Appendix 36
Consultation and Coordination

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Appendix 36A
Supplemental Scoping Report

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Supplemental Scoping Report

Sites Reservoir Project Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

AUGUST 2017

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Attachments

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

Authority	Sites Project Authority
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CVP	Central Valley Project
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EIR/EIS	Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NODOS	North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOP	Notice of Preparation
Project	Sites Reservoir Project
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
SLC	State Lands Commission
SWP	State Water Project
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board

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APPENDIX 36A
Supplemental Scoping Report

36A.1 Background and Summary of Scoping Process

This report supplements the information provided in the October 2002 North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation Scoping Report prepared by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Action (CEQA) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) as the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The October 2002 Scoping Report (included as Appendix 36B) provided an overview of the written and verbal comments received on the North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage Investigation (NODOS) Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). The report summarized the public concerns, evaluated the magnitude of the concerns, and provided decision makers information on the suggested range of alternatives to be considered in the analyses and the EIR/EIS.

Since the preparation of the 2002 Scoping Report, the Sites Project Authority (Authority) has assumed the role of CEQA lead agency in lieu of DWR. Because of this change in lead agency, on February 2, 2017, the Authority issued a Supplemental Notice of Preparation (Supplemental NOP) for the Draft EIR/EIS for the Sites Reservoir Project (Project). If approved, the Authority would be responsible for constructing, operating, and maintaining the Project. Reclamation remains the federal lead agency under NEPA.

The Project, formerly known as NODOS, is the same project that was the subject of a previous NOP issued by DWR on November 5, 2001, and a previous Notice of Intent (NOI) issued by Reclamation on November 9, 2001.

This Scoping Report provides an overview of the 2017 scoping process and comments received.

36A.2 Notification and 2017 Scoping Meetings

As discussed above, the Authority issued a Supplemental NOP on February 2, 2017 (Attachment 1). The NOP notified the public of the Project and of the change in CEQA lead agency, announced the dates and locations of public meetings, and solicited public comments. Public notification was also made through direct mailings to landowners (Attachment 2) and by advertisements in two local newspapers (Attachment 3), and a news release was placed on the Authority website home page. The formal scoping process announced by the Supplemental NOP concluded on March 2, 2017. During this period, two public scoping meetings were held (Table 1).

The meetings were open house format with several stations for attendees to ask questions, obtain additional information, and view various displays. Stations and Project participants addressed topics including landowner-related information, environmental review process, design, and proposed operations. Attendees were provided the opportunity to submit comments at the meetings or via e-mail, standard e-mail, or fax.

Table 1
Summary of Scoping Meetings

Meeting Location	Date and Time	Attendees[a]
Sacramento	February 14, 2017	38
Maxwell	February 15, 2017	16

[a] Attendees are those who signed the guest register at the meeting.

36A.3 Summary of Comments and Responses

A total of five comments were submitted during the public scoping meetings. A summary by topic of comments received during the meetings is provided in Table 2.

Table 2
Summary of Scoping Meetings

Commenter	Representing	Comment Topics/Summary
Lindsay Wood	Not identified	Underground alternative Rate of evaporation Seismic
Anonymous	Not identified	Seismicity Environmental benefits Power generation Evaporation and rain-shadow effects
Lucus MossMerz	Sacramento River Preservation Trust	Flow requirement determination Expand the flow of tributaries diverted by Project
Jon Rosenfield	The Bay Institute	Range of Alternatives – no reduction of winter/spring Delta outflow Cumulative impact assessment should include CalWaterFix and other Water Storage Investment Program projects
Greg Watkins	City of Shasta Lake	Cost per acre-foot compared to the Shasta enlargement project

The Authority also received comments during the supplemental scoping process via e-mail and standard mail. Approximately 138 of the total number of comments submitted by e-mail included the following recommendations regarding the scope of the EIR:

- Quantify the net public environmental benefits
- Identify how much water will be allocated to the environment
- Identify what guarantees that the water for the environment will be available when needed

These comments also requested details on the following:

- Project costs (both construction and operations)
- Project ownership and operational control
- Annual yield and changes to the yield with global warming

- Water loss from evaporation
- Reservoir-induced seismicity
- Greenhouse gas production from construction and operations
- Potential for integrated operations with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Shasta Dam enlargement, and CalWaterFix
- Mitigation measures for footprint impacts

The remainder of the comments submitted by e-mail are summarized in Table 3. Duplicates of many of these comments were also received by U.S. Mail.

Table 3
Summary of Comments Received via E-mail/Standard Mail during the Scoping Period

Commenter	Representing	Comment Topics and Summary
Richard Boylan, PhD	Not identified	The Project is too costly and has outdated engineering. The EIR should evaluate additional alternatives, including the following: • Groundwater charging basins • Watershed vegetation management • Valley-floor storage lakes • Raising Shasta Dam • Raising levees in the wildlife refuges
Kristy Santucci	Not identified	• Provide details on the pipeline alignment and existing conservation easements • Provide the width of the pipeline easement • Describe how current and future farming operations will be impacted

