WSP USA Environment and Infrastructure Inc.
9177 Sky Park Court
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 300-4300

wsp.com

- Submitted Via Email -

September 22, 2023

Mr. Israel Marquez
Sweetwater Authority
505 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista, California 91910
imarquez@sweetwater.org

Re: Revised Proposal to Prepare an Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration and Associated Technical Studies in Support of the Sweetwater Reservoir Floating Solar Project

Greetings Israel,

On behalf of WSP USA Environment and Infrastructure Inc. (WSP), I am pleased to submit this revised scope and cost estimate to prepare an environmental document compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) , including supporting technical studies, for the Sweetwater Authority (Authority) in support of the Sweetwater Reservoir Floating Solar Project (Project). This proposal assumes that the preparation of an Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) will be appropriate to comply with CEQA, but the conclusions of the Initial Study may indicate otherwise, and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) may be required under a separate scope and budget. We have prepared this proposal based on our discussion on August 2, 2023 and subsequent materials provided by the Authority via e-mail on August 9, 2023. We have also incorporated revisions provided by the Authority on August 29, 2023.

1 Project Understanding

The Authority is proposing the installation of a floating solar system at the Sweetwater Reservoir. We understand that this proposed Project is at the preliminary analysis and initial design phase. The proposed Project is an innovative system with just one similar system installed in California, at the City of Healdsburg Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) in Sonoma County, California.

The proposed floating solar system at the Sweetwater Reservoir would be operated by the project developer and installed in two phases:

Pilot Phase

- **AquaPhi**, a pilot array that provides autonomous tracking of the sun for increased energy production. This pilot array would cover less than 1 acre and provide 100 kilowatts (kW) of solar capacity.

Phase 1

- **Renewable Energy Self-Generation, Bill Credit Transfer (RES-BCT)**, an approximately 12-acre array providing up to 4.5 megawatts (MW) of solar capacity that could be used to offset existing Authority energy consumption at different sites.

We understand that a Community Solar (CS) project involving a third 12-acre array providing up to 5 MW of solar capacity may also be under consideration in the future. While not currently being pursued by the Authority, to prevent “piecemealing,” this potential future project also in the same environmental document. However, the CEQA document will present the impacts of the Aqua Phi, RES-BCT, and CS phases/projects separately of each phase separately.

Each of the arrays would be floating on the surface of the Sweetwater Reservoir, and it is desirable to keep the arrays at a location east of the existing log boom protecting the Sweetwater Dam. Position of anchors and final location of arrays is still under investigation, but the arrays may be positioned at least 50 feet from the proposed aeration system within the lake; 100 feet or more from the dam; and within the minimum pool of the lake (approximate elevation of 196 feet).

The proposed Project would also involve the installation of Direct Current (DC) and Alternate Current (AC) cabling as well as a photovoltaic (PV) inverter pad, and a connection to a 12 kilovolt (kV) San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) transmission line. We understand that the project developer will design the PV inverter pad such that it could be located near the Robert A. Perdue Treatment Plant, and likely in the vicinity of Gate 30 and just east of the proposed aeration system compressors, in order to minimize potential impacts to sensitive habitats and species. Based on communication with the Authority on August 21, 2023, we understand that potential battery storage within the vicinity of the Robert A. Perdue Treatment Plant, as well as a connection to a 69 kV transmission line, located east of Highway 125 will also need to be studied and part of the overall assessment.

As discussed on August 2, 2023, the Authority requires assistance with the preparation of a CEQA-compliant environmental document, including associated technical studies. Our proposed scope of services is described below:

2 Proposed Scope of Services

Based on our communications with the Authority, we understand that the following tasks have being requested:

2.1 TASK 1 – Preparation of CEQA Document

2.1.1 Task 1.1 Preparation of Initial Study

As discussed during the meeting with Authority staff, it is assumed that an IS/MND will be required for the proposed Project. WSP staff will review updated documents and any additional information provided in the near future by the Authority and the project developer, in addition to previously prepared and applicable CEQA-compliant environmental documents, technical studies, other publicly available background materials, to determine the extent of environmental resources and potential issues for the proposed Project, Project site, and surrounding vicinity.

Based on the background research, WSP will prepare a Draft IS for the proposed Project using the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Checklist and any applicable Authority or industry-standard thresholds of significance, standards, and guidelines. The purpose of the IS will be to provide the Authority with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare a Negative Declaration (ND), MND, or an EIR for the proposed Project, and to enable the Authority to modify the proposed Project, as necessary, to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potentially significant adverse impacts.

The IS will include a Project Description and discussion of existing setting conditions in sufficient detail to support the required environmental analysis. The IS will describe the two phases of the proposed Project and provide figures, including maps and aerial photographs, to facilitate understanding of the Project-related environmental issues. We understand the Authority may ultimately permit these systems separately. For purposes of CEQA compliance and to prevent “piecemealing”, they will be analyzed together in the same environmental document; however, the CEQA document will present impacts separately.

The analysis and discussion of each environmental topic area will provide sufficient detail to satisfy the full disclosure aspects of State law. As with all deliverables submitted by WSP to the Authority, the Draft IS will undergo a rigorous internal Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) to ensure technical accuracy and compliance with all applicable regulations and guidance.

Environmental resource areas to be considered in the IS include aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, and utilities/service systems, and wildfire. Many of these environmental resource areas (e.g., agriculture and forestry resources, population/housing, etc.) will receive only brief attention and analysis as required by State law; however, environmental resource areas that could potentially be impacted by the proposed Project or are otherwise known to be uses of public or agency concern, will be emphasized in detail.

Aesthetics: The aesthetics and visual resources impact analysis will be based on the findings of the Aesthetics and Visual Resources Technical Assessment (see Task 2.3), including site photographs as well as 3D renderings of the proposed arrays. The analysis will describe the impacts to public views (including potential views from public recreational resources). The analysis will also describe the materials that would be used for the floating arrays, operations of proposed facilities, and locations, based on input from Nora Energy, and will assess potential impacts related to views, light and glare.

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The IS will include an evaluation of impacts during the construction phase of the proposed Project in comparison to the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District's (SDAPCD's) screening-level thresholds. Our team will quantify construction emissions, particularly those associated with grading activities associated with the construction of the project components, including but not limited to PV inverter pad, cabling, battery energy storage site, and any SDG&E transmission line upgrades, assuming that a dust management and emissions control plan would be included as a measure to minimize or mitigate impacts, and as part of all proposed grading plans. Short-term construction and operation emissions will be estimated based on current emission factors from the California Emission Estimator Model (CalEEMod) program, which includes the California Air Resources Board (CARB) off-road emission factors and on-road vehicle emissions, as necessary. In addition, the proximity of sensitive receptors (e.g., residential areas) to diesel combustion emissions from construction equipment will be addressed. The report will also evaluate the proposed Project's overall consistency with the San Diego Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS) or applicable portions of the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Biological Resources: The IS will incorporate the information and findings of the Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Assessment (see Task 2.1). This analysis will focus on upland habitat impacts, impacts to flora, wildlife and birds, and in-water impacts, including potential impacts related to shading and/or water quality (see Task 2.4).

Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources: Based on our discussion with the Authority on August 2, 2023 we understand that the Authority has recently completed an extensive cultural resources desktop-level survey addressing the Sweetwater Reservoir property, including a large portion of the proposed Project site. As such, we understand that a Phase I Cultural Resources Survey will not be required. Rather than conducting a new pedestrian survey, WSP's cultural resources specialists will review the findings of the previous cultural resources survey (including the associated records search), request any additional data from South Coastal Information Center, and will prepare a technical report addressing the potential for historic, archaeological, or tribal cultural resources to occur within the Project site (see Task 2.2). WSP will assist the Authority with appropriate coordination with State agencies and Native American tribes, as necessary, in order to comply with CEQA and other applicable regulations. Appropriate coordination may take the form of sending a consultation letter to the State and to local Native American tribes and/or to solicit comments on the Cultural Resources Assessment, as it gets prepared (see Task 2.2).

Energy: The IS will describe the short-term electricity, natural gas, and transportation fuel energy use associated with construction-related activities. However, the IS will also describe the offsets that could be achieved and the resultant beneficial impacts associated with the production of energy using the proposed floating solar system.

