



**For Immediate Release:**  
January 7, 2026

**Contact: Quin La Capra**  
(858) 926-7006

### **Sites Project Authority Statements on the Passing of Congressman Doug LaMalfa**

Maxwell, CA – Today, the Sites Project Authority released the following statements on the passing of Congressman Doug LaMalfa, a dedicated public servant and long-time advocate for California’s rural communities and the Sites Reservoir Project:

“Congressman LaMalfa was an unwavering champion for Northern California, rural communities, and water infrastructure,” said **Fritz Durst, Chair, Sites Authority Board of Directors**. “His support of Sites Reservoir was instrumental in moving the Project forward, and we would not be where we are today without his steadfast advocacy. We are deeply saddened by his passing and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family.”

“Doug LaMalfa wasn’t just our representative—he was part of the fabric of the Sacramento Valley,” said **Jeff Sutton, Vice-Chair, Sites Authority Board of Directors**. “His knowledge and understanding of agriculture, rural communities, and water infrastructure like Sites came from his years of dedicated public service. His leadership leaves a lasting mark on the legacy of Sites Reservoir, and we will remember him for his decades of service and his unrelenting commitment to the Valley he called home.”

“Throughout his years in Congress, Congressman LaMalfa helped elevate issues that matter most to Northern California to the national stage,” said **Robert Kunde, Chair, Sites Reservoir Committee**. “He was instrumental in keeping Sites Reservoir at the forefront of statewide policy, recognizing the vast benefits it would provide to each and every region of California. Our thoughts are with his loved ones during this difficult time.”

*Sites Reservoir is a 1.5 million acre-foot, off-stream reservoir proposed north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that would improve California’s water reliability and resiliency in drier years for farms, families, fish, and fowl. The Project is backed by a broad coalition of cities, counties, water agencies, and irrigation districts across California, as well as the State of California through the Water Storage Investment Program and the federal government under the 2016 Water Infrastructure and Investment for the Nation Act. Additional information can be found at [www.sitesproject.org](http://www.sitesproject.org) or on Facebook, Instagram, and X at @SitesProject.*