

SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY  
P.O. Box 517  
122 OLD HIGHWAY 99 WEST  
MAXWELL, CALIFORNIA 95955  
[www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

JERRY BROWN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
925.260.7417

YOLANDA TIRADO, CLERK  
530.438.2309  
Boardclerk@SitesProject.org

## Board of Directors

FRITZ DURST, RECLAMATION DISTRICT 108, CHAIR  
JEFF SUTTON, TEHAMA-COLUSA CANAL AUTHORITY, VICE-CHAIR  
GARY EVANS, COLUSA COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
KEN HAHN, GLENN COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
LOGAN DENNIS, GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
BRUCE HOUDESHEDT, PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY/CITY OF ROSEVILLE  
DOUG PARKER, WESTSIDE WATER DISTRICT  
JOE MARSH, COLUSA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
KERRY SCHMITZ, 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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*May 26, 2021, 1:30 p.m.*  
*Sites Project Authority*  
**MINUTES**

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

Chairman Durst called the Authority Board Meeting to order at the hour of 1:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

#### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

Chairman Durst asked those present to introduce themselves.

#### **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

It was moved by Director Evans, seconded by Director Houdesheldt to approve the May 26, 2021, Sites Project Authority Board Agenda. Motion carried: All Directors present voted yes.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION:**

Chairman Durst announced the Authority Board would consider Closed Session as follows:

##### **5. CLOSED SESSION:**

- 5.1 Negotiations Concerning Sites Project operation terms, conditions, and agreements with the State of California, State Water Resources Control Board. (Govt. Code §§54956.9(c) and 54956.9(d)(4))

#### **PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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

1. **CONSENT AGENDA:** It was moved by Director Houdesheldt, seconded by Director Dennis to approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 1.1 through 1.4 as follows:
  - 1.1 Approve the April 21, 2021 Authority Board Meeting Minutes. **(Attachments A & B)**
  - 1.2 Accept the Sites Project Authority Treasurer's Report. **(Attachment A)**
  - 1.3 Approve the Payment of Claims. **(Attachments A, B & C)**
  - 1.4 Authorize the Executive Director to execute an amended Federal Financial Assistance Agreement with USBR which increases the federal assistance to the project from \$6.3M to \$13.4M.

Motion carried: All Directors present voted yes.

2. **ACTION ITEMS:**

None.

3. **DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:**

- 3.1 Review and comment on fundamental elements of the water right application being prepared for submittal to the State Water Resources Control Board.

Ms. Forsythe provided an overview of the Fundamentals of the Water Rights Application to the State Board and spoke to the following:

**Water Rights Application Update**

Since Nov 2020 key parameters briefing, team has focused on:

- Refining parameters and discussing them with State Board Staff.
- Developing approach for Water Availability Analysis.
- Establishing regular coordination meetings with State Board staff.
- Developing approach to navigating the new State Board on-line application process.
- Discussions with Reclamation and DWR through the Operations Agreement efforts.

**Key Refinements since Nov 2020**

- Purpose of Use:
  - Added stock-watering based on discussions with Reclamation.

- Discussed groundwater banking and undesirable effects of overdraft with State Board staff.
  - In and of itself, it's not currently a recognized purpose of use
  - Purpose of use is when water is withdrawn and subsequently used.
  - Will adjust if/when the State Board changes in the future.
- Points of Re-diversion:
  - Adding more for refuges.
  - Considering adding Freeport.
  - Survey to members to make sure we have captured all points of re-diversion.

### **Place of Use – North of Delta and Delta (Map)**

- Will be hosting NOD Members meeting to review map in detail.

### **Place of Use – South of Delta (Map)**

Mr. Ferguson provided an overview of the State Filing and spoke to the following:

- Petition to amend and assign A025517 (Colusa Reservoir).
  - Full Application package to describe current project.
- Request release from priority.
  - A025514 (Glenn Reservoir).
  - A025513 (Glenn Reservoir – power).
- Key Benefit of Assignment/Release.
  - Prevents another party from assigning state-filed application in the future and directly competing with Sites in terms of priority.
- Key Risk of Only Petitioning for Assignment.
  - State Board may not grant assignment.
    - Would then need to go back through the process with new application (18-month delay).
    - Would lose application fee (\$570,000) and have to pay again.
- Team continues to assess pros and cons of assignment and backup application.

Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of assignment and backup application.

Ms. Forsythe continued with the presentation and spoke to the following:

### **Next Steps:**

- Finalize key parameters.
  - Survey on points of re-diversion.
  - North of Delta member meeting on place of use.
- Complete Water Availability Analysis.

- Begin developing application materials and navigating through the new electronic filing format.

Discussion followed, with no action taken.

- 3.2 Review and comment on the approach for Project commitments, key outcomes of the construction-related chapters of the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS and discuss local issues and challenges.

Ms. Forsythe provided an update regarding the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS Briefing (Construction-Related) and spoke to the following:

**Agenda:**

- Project Commitments.
- Key Preliminary Finding in the Construction-Related Chapters:
  - Chapters with impacts requiring mitigation.
  - Chapters with significant and unavoidable impacts.
- Local Issues and Considerations.

**Project Commitments:**

- Part of the Project Description, important commitments.
- Must be developed and implemented.
- Will be reported on similar to reporting for mitigation measures.
- Best Management Practices (BMPs):
  - Included in an appendix to the RDEIR/SDEIS.
  - Reviewed by team to confirm reasonable, feasible, implementable
- Plans:
  - Framework provided in RDEIR/SDEIS
  - Recommend developing in Amendment 3

**Example: Reservoir Management Plan**

- Purpose:
  - Describes the management of water resources in Sites Reservoir, including monitoring water quality, fisheries management and vector management.
- Includes:
  - Metrics, standards, testing and monitoring protocols, guidelines for water quality measurements, and the frequency and location of measurements in the reservoir, the source water and the reservoir discharge.
- Constituents currently included:
  - Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
  - Methylmercury
  - Metals

- Water Temperature
- Salt and Minerals (Salt Pond)

**Preliminary Determinations:**

- Impacts Requiring Mitigation.
- Significant and Unavoidable Impacts.
- Chapters with No Impact Requiring Mitigation and No Significant and Unavoidable Impacts:
  - Fluvial Geomorphology.
  - Groundwater Resources.
  - Minerals.
  - Recreation.
  - Energy.
  - Noise.
  - Population and Housing.
  - Public Services and Utilities.
  - Public Health and Environmental Hazards.

**Construction-Related Chapters Not Yet Completed:**

- Some construction-related chapters still in development and not included today.
  - Air Quality.
  - Greenhouse Gas Emissions.
  - Water Quality.

**Local Issues and Considerations:**

- CEQA/NEPA focused on the physical changes in the environment.
- Captures some (i.e., traffic) but not ALL local issues/considerations.
- For example:
  - Increased call volume for local fire and law enforcement due to construction and O&M (Authority safety and security needs and increased recreationist).
  - Increased students from families that move to the area for permanent O&M jobs.
- Will need to work with local agencies to address these items outside of the CEQA process.
- Re-initiate meetings with local agencies to discuss their concerns and work towards mutually agreeable solutions.

**Process for Approval of Release of the Revised Draft EIR:**

- April – Part 1 Overview
  - CEQA overview and process presentation.
- May – Part 2 Key Sections
  - Construction-Related Sections and Local Issues.

- June – Part 3 Keys Sections
  - Operations-Related Sections, Growth Inducement and Cumulative.
- July – Request approval
  - Request approval from the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board for release of the public RDEIR in August.
- August 2021 – Release of RDEIR
  - Schedule assumes parallel review and release of SDEIS as a joint document.

Discussion followed, with no action taken.

### 3.3 Review and comment on the contents and timing for the California Water Commission (CWC) Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) Feasibility Report submittal.

Mr. Luu provided a brief update on the contents and timing for the California Water Commission Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) Feasibility Report submittal. He noted the Final WSIP Feasibility Report would be submitted to the Commission staff, so the Commission could consider determination of project feasibility at their meeting on December 17, 2021.

Brief discussion followed with no action taken.

### 3.4 Review and comment on the Amendment 3 work plan early budget estimates and cash flow for the 18-month and 36-month work period.

Mr. Trapasso provided a brief update regarding Amendment 3 Work Plan High-Level Cost Estimate and Cash Flow Estimate and spoke to the following:

- Draft 18-Month Cash Flow (Revenue vs Expenses):
  - 100 Million for an 18-month work plan.
  - Will accomplish all the Amendment 3 goals and objectives.
  - Aligns with the previously discussed estimate of \$350/af cash call.
- Draft 36-Month Cash Flow (Revenue vs Expenses):
  - \$112 million for a 36-month work plan.
  - Will accomplish all the Amendment 3 goals and objectives.
  - Aligns with the previously discussed estimate of \$400/af cash call.
  - Completes critical activities within the first 18 month such as securing the water right permit, CDFW incidental take permit and Federal Biological Opinion.
  - After the first 18 month the Authority may decide to secure bank financing for the remaining 18 months.
- Draft 18-Month Subject Area Pie Chart.
- Draft 36-Month Subject Area Pie Chart.

- “Soft Call” survey to go out after this meeting to seek feedback on anticipated participation levels and preference for the 18 vs 36-month work period. Results will be shared with the RC/AB at a future meeting.

Discussion followed with no action taken.

- 3.5 Review and comment on April Plan of Finance workshop follow-up activities, feedback from workshop participants, and next steps in preparation for the June Plan of Finance workshop.

Mr. Brown provided an overview of the April workshop follow-up activities, (project financing alternatives, development of guiding principles and preliminary terms, plans for the June and July workshops and project governance). Brief discussion followed.

#### **4. Reports:**

##### **4.1 Member’s Reports:**

###### **4.1.1 Chairpersons’ Report:**

This time is set aside to allow the Chair/Co-Chair an opportunity to disclose/discuss items related to the Sites Project.

Chairman Durst provided a brief update on Washington, DC activities, and NCWA meeting with several conservations’ groups. Brief discussion followed.

###### **4.1.2 Committee Chairpersons’ Report:**

This time is set aside to allow the Workgroup Chairpersons’ an opportunity to disclose/discuss items related to the Sites Project.

###### **Budget & Finance**

Discussing plan of finance and budget issues. Board Authority Member participation is needed.

###### **Legislative and Outreach**

Director Evans stated Ms. Forsythe and Mr. Spesert have been contacting the local entities (school, fire, etc).

Director Sutton provided an overview of the various Legislative activities. Discussion followed.

###### **Land Management**

Director Evans provided a brief update regarding Land Management activities. Brief discussion followed.

Mr. Spesert spoke to the following:

- Interest in resuming Community meetings.
- California State Delegation letter in support of Sites Project.
- Congressional side-in support of submittal of WIFIA letter of Interest.

#### Communications

Ms. Katz provided a brief update on the various communication activities.

#### 4.1.3 Authority Board Participant Reports:

This time is set aside to allow Representatives or their Alternates an opportunity to disclose/discuss items related to the Sites Project.

Ms. Traynham provided a brief update on her participation in the Ag Economic Outlook Nationwide put on by Co-Bank with the main focus being the drought in California. Brief discussion followed.

#### 4.2 Executive Director's Reports:

Executive Director Brown provide a brief update to the following:

- Monthly status report. **(Attachment A)**
- Work Plan Key Deliverables Report. **(Attachment B)**
- Meetings Action Items Summary. **(Attachment C)**

He also spoke to the following:

- WIFIA letter of interest.

Chairman Durst declared a recess at the hour of 3:10 p.m., to convene into Closed Session to consider the following matter:

#### 5. **CLOSED SESSION:**

5.1 Negotiations Concerning Sites Project operation terms, conditions, and agreements with the State of California, State Water Resources Control Board. (Govt. Code §§54956.9(c) and 54956.9(d)(4))

Chairman Durst adjourned Closed Session at the hour of 3:58 p.m. and reconvened into Open Session.

#### 6. **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION:**

Counsel Kuney announced no reportable action was taken on the following Closed Session matter:

5.1 Negotiations Concerning Sites Project operation terms, conditions, and agreements with the State of California, State Water Resources Control Board. (Govt. Code §§54956.9(c) and 54956.9(d)(4))

7. **RECAP:**

7.1 Suggested Future Agenda Items.

None.

7.2 Upcoming Meetings:

**Successor Agreement & Governance Joint Workshop:**

Friday, June 18, 2021, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee:**

Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Chairman Durst adjourned the Sites Authority Board meeting at the hour of 3:59 p.m.

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Fritz Durst, Chairman

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Yolanda Tirado, Board Clerk

Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project**

**2021 January 27**

Subject: **Authority Board Meeting**

**1:30 – 4:00 PM**

Location: **122 West Old Highway 99, Maxwell, CA 95955**

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## Attendance

### Current Voting Authority Board Participants:

<i>Participant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>	Ken Hahn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Carmon	_____
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logan Dennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don Bransford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thad Bettner
Reclamation District 108	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fritz Durst	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sean Doherty	<input type="checkbox"/> Hilary Reinhard
City of Roseville / Placer County Water Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bruce Houdesheldt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joshua Alpine	_____
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Sutton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zach Dennis	_____
City of Sacramento / Sacramento County Water Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kerry Schmitz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Peterson	_____
Westside Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doug Parker	<input type="checkbox"/>		_____

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

<i>Participant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ted Trimble	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greg Johnson	_____

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

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

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

<i>Participant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Alternate</i>
PCWA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ed Horton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Barker
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Darin Reintjes
Roseville	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sean Bigley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trevor Joseph

<i>Participant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Alternate</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Jason Marks
Sacramento City	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Harris	<input type="checkbox"/> Brett Ewart <input type="checkbox"/> Ann Sanger

**Staff:**

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

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Trapasso	Sites Project Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yolanda Tirado	Clerk
<input type="checkbox"/> Marcia Kivett	Admin

**Consultants:**

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

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Luu	HDR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marcus Maltby	Brown & Caldwell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JP Robinette	Brown & Caldwell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Spranza	HDR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hailey Traynham	Brown & Caldwell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurie Warner Herson	Phenix
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conner McDonald	CDM West

**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>
Erin Huang	Jacobs	
Andy Hitchings	Somach Law	
Cheyenne Harris	Brown and Caldwell	
Doug Montague	Montague DeRose	
Charles Gardiner	Catalyst Group	
Aaron Ferguson	Somach Law	
Mark VanCamp	MBK Engineers	