



Website: SitesProject.org

## Reservoir Committee & Authority Board

August 22, 2025

Authority Board Chair: Fritz Durst (Reclamation District 108)  
 Authority Board Vice Chair: Jeff Sutton (Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority)  
 Reservoir Committee Chair: Robert Kunde (Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District)  
 Reservoir Committee Vice Chair: Jordan Navarrot (RD108 & Dunnigan Water District)  
 Treasurer: Jamie Traynham (Davis Water District)

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Durst called the Authority Board (AB) and Reservoir Committee (RC) Meeting to order at the hour of 9:01 a.m., followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE:

Authority Board: 9 members in attendance, resulting in a quorum.

Reservoir Committee: 19 representatives (82.88) attendance, resulting in a quorum.

#### INTRODUCTIONS:

The Sites staff, consultants and members of the public introduced themselves.

#### AGENDA APPROVAL:

Executive Director Jerry Brown stated he would like to add consideration of authorizing new Item 2.2, a timely item that only recently became critical for consideration:

2.1: Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider authorization for Executive Director to enter into an Early Funding Agreement with the California Water Commission for up to 5% of the \$218, 977,138 recently added to the Sites Project Prop. 1 Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determination.

**ACTION RC:** Moved by Ms. Traynham, seconded by Mr. Dennis, to approve the August 22, 2025, meeting agenda as amended with the additional item. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION AB:** Moved by Vice Chair Sutton, seconded by Director Kaplan, to approve the August 22, 2025, meeting agenda as amended with the additional item. **Motion Carried: All Directors present voted yes.**

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION:

General Counsel (GC) Doud announced that the Authority Board of Directors and the Reservoir Committee Members would consider Closed Session matters 5.1. through 5.4.

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### PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Durst called for a period of public comment. Hearing no comments, Chair Durst closed the public comment period.

### 1. CONSENT AGENDA:

**ACTION RC:** It was moved by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Plinski, to approve all items on consent agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION AB:** It was moved by Director Kaplan, seconded by Director Vanderwaal, to approve the consent agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 1.1 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of July 18, 2025, Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting Minutes. **(Attachments A & B)**
- 1.2 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider acceptance of the Sites Project Authority Treasurer's Report. **(Attachment A)**
- 1.3 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of the Sites Project Authority Payment of Claims. **(Attachments A & B)**
- 1.4 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider acceptance of the Sites Project Authority's Second Quarter 2025 Budget Year Quarterly Financial Report. **(Attachment A)**
- 1.5 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of a consulting agreement/contract with Starting Line Advisory to provide Financial Accounting services in the amount not to exceed \$50,000 (\$5,000/month) for the period of September 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. **(Attachments A & B)**
- 1.6 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of a task order amendment with CH2M (Operations) for additional modeling services in the amount of \$340,277 increasing the total task order amount from \$3,847,125 to a revised total not to exceed of \$4,187,402 for the period of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2025.

### 2. ACTION ITEMS:

- 2.1 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval to submit the Sites Project's Step 2 Operations Biological Assessment (project-level analysis) to the Bureau of Reclamation for consultation under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

Ms. Forsythe introduced the item and explained that the purpose is to give background information related to the operations' biological assessment. She explained that there was a two-step Endangered Species Act (ESA) approach, with Step 1 consisting of a mix of programmatic consultation for the project, and Step 2 addressing Project-level operations. She said the second step includes an amendment consultation after Central Valley/State Water (CVP/SWP) biological opinions (BiOps) to cover Sites operations at a project-level, and not a stand-alone independent BA/BiOps.

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Ms. Forsythe reviewed project-level operations analysis of the 2024 long-term operation BiOps, and said Sites is not a division of the CVP and will not reconsult every time there is a CVP/SWP reconsultation.

Ms. Forsythe reviewed what this item update means to the Project's process and schedule. She said the schedule is still set for completion in late 2025.

The Committee and Board briefly discussed the item and Ms. Forsythe confirmed the Project wants to minimize the number of times there is reconsultation. Hearing no further discussion, Chair Durst called the question.

**ACTION RC:** It was moved by Mr. Cheng, seconded by Ms. Traynham to recommend approval of agenda item 2.1 to the Authority Board. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION AB:** It was moved by Director Vanderwaal, seconded by Director Evans to approve agenda item 2.1. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 2.2 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider authorization for Executive Director to enter into an Early Funding Agreement with the California Water Commission (CWC) for up to 5% of the \$218, 977,138 recently added to the Sites Project Prop. 1 Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determination.

