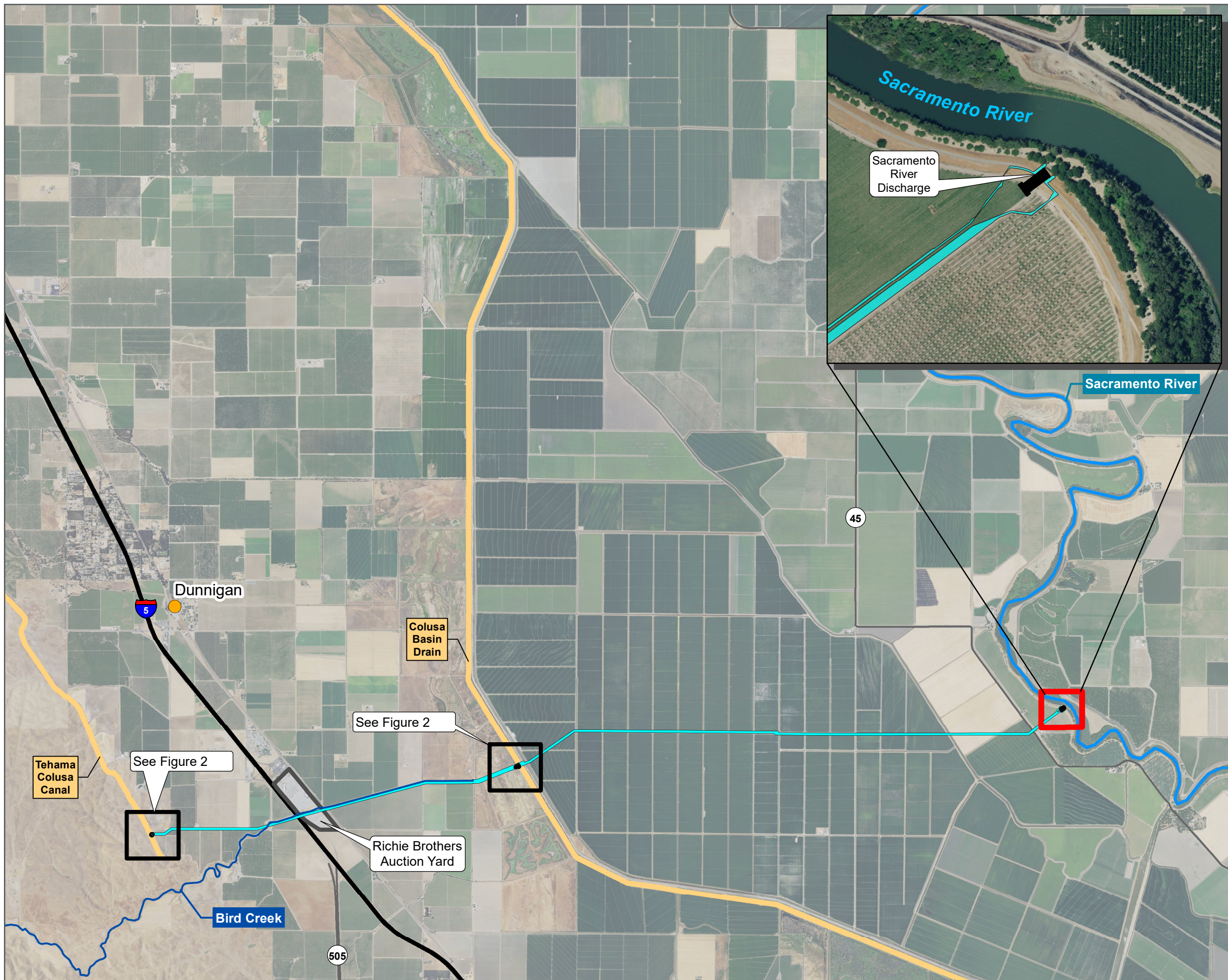


● City/Town
 IO Inlet/Outlet Tower
 T Transmission Manifold
 PGP Pump Generating Plant
 - - - Transmission Line
 Underground Pipeline (total of 4)
 — Roads
 — Canals
 ~~~~~ Creek/Slough  
 Inundation Area (1.3 MAF)  
 Main Dams  
 1 Saddle Dikes (total of 3)  
 1 Saddle Dams (total of 4; 8B includes spillway)  
 Day Use Boat Ramp  
 Recreation Areas

DATA SOURCES: Inlet/Outlet Tower and PGP - ICF, 2020; City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canal, River and Creek/Slough (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020; Counties - CALFIRE-FRAP, 2019.  
 DISCLAIMER: This exhibit is preliminary and is subject to change.  
 MAP DATE: 12/23/2020

**FIGURE 3 (DRAFT)**  
 ALTERNATIVE 2  
 REGULATING RESERVOIRS AND  
 CONVEYANCE AND  
 SITES RESERVOIR FACILITIES





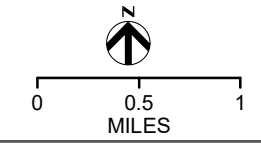
- LEGEND**
- City/Town
  - ~ Bird Creek
  - Dunnigan Underground Pipeline

DATA SOURCES: City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canals (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020.

DISCLAIMER: This exhibit is preliminary and is subject to change.

MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

**FIGURE 4 (DRAFT)**  
 ALTERNATIVE 2  
 CONVEYANCE TO SACRAMENTO  
 RIVER COMPONENTS





June 15, 2021

Mrs. Regina Cuellar, Chairwoman  
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians  
P.O. Box 1340  
Shingle Springs, CA 95682

Subject: Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis

Dear Honorable Chairwoman Cuellar:

The Sites Project Authority is preparing a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the proposed Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir located in Colusa and Glenn counties, California, about 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell. The Authority published a Draft EIR for the Project in 2017. The Authority has since modified the Project, including revisions to the Project footprint, as depicted in the attached staff report on the Project description. For more detailed information regarding the Project, please see the preliminary draft Project description, which can be found at [https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Sites\\_Preliminary-Project-Description\\_20210219.pdf](https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Sites_Preliminary-Project-Description_20210219.pdf).

The Authority has identified the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians as potentially having an interest in this Project and its operations, as revised. The Authority welcomes your input on the Project and the Authority's evaluation of tribal cultural resources under CEQA. If you would like to discuss the Project with us, we respectfully request that you respond, in writing, within 30 days to our designated contact person below, and that you provide a designated contact person for the discussions:

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager  
Sites Project Authority  
P.O. Box 517  
Maxwell, CA 95955  
Phone: (530) 632-4071  
Email: [kspesert@sitesproject.org](mailto:kspesert@sitesproject.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "FRITZ DURST".

Fritz Durst, Chair



P.O. Box 517  
Maxwell, CA 95955  
530.438.2309



Topic: **Reservoir Committee Meeting Agenda Item 2.1** **2021 January 21**

Subject: **Posting RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description**

---

**Requested Action:**

Approve release of the RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description (with Operations) to regulatory agencies and interested parties, including posting on the Authority's website, to improve Project transparency and facilitate more detailed Project discussions.

**Detailed Description/Background:**

At the Reservoir Committee and Board meetings in June, September and December 2020, staff provided an overview of the alternatives under consideration for the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS). Staff has continued to refine the alternatives and, with the consulting team, is nearing completion of a draft of the RDEIR/SDEIS project description.

The project description comprises Chapter 2 of the RDEIR/SDEIS. The project description includes a summary overview of the alternatives screening and selection process, an overview of the action alternatives and the no action alternative along with a detailed description for each of the three action alternatives. Also included in the project description are best management practices and environmental commitments that would be implemented under all the alternatives.

The project description continues to include three alternatives as discussed with the Reservoir Committee and Board in prior meetings. Table 1 provides a high-level summary of the three alternatives. Attachment A provides a more expansive summary table of the alternatives. The key changes to the alternatives that have been made since the previous presentations to the Reservoir Committee and Board are as follows:

- Hydropower – All alternatives include power generation incidental upon release up to 40 megawatts at Funks Reservoir and up to 40 megawatts at the Terminal Regulating Reservoir. Staff has conferred with staff at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and believes that incidental power generation at these two separate facilities would qualify for separate FERC exemptions. With this generation capacity built into the Project, power consumption for Project operations will be partially self-generated renewable energy. It is expected that the remaining operating power needs will be met with renewable sources to ensure no net increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the operations of the Project.
- Regulatory Required Emergency Drawdown and Release Flows, Alternative 2 – Refinements to emergency drawdown and release locations have been made to Alternative 2. Emergency releases under this alternative would occur at the Inlet/Outlet Works, Sites Dam, and Saddle Dam 8B into Hunters Creek watershed. On net the frequent flood control benefits far outweigh the very low risk of infrequent, if ever, emergency releases. To improve understanding of the risk and the potential scale of these rare emergency events, an inundation review encompassing the potential release areas will be conducted.

- Stored water Release Location, Alternative 3 – The release location for Alternative 3 will be the Colusa Basin Drain as it was determined that the Colusa Basin Drain likely has sufficient capacity to handle the flows.
- Diversion Criteria and More Detailed Operations Criteria – Diversion criteria were refined, and more detailed operations criteria were added to all the alternatives. The team conducted an extensive analysis of different possible diversion criteria, including an extensive review of the current scientific literature. Through these efforts, the diversion criteria have been shifted upstream into the Sacramento River to allow for practical operations at the diversion locations. Additional pulse protections to protect migrating juvenile salmonids have also been added. While the species effects analysis and modeling is being completed in January and February, the team believes that the revised diversion criteria are more protective of migrating juvenile salmonids throughout the Sacramento River and Delta and also result in little changes in Sacramento River flows in downstream locations, such as Freeport, and little changes to Delta flows, including net Delta outflow index and Delta salinity. The team will be sharing the outcomes of the species effects analyses in the coming months.

**Table 1. Summary of the Alternatives In the RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description**

| <b>Facilities / Operations</b>        | <b>Alternative 1</b>                                                                                                                                      | <b>Alternative 2</b>                                                                                                             | <b>Alternative 3</b>                                |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 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<br>2. Operational Exchanges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Within Year Exchanges</li> <li>b. Real-time Exchanges</li> </ul> | Operational Exchanges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Within Year Exchanges</li> <li>b. Real-time Exchanges</li> </ul> | Same as Alt 1, Funding Partner up to 25% investment |
| DWR Involvement                       | Operational Exchanges with Oroville and use of 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                                       |

The project description identifies Alternative 1 as the Authority’s proposed project based on the alternative meeting the intent and the goals of the Value Planning effort, its close alignment with VP-7, and its ability to meet the project objectives.

Staff recommends posting the RDEIR/SDEIS project description on the Authority's website. The project description would be posted for informational purposes to aide in the discussion of permitting approaches with regulatory agencies and in discussions with non-governmental organizations. It is important to note that the Authority is not taking public comments nor responding to comments on the project description and a preamble to the project description would make this clear to the reader. Making the project description available to the public increases transparency and provides a common foundation for regulatory agencies, non-governmental agencies, and other interested stakeholders to understand the project components. Refinements would continue to be made to the project description after posting on the Authority's website until the release of the RDEIR/SDEIS and any significant or material changes would be brought back to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board for consideration before the change is made.

**Prior Action:**

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December 19, 2016: The Authority approved release of a Supplemental Notice of Preparation (released February 2, 2017) to transfer the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency status from the Department of Water Resources to the Sites Project Authority. Public scoping meetings were conducted on February 14 and 15, 2017.

**Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:**

Staff reported in December that sufficient funds to incorporate Alternative 3 into the RDEIR/SDEIS were included in the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget), which was approved by the Authority at its August 26, 2020 Board meeting. Since that time, staff has become aware of additional fisheries analysis and document formatting needs that will be necessary to incorporate Alternative 3 into the RDEIR/SDEIS. Staff is working with ICF to understand these potential costs and will determine how to incorporate these costs into the Amendment 2

Work Plan within existing revenue sources. Staff is also working with Reclamation to include these costs in an amendment to the existing Financial Assistance Agreement that will incorporate a portion of the \$13.7 million Federal Appropriation signed into law last month. The February 2021 update to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board on the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget) will reflect these changes and these added costs will not impact the second cash call amount to Reservoir Committee Members.

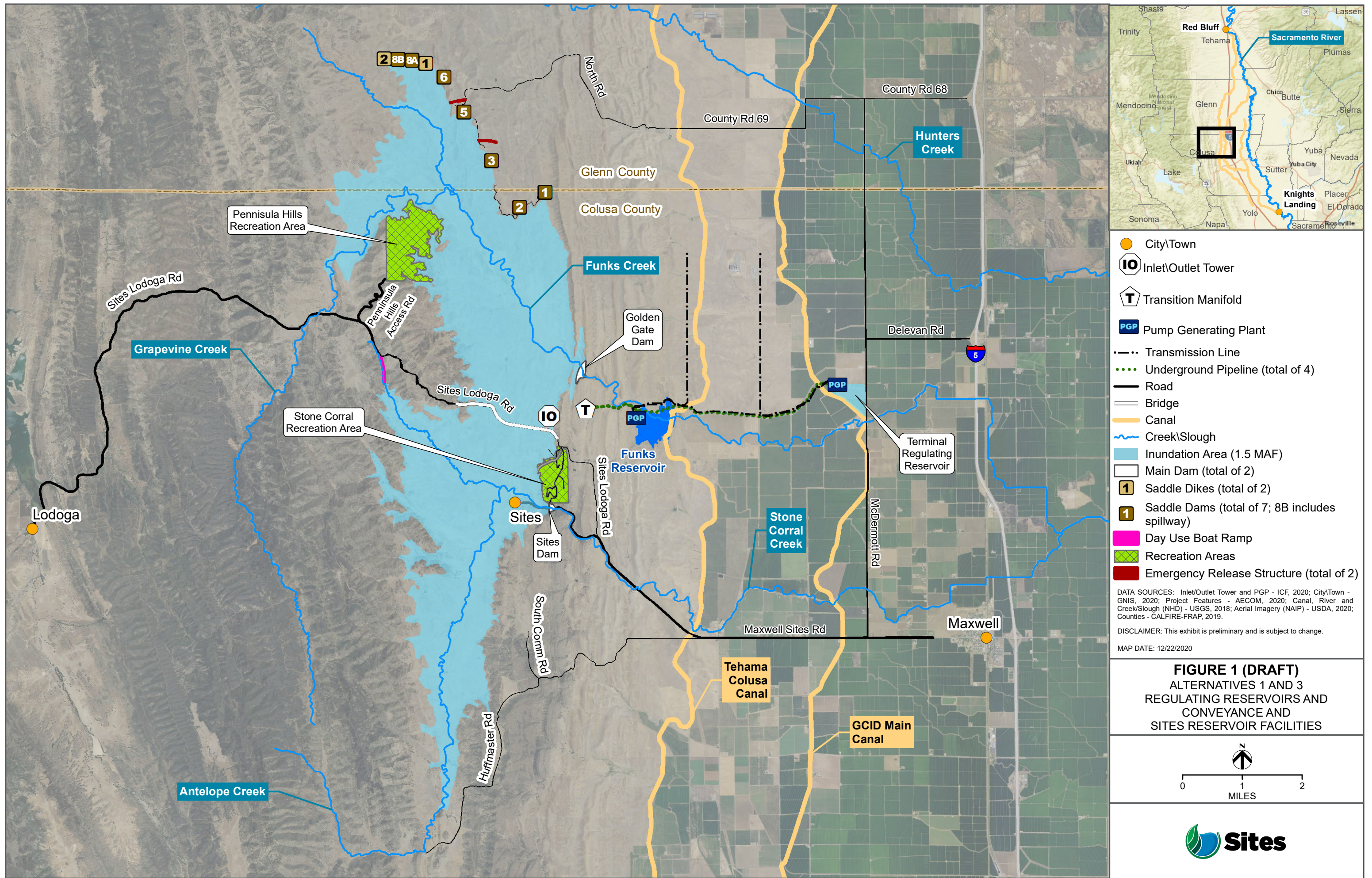
Costs to complete and circulate the Final EIR/EIS will be considered in a future Work Plan.

**Staff Contact:**

Ali Forsythe

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Sites Reservoir Project, Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS Project Alternatives



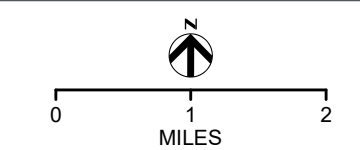
- City/Town
- Inlet/Outlet Tower
- Transition Manifold
- Pump Generating Plant
- Transmission Line
- Underground Pipeline (total of 4)
- Road
- Bridge
- Canal
- Creek/Slough
- Inundation Area (1.5 MAF)
- Main Dam (total of 2)
- Saddle Dikes (total of 2)
- Saddle Dams (total of 7; 8B includes spillway)
- Day Use Boat Ramp
- Recreation Areas
- Emergency Release Structure (total of 2)

DATA SOURCES: Inlet/Outlet Tower and PGP - ICF, 2020; City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canal, River and Creek/Slough (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020; Counties - CALFIRE-FRAP, 2019.

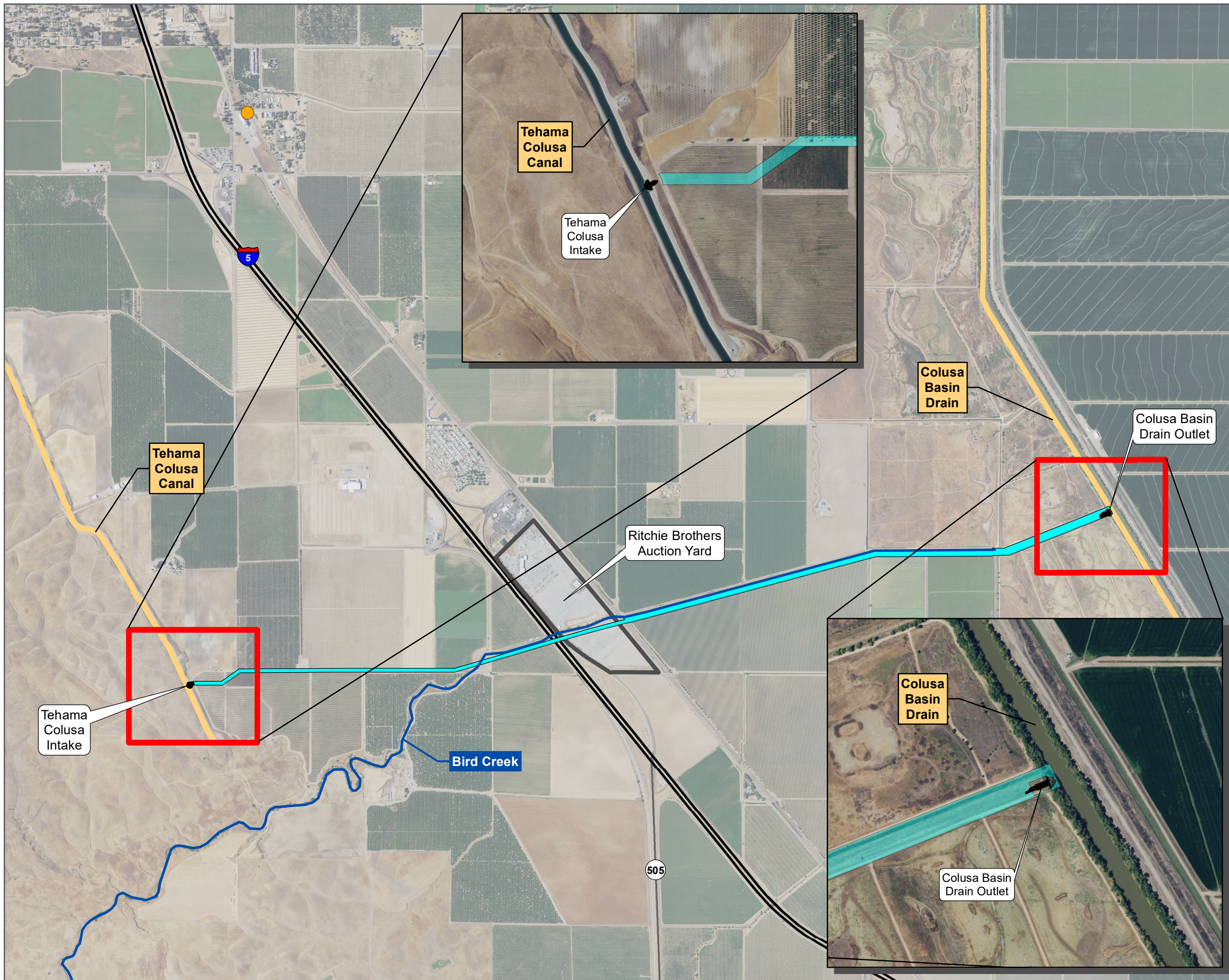
DISCLAIMER: This exhibit is preliminary and is subject to change.

MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

**FIGURE 1 (DRAFT)**  
 ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 3  
 REGULATING RESERVOIRS AND  
 CONVEYANCE AND  
 SITES RESERVOIR FACILITIES







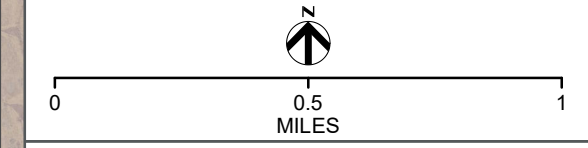
- LEGEND**
- City/Town
  - Bird Creek
  - Dunnigan Underground Pipeline

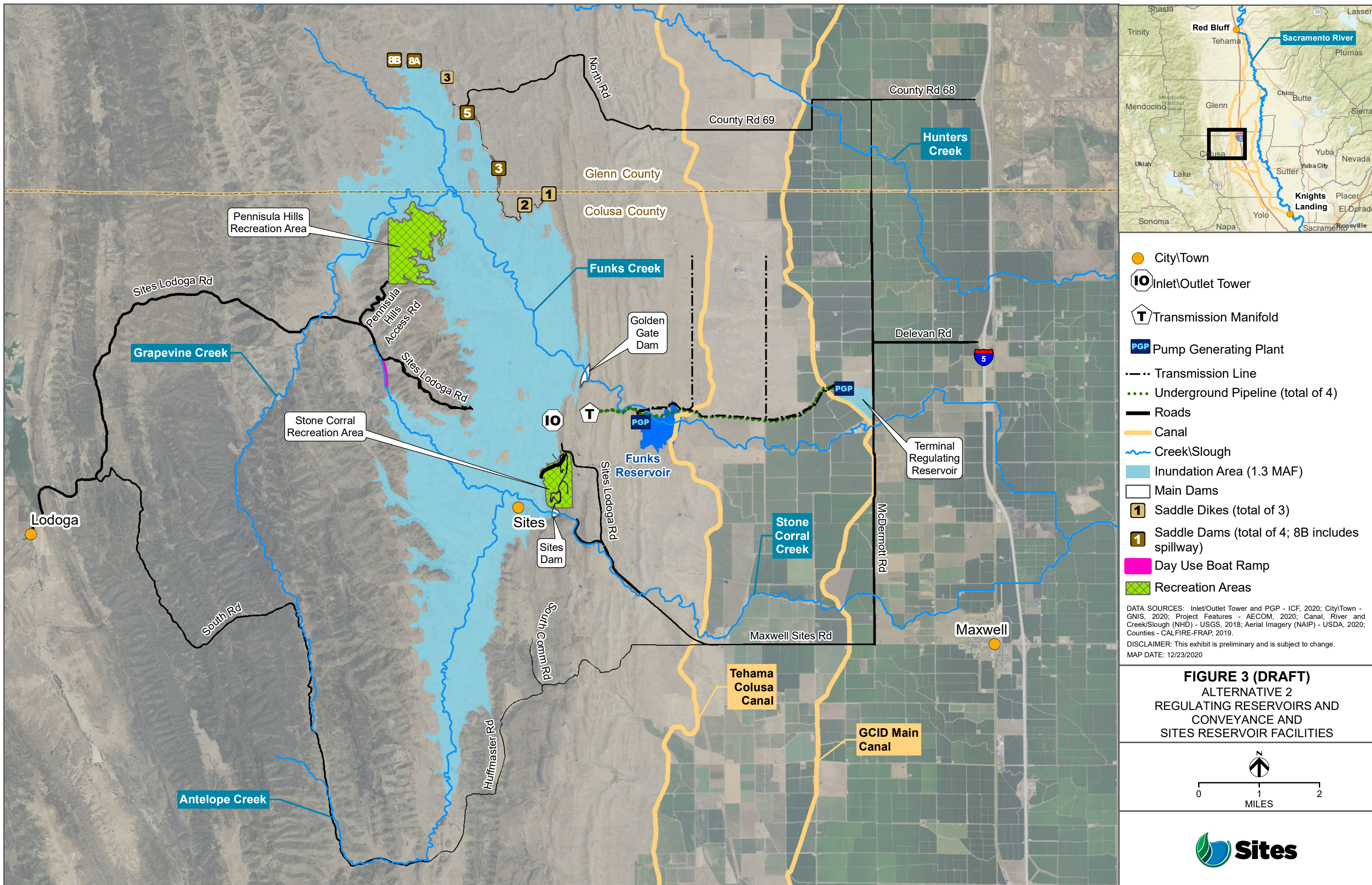
DATA SOURCES: City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canals (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020.

DISCLAIMER: This exhibit is preliminary and is subject to change.

MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

**FIGURE 2 (DRAFT)**  
 ALTERNATIVES 1 and 3  
 CONVEYANCE TO COLUSA BASIN  
 DRAIN COMPONENTS



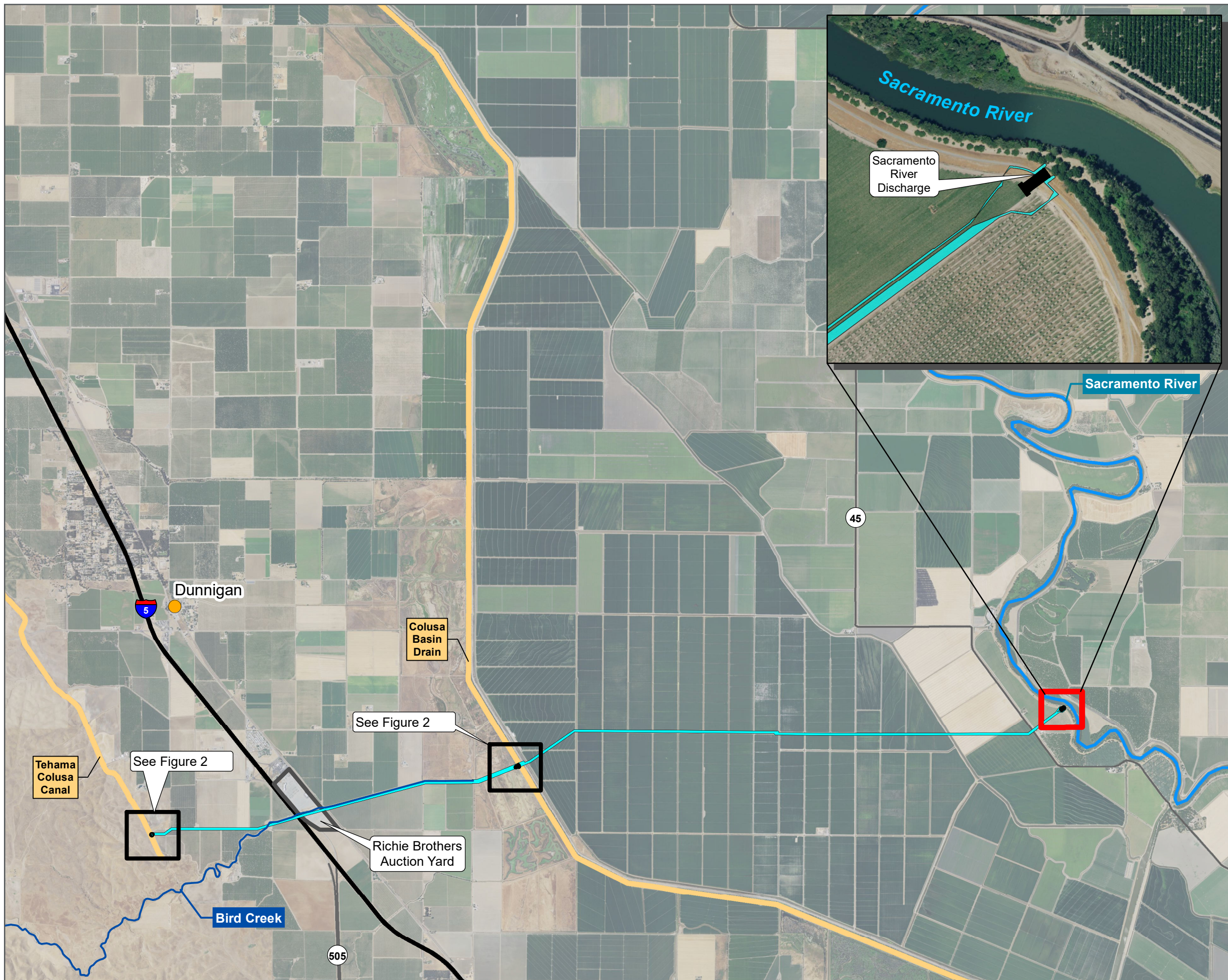


● City/Town  
 IO Inlet/Outlet Tower  
 T Transmission Manifold  
 PGP Pump Generating Plant  
 - - - Transmission Line  
 . . . Underground Pipeline (total of 4)  
 — Roads  
 — Canal  
 ~ Creek/Slough  
 Inundation Area (1.3 MAF)  
 Main Dams  
 1 Saddle Dikes (total of 3)  
 1 Saddle Dams (total of 4; 8B includes spillway)  
 Day Use Boat Ramp  
 Recreation Areas

DATA SOURCES: Inlet/Outlet Tower and PGP - ICF, 2020; City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canal, River and Creek/Slough (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020; Counties - CALFIRE-FRAP, 2019.  
 DISCLAIMER: This exhibit is preliminary and is subject to change.  
 MAP DATE: 12/23/2020

**FIGURE 3 (DRAFT)**  
 ALTERNATIVE 2  
 REGULATING RESERVOIRS AND  
 CONVEYANCE AND  
 SITES RESERVOIR FACILITIES





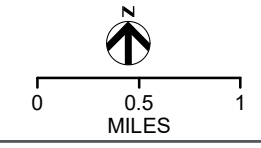
- LEGEND**
- City/Town
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MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

**FIGURE 4 (DRAFT)**  
 ALTERNATIVE 2  
 CONVEYANCE TO SACRAMENTO  
 RIVER COMPONENTS





June 15, 2021

Mrs. Sara Dutschke Setchwaelo, Chairwoman  
Lone Band of Miwok Indians  
9252 Bush Street  
Plymouth, CA 95669

Subject: Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis

Dear Honorable Chairwoman Dutschke Setchwaelo:

The Sites Project Authority is preparing a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the proposed Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir located in Colusa and Glenn counties, California, about 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell. The Authority published a Draft EIR for the Project in 2017. The Authority has since modified the Project, including revisions to the Project footprint, as depicted in the attached staff report on the Project description. For more detailed information regarding the Project, please see the preliminary draft Project description, which can be found at [https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Sites\\_Preliminary-Project-Description\\_20210219.pdf](https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Sites_Preliminary-Project-Description_20210219.pdf).

The Authority has identified the Lone Band of Miwok Indians as potentially having an interest in this Project and its operations, as revised. The Authority welcomes your input on the Project and the Authority's evaluation of tribal cultural resources under CEQA. If you would like to discuss the Project with us, we respectfully request that you respond, in writing, within 30 days to our designated contact person below, and that you provide a designated contact person for the discussions:

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager  
Sites Project Authority  
P.O. Box 517  
Maxwell, CA 95955  
Phone: (530) 632-4071  
Email: [kspesert@sitesproject.org](mailto:kspesert@sitesproject.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'FRITZ DURST'.

Fritz Durst, Chair



P.O. Box 517  
Maxwell, CA 95955  
530.438.2309



Topic: **Reservoir Committee Meeting Agenda Item 2.1** **2021 January 21**

Subject: **Posting RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description**

---

**Requested Action:**

Approve release of the RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description (with Operations) to regulatory agencies and interested parties, including posting on the Authority's website, to improve Project transparency and facilitate more detailed Project discussions.

**Detailed Description/Background:**

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| Reservoir Size                        | 1.5 MAF                                                                                                                                                   | 1.3 MAF                                                                                                                          | 1.5 MAF                                             |
| Hydropower                            | Incidental upon release                                                                                                                                   | Same as Alt 1                                                                                                                    | Same as Alt 1                                       |
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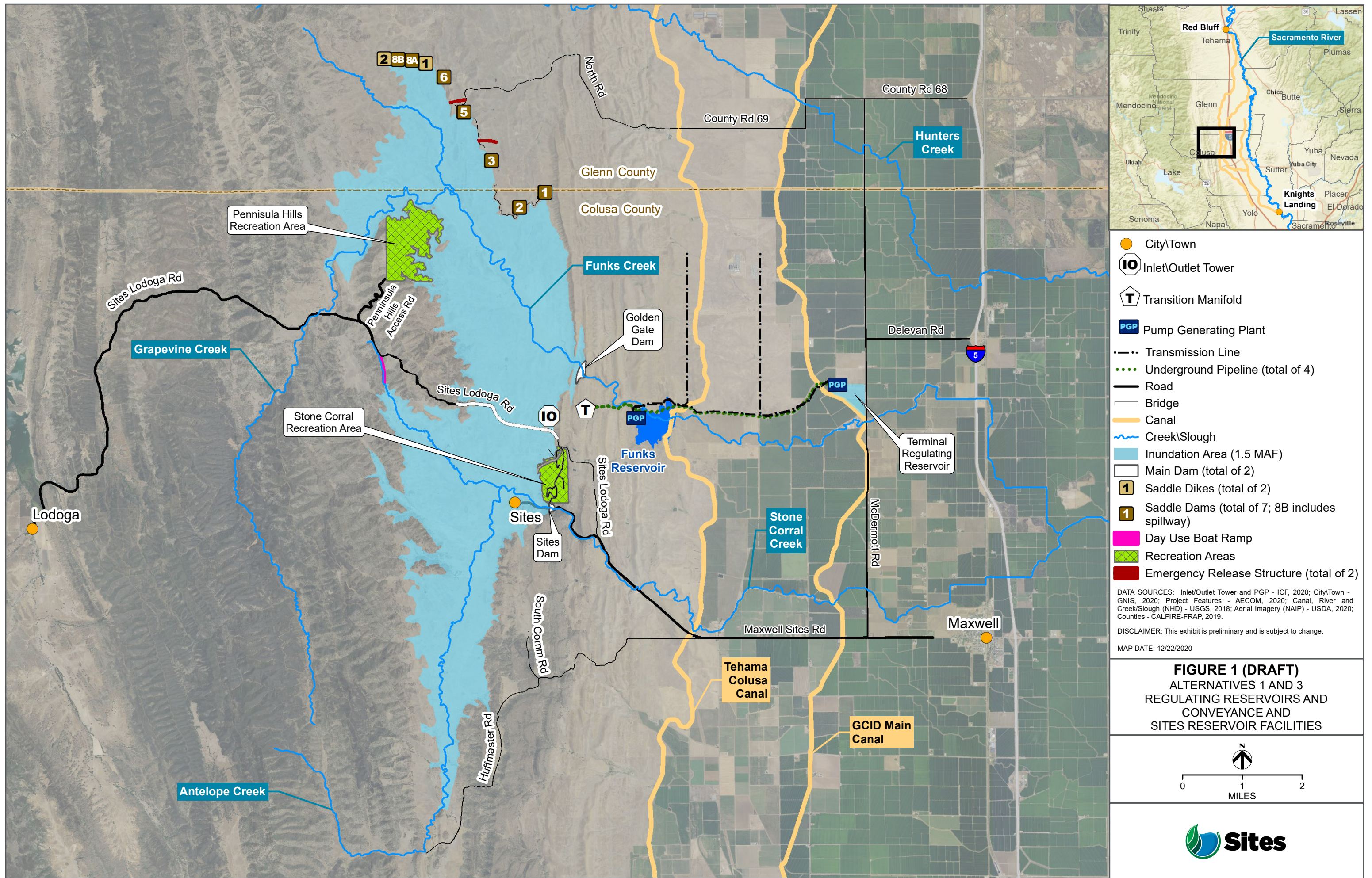
**Staff Contact:**

Ali Forsythe

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Sites Reservoir Project, Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS Project Alternatives





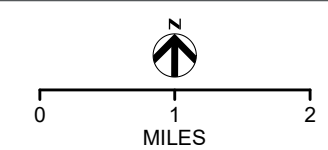
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- ▭ 1 Saddle Dams (total of 7; 8B includes spillway)
- Day Use Boat Ramp
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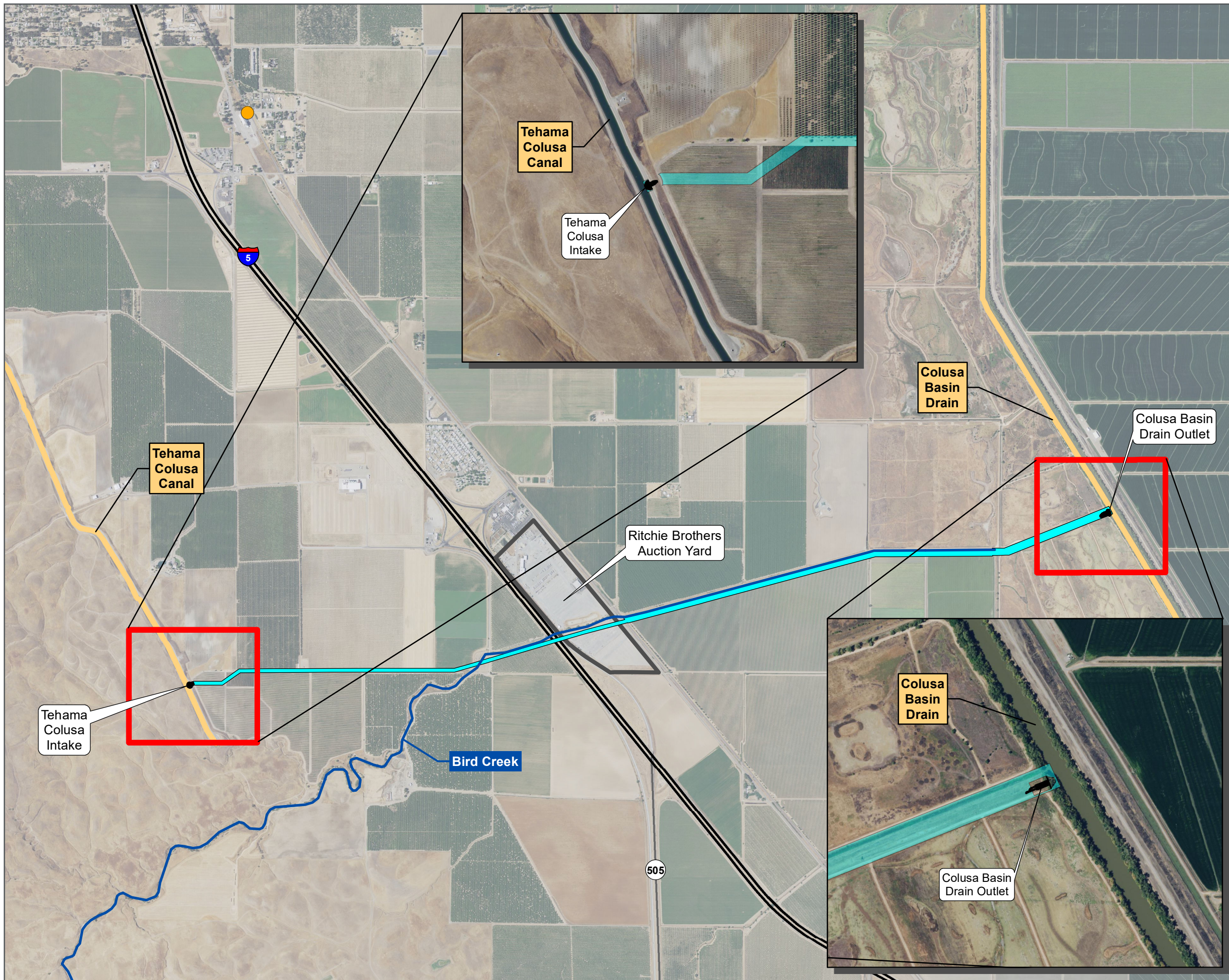
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MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

**FIGURE 1 (DRAFT)**  
 ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 3  
 REGULATING RESERVOIRS AND  
 CONVEYANCE AND  
 SITES RESERVOIR FACILITIES





**LEGEND**

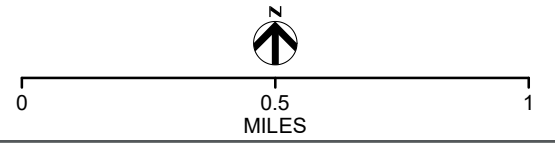
- City/Town
- ~ Bird Creek
- Dunnigan Underground Pipeline

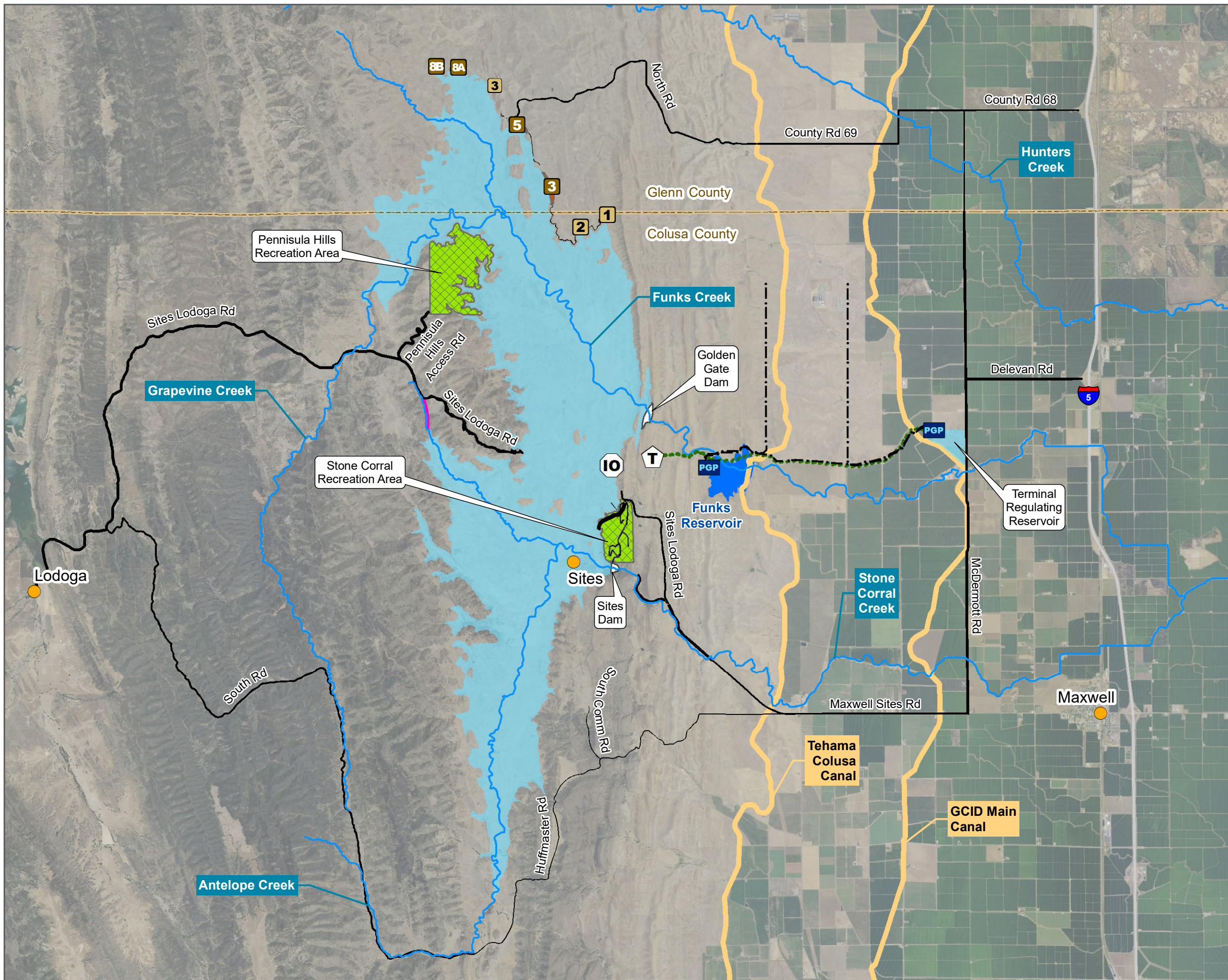
DATA SOURCES: City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canals (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020.

