



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.

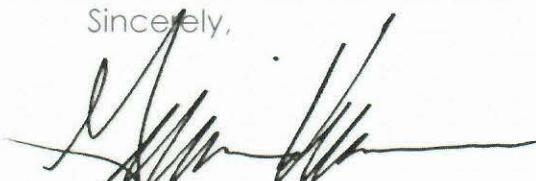
This public investment reflects the project's profound public importance. As you are aware, recent analysis found that Sites could have diverted more than 168,000 acre-feet during the recent atmospheric events in December and January, in addition to the 1.35 million acre-feet captured during the 2024 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".

Gavin Newsom
Governor of California