



Topic: **Authority Board Agenda Item 3-3**

2018 Sept 17

Subject: **USBR Activities & WIIN Act Funding**

Requested Action:

No action requested. Informational item.

Detailed Description/Background:

Staff to give an update on the ongoing coordination activities with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and efforts to secure WIIN Act funding.

Prior Authority Board Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

None.

Staff Contact:

None.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Senator Feinstein Letter of Support for WIIN Act funding

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
CALIFORNIA



COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY - RANKING MEMBER
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate

September 4, 2018

The Honorable Brenda Burman
Commissioner of Reclamation
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Commissioner Burman:

I appreciate Reclamation's recent commitment of \$4.34 million for the North-of-Delta Offstream Storage, also known as Sites Reservoir, pursuant to Section 4007 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN Act). I urge you to build upon that investment, and include \$37.4 million in Section 4007 funding in fiscal year 2019 for Sites Reservoir.

As you know, on July 24, 2018, the California Water Commission conditionally approved \$816 million to support the Sites Project, \$40.8 million of which will be made available immediately to accelerate the acquisition of permits and complete the environmental review process. The requested Reclamation support for Sites will be used to support preliminary engineering, topographic surveys, geotechnical data collection and analysis, and related design work on Sites. This work is complementary to the State funds committed to the project. It is expected to be supported by the Reclamation-prepared feasibility report that I understand is on track to be completed by August 31. Both of these sources of public funds represent a down-payment towards the significant public benefits the Sites Project can provide and are in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars the participating water agencies are planning to finance and spend over the next several years on pre-construction and early construction activities.

The Sites Project, a 1.8 million acre-foot, off-stream reservoir that would divert and store excess Sacramento River flows, will provide significant benefits for threatened and at risk salmon runs. Importantly, Sites will significantly increase the cold water pool to protect threatened winter-run salmon below Shasta in the critical months from July to September.

The operational flexibility that the Sites project would provide to the State's entire water system makes this project unique and particularly worthy of federal support. The Sites Project will not only provide dedicated water for fishery and environmental flow purposes, but it will also create a more reliable water supply for California cities and agriculture. In addition, Sites will help increase habitat for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway and improve flexibility and drought resiliency for the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project.

Given the many benefits of Sites Reservoir and the reliable water supply that it would create for both people and the environment, I believe that it is a worthy candidate for additional funding under the WIIN Act. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF:jw