

Sites Reservoir Project

Offstream Water Storage

North of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta)



August 2018



Overview

The Sites Project is the culmination of decades of planning to optimize water supplies and deliveries throughout California and provide direct benefits to functional flows and the Delta ecosystem.

The 1.8 million acre-foot offstream reservoir in California's largest watershed will greatly increase the reliability of statewide water supplies for environmental, agricultural and urban uses by maximizing the diversion and storage of excess storm event flows in the Sacramento River. In addition, the Sites Project will benefit the economy by utilizing a skilled and trained workforce to provide middle class jobs for Californians.

Situated on the west side of the Sacramento Valley, the Sites Project will be located approximately 10 miles west of the rural town of Maxwell, in historic Colusa County. The region has been considered ideal for water storage since the 1950's, and even more so today with climate change creating a new normal of changing future conditions (less snowpack and flashier rainfall).

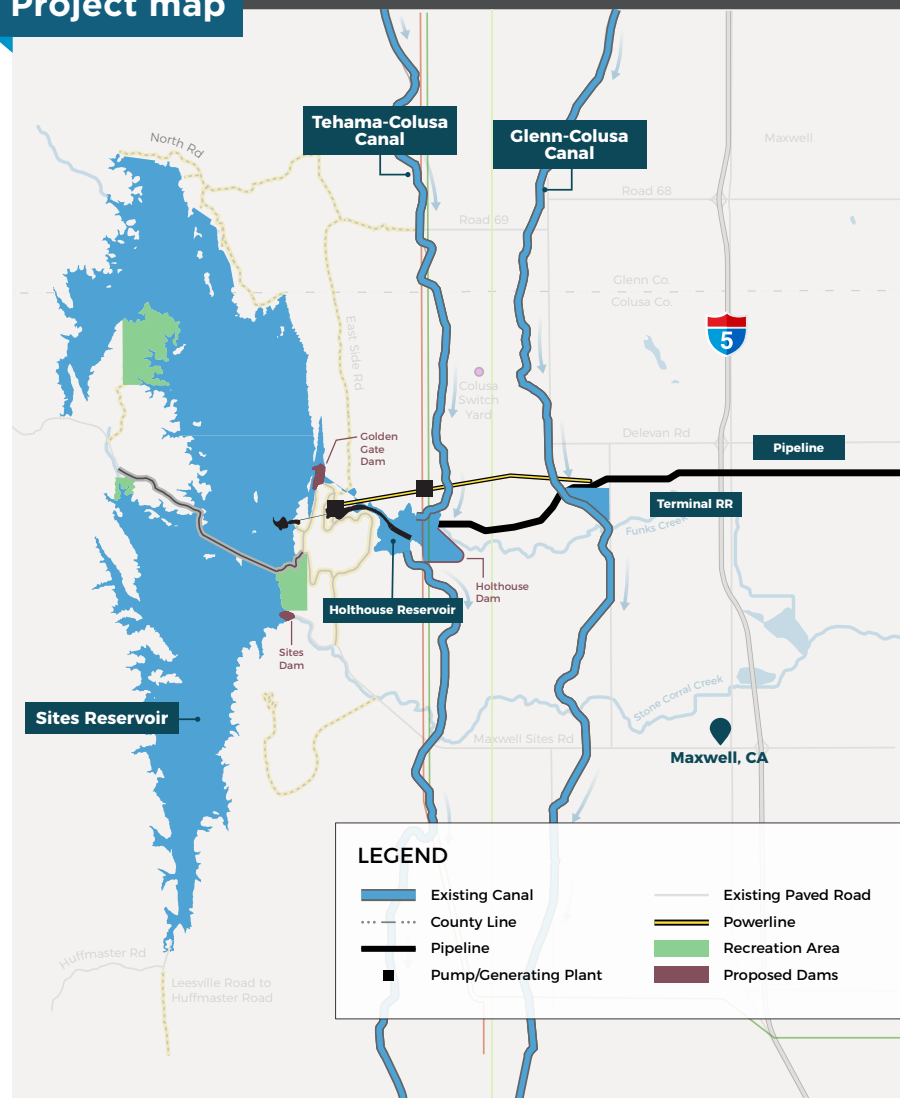
Studied for more than 30 years and widely supported both regionally and statewide, the project has made significant progress over the last several years.

With the Sites Project, the state has a rare opportunity to enhance statewide water supplies and manage a block of water specifically for the environment.

The Sites Project Authority

The Sites Project is being developed by several Northern California public agencies who are motivated to build and sustainably operate a water management project that helps the state meet its overall water system needs.

Project map



The Sites Project Authority (Authority):

- Formed on August 26, 2010
- Governed by a 15-member Board of Directors representing Sacramento Valley leadership in government and water management
- California Environmental Quality Act lead agency
- Partnering with the state and federal government, regional stakeholders and water agencies statewide



The Problem

California has faced severe water supply and ecosystem challenges for decades. Declining ecological conditions in the Sacramento River and Delta, limited water supplies and a growing population, compounded by climate change, persistent drought conditions, and increased flow requirements for native fish have led to an unsustainable situation.

Climate change has resulted in conditions that our current system is unprepared to handle – less snowpack, shorter, more intense storms, and increased salinity due to sea level rise.

Now more than ever, California's water system needs added flexibility and an environmentally friendly solution to capturing and storing heavy rainfall for use when and where it's needed most to meet specific needs.



The Solution

The Sites Project is an innovative, environmentally sound solution to the state's toughest water challenges. It will provide high-quality water to enhance the environment, the economy and quality of life for Californians. Specifically, Sites will help the state adapt to climate change by capturing and storing surplus runoff supplies, available after all other requirements are met, for use in dry and critical years. The project will also help recovering ecosystems by providing up to half of its annual water supplies to environmental flows, which will improve conditions for salmon and Delta smelt, help preserve coldwater pools in Shasta later into the summer months to support salmon development, spawning and rearing, and improve Pacific Flyway habitat for migratory birds and other native species.

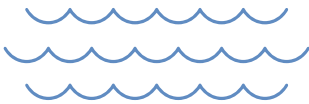
Sites will relieve stress on the state's water system, allowing other reservoirs to hold more water later into the summer months and helping increase the reliability of existing supplies. The added flexibility Sites offers will effectively increase Sacramento Valley water storage capacity by 15%. By creating a new source of water, and more flexibility in the system, Sites has the potential to help California succeed at implementing 21st century water solutions to meet human and environmental needs.



The Numbers

The Sites Project will add up to **500,000 acre-feet** to California's water system annually

Enough to serve 1.2 million homes and businesses for one year.

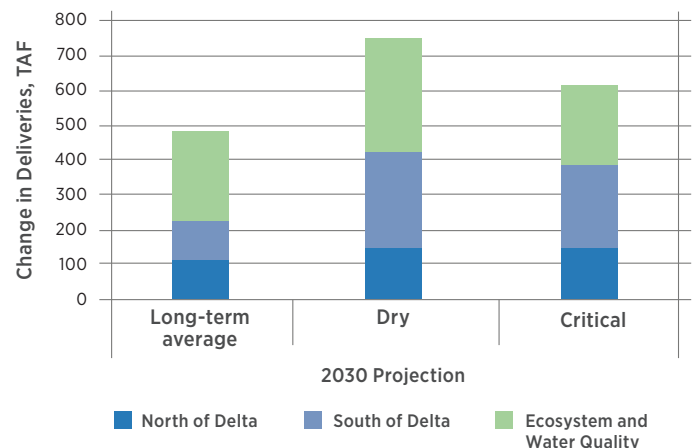


Up to **710k acre-feet** of usable storage capacity has been offered to the state to manage adaptively to produce environmental benefits when the needs are greatest.

Job Creation

Annual Employment	Approximate Number of Jobs Added
Total Short-Term Direct, Indirect, and Induced Employment	505
Total Long-Term Direct, Indirect and Induced Employment Per Year	57

Drought Resilience



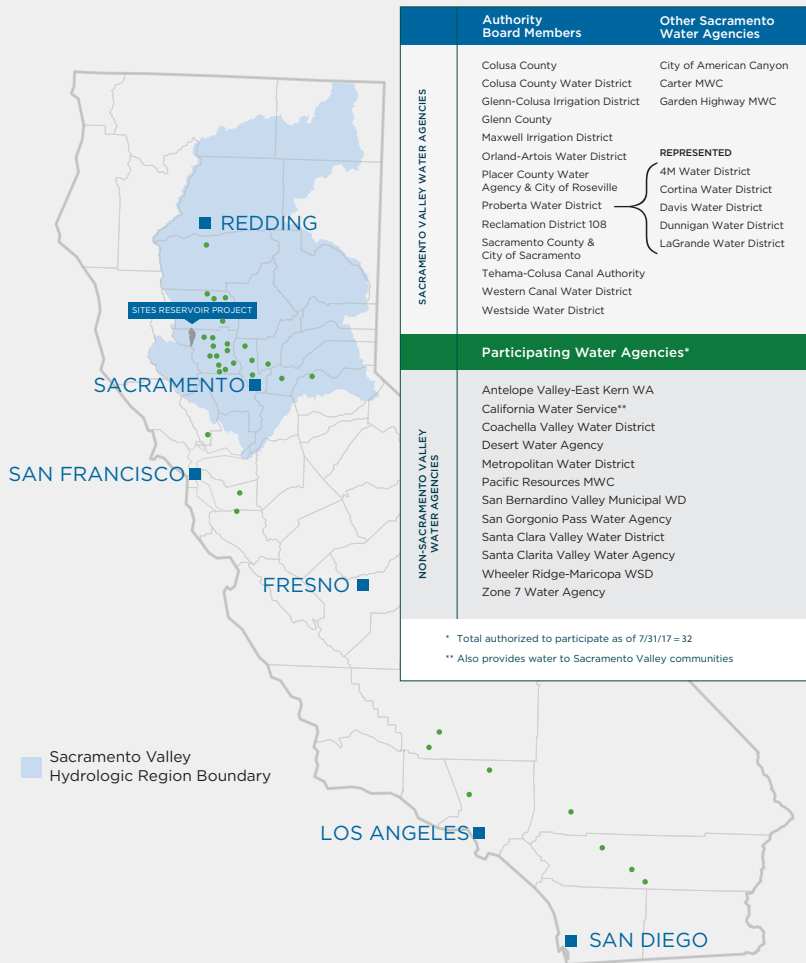
Sites Reservoir



The Proponents

A bipartisan group of over 175 organizations, agencies, businesses and elected officials support Sites. The Sites supporters represent a diverse coalition of labor, business, water and agricultural interests, residents, various local and statewide agencies, as well as several cities and counties from the Sacramento Valley, Bay Area, Central Valley and Southern California.

Additionally, water managers from the Sacramento Valley and across the state are participating in the planning of the Sites Reservoir Project, with the majority requesting to participate at a level that would allow them to receive water supply benefits.



A small sampling of the many Sites Project supporters.

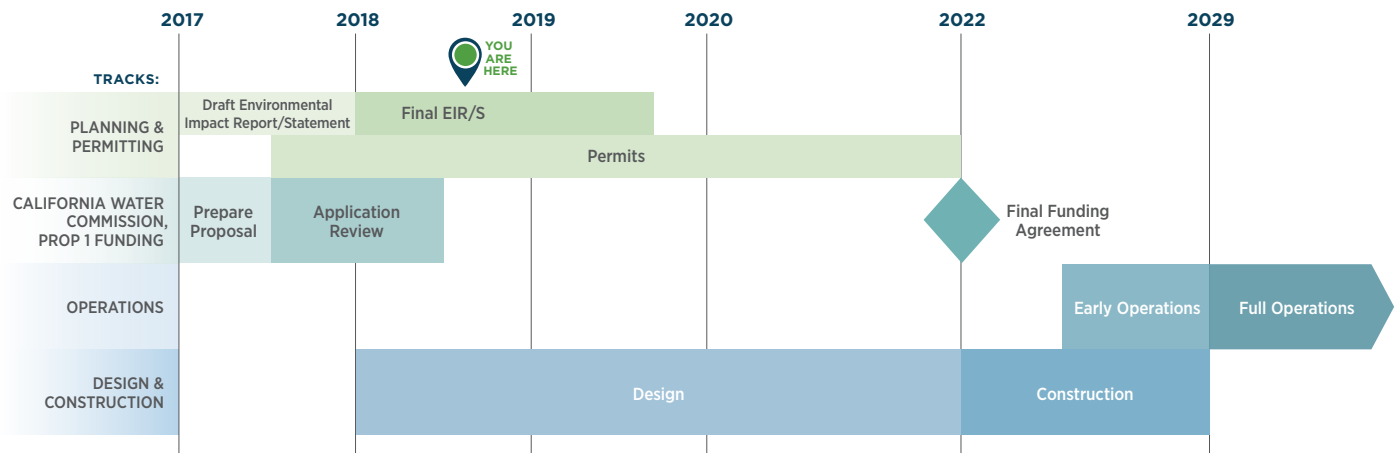


The Next Steps

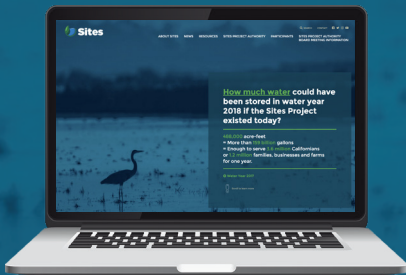
The Sites Project continues to build momentum as it progresses through planning and toward eventual construction. Key activities planned for 2018 include securing state funding through the Water Storage Investment Program process, additional environmental review, permitting activities, and continued project design.



Project Schedule



Follow Up



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