



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

August 4, 2017

Mr. Armando Quintero, Chair
California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: Support for Sites Reservoir Project Proposition 1 Application

Dear Chair Quintero:

I write in support of the Sites Reservoir Project in its application for Proposition 1 funding through the Water Supply Investment Program.

I deeply appreciate your work and the work of the California Water Commission to support storage projects that are vital for our water future. I have long worked to secure federal funding for feasibility studies on Sites and other CALFED storage projects, and I am grateful for the State's willingness to advance qualified projects through the Water Supply Investment Program.

Sites Reservoir offers a remarkable opportunity to reoperate California's longest and largest river, the Sacramento, to provide multiple benefits for fish, farms, and cities in an innovative manner. By partnering with the Sites Project Authority in the development of the Reservoir, the state would acquire water storage capacity and have management control over the resulting releases to ensure environmental benefits are achieved.

Sites is a 1,800,000 acre-foot off-stream reservoir that, if operating today, would increase water storage capacity in the Sacramento Valley by 15% and provide approximately 500,000 acre feet per year of additional water supply on average with approximately half for human use and half for the environment.

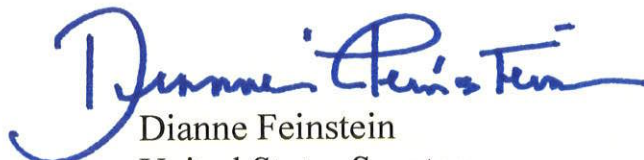
Sites Reservoir would allow reoperation of California's water infrastructure in numerous beneficial ways, including:

- Preserving more of Shasta's cold water pool for salmon by making early releases on behalf of Shasta to then enable Shasta to release an equal amount of cold water in summer and fall months;
- Coordinated operations with Folsom and Oroville Reservoirs could likewise offer both water supply and environmental benefits;
- Releases from Sites could increase flows through the Yolo Bypass and other side channels to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that augment food supply for migrating salmon and delta smelt;
- Releases from Sites can provide Level 4 water for wildlife refuges; and
- For Central Valley farms and communities as well as for cities in the Bay Area and Southern California, improve water supply reliability and help to conserve local groundwater basins for use during prolonged droughts.

The past few years have starkly illustrated why California needs to store more water from the wet years for the dry years. As our climate changes, scientists expect the pattern of record-breaking drought and then floods to recur ever more often, elevating the importance of capturing more of the storm runoff that will increasingly dominate our water supply.

It has been a long time coming for major surface storage projects in California to be on the cusp of construction. I greatly appreciate your careful consideration of this important project as you disburse Proposition 1 funding. Please do not hesitate to contact me or John Watts of my staff with any questions.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

cc: California Water Commission members
Jim Watson, General Manager, Sites Project Authority

DF:jw

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2017

Armando Quintero
Chair, California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Dear Chairman Quintero,

We write today to convey our support for the Sites Reservoir Project's application for funding from the Proposition 1 Water Storage and Investment Program. The Sites project has the potential to provide multiple benefits to California's farms, cities and to the environment.

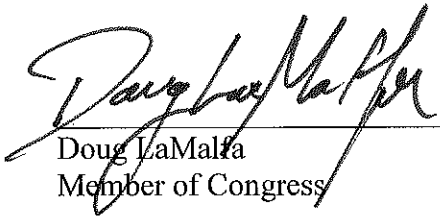
As you know, the Sites Project is a 1.8 million acre-foot, off-stream regulating reservoir that would divert and store excess Sacramento River flows. The diversion levels would be dependent upon hydrologic conditions and would be structured to ensure that water taken out of the Sacramento River is truly in excess of downstream needs.

The operational flexibility that the Sites project would provide to the State's entire water system is what makes this project so unique and worthy of funding. A few of the reservoir's many uses include, but are not limited to, a reliable water supply for California cities and agriculture, dedicated water for fishery and environmental flow purposes, increased habitat for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway, and improved flexibility and drought resiliency for the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project.