Commenter	Representing	Comment Topics and Summary
Steven L Evans, Friends of the River Lucas Ross-Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust Noah Oppenheim, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association	Friends of the River, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association / Institute of Fisheries Resources	Concern that feasibility study is not complete. Key issues include the following: • Quantification of benefits/impacts • Operation with and without WaterFix • Central Valley Project (CVP) / State Water Project (SWP) operational situation • Groundwater and water transfers • Reasonably foreseeable future uses • Water rights; operations (including high run-off diversion and hydroelectric) • Cost • Beneficiaries • Water yield • Sacramento River flows • Floodplain maintenance and bypass flows • Sacramento River environmental requirements • Evaporation • Use of multiple models • River fish screens and hard points
Doub Obegi, Rachel Zwillinger, Gary Bobker	NRDC, Defenders of Wildlife, Bay Institute	• Define the objectives regarding operational flexibility and reliability • Environmental baseline conditions should include the current Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan and current biological opinions • Consider a broad range of operational alternatives • Evaluate impacts due to climate change; do not use the 2070 future conditions • Cumulative impacts must include the impacts of California WaterFix • Evaluation included in the 2014 Admin Draft should not be the sole basis of the analysis • Update analyses to use the best available scientific information

Commenter	Representing	Comment Topics and Summary
Cassandra Enos-Nobriga, Deputy Executive Officer	Delta Stewardship Council	• Is the Project a "covered action" that requires Delta Plan consistency certification? • Delta Plan regulatory policies that may be relevant: reduced reliance on the Delta through improved regional water self-reliance; Delta flow objectives; protect opportunities to restore habitat; avoid introduction of and habitat improvements for invasive nonnative species. • Coordination of systemwide operations with other water managers • Water quality effects • Project feasibility in the wake of recent hydrologic conditions and climate change • Systemwide impacts on fish migration; impacts on juvenile salmonids
Cy R Oggins, Chief Division of Environmental Planning and Management	State Lands Commission (SLC)	SLC will act as a trustee agency for project effects on sovereign land and their public trust resources and uses. The SLC may also act as a responsible agency for project components on sovereign lands (including ungranted tidelands, submerged lands, and the beds of navigable lakes and waterways).
Leslie L Grober, Deputy Director – Division of Water Rights	California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	• SWRCB will act as a responsible agency. The CEQA document must consider all potential impacts associated with the diversion and use of water. • The Project appears to require a 401 certification from the Central Valley Regional Water Board. • Should the Authority seek a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license, an application for water quality certification would be required to the State Water Board.
Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)	• CDFW will act as a trustee agency for the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biological sustainable populations. • Recommends splitting the analysis of Alternative D into two or more alternatives to include entire range of water operation scenarios. • Impact Analysis: instream flow, hydropower, hydrology, wildlife populations and movement, anadromous fish, threatened and endangered species, wetlands, migratory birds and birds of prey, cumulative impacts.

Commenter	Representing	Comment Topics and Summary
Chris Shutes, Water Rights Advocate	California Sportfishing Protection Alliance	Operations; integration with SWP/CVP operations; offsets for North of Delta water deliveries; SWP/CVP delivery offsets and effects on environmental benefits; precise mechanisms of providing and assuring environmental benefits; environmental benefits are not existing requirements; operational alternatives under various conditions; climate change operational impacts; sediment load management; performance under various flow requirements; analyze a sufficiently distinct range of alternatives; alternative where Project is operated in conjunction with WaterFix; applicable water rights; storage at sites pursuant to CVP/SWP contracts; water transfers; identify Project investors and beneficiaries; legal basis for Reclamation ownership of hydroelectric facilities to avoid FERC licensing; hydropower component and pumping operations; amount of water Project will produce under a variety of scenarios (flows and regulatory); hydrological, water quality thermal, cultural resources, and species/habitat impacts; release points; hydrodynamics; redivert water from the Trinity River?; reservoir-induced seismicity and public safety issues; zone of inundation; use of transparent modeling.
Daniel Gomez, Tribal Chairman	Colusa Indian Community	• Impact to Tribal Reservation, Rancheria and Tribal trust, and free lands • Tribal burial sites within the potential area of Project effect • Impact to tribal water supply • Geomorphology changes downstream of the Project • Water quality impacts
Stephanie Tadlock, Environmental Scientist	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board	Address impacts to the following: • Surface and groundwater quality Include compliance with the following: • Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans • Best management practices to maximum extent practicable • Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permits, if applicable • Industrial Storm Water General permit, if applicable • Clean Water Act Section 404 • CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement • Clean Water Act Section 401 • Waste Discharge Requirement permit • Dewatering permit • Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program • National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit

Commenter	Representing	Comment Topics and Summary
John Monroe, Owner	Done-Again Farms	• Recreation – provide access to the reservoir and evaluate any losses to existing recreational opportunities • Impacts of proposed bridge and its impacts • Causes, effects, and risks of wildfires. Address both within the watershed and closed to the reservoir. Also, increase wildfires from additional recreation. • Impact on the microclimate and albedo • Address all operational energy needs, timing, and sources; use carbon-free sources. • Integrate new cost-effective technology throughout the course of the Project.

