



Sites Project Authority
Notice of Availability of the Sites Reservoir Project Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS)

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

Purpose of the Notice: The Sites Project Authority and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are circulating for public review and comment a joint Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS). In August 2017, the Authority and Reclamation jointly issued a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (2017 Draft EIR/EIS) for the Project. The RDEIR/SDEIS includes a complete revision of the 2017 Draft EIR/EIS to reflect changes to the Project. The RDEIR/SDEIS has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and is being recirculated for public review and comment in accordance with Section 15088.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

The Project's purpose is to provide direct and real benefits to instream flows, the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta ecosystem, and water supply reliability. Water that would be stored and released from Sites Reservoir would be used for local, State, and federal water use needs. These include municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses as well as to provide benefits to anadromous fish species in the Sacramento River watershed, wildlife refuges and habitats, and to help supply food for delta smelt in the Yolo Bypass.

Lead Agency: The Sites Project Authority is the lead agency under CEQA; the Bureau of Reclamation is the lead agency under NEPA.

Description of the Project: The Project consists of the construction and operation of an offstream surface water reservoir. The Project would use existing infrastructure to divert 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. The Project would require modifications to the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District system and the Tehama-Colusa Canal to move water into and out of the reservoir. Water conveyance between Sites Reservoir and the canals and Dunnigan pipeline would be facilitated by an existing and one new regulating reservoir and two new associated pumping/generating plants. New electrical substations would connect the pumping/generating facilities and their associated electrical switchyards to an existing overhead power line. Three new recreation areas would also be constructed around the new Sites Reservoir. New roads would be constructed to provide access to Project facilities and recreation areas, and some existing roads would be relocated or improved. Construction of Sites Reservoir would necessitate construction of a bridge or bypass road to connect Maxwell with the community of Lodoga. The RDEIR/SDEIS evaluates four alternatives, including the No Project/No Action Alternative.

Significant Environmental Effects: Based on analysis in the RDEIR/SDEIS, all action alternatives would result in significant and unavoidable impacts/adverse or substantially adverse effects on the following resource categories: surface water quality, vegetation and wetland resources, wildlife resources, geology and soils, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources (CEQA only), visual resources, environmental justice and socioeconomics (NEPA only). The Project is not located on or near a property included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.



Availability of the RDEIR/SDEIS: Copies are available for public review at the following locations:

1. Sites Project Authority, 122 Old Highway 99 West, Maxwell, CA 95955
2. Bureau of Reclamation, California-Great Basin Regional Office Library, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825
3. Maxwell Branch Library, 34 Oak Street Maxwell, CA 95955
4. Sacramento Public Library, Central Branch, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
5. Colusa County Free Library, Main Branch, 738 Market Street, Colusa, CA 95932
6. Glenn County Public Library, Willows Branch, 201 N. Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988
7. Tehama County Library, Red Bluff Branch, 645 Madison Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080
8. Yolo Branch Library, 37750 Sacramento Street, Yolo, CA 95697
9. Mary L. Stephens – Davis Branch Library, 315 E. 14th Street, Davis, CA 95616

The RDEIR/SDEIS is also accessible from the following websites:

<https://sitesproject.org/environmental-review>

https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_project_details.php?Project_ID=29024

Please contact the Authority at 530-438-2309 if you need additional assistance in reviewing the RDEIR/SDEIS.

Public Review Period: The RDEIR/SDEIS will be available for a 60-day public review from November 12, 2021 to January 11, 2022. Please submit written comments on the RDEIR/SDEIS by 5p.m. PST January 11, 2022 via email at EIR-EIS-Comments@SitesProject.org or via U.S. Mail to either: Sites Project Authority, P.O. Box 517, Maxwell, CA 95955; or, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, W-2830, Sacramento, CA 95825

Public Meetings: Two virtual public meetings will be held to receive comments from individuals and organizations on the RDEIR/SDEIS. Information on accessing the virtual public meetings is available at

<https://sitesproject.org/environmental-review>.

- *Virtual Meeting:* Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. PST
- *Virtual Meeting:* Thursday, December 16, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. PST

For individuals requesting reasonable accommodations, please contact the Sites Project Authority at 530-438-2309 or Boardclerk@SitesProject.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RDEIR/SDEIS describes the environmental setting and evaluates the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that could result from implementation of each alternative. The RDEIR/SDEIS includes feasible mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for significant adverse impacts. The proposed alternatives meet all or the majority of the purpose, need, and objectives of the Project and were developed to avoid or substantially reduce one or more of the Project's significant impacts. Information about the differences between the alternatives from the 2017 Draft EIR/EIS and the three action alternatives in the RDEIR/SDEIS can be found in Appendix 2B of the RDEIR/SDEIS, *Additional Alternatives Screening and Evaluation*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Please contact Alicia Forsythe, Sites Project Authority, at 530-438-2309.

Dated: 11/9/21

Signed: 

Jerry Brown, Executive Director



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