



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

LTO WIIN Quarterly

September 2024

Agenda

- Summary of Current NEPA/ESA Progress
- Public Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments
- Anticipated EIS Updates
- Coordination/Remaining Schedule



Prior WIIN Act Quarterly Meeting (1 of 3)

- March 2022 – Scoping Meetings
- June 2022 – Initial Alternatives
- September 2022 – Seasonal Operation Deconstruction and Initial Alternatives
- December 2022 – Lines of Evidence
- March 2023 – Environmental Impact Statement (Affected Environment)



Prior WIIN Act Quarterly Meeting (2 of 3)

- June 2023 – Environmental Impact Statement (Alternative Components)
- September 2023 – Modeling Updates, EIS, BA comment themes
- December 2023 – Biological Modeling and Biological Assessment



Prior WIIN Act Quarterly Meeting (3 of 3)

- March 2024 – Cooperating Agency 2nd Draft EIS release
- June 2024 – Cooperating Agency Comment Themes, Release of DEIS



2021 NEPA and ESA Process (1 of 2)

- NEPA

- Notice of Intent, Scoping, No Action review, and Resource Analyses
- Initial Alt Report
- Co-op Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Summary, Purpose and Need, Proposed Alternatives, Resource Areas
- Public Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Action Alternatives, Preferred/Proposed Action, Analysis
- Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Record of Decision



2021 NEPA and ESA Process (2 of 2)

- ESA
 - Draft Biological Assessment
 - Final Biological Assessment
 - Biological Opinions



Major Themes of Verbal Public Comments (1 of 3)

- Over the past 45 days Reclamation hosted three in-person public meetings and three virtual meetings.
- Multiple comments received related to:
 - Request for additional outreach, including social media
 - Concerns regarding Voluntary Agreements representation
 - Support for Alternative 3
 - Support for Alternative 4
 - Relationship of CVP and SWP (California Endangered Species Act)
 - Concerns regarding effects to fall-run Chinook salmon, sport fisheries and commercial fisheries



Major Themes of Verbal Public Comments (2 of 3)

- Multiple comments received related to:
 - Concerns regarding unintended effects associated with implementation of pulse flows
 - Lack of Indian Trust Assets discussion
 - Concerns regarding tribal outreach, particularly in the central valley
 - Concerns regarding climate change as it relates to operations
 - Concerns about LTO and wildfires



Major Themes of Verbal Public Comments (3 of 3)

- Multiple comments received related to:
 - Concerns about cumulative effects of DCP and Sites
 - Concerns about economic effects in Trinity County
 - Concerns about hatchery operations
 - Concerns about effects to drinking water quality
 - Concerns about the volume and organization of the EIS



Anticipated Updates in the Final EIS

- Fold Alternative 2b into Alternative 2
- Fold Alternative 4b into Alternative 4
- Secondary biological modeling
- Remove Fall X2 from Alternative 4
- Sensitivity analysis reflecting a Summer Fall X2



LTO Project Milestones

NEPA Milestones	Finish Dates
Public Draft EIS NOA Published in Federal Register	Jul 26, 2024
Virtual and in-person public meetings (6)	Aug & Sep 2024
45-day Public Comment period closes	Sep 9, 2024
Final EIS NOA Published in Federal Register	Nov 2024
Anticipated Biological Opinions	FWS – Oct 2024; NMFS – Dec 2024
Record of Decision Executed	Dec 2024



Questions?



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