

Sites Reservoir is generational opportunity to construct a multi-benefit water storage project that helps restore flexibility, reliability, and resiliency to our statewide water supply. Simply put, no other storage project currently under consideration in California can positively influence the operational efficiencies of our existing statewide water.

Perhaps what makes Sites Reservoir so unique is that it is not a “traditional” reservoir project. It is an off-stream facility that does not dam a major river system and would not block fish migration or spawning. Rather, Sites Reservoir offers a significant water storage opportunity that benefits both people and the environment.

Sites Reservoir captures and stores stormwater flows from the Sacramento River—after all other water rights and regulatory requirements are met—for release primarily in dry and critical years for environmental use and for California communities, farms, and businesses when it is so desperately needed. Sites Reservoir is designed to be adaptable to a changing climate. As snowpack declines due to climate change and more of our water comes in the form of atmospheric rivers – Sites Reservoir will become even more vital to the future resiliency of our statewide water supply.

How It Works

Located 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell in rural Glenn and Colusa counties, the Sites Reservoir would be an off-stream storage facility that captures and stores stormwater flows in the Sacramento River—after all other water rights and regulatory requirements are met—for release in dry and critical years for environmental use and for California communities, farms and businesses when it is so desperately needed.

When operated in coordination with other Northern California reservoirs such as Shasta, Oroville and Folsom, which function as the backbone to both the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, Sites Reservoir will greatly increase flexibility, reliability and resiliency of statewide water supplies in drier periods.

With Sites Reservoir, California has a rare opportunity to enhance statewide water supplies and provide a dedicated allocation of water specifically for the environment.

It provides federal and state resource agencies with a dedicated and reliable supply of water they can manage to provide environmental benefits, especially during drier years.

A significant portion of the project’s annual water supplies will be provided for environmental flows, which will help to improve conditions for Delta smelt; help preserve cold-water pools in Shasta later into the summer months to support salmon development, spawning and rearing; and improve Pacific Flyway habitat for migratory birds and other native species.

Sites Reservoir Fast Facts



Provide water for up to **1.5 million homes and businesses** for one year



Increases Sacramento Valley water storage capacity



Creates **reliable supplies** for environmental, agricultural, and municipal uses



29 participating agencies representing communities across California

Sites Reservoir Benefits

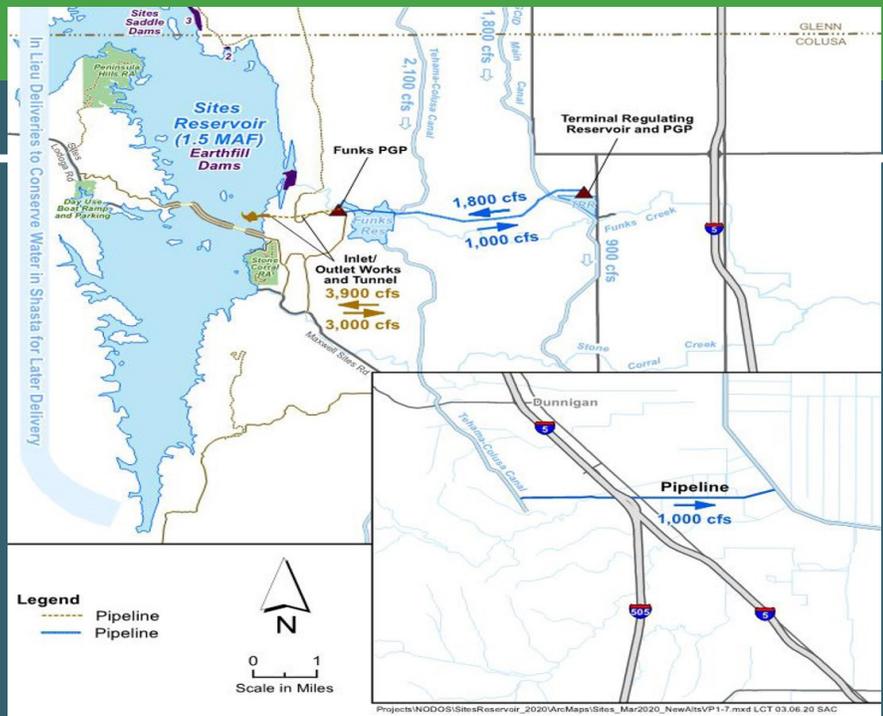
- **Reliable dry-year water supply for California communities, farms and businesses**
- **Improved water quality**
- **Groundwater recharge**
- **Flood management**
- **Contribution to California’s renewable energy goals**
- **Environmental water in drier periods for native fish and Pacific Flyway habitat for migratory birds and other native species**
- **Recreational opportunities**
- **Creation and protection of middle class jobs, including a large skilled work force during seven-year construction**





Support and Funding

Widely supported both regionally and statewide, the project has made significant progress. A bipartisan group of more than 175 organizations, agencies, businesses and elected officials support the Sites Reservoir Project. In 2018, the project was awarded \$816 million in funding from California's Proposition 1 water bond, and secured a \$449 million investment from the United States Department of Agriculture. The United States Bureau of Reclamation is also a significant project partner.



The Sites Reservoir would be an off-stream storage facility located 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell, California in rural Colusa County.

Sites Reservoir Participating Entities

- Colusa County *
- Colusa County Water District *
- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District *
- Glenn County *
- Placer County Water Agency & City of Roseville *
- Reclamation District 108 *
- Sacramento County Water Agency & City of Sacramento *
- Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority *
- Westside Water District *
- TC 4 **
- Western Canal Water District **
- American Canyon, City of
- Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency
- CA Department of Water Resources (Ex Officio)
- Carter Municipal Water Company
- Coachella Valley Water District
- Cortina Water District
- Davis Water District
- Desert Water Agency
- Dunnigan Water District
- LaGrande Water District
- Metropolitan Water District
- San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
- San Geronio Pass Water Agency
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
- US Bureau of Reclamation (Cost-share)
- Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
- Zone 7 Water Agency

* Authority Board Member
 ** Associate Board Member



What Makes Sites Reservoir Different?

Features	Benefits
Off-stream storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not create barriers to native fish migration Improves local flood management Improved conservation of stored water to be available when it is needed most
Cooperative operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases effectiveness and efficiency of existing water storage infrastructure
Sacramento Valley-led	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligns with Sacramento Valley's values Authority will be an integral part of community Fosters regional and statewide collaboration
Beneficiary pays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides equity among participating partners Improves accountability and value creation
Federal and state agencies manage environmental water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptable to current and future conditions and priorities Ensures federal and state environmental priorities are met—today and into the future
Adaptable to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational flexibility to ensure the water will be applied to the highest beneficial uses despite an uncertain future

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.SITESPROJECT.ORG.

