PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR DRAFT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY'S SITES RESERVOIR PROJECT

To: Interested Parties

On September 15, 2025, the Sites Project Authority (Authority) applied to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for a water quality certification (certification) for the Sites Reservoir Project (Project). The State Water Board is providing this opportunity for public review and comment on a draft certification for the Project.

Background Information

The Authority is proposing to construct the Project, a surface water reservoir that would divert water from the Sacramento River at Red Bluff and Hamilton City to store up to 1.5 million acre-feet of water. The Project, as proposed, would impound water from Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek, two tributaries to the Colusa Basin Drain and the Sacramento River. The Project would be located in rural, unincorporated areas of Glenn and Colusa counties, approximately 10 miles west of the community of Maxwell. Other Project-related components and ancillary facilities, including the existing Red Bluff Pumping Plant and Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Main Canal Pumping Plant, which are located in Glenn, Colusa, Tehama, and Yolo counties. As proposed, the Project includes: (1) pre-construction site access and geotechnical investigations; (2) construction of two dams (Golden Gate Dam on Funks Creek and Sites Dam on Stone Corral Creek), seven saddle dams, and two saddle dikes; (3) development of two recreation areas (Peninsula Hills Recreation Area and Stone Corral Creek Recreation Area); (4) road construction, modifications, and improvements; (5) use of onsite borrow areas; (6) construction of conveyance infrastructure, including pumping generating plants and pipelines; (7) dredging and upgrades to the existing Funks Reservoir; (8) construction of a new Dunnigan Pipeline; and (9) new transmission lines and easements.

Water Quality Certification

In California, the State Water Board is responsible for protecting the State's water quality, including through issuance of certifications under section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Certifications must ensure compliance with water quality standards and other appropriate requirements of state law. If the State issues a certification with conditions, those conditions become conditions of the federal permit or license. In this instance, the certification will provide conditions for the United States Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act section 404 permits for the Project.

Water Rights Related to the Project

The Authority is actively pursuing water rights for the Project from the State Water Board under **a separate proceeding** from this certification process.

The Project will involve the diversion and use of surface water from the Sacramento River, Stone Corral Creek, and Funks Creek and will require water rights from the State Water Board authorizing the diversion, storage, and use of water associated with the Project. Project operations (e.g., diversion quantity and timing) will be subject to the terms and conditions associated with any water right(s) issued for the Project by the State Water Board along with all applicable laws, regulations, biological opinions, incidental take permits, and court orders. While the water rights proceeding focuses on the diversion and use of water for the Project, including associated Project operations related to such things as bypass flows, this draft certification focuses on Project construction.

Opportunity for Public Comment

This draft certification does not constitute a final action by the State Water Board on the Authority's request for certification for the Project. The State Water Board is releasing this draft certification to provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the draft conditions of this certification that has been developed to protect water quality and beneficial uses during Project construction. Comments on the water rights proceeding will not be considered in this water quality certification proceeding.

The comment period for the draft certification is from the date of this notice until 12:00 noon on Friday, June 26, 2026. **Comments on the draft certification must be received by 12:00 noon on Friday, June 26, 2026**, and can be submitted electronically (preferred) or by mail as follows:

Email (preferred):
WR401Program@waterboards.ca.gov

or

Mail:
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights – Water Quality Certification Program
Attn. Oscar Biondi
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

The draft certification for the Project and additional information regarding the State Water Board's certification process for the Project are available on the State Water Board's webpage for the Sites Reservoir Project[1].

[1] Available online at: https://waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/sites.html

Questions

If you have questions related to this notice, please contact Oscar Biondi by email to: Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone call to: (916) 323-9397.

KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES

To receive emails related to the Project, interested persons should enroll in the "Water Rights Water Quality Certification" e-mail notification service. Instructions on how to sign up for the State Water Board's Email Subscription List are outlined below:

1. Visit the State Water Board's Email Subscription webpage[2].
2. Provide your name and email in the required fields.
3. In the categories below the email and name fields, under "State Water Resources Control Board" select "Water Rights," then "Water Rights Water Quality Certification."
4. Click the "Subscribe" button.
5. An email will be sent to you. You must respond to the email message to confirm your membership on the selected list(s).

By enrolling in this email list, you will receive notices for the Project's certification process and other current projects in the Division of Water Rights' Water Quality Certification Program. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the email subscription list, you may contact Ms. Waverly Patterson by phone at: (916) 319-9142 to request to receive notices by mail. You can enroll or un-enroll from the email subscription service at any time.

5/29/2026

Oscar Biondi
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer Specialist
Water Quality Certification Program
Division of Water Rights

Date

[2] Available online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

In the Matter of Water Quality Certification for

SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY'S
SITES RESERVOIR PROJECT

Sources: **Funks Creek, Funks Reservoir, Stone Corral Creek, Antelope Creek, Grapevine Creek, Colusa Basin Drain, and Sacramento River**

Counties: **Colusa, Glenn, Tehama, and Yolo**

DRAFT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR FEDERAL PERMIT OR LICENSE

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Abbreviations

2020 Rule	2020 Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Rule, 85 Fed. Reg. 42210
2023 Rule	2023 Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Rule, Fed. Reg. 66558-66666
2024 303(d) List	California Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List
AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ac	acre
AHO	Administrative Hearings Office
AMM	avoidance and minimization measure
Antidegradation Policy	Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California
Application	September 2025 certification application
Authority	Sites Project Authority
Biological Resources Plan	Biological Resources Monitoring and Management Plan
BMP	best management practice
CalGEM	California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources
CalWATRS	California Water Accounting, Tracking, and Reporting System
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Valley Basin Plan	Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Sacramento River Basin and the San Joaquin River Basin
Central Valley Regional Water Board	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
certification	water quality certification
cfs	cubic feet per second
Construction General Permit	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities
CRAM	California Rapid Assessment Method
CWA	Clean Water Act
Deputy Director	Deputy Director of the Division of Water Rights
Dredge or Fill Procedures	State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State
ERP	Energy Recovery Project
ESA	Endangered Species Act
Executive Officer	Executive Officer of the Central Valley Regional Water Board
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
GCID	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
I/O	Inlet/Outlet
kV	kilovolt
LRFD	Load and Resistance Factor Design

NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
OWTS Policy	Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy
PCBs	polychlorinated biphenyls
Permittee	Sites Project Authority
PGP	pumping generating plant
Project	Sites Reservoir Project
RDEIR/SDEIS	Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Regional Water Boards	Regional Water Quality Control Boards
State Water Board	State Water Resources Control Board
TC Canal	Tehama-Colusa Canal
TMDL	total maximum daily load
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Services
Water Boards	State Water Board and Regional Water Boards, collectively
Water Quality Plan	Water Quality Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program
WQMP Plans	Water Quality Monitoring and Protection Plans

1.0 Project Description

Sites Project Authority[1] (Authority or Permittee) is proposing to construct the Sites Reservoir Project (Project), a surface water reservoir that would divert water from the Sacramento River at Red Bluff and Hamilton City to store up to 1.5 million acre-feet of water.[2] The Project would impound water from Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek, two tributaries to the Colusa Basin Drain and the Sacramento River. The Project would be located in rural, unincorporated areas of Glenn and Colusa counties, approximately 10 miles west of the community of Maxwell. Other Project-related components and ancillary facilities, including the existing Red Bluff Pumping Plant and Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Main Canal Pumping Plant, are located in Glenn, Colusa, Tehama, and Yolo counties. As part of Project construction, the Authority is proposing: (1) pre-construction site access and geotechnical investigations; (2) construction of two dams (Golden Gate Dam on Funks Creek and Sites Dam on Stone Corral Creek), seven saddle dams, and two saddle dikes; (3) development of two recreation areas (Peninsula Hills Recreation Area and Stone Corral Creek Recreation Area); (4) road construction, modifications, and improvements; (5) use of onsite borrow areas; (6) construction of conveyance infrastructure, including pumping generating plants[3] and pipelines; (7) dredging and upgrades to the existing Funks Reservoir; (8) construction of a new Dunnigan Pipeline; and (9) new transmission lines and easements. Each of these elements of the Project is described further below.

- *Geotechnical investigations*. Surface geologic and geophysical, and subsurface geotechnical investigations and testing are proposed to be conducted throughout the Project area prior to construction.
- *Construction of reservoir impoundment structures*. Dams, dikes, spillways, and inlet/outlet (I/O) facilities are proposed to be constructed.
    - *Dams.* Water is proposed to be impounded by the newly constructed Golden Gate Dam on Funks Creek and Sites Dam on Stone Corral Creek. A series of saddle dams will be constructed along the eastern and northern rims of the reservoir to close off topographic saddles in the surrounding ridges to form Sites Reservoir.
    - *I/O Works.* The I/O Works consist of a low-level intake, multi-level I/O tower, and one I/O tunnel constructed to the south of Golden Gate Dam.

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[1] Sites Project Authority is a joint powers authority comprised of irrigation districts and local government entities. The Sites Reservoir Project also has non-member participants and storage partners.

[2] On March 20, 2026, the State Water Resources Control Board released a *Draft Decision Conditionally Approving Water Right Application for the Sites Reservoir Project and Denying Assignment of State-filed Application and Release from Priority of State-filed Applications and associated Draft Permit to Divert and Use Water* that would, among other things, limit the Authority's requested capacity of 1.5 million acre-feet to 986,000 acre-feet.

[3] A pumping generating plant is a facility that stores energy by pumping water from a lower elevation to a higher elevation and releases the water from that higher elevation through turbines to generate electricity.

The 32-foot-diameter I/O tunnel will extend from the I/O tower through the ridge on the right abutment of Golden Gate Dam. It will daylight on the other side of the ridge and connect to the transition manifold. The tunnel will be about 3,110 feet long and connect to the multi-level tower at an elevation of approximately 300 feet above mean sea level with a downstream slope of one percent.

- Fill material from onsite sources (approximately 80 percent) and offsite sourced aggregate for dam construction (approximately 20 percent) will be permanently discharged to potentially jurisdictional wetland resources to construct the dams and I/O Works.

- *Recreation areas*. The Project includes development of two primary recreation areas and a day-use boat ramp. The recreation areas will require a network of new roads and upgrades to existing roads for maintenance and local access. Construction of road crossings and facilities within the recreational areas will permanently discharge fill material into potentially jurisdictional wetland resources.
- *Roads*. New roads, road improvements, road realignments, and one or more new bridges across the reservoir are proposed as part of the new Sites Lodoga Road. Approximately 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads will provide construction and maintenance access to the proposed facilities, as well as public access to the proposed recreation areas. Fill material will be directly discharged in potentially jurisdictional wetland resources to create culvert crossings and new road embankments, road improvements, and road realignments.
- *Borrow areas*. It is anticipated that all earth and rockfill for the reservoir facilities (approximately 80 percent of material required) will come from onsite sources (within the Sites Reservoir area or just outside Antelope Valley) and all aggregate for dam construction (approximately 20 percent of material required) will be obtained from offsite commercial sources. Potentially jurisdictional wetland resources will be permanently filled or excavated during extraction and processing of borrow material and haul roads.
- *Terminal Regulating Reservoir facilities and conveyance pipelines*. Pumping from the GCID Main Canal to Sites Reservoir will require construction of the Terminal Regulating Reservoir facilities. There will be four primary facilities: the Terminal Regulating Reservoir, Terminal Regulating Reservoir Pumping Generating Plant, an electrical substation, and Terminal Regulating Reservoir pipelines. The Terminal Regulating Reservoir facilities will be in Colusa County north of the GCID Main Canal and west of McDermott Road. Potentially jurisdictional wetland resources will be directly filled to construct the Terminal Regulating Reservoir embankments and access roads. Potentially jurisdictional wetland resources will also be excavated to construct the Terminal Regulating Reservoir pipelines. A temporary cofferdam will be installed in Funks Reservoir to isolate the Terminal Regulating Reservoir pipeline trenching work from the reservoir.
- *Funks Reservoir facilities and conveyance pipelines*. The Tehama-Colusa Canal (TC Canal) will be used to pump water to and from Funks Reservoir and Sites Reservoir. Permanent fill and temporary impacts to potentially

jurisdictional wetland resources will result from removing sediments and constructing three facilities: Funks Pumping Generating Plant, an electrical substation, and Funks pipelines. A temporary cofferdam will be installed in Funks Reservoir to isolate the Funks Pumping Generating Plant work area from the reservoir.

- *Dunnigan Pipeline*. The Dunnigan Pipeline will convey water released from the TC Canal to the Colusa Basin Drain. The Dunnigan Pipeline will be approximately four miles long with a minimum depth of six feet below ground surface, and an inside diameter of approximately nine feet. The Dunnigan Pipeline will extend through existing agricultural lands, as well as cross Interstate 5, Highway 99, the Union Pacific Railroad, and a commercial auction yard between Interstate 5 and Highway 99. The tunnel will include a 300-foot-long crossing under Interstate 5, and a 250-foot-long crossing under Highway 99 and the railroad. The tunnel crossings beneath Interstate 5 and Highway 99/Railroad will each require 12 five-foot-diameter casings. An energy dissipation facility will be constructed at the downstream end of the pipeline where it discharges into the Colusa Basin Drain. Two 60-inch-diameter, fixed-cone valves will be placed at the Colusa Basin Drain outlet (i.e., discharge into the Colusa Basin Drain) to dissipate energy and adjust the flow released into the Colusa Basin Drain. Hoods on the fixed-cones valves will control spray. The Dunnigan Pipeline will have gravity flow of up to 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to the Colusa Basin Drain. Open cut trenching and dewatering for the Dunnigan Pipeline from the TC Canal to the Colusa Basin Drain will temporarily impact potentially jurisdictional wetland resources. Permanent fill will be discharged to the Colusa Basin Drain to construct the pipeline outlet and energy dissipation facility.
- *Electrical transmission lines*. Electrical transmission lines will be required to connect the existing Western Area Power Administration or Pacific Gas & Electric Company 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines to the Terminal Regulating Reservoir Pumping Generating Plant and the Funks Pumping Generating Plant. There will also be an interconnection between the Funks and Terminal Regulating Reservoir Pumping Generating Plants in an east-west direction, and it is anticipated that the transmission lines will parallel the pipelines within the same easement. Up to four 230-kV transmission lines will be required: two for the source supply to either of the Pumping Generating Plants, and two between the Funks and Terminal Regulating Reservoir electrical substations.

Project maps can be found in Attachment A: Project Overview Maps.

1.1 Project Implementation

Project construction is associated with activities that require Clean Water Act (CWA) section 404 authorizations from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and section 401 water quality certification (certification) from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board).

The proposed start and end dates for construction of Project components, including the approximate duration of each component, are shown in Table A, and are subject to change as the design progresses.

Table A. Proposed Start and End Dates for Construction of Project Components

Activity	Approximate Duration (Days)	Start	End
Geotechnical Investigations	964	2026	2032
Dams and Dikes	1,285	2027	2032
Dunnigan Pipeline	355	2028	2032
Terminal Regulating Reservoir Facilities	1,028	2027	2030
Funks Reservoir Upgrades	1,644	2027	2031
Recreation Areas	321	2027	2030
Road Improvements	1,285	2027	2029
Transmission Line Easement	820	2027	2030
Borrow Areas	1,285	2027	2032
Total Project Construction	**1,285 days (7 years)***	**2026**	**2032**

* Total days are not additive due to overlap of the scheduled components.

The Authority is proposing to divide Project construction into multiple work packages and anticipates each work package will be permitted by USACE individually (i.e., each work package will receive an individual work authorization from USACE). This certification is intended to cover all Project construction activities and associated individual USACE permits. The Authority is currently proposing to divide the Project construction work into five consecutive work packages, but the number of work packages could change based on coordination with permitting agencies or other factors (e.g., timing of approvals, weather delays, etc.). While the broader Project is divided into work packages for ease of planning and implementation, certain measures will be implemented throughout the Project. Such actions include measures to protect water quality, special-status plants and animals, and cultural resources. A complete list of avoidance and minimization measures and best management practices (BMPs) proposed to be implemented during Project construction are included in Appendix J of the Authority's 2025 application for certification. (Authority 2025a.)

1.1.1 Work Package 1

Work Package 1 was submitted to USACE on September 12, 2025, with the Authority's section 404 individual permit application, and to the State Water Board with the Authority's September 2025 certification application (Application). (Authority 2025a.) Work Package 1 is described in Attachment B.

Work Package 1 includes the following activities:

- Geotechnical investigations
- Golden Gate Dam footprint activities, including foundation excavation, Funks Creek diversion installation, cofferdam construction, and grout curtain installation

- Development of Golden Gate Dam North and South Staging and Stockpile Areas, Golden Gate Dam Rock Borrow Area and test quarry, Sites Rock Borrow and Staging Area, and Sites Diversion Inlet, Outlet, and Stockpile Area
- Construction of the Golden Gate Dam Borrow Area Haul Road, Funks Access Road, Funks to Golden Gate Dam Access Road, Sites Lodoga Detour Road, Sites Rock Borrow Access Road, and North-South Haul Road.

1.1.2 Work Package 2

The Authority intends to submit Work Package 2 to USACE and the State Water Board after starting implementation of Work Package 1. The Authority has not submitted Work Packages 2-5 to the USACE and State Water Board. These work packages will be submitted to the USACE and State Water Board for review and approval at a future date consistent with the provisions of this certification.

Work Package 2 includes the following activities:

- Second phase of Sites Lodoga Road temporary detour and bridge construction
- Sites cofferdam construction, which may include the temporary inundation of lands upstream of the cofferdam (associated with 100-year or larger storm event)
- Sites Dam construction and development of any other additional laydown/stockpile areas not included in Work Package 1
- Golden Gate Dam construction and development of any other additional laydown/stockpile areas not included in Work Package 1
- Development of in-reservoir borrow areas
- Construction of Funks Reservoir Pumping Generating Plant facility
- Construction of Terminal Regulating Reservoir and Pumping Generating Plant facility
- Construction of the I/O Tower
- Construction of all saddle dams and dikes, excluding Saddle Dam 6 and development of any associated laydown/stockpile areas
- Construction of the spillway and any associated laydown/stockpile areas
- Construction of North Access Road
- Implementation of additional geotechnical investigations, including for Dunnigan Pipeline and the Colusa Basin Drain outlet location

1.1.3 Work Package 3

Work Package 3 includes the following activities:

- Construction of Huffmaster Road
- Implementation of additional geotechnical investigations
- Construction of Dunnigan Pipeline and the Colusa Basin Drain outlet

1.1.4 Work Package 4

Work Package 4 includes the following activities:

- Construction of Saddle Dam 6 and any associated laydown/stockpile areas
- Reservoir clearing and grubbing

1.1.5 Work Package 5

Work Package 5 includes the following activity:

- Construction of recreation areas

2.0 Water Rights

The Project will involve the diversion and use of surface water from the Sacramento River, Stone Corral Creek, and Funks Creek and will require water rights from the State Water Board authorizing the diversion, storage, and use of water associated with the Project. Project operations (e.g., diversion quantity and timing) will be subject to the terms and conditions associated with any water right(s) issued for the Project by the State Water Board along with all applicable laws, regulations, biological opinions, incidental take permits, and court orders. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3833, subdivision (b)(2)(E), no additional fee deposit is required for the Project certification.

The Authority is actively pursuing water rights for the Project from the State Water Board. On May 11, 2022, and as amended on January 6, 2023, and supplemented on May 4, 2023, and June 16, 2023, the Authority filed with the State Water Board a petition for partial assignment of State-filed Application 25517, accompanying water right Application 25517X01, and petitions for release from priority of State-filed Applications 25513, 25514, 25517 (unassigned portion), 22235, 23780, and 23781 in favor of water right Application 25517X01.[4] These petitions are collectively referred to as the Sites Water Rights Application. Consideration of the Sites Water Rights Application is a discretionary action that requires a determination that unappropriated water is available, a review of potential impacts to public trust resources, and a determination that the appropriation of water is in the public interest.

The maximum amount of water requested for diversion associated with the Project is 1.5 million acre-feet per year, which is proposed to be diverted to storage in Sites Reservoir, with a reservoir capacity of 1.5 million acre-feet and a surface area of 13,200 acres when full. The Authority proposes to divert water from the Sacramento River at a rate not to exceed 4,200 cfs for conveyance to storage in Sites Reservoir using the existing Red Bluff Pumping Plant, which pumps water into the Tehama-Colusa Canal, and the existing Hamilton City Pump Station, which pumps water into the GCID Main Canal. The proposed diversion rates from Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek are equivalent to the inflows of these creeks at Golden Gate Dam and Sites Dam.

[4] General information regarding state-filed applications, including petitions for assignment and release from priority of state-filed applications, is available on the State Water Board's website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/state_filed_applications/. Accessed December 8, 2025.

Downstream from the Project, Funks Creek culminates at its confluence with Stone Corral Creek, which in turn discharges to the Colusa Basin Drain, a tributary to the Sacramento River. The requested season of diversion is from September 1 to June 14. The water right application proposes rediversion at Sites Dam, Golden Gate Dam, and 52 other points located in Alameda, Colusa, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo counties. The proposed places of use consists of approximately 32.7 million acres and generally includes the service areas for the federal Central Valley Project and the State Water Project.

Table B summarizes the Sites Water Rights Application.*

Table B. Summary of Sites Water Rights Application

Application No.	Priority Date Sought	Sources	Points of Diversion	Purposes of Use
A025517X01	1977**	• Sacramento River • Funks Creek • Stone Corral Creek	• Golden Gate Dam (Funks Creek) • Sites Dam (Stone Corral Creek) • TC Canal (Sacramento River) • GCID Main Canal (Sacramento River)	• Irrigation • Municipal • Domestic • Industrial • Water Quality • Recreation***

* Information is from the State Water Board's California Water Accounting, Tracking, and Reporting System.

** If the State Water Board approves the Authority's petition for partial assignment of Application 25517 and accompanying Application 25517X01, the water right permit issued to the Authority would have a September 30, 1977, priority date.

*** Incidental uses applied for are power, aquaculture, frost protection, stockwatering, and fish and wildlife preservation and enhancement.

On June 2, 2023, the State Water Board issued a public notice of the Sites Water Rights Application. On July 12, 2023, the State Water Board issued a revised notice of the Authority's water right application extending the deadline to file a protest to August 31, 2023. The protest resolution period concluded on February 28, 2024. The State Water Board determined that an evidentiary hearing was necessary to resolve disputed issues of material fact concerning the Authority's water right application and petitions for the Project. (See Wat. Code, §§ 1350-1352.)