Geology/Soils: The IS will rely on publicly available information (e.g., U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] maps and Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] soil survey maps) as well as any previous geotechnical investigations for the Sweetwater Reservoir and/or the Robert A. Perdue Treatment Plant. It is assumed that the project developer will provide design solutions for any potential geotechnical hazards (e.g., unstable soils, etc.).

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The IS will describe the short-term, temporary greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with construction-related activities, including heavy equipment use, construction worker commutes, etc.

However, as discussed above for *Energy*, the IS will also the offsets that could be achieved and the resultant beneficial impacts associated with the production of energy using the proposed floating solar system.

Hydrology / Water Quality: The IS will describe the required use of hazardous materials and the generation of hazardous waste during construction of the proposed floating solar system. The IS will identify appropriate measures (e.g., preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan [SWPPP]) that would be incorporated during construction of the proposed Project. The IS will also address operational impacts by incorporating information from existing scientific studies addressing water quality issues associated with floating solar projects to be peer reviewed by WSP subject matter experts (see Task 2.4 below for more details on this task).

Transportation: Implementation of the proposed Project would not result in long-term operational changes to traffic patterns in the vicinity of the Sweetwater Reservoir. The floating solar system would not introduce any significant trip generating uses beyond occasional maintenance and operations personnel trips. Consequently, a transportation study will not be prepared for the proposed Project. However, implementation of the proposed Project could result in short-term temporary construction-related traffic. As such, our team will prepare a qualitative discussion of construction-related impacts including an estimation of heavy haul truck trips, concreate truck trips, and materials delivery trips, to the extent feasible. Our team will also provide a brief description of potential heavy haul truck trip routes, to the extent feasible, though it is understood that heavy haul truck routes would not be selected until following the selection of a contractor to construct the improvements.

Noise: The IS will provide a thorough description of construction-related noise impacts on sensitive receptors in the surrounding vicinity (e.g., residential areas and natural habitats). Our team will not perform noise modeling; however, to the extent possible, our team will quantify the potential maximum noise volume (by distance) that could be expected as a result of heavy equipment use.

The impact analysis included in the IS will be presented in a user-friendly format so that the document will be readily accessible to Federal and State agencies as well as concerned citizens. Mitigation measures will be recommended for potentially significant impacts, and will be explained clearly and concisely to facilitate implementation and enforcement of such measures. State and local policies and standard conditions of approval will be utilized as a basis for mitigation measures, where appropriate. It is anticipated that the IS will be incorporated into an MND. However, the information in the IS will be presented in such a way that it would facilitate the preparation of a focused EIR, if necessary, under a separate scope and cost.

Our team will incorporate one (1) round of consolidated comments on the Draft IS – provided by the Authority MS Word format in tracked changes – and will prepare a Screencheck Draft IS/MND. Following final review and approval of the screencheck, our team will incorporate administrative edits and prepare provide a Draft IS/MND for publication and 30-day public and agency review (see Optional Task 1.3).

Deliverables: Our team will submit the following deliverables to the Authority:

- Draft Project Description (within 15 business days of the kick of meeting, and after the Notice to Proceed is provided).
- Administrative Draft Initial Study (within 30 business days from the completion and approval of the technical studies described in Task 2).
- Electronic Screencheck IS/MND (within 15 business days of the receipt of comments on the Draft IS).
- Up to five (5) hard copies and five (5) CDs of the Public Draft IS/MND (within 5 business days of approval of the Electronic Screencheck).

2.1.2 Task 1.2 Completion of Mitigated Negative Declaration

Following the close of the public comment period (refer to Task 1.1), we will prepare draft responses to comments received on the Public Draft IS/MND. While more than 25 parties or individuals may comment on the draft environmental document, WSP has assumed time/budget to respond to up to 25 unique comments / topics on the Public Draft IS/MND. WSP will work with the Authority to incorporate revisions to the Public Draft IS/MND, as necessary, and will prepare a Final IS/MND.

WSP will also prepare a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) memorializing the mitigation measures in the Final IS/MND as well as the implementation, monitoring, and enforcement responsibilities.

