



WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

Monterey County

DATE: April 3, 2018

TO: Monterey County Legislative Committee
FROM: Elizabeth Krafft, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist
SUBJECT: Update – Interlake Tunnel and Spillway Modification Project Fish Screens

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) has been working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) since 2015 to identify a solution to the possible movement of white bass from Nacimiento Reservoir into San Antonio Reservoir via the Interlake Tunnel and Spillway Modification Project (Project).

In February 2018, it became clear that CDFW would require fish screens to be part of the intake design for the Project and that CDFW would not provide funding for the fish screens. CDFW is willing to collaborate with the Agency to define acceptable design criteria for the fish screens and concur on the design of the tunnel intake structure. CDFW has also offered to assist the Agency to develop proposals that are eligible for CDFW grant funds.

Since March 1, 2018 the Agency, its consultants and other County staff have had several discussions with CDFW:

March 2, 2018: Selected Alternative 8 – ISI Screen on Face of Intake as option to pursue with additional design engineering and consultation with manufacturer on configuration. No deep-water intake is necessary.

March 14, 2018: CDFW provided a list of projects using ISI fish screens (including the Agency's Salinas River Diversion Facility) for reference.

March 8, 2018: Grant opportunity discussion with CDFW Grant Program Manager.

March 16, 2018: Engineering meeting with CDFW to further define fish screen criteria.

March 22, 2018: Follow-up call CDFW Grant Program Manager regarding grant opportunities.

March 29, 2018: CDFW provided samples of past successful Proposition 1 grant applications.

March 30, 2018: Agency submitted application for CDFW grant to develop a water management plan for dam operations and diversions within the Salinas River Watershed downstream of the confluence of the Nacimiento River.

April 5, 2018: Site visit scheduled with CDFW to visit ISI facility in Sacramento.

April 10, 2018: Follow-up call scheduled with CDFW Grant Program Manager.

Progress is being made on an agreeable intake structure, fish screen design and operating criteria and a determination if existing Agency projects are eligible for CDFW grant funds. The Agency has prepared a revised draft Memorandum of Agreement; however, the issue of a finalized Memorandum of Agreement is still pending.