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**From:** melinda northdeltawater.net [melinda@northdeltawater.net]  
**Sent:** 6/1/2023 2:17:34 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Steve Mello [stevemello55@yahoo.com]; Tom Slater [tslaterdee@yahoo.com]; Kevin O'Brien [kobrien@downeybrand.com]; Anne Williams [williams@mbkengineers.com]; Gary Kienlen [Kienlen@mbkengineers.com]  
**CC:** Marc VanCamp [Vancamp@mbkengineers.com]; Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**Subject:** RE: NDWA and Sites @ MBK

Thank you Alicia. We will review and circle back you in the near future. Melinda

Melinda Terry, Manager  
North Delta Water Agency  
3050 Beacon Blvd., #203  
West Sacramento, CA 95691  
(916) 446-0197  
[melinda@northdeltawater.net](mailto:melinda@northdeltawater.net)

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2023 11:43 AM  
**To:** melinda northdeltawater.net <melinda@northdeltawater.net>; Steve Mello <stevemello55@yahoo.com>; Tom Slater <tslaterdee@yahoo.com>; Kevin O'Brien <kobrien@downeybrand.com>; Anne Williams <williams@mbkengineers.com>; Gary Kienlen <Kienlen@mbkengineers.com>  
**Cc:** Marc VanCamp <Vancamp@mbkengineers.com>; Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Subject:** RE: NDWA and Sites @ MBK

Melinda, Steve, Tom and Kevin – Thank you for taking the time to meet with the Sites Project team in April. We appreciate your time and willingness to discuss any concerns you may have with the Project.

At the meeting, we committed to the following action items:

1. Send the presentation from the meeting. This is attached.
2. Historical review figures for all months and larger versions of the DSM2 figures – These are attached with a draft memo that describes the analysis and results of the historical review figures, and includes a brief description of the DSM2 figures.

At the meeting, North Delta expressed concerns about the possibility of Sites Project water being conveyed around the Delta in the proposed Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). We shared that we have analyzed the DCP in our environmental document in the cumulative chapter. As the DCP is proposed and not yet approved, we have not included the possibility of routing Sites water through the DCP in our environmental document. Nor have we included a DCP intake as a proposed point of diversion in our water right application. We wanted to be clear that the Sites Project can and will operate independently of the DCP and we are in no way reliant on or connected to the DCP.

Concerns were expressed that Sites may pursue a change petition to move Sites water through the DCP in the future. The Sites Project Authority members are diverse and some of them are opposed to the DCP while others are active supporters of the DCP. Therefore, I recognize that it is not outside of the realm of possibility that a Sites Project member requests that the Authority pursue undertaking the necessary actions to allow the member to move their Sites water through the DCP. Moving Sites water through the DCP would be an action undertaken and paid for by a Sites Project member and not the Authority itself. Because the Authority holds the Sites Project water rights, I do see the Authority having a “decision” to make whether to change its water rights to allow this to happen. If the Authority were to pursue this, I do want to note that this would only happen after extensive review and input, including the following:

1. DCP has undergone its full and complete environmental review and has been through the water right process and authorized by the State Water Resources Control Board.

2. The Sites Authority, DWR, and/or the Sites Member Agency that wants to move Sites water through the DCP has undertaken the appropriate CEQA analysis and documentation.
3. The Sites Authority has requested and the State Water Resources Control Board has granted a temporary or permanent change in the Sites Project's water right to add the DCP intake as a point of diversion.

These processes are extensive as required by law, will take many years to complete, and will include transparent decision-making and public/stakeholder input. While I appreciate your concern, I hope that you will see that Sites is separate and independent of the DCP. And that the concerns you expressed are really concerns with the DCP and not with the Sites Project.

I did want to share a process update – on May 5, the State Water Board sent the Authority a letter determining our water right application substantially complete. The Board indicated that they intend to notice our application within 30 days of the letter. We do not have a firm date for the notice, but expect it to be released no later than June 5.

We appreciate your time and would love to have a follow up meeting once you've had a chance to review the materials. We would also be happy to present to your Board at any time that would be convenient for you. And thank you for your patience as it took us a little longer than expected to put together the attached materials.

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
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**From:** Alicia Forsythe  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 3, 2023 5:07 PM  
**To:** Marc VanCamp <[Vancamp@mbkengineers.com](mailto:Vancamp@mbkengineers.com)>; 'Melinda Terry' <[melinda@northdeltawater.net](mailto:melinda@northdeltawater.net)>; Steve Mello <[stevemello55@yahoo.com](mailto:stevemello55@yahoo.com)>; Tom Slater <[tslaterdee@yahoo.com](mailto:tslaterdee@yahoo.com)>; Kevin O'Brien <[kobrien@downeybrand.com](mailto:kobrien@downeybrand.com)>; Angela Bezzone <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>; Anne Williams <[williams@mbkengineers.com](mailto:williams@mbkengineers.com)>; Gary Kienlen <[Kienlen@mbkengineers.com](mailto:Kienlen@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: NDWA and Sites @ MBK

Hello all – I wanted to say thank you again for meeting with the Sites Project. We appreciate everyone's time, effort, and willingness to engage in dialogue.

We are working on our follow up items and expect to have those over to the group next week.

I hope everyone has a great rest of your week.

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676 |  
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-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Marc VanCamp <[Vancamp@mbkengineers.com](mailto:Vancamp@mbkengineers.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2023 2:19 PM

**To:** Marc VanCamp; 'Melinda Terry'; Steve Mello; Tom Slater; Kevin O'Brien; Alicia Forsythe; Angela Bezzone; Anne Williams; Gary Kienlen

**Subject:** NDWA and Sites @ MBK

**When:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 1:30 PM-3:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting; Murray Conf Room

We will be in MBK's larger conference room so there is room for all. We will have it as a Teams meeting as well, for those not attending in person.

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

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# SITES RESERVOIR

## GOVERNOR NEWSOM CLEAN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN & EXECUTIVE ORDER

### Media Coverage

- AgNet West
  - Newsom Seeks to Streamline Infrastructure Projects
  
- AgNet West
  - Colorado River Agreement: 'Important Step Forward'
  
- Associated Press News
  - California governor seeks to speed up water, clean energy projects delayed by lawsuits, permits
  
- CalMatters
  - Gavin Newsom wants to make it easier to build roads, dams and more. What's in his plan?
  
- CapRadio
  - Delta Tunnel plan touted by Newsom gets push-back from Congress member
  
- Central Valley
  - Governor guts landmark environmental law to expedite the salmon-killing Delta Tunnel
  
- Central Valley
  - Governor Modifies Enviro Law to Expedite Favored Projects
  
- Central Valley
  - California Senate Committee Blocks Governor's Plan to Gut Environmental Law
  
- Courthouse News Service
  - Newsom touts plan to cut red tape and speed up green infrastructure projects



- KCRA 3
  - Newsom announces new effort to speed up construction of environmental and transportation projects
- Manteca Bulletin
  - Newsom's vow to ram tunnel project thru bigger threat to Delta than climate change
- My Mother Lode.com
  - Republicans Praise Newsom's Call For CEQA Reforms
- RecordNet.com
  - Newsom's Delta Tunnel speed-up plan could hurt region's fishing, farming, critics say
- San Francisco Chronicle
  - Newsom takes on the CEQA beast, proposes expediting transit, climate projects
- Sacramento News & Review
  - Newsom's war with California environmental groups keeps Sacramento County in its cross-hairs
- The Center Square
  - 'We are thrilled,' say Republicans as Newsom announces permitting reform
- The Independent
  - Polls Shows Voters Favor Delta Water Project
- The Mendocino Beacon
  - Gov. Newsom looks to spend \$180 billion on infrastructure, speed through lawsuits



- The Sacramento Bee
  - In Patterson, Newsom rolls out plan to fast-track infrastructure projects in California
  
- The San Diego-Union Tribune
  - Gov. Newsom unveils sweeping plan to speed up California infrastructure projects
  
- The Washington Examiner
  - Newsom at odds with green groups with bid to speed up construction projects



# Articles

## AgNet West

### Newsom Seeks to Streamline Infrastructure Projects

**Brian German**

Governor Gavin Newsom recently introduced a series of proposals to expedite infrastructure projects. The legislative package seeks to speed up the construction process while also streamlining permitting and court review. An executive order was also signed by the governor, establishing a strike team to accelerate clean energy projects. During a press conference, Newsom said that the action taken is simple, “it’s about saving time, and saving money, and addressing bureaucratic malaise.”

A total of 11 budget trailer bills are being introduced to the Legislature, focusing on eight fundamental principles. A key factor in the proposals is addressing the time-consuming process related to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Legal challenges under CEQA would be limited to 270 to achieve a resolution. The action complements other recent efforts to reform CEQA. Newsom said the reason for approaching the issue with trailer bills is because “people want to see results.”

Infrastructure projects that could be streamlined through the package include the Delta Conveyance Project as well as water storage projects funded through Proposition 1. Newsom specifically highlighted the Sites Reservoir Project as a beneficiary of the reforms included in the trailer bills. Altogether, the proposals could cut project timelines by more than three years, save hundreds of millions of dollars, and simplify paperwork procedures by hundreds of thousands of pages. “