

What are the environmental implications of this project?

The environmental effects of the Project have been analyzed in detail in the Revised Draft EIR/ Supplemental Draft EIS. Transformational projects of the magnitude and importance of Sites are not without tradeoffs. There are specific elements of the Project that are critical to enhancing environmental conditions. First, the State has made a large investment, through the 2014 passage of Proposition 1, to enhance their ability to support critical aquatic needs. Second, there are opportunities to partner with the State and Federal water projects in coordinated operations that will enhance fishery protections associated with their operations. Beyond these enhancements, the Project itself is being designed to avoid and lessen any environmental concerns and, when necessary, provide appropriate mitigation. The Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS Executive Summary (available here sitesproject.org/environmental-review) summarizes the environmental effects that have been identified, including those that are significant and unavoidable.

How much water will Sites take from the Trinity River? Or how will Sites impact the Trinity River?

No water will be diverted from the Trinity River to fill Sites Reservoir. The unique location of the reservoir means the Project is not competing for other water resources. Instead the Sites Reservoir will be complementary to these facilities and enhance the ability to optimize the limited water resources. All water diverted into Sites Reservoir will come from the Sacramento River, primarily from the streams and creeks that flow into the river downstream of the Shasta and Keswick Dams, with the exception of extreme events where Shasta Dam is releasing water to avoid flooding in which case some of this released water may be diverted into Sites.

Will the project harm fish species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta?

No. Sites Reservoir does not threaten salmon and other fish. In fact, there are highly protective operating conditions in place that must be in place before diversions into Sites Reservoir can proceed, including adapting to evolving conditions. In addition, the intakes being used for diverting water into Sites Reservoir include state-of-the-art fish screens that are proven to be highly effective at protecting fish. And, the current proposed project includes more cold water for salmon in the driest years when it is needed most. Not only is no harm done, but there is also a net benefit from this project to Sacramento River salmon, Delta smelt, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta estuary.

Has the Sites Project Authority analyzed and considered a comprehensive range of environmental mitigation and protections to support salmon and the Bay-Delta ecosystem?

Absolutely, and there are a couple of specific elements of the Project that are critical to supporting environmental needs. First, the State has made a large investment in the Project through Proposition 1 to enhance their ability to support these critical systems. Second, there are opportunities to partner with the State and Federal water projects in coordinated operations that will enhance fishery protections associated with their operations. Beyond these enhancements, the Project itself is being designed to avoid and lessen any environmental concerns and, when necessary, provide appropriate mitigation.



How does Sites address temperature management efforts for salmon protection?

All species have varying needs throughout their lives. Suitable water temperatures for cold-water fish are important but not the only important component. They need food to sustain and grow along with places to take cover and rest while migrating to the ocean among other things. While temperature management alone does not meet all of the needs of cold-water fish, it is an important component.

Sites has been shown to have the ability to assist in the Bureau of Reclamation's temperature management efforts for salmon protection in the Sacramento and American River systems through water exchanges. The Bureau of Reclamation would establish the criteria for these exchanges through its temperature management planning which weighs risks and rewards of various potential protective actions. Sites is a potential tool for use in managing temperature but is not limited to serving this purpose only. Sites provides additional benefits to the environment, including assisting in providing stability for flows in the fall to reduce salmon redd dewatering, providing additional food resources for Delta smelt in the north Delta, among other existing and potential benefits. It would be shortsighted to conclude that the federal government should not invest in Sites based on conclusions about current temperature management efforts being less than optimal. The fact is that Sites creates new water supply for drier periods and flexibility to deal with uncertainty of climate change. Both of these attributes are beneficial to the environment and worthy of federal investment.

Is Sites being built on native lands? How will it impact tribal people?

Both the Sites Project Authority and the Bureau of Reclamation have consulted and will continue to consult with recognized Native American Tribes regarding impacts to Tribal people and resources. This is described in detail in Chapter 23 and Chapter 29 of the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS. The Authority has reached out to over a dozen Tribes under Assembly Bill 52 and is in ongoing consultation under AB 52 with several tribes. There are Native American human remains and other tribal resources in the footprint of the reservoir and the Authority is working closely with the Tribes that historically inhabited the reservoir footprint to address impacts to these resources and ensure Native American human remains are addressed consistent with the Tribes' requests. As described in Chapter 29 of the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS, the Project does not occur in an area that would affect Indian hunting or water rights nor is the alternative on Indian trust lands.

Have Native American tribes been consulted?

Yes. Both the Sites Project Authority and the Bureau of Reclamation have consulted and will continue to consult with recognized Native American tribes regarding impacts to Tribal people and resources. The Authority has reached out to over a dozen tribes under Assembly Bill 52 and is in ongoing consultation under AB 52 with several tribes.

How were the RDEIR/SDEIS virtual public meetings announced?

A variety of notification methods and channels were used to announce the virtual public meetings, availability of the RDEIR/SDEIS, and public comment period, including:

- Authority's Notice of Availability emailed to agencies, Tribes, NGOs, and interested parties
- Reclamation's Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register
- Press release disseminated to media outlets
- Notices posted to the Authority and Reclamation's websites
- Numerous Authority and Reclamation social media posts
- Advertisement published in eight local area newspapers
- Direct mailing to landowners and interested parties
- A series of email blasts to interested public members

To receive future project updates, sign up to be added to the Authority's email list here: [Contact - Sites Reservoir \(sitesproject.org\)](https://sitesproject.org).

