

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2018
ITEM 15

SUBJECT:

Consultants for Review of Shasta Reservoir Enlargement Environmental Compliance, Including Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation)

DISCUSSION:

Reclamation's FY2018 budget includes \$20 million for design and pre-construction of the Enlargement of Shasta Dam and Reservoir ('Project'). If this work is completed promptly, it is reasonable to expect that Reclamation could begin construction sometime in 2019. However, per section 4007(b)(3), Reclamation cannot begin construction of the Project until an agreement has been executed for the financing of the non-Federal share of the costs. Therefore, to adhere to Reclamation's schedule, local cost-share partners would need to be ready to commit to financing 50% of the Project in 2019. Before the District or any other state or local agency could participate as a local cost share partner, it would have to ensure CEQA compliance by next year.

Currently, there are Project details that are uncertain and that would need to be addressed before the District could determine whether to serve as a local cost share partner, such as how the beneficiaries are defined, what the yield might be, how the Project will be financed, how the 50% local cost share portion of the financing would be distributed among the beneficiaries, etc. Notwithstanding these uncertainties, which staff anticipate will be addressed in the coming months, the CEQA compliance work should commence as soon as possible in order to adhere to the current schedule. Accordingly, District staff requested a draft scope of work and cost estimate from Stantec for: 1) evaluation of whether the Project has an adverse effect on the free-flowing condition or the wild trout fishery on the McCloud River, 2) review of existing compliance documents on the Shasta dam raise project, and 3) preparation of all

necessary documents to ensure CEQA compliance, as provided in more detail in the attached preliminary scope of work and cost estimate. If the Board authorizes staff to engage Stantec, District staff will work to refine the scope of work. District staff also anticipates that it will retain project management and legal support.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize and direct the General Manager or his designee to execute agreements with consultants to help evaluate where the Project has an adverse effect on the free-flowing condition or the wild trout fishery on the McCloud River, to review existing compliance documents on the Shasta dam raise project, and to prepare all necessary documents to ensure CEQA compliance.
2. Authorize and direct General Manager or his designee to execute and deliver any and all documents to do and cause to be done any and all acts and things necessary or proper for carrying out the activities contemplated herein.