

2018 Progress Report

Sites Reservoir Takes Important Steps Forward

The past year was pivotal for the Sites Reservoir as it moves toward the construction of an offstream storage reservoir in Northern California that will secure statewide water supplies while benefiting critical ecosystems. Highlights from 2018 include receiving the most Proposition 1 funding of any applicant and a significant federal investment to help build the project. The below items are a summary of the events and milestones from the past year.

Fast Facts



Sites Makes Sense

Primary benefits include:

- Reliable dry-year water for California communities, farms and businesses
- Improved water quality
- Groundwater recharge
- Environmental water in dry years for native fish and Pacific Flyway habitat for migratory birds and other native species
- Contribution to California renewable energy goals
- Flood management
- Recreational opportunities
- Job protection and creation



Sites Partnerships Grow

- **\$816M investment from the State of California** under Proposition 1 for the significant public benefits provided by the project
- **\$449M in federal funding** from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help build the project
- Additional and continued **participation of agencies across the state** who recognize the project's several water supply and ecosystem benefits



Sites in the Spotlight



Facebook

539 Page likes / 565 follows
91,691 Reached on Facebook
9,034 Page engagement



Twitter

860 Followers
458 Retweets and mentions
253,000 Tweet impressions



Website

13,872 Users
22,559 Sessions
72,244 Pageviews

Media Coverage

60 Print and online articles and editorials related to the project

Event Participation

25 Briefings, public meetings, legislative briefings, site tours

2018 SITES RESERVOIR HIGHLIGHTS

January

- [Close](#) of the extended public comment period on the draft environmental review documents
- Project representatives met with lawmakers and other stakeholders in Washington D.C. to discuss project updates and generate further federal support
- Independent Registered Municipal Advisor Services Request for Proposals released



February

- Project representatives met with lawmakers and other stakeholders at the California State Capitol to provide project updates and generate increased support
- Initial Proposition 1 Public Benefit Ratio (PBR) scores released by California Water Commission (CWC) staff. The Sites Project Authority (Authority) [argued](#) the public benefit of new storage significantly undervalued.



March

- After meeting with CWC staff, the Authority [appealed](#) the project's initial PBR score by submitting additional documentation to more fully describe and demonstrate the environmental benefits provided by the project, and provide information responsive to the needs of CWC staff
- **Sacramento County Water Agency and the City of Sacramento joined the Authority Board of Directors.** Neither agency requested water allocations from the project but recognize the value of increased water supply reliability for the region.
- Several local events held with various members of the community, including a briefing and site tour for the Colusa Young Farmers and Ranchers and students and parents from Cow Creek Elementary School



April

- Revised PBR scores [released](#) by CWC staff, increasing the project's funding eligibility to \$933 Million
- Bond Counsel Services Request for Qualifications (RFQ) released



May

- Final PBR score determinations [made](#) by the CWC, increasing the project's funding eligibility to \$1 Billion
- The Authority Board [voted](#) to reduce the total Proposition 1 funding request to \$916.62 Million in order to align the project's funding request with

the CWC's recognized public benefits for flood control, refuge water supplies, Delta smelt actions and recreation

- Preliminary total Proposition 1 scores [released](#) by CWC staff, moving the project closer to receiving early funding to continue project planning and begin eventual construction

June

- Sacramento City Councilman and Authority Board Member Jeff Harris [wrote](#) an op-ed for the Sacramento Bee highlighting the importance of the project, calling it "too smart an investment for California to pass up"

July

- Final CWC Proposition 1 scores and early funding decisions [announced](#), with the **Sites Reservoir being awarded \$816 Million in state funding – the most of any Proposition 1 applicant** – to provide environmental benefits for refuge water supplies, Delta smelt, recreational opportunities and localized flood control, and \$40.8 Million in early funding to assist in completing the necessary environmental analyses and obtaining permits
 - [Statement](#) from Congressman LaMalfa
 - [Statement](#) from Congressman Garamendi



August

- Project site tour held for several high-level elected officials to demonstrate the need for the project, increasing momentum and strong statewide support

September

- Public meeting held at the project office to provide an update on the project and associated water infrastructure efforts to improve rural and agricultural water supply in the Sacramento Valley through the Maxwell Water Intertie project
- Project Development Support Services RFQs released
- Bank Credit Facility RFQ released

October

- Tour stop on the Water Education Foundation's Northern California Tour



November

- U.S. Department of Agriculture [announced \\$449 Million in federal funding that will help build the Sites Reservoir](#), specifically the interconnection facilities to move water in and out of the reservoir



December

- **858,000 acre-feet of water could have been stored** in the Sites Reservoir if it existed during the 2018 water year

