

# Environmental Review Process Overview



The Sites Project Authority (Authority) is developing the Sites Reservoir Project, an offstream storage facility proposed in Colusa County to secure long-term water sustainability and benefit California’s economy and environment. The Authority, the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has initiated the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate and consider a range of alternatives that meet the project’s purpose and need. Public involvement is an important part of the environmental review process, with several opportunities to participate and help inform the content of the project’s environmental analyses.

## Project Benefits



Enhanced water management flexibility



Improved ecosystems



Improved environmental flows



Potential new renewable energy sources



Increased water supply reliability



New recreation opportunities



Enhanced water quality



Flood management

The purpose of the environmental review is to analyze and disclose reasonably foreseeable direct and indirect environmental impacts, including potentially significant environmental impacts, and where impacts are significant, identify mitigation measures and alternatives that substantially lessen or avoid such effects. Scoping is one of the first steps in the environmental review process and is intended to identify and study:

- Potential environmental impacts of the project
- A Reasonable range of alternatives
- Methodologies for impact analysis
- Potential mitigation strategies

CEQA Lead Agency - Sites Project Authority

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)  
Lead Agency - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

## The environmental analysis will study the project’s impacts on a wide array of resource areas, including, but not limited to:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and forestry resources
- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Climate change
- Cultural and tribal resources
- Energy
- Geology and soils
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Hazards and hazardous materials
- Hydrology and water quality
- Land use and planning
- Mineral resources
- Noise
- Population and housing
- Public services
- Recreation
- Transportation and traffic
- Utilities and service systems
- Cumulative Impacts

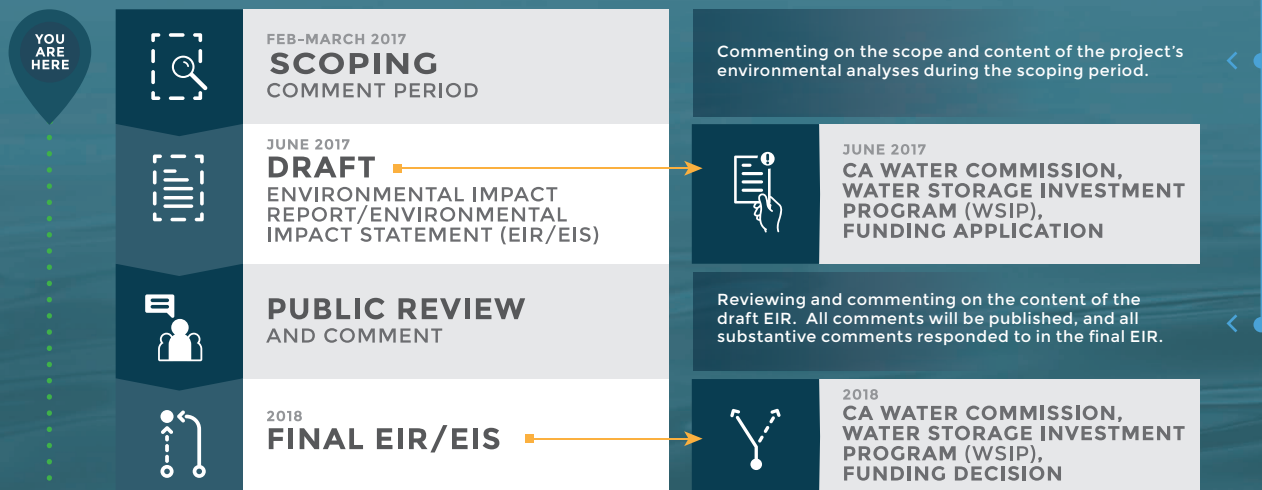


In compliance with CEQA, the Authority will study and consider a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives that meet the project's goals and objectives and avoid or reduce significant impacts. The alternatives under consideration for the Sites Project include:

Alternative	Capacity	Recreational Areas	Terminal Regulating Reservoir	Delevan Pipeline Intake
No Project Alternative (CEQA) / No Action Alternative (NEPA)	No Storage	No Recreation	No Additional Water	No Water Facilities
Alt A	1.27 MAF	3	2,000 AF	YES
Alt B	1.81 MAF	3	2,000 AF	NO
Alt C	1.81 MAF	3	2,000 AF	YES
Alt D	1.81 MAF	2	1,200 AF	YES

**Project Cost: \$4.3 billion - \$4.8 billion** / 7-8 years of construction-related jobs

Public input is essential to identifying a reasonable range of alternatives, analyzing environmental effects, and developing mitigation measures. Opportunities for public involvement over the course of the environmental review process begin during the scoping period and continue until a final environmental document has been certified, and include:



**Comments Due:  
March 2, 2017**



**Scoping Comments  
Sites Project Authority  
P.O. Box 517 Maxwell, CA 95955**



**ScopingComments@SitesProject.org**  
At public meeting: Fill out a comment form