



Website: SitesProject.org

Reservoir Committee & Authority Board

September 19, 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:

Vice Chair Sutton called the Authority Board (AB) and Reservoir Committee (RC) Meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE:

Authority Board: 8 members in attendance, resulting in a quorum.

Reservoir Committee: 16 representatives (66.36%) attendance, resulting in a quorum.

INTRODUCTIONS:

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

AGENDA APPROVAL:

ACTION RC: Moved by Mr. Navarrot, seconded by Mr. Plinski, to approve the September 19, 2025, meeting agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ACTION AB: Moved by Director Kaplan, seconded by Director Allen, to approve the September 19, 2025, meeting agenda. **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 5.5.

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

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1. CONSENT AGENDA:

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

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

- 1.1 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of August 22, 2025, Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting Minutes.
- 1.2 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider acceptance of the Sites Project Authority Treasurer's Report.
- 1.3 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of the Sites Project Authority Payment of Claims.
- 1.4 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of a Task Order Amendment with Best, Best and Krieger (BBK) for additional construction legal services in the amount of \$172,000 increasing the total task order amount from \$358,117 to a revised total not to exceed \$530,117 for the period of March 22, 2024, through December 31, 2025.
- 1.5 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of a Task Order Amendment with HDR, Inc. for additional environmental permitting and planning staffing support in the amount of \$75,000, increasing the total task order amount from \$16,480,302 to a revised total not to exceed of \$16,555,302 for the period of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2025.

2. ACTION ITEMS:

None.

3. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 3.1 Review and comment on the continued development of components of the contracting strategy for terrestrial biological mitigation.

Ms. Forsythe gave a presentation, reviewing the importance of mitigation efforts and associated timing. She reviewed components of the Agency's strategy related to the Request for Qualifications, Request for Proposals, and contract. She noted some of the industry feedback that has been received, and addressed minimum acreage commitment, explaining staff's assessment and recommendation. Ms. Forsythe addressed bonding requirements, including staff's assessment and related recommendations. She addressed staff's review of labor considerations and workforce requirements. She explained considerations about the use of Sites-owned property and annual price adjustments.

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Ms. Forsythe explained this item's considerations were reviewed at the mitigation workgroup. Executive Director (ED) Brown commented on the item, stating that the selected firm will be relied on for all of these significant components.

Vice Chair Sutton asked if the contract would be broken up into multiple contracts, and Ms. Forsythe explained the benefits of keeping it as one contract. In response to an inquiry from Vice Chair Sutton, ED Brown said the total cost is approximately \$800M.

Mr. Cheng asked about strategy commitment and if the phases are meant not to over-commit. He asked about extra mitigation credits and Ms. Forsythe said the Project anticipates owning mitigation rights, so if there is an over-purchase of mitigation, those credits can be resold. Mr. Cheng asked about acreage and if the Project's approach is common and Ms. Forsythe said there are various possible approaches, but the approach is based on having a good estimate and it can be adjusted.

Director Kaplan said that labor considerations should be well communicated, related to what is and what is not considered "skilled workforce." A clear, shared understanding is beneficial.

Ms. Kao asked if there are any concerns related to the ability to secure credits. Ms. Forsythe said the Agency is contracting for this task and has already done some internal research to confirm that the needed mitigation is possible.

3.2 Review and comment on the priorities for engineering and construction and related activities in preparation for the initiation of Phase 3/4/5. s

ED Brown said the 2026 budget will come to the Board and Committee in October for approval, and this item is meant to give foundational context for that future item. Mr. JP Robinette and Kyle Hughes gave a report on this item. They noted the budget is organized around certain imperatives to prepare the group for returning to their home boards, and said this item relates to being able to proceed with the project. Kyle Hughes reviewed objectives, near-term priority land actions, and areas of focus to support work beyond 2027.

Mr. Hughes reviewed the primary objectives contained within Work Package 1, which consist of facilitating a rolling start, and reducing construction contingencies and furthering the detailed design. He explained some of the efforts that will need to be completed to meet these objectives.

In response to a comment from Mr. Urkov about the role of the mitigation contractor versus what the Project is doing, ED Brown said accessing the land is part of this item, and the work in the presented work package is meant to address that. Ms. Forsythe reiterated the mitigation efforts in advance are preferred and the mitigation contractor will work on this, but staff are getting past some hurdles ahead of time.

Chair Kunde said this item went to the Operations & Engineering Workgroup before this meeting, and staff explained that the approach as presented will reduce cost.

