



Website: SitesProject.org

## Reservoir Committee & Authority Board

July 18, 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 9:03 a.m., followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE:

Authority Board: 10 members in attendance, resulting in a quorum.

Reservoir Committee: 20 representatives (87.53) attendance, resulting in a quorum.

#### INTRODUCTIONS:

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

#### AGENDA APPROVAL:

**ACTION RC:** Moved by Ms. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Azevedo, to approve the July 18, 2025, meeting agenda as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION AB:** Moved by Vice Chair Sutton, seconded by Director Vanderwaal, to approve the July 18, 2025, meeting agenda as amended. **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.

#### PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

## Authority Board & Reservoir Committee Meeting

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### 1. CONSENT AGENDA:

Vice Chair Sutton pulled Item 1.2 for discussion:

Item 1.2: Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider acceptance of a revised schedule for submitting Sites Project Authority monthly financial statements for approval and consider acceptance of the Sites Project Authority Treasurer's Report. The proposed schedule would result in financial statements being delayed 1 month when compared to prior cadence. As an example, the June financial statements will be submitted for board approval at the August meeting. **(Attachments A & B)**

Vice Chair Sutton inquired about the change in schedule as it relates to finance reports from staff. Ms. Traynham explained there is a delay in information provided in reports because of the Board meeting and agenda production schedule. Chair Kunde explained that the Budget and Finance Committee has reviewed this item. Having discussed Item 1.2, the Committee and Board moved on to Item 1.4, pulled by Mr. Cheng.

Item 1.4: Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval to increase total consultant contract authority for specified consultant contracts to cover changes in the Board adopted Revised Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. **(Attachment A)**

Mr. Cheng noted there have been over 40 contracts executed within the Authority's business, and that there are change orders for two of them. He asked if staff expect more changes before the end of year. Executive Director (ED) Jerry Brown responded that the year is half over and the Project is in good shape, though there is a possibility of change orders. He said staff is giving their best to estimate through year end. Having discussed Item 1.4, the Committee and Board moved on to approval of the Consent agenda.

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

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

- 1.1 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of June 20, 2025, Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting Minutes. **(Attachments A & B)**
- 1.2 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider acceptance of a revised schedule for submitting Sites Project Authority monthly financial statements for approval and consider acceptance of the Sites Project Authority Treasurer's Report. The proposed schedule would result in financial statements being delayed 1 month when compared to prior cadence. As an example, the June financial statements will be submitted for board approval at the August meeting. **(Attachments A & B)**
- 1.3 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of the Sites Project Authority Payment of Claims. **(Attachments A & B)**

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1.4 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval to increase total consultant contract authority for specified consultant contracts to cover changes in the Board adopted Revised Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. **(Attachment A)**

1.5 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider authorizing the Executive Director to enter into reimbursable agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to reimburse for expediting and priority review of the Project’s permitting (including permit implementation) under the Army Corps’ jurisdiction for a total of up to \$2,500,000 through September 30, 2035, with an initial payment of \$250,000 through September 30, 2026.

**2. ACTION ITEMS:**

2.1 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of the 2024 Financial Auditor’s Report, which includes a Federal Single Audit. **(Attachments A & B)**

ED Jerry Brown introduced Scott A. German, CPA, the auditor, who was joining the meeting online. Mr. German gave a presentation providing information about the purpose of the audit, and the various responsibilities of the auditor. He reviewed single audit considerations, and the Board’s responsibilities related to accurate financial reporting. He gave an overview of the financial statements and his firm’s scope of work.

Mr. German said there was a clean opinion on financial statements. He said there were no findings for 2024 and reported that the 2023 finding has been cleanly resolved.

Mr. German reviewed the balance sheet highlights, with significant changes related to purchased land. He reviewed current payable figures, deferred revenue figures, and invested in capital assets and unrestricted net asset figures.

Mr. German continued his presentation on the statement of activities. He said this scope concludes his service as auditor for the Project.

Chair Kunde noted the audit was reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee.

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

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

2.2 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approving a Resolution authorizing lead negotiator to act on behalf of Authority in Partnership Agreement negotiations with Reclamation. **(Attachments A &B)**

ED Brown introduced the item and said the Bureau of Reclamation requires the referenced resolution to designate him as the lead negotiator and asked if the Board and Committee are interested in setting up a separate workgroup to address the negotiations. Chair Durst said it would be appropriate to set up the group for guidance and asked for those who are interested to come forward.

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Director Vanderwaal said he would be interested if there isn't a conflict of interest, and there was discussion about the conflict concept and the principle that there is not conflict related to representing one's values. Ms. Maher, Vice Chair Navarrot, and Vice Chair Sutton each said they would be interested in serving on the workgroup. Mr. Smalls asked if this committee would be the sounding board for negotiations, and ED Brown said progress would come back to the whole Board.

Hearing no further discussion, Chair Durst called the question.

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

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

- 2.3 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of a consulting agreement/contract with Sharper Consulting, LLC to provide Purchasing Office Lead services for the period of August 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Ms. O'Connell introduced this item. She gave background on how the subject consulting contract role was developed. She reviewed an org chart which identifies the consultant as a key role within the Project. It is a strategic part of the imperative and work going forward. The role is to oversee procurement. She explained the strategic plan components from 2020 that relate to this item, and the core competencies and business competencies that relate to the selection of the role. She explained the financial management and controls which were important to the identification of the need for a purchasing office lead. She said there is an RFP out for an accounting firm who can scale with the Project, both up and then down as the project progresses.