ED Brown introduced the item and gave a review of staff's meeting with the California Water Commission. He said it was a very positive meeting in general.

ED Brown gave a recap of the adjusted funds and the sources of the increased funding amount. He noted the CWC's designated purpose for the funds is to support inflationary increases in project costs. He reviewed the cash flow and schedule projection with the additional early funding, along with the projected cash drawdown through 2026 with additional Water Storage Investment Program (WISP) funding.

ED Brown reviewed the schedule with the later water right and cash flow/schedule projection, with additional early funding. He explained the purpose of the requested action and noted this is a new early funding agreement.

Hearing no further discussion, Chair Durst called the question.

**ACTION RC:** It was moved by Mr. Azevedo, seconded by Mr. Weghorst to recommend approval of agenda item 2.2 to the Authority Board. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION AB:** It was moved by Vice Ms. Kaplan, seconded by Vice Chair Sutton to approve agenda item 2.2. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### 3. **DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:**

- 3.1 Review and comment on preparations to issue a request for Interim Construction Financing and related services.

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Ms. O'Connell, Finance Manager, explained that this item relates to Step 1 of a two-step process to secure interim financing. She said local firms are being invited to apply in order to have a fair selection process.

Chair Durst asked if this would be given to one firm or numerous firms, and Ms. O'Connell stated the Project is open to different possibilities, and the intent is to secure qualifications to ultimately establish a short list.

ED Brown explained the role of revenue bonds as it relates to this item.

Mr. Navarrot asked how local banks have been reached out to, and Ms. O'Connell said she made phone calls to make local firms aware.

**4. REPORTS:****4.1 Chairpersons' Reports:**

Chair Durst said he has met with the Woodland Rotary group recently for Project awareness.

**4.2 Committee & Workgroup Chairs' Reports:**

Environmental & Permitting Workgroup: Ms. Maher gave a brief report.

Legislative & Outreach: Vice Chair Sutton said there is a meeting coming up and he encourages participation. There is a landowner meeting planned.

**4.3 Authority Board & Reservoir Committee Participant Reports: None****4.4 Executive Director's Reports:**

ED Brown said today is a celebration of 15 years of the Joint Powers Authority, and he gave a historical presentation of milestones. He said he hopes everyone involved is proud of the work that has been done for the Project.

Ms. Pryor said that Chair Kunde, who couldn't attend the meeting, wanted to make sure to acknowledge the efforts that have been made to continue the Project's progress.

Chair Durst thanked those who have been involved in the project's ongoing work. He acknowledged the original signatories who were involved from the beginning.

Other individuals spoke to celebrate the 15-year anniversary and noted the accomplishments, perseverance, and ongoing work that have been part of the Project.

Monthly status report. **(Attachment A)**

- Joint Powers Authority's 15-Year Anniversary!
- Monthly status report. **(Attachment A)**
- Action Items from last month's meeting. **(Attachment B)**

**5. CLOSED SESSION: 10:23 a.m.**

- 5.1 Negotiations concerning water right permit terms and conditions (Govt. Code §54956.9(c) and §54956.9(d)(1)).

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5.2 Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Gov. Code § 54956.8).

Property: Various parcels comprising the Sites Reservoir and related facilities.

Agency negotiators: Jerry Brown, Ali Forsythe

Negotiating parties: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment for water storage and conveyance capacity.

5.3 Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Gov. Code § 54956.8).

Property: Various parcels comprising the Sites Reservoir and related facilities.

Agency negotiators: Jerry Brown, Ali Forsythe

Negotiating parties: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment for water storage and conveyance capacity.

5.4 Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Gov. Code §54956.8):

Property: Various parcels comprising the Sites Reservoir and related facilities.

Agency Negotiators: Jerry Brown

Negotiating Parties: Colusa County, Glenn County, Yolo County

Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment

6. **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION: 12:16 p.m.**

Counsel Doud reported there was no action taken in Closed Session.

7. **RECAP:** None.

7.1 **Suggested Future Agenda Items:** None.

7.2 **Upcoming Meetings:**

**Reservoir Committee & Authority Board**

Day of Friday, September 19, 2025 (9:00 a.m. – noon)

Maxwell Project Office & Virtual

Chair Durst adjourned the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting at the hour of 12:16 p.m.



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Fritz Durst, Authority Board Chair



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Jordan Navarrot, Reservoir Committee Vice Chair

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MJ Brown, Board Clerk