

SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY  
P.O. Box 517  
122 OLD HIGHWAY 99 WEST  
MAXWELL, CALIFORNIA 95955  
[www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

JERRY BROWN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
925.260.7417

YOLANDA TIRADO, CLERK  
530.438.2309  
Boardclerk@SitesProject.org

## Board of Directors

FRITZ DURST, RECLAMATION DISTRICT 108, CHAIR  
JEFF SUTTON, TEHAMA-COLUSA CANAL AUTHORITY, VICE-CHAIR  
GARY EVANS, COLUSA COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
KEN HAHN, GLENN COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
LOGAN DENNIS, GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
BRUCE HOUDESHEDT, PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY/CITY OF ROSEVILLE  
DOUG PARKER, WESTSIDE WATER DISTRICT  
JOE MARSH, COLUSA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
KERRY SCHMITZ, CITY OF SACRAMENTO/SACRAMENTO COUNTY WATER AGENCY  
DON BADER, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (*COST-SHARE PARTNER, NON-VOTING*)  
ROB COOKE, CA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (*EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING*)

### Associate Members (*NON-VOTING*)

GREG JOHNSON, WESTERN CANAL WATER DISTRICT  
JAMIE TRAYNHAM, TC 4 DISTRICTS

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## *July 21, 2021 1:30 p.m.* *Sites Project Authority* *Minutes*

### **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:**

Chairman Durst called the Authority Board meeting to order at the hour of 1:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

Chairman Durst asked those present to introduce themselves.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

It was moved by Director Evans, seconded by Director Dennis to approve the July 21, 2021 Sites Project Authority Board Agenda. Motion carried: All Directors present voted yes.

### **PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chairman Durst called for a period of public comment. Hearing none, he closed the period for public comment.

1. **CONSENT AGENDA:** It was moved by Director Dennis, seconded by Director Sutton to approve Consent Agenda Item Numbers 1.1 through 1.3 as follows:
  - 1.1 Approve the June 23, 2021 Joint Authority Board & Reservoir Committee Meeting Minutes, as presented.
  - 1.2 Accept the Sites Project Authority Treasurer's Report.
  - 1.3 Approve the Payment of Claims.

Motion carried: All Directors present voted yes.

## 2. Action Items:

- 2.1 Consider authorizing the release Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS and authorize the Executive Director to file a Notice of Completion with the State Clearinghouse and complete other noticing requirements to initiate the public review process.

Ms. Forsythe provided an overview of the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS and spoke to the following:

### Cumulative Analysis Preliminary Determinations

- Approach:
  - Considers over 60 closely related past, present, or reasonably foreseeable probable future projects.
  - Each resource area is evaluated.
- Preliminary Cumulatively Consider Impacts:
  - Water Quality: mercury and methylmercury.
  - Vegetation: loss of oak woodlands.
  - Wildlife: effects to special status wildlife and changes in wildlife movement.
  - Agriculture: loss of important farmland; cancellation of Williamson Act contracts.
  - Air Quality: emissions during construction.

### NEPA Required Chapters Preliminary Determinations

- Ch 28, Climate Change:
  - Operations – No effect to beneficial effects.
- Ch 29, Indian Trust Assets:
  - Construction – No effect.
  - Operations – No adverse effect.
- Ch 30, Environmental Justice:
  - All Alts Construction – substantially adverse effects associated with air quality and visual resources to minority and low-income populations.
  - All Alts Operation – substantially adverse effects associated with air quality.
  - Alt 2 Operations – substantially adverse effects associated with land use and transportation to minority and low-income populations.
- Ch 30, Socioeconomics:
  - Construction and Operation – No adverse effect to beneficial effect.

## Air Quality and Water Quality Preliminary Determinations

- Spoke to Chapters 6, Surface Water Quality, 20, Air Quality, 21, Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG), Impacts Requiring Mitigation and Significant and Unavoidable Impacts.

## Public review process

- Staff currently in planning stages.
- Target release:
  - Under CEQA on August 26.
  - Under NEPA on September 3.
- 60-Day review period from September 3.
- Public Meetings:
  - virtual meetings; 1 during day, 1 in evening.
  - 1 in-person meeting in Maxwell.