DISCLAIMER: This exhibit is preliminary and is subject to change.

MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

**FIGURE 2 (DRAFT)**  
 ALTERNATIVES 1 and 3  
 CONVEYANCE TO COLUSA BASIN  
 DRAIN COMPONENTS



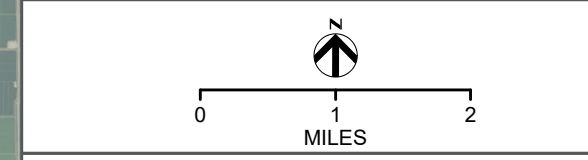


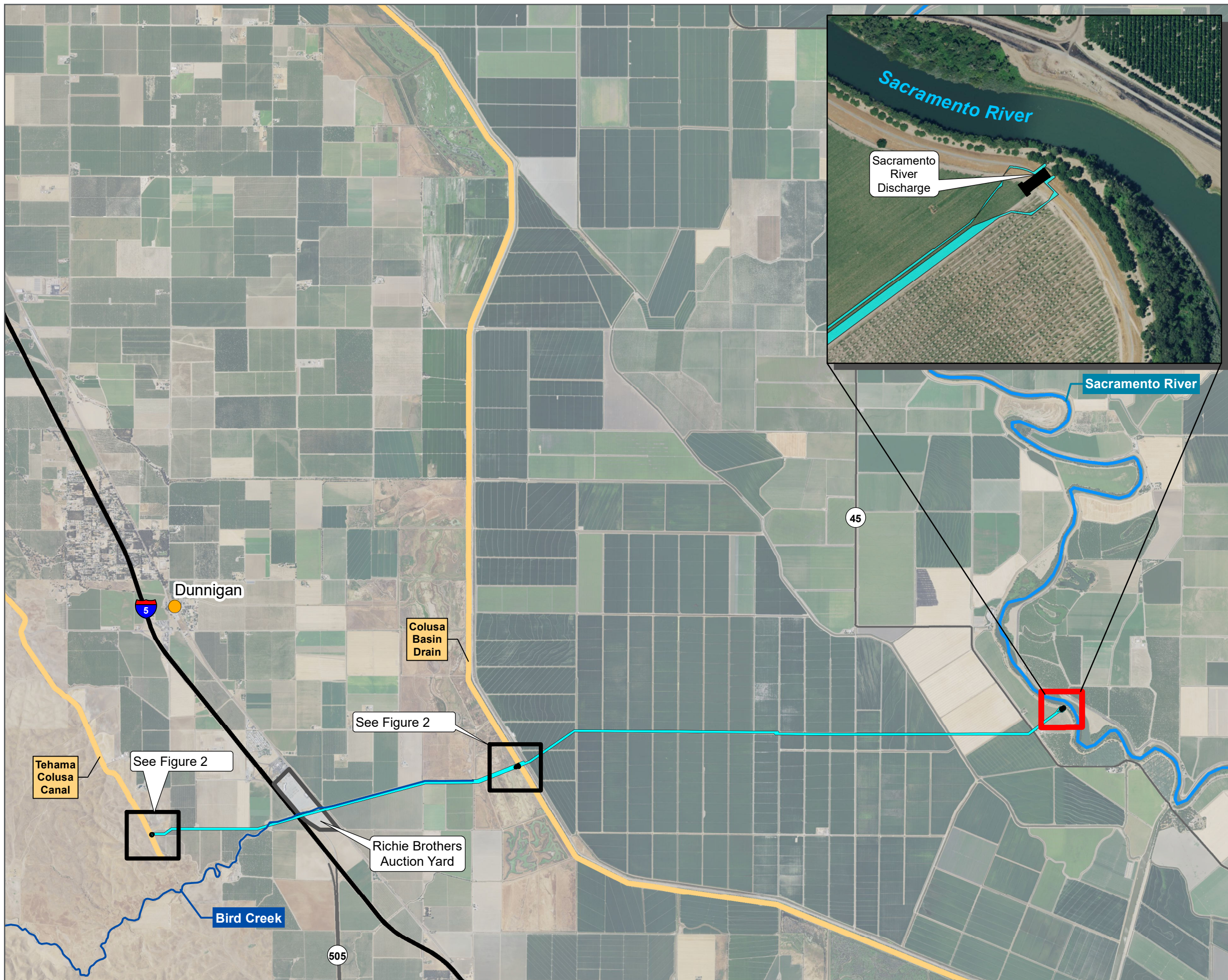
- City/Town
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- T Transmission Manifold
- PGP Pump Generating Plant
- Transmission Line
- ... Underground Pipeline (total of 4)
- Roads
- Canals
- ~ Creek/Slough
- 
 Inundation Area (1.3 MAF)
- 
 Main Dams
- 1 Saddle Dikes (total of 3)
- 1 Saddle Dams (total of 4; 8B includes spillway)
- 
 Day Use Boat Ramp
- 
 Recreation Areas

DATA SOURCES: Inlet/Outlet Tower and PGP - ICF, 2020; City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canal, River and Creek/Slough (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020; Counties - CALFIRE-FRAP, 2019.

DISCLAIMER: This exhibit is preliminary and is subject to change.  
MAP DATE: 12/23/2020

**FIGURE 3 (DRAFT)**  
 ALTERNATIVE 2  
 REGULATING RESERVOIRS AND  
 CONVEYANCE AND  
 SITES RESERVOIR FACILITIES





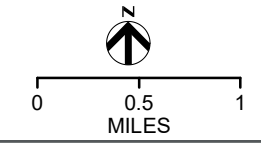
- LEGEND**
- City/Town
  - ~ Bird Creek
  - Dunnigan Underground Pipeline

DATA SOURCES: City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canals (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020.

DISCLAIMER: This exhibit is preliminary and is subject to change.

MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

**FIGURE 4 (DRAFT)**  
 ALTERNATIVE 2  
 CONVEYANCE TO SACRAMENTO  
 RIVER COMPONENTS





June 15, 2021

Mr. Jack Potter Jr., Chairman  
Redding Rancheria  
2000 Redding Rancheria Road  
Redding, CA 96001

Subject: Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis

Dear Honorable Chairman Potter:

The Sites Project Authority is preparing a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the proposed Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir located in Colusa and Glenn counties, California, about 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell. The Authority published a Draft EIR for the Project in 2017. The Authority has since modified the Project, including revisions to the Project footprint, as depicted in the attached staff report on the Project description. For more detailed information regarding the Project, please see the preliminary draft Project description, which can be found at [https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Sites\\_Preliminary-Project-Description\\_20210219.pdf](https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Sites_Preliminary-Project-Description_20210219.pdf).

The Authority has identified the Redding Rancheria as potentially having an interest in this Project and its operations, as revised. The Authority welcomes your input on the Project and the Authority's evaluation of tribal cultural resources under CEQA. If you would like to discuss the Project with us, we respectfully request that you respond, in writing, within 30 days to our designated contact person below, and that you provide a designated contact person for the discussions:

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager  
Sites Project Authority  
P.O. Box 517  
Maxwell, CA 95955  
Phone: (530) 632-4071  
Email: [kspesert@sitesproject.org](mailto:kspesert@sitesproject.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "FRITZ DURST".

Fritz Durst, Chair



P.O. Box 517  
Maxwell, CA 95955  
530.438.2309



Topic: **Reservoir Committee Meeting Agenda Item 2.1** **2021 January 21**

Subject: **Posting RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description**

---

**Requested Action:**

Approve release of the RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description (with Operations) to regulatory agencies and interested parties, including posting on the Authority's website, to improve Project transparency and facilitate more detailed Project discussions.

**Detailed Description/Background:**

At the Reservoir Committee and Board meetings in June, September and December 2020, staff provided an overview of the alternatives under consideration for the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS). Staff has continued to refine the alternatives and, with the consulting team, is nearing completion of a draft of the RDEIR/SDEIS project description.

The project description comprises Chapter 2 of the RDEIR/SDEIS. The project description includes a summary overview of the alternatives screening and selection process, an overview of the action alternatives and the no action alternative along with a detailed description for each of the three action alternatives. Also included in the project description are best management practices and environmental commitments that would be implemented under all the alternatives.

The project description continues to include three alternatives as discussed with the Reservoir Committee and Board in prior meetings. Table 1 provides a high-level summary of the three alternatives. Attachment A provides a more expansive summary table of the alternatives. The key changes to the alternatives that have been made since the previous presentations to the Reservoir Committee and Board are as follows:

- Hydropower – All alternatives include power generation incidental upon release up to 40 megawatts at Funks Reservoir and up to 40 megawatts at the Terminal Regulating Reservoir. Staff has conferred with staff at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and believes that incidental power generation at these two separate facilities would qualify for separate FERC exemptions. With this generation capacity built into the Project, power consumption for Project operations will be partially self-generated renewable energy. It is expected that the remaining operating power needs will be met with renewable sources to ensure no net increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the operations of the Project.
- Regulatory Required Emergency Drawdown and Release Flows, Alternative 2 – Refinements to emergency drawdown and release locations have been made to Alternative 2. Emergency releases under this alternative would occur at the Inlet/Outlet Works, Sites Dam, and Saddle Dam 8B into Hunters Creek watershed. On net the frequent flood control benefits far outweigh the very low risk of infrequent, if ever, emergency releases. To improve understanding of the risk and the potential scale of these rare emergency events, an inundation review encompassing the potential release areas will be conducted.

- Stored water Release Location, Alternative 3 – The release location for Alternative 3 will be the Colusa Basin Drain as it was determined that the Colusa Basin Drain likely has sufficient capacity to handle the flows.
- Diversion Criteria and More Detailed Operations Criteria – Diversion criteria were refined, and more detailed operations criteria were added to all the alternatives. The team conducted an extensive analysis of different possible diversion criteria, including an extensive review of the current scientific literature. Through these efforts, the diversion criteria have been shifted upstream into the Sacramento River to allow for practical operations at the diversion locations. Additional pulse protections to protect migrating juvenile salmonids have also been added. While the species effects analysis and modeling is being completed in January and February, the team believes that the revised diversion criteria are more protective of migrating juvenile salmonids throughout the Sacramento River and Delta and also result in little changes in Sacramento River flows in downstream locations, such as Freeport, and little changes to Delta flows, including net Delta outflow index and Delta salinity. The team will be sharing the outcomes of the species effects analyses in the coming months.

**Table 1. Summary of the Alternatives In the RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description**

| <b>Facilities / Operations</b>        | <b>Alternative 1</b>                                                                                                                                      | <b>Alternative 2</b>                                                                                                             | <b>Alternative 3</b>                                |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 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<br>2. Operational Exchanges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Within Year Exchanges</li> <li>b. Real-time Exchanges</li> </ul> | Operational Exchanges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Within Year Exchanges</li> <li>b. Real-time Exchanges</li> </ul> | Same as Alt 1, Funding Partner up to 25% investment |
| DWR Involvement                       | Operational Exchanges with Oroville and use of 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                                       |

The project description identifies Alternative 1 as the Authority’s proposed project based on the alternative meeting the intent and the goals of the Value Planning effort, its close alignment with VP-7, and its ability to meet the project objectives.

Staff recommends posting the RDEIR/SDEIS project description on the Authority's website. The project description would be posted for informational purposes to aide in the discussion of permitting approaches with regulatory agencies and in discussions with non-governmental organizations. It is important to note that the Authority is not taking public comments nor responding to comments on the project description and a preamble to the project description would make this clear to the reader. Making the project description available to the public increases transparency and provides a common foundation for regulatory agencies, non-governmental agencies, and other interested stakeholders to understand the project components. Refinements would continue to be made to the project description after posting on the Authority's website until the release of the RDEIR/SDEIS and any significant or material changes would be brought back to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board for consideration before the change is made.

**Prior Action:**

December 18, 2020: Reviewed and commented on option to add Alternative 3 with Reclamation at 25% investment to EIR/EIS project description.

September 17, 2020: Approved to designate Alternative 1, based on VP-7 of the Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report (Value Planning Report), as the Authority's preferred project for the purposes of the RDEIR analysis and for the purposes of the Biological Assessment and State Incidental Take Permit applications.

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December 19, 2016: The Authority approved release of a Supplemental Notice of Preparation (released February 2, 2017) to transfer the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency status from the Department of Water Resources to the Sites Project Authority. Public scoping meetings were conducted on February 14 and 15, 2017.

**Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:**

Staff reported in December that sufficient funds to incorporate Alternative 3 into the RDEIR/SDEIS were included in the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget), which was approved by the Authority at its August 26, 2020 Board meeting. Since that time, staff has become aware of additional fisheries analysis and document formatting needs that will be necessary to incorporate Alternative 3 into the RDEIR/SDEIS. Staff is working with ICF to understand these potential costs and will determine how to incorporate these costs into the Amendment 2



Work Plan within existing revenue sources. Staff is also working with Reclamation to include these costs in an amendment to the existing Financial Assistance Agreement that will incorporate a portion of the \$13.7 million Federal Appropriation signed into law last month. The February 2021 update to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board on the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget) will reflect these changes and these added costs will not impact the second cash call amount to Reservoir Committee Members.

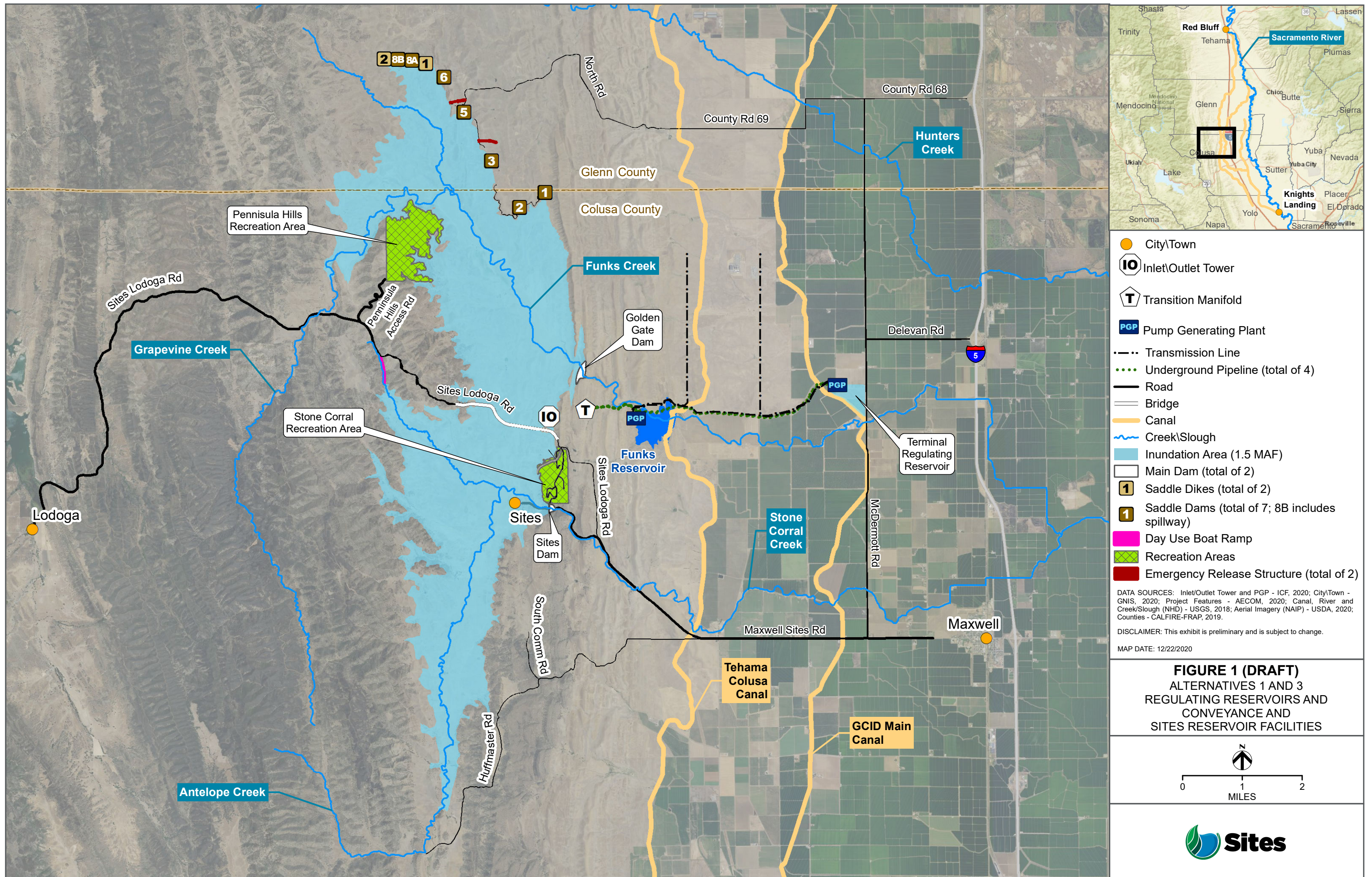
Costs to complete and circulate the Final EIR/EIS will be considered in a future Work Plan.

