



2022 Progress Report

2022 was another pivotal year for Sites Reservoir. This year certainly underscored the need for Sites Reservoir amid a changing climate—from months of prolonged drought to weeks of heavy rains and flooding, there were many opportunities where Sites would have shined if it were operational. Thankfully, we've continued to build momentum and are much closer to final approval of the project and a more resilient water supply for California.

We advanced important environmental and permitting processes, achieved key funding objectives, and continued to cultivate statewide partnerships. These remarkable achievements keep Sites Reservoir affordable, permittable, and buildable for our partners—and aligns with the mission, vision, and values of the Sites Project Authority.

Looking ahead to 2023, the Sites Project Authority expects to issue the final Environmental Impact Report/Statement and will move forward with key regulatory and permitting efforts including advancing the water right permitting process. As always, we will continue to engage and collaborate with stakeholders throughout the state.

With Sites Reservoir, there can be significant benefits for California's communities, farms, and environment 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

AFFORDABLE

Obtained Substantial Federal Funding

Leveraging ongoing relationships with federal partners, the Sites Authority secured significant federal appropriations through two programs: \$30 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and an additional \$80 million from the Water Infrastructure Investments for the Nation (WIIN) Act. **OUTCOME: With the allocation of these funds, the Sites Authority has now received roughly \$214 million in federal funding to date from the Bureau of Reclamation.**

Increased the State Funding Award by \$39 million

Following the California Water Commission's (CWC) determination of feasibility, the Sites Authority worked with the CWC to increase the conditional Proposition 1 award by \$39 million. **OUTCOME: The Sites Authority is working with state partners to secure the \$875 million of state funding to advance toward construction.**

Enhanced Project Financing Action Plan

Building on the initial Financing Action Plan executed in 2020 and 2021, the Sites Authority conducted four public workshops and two series of one-on-one check ins with Participants focused on the "three big questions" related to financing the project: What do we get?, What does it cost?, and How do we pay for it?. This culminated in the adoption of the Final Guiding Principles and Preliminary Terms and other financial documents to support the Indicative Credit Rating for the Sites Authority's WIFIA Loan application. **OUTCOME: A financing approach that works for all participants.**

BUILDABLE

Conducted Construction Contractor Open House

In partnership with contractors throughout the nation, the Sites Authority hosted a Construction Contractor open house to seek input on the delivery of the Sites Project. Following the open house, additional meetings informed the project construction packages. In July 2022, the Sites Authority adopted its Contracting Strategy consisting of nine construction packages of varying sizes with delivery methods best suited to the facilities and schedule. **OUTCOME: The Contracting Strategy sets the stage for the Sites Authority to develop a program baseline schedule to inform delivery of nearly \$4 billion of critical infrastructure for California.**

Strengthened Geotechnical Program

The Sites Authority enhanced the geotechnical program by establishing a dedicated project manager to guide the necessary field investigations and coordination efforts to inform the project's engineering design and permitting activities. Over 120 barrels of nonhazardous material waste were removed from the project area as part of field investigations in late 2022. **OUTCOME: The Sites Authority is allocating resources to advance the geotechnical program to continually improve the buildability of Sites Reservoir.**



PERMITTABLE

Advanced Final EIR/EIS

Working jointly with Reclamation, the Sites Authority developed master and individual responses to comments on the 2021 Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) while also advancing the administrative Final EIR/EIS. **OUTCOME: The Sites Authority is on track to complete final environmental documentation in partnership with state, federal, and local agencies.**

Progressing Key Permit Applications

In conjunction with state and federal partners, the Sites Authority is advancing key permit applications including the Operations Incidental Take Permit and Biological Assessment. **OUTCOME: The Sites Authority's advancement of permitting elements is providing greater certainty to participants and improving understanding of the Sites Project with resource agencies.**

Submitted Water Right Application

Submitting the Water Right application is a key step in advancing the Sites Reservoir Project. The Sites Authority is working on the updated application response (with the hope to have this finalized by early 2023). **OUTCOME: The Sites Authority continues the commitment to partnering with the state to work through the Water Right process.**



EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION

Aligned Potential Future Participants

With California's drought crisis, the Sites Authority experienced an unprecedented increase in requests from agencies throughout the state of California to participate in the Sites Project. Staff hosted informational sessions to inform these interested parties of project progress. **OUTCOME: Sites Reservoir is a solution for California communities to strengthen their water supply resiliency in the face of extreme drought.**

Conducted Outreach and Tours for Project Partners and Interested Parties

Throughout 2022, Sites Authority staff hosted outreach and project tours for state, federal, and local project partners including permitting, funding, and governmental interests. **OUTCOME: The Sites Authority continues its commitment to keep its partners informed of project progress.**