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Attachment 1
Notice of Preparation

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

KEN ALEX
DIRECTOR

Notice of Preparation

February 1, 2017

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: Sites Reservoir Project
SCH# 2001112009

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Sites Reservoir Project draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

Jim Watson
Site Project Authority
PO Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Lead Agency

Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 2001112009
Project Title Sites Reservoir Project
Lead Agency Site Project Authority

Type NOP Notice of Preparation

Description The proposed sites reservoir project would consist of a new offstream storage reservoir with a capacity of up to 1.9 MAF. The sites reservoir would be approximately 12,000-14,000 acres in size and would be created by inundating the area around the unincorporated community of sites, CA, which is referred to locally as Antelope Valley.
Up to eleven dams would be needed to create the proposed sites reservoir. There would be two main dams: the Golden Gate Dam on Funks Creek, and the sites dam on Stone Corral Creek. The sites reservoir project also would include an inlet/outlet structure; a pumping plant, electrical switchyard and overhead power lines; and a tunnel approximately 4,030 feet in length connecting the pumping plant to the reservoir.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Jim Watson
Agency Site Project Authority
Phone 530-438-2309 **Fax**
email
Address PO Box 517
City Maxwell **State** CA **Zip** 95955

Project Location

County Glenn, Colusa
City
Region
Cross Streets Maxwell Sites Rd. and Sites Lodoga Rd
Lat / Long 39° 19' 42.49" N / 122° 19' 35.1" W
Parcel No. various
Township 17N **Range** 4W **Section** 17 **Base**

Proximity to:

Highways I-5
Airports
Railways UPRR
Waterways Sacramento River, GCID Canal, Funks Creek
Schools
Land Use Exclusive ag, ag/forestry

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Flood Plain/Flooding; Geologic/Seismic; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Solid Waste; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Landuse; Cumulative Effects

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Central Valley Flood Protection Board; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 2; Delta Stewardship Council; Delta Protection Commission; Native American Heritage Commission; Public Utilities Commission; California Highway Patrol; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water; Caltrans, District 3 N; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Sacramento); Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Redding)

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.

Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base

Date Received 02/01/2017 *Start of Review* 02/01/2017 *End of Review* 03/02/2017

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.

Print Form

Appendix C

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

2001112009

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Sites Reservoir Project

Lead Agency: Site Project Authority
Contact Person: Jim Watson
Mailing Address: PO Box 517
Phone: (530) 438-2309
City: Maxwell Zip: 95955
County: Colusa

Project Location: County: Glenn and Colusa City/Nearest Community: Sites and Maxwell
Cross Streets: Maxwell Sites Rd. and Sites Lodoga Rd. Zip Code: 95955
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 122 ° 19 ′ 35.13″ N / 39 ° 19 ′ 42.49″ W Total Acres: 27,140
Assessor's Parcel No.: Various Section: 17 Twp.: 17N Range: 4W Base:
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: Interstate 5 Waterways: Sacramento River, GCID Canal, Funks Creek
Airports: Railways: UPRR Schools:

Document Type:

CEQA: ☒ NOP ☐ Draft EIR ☐ Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR ☐ Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) ☐ Mit Neg Dec Other:

NEPA: ☐ NOI ☐ EA ☐ Draft EIS ☐ FONSI

Other: ☐ Joint Document ☐ Final Document ☐ Other:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
FEB 01 2017
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ General Plan Element ☐ Community Plan
☐ Specific Plan ☐ Master Plan ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Site Plan
☐ Rezone ☐ Prezone ☐ Use Permit ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)
☐ Annexation ☐ Redevelopment ☐ Coastal Permit ☐ Other:

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units Acres
☐ Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
☐ Educational:
☐ Recreational:
☒ Water Facilities: Type Reservoir MGD 1.81 MAF
☐ Transportation: Type
☐ Mining: Mineral
☐ Power: Type MW
☐ Waste Treatment: Type MGD
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type
☐ Other:

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual ☒ Agricultural Land ☒ Air Quality ☒ Archeological/Historical ☒ Biological Resources ☐ Coastal Zone ☐ Drainage/Absorption ☐ Economic/Jobs
☐ Fiscal ☒ Flood Plain/Flooding ☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☒ Geologic/Seismic ☐ Minerals ☒ Noise ☒ Population/Housing Balance ☒ Public Services/Facilities
☒ Recreation/Parks ☐ Schools/Universities ☐ Septic Systems ☐ Sewer Capacity ☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☒ Solid Waste ☐ Toxic/Hazardous ☒ Traffic/Circulation
☒ Vegetation ☒ Water Quality ☒ Water Supply/Groundwater ☒ Wetland/Riparian ☐ Growth Inducement ☒ Land Use ☒ Cumulative Effects ☐ Other:

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Exclusive Agriculture, Agriculture/Forestry,

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

The proposed Sites Reservoir Project would consist of a new offstream storage reservoir with a capacity of up to 1.9 MAF. The Sites Reservoir would be approximately 12,000-14,000 acres in size and would be created by inundating the area around the unincorporated community of Sites, California, which is referred to locally as Antelope Valley.