**Staff Contact:**

Ali Forsythe

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Sites Reservoir Project, Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS Project Alternatives

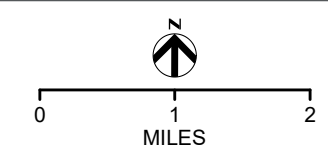


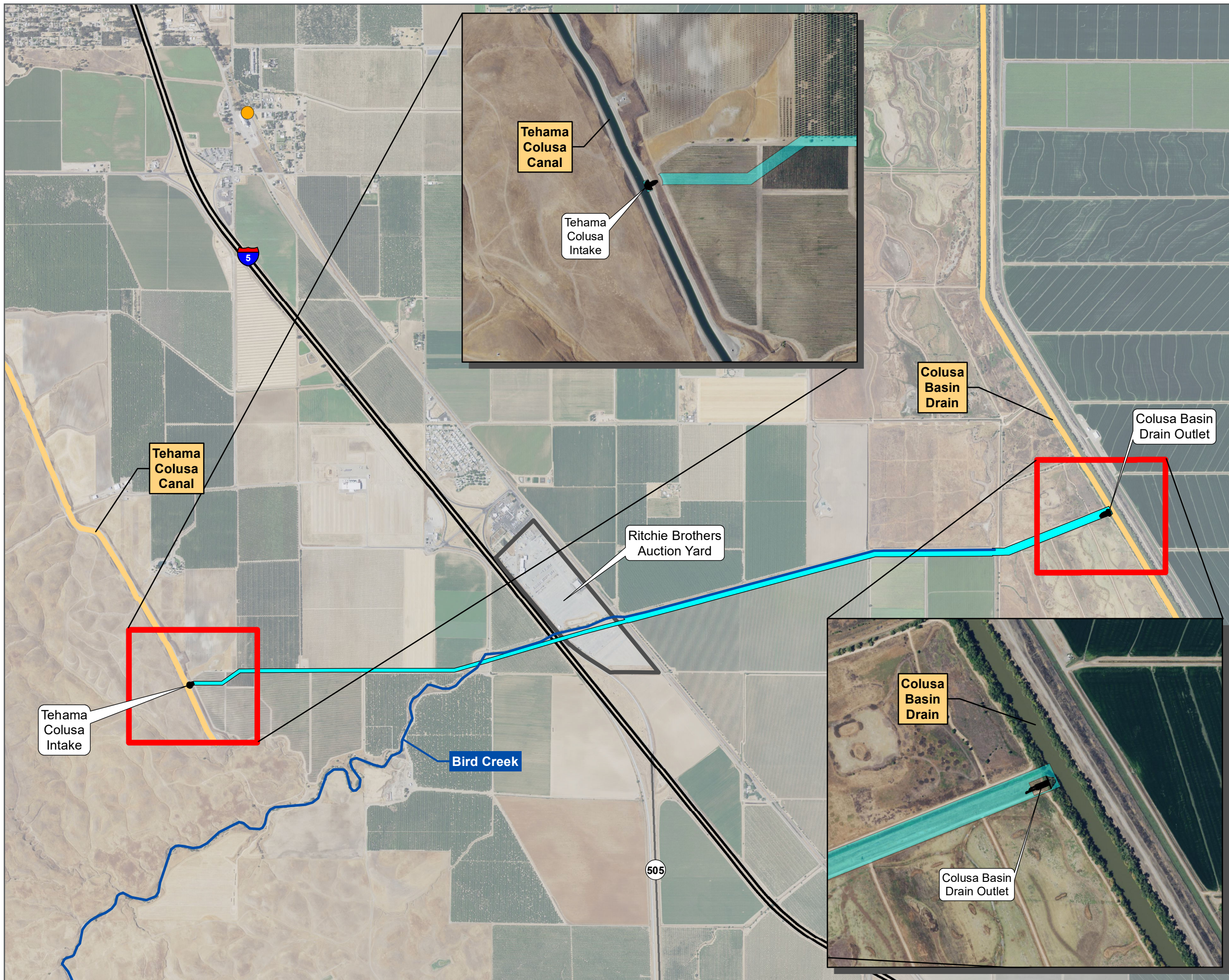
- City/Town
- Inlet/Outlet Tower
- Transition Manifold
- Pump Generating Plant
- Transmission Line
- Underground Pipeline (total of 4)
- Road
- Bridge
- Canal
- Creek/Slough
- Inundation Area (1.5 MAF)
- Main Dam (total of 2)
- Saddle Dikes (total of 2)
- Saddle Dams (total of 7; 8B includes spillway)
- Day Use Boat Ramp
- Recreation Areas
- Emergency Release Structure (total of 2)

DATA SOURCES: Inlet/Outlet Tower and PGP - ICF, 2020; City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canal, River and Creek/Slough (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020; Counties - CALFIRE-FRAP, 2019.

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MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

**FIGURE 1 (DRAFT)**  
ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 3  
REGULATING RESERVOIRS AND  
CONVEYANCE AND  
SITES RESERVOIR FACILITIES





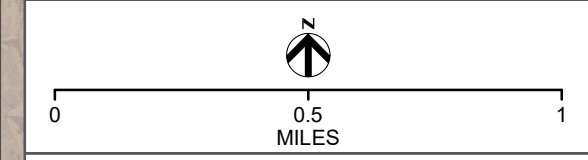
- LEGEND**
- City/Town
  - Bird Creek
  - Dunnigan Underground Pipeline

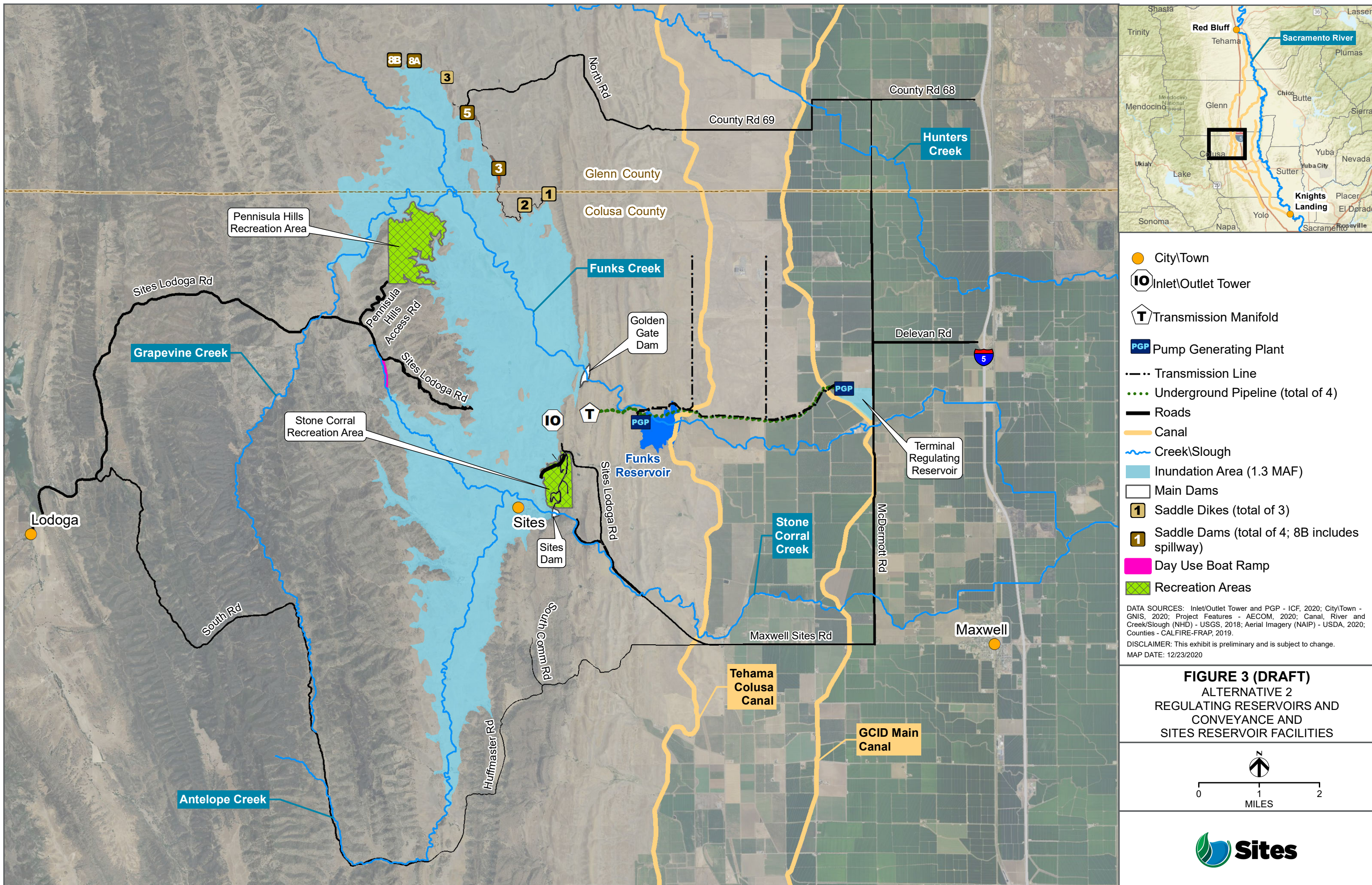
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MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

**FIGURE 2 (DRAFT)**  
 ALTERNATIVES 1 and 3  
 CONVEYANCE TO COLUSA BASIN  
 DRAIN COMPONENTS





**Legend**

- City/Town
- IO Inlet/Outlet Tower
- T Transmission Manifold
- PGP Pump Generating Plant
- Transmission Line
- ... Underground Pipeline (total of 4)
- Roads
- Canals
- ~ Creek/Slough
- 
 Inundation Area (1.3 MAF)
- 
 Main Dams
- 1 Saddle Dikes (total of 3)
- 1 Saddle Dams (total of 4; 8B includes spillway)
- 
 Day Use Boat Ramp
- 
 Recreation Areas

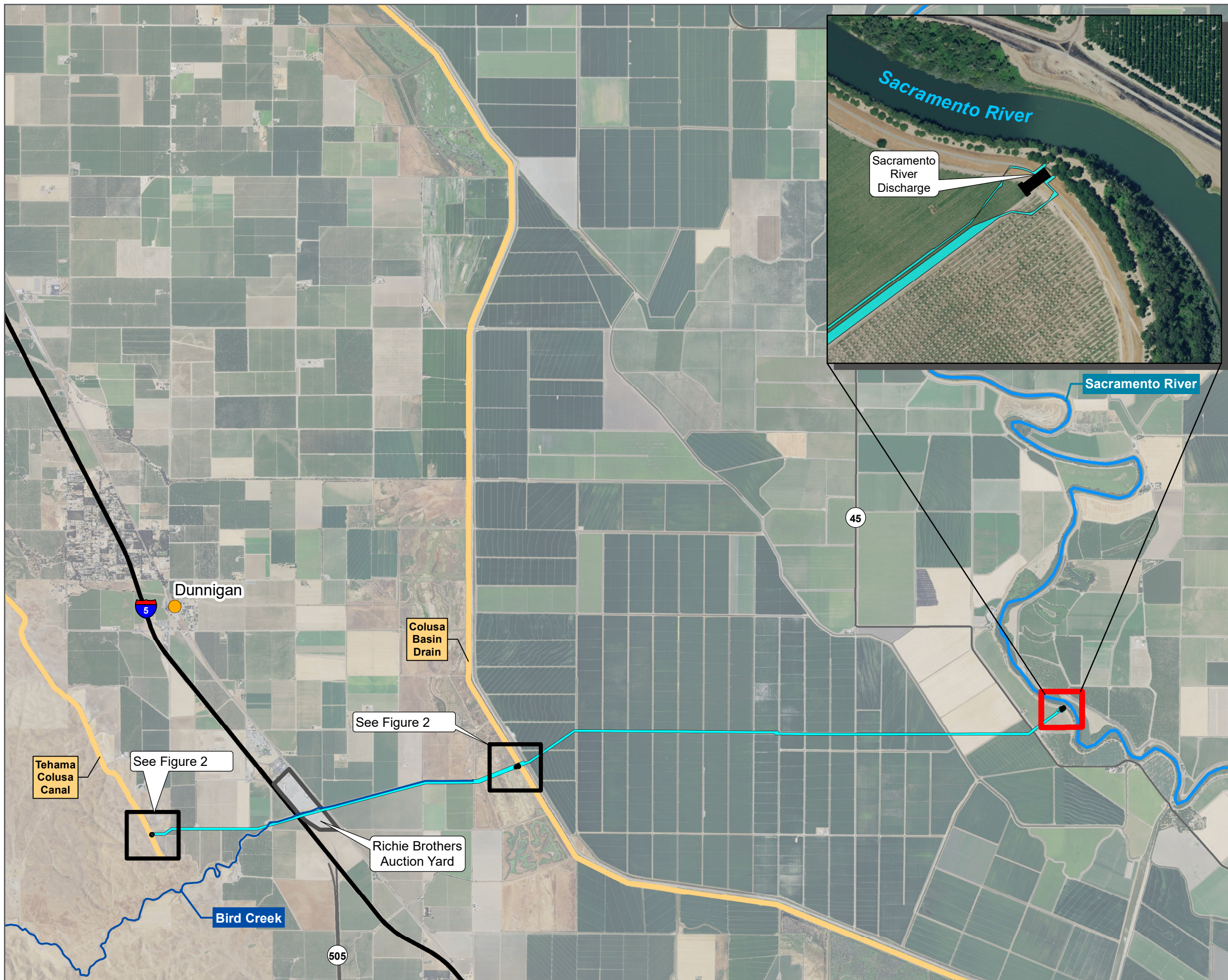
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MAP DATE: 12/23/2020

**FIGURE 3 (DRAFT)**  
 ALTERNATIVE 2  
 REGULATING RESERVOIRS AND  
 CONVEYANCE AND  
 SITES RESERVOIR FACILITIES





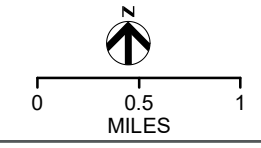
- LEGEND**
- City/Town
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DATA SOURCES: City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canals (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020.

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MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

**FIGURE 4 (DRAFT)**  
 ALTERNATIVE 2  
 CONVEYANCE TO SACRAMENTO  
 RIVER COMPONENTS





June 15, 2021

Mr. Gary Rickard, Chairman  
Wintu Tribe of Northern California  
4755 Shasta Dam Blvd.  
Shasta Lake CA 96019

Subject: Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis

Dear Honorable Chairman Rickard:

The Sites Project Authority is preparing a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the proposed Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir located in Colusa and Glenn counties, California, about 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell. The Authority published a Draft EIR for the Project in 2017. The Authority has since modified the Project, including revisions to the Project footprint, as depicted in the attached staff report on the Project description. For more detailed information regarding the Project, please see the preliminary draft Project description, which can be found at [https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Sites\\_Preliminary-Project-Description\\_20210219.pdf](https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Sites_Preliminary-Project-Description_20210219.pdf).

The Authority has identified the Wintu Tribe of Northern California as potentially having an interest in this Project and its operations, as revised. The Authority welcomes your input on the Project and the Authority's evaluation of tribal cultural resources under CEQA. If you would like to discuss the Project with us, we respectfully request that you respond, in writing, within 30 days to our designated contact person below, and that you provide a designated contact person for the discussions:

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager  
Sites Project Authority  
P.O. Box 517  
Maxwell, CA 95955  
Phone: (530) 632-4071  
Email: [kspesert@sitesproject.org](mailto:kspesert@sitesproject.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "FRITZ DURST".

Fritz Durst, Chair



P.O. Box 517  
Maxwell, CA 95955  
530.438.2309



Topic: **Reservoir Committee Meeting Agenda Item 2.1** **2021 January 21**

Subject: **Posting RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description**

---

**Requested Action:**

Approve release of the RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description (with Operations) to regulatory agencies and interested parties, including posting on the Authority's website, to improve Project transparency and facilitate more detailed Project discussions.

**Detailed Description/Background:**

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The project description comprises Chapter 2 of the RDEIR/SDEIS. The project description includes a summary overview of the alternatives screening and selection process, an overview of the action alternatives and the no action alternative along with a detailed description for each of the three action alternatives. Also included in the project description are best management practices and environmental commitments that would be implemented under all the alternatives.

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 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                                       |
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| Reclamation Involvement               | 1. Funding Partner<br>2. Operational Exchanges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Within Year Exchanges</li> <li>b. Real-time Exchanges</li> </ul> | Operational Exchanges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Within Year Exchanges</li> <li>b. Real-time Exchanges</li> </ul> | Same as Alt 1, Funding Partner up to 25% investment |
| DWR Involvement                       | Operational Exchanges with Oroville and use of SWP facilities South-of-Delta                                                                              | Same as Alt 1                                                                                                                    | Same as Alt 1                                       |
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The project description identifies Alternative 1 as the Authority’s proposed project based on the alternative meeting the intent and the goals of the Value Planning effort, its close alignment with VP-7, and its ability to meet the project objectives.



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Work Plan within existing revenue sources. Staff is also working with Reclamation to include these costs in an amendment to the existing Financial Assistance Agreement that will incorporate a portion of the \$13.7 million Federal Appropriation signed into law last month. The February 2021 update to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board on the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget) will reflect these changes and these added costs will not impact the second cash call amount to Reservoir Committee Members.

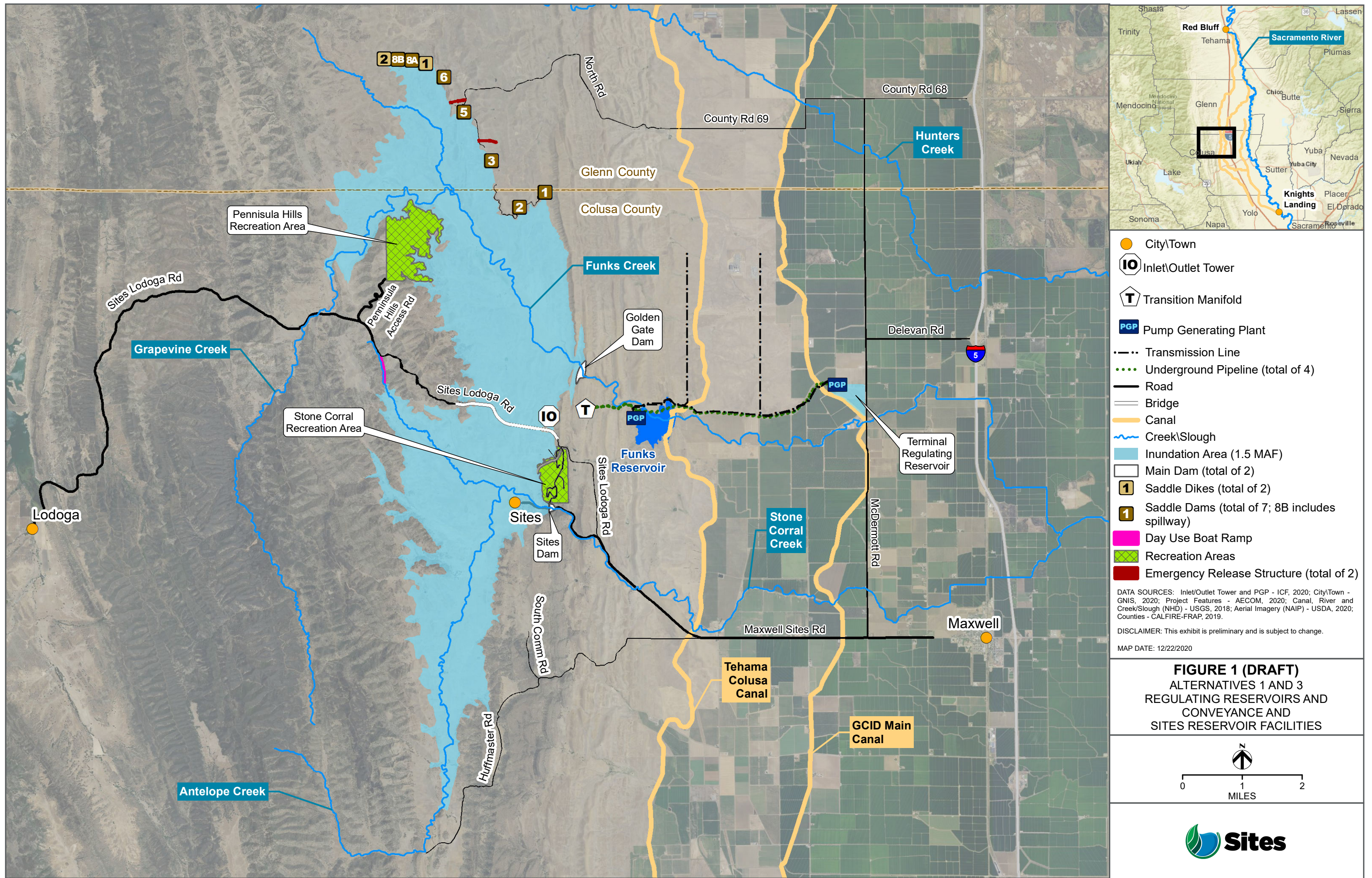
Costs to complete and circulate the Final EIR/EIS will be considered in a future Work Plan.

