

## Reservoir Committee & Authority Board

January 16, 2026

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 WSD)  
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 9:02 a.m., followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE:**

Authority Board: 8 members were present, constituting a quorum.

Reservoir Committee: 18 representatives (88.36%) were present, constituting a quorum.

#### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

Chair Durst noted the large number of meeting attendees present both in person and online and stated that the customary introductions would be foregone in the interest of time.

#### **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

Executive Director (ED) Brown advised the Board that one change to the agenda was requested. He stated that closed session item 1.1 would be removed from the agenda and confirmed that there were no other changes proposed.

Hearing no questions or comments, Reservoir Committee Chair Kunde called for a vote of the Reservoir Committee on approval of the January 16, 2026 meeting agenda as revised.

**ACTION RC: Motion Carried: All Reservoir Committee Members present voted yes.**

**ACTION AB: Moved by Director Vanderwaal, seconded by Director Evans, to approve the January 16, 2026, meeting agenda as revised. Motion Carried: All Directors present voted yes.**

1. **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 6.1. through 6.5

**PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

At Chair Durst’s direction, some public comment was bifurcated so that comments related to Items 3.1 and 4.1 would be heard at the time that those items were taken up later in the meeting.

One general comment was addressed to the Board regarding labor considerations and contractor selection for the Sites Reservoir Project. The speaker reiterated concerns previously raised about workforce participation and emphasized the importance of ensuring that construction work benefits local workers and union labor.

Hearing no further public comment, Chair Durst closed the period for public comment.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ACTION RC:** Moved by Ms. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Azevedo to approve all items on consent agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION AB:** Moved by Director Evans, seconded by Director Sutton to approve the consent agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

2.1 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of December 19, 2025, Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting Minutes.

2.2 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider acceptance of the Sites Project Authority Treasurer’s Report.

2.3 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of the Sites Project Authority Payment of Claims.

2.4 Committee and Authority Board consider approval of administrative changes to the adopted board policies and DOAM as follows:

Minor revisions to the existing Accounting, Accounts Payable Approval, Budget, Real Property and Reserve Policies to incorporate changes since prior adoption and/or administrative clarifications that better align the document with how the policy is being implemented.

Revisions to the Delegation of Authority Matrix to better align the document with how delegation is, or proposed to be, implemented.

**3. ACTION ITEMS:**

3.1 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider selection of the Reservoir Package Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) and execution of CMAR Contract, Task Order 1 and authorization to commence preliminary preconstruction services extending through December 31, 2026, as articulated in Task Order 1, including the following Board actions:

1. Assign the Reservoir Package CMAR responsibilities to Barnard Construction Company, Inc. (Barnard).
2. Authorize the Executive Director to execute the CMAR Contract, including the General Conditions and Task Order 1, for a fixed lump sum amount of \$1,000,000, pending final legal review.

ED Brown introduced Item 3.1 and noted that the five-day protest period associated with the CMAR selection process had concluded and that no protests or threats of litigation had been received by the Authority in connection with the action.

Engineering and Construction Manager, JP Robinette, provided a detailed overview of the Reservoir Package CMAR procurement status. Mr. Robinette explained that the Authority had completed the selection phase of the Reservoir Package CMAR process and identified Barnard Construction Company, Inc., as the highest-ranked firm based on the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) evaluation conducted under the Board-approved criteria.

Mr. Robinette explained that the selection of the Reservoir Package CMAR Contractor allows the Authority to begin preconstruction services including constructability reviews, cost estimating, scheduling and risk identification, while continuing to negotiate key contract terms. He stated that the CMAR delivery method is intentionally structured so that major elements, such as pricing, guaranteed maximum price components, and labor provisions, are not finalized at the time of selection but are negotiated over time and returned to the Board for approval before any construction authorization.

Mr. Robinette noted that discussions with labor organizations are ongoing, and that the Authority's Construction Workforce Policy remains in effect, and that no project labor agreement has been finalized. Mr. Robinette further noted that the CMAR process preserves the Board's authority throughout preconstruction and construction, explaining that the Board retains discretion to approve, modify, or decline any final contract terms, including those related to cost, schedule, and labor. He reiterated that no construction authorization is being requested at this time.

Following the presentation, Chair Durst opened the public comment period for Item 3.1.

Several speakers affiliated with the Northern California Carpenters Union and Northern California District Council of Laborers, expressed concerns regarding the Reservoir Package CMAR selection of Barnard Construction and requested that the Board delay further action. These speakers cited the need for additional time to review procurement materials, raised questions about representations made in the Statements of Qualifications, and emphasized the importance of ensuring that the project provides strong opportunities for local, union labor, apprenticeship participation, and long-term workforce development. Some speakers questioned whether a Project Labor Agreement would adequately address their concerns and urged the Authority to conduct additional due diligence before proceeding.