On March 1, 2024, the State Water Board's Administrative Hearings Office (AHO) issued a notice of Public Hearing and Pre-Hearing Conference (State Water Board 2024b), which included a proposed schedule for public hearings. From April 2024 to March 2025, the AHO conducted a series of public hearings to receive evidence to be considered in determining whether the State Water Board should approve the Authority's water right application and petitions, and, if so, what specific terms or

conditions should be included in any approvals. On March 20, 2026, the AHO released for public review and comment a Draft Decision and Draft Water Right Permit related to the Authority's application and petitions.[5] The State Water Board accepted written comments on the Draft Decision and Draft Water Right Permit until May 22, 2026.

3.0 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and United State Army Corps of Engineers Proceedings

On February 22, 2023, the Authority filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) two notices of intent pursuant to section 30(a) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 823a(a), to construct two qualifying conduit hydropower facilities[6]: (1) the Funks Energy Recovery Project (ERP), with a capacity of 34.5 megawatts; and (2) the Terminal Regulating Reservoir ERP, with a capacity of 26 megawatts. (Authority 2023a, 2023b.) Both the Funks ERP and the Terminal Regulating Reservoir ERP will be located along new pipelines connecting Sites Reservoir to Funks Reservoir and Terminal Regulating Reservoir. On April 12, 2023, FERC issued two public notices that the Funks ERP and Terminal Regulating Reservoir ERP both met the statutory criteria for a qualifying conduit hydropower facility and thus were not required to be licensed under Part I of the Federal Power Act. (FERC 2023a, 2023b.) This certification does not apply to FERC's exemption of the Funks ERP and Terminal Regulating Reservoir ERP facilities operations. The proposed facilities are subject to applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Project implementation will require multiple permits from USACE pursuant to CWA section 404. A CWA section 404 permit from USACE requires the Authority to obtain a certification from the State Water Board for the Project. On March 1, 2024, the Authority applied simultaneously to the State Water Board for a certification and to USACE for a CWA section 404 individual permit for the Project. On March 15, 2024, USACE published a public notice of the 404 permit application for the Project, assigned the Project a designation number (SPK-2001-00055) and established a comment period that expired on May 14, 2024. (USACE 2024.)

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[5] Additional information regarding the water right hearing proceedings associated with the Authority's water right application and related petitions is available on the AHO's Project webpage at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/administrative_hearings_office/sites-project-authority.html.

[6] According to 16 U.S.C. § 823a(a)(3), a "qualifying conduit hydropower facility" means a facility that is constructed, operated, or maintained for the generation of electric power and uses for such generation only the hydroelectric potential of a non-federally owned conduit and the facility has an installed capacity that does not exceed 40 megawatts." A "conduit" means any tunnel, canal, pipeline, aqueduct, flume, ditch, or similar manmade water conveyance that is operated for the distribution of water for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumption and not primarily for the generation of electricity." 18 C.F.R. § 4.30(b)(2) restricts conduit exemptions to conduits that are operated for the distribution of water for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumptive uses.

On April 16, 2024, USACE sent a letter to the Authority requesting additional information by May 16, 2024, to continue processing the permit request for the Project. USACE staff noted that the Authority's March 1, 2024 CWA section 404 application did not include: (1) documentation demonstrating compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA); (2) documentation demonstrating compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act; (3) a written request for CWA section 408 permission from USACE;[7] (4) alternatives information sufficient to show compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) CWA section 404(b)(1) Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material (40 C.F.R. § 230); and (5) a detailed compensatory mitigation plan. USACE staff also noted that should the project description change (e.g., additional impacts to waters of the United States), a new USACE public notice or agency notification may be required. On May 17, 2024, USACE informed the Authority that the request for a 404 permit for the Project was administratively withdrawn after USACE did not receive the requested information. On July 10, 2024, USACE staff informed State Water Board staff that the Project's 404 application was administratively withdrawn. On September 16, 2024, the State Water Board denied the Authority's March 1, 2024, certification application without prejudice based on USACE's decision to administratively withdraw the Project's 404 application. The denial without prejudice of the September 2024 certification request noted that the Authority's application suffered from a procedural inadequacy consistent with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3837, subdivision (b)(2), and that compliance with water quality standards and other appropriate requirements were not yet determined.

On September 12, 2025, the Authority submitted a new CWA section 404 permit application to USACE, specifying that construction of the Project would occur in five individually permitted work packages as described above.

4.0 Regulatory Authority

4.1 Water Quality Certification and Related Authorities

The federal CWA (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) was enacted "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." (33 U.S.C. § 1251(a).) The CWA recognizes, preserves, and protects "the primary responsibilities and rights of States to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution [and] to plan the development and use (including restoration, preservation, and enhancement) of land and water resources...." (33 U.S.C. § 1251(b).) In addition, section 101 of the CWA requires federal agencies to "co-operate with State and local agencies to develop comprehensive solutions to prevent, reduce and eliminate pollution in concert with programs for managing water resources." (33 U.S.C. § 1251(g).)

[7] Additionally, the Authority is seeking a determination by USACE pursuant to section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended, and codified in 33 U.S.C. § 408, that proposed alteration and/or changes of federally constructed levees or an existing USACE civil works project would not impair the usefulness of any USACE project and would not be injurious to public interest.

Section 401 of the CWA (33 U.S.C. § 1341) requires any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct any activity which may result in a discharge into waters of the United States to provide the licensing or permitting federal agency with certification that the project will comply with specific provisions of the CWA, including water quality standards and implementation plans promulgated pursuant to section 303 of the CWA (33 U.S.C. § 1313). CWA section 401 directs the state agency responsible for certification to prescribe effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions necessary to ensure the project will comply with the CWA and with "any other appropriate requirement of State law." (33 U.S.C. § 1341(d).) These certification conditions shall become conditions of any federal license or permit for the project (*Ibid.*)

The State Water Board is the state agency responsible for CWA section 401 certification in California. (Wat. Code, § 13160.) The State Water Board has delegated authority to act on applications for certification to the Executive Director of the State Water Board (Executive Director). The Executive Director, or their designee, is authorized to take all actions connected with applications for certification, including issuance and denial of certification. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3838, subd. (a).)

Water Code section 13383 provides that the State Water Board may "establish monitoring, inspection, entry, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements" and obtain "other information as may be reasonably required" for activities subject to certification under section 401 of the CWA. For activities that involve the diversion of water for beneficial use, the State Water Board delegated this authority to the Deputy Director in State Water Board Resolution 2012-0029. In the *Redelegation of Authorities* memorandum issued by the Deputy Director on April 20, 2023, this authority is redelegated to the Assistant Deputy Directors of the Division of Water Rights. (State Water Board 2023b.)

4.1.1 Procedure, Application, and Noticing

On March 1, 2024, the Authority filed a certification application with the State Water Board under section 401 of the CWA. On March 29, 2024, the State Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858, by posting information describing the Project on the State Water Board's website. In April 2024, the State Water Board received three responses to the notice requesting clarification regarding the noticing process and requesting additional information regarding the content of the Authority's certification application. On September 16, 2024, the State Water Board issued a denial without prejudice of the Authority's March 1, 2024, certification application.

On September 15, 2025, the Authority filed a new request for certification with the State Water Board under section 401 of the CWA. On October 30, 2025, the State Water Board provided public notice of the application pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858, by posting information describing the Project on the State Water Board's website.

On December 1, 2025, State Water Board staff requested comments from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Regional Water Board) on

the Authority's September 2025 certification application. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3855, subd. (b)(2)(B).)

4.2 Water Quality Control Plans and Related Authorities

The State Water Board's certification for the Project must ensure compliance with applicable water quality standards in the Central Valley Regional Water Board's *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin and the San Joaquin River Basin* (Central Valley Basin Plan)[8] (Central Valley Regional Water Board 2019).

Water quality control plans designate the beneficial uses of water that are to be protected (such as municipal and domestic supply, industrial, agricultural, fish and wildlife), water quality objectives for the reasonable protection of the beneficial uses and the prevention of nuisance, and a program of implementation to achieve the water quality objectives. (Wat. Code, §§ 13241, 13050, subds. (h), (j).) The beneficial uses, together with the water quality objectives contained in the water quality control plans, and applicable state and federal anti-degradation requirements, constitute California's water quality standards for purposes of the CWA. In issuing water quality certification for a project, the State Water Board must ensure consistency with the designated beneficial uses of waters affected by the project, the water quality objectives developed to protect those uses, and anti-degradation requirements. (*PUD No. 1 of Jefferson County v. Washington Dept. of Ecology* (1994) 511 U.S. 700, 714-719.)

The nine California Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) have primary responsibility for the formulation and adoption of water quality control plans for their respective regions, subject to State Water Board and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approval, as appropriate. (Wat. Code, § 13240 et seq.) The State Water Board may also adopt water quality control plans, which will supersede regional water quality control plans for the same waters to the extent of any conflict. (Water Code, § 13170.) The State Water Board and Regional Water Boards (collectively Water Boards) adopt water quality control plans pursuant to their authorities under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.) and the federal CWA (33 U.S.C. §1313).

Periodic Review. The State Water Board has commenced the 2024 Review of State Water Quality Control Plans and State Policies for Water Quality Control (2024 Review). State water quality control plans and policies for water quality control (state plans and policies) contain water quality standards and other provisions established by the State Water Board to preserve and enhance California's waters to safeguard human health, support aquatic ecosystems, improve the quality of water resources, and protect beneficial uses of waters.

Triennial reviews are conducted pursuant to the federal CWA (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) and its implementing regulations, and periodic reviews are conducted pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.). (See 33 U.S.C.

[8] Available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/sacsjr_201902.pdf. Accessed December 1, 2025.

§ 1313(c)(1); 40 C.F.R. § 131.20(a); Wat. Code, §§ 13143, 13170, 13170.2, subd. (b), 13240.) For the 2024 review cycle, the State Water Board will be conducting triennial review and periodic review in a single combined proceeding. In addition to reviewing state plans and policies, the 2024 Review will include consideration of the federally promulgated water quality standards for California (40 C.F.R. §§ 131.36, 131.37, and 131.38) and CWA section 304(a) recommended criteria.

The 2024 Review will engage the public and interested persons to identify potential changes or additions that will help to guide the State Water Board's priorities for future amendments to the state plans and policies, including new or revised water quality standards that are enforceable for the waterbodies for which they are established.

4.2.1 Central Valley Basin Plan

The Central Valley Regional Water Board adopted, and the State Water Board and USEPA approved, the Central Valley Basin Plan. The Central Valley Basin Plan designates the beneficial uses of water to be protected along with the water quality objectives necessary to protect those uses. The Central Valley Basin Plan specifies that the beneficial uses of any specifically identified waterbody generally apply to its tributary streams. The Central Valley Basin Plan identifies existing beneficial uses for the Colusa Basin Drain as irrigation, stock watering, contact recreation, canoeing and rafting, warm freshwater habitat, warmwater migration, warmwater spawning, and wildlife habitat. Additionally, the Central Valley Basin Plan identifies cold freshwater habitat as a potential beneficial use of the Colusa Basin Drain.

4.2.2 Antidegradation Policy

The State Water Board's *Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California* (Antidegradation Policy) (State Water Board Resolution 68-16) requires that the quality of existing high-quality water be maintained unless any change will be consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state, will not unreasonably impact present or anticipated future beneficial uses of such water, and will not result in water quality less than that prescribed in water quality control plans or policies. The Antidegradation Policy further requires best practicable treatment or control of the discharge necessary to assure that pollution or nuisance will not occur and the highest water quality consistent with maximum benefit to the people of the state will be maintained. The state Antidegradation Policy incorporates the federal Antidegradation Policy, which requires "[e]xisting instream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected." (40 C.F.R. § 131.12(a)(1).)

4.2.3 Aquatic Weed Control General Permit

The *Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Residual Aquatic Pesticide Discharges to Water of the United States from Algae and Aquatic Weed Control Applications* (Aquatic Weed Control General Permit) (State Water Board Order WQ 2013-0002-DWQ, as amended by State Water Board Orders WQ 2014-0078-DWQ, WQ 2015-0029-DWQ, and WQ 2016-0073-EXEC) applies to projects

that require aquatic weed management activities. The Aquatic Weed Control General Permit sets forth detailed management practices to protect water quality from pesticide and herbicide use associated with aquatic weed control.

4.2.4 Clean Water Act 303(d) Listing

The State Water Board listed as impaired portions of the Project-affected waterbodies in the *California Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List* (2024 303(d) List) (State Water Board Resolution 2024-0007) as follows:

- Colusa Basin Drain is listed for azinphos-methyl (Guthion), dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, dieldrin, low dissolved oxygen, mercury, dissolved oxygen, aluminum, Group A Pesticides, and iron.
- Stone Corral Creek is listed for dissolved oxygen.

Section 303(d) of the CWA requires total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) to be developed for impaired waterbodies. TMDLs are written plans that define the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive without exceeding water quality standards and establish load allocations for point and nonpoint sources of pollution. TMDLs are under development for the listed waterbodies.

4.2.5 Construction General Permit

Coverage under the State Water Board's *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities* (Construction General Permit) (State Water Board Order WQ 2022-0057-DWQ) is required for activities that disturb one or more acres of soil or that disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres. Construction activities subject to the Construction General Permit include clearing, grading, and disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling or excavation, but do not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of a facility. Coverage is required pursuant to CWA sections 301 and 402 which prohibit certain discharges of stormwater containing pollutants except in compliance with a NPDES permit. (33 U.S.C. §§ 1311, 1342(p); 40 C.F.R. parts 122, 123, and 124.) The Authority must comply with the Construction General Permit in implementing the Project.

4.2.6 Low Threat Discharge General Orders

Coverage under the Central Valley Regional Water Board's *General Waste Discharge Requirements/NPDES Permit for Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Waters* (Order R5-2022-0006-03)[9] or State Water Board's *Statewide Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality* (State Water Board

[9] Central Valley Regional Water Board's Order R5-2022-0006-03 and any amendments thereto. Available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2022-0006-03_amended.pdf. Accessed May 2026.

Order 2003-0003-DWQ)[10] (together, Low Threat Discharge General Orders) is required for activities and discharges that pose a low threat to water quality, as defined in the Low Threat Discharge General Orders. The Low Threat Discharge General Orders require the permittee to comply with all applicable Basin Plan provisions, including any prohibitions and water quality objectives governing the discharge. As noted in the conditions of this certification, the Authority must comply with the Low Threat Discharge General Orders in implementing the Project, for activities that meet the discharge categories defined within. If there is a conflict between the provisions of these Low Threat Discharge General Orders and the Central Valley Basin Plan, the more stringent provisions prevail.

4.2.7 Dredge or Fill Procedures

The *State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State* (Dredge or Fill Procedures)[11] (State Water Board 2019 and 2021) provide California's definition of wetland, wetland delineation procedures, and procedures for submitting applications for activities that could result in discharges of dredged or fill material to waters of the state. The Dredge or Fill Procedures ensure that State Water Board regulatory activities will result in no net loss of wetland quantity, quality, or permanence, consistent with Water Code sections 16200-16201. The Authority must comply with the Dredge or Fill Procedures when conducting dredge or fill activities that may impact waters of the state, including wetlands.

4.2.8 Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy

The *Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems*[12] (OWTS Policy) (State Water Board Resolution 2012-0032, as amended by Resolution 2018-0019 and 2023-0012) establishes a statewide, risk-based, tiered approach for the regulation and management of onsite wastewater treatment system installation and replacement, and sets the level of performance and protection expected from onsite wastewater treatment systems. As part of the Project, existing domestic septic tanks that are located within the Sites Reservoir footprint will be removed. This work must be done in accordance with the OWTS Policy and any other relevant California laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards.

[10] State Water Board Order 2003-0003-DWQ and any amendments thereto. https://waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf. Accessed May 2026.

[11] The Dredge or Fill Procedures and any amendments thereto. Available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/wrapp.html. Accessed October 2025.

[12] Available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/owts/. Accessed December 5, 2025.

5.0 California Environmental Quality Act

The Authority is the lead agency for the Project for the purpose of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.). The State Water Board is a responsible agency under CEQA. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15381.)

In August 2017, the Authority and United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) circulated a draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). (Authority and Reclamation 2017.) The draft EIR/EIS was prepared as a joint document consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act and CEQA because the proposed action is a discretionary project of a state lead agency with federal involvement. On January 12, 2018, State Water Board and Central Valley Regional Water Board staff provided comments on the draft EIR/EIS.

On November 12, 2021, the Authority and Reclamation completed and circulated a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS). (Authority and Reclamation 2021.) The RDEIR/SDEIS includes a complete revision of the 2017 draft EIR/EIS to reflect changes to the Project that occurred following the issuance of the 2017 draft EIR/EIS. The RDEIR/SDEIS was circulated for review and comment by the public and other interested parties, agencies, and organizations.[13] On January 28, 2022, State Water Board and Central Valley Regional Water Board staff separately provided comments on the RDEIR/SDEIS. A final EIR/EIS and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Project was certified by the Authority's Board of Directors on November 17, 2023, and a final EIR/EIS was filed with FERC by Reclamation on November 2, 2023. (Authority and Reclamation 2023.)

CEQA requires the lead agency to adopt a MMRP for projects where mitigation measures are a condition of project approval. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15091, subd. (d).) The Authority included an MMRP in its final EIR/EIS.

The State Water Board has reviewed and considered the final EIR/EIS prepared by the Authority and Reclamation during development of this certification. As a responsible agency under CEQA for the Project, the State Water Board must make findings that address significant effects identified in the final EIR/EIS to those resource areas over which the State Water Board has statutory authority.

Section 15091 requires a responsible agency to make one of the following findings for every significant environmental effect of the project that is within the agency's purview: (1) changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR; (2) such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding; or (3) specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations make infeasible the mitigation

[13] The original 60-day public review and comment period was scheduled to end January 11, 2022, but was extended for an additional 17 days to January 28, 2022.

measures or project alternatives identified in the final EIR. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, § 15091, subd. (a).)

If approval of the project will cause an unmitigable significant impact, section 15093 requires the approving agency to make a statement of overriding considerations before approving the project. A responsible agency's role in considering alternatives and mitigation measures is limited to only the direct or indirect environmental effects of those parts of the project it decides to carry out, finance, or approve. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 14, § 15096, subd. (g)(1).)

This certification has been informed by the environmental information and analysis contained in the final EIR/EIS and other information in the record.

To the extent the Project's significant potential impacts are within the State Water Board's purview, the Board has responsibility to avoid or mitigate those impacts to the extent feasible. Therefore, the Board incorporates as a condition of the certification the mitigation measures in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project and additional permit terms discussed elsewhere in this certification.

6.0 Rationale for Water Quality Certification Conditions

This section of the certification explains that the grant of certification, as conditioned, is warranted and why the conditions in Section 8.0 are necessary to ensure that the Project will comply with water quality requirements. This section also includes, as necessary, citations to federal, state, or tribal laws that authorize the conditions and sets forth citations to applicable regulatory authority. Section 4.0 also sets forth citations to applicable regulatory authority. The explanation and citations should be evaluated in the context of the certification as a whole, but the certification conditions are set forth only in Section 8.0.

As explained in this section, the conditions in this certification are generally required pursuant to the Central Valley Basin Plan and other applicable plans and policies adopted by the Water Boards, as described in Section 4.0, Regulatory Authority.

The Dredge or Fill Procedures, adopted pursuant to Water Code sections 13140 and 13170, authorize approval of dredge or fill projects subject to satisfaction of specified requirements.

California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3830 et seq., set forth state regulations pertaining to certifications. In particular, section 3856 sets forth information that must be included in certification requests, and section 3860 sets forth standard conditions that shall be included in all certification actions.

As noted in Section 4.1, Clean Water Act section 401(d) authorizes state agencies responsible for certification to require monitoring to ensure the project will comply with the Clean Water Act and with "any other appropriate requirements of State law." (33 U.S.C. § 1341(d).) Water Code sections 13267 and 13383 authorize the Water Boards to establish monitoring and reporting requirements for persons discharging or proposing to discharge waste to navigable waters. Water Code section 13165 authorizes the State

Water Board to require a state or local agency to investigate and report on technical factors involved in water quality control, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. Water Code section 1051 additionally authorizes the State Water Board to investigate water diverted for beneficial use. Moreover, this certification ensures continued monitoring, reporting, and assessment of water quality for discharges that may impact waters of the state.

The State Water Board has broad authority to prevent waste and unreasonable use pursuant to article X, section 2 of the California Constitution and Water Code sections 100 and 275. In addition, the State Water Board has both the authority and the duty to protect public trust uses whenever feasible under the public trust doctrine. (*National Audubon Society v. Superior Court* (1983) 33 Cal.3d 419, 446.) Under California's public trust doctrine, public trust uses include, but are not limited to, navigation, fishing, recreation, environmental values, and fish and wildlife habitat. (*Id*. at pp. 434-435.)

In general, the code citations, plans, and policies that support issuance of this certification that are described in Section 4.0 are not duplicated in this section. The conditions in this certification were developed to ensure compliance with water quality standards and water quality requirements established under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and the federal CWA, including requirements in applicable water quality control plans, and other appropriate requirements of state law. The conditions in Section 8.0 of this certification are necessary to protect the beneficial uses of waters of the state identified in water quality control plans, prevent degradation of water quality, and help ensure compliance with state and federal water quality requirements and other applicable requirements of state law.

When preparing the conditions in this certification, State Water Board staff reviewed and considered the following information:

- The Authority's Application, including appendices, and clarifying information submitted by the Authority (i.e., additional information submitted by email). (Authority 2025a.)
- The Authority's September 12, 2025, application to USACE for an individual CWA section 404 permit. (Authority 2025b.)
- The Authority and Reclamation's November 2023 final EIR/EIS. (Authority and Reclamation 2023.)
- Beneficial uses, associated water quality objectives, and implementation measures and programs described in the Central Valley Basin Plan.
- Applicable water quality information, permits, policies, objectives, implementation measures, and programs (e.g., Dredge or Fill Procedures, Construction General Permit, etc.).
- Project-related controllable water quality factors (e.g., stormwater capture, controllable flow releases).
- Other information in the record.

This certification is issued pursuant to the final 2023 *Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Rule* (Fed. Reg. 66558-66666 (September 27, 2023)

[amending 40 C.F.R. Parts 121, 122, 124]) that went into effect on November 27, 2023 (2023 Rule), but as it pertains to documentation of conditions also generally complies with the previous USEPA *Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Rule*, 85 Fed. Reg. 42210 (July 13, 2020) (2020 Rule) that was in effect for portions of 2020-2023. To the extent USACE considers any certification condition to include requirements outside the substantive scope of the 2020 Rule—including but not limited to 40 C.F.R. §§ 121.1(f) and (n), 121.3, 121.7(d)(1), and 121.9(b)— the 2020 Rule is inconsistent with federal law and controlling case law. The 2023 Rule restores the scope of certification "that is consistent with not only the statutory language and congressional intent but also longstanding [USEPA] guidance and decades of Supreme Court case law." (Fed. Reg. 65591-66606 [Scope of Certification].) Under section 401 of the CWA, when an activity requiring a federal permit or license "may result in any discharge into the navigable waters," the applicant is required to obtain a certification that states the activity will comply with applicable water quality standards and that also sets forth any "limitations" and "monitoring requirements" necessary to assure that the "applicant" will comply with water quality standards, other provisions of the Clean Water Act, and "with any other appropriate requirement of State law." (33 U.S.C. § 1341(a) & (d).) Certification is required for such activity as a whole, not merely for its point-source discharges to waters of the United States. (*PUD No. 1*, *supra*, 511 U.S. at pp. 711- 712.) USEPA replaced the 2020 Rule because, among other faults, it "may prevent state and tribal authorities from adequately protecting their water quality," "may result in a state or tribe's certification or conditions being permanently waived as a result of non-substantive and easily fixed procedural concerns," and "may limit the flexibility of certifications and permits to adapt to changing circumstances." (86 Fed. Reg. 29,543-29,544 (June 2, 2021).) As explained in this certification, each certification condition is authorized by applicable state and federal law and is necessary to ensure compliance with such laws. This paragraph is hereby incorporated as part of the explanatory statement for each condition of this certification.

6.1 Rationale for Condition 1: Project Activities and Water Right Compliance

As described in Section 6.0, this certification is granted based on the application and supporting information submitted in accordance with the State Water Board's regulations and subject to requirements of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Condition 1 requires the Authority to implement the Project as described in its Application (Authority 2025a) as changed by the conditions of this certification, and any further changes required by the Deputy Director as part of approval of Work Package submittals or changes thereto. Condition 1 will help ensure that the Project is implemented in a manner that protects water quality and avoids unreasonable impacts to beneficial uses. Any changes to the Project description that are inconsistent with the Project's certification application, as supplemented in emails the Authority provided to the State Water Board prior to certification issuance, could impact the findings, conclusions, and conditions of the certification and may require filing a certification amendment request or new certification application as well as trigger additional environmental review.

Additionally, the Authority filed a water right application with the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights to appropriate water by permit as further described in Section

2.0 of this certification. The Authority's water right application was filed in conjunction with water right petitions requesting partial assignment of state-filed application No. A025517 (priority date of September 30, 1977), and a release from priority of six state-filed applications in favor of application No. A025517X01. As of the issuance date of this draft certification, the water right application and petitions are still pending before the State Water Board. The State Water Board's issuance of this certification is not adjudicating or approving the validity of the Authority's water right application or petitions. The State Water Board has authority, independent of its water quality authority, to prevent unauthorized or threatened unauthorized diversions of water. Construction of the Project without an approved water right authorizing impoundment of surface water would cause unnecessary impacts to water quality, riparian species, and habitat. Condition 1 prohibits the Authority from implementing the Project unless the State Water Board approves the Authority's water right application.

6.2 Rationale for Condition 2: Biological Resources Monitoring and Management

Project activities, such as reservoir and dam construction, staging, and dewatering, have the potential to adversely impact aquatic species, habitats, and beneficial uses. The Project area houses and/or encompasses suitable habitat for aquatic species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal and California ESAs, including: (1) Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*); (2) vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*); (3) vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*); (4) California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*); and (5) giant gartersnake (*Thamnophis gigas*). Beneficial uses for the Colusa Basin Drain and its tributaries (including Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek) that may be impacted by the Project include warm freshwater habitat, cold freshwater habitat, warmwater migration, warmwater spawning, and wildlife habitat. Condition 2 requires the Authority to develop and implement a Biological Resources Monitoring and Management Plan(s) to protect these species, their habitats, and beneficial uses from Project impacts.

The Worker Environmental Awareness Program and environmental protection measures include monitoring for special-status species, which is the most direct indicator of health and well-being. Monitoring will inform corrective measures and/or adaptive management actions the Authority will need to implement to prevent or minimize construction impacts. The fish rescue requirement will reduce impacts to fish impacted by stream dewatering and diversion. The nuisance aquatic species management component will prevent or minimize impacts from herbicide and algaecide use, as well as ensure the Authority complies with the State Water Board's Aquatic Weed Control General Permit.

6.3 Rationale for Condition 3: Aquatic Resources Delineation and Mitigation

Condition 3(A) requires the Authority to perform aquatic resources delineations for each Work Package impact area to verify the total amounts of waters of the state[14] and

[14] "Waters of the state" are defined as "any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state." (Wat. Code, § 13050, subd. (e).)

waters of the United States that will be impacted by the Project. The Authority completed a desktop delineation as part of its Application to estimate impacts for permitting purposes. Consistent with USACE Regulatory Guidance Letter 16-01, the Authority received a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination (PJD) from USACE on January 26, 2026, for features preliminarily determined to meet the pre-2015 definition of waters of the United States. (33 C.F.R. 328.3(a)(1) – (7).) Accordingly, to expedite CWA section 404 and section 401 authorization, the Authority chose to proceed by way of a PJD and to assume for purposes of Project permitting that all aquatic features are potentially jurisdictional. Consistent with Regulatory Guidance Letter 16-01, the Authority's desktop delineation and the PJD are not legally binding determinations regarding jurisdiction beyond the purpose of obtaining a 404 permit for the Project. Final compensation acreages will be based on the verified aquatic resources delineations.

Based on the desktop delineation, the Authority anticipates 236.77 acres of temporary[15] direct fill/excavation impacts to lake/reservoir/pond (222.39 acres), stream channel (2.92 acres), and wetland (11.46 acres) areas and 128.83 acres of permanent[16] direct fill/excavation impacts to lake/reservoir/pond (5.79 acres), stream channel (39.84 acres), and wetland (83.20 acres) areas. These impacts could negatively affect beneficial uses of the Colusa Basin Drain and its tributaries, including warm freshwater habitat, cold freshwater habitat, warmwater migration, warmwater spawning, and wildlife habitat.

Condition 3(B) will ensure the Authority complies with Dredge or Fill Procedures and California Wetlands Policy Act (Water Code sections 16200-16201) to account for impacts to waters of the state and ensure no net loss of wetland quantity, quality, or permanence. Condition 3(B) is necessary to ensure compliance with state and federal antidegradation policies and is consistent with Section IV.B.1.a of the Dredge or Fill Procedures, which requires that the Water Boards approve a project only after it has been determined that a sequence of actions has been taken to first avoid, then to minimize, and lastly compensate for adverse impacts that cannot be practicably avoided or minimized. (See also California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856, subdivision (h) [requiring submittal of proposed mitigation and description of steps taken to avoid, minimize, or compensate].) These compensatory mitigation conditions are also consistent with Water Code sections 16200-16201, commonly referred to as California's "No Net Loss" Policy for wetlands. The objective of the No Net Loss Policy is to ensure no overall net loss of and a long-term net gain in the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetland acreage and values in California. Further, compensatory mitigation

[15] Temporarily impacted areas are those that can temporarily cause a physical loss and/or degradation of an aquatic resource. Temporarily impacted areas can include areas such as temporary material staging areas, parking lots, or access roads. Generally, temporarily impacted areas are those that can be restored to pre-project conditions within a short period of time.

[16] Permanent impacts to aquatic resources include permanent loss of aquatic resource area or resource function resulting from a discharge of dredged or fill material that changes an aquatic area to dry land or changes the bottom elevation or dimensions of a waterbody, or changes the surface elevation or dimensions of a wetland.

requirements must comply with Subpart J of the Supplemental State Guidelines. Mitigation requirements related to financial assurances are also required to ensure that compensatory mitigation will be provided. (Dredge or Fill Procedures, § IV.B.5.f.)

6.4 Rationale for Condition 4: Water Quality Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Water quality monitoring, analysis, and reporting requirements are necessary to ensure Project activities are implemented in a manner that is protective of beneficial uses and that complies with water quality objectives. Monitoring of water quality is required to assess water quality impacts associated with Project activities, and to inform any corrective or adaptive management actions needed to address Project-related water quality impacts. These monitoring requirements are consistent with the Water Boards' authority to investigate the quality of any waters of the state and require necessary monitoring and reporting pursuant to Water Code sections 13267 and 13383.

Among other things, the Project involves construction of a large dam and associated features, dredge and fill work, demolition of structures within the Sites Reservoir inundation area, cofferdams, creek bypass flows, operation of construction equipment, construction of and upgrades to roads and culverts, and staging areas. These activities have the potential to violate the Central Valley Basin Plan water quality objectives or otherwise fail to comply with appropriate requirements of state law. Condition 4 requires the Authority to develop and implement a Water Quality Monitoring Plan(s) to comply with water quality standards and prevent violations of water quality objective and impacts to beneficial uses.

Existing and potential beneficial uses of the Colusa Basin Drain and its tributaries (including Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek) that may be impacted by the Project activities include irrigation, stock watering, contact recreation, canoeing and rafting, warm freshwater habitat, cold freshwater habitat, warm water migratory habitat, warm water spawning habitat, and wildlife habitat.

6.5 Rationale for Condition 5: Dewatering, Diversions, and Instream Flows

The Project includes dewatering and diversion activities that may have direct impacts to water quality in Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, Colusa Basin Drain, and other waterbodies. Project dewatering activities that may impact water quality include but are not limited to: (1) excavation dewatering operations; (2) pile dewatering; and (3) discharge of water used during construction activities. The Authority's Dewatering Plan included in the Application identifies the following activities that require dewatering: (1) Funks and Terminal Regulating Reservoir Pipelines – the Authority will implement a dewatering system near Funks Reservoir and potentially along Funks Creek so installation of the Terminal Regulating Reservoir pipelines can be done in the dry; (2) Dunnigan Pipeline – the Authority will dewater the pipe trench throughout the trenching process; (3) I/O works – the Authority will dewater the construction site with an onsite treatment facility that will likely include settling basins with treatment for oil/grease, settleable solids, pH, and turbidity; and (4) Sites and Golden Gate Dams – the Authority will dewater the construction site, install an onsite water treatment facility,

install dewatering wells around the perimeter of an excavation or install sumps within an excavation, dewater dam foundations, and store the water in sedimentation/percolation ponds upstream of the dams. Water quality parameters that may be impacted by such activities include turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, and visual pollutants. Dewatering can also impact aquatic life-related beneficial uses.

Project diversion activities may have direct impacts to water quality in Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, Colusa Basin Drain, and other waterbodies. Project diversion activities that may impact water quality include but are not limited to: (1) installation and removal of cofferdams, including in Stone Corral Creek, Funks Creek, and Funks Reservoir; (2) installation and decommissioning of temporary water bypass systems, including the Stone Corral Creek and Funks Creek diversions; (3) discharges from water diversions; and (4) stream channel re-watering. The Authority's draft Diversion Plan included in the Application identifies the following activities that require water diversion or re-diversion: (1) Funks PGP and Terminal Regulating Reservoir Pipelines – during the non-operational period (i.e., winter), an earth and geomembrane lined cofferdam will be constructed across Funks Reservoir; (2) Sites Dam – an earthen cofferdam of approximately 260,000 cubic yards will be constructed and become part of the Sites dam, which will be permanent and which will be used to divert from Stone Corral Creek via a new 1,600-foot-long diversion tunnel; and (3) Golden Gate Dam – an earthen cofferdam of approximately 800,000 cubic yards will be constructed that that will become part of the Golden Gate dam and be used to divert from Funks Creek via a new 2,000-foot-long diversion pipe trenched in the bedrock under the foundation of the dam, that will then be filled with concrete grout and decommissioned in place at the end of construction. Water quality parameters that may be impacted by such activities include turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, and visual pollutants. Diversions can also impact aquatic life-related beneficial uses.

Condition 5 requires the Authority to develop and implement a Dewatering and Diversion Plan(s) that includes procedures for dewatering, water quality monitoring, measures that will be implemented to avoid water quality impacts, reporting, and adaptive management, as needed, to protect water quality and beneficial uses and maintain instream flows. Monitoring and reporting requirements of Condition 5 are consistent with the Water Boards' authority to investigate the waters of the state, including for quality, and to require necessary monitoring and reporting pursuant to Water Code sections 1051, 13165, 13267 and 13383. Condition 5 requires the Authority to implement the Deputy Director-approved Dewatering and Diversion Plan(s) to ensure beneficial uses are protected and to comply with the water quality objectives and other appropriate requirements of state law.

According to the Authority's Application, during open-cut trenching (e.g., construction of Dunnigan Pipeline), "water flows would be diverted around the construction area to maintain water flows through the waterbody." (Authority 2024.) Development of methods to evaluate and monitor existing instream flows is required to confirm that instream flows are being maintained in Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek during Project activities. Instream flow monitoring and reporting methods need to be established and then approved by the State Water Board. Condition 5 requires development of an Instream Flows Plan(s) to measure and monitor flows at locations where instream flows

are retained (i.e., not passively bypassed) by Project diversion structures. The measuring and reporting of instream flows is necessary to confirm that instream flows are being maintained in Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek downstream of the Project construction.

Existing and potential beneficial uses of the Colusa Basin Drain and its tributaries that may be impacted by Project dewatering and diversion activities impact to water quality include irrigation, stock watering, contact recreation, canoeing and rafting, warm freshwater habitat, cold freshwater habitat, warm water migratory habitat, warm water spawning habitat, and wildlife habitat.

6.6 Rationale for Condition 6: Onsite Materials Management

Conditions related to site management require best practices to prevent, minimize, and/or clean up potential construction spills, including from construction equipment. For instance, fuels and lubricants associated with the use of mechanized equipment have the potential to result in toxic discharges to waters of the state in violation of water quality standards, including the toxicity and floating material water quality objectives.

The Project includes road and structures construction and removal, dredging, use of heavy construction equipment, and storage of hazardous or other deleterious materials that may impact water quality and beneficial uses. Beneficial uses of the Colusa Basin Drain and its tributaries that may be impacted by Project-related waste materials include irrigation, stock watering, contact recreation, warm freshwater habitat, cold freshwater habitat, warm water migration, warm water spawning, and wildlife habitat. Condition 6 requires the Authority to develop an Onsite Materials Management Plan(s) to properly store, manage, and dispose of stockpiled materials, waste, equipment, and hazardous materials to avoid or minimize discharges to surface waters.

Condition 6 requires the Authority to develop measures to properly store and dispose of hazardous and non-hazardous materials and implement erosion control measures to prevent runoff from transporting waste materials to surface waters.

The Project involves use of hazardous materials and heavy equipment that will require refueling and servicing. Site management requires implementation of BMPs to prevent, minimize, and/or clean up construction spills, including from construction equipment. For example, fuels and lubricants associated with the use of mechanized equipment have the potential to result in toxic discharges to surface water in violation of water quality standards, including the toxicity and floating material water quality objectives. Secondary containment around hazardous materials storage sites helps ensure that any leaks or spills of hazardous materials do not result in a discharge to waters. The hazardous materials management component is required pursuant to Water Code section 13264, which prohibits any discharge that is not specifically authorized in this certification. The Central Valley Basin Plan includes narrative water quality objectives for oil, grease, and other hazardous materials: “Waters shall not contain oils, greases, waxes, or other materials in concentrations that cause nuisance, result in a visible film or coating on the surface of the water or on objects in the water, or otherwise adversely affect beneficial uses.” (Central Valley Regional Water Board 2019.) Condition 6

requires development of hazardous materials management measures to prevent hazardous material spills into waterways, including containment criteria pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 20320.

The Project includes disposal of septic tanks and other underground storage tanks from the Sites Reservoir inundation area. Condition 6 requires the Authority to develop measures to dispose of any underground storage tanks pursuant to the OWTS Policy.

Condition 6 also requires the Authority to develop measures to monitor for and report any discharges that might violate water quality objectives. This is consistent with the Water Boards' authority to investigate waters of the state, including for quality, and to require necessary monitoring and reporting pursuant to Water Code sections 13267 and 13383. Hazardous material monitoring and discharge reporting is also required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. § 9601 et seq.), section 304 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and California Code of Regulations, title 19, section 2631, subdivision (a).

Approximately 85 percent of the earth and rock construction material to be used to build the dams will be sourced from the Project area. Condition 6 requires the Authority to develop measures to properly store excavated topsoil for onsite use to prevent erosion and discharges to surface waters. In addition, this condition includes measures proposed by the Authority to restore disturbed areas to prevent future runoff from conveying waste materials to surface waters.

The Project includes upgrades to Funks Reservoir to restore the original reservoir capacity and construct the Funks Pumping Generating Plant and pipelines for water transport. This will require dredging approximately 740,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from Funks Reservoir. Funks Reservoir dredged material management requires the Authority to develop measures to properly store dredged materials and prevent impacts to aquatic habitats. Additionally, this requires the Authority to test dredged materials for chemical contamination to ensure dredged material is safe for reuse.

Condition 6 requires the Authority to develop measures to prevent erosion and runoff during the wet season, particularly when stockpiles and other equipment are not in use. This will ensure stormwater runoff will not cause excess erosion and sedimentation and will not contain hazardous materials.

6.7 Rationale for Condition 7: Environmental Site Assessments

The Project includes pre-construction geotechnical testing to identify and characterize relevant geological structures, rock integrity, and soil structure and stability. Geologic, geotechnical, and geophysical investigations and testing will be implemented throughout the Project area prior to construction. Three types of studies are required: surface geologic; surface geophysical; and subsurface geotechnical investigations. Condition 7 is needed to prevent the release of hazardous materials into the environment and waterways for the protection of water quality and associated beneficial uses, including protection of state- and federally listed species, and other aquatic

species. Beneficial uses of the Colusa Basin Drain and its tributaries that may be impacted by geotechnical testing include irrigation, stock watering, warm freshwater habitat, cold freshwater habitat, warmwater migration, warmwater spawning, and wildlife habitat. Condition 7 requires the Authority to develop an Environmental Site Assessments Plan(s) to describe the subsurface investigations that will be performed as part of the Project, identify structures that will be decommissioned, and identify BMPs that will be implemented during these activities to ensure compliance with water quality standards.

6.8 Rationale for Condition 8: Erosion Management

Erosion and sedimentation can contribute to significant degradation of the waters of the state; therefore, it is necessary to implement actions to limit or eliminate such discharges to protect water quality and associated beneficial uses. Land disturbance could increase erosion and sedimentation of the channels and indirectly affect water quality downstream of the work areas. Beneficial uses of the Colusa Basin Drain and its tributaries that could be impacted by Project-related erosion and sedimentation include irrigation, stock watering, warm freshwater habitat, cold freshwater habitat, warmwater migration, warmwater spawning, and wildlife habitat. To reduce potential impacts to surface waters, Condition 8 requires the Authority to comply with the Construction General Permit and develop and implement an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Erosion Plan) for each work package to protect water quality and beneficial uses. Erosion Plans will be developed and implemented for construction and maintenance activities with the potential to cause erosion, stream sedimentation, release of hazardous materials, or otherwise impair water quality that are not otherwise covered by another condition of the certification or the Construction General Permit.

6.9 Rationale for Condition 9: Roads and Culverts

Implementation of the Project will require construction of new roads, improvement of existing roads, installation and upgrades of culverts, a new bridge over the proposed Sites Reservoir, and maintenance of roads and culverts. The Project involves construction and/or modification of approximately 46 miles of new paved and unpaved roads to provide access to Project areas for the construction and maintenance of proposed facilities including new recreation areas. Vehicles working above and within stream channels and wetlands could cause contaminants, including trash, sediment, oils, grease, and heavy metals to be washed, blown, or otherwise discharged into surface or groundwaters. Asphalt used for road work and wet concrete used for the cast-in-place structures could come into contact with surface water. Road construction and maintenance could impair water quality and beneficial uses of the Colusa Basin Drain and its tributaries, including irrigation, stock watering, warm freshwater habitat, cold freshwater habitat, warmwater migration, warmwater spawning, and wildlife habitat. Condition 9 requires the Applicant to develop and implement Road Management Plans with each work package to ensure the abandonment, construction, modification, rehabilitation, and/or maintenance of Project roads is implemented in a manner that is protective of water quality.

6.10 Rationale for Condition 10: Reporting

Condition 10 requires the Authority to submit progress reports and Work Package Completion Reports to document the status of Project activities and compliance with the certification requirements. The progress reports and Work Package Completion Reports will inform the Deputy Director of compliance with the certification conditions, and thereby compliance with water quality objectives and protection of beneficial uses during Project implementation. Additionally, Work Package Completion Reports will facilitate communication and coordination between the Authority and relevant resource agencies.

Reporting requirements of Condition 10 are consistent with the Water Boards' authority to investigate waters of the state, including for quality, and to require necessary monitoring and reporting pursuant to Water Code sections 13267 and 13383. The reporting requirements of Condition 10 are necessary to ensure the Project does not impact water quality and beneficial uses.

6.11 Rationale for Conditions 11 through 32

This certification imposes additional conditions regarding Project approvals, monitoring, enforcement, and potential future revisions. This section explains why a condition is necessary to assure that the Project will comply with water quality requirements, and cites to federal, state, or tribal law that authorizes the condition. (40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(1).) The statements in this section correspond with the conditions set forth in Conditions 11 through 30. In addition, the code citations, plans, and policies that support issuance of this certification are described in Sections 3.0 and are not duplicated in this section but are incorporated herein. Conditions 11 through 30 are necessary to protect the beneficial uses of waters of the state identified in water quality control plans, prevent degradation of water quality, and help ensure compliance with state and federal water quality requirements.

Certain certifications involve an appropriation of water subject to part 2 of division 2 of the Water Code or the diversion of water for certain beneficial uses. (See, e.g., Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 3855, subd. (b)(1)(A).) Condition 11 explains the State Water Board's issuance of this certification is not adjudicating or approving the validity of water rights that may be related to the Project. It also recognizes the State Water Board's authority, independent of its water quality authority, to prevent unauthorized or threatened unauthorized diversions of water. This helps to ensure that an applicant for a federal license or permit for an activity that involves a discharge to navigable waters understands that, except as specified in the certification, the certification does not constitute or excuse the applicant from obtaining any other State Water Board approvals required for the activity.

Condition 12 ensures continued compliance with applicable water quality standards and other appropriate requirements of state law. Notwithstanding any determinations by the USACE or other federal agency pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 121.9, the Permittee must comply with the entirety of this certification because, pursuant to State Water Board

Order WQ 2003-0017-DWQ, this Order also serves as Waste Discharge Requirements pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

Condition 13 is necessary to comply with Water Code section 13167 and Conditions 14 through 17 contain important clarifications concerning the scope and legal effect of this certification, and other legal requirements that may apply to the Project.

Monitoring, reporting, and assessment actions, and the information developed through such actions, must be readable, shared, and coordinated with other appropriate entities, and accessible to ensure that a discharge activity complies with water quality requirements. Water Code section 13167 requires the Water Boards to ensure that monitoring data and assessment information are available in a single location and that the information is presented in a manner easily understandable by the public. To fulfill this legislative mandate, Condition 13 requires electronic data submittal in a format compatible with existing system specifications. Compliance with this condition enhances the accessibility of data and transparency of regulatory actions. This allows regulatory agencies and the public to better assess compliance and understand water quality trends or data anomalies by compiling data and making it readily available.

Pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code, §§ 2050 et seq.) and federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.), Condition 14 of the certification does not authorize any act which results in the taking of a threatened, endangered, or candidate species.

An applicant for certification is required to identify other licenses, permits, and agreements in the application. In the event an applicant for certification needs authorization from the state or federal authorities, California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856, subdivision (e), requires that the applicant provide copies of “any final and signed federal, state, and local licenses, permits, and agreements (or copies of the draft documents, if not finalized) that will be required for any construction, operation, maintenance, or other actions associated with the activity. If no final or draft document is available, a list of all remaining agency regulatory approvals being sought shall be included.” Water Code section 13160, subdivision (b)(1) allows the State Water Board to issue a certification when there is “reasonable assurance that an activity of any person subject to the jurisdiction of the [State Water Board] will comply with applicable requirements” of state and federal law. To help ensure the integrity of the certification process and its focus on the protection of water quality and compliance with other applicable state requirements, Condition 15 serves to notify applicants that there may be additional applicable federal, state, or local laws or ordinances with which they must comply.

Because agency organization and authorities change over time, Condition 16 provides direction for continuity of oversight in the event an agency’s authority or responsibility is transferred to or subsumed by another agency. The State Water Board is responsible for the water right, water quality, and drinking water functions of the California state government. (Wat. Code, § 174.)

Conditions 17 through 19 are necessary to ensure that any discharge authorized under the certification will comply with water quality requirements. These conditions are included to comply with California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3860, which sets forth conditions that must be included in all certifications. Condition 17 is a standard condition that “shall be included as conditions of all certification actions” pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3860, subdivision (a). This condition places the permittee on notice that the certification action may be changed or revoked following administrative or judicial review. Condition 18 is a standard condition that “shall be included as conditions of all water quality certification actions” pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3860, subdivision (b). This condition clarifies the scope of the certification’s application and ensures that any applicant for a federal license or permit, for an activity which may result in a discharge into navigable waters, is subject to the appropriate State certification. Condition 19 is a standard condition that “shall be included as conditions of all water quality certification actions” pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3860, subdivision (c). This fee requirement condition is also required pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3833, subdivision (b), which requires payment of fees by those applying for certification. Fees are essential to support the Water Boards’ certification program, which includes the development of certifications and related inspections to ensure the protection of water quality and beneficial uses that may be impacted by a project.

Conditions 20 through 30 are necessary to ensure that the Project operates to meet water quality standards and other appropriate requirements of state law, or that adjustments are made to ensure continued compliance with water quality standards in light of new information, changes to the Project, or changes to the standards themselves.

This certification requires monitoring, reporting, and analysis as important elements to ensure that the Project activities will comply with state and federal water quality requirements and other appropriate requirements of state law. Conditions 20, 21, and 22 provide for extensions of time to comply with requirements, prevention or remedy of violations, and notification of changed conditions to ensure compliance and prevent violations of water quality standards. In the event of non-compliance, additional actions may be necessary to return the Project to compliance and prevent violation of water quality standards. Conditions 23 and 24 require compliance with the Central Valley Basin Plan and all reasonable measures to protect water quality and beneficial uses, in accordance with plans adopted pursuant to state and federal water laws. Water Code section 13267 authorizes the State Water Board to require any person or entity who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste to furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring reports when necessary to investigate the quality of any waters of the state. Condition 25 requires such reports that are necessary to ensure compliance with water quality standards.

Condition 26, related to site access requirements, is authorized pursuant to the Water Boards’ authority to investigate the quality of any waters of the state, including specific site access authorized under Water Code section 13267 and 13383. Site access is needed to ensure compliance with the certification and associated protection of water

quality and beneficial uses. Condition 27 requires site personnel and agencies to be familiar with the content of the certification and availability of the document at the Project site. This condition is required to assure that site personnel are familiar with the conditions needed to protect water quality and any authorized discharge will comply with the terms and conditions of this certification, which requires compliance with water quality objectives and beneficial uses adopted or approved under sections 13170 or 13245 of the Water Code, and with other appropriate requirements of state law.

Condition 28 requires that the Authority use analytical methods approved by California's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, when available, to ensure that such analyses are done in a consistent, approved manner.

Condition 29 provides that the State Water Board will provide notice and an opportunity to be heard in exercising its authority to add or change certification conditions.

Condition 30 ensures the Authority complies with the Dredge or Fill Procedures and the Projects' activities result in no net loss of wetland quantity, quality, or permanence, consistent with the Water Code sections 16200-16201.

Condition 31 clarifies that this certification also constitutes a waste discharge requirement. Pursuant to Water Code section 13264, subdivision (a), a permittee is prohibited from initiating the discharge of new wastes, or making material changes to the character, volume, and timing of waste discharges authorized herein without filing a report required by Water Code section 13260 or its equivalent for certification actions under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3856. (See also State Water Board Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges that have Received State Water Quality Certification.)

In the event that any provision of this certification is found invalid, Condition 32 ensures that the certification will remain effective and water quality will still be protected. (Wat. Code, § 13160.)

7.0 Conclusion

The State Water Board finds that, with the conditions and limitations imposed by this certification, the Project will be protective of state and federal water quality standards and other appropriate requirements of state law.

8.0 Water Quality Certification Conditions

ACCORDINGLY, BASED ON ITS INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE RECORD, THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD CERTIFIES that construction of the Sites Reservoir Project (Project) by the Sites Project Authority (Authority or Permittee) will comply with sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, and with applicable provisions of state law, under the following terms and conditions.

CONDITION 1: Project Activities and Water Rights Compliance

Unless otherwise changed by conditions of this water quality certification (certification) or approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Deputy Director of the Division of Water Rights (Deputy Director), the Permittee shall implement the Project as described in its September 2025 certification application, which includes supplement information and clarifications made by the Authority prior to issuance of this certification (Application). (Authority 2025a.)

1(A) Individual Work Packages

The conditions of this certification cover the construction and related activities associated with the Project included in the Application. The Permittee shall submit Individual Work Package Plans to the Deputy Director for review and consideration of approval at least six months before the desired start date for the activities included in that work package[17] or the date the Permittee applies to United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for coverage under a work package, whichever is earlier. The Deputy Director may approve a timeline shorter than six months based on a request from the Permittee that includes support for the request. The minimum contents of an Individual Work Package Plan are described below in this condition and shall generally include relevant plans, or updates thereto, of the plans required by Conditions 1 through 9 of this certification. The Permittee may update the scope of activities associated with any work package not yet approved by the Deputy Director upon notice of the updated scope to the Deputy Director and USACE.

The Permittee shall not start work associated with any work package, including Work Package 1, until the Deputy Director approves the commencement of work associated with that work package. The Deputy Director may approve updates to, or new plans associated with a work package, without approving the commencement of activities associated with a work package.

The Deputy Director may require changes as part of any approval. Any changes to the work packages shall be approved by the Deputy Director prior to implementation.

The Permittee shall submit a comprehensive Individual Work Package Plan for each work package, to the Deputy Director for review and consideration of approval. Unless

[17] The Application proposes that the Project will be completed under five work packages as described in Section 1.1 of this certification.

otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, each Individual Work Package Plan shall at a minimum include:

- Overview of existing site conditions and the proposed activities associated with the work package, including identification of any changes from the work package descriptions provided as part of the Application.
- Direct and indirect impacts to wetlands and surface waters associated with the activities in the work package from whatever work is covered by that work package. Example of activities that may be included in a work package include:
    - Geotechnical investigations.
    - Dams and dikes construction activities.
    - Construction of recreation areas.
    - Road and bridge work.
    - Borrow areas; work areas; and haul routes.
    - Terminal Regulating Reservoir facilities and Funks Reservoir upgrades.
    - Dunnigan Pipeline work.
    - Transmission line easement.
- New plans or updates to the plans and requirements outlined in Conditions 2-9 of this certification. If the Individual Work Package Plan does not relate to a plan or requirements in Conditions 2-9 of this certification, the Individual Work Package Plan shall describe why the activities do not relate to the applicable condition or otherwise describe why an update to the applicable plan required per Conditions 2-9 is not needed.
- Any additional avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs) and best management practices (BMPs) that will be implemented to ensure the protection of water quality and beneficial uses.
- A copy of the USACE application or permit covering the Individual Work Package Plan activities.

The Permittee may request changes to the Individual Work Package Plan required by this condition. The Permittee shall submit any request for changes to an approved Individual Work Package Plan to the Deputy Director for review and consideration of approval at least 30 days prior to starting the work. The request shall include the proposed changes and supporting rationale.

The Permittee shall file with USACE the Deputy Director-approved Individual Work Package Plans, and any amendments thereto. The Permittee shall implement the Individual Work Package Plans upon receipt of Deputy Director and any other required approvals, including the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B), in accordance with the schedule and requirements specified therein.

1(B) Water Rights Compliance

The Permittee shall not start any ground disturbing activity related to the Project unless the State Water Board issues an appropriative water right permit associated with Application No. A025517X01. The Permittee shall comply with the appropriative water right permit conditions and schedule associated with Application No. A025517X01, if issued.

CONDITION 2: Biological Resources Monitoring and Management

As part of each Individual Work Package Plan (Condition 1), the Permittee shall develop and submit for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval a Biological Resources Monitoring and Management Plan (Biological Resources Plan) for the activities covered by that work package. Biological Resources Plan(s) submitted for Work Packages 1-5 (or as otherwise numbered throughout Project implementation) may be wholly new plans or update a previously, Deputy Director-approved Biological Resources Plan. The Permittee shall develop Biological Resources Plan(s) in consultation with State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Regional Water Board), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), USACE, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) staff. The Biological Resources Plan(s) shall include documentation of consultation, including comments and recommendations made in connection with the plan, and a description of how the plan incorporates or addresses the comments and recommendations. If another state and/or federal permit issued for this Project includes requirements differing from this condition, the more stringent requirements between this condition and those of the other state and/or federal permit shall apply.

If the Permittee proposes to change any AMMs or BMPs included in Appendix J of the Application pertaining to biological monitoring and protection, the Biological Resources Plan(s) shall highlight such changes and provide supporting rationale.

The Deputy Director may require changes as part of any approval. The Permittee shall file with USACE the Deputy Director-approved Biological Resources Plan(s), and any approved changes thereto. The Permittee shall implement the Biological Resources Plan(s) and any approved changes thereto upon receipt of Deputy Director and any other required approvals, including the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B), in accordance with the schedule and requirements specified therein.

At a minimum, the Biological Resources Plan(s) shall include the components identified below in this condition.

Worker Environmental Awareness Program

The Permittee shall create and implement a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) to train all construction crews, contractors, and any other on-site workers to comply with environmental protection measures. WEAP training shall be provided by a qualified biologist[18] to all construction personnel prior to working in the Project area, including prior to mobilization and vegetation clearing. As needed, the training shall be provided in languages other than English.

[18] A qualified biologist is a biologist who is knowledgeable of and experienced with sensitive habitats and special-status species and their habitats that may be in the Project area.

WEAP training shall at a minimum include:

- All elements from BMP-33 from Appendix J of the Application.[19]
- A review of the California and federal Endangered Species Acts, including the definition of "take," and the consequences of noncompliance.
- A review of all special-status species,[20] their habitats, and other sensitive biological resources (e.g., wetlands) that are known to occur or may occur in the Project area. This review shall include photographs and known or likely locations of each resource.
- Actions that shall be taken, including reporting procedures, if special-status species are encountered.
- A review of applicable requirements of the Project certification to ensure personnel implement measures to protect environmental resources, water quality, and beneficial uses.

The Permittee shall maintain a record of all personnel trained and present WEAP training documentation upon request by State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Board, CDFW, or USFWS staff.

Environmental Protection Measures and Monitoring

The Permittee shall develop and implement construction BMPs and monitoring protocols to protect fish, wildlife, plant species, their habitats, and natural communities. At a minimum, the Biological Resources Plan for each Individual Work Package Plan shall include:

- Applicable biological resource AMMs and BMPs from Appendix J of the Authority's Application for the activities included in the Individual Work Package Plan.
- Monitoring, notification, and reporting procedures for construction inspections, observations of site conditions, observations of special-status species, and any other relevant information. All environmental resource monitoring shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. Reporting may be done in conjunction with the reporting requirements in Condition 10 (Reporting).
- An adaptive management process that describes how the Permittee will adjust monitoring methods and/or BMPs based on evaluation of information and monitoring resulting from plan implementation.

Fish Rescue

The Permittee shall develop and implement fish rescue, relocation, and salvage measures for dewatered areas of Funks Reservoir, Stone Corral Creek, Funks Creek,

[19] Appendix J: *Avoidance and Minimization Measures and Best Management Practices* of the Authority's Application. (Authority 2025a.)

[20] Special-status species shall include any listed species or species identified as special status at the state or federal level, including any species that are newly identified or listed prior to Project completion.

and the Colusa Basin Drain. At a minimum, the Biological Resources Plan for each Individual Work Package Plan shall include:

- All elements from BMP-34 (Development and Implementation of Fish Rescue and Salvage Plans for Funks Reservoir, Stone Corral Creek, Funks Creek, and Colusa Basin Drain for Alternatives 1, 2, and 3; for Sacramento River for Alternative 2) from Appendix J of the Authority's Application for the activities included in the Individual Work Package Plan.
- Methods for collecting, holding, transporting, and releasing fish. These methods shall follow any applicable CDFW or USFWS guidelines.
- Observation of fish condition during collection, holding, transport, and release.
- Reporting procedures for rescued, relocated, or dead fish.
    - If fish rescue and relocation occurs, the Permittee shall submit a Fish Relocation Report to the Deputy Director, CDFW, and USFWS within 30 days of the fish rescue and relocation. The Fish Relocation Report shall at a minimum include:
        - Date, time, and location of capture and relocation.
        - Method of capture.
        - Total number of fish captured and relocated.
        - Fish species, approximate age, and condition.
    - If mortality occurs, the Permittee shall report mortality to the Deputy Director, CDFW, and USFWS and dispose of fish carcasses at an approved waste management facility. Mortality reporting shall include:
        - Number and species of fish that experienced mortality.
        - Size and condition of fish that experienced mortality.
        - Potential causes of fish mortality and proposed measures the Permittee will implement to prevent future mortality, if applicable.
        - As applicable, proposed compensatory mitigation the Permittee will implement to offset any impacts related to fish mortality.
    - Reporting may be done in conjunction with the reporting requirements in Condition 10.

The Deputy Director may require additional mitigation or adaptive management actions to address Project-related fish mortality.

Nuisance Aquatic Species Management

The Permittee shall implement measures to prevent the spread of nuisance aquatic species and prevent or minimize impacts to biological resources from nuisance aquatic species management. At a minimum, the Biological Resources Plan for each Individual Work Package Plan shall include, as applicable:

- Implementation of chemical vegetation management, including any public noticing and compliance with the *Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Residual Aquatic Pesticide Discharges to Water of the United States from Algae and Aquatic Weed Control Applications* (State Water Board Order WQ 2013-0002-DWQ and NPDES No. CAG990005,

as amended by Orders WQ 2014-0078-DWQ, WQ 2015-0029-DWQ, and WQ 2016-0073-EXEC) and any amendments thereto.

- Herbicides, algaecides, or other chemicals the Permittee proposes to use and include:
    - A description of how the proposal incorporates or addresses use of glyphosate in an aquatic formulation, avoidance of glyphosate formulations containing the surfactants polyethoxylated tallow amine or R-11 spreader-activator, and a prohibition of application if precipitation is predicted within 24 hours of intended use.
    - Only herbicides that meet the characteristics of low soil mobility and low toxicity to fish and aquatic organisms.
- Nuisance aquatic species AMMs and BMPs from Appendix J of the Authority's Application that the Permittee will implement.
- Timeline for chemical application.
- Potential impacts to beneficial uses of water, including Native American cultural uses, and measures to prevent or minimize any such impacts.
- Measures related to application that shall include using low use rates (i.e., spot treatments), avoiding application in the rain, avoiding treatments during periods when fish are in life stages most sensitive to the herbicide(s) used, and adherence to appropriate buffer zones around stream channels.

2(A) Biological Resources Plan Submittal, Updates, and Implementation

Submittal. Consistent with Condition 1(A), the Permittee shall submit a new or updated Biological Resources Plan for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval for each Individual Work Package Plan at least six months before the desired start date for the activities included in that work package or the date the Permittee applies to USACE for coverage under a work package, whichever is earlier. The new or updated Biological Resources Plan shall include new or updated measures, as applicable, to address impacts to biological resources associated with the activities covered by the Individual Work Package Plan.

Updates. The Permittee may request Deputy Director review and consideration of approval of changes to a Deputy Director-approved Biological Resources Plan. Any such request shall be submitted as soon as possible and include the proposed changes and rationale. Any changes to the Biological Resources Plan shall be approved by the Deputy Director prior to implementation.

Implementation. The Permittee shall not begin work associated with an Individual Work Package Plan without Deputy Director approval of all plans associated with the work package (i.e., plans required in Conditions 2 through 9 of this certification) and the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B). Deputy Director of a plan approval may include recognition that a plan is not needed or an existing Deputy Director-approved plan is acceptable for the activities covered by an Individual Work Package Plan.

CONDITION 3: Aquatic Resources Delineation and Mitigation

3(A) Aquatic Resources Delineation

Prior to submittal of each Individual Work Package Plan (Condition 1), the Permittee shall perform a field-verified aquatic resources delineation(s) of all aquatic resources that could be impacted by the activities covered by that work package. Alternatively, the Permittee may perform a comprehensive field aquatic resources delineation for the Project. The delineation(s) shall address all features potentially defined as waters of the state under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.) and waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act. The Permittee shall develop the field-verified aquatic resources delineation(s) consistent with the *State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State* (Dredge or Fill Procedures) (State Water Board 2019b and 2021) and in consultation with State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Board, CDFW, USFWS, USACE, and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) staff.

The Permittee shall, as early as possible, identify, communicate, and coordinate with any affected private landowners on its proposed plans to complete the required delineation and surveys, if necessary. As necessary, the Permittee shall supplement field data from the wet season to substantiate dry season delineation(s).

The Permittee shall develop one or more Aquatic Resources Delineation Reports for all activities associated with a given work plan. The Aquatic Resource Delineation Report(s) may be submitted as part of each work package plan or a more comprehensive report(s). The Aquatic Resource Delineation Report(s) shall be integrated into the Mitigation Plan(s) required by Condition 3(B). Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, the Aquatic Resources Delineation Report(s) shall include:

- Delineation methods, including relevant field notes.
- Map(s) of the surveyed area(s) that identify all waters of the state by habitat type.
- A formal and reproducible conditional and/or functional assessment of the overall condition of aquatic resources likely to be impacted by the Project and their likely stressors. Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, the Permittee shall use the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM).
    - The Permittee shall select and assess an appropriate number of assessment areas, consistent with the CRAM technical bulletin. (California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup 2019.)
    - Qualified CRAM practitioner(s) shall perform the assessment(s).
    - The CRAM results shall be uploaded to California EcoAtlas.
- Proof of verification of the Permittee's delineation from USACE.

3(B) Aquatic Resources Restoration and Mitigation

The Permittee shall ensure no net loss of wetland or riparian habitat functions and shall comply with the Dredge or Fill Materials and California Wetlands Policy Act (Water Code sections 16200-16201). If another state or federal permit issued for this Project

includes requirements differing from this condition, the more stringent requirements between this condition and those of the state or federal permit shall apply.

As part of each Individual Work Package Plan (Condition 1) or a comprehensive plan, the Permittee shall update and submit a Mitigation Plan(s) to the Deputy Director for review and consideration of approval for, at minimum, the activities covered by that work package(s). The Mitigation Plan(s) shall update the relevant portions of the Sites Reservoir Project: Draft Mitigation and Monitoring Proposal (Appendix N of the Application) applicable to the work package plan(s) consistent with this condition, including the results of the field-verified aquatic resources delineation(s) and other information in the Aquatic Resource Delineation Report(s). The Mitigation Plan(s) shall be updated in consultation with State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Board, CDFW, USFWS, USACE, and USEPA staff.

The Deputy Director may require changes as part of any approval. Any changes to the Mitigation Plan(s) shall be approved by the Deputy Director prior to implementation. The Permittee shall file with USACE the Deputy Director-approved Mitigation Plan(s), and any approved changes thereto. The Permittee shall implement the Mitigation Plan(s) and any approved changes thereto upon receipt of Deputy Director and any other required approvals, including the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B), in accordance with the schedule and requirements specified therein.

Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, the Mitigation Plan(s) shall include the following information and measures for onsite restoration and compensatory mitigation:

Onsite Restoration

- Overview of proposed onsite restoration that includes the amount and type of restoration to be implemented.
- Maps and site-specific design drawings detailing locations and specifications of onsite restoration.
- Specific onsite restoration measures, including:
    - A schedule for restoration activities.
    - Site preparation activities, including:
        - Pre-construction wildlife and rare plant clearance surveys by a qualified biologist or botanist.
        - Installation of site protection fencing or equivalent for activity exclusion zones.
        - Installation of silt fencing or other appropriate erosion BMPs.
    - Identification and source(s) of plants and seeds that will be used for revegetation by habitat type. The Permittee shall exclusively use native plants, with preference for plants that promote soil stability.
    - Site-specific grading (i.e., elevations and slopes) details.
    - Soil management and decompaction methods and locations.
    - Plant watering measures, including proposed method(s), duration, and quantity of water needed to maintain the riparian and wetland habitat.

  - Protocols for routine restoration inspections. At a minimum, the inspection protocols shall include monitoring wetland and riparian habitat frequently to determine whether plantings are successful (i.e., meet success criteria or performance standards) and to facilitate implementation of adaptive measures (e.g., supplemental irrigation, re-seeding, supplemental seeding, changes in plant types) to ensure no net loss of wetlands, appropriate restoration of wetland and riparian areas, and compliance with the Dredge or Fill Procedures.
- Protocols for short-term and long-term onsite restoration performance monitoring and evaluation. At a minimum, these shall include:
  - Monitoring frequency and duration necessary to determine whether plantings are successful and to facilitate implementation of adaptive measures (e.g., supplemental irrigation, re-seeding, supplemental seeding, changes in plant types).
  - Ecologically based, precise, and quantifiable parameters and target values or ranges for performance standards (e.g., woody plant density, percent native tree and shrub cover) that will be used to monitor and assess the success of restoration.

Compensatory Mitigation

- Overview of proposed compensatory mitigation that includes the amount and types of mitigation to be implemented.
- Mitigation acreage and/or linear feet, as applicable, and ratios for each habitat type, not to be less than 1:1 and consistent with the Sites Reservoir Project: Draft Mitigation and Monitoring Proposal's stay ahead[21] provisions.
- Refined quantification (in acres and/or linear feet) of temporal losses (i.e., temporary impacts lasting more than one year) and permanent impacts to waters of the state associated with Project implementation based on the field-verified aquatic resources delineation.
- Proposed compensatory mitigation methods and types (e.g., restoration, establishment, enhancement, and preservation).
  - The compensatory mitigation methods shall be subject to Deputy Director approval and may include as appropriate: third-party responsible mitigation sites, onsite Permittee-responsible mitigation sites, purchase of mitigation bank credits, purchase of in-lieu fee program credits, purchase or establishment of turn-key mitigation/conservation banks, conservation easements with private landowners, or Permittee-responsible offsite mitigation sites.

[21] Stay ahead provisions, which shall be developed with each Mitigation Plan, are measures that will be implemented to minimize temporal loss of habitat function (i.e., ensure Project impacts do not outpace mitigation implementation). As noted in Appendix N of the Application, the cumulative mitigation implemented for each land cover type and species habitat shall be at least 10 percent greater than the cumulative impacts to each land cover type and species habitat until the required mitigation is achieved.

- Mitigation site selection criteria, process, and justification.
    - Justification shall include site-specific information (e.g., source(s) of water and connections to existing waters and uplands) and likelihood of success given future land use compatibility. At a minimum, the site-specific information shall include the results of appropriate functional or condition assessments. The Permittee may reference the results of CRAM surveys or other appropriate surveys.
    - For proposed preserve areas, justification shall include a description of any anticipated activities within the proposed preserve areas that could impact the success of the compensatory mitigation.
- Map(s) of proposed compensatory mitigation site(s).
- Baseline ecological characteristics of the impact and proposed compensatory mitigation sites, including:
    - Physical attributes of site(s) (e.g., soil, vegetation, and hydrology)
    - Historic and existing land uses.
    - Likely future land uses of surrounding lands.
- Comparison of habitat functions lost from Project impacts and gained from mitigation.
- For onsite Permittee-responsible compensatory mitigation, relevant implementation measures and information from the Onsite Restoration section above.
- For offsite compensatory mitigation sites, the roles and responsibilities of the Permittee and responsible party(ies) and proof that the responsible party(ies) has developed a mitigation work plan that details information required by the preceding bullets of this section.
- Evidence of legal site protection measures (e.g., conservation easement, deed restriction, transfer of title), as applicable.
- A financial security (e.g., letter of credit or performance bond) to ensure compliance with updated Mitigation Plan requirements, including achieving performance standards. The financial security shall be in a form consistent with the California Constitution and applicable state law. Additionally, proof of contingency funds for short-term and long-term maintenance, performance monitoring, and long-term management and monitoring for Permittee-responsible mitigation.

The Permittee shall provide annual reports to the Deputy Director documenting implementation of the Mitigation Plan(s). The annual reports shall include progress of restoration and compensatory mitigation efforts, an overview of any problems encountered, adaptive management or remedial measures (e.g., financial assurances, management plans) deployed or proposed to address the problems, and remaining funds, including contingency funds. The Permittee shall provide additional reports or information related to implementation of the Mitigation Plan(s) if requested by the Deputy Director.

If the Permittee cannot provide information regarding specific requirements of this condition at the time of developing the Mitigation Plan(s), the Permittee shall include justification for not including those requirements and a timeline and process for

providing them to the Deputy Director for review and consideration of approval. The Deputy Director may require the Permittee to include any missing requirements prior to implementing activities associated with the related work package. The Permittee shall not implement activities associated with a work package without Deputy Director approval of relevant restoration and mitigation requirements outlined in this condition.

3(C) Delineation and Mitigation Plan Submittal, Updates, and Implementation

Submittal. Consistent with the requirements of Condition 1(A), the Permittee shall submit a new or updated Mitigation Plan for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval for each Individual Work Package Plan at least six months before the desired start date for the activities included in that work package or the date the Permittee applies to USACE for coverage under a work package, whichever is earlier. (Alternatively, as mentioned above in this condition a comprehensive Mitigation Plan may be submitted for the Project.) The new or updated Mitigation Plan shall include any new or updated field-verified aquatic resource delineations and onsite and compensatory mitigation details, as noted in this condition, for the activities covered by the Individual Work Package Plan.

Updates. The Permittee may request Deputy Director review and consideration of approval of changes to a Deputy Director-approved Mitigation Plan. Any such request shall be submitted as soon as possible and include the proposed changes and rationale. Any changes to the Mitigation Plan shall be approved by the Deputy Director prior to implementation.

Implementation. The Permittee shall not begin work associated with an Individual Work Package Plan without Deputy Director approval of all plans associated with the work package (i.e., plans required in Conditions 2 through 9 of this certification) and the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B). Deputy Director approval of a plan may include recognition that a plan is not needed or an existing Deputy Director-approved plan is acceptable for the activities covered by an Individual Work Package Plan.

CONDITION 4: Water Quality Monitoring and Adaptive Management

As part of each Individual Work Package Plan (Condition 1), the Permittee shall develop and submit for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval a Water Quality Monitoring Plan for the activities covered by that work package. Water Quality Monitoring Plan(s) submitted for Work Packages 1-5 (or as otherwise numbered throughout Project implementation) may be wholly new plans or update a previously, Deputy Director-approved Water Quality Monitoring Plan. The Water Quality Monitoring Plan(s) shall be developed in consultation with State Water Board and Central Valley Regional Water Board staff.

The Deputy Director may require changes as part of any approval. The Permittee shall file with USACE the Deputy Director-approved Water Quality Monitoring Plan(s), and any approved changes thereto. The Permittee shall implement the Water Quality Monitoring Plan(s) and any approved changes thereto upon receipt of Deputy Director

and any other required approvals, including the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B), in accordance with the schedule and requirements specified therein.

Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, at a minimum, the Water Quality Monitoring Plan(s) shall include:

- All elements of Appendix K: *Draft Water Quality Monitoring Plan* from the Application.
- Actions that will be implemented to ensure compliance with the water quality objectives outlined in the Central Valley Regional Water Board's *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin and the San Joaquin River Basin* (Central Valley Basin Plan). (Central Valley Regional Board, 2019.)
- Identification of water quality parameters that will be monitored for and the applicable Central Valley Basin Plan's water quality objectives. At a minimum this shall include the following parameters and objectives: turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH, metals, and electrical conductivity.
- Evaluation of the potential effects of the Project on metal concentrations in Stone Corral Creek. This shall include monitoring and management for metals of concern (e.g., aluminum, copper, iron, lead, and hexavalent chromium) in Stone Corral Creek, as described in mitigation measure WQ-2.1 of Appendix J of the Application.
- Details of proposed monitoring including:
    - *Monitoring Locations*. Proposed monitoring locations with global positioning system points and photographs for each proposed monitoring location. These locations shall be used for monitoring unless the Deputy Director directs the Permittee to use other locations or to work with Central Valley Regional Water Board and State Water Board staff to find alternate locations.
    - *Methods.* Field sampling and monitoring methods shall be consistent with the State of California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program or equivalent methods approved by the Deputy Director. Samples that require laboratory analysis shall be analyzed by California's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program-certified laboratories. The plan shall include a description of quality assurance and quality control procedures that will be used for collection and handling of samples and data validation.
    - *Frequency.* Description of the frequency of monitoring for each parameter by location.
    - *Reporting.* Identification of format and schedule of reports that summarize and analyze water quality monitoring results. Water quality monitoring reporting shall include an evaluation of the turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and pH monitoring results, visual monitoring results, and any supplemental water quality monitoring data collected and any recommendations regarding whether additional monitoring is needed, beyond what is noted in this condition. Reporting may be done in conjunction with the reporting requirements in Condition 10.

- Water quality parameter exceedance reporting and mitigation procedures. At a minimum the Permittee shall implement the Exceedance Reporting provisions below.
- Adaptive management strategies (e.g., identification of alternative or additional measures that may be implemented) to comply with water quality standards based on water quality monitoring results.
- Salt Pond water quality monitoring, as described in section 2D.3.5 of Appendix 2D of the Authority and United States Bureau of Reclamation's November 2024 final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. Electrical conductivity and metals monitoring to understand the salt and mineral load from the salt springs during construction.
- *Consultation documentation*. Documentation of consultation with State Water Board and Central Valley Regional Water Board staff, including comments and recommendations made in connection with the plan(s), and a description of how the plan(s) incorporates or addresses the comments and recommendations.

Exceedance Reporting. The Deputy Director and the Central Valley Regional Water Board Executive Officer (Executive Officer) shall be notified promptly, and in no case more than 24 hours following an exceedance of a Central Valley Basin Plan water quality objective(s). Regardless of when such notification occurs, activities associated with the Central Valley Basin Plan exceedance shall cease immediately upon detection of the exceedance. Work activities may resume after any appropriate corrective actions have been implemented, water quality meets the applicable Central Valley Basin Plan water quality objective(s), and the Deputy Director has provided approval to proceed.

4(A) Water Quality Monitoring Plan Submittal, Updates, and Implementation

Submittal. Consistent with Condition 1(A), the Permittee shall submit a new or updated Water Quality Monitoring Plan for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval for each Individual Work Package Plan at least six months before the desired start date for the activities included in that work package or the date the Permittee applies to USACE for coverage under a work package, whichever is earlier. The new or updated Water Quality Monitoring Plan shall include all new or updated information required by this condition, as applicable, to address water quality monitoring associated with the activities covered by the Individual Work Package Plan.

Updates. The Permittee may request Deputy Director review and consideration of approval of changes to a Deputy Director-approved Water Quality Monitoring Plan. Any such request shall be submitted as soon as possible and include the proposed changes and rationale. Any changes to a Water Quality Monitoring Plan shall be approved by the Deputy Director prior to implementation.

Implementation. The Permittee shall not begin work associated with an Individual Work Package Plan without Deputy Director approval of all plans associated with the work package (i.e., plans required in Conditions 2 through 9 of this certification) and the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B). Deputy Director approval of a plan may include recognition that a plan is not needed or an existing Deputy Director-approved plan is acceptable for the activities covered by an Individual Work Package Plan.

CONDITION 5: Dewatering, Diversions, and Instream Flows

Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, the Permittee shall obtain permit coverage and comply with requirements of the Central Valley Regional Water Board Order R5-2022-0006, NPDES No. CAG995002, *Waste Discharge Requirements for Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water*[22] or State Water Board Order 2003-0003-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality (General WDRs)*[23] and any amendments thereto, as described in BMP-14 of Appendix J of the Application, and as changed by this certification. For dewatering activities, not covered by conditions of this certification, which may result in a discharge to surface water or land, the Permittee shall submit a notice of intent to the Central Valley Regional Water Board for coverage under Central Valley Regional Water Board Order No. R5-2022-0006 or State Water Board Order No. 2003-0003-DWQ and any amendments thereto. To the extent of any conflict between the conditions of this certification and applicable conditions in Central Valley Regional Water Board or State Water Board waste discharge requirements, the more stringent measures of the conditions shall apply.

5(A) Dewatering and Diversion Plan

As part of each Individual Work Package Plan (Condition 1), the Permittee shall develop and submit for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval a Dewatering and Diversion Plan for the activities covered by that work package. Dewatering and Diversion Plan(s) submitted for Work Packages 1-5 (or as otherwise numbered throughout Project implementation) may be wholly new plans or update a previously, Deputy Director-approved Dewatering and Diversion Plan. The objective of the Dewatering and Diversion Plan(s) shall be to identify and implement actions to protect water quality associated with Project-related activities that require dewatering and diversions. The Permittee may use the existing Draft Water Diversion Plan and Draft Dewatering Plan submitted as part of the Authority's Application (Appendix L and Appendix M, respectively) in developing the Dewatering and Diversion Plan(s). The Permittee shall develop the Dewatering and Diversion Plan(s) in consultation with State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Board, CDFW, and USFWS staff.

The Deputy Director may require changes as part of any approval. Any changes to the Dewatering and Diversion Plan(s) shall be approved by the Deputy Director prior to implementation. The Permittee shall file with USACE the Deputy Director-approved Dewatering and Diversion Plan(s), and any approved changes thereto. The Permittee shall implement the Dewatering and Diversion Plan(s) and any approved changes thereto upon receipt of Deputy Director and any other required approvals, including the

[22] Available online at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb5/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2022-0006_npdes.pdf. Accessed January 16, 2026.

[23] General WDRs are available at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf. Accessed January 16, 2026.

water right approval noted in Condition 1(B), in accordance with the schedule and requirements specified therein.

Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, at a minimum, the Dewatering and Diversion Plan(s) shall include:

- An overview of all in-water work that will require dewatering, cofferdam or equivalent barrier installation, or diversion of water for Project implementation. This overview shall include a description of which activities will be covered by enrollment or application for existing permits (e.g., Central Valley Regional Water Board Order R5-2022-0006 or State Water Board Order 2003-0003-DWQ) and which are covered by the Dewatering and Diversion Plan(s).
- List of construction materials that will be used in and adjacent to the surface waters.
- Description of dewatering activities, including the location for discharges associated with dewatering, the length and location of dewatered stream segments, and equipment and methods used for dewatering. Description of cofferdams or equivalent barriers that will be used to isolate the construction area from instream flows or surface waters.
- A description of the installation, operation, and maintenance (e.g., inspection and follow-up actions) of dewatering systems, as well as the locations and quantity of dewatering activities.
- Site plan map(s) and/or drawings, and/or photos showing areas that may be dewatered and discharge locations, as well as identification of any areas where Project works will be conducted in-water.
- List of all dewatering infrastructure that will be installed with identification of which infrastructure will be removed and any that will remain in place.
- Schedule for conducting Project construction and maintenance activities associated with dewatering, in-water work, or diversions of water. This includes schedules for installation of cofferdam or equivalent barriers and related features (e.g., fish screens and energy dissipation structures), and information on how and when these structures will be operated and maintained.
- Details regarding management and treatment of groundwater seepage in dewatered areas.
- Schematics and blueprints of the cofferdams signed by a registered Professional Engineer. The registered Professional Engineer shall be independent from the construction contractor for contractor-designed cofferdams.
- Procedure for diversion, including measures that will be implemented to protect water quality and beneficial uses, and maintain instream flows. This includes a description of the installation, operation, and maintenance (e.g., inspection and follow up actions) of diversion systems, as well as the locations, quantity, and timing of diversion activities.
- Description of turbidity control measures and implementation.
- Description of measures, if needed, that will be implemented to avoid potential water quality and aquatic resource impacts, including any energy-dissipating features at diversion outlets to prevent erosion. Measures may reference

biological resources protections and erosion and sediment control measures included in other plans that are required by this certification.

- Description of the dewatering activities specific to: (1) installation of the Dunnigan, Funks, and Terminal Regulating Reservoir Pipelines; (2) construction of Sites and Golden Gate Dams and I/O Works; and (3) work within the dam footprints, as described in Appendix M: *Draft Dewatering Plan* of the Application.
- Description of measures, if needed, that will be implemented to avoid potential fish stranding and entrainment from diversion activities, in coordination with the Fish Rescue requirements of Condition 2. The Permittee shall also identify actions that will be performed if monitoring indicates impacts to fish associated with plan implementation.
- If treatment of water removed from dewatered areas is proposed, the plan shall include:
    - A narrative description of the proposed treatment system, including the technology or measures that will be implemented to ensure the discharge complies with Central Valley Basin Plan water quality objectives.
    - Schematics and blueprints for the proposed treatment system signed by a registered Professional Engineer.
    - Monitoring specific to the treatment facility that will be performed to ensure the protection of water quality and beneficial uses, including the location, frequency, and sampling methods.
- Description of how, upon completion of construction activities, rewatering will occur with the least disturbance to the substrate, water quality, and beneficial uses, as applicable.
- Debris and sediment management in coordination with Condition 8 of this certification.
- Description of monitoring that will be performed to evaluate Project implementation for potential impacts to water quality.
- Actions that will be implemented to ensure discharges associated with water diversion will not exceed water quality objectives, as defined in the Central Valley Basin Plan.
- Documentation of consultation with State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Board, CDFW, and USFWS staff, including comments and recommendations made in connection with the Dewatering and Diversions Plan(s), and a description of how the plan(s) incorporates or addresses the comments and recommendations.

5(B) Instream Flows

Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, the Permittee shall bypass Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek instream flows throughout Project implementation by bypassing all inflows as described in Authority's Application, and as changed or required by this condition.

As part of each applicable Individual Work Package Plan (Condition 1), the Permittee shall develop and submit for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval an Instream Flows Plan(s) for any Project activities that require the bypass of flows or

where the Permittee proposes to retain (i.e., not bypass) Funks Creek or Stone Corral Creek and the proposed activities may significantly alter Funks Creek or Stone Corral Creek instream flows. Examples of activities may result in the need for an Instream Flows Plan are those that involve diversion, capture, storage, or withdrawal of water associated with Project activities, valves within the diversion pipes that are closed for an extended period of time, diversion facilities become inoperable due to damage or blocked intake, or flows that are pumped at a variable rate that changes the amount or timing of instream flows. The Instream Flows Plan(s) shall include provisions for emergency situations such as damage or blockage of intakes. Instream Flows Plan(s) submitted for Work Packages 1-5 (or as otherwise numbered throughout Project implementation) may be wholly new plans or update a previously, Deputy Director-approved Instream Flows Plan. The Instream Flows Plan(s) shall be developed in consultation with State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Board, CDFW, and USFWS staff.

The Deputy Director may require changes as part of any approval. Any changes to the Instream Flows Plan(s) shall be approved by the Deputy Director prior to implementation. The Permittee shall file with USACE the Deputy Director-approved Instream Flows Plan(s), and any approved changes thereto. The Permittee shall implement the Instream Flows Plan(s) and any approved changes thereto upon receipt of Deputy Director and any other required approvals, including the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B), in accordance with the schedule and requirements specified therein.

Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, at a minimum, the Instream Flows Plan(s) shall include:

- Detailed description of the existing instream flow regime (i.e., unaffected by Project activities), including field measurements.
- Locations where the Permittee will monitor stream flows and bypass tunnel flows.
- Equipment that will be used by the Permittee to monitor stream flows and bypass tunnel flow.
- Tools needed, if any, to forecast inflows for Funks and Stone Corral creeks.
- How the equipment used by the Permittee to monitor stream flows and bypass tunnel flows is deployed, set (e.g., frequency of data collection), operated, maintained, and calibrated.
- How data are retrieved from the equipment used by the Permittee to monitor stream flows and bypass tunnels flow, including frequency of data downloads, quality assurance/quality control procedures, and data storage.
- How the Permittee will make stream flows and bypass tunnel flows monitoring data available to resource agencies.
- Notification procedures if the Permittee is unable to maintain instream flows as a result of Project activities.
- Evaluation of public safety risk caused by rapid flow or creek stage fluctuations and measures to reduce any public safety risk potentially caused by such fluctuations. At a minimum, if the evaluation demonstrates potential risk, the

Permittee shall publicly notice such fluctuations at an easily accessible location on the internet in addition to implementing measures identified in the evaluation.

- Documentation of consultation with State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Board, CDFW, and USFWS staff, including comments and recommendations made in connection with the Instream Flow Plan(s), and a description of how the plan(s) incorporates or addresses the comments and recommendations.

Unless approved by the Deputy Director, Project activities shall not interfere with Funks Creek and Stone Corral Creek instream flows, including those bypassed around the Project work areas.

5(C) Dewatering and Diversion Plan and Instream Flows Plan Submittal, Updates, and Implementation

Submittal. Consistent with Condition 1(A), the Permittee shall submit a new or updated Dewatering and Diversion Plan and Instream Flows Plan for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval for each Individual Work Package Plan at least six months before the desired start date for the activities included in that work package or the date the Permittee applies to USACE for coverage under a work package, whichever is earlier. The new or updated Dewatering and Diversion Plan and Instream Flows Plan shall include all new or updated information required by this condition, as applicable, to address impacts of dewatering, water diversion, temporary flow retention, and maintaining instream flows associated with the activities covered by the Individual Work Package Plan.

Updates. The Permittee may request Deputy Director review and consideration of approval of changes to a Deputy Director-approved Dewatering and Diversion Plan or Instream Flows Plan. Any such request shall be submitted as soon as possible and include the proposed changes and rationale. Any changes to a Dewatering and Diversion Plan or Instream Flows Plan shall be approved by the Deputy Director prior to implementation.

Implementation. The Permittee shall not begin work associated with an Individual Work Package Plan without Deputy Director approval of all plans associated with the work package (i.e., plans required in Conditions 2 through 9 of this certification) and the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B). Deputy Director approval of a plan may include recognition that a plan is not needed or an existing Deputy Director-approved plan is acceptable for the activities covered by an Individual Work Package Plan.

CONDITION 6: Onsite Materials Management

As part of each Individual Work Package Plan (Condition 1), the Permittee shall develop and submit for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval an Onsite Materials Management Plan for the activities covered by that work package. Onsite Materials Management Plan(s) submitted for Work Packages 1-5 (or as otherwise numbered throughout Project implementation) may be wholly new plans or update a previously, Deputy Director-approved Onsite Materials Management Plan. The Onsite

Materials Management Plan(s) shall be developed in consultation with State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Board, CDFW, USACE, and USFWS staff.

The Deputy Director may require changes as part of any approval. The Permittee shall file with USACE the Deputy Director-approved Onsite Materials Management Plan(s), and any approved changes thereto. The Permittee shall implement the Onsite Materials Management Plan(s) and any approved changes thereto upon receipt of Deputy Director and any other required approvals, including the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B), in accordance with the schedule and requirements specified therein.

Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, at a minimum, the Onsite Materials Management Plan(s) shall include the items included in this condition. If the Permittee proposes changes or alternatives to any AMMs or BMPs from Appendix J of the Application, the Onsite Materials Management Plan(s) shall highlight such changes and provide supporting rationale. The Onsite Materials Management Plan(s) may reference information in other plans required by this certification, if applicable.

Waste Management

The Permittee shall develop and implement measures to ensure waste is stored and disposed of in a manner protective of water quality. Waste management measures shall include:

- Applicable waste management AMMs and BMPs from Appendix J of the Application the Permittee will implement.
- An estimate of the type and quantity of anticipated waste generated from demolition and removal of structures, roads, tanks, wells, utilities, site clearing (e.g., tree removal), and other Project construction activities. The Permittee shall inspect each structure prior to removal for hazardous materials (e.g., asbestos, lead-based paint, and polychlorinated biphenyls [PCBs]) and perform any necessary sampling or testing when inspection alone does not provide sufficient information to determine whether the material is hazardous.
- Locations of onsite waste storage and disposal.
    - The Permittee shall specify what type(s) of waste will be stored or disposed of at each location.
    - All waste storage shall be located in areas that prevent potential discharges to waters of the state.
    - Vegetation waste shall not be stored or disposed of in waters of the state, including the Sites Reservoir inundation area.
    - Onsite disposal of inert, non-hazardous debris resulting from demolition, site clearing, and other Project construction activities may be buried in accordance with requirements in the California Code of Regulations, title 27, division 2. The Permittee shall select disposal site locations where drainage patterns can be preserved. If a waste disposal site has the potential to drain into surface waters, catch basins shall be constructed

whenever feasible[24] and other appropriate BMPs shall be implemented to intercept runoff before it reaches surface waters.

- Protocols for final disposal of hazardous materials and waste.
    - Any material with asbestos, lead, PCBs, or other hazardous waste shall be handled and disposed of as hazardous waste at approved hazardous waste facilities in accordance with applicable waste management regulations.
        - Any hazardous waste releases shall be reported pursuant to the Hazardous Materials Management section below.
    - Septic tanks shall be decommissioned in place or removed and disposed of in accordance with the corrective action requirements specified in the State Water Board's Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems. (State Water Board 2012.)
    - Reinforced steel and other recyclable materials shall be recycled at local recycling facilities whenever feasible or otherwise disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances. All mechanical and electrical equipment shall be hauled to a suitable commercial landfill or salvage collection point.
- Measures to prevent erosion or discharges from onsite disposal, including measures to restore and ensure long-term stability of onsite disposal areas.
- Restoration measures (including revegetation with native plants, where feasible) that will be implemented and restoration success criteria and monitoring protocols used to evaluate and document restoration progress.

Hazardous Materials Management

The Permittee shall develop and implement measures for the storage, handling, and cleanup of hazardous materials[25] throughout the Project. These measures shall include:

- Applicable hazardous material AMMs and BMPs from Appendix J of the Application the Permittee will implement.
- An inventory of existing hazardous materials and historic contamination at each Project site and the plan for final disposition of hazardous materials.
- Description of hazardous materials storage, spill prevention, and cleanup measures that will be implemented, including:
    - All storage areas shall include secondary containment. All containment structures shall comply with California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 20320. Secondary containment shall be specifically designed for hazardous material storage and sized to contain the largest volume of

[24] The Permittee shall provide justification for any determination that a catch basin is infeasible at a disposal site with the potential to drain into surface water.

[25] Hazardous materials include, but are not limited to, petroleum products, pesticides, fuels, lubricants, oils, hydraulic fluids, raw cement, concrete, asphalt, paint, coating material, drilling fluids, contaminated wash water, contaminated surface waters, and contaminated topsoil.

hazardous materials that could be spilled. Secondary containment shall be positioned to catch any hazardous material spills due to overfilling or any other spills that may occur.
    - Proposed locations for hazardous material storage, including hazardous waste. Hazardous materials shall be stored in areas that will prevent potential discharges to waters of the state.
    - Location and contents of spill kits.
        - Spill kits shall contain contact information for federal, state, and local officials the Permittee will contact in the event of a hazardous material spill.
- Monitoring protocols that will be implemented to: (1) identify type and quantity of any hazardous materials that enter waters of the state after a spill; (2) ensure waters of the state are free of hazardous materials after cleanup. Reporting that will be performed in the event of a spill relative to implementation of the monitoring protocols.
- Reporting and notification procedures the Permittee will implement throughout the Project.
    - Protocols for reporting hazardous material spills pursuant to Water Code section 13271. Notification procedures to report a spill that include the location of spill, type and quantity of material released, cause of the release, corrective measures taken, and measures the Permittee will implement to prevent future releases.
        - Immediately following a spill that equals or exceeds a reportable quantity[26], the Permittee shall notify: (1) either 911 or the local Certified Unified Program Agency[27]; and (2) the California Office of Emergency Services[28].
        - The Permittee shall notify the Deputy Director and Executive Officer as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours following any spill.

Topsoil Storage and Handling

The Permittee shall develop and implement topsoil storage and handling measures, including measures for salvaging, stockpiling, and replacing topsoil. These measures shall include:

- All elements from BMP-10 from Appendix J of the Application.
- Qualifications of soil scientist(s) that will evaluate soil properties and develop topsoil handling and storage measures.
- Any materials prepared by qualified soil scientist(s) (e.g., soil evaluations, topsoil stockpiling and handling measures).

[26] Regulated materials and associated reportable quantities are defined in 40 C.F.R. § 302.4 and 40 C.F.R. § 355, Appendices A and B. Accessed January 5, 2026.

[27] Colusa County Health and Human Services: (530) 458-0888. Glenn County Air Pollution Control District: (530) 934-6500. Tehama County Environmental Health: (530) 527-8020.

[28] California Office of Emergency Services State Warning Center: (800) 852-7550.

- Proposed locations for stockpiles (including waste storage) and onsite borrow locations. Stockpiles shall be located in areas that will prevent potential discharges to waters of the state.
- Erosion and sediment control measures for stockpiles and disturbed onsite borrow locations during the wet season, high winds, and other adverse weather.
- Protocols to minimize temporary stockpiling of material.

Funks Reservoir Dredged Material Management

The Permittee shall develop and implement measures to evaluate contaminant concentrations within Funks Reservoir and inform the transport and fate of dredged material in a manner that protects water quality and beneficial uses. At a minimum, these measures shall include:

- All elements of BMP-11 from Appendix J of the Application.
- A list of water and sediment contaminants that will be evaluated prior to dredging Funks Reservoir, including but not limited to applicable chemical constituents identified in the Central Valley Basin Plan.
- Description and location(s) of water and sediment treatment of Funks Reservoir dredged material, as necessary. The Permittee shall not reuse any dredged material that does not meet Central Valley Basin Plan water quality objectives.
- Measures for screening debris and trash from dredged material prior to dewatering. Debris and trash shall be disposed of at an appropriate solid waste disposal facility.
- Description of how debris, trash, and dredged material will be transported and disposed of in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations and laws, including the proposed location(s) of such disposal.
- Measures to prevent discharge of dredged material as described in the Dredge or Fill Procedures Subpart H.

Overwintering Preparation

The Permittee shall develop and implement protocols for preparing work areas for overwintering to prevent erosion and other discharges to surface waters during the wet season. At a minimum, the Permittee shall:

- Remove all construction equipment and hazardous materials when not in use for the season.
- Protect stockpiles and disposal areas that will remain onsite with appropriate BMPs to prevent erosion.
- Develop monitoring and maintenance protocols to ensure overwintering BMPs are effective.

6(A) Onsite Materials Management Plan Submittal, Updates, and Implementation

Submittal. Consistent with Condition 1(A), the Permittee shall submit a new or updated Onsite Materials Management Plan for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval for each Individual Work Package Plan at least six months before the desired

start date for the activities included in that work package or the date the Permittee applies to USACE for coverage under a work package, whichever is earlier. The new or updated Onsite Materials Management Plan shall include new or updated measures, as applicable, to address impacts from hazardous waste and other Project-related waste materials associated with the activities covered by the Individual Work Package Plan.

Updates. The Permittee may request Deputy Director review and consideration of approval of changes to a Deputy Director-approved Onsite Materials Management Plan. Any such request shall be submitted as soon as possible and include the proposed changes and rationale. Any changes to the Onsite Materials Management Plan shall be approved by the Deputy Director prior to implementation.

Implementation. The Permittee shall not begin work associated with an Individual Work Package Plan without Deputy Director approval of all plans associated with the work package (i.e., plans required in Conditions 2 through 9 of this certification) and the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B). Deputy Director approval of a plan may include recognition that a plan is not needed or an existing Deputy Director-approved plan is acceptable for the activities covered by an Individual Work Package Plan.

CONDITION 7: Environmental Site Assessments

As part of each Individual Work Package Plan (Condition 1), the Permittee shall develop and submit for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval an Environmental Site Assessments Plan for the activities covered by that work package. Environmental Site Assessments Plan(s) submitted for Work Packages 1-5 (or as otherwise numbered throughout Project implementation) may be wholly new plans or update a previously, Deputy Director-approved Environmental Site Assessments Plan. The Environmental Site Assessments Plan(s) shall be developed in consultation with State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Board, CDFW, USACE, and USFWS staff.

The Deputy Director may require changes as part of any approval. The Permittee shall file with USACE the Deputy Director-approved Environmental Site Assessments Plan(s), and any approved changes thereto. The Permittee shall implement the Environmental Site Assessments Plan(s) and any approved changes thereto upon receipt of Deputy Director and any other required approvals, including the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B), in accordance with the schedule and requirements specified therein.

Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, at a minimum, the Environmental Site Assessments Plan(s) shall include:

- A list and description of the geologic, geotechnical, and geophysical investigations and testing that will be implemented.
- A list and description of all structures and facilities within the Sites Reservoir inundation area that will be demolished.
- A list and description of all structures and facilities within the Sites Reservoir inundation area that will remain following Project completion, including but not limited to structures and facilities that will be inundated and/or buried in place. If

structures or facilities will remain, the Environmental Site Assessments Plan shall include:
    - An analysis of potential water quality impacts associated with remaining structures and facilities, including hazardous materials or wastes present at the facilities and the potential for erosion or runoff to surface waters.
    - Measures the Permittee will implement to ensure remaining facilities do not contribute to water quality impairments.
- Identification and decommissioning procedures that will be implemented for all existing septic tanks and wastewater systems. Such decommissioning shall be performed in accordance with the State Water Board's *Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems* (OWTS Policy).[29]
- Identification and decommissioning procedures that will be implemented for natural gas wells, in accordance with California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (CalGEM) Guidelines, Statutes and Regulations including: (1) prior to plugging and abandoning any oil and gas well or any other well under CalGEM's jurisdiction, operators must submit a Notice of Intention to CalGEM; (2) the Permittee shall comply with any CalGEM plugging requirements to minimize the potential for subsurface contamination and hazardous surface conditions; and (3) the Permittee shall comply with applicable plugging guidelines established by CalGEM.
- Location and design of recreation facilities and onsite wastewater disposal systems that are described in BMP-2 (Siting of Recreational Structures) and BMP-9 (Siting and Design of Onsite Wastewater Disposal Systems) of Appendix J of the Application. The Permittee shall provide State Water Board, Division of Water Rights' Water Quality Certification Program Manager and Project Manager with proof of approval by the applicable county that: (1) recreation facilities will be designed above the predicted wave run-up elevation; and (2) onsite wastewater treatment systems will comply with the applicable county standards related to groundwater or surface water contamination.
- Identification and decommissioning procedures for gas and groundwater wells that are described in BMP-5 (Decommissioning of Natural Gas Wells) and BMP-6 (Decommissioning of Water Wells, of Appendix J of the Application) in the manner required by the local regulating jurisdiction (e.g., Colusa County) or California Department of Conservation, as applicable, to ensure that the groundwater supply is protected and preserved for further use and to eliminate the potential for physical hazard.
- Identification of site-specific drainage evaluations or studies applicable to aboveground facilities that will ultimately result in impervious surfaces, including, but not limited to: the Funks Reservoir Pumping Generating Plant, the Terminal Regulating Reservoir Pumping Generating Plant, the administration and operations building, the maintenance and storage building, the Dunnigan Pipeline, Sacramento River discharge site, all roads (including the South Road),

[29] OWTS Policy is available online at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/owts/docs/adopted_owts_policy.pdf. Accessed May 2026

and other impervious structures or areas that may be constructed in recreation areas that will be substantially changed to create impervious areas as a result of construction.

- How the information collected as part of the investigations and studies identified in the Environmental Site Assessment Plan(s) will be reported to the State Water Board and other appropriate consultation agencies and integrated into other certification plans and measures to ensure the protection of water quality associated with applicable Project-related work.

7(A) Environmental Site Assessments Plan Submittal, Updates, and Implementation

Submittal. Consistent with Condition 1(A), the Permittee shall submit a new or updated Environmental Site Assessments Plan for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval for each Individual Work Package Plan at least six months before the desired start date for the activities included in that work package or the date the Permittee applies to USACE for coverage under a work package, whichever is earlier. The new or updated Environmental Site Assessments Plan shall include new or updated measures, as applicable, to address impacts from geotechnical investigations and decommissioning associated with the activities covered by the Individual Work Package Plan.

Updates. The Permittee may request Deputy Director review and consideration of approval of changes to a Deputy Director-approved Environmental Site Assessments Plan. Any such request shall be submitted as soon as possible and include the proposed changes and rationale. The Permittee shall not implement any requested changes until approved by the Deputy Director.

Implementation. The Permittee shall not begin work associated with an Individual Work Package Plan without Deputy Director approval of all plans associated with the work package (i.e., plans required in Conditions 2 through 9 of this certification) and the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B). Deputy Director approval of a plan may include recognition that a plan is not needed or an existing Deputy Director-approved plan is acceptable for the activities covered by an Individual Work Package Plan.

CONDITION 8: Erosion Management

8(A) Construction General Permit

Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, the Permittee shall develop and implement stormwater pollution prevention plans and obtain coverage under the State Water Board's *General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities* (Construction General Permit) (State Water Board Order 2022-0057-DWQ) and amendments thereto, as described in BMP-12 from Appendix J of the Application.

8(B) Erosion and Sediment Control

As part of each Individual Work Package Plan (Condition 1), the Permittee shall develop and submit for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (Erosion Plan) for the activities covered by that work package. Erosion Plans submitted for Work Packages 1-5 (or as otherwise numbered throughout Project implementation) may be wholly new plans or update a previous, Deputy Director-approved Erosion Plan. The Erosion Plan(s) shall be developed in consultation with State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Board, CDFW, USACE, and USFWS staff.

The Deputy Director may require changes as part of any approval. The Permittee shall file with USACE the Deputy Director-approved Erosion Plan(s), and any approved changes thereto. The Permittee shall implement the Erosion Plan(s) and any approved changes thereto upon receipt of Deputy Director and any other required approvals, including the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B), in accordance with the schedule and requirements specified therein.

Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, at a minimum, the Erosion Plan(s) shall describe how the Project activities associated with each Individual Work Package Plan will comply with the erosion and sediment control measures listed below for Project activities with a potential to discharge to waters of the state. To the extent such activities are covered by a stormwater pollution prevention plan or the Construction General Permit, the Erosion Plan shall include such information.

- Ground disturbance and vegetation removal shall not exceed the minimum amount necessary to complete Project activities.
- Surface waters, and any other aquatic habitats, wetlands, or riparian habitat shall be protected with silt fences, fiber rolls, erosion control blankets, and other BMPs, as necessary. Erosion controls shall be installed prior to Project activities and maintained throughout Project activities. No fill, including vegetation trimmings, debris, or runoff, shall be allowed to enter surface waters or other aquatic habitats, wetlands, or riparian habitat. Erosion control materials shall be installed per manufacturing material specifications and shall not contain monofilament netting. Changes, repairs, and improvements shall be made to BMPs, if the measures fail to prevent discharges of waste to waters of the state.
- Off-road equipment shall be cleaned to ensure that it is free of soil and plant parts prior to entering the Project area. When accessing work sites, travel and parking of vehicles shall be limited to pavement, existing roads, and previously disturbed areas (except where overland travel is required).
- To the extent feasible, disturbed areas shall be returned to pre-existing contours and conditions upon completion of Project activities. The Permittee shall stabilize disturbed areas within the Project area using reestablishment of vegetation and non-vegetative erosion controls, whenever earth disturbing activities have permanently ceased, or temporarily ceased and will not resume for a period exceeding 14 calendar days. Following completion of Project activities, all construction materials, spoils, or other debris shall be properly disposed of or removed and stored in a manner that will not impact waters of the state.

- Environmentally sensitive areas and environmentally restricted areas, including any waters of the state to be avoided during Project implementation, must be clearly identified in the field for exclusion from disturbance prior to the start of Project activities. Such identification must be properly maintained until construction is completed and the soils have been stabilized.
- Spoils from excavations shall not be stored or discarded in waters of the state or in other locations in a manner that may allow discharge to waters of the state. All spoil piles with a potential to discharge to waters of the state must be covered or stabilized with tarps, mulch, or another material to prevent sedimentation into waters of the state.

The Permittee shall file with USACE the Deputy Director-approved Erosion Plan and any approved changes thereto. The Permittee shall implement the Erosion Plan upon receipt of Deputy Director and any other required approvals, in accordance with the schedule and requirements specified therein.

8(C) Erosion Plan Submittal, Updates, and Implementation

Submittal. Consistent with Condition 1(A), the Permittee shall submit a new or updated Erosion Plan for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval for each Individual Work Package Plan at least six months before the desired start date for the activities included in that work package or the date the Permittee applies to USACE for coverage under a work package, whichever is earlier. The new or updated Erosion Plan shall include new or updated measures, as applicable, to address erosion and sedimentation impacts associated with the activities covered by the Individual Work Package Plan.

Updates. The Permittee may request Deputy Director review and consideration of approval of changes to Deputy Director-approved Erosion Plan. Any such request shall be submitted as soon as possible and include the proposed changes and rationale. The Permittee shall not implement any requested changes until approved by the Deputy Director.

Implementation. The Permittee shall not begin work associated with an Individual Work Package Plan without Deputy Director approval of all plans associated with the work package (i.e., plans required in Conditions 2 through 9 of this certification) and the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B). Deputy Director approval of a plan may include recognition that a plan is not needed or an existing Deputy Director-approved plan is acceptable for the activities covered by an Individual Work Package Plan.

CONDITION 9: Roads and Culverts

Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, the Permittee shall perform site-specific drainage evaluations or studies (identified in the Environmental Site Assessment Plans, Condition 7) for applicable aboveground facilities that will ultimately

result in impervious surfaces[30] as described in BMP-15 of Appendix J of the Application, and as changed by this condition.

Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, the Permittee shall remove and/or reuse materials from roads proposed to be abandoned within the inundation area as described in BMP-7 of Appendix J of the Application, and as changed by this condition.

9(A) Road Management

As part of each Individual Work Package Plan (Condition 1), the Permittee shall develop and submit for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval a Road Management Plan for the activities covered by that work package. Road Management Plan(s) submitted for Work Packages 1-5 (or as otherwise numbered throughout Project implementation) may be wholly new plans or update a previous, Deputy Director-approved Road Management Plan. The Road Management Plan(s) shall be developed in consultation with State Water Board, Central Valley Regional Water Board, CDFW, USACE, USFWS, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and applicable county staff.

The Deputy Director may require changes as part of any approval. The Permittee shall file with USACE the Deputy Director-approved Road Management Plan(s), and any approved changes thereto. The Permittee shall implement the Road Management Plan(s) and any approved changes thereto upon receipt of Deputy Director and any other required approvals, including the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B), in accordance with the schedule and requirements specified therein.

Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, at a minimum, the Road Management Plan(s) shall include:

- The assessment, monitoring, reporting, and measures related to road design and management that will be implemented, as described in mitigation measures WILD-1.15 and WILD-1.16 and BMP-15 and BMP-28 from Appendix J of the Application, except as changed based on consultation and approved in the Road Management Plan(s).
- Any updates to Tables 5 and 6 and Appendix A of the Application, including:
    - An updated map (e.g., .kmz file) for all roads associated with the Project, including locations of drainage structures, streams, and surface waterbodies.
    - Final design drawings for construction, changes, rehabilitation, or maintenance of Project roads.

[30] Applicable aboveground facilities ultimately resulting in impervious surfaces, include, but are not limited to: Funks Reservoir, Funks Pumping Generating Plant, Terminal Regulating Reservoir, Terminal Regulating Reservoir Pumping Generating Plant, the new administration and operations building, the new maintenance and storage building, Dunnigan Pipeline, the Sacramento River discharge site, all roads, impervious areas within the new recreation areas, and areas that will be substantially changed by Project construction.

- An assessment of Project roads to determine if any drainage structures or road segments are impacting or have the potential to impact water quality.
- An assessment of Project designs of new, repaired, and replaced culverts, including concrete box culverts also serving as bridges, to match channel gradients and adequately convey the 100-year design flow and associated sediment and wood loads, without pressurizing flow passing through the culvert. If a Project culvert is designed to convey less than the 100-year design flow, the Permittee shall demonstrate that the culvert's design will not result in excessive flooding, erosion, sedimentation, head cutting, or habitat impacts.
- Identification of measures that will be implemented to ensure culverts are constructed and maintained to protect water quality, including the provisions in Condition 9(C).
- Documentation that Project designs of roads, bridges, and culverts have been reviewed and approved by a State of California-registered Engineer.
- Identification of the source materials that will be used to protect bridge abutments.
- Proposed measures and an implementation schedule to rehabilitate and minimize erosion from existing Project roads. Proposed measures to protect water quality during construction and maintenance of Project roads.
- Proposed measures that will be implemented to improve drainage that are consistent with the most current Caltrans Highway Design Manual.[31]
- A schedule and plan for inspection and maintenance of Project roads throughout the Project.
- A reporting program that includes submittal of annual reports to the State Water Board and Central Valley Regional Water Board. The annual reports shall at a minimum include:
    - Inspection results that indicate existing or potential impacts to water quality and beneficial uses associated with roads and culverts.
    - Proposed road and culvert activities for the upcoming year.
    - Documentation of removal of all asphalt from the Sites Reservoir inundation area and assessment of remaining non-asphalt road materials that could impact water quality during reservoir filling.
    - Reporting may be done in conjunction with the reporting requirements in Condition 10.
- Documentation of consultation with the required agencies staff including consulting agencies' comments and recommendations made in connection with the Road Management Plan(s), and a description of how the Road Management Plan(s) incorporates or addresses the comments and recommendations.

9(B) Road Management Plan Submittal, Updates, and Implementation

Submittal. Consistent with Condition 1(A), the Permittee shall submit a new or updated Road Management Plan for Deputy Director review and consideration of approval for

[31] Highway Design Manual – Hydraulics and Stormwater Related Chapters. Available at: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/manual-highway-design-manual-hdm. Accessed January 16, 2026.

each Individual Work Package Plan at least six months before the desired start date for the activities included in that work package or the date the Permittee applies to USACE for coverage under a work package, whichever is earlier. The new or updated Road Management Plan shall include new or updated measures, as applicable, to address impacts from road management associated with the activities covered by the Individual Work Package Plan.

Updates. The Permittee may request Deputy Director review and consideration of approval of changes to a Deputy Director-approved Road Management Plan. Any such request shall be submitted as soon as possible and include the proposed changes and rationale. The Permittee shall not implement any requested changes until approved by the Deputy Director.

Implementation. The Permittee shall not begin work associated with an Individual Work Package Plan without Deputy Director approval of all plans associated with the work package (i.e., plans required in Conditions 2 through 9 of this certification) and the water right approval noted in Condition 1(B). Deputy Director approval of a plan may include recognition that a plan is not needed or an existing Deputy Director-approved plan is acceptable for the activities covered by an Individual Work Package Plan.

9(C) Culvert Construction and Management

Unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director, the Permittee shall construct and maintain culverts in accordance with the following:

- Cured in Place Pipe is prohibited in the absence of formulation specific toxicity data that establishes that it will not cause detrimental physiological responses to human, plant, animal, or aquatic life, or cause discharges to waters of the state that do not comply with water quality objectives or goals.
- Replacement of culverts acting as grade control structures is not authorized under this certification. A vertical gap between the culvert and the immediate downstream channel indicates that the culvert likely functions as a grade control structure.
- Culvert replacement must include fluvial geo-morphically appropriate channel stabilization to prevent any existing downstream scour or head cutting from migrating upstream.
- Culvert repairs may include, but are not limited to, fill of scour holes with appropriately sized rock riprap or the construction of rock weirs with appropriately sized rock that are keyed well into the channel banks to minimize the risk of flanking.
- The replaced or maintained culvert shall be in alignment with the stream channel upstream and downstream of the culvert.
- Any replacement culvert or culvert that is to be left in place by a repair or maintenance activity must be placed at a gradient and orientation that will not result in erosional scour at the outlet.
- Replacement of a culvert with a similarly sized culvert is allowable only where there is no visual indication that the existing culvert is undersized. Visual indications of undersized culverts include, but are not limited to: sediment

aggradation upstream of the culvert; evidence of flow over the top of the culvert (e.g., erosional rills in dirt road surfaces or erosion of shoulders adjacent to paved road surfaces), erosion of the fill between the culvert and the road surface, scour pools at the culvert outlet, or erosion of creek banks immediately downstream of the culvert.

- Unless infeasible, replacement culverts shall be sized to convey a 100-year flow event with debris, without pressurizing flow passing through the culvert. The 100-year flow event shall be modeled under climate change projections, if available.
- Deep fills (deeper than a backhoe can reach from the roadbed) with undersized culverts or culverts with high plugging potential shall be fitted with an emergency overflow structure to accommodate 100-year floods.
- Culvert inlets shall have low plug potential (debris barriers or deflectors installed where needed, as long as they do not create a barrier to passage in fish-bearing creeks).
- Culverts shall be installed at the base of the fill and in line with the natural channel.
- Culvert outlets shall be extended to a length that prevents erosion and sediment discharges into waters of the state at levels that exceed water quality objectives and/or impair beneficial uses.
- Consider and use of arch culverts or free-span bridge alternatives rather than solid bottom culverts (e.g., cylindrical culverts or box culverts), whenever appropriate.
- New culverts shall not be located in a meander bend of the stream channel. If a failed culvert is within a meander bend of the stream, the replacement culvert shall be placed away from the meander bend.
- Plastic culverts shall not be installed in high-threat fire areas as mapped by California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection's Fire and Resource Protection Program.

CONDITION 10: Reporting

10(A) Progress Reports

Every four months following commencement of each Work Package, the Permittee shall submit progress reports to State Water Board staff. The progress reports shall be submitted within 30 days following each four-month period. Progress reports shall at a minimum include:

- In the first progress report, qualifications for the construction monitors, environmental resource monitors, and other individuals responsible for documenting compliance with the Project certification. This information shall be updated in subsequent progress reports, if necessary.
- A summary of activities performed and remaining activities to be completed as part of the current Work Package(s).
- Documentation of compliance with each condition of this certification and details of any failure to meet the certification requirements.

- Details of Project-related adverse impacts to water quality or beneficial uses, if applicable.

Any new activities, AMMs, or BMPs proposed as part of the current Work Package shall be submitted to the Deputy Director for review and consideration of approval as noted in the condition associated with the activity, AMM, or BMP. Based on information submitted in the progress reports, the Deputy Director may request additional information or require the Permittee to perform additional monitoring and/or reporting, and implement additional actions or measures to protect water quality and beneficial uses.

10(B) Work Package Completion Reports

Within two months of completing a Work Package, the Permittee shall provide the Deputy Director with a Work Package Completion Report. The Work Package Completion Report may include reference to previously submitted progress reports submitted under Condition 10(A). Work Package Completion Reports may be combined; if combined, the reports shall clearly identify which work package the reported information applies to. At a minimum the Work Package Completion Report(s) shall include:

- Summary of all activities completed as part of the Work Package.
- Documentation of any site restoration efforts and final site conditions. Any ongoing restoration efforts or monitoring shall be identified and reported in future progress reports or Work Package Completion Reports.
- Documentation that no fish barriers have formed at the Colusa Basin Drain outfall due to construction.
- Documentation of Stone Corral Creek, Funks Creek, and Colusa Basin Drain conditions to ensure the Project area is not contributing to excess erosion.
- Photo documentation. All photos shall include a date stamp and location (e.g., latitude/longitude) and/or map indicating location of photo. At a minimum, photo documentation shall include:
    - Site photos taken under a variety of flow conditions, including, if possible, high winter flows (preferably at least one bank full event) and summer low flows at appropriate locations (e.g., Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and Colusa Basin Drain).
    - Post-Work Package conditions and photo documentation of Project implementation taken before, during, and after Project construction at appropriate locations (i.e., each dam site, Funks Reservoir, Terminal Regulating Reservoir, Dunnigan Pipeline waterbody crossings, and Colusa Basin Drain outfall).

The Permittee shall provide Work Package Completion Reports to the Deputy Director, Central Valley Regional Water Board, CDFW, USACE, and USFWS staff. The Permittee shall provide any additional information or clarification requested by the Deputy Director related to a progress report or Work Package Completion Report. Upon request from State Water Board staff, the Permittee shall meet with staff to discuss a Progress Report or a Work Package Completion Report. The Deputy Director may

require the Permittee to implement corrective actions or approve additional measures proposed by the Permittee in response to the information provided in a Work Package Completion Report or new information in the record.

CONDITIONS 11 – 32

CONDITION 11. Notwithstanding any conditions in this certification, the Permittee's diversions and uses of water related to the Project are subject to the separate and independent conditions and legal requirements under its water rights. Nothing in this certification shall be construed as State Water Board approval of the validity of any water rights, including pre-1914 or riparian claims. The State Water Board has separate authority under the Water Code to investigate and take enforcement action, if necessary, to prevent any unauthorized or threatened unauthorized diversions of water.

CONDITION 12. This certification serves as Waste Discharge Requirements pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code sections 13000 et seq.) as authorized by State Water Board Order WQ 2003-0017-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges that have Received State Water Quality Certification.

CONDITION 13. Unless otherwise specified in this certification or at the request of the Deputy Director, data and/or reports shall be submitted electronically in a format accepted by the State Water Board to facilitate the incorporation of this information into public reports and the State Water Board's water quality database systems in compliance with Water Code section 13167.

CONDITION 14. This certification does not authorize any act which results in the take of a threatened, endangered, or candidate species or any act which is now prohibited, or becomes prohibited in the future, under either the California Endangered Species Act (ESA) (Fish & G. Code, §§ 2050 – 2097) or the federal ESA (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 – 1544). If a "take" will result from any act authorized under this certification or water rights held by the Permittee, the Permittee must obtain authorization for the take prior to any construction or operation of the portion of the Project that may result in a take. The Permittee is responsible for meeting all requirements of the applicable ESAs for the Project authorized under this certification.

CONDITION 15. This certification shall not be construed as replacement or substitution for any necessary federal, state, and local approvals. The Permittee is responsible for compliance with all applicable federal, state, or local laws or ordinances and shall obtain authorization from applicable regulatory agencies prior to the commencement of Project activities.

CONDITION 16. Any requirement in this certification that refers to an agency whose authorities and responsibilities are transferred to or subsumed by another state or federal agency, will apply equally to the successor agency.

CONDITION 17. This certification is subject to change or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including but not limited to review and amendment pursuant to Water Code section 13330 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 28, article 6 (commencing with section 3867).

CONDITION 18. This certification is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a FERC license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent application for certification was filed pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3855, subdivision (b) and that application for certification specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

CONDITION 19. This certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 28.

CONDITION 20. Notwithstanding any more specific provision of this certification, any plan or report developed as a condition of this certification requires review and approval by the Deputy Director. The State Water Board's approval authority, including authority delegated to the Deputy Director or others, includes the authority to withhold approval or to require changes of a plan, proposal, or report prior to approval. The State Water Board may take enforcement action if the Permittee fails to provide or implement a required item in a timely manner. Notwithstanding any other condition of this certification, if a time extension is needed to submit an item for Deputy Director approval, the Permittee shall submit a written request for the extension, with justification, to the Deputy Director no later than 15 days prior to the deadline. The Permittee shall not implement any plan, proposal, or report until after the applicable State Water Board approval and any other necessary regulatory approvals.

CONDITION 21. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, including if monitoring results indicate that Project activities could violate water quality objectives or impair beneficial uses, the violation or threatened violation is subject to any remedies, penalties, process, or sanctions as provided for under applicable state or federal law. For the purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any state law authorizing remedies, penalties, process, or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this certification. In response to any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the Permittee shall, by a deadline required by the Deputy Director, submit a plan that documents why the violation occurred and steps the Permittee will implement to address the violation. The Permittee shall implement the plan upon approval from the Deputy Director, and the Deputy Director may require changes as part of any approval to ensure the protection of water quality and beneficial uses or compliance with water quality control plans, policies, or other applicable requirements of state law.

CONDITION 22. The Permittee shall submit any change to the Project, including operations, facilities, technology changes or upgrades, or methodology, which may have a significant or material effect on the findings, conclusions, or conditions of this certification, to the State Water Board for prior review and written approval, unless otherwise specified. The State Water Board shall determine significance and may require consultation with state and/or federal agencies. If the State Water Board is not notified of a change to the Project, it will be considered a violation of this certification. If such a change would also require submission to USACE, the change must first be submitted and approved by the State Water Board unless otherwise delegated in this certification or other State Water Board approval.

CONDITION 23. This certification is contingent on compliance with all applicable requirements of the Central Valley Basin Plan and any amendments thereto.

CONDITION 24. Unless otherwise specified by conditions in this certification, Project activities shall be conducted in a manner consistent with all water quality standards and implementation plans adopted or approved pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act or section 303 of the Clean Water Act. The Permittee shall take all reasonable measures to protect the beneficial uses of waters of the state, including the Colusa Basin Drain.

CONDITION 25. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this certification, the State Water Board or Central Valley Regional Water Board may require the holder of any federal permit or license subject to this certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the State Water Board deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. (Wat. Code, §§ 1051, 13165, 13267, and 13383.)

CONDITION 26. Upon request, a construction schedule shall be provided to State Water Board and Central Valley Regional Water Board staff. The Permittee shall provide State Water Board and Central Valley Regional Water Board staff access to Project sites to document compliance with this certification.

CONDITION 27. A copy of this certification shall be provided to any contractors and subcontractors conducting Project-related work, and copies shall remain in their possession at the Project site. The Permittee shall be responsible for work conducted by their contractors, subcontractors, or other persons conducting Project-related work.

CONDITION 28. The Permittee shall use analytical methods approved by California's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, where such methods are available. Samples that require laboratory analysis shall be analyzed by Environmental Lab Accreditation Program-certified laboratories.

CONDITION 29. The State Water Board shall provide notice and an opportunity to be heard in exercising its authority to add to or change the conditions of this certification.

CONDITION 30. The Permittee shall ensure no net loss of wetland or riparian habitat functions and is responsible for compliance with the Dredge or Fill Procedures (State Water Board 2019 and 2021) and any amendments thereto, and Water Code sections 16200-16201.

CONDITION 31. This certification serves as Waste Discharge Requirements pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code sections 13000 et seq.) as authorized by State Water Board Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges that have Received State Water Quality Certification.

CONDITION 32. Certification that the Project will be protective of water quality and beneficial uses in compliance with the state and federal water quality standards and other appropriate requirements of state law is dependent upon the conditions and limitations by this certification, however, to ensure the validity of this certification upon any challenge that is not addressed by another condition of this certification, the provisions of this certification are severable. Upon remand from determination on administrative or judicial review that a provision of this certification is invalid or affects the validity of the certification the State Water Board may adopt an alternative term that addresses the water quality issue while avoiding the invalidity.

DRAFT

Executive Director Date

9.0 References

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SITES RESERVOIR PROJECT
DRAFT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

ATTACHMENT A:
PROJECT OVERVIEW MAPS

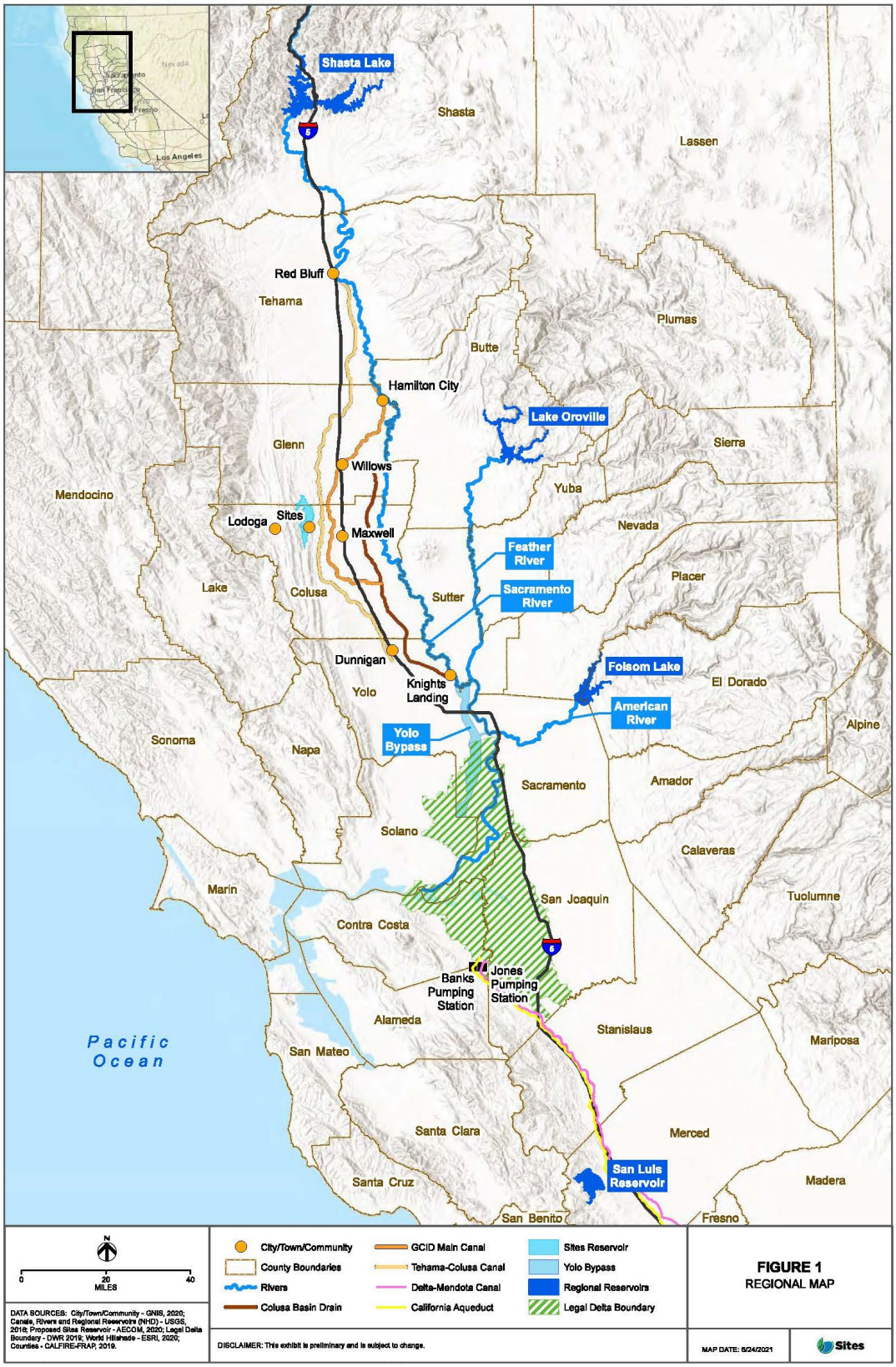

Figure 1. Sites Reservoir Project Regional Map (Authority 2025a)

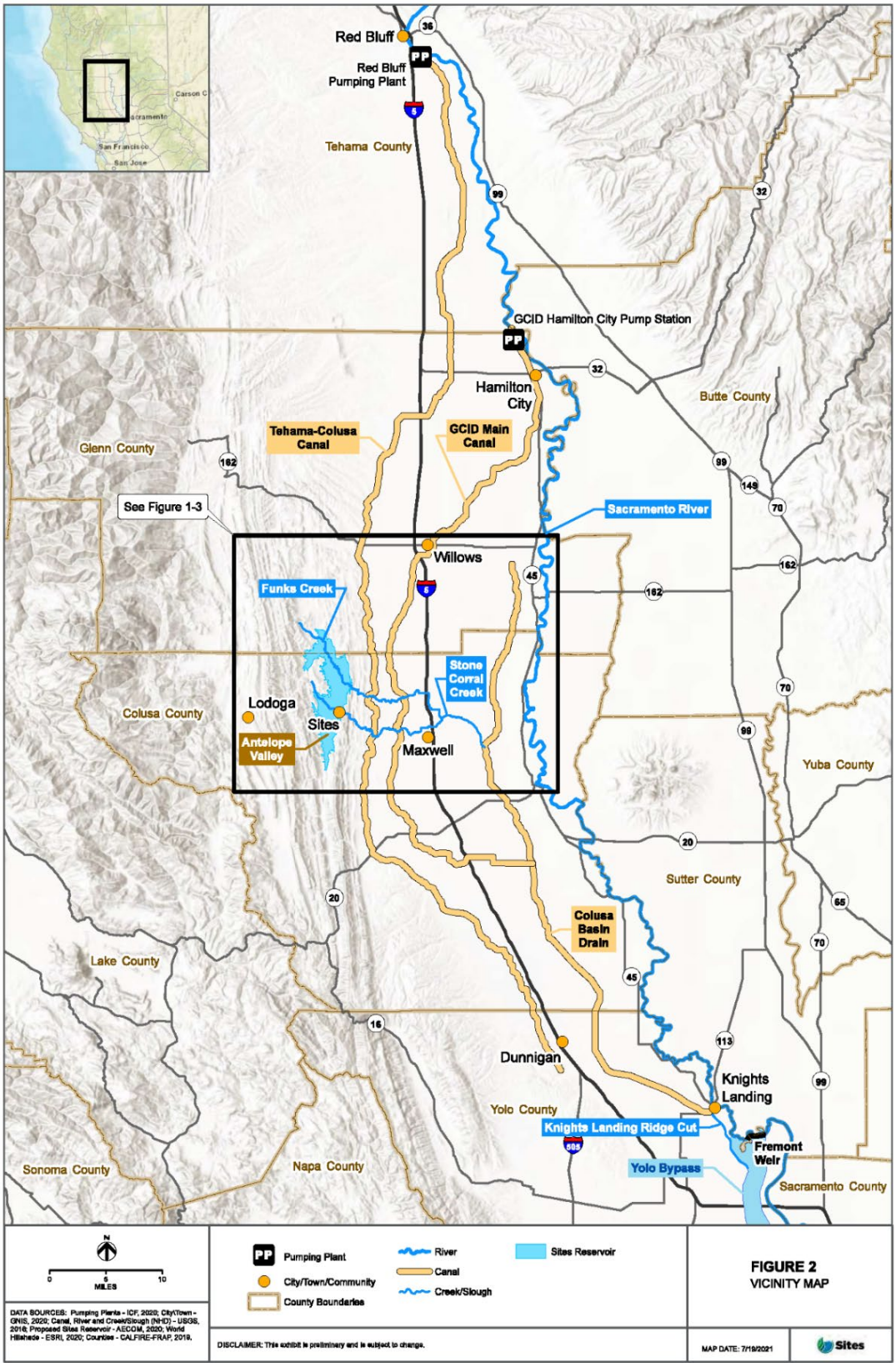

Figure 2. Sites Reservoir Project Vicinity Map (Authority 2025a)

