

From: Rob Thomson
To: [Oliver, Mark/RDD](#); [Black, Lyna/RDD](#)
Cc: [Anne Hoagland](#)
Subject: FW: Letter of Support regarding Sites Project and Comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement [EXTERNAL]
Date: Thursday, January 11, 2018 4:56:01 PM
Attachments: [DWS Comment Letter Sites Project Draft EIR EIS 01112018.pdf](#)

For your files

From: Arakawa, Stephen N [mailto:sarakawa@mwdh2o.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 4:44 PM
To: Jim Watson <jwatson@sitesproject.org>; EIR-EIS-Comments <eir-eis-comments@sitesproject.org>; Rob Thomson <rthomson@sitesproject.org>
Cc: Kear, Adam C <akear@mwdh2o.com>; Schlotterbeck, John D <jschlotterbeck@mwdh2o.com>; Patterson, Roger K <RPatterson@mwdh2o.com>; Neudeck, Randall D <rneudeck@mwdh2o.com>; Shane, Delaine W <dshane@mwdh2o.com>; Arakawa, Stephen N <sarakawa@mwdh2o.com>
Subject: Letter of Support regarding Sites Project and Comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

Good Afternoon Mr. Watson,

Attached is a letter of support regarding the above-mentioned subject. A hard copy will be sent via U.S. Mail.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 217-6052.

Stephen N. Arakawa

**Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90012
Office: (213) 217-6052**

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THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

January 11, 2018

VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Jim Watson
General Manager
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955

Dear Mr. Watson:

Letter of Support – Sites Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) is the primary wholesale water purveyor for Southern California and is comprised of 26 member agencies, which provide water to nearly 19 million Southern California residents. Metropolitan has a service territory that spans through six counties within a 5,200-square-mile-area. Additionally, Southern California has an important stake in the Delta region and its existing infrastructure. As a State Water Project (SWP) contractor, Metropolitan has invested and will continue to invest significantly in the SWP, encourage efforts to restore sensitive fish populations in the Delta watershed, and promote scientific research into the causes of decline in fish native to the Delta. Even with the diversification of its supply sources and water use efficiency and conservation efforts, the SWP remains a critical source of water supply for Metropolitan's service area.

On April 11, 2017, Metropolitan's Board of Directors approved an appropriation of \$1.5 million and authorized Metropolitan to enter into a project agreement with the Sites Project Authority for participation in the Sites Reservoir Phase I (project) process, including the preparation of the Sites Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS). The project would be located about 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell in Northern California and would consist of a 1.8 million acre-foot, off-stream reservoir. This water supply storage facility would receive water from the Sacramento River during high flow events using existing facilities on the river at Red Bluff and north of Hamilton City. Water from these diversions would be ferried through the existing Tehama-Colusa and the Glen-Colusa canals to the project reservoir. In addition, a third river diversion and pipeline would be constructed north of Colusa. Based on modeling analyses, the Sites Project Authority (as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA]) is using 500,000 acre-feet as the estimated long-term annual yield of the project.

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As a responsible agency under CEQA, Metropolitan has participated in the development of the project, review of the administrative Draft EIR/EIS, and other related activities in this first phase of project development. Metropolitan supports the project's critical and important goal of securing long-term water sustainability in California. The project would provide a modern and innovative water storage facility that would provide water supply and flood protection by adding flexibility—and generating a much-needed new water source—for seasonal fish flows, improved water quality, water cool enough to sustain salmon, climate change and drought relief. Careful planning has and will continue to ensure that the operations of this proposed project, the existing SWP facilities, and the approved California WaterFix Project by the California Department of Water Resources would be implemented in ways to further the state's co-equal goals (water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration) as mandated by the Delta Reform Act of 2009.

We appreciate the continuing opportunity to provide input to your planning process and we look forward to receiving future information concerning this project. If we can be of further assistance, please contact me at (213) 217-6052 or at sarakawa@mwdh2o.com.

Very truly yours,



Stephen N. Arakawa
Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives

DWS:rrw