Other speakers, including representatives of Barnard Construction, their proposed subcontractors, and State Building and Construction Trades Council of California leadership and affiliates, spoke in support of concluding the procurement process and selecting Barnard. These speakers highlighted Barnard's experience delivering large-scale infrastructure projects using union labor, stated that discussions regarding a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) were ongoing, and emphasized a willingness to work collaboratively with labor organizations and local communities.

Chair Durst acknowledged the public input received and provided an opportunity for the Board to ask direct questions of Mr. Fuller of Barnard Construction.

Several questions were asked by members and answered by Mr. Fuller.

Chair Durst informed the Board that a letter had been received that morning from the Governor. He stated that, given the letter's significance, he wished to enter it into the record and read it aloud in full so both in-person and online participants could hear it.

Chair Durst read the Governor's letter verbatim (Attached) which highlighted several key themes: the State's substantial investment in the Sites Reservoir Project; the project's importance for California's future water supply; the urgency of moving forward without delay; and the expectation that the selected Reservoir Package CMAR Contractor must support both water-supply goals and strong labor stability and that the Reservoir Package CMAR Contractor selection carries a responsibility to ensure the project is not subject to disruption from labor unrest.

ED Brown noted that an email was received from an individual named John Musick regarding an alternative management structure, and the email identified that he wished his email to be incorporated into the public record (Attached).

Hearing no further comment, Chair Durst closed the public comment period related to Item 3.1.

Mr. Cheng asked for clarification on the agreement terms addressing limitation of liability and consequential damages. Staff explained that the contract establishes a capped liability structure tied to a total project value with specific carve-outs for

indemnification, misconduct, fraud, insured claims, penalties, and warranties and that consequential damages are subject to separate limits.

Mr. Cheng also asked whether the requested authorization for preconstruction services was a lump-sum payment. Staff clarified that it is a not-to-exceed amount to be paid incrementally.

Lastly, Mr. Cheng asked whether the Governor's letter affected staff's recommendation. ED Brown stated that the letter called for careful consideration of the balance between advancing the project and addressing unrest but did not direct a specific action. ED Brown stated that staff had already carefully considered labor stability and related issues and concluded that the letter did not change staff's recommendation.

Ms. Pryor asked staff to confirm that the procurement process had applied objective criteria including labor-related components and that the negotiated CMAR terms provided appropriate protection to the Authority. Staff affirmed that the process had been conducted rigorously and that labor concerns had been thoroughly evaluated and that the commitment to the Construction Workforce Policy remains steadfast.

Mr. Weghorst requested further explanation regarding how liquidated damages would be established for each work package. Counsel responded that such damages would be tailored to the scope and schedule risks of individual Guaranteed Maximum Price packages.

Mr. Urkov asked for clarification on two items within the pre-construction task order. First, he requested an explanation of the purpose and subject matter of the planned eight in-person workshops. Second, he asked staff to explain the intent of Task 4 Attend Local Community Working Group Meetings, which he said was less clear to him than the other listed pre-construction activities.

Staff responded that the workshops are intended to support constructability review, cost and schedule validation, and coordination during the investor-commitment period and that these sessions will bring the Reservoir Package CMAR Contractor into early design discussions and help ensure alignment on critical project assumptions. Regarding Task 4 Attend Local Community Working Group Meetings, staff clarified that it involves the CMAR's participation in meetings with the Local Community Working Group to confirm and operationalize community-related commitments and ensure practical implementation strategies are developed.

Reservoir Chair Kunde noted that the Board had heard from the Nor Cal Carpenters Union and Nor Cal District Council of Laborers through letters submitted by these organizations, all of which expressed varying but similar concerns about the Reservoir Package CMAR Contractor selection and Barnard's past performance. He stated that, after reviewing the information provided, including the staff memo responding to labor letters, he believed that the Board had been given sufficient information to satisfy its due diligence responsibilities. He added that in his view the staff analysis,

the public input received, and the contractual safeguards in place provided an adequate foundation for the Board to move forward with the action on Item 3.1.

Reservoir Chair Kunde emphasized that the contract contains broad termination rights and that the current action does not irrevocably commit the Sites Authority to Barnard for later phases and that the Board could change course if problems proved irreconcilable.

Director Kaplan stated that, given the Governor's letter stressing the importance of labor stability, she requests that staff confirm publicly for the record that the forthcoming PLA will 1) bind all subcontractors, not just the prime contractor; 2) require hiring through union halls and include strong apprenticeship and local-hire provisions; 3) incorporate "Helmets to Hardhats" and maintain compliance with master labor agreements, including wages, hours, benefits, and job-site standards; 4) require pre-job conferences and set regular labor-management meeting intervals rather than leaving them undefined; 5) provide for drug-free-workplace standards and just-cause requirements for discipline and discharge; and 6) ensure that jurisdictional disputes are settled through nationally recognized building-trades procedures.

Staff confirmed every one of Director Kaplan's requests on the record and noted that these requirements are contemplated within the Construction Workforce Policy adopted by the Sites Authority.

Director Kaplan emphasized the importance of maximizing collaboration and working as a unified team to achieve the Authority's local hire goals, noting the value of measuring journey-level and apprenticeship hours performed by residents in the local area. ED Brown responded that staff shares that objective and intends to continue tracking workforce participation metrics consistent with the Authority's Construction Workforce Policy as the project advances.

Director Kaplan also requested that the maker of the motion on Action Item 3.1(2) include wording that the pre-construction task order is "not to exceed \$1,000,000", and that the maker of the motion require that a PLA return to the Board expeditiously for staff to report that it satisfies all elements of the Sites Authority's Construction Workforce Policy.

Director Vanderwaal and Director Sutton cautioned that conditioning the award on PLA execution could unfairly place responsibility solely on the contractor when unions must also participate. Director Vanderwaal supported requiring a status report rather than a condition precedent to award.

Director Vanderwaal addressed the concern raised during the public comment period that a public records request had not fully been responded to, specifically noting that the commenter claimed the SOQ from Kiewit had not been provided. Staff responded

that their records showed all SOQs, including Kiewit's, had been sent out and confirmed that staff would follow up to confirm that the requestor received the documents.

Director Sutton spoke to the broader implications of delaying action on Item 3.1. He emphasized that the project faces significant monthly cost escalation, noting that each month of delay adds substantial financial burden to the overall project. He explained that this reality must be balanced against the concerns raised during the meeting and that based on staff analysis and the extensive input received, the Board had sufficient information to proceed.

Director Roccucci asked how the PLA would come back before the Board and what the Board's role would be at that point. Staff explained that the PLA would not return for approval but would return as an informational report demonstrating that it meets the Construction Workforce Policy requirements previously adopted by the Board.

**ACTION RC:** It was moved by Mr. Azevedo, seconded by Mr. Eckhart to recommend approval of agenda item 3.1(1) to the Authority Board. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION RC:** It was moved by Mr. Azevedo, seconded by Mr. Dennis to recommend approval of agenda item 3.1(2) to the Authority Board including the General Conditions and that Task Order 1 reflect an amount not to exceed \$1 million dollars pending final legal review and that a PLA be returned expeditiously for review by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION AB:** It was moved by Director Evans, seconded by Director Sutton, to approve agenda items 3.1(1) and 3.1(2) including the General Conditions and that Task Order 1 reflect an amount not to exceed \$1 million dollars pending final legal review and that a PLA be returned expeditiously for review by staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 3.2 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of the updated project schedule including adjusting the project operational completion date from end of 2032 to end of 2033.

Mr. Robinette presented an updated project schedule reflecting a revised operations start date in the 2033-2034 water year, driven primarily by the later-than-anticipated timing of the water-right and investor commitment milestones.

He explained that the updated schedule incorporates completed early-acquisition work, permitting progress, and new construction duration data from the 30% design. The project's high level of concurrent work was emphasized and the importance of bringing the CMAR on board to support constructability review and confirm schedule assumptions.

In discussion, Director Wilson asked whether adoption should wait for CMAR input and staff responded by recommending that the item be adopted now to maintain

momentum and support financial planning. ED Brown confirmed the schedule can be updated again once the CMAR begins pre-construction work.

Mr. Weghorst commented on the relationship between the schedule update and the upcoming plan-of-finance work. He noted that adopting the revised schedule now is important because it directly supports the financial modeling and cash-flow analyses needed for the 2026 funding phase and agreed that the schedule could be updated again later.

**ACTION RC:** It was moved by Mr. Weghorst, seconded by Ms. Saenz to recommend approval of agenda item 3.2 to the Authority Board. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION AB:** It was moved by Director Sutton, seconded by Director Kaplan, to approve agenda item 3.2. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 3.3 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of a consulting agreement/contract with MM Water Resources, LLC to provide Deputy Environmental Planning & Permitting services in the amount not to exceed \$33,000/month for the period of February 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager, Ms. Forsythe, presented the proposed agreement/contract with MM Water Resources (Mario Manzo) as the Authority’s Deputy Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager. Ms. Forsythe explained that this topic had been previewed at the previous Board meeting, where it was noted that, after hiring a deputy on the construction side, the Authority also needs a deputy to support the environmental and permitting workload as the project advances through investor commitment and transitions toward construction.

Ms. Forsythe reported on the solicitation process through PlanetBids and that it was broadly broadcast, but only one proposal was submitted. She highlighted Mr. Manzo’s 20+ years of experience at the Bureau of Reclamation in a wide range of roles, emphasizing his demonstrated ability to help organizations navigate risk-based decision-making, adapt when circumstances change, and evaluate options amid uncertainty.

ED Brown stressed the priority in these deputy-level hires is not narrow subject-matter expertise, but the ability to serve as an effective owner-representative who understands how to support the Authority’s objectives and decision-making processes.

Mr. Neudeck asked for clarification about whether only one proposal had been received and how widely the solicitation had been distributed. Staff confirmed only one proposal was received and that it had been broadcast, not targeted, with multiple firms reviewing the opportunity but ultimately choosing not to submit.

