



FOOTHILL MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Altadena - La Cañada Flintridge - La Crescenta

August 11, 2025

California Water Commission
P.O. Box 924836
Sacramento, CA 94236

RE: Letter of Support -Reallocation of Water Storage Investment Program funding to the Sites Reservoir Project.

Dear California Water Commission,

On behalf of Foothill Municipal Water District, I am writing this letter to express my support for the reallocation of Water Storage Investment Program funding to the Sites Reservoir Project.

Sites Reservoir is a 21st-century, multi-benefit water storage project designed to deliver a more resilient and reliable water supply for California's communities, farms, and environment. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to expand California's off-stream storage capacity and capture up to 1.5 million acre-feet of water during wet years for use during dry periods.

Both state leaders and leading scientists have emphasized how critical this type of storage is to securing California's long-term water future. Now more than ever, we need innovative solutions to ensure we have a sustainable water supply.

One critically important benefit is that Sites Reservoir takes a novel approach to the ecosystem public benefit outlined by Prop 1. Sites will be the first and only reservoir in California that captures and stores water, specifically for the environment, to support fish and their habitat.

For the first time, it introduces the idea of creating and dedicating an asset for flexibly managing water supply for environmental purposes. As currently envisioned, the environment is the single largest user of water out of Sites Reservoir; it marks a big shift to prioritizing the environment in our water management.

There are benefits beyond the environmental ones, too. The Sites Project Authority has spent years thoughtfully designing a project that balances water supply reliability with environmental stewardship.

The project has broad and diverse support because of the vast benefits that stretch up and down the state to farms, cities, businesses, and homes from Northern California to Southern California.

Sites Reservoir is a key part of California's comprehensive Water Supply Strategy to ensure the state is more resilient and resistant to current and future droughts. Sites Reservoir would provide additional water storage capacity as hotter and drier weather is predicted to diminish our existing water supply by up to 10 percent by 2040. State leaders have set a goal of creating storage space for 4 million acre-feet of water to capitalize on big storms and capture that water for future use. With a capacity of approximately 1.5 million acre-feet, Sites is key to capturing and storing more of this stormwater. Surface water storage, like Sites Reservoir, provides flexibility; reserves can be released when needed to meet demands for water supply, aquatic habitat, flood control, and more.

Sites Reservoir is a rain-fed storage solution designed to adapt to future climate conditions, which are predicted to bring California more extreme storms that generate heavy rainfall. Today, there is no existing infrastructure in place to capture and store excess water flows from the Sacramento River for use in subsequent dry years, but Sites Reservoir would perform best under these conditions. When water is abundant in the Sacramento River from rainstorms, Sites Reservoir could safely and protectively divert a portion of the high flows, leaving ample water in the River and Delta for important ecological needs. Sites Reservoir will be operated in coordination with the State Water Project and Central Valley Project, improving management of California's water supply during extremes such as flooding and drought.

We urge you to act with urgency and support the reallocation of funding to help make this vital project a reality.

Thank you for considering Foothill Municipal Water District support. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 818-790-4036 ext. 102 or nina.jaz@fmwd.com if you require any further information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nina Jazmadarian
General Manager
Foothill Municipal Water District