

Saving Water for the Future:

California NEEDS Sites Reservoir

California needs long-term solutions that help save water for California's future. The Sites Reservoir—a modern off-stream reservoir in Northern California—captures and stores runoff supplies for use in dry and critical years, allows other reservoirs to hold more water into the summer months, provides water for fish, birds, farms and cities, increases flood management opportunities and supports groundwater recharge. As shown below, Sites Reservoir will work well in all year types.



2019 & 2017 **Wet Years** – Significant Snowpack and Rainfall

In both of these years, exceptional rain and snow in the winter and spring brought about tremendous water flow in the Sacramento River and its tributaries. The California Department of Water Resources estimated that Sites Reservoir would have completely filled each of these years. Runoff from early 2017 and 2019 could have stored **1.8 million acre-feet** of water, or over **580 billion gallons** – enough water to supply more than 4.3 million families for an entire year.

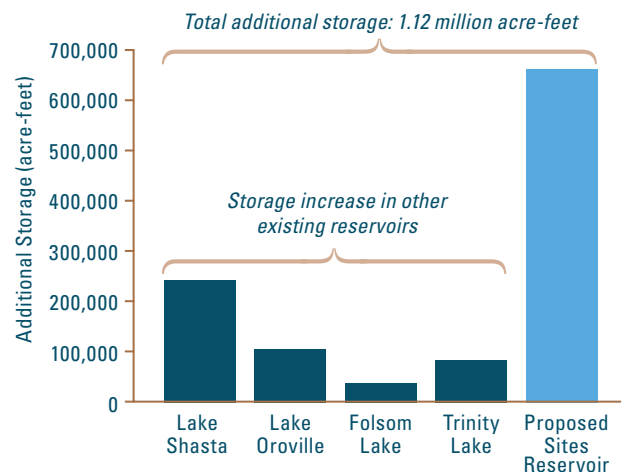
2016 **Average** snowpack and rainfall

This year saw average snowpack and rainfall in Northern California that filled existing reservoirs. If Sites Reservoir were online, the California Department of Water Resources estimated that it could have stored an additional **1 million acre-feet** of water, or over **325 billion gallons**.

2015 **Critical Year** – Lowest snowpack and rainfall

In one of the driest years **ever** in Northern California, Sites Reservoir could have captured **660,000 acre-feet** of precious water from two storm events.

More importantly, water available from Sites Reservoir could ease the necessary releases from other reservoirs effectively increasing the total storage in Northern California to more than **1.12 million acre-feet**, or about **365 billion gallons**, with Sites Reservoir in place.



Source: California Department of Water Resources