Opportunities to apply lessons learned during the last five years of drought must not be wasted. The drought, and this year's record breaking rainfall, have shown us how critical it is to develop smart storage that allows us to store more water in wet years for future use in dry ones. Sites Reservoir is that smart storage.

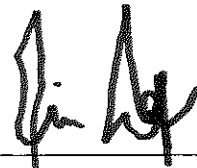
Thank you for the work that you and the Water Commission are doing to increase water supply reliability across California. We look forward to your announcement of funding awards.

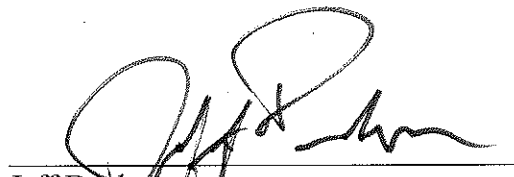
Sincerely,



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress

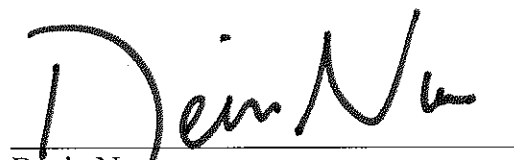

Jim Costa
Member of Congress


Jeff Denham
Member of Congress


Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

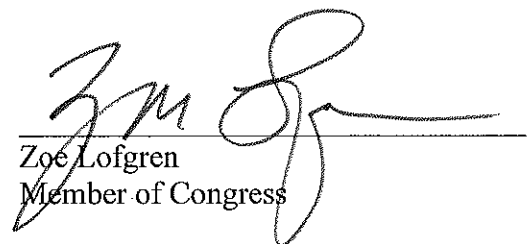

Ken Calvert
Member of Congress


Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

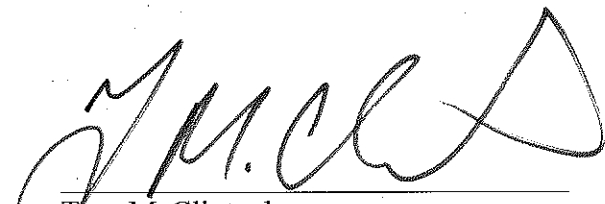

Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress

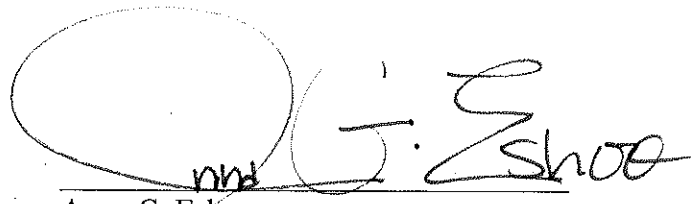

Ed Royce
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

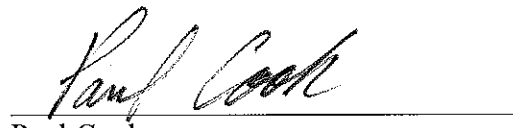

Adam Schiff
Member of Congress

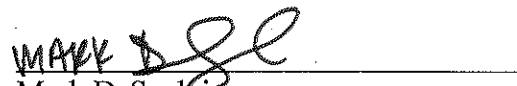

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

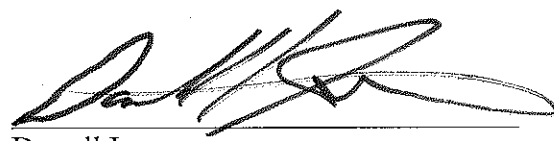

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

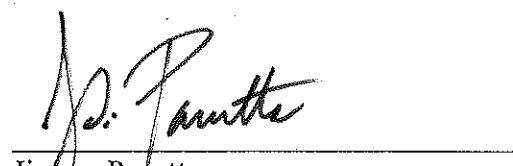

Mimi Walters
Member of Congress


Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress


Paul Cook
Member of Congress


Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress


Darrell Issa
Member of Congress

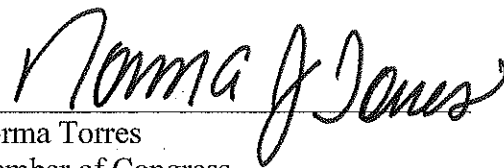

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress


Steve Knight
Member of Congress


Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



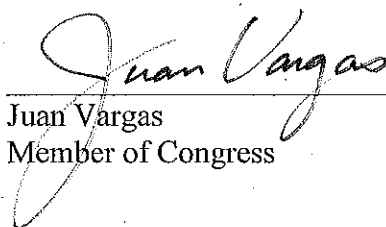
Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



Norma Torres
Member of Congress



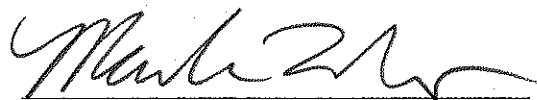
Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



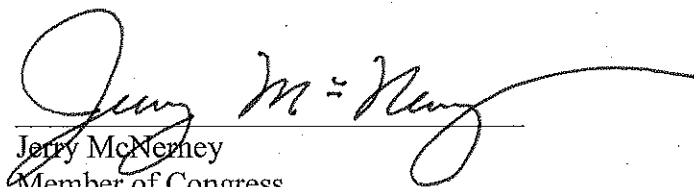
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



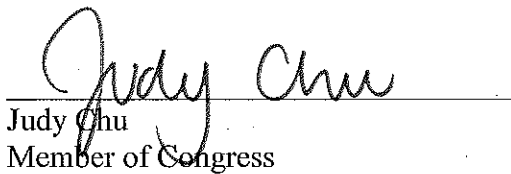
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



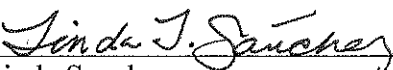
Judy Chu
Member of Congress

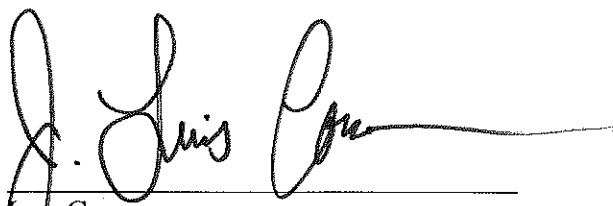



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress




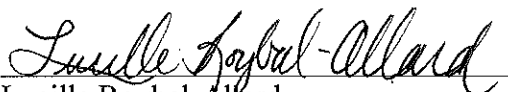
Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress


Lou Correa
Member of Congress


Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress


Brad Sherman
Member of Congress


Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress


Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0506

February 17, 2017

Joseph Byrne
Chair
California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Dear Chair Byrne

I write today in support of the Sites Reservoir Project's request for funding under Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act. The Sites project has the potential to provide multiple benefits to California's water resources equation including public and environmental benefits for communities and habitat in Northern California.

As you are aware, the \$4.4 billion Sites Reservoir Project calls for pumping Sacramento River water into an off-stream reservoir in Colusa and Glenn Counties. Should Sites be built, the 1.81 million acre-foot reservoir has the potential, depending on the watery year, to add up to a maximum of 500,000 acre-feet of water to California's water system annually.

In particular, I support the public and environmental benefits that Sites could provide. As you know, we must constantly balance the fresh water supplies in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The potential for Sites' public benefit portion is substantial, whether these benefits preserve additional cold water in Shasta Reservoir or support tributaries to the Sacramento River, including the American River. The project also may benefit reservoirs on these tributaries, such as Folsom Reservoir, and help balance their water resources in the best way possible.

With all of the water supply and environmental benefits that Sites has the potential to provide, I look forward to seeing the final environmental documentation that will assure the Proposition 1 public benefit portion of the project is truly attainable.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued efforts to invest in our state's water infrastructure. Should you have any questions feel free to contact me or have your staff reach out to my office at (202) 225-7163.

Sincerely,



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 2017

Mr. Armando Quintero, Chairman
California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Chairman Quintero and Commission Members:

We write to express support for Water Supply Investment Program (WSIP) funding relative to all applications received for potential CALFED surface water storage projects, namely Temperance Flat Reservoir, Los Vaqueros Reservoir, and Sites Reservoir.

The CALFED Bay-Delta (CALFED) program represents a new era in surface water storage planning, where projects are conceived to support multiple objectives, including more traditional purposes of water supply reliability, hydropower, and flood protection, in conjunction with ecosystem restoration and water quality improvements. The proposed CALFED projects will provide greater water supply reliability for California's growing population, agricultural heritage, and diverse economy, as well as aquatic and riparian ecosystem restoration in the Delta and its tributaries, and improved drinking and habitat water quality. These storage projects possess significant public benefits, including ecosystem restoration, water quality, flood protection, emergency response, and recreation.

CALFED identified five potential surface water storage projects in the CALFED Preferred Program Alternative, three of which we expect to apply for Proposition 1 WSIP funding: Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage (Temperance Flat), Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion, and North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage (Sites). These three projects will help California most, at a time when storage is critically needed to prepare for future times of drought and flood emergencies.

In 2014, California voters approved \$2.7 billion in funding for water storage projects as part of Proposition 1, The Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Act of 2014. We believe that voters approved Proposition 1 with large-scale surface storage projects in mind, namely the CALFED preferred alternatives. This approval by voters signaled that they understand the importance of water storage and their willingness to fund construction projects.

The recent drought followed by one of the wettest years on record only further highlights the state-wide need for more storage to prepare for drought and flood emergencies. These CALFED projects, identified over many years and through an extensive process with rigorous science and analysis, public stakeholder input, and government agency review at the local, state and federal level, represent California's best opportunities for necessary storage investments to modernize

our water infrastructure system for the 21st Century. Thank you for your consideration, and we urge you support the CALFED projects that apply for Proposition 1 funding from the WSIP program.

Regards,



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



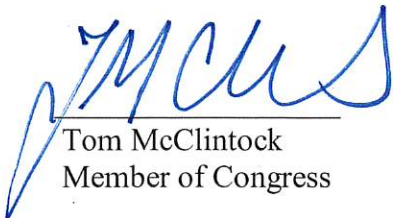
Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress



Devin Nunes
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



Mimi Walters
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

July 10, 2017

Armando Quintero
Chair, California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Dear Chairman Quintero:

We write today to convey our support for the Sites Reservoir Project's application for funding from the Proposition 1 Water Storage and Investment Program. The Sites project has the proven potential to provide multiple benefits to California's farms, cities and to the environment.

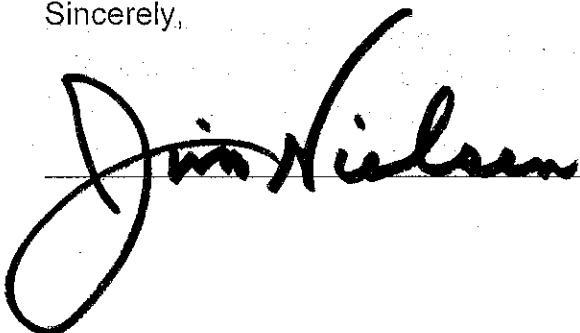
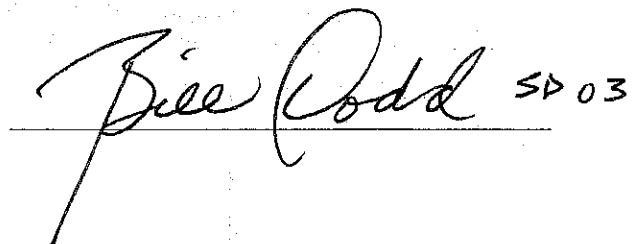
As you know, the Sites Project is a 1.8 million acre-foot, off-stream reservoir that would divert and store excess Sacramento River flows. The diversion levels would be dependent upon hydrologic conditions and would be structured to ensure that water taken out of the Sacramento River is truly in excess of downstream needs.

The operational flexibility that the Sites project would provide to the State's entire water system is what makes this project so unique and worthy of funding. The reservoir's many beneficial uses include, but are not limited to, dedicated water for fishery and flow purposes, a reliable water supply for California agriculture, increased habitat for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway, and greater water security for urban areas.

Opportunities to apply lessons learned during the last five years of drought must not be wasted. The drought and this year's record breaking rainfall have shown us how critical it is to develop smart storage that allows us to store more water in wet years for future use in dry ones. Sites Reservoir is the kind of smart, well-planned water storage project that will achieve a multitude of beneficial uses.

Thank you for the work that you and the Water Commission are doing to increase water supply reliability across California. We look forward to your announcement of funding awards.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Nielsen".A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Codd", followed by the handwritten text "SD 03".

Jon Berryhill
Scott White

John J. Liles
Jeff Stone

Walter

Carmen Salazar

Mike Murrell

Steven M. Leger

Steve Smith

John White

California Legislature

July 21, 2017

Armando Quintero
Chair, California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Dear Chairman Quintero:

We write today to convey our support for the Site Reservoir Project's application for funding from the Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP). The Sites project would provide valuable benefits to California's farms and cities, while providing much needed flexibility for water managers to adjust flows for the environment and for flood control.


As you know, the Sites Project is a 1.8 million acre-foot off-stream reservoir that would divert and store excess Sacramento River flows. The diversion levels would be dependent upon hydrologic conditions and would be structured to ensure that water taken out of the Sacramento River is truly in excess of downstream needs. If Sites Reservoir had been operational during the last wet season (October 2016-March 2017), 1.4 million acre-feet of water could have been diverted and stored.

The operational flexibility that the Sites project would provide to the State's entire water system is what makes this project so unique and worthy of funding. A few of the reservoir's many uses include, but are not limited to, dedicated water for fishery and flow purposes, a reliable water supply for California's agriculture, increased habitat for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway, and greater water security for urban areas.

Opportunities to apply lessons learned during the last five years of drought must not be wasted. The drought and this year's record breaking rainfall have shown us how critical it is to develop smart storage that allows us to store more water in wet years for future use in dry ones. Sites Reservoir is that smart storage.

Thank you for the work that you and the Water Commission are doing to increase water supply reliability across California. We look forward to your announcement of funding awards. Please call us at (916)-319-2003 should you need any further information regarding our support for this vital project.

Sincerely,


James Gallagher
Assemblyman, 3rd District

Vince Fong AD-34
Vince Fong
Assemblymember, 34th District

Chad Mayes AD42
Chad Mayes
Assemblymember, 42nd District

Anna Caballero AD30
Anna Caballero
Assemblymember, 30th District

Raul Bocanegra AD35
Raul Bocanegra
Assemblymember, 35th District

Ken Cooley AD8
Ken Cooley
Assemblymember, 8th District

Blanca E. Rubio AD48
Blanca Rubio
Assemblymember, 48th District

Brian Dahle AD1
Brian Dahle
Assemblymember, 1st District

Catherine Baker AD16
Catherine Baker
Assemblymember, 16th District

Health Flora AD12
Health Flora
Assemblymember, 12th District

Jay Obernolte AD33
Jay Obernolte
Assemblymember, 33rd District

Jim Cooper AD9
Jim Cooper
Assemblymember, 9th District

Marc Steinorth AD40
Marc Steinorth
Assemblymember, 40th District

Kevin Kiley AD06
Kevin Kiley
Assemblymember, 6th District

Kevin McCarty AD7
Kevin McCarty
Assemblymember, 7th District

Ken Cooley AD 8

Ken Cooley
Assemblymember, 8th District

Timothy Grayson AD 14

Timothy Grayson
Assemblymember, 14th District

Frank Bigelow AD-5

Frank Bigelow
Assemblymember, 5th District
