



Topic: **Authority Board Agenda Item 2.4**

2020 May 27

Subject: **Commendation for Jim Watson, General Manager**

Requested Action:

Consider approval of Resolution No. 2020-02 commending Mr. Jim Watson for his 5 years of dedicated service to the Sites Reservoir Project.

Detailed Description/Background:

With almost 5 years of exemplary service to the Sites Project Authority, Mr. Jim Watson will be leaving his position as General Manager, effective May 23, 2020.

Mr. Watson has made significant contributions to the Sites Project, including:

- Management of multi-million-dollar annual budgets to enable progress on the Project, and establishment of various procedures to manage the finances and operations of the Project.
- Assembly of a highly qualified team of Authority Agents and consultants to enable progress on the Project to a high standard of performance.
- Development of the 2017 Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Project;
- Coordination and cooperation in the development by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation of its 2017 Draft Federal Feasibility Report.
- Initiation of focused geotechnical field investigations.
- Qualification of the Project for \$816 million of funding from the State of California's Water Storage Investment Program (Proposition 1) via the California Water Commission, and execution of an Early Funding Agreement with the Commission.
- Establishment of eligibility for and receipt of about \$10 million in funding from the federal WIIN Act via the Bureau of Reclamation.
- Completion of numerous studies necessary for furtherance of Project financial viability, physical construction, future operations, permitting, and environmental benefits.
- Inclusion of the Project in California's Water Resilience Portfolio.
- Establishment of the Sites Project Authority office in Maxwell, California.
- Secure a diverse and statewide group of project investors including the State of California in the amount of \$816M of WSIP Prop 1 funding along with 21 participating member agencies.

It is appropriate to acknowledge Mr. Watson for his leadership at the local, regional, and state level, and his years of dedicated service to the Sites Project Authority and the participating agencies in the project.

Prior Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

None.

Staff Contact:

Jerry Brown

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution 2020-02



RESOLUTION NO. 2020-02

A Joint RESOLUTION OF THE SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY Board of Directors and Reservoir Committee honoring JIM C. WATSON for his leadership and dedication during his years of service on the project

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson has dedicated almost five years of service to the Sites Project Authority and its participating member agencies while serving as the Authority’s first General Manager; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson has been a collaborative General Manager with a strong focus on creative problem solving, technical details, innovative project concept development; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson cultivated a strong and dedicated “project comes first” culture in the organization with a commitment to individual professional growth and recognition; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson’s leadership enabled the Sites Project Authority to competitively receive the largest Prop 1 WSIP award of \$816 million toward statewide benefits in the project and execution of an Early Funding Agreement with the Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson, through a spirit of partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation, helped to develop the Draft Federal Feasibility Report finding that the project has significant federal interest and is worthy of federal investment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson’s business acumen and experience, emphasis on timely planning and decision-making, practical approach to problem-solving, and assertiveness regarding the Project’s interests in public forums have also benefitted the Project’s development;

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson has branded the Sites Project as a vital component of California’s water infrastructure with a diverse and statewide support and participation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson successfully discharged his responsibilities with honesty, integrity, and fairness, and with a laser-focused practical approach for the overall benefit of the Project and its Members, all to improve future water supplies for water suppliers, residents and the environment of the State of California;

WHEREAS, the improvement of water supplies to farms, cities and the environment within the Sacramento Valley and the State of California is noble and praiseworthy work, and Mr. Watson has cared deeply about this work and has enabled it with loyalty, dedication, and excellence to the benefit of the Project and its beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson’s dedication to the Project has been beyond reproach;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Authority Board and Reservoir Committee of the Sites Reservoir Project expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Jim Watson for his dedicated service to the Sites Reservoir Project and its participating member agencies, and envisions continued success for him in his future endeavors.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the Reservoir Committee held on the 21th of May 2020 and was duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the Authority Board held on May 27th of May 2020 both making up the governing body of Sites Reservoir Project.

AUTHORITY BOARD

RESERVIOR COMMITTEE

Fritz Durst – Sites Project Authority, Chair

Thad Bettner –Reservoir Committee , Chair

ATTESTED

Yolanda Tirado – Sites Project Authority, Board Clerk