**ACTION RC:** It was moved by Mr. Neudeck, seconded by Ms. Pryor to recommend approval of agenda item 3.3 to the Authority Board. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION AB:** It was moved by Director Vanderwaal, seconded by Director Kaplan, to approve agenda item 3.3. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 3.4 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider authorizing submittal to the California Water Commission requesting 1) addition of a public benefit from the Sites Project for drought emergency supplies 2) a supplemental funding determination to be added to the \$1,094M Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determinations (MCED) conditionally awarded for public benefits in ecosystem, recreation, and flood control categories under the Prop 1 Water Storage and Investment Program.

ED Brown explained that the request is intended to reflect updated project operations, new modeling information, and evolving statewide water-management priorities. He noted that the California Water Commission process allows participants to request modifications when supported by technical justification and when doing so aligns with the public-benefit framework established by Proposition 1.

ED Brown further explained that the proposed public benefit would not alter the project's fundamental structure but would strengthen the project's ability to meet state water-resiliency needs and maintain eligibility for the full public-benefit allocation.

Director Sutton asked staff to clarify whether the proposed submittal to the California Water Commission regarding the public benefit required individual decisions from each project participant or whether the action would function as a single consolidated decision. ED Brown explained in response that the action constitutes a single unified authorization and that the submittal would proceed on behalf of the Sites Project as a whole.

Mr. Weghorst asked what would occur if the number of participating agencies were insufficient to support the requested public-benefit addition from a funding or operational standpoint. ED Brown explained in response that while participation levels are always a factor in overall project viability, the request to the California Water Commission is not contingent on reaching a particular cumulative threshold.

Ms. Saenz asked whether any additional public-benefit funding resulting from the California Water Commission's approval would increase costs for project participants, or whether those funds would instead apply to the State's share of the project. ED Brown confirmed the latter.

Second, Ms. Saenz asked whether submitting the updated materials to the California Water Commission would require any additional financial commitment from the Authority or its participants beyond what was already planned. ED Brown explained that no new financial obligation would result from submitting the request.

Reservoir Chair Kunde noted that he believed the public-benefit math warranted a deeper dive. He stated that before finalizing future decisions tied to public-benefit allocations, it would be important for the Authority to more fully understand how the

public-benefit values are calculated, how the additional benefits align with Proposition 1 criteria, and how it affects the State’s share versus participant shares of the project funding. He stated that the underlying assumptions and calculations were complex enough for an Ad Hoc of the Reservoir Committee but is sensitive to staff having full plates. ED Brown stated that he believes this is a good idea to get a representative sample of participants and notes the importance of limiting participation to four or five.

**ACTION RC:** It was moved by Ms. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Plinski to recommend approval of agenda item 3.4 to the Authority Board. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION AB:** It was moved by Director Sutton seconded by Director Vanderwaal, to approve agenda item 3.4. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 3.5 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of submittal of an amendment to the existing Sites Construction ITP to address western burrowing owl, subject to review and input of the amendment by Tehama Colusa Canal Authority and Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, and authorization for the Executive Director to pay the associated fee.

Ms. Forsythe provided a presentation and confirmed that the burrowing owl received candidate status just before the Authority’s construction ITP. Since then, surveys on Authority-owned lands have confirmed the presence of burrowing owl, including near locations needed for initial construction access. She explained that if the owl is listed, it will carry take prohibitions and that the listing decision will occur too close to the planned start of construction, creating a risk of delay. Ms. Forsythe stated that the proposal is to apply for an amendment to the construction ITP now to add burrowing owl coverage. If the owl is listed, the amendment would already be in place and construction could proceed; if the owl is not listed, the amendment request could be withdrawn.

Ms. Forsythe further noted that recent ITPs for burrowing owl show requirements similar to the project’s EIR commitments, with some expanded trap-and-relocation measures. She confirmed that a draft amendment has been provided to TCCA and GCID for review, and no submittal would occur until their feedback is received.

**ACTION RC:** It was moved by Mr. Cheng, seconded by Ms. Pryor to recommend approval of agenda item 3.5 to the Authority Board. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION AB:** It was moved by Director Allen, seconded by Director Kaplan to approve agenda item 3.5. **Motion carried unanimously with abstentions from Director Vanderwaal and Director Sutton.**

**4. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:**

- 4.1 Review and discuss the 2026 Plan of Finance Update.

ED Brown introduced the item and Finance Manager, Ms. O’Connell, provided an update on the 2026 Plan of Finance explaining that the document has been refreshed to align with the recently updated project schedule, the latest cost estimate, and updated assumptions for inflation, escalation, and interest rates. Ms. O’Connell noted that construction is now projected to run from 2027 through 2035, with startup and punch-list costs included for 2034 and 2035. The updated cost estimate reflects the \$7.5 billion governance-level budget, inclusive of contingencies. Using new 10-year average assumptions, escalation and interest rates are higher than those used in 2023, with short-term borrowing estimated at 3.5%, long term revenue bonds at 5%, and WIFIA loans at 4%. Ms. O’Connell emphasized that changes of even 1% in escalation translate to roughly \$550 million in additional project cost.