3.3 Review and comment on process and timing for the assignment of capacity among existing Participants.

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ED Brown opened this item by reviewing the late water right schedule projection with the California Water Commission (CWC) final hearing process. He walked through the timeline for the remainder of 2025 and 2026. He reviewed the three sequential steps to get to investor commitment, which are assignments and delegations within existing participation, addressing the Bureau of Reclamation's request for a percentage, and activation of the waitlist. ED Brown addressed the Sites Phase 2 assignments of rights and duties, voting threshold for assignment approval details, and the Reservoir Committee's actions "subject to the direction of" each Project Agreement Member's agency, and the road map steps to be ready for investor commitment.

Chair Kunde commented on his role as representative for Wheeler-Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District, about the timing for final approval. He noted the significance of considerations associated with the sequential steps for investor commitment, and various approaches related to timing for approaching home boards. Mr. Plinski brought up the topic of downstream capacity as an important consideration. Ms. Pryor said it would be helpful for the Project to give the group a one-page sheet with all the important details to give reports back to home boards and have consistent messaging.

ED Brown said that when starting investor commitment, the Project is looking to understand the recommendations staff will make to their boards, and he emphasized the need for group members to communicate with their governing bodies on how to move forward in accordance with what's been presented.

3.4 Receive an update on construction and operations considerations for the Lower Colusa Basin Drain System.

Mr. Robinette reported a Frequently Asked Questions document has been provided related to real questions that have been put forth. Some of the topics are related to lower Colusa Basin Drain System principles of use. He addressed the real property considerations, Knights Landing Outfall Gates and Wallace Weir term sheets, and upcoming efforts to incorporate into program baseline report. Chair Kunde noted these topics have been reviewed by multiple workgroups.

Mr. Robinette spoke of conveyance into and out of the Sacramento River, the items needed before the Benefits and Obligations (B&O) agreements signing. Mr. Robinette reviewed multiple real estate considerations and noted the real estate team and legal counsel determined the land rights that are needed to accomplish objectives, and the lands that can be acquired by the Authority within the Project's schedule requirements. Mr. Robinette reviewed the purpose of term sheets and upcoming efforts to incorporate the risks and costs into the program baseline report. He said staff is asking the engineer to look at the total existing conveyance to ensure understanding since the Project is dependent on the facilities.

Ms. Pryor said this analysis is important and there needs to be assurance of access to water. ED Brown asked the group what understanding is needed, and multiple people offered their thoughts regarding that data that would be beneficial, such as hydraulic analysis, water delivery, and costs.

4. REPORTS:

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4.1 Chairpersons' Reports:

Chair Kunde reported that many of the items discussed at this meeting have been previously reviewed in workgroups. He gave a comprehensive summary of these meetings to illustrate the large amount of activities advancing through the end of Phase 2, and the scope of work occurring outside of the Board and Committee monthly meeting.

Vice Chair Sutton made comments about the overall significant importance of the project and how critical it is for members to be communicating and working with their home boards.

4.2 Committee & Workgroup Chairs' Reports:

Operations & Engineer Workgroup: Chair Kunde said the group met and talked about conditions precedent, the elements of Phase 3, project progress and timing, and CalSim 3 modeling.

4.3 Authority Board & Reservoir Committee Participant Reports: None

4.4 Executive Director's Reports:

ED Brown gave a brief report.

- Monthly status report. **(Attachment A)**
- Action Items from last month's meeting. **(Attachment B)**

5. CLOSED SESSION: 11:01 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: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 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: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 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, Ali Forsythe
 Negotiating parties: Department of Water Resources

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

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- 5.5 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: 12:56 p.m.**
Counsel Doud reported there was no action taken in Closed Session.

7. **RECAP:**

None.

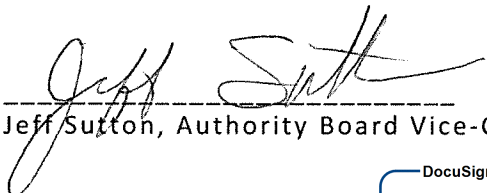
- 7.1 **Suggested Future Agenda Items:** None.

- 7.2 **Upcoming Meetings:**

Reservoir Committee & Authority Board

Day of Friday, October 17, 2025 (9:00 a.m. – noon)
Maxwell Project Office & Virtual

Chair Sutton adjourned the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting at 12:56 p.m.



Jeff Sutton, Authority Board Vice-Chair



Robert Kunde, Reservoir Committee Chair

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MJ Brown, Board Clerk