



May 22, 2026

Administrative Hearings Office
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Sites Reservoir Project, Petition for Assignment of State-filed Application 25517, Water Right Application 25517X01, and Petitions for Release from Priority of State-Filed Applications 25513, 25514, 25517, 22235, 23780, 23781, of Sites Project Authority

Dear Officer Kuenzi:

We are writing on behalf of our organizations to express our strong support for the Sites Reservoir Project's water right application currently before the Administrative Hearings Office (AHO) of the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board). As public agencies serving over 19 million people in Southern California, we urge you to incorporate the Sites Project Authority's proposed revisions to the draft water right permit for this critical water storage project.

The Sites Reservoir Project unites urban, agricultural, and regional interests across California to secure a new, sustainable water supply in the face of climate change and worsening droughts. SB 72 sets a target of 9,000,000 acre-feet of additional water, water conservation, or water storage capacity to be achieved by 2040. Sites Reservoir Project is an essential part of meeting that goal. To ensure California has the water we need now, and in the future, we need to act with urgency.

We are encouraged that the draft decision and permit confirm that water is available for appropriation from the Sacramento River to the Sites Reservoir Project. At the same time, the draft permit includes proposed terms that could condition the State Water Project (SWP) water rights. If incorporated in the final permit, these terms raise concerns about the project's ability to deliver all the benefits it was designed to provide, and potentially conflict with on-going processes at the State Board as well as other regulatory agencies. We respectfully request that certain terms, which are far beyond the geographic scope or control of the Project, such as water levels in the south Delta and 55 percent unimpaired net Delta outflow, be struck or amended as suggested by the Sites Project Authority.

Given the realities of a changing climate, the significant need the project will address, and the vast public and non-public benefits it will provide across the state, we respectfully encourage the AHO to strongly consider these issues, incorporate the appropriate revisions into the final permit, and recommend approval of Sites Project Authority's water right in a timely manner so that California's communities, farms, and environment can benefit from this monumental project as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

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