Ms. O’Connell walked through updated cash-flow projections under the three financing structures; Interest-Only, Capitalized Interest, and Pay-Go and explained how each scenario affects annual participant obligations. She introduced new tables showing per-1%-share annual costs for each financing approach, allowing participants to multiply those values by their own storage shares to estimate their financial obligations. Ms. O’Connell stated that these are modeling tools and that actual obligations will vary depending on each participant’s chosen financing approach.

During discussion, board members asked questions about the tables, state-share percentages under Proposition 1, power-cost and power-revenue assumptions, and Pay-Go totals. Staff clarified the basis for the state’s percentage, explained that power-related values come from the operational model, and committed to follow up on specific numerical questions raised during the meeting.

ED Brown requested that participants submit comments or corrections by March 1, noting that the document is intended as a working tool to support participants’ decision-making as investor-commitment planning advances.

Following the Board’s discussion of the Plan of Finance Update, Chair Durst opened a period for public comment on the item.

One public comment was heard from a Research Analyst for the Nor Cal Carpenters Union, who commented that the construction-escalation rate used in the finance update may be too low, noting that recent years have shown significantly higher escalation and could materially increase total project costs and noted that it is important for the Authority to fully account for escalation risk with evaluating long-term costs.

Hearing no further comment, Chair Durst closed the public comment period related to Item 4.1.

- 4.2 Receive and comment on the updated conditions precedent quarterly status report.

ED Brown provided the regular quarterly update on the conditions precedent required for investor commitment and the start of construction. He reported that the update reflects approximately a one-month delay in securing the project's water right. ED Brown emphasized that the water-right schedule shift is the key theme of this month's status update and noted that all other conditions are progressing as previously reported.

**5. Reports:****5.1 Chairpersons' Reports:**

Chair Durst reported on the recent passing of Congressman Doug LaMalfa, noting that LaMalfa had been a strong champion of the Sites Reservoir Project and had provided considerable support to the Authority over the years. He further noted that LaMalfa's leadership and advocacy would be greatly missed.

Chair Durst provided an update on recent governance-related meetings, including an in-person meeting with Metropolitan Water District. He further reported that a meeting was held with Secretary Wade Crowfoot and representatives of the Natural Resources Agency to discuss the CMAR process and noted that the State appreciated the Authority's thorough approach.

**5.2 Committee & Workgroup Chairpersons' Reports:**

Reservoir Committee Chair Kunde reported on several recent committee and workgroup activities. He stated that the Conveyance Ad Hoc Subcommittee met and received an update on the Colusa Basin Drain work, including the status of draft Letters of Mutual Understanding and progress on facility use agreements.

Committee Chair Kunde also reported that staff held a meeting with interested parties and waitlisted participants to brief them on the status of project participation, capacity allocation, and the potential activation of the waitlist.

Committee Chair Kunde further reported that the Operations and Engineering Workgroup held its regular meeting and that the Chairs also met as part of the ongoing coordination process to review upcoming agendas and the three-month look ahead.

**5.3 Authority Board & Reservoir Committee Participant Reports:**

Reservoir Committee Chair Kunde provided an update on the amount filed written approvals of the assignment of participation from Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District to Santa Clara Valley Water District.

5.4 **Executive Director's Reports:**

ED Brown reported that in the interest of time, he has no additional reports.

6. **CLOSED SESSION: 1:10PM**

6.1 ~~Potential litigation (Govt. Code §54956.9(d)(4)) (1 item).~~ (Removed at start of meeting)

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

6.3 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.

6.4 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: California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment for water storage and conveyance capacity.

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

7. **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION: 2:02PM**

Counsel Doud reported that no action was taken in closed session.

8. **RECAP:**

None.

8.1 **Suggested Future Agenda Items:**

None.

8.2 Upcoming Meetings:

**Reservoir Committee & Authority Board**

Friday, February 20, 2026 (9:00 a.m. – noon)

Maxwell Project Office & Virtual

Chair Durst adjourned the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting at 2:03pm.

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Fritz Durst, Authority Board Chair

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Robert Kunde, Reservoir Committee Chair

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Wendy Ambriz, Board Clerk



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

January 16, 2026

Board of Directors  
Sites Project Authority  
122 Old Highway 99 West  
Maxwell, CA 95955

To the Board of Directors of the Sites Project Authority:

As Governor, I have championed efforts to protect and strengthen California's water supplies—including the Sites Reservoir project. To advance this critical water storage project and others, I signed groundbreaking legislation to reduce litigation delays, legislation that allowed a lawsuit against this project to be resolved in record time. And, under my leadership, the California Water Commission has invested \$54.7M in public funds to date to support the project, with a potential total funding award of \$1.1B as milestones are met.

