

SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY

2025
ANNUAL REPORT





A MESSAGE FROM THE SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY

\$129 million

allocated through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

2025 marked a year of significant momentum for the Sites Reservoir Project. Building on a strong foundation of milestones over the past few years, we advanced permitting, funding, contracting, and other key planning objectives—each one an essential component to moving the Project toward construction and delivering a 21st century, climate-resilient water storage solution for all of California.

\$134 million

from the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act)

We received key permits that help move Sites Reservoir toward construction while protecting endangered species, the environment, and our state water resources. In July, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife approved the Master Streambed Alteration Agreement, authorizing the Project to responsibly modify waterways necessary for construction. Shortly after, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued its Biological Opinion, confirming that the Project can be built and operated in compliance with federal endangered species protections. Together, these approvals reflect years of rigorous scientific analysis and collaboration with state and federal agencies to design a project that meets our water supply needs while still protecting the environment.

We also took a huge step forward in preparing for construction. The Sites Authority advanced the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) procurement process, shortlisting highly qualified, internationally recognized contractors and requesting detailed proposals for the Reservoir Package. We also adopted a Construction Workforce Policy that acknowledges the shared interests between the local community, labor groups, and the Sites Authority to support a construction program built on collaboration, stability, and a skilled regional workforce. These steps ensure the Project can move into construction swiftly after permitting is complete.

Nearly

\$219 million

in additional Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) approved by the state of California

Our state and federal partners continued to invest in Sites Reservoir, emphasizing the broad and bipartisan support that's been a hallmark of this project. The federal government allocated \$129 million through the IIJA and \$134 million from the WIIN Act, bringing the Bureau of Reclamation closer to achieving their 16% participation goal. The State of California reaffirmed its commitment to expanding water storage by approving nearly \$219 million in additional WSIP (Proposition 1/ Prop 1) funding through the California Water Commission. These investments help keep Sites Reservoir on track for a late 2026 groundbreaking and underscore the project's broad support and importance to California's water future.

This year also marked the 15th anniversary of the Sites Project Authority. This milestone reflects the enduring partnership between local agencies, communities, and partners who have worked together to advance a shared vision for a more reliable and flexible water system. Our collaboration continues to be the backbone of our success.

Once again, California experienced dramatic swings between wet and dry conditions in 2025, demonstrating the need for more water storage. Sites Reservoir would capture and store water that could be used to support communities, farms, and the environment. Most importantly, this demonstrates Project operations can deliver the results to meet funding requirements.

Each milestone brings us closer to delivering a 21st-century reservoir that will provide water reliability, operational flexibility, and environmental benefits for generations to come. Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we enter this exciting, next chapter.

Fritz Durst

CHAIRMAN,
Sites Project Authority Board of Directors

Robert Kunde

CHAIRMAN,
Sites Reservoir Committee



15 Years of Partnership, Progress, and Purpose

2025 marks the 15th anniversary of the Sites Project Authority—the governing body created in 2010 to advance the longstanding vision for an off-stream reservoir in the Sacramento Valley.

Over the past 15 years, the Sites Reservoir Project has reached major milestones driven by a commitment to community, affordability, collaboration, and opportunity. We look forward to the next 15 years when we expect to be filling the reservoir and possibly be delivering the first acre-foot of water.

2010 Sites Project Authority Formed

Local leaders in Colusa and Glenn Counties launched a collaborative effort to address California's water challenges.



2017 Prop 1 Application Submitted

The Sites Authority submitted the Project's application for Prop 1 funding to the California Water Commission.



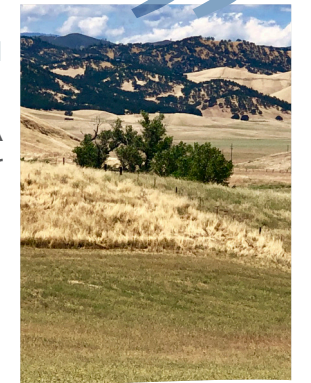
2019 Value Planning Completed

The Sites Authority went through a rigorous value planning process focused on affordability, permissibility, and buildability.



2024 CEQA Certification Upheld

The California courts upheld the Project's CEQA certification, affirming our rigorous environmental review process.



2014 Prop 1 Passed

Voters passed Prop 1, securing \$2.7 billion for water storage projects and paving the way for Sites Reservoir to secure substantial state funding.



2018 Largest Prop 1 Award & First Federal Funding Received

Sites Reservoir received \$816 million in Prop 1 funding from the California Water Commission and \$449 million in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



When I was a child and would drive through the Sites Valley with my dad, he always told me, 'Someday, they're going to build a reservoir right here.' Now, the day is here and we're going to build Sites Reservoir.

