



August 15, 2025

**California Water Commission**

P.O. Box 942836

Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

**Subject:** Support for **Reallocation of Water Storage Investment Program Funding to Sites Reservoir**

Dear Chair Stener and Commissioners,

On behalf of the Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC) and our diverse membership of public agencies, businesses, environmental organizations, and community leaders, we express our strong support for the reallocation of Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) funding to the Sites Reservoir Project.

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

Critically, Sites Reservoir introduces a groundbreaking approach to the ecosystem public benefit envisioned under Proposition 1. It will be the first and only reservoir in California designed to capture and store water specifically for the environment, ensuring dedicated supplies for fish and habitat restoration. The environment will be the single largest “user” of water from Sites Reservoir, marking a fundamental shift toward prioritizing ecosystem needs in our water management strategies.

Beyond these environmental benefits, Sites Reservoir has been designed to balance water supply reliability with environmental stewardship, providing far-reaching advantages:

**Water Storage & Resiliency**

- Supports California's Water Supply Strategy to create storage for 4 million acre-feet of water.
- Captures excess stormwater from the Sacramento River, reducing reliance on diminishing snowpack.
- Operates in coordination with the State Water Project and Central Valley Project to improve flexibility and reliability in both wet and dry years.

**Climate Adaptation**

- Performs best under future climate conditions with more extreme rainfall events.
- Leaves ample water in the Sacramento River and Delta for ecological needs while capturing high flows for later use.

**Agricultural Sustainability**

- Provides reliable supplies to sustain California's agricultural economy, ensuring a stable food supply and supporting rural communities.

**Economic Benefits**



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- Locally led, creating jobs, training opportunities, and economic growth in the region.
- Generates statewide benefits through tax revenue, business activity, and enhanced water reliability for farms, cities, and industry.

The Sites Project Authority has spent years building broad and diverse support for this effort because it is the right project at the right time. By reallocating WSIP funding, the Commission can ensure that this vital project moves forward without delay, delivering benefits from Northern California to Southern California.

SCWC urges the California Water Commission to act with urgency and approve the reallocation of WSIP funding to the Sites Reservoir Project. The future of California's water security, environmental health, and economic vitality depends on forward-looking investments like this.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to advancing solutions that meet California's water needs for generations to come.

Sincerely,

***Charley Wilson***

Executive Director & CEO

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