Up to eleven dams would be needed to create the proposed Sites Reservoir. There would be two main dams: the Golden Gate Dam on Funks Creek, and the Sites Dam on Stone Corral Creek. The Sites Reservoir Project also would include an inlet/outlet structure; a pumping plant, electrical switchyard and overhead power lines; and a tunnel approximately 4,030 feet in length connecting the pumping plant to the reservoir.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

NOP Distribution List

County: Glenn . Colusa

SCH# 2001112009

esources Agency

- Resources Agency
  Nadell Gayou
- Dept. of Boating & Waterways
  Denise Peterson
- California Coastal Commission
  Elizabeth A. Fuchs
- Colorado River Board
  Lisa Johansen
- Dept. of Conservation
  Crina Chan
- California Energy Commission
  Eric Knight
- Cal Fire
  Dan Foster
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board
  James Herota
- Office of Historic Preservation
  Ron Parsons
- Dept of Parks & Recreation
  Environmental Stewardship Section
- California Department of Resources, Recycling & Recovery
  Sue O'Leary
- S.F. Bay Conservation & Dev't. Comm.
  Steve Goldbeck
- Dept. of Water Resources
  Resources Agency
  Nadell Gayou

Fish and Game

- Depart. of Fish & Wildlife
  Scott Flint
  Environmental Services Division
- Fish & Wildlife Region 1
  Curt Babcock
- Fish & Wildlife Region 1E
  Laurie Harnsberger
- Fish & Wildlife Region 2
  Jeff Drongesen
- Fish & Wildlife Region 3
  Craig Weightman
- Fish & Wildlife Region 4
  Julie Vance
- Fish & Wildlife Region 5
  Leslie Newton-Reed
  Habitat Conservation Program
- Fish & Wildlife Region 6
  Tiffany Ellis
  Habitat Conservation Program
- Fish & Wildlife Region 6 I/M
  Heidi Calvert
  Inyo/Mono, Habitat Conservation Program
- Dept. of Fish & Wildlife M
  William Paznokas
  Marine Region

Other Departments

- Food & Agriculture
  Sandra Schubert
  Dept. of Food and Agriculture
- Dept. of General Services
  Cathy Buck
  Environmental Services Section
- Delta Stewardship Council
  Kevan Samsam
- Housing & Comm. Dev.
  CEQA Coordinator
  Housing Policy Division

Independent Commissions,Boards

- Delta Protection Commission
  Erik Vink
- OES (Office of Emergency Services)
  Monique Wilber
- Native American Heritage Comm.
  Debbie Treadway
- Public Utilities Commission
  Supervisor
- Santa Monica Bay Restoration
  Guangyu Wang
- State Lands Commission
  Jennifer Deleong
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)
  Cherry Jacques

Cal State Transportation Agency CalSTA

- Caltrans - Division of Aeronautics
  Philip Crimmins
- Caltrans – Planning
  HQ LD-IGR
  Christian Bushong
- California Highway Patrol
  Suzann Ikeuchi
  Office of Special Projects

Dept. of Transportation

- Caltrans, District 1
  Rex Jackman
- Caltrans, District 2
  Marcelino Gonzalez
- Caltrans, District 3
  Eric Federicks – South
  Susan Zanchi - North
- Caltrans, District 4
  Patricia Maurice
- Caltrans, District 5
  Larry Newland
- Caltrans, District 6
  Michael Navarro
- Caltrans, District 7
  Dianna Watson
- Caltrans, District 8
  Mark Roberts
- Caltrans, District 9
  Gayle Rosander
- Caltrans, District 10
  Tom Dumas
- Caltrans, District 11
  Jacob Armstrong
- Caltrans, District 12
  Maureen El Harake

Cal EPA

Air Resources Board

- Airport & Freight
  Cathi Slaminski
  - Transportation Projects
    Nesamani Kalandiyur
  - Industrial/Energy Projects
    Mike Tollstrup
- State Water Resources Control Board
  Regional Programs Unit
  Division of Financial Assistance
- State Water Resources Control Board
  Cindy Forbes – Asst Deputy
  Division of Drinking Water
- State Water Resources Control Board
  Div. Drinking Water #_____
- State Water Resources Control Board
  Student Intern, 401 Water Quality Certification Unit
  Division of Water Quality
- State Water Resouces Control Board
  Phil Crader
  Division of Water Rights
- Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
  CEQA Tracking Center
- Department of Pesticide Regulation
  CEQA Coordinator

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

- RWQCB 1
  Cathleen Hudson
  North Coast Region (1)
- RWQCB 2
  Environmental Document Coordinator
  San Francisco Bay Region (2)
- RWQCB 3
  Central Coast Region (3)
- RWQCB 4
  Teresa Rodgers
  Los Angeles Region (4)
- RWQCB 5S
  Central Valley Region (5)
  - RWQCB 5F
    Central Valley Region (5)
    Fresno Branch Office
  - RWQCB 5R
    Central Valley Region (5)
    Redding Branch Office
- RWQCB 6
  Lahontan Region (6)
  - RWQCB 6V
    Lahontan Region (6)
    Victorville Branch Office
- RWQCB 7
  Colorado River Basin Region (7)
- RWQCB 8
  Santa Ana Region (8)
- RWQCB 9
  San Diego Region (9)

- Other _____
  _____
  _____
- _____
  Conservancy

Last Updated 1/17/17

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SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Environmental Impact Report for the Sites Reservoir Project
January 23, 2017

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the proposal to construct and operate a new offstream water storage reservoir and associated facilities near the town of Maxwell, California. The proposed project is the same project that was the subject of a previous Notice of Preparation (NOP) to prepare an EIR under CEQA that was issued on November 5, 2001 by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR)[1] and a previous Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that was published on November 9, 2001 by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). This Supplemental NOP is being issued because the CEQA lead agency for the proposed Project has changed from DWR to the Authority. There is no change in the federal lead agency for the proposed Project, which continues to be Reclamation.

