Timeline of Significant NGO Engagement

Sites Reservoir Project

February 2023

*This is a brief review of the more significant engagements that the Sites team has had with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) over the past 5 years related to project development. This review is not intended to be exhaustive. There were several other interactions with NGO’s on more specific issues that are not listed.*

**August 4, 2016** – Working draft of modeling assumptions for Sites Reservoir Intakes (Oct-Jun) developed by CDFW, presumably as advice for the preparation of the 2017 Draft EIR/EIS. Sets bypass flows at Wilkins Slough of 15,000 cfs and other criteria “for a modeling exercise.” **(Attachment A)**

**June 13, 2017** – Working draft – Preliminary Assessment of CDFW’s Proposed Bypass Flow Criteria for the Sites Reservoir Project. This was a test run of the 2016 criteria and shows significant decrease in available diversions and not enough water to meet demands. **(Attachment B)**

**August 2017** – Draft EIR/EIS issued for public review.

* Document available here: <https://sitesproject.org/resources/environmental-review/draft-environmental-impact-report-environmental-impact-statement/>
* Bypass flow and diversion criteria are described in Chapter 12.

**Winter 2017** – Friends of the River calling for public comments letters in opposition to the 2017 Draft EIR.

* <https://www.friendsoftheriver.org/take-action/help-stop-the-sites-reservoir-project/>

**January 2018** – Comment letter summary from NGO groups on the Sites 2017 Draft EIR. **(Attachment C)**

**February 2018** – Sites Project team report to the Board on the comments received from the public on the 2017 Draft EIR/EIS. **(Attachment C)**

* <https://yubanet.com/california/sites-reservoir-project-draws-criticism-from-fishermen-tribes-and-conservation-groups/>
* https://mavensnotebook.com/2019/03/20/news-worth-noting-sites-reservoir-project-draws-criticism-from-fishermen-tribes-and-conservation-groups-groups-warn-feinstein-a-dark-ethical-cloud-hangs-over-bernhardt/

**May 3, 2018** –CWC decision to set an MCED award to the Sites Reservoir Project of $816M as a Rank 3 project which is approximately 20% below the Staff recommended level of benefits. There was no specific determination of ecosystem benefits to be provided by the Project and CDFW specifically disallows approximately $300M of benefits for anadromous fish benefits (additions to cold water pool).

**March 17, 2019** – Public comment letter signed by 27 NGO’s in opposition to the 2017 Draft EIR. **(Attachment D**)

* <https://activenorcal.com/sites-reservoir-plan-publicly-criticized-by-conservation-groups/>

**May 2019 to December 2019** – Sites has over 25 discussions and/or working sessions with CDFW technical staff and/or management to explore modifications to Project operations that would meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish and Game Code Section 2081) and results in an affordable project. **(Attachment E)**

**August 13, 2019** – Sites Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager and key consultants meet with the following NGO’s to discuss the revisions made to the Project since 2017, review their collective comments on the 2017 DEIR/EIS and solicit additional input on the Project:

* Natural Resources Defense Counsel
* Defenders of Wildlife
* Western Water Strategies
* The Bay Institute
* Baykeeper
* California Sportfishing Association

**September 23, 2019** – CDFW 60-day Consultation **(Attachment F)**

**September 23, 2019** – Sites Board initiates a value planning process to arrive at an affordable and permittable project configuration including diversion criteria. **(Attachment G)**

**April 22, 2020** – Sites Board approves moving forward with VP7 as the preferred project for feasibility and environmental review. Scenario B is the diversion criteria used to develop the Project economics and permittability assessment. While not “agreed to” by CDFW, the discussions occurring through the end of 2019 resulted in these conditions forming the basis for adequate protection of species and result in an affordable Project, subject to additional detailed analysis. **(Attachment H & I)**

**May-July 2020** – Sites Executive Director and Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager provide updates to NGO’s on the “rightsizing” of the Project including reviewing the Scenario B diversions criteria used in the value planning analysis.

**August 26, 2020** – The Sites team took a summary of the public comments received on the 2017 Draft EIR/EIS to the Board along with how these comments were being addressed in the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS. **(Attachment J)**

**December 2020** – The Sites Board receives an update on the operations modeling results which includes a description of the adjustments that had to be made to make Scenario B criteria (from VP7) operable. Preliminary results of effects analysis show the approach is protective of species and can result in an affordable Project.

The Sites Project team conducted two workshops to update NGOs that had submitted comments on the 2017 Draft EIR/EIS, providing an overview of the new alternatives and the EIR/EIS process moving forward. As a follow up to these workshops, a survey was sent out to solicit input on future meetings. **(Attachment K)**

**September 2020 through July 2021** – Reached out and held over 30 meetings with groups such as Friends of the River, Water 4 Wetlands, CWIN, SOS, River Partners, SF Bay Keepers, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, etc. **(Attachment L)**

**January 26, 2021** – Held Town Hall meeting that included panel discussions. File is here: <https://sitesreservoirproject.sharepoint.com/EnvPlanning/Meetings/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2FEnvPlanning%2FMeetings%2FNGO%20meetings&viewid=fe648db5%2D9e1a%2D4351%2Dba81%2D7278a142a378>

**February 23, 2021 –** Held meeting with various NGOs to give an overview of the approach to the Sites water right approach.

