

PUBLIC DRAFT

Sites Reservoir Project

Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

State Lead Agency Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Sites Project Authority
Federal Lead Agency Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

Location: Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, and Yolo Counties, California

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) have prepared this joint Final Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIR/EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the Sites Reservoir Project (Project). In August 2017, the Authority and Reclamation jointly issued a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (2017 Draft EIR/EIS) for the Project and in November 2021 jointly issued a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS). This Final EIR/EIS includes a complete revision of the 2017 Draft EIR/EIS to reflect changes to the Project that have occurred since the issuance of the 2017 Draft EIR/EIS and incorporates the whole of the 2021 RDEIR/SDEIS. The 2021 RDEIR/SDEIS was available for public and agency review and comment from November 12, 2021, to January 28, 2022, and two virtual public hearings were held. This Final EIR/EIS includes the comments submitted on the RDEIR/SDEIS and the Authority's and Reclamation's responses to comments.

Responsible Agencies under CEQA: California Department of Fish and Wildlife; State Water Resources Control Board; Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region 1; Central Valley Flood Protection Board; California Department of Water Resources; California Water Commission; Sites Storage Partners, including the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority and Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District.

Cooperating Agencies under NEPA: Western Area Power Administration; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; National Marine Fisheries Service; and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Abstract: The Project would involve the construction and operation of an offstream surface water reservoir to provide direct and real benefits to instream flows, the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta ecosystem, and water supply reliability. The Project would use existing infrastructure to divert unregulated and unappropriated flow from the Sacramento River at Red Bluff and Hamilton City and convey the water to a new offstream reservoir west of the community of Maxwell, California. New and existing facilities would move water into and out of the reservoir, with ultimate release back to the Sacramento River system via existing canals and a new pipeline located near Dunnigan, California. Water released from Sites Reservoir would be used to benefit local, State, and federal water use needs, including municipal, industrial, and agricultural public water agencies, anadromous fish species in the Sacramento River watershed, wildlife refuges and habitats, and the Yolo Bypass to help supply food for delta smelt. Construction of Sites Reservoir would necessitate construction of a bridge or bypass road to connect Maxwell with the community of Lodoga. Additional components would include the development of new recreation facilities at the reservoir. In addition to the No Project Alternative/No Action Alternative, the Final EIR/EIS evaluates three action alternatives.

Comments and Further Information: For further information on this Final EIR/EIS, please contact:

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[COMMENT SUBMISSION INFORMATION REMOVED - NO ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PLANNED.]