1.1 Background

The Sites Reservoir Project (previously known as the North of Delta Offstream Storage Project, or NODOS) was identified in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program approved in 2000 as an important potential surface water storage project warranting further consideration. The CALFED Program was a cooperative, interagency effort of more than 20 State and Federal agencies established to develop a long-term comprehensive plan for improving California's water supply and the ecological health of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

After years of intensive study, the California Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency, along with the United States Department of Interior and various other Federal agencies, approved and executed the CALFED Record of Decision (ROD) on August 28, 2000. The ROD determined that expanding water storage capacity in the state is critical to the successful implementation of the CALFED Program. The ROD stated that additional water storage is not only needed to meet the needs of a growing population, but, if strategically located, also will provide much needed flexibility in the system to improve water quality and support fish restoration efforts. As the ROD recognized, water supply reliability depends upon capturing water during peak flows and during wet years, as well as more efficient water use through conservation and recycling.

[1] The November 5, 2001 NOP is available at https://www.sitesproject.org/ and http://www.water.ca.gov/storage/northdelta/

As described by the ROD, the Sites Reservoir Project, in addition to providing other important water storage and operational benefits, can greatly increase the reliability of water supplies for a significant portion of the Sacramento Valley and elsewhere in the State. The ROD identified two actions for further evaluation of the proposed Sites Reservoir Project. The first was to create a partnership with local water interests, and the second was to complete the environmental review under CEQA and NEPA. The first of these actions has been completed. The Authority's preparation of an EIR under CEQA for the proposed Sites Reservoir Project is the state component of the second action identified in the ROD. The federal component of this second action identified in the ROD, the preparation of an EIS under NEPA, is being undertaken by Reclamation. The environmental document for the proposed Project will be prepared as a joint EIR/EIS to fulfill the requirements of both CEQA and NEPA.

Pursuant to the ROD, DWR issued a Notice of Preparation for an EIR under CEQA on November 5, 2001 and Reclamation published a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS under NEPA on November 9, 2001. These notices described the proposed Sites Reservoir Project as an offstream reservoir and associated facilities near Maxwell, California, with two main dams – one constructed on Funks Creek and one constructed on Stone Corral Creek – and up to nine saddle dams. The notices also explained that the Sites Reservoir could include a number of source and conveyance options, including use of the existing Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Canal and Tehama-Colusa Canal as well as a new diversion and conveyance facility near Moulton Weir, which is approximately 10 miles northeast of Maxwell. These components of the proposed Sites Reservoir remain the same as described in the prior notices.

In order to further the review and development of the proposed Sites Reservoir, the Authority was formed as a joint powers authority pursuant to state law on August 26, 2010. The Authority currently is comprised of public entities located and operating in the Sacramento Valley (namely, City of Roseville, Colusa County Water District, County of Colusa, County of Glenn, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Maxwell Irrigation District, Orland-Artois Water District, Placer County Water Agency, Poberta Water District, Reclamation District 108, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, Western Canal District and Westside Water District).

Consistent with the Authority's purpose and in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 8 of California Proposition 1 (2014), which governs the Water Storage Investment Program administered by the California Water Commission, the Authority is now acting as the CEQA lead agency for the proposed Sites Reservoir Project in lieu of DWR.

1.2 Opportunities for Public Participation

Trustee agencies, responsible agencies and the public are invited to submit oral and/or written comments on the scope and content of the environmental analyses in the upcoming draft of the EIR. The comment period runs through March 2, 2017.

Scoping Meetings

Two scoping meetings will be held. The first scoping meeting will be held on February 15, 2017 at the Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Room 202, Sacramento, CA 95814 starting

at 3 p.m. The second scoping meeting will be held on February 16, 2017 at 122 Old Hwy 99W, Maxwell, CA 95955 starting at 6:00 p.m.

The scoping meetings will include a brief presentation about the proposed Project and an opportunity to ask questions and learn about various aspects of the Project and the environmental review. There also will be an opportunity to provide oral comments, which will be recorded, and to submit written comments.

Written Comments

You may also submit written comments on the NOP via email or mail. Written comments on the NOP must be received by March 2, 2017. The comments may be emailed to ScopingComments@sitesproject.org or mailed to:

Scoping Comments Sites
Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955

In accordance with section 15082(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, within 30 days of receiving the NOP, responsible and trustee agencies under CEQA shall provide the Authority with specific detail about the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the draft EIR related to their area of statutory responsibility.

2.0 PROPOSED PROJECT

This section contains a description of the proposed Project and identifies the location of the Project.

2.1 Project Objectives

The project objectives have not changed materially since the 2001 NOP issued by DWR, although the Authority has elaborated on the objective stated in the 2001 NOP related to providing storage and operational benefits for water quality and other programs. The Authority also is considering a set of secondary project objectives.

The primary objectives for the proposed Sites Reservoir are to provide water storage north of the Delta in order to:

- Enhance water management flexibility in the Sacramento Valley;
- Reduce water diversion on the Sacramento River during critical fish migration periods;
- Increase reliability of water supplies for a significant portion of the Sacramento Valley; and
- Provide storage and operational benefits for programs to enhance water supply reliability, benefit Delta water quality and improve ecosystems by providing:

- Net improvements in ecosystem conditions in the Sacramento River system and Delta;
- Net improvements in water quality conditions in the Sacramento River system and Delta;
- Net improvements in water supply reliability for agricultural and urban uses to help meet water demands during drought periods and emergencies or to address shortages due to regulatory and environmental restrictions; and
- Net improvements in water supply reliability for fish protection, habitat management, and other environmental water needs.