**Throughout 2021 and 2022 –** NGO Small Group Meetings. Summary below. Files are located here: [https://sitesreservoirproject.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/EnvPlanning/Meetings/NGO%20meetings/NGO%20Small%20Groups?csf=1&web=1&e=wE4KAZ](https://sitesreservoirproject.sharepoint.com/%3Af%3A/r/EnvPlanning/Meetings/NGO%20meetings/NGO%20Small%20Groups?csf=1&web=1&e=wE4KAZ)

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| --- | --- |
| **Topic Area** | **Meeting Date(s)** |
| Fisheries | April 29, 2021July 26, 2021October 29, 2021September 1, 2022 |
| Proposition 1 Benefits | March 11, 2021March 24,2021 |
| Terrestrial Species | March 26, 2021 |
| Trinity River | March 22, 2021April 30, 2021 |
| Water Quality  | March 7, 2021May 13, 2021July 19, 2021 |
| Water Rights | February 23, 2021March 23, 2021March 4, 2022 |

**May 6, 2021 –** Held meeting with Friends of the River and Sites engineering team to discuss flood control design components.

**May 28, 2021 –** Held meeting with various NGOs to discuss estimate of 1 MAF storage in Sites Reservoir in 2021. Files here: [https://sitesreservoirproject.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/EnvPlanning/Meetings/NGO%20meetings/Sites%20in%202021?csf=1&web=1&e=A2HhIm](https://sitesreservoirproject.sharepoint.com/%3Af%3A/r/EnvPlanning/Meetings/NGO%20meetings/Sites%20in%202021?csf=1&web=1&e=A2HhIm)

**January 11, 2022 –** Meeting with American River Water Forum Executive Director and staff on RDEIR/SDEIS modeling and effects to American River resources. Also discussed water right application. Files here: [https://sitesreservoirproject.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/OpsModeling/Shared%20Documents/American%20River?csf=1&web=1&e=A88WVJ](https://sitesreservoirproject.sharepoint.com/%3Af%3A/r/OpsModeling/Shared%20Documents/American%20River?csf=1&web=1&e=A88WVJ)

**March 4, 2022 –** Held meeting with various NGOs for a continued discussion on Water Rights.

Communications call organized by Mike Wade with Jay Vanrein, Constance Anderson, Anjaetta Shadley, Jeff Sutton, Rebecca Quist, Chris Scheuring, Alicia Rockwell, Anja Raudabaugh, Michael Boccadoro, Karen Kapler, Daren Williams, Cory Lunde, Aubrey Bettencourt, Justin Fredrickson, Alssa Houtby, Tom vander List, Rick Kushman, Jonny Amaral, Dan Keppen, Dan Vink, Robert Schettler, Alexis Silveira, Cynthia Davis, Joan Webster, Shelley Cartwright, Joshua Rahm, dana Ferreira, Rylin Lindahl, Jason Phillips, Jeanne Varga, Brandon Souza, Todd Manley, William Bourdeau, Austin Ewell, Bill Diedrich, Brent Walthall, Melissa Williams, Erin Huston, Sara Katz, Cannon Michael, Tina Shields, Rayne Thompson, Jeffifer Giambroni, Lorraine Garcia, Mike Jensen, Heather Engel, Dennis Nuxoll, Melissa Williams, Kathryn Borep, Ian LeMay, Brandon Harder, Jane Townsend, Tricia Geringer, Jason Peltier, Adam Borchard, Casey Cremer, Peter Hecht, Jacob DeBoer, jenny Holtermann, Nadine Bailey, J. Scott Peterson, Elizabeth Jonasson, Daniel Merkley, William Bourdeau, Jeana Hultquist, Mark Looker, Maddie Munson, Priscilla Rodriguez, Dayna Ghirardelli, Emily Rooney, Roger Isom, Josh Weimer, Debbie Murdock, Cristel Tufenkjian, Casey Anderson and Scott Seus:

**March 3, 2022, May 18, 2022, June 15, 2022 and August 2022**.

Environmental Water Manager

The meetings were with the Steering Committee and the Advisory team on:

**April 6, 2022, May 10, 2022, August 3, 2022, August 16, 2022, Augusts 17, 2022, October 5, 2022, October 21, 2022, October 28, 2022 and January 31, 2023.**

**September 20, 2022 –** Held meeting with various NGOs to give an overview of the approach to the Sites water right application, sharing where we were in the process and getting your feedback and any concerns.

Met with PPIC:

**June 8, 2022** - Env Water Manager Concepts.

**September 21, 2022** - PPIC Report to the Prop 1 Roundtable.

**October 5, 2022** – PPIC Report w/EWM Working Group.

Met with David Guy, Norcal Water:

**July 29, 2022** – Conversation on building Blocks with Sacramento River Basin Managers.

**September 8, 2022** – Discussion on Surface/Groundwater interaction in the Sac Valley.

**October 17, 2022** – VA Update and Coordination, Sac River Basin.

**October 24, 2022** – Discussion on DCP, Sac River Basin.

**November 14, 2022** – VA, Bay-Delta Updates, Sac River Basin Working Group.

**November 30, 2022** – Coordination discussion, major projects in Delta and Sac Valley.

**December 9, 2022** – follow up discussion on major projects.

**December 21, 2022** – Connect meeting with David, Nina and Carolyn Buckman/DWR.

**January 11, 2023 & 1/27/2023**– DCP Comment Letters.

**November 22, 2022** – Met with Doug Obegi, NRDC, to update on the water rights process and related matters.

**November 3, 2022** – Met with Jay Ziegler, TNC, to discuss the proposal letter.

**January 25, 2023** – Jerry met with Ducks Unlimited, Marc Engstrom, Director of Public Policy, Zach Hartman and Grant McKenzie.

**January 31, 2023** – Held meeting with various NGOs to review supplemental materials submitted to SWRCB in regard to water rights application.