

**FACT:** The Sites Reservoir Project is locally-led, involving water agencies from across the entire state and including the participation of the state and federal governments.

## What Sites Reservoir is...

- A statewide water storage project that will provide water to people, farms, and the environment from the Sacramento Valley, to the Bay Area and through Central California and Southern California.



## What it isn't...

- A state or federal led project.
- A private or "for profit" project.

**FACT:** Sites Reservoir would be filled capturing a small, but impactful percentage of the water that otherwise flows out of the Delta and into the San Francisco Bay.

## What Sites Reservoir is...

- An off-stream reservoir that safely diverts water through state-of-the-art fish screens from the Sacramento River when flows are high and all other existing water rights are already met. During the February 2025 wet period, Sites would have only diverted approximately 3 percent of the water that flowed out of the Delta and into the San Francisco Bay.



## What it isn't...

- A project that will overdraw water from the Sacramento River, hurt the fishery in the river or the Delta, or divert water from other water right holders.

**FACT:** There are years where the full capacity of Sites Reservoir, 1.5 million acre-feet, would be available for diversion and storage.

## What Sites Reservoir is...

- A rain-fed reservoir and an opportunity to capture water from atmospheric rivers and major storms, storing up to 1.5 million acre-feet for dry years.
- A reservoir able to store larger amounts of water in shorter periods of time.



## What it isn't...

- A traditional dam from the 1900s that blocks a major river.

**FACT:** Stored water will evaporate from Sites Reservoir, but these amounts will be minimized.

## What Sites Reservoir is...

- Only projected to lose, on average, up to 10% of stored water to evaporation each year if not removed for beneficial use.



## What it isn't...

- Losing more than half its volume to evaporation, which has been claimed by project opponents.
- The only solution to address our future water challenges in the face of climate change. When operated in conjunction with other water management actions like groundwater recharge, Sites can provide optimum water production capabilities that would be missed if excluded from the portfolio.



**FACT:** Sites Reservoir can operate independently from other proposed statewide water projects like the proposed new Delta conveyance system.

## What Sites Reservoir is...

- Primarily using local existing facilities and infrastructure, and the existing topography of the project site itself is a natural bowl perfectly situated to accommodate a water reservoir.
- Supported locally.



## What it isn't...

- Dependent on the construction of Delta tunnels. Sites Reservoir can fully function with through-Delta conveyance independently, with or without a new Delta conveyance system.

**FACT:** Sites Reservoir would provide surface water storage north of the Delta that can enhance opportunities for improved management of salmon habitat.

## What Sites Reservoir is...

- Only diverting water during high flow events in ways that minimize or eliminate impacts on fishery and ecosystem resources in the Sacramento River and the Delta.
- Uniquely situated to deliver water in lieu of Shasta Lake releases, which results in improved river temperature management later in the calendar year to support salmonid spawning, incubation, rearing, and migration.
- Capable of improving survival of the endangered winter run salmon.



## What it isn't...

- Degrading the conditions in the river for the fishery.

**FACT:** All reservoirs emit greenhouse gases (GHG) due to decomposition of organic matter that is submerged underwater, however the Sites Project Authority commits to a “net zero” threshold for GHG emissions over the life of the project.

## What Sites Reservoir is...

- Mitigating reservoir operations to avoid, minimize, and offset emissions resulting from construction and operations.



## What it isn't...

- Making it harder for the state to achieve climate goals because of GHG emissions.

**FACT:** No Sites participant takes priority over another, including state and federal agencies.

## What Sites Reservoir is...

- Providing equal opportunity for water diversions and releases based on each participants' investment in the project. Each participant receives their proportional share of water diverted and each participant is entitled to manage their storage space and releases from storage.



## What it isn't...

- Distributing environmental water before urban and agricultural water.
- Putting the environmental water as the highest or lowest priority; it has equal priority to the other participants.