Rick Richter, Sites Valley Resident and Sites Project Authority Founding Member

2023 Final Environmental Review & Certification Completed

Sites Reservoir became the first project certified under Senate Bill 149 and the final EIR/EIS affirmed the project complies with California's rigorous environmental laws.



2025 Funding Committed

Federal funding reached \$780 million and state Proposition 1 funding reached \$1.09 billion, together covering about one third of the project cost.



PROGRESSING TOWARDS CONSTRUCTION

With a strong foundation of community support and respect, the building blocks are in place as Sites Reservoir progresses towards construction.

Key building blocks for progressing Sites Reservoir are:

■ BUILDING COLLABORATION

Awarded Additional Prop 1 Funding

The California Water Commission unanimously approved an additional \$218.9 million in inflationary funding Sites Reservoir, making the Project eligible for up to \$1.094 billion in WSIP funding.

Advanced Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Loan Process

The Sites Authority collaborated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on documents for their WIFIA loan, including advancing its financing strategy.

Collaborated with State and Federal Partners

To meet requirements for the State of California's WSIP, the Sites Project Authority collaborated with the Department of Water Resources and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to draft three public benefits agreements.

Advanced Local Partner Agreements

The Sites Project Authority and representatives from Glenn, Colusa, and Yolo counties collaborated to draft Developer Agreements that standardize work across the Project area and Impact Alleviation Agreements to avoid or mitigate potential community impacts. In collaboration with Participants, the Sites Authority advanced multiple drafts of the contracts that help move the Project from planning to construction.

Expanded Federal Investment

The Sites Authority received \$134 million in federal funding from the WIIN Act, bringing the total federal contributions to \$780 million to date.

■ CONSTRUCTION TEAM FORMATION

Launched Construction Procurement

The Sites Project Authority launched a competitive procurement process to select a CMAR for the Reservoir Package (selection of highest ranked proposer expected in early 2026).

Established Construction Workforce Policy

Adopted in April 2025 by the Sites Authority, the Construction Workforce Policy respects the longstanding relationships between local communities, contractors, and labor partners. The policy prioritizes the shared interests between the local community, labor, agricultural needs, and the Sites Authority.

■ FOUNDATIONAL PERMITTING

Secured Key Permits

The Sites Reservoir Project received two key permits:

- Construction Biological and Conference Opinion from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife



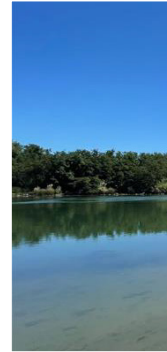
These decisions are essential to helping Sites Reservoir move toward construction in a way that is protective of listed species, their habitats, and the water resources of our State.

Ali Forsythe, Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager



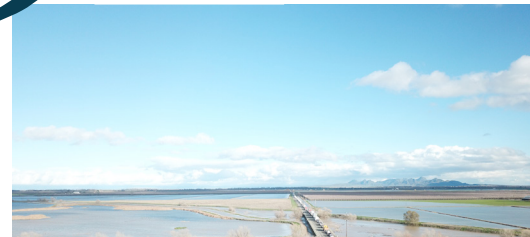
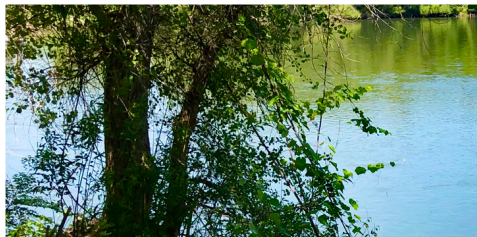
Embracing the CMAR approach set the stage for the Sites Project Authority to successfully deliver major components of the Project with the highest level of efficiency, expertise, cost certainty, and project management.

JP Robinette, Engineering and Construction Manager



We couldn't have gotten this far without the support of our regional and statewide partners. The broad and diverse support underscores the significant benefits it will provide to our communities, farms, and environment.

Jerry Brown, Executive Director



Each accomplishment in 2025 provides significant momentum forward and supports the Sites Project Authority's respect for local communities.



Affordable



Received Additional State and Federal Funding

The Sites Authority secured two additional federal appropriations of \$129 million in January and \$134 million in March. Additional investment under the California Water Commission's Water Storage Investment Program consisting of \$218 million inflationary increase with \$10.9 million of these funds allocated as early funding to advance key permitting and environmental documents.

OUTCOME → The contributions to date (\$780 million in federal appropriations and a maximum eligibility for the state exceeding \$1 billion) demonstrate the strong partnership between the Sites Authority, the federal government, and the state of California to advance the Sites Reservoir Project.

Preparing for Future Financing

In addition to coordinating with the EPA on the draft terms of the WIFIA Loan, the Sites Authority also advanced the approach for interim/short-term financing by issuing a request for qualifications to interested financing firms for future design and construction efforts.

