



May 31, 2023

TO: E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair
California State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor^[L]_[SEP]
Sacramento, CA 95814

FR: California Business Properties Association
Bay Area Council
Building Owners & Managers Assn of California
California Business Roundtable
Orange County Business Council

NFIB – Small Business Association
California Manufacturing & Technology Assn
California Building Industry Association
NAIOP California
Southern California Leadership Council

RE: *Support for Sites Reservoir Permit*

On behalf of the listed organizations, we are writing to encourage the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to approve a water right permit for the proposed Sites Reservoir, a unique, multi-benefit water storage project that would provide a reliable water supply for California’s environment, communities, and farms for decades to come.

Located ten miles west of the town of Maxwell in rural Glenn and Colusa counties, Sites Reservoir would be an off-stream storage facility that captures and stores stormwater flows in the Sacramento River for California communities, farms, and businesses. When integrated with the state’s existing water management system, it would increase the total amount of managed water in storage and create additional flexibility to adapt to changing conditions.

Sites Reservoir is a modern, once-in-a-generation water project designed with both environmental values and water supply needs in mind. It is an off-stream facility that does not dam a major river system and does not threaten fish migration or spawning. Additionally, diversions would occur through existing state-of-the-art fish screens according to highly protective operating and permit conditions. Finally, through its investment in Sites Reservoir under Proposition 1, the state is creating a first-of-its-kind environmental water asset for California with dedicated storage for current and future environmental needs.

Sites Reservoir is a flexible storage system inherently designed to adapt to California’s changing climate by capturing and storing water when flows are high for use during dry periods when it is needed most. Climate projections show future precipitation will mostly come in the form of rain and not snow, and Sites Reservoir is specifically designed to capture and store this rain for future use. Sites Reservoir will increase the resiliency of water supplies because it will capture water that is surplus to existing water rights and in a manner that will not unreasonably affect fish and wildlife, and store it for future use by project participants. Sites Reservoir would be in the public interest because it would conserve and use water that is in excess of downstream demands, environmental needs, and Delta water quality requirements.

Sites Reservoir has broad and diverse support from cities, counties, water agencies, and irrigation districts throughout the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Bay Area, and Southern California which are working together to advance the project. Now, more than ever, California needs to address its statewide water management challenges through innovative solutions that address our state’s need for a sustainable water supply.

For these reasons, we encourage the State Water Board to timely approve a water right permit for the Sites Reservoir project.

Thank you for taking our views into consideration. Please contact Matthew Hargrove, President/CEO at CA Business Properties Association if you have any questions (916-443-4676 or mhargrove@cbpa.com).