

regarding the Draft EIR/EIS on the wasteful, unneeded Sites Dam Proposal

Richard Boylan PhD <drboylan@outlook.com>

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To: EIR-EIS-Comments <eir-eis-comments@sitesproject.org>;

in re: Sites Reservoir Project - federal and state environmental reviews

Messrs. Deitl and Thomson:

The Sites Project Draft EIR/EIS is woefully inadequate. It must be done over or *completely revised*. A key failing is the failure to list *truly alternative* strategies for increasing California's water storage. All the Draft EIS/EIR does is list several "alternatives to the project" which consist basically of varying water storage amounts/levels.

Note that a **No Dam Alternative is not the same thing as a No Project Alternative !**

A *truly adequate* Environmental Review will examine, and list as Project Alternatives, the various well-recognized, environmentally-sound non-dam strategies 1) to naturally increase water retention conditions where rainfall/snowfall occurs, and 2) to delay/slow water runoff at or near the water sites of origin, so that water supplies are available gradually throughout California's dry Summers and Autumns. Dam storage is ***not*** the only way to increase dry-season river flows.

DWR has a civic, legal and moral responsibility to honestly engage these other strategies, and to transparently catalogue them in any EIR/EIS worth its name.

If DWR engineers need assistance with accessing these non-dam alternative strategies, they can approach (among other sources) the RAND Corporation, which did a sterling water-strategies consultant report for El Dorado Irrigation District about a decade ago.

Thank you for making this environmental review process excellent and complete.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Richard Boylan, Ph.D.
Diamond Springs, CA
drboylan@outlook.com
1- (530) 621-2674