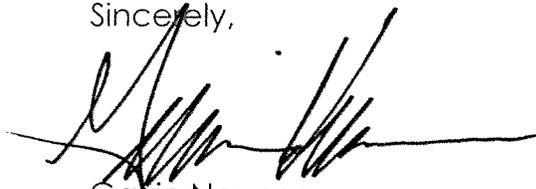
This public investment reflects the project's profound public importance. As you are aware, recent analysis found that Sites could have diverted more than 168,000 acre-feet during the recent atmospheric events in December and January, in addition to the 1.35 million acre-feet captured during the 2024 and 2025 diversion seasons. Preparing for California's hotter, drier future means building new water storage facilities without delay. And projects like Sites Reservoir are not only an important source of future water supply to manage through droughts: they can also provide good jobs, today, to California workers building the infrastructure our state needs to thrive in the coming decades.

The public investment in this project also demands public accountability, particularly as the Board selects the Construction Manager at Risk who will oversee construction of the project. This Construction Manager must deliver on,

as quickly as possible, Sites Reservoir's twin promise of healthy water supply and good jobs. In particular, the Construction Manager you select must ensure that the project's ambitious timetable is not disrupted by the potential for labor unrest. I am concerned that the Authority's consideration of this role, thus far, has not fully considered the importance of maintaining strong labor relations, which is critical to the timely completion of the project.

Californians demand both a healthy water supply and good jobs. The Sites Reservoir project can help deliver both, and the State has supported the project to ensure that it does. I now look to you to select the team that can fulfill this commitment without risking disruption or delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California

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**Formal Inquiry for Submission of new IRONCLAD LABOR PLAN with new "Construction Manager at Risk" (CMAR)**

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From John Musick <John@johnmusick.com>

Date Thu 1/15/2026 9:34 PM

To JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>

Cc Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>; Board Clerk <boardclerk@sitesproject.org>; Procurement <procurement@sitesproject.org>

**TO:** JP Robinette, Engineering & Construction Manager  
([jrobinette@sitesproject.org](mailto:jrobinette@sitesproject.org))

**CC:** Jerry Brown, Executive Director ([jbrown@sitesproject.org](mailto:jbrown@sitesproject.org)); Marcia Kivett, Board Clerk ([boardclerk@sitesproject.org](mailto:boardclerk@sitesproject.org)); Procurement Team ([procurement@sitesproject.org](mailto:procurement@sitesproject.org))

**NOTE:** For the "Correspondence" or "Public Comment" section of the meeting record.

**DATE:** January 15, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Formal Inquiry for Submission of new "Construction Manager at Risk" (CMAR see Draft CMAR Contract", Reference RFP No. 25-06 [issued July 2025]) and its Alternative Labor Management Proposal for Reservoir Package (RFP No. 25-06) for California Water Commission (CWC) to meet the June 2026 Final Award Hearing with an **IRONCLAD LABOR PLAN** with at risk Construction Manager equity, which meets and exceed the "workable labor arrangements" as a condition of the \$1.1 Billion in Proposition 1 Funding, which meets in the spirit if not the law of the formal Construction Workforce Policy (April 2025, adopted Policy No: 02-01) that governs these requirements.

**TITLE:** The Sites Reservoir **GENERATIONAL ALLIANCE: A Social Infrastructure Partnership Alternative Labor Management & Project Delivery Proposal (comprising Alignment of Incentives, Cost-Certainty, Social & Political Capital "Social Infrastructure", with Absolute Labor and Management Harmony).**

**STRUCTURE:** TRI-LATERAL CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE, comprising the Elite Project management AT RISK and ZERO-FEE MODEL, coupled with the Multi-disciplinary All-Unions Leadership full fee compensation in management for all labor categories, and Specialized Field

**Workforce full fee representation in management with parallel STEM up-skilling for The Sites Reservoir Generational Alliance: A Social Infrastructure Partnership Alternative Labor Management & Project Delivery Proposal that guarantees industrial harmony, fiscal transparency, and a generational social return on investment which redirects at risk management fee capital into California's future workforce employee and families at zero-cost fully funded NGO STEM for present and future up-skilling of entire workforce and families.**

Dear Engineering & Construction Manager Robinette,  
I am writing to you regarding the Sites Project Authority's ongoing procurement for the Reservoir Package and the associated Construction Workforce Policy (No. 02-01).

As the California Water Commission moves toward its final funding award hearing in June 2026, there is an increased emphasis on ensuring that the \$1.1 billion in voter-approved start-up funding is backed by a "workable labor arrangement." We understand that the Authority's current policy mandates the negotiation of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) by the selected Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) entity.

I represent a Union-Supporting, Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), Consortium that desires to submit an Alternative Labor Management and CMAR Proposal.

This proposal is designed to optimize the project's success by providing:

- \* Enhanced Labor Stability: A framework that goes beyond standard PLAs to further mitigate the risk of jurisdictional disputes and work stoppages.
- \* Proven Success with Public Funding: A demonstrated track record of meeting the "workable labor" standards required by state oversight bodies like the California Water Commission.
- \* Local Economic Impact: A strategy to exceed the 20% "Project Area Worker" and 50% apprentice hiring goals established in Policy No. 02-01, with extraordinary "Social Infrastructure" unsurpassed in history.

