

**SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY**  
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MAXWELL, CALIFORNIA 95955  
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## **Board of Directors**

FRITZ DURST, RECLAMATION DISTRICT 108, CHAIR  
JEFF SUTTON, TEHAMA-COLUSA CANAL AUTHORITY, VICE-CHAIR  
GARY EVANS, COLUSA COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
LEIGH MCDANIEL, GLENN COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
LOGAN DENNIS, GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
BRUCE HOUESHELDT, PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY/CITY OF ROSEVILLE  
DOUG PARKER, WESTSIDE WATER DISTRICT  
JOE MARSH, COLUSA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
JEFF HARRIS, CITY OF SACRAMENTO/SACRAMENTO COUNTY WATER AGENCY  
DON BADER, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (COST-SHARE PARTNER, NON-VOTING)  
ROB COOKE, CA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING)

### **Associate Members (NON-VOTING)**

GREG JOHNSON, WESTERN CANAL WATER DISTRICT  
JAMIE TRAYNHAM, TC 4 DISTRICTS

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# June 24, 2020 1:30 p.m. Sites Project Authority Minutes

### **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:**

Chairman Durst called the Sites Project Authority Board of Directors meeting to order at the hour of 1:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

Chairman Durst asked those present to introduce themselves. (**Attachment A**)

### **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

It was moved by Director Dennis, seconded by Director Parker to approve the June 24, 2020 Sites Project Authority Agenda. Motion carried: All Directors present voted yes.

### **PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chairman Durst called for public comment. Hearing none, he closed the period of public comment.

1. **CONSENT AGENDA:** It was moved by Director Harris, seconded by Director Dennis to approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 1.1 through 1.3 as follows:
  - 1.1 Approval of the May 21, 2020 Phase 2 Reservoir Committee Meeting Minutes.
  - 1.2 Acceptance of the Sites Project Authority Treasurer's Report as presented in Attachment 1.2A.
  - 1.3 Approval of the Payment of Claims as presented in Attachment 1.3A with supporting details provided in Attachment 1.3B.

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Motion carried: All Directors present voted yes.

**2. Action Items:**

- 2.1 Consider acceptance of the 2020-2021 Sites Project State Agency Legislative Activity Priorities.

Mr. Spesert provided an overview of the 2020-2021 Sites Project State Agency Legislative Activities Priorities, stating these priorities would be the Committee's and Team's focus through December 2021. He added any adjustments/refinements would be presented to the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board prior to being incorporated, with updates as needed. Brief discussion followed.

**Action:** It moved by Director Evans, seconded by Director Harris to accept the 2020-2021 Sites Project State Agency Legislative Activity Priorities. Motion carried: All Directors present voted yes.

- 2.2 Consider approval of the Authority's negotiation approach for permits and operating agreements.

Ms. Forsythe provided an overview of the Authority's negotiation approach for permits and operating agreements with state and federal agencies.

Chairman Durst stated the Executive Director would be given the authority as the lead in these negotiations, with two teams working under him, the Workgroup which would deal with technical issues and the Negotiating Team who would evolve some of the principles. Brief discussion followed.

**Action:** It was moved by Director Sutton, seconded by Director Dennis to approve the Authority's negotiation approach for permits and operating agreements. Motion carried: All Directors present voted yes.

**3. Discussion and Information Items:**

- 3.1 Receive status update on preliminary participation levels, outreach efforts related to maintaining project subscription in Second Amendment to 2019 Reservoir Project Agreement (Amendment 2) and the process of rebalancing participation. **(Attachment A, B & C)**

Mr. Robinette provided an update regarding the following:

- Preliminary Participation Levels.
- Outreach and Rebalancing.
- Schedule.
- Cash Call Timing.
- Process for a participant securing a position in the participation queue and steps involved.

Mr. Robinette also spoke to a request from Colusa County regarding an alternate payment plan based on their unique situation. He stated the alternate payment plan proposed by the County was analyzed by the Project team and the Team determined that it was prudent and reasonable to accept the alternate payment plan and made a finding of equivalency for the following reasons:

- The same total dollars are to be paid and there is no lesser commitment as compared to any of the other participating members.
- The timing of the alternate payments is such that on a cash flow basis there is no redirected impacts on other participating members.
- The administrative burden of the alternate plan is offset by the proposed additional year of rent relief for the Authority's use of the Maxwell office building which is owned by the County.

Discussion followed with no action taken.

### 3.2 Receive status update on draft 2020 Final Federal Feasibility Report.

Mr. Brown provided an update on the draft 2020 Final Federal Feasibility (FFFR) Report, stating the approved 2020-21 Sites Federal Government Affairs Priorities includes completion of the FFR to qualify for federal funding and serves as a basis for the State's feasibility analysis required for WSIP funding. Mr. Brown spoke to the following:

- Potential benefits for north and south of delta, new supplies for incremental level 4 refuges and improvement for migrating fish in north of delta rivers and streams.
- WIIN Act construction funds.
- Differences between the draft 2020 FFR and VP7 (the Authority's preferred alternative).
- "Right sized" Project.
- WIIN Act deadlines.
- Benefit cost ratio.
- Key WIIN Act criteria (determination of feasibility by December 2020 and initiation of construction by 2022).
- Feasibility Report Review Process.

Mr. Brown stated the draft 2020 FFR is currently going through policy review and will be sent to Washington DC in July where it will undergo numerous reviews by OMB and the Secretary of Interior who will then submit the final determination to Congress. Discussion followed with no action taken.

### 3.3 Review and Comment on the objectives and alternatives for the Revised Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement to focus efforts in developing a more complete project description on schedule. **(Attachment A & B)**

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Ms. Forsythe provided an overview on the objectives and alternatives for the Revised Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. She spoke to the following:

Overview:

- Work on the preparation of the Revised EIR/EIS, updates to the Biological Assessment and design efforts.
- Key first step is the development of a Revised Project Description:
  - Serves as the foundation of the Revised EIR/EIS.
  - Preferred Project is foundation of the Biological Assessment and Sites Feasibility Report.
- Soliciting early input to reduce rework and maintain schedule.

Building Block to September Decision:

- Environmental Planning and Permitting Key Milestones:
  - September, RC and AB to review and approve.
    - More complete project description.
    - Recommendation on Preferred Project.
- Necessity of staying on schedule.

Objectives – Background:

- CEQA Guidelines – require that a project description contain a clear statement of the project objectives, including the underlying purpose of the Project.
- Staff proposing revisions to objectives to:
  - Better reflect goals of Reservoir Committee and Authority Board as described in the Value Planning Report and messaging documents.
  - Add clarity and specificity to improve understanding of the foundation of the Project.
- Improve environmental, agricultural and municipal water supply reliability in a cost-effective manner for Project Participants.
- Improve cold water pool management in Shasta Reservoir through coordination and exchanges with Reclamation to benefit anadromous fish.
- Enhance the Delta ecosystem by providing water to convey food resources from the floodplain to the Delta thereby improving the food chain and quality of the Delta's estuarine habitat for the benefit of pelagic fishes in the north Delta (e.g. Cache Slough.)

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- Provide improvements in state-wide water supply reliability to enhance opportunities for fish protection, habitat management and other environmental needs.
  - Provide local and regional amenities, including development of recreational facilities, reduction of local flood damage and maintaining community connectivity through roadway modifications.

Alternatives – Background:

- CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR analyze a reasonable range of alternatives that would:
  - Satisfy and attain most of the basic objectives of the project.
  - Avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project.
- Staff proposing revisions to alternatives to better align with Value Planning Report.
- Alternatives – Key Components and Differences of the Facilities/Operations, Action Alternative 1 (Derived from VP7 and Action Alternative 2 (Includes Parts of VP5 and VP6).
- Next Steps:
  - Continue development and refinement of more complete project description, including:
    - Objectives.
    - Action Alternatives.
    - No Action Alternatives.
    - Recommended Preferred Project.
- Return to Reservoir Committee and Authority Board in September with:
  - More complete project description.
  - Recommend Preferred Project for the purpose of the CEQA analysis.
- Coordinate with Reclamation and Sites legal counsel for input.

Discussion followed regarding Alternative 1 and Alternative (Conveyance Release/Dunnigan Release and Route to West side of Reservoir) with no action taken.

3.4 Review and comment on the approach for discussions with the California Department of Water Resources on a Sites Coordinated Operations Agreement. **(Attachment A)**

Mr. Brown stated Staff is reinitiating technical discussion with DWR on a Sites Coordinated Operations Agreement (COA). He stated Sites COA would address the following key items:

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1. Coordination of Sites water deliveries with DWR's operation of the State Water Project.
  2. Sites water accounting in the context of the COA) for CVP and SWP.
  3. Conveyance and operational losses.
  4. Exchanges and transfers from Sites-participants to non-Sites SWP contractors.
  5. Water rights and point of delivery considerations.

Brief discussion followed with no action taken.

- 3.5 Receive status update on the Colusa Basin Drain (CBD) evaluation and Dunnigan Pipeline alignment review.

Mr. Luu provided an update on the CBD evaluation and the Dunnigan Pipeline alignment. He stated the Dunnigan Pipeline alignment analysis is progressing well, with no fatal flaws having been identified to date. He stated further the consultant team is refining the alignment to reduce impacts to properties and landowner operations as well as minimizing environmental impacts to Bird Creek. He further stated a hydraulic study of the CBD has been initiated and the analysis would confirm whether releases into the CBD are viable. He said a determination of a go/no-go on releases to the CBD would be made by August 2020. and should the use of the CBD not be feasible an alternative extending the Dunnigan Pipeline alignment to the river would still exist.

Brief discussion followed with no action taken.

- 3.6 Receive status update on the approach for Regulatory Agency Technical Working Group. **(Attachment A)**

Ms. Forsythe stated staff have reinitiated efforts on the development and submittal of key permits for the Sites Project as reflected in the Amendment 1B Work Plan. She stated two technical working groups would be established to facilitate regular communication and coordination with state, federal and local agencies with jurisdiction over all or portions of the Project.

She stated Group 1: Interagency General Update would meet on a quarterly basis to update and coordinate with all state, federal and local regulatory and/or partnering agencies; Group 2: Fishery and Operations Technical Meetings would focus, as needed on fishery and operations meetings to review and discuss the modeling approach, analysis approach, operational criteria and the resulting effects to species of the Project. She also spoke to Potential Attendees of each of the Technical Working Groups.

Mr. Spesert suggested including local agencies such as the Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, School Districts, etc. Brief discussion followed with no action taken.

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#### 4. Reports:

##### 4.1 Member's Reports:

###### 4.1.1 Chairpersons' Report:

Chairman Durst provided a brief update on various matters related to the Sites Project. He also stated Chairman Bettner, Executive Director Brown and he meet on a regular monthly basis.

###### 4.1.2 Workgroup Chairpersons' Report:

###### Land Management

Director Evans stated a kickoff meeting was held with AECOM and Glenn-Colusa regarding road issues.

###### Budget & Finance

Ms. Traynham provided an update on the following:

- Audit Report (completed and signed).
- Revised Credit Reimbursement Policy.

###### Legislative & Outreach

Director Sutton provided a brief update regarding Legislative and Outreach matters.

###### 4.1.3 Reservoir Committee Participant Reports:

None.

##### 4.2 Executive Director's Reports:

- Monthly status report. **(Attachment A)**
- Updated Message Platform.
- Update on concerns raised by M & I Agencies re: 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and added requirement of making findings of reducing reliance on Delta supplies.
- Work conduct of Authority Agents and Consultants re: needs for and responsibilities of conduct within the workplace.
- Federal and State Budgets:
  - WIIN Act Appropriations for fiscal year 2021 announced.
  - Bond funding made it through as related to Sites Project.
- Strategic Planning Session update planned for end of July 2020.

• Communications:

- Revised Message Platform has been added to the Home Board Package.
- Town Hall meetings to be held on July 14 and July 15, 2020.
- Landowner Newsletter re: right sized project has gone out.

Ms. Katz provided an update on outreach to the community and entities interested in the Town Hall meetings.

**5. Future Meetings and Schedules:**

5.1 Suggested Future Agenda Items.

Mr. Brown provided a brief update of matters to be heard on future Agendas. Brief discussion followed with no action taken.

5.2 Upcoming meetings:

**RESERVOIR COMMITTEE**

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020 1:00 PM  
Sites Project Office, 122 Old Highway 99W Maxwell, CA 95955  
(TELECONFERENCING AND VIDEO LINK WILL BE PROVIDED AS AN OPTION)

**AUTHORITY BOARD**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020 1:30PM  
Sites Project Office, 122 Old Highway 99W Maxwell, CA 95955  
(TELECONFERENCING AND VIDEO LINK WILL BE PROVIDED AS AN OPTION)

Chairman Durst adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

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Fritz Durst, Chairman

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Yolanda Tirado, Board Clerk



**Current Voting Authority Board Participants:**

<i>Participant</i>	✓ <i>Representative</i>	✓ <i>Alternate</i>	<i>Others</i>
Colusa County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Evans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Azevedo	_____
Colusa County Water District	<input type="checkbox"/> Joe Marsh	<input type="checkbox"/> Doug Griffen	_____
Glenn County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leigh McDaniel	<input type="checkbox"/> John Viegas	_____
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Logan Dennis	<input type="checkbox"/> Don Bransford	_____
Reclamation District 108	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fritz Durst	<input type="checkbox"/> Sean Doherty	_____
City of Roseville / Placer County Water Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bruce Houdesheldt	<input type="checkbox"/> Joshua Alpine	_____
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Sutton	<input type="checkbox"/> Halbert Charter	_____
City of Sacramento / Sacramento County Water Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Harris	<input type="checkbox"/> Brett Ewart <input type="checkbox"/> Ann Sanger	_____
Westside Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Parker	<input type="checkbox"/> Zach Dennis	_____

**Associate Members (2 non-voting):**

<i>Participant</i>	✓ <i>Representative</i>	✓ <i>Alternate</i>	<i>Others</i>
TC-4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamie Traynham	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Charter <input type="checkbox"/> Jason Holley	_____
Western Canal Water District	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Johnson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ted Trimble	<input type="checkbox"/> Zach Dennis <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Ruiz	_____

**Non-Voting Committee Participants (2):**

<i>Participant</i>	✓ <i>Representative/Other</i>	✓ <i>Alternate/Other</i>	
Dept of Water Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Rob Cooke <input type="checkbox"/> Ajay Goyal	<input type="checkbox"/> David Sandino <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Wieking	<input type="checkbox"/> Dave Arrate
Bureau of Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Welsh <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Davis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natalie Wolder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Bader <input type="checkbox"/> Derya Sumer <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Dietl <input type="checkbox"/> David Van Rijn	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Duke <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Mosley <input type="checkbox"/> Shana Kaplan

**Authority, Non-Signatory (6):**

<i>Participant</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Representative</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Alternate</i>
PCWA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Horton	<input type="checkbox"/> Ben Barker Darin Reintjes
Roseville	<input type="checkbox"/> Sean Bigley	<input type="checkbox"/> Trevor Joseph <input type="checkbox"/> Jason Marks
Sacramento County WA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kerry Schmitz	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Peterson <input type="checkbox"/> William Busath
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Grinstead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Underwood

**Staff:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brown, Jerry	Sites Project Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forsythe, Ali	Sites Project Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spesert, Kevin	Sites Project Authority

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trapasso, Joe	Sites Project Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tirado, Yolanda	Sites Project Authority

**Consultants:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Alexander, Jeriann	Fugro
<input type="checkbox"/> Boling, Robert	HDR
<input type="checkbox"/> Briard, Monique	ICF
<input type="checkbox"/> Floyd, Kim	Floyd
<input type="checkbox"/> Herrin, Jeff	AECOM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heydinger, Erin	HDR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katz, Sara	Katz & Associates

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kuney, Scott	Young Wooldridge
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luu, Henry	HDR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robinette, JP	Brown & Caldwell
<input type="checkbox"/> Spranza, John	HDR
<input type="checkbox"/> Tull, Rob	Ch2m
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warner Herson, Laurie	Phenix

**Other Attendees:** *(Check box to have email address added to the distribution list)*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>	<i>Contact (Phone &amp; E-mail)</i>
Juleah Cordi	Office of Assemblymember Gallagher	
Conner McDonald	CMD West	
Cathy Westcot	HDR	
Grace Lui		