



2021 Progress Report

2021 was about progress and momentum-building for the Sites Reservoir project. The accomplishments and milestones of last year brought us much closer to the start of construction. It was a jam-packed year – new insights and results were unveiled after a robust Environmental Review and Public Comment process, and the year was bookended by major federal investments and advancements in the project that underscore the significance of Sites Reservoir as a joint local-state-federal project that benefits the environment and Californians statewide.

We also continued the important work of collaborating with stakeholders across the state, with particular focus on connecting with individuals in the local communities where Sites Reservoir will be built. We consulted with Native American tribes, collaborated with resource agencies, engaged with labor unions who represent working families, and continued engagement with the local, state, and federal public agencies that are at the heart of this project.

Looking ahead, in 2022, the Sites Project Authority will be conducting additional technical field studies to advance the project's design, issuing the project's final Environmental Impact Report, and submitting key regulatory and permitting efforts including submitting the Sites Reservoir water rights application. And as always, we will prioritize outreach and collaboration with stakeholders throughout the state.

**The good news is, significant benefits can be possible
if Sites Reservoir becomes a reality, including:**



Off-stream Storage

Does not create a barrier to native fish migration



Cooperative Operation

Increases effectiveness and efficiency of existing water storage infrastructure



Federal and State Agencies Manage Environmental Water

Adaptable to current and future conditions and priorities



Adaptable to Climate Change

Contributes to system reliability and performance with climate change



Local Leadership and Cooperation

Aligns with Sacramento Valley's values and fosters regional and statewide collaboration



Dry Year Water Supply

Reliable dry year water supply for California communities, farms and businesses



Recreational Opportunities

Provides northern Sacramento Valley with additional opportunities for recreation



Environmental Support

Provides environmental water in drier periods for native fish, and habitat for native species and birds

2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND MILESTONES

Each achievement in 2021 kept Sites Reservoir on track to remain affordable, permittable, and buildable, all while upholding our mission and values as an organization.

AFFORDABLE

Completed State Funding Feasibility Requirements

Sites Project Authority conducted nine workshops focused on “three big questions” related to financing and satisfying the Proposition 1 requirement for 75% non-public cost share: What do we get? What does it cost us? And how do we pay for it? Following the Authority’s submission of the State Feasibility Report, the California Water Commission deemed the Project feasible, which satisfied a key milestone to advancing toward construction. **OUTCOME:** Leveraging crucial funds, including a \$20 million inflation adjustment to the Proposition 1 award, Sites Reservoir remained eligible for \$836 million in state funding.

Obtained unprecedented federal funding

Following the Secretary of Interior’s Federal Feasibility Determination (qualifying the project for up to 25% cost share under the WIIN Act), the Authority worked with federal partners to meet conditions to remain eligible for and secure additional WIIN Act funds. **OUTCOME:** \$80 million in federal appropriations for Fiscal Year 2022 – the largest of the WIIN Act storage projects – bringing the total to \$104 million.

BUILDABLE

Developed the Feasibility Cost Estimate

Following a collaborative effort with Participants, the Authority developed the Feasibility Cost Estimate in June 2021. This estimate provides participants with improved cost certainty. **OUTCOME:** The Feasibility Cost Estimate gives participants a higher degree of certainty in the Project’s affordability.

Advanced facilities to approximately 10% design

Following additional analysis and completion of geotechnical investigations, the Authority advanced the Project facilities to approximately 10% design. **OUTCOME:** The 10% design effort supports completion of permit applications.



PERMITTABLE

Released RDEIR/SDEIS for public review and comment

In coordination with Reclamation, the Authority released the RDEIR/SDEIS in November 2021 for public review and comment through two public meetings. **OUTCOME:** The Authority remains committed to fostering informed public decision making about Sites Reservoir.

Continued permit applications

Key permit applications advanced in coordination with state and federal agencies and included executing staffing agreements to expedite the permitting process. **OUTCOME:** The Authority advanced permitting and water right elements to provide greater certainty to participants and improve understanding with resource agencies.

Worked together with non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

The Authority held small group meetings and workshops with members of NGOs related to water rights, water quality, fisheries, terrestrial species, and project ecosystem benefits. **OUTCOME:** Through transparent discussions, the Authority collaborated with NGOs to advance the RDEIR/ SDEIS and overall permitting.



EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION

Continued 5 Years of Successful External Financial Audits

Responsible management of expenses and funding culminated in 5 years of successful external financial audits. **OUTCOME:** The Authority continues to be committed to fiscal responsibility and transparent decision-making.

Promoted efficiency through improved processes

Following completion of the Strategic Plan, the Authority developed the delegation of authority matrix to promote efficient decision making. The Authority also developed policies and procedures to strengthen the organization. **OUTCOME:** The Authority continues to mature the organization.