**Staff Contact:**

Ali Forsythe

**Attachments:**

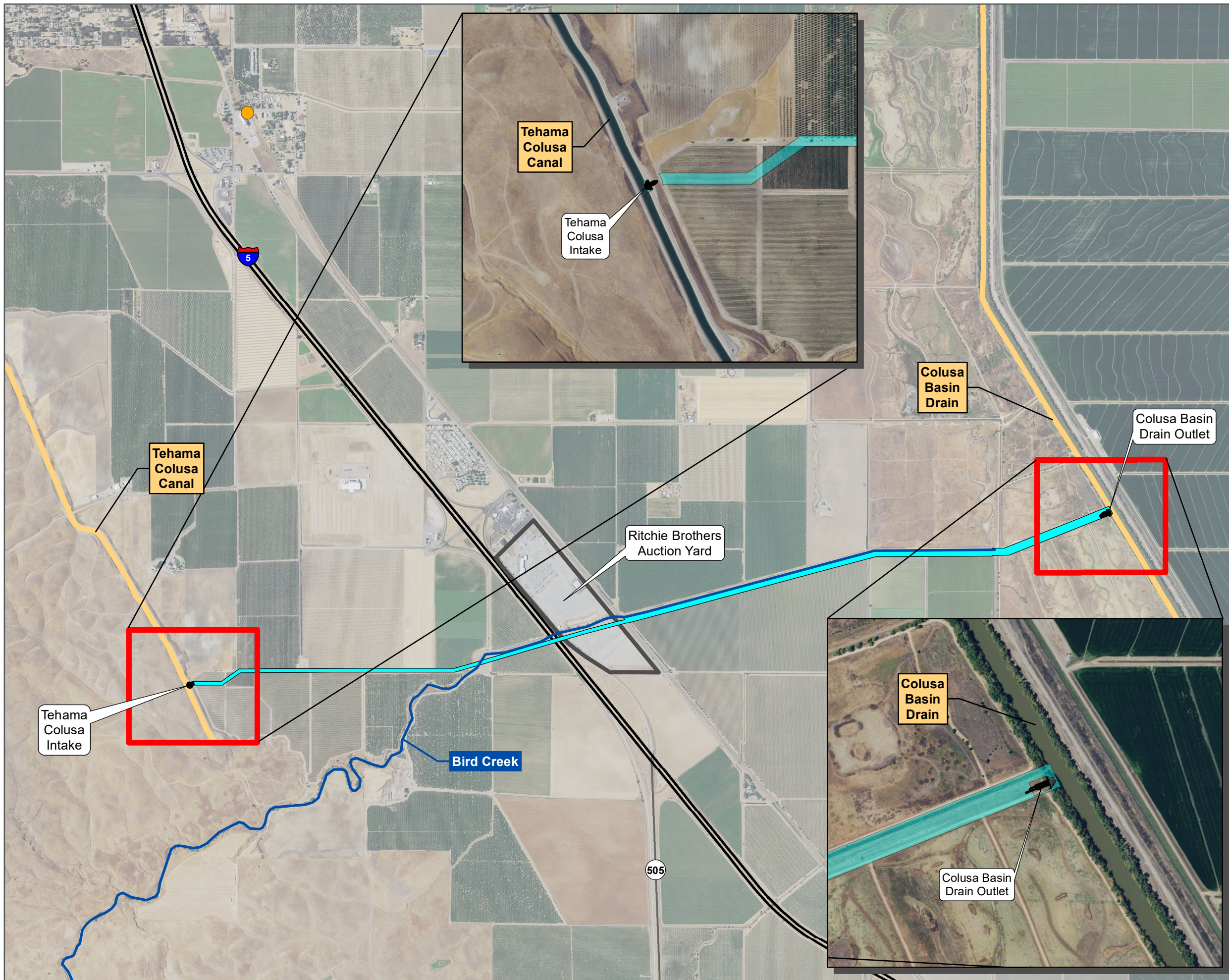
Attachment A – Sites Reservoir Project, Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS Project Alternatives



**FIGURE 1 (DRAFT)**  
**ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 3**  
**REGULATING RESERVOIRS AND**  
**CONVEYANCE AND**  
**SITES RESERVOIR FACILITIES**

0 1 2  
MILES

**Sites**



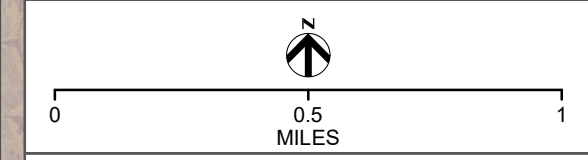
- LEGEND**
- City/Town
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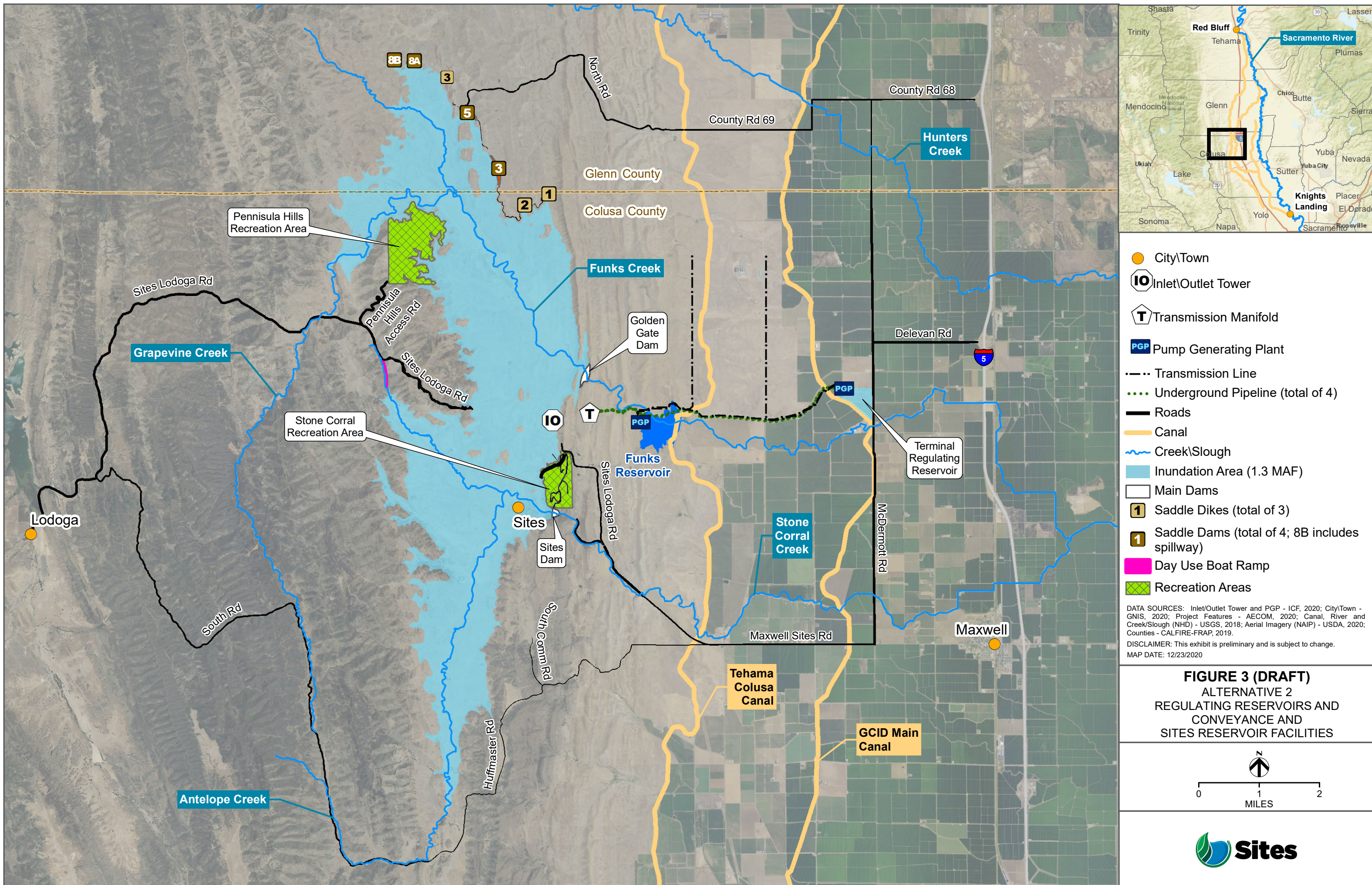
DATA SOURCES: City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canals (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020.

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MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

**FIGURE 2 (DRAFT)**  
 ALTERNATIVES 1 and 3  
 CONVEYANCE TO COLUSA BASIN  
 DRAIN COMPONENTS

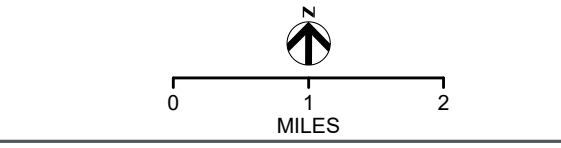


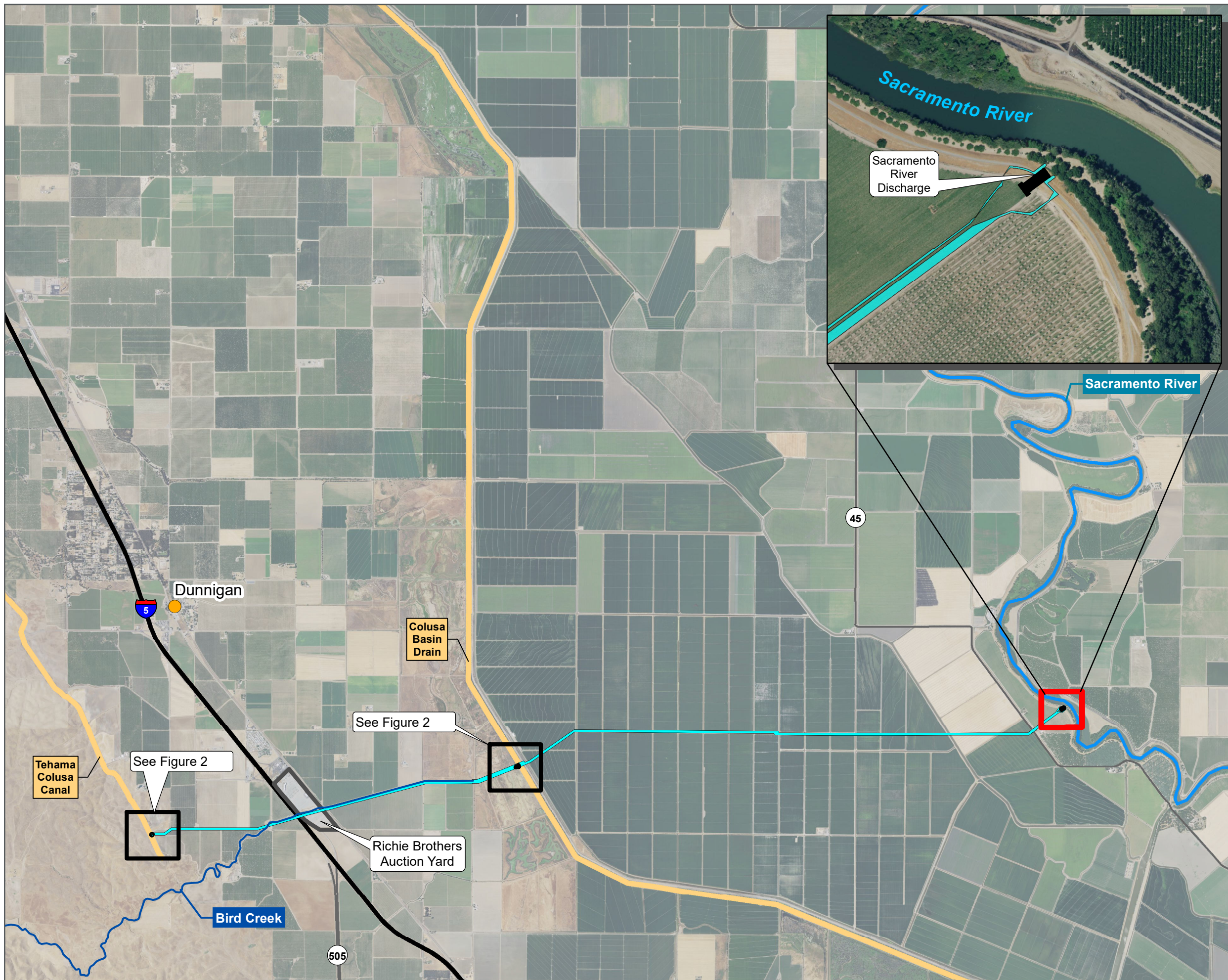


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 T Transmission Manifold  
 PGP Pump Generating Plant  
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 . . . . . Underground Pipeline (total of 4)  
 — Roads  
 — Canals  
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 Inundation Area (1.3 MAF)
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 1 Saddle Dikes (total of 3)
 1 Saddle Dams (total of 4; 8B includes spillway)
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 MAP DATE: 12/23/2020

FIGURE 3 (DRAFT)
 ALTERNATIVE 2
 REGULATING RESERVOIRS AND
 CONVEYANCE AND
 SITES RESERVOIR FACILITIES





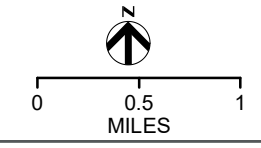
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MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

FIGURE 4 (DRAFT)
 ALTERNATIVE 2
 CONVEYANCE TO SACRAMENTO
 RIVER COMPONENTS





June 15, 2021

Jesus Tarango, Chairman
Wilton Rancheria
9728 Kent Street
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Subject: Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis

Dear Honorable Chairman Tarango:

The Sites Project Authority is preparing a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the proposed Sites Reservoir Project, which includes a new off-stream storage reservoir located in Colusa and Glenn counties, California, about 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell. The Authority published a Draft EIR for the Project in 2017. The Authority has since modified the Project, including revisions to the Project footprint, as depicted in the attached staff report on the Project description. For more detailed information regarding the Project, please see the preliminary draft Project description, which can be found at https://3hm5en24txyp2e4cxyxaklbs-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Sites_Preliminary-Project-Description_20210219.pdf.

The Authority has identified the Wilton Rancheria as potentially having an interest in this Project and its operations, as revised. The Authority welcomes your input on the Project and the Authority's evaluation of tribal cultural resources under CEQA. If you would like to discuss the Project with us, we respectfully request that you respond, in writing, within 30 days to our designated contact person below, and that you provide a designated contact person for the discussions:

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
Phone: (530) 632-4071
Email: kspesert@sitesproject.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "FRITZ DURST".

Fritz Durst, Chair



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309



Topic: **Reservoir Committee Meeting Agenda Item 2.1** **2021 January 21**

Subject: **Posting RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description**

Requested Action:

Approve release of the RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description (with Operations) to regulatory agencies and interested parties, including posting on the Authority's website, to improve Project transparency and facilitate more detailed Project discussions.

Detailed Description/Background:

At the Reservoir Committee and Board meetings in June, September and December 2020, staff provided an overview of the alternatives under consideration for the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS). Staff has continued to refine the alternatives and, with the consulting team, is nearing completion of a draft of the RDEIR/SDEIS project description.

The project description comprises Chapter 2 of the RDEIR/SDEIS. The project description includes a summary overview of the alternatives screening and selection process, an overview of the action alternatives and the no action alternative along with a detailed description for each of the three action alternatives. Also included in the project description are best management practices and environmental commitments that would be implemented under all the alternatives.

The project description continues to include three alternatives as discussed with the Reservoir Committee and Board in prior meetings. Table 1 provides a high-level summary of the three alternatives. Attachment A provides a more expansive summary table of the alternatives. The key changes to the alternatives that have been made since the previous presentations to the Reservoir Committee and Board are as follows:

- Hydropower – All alternatives include power generation incidental upon release up to 40 megawatts at Funks Reservoir and up to 40 megawatts at the Terminal Regulating Reservoir. Staff has conferred with staff at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and believes that incidental power generation at these two separate facilities would qualify for separate FERC exemptions. With this generation capacity built into the Project, power consumption for Project operations will be partially self-generated renewable energy. It is expected that the remaining operating power needs will be met with renewable sources to ensure no net increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the operations of the Project.
- Regulatory Required Emergency Drawdown and Release Flows, Alternative 2 – Refinements to emergency drawdown and release locations have been made to Alternative 2. Emergency releases under this alternative would occur at the Inlet/Outlet Works, Sites Dam, and Saddle Dam 8B into Hunters Creek watershed. On net the frequent flood control benefits far outweigh the very low risk of infrequent, if ever, emergency releases. To improve understanding of the risk and the potential scale of these rare emergency events, an inundation review encompassing the potential release areas will be conducted.

- Stored water Release Location, Alternative 3 – The release location for Alternative 3 will be the Colusa Basin Drain as it was determined that the Colusa Basin Drain likely has sufficient capacity to handle the flows.
- Diversion Criteria and More Detailed Operations Criteria – Diversion criteria were refined, and more detailed operations criteria were added to all the alternatives. The team conducted an extensive analysis of different possible diversion criteria, including an extensive review of the current scientific literature. Through these efforts, the diversion criteria have been shifted upstream into the Sacramento River to allow for practical operations at the diversion locations. Additional pulse protections to protect migrating juvenile salmonids have also been added. While the species effects analysis and modeling is being completed in January and February, the team believes that the revised diversion criteria are more protective of migrating juvenile salmonids throughout the Sacramento River and Delta and also result in little changes in Sacramento River flows in downstream locations, such as Freeport, and little changes to Delta flows, including net Delta outflow index and Delta salinity. The team will be sharing the outcomes of the species effects analyses in the coming months.

Table 1. Summary of the Alternatives In the RDEIR/SDEIS Project Description

| Facilities / Operations | Alternative 1 | Alternative 2 | Alternative 3 |
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| Reservoir Size | 1.5 MAF | 1.3 MAF | 1.5 MAF |
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| 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
2. Operational Exchanges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges | Operational Exchanges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges | Same as Alt 1, Funding Partner up to 25% investment |
| DWR Involvement | Operational Exchanges with Oroville and use of 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 |

The project description identifies Alternative 1 as the Authority’s proposed project based on the alternative meeting the intent and the goals of the Value Planning effort, its close alignment with VP-7, and its ability to meet the project objectives.

Staff recommends posting the RDEIR/SDEIS project description on the Authority's website. The project description would be posted for informational purposes to aid in the discussion of permitting approaches with regulatory agencies and in discussions with non-governmental organizations. It is important to note that the Authority is not taking public comments nor responding to comments on the project description and a preamble to the project description would make this clear to the reader. Making the project description available to the public increases transparency and provides a common foundation for regulatory agencies, non-governmental agencies, and other interested stakeholders to understand the project components. Refinements would continue to be made to the project description after posting on the Authority's website until the release of the RDEIR/SDEIS and any significant or material changes would be brought back to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board for consideration before the change is made.

Prior Action:

December 18, 2020: Reviewed and commented on option to add Alternative 3 with Reclamation at 25% investment to EIR/EIS project description.

September 17, 2020: Approved to designate Alternative 1, based on VP-7 of the Sites Project Value Planning Alternatives Appraisal Report (Value Planning Report), as the Authority's preferred project for the purposes of the RDEIR analysis and for the purposes of the Biological Assessment and State Incidental Take Permit applications.

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December 19, 2016: The Authority approved release of a Supplemental Notice of Preparation (released February 2, 2017) to transfer the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency status from the Department of Water Resources to the Sites Project Authority. Public scoping meetings were conducted on February 14 and 15, 2017.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

Staff reported in December that sufficient funds to incorporate Alternative 3 into the RDEIR/SDEIS were included in the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget), which was approved by the Authority at its August 26, 2020 Board meeting. Since that time, staff has become aware of additional fisheries analysis and document formatting needs that will be necessary to incorporate Alternative 3 into the RDEIR/SDEIS. Staff is working with ICF to understand these potential costs and will determine how to incorporate these costs into the Amendment 2

Work Plan within existing revenue sources. Staff is also working with Reclamation to include these costs in an amendment to the existing Financial Assistance Agreement that will incorporate a portion of the \$13.7 million Federal Appropriation signed into law last month. The February 2021 update to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board on the Amendment 2 Work Plan (Budget) will reflect these changes and these added costs will not impact the second cash call amount to Reservoir Committee Members.

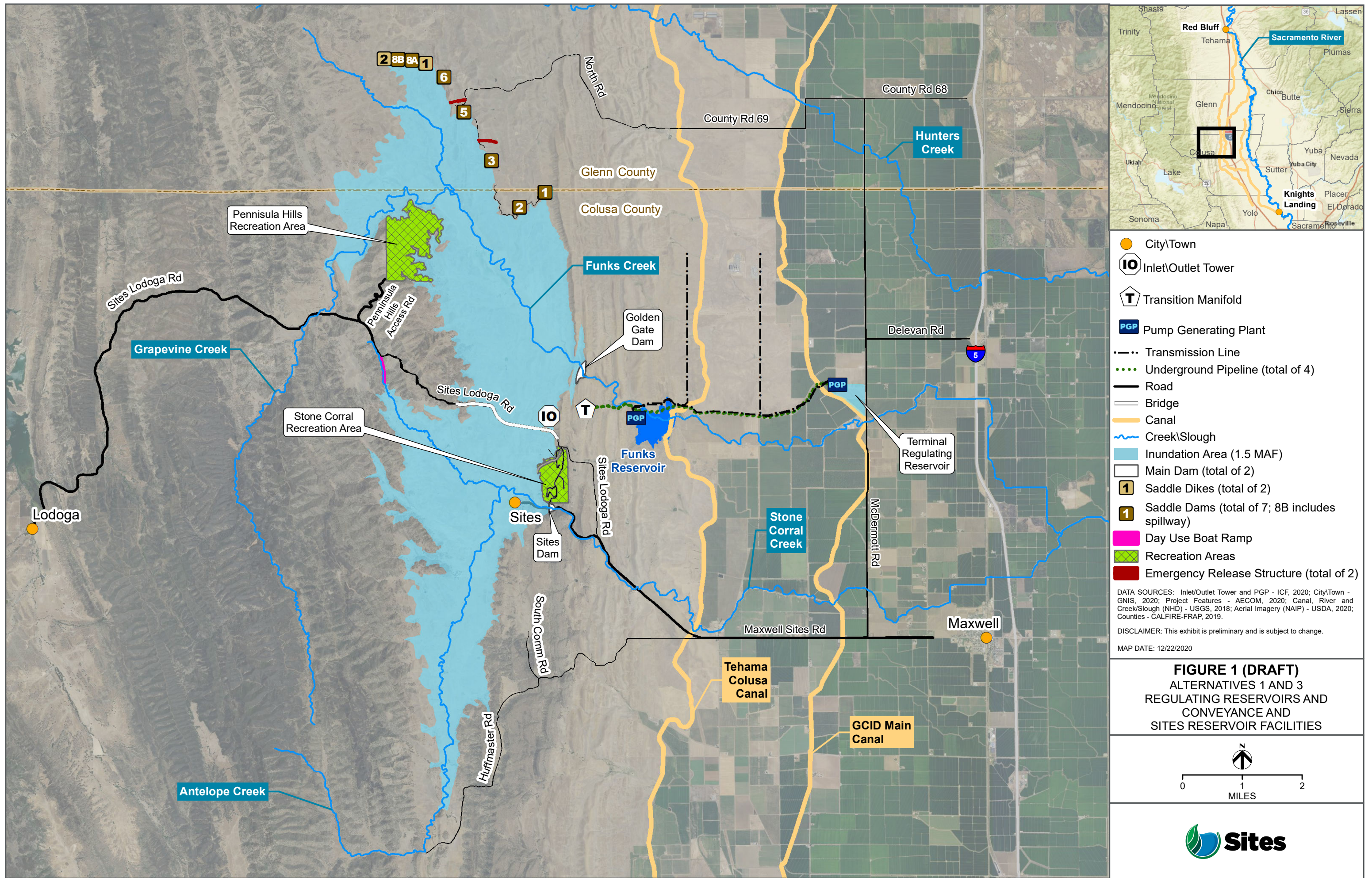
Costs to complete and circulate the Final EIR/EIS will be considered in a future Work Plan.

Staff Contact:

Ali Forsythe

Attachments:

Attachment A – Sites Reservoir Project, Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS Project Alternatives



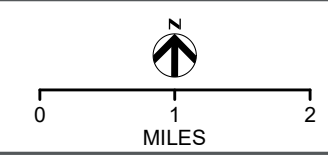
- City/Town
- Inlet/Outlet Tower
- Transition Manifold
- Pump Generating Plant
- Transmission Line
- Underground Pipeline (total of 4)
- Road
- Bridge
- Canal
- Creek/Slough
- Inundation Area (1.5 MAF)
- Main Dam (total of 2)
- Saddle Dikes (total of 2)
- Saddle Dams (total of 7; 8B includes spillway)
- Day Use Boat Ramp
- Recreation Areas
- Emergency Release Structure (total of 2)

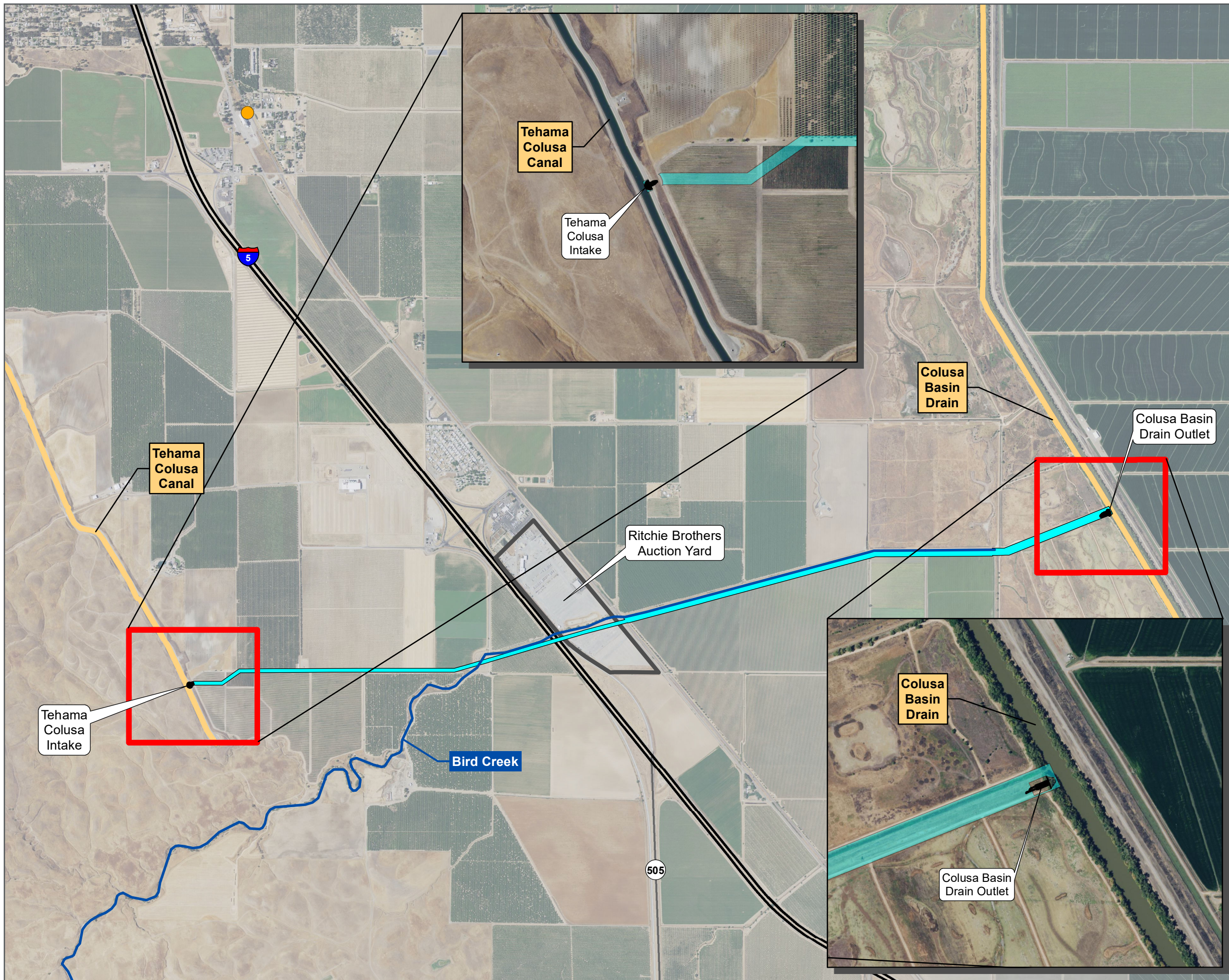
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MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

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 ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 3
 REGULATING RESERVOIRS AND
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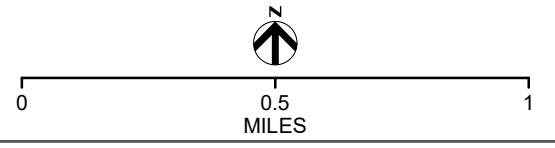
- LEGEND**
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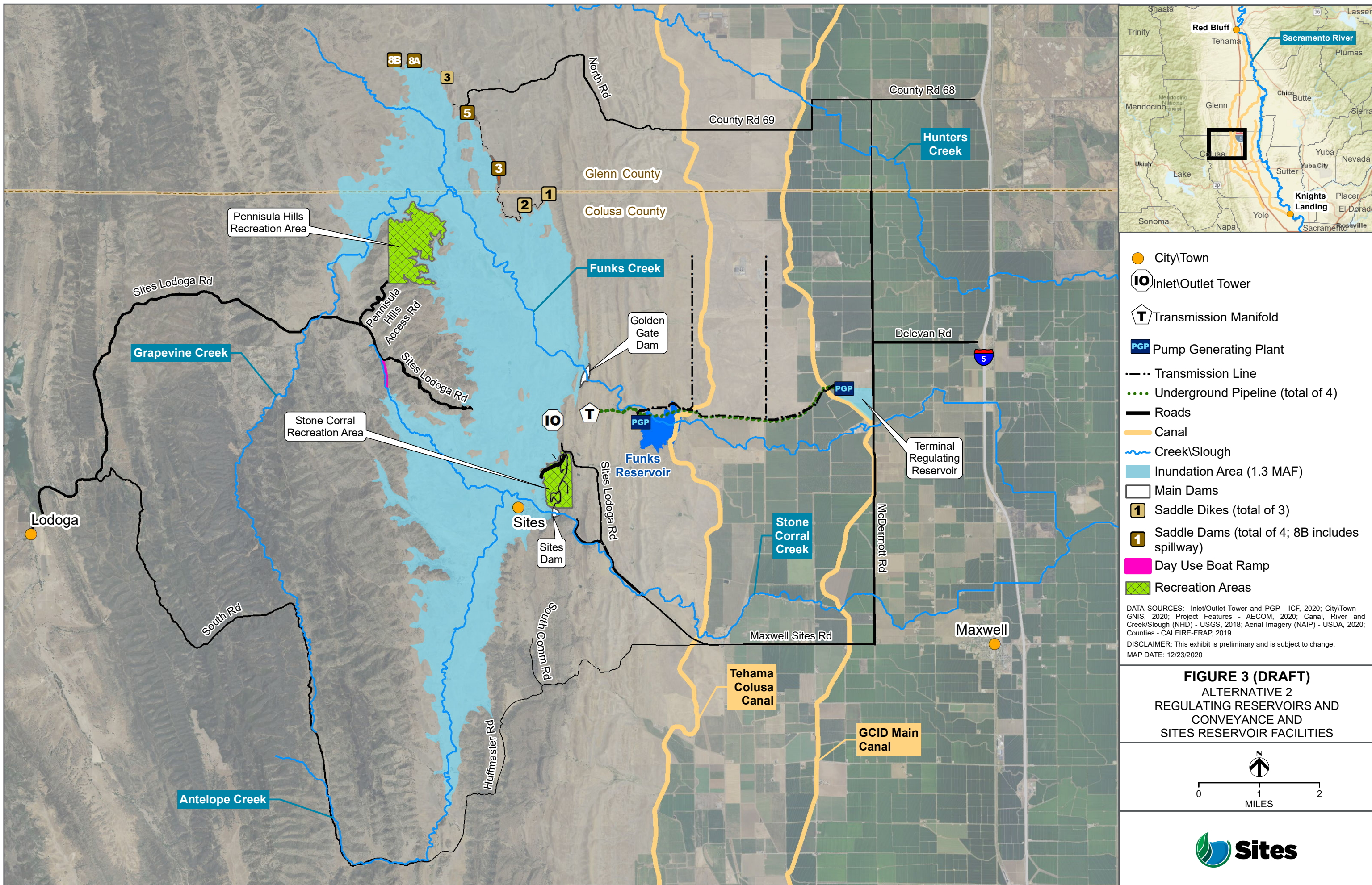
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FIGURE 2 (DRAFT)
 ALTERNATIVES 1 and 3
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 DRAIN COMPONENTS





Legend

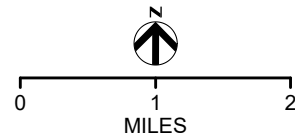
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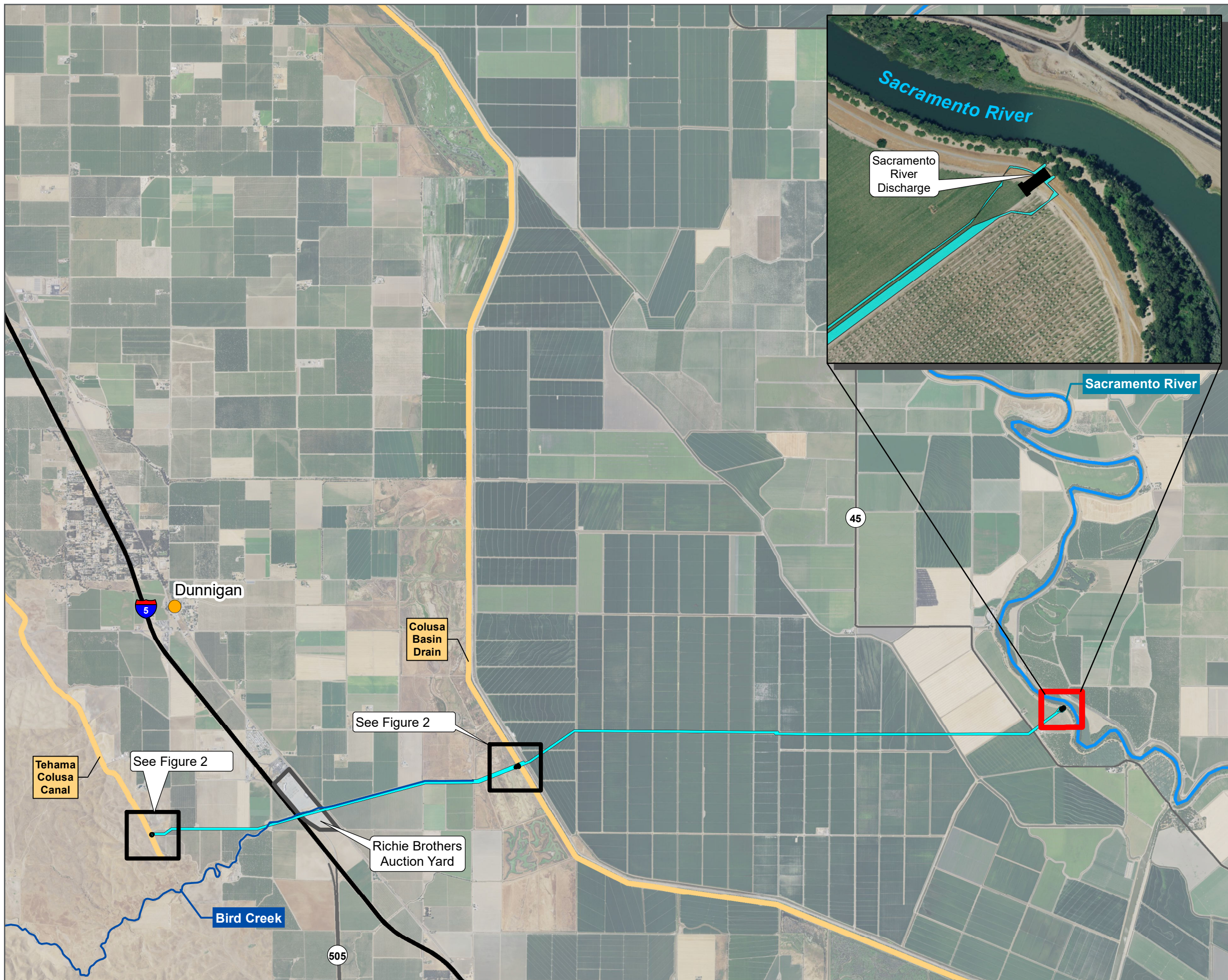
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MAP DATE: 12/23/2020

FIGURE 3 (DRAFT)
 ALTERNATIVE 2
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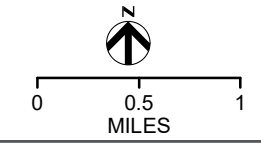
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FIGURE 4 (DRAFT)
 ALTERNATIVE 2
 CONVEYANCE TO SACRAMENTO
 RIVER COMPONENTS





June 15, 2021

Mr. Gene Whitehouse, Chairman
United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
10720 Indian Hill Road
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis

Dear Honorable Chairman Whitehouse:

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The Authority has identified the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria as potentially having an interest in this Project and its operations, as revised. The Authority welcomes your input on the Project and the Authority's evaluation of tribal cultural resources under CEQA. If you would like to discuss the Project with us, we respectfully request that you respond, in writing, within 30 days to our designated contact person below, and that you provide a designated contact person for the discussions:

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
Phone: (530) 632-4071
Email: kspesert@sitesproject.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "FRITZ DURST".

Fritz Durst, Chair



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309



Topic: **Reservoir Committee Meeting Agenda Item 2.1** **2021 January 21**

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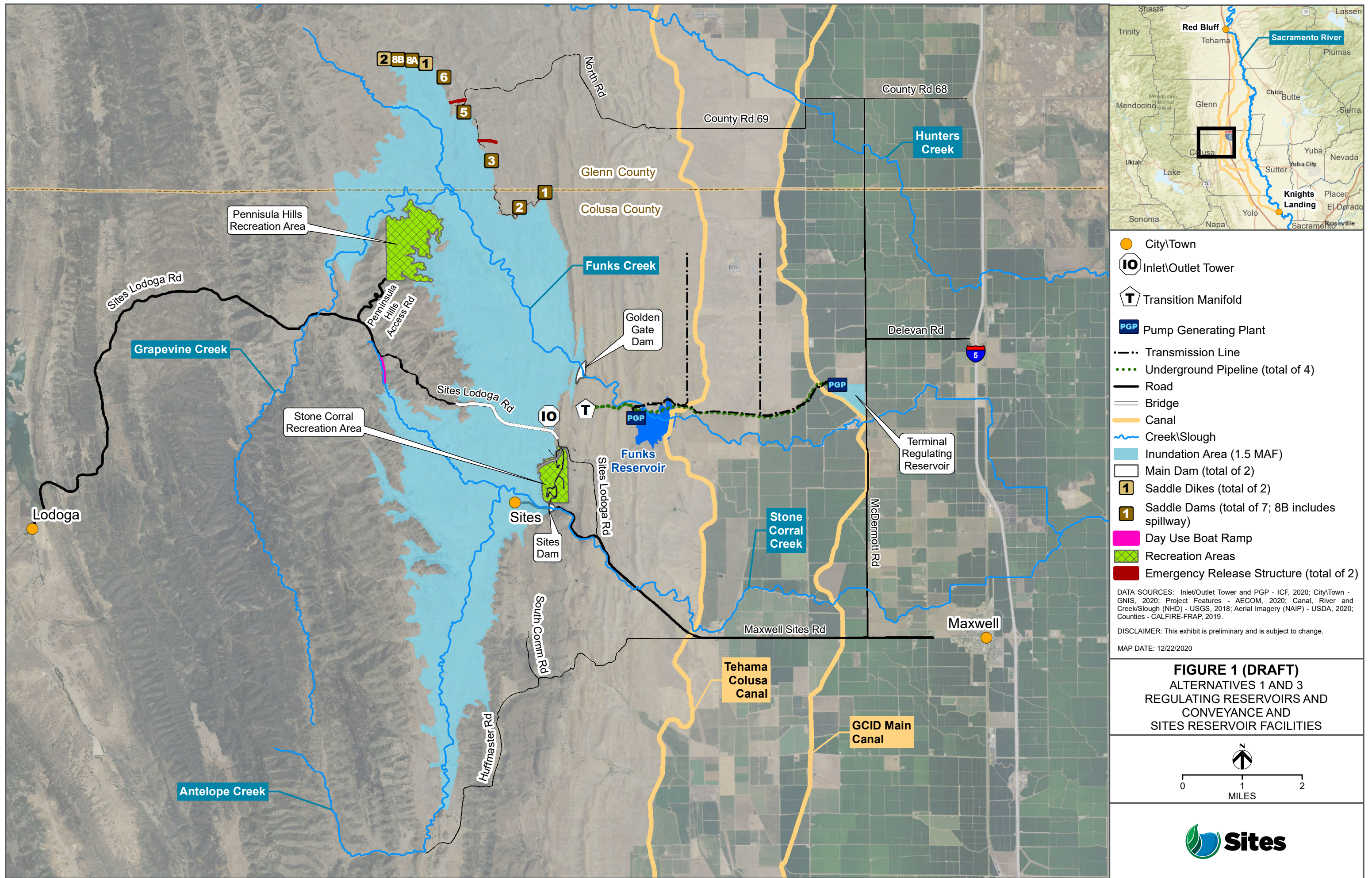
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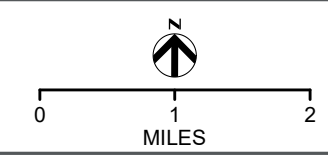
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- Canal
- Creek/Slough
- Inundation Area (1.5 MAF)
- Main Dam (total of 2)
- Saddle Dikes (total of 2)
- Saddle Dams (total of 7; 8B includes spillway)
- Day Use Boat Ramp
- Recreation Areas
- Emergency Release Structure (total of 2)

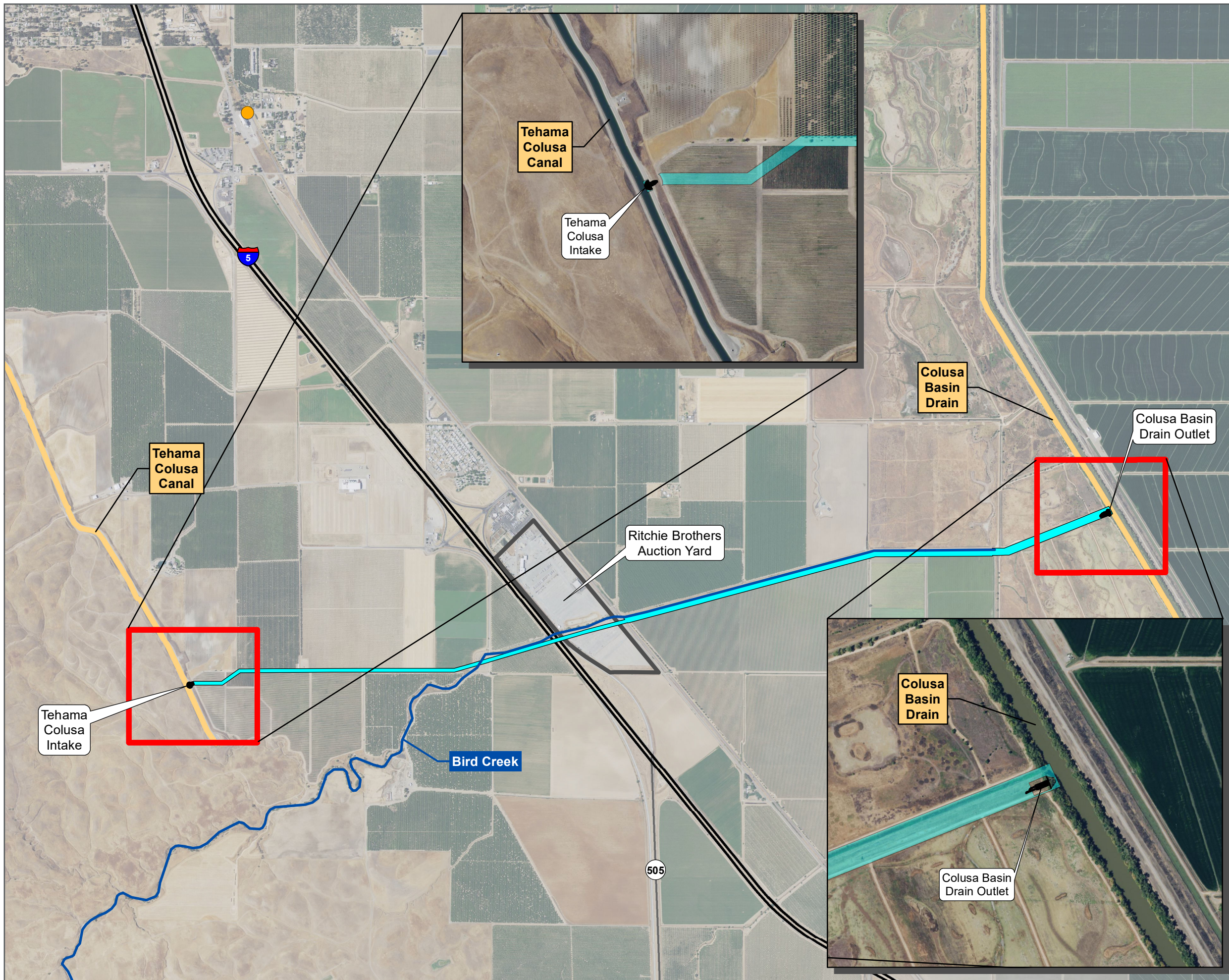
DATA SOURCES: Inlet/Outlet Tower and PGP - ICF, 2020; City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canal, River and Creek/Slough (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020; Counties - CALFIRE-FRAP, 2019.

DISCLAIMER: This exhibit is preliminary and is subject to change.

MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

FIGURE 1 (DRAFT)
 ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 3
 REGULATING RESERVOIRS AND
 CONVEYANCE AND
 SITES RESERVOIR FACILITIES





LEGEND

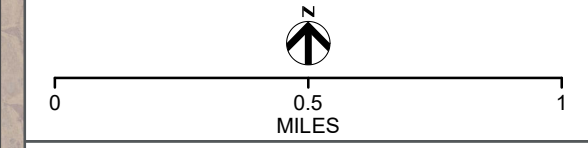
- City/Town
- Bird Creek
- Dunnigan Underground Pipeline

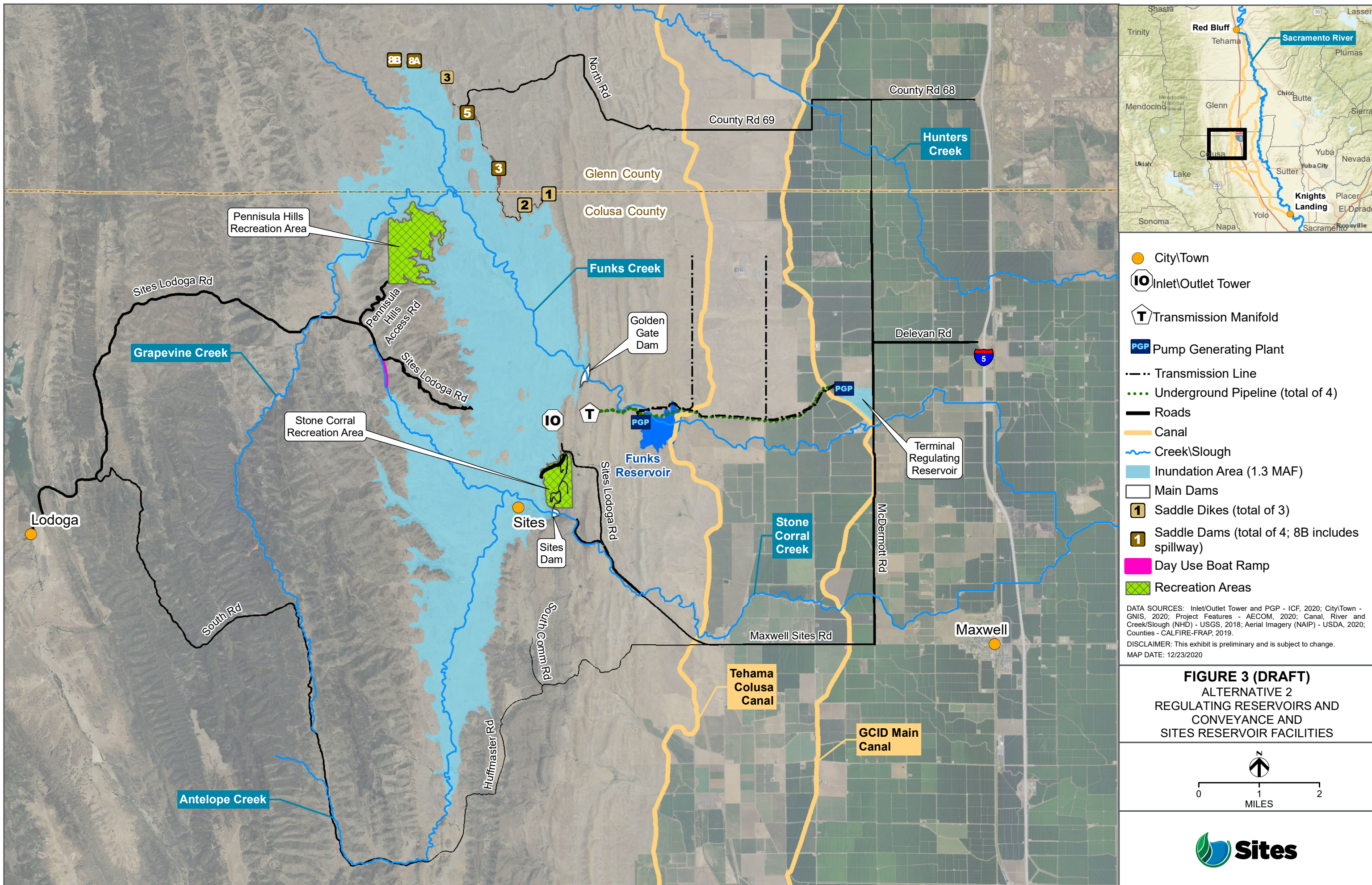
DATA SOURCES: City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canals (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020.

DISCLAIMER: This exhibit is preliminary and is subject to change.

MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

FIGURE 2 (DRAFT)
 ALTERNATIVES 1 and 3
 CONVEYANCE TO COLUSA BASIN
 DRAIN COMPONENTS



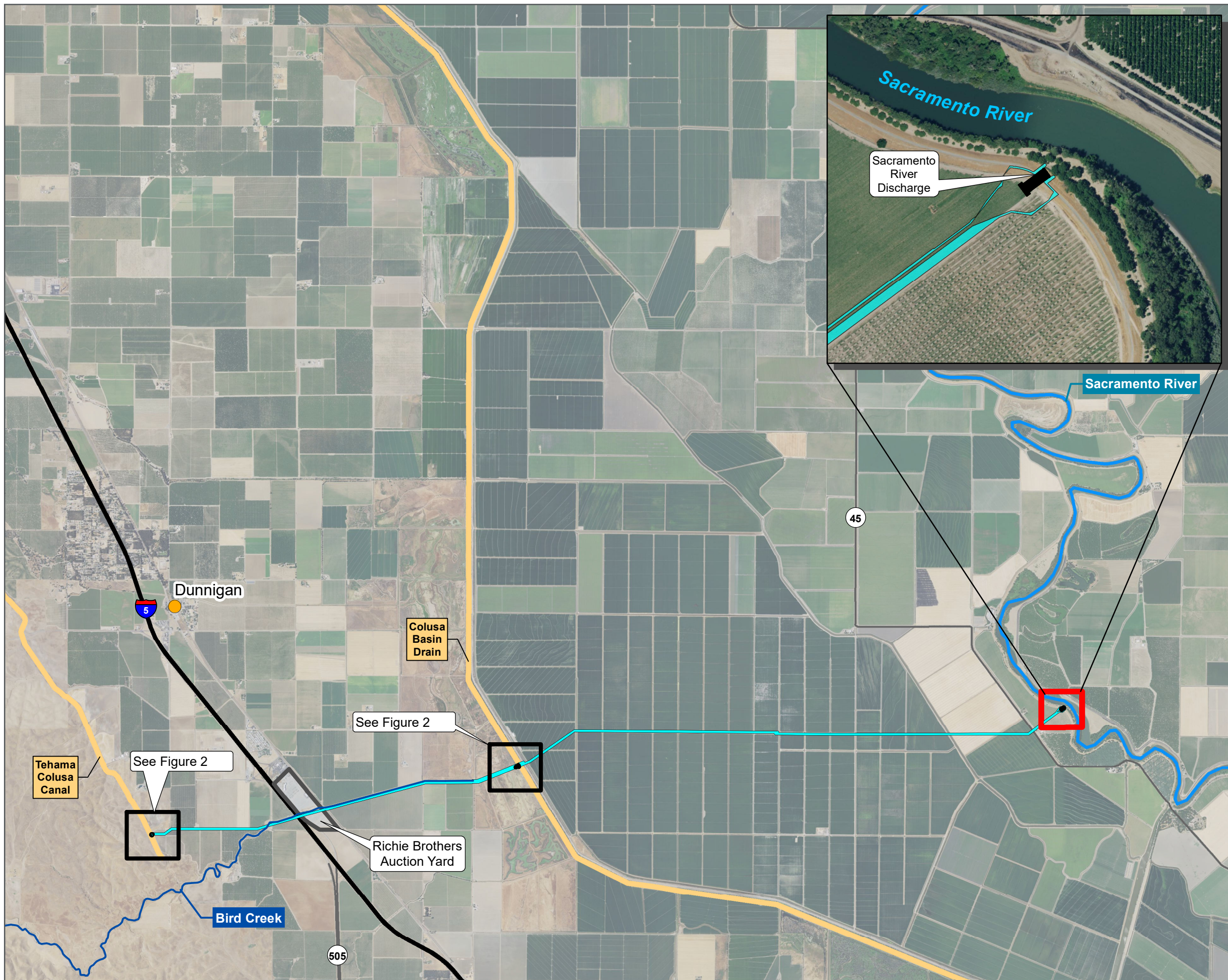


● City/Town
IO Inlet/Outlet Tower
T Transmission Manifold
PGP Pump Generating Plant
 Transmission Line
 Underground Pipeline (total of 4)
 Roads
 Canal
 Creek/Slough
 Inundation Area (1.3 MAF)
 Main Dams
1 Saddle Dikes (total of 3)
1 Saddle Dams (total of 4; 8B includes spillway)
 Day Use Boat Ramp
 Recreation Areas

DATA SOURCES: Inlet/Outlet Tower and PGP - ICF, 2020; City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canal, River and Creek/Slough (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020; Counties - CALFIRE-FRAP, 2019.
 DISCLAIMER: This exhibit is preliminary and is subject to change.
 MAP DATE: 12/23/2020

FIGURE 3 (DRAFT)
 ALTERNATIVE 2
 REGULATING RESERVOIRS AND
 CONVEYANCE AND
 SITES RESERVOIR FACILITIES





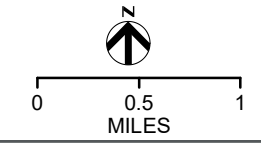
- LEGEND**
- City/Town
 - ~ Bird Creek
 - Dunnigan Underground Pipeline

DATA SOURCES: City/Town - GNIS, 2020; Project Features - AECOM, 2020; Canals (NHD) - USGS, 2018; Aerial Imagery (NAIP) - USDA, 2020.

DISCLAIMER: This exhibit is preliminary and is subject to change.

MAP DATE: 12/22/2020

FIGURE 4 (DRAFT)
 ALTERNATIVE 2
 CONVEYANCE TO SACRAMENTO
 RIVER COMPONENTS



Sites Project Authority
Sites Reservoir Project
 Record of Communication

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Your Name: | Janis Offermann, Horizon Water and Environment |
| Name of Communicator: | |
| Date: | July 8, 2021 |
| Type of Communication: | Email and telephone |
| | <p>Follow up emails were sent to tribes who were mailed letters from the Authority on June 15, 2021. Emails were successfully sent to the following tribes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lone Band of Miwok Indians • Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians • United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria • Wilton Rancheria • <p>Emails were unsuccessfully sent to the following tribes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redding Rancheria • Konkow Valley Band of Maidu <p>In these instances, the emails were kicked back.</p> <p>No email could be identified for the Wintu Tribe of Northern California on the tribe's website.</p> <p>Phone calls were placed to the following tribes, and messages requesting email addresses were left on an answering machine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wintu Tribe of Northern California (10:40am) • Redding Rancheria (10:45am) <p>A phone number for the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu could not be discovered.</p> <p>Return receipts were received for the delivery of the original letter to all of the tribes except for the Wintu Tribe of Northern California. The letter to the Wintu Tribe of Northern California was returned, with a notice saying that there was no mailbox at the address. The address matched the address on the tribe's website.</p> |



Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>

Sites Reservoir Project - Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis

1 message

Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>

Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 10:31 AM

To: rcuellar@ssband.org

Cc: Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>, Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>

Bcc: Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>

Dear Honorable Chairperson Cuellar,

I am writing on behalf of the Sites Project Authority as a follow-up to the attached letter mailed to you on June 15, 2021. The Authority welcomes your input on the Project and the Authority's evaluation of tribal cultural resources under CEQA. If you have any comments, please reach out to Kevin Spesert, Sites Project Authority External Affairs Manager, per his contact information listed below.

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager

Sites Project Authority

P.O. Box 517

Maxwell, CA 95955

Phone: (530) 632-4071

Email: kspesert@sitesproject.org

Thank you for your time,

Janis Offermann

Cultural Resources Practice Leader

Horizon Water and Environment

400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500

Sacramento, CA 95814

916.465.8076 – office

530.220.4918 – mobile

2 attachments**02-01 Posting RDEIR-SDEIS Project Description (1).pdf**
8005K

 **20210615_Outreach_Letter_Cuellar_Shingle_Springs.pdf**
94K

From: [Janis Offermann](#)
To: bguth@auburnrancheria.com
Cc: [Kevin Spesert](#); [Alicia Forsythe](#)
Bcc: [Laurie Warner Herson](#)
Subject: Sites Reservoir Project - Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis
Date: Thursday, July 08, 2021 10:29:16 AM
Attachments: [02-01 Posting RDEIR-SDEIS Project Description \(1\).pdf](#)
[20210615 Outreach Letter Whitehouse UAIC.pdf](#)

Dear Honorable Chairperson Whitehouse,

I am writing on behalf of the Sites Project Authority as a follow-up to the attached letter mailed to you on June 15, 2021. The Authority welcomes your input on the Project and the Authority's evaluation of tribal cultural resources under CEQA. If you have any comments, please reach out to Kevin Spesert, Sites Project Authority External Affairs Manager, per his contact information listed below.

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
Phone: (530) 632-4071
Email: kspesert@sitesproject.org

Thank you for your time,

Janis Offermann
Cultural Resources Practice Leader
Horizon Water and Environment
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.465.8076 – office
530.220.4918 – mobile

From: [Janis Offermann](#)
To: tribaloffice@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov
Cc: [Kevin Spesert](#); [Alicia Forsythe](#)
Bcc: [Laurie Warner Herson](#)
Subject: Sites Reservoir Project - Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis
Date: Thursday, July 08, 2021 10:27:04 AM
Attachments: [20210615_Outreach_Letter_Tarango_Wilton.pdf](#)
[02-01 Posting RDEIR-SDEIS Project Description \(1\).pdf](#)

Dear Honorable Chairperson Tarango,

I am writing on behalf of the Sites Project Authority as a follow-up to the attached letter mailed to you on June 15, 2021. The Authority welcomes your input on the Project and the Authority's evaluation of tribal cultural resources under CEQA. If you have any comments, please reach out to Kevin Spesert, Sites Project Authority External Affairs Manager, per his contact information listed below.

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
Phone: (530) 632-4071
Email: kspesert@sitesproject.org

Thank you for your time,

Janis Offermann
Cultural Resources Practice Leader
Horizon Water and Environment
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.465.8076 – office
530.220.4918 – mobile

From: [Janis Offermann](#)
To: [Lassell, Susan](#); [Havelaar, Christiaan](#); [Risse, Danielle](#); [Lloyd, John](#); [Rogers, Jenifer](#)
Cc: [Briard, Monique](#); [Williams, Nicole](#); [Wolf, Barbara](#)
Subject: RE: Call with DWR
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 2:16:42 PM

Hi, Susan

DWR is happy to provide Yocha Dehe with the site records, but because it is confidential data, they need a vehicle by which that information can be provided. Processing a FOIA request would take too long, while establishing a government to government relationship with the tribe solely for the purpose of distributing the site records only takes a letter from the tribe. So, yes, it would be consultation under DWR's policy, and not as part of the CEQA process for the project or under any federal nexus.

I hope this helps
Thanks
janis

From: Lassell, Susan <Susan.Lassell@icf.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 1:38 PM
To: janis@horizonh2o.com; Havelaar, Christiaan <Christiaan.Havelaar@icf.com>; Risse, Danielle <Danielle.Risse@hdrinc.com>; Lloyd, John <John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com>; Rogers, Jenifer <Jenifer.Rogers@icf.com>
Cc: Briard, Monique <Monique.Briard@icf.com>; Williams, Nicole <Nicole.Williams@icf.com>; Wolf, Barbara <Barbara.Wolf@icf.com>
Subject: RE: Call with DWR

Hi Janis –

Could you confirm or clarify about DWR's expectation for the request for government to government consultation? That would be consultation under DWR's own Policy on Tribal Engagement, and would not suggest any nexus with state or federal regulations, right?

My concern is that folks working on the Sites Reservoir Project who are not familiar with the DWR Policy and practices could misunderstand this development to mean that the Tribes are consulting with DWR as part of CEQA or other regulatory reviews since that's the more common use of the phrase "government to government consultation."

I'm cc'ing Monique, Nicole, and Barbara for awareness, since this crosses over into CEQA/NEPA strategies beyond our Section 106 group's focus.

Susan

SUSAN LASSELL | +1.916.231.7612 direct | +1.415.238.9086 mobile

From: Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 3:25 PM

To: Havelaar, Christiaan <Christiaan.Havelaar@icf.com>; Lassell, Susan <Susan.Lassell@icf.com>; Risse, Danielle <Danielle.Risse@hdrinc.com>; Lloyd, John <John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com>; Rogers, Jenifer <Jenifer.Rogers@icf.com>

Subject: RE: Call with DWR

OK thank you!!

From: Havelaar, Christiaan <Christiaan.Havelaar@icf.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 3:00 PM

To: janis@horizonh2o.com; Lassell, Susan <Susan.Lassell@icf.com>; Risse, Danielle <Danielle.Risse@hdrinc.com>; Lloyd, John <John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com>; Rogers, Jenifer <Jenifer.Rogers@icf.com>

Subject: RE: Call with DWR

Thanks for the heads up Janis. We are working on getting the DPRs divided up into individual files and have someone lined up to start on that tomorrow. Whether or not we have already sent files to DWR, we will need to send them updated, individual files once we are done. I anticipate we will have it all sorted out by middle of next week and can coordinate directly with Jackie on how to get them over to DWR.

From: Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 2:44 PM

To: Lassell, Susan <Susan.Lassell@icf.com>; Risse, Danielle <Danielle.Risse@hdrinc.com>; Lloyd, John <John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com>; Havelaar, Christiaan <Christiaan.Havelaar@icf.com>; Rogers, Jenifer <Jenifer.Rogers@icf.com>

Subject: Call with DWR

Hi, all

Just got off the phone with Anecita at DWR. DWR is happy to share the site records with Yocha Dehe, BUT.... it is as I suspected. They want to be in control of the data and want to provide the tribe with the electronic copies. Their reasoning is that the Sites Project Authority is a JPA and a JPA can dissolve itself at any time, or be subsumed under another entity; at that point, if that were to happen, control over the confidentiality of the site records could be in jeopardy. DWR will be there forever and will have better control over the data.

As a result, they would like Yocha Dehe to request government to government consultation with DWR on the project and request copies of the site records. I think Yocha Dehe will be OK with that and I will let Laverne know during our meeting tomorrow. If he wants, I will write the letter for him so that it isn't their typical standard request for consultation letter.

Christiaan/Jenna, can you please verify whether the digital records were sent to Jackie at DWR? Or I can just give her a call, if you prefer.

Thanks!

janis

Janis Offermann
Cultural Resources Practice Leader
Horizon Water and Environment
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.465.8076 – office
530.220.4918 – mobile

From: [Havelaar, Christiaan](#)
To: janis@horizonh2o.com
Cc: [Lassell, Susan](#); [Risse, Danielle](#); [Lloyd, John](#)
Subject: RE: Sites DPRs
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 3:37:03 PM

Hi Janis,

The DPRs have not been sent yet but I have reached out to Jackie and we are figuring out the best way for me to transfer them to DWR. I'm sure it will happen tomorrow or Thursday at the latest.

From: Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Havelaar, Christiaan <Christiaan.Havelaar@icf.com>
Cc: Lassell, Susan <Susan.Lassell@icf.com>; Risse, Danielle <Danielle.Risse@hdrinc.com>; Lloyd, John <John.Lloyd@hdrinc.com>
Subject: Sites DPRs

Hi Christiaan

Do you know if the individual electronic DPRs have been delivered to DWR? Yocha Dehe submitted their request for consultation to DWR yesterday, so I imagine they would like to turn them over to the tribe soon.

Thanks

janis

Janis Offermann
Cultural Resources Practice Leader
Horizon Water and Environment
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.465.8076 – office
530.220.4918 – mobile

From: [Anna Starkey](#)
To: [\"EIR-EIS-Comments@sitesproject.org\"](mailto:\)
Subject: NOA of Revised Draft EIR/ Supplemental Draft EIS: Sites Reservoir Project
Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021 10:54:19 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Mr. Brown,

On behalf of the United Auburn Indian Community, Tribal Historic Preservation Department, thank you for the notification and opportunity to comment on the Sites Reservoir DEIR/EIS. We have reviewed the Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources chapters that were provided to us and have the following comment:

Page 23-12 of the TCR chapter states that UAIC was contacted and provided no response. This is not correct. UAIC was contacted and emailed with Janis Offerman, Cultural Resources Practice Lead of Horizon Water and Environment, on July 22, 2021 for the Sites Reservoir Project - Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis. The email stated UAIC will “defer tribal consultation to affiliated tribes that are closer to this project. However, we would like to continue to receive project updates and have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft environmental report, including the cultural report. Please also let me know if other tribes are actively consulting”.

Stating in your document that UAIC was unresponsive is incorrect and should accurately reflect our input to the project.

Thank you,
Anna Starkey

*The United Auburn Indian Community is now accepting electronic consultation request, project notifications, and requests for information! Please fill out and submit through our website. Do not mail hard copy letters or documents. <https://auburnrancheria.com/programs-services/tribal-preservation> **Bookmark this link!***



Anna M. Starkey, M.A., RPA
Cultural Regulatory Specialist
Tribal Historic Preservation Department | UAIC
10720 Indian Hill Road
Auburn, CA 95603
Direct line: (916) 251-1565 | Cell: (530) 863-6503
astarkey@auburnrancheria.com | www.auburnrancheria.com

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U.S.C. §§ 7001 to 7006 or the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act of any state or the federal government unless a specific statement to the contrary is included in this e-mail.

From: [Alicia Forsythe](#)
To: [Anna Starkey](#)
Cc: [Kevin Spesert](#); [Janis Offermann](#)
Subject: RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis
Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 8:49:32 AM

Hi Anna – My apologies for the confusion. We sent you the reminder yesterday as we pulled out your original email and actually realized our error in Chapter 23 of the document (in that you did respond and had asked to receive project information).

After your email this morning, I had the team pull the comments that we received thus far on the document, and we now see your comment submitting on December 16 – also noting the error that we have in Chapter 23.

Thank you for your comment and for noting this error in the document. We will correct this for the Final EIR/EIS, which will be released later this calendar year.

My apologies for the confusion and the error in the document.

Ali

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority |
916.880.0676 | aforsythe@sitesproject.org | www.SitesProject.org

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From: Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 8:30 AM
To: Anna Starkey <astarkey@auburnrancheria.com>
Cc: Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>
Subject: RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis

Hi, Anna

I have not yet seen your formal comment, but if I am guessing correctly, you responded formally to the revised draft EIR, for which I sent the link. If this is the case, then please know that the error in the table will be corrected in the final EIR, which should be available this coming summer.

I sent my email to you yesterday to make sure that you were aware that the revised EIR was available for comment. Apparently, you were way ahead of me and I apologize for creating some confusion.

Please let me know if I have misinterpreted the situation. We certainly want to be sure to address your comments.

Thanks
Janis

Janis Offermann
Cultural Resources Practice Leader
Horizon Water and Environment
1801 Seventh Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95811
530.220.4918 (cell)

From: Anna Starkey <astarkey@auburnrancheria.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 7:58 AM
To: 'Janis Offermann' <janis@horizonh2o.com>
Cc: Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>
Subject: RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis

Good morning Janis,

I'm very disappointed that this revised document still did not address my comment. This is unacceptable. It states on page 23-21 that there was no response from UAIC and I made a formal comment during the draft phase that this was incorrect, provided the consultation email, and yet this has still not be addressed. Can you please explain why?

I can forward you the official comment I submitted as well as our initial consultation response if needed. I would like an explanation of why UAIC was ignored.

Thank you,
Anna

From: Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:39 PM
To: Anna Starkey <astarkey@auburnrancheria.com>
Cc: Anna Cheng <acheng@auburnrancheria.com>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>
Subject: FW: Sites Reservoir Project - Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis

Good afternoon, Anna

I hope all is well with you in this new year.

I am not sure how UAIC tracks and reviews project EIRs but I wanted to let you know that the revised EIR for Sites Reservoir is currently available for public review at

<https://sitesproject.org/environmental-review/> through January 28, 2022. I apologize for not

reaching out to you directly with this information sooner, but I know UAIC was sent an announcement of the availability of the EIR by the Sites Project Authority.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

Janis

Janis Offermann

Cultural Resources Practice Leader

Horizon Water and Environment

1801 Seventh Street, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95811

530.220.4918 (cell)

From: Anna Starkey <astarkey@auburnrancheria.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 1:31 PM

To: 'Janis Offermann' <janis@horizonh2o.com>

Cc: Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Anna Cheng <acheng@auburnrancheria.com>

Subject: RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis

Dear Ms. Offerman,

On behalf of the United Auburn Indian Community, thank you for the information on the above referenced project. We have reviewed the project and it is located predominantly outside of the Tribes' geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation. Therefore, UAIC will defer tribal consultation to affiliated tribes that are closer to this project. However, we would like to continue to receive project updates and have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft environmental report, including the cultural report. Please also let me know if other tribes are actively consulting.

Lastly, for all future notifications, we ask that you please use our online form, linked below. Please do this despite what the NAHC list provides. We have not updated our contact method with the NAHC yet, so it is out of date. The link below is the best way to contact UAIC for notifications and information gathering.

<https://auburnrancheria.com/programs-services/tribal-preservation/submit-agency-notification/> Bookmark this link!

Please acknowledge the receipt of this email and UAIC's requests.

Kind regards,

Anna Starkey

*The United Auburn Indian Community is now accepting electronic consultation request, project notifications, and requests for information! Please fill out and submit through our website. Do not mail hard copy letters or documents. <https://auburnrancheria.com/programs-services/tribal-preservation> **Bookmark this link!***



From: Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Brian Guth <bguth@auburnrancheria.com>
Cc: Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>
Subject: Sites Reservoir Project - Notification of Proposed Project for the Purposes of CEQA Analysis

Dear Honorable Chairperson Whitehouse,
I am writing on behalf of the Sites Project Authority as a follow-up to the attached letter mailed to you on June 15, 2021. The Authority welcomes your input on the Project and the Authority's evaluation of tribal cultural resources under CEQA. If you have any comments, please reach out to Kevin Spesert, Sites Project Authority External Affairs Manager, per his contact information listed below.

Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
Phone: (530) 632-4071
Email: kspesert@sitesproject.org

Thank you for your time,

Janis Offermann
Cultural Resources Practice Leader
Horizon Water and Environment
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.465.8076 – office
530.220.4918 – mobile

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From: [Alicia Forsythe](#)
To: [Laverne Bill](#); [Victoria Delgado](#)
Cc: [Laurie Warner Herson](#); [Kevin Spesert](#); [Janis Offermann](#)
Subject: Sites Project - Site Records
Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:28:55 AM

Laverne – We have clearance from DWR to send you the site records! Thank you so much for your patience on this! We really appreciate it.

Janis – Can you work with ICF to transfer the files to Laverne?

Ali

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority |
916.880.0676 | aforsythe@sitesproject.org | www.SitesProject.org

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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



Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>

Upcoming Sites Reservoir Meeting on October 31

Janis Offermann <janis@horizonh2o.com>

Tue, Oct 18, 2022 at 12:04 PM

To: Laverne Bill <LBill@yochadehe.gov>

Cc: SReyes-Gutierrez@yochadehe.gov, EHernandez@yochadehe.gov, Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>, Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>, Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>

Hi, Laverne

At our last Sites Reservoir meeting with the Authority on August 1, Ali brought up the Authority's concern about the ability to complete AB 52 consultations within the short period of time remaining before the EIR is finalized. She proposed preparing a MOU with Yocha Dehe that would give you more time to analyze data and identify tribal cultural resources and impacts to the resources. The MOU would allow the Authority to continue to work with you on assessing and protecting tribal cultural resources following finalization of the environmental document. It would allow the process to move forward without rushing, but would allow the Authority to state that AB 52 consultation was completed under CEQA. At that time, you noted that you would take it under consideration, but that you would have to talk with the tribal council and others.

The Authority continues to be concerned about completing AB 52 consultation prior to the scheduled final EIR, and would like to continue discussions with you about preparing a MOA in order to formally establish a collaborative relationship with Yocha Dehe to address tribal cultural resources. [Note: We did a little research and a MOA is more legally binding than a MOU, so we thought that would be more appropriate.] Attached is a brief document that describes the purpose and need for the MOA and proposes some topics to be addressed. Clearly, this is a draft that would require significant input by Yocha Dehe, but we are hoping that you will give it some consideration before our meeting at the end of the month.

Please don't hesitate to give me a call if you have any questions. We look forward to meeting with you in a couple of weeks.

janis

Janis Offermann, MA, RPA

Cultural Resources Practice Lead

Horizon Water and Environment

1801 7th Street, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95811

530.220.4918

**Draft_MOA brief_10182022.docx**

22K



January 12, 2023

Colusa Indian Community Council
Mr. Daniel Gomez, Tribal Chairman
3730 Highway 45
Colusa, CA 95932

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

Dear Honorable Chairperson Gomez:

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.





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:

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- 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 or (916) 880-0676 , and Kevin at 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 blue ink that reads 'FRITZ DURST'.

Fritz Durst
Chair





Cc: Oscar Serrano, P.E.
Colusa Indian Community Council
3730 Highway 45
Colusa, CA 95932



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309



January 12, 2023

Colusa Indian Community Council
Mr. Daniel Gomez, Tribal Chairman
3730 Highway 45
Colusa, CA 95932

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

Dear Honorable Chairperson Gomez:

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- 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 or (916) 880-0676 , and Kevin at 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 blue ink that reads 'FRITZ DURST'.

Fritz Durst
Chair





Cc: Oscar Serrano, P.E.
Colusa Indian Community Council
3730 Highway 45
Colusa, CA 95932



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309



January 12, 2023

Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians
Mr. Charlie Wright, Chair
P.O. Box 1630
Williams, CA 95987

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

Dear Honorable Chairperson Wright:

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.



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- 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 or (916) 880-0676 , and Kevin at 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 blue ink that reads 'FRITZ DURST'.

Fritz Durst
Chair





January 12, 2023

Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki
Mr. Ronald Kirk, Chairperson
P.O. Box 63
Elk Creek, CA 95939

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

Dear Honorable Chairperson Kirk:

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.

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- 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 or (916) 880-0676 , and Kevin at 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 blue ink that reads 'FRITZ DURST'.

Fritz Durst
Chair





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.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'FRITZ DURST'.

Fritz Durst
Chair





January 12, 2023

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Mr. Anthony Roberts, Chairperson
P.O. Box 18
Brooks, CA 95606

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

Dear Honorable Chairperson Roberts:

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.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'FRITZ DURST'.

Fritz Durst
Chair





Cc: Ms. Yvonne Perkins, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
P.O. Box 18
Brooks, CA 95606



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309



January 12, 2023

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Mr. Anthony Roberts, Chairperson
P.O. Box 18
Brooks, CA 95606

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Chair





Cc: Ms. Yvonne Perkins, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
P.O. Box 18
Brooks, CA 95606



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309



January 18, 2023

Colusa Indian Community Council
Mr. Wayne Mitchum Jr., Tribal Chairman
3730 Highway 45
Colusa, CA 95932

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

Dear Honorable Chairperson Mitchum:

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.





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 or (916) 880-0676 , and Kevin at 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 blue ink that reads 'FRITZ DURST'.

Fritz Durst
Chair





Cc: Ms. Melissa Mitchum
Director of Tribal Preservation
Colusa Indian Community Council
3730 Highway 45
Colusa, CA 95932



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309



January 18, 2023

Colusa Indian Community Council
Mr. Wayne Mitchum Jr., Tribal Chairman
3730 Highway 45
Colusa, CA 95932

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

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P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'FRITZ DURST'.

Fritz Durst
Chair

Cc: Ms. Melissa Mitchum





Director of Tribal Preservation
Colusa Indian Community Council
3730 Highway 45
Colusa, CA 95932



P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955
530.438.2309

From: [Alicia Forsythe](#)
To: [Janis Offermann \(Janis@Horizonh2o.com\)](#); [Risse, Danielle](#); [Laurie Warner Herson](#); [Kevin Spesert](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sites Project - Tribal Working Group
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 2:47:48 PM

Hi all – We have our first interest in the Tribal Working Group!

Kevin – Lets you and I talk about how to contact the other tribes for their interest. I will text you on a time we can talk. We also need to talk about who from the RC/AB we should have attend. Randal wants to participate. We also need to schedule a training session/prep session with them prior to the TWG meeting.

Janis – It sounds like we sent the letter to the wrong person at Colusa. But since they have responded, I don't think we need to resend.

Ali

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority |
916.880.0676 | aforsythe@sitesproject.org | www.SitesProject.org

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From: Alicia Forsythe
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 2:41 PM
To: Molly West <mwest@colusa-nsn.gov>; Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>
Cc: Execs <Execs@colusa-nsn.gov>
Subject: RE: TWG

Wonderful Molly! We are really excited for the Tribal Working Group!

We're reaching out to the other tribes here this week. We will circle back in the next week or two on scheduling the first meeting.

Ali

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority |
916.880.0676 | aforsythe@sitesproject.org | www.SitesProject.org

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From: Molly West <mwest@colusa-nsn.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 5:15 PM
To: Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>
Cc: Execs <Execs@colusa-nsn.gov>
Subject: TWG

EXTERNAL MESSAGE: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Evening,

CICC's Executive Committee is interested in being a part of the Tribal Working Group. Do you know when you will have more details prepared?

Thank you,

Molly West

Tribal Administrator
Colusa Indian Community Council
3730 Hwy 45
Colusa, CA 95932
Phone (530) 458-6517
Cell (530) 701-0379
Fax (530) 458-3866

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From: [Janis Offermann](#)
To: ["charlie.wright@kdwn.org"](mailto:charlie.wright@kdwn.org)
Cc: ["Kevin Spesert"](#)
Subject: Sites Reservoir Tribal Working Group
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 12:13:00 PM
Attachments: [20230112_TWG Notificaiton Letter Formatted CortinaIndianRanchera Wright.docx](#)

Hello, Chairperson Wright

On behalf of the Sites Project Authority (Authority), I just left a voice message on your tribal administration office phone and am following up with this email.

The Authority would like to invite you to participate in a Tribal Working Group (TWG), as described in the attached letter, which was also forwarded to you via the U.S. mail. The intent of the TWG is to provide a forum for local tribes to discuss concerns you might have about the proposed Sites Project and to help craft solutions to those issues, as well as to provide input on such topics as recreation opportunities and biological mitigation.

We hope you will consider this invitation and join us in the TWG.

Please feel free to contact me via email or at the phone number listed below if you have any questions. You may also contact Kevin Spesert, the Authority's External Affairs Manager, who is cc'd here, at kspesert@sitesproject.org or (530) 632-4071.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

janis

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

From: [Janis Offermann](#)
To: [Laverne Bill \(LBill@paskenta.org\)](mailto:LBill@paskenta.org)
Subject: Sites Reservoir Tribal Working Group
Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:14:00 AM
Attachments: [20230112_TWG Notificaion Letter Formatted PaskentaBand Alejandre.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 Alejandre 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



YOCHA DEHE
CULTURAL RESOURCES

February 8, 2023

Sites Project Authority
Attn: Alicia Forsythe, Environmental Planner and Permitting Manager
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955

RE: Sites Reservoir Project YD-04142017-03

Dear Ms. Forsythe:

Thank you for the project notification dated January 12, 2023, regarding cultural information on or near the proposed Sites Reservoir Project. We appreciate your effort to contact us and wish to respond.

The Cultural Resources Department has reviewed the project and concluded that it is within the aboriginal territories of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Therefore, we have a cultural interest and authority in the proposed project area and would like to initiate a formal consultation with the lead agency. At the time of consultation, please provide our Cultural Resources Department with a project timeline, detailed project information and the latest cultural study for the proposed project.

To coordinate a date and time for the consultation meeting, please contact:

CRD Administrative Staff
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Office: (530) 796-3400
Email: THPO@yochadehe.gov

Please refer to identification number YD-04142017-03 in any correspondence concerning this project.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Yvonne Perkins

8DD0BD089ED6438
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer