

environmental document must be withdrawn and revised.

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

To whom It May concern:

I urge that this inadequate environmental document be withdrawn and revised to better assess and mitigate project impacts on the Sacramento River, downstream water quality (in the river and Delta), and on natural and cultural resources that would drown under the reservoir footprint.

The massive Sites Off stream Storage Reservoir is proposed for the western Sacramento Valley near the small town of Maxwell in Colusa County. The Sites Reservoir would be filled by significant water diversions from the Sacramento River, which could **harm the river's dynamic flow-based ecosystems.**

A major premise of the Sites Project's "net environmental benefit" depends on coordinated operation with Trinity, Shasta, Oroville, and Folsom dams on the Trinity, Sacramento, Feather, and American Rivers. The idea is that consumptive water supplies will be stored in Sites to allow the other dams to retain cold water to benefit downstream salmon and other endangered fish. By ignoring the likely adverse impacts of Sites diversions from the Sacramento River, the project proponents are proposing a classic "robbing Peter to pay Paul" scheme that borders on fraudulence. According to the DEIR, coordinated operations between Sites and other dams will on average "improve" salmon runs by a paltry 1.9-3.9 percent. And the public is expected to fork over billions of dollars for this "benefit."

More than 20,000 acres of federal and state public lands along the river that were acquired to protect and restore the river's riparian and aquatic habitats, could be degraded by the diversions. During drought years Sites could divert more than half of the river's flow and severely reduce fresh water inflow into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta downstream.

Most major dam and water projects in California were promoted by water agencies and politicians as enhancing and protecting the environment. In hindsight this has proved to be a false assumption with declines in salmon and other species declining towards extinction, extensive loss of wetlands and riverside habitat, and degradation of water quality. Because the project will depend on Prop. 1 water bond funding, the Sites DEIR/S must prove to the public that Sites will avoid adverse environmental impacts and in fact, provide net public benefits.

This costly project is not a solution or fix to California's water problems, the real problems need to be assessed and addressed ~ over consumption, waste, over development. It is neither in the public trust, nor public interest that water is treated as a profit making, commodity. It is a right, and when mistreated, becomes a public health issue.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Kimberling
2208 wood cliff Way

1/25/2018

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