

From: karenr@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Karen Rubio](#)
To: EIR-EIS-Comments@sitesproject.org
Subject: Stop Draining Our Rivers for Big Ag!
Date: Thursday, January 27, 2022 4:34:58 PM

Dear Sites Project Authority,

The Sites Reservoir proposal is a false solution to California's water-supply challenges, and I urge you to reject it.

Water is a public resource, and its management should address the diverse interests of the public. This requires planning that reflects the realities of climate change-driven shifts in the amount of rain and snow in the West. Instead of investing in massive water infrastructure projects like the Sites Reservoir project that harm native wildlife, tribal values and local communities, California must focus on reducing demand, increasing efficient use and reuse of existing supply, and leveraging sustainable storage methods like groundwater banking.

For example, salmon in Northern California, and the tribes and coastal fishing communities that rely on them, shouldn't have to suffer in dry years to ensure that nut growers and livestock producers maximize yields. It's time to invest in community and ecosystem health rather than continuing to subsidize an industry that destroys an essential public resource. We don't have the time or resources to waste on harmful projects such as the Sites Reservoir. I'm counting on you to reject the project.

I have a nonprofit group in Los Gatos called Plant-Based Advocates. We are educating people about the benefits of shifting to plant-based food: better health, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reversing environmental destruction, and repairing our broken relationship with animals.

Of critical importance: People who eat plant-based diets use HALF the amount of water as those eating a typical diet full of meat and dairy (National Geographic). Big Ag uses about 80 percent of California's water, according to the Pacific Institute, and 47 percent of a Californian's water footprint is in meat and dairy products.

Let's educate people about how changing their diets can save enormous amounts of water instead of destroying critical habitat.

Sincerely,
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