Deliverables: Our team will submit the following deliverables to the Authority:

- Administrative Final IS/MND and MMRP (within 15 business days of the close of the public comment period)
- Final IS/MND and MMRP (within 10 business days of the receipt of comments on the Administrative Final IS/MND)

2.1.3 Optional Task 1.3 Public Noticing, Circulation, and Filing of Associated Notices

An IS/MND requires a minimum review period of 20 calendar days and generally used review period of 30 calendar days under CEQA. Under this task, our team, will prepare a Notice of Availability (NOA) for public review and a Notice of Completion (NOC). Our team will publish one (1) weekend advertisement of the NOA in The San Diego Union-Tribune, and will circulate the environmental document for public review through the State Clearinghouse. WSP understands that the Authority has a previously developed mailing list that will be made available to WSP for the proposed Project. Our team will work with the Authority to develop a Public Notice for circulation to up to 75 interested parties and agencies.

Following the completion of the public comment period, preparation of the Final IS/MND and MMRP, and adoption by the Board, WSP will prepare the Notice of Determination (NOD) and file on behalf of the Authority with the County Clerk. As requested by the Authority, WSP will be responsible for filing and all associated fees (e.g., California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW] filing fees).

Deliverables: Our team will submit the following deliverables to the Authority:

- Draft and Final NOA for publication in *The San Diego Union-Tribune*.
- Draft and Final NOC for distribution to the State Clearinghouse.
- Draft and Final Public Notice for distribution to up to 75 interested parties and agencies.
- Draft and Final NOD for filing with the County Clerk and CDFW.

2.1.4 Optional Task 1.4 Presentation Materials and Assistance

The Authority will be responsible for organizing and conducting any project team meetings or needed public meetings or hearings, as necessary. However, under this task WSP will prepare a PowerPoint presentation, a handout, and attend up to three (3) public meetings, Governing Board meetings or committee meetings, or hearings with community groups.

Deliverables: Our team will submit the following deliverables to the Authority:

- Draft and Final PowerPoint presentation.
- Draft and Final handout.

2.2 TASK 2 – Preparation of Supporting Technical Studies

2.2.1 Task 2.1 Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Assessment

WSP's biologists will prepare a Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Assessment for the proposed Project in letter report format that includes a general description of the existing physical and biological conditions as well as Project-specific analyses. The study area to be provided by the Authority will include the project footprint plus an additional 300-foot buffer. Our biologists will review the Authority's existing data, biological reports, wetland delineations, and other records for the Project site. We will conduct searches of CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory Database, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) records in order to validate previously recorded sensitive species occurrences on the Project site and within the surrounding vicinity. Our biologists will also review aerial photographs and other existing information related to topography, bathymetry, and vegetation/habitat types to develop a list of sensitive species with the potential to occur on the Project site and within the surrounding vicinity. Lastly, WSP biologists will meet and discuss with the Authority's biologist who has nearly 30-years of flora and fauna experience and observations on the lake and surrounding property. As directed by the Authority, with these data, no field studies or visit will be required. The desktop-level

evaluation will: (1) delineate vegetation/habitat types (using the Authority's documented habitat types); (2) inventory flora and fauna species; (3) map any identified sensitive flora or fauna species; (4) assess potential for additional sensitive flora and fauna species based on existing habitats and/or known or historic records in the vicinity; (5) identify any wildlife movement corridors; and (6) provide an overall evaluation of biological resources.

As a part of the Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Assessment, our experienced wetland delineators will prepare an Aquatic Resources Delineation Report based on known data (i.e., 239-foot elevation). The report will be based on previous delineation reports prepared by WSP (formerly Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.) and include assessments of current jurisdictional limits for state and federal agencies. The report will also provide an overview of likely permit requirements based on existing resources and project related impacts. The aquatic resource technical assessment will be desktop-level exercise as well.

A report that summarizes the existing information and results will be prepared based on the desktop-level assessment described above and project impact analysis. The report will meet the content and format standards that are acceptable to the Authority and regulatory agencies, including the USFWS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and CDFW. A summary table and map of vegetation, habitats, and aquatic features found within the project study area will be provided. Sensitive species assessments (known or potentially occurring) will be provided tabularly. The aquatic resources section will include descriptions of potential permitting pathways based on the identified aquatic resources, precedent established in similar Authority projects, and the project impact assessment. Recommendations will be made for additional surveys and/or avoidance/minimization measures only if necessary. The uniqueness of the proposed Project will require research on mitigation options to inform Task 3 below if the assessment identifies significant impacts to open water habitat.

Deliverables: Our team will prepare a Draft Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Assessment to the Authority for review. Upon receiving comments from the Authority, WSP will revise and submit a Final Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Assessment. The Final document will be submitted electronically in MS Word and PDF formats. This submittal will also include all GIS shapefiles created for the proposed Project.

2.2.2 Task 2.2 Cultural Resources Technical Assessment

WSP's cultural resources specialists will work with the Authority to review all materials related to the recent comprehensive cultural resources survey addressing the Sweetwater Reservoir, prepared by ICF. More specifically, we will review the records search results as well as the results of the pedestrian survey(s). Some additional data requests may be necessary in order to fill information gaps outside of the Authority's property, such as the easement to connect to SDG&E infrastructure, to the west of Authority property. We will prepare a CEQA compliant Cultural Resources Technical Assessment that focuses on the Project site. Based on our discussions with the Authority to date, and our understanding of the Project siting, we do not anticipate that the proposed Project would affect any known historic or archaeological resources. However, our cultural resources specialist will include recommendations regarding the treatment of previously unknown buried cultural or tribal cultural resources that may be inadvertently discovered during construction. CEQA-compliant mitigation measures will be provided as necessary. WSP will assist the Authority with appropriate coordination with State agencies and Native American tribes, as necessary, in order to comply with CEQA and other applicable regulations. Appropriate coordination may take the form of sending a consultation letter to the State and to local Native American tribes and/or to solicit comments on the Cultural Resources Assessment, as it gets prepared (see Task 2.2).

Based on our previous discussions with Authority staff, it is WSP's understanding that no tribal governments have requested notification of Authority projects under Assembly Bill (AB) 52; however, if necessary, consistent with the provisions of AB 52, it is assumed that the Authority would conduct the AB 52 tribal consultation on a government-to-government basis. WSP will be available to assist Authority staff with its responsibilities under AB 52, including the preparation of AB 52 consultation letters and supporting materials (e.g., a handout) for use during AB 52 consultation meetings, if requested.

Deliverables: Our team will provide the Draft Cultural Resources Technical Assessment to the Authority for review. Upon receiving comments from the Authority, WSP will revise and submit the Final Cultural Resources Technical Assessment, including one PDF with confidential archaeological data, and one separate PDF excluding the confidential data. The Final documents will be submitted electronically in MS Word and PDF formats. This submittal will also include all GIS shapefiles created for the proposed Project.

2.2.3 Task 2.3 Aesthetics and Visual Resources Technical Assessment

WSP will conduct a site visit that includes extensive photo documentation of the Project site and the surrounding areas from public viewing points, including public trails, shoreline fishing program area at San Miguel Point, etc. (We understand that the Authority also has extensive photographs and aerial drone footage of the reservoir that will be provided for review and use.) WSP will use this photo documentation effort and available drone imagery to select representative key viewpoints to assess potential impacts related to visual character and scenic visits. WSP will use design materials (e.g., CAD .dwg files) and work with the Authority and the project developer to develop an accurate visual model of the proposed floating solar system for visual simulation purposes. WSP assumes the preparation of up to five separate photosimulations to support the Aesthetics and Visual Resources Technical Assessment. In addition to assessing the potential impacts on visual character and scenic vistas, our visual resource specialists will also use the design specifications provided by the project developer to address potential impacts related to light and glare. If necessary, our team will work with the Authority and the project developer to develop feasible mitigation measures (e.g., alternative siting, alternative PV panel materials, etc.).

Deliverables: Our team will provide the Draft Aesthetics and Visual Resources Technical Assessment to the Authority for review. Upon receiving comments from the Authority, WSP will revise and submit a Final Aesthetics and Visual Resources Technical Assessment. The Final document will be submitted electronically in MS Word and PDF formats. This submittal will also include all native files that provide the visual model for the proposed Project.

2.2.4 Task 2.4 Water Quality Evaluation

Based on our discussion on August 2, 2023, we understand that the project developer will be providing some scientific studies that assess the potential water quality impacts associated with the floating solar array. Other scientific or academic-level studies already published in scientific journals that address this specific topic have also been published as well. WSP's water quality subject matter experts will provide a detailed peer review of the existing literature to ensure its technical sufficiency for the purposes of CEQA review and to respond questions in the CEQA IS. We also understand that the Authority needs to remain compliant with its Drinking Water Permit and State law. As such, the Authority has requested that WSP assess any conflicts that the proposed Project implementation may have, in addition to CEQA-level analysis.