Ms. O'Connell said staff are excited about Sharper Consulting, LLC, and she reviewed the selection criteria the firm met, and the qualifications of the firm.

Mr. Cheng asked about timing and definition of process, and Ms. O'Connell said policies and procedures going forward will drive the decisions about the best use of every dollar; ED Brown said being balanced, transparent, and streamlined are important and part of the value of being lean and nimble.

Vice Chair Sutton asked about the amount of procurement expected in the future, and Ms. O'Connell said there is quite a bit of procurement anticipated in the areas land management, construction, and re-contracting.

Ms. Traynham noted policies and procedures need to be developed regarding procurement. Chair Kunde said there has been \$5M of work that has been identified for purchasing, and that will come to the Board.

Mr. Evans said he is concerned about processes that are used at US Forest Service being carried over to the Project, because the consultant has experience there. O'Connell said staff have faith that the consultant will have a big picture view.

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**ACTION RC:** It was moved by Ms. Saenz, seconded by Mr. Navarrot to recommend approval of agenda item 2.3 to the Authority Board. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION AB:** It was moved by Vice Chair Sutton, seconded by Director Vanderwaal to approve agenda item 2.3. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

- 3.1 Receive an update on the progress being made in the development of the Benefits & Obligations Contract, updated Bylaws, and amended and restated Joint Powers Agreement.

Mr. JP Robinette gave remarks and introduced the item, saying that related materials have been discussed at the Governance ad hoc group.

Mr. Robinette said there have been questions related to construction, and implications from the Authority Board for projects. The goal is to get issues resolved for final draft documents to be ready in October. He said there is planned recovery period related to conformation of work related to the Water Right.

Mr. Robinette reported that issues discussed have related to the documents in this item and have wide implications which will necessitate openness and compromises, with the goal being to arrive at firm positions. Mr. Robinette said further discussions related to this item will go through the Operations & Engineering workgroup and the WIFIA ad hoc workgroup.

Ms. Maher asked about Santa Clara Valley Water District not being on the invite list for the WIFIA ad hoc workgroup and Mr. Robinette said it would be corrected.

- 3.2 Review and Comment on progress being made by Participation Ad Hoc Subcommittee on assignment/delegation of Capacity Interest Among Existing Participants.

ED Brown said there was a participation ad hoc group established to discuss the matter related to this item, and that the agenda item is to report progress. He said the report included in the agenda packet is intended to give the update and asked that if there is additional input, that it be provided.

- 3.3 Review and comment on the updated conditions precedent quarterly status report. **(Attachments A & B)**

ED Brown said this is a regular report focused on sharing key items like schedule changes, and that this is meant to keep all parties up to date. He said the agency is making good progress and staff have reported where the project may be behind schedule. ED Brown said there is a federal biological opinion that was completed, and a press release will be issued, since it gives federal authorization to proceed. He said staff hope to have the Record of Decision (ROD) by next month.

### 4. **REPORTS:**

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**4.1 Chairpersons’ Reports:**

Committee Chair Kunde reported he, Board Chair Durst and others recently met with staff at the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding scheduling for the Project; he stated it’s clear the Administration remains fully supportive.

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

Reservoir Ops & Eng Workgroup: the group met on 7/9 and will have another special meeting in August; heard two key presentations regarding construction, how to true up estimates, and briefed the group on steps required to complete the Cultural Resources section.

Environmental & Permitting Workgroup: there is a meeting coming up in August

Legislative & Outreach: Mr. Spesert said there was a meeting in Sacramento at the end of June. Ms. Pryor and Mr. Cheng attended. There was a series of landowner meetings at the end of June, in both Maxwell and Dunnigan. There will be more landowner meetings at the end of the year.

**4.3 Authority Board & Reservoir Committee Participant Reports:** Ms. Pryor said the Zone 7 Board had an informational meeting and continue to be enthusiastic supporters of the Project. Mr. Plinski said he met with his agency’s Board and they are also very supportive.

**4.4 Executive Director’s Reports:**

ED Brown said the cost estimate update is being released via press releases and materials given to this group in case they want to share with media. The press release also includes information about the Reservoir Construction Manager At Risk (CMAR) short list.

He said the Calsim 3 model will hopefully be released to Board members next week.

- Monthly status report. **(Attachment A)**
- Action Items from last month’s meeting. **(Attachment B)**
- Work Plan schedule. **(Attachment C)**
- Cash Flow Curve **(Attachment D)**

**5. CLOSED SESSION: 10:38 a.m.**

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

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.

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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: 12:15 p.m.**  
Counsel Doud reported there was no action taken in Closed Session.

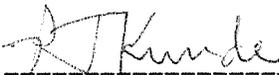
7. **RECAP:** None.

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

7.2 **Upcoming Meetings:**  
**Reservoir Committee & Authority Board**  
Day of Friday, August 22, 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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Signed by: Rob Kunde, Reservoir Committee Chair

  
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MJ Brown, Board Clerk