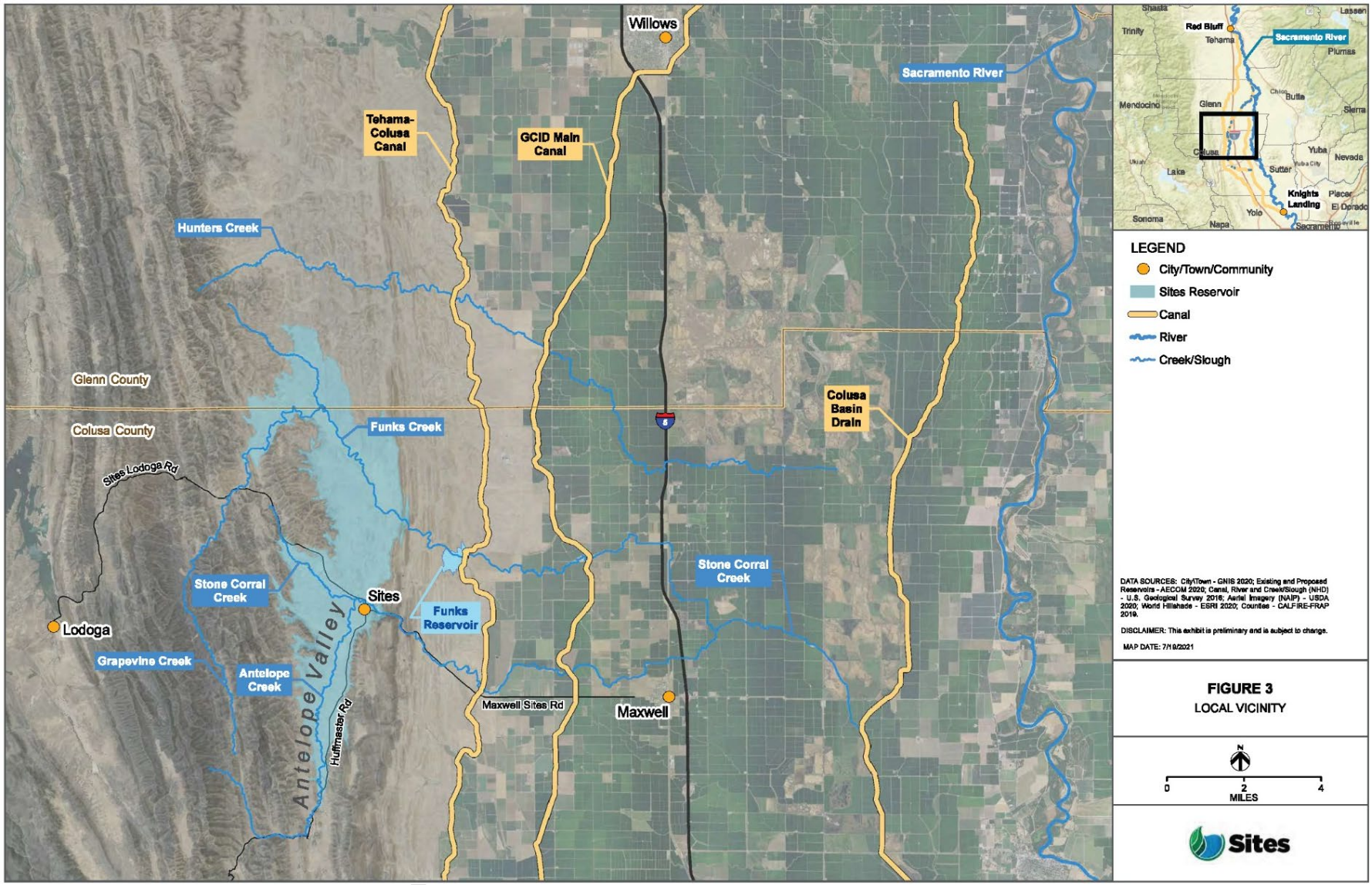

Figure 3. Sites Reservoir Project Local Vicinity Map (Authority 2025a)

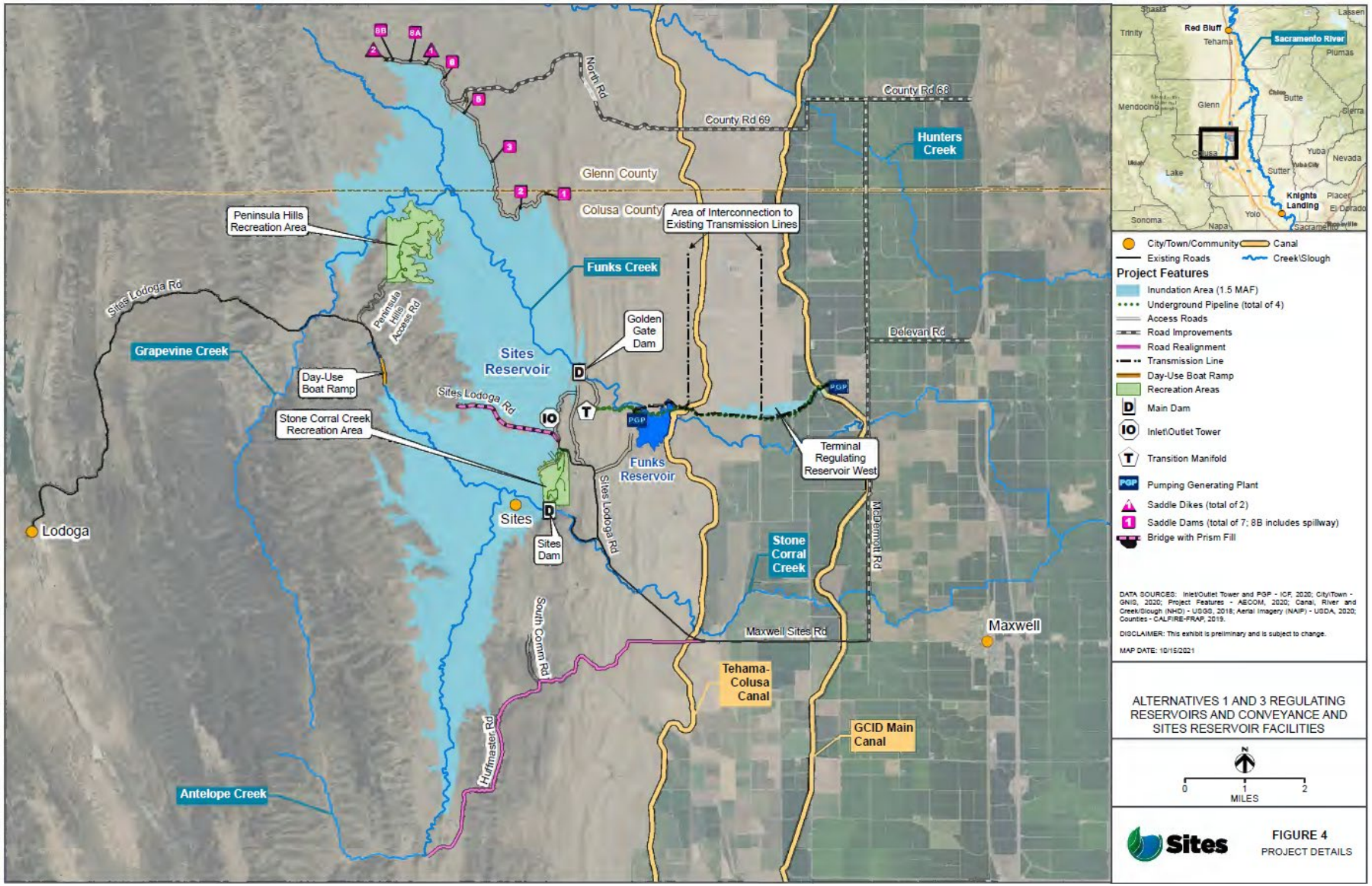

Figure 4. Sites Reservoir Project Details (Authority 2025a)

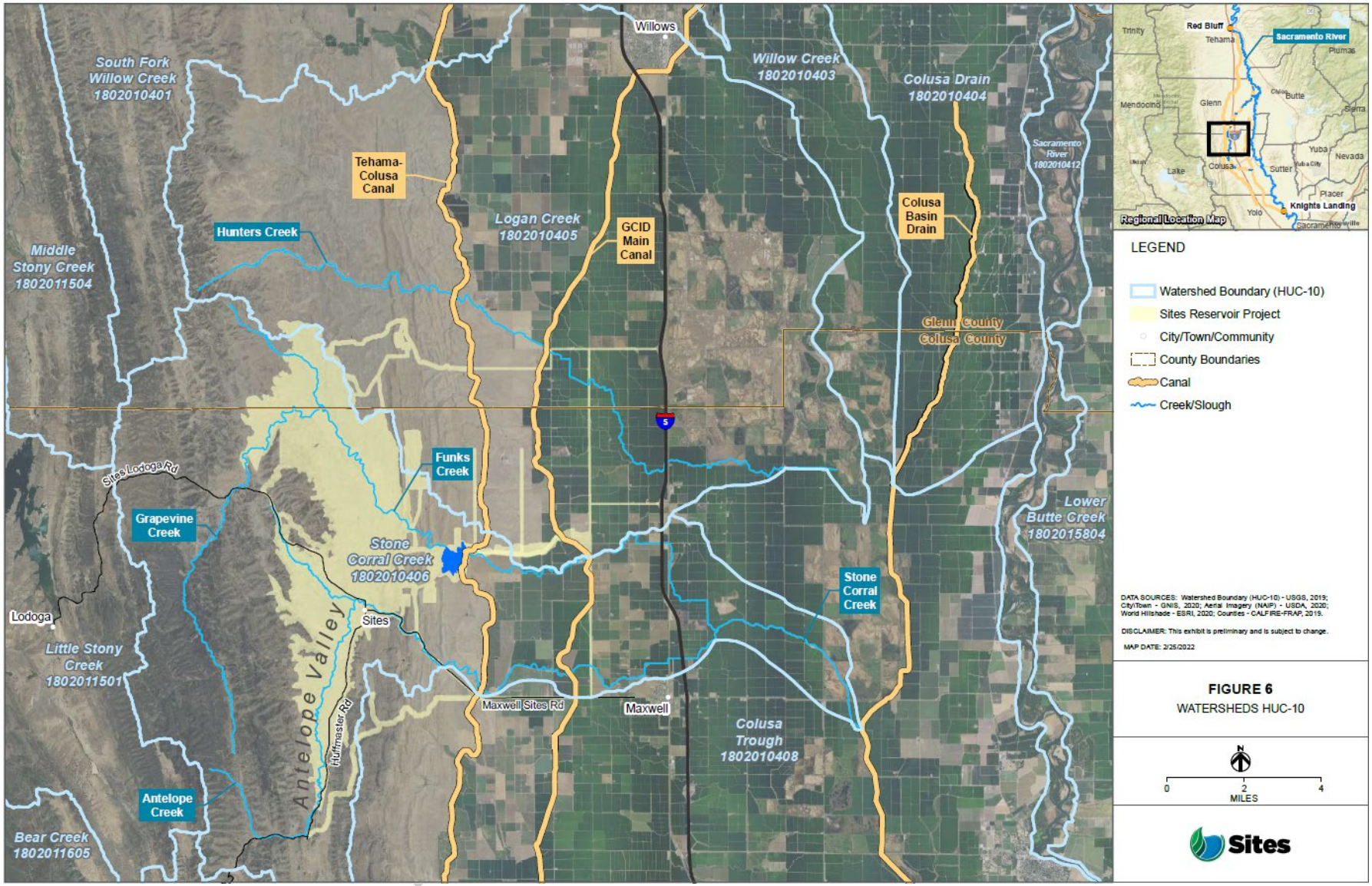

Figure 5. Sites Reservoir Project Details (Authority 2025a)

SITES RESERVOIR PROJECT
DRAFT WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

ATTACHMENT B:
WORK PACKAGE 1 DESCRIPTION

Work Package 1 includes the following activities:

- *Geotechnical investigations*. Surface geotechnical investigations include areas proposed for access and haul roads, borrow areas, the main dams, Pumping Generating Plant facilities, and Terminal Regulating Reservoirs. Subsurface geotechnical investigations include borehole drilling and cone penetration tests, test pits, fault and quarry studies, construction of test fills, installation of wells and piezometers, and aquifer testing in areas proposed for access and haul roads, staging, stockpile, and borrow areas, and the main dams and reservoirs.
- *Golden Gate Dam footprint activities*. The work within the Golden Gate Dam footprint consists of four main aspects:
    - Foundation Excavation: Work includes excavation to bedrock within the footprint of the Golden Gate Dam, so the structure is founded on suitable rock. The dam footprint will be approximately 2,200 feet along its axis and 1,500 feet upstream to downstream. The depth of the footprint of the dam site excavation will vary based on the geology and is expected to be up to 25 feet deep. The work will be staged and performed starting from the top of the abutments down to the valley using large earthmoving equipment, including excavators and bulldozers. Excavated material will be loaded onto heavy off-offroad haul trucks. It is anticipated that a small portion of the quantity of material needed to be removed would occur via blasting, depending on the geology. The excavated materials will be hauled to either the Golden Gate Dam North or Golden Gate Dam South Staging and Stockpile Areas (further discussed below) for final disposal. Depending on the geology of the onsite materials, it is estimated that approximately 1.3 million cubic yards (CYs) will be removed from the foundation area. This work will start following the wet season in late spring/early summer after flows in Funks Creek have reduced. This work is expected to take one to two years, depending on weather, actual field conditions, and other constraints.
    - Funks Creek Diversion: After the foundation excavation has been completed from the north abutment down to the creek level on the north end of Funks Creek, a four-foot-diameter pipe will be installed adjacent to the creek channel at the same elevation as the channel. The diversion inlet and outlet structures will be constructed just outside of the existing channel leaving a small section of channel bank separating the structures to the channel. The existing channel will then be plugged at the upstream terminus of the diversion with onsite native material, and the small sections of bank separating the channel from the inlet and outlet structures will be breached, thereby initiating the start of the diversion. After the diversion is in place, the existing creek alignment will be removed for construction access. This work will be sequenced during periods of the year when Funks Creek is dry (generally summer and fall). This work is expected to take two to eight months to complete.

  - Cofferdam Construction: Once the most upstream area of the Golden Gate Dam footprint has been excavated to a depth necessary for an adequate foundation, adequate excavated native material will be used for construction of a permanent cofferdam. The material will be placed, spread with a bulldozer, and compacted until it reaches the design height. The approximate size of the cofferdam will be 500 feet long by 500 feet wide by 80 feet high, with an estimated fill quantity of 180,000 CY. The cofferdam will have an impervious core which will either be constructed out of clay material or from a cement-bentonite wall depending on the design criteria, with estimated fill quantities of 3,000 CY and 10,000 CY, respectively. If a cement-bentonite wall is used, it will be trenched in after the cofferdam is topped out using a long-reach excavator and a temporary pond will be constructed downstream of the cofferdam (within the permitted area) to mix the cement-bentonite slurry which will then be pumped into the trench. If the impervious core is constructed out of clay, it will be constructed with the cofferdam as a typical zoned embankment. This work is expected to take three to eight months. After construction, the cofferdam will be left in place and become part of Golden Gate Dam.
  - Grout Curtain: After the Golden Gate Dam foundation excavation has reached suitable bedrock that contains minimal weathering and is deemed sufficient for the foundation, a grout curtain will be installed. The first step will be the construction of a formed concrete grout cap, which will consist of a 25- to 30-foot-wide by three-foot-deep slab running along the axis of the dam, and involve an estimated concrete volume of 7,000 to 8,000 CY. The second step will involve drilling two- to four-inch-diameter holes spaced every ten feet along the axis of the dam to a depth of 100 to 200 feet. Each hole will be injected with high pressure grout to create an impervious curtain underneath the dam. The quantity of grout required for this will be highly variable to the geology of the foundation and the performance of the grout to create the desired impervious curtain (i.e. how much grout is being absorbed into the foundation). Rough estimates for grout are in the range of 100 to 200 CY. This work is expected to take one to two years to complete
- *Golden Gate Dam North and South Staging and Stockpile Areas*. Excavated Golden Gate Dam foundation material not needed for the cofferdam construction will be stockpiled in locations north and south of Golden Gate Dam foundation footprint. Generally, excavated materials from the foundation area will be loaded into off-road haul trucks that will transport and deposit the material to these locations. The deposited material will be spread out with several bulldozers. In addition, equipment needed for transportation, excavation, and spreading of surplus excavated materials from Golden Gate Dam may be staged at these locations. This work will occur concurrently with the Golden Gate Dam foundation excavation activity and is estimated to take one to two years to complete, depending on the duration of the foundation excavation.

- *Golden Gate Dam Rock Borrow Area*. A test quarry will be developed within the Golden Gate Dam Rock Borrow Area. Work is expected to take three to six months to complete and will include removal and stockpiling of non-rock superficial materials, drilling, blasting, excavating and stockpiling blasted rock, and crushing and screening for gravel production. The test quarry will have two main purposes:
    - Geotechnical Testing, including performing various lab tests on the mined rock (e.g., strength, durability) as well as performing a "test fill" (as described in Appendix R, Section 3.1.1, of the certification application) within the identified staging areas where the contractor will replicate placing the rockfill in lifts similar to what will occur at the Sites Dam and Golden Gate Dam for testing and analysis purposes.
    - Development of gravel surfacing materials using a portable crushing and screening plant. It is anticipated that the diesel-powered plant will run approximately three to six months to produce the required amount of gravel surfacing for all proposed access and haul roads described herein, currently estimated at totaling 100,000 to 150,000 CY.
- *Golden Gate Dam Borrow Area Haul Road*. Work involves constructing a key haul road between the Golden Gate Dam footprint and the Golden Gate Dam Rock Borrow Area. This road will be used for accessing the test quarry, but also for major hauling activities that will occur under future work packages once the Golden Gate Dam embankment work starts. This haul road will be 100 feet wide, but is currently described under Work Package 1 as approximately 200 feet wide to allow for sufficient flexibility in selecting the preferred alignment based on topography and to maximize avoidance of potentially jurisdictional resources and other regulated resources (e.g., special-status species, cultural resources). Road construction will require grading to establish the design width, including cutting into existing slopes and filling on downslopes. Grading will be performed with bulldozers, graders, excavators and other similar earth moving equipment. In addition, stormwater drainage will be installed, which will include unlined roadside ditches and culvert crossings, where necessary. After the road is graded, it will be topped with gravel surfacing to accommodate heavy construction equipment. Lastly, as currently designed, a six-inch-diameter conduit will be trenched into the road for future construction power needs at the borrow area (i.e., future work packages). This work is expected to take three to six months.
- *Funks Access Road and Funks to Golden Gate Dam Access Road*. Work consists of improving an existing dirt road that leads northeast from the proposed Sites Lodoga Detour Road on the Jensen property[32] to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Funks Reservoir (referred to as Funks Access Road), as well as another existing dirt road that runs north along the western border of

[32] Approximately, a 1,255 acres property in Colusa County. The property is designated for critical early-construction elements, including the relocation of the Maxwell-Sites Road, reservoir inlet/outlet structures, and construction haul roads for the dams.

the property, then traverses westward along the former Jensen property onto the former Red Stick Farms property (now owned by the Authority). The latter will connect with a new road running northward towards the Golden Gate Dam (referred to as Funks to Golden Gate Dam access road). The road improvements and new road will be approximately 30 feet wide, constructed using a grader or bulldozer, and will not substantially alter the existing grade. The roads will be topped with six to 12 inches of road surfacing materials generated from the onsite test quarry at the Golden Gate Dam Rock Borrow Area or from an offsite location. In addition, stormwater drainage will be installed, which will include unlined roadside ditches and installation or replacement of culvert crossings, where necessary. This work is expected to take two to four months to complete.

- *Sites Lodoga Detour Road*. Work consists of construction of the initial section of the Sites Lodoga Detour Road on the former Red Stick Farms property, and includes improvements of an existing dirt road as well as construction of a new road section. The detour road will connect with the existing Sites-Maxwell Road in the south and the Funks Access Road in the north, and then run westward to the western edge of the property. This work includes improvements to an existing road to meet Colusa County standards, involving widening, placing additional gravel surfacing, paving, improvement/installation of drainage ditches, replacing culverts, adding guardrails, paving, and stripping. The improved road will be 60 feet wide, but is currently described under Work Package 1 as approximately 200 feet wide to allow for sufficient flexibility in selecting the preferred alignment based on topography and to maximize avoidance of potentially jurisdictional resources and other regulated resources (e.g., special-status species, cultural resources). The new section of road will be constructed between the junction with Funks Access Road to the western edge of the property, consisting of the same work as the existing road improvements, in addition to grading to develop the final alignment and grade of the road. The new road will be 60 feet wide, but is currently described under Work Package 1 as approximately 600 feet wide for the same reasons described above. This work is expected to take six to 12 months to complete.
- *Sites Rock Borrow and Staging Areas and Access Road*. Activities for the two Sites Rock Borrow and Staging Areas will be the same as described for the Golden Gate Dam Rock Borrow Area and Golden Gate Dam Staging and Stockpile Areas. In addition, flat areas of the staging areas will be stripped of topsoil and surfaced to provide all season use. Further, a new access/haul road will be constructed to connect the existing Maxwell Sites Road to the borrow and staging areas. The work required for constructing the access/haul road will be similar to the description of the Golden Gate Dam Borrow Area Haul Road. The road will be 60 feet wide, but is currently described under Work Package 1 as approximately 200 feet wide to allow for sufficient flexibility in selecting the preferred alignment based on topography and to maximize avoidance of potentially jurisdictional resources and other regulated resources

(e.g., special-status species, cultural resources). This work is expected to take two to six months to complete.

- *Sites Diversion Inlet, Outlet, and Stockpile Area*. Stone Corral Creek will be diverted through a permanent diversion structure routing around the left abutment (north side) of the Sites Dam. The work will involve using a tunnel boring machine to create a 20-foot-diameter bore running approximately 1,400 feet from the waterside toe of the Sites Dam to the landside toe of the dam. Work Package 1 is limited to excavating the diversion tunnel, not putting the diversion tunnel into use. Initiating the diversion of Stone Corral Creek will need to be authorized through a subsequent Work Package approval by USACE, including the construction of the cofferdam and resulting inundation area. The tunneling will occur in sections, with each section being shored as required by the design and the encountered geology. It is anticipated that most of the shoring will require rock bolts and shotcrete. The spoils generated from the tunneling will be transported and deposited in the Sites Diversion and Stockpile Area located immediately north of the diversion inlet. This work is expected to take two years to complete.
- *North-South Haul Road*. Work consists of constructing a haul road between the Sites Lodoga Detour Road and the Golden Gate Dam South Staging and Stockpile Area. This haul road will serve as the main artery for transporting materials from the rock borrow areas to the dam locations under future work packages once embankment construction starts. This new road will be 40 feet wide, but is currently described under Work Package 1 as approximately 400 feet wide to allow for sufficient flexibility in selecting the preferred alignment based on topography and to maximize avoidance of potentially jurisdictional resources and other regulated resources (e.g., special-status species, cultural resources). Similar to the Golden Gate Dam Borrow Area Haul Road, new road construction will require grading to establish the design width, including cutting into existing slopes and filling on downslopes. Grading will be performed with bulldozers, graders, excavators, and similar earth moving equipment. In addition, stormwater drainage will be installed, which will include unlined roadside ditches and culvert crossings, where necessary. After the road is graded, it will be topped with gravel surfacing to accommodate heavy construction equipment. Lastly, a 6-inch conduit will be trenched into the road for future construction power needs at the borrow area (i.e., future work packages). This work is expected to take two to eight months.