Deliverables: Our team will provide a peer review memorandum summarizing our findings regarding the existing literature, and provide recommendations and mitigation measures as appropriate.

2.3 OPTIONAL TASK 3 – Estimated Mitigation Cost Memorandum

As requested by the Authority, WSP's experienced wetland delineators and permitting specialists will provide a brief memorandum addressing:

- Permitting strategy for the pilot array (AquaPhi)
- Estimated cost of permitting for the pilot array
- Estimated cost of mitigation implementation for pilot array
- Permitting strategy for Phase 1 array (RES-BCT)
- Estimated cost of permitting for Phase 1
- Estimated cost of mitigation implementation for Phase 1

This memorandum will be based on the impacts identified in the Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Assessment (refer to Task 2.1) as well as feedback received from stakeholders, if any, addressing biological and aquatic impacts, and USACE, San Diego RWQCB, and CDFW during the preparation of the CEQA-compliant IS/MND. We expect that a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit, CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification, and a Lake and Streambed Alternation Agreement (LSAA) would be required. We understand that it is essential to keep the pilot array (AquaPhi) and the Phase 1 array (RES-BCT), as the Authority may seek to permit these two project components at different times, and under different budgets and/or agreements.

Deliverables: Our team will prepare a Draft Estimated Mitigation Cost Memorandum, which will be submitted to the Authority for review at the same time as the Administrative Draft Initial Study (refer to Task 1.1). Upon receiving comments from the Authority, WSP will revise and submit a Final Estimated Mitigation Cost Memorandum. The Final

document, which will be submitted electronically in MS Word and PDF formats, will be provided with the Final IS/MND (refer to Task 1.2).

2.4 OPTIONAL TASK 4 – Permitting Support

As described for Task 3, we expect that a CWA Section 404/Section 10 permit, CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification, and a LSAA would be required. Permit acquisition would involve coordination with regulatory agencies including USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW. WSP would coordinate a pre-application meeting with the agencies and present the project components. WSP would then complete the permit applications based on agency requirements. We would be available for one round of revisions before submittal to the appropriate agency contacts.

For state listed species, a Consistency Determination with CDFW (under CDFW Code Section 2080.1) should be pursued as a preferred option to a State Incidental Take Permit (under CDFW Code Section 2081). This task includes preparation of a cover letter to CDFW for a Consistency Determination.

This task assumes that a Biological Assessment (BA) will not be required by the USFWS and includes time for a cover letter to the Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Assessment for Section 7 Consultation.

Deliverables: WSP will prepare materials to be presented at an online pre-application meeting. WSP will prepare draft permit applications for a CWA Section 404/Section 10 Nationwide Permit, 401 Water Quality Certification, and LSAA. If an individual permit is necessary with the USACE, WSP can provide under a separate scope and budget cost. This task does not include permit application fees. If a State Incidental Take Permit is required, a cost augment would be necessary. This task assumes a Consistency Determination can be approved. If a BA and a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) are required by USFWS, a cost augment would be necessary.

3 COST ESTIMATE

Our team will begin work upon issuance of a written Notice to Proceed (NTP) from the Authority. Costs for the tasks listed above are estimated on a time-and-materials basis, meaning hours identified in the cost estimate that are not used will not be billed to the Authority. The total cost, excluding Optional Task 1.3, Optional Task 3, and Optional Task 4, is $67,400. These costs will not be exceeded without prior approval from the Authority. WSP will not engage Optional Task 1.3, Optional Task 3, or Optional Task 4 without written direction from the Authority.