OUTCOME → The Sites Authority has attracted strong interest from a range of financing firms to provide interim financing.

Permittable



Obtained Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement

Issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement identifies the effects of the construction on fish and wildlife associated with waters in the construction footprint.

OUTCOME → The advancement of permitting elements provides additional certainty to Participants that the Sites Reservoir Project is on target to advance.

Received Construction Biological and Conference Opinion

Completed under Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) with Bureau of Reclamation as the lead federal agency, the biological opinion issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service identifies the effects of the construction of the Sites Reservoir Project on eight federally-listed endangered or threatened species and the conference opinion identifies the effects of the construction of the Project on three species proposed for listing under the Federal ESA. The measures related to these three species take effect if the species are listed.

OUTCOME → In receiving this key permit, the Sites Project Authority is moving toward construction in a way that is protective of listed species, their habitats, and the water resources of California.

Effective Organization



Prioritized Participant Waitlist

The Sites Authority currently has 16 parties on its participation waitlist. In March, a priority ranking was established to outline how these agencies could join if space becomes available before or during the Investor Commitment escrow period.

OUTCOME → The Sites Authority is prepared to activate the waitlist at the appropriate time to maintain full participation in the project.

Continued Outreach and Tours for Partners and Interested Parties

Throughout 2025, the Sites Authority hosted Sites Reservoir Project tours for local partners and interested parties that shared information about design, funding, and permitting.

OUTCOME → The Sites Authority continues its commitment to transparent communication and keeping partners informed.

Buildable



Advanced Contractor Procurement

The Sites Project Authority conducted a two-step procurement process for the Reservoir Package including dams, roadways, and support facilities. Following the receipt of qualifications from candidate teams, the short list was invited to provide proposals and interview. From this group, the highest-ranked proposer was selected.

OUTCOME → Negotiations are in progress and the Sites Project Authority expects to select a Reservoir Package contractor in early 2026.

Adopted Construction Workforce Policy

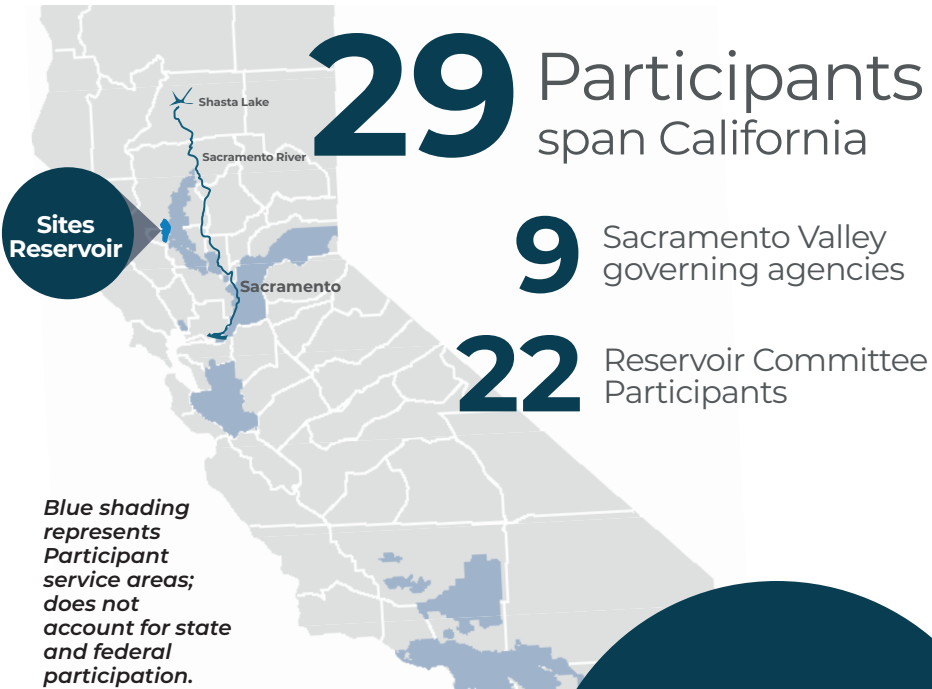
Acknowledging the history, working relationships, and shared interests, the Sites Project Authority and local, contracting, and labor communities adopted the Construction Workforce Policy that brings together overlapping workforce interests to facilitate the implementation and completion of the Sites Reservoir Project.

OUTCOME → The Sites Project Authority has established expectations for workforce utilization and the development of forthcoming Project Labor Agreements.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR: 15-Year Anniversary of the Sites Project Authority

As we celebrate the 15-year milestone, we're also looking ahead to the next chapter. In 2026, we anticipate securing a water right permit, another critical step toward construction. Each of the participating agencies in the Sites Project will be making a big decision about their participation in the project in 2026. By late 2026, we expect to break ground on Sites Reservoir, moving the project from planning and permitting to a reality.

With widespread and varied support throughout California, the Sites Reservoir Project remains feasible as it nears construction.



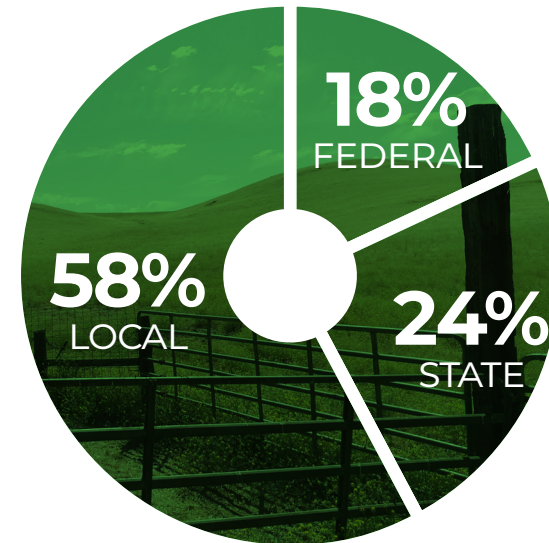
The Sites Reservoir Project has strong, broad support across California.



2025 Costs, Funding, and Schedule

Cost Share

Since 2015 through December 31, 2025



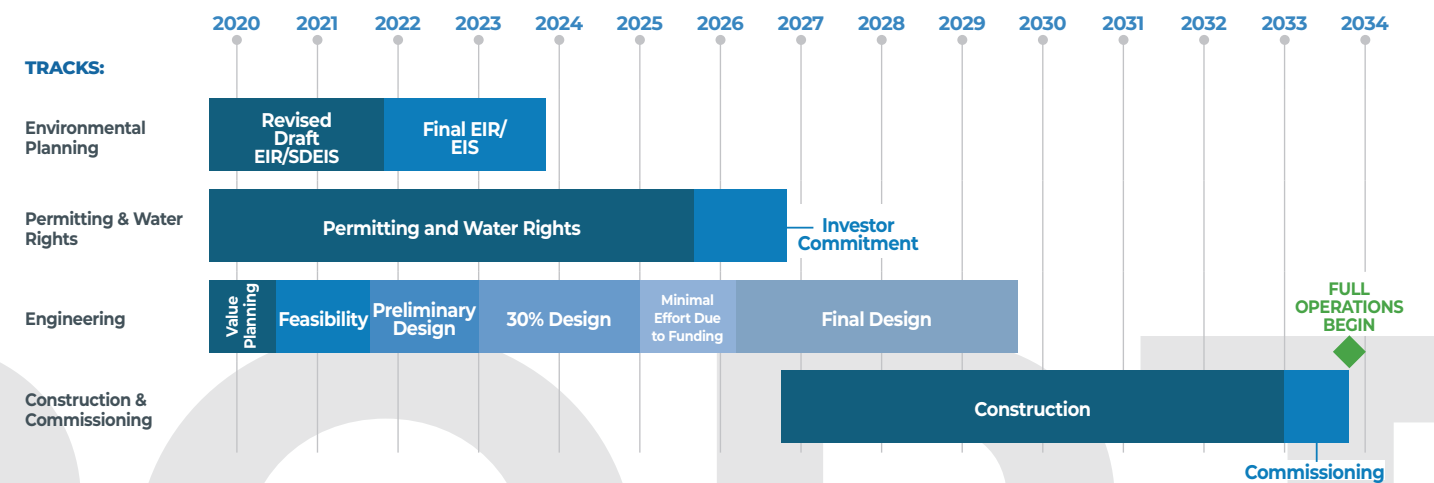
Roughly **\$180M** has been expended since 2015.

Approximate Sources and Uses of Funds*

Source of Funds	
Membership Admin/Authority	\$415,000
Membership Water	\$6,660,000
Rental Income	\$20,000
Interest	\$1,108,000
TOTAL	\$8,203,000
Use of Funds	
Communications	\$443,000
Engineering	\$4,300,000
External Affairs	\$378,000
General Project Activities	\$815,000
Permitting	\$7,195,000
Planning	\$114,000
Program Operations	\$5,204,000
Real Estate	\$4,090,000
TOTAL	\$22,538,000

*unaudited, rounded to the nearest thousand dollar

Sites Authority Project Schedule



PROGRESS

Diverse Statewide Support for the Sites Reservoir Project



Cortina Water District | Davis Water District | LaGrande Water District
Zone 3 – Colusa County Flood Control Water Conservation District



2025 Annual Report

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