



# Sites Project Authority

## 2025 Progress Report

2025 was a year of significant momentum for the Sites Reservoir Project. Building on a strong foundation of milestones, 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. We received key permits that move Sites Reservoir toward construction while protecting endangered species, the environment, and our state’s water resources. Our state and federal partners continued to invest in the project, emphasizing the broad and bipartisan support that has been a hallmark of Sites Reservoir. We also took a significant step toward construction by advancing the CMAR procurement process and adopting a Construction Workforce Policy built on collaboration with local communities and labor partners.

2025 also marked the Sites Project Authority’s 15th anniversary—a milestone that reflects the enduring partnership between local agencies, communities, and stakeholders who have worked together to advance a shared vision for a more reliable and flexible water system. These achievements keep Sites Reservoir on track as the project moves closer to construction and underscores its importance to California’s water future. 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.

### With Sites Reservoir, there can be significant benefits for California’s communities, farms, and environment including:

-  **Off-stream Storage**  
Does not create a barrier to native fish migration
-  **Cooperative Operation**  
Increases effectiveness and efficiency of existing water storage infrastructure
-  **Federal and State Agencies Manage Environmental Water**  
Adaptable to current and future conditions and priorities
-  **Adaptable to Climate Change**  
Contributes to system reliability and performance with climate change
-  **Local Leadership and Cooperation**  
Aligns with Sacramento Valley’s values and fosters regional and statewide collaboration
-  **Dry Year Water Supply**  
Reliable dry year water supply for California communities, farms, and businesses
-  **Recreational Opportunities**  
Provides northern Sacramento Valley with additional opportunities for recreation
-  **Environmental Support**  
Provides environmental water in drier periods for native fish, and habitat for native species and birds

# 2025 Highlights and Milestones



## Affordable

### Received Additional State and Federal Funding

The 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 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 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 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 construction on fish and wildlife associated with waters in the construction footprint.

**OUTCOME →** Advancing permitting elements provides additional certainty to Participants that the Sites Reservoir Project remains on track.

### 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 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 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

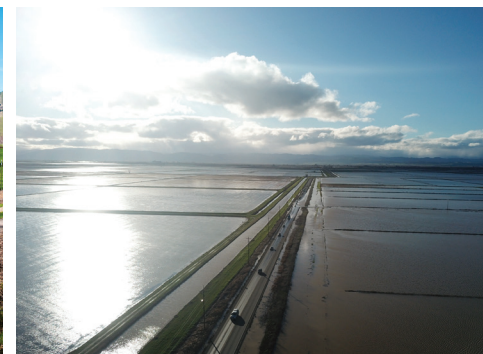
The Authority currently has 16 parties on its participation waitlist. In March, a priority ranking was established to outline how these agencies could join if space becomes available before or during the Investor Commitment escrow period.

**OUTCOME →** The 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 Authority hosted Sites Reservoir Project tours for local partners and interested parties that shared information about design, funding, and permitting.

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



## Buildable

### Advanced Contractor Procurement

The 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 interviews. From this group, the highest-ranked proposer was selected.

**OUTCOME →** The Authority selected a Reservoir Package contractor in early 2026 and expects to select a Conveyance Package contractor in summer 2026.

### Adopted Construction Workforce Policy

Acknowledging their history, working relationships, and shared interests, the 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 Authority has established expectations for workforce utilization and the development of forthcoming Project Labor Agreements.