Table 1. Estimated Cost by Task

Task	Cost
Task 1 – Preparation of CEQA Document	**$41,600**
Task 1.1 Preparation of Initial Study	$19,100
Task 1.2 Completion of Mitigated Negative Declaration	$10,100
Optional Task 1.3 Public Noticing, Circulation, and Filing of Associated Notices	*$7,300*
Task 1.4 Presentation Materials and Assistance	$5,100
Task 2 – Preparation of Supporting Technical Studies	**$33,100**
Task 2.1 Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Assessment	$8,800
Task 2.2 Cultural Resources Technical Assessment	$8,200
Task 2.3 Aesthetics and Visual Resources Technical Assessment	$10,900
Task 2.4 Water Quality Evaluation	$5,200
OPTIONAL Task 3 – Estimated Mitigation Cost Memorandum	***$4,600***
OPTIONAL Task 4 – Permitting Support	***$11,800***
Total (Excluding Optional Tasks)	**$67,400**

Table 1. Estimated Cost by Task	
Grand Total (Including Optional Tasks)	**$91,100**

4 SCHEDULE

WSP is prepared to initiate the scope of services following the receipt of the NTP from the Authority.

- The Draft Project Description will be submitted within 15 business days of the kick off meeting, and after the NTP is provided .
- The Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Report, the Cultural Resources Technical Assessment, Aesthetics and Visual Resources Technical Assessment, and Water Quality Evaluation will be completed within 30 business days following the Authority's approval of the Project Description and fulfillment of the WSP's data request(s).
- The Administrative Draft IS will be completed within 30 business days following the Authority's review and approval of the supporting technical studies.
- The Screencheck Draft IS/MND will be completed within 15 business days following the Authority's review and approval of the Administrative Draft IS.
- The Public Draft IS/MND will be completed within 5 business days following the Authority's review and approval of the Screencheck Draft IS.
- As described in Task 1.2, an IS/MND requires a minimum review period of 20 calendar days and generally used review period of 30 calendar days under CEQA.
- The Final IS/MND, MMRP, and CEQA Findings will be prepared within 20 business days following the close of the 30-day public comment period.
- The Final Estimated Mitigation Cost Memorandum will be submitted along with the Final IS/MND.

In accordance with this duration-based schedule, we anticipate the completion of the Final IS/MND in a period of approximately 7.5 months. Following the issuance of an NTP we will prepare a MS Project Schedule with specific task start dates and end dates and we will look for tasks that can be feasibly accelerated. (For example, we could feasibly overlap the preparation of the technical studies in Task 2 with the preparation of the Draft Project Description in Task 1; however, that would require the early fulfillment of the data request by the Authority.)

5 ASSUMPTIONS

- Based on our discussion with the Authority on August 2, 2023 and subsequent information provided by the Authority on August 9, 2023, we assume that the required CEQA document will be an IS/MND. If an EIR is required a scope and budget modification will be required.
- The Authority and/or the project developer will provide necessary engineering drawings in GIS, CAD, or other for format that would facilitate the development of the visual model described in Task 2.3, *Aesthetics and Visual Resources Technical Assessment*.
- The scope for Task 2.1, *Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Assessment*, Task 2.2, *Cultural Resources Assessment* and Task 2.4, *Water Quality Evaluation* does not include a site visit or field verification.
- The wetlands delineation described in Task 2.1, *Biological and Aquatic Resources Technical Assessment* will assume no waters outside of the reservoir's 239-foot elevation would be impacted by the project.
- Focused surveys for specific sensitive species are not included in the current scope of work as they are not identified as necessary at this time.
- This proposal includes a wetlands delineation and an estimate of mitigation costs as an optional item; however, permit applications are not included in this scope.
- This scope does not include technical studies other than those described in Task 2, *Preparation of Supporting Technical Studies*.

- The cost assumes electronic copies of all deliverables, with the exception of the Public Draft IS/MND and the Final IS/MND.
- For all draft deliverables, WSP assumes one round of consolidated comments provided by the Authority in MS Word format using tracked changes and comment bubbles.
- WSP will not be responsible for any CDFW or San Diego County Clerk filing fees.
- WSP reserves the right to transfer funds between tasks, but the overall budget of the project will remain the same.

On behalf of WSP, I thank you for this opportunity to support this project, we look forward to working with you. Our proposal and cost estimate has been prepared in accordance with the terms and conditions of our Agreement for Services between the Sweetwater Authority and WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure Inc. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Nick Meisinger at (805) 252-0060.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron P. Goldschmidt
Vice President
Environmental Planning and Natural Resources Program

cc: Nick Meisinger, On-Call Project Manager, WSP