

Sites Reservoir

Town Hall Meeting
January 27, 2021



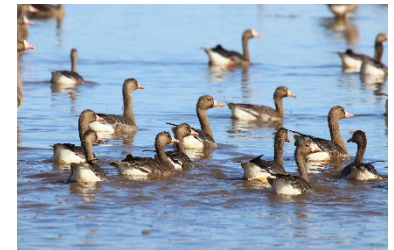
AGENDA

- Welcome
- Sites Reservoir Overview Presentation
- Resource Panel Introductions
- Participation and Ground Rules
- Q&A/Discussion



21st Century Solution to California's Water Reliability Challenges

Sites Reservoir is a generational opportunity to construct a multi-benefit water storage project that helps restore flexibility, reliability, and resiliency to our statewide water supply.



Our Strength is in Our Broad Statewide Participation

Diverse statewide representation of public agencies advancing Sites Reservoir



30 
participants
span California

Participants include:

9 Sacramento Valley governing agencies

23 Reservoir Committee members

24.5+ million
people 

500,000+
acres of farmland 

Our Strength is in Our Broad Statewide Participation

Sacramento Valley

Carter Mutual Water Company
City of American Canyon
Colusa County
Colusa County Water Agency
Cortina Water District
Davis Water District
Dunnigan Water District
Glenn County
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
LaGrande Water District
Placer County Water Agency
Reclamation District 108
City of Roseville
Sacramento County Water Agency
City of Sacramento
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
Westside Water District
Western Canal Water District

Bay Area

Santa Clara Valley Water District
Zone 7 Water Agency

San Joaquin Valley

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District

Southern California

Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency
Coachella Valley Water District
Desert Water Agency
Irvine Ranch Water District
Metropolitan Water District
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
San Geronio Pass Water Agency
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency



2020 – A Year of Transition

- ✓ **Hired a new Executive Director**
- ✓ **Completed value planning and unveiled the right-sized project**
- ✓ **Completed a comprehensive organizational strategic plan**
- ✓ **Named in the State’s Water Resilience Portfolio as a project that contributes to resilient water future**
- ✓ **Brought on two new project participants**
- ✓ **Received Secretarial Determination of Feasibility from the US Department of Interior**

Our Vision & Mission

Our Vision

Affordable water sustainably managed for California's farms, cities, and environment for generations to come.

Our Mission

The Authority will build and operate a climate-resilient, 21st century water storage system to responsibly manage and deliver water, improve the environment, and provide flood control and recreational benefits.

Our Core Values

- ✓ **Safety**
- ✓ **Trust and Integrity**
- ✓ **Respect for Local Communities**
- ✓ **Environmental Stewardship**
- ✓ **Shared Responsibility for Shared Benefits**
- ✓ **Accountability and Transparency**
- ✓ **Proactive Innovation**
- ✓ **Diversity and Inclusivity**

Modern Solution to Mounting Challenges

California's current water system is not designed to meet the challenges we are facing today.



Climate Change



Droughts



Declining Fish Populations



Aging Infrastructure



Floods



Population Growth

Modern Solution to Mounting Challenges

A modern water storage project designed to create a resilient water supply for California

Sites Reservoir is a unique solution that will restore flexibility, reliability, and resiliency to our statewide water supply. The project:

- ✓ **Performs best under most challenging climate change scenarios**
- ✓ **Captures more water from storms to save for dry periods**
- ✓ **Offers flexibility to participants**
- ✓ **Is built off-stream and would not dam a major river system**
- ✓ **Has net positive impact on statewide water system**

Affordable, Permittable, Buildable

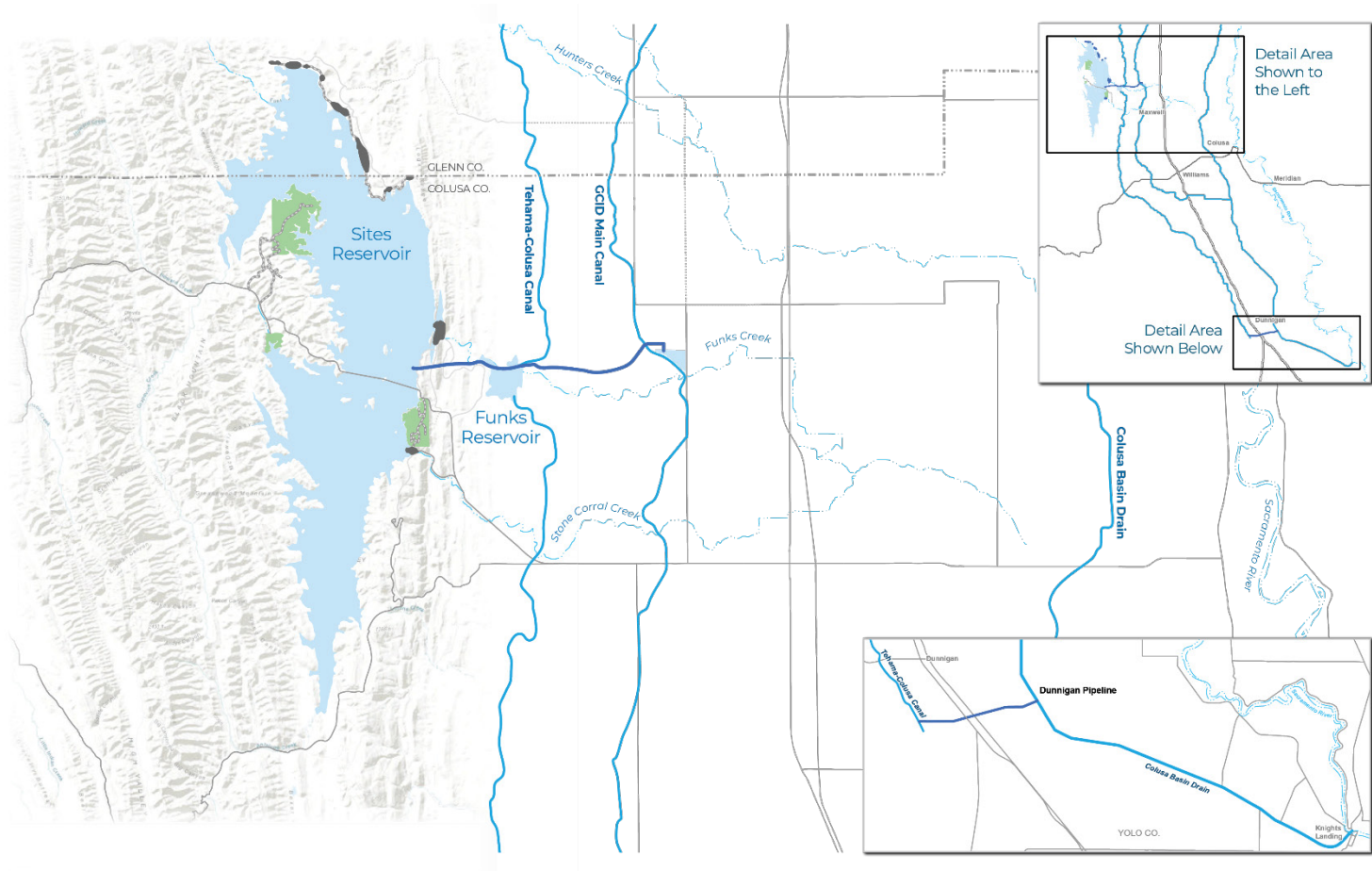
Sites underwent a rigorous value planning effort that resulted in a “right-sized” project. The Sites Reservoir of today:

- ✓ Has a smaller footprint than the previous iteration
- ✓ Meets the water supply needs of current participants
- ✓ Comes at a lower cost
- ✓ Supports State’s environmental goals
- ✓ Creates flexibility for participants
- ✓ Performs under most challenging climate change scenarios

The right-sized project cuts roughly \$2 billion from the original proposal.

Sites is now more affordable, permittable, and buildable.

Affordable, Permittable, Buildable



Adapting to Climate Change

Sites Reservoir creates resilient and sustainable water supply in the face of climate change.

What does climate change mean for our water supply?

- ✓ Increasing temperatures
- ✓ More rain than snow
- ✓ Hampered ability to capture water from runoff
- ✓ Less cold water in upstream reservoirs that is needed to manage temperature for salmon
- ✓ Longer dry periods

Provides Climate Change Resiliency

How does Sites Reservoir address these challenges?

- ✓ Captures excess flows from Sacramento River – rain instead of snowmelt
- ✓ Off-river storage increases environmental benefits by not damming major river system
- ✓ Adds 1.5 million acre-feet of water into the statewide system, easing pressure on other sources during droughts
- ✓ Supplies water for people, farms and environment during the longer dry spells California experiences
- ✓ Allows other reservoirs, like Shasta, to conserve more cold water during dry periods in order to benefit fisheries

Provides a Resilient Supply of Water

SITES PROJECT NEW WATER SUPPLY

Year Type	Water Supply (thousand acre-feet)
Wet	87
Above Normal	154
Below Normal	224
Dry	427
Critically Dry	348
Long-Term Average	232

One thousand acre-feet of water supply can serve about 3,000 households for one year, or 4,000-6,000 acres of productive California agriculture.

Provides Statewide Benefits for Generations to Come



Off-stream Storage

Does not create a barrier to native fish migration



Cooperative Operation

Increases effectiveness and efficiency of existing water storage infrastructure



Recreational Opportunities

Provides northern Sacramento Valley with additional opportunities for recreation



Federal and State Agencies Manage Environmental Water

Adaptable to current and future conditions and priorities



Adaptable to Climate Change

Contributes to system reliability and performance with climate change



Environmental Support

Provides environmental water in drier periods for native fish, and habitat for native species and birds



Local Leadership and Cooperation

Aligns with Sacramento Valley's values and fosters regional and statewide collaboration



Dry Year Water Supply

Reliable dry year water supply for California communities, farms and businesses

Provides Important Environmental Benefits

Sites Reservoir provides water dedicated to environmental use

A significant portion of the **Sites Reservoir Project's annual water supplies will be dedicated to environment uses:**

Preserve cold-water pool in Lake Shasta later into the summer months to support **salmon development, spawning and rearing**

Provide a **reliable supply of refuge water** to improve **Pacific Flyway** habitat for **migratory birds** and other **native species**

Provide **water dedicated** to help improve conditions for the **Delta Smelt**

Water dedicated for the environment provided by Sites Reservoir will be **managed by state resources agency managers** who will decide how, and when, this water would be used - creating a water asset for the state that **does not currently exist**



Environmental Protections

- **Diverting during excess conditions, when all senior water rights and water quality and flow requirements are met**
- **Using existing diversion locations and state-of-the-art fish screens**
- **Relying to the extent possible on existing infrastructure for releases**
- **Diversion criteria have been shifted upstream for operations at diversion locations**
- **Additional pulse protection criteria added to protect migrating juvenile salmon**

Environmental Protections

- **Additional pulse protection criteria added to protect migrating juvenile salmon**
- **Initial analysis shows little changes in flows throughout the system**
- **Certain releases specifically earmarked for ecosystem benefits in the Yolo Bypass and at wildlife refuges north and south of the Delta**
- **Operations would not impair the ability for CVP/SWP to meet their own operating requirements:**
 - **Maintaining minimum instream flow objectives, Sacramento River temperature requirements, and Delta salinity control requirements assigned to CVP and SWP**
 - **Operation of Fremont Weir Notch to provide juvenile salmonid habitat in the Yolo Bypass**
 - **Compliance with the Water Quality Objectives for the Delta**

EIR Project Alternatives

Facilities / Operations	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Reservoir Size	1.5 MAF	1.3 MAF	1.5 MAF
Hydropower	Incidental upon release	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Diversion Locations	Red Bluff Pumping Plant and Hamilton City	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Conveyance Release / Dunnigan Release	1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Colusa Basin Drain	1,000 cfs into new Dunnigan Pipeline to Sacramento River. Partial release into the Colusa Basin Drain	Same as Alt 1
Reclamation Involvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding Partner 2. Operational Exchanges <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges 	Operational Exchanges <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within Year Exchanges b. Real-time Exchanges 	Same as Alt 1, but up to 25% investment
DWR Involvement	Operational Exchanges with Oroville and use of SWP facilities South-of-Delta	Same as Alt 1	Same as Alt 1
Route to West Side of Reservoir	Bridge across reservoir	Paved road around southern end of reservoir	Same as Alt 1

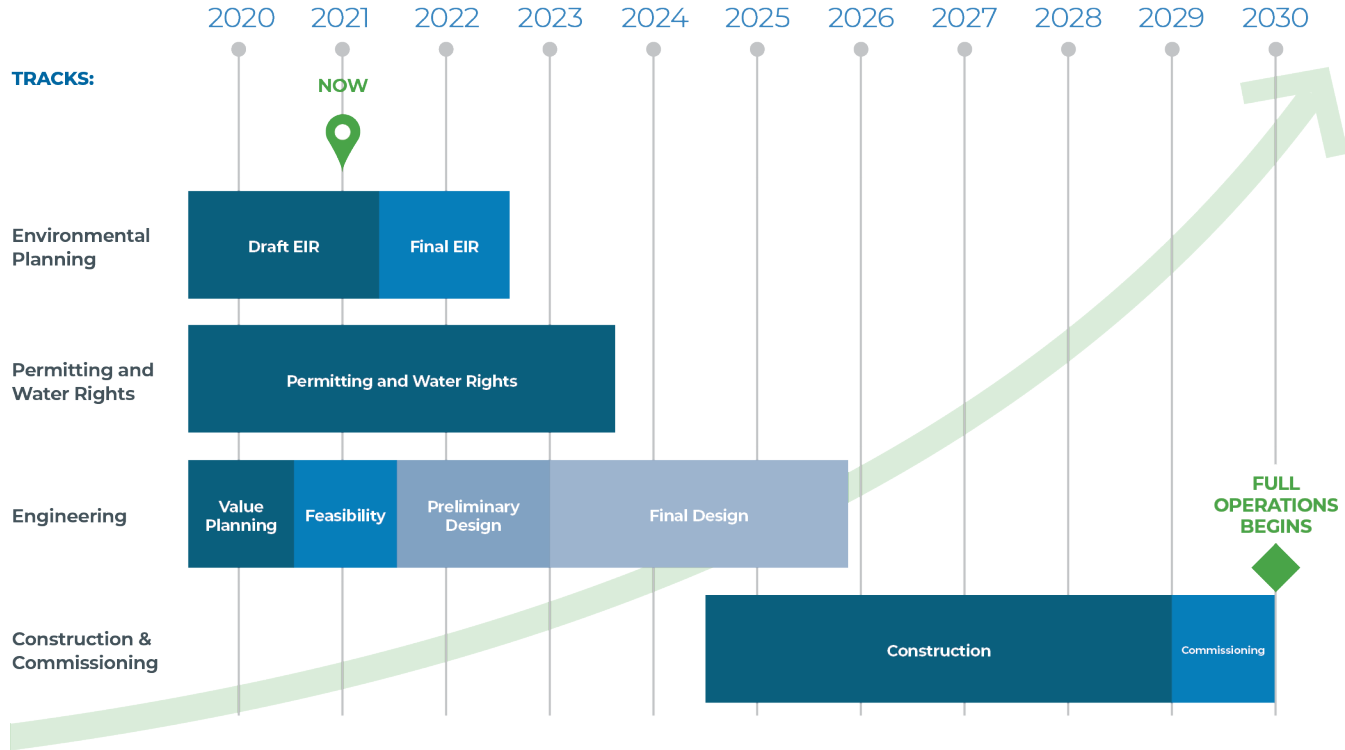
Project Costs and Affordability

Reservoir Size (MAF)	1.5
Project Cost (2019\$, billions)	\$2.4 – \$2.7
Contingency Cost (2019\$, billions)	\$0.6
Total Project Cost (2019\$, billions)	\$3.0 - \$3.3
Annualized AF/year release (AFY)	240,000
Range of Annual Costs During Repayment Without WIFIA Loans (2020\$, \$/AF)	\$650 - \$710
Range of Annual Costs During Repayment With WIFIA Loans (2020\$, \$/AF)	\$600 - \$660

Looking Ahead

Sites Reservoir Project Schedule

Sites Reservoir Project Schedule



Creating an Affordable, Permittable & Buildable Project

2021 Goals

- ✓ Submit key project permits
- ✓ Meet the Proposition 1 (WSIP) requirement for 75% local cost share
- ✓ Update and refine cost estimate to support Water Commission Feasibility Determination
- ✓ Update and refine Master Project Schedule through construction completion
- ✓ Circulate the revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for public review and comments
- ✓ Develop Operating Agreement Term Sheets with DWR, Bureau of Reclamation and local facility partners
- ✓ Continue to collaboratively engage with landowners, tribes and local communities

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