Given that the Reservoir Package is currently in the transition between Phase 1a and Phase 1b of pre-construction services, we request clarification on the following:

- \* Process for Supplemental Submissions: What is the formal procedure for a qualified entity to submit a supplemental labor and workforce plan and CMAR proposal that offers an alternative to the current CMAR's proposed labor approach?
- \* CWC Compliance Review: How will the Authority incorporate alternative labor proposals into the documentation provided to the California Water Commission for

their upcoming final award review?

\* Agenda Placement: May we request a brief presentation or the inclusion of our executive summary in the materials for the next Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting?

My clients are committed to the success of the Sites Reservoir and believe our alternative arrangement provides the "cost certainty" and "labor harmony" the Water Commissioners have signaled as a priority.

I look forward to your guidance on the appropriate submission channel.

Sincerely,  
John Musick

[john@johnmusick.com](mailto:john@johnmusick.com)

+1 (310) 694-2100

<https://johnmusick.com/cv-john-musick>

**Current Voting Committee Participants (22):**

<input type="checkbox"/>	%	Participant	<input type="checkbox"/>	%	Participant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.47	American Canyon, City	<input type="checkbox"/>	2.57	LaGrande WD
<input type="checkbox"/>	2.42	Antelope Valley-East Kern WA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	17.29	Metropolitan WD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.28	Coachella Valley WD	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.47	Reclamation District 108
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.28	Colusa County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.42	Rosedale-Rio Bravo WSD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.05	Colusa County WD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8.70	San Bernardino Valley MWD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.41	Cortina WD (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6.48	San Geronio Pass WA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.87	Davis WD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.42	Santa Clara Valley WD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.22	Desert WA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.77	Santa Clarita Valley WA
<input type="checkbox"/>	3.17	Dunnigan WD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.89	Westside WD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.77	Glenn-Colusa ID	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.19	Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa WSD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.57	Irvine Ranch WD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.28	Zone 7 WA
				100.00	Total

**18** Voting members represented at the start of the meeting

**88.36%** Represented participation percentage.

Representation has been delegated as follows:

(1) Proxy to Jamie Traynham, Davis WD

(‡) Not present after \_\_\_\_\_

Current Voting Authority Board (9)		Primary		Alternate
Colusa County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gary Evans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Randy Wilson
Colusa County Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe Marsh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hal Charter Shelly Murphy
Glenn County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tony Arendt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jim Yoder
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Sutton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logan Dennis
Reclamation District 108	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fritz Durst	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Sean Doherty Hilary Reinhard
Placer County Water Agency/City of Roseville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gray Allen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pauline Rocucci
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill Vanderwaal	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Jim Jones Zack Dennis
City of Sacramento/Sacramento County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Kaplan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Anne Sangar Brett Ewart
Westside Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doug Parker	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Zach Dennis Allen Myers

Associate Members (non-voting)		Primary		Alternate
Western Canal Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greg Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ted Trimble
Zone 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Urkov	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wendy Tyler

Non-Voting Committee Participants (2)		Primary		Alternate/Other
Department of Water Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rob Cooke	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bureau of Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adam Nickels Allison Jacobson	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Natalie Taylor Jesse Sikora

Current Voting Reservoir Committee (22)		Primary		Alternate
American Canyon, City	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jason Holley	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Antelope Valley-East Kern WA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Matt Knudson	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Coachella Valley Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Cheng	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Petya Vasileva
Colusa County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Azevedo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daurice Kalfsbeek Smith
Colusa County Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Halbert Charter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shelly Murphy
Cortina Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jim Peterson	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chuck Grimmer Jamie Traynham
Davis Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Traynham	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Charter
Desert Water Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Tate Esther Saenz

Dunnigan Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jordon Navarrot	<input type="checkbox"/>	
RD 108	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jordon Navarrot	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lewis Bair
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logan Dennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Louis Jarvis
Irvine Ranch Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul Weghorst	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Huang
LaGrande Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zach Dennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Metropolitan Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Randall Neudeck	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nina Hawk Sam Smalls
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trent Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Bartel
San Bernardino Valley Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Plinski	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heather Dyer
San Geronio Pass Water Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lance Eckhart	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Todd Emmett Campbell
Santa Clara Valley Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Katherine Maher	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Kao
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Cole	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ali Elhassan
Westside Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Allen Myers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rob Kunde	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Sheridan Nicholas Eric McDaris
Zone 7 Water Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Valerie Pryor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lillian Xie

Authority Shared Seats		Primary		Alternate
Roseville	<input type="checkbox"/>	George Hanson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sean Bigley
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joshua Alpine	<input type="checkbox"/>	Darin Reintjes
Sacramento County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kerry Schmitz	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Sites Project Authority:**

- Jerry Brown  
  Ali Forsythe  
  Kevin Spesert  
  JP Robinette  
  Shayleen O'Connell  
  Wendy Ambriz  
  Alan Doud

**Members of the Public**

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Juleah Cordi	ASM Gallagher	Mario Cardoza	OE3
Jeremy Ures	Sheet Metal Workers 104	Chuck Adamson	OE3
Jeff Hillberg	Agis Capital	Mike Pearl	CEL

