

Agenda Number 8

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MEETING DATE: Thursday, November 4, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion on Cost Share Agreement for the Feasibility Study of Bartlett Dam Modification Alternatives (*Groundwater Replenishment[^]*) - Brooks

LINKAGE TO STRATEGIC PLAN, POLICY, STATUTE OR GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

2022 CAWCD Board Strategic Plan
Groundwater Replenishment: *Fulfilling CAP's groundwater replenishment responsibilities in accordance with statutory requirements*

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION/ACTIVITY:

August, 2021 General Manager's Report - CAWCD (on behalf of CAGRDR) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Salt River Project (SRP) to participate in the development of a cost-share agreement to fund a feasibility study, beginning in 2022, for a project to enhance water storage capacity on the Verde River.

ISSUE SUMMARY/DESCRIPTION:

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and Salt River Project (SRP) completed an Appraisal Study in early 2021 to evaluate options for mitigation of sediment accumulation in Horseshoe Reservoir. Two of the options evaluated involve raising Bartlett Dam (downstream of Horseshoe), which would restore lost storage capacity at Horseshoe and provide additional storage capacity that could result in a new water supply (referred to as New Verde Space, or NVS) via the SRP system.

CAGRDR is seeking to partner with SRP and 20 other entities (the local cost-share partners) in the Phoenix AMA on a Feasibility Study that will evaluate the two Bartlett Dam modification options and assess whether it would be feasible to enlarge Bartlett Reservoir to create additional storage capacity. The local cost-share partners are developing a cost-share agreement to fund approximately 50% of the cost of the feasibility study, in partnership with BOR, who would fund the remaining amount. Funding and authorization for BOR to complete the study are included in the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Package currently under consideration by Congress. The total cost of the Feasibility Study is anticipated to be \$10 million and it will take 4 years to complete. If a project is approved it will take 10 to 15 years to plan and construct.

The Appraisal Study estimated that an additional 351,533 AF of storage space could be created at Bartlett Dam if it was raised 97 feet. Over 305,000 AF of that would be NVS. The average annual water yield from the NVS would be approximately 91,000 AF, however, because of the considerable variability of runoff in the Verde system.

The present timeline for the Feasibility Study requires the local cost-share partners to commit funding for the non-Federal portion by early December. Development of the cost-share agreement has been fast-tracked because of the opportunity to secure authorization for BOR through the infrastructure bill. This would allow the Feasibility Study to begin in early 2022. Therefore, the CAWCD Board will be asked to approve CAGRDR participation in the Cost Share Agreement at the December Board meeting. Participation in the Cost Share

Agreement would provide CAGR D with a role in completion of the Feasibility Study, which will determine if modifications to Bartlett Dam are feasible and if a water supply can be made available in the future.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Presentation
2. MOU re: Bartlett Dam Modification Feasibility Study