



# SITES RESERVOIR

Water for the Environment

California is facing multiple challenges in how it manages its water infrastructure and supply, including concerns regarding rising temperatures, declining snowpack, longer dry seasons, and more volatile precipitation. This presents challenges to the state's ability to meet its goal of creating a win-win scenario, including a more reliable water supply and protecting and enhancing the environment. To be successful, California's policy makers must advance a portfolio of actions that includes new water storage.

Sites Reservoir Project is a water storage enhancement to the California water system that will provide multiple environmental benefits to improve aquatic habitat conditions and withstand dry year conditions. This reservoir will be operated to accommodate climate change and improve environmental and water supply system resilience.

## KEY ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Up to 40 percent of the project's water would be dedicated for and managed by state and federal agencies to address environmental needs.
- Nearly 40,000 acre feet of water would be available for managed refuges and wetlands north and south of the Delta, providing a more sustainable water supply to benefit migratory birds and other species.
- With the anticipated reduction in snow-melt, cold water stored in the existing reservoirs will be reduced, making it more difficult to manage the temperature of water released for salmon and other species downstream. The operation of Sites Reservoir will allow Shasta, Oroville and Folsom to hold more cold water later into the summer months for the benefit of fisheries.
- Project operations will also improve water quality and reliability in the Delta by releasing nutrient-rich water to improve conditions for Delta smelt, among other species.

Sites Reservoir will be operated to provide significantly more water during drier periods, complementing other drought-management tools in addressing California's water management challenges into the 21st century and beyond.

As Sites Reservoir moves through the final permitting process, the Sites Project Authority is working with the NGO community, state, and federal agencies to ensure that the environmental water from Sites is managed appropriately. For more information, please visit [www.sitesproject.org](http://www.sitesproject.org).



### About Sites Reservoir

**Located 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell in rural Colusa and Glenn Counties, Sites Reservoir would be a 1.8 million acre-foot off-stream storage facility to provide water for drier periods.**



### How It Works

**The reservoir will capture and store storm-related runoff and flood flows in the Sacramento River after all other water rights and regulatory requirements are met.**