## Request for Authorization to Release the RDEIR/SDEIS

- Staff requests that the Authority Board:
  - Authorize the release of the RDEIR/SDEIS when it is ready.
  - Authorize the Executive Director to file Notice of Completion and complete other noticing requirements to initiate public review process.
- Release of the RDEIR/SDEIS would not occur until the following:
  - The team addresses the comments received on administrative draft versions of the document.
  - TCCA and GCID consent to the release consistent with Section 2.5 of the Authority's Joint Powers Agreement.
  - Reclamation has scheduled the release of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.

Discussion followed.

**ACTION:** It was moved by Director Houdesheldt, seconded by Director Sutton to authorize the release of the Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS, and further, authorize the Executive Director to file a Notice of Completion with the State Clearinghouse and complete other noticing requirements to initiate the public review process, with the caveat the Executive Director confer with the Executive Committee, if, the release date is significantly delayed from August 26, 2021. Motion carried: All Directors present voted yes.

- 2.2 Consider approval of a new Budget Policy to provide budget approval requirements for the Sites Reservoir Project in line with governing board expectations to become effective January 1, 2022, coincident with the start of the Amendment 3 work period. **(Attachment A)**

Mr. Trapasso provided an overview of a new Budget Policy to provide budget approval requirements for the Sites Reservoir Project in line with governing board expectations and the importance of approving the Budget Policy. Discussion followed.

**ACTION:** It was moved by Director Sutton, seconded by Director Dennis to adopt the Sites Project Authority Budget Policy, effective January 1, 2022, coincident with the start of the Amendment 3 work period. Motion carried: All Directors present voted yes.

- 2.3 Recognizing the Governor’s June 11, 2021 rescinding of COVID-19 stay at home orders related to public meetings and the Brown Act, direct staff to reinstate Reservoir Committee (RC) and Authority Board (AB) meetings under standard statutory requirements starting in September 2021.

Mr. Brown, at the request of the RC, spoke to both the RC participants and the AB members regarding return to in-person meetings starting with the Joint AB/RC meeting in September. Discussion followed.

**ACTION:** It was moved by Director Evans, seconded by Director Sutton to direct staff to reinstate RC and AB meetings under standard statutory requirements starting with the Joint RC/AB September 2021 meeting. Motion carried: All Directors present voted yes.

Further discussion was held as to location of where the RC and AB meetings should be held (Sacramento or Maxwell) and holding more Joint meetings, with no action taken at this time.

### 3. **Discussion and Information Items:**

- 3.1 Receive progress update and comment on technical considerations for Operations Coordination with Department of Water Resources and Bureau of Reclamation.

Mr. Brown expressed his appreciation to the participants which included Bill Vanderwaal, Dan Ruiz, Randall Nuedeck, Rob Kunde and Jeff Sutton for dedicating their time and efforts on this matter.

Ms. Heydinger provided an overview of the technical considerations for Operations Coordination with Department of Water Resources and Bureau of Reclamation and spoke to the following:

- Staff and small group of participants engaged in frequent and well attended discussions with Reclamation and DWR since November 2020.

- Discussions have revolved around coordinated operations with Sites and the CVP/SWP:
  - Seasonal operations focus.
  - Process for exchanges.
  - Issue specific discussions water rights, power, carriage water, COA.

#### Discussion Focus Areas

- Ensuring “No Harm” to CVP and SWP:
  - No harm issues have been identified thus far.
  - In general, discussion have revolved around mutual benefit and recognize that operations could change to achieve these benefits.
- Financial Considerations:
  - Federal investment assumed to be between 7 and 25 percent, nothing more specific has been determined.
  - O&M Cost – Feds and State are aware of Sites beneficiary pays approach, but no clear funding source has been identified yet.
  - SWP contract modification discussions underway separate from the technical discussions.
- Operational Considerations:
  - Annual operations of Sites diversions and releases have been reviewed.
  - Movement of Sites water through Delta would be in the transfer window.
  - and would be “non-project water.”
  - A Sites proposal for analyzing carriage water is being discussed.
- Use of Facilities and Power:
  - Power use at each facility was analyzed with Reclamation.
  - No direct impacts on CVP power identified, but exchanging water needs case by case review for potential power generation effects.
  - Sites will procure its own energy source for all non-Federal uses.
  - Warren Act contract and land entitlements appear feasible.
- Water Rights and Permitting:
  - Water Rights staff have reviewed draft parameters for the Authority’s water rights application.
  - No unseverable water rights issues have been identified.
  - Coordination will continue during the development of the application.
  - Operations permitting is an outstanding discussion topic.
  - COA considerations were reviewed, and no significant issues have been identified. Use of existing COA accounting methods appear workable
- Next Steps:
  - Commitments or decisions, especially by Reclamation, are contingent on final analysis and issuance of a ROD.
  - Technical discussion will continue.
  - An operating agreement would be between the Authority, DWR and Reclamation.
  - Final agreement to be executed following ROD (summer 2022).

