



Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) for Sites Reservoir Project, Sites, California

AGENCY: Sites Project Authority

SUMMARY: The Sites Project Authority, as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) State lead agency, and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Federal lead agency, have made available for public review and comment the Sites Reservoir Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS). The Draft EIR/EIS describes the environmental effects of the No-Action Alternative and four action alternatives. Two public meetings will be held to receive comments from individuals and organizations on the Draft EIR/EIS.

DATES: The Draft EIR/EIS will be available for public review from August 14, 2017 to November 13, 2017. Submit written comments on the Draft EIR/EIS on or before November 13, 2017.

Two public meetings have been scheduled to receive oral or written comments regarding environmental effects:

- Tuesday, September 26, 2017, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Maxwell, CA
- Thursday, September 28, 2017, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Sacramento, CA

A 1-hour open house to view project information and interact with the project team will take place at the beginning of each public meeting.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments on the Draft EIR/EIS to Mr. Rob Thomson, Sites Project Authority, P.O. Box 517, Maxwell, CA 95955; or Mr. Michael Dietl, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, W-2830, Sacramento, CA 95825; or EIR-EIS-Comments@SitesProject.org.

Electronic CD copies of the Draft EIR/EIS may be requested from Sites Project Authority at 530-438-2309, or EIR-EIS-Comments@SitesProject.org. The Draft EIR/EIS is also accessible from the following websites:

<https://www.sitesproject.org/information/DraftEIR-EIS> or

https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=139.

The public meetings will be held at the following locations:

- Maxwell – Sites Project Authority, 122 Old Highway 99 West, Maxwell, CA 95955
- Sacramento – Convention Center: 1400 J Street, Room 306 Sacramento, CA 95814

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please contact Mr. Rob Thomson, Sites Project Authority, at 530-438-2309, or via email at EIR-EIS-Comments@SitesProject.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Draft EIR/EIS describes the Sites Reservoir Project, and potential alternatives to the Sites Reservoir Project; environmental setting; potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that could result from implementation of each of the alternatives; and mitigation measures for potentially significant impacts, as applicable. Five alternative methods of constructing and operating the Sites Reservoir Project to meet all or the majority of the purpose, need, and objectives of the project are evaluated in the Draft EIR/EIS. The alternatives were developed to avoid or substantially reduce one or more of the project's significant impacts. Other alternatives evaluated over the past several decades (some of which were the subject of prior CEQA and NEPA analyses and decision making) are summarized and discussed in Chapter 2 Alternatives Analysis of the Draft EIR/EIS.



The proposed Sites Reservoir Project facilities would primarily be located in Colusa and Glenn counties, approximately 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell, California. Proposed minor modifications within the existing diversion facility would also need to occur at the existing Red Bluff Pumping Plant in Tehama County, California. The Sites Reservoir Project would consist of a new offstream surface storage reservoir (Sites Reservoir) with two main dams, up to nine saddle dams, and up to five recreation areas. The Sites Reservoir would be filled via two existing Sacramento River diversions/canals (included in all alternatives) and a proposed new inlet/outlet structure and pipeline (included in the majority of alternatives). The pipeline would allow the diversion of excess Sacramento River flows for most alternatives and the discharge of water under all alternatives. Water conveyance between the reservoir and the canals and pipeline would be facilitated by two new regulating reservoirs. Pumping/generating plants would also be included as part of most alternatives. A new overhead power line would connect the pumping/generating plants and their associated electrical switchyards to an existing overhead power line in the Sites Reservoir Project area. New roads would be constructed to provide access to the proposed Sites Reservoir Project facilities, a new bridge would be constructed to provide access over the proposed reservoir, and some existing roads would be relocated or improved. The Sites Reservoir Project would require modifications to the Tehama-Colusa Canal and Holthouse Reservoir. A more complete description of the Sites Reservoir Project can be found in Chapter 3 Description of the Sites Reservoir Project Alternatives in the Draft EIR/EIS.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Sites Reservoir Project would result in significant environmental effects to terrestrial biological resources, paleontological resources, land use, air quality, greenhouse gases, and growth inducement.

PUBLIC NOTICING: The Sites Reservoir Project is the subject of a Notice of Preparation (NOP) issued on November 5, 2001, to prepare an EIR under CEQA, and a Notice of Intent published on November 9, 2001, (66 FR 56708), to prepare an EIS under NEPA. The Sites Reservoir Project was formerly known as the North-of-Delta Offstream Storage project led by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The Sites Project Authority has assumed the role of the CEQA lead agency in place of DWR and will be responsible for constructing, operating, and maintaining the Sites Reservoir Project. Because of this change in lead agency, the Sites Project Authority issued a Supplemental NOP on February 2, 2017, for the Draft EIR for the Project.

AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT EIR/EIS: Copies of the Draft EIR/EIS are available for public review at the following locations:

1. Sites Project Authority, 122 Old Highway 99 West, Maxwell, CA 95955
2. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid – Pacific Region, Regional Library, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825
3. Sacramento Public Library, Central Branch, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
4. Colusa County Free Library, Main Branch, 738 Market Street, Colusa, CA 95932
5. Glenn County Public Library, Willows Branch, 201 N. Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988
6. Tehama County Library, Red Bluff Branch, 645 Madison Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although you can request in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: Aug 8, 2017

Signed: Jim Watson
Jim Watson, General Manager
Sites Project Authority

