

Sites Reservoir reaches milestone

By [WOODLAND DAILY DEMOCRAT](#) |

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SACRAMENTO – The Bureau of Reclamation has recently released the Final Feasibility Report for the Sites Reservoir Project – also known as the North-of-Delta Offstream Storage Project.

This key milestone represents a significant advancement for the water storage project and moves Sites Reservoir one step closer to construction, according to the Sites Project Authority.

With the completion of the Feasibility Report, Sites Reservoir will remain eligible for federal funding under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act and will allow for continued federal participation and potential future investment in the construction of Project.

“Sites Reservoir has become a shining example of the importance of local, state and federal partnership and collaboration. We’ve been working closely with our federal partners to advance a modern water storage project that will help sustain people, businesses and farms in California for decades to come, while providing a new dedicated supply of water for the environment,” said Fritz Durst, chairman of the Sites Project Authority.

“We thank our federal partners for their continued collaboration and commitment to this important project,” added Durst. “And we look forward to the day when the environment and communities throughout California see direct benefits from Sites Reservoir. A top priority for us in early 2021 will be to work with our federal partners and participants on refining the project to ensure it is affordable, permittable, and buildable. determine with our federal partners how best to fit our ‘right-sized’ Sites Reservoir project within the approved parameters of the Federal Feasibility Report.”

Sites Reservoir is a generational opportunity to construct a locally-led, multi-benefit water storage project that helps restore flexibility, reliability, and resiliency to our statewide water supply. Sites Reservoir is an off-stream facility that does not dam a major river system and would not block fish migration or spawning. Sites Reservoir captures and stores stormwater flows from the Sacramento River — after all other water rights and regulatory requirements are met — for release primarily in dry and critical

years for environmental use and for California communities, farms, and businesses when it is so desperately needed.

Sites Reservoir would also provide federal and state resource agencies with a dedicated and reliable supply of water to provide environmental benefits, especially during drier years. A substantial portion of the project's water would be specifically dedicated to environmental uses, helping to improve conditions for Delta smelt, preserving the cold-water pool in Lake Shasta to support salmon development, spawning and rearing, and providing a reliable water supply to improve the habitat for migratory birds and other native species.

The Sites Project Authority, representing cities, counties, water and irrigation districts throughout the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Bay Area, and Southern California, has been working in close collaboration with Reclamation to advance this critical project.

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