- Authority staff's focus for coming months:
  - Prepare Authority's Operations Plan consistent with technical discussions (continued input from DWR and Reclamation).
  - Continue focused discussions on specific technical areas, e.g., operations permitting, carriage water, water rights, ensuring "no harm."

Discussion followed, with no action taken.

#### **4. Reports:**

##### **4.1 Member's Reports:**

##### **4.1.1 Chairpersons' Report:**

This time is set aside to allow the Chair/Co-Chair an opportunity to disclose/discuss items related to the Sites Project.

Chairman Durst briefly spoke to a Sacramento Bee article referencing Sites Reservoir. He also stated he and Mr. Brown will be speakers at the Northern California Water Association's September 1, 2021 Board meeting.

##### **4.1.2 Committee Chairpersons' Report:**

This time is set aside to allow the Committee Chairpersons' an opportunity to disclose/discuss items related to the Sites Project.

##### Budget and Finance

None.

##### Land Management

Director Evans provided a brief update regarding Landowner outreach activities.

Mr. Spesert provided a brief update regarding the following activities:

- Real Estate approach leading into Amendment 3 – rights of entry
- Option Agreements
- Presentations on:
  - Section 106 process
  - Cost of mitigations
  - Geotech locations
- Landowner meeting to be scheduled end of August

##### Legislative & Outreach

Director Sutton and Mr. Spesert provided an update on State and Federal Legislative and Outreach activities.

##### Communications

Ms. Katz provided an update regarding the various activities on behalf of the Sites Project. Brief discussion followed.

#### 4.1.3 Authority Board Participant Reports:

This time is set aside to allow Representatives or their Alternates an opportunity to disclose/discuss items related to the Sites Project.

None.

#### 4.2 Executive Director's Reports:

Executive Director Brown provided a brief update on the following items:

- Monthly status report.
  - Interested new participants **(Attachment A)**
- Work Plan Key Deliverables Report.
  - Biological Assessment
  - WIFIA Application
  - Plan of Finance and Final Feasibility Report **(Attachment B)**
- Meetings Action Items Summary. **(Attachment C)**

He also stated the following meetings were scheduled as follows:

- July 23, 2021 – Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Committee Workshop-Plan of Finance- Project Costs.
- August 13, 2021 – Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Committee Workshop -Agricultural Business
- August 13, 2021 – Invited North of Delta Participants to meet with a prospective agency that wishes to be a participant on Sites for a wetter year water buyer.
- August 20, 2021 – Municipal Water Agency discussion with Community Participants.

#### **Recap:**

##### 5.1 Suggested Future Agenda Items.

August meeting – Progress report on water rights process.

##### 5.2 Upcoming Meetings:

###### **Affordability Joint Workshop:**

Friday, July 23, 2021, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

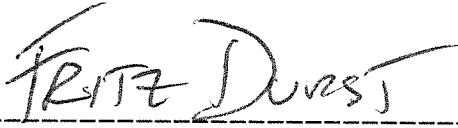
###### **Reservoir Committee:**

Friday, August 20, 2021, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

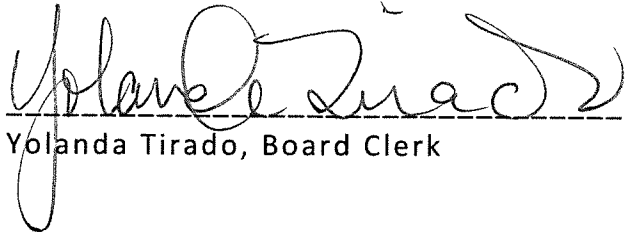
###### **Authority Board:**

Wednesday, August 25, 2021 – 1:30 to 4:00 PM

Chairman Durst adjourned the Sites Authority Board meeting at the hour of 3:39 p.m.



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Fritz Durst, Chairman



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Yolanda Tirado, Board Clerk



Topic: **Sites Reservoir Project**

**2021 July 21**

Subject: **Authority Board Meeting**

**1:30 – 4:00 PM**

Location: **122 West Old Highway 99, Maxwell, CA 95955**

### Attendance

#### Current Voting Authority Board Participants:

<i>Participant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Alternate</i>	<i>Others</i>
Colusa County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Evans	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Azevedo	
Colusa County Water District	<input type="checkbox"/> Joe Marsh	<input type="checkbox"/> Doug Griffen	Shelly Murphy
Glenn County	<input type="checkbox"/> Ken Hahn	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant Carmon	
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Logan Dennis	<input type="checkbox"/> Don Bransford	Thad Bettner
Reclamation District 108	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fritz Durst	<input type="checkbox"/> Sean Doherty	<input type="checkbox"/> Hilary Reinhard
City of Roseville / Placer County Water Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bruce Houdesheldt	<input type="checkbox"/> Joshua Alpine	
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Sutton	<input type="checkbox"/> Zach Dennis	
City of Sacramento / Sacramento County Water Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Kerry Schmitz	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Peterson	
Westside Water District	<input type="checkbox"/> Doug Parker	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Ruiz	

#### Associate Members (2 non-voting):

<i>Participant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Alternate</i>	<i>Others</i>
TC-4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jamie Grayham	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Charter <input type="checkbox"/> Jason Holley	
Western Canal Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ted Trimble	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Johnson	

#### Non-Voting Committee Participants (2):

<i>Participant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Representative/Other</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Alternate/Other</i>	
Dept of Water Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Cooke	<input type="checkbox"/> David Sandino	<input type="checkbox"/> Jessica Boyt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ajay Goyal	<input type="checkbox"/> Jim Wieking	<input type="checkbox"/> Dave Arrate
Bureau of Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/> Don Bader	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Duke
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vanessa King	<input type="checkbox"/> Derya Sumer	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Mosley
	<input type="checkbox"/> Natalie Wolder		<input type="checkbox"/> Shana Kaplan

#### Authority, Non-Signatory (6):

<i>Participant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Alternate</i>
PCWA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Horton	<input type="checkbox"/> Ben Barker <input type="checkbox"/> Darin Reintjes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sean Bigley	<input type="checkbox"/> Trevor Joseph

<i>Participant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Alternate</i>
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- |                 |                                      |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
|                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jason Marks |
| Sacramento City | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Harris |
|                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Brett Ewart |
|                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ann Sanger  |

**Staff:**

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jerry Brown	Sites Project Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ali Forsythe	Sites Project Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Spesert	Sites Project Authority

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Trapasso	Sites Project Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yolanda Tirado	Board Clerk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marcia Kivett	Admin

**Consultants:**

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Jeriann Alexander	Fugro
<input type="checkbox"/> Robert Boling	HDR
<input type="checkbox"/> Monique Briard	ICF
<input type="checkbox"/> Kim Floyd	Floyd
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Herrin	AECOM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erin Heydinger	HDR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sara Katz	Katz & Associates
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alan Doud	Young Wooldridge

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Luu	HDR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marcus Maltby	Brown & Caldwell
<input type="checkbox"/> JP Robinette	Brown & Caldwell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Spranza	HDR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hailey Traynham	Brown & Caldwell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurie Warner Herson	Phenix
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conner McDonald	CDM West

**Other Attendees:** (Check box to have email address added to the distribution list).

<i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>	<i>Contact (Phone &amp; Email)</i>
Kelsea Whiting		
Mark Gilbert		
Marc Bruner	Perkins Coei	
Heather Dyer	San Bernadino	
Bill Vanderwaal	RD08/Dunnigan	
Doug Montague	Montague Desose	