

# SITES RESERVOIR PROJECT UPDATE

DECEMBER 2020



## Agenda

- Project History and Current Status
- CEQA/NEPA Process
- Open for Discussion
- Next Steps

## Project History and Current Status



## Original Proposed Project and 2017 Draft EIR/EIS Comments

- Original Project:
  - 1.8 million acre-foot reservoir
  - 3 intakes (about 6,000 cfs diversion capacity in total)
  - New Delevan Pipeline and intake
  - Pump/generation facility
- 2017 Draft EIR/EIS – August 2017
- 137 comment letters received, 11 from conservation organizations



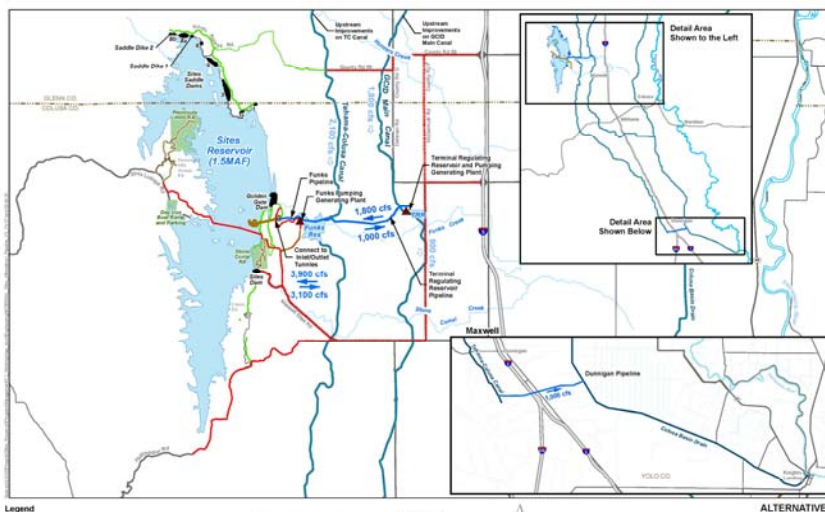
# Value Planning Report

- October 2019 – Began Value Planning Efforts
  - 16 new / modified alternatives considered
- April 2020 – Board adopted Value Planning Report and recommendations

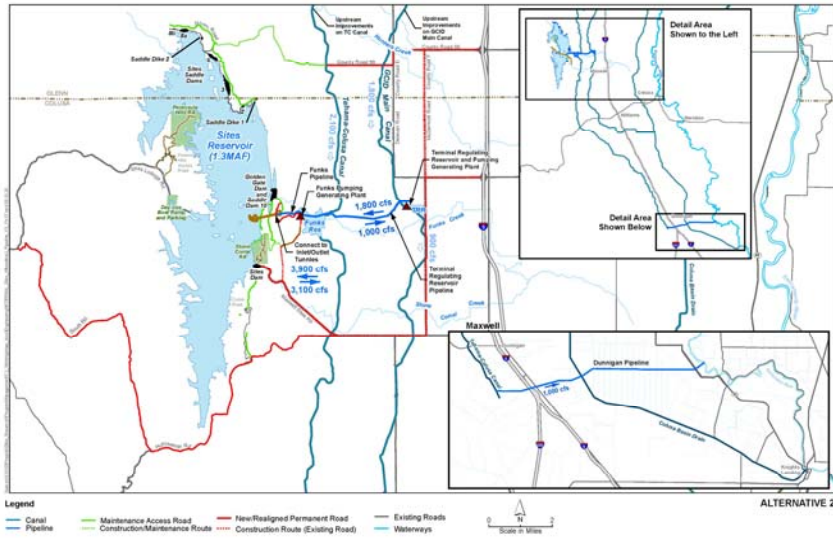
Major Facilities	VP5	VP6	VP7 Recommended
Reservoir Size	1.3 MAF	1.3 MAF	1.5 MAF
Bridge Size (avoids future traffic interruption)	1.5 MAF	1.5 MAF	1.5 MAF
South Road to Local Residents	Included	Included	Included
Misc. Local and Project Roads	Included	Included	Included
Diversion Locations	Funks and TRR	Funks and TRR	Funks and TRR
Dunnigan Release	1,000 cfs to CBD	1,000 cfs to River	1,000 cfs to CBD

CBD = Colusa Basin Drain  
 MAF = Million Acre-feet  
 TRR = Terminal Regulating Reservoir

# Alternative 1 – Preferred Project



# Alternative 2



Draft - Predecisional Working Document - For Discussion Purposes Only

# CEQA/NEPA Process



## Decision to Recirculate Draft EIR

- Value Planning Process resulted in the identification of new alternatives not previously analyzed in the 2017 Draft EIR/EIS
- Key changes to the project include:
  - Changes in facility footprints and new footprint areas
  - Changes in operations
  - Changes in conveyance (Dunnigan pipeline)
  - Release to the Colusa Basin Drain

## Decision to Recirculate (cont.)

### **CEQA Standards for Recirculation – Pub. Res. Code § 21092.1 & CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5**

- A lead agency is required to recirculate if “significant new information” is added after publication of the Draft EIR.
- “Significant new information” is defined as information showing any of the following:
  - A new significant impact resulting from the project or from a mitigation measure
  - A substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant impact resulting from the project or from a mitigation measure
  - A feasible project alternative or mitigation measure considerably different from others previously analyzed would lessen the project’s impacts, but the project proponents decline to adopt it
  - The Draft EIR “is so fundamentally flawed and basically inadequate and conclusory in nature that meaningful public review and comment were precluded”
- Recirculation is “not required where the new information added to the EIR merely clarifies or amplifies or makes insignificant modifications in an adequate EIR”

## Decision to Recirculate (cont.)

- Preparation of a Revised Draft EIR allows the Authority to:
  - Address changes to the project
  - Update modeling baseline
  - Update existing conditions and cumulative projects
  - Prepare an analysis that takes into consideration all of the comments received on the 2017 Draft EIR/EIS

## Coordination with Reclamation

- Appropriate NEPA document to be a Supplemental Draft EIS
- Ongoing Coordination
  - Technical Content
  - Format (page limits, etc.)
  - Reclamation review process including schedule and Cooperating Agency coordination
- Relationship with Feasibility Report and reconciliation process

## NGO Comments / Issues Raised on 2017 Draft EIR/EIS

- Project description and range of alternatives
- Modeling approach, modeling baseline, and modeling analysis
- Operational impacts to fisheries
- Impacts to Trinity River resources
- Indian Trust Assets and impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources
- Impacts to terrestrial species
- Water quality
- Water rights
- Geotechnical and geological data and seismicity
- Cumulative impacts

## Sites Plans to Addressed Thru . . .

- Revisions to the project description to incorporate changes as a result of Value Planning
  - Develop more specifics on items (i.e., Reservoir Management Plan, Operations Plan and operational criteria, releases to Funks and Stone Corral creeks)
- Clarify baseline / existing conditions / No Action
- Clarify study areas for resource sections
- Update throughout with new information and analyses (i.e., water quality, air quality, Tribal cultural resources, terrestrial)
- Update hydrologic modeling and fisheries analyses based on new information
- Clearly identify and support that there will be no negative impacts to the Trinity River and its resources
- Closely look at impacts of the revised project along with mitigation measures to ensure they are specific, robust, supported by evidence, and address the driving factors
- Improve organization, layout and make reader friendly

## EIR/EIS Schedule

- January 2021 – Finalize and post Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS Project Description
- July 2021 – Release Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS for public review and comment
- August 2021 – Public meetings
- Mid-2022 – Release Final EIR/EIS

## We Want to Hear from You!

- We value your input.
- What topics are of most concern?
- How can we best coordinate and share information / ideas?



## Discussion



## Next Steps



## Upcoming Activities

- Provide survey to attendees
  - Identify key areas of concern
  - Identify topics for future meetings
- Schedule focused technical meetings in early 2021

**Thank you!**