Members of the Public

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Larry Smith	SGPWA	Jesse Greer	OE3
Christy Scofield	Public	Bruce Meyers	Public
Ely Johnson	Barnard	Casey Tull	OE3
Ken Bohannon	Kleinfelder	Krystal Bell	Westervelt Eco Svcs
Nathan Monroe	Atlas	Travis Boyan	Peterson CAT
Tim Wilson	Ames Construction	Jesse Johnson	OE3
Mike Fuller	Barnard	Xzandrea Fowler	County of Colusa
Scott Littlehale	Nor Cal Carpenters		

Virtual Attendance

Virtual Attendance	140			
Marcia Kivett	Jim Halloran	Brian Bunch	Gabalton, Michael	cs (Unverified)
Wendy Ambriz	Mrs Turner (Unverified)	Douglas Montague (External)	Anne Sanger (External)	Hunt, Shane D (External)
Shayleen O'Connell	Summer Shadley (External)	Brett Guerrero (External)	Amans, William (External)	16614734022 (Unverified)
Jerry Brown	Joseph Sullivan (External)	brian (Unverified)	Jim Bowley	Quin La Capra (External)
JP Robinette	Takata, Lynn@Wildlife	Cheyenne Butcher (External)	Brian Herrera (External)	Golden, Shawn (external) (External)
Alicia Forsythe	Scott Brown (External)	Stanley, Robert@Wildlife	Micko, Steve (External)	Fritz Durst, RD108 (Unverified)
Conference	Amy (Unverified)	Young, Amy@DWR (she/her) (	Barrett, Leslie (External)	Krystal Bell (External)
Jason Holley (External)	Marcus Maltby (External)	Amy (Unverified)	Fritz Durst, RD108 (Unverifi	Dan (Unverified)
Sean Kelly	Craig Hayes	15304587821 (Unverified)	Sikora, Jessica L (External)	
Petya Vasileva - CVWD (Unverified)	Amanda Dwyer (External)	Rude, Pete	Arthur, Samantha@CNRA (External)	
Cooke, Robert@DWR (External)	Esther Saenz (External)	Dan Branton (Unverified)	Wen Huang (External)	
Patrick Brown	Andrew Berselli (External)	Jeff (Unverified)	Ayoub Antabeel	
Pamela Katileba-Jenkins Westside Water	Hurley, Jason (External)	Amy (Unverified)	Jay Bradshaw (External)	
AC Conference Room (Unverified)	Michael Pliński (External)	Alexander, Jeriann (External)	Ian Garland (External)	
Rocucci, Pauline	Spranza, John (External)	Tom Jacobowsky (Unverified)	Steve Peters (External)	
Conner McDonald	Jeff Higgins	Kolkey, Jamie	Vincent Gin (External)	
Rob Cooke (Unverified)	Charlene Sun (External)	Pat Tangora (External)	Diane Barr (External)	
Fritz Durst, RD108 (Unverified)	19164689211 (Unverified)	Gobel, Jordan (External)	19259182225 (Unverified)	
Anthony.Middleton	Shelly Murphy (Unverified)	Brian Kirwan (External)	Samuel Perkins (External)	
CBS News Sacramento (Unverified)	Ryan Shaw	Tom Jacobowsky	Brian Thomas	
Ryan,Russell E (External)	Jason Brown (External)	Sara M. Katz (External)	Alexander, Lanaya	
Ewan Smith (Unverified)	Parker Bell (Unverified)	Alexander, Kurtis (External)	Viewer (Unverified)	
Luu, Henry (External)	Lonnie Rejda (External)	George, Janna	NCCU (Unverified)	
De Mascio, Michael	Pryor, Valerie (External)	Newens, Richard (External)	Keiko Mertz (External)	
Dan Calamuci (External)	Guest (Unverified)	Phil Brun (External)	Nico Regino (External)	
Robert Huang (External)	Sergio Giorlando	Neudeck,Randall D (External)	Bianca Sievers (External)	
15304546811 (Unverified)	Felix Cominotto (External)	Alan Rosenthal (External)	Edstrom, Andrew	
Steve Cole (External)	Shelly Murphy (Unverified)	Lanaya Alexander (Unverified)	Parker (Unverified)	
read.ai meeting notes (Unverified)	Austin, Anthony@DWR (Ext	Robert Cheng	Davis-Fadtke, Kristal@Wildlife	
Trent Taylor (External)	Jacobson, Allison M (Extern	Katherine Maher (External)	Brandon Coppedge (External)	
Mickey Nixon (External)	Arsenijevic, Jelica (External)	Steve Torigiani (External)	Nathan Monroe	
Robins, Rhonda (External)	Smalls,Samuel L (External)	Anthony L. Leonis (Unverified)	Jillian Smith	
Joe Feeney (External)	Rivera, Itzia@DWR (Externa	Pamela McNemar (Unverified)	Josh (Unverified)	