



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Operations Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Phoenix - Bon Tempe Connection Project Update
From: Alex Anaya, Director of Engineering
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: March 8, 2024

AA *BH*

TYPE OF ACTION: Action Information X Review and Refer

RECOMMENDATION: Receive update on the design and environmental review of the Phoenix – Bon Tempe Connection Project and refer to a future regularly scheduled Board meeting to consider adoption of the Initial Study/Mitigated Declaration and approval of the project

SUMMARY: Staff are actively working on the Phoenix – Bon Tempe Connection Project and have completed preliminary engineering and initial design. Staff are also working with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) on the environmental review and will be filing the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) to start the public review period. Staff will return to a future board meeting to hold a public hearing for the proposed adoption of the IS/MND and project approval.

DISCUSSION: Staff have been actively working on the Phoenix – Bon Tempe Connection Project since spring of 2023. To date, staff have completed a preliminary engineering study, including water quality analysis and implications, geotechnical work in relation to rapid drawdown capacity of the reservoir, and condition assessment of the Bon Tempe tunnel, which is the inlet to Bon Tempe Lake. The geotechnical work confirmed the maximum pumping capacity of 3 MGD, with a reduction to 1.9 MGD at lower lake levels. Staff have also retained Hazen and Sawyer to perform the electrical engineering component needed for the new pump station. As a result of this preliminary work, a preferred pipeline alignment has been identified along Phoenix Lake Road and Fish Grade to connect Phoenix Lake to Bon Tempe Lake.

During the preliminary engineering analysis, staff were also in discussion with the County of Marin regarding a potential storm water component of this project. While both agencies are supportive of this idea, a determination was made by the County to not have involvement with the capital project and to explore a potential operating agreement once the project is completed. This would align with the geotechnical analysis that limits the pumping capacity while also allowing for a potential storm

water benefit through the pumping of Phoenix Lake prior to the rainy season. As such, the District is proceeding with this important capital project without County involvement.

District staff will provide review of pump storage applicability for this site.

District staff have also been working closely with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) in conducting the environmental review and preparing documentation concurrent with the design phase. Staff will be filing the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) during the week of March 11, 2024 to start the public review period and plans to return to a future board meeting to hold a public hearing for the proposed adoption of the IS/MND and project approval.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.