The secondary objectives for the proposed Sites Reservoir are as follows:

- Allow for flexible hydropower generation, in order to support the integration of renewable energy sources;
- Develop additional recreation opportunities; and
- Provide incremental flood damage reduction opportunities.

2.2 Project Description

The proposed Project has not changed materially since the 2001 NOP issued by DWR; this Supplemental NOP provides additional details and information about the proposed Project. The proposed Sites Reservoir Project would consist of a new offstream storage reservoir with a capacity of up to 1.9 MAF. The Sites Reservoir would be approximately 12,000-14,000 acres in size and would be created by inundating the area around the unincorporated community of Sites, California, which is referred to locally as Antelope Valley.

Up to eleven dams would be needed to create the proposed Sites Reservoir. There would be two main dams: the Golden Gate Dam on Funks Creek, and the Sites Dam on Stone Corral Creek. Both dams would have a height in the general range of 300 feet above the base. The Golden Gate Dam would have a crest length in the general range of 2,250 feet and the Sites Dam would have a crest length in the general range of 850 feet. There also would be up to nine saddle dams on the northern end of reservoir, between the Funks Creek and Hunters Creek watersheds. These dams would range from approximately 40 to 130 feet in height above the base, with crest lengths ranging from approximately 270 to 4,000 feet.

The Sites Reservoir Project also would include an inlet/outlet structure; a pumping plant, electrical switchyard and overhead power lines; and a tunnel approximately 4,030 feet in length connecting the pumping plant to the reservoir.

The principal features of the Project in addition to the main reservoir and associated facilities are described below. The proposed Project facilities are depicted in Figures 1 and 2.

Diversion and conveyance facilities. Primarily, two existing points of diversion would be used, and a new point of diversion would be established, to convey water from the Sacramento River to the Sites Reservoir.

Water would be diverted at the existing Red Bluff diversion and conveyed using the existing Tehama-Colusa Canal (T-C Canal). The existing Funks Reservoir – which is one mile downstream of the proposed Golden Gate Dam site and is used to regulate flows in the T-C Canal – would be expanded to form the new Holthouse Reservoir. The Holthouse Reservoir would be used to collect and regulate flows from the T-C Canal prior to conveyance to the Sites Reservoir. The new Holthouse Reservoir would be approximately 450 acres in size with a storage capacity of approximately 6,500 acre feet. Other proposed features associated with this diversion and conveyance include adding a pump to the existing Red Bluff Pumping Plant; modifying the existing T-C Canal to connect to the new Holthouse Reservoir; constructing various facilities at the Holthouse Reservoir (including a pumping station, electrical switchyard and overhead power lines; and a spillway, stilling station and spillway bridge); relocating an existing power line; and constructing an approach channel approximately 8,300 feet in length from the Holthouse Reservoir to the pumping plant for the Sites Reservoir.

Water would be diverted at the existing Hamilton City diversion and conveyed using the existing Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Canal (GCID Canal). A new reservoir – the Terminal Regulating Reservoir (TR Reservoir) – would be constructed to the east of the new Holthouse Reservoir to collect and regulate flows from the GCID Canal. The TR Reservoir would be approximately 200 acres in size with a storage capacity of approximately 2,000 acre feet. Other proposed features associated with this diversion and conveyance include modifying the GCID Canal to connect to the TR Reservoir; constructing a pump station, electrical switchyard and overhead power lines at the TR Reservoir; and constructing a pipeline of approximately 3.5 miles in length to convey water from the TR Reservoir to the Holthouse Reservoir prior to conveyance to the Sites Reservoir.

A new screened diversion would be established at Sacramento River Mile 158.5, immediately downstream of the existing Maxwell Irrigation District intake and across the river from the Moulton Weir. The diversion facility would include a pumping plant, electrical switchyard and overhead power line as well as associated maintenance and electrical facilities and a forebay and afterbay. A pipeline approximately 13.5 miles in length (the Delevan Pipeline) would be used to convey water to the new Holthouse Reservoir prior to conveyance to the Sites Reservoir. The Delevan Pipeline could be constructed to divert water from the Sacramento River, to release water from the new Sites Reservoir system into the Sacramento River, or for both functions. For diversion, the capacity would be 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs); for release, the capacity would be approximately 1,500 cfs.

Potential power generation. One or more of the pumping plants could potentially be used to move water for hydropower generation, which would be used to complement solar and wind power sources at times when such sources are not operating at full capacity.

Other facilities. The proposed Project would include the development of up to three recreation areas that could be used for boating, camping, picnicking, fishing, swimming and/or hiking. In addition, new roads and a bridge would be constructed to provide access to the proposed Project facilities and over the Sites Reservoir, and some existing roads would be relocated or improved. The proposed Project also would include a field office and maintenance yard. New overhead power lines would connect the pumping/generating facilities and their associated electrical switchyards to existing transmission lines in the proposed Project area.

Project operations. Operation of the proposed Project is anticipated to be coordinated with the operations of the existing Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) systems and facilities.

The proposed operations for the Project incorporate three primary components: (1) operating criteria for the diversion of water (rate, duration, season, water year type) from the Sacramento River; (2) operating criteria for timing and rate of releases from the Sites Reservoir based on water year type and other hydrological conditions; and (3) coordinating the operations of the proposed Project with operations of SWP and CVP reservoirs, including Trinity Lake, Shasta Lake, Lake Oroville, and Folsom Lake.

2.3 Project Location

The proposed Sites Reservoir would be located approximately 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell, in both Glenn and Colusa counties. Other proposed Project facilities would be located in Tehama, Glenn or Colusa counties. Maps showing the location of the proposed Project facilities are attached as Figures 1 and 2. In addition to land acquisition for the reservoir and other Project facilities, construction easements will be required to access project sites during project construction activities.

2.4 Project Alternatives

The alternatives under consideration have not changed materially from the 2001 NOP, which identified the following possible alternatives for further evaluation:

- The required No Project Alternative under CEQA, as well as the No Action Alternative under NEPA;
- The Sites Reservoir, with various source and conveyance options; and
- The Newville Reservoir, with various source and conveyance options. This alternative would develop an offstream reservoir with capacity between 1.9 and 3.0 MAF approximately 18 miles west of the City of Orland, California.

The Sites Reservoir Project options have since been refined and include the following alternatives:

- Alternative A: 1.27 MAF Sites Reservoir, new Delevan Pipeline (2,000-cfs intake and 1,500-cfs release), and capability to generate hydropower.

- Alternative B: 1.81 MAF Sites Reservoir, new Delevan Pipeline (1,500-cfs release only), and capability to generate hydropower

- Alternative C: 1.81 MAF Sites Reservoir, new Delevan Pipeline (2,000-cfs intake and 1,500-cfs release), and capability to generate hydropower.

- Alternative D: 1.81 MAF Sites Reservoir, new Delevan Pipeline (2,000-cfs intake and 1,500-cfs release), and capability to generate hydropower. Water operations would be conducted to provide for increased public benefits pursuant to Proposition 1 (2014) and

increased use of water locally to serve beneficial uses in the Sacramento Valley, as compared to exports of water to the South of Delta.

In addition, the analysis of alternatives will consider variables such as building the proposed Project without the capacity to generate hydropower, and potentially changing the alignment for the new power transmission lines serving the proposed Project from an east-west alignment along the proposed Delevan Pipeline to a north-south alignment roughly along Highway 45 to connect the new point of diversion on the Sacramento River near the Moulton Weir to a new substation near the City of Colusa, which would tie into an existing power line.

3.0 PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The probable environmental effects of the proposed Project include the following impact categories:

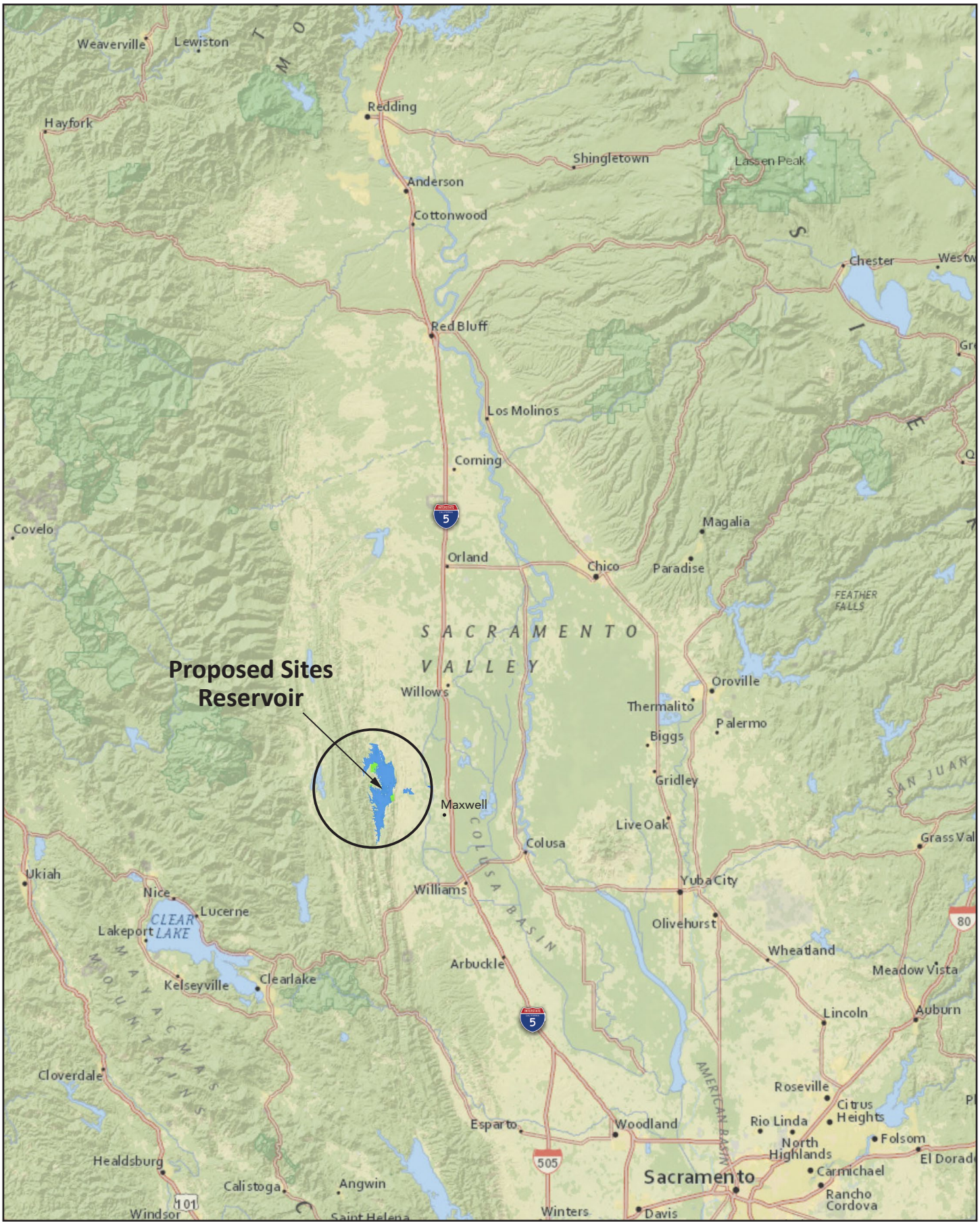
- Aesthetics
- Agricultural and forestry resources
- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Cultural and tribal resources
- Energy
- Geology and soils
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Hazards & hazardous materials
- Hydrology and water quality
- Land use and planning
- Mineral resources
- Noise
- Population and housing
- Public services
- Recreation
- Transportation and traffic
- Utilities and service systems

