

## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2017

Mr. David Murillo  
Acting Commissioner  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Acting Commissioner Murillo:

We write to ask that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) work with the non-Federal sponsor of the Sites Reservoir Project, the Sites Project Authority (Authority), to accelerate completion of the feasibility analysis needed for the Sites Reservoir Project (Sites). We request that Reclamation work with Sites to meet all applicable deadlines associated with competing for non-Federal support through the California Water Commission's (CWC) Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) process and to enable the project to compete for Federal support as authorized under sections 4007 and 4010 of Subtitle J of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act "WIIN Act" (Public Law No: 114-322).


Specifically, we urge Reclamation to, first, submit to the Authority a draft Sites feasibility report (FR) that includes a non-Federal project alternative, capable of providing federal benefits, no later than July 20, 2017. Meeting this deadline will enable public comments to the Sites FR to begin commensurate with the start of the California Water Commission's (CWC's) public review of the Authority's application for consideration under WSIP. The CWC plans to make all applications publicly available after August 14, 2017. It is our understanding that the Authority will provide Reclamation with the date it plans to submit its application, which will include the draft Sites FR and will be the date the Authority plans to seek public review of the draft joint Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS).

Second, we urge Reclamation to take such steps as are necessary to submit to the Authority a Sites FR with Sites being developed as a State-led (Authority-led) project no later than August 31, 2018. The additional time is needed to incorporate the CWC's decision on the State's participation in Sites to achieve environmental and water quality benefits, which are complementary to section 4010(b)(6) of the WIIN Act. Completing your work very soon after the conclusion of the WSIP process will enable a Secretarial recommendation that conforms to the

requirements of WIIN Section 4007(c) for consideration of funding for preconstruction activities that will accelerate the Sites Reservoir Project. Meeting these two deadlines will support our mutual objectives of accelerating the timeline for reaching a decision on the appropriate level of Federal support that, in turn, can accelerate the start of construction on Sites as a locally-sponsored project having the potential for both State and/or Federal investment to acquiring water for environmental and water quality benefits as authorized under WSIP and WIIN Sections 4007 and 4010, respectively.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests. We look forward to continuing to work together to address California's water supply challenges. For additional information regarding this request, please feel free to contact us or have your staff contact Kevin Eastman (Representative Doug LaMalfa, (202) 225-3076), Garrett Durst (Representative John Garamendi, (202) 225-1880), or John Watts (Senator Dianne Feinstein, (202) 224-3841).

Sincerely,

  
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

  
Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

  
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress