



Meeting: **Joint Sites Reservoir Committee & Authority Board Special Board Meeting**

**June 5, 2023**

- Authority Board Chair: Fritz Durst (Reclamation District 108)
- Authority Board Vice Chair: Jeff Sutton (Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority)
- Reservoir Committee Chair: Valerie Pryor (Zone 7 Water Agency)
- Reservoir Committee Vice-Chair: Mike Azevedo (Colusa County)
- Treasurer: Jamie Traynham (Davis Water District)

**MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Authority Board Chairman Durst called the Joint Authority Board (AB) and Reservoir Committee (RC) Meeting to order at the hour of 8:00 a.m., followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE:

Roll of the Authority Board equaled 6 members in attendance, which resulted in a quorum.

Roll call of the Reservoir Committee equaled 18 representatives, 86.69% in attendance, which resulted in a quorum.

INTRODUCTIONS:

The Sites Staff, Consultants, and members of the public introduced themselves.

AGENDA APPROVAL RC:

Chairman Durst made time to approve the June 5, 2023, Joint RC and AB Special Board Meeting Agenda.

Executive Director Brown requested to make an addition to report prior to adjournment. Chairman Durst so directed.

Action RC: It was moved by Tincher, seconded by Bettner to approve the June 5, 2023, Joint RC, and AB Special Board Meeting Agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Action AB: It was moved by Director Sutton, seconded by Director Allen to approve the June 5, 2023, Joint RC, and AB Special Board Meeting Agenda. **Motion carried: All Directors present voted yes.**

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

1. CONSENT AGENDA:

None.

2. ACTION ITEMS:

2.1 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of:

1. Communicate general support for the Governor’s Executive Order and Legislative Permit Reform Package.
2. Direct staff to actively advocate on behalf of the three legislative proposals of direct benefit to the Project: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Administrative Record Reforms, CEQA Judicial Streamlining, and Reclassification of Fully Protected Species.

Executive Director Brown gave a brief explanation of Staff recommendations and the background and analysis that contributed to the recommended action and requested that Participants look at the proposals from the perspective of what makes sense for the Sites Project.

Mr. Spesert presented on the Governors Permit Reform Package and spoke to the following:

- Permit Reform Package Proposal introduced by the Governor and Executive Order Signed on May 19th, establishing broad strategies and goals across all state agencies to advance infrastructure projects, Ten Legislative proposals to be included as trailer bills to the Budget to establish statutory permitting reforms. The Governor mentioned the Sites Project in his introduction noting that Sites would be an eligible project included in the Permit Reform proposal.
- Governor’s Executive Order (NN-8-23) establishes an Infrastructure Strike Team to work across all state agencies to maximize federal and state funding opportunities for infrastructure projects, Identify projects for streamlining with a focus on projects that include significant job creation, names all P1 Storage Projects, including Sites, Support coordination between all levels of government on project review, permitting, and approvals, support infrastructure in specific sectors by investing in adjacent sectors, share challenges, and best practice, and identify areas for improvement.
- The following 3 legislative proposals have a direct benefit to the Sites Project:
  - **CEQA Administrative Record** would clarify and streamline requirements to allow CEQA Administrative Records to be developed more expediently, with fewer litigation delays. Specifically, the bill creates timeframes the petitioner must follow if they elect to prepare the administrative record,

provides that internal emails within the lead agency that are not presented to the final decision-making body are not required to be included in the record, and allows electronic filing of the record.

- **CEQA Judicial Streamlining** to the extent feasible, requires that any judicial challenges and appeals be completed within 270 days for qualifying projects, including energy infrastructure projects, federal CHIPS Act-eligible manufacturing projects, transportation-related projects, and water-related projects. Eligible projects must be certified by designated state officials.
- **Reclassification of Fully Protected Species** would reclassify species to facilitate responsible and appropriate development but would also allow the Department of Fish and Wildlife to require mitigation and other actions to contribute to the conservation of these species.

Keith Dunn spoke to the timing for possible action on the trailer bills including bill review occurring in upcoming informational hearings. He noted that he and other stakeholders have participated in recent discussions about the process. The Governor plans to do everything he can to get the proposals passed. There is opposition from environmental groups to the approach of using trailer bills.

Executive Director Brown noted that the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA) State Legislative Committee is in favor of the 3 proposals that are a direct benefit to the Sites Project.

Durst explained that it's important to note that the reform isn't about changing the process, but the purpose is to expedite the process. Sites will not overlook any environmental concerns.

Director Sutton expressed appreciation to everyone attending the Special Board Meeting, the Legislative & Outreach Committee, Keith Dunn, and the Governor.

Executive Director Brown made time for attendees that logged in after Roll Call to identify themselves. The Board Clerk updated the attendance.

#### **ACTION RC:**

It was moved by Cheng, seconded by Vanderwaal to approve the following:

1. Communicate general support for the Governor's Executive Order and Legislative Permit Reform Package.
2. Direct staff to actively advocate on behalf of the three legislative proposals of direct benefit to the Project: CEQA Administrative Record Reforms, CEQA Judicial Streamlining, and Reclassification of Fully Protected Species. **Motion carried unanimously except for Neudeck, Metropolitan Water District, who abstained.**

**ACTION AB:**

It was moved by Director Sutton, seconded by Alternate Ruiz to approve the following:

- 1. Communicate general support for the Governor’s Executive Order and Legislative Permit Reform Package.
- 2. Direct staff to actively advocate on behalf of the three legislative proposals of direct benefit to the Project: CEQA Administrative Record Reforms, CEQA Judicial Streamlining, and Reclassification of Fully Protected Species. **Motion carried: All Directors present voted yes.**

**3. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:**

Executive Director Brown announced that the Sites Project Water Right Application was noticed by the State Board on Friday, June 2, 2023. This starts the 60-day protest period. Following the 60-day period there will be a period for the Project to resolve any protest. He noted this is not the Water Right itself but another milestone in the process to receive it. Mr. Brown expressed appreciation for Ms. Forsythe’s leadership in getting the Project to this point in the Water Right Application. Tincher agreed with Mr. Brown and expressed appreciation for the Staff and all the work on the Water Right Application.

Authority Board Chair Durst adjourned the Joint Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting at the hour of 8:37a.m.

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Fritz Durst, Authority Board Chair

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Valerie Pryor, Reservoir Committee Chair

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Sandra Yarbrough, Board Clerk

**10 Current Voting Committee Participants (22):**

<i>Pct</i>	<i>Participant</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3.47 American Canyon, City	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2.42 Antelope Valley-East Kern WA	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.28 Coachella Valley WD	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.28 Colusa County	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.05 Colusa Co. WD	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.41 Cortina WD	(1)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.87 Davis WD	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.22 Desert WA	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.17 Dunnigan WD	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.77 Glenn-Colusa ID	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.57 Irvine Ranch WD	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.57 LaGrande WD	(1)

<i>Pct</i>	<i>Participant</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	17.29 Metropolitan WD	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.47 Reclamation District 108	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.42 Rosedale-Rio Bravo WSD	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8.70 San Bernardino Valley MWD	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6.48 San Gorgonio Pass WA	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.42 Valley Water	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.77 Santa Clarita Valley WA	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.89 Westside WD	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3.19 Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa WSD	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.00 Department of Water Resources (non-voting)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.00 US Bureau of Reclamation (non-voting)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.28 Zone 7 WA	
100.00	Total	

**18 Voting members represented at Meeting start**

**86.69%** Represented participation percentage

Representation has been delegated as follows:

(1) To Jamie Traynham, Davis WD

(+) Not present after \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Voting Authority Board Participants:**

<i>Participant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Alternate</i>
Colusa County	<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Evans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Azevedo
Colusa County Water District	<input type="checkbox"/> Joe Marsh	<input type="checkbox"/> Hal Charter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shelly Murphy
Glenn County	<input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Arnold	<input type="checkbox"/> Jim Yoder
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	<input type="checkbox"/> Logan Dennis	<input type="checkbox"/> John Amaro
Reclamation District 108	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fritz Durst	<input type="checkbox"/> Sean Doherty <input type="checkbox"/> Hilary Reinhard
Placer County Water Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gray Allen	<input type="checkbox"/> Joshua Alpine
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Sutton	<input type="checkbox"/> Halbert Charter
Sacramento County	<input type="checkbox"/> Kerry Schmitz	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Peterson
Westside Water District	<input type="checkbox"/> Doug Parker	<input type="checkbox"/> Zach Dennis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Ruiz

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

<i>Participant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Alternate</i>
Western Canal Water District	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/> Ted Trimble

**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 type="checkbox"/> Rob Cooke <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Itzia Rivera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jagruti Maroney <input type="checkbox"/> Alex Vdovichenko <input type="checkbox"/> Jessica Boyt
Bureau of Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Welsh <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allison Jacobson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Bader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natalie Taylor

**Current Voting Reservoir Committee Participants (22):**

<i>Participant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Alternate</i>
American Canyon, City	<input type="checkbox"/> Felix Hernandez	<input type="checkbox"/> Jason Holley
Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt Knudson	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Flory

<i>Participant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Alternate</i>
Coachella Valley Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Cheng	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petya Vasileva
Colusa County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Azevedo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Evans
Colusa County Water District	<input type="checkbox"/> Halbert Charter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shelly Murphy
Cortina Water District	<input type="checkbox"/> Jim Peterson	<input type="checkbox"/> Chuck Grimmer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamie Traynham
Davis Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamie Traynham	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Charter
Desert Water Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Krause	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Johnson
Dunnigan Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Vanderwaal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thad Bettner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Krzys
Irvine Ranch Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Weghorst	<input type="checkbox"/> Kellie Welch
LaGrande Water District	<input type="checkbox"/> Zach Dennis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Urkov <input type="checkbox"/> Jamie Traynham
Metropolitan Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Randall Neudeck	<input type="checkbox"/> Nina Hawk <input type="checkbox"/> Sam Smalls
RD 108	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Vanderwaal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lewis Bair
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trent Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Bartel
San Bernardino Valley Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Tincher	<input type="checkbox"/> Heather Dyer
San Geronio Pass Water Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Lance Eckhart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thomas Todd <input type="checkbox"/> Emmett Campbell
Santa Clara Valley Water District	<input type="checkbox"/> Cindy Kao	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katherine Maher
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Cole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ali Elhassan
Westside Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allen Myers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Ruiz
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa WSD	<input type="checkbox"/> Rob Kunde	<input type="checkbox"/> Sheridan Nicholas
Zone 7 Water Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valerie Pryor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lillian Xie

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

<i>Participant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Alternate</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
PCWA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Horton	<input type="checkbox"/> Ben Barker	<input type="checkbox"/> Darin Reintjes
Roseville	<input type="checkbox"/> George Hanson <input type="checkbox"/> Scott Alvord	<input type="checkbox"/> Sean Bigley <input type="checkbox"/> Trevor Joseph	<input type="checkbox"/> Jason Marks
City of Sacramento	<input type="checkbox"/> TBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Brett Ewart	<input type="checkbox"/> Anne Sanger

**Sites Project Authority:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ali Forsythe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kevin Spesert
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JP Robinette	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joe Trapasso	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandra Yarbrough

**Consultants:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Representing			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alexander, Jeriann	Fugro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Katz, Sara	Katz & Associates
<input type="checkbox"/>	Arsenijevic, Jelica	HDR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kivett, Marcia	Brown & Caldwell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briard, Monique	ICF	<input type="checkbox"/>	Luu, Henry	HDR
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brown, Doug	Stradling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McDonald, Conner	CMD West
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brown, Scott	LWA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maltby, Marcus	Brown & Caldwell
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bruner, Marc/Laura Zagar	Perkins Coie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Montague, Doug	Montague DeRose Assoc.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Doud, Alan	Young Wooldridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nielsen, Caitlin	HDR
<input type="checkbox"/>	Floyd, Kim	Floyd	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rude, Peter	Ch2m
<input type="checkbox"/>	Harris, Cheyanne	Brown & Caldwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Spranza, John	HDR
<input type="checkbox"/>	Herrin, Jeff	AECOM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warner Herson, Laurie	Phenix

**Members of the Public**

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Mark VanCamp	MBK Engineers	Juleah Cordi	Assemblyman James Gallagher's Office
Margie Namba	Granite Construction	Craig Miller	WMWD
Brian Thomas	Sites Project	Alan Boyce/Alex Shafer	Materra
Roger Gwinn	TFG	Derek Gardels	HDR
Trauttmansdorff-Weinsberg, Andres	McMillen Jacobs	Johnny Gailey	Delta View Water Assoc.
Keith Dunn	Dunn	15307589774	15309089864
Claudia Bolanos	Palmdale Water	Dave Zuber	HDR
Sara		Peter Nelson	Wonderful Farms
Morgan Cambell	Westside WA	Carol Mahoney	Zone 7
Ivy Brittain	NorCal Water	15304546811	15304762784