Dated: 1-23-2017

SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

By: Kim Dolbow Vann

Board Chair



Sites

FIGURE 1
Proposed Sites Reservoir Project Location
Supplemental Notice of Preparation

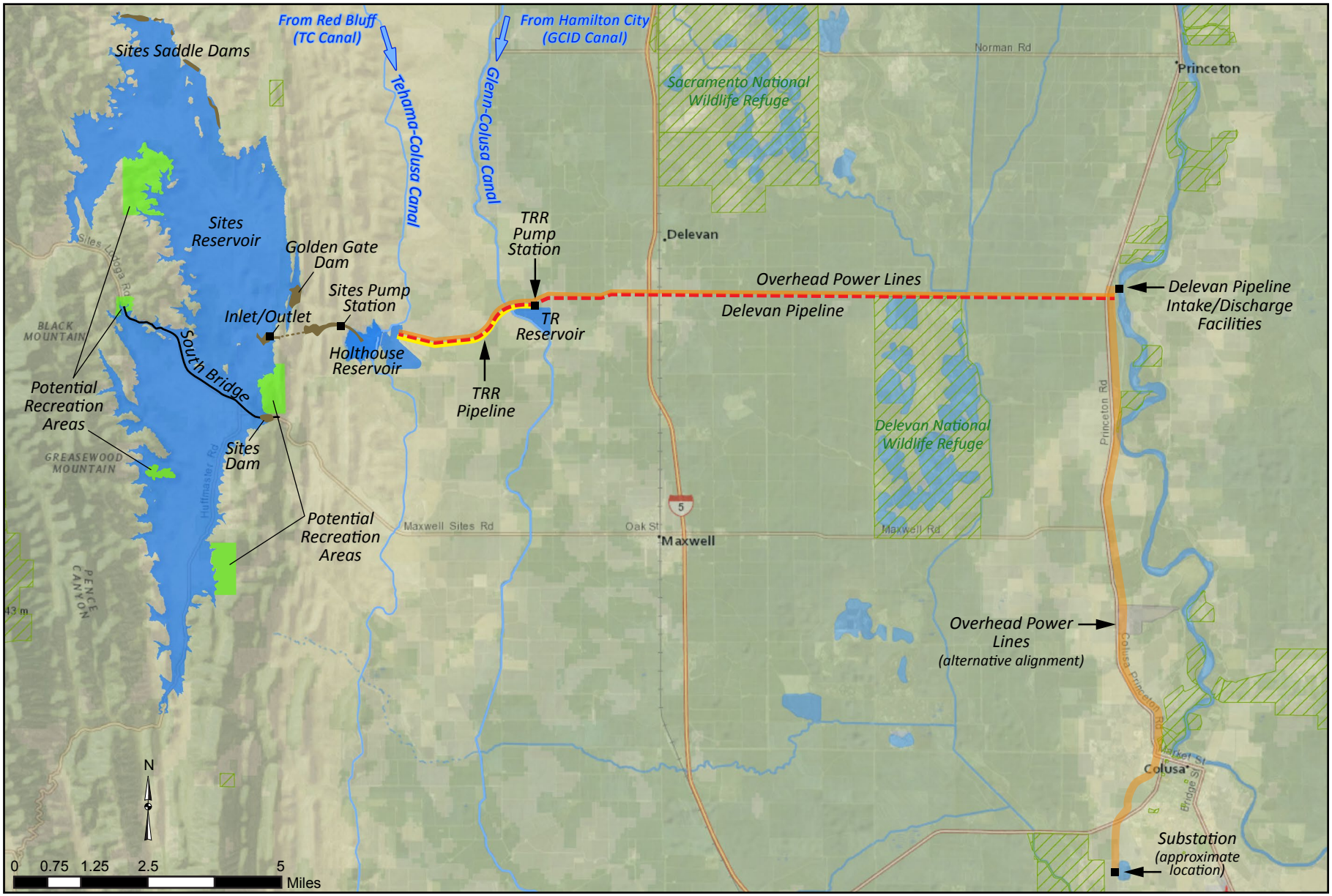


FIGURE 2
Proposed Sites Reservoir Project Facilities
Supplemental Notice of Preparation

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