

MEMORANDUM

January 15, 2014

TO: Bob Marciniak, City of Oroville

FROM: Ben Nielsen, MWDG
Rick McLaughlin, MWDG

RE: Oroville WWP Phase 1 & 2- Status Report

Purpose

A portion of initial base mapping, permitting and design work was completed in the fall of 2012. At that time the City directed MWDG to stop work prior to completion. As requested by the City, MWDG has prepared this memorandum to provide a summary of work completed to date and recommended next steps in development of the Oroville Whitewater Park project.

Summary of Contracts

MWDG and design team were selected by the City to provide professional mapping, design and permitting services in 2011. MWDG provided the City a proposal and scope of work that included three phases to complete "Pre-Design" of the Whitewater Park.

- Phase 1 – Initial meetings & support
- Phase 2 – Baseline Conditions
- Phase 3 – Refinement of Alternatives

The City authorized Phase 1 and 2 work only. Two change orders were authorized for additional scope related to modifications to the project area. The following sections summarize the work completed for Phase 1 and 2.

Work Status/Progress***Meetings & Support Items (Phase 1):***

- Design team completed review of State Water Contractor and Department of Water Resources project review comment letters. A draft response was completed and submitted to the City.

- Attended two meetings with project stakeholders in Oroville. Attendees included City of Oroville, DWR, SWC and Design Team.
- Project update presentation to City Council by Jody Gallaway.

Mapping & As-Built Items (Phase 2):

- Preliminary mapping is completed. GIS property lines, aerial contours, flight photos, and utilities are shown on the mapping. The City received and forwarded the title reports for several parcels within the project limit. Easements identified in the title reports have been added to the mapping at approximated locations. Title reports for all parcels within the project boundary were not found by the title company hired by the City.
- As-built information for the Diversion Dam and Power Canal has been requested from DWR. The state has not been responsive to our requests.

Environmental & Permitting Items (Phase 2):

- Gallaway Enterprises completed a draft delineation of jurisdictional waters of the United States, Biological Resource Assessment, Biological Assessment outline, and a tentative pre-application package. Work completed also included a literature search and cultural resource survey.
- Scheduling of the pre-application meeting has been postponed until the hydropower license is issued which is contingent on the final Biological Opinion from NOAA Fisheries (not issued to date).

Hydraulic Flood Models (Phase 2):

- Design Team located existing floodway studies and work maps for the project reach. A letter regarding flood jurisdiction was completed. Flood work is completed for Phase 1 & 2.

Whitewater Items (Phase 2):

- Hydrology to determine flow rates and occurrences in the Feather River at the Fish Barrier Pool site is completed. The purpose of the analysis was to evaluate historical discharges in the river to establish flow rates for planning and design of recreational improvements.
- A revised Alternative 5 self-contained recirculating whitewater course has been completed to eliminate discharge of water from the course to the Low Flow Channel. Initial conversations with regulators indicated that maintaining water temperatures in the LFC will be a fundamental requirement of the whitewater project.
- A preliminary project description for the whitewater project was prepared for regulatory agencies and support the permitting efforts.

Next Steps

The Oroville Whitewater Park project is complex. It will require development in incremental phases or steps to achieve project objectives while satisfying constraints and stakeholders/regulators interests. The following are the perceived next steps based on the work completed to date:

- Complete Pre-application Packet and hold Pre-application Meeting with regulators. Cannot be completed until the hydropower license is issued (requires final Biological Opinion from NOAA Fisheries – not issued to date).
- Complete concept design of whitewater alternatives (Phase 3). This work could be done prior to issuance of the hydropower license. It will allow further develop of permitting/environmental strategies and estimates of construction costs for project budgeting.
- The importance of securing water delivery (or water rights) to the whitewater course and/or a reduced power price from DWR if possible cannot be understated. Pumping costs or offsetting lost power generation will be one of, if not, the biggest operating costs. It should be anticipated that this will be a long process and will require City agreements with DWR and/or other entities. It is strongly encouraged that the City seek any and all possible options.