

Sites Project Overview



Sites benefits California's economy and the environment – now and into the future.

California's water has become increasingly scarce and needs to be more-effectively managed to meet competing demands. Now more than ever, California's water system needs a more flexible, environmentally friendly solution to capturing and storing water for use when it's needed most. Sites is the only proposed storage project that combines the public benefits of water storage with the ecosystem benefits of increased environmental flows in the Sacramento River.

The project will help state water operators and urban water districts manage supplies efficiently to meet demand for drinking water, irrigation, ecosystem improvements, and facilitate better water quality.

Sites will also guard against:

- Salinity intrusion in the Bay Delta caused by sea level rise;
- High water temperatures in the Sacramento River that endanger spawning Salmon; and
- The unpredictability of climate change.



Sites Works

It achieves California's coequal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem improvement.

The project would add up to 500,000 acre-feet to California's water system annually – enough to serve 1.2 million families for one year.

Between October 2015 and April 2016, over 1,000,000 acre-feet could have been diverted to Sites, filling 60 percent of its capacity in one year alone.

In the dry year of 2014-2015, Sites would have added 410,000 acre-feet of water from just two major storm events in December 2014 and February 2015.

Up to 50 percent of Sites water will be dedicated to environmental flows while providing critical water supplies to California cities, farms and businesses.

SITES PROVIDES

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1.2M
HOMES AND BUSINESSES
SERVED PER YEAR

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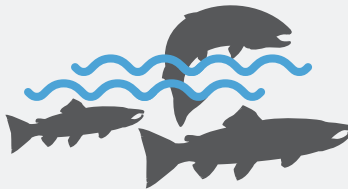
Sites is an innovative, environmentally sound solution to California's water crisis

The environmental flows provided by Sites will improve water quality for endangered fish, reduce salinity levels in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), and improve Pacific Flyway habitat for migratory birds and other native species. Had Sites been online during the severe drought conditions of 2015, an additional 240,000 acre-feet of cold water would have been available to support critical salmon migration in the Sacramento River, while providing dramatic ecosystem and water quality improvements.

As an offstream reservoir, **Sites will not dam an existing river, will not block fish migration on the Sacramento River, and will protect and enhance the \$1 billion in investments made over the past two decades to improve and protect migratory corridors for endangered Salmon.**



**DOES NOT DAM
EXISTING RIVER**



FISH MIGRATE FREELY



**PROTECTS
ENDANGERED SALMON**





The Sites project would be situated on the west side of the Sacramento Valley, approximately 10 miles west of the rural town of Maxwell, in historic Colusa County.

The Sacramento Valley is a unique region, known for its farming community, rich agricultural benefits, and natural beauty. The region has been considered ideal for offstream water storage since the 1980's - a proposal that is widely supported by local community leaders, residents, and water managers.

Sites is a local project, being developed by a consortium of local government agencies who are motivated to build local water sustainability in a way that helps the state meet its overall water system needs. The Sites Project Authority, comprised of several local water agencies and Counties, has spent the last six years working towards the goal of constructing Sites by engaging the public, stakeholders, state and federal agencies and landowners, initiating the required environmental planning process, and conducting feasibility studies, among other efforts.

The Sites Project Authority will own, manage, and operate the reservoir in a way that integrates with the state's water system and provides a new source of water to businesses, farms and families.

Sites will:

- ✓ Restore operational flexibility to California's primary water system
- ✓ Meet the coequal goals identified in the 2009 Delta Reform Act
- ✓ Dedicate water for environmental flows
- ✓ Contribute flows for water quality purposes
- ✓ Mitigate the effects of climate change
- ✓ Contribute to the state's renewable energy goals

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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