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Contact: Ann Newton
(310) 774-7639

Sites Project Authority Welcomes New Finance Manager Shayleen O’Connell

Maxwell, CA – The Sites Project Authority (Authority) today announced the hiring of Shayleen O’Connell, who is assuming the role of Finance Manager for the Authority. In her role, O’Connell will oversee finance, financial planning, cost accounting, accounts payable, accounts receivable, financial reporting and contracting/procurement functions for the Authority as the Sites Reservoir Project (Project) moves through the next project phases.

“The needs of the Project will evolve as we transition from planning to final design, construction, and operation of Sites Reservoir, and we welcome Shayleen O’Connell’s financial expertise to help us successfully navigate these new stages,” **said Fritz Durst, Chair of the Sites Project Authority Board of Directors.**

The Authority expects the initial term of the contract to be through mid- to end of 2026 to correspond to the currently planned completion of Phase 2 of the Project. It is anticipated that the position would continue into Phase 3/4/5, which is expected to immediately follow the completion of Phase 2 and continue at least through the approximately seven-year construction of the Project.

In addition to her finance acumen, Shayleen brings a deep understanding of the Sacramento Valley and the importance of reliable water resources and agriculture. As a 5th generation Colusa County resident, Shayleen has spent her entire life in and around farming communities.

“I’m excited to use my professional skills and experience to help advance a project so crucial to the future of this region,” **said O’Connell.** “Sites Reservoir is a tremendous opportunity to increase water supply reliability across the state, and I look forward to working with project participants and leadership as we near final design and construction.”

The Authority issued a Request for Proposal in September 2024 to ensure a comprehensive and competitive process to recruit for the Finance Manager position. The Board of Directors approved the contract with O’Connell on December 20.

Sites is an off-stream reservoir proposed north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, where it would provide unique water supply and environmental benefits during dry periods, especially during extended drought. Additional information can be found at www.sitesproject.org or on Facebook and Twitter at @SitesProject.