

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2026

Nicole L. Kuenzi
Presiding Hearing Officer
Administrative Hearings Office
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Kuenzi:

We write today to express our strong support for the Sites Reservoir Project and their water right application to the California State Water Resources Control Board. Sites Reservoir is a critical water infrastructure investment needed to meet California's current and future water reliability and supply needs.

As you know, the Sites Reservoir Project is a 1.5-million-acre-foot, off-stream reservoir that would substantially improve statewide water supply flexibility, reliability, and resiliency in drier years and during drought emergencies. When completed, Sites Reservoir would provide water for over 24 million Californians and provide water for 500,000 acres of farmland while also providing a dedicated water supply for environmental uses to be managed by federal and state agencies.

The draft water right decision and permit indicate that water is available to be appropriated to the Sites Project. However, the draft water right have technical and legal flaws that will need to be addressed for the Project to advance. These flaws significantly diminish the Project's ability to deliver the benefits that it was designed to provide. This would be a lost opportunity for the people of California who have expressed their strong support for the development of secure, sustainable, and reliable water supply projects—like Sites Reservoir.

We represent districts and communities across California that stand to benefit directly from this Project. Sites Reservoir will help bolster water supplies for urban and rural communities, sustain agricultural productivity, and provide dedicated environmental flows to support native wildlife and their habitats. It is because of these far-reaching benefits that Sites Reservoir has earned broad statewide bipartisan support from cities, counties, water agencies, and irrigation districts throughout the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Bay Area, and Southern California.

Federal and state partners have made substantial investments in the Sites Reservoir Project, reflecting broad bipartisan support. Federal commitments total \$798 million to date, and the Bureau of Reclamation is nearing completion of a partnership agreement with the Sites Project Authority to formalize their participation in the Project. At the state level, Sites Reservoir has been conditionally awarded \$1.094 billion in Proposition 1 funding through the Water Storage Investment Program, which California voters overwhelmingly approved in 2014. Together, these investments underscore the depth of federal, state, and public support behind Sites Reservoir and the urgent need for new water storage infrastructure in California.

In the face of new and evolving water supply challenges, Sites Reservoir is a 21st-century approach to managing water in California. It is rooted in sound public policy, broadly supported across the state, and is the

largest remaining water storage project of the originally listed storage projects in the 2014 Proposition 1 program. The need for new water storage infrastructure, including Sites Reservoir, is long overdue. We owe it to the people of California to deliver.

We respectfully request that you consider making the permit adjustments necessary for the project to deliver maximum benefits so that it can move forward as expeditiously as possible. Time is of the essence.

Sincerely,



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



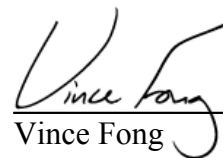
Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Vince Fong
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress