

1. The project claims that the Sites Reservoir will be beneficial to native birds and fish. What specific benefits will the reservoir offer?

As part of the Prop 1 State investment in the Sites Reservoir, approximately 240,000 acre-feet of storage space will be controlled and entitled to serve strictly as an asset for the environment. This portion of the reservoir will be specifically operated under the direction of CDFW. Among the possible uses of this asset is deliveries to the managed refuge habitats within the Pacific flyway leading to increased water for birds and fish, primarily during the driest years.

Please refer to the [Sites FAQ](#) for additional background questions and answers related to environmental benefits.

2. How many feet across will the reservoir be?

The reservoir is planned to be approximately 14,000 acres of inundated area. The expected measurements of the reservoir surface will be determined based as on survey and engineering details developed as the project progresses.

3. The reservoir claims to “capture excess water from storms.” What is “excess water”? Will water be captured in non-storm seasons, like summer?

Diversions to Sites will only occur under strict and protective conditions established by permits issued by state regulatory agencies. Excess is a term used to define water flow conditions in the Delta when all beneficial uses are being met with un-stored water. Aside from excess conditions, the Sites water right will include conditions to protect all other water rights and environmental needs prior to initiating diversions into Sites Reservoir. Sites would not be authorized to divert water in the summer season.

4. Does the Sites Reservoir have a plan to mitigate methane releases? If so, what is the plan?

Methane release as a result of the Sites reservoir operations is not anticipated to be a significant environmental effect.

5. Does the Sites Reservoir have a plan to mitigate evaporation? If so, what is the plan?

Evaporation is anticipated as part of the reservoir operation and has been accounted in the analysis of the project operations. It is not feasible to cover the reservoir of this type.

6. What is the project’s response to the numerous harms Native Tribes and leaders have alerted to, specifically those regarding salmon runs and overall population health?

The Sites Project Authority has been engaged in ongoing coordination with Tribes who are culturally associated with the region where the proposed project would be sited. The Authority has been actively engaging in AB 52 coordination with these Tribes and will continue to do so as we further development of the project.

The Authority would be happy to engage in constructive dialogue on any specific questions or issues Tribes or any others interested in the Project may have. The Sites Authority is committed to a collaborative, open, and transparent process for project development.



7. Would the Sites Reservoir pull as much as 100,000 acre feet of water from tributaries even in drought years?

The project operations have been modeled to simulate operations and these simulations do show there can be very wet periods during dry years. The storms in October and December 2021 are a perfect example. As a result of record rainfall and significant snow events that occurred in October and December, the Project's diversion criteria would have been met and some diversions would have been allowed for the Project. While diversions are expected to be minimal in drought years, there are times, like October through December of 2021, where we can have very wet conditions – even in drought years.

8. What is the current predicted cost of operationalizing the Sites Reservoir?

The most current total project cost estimate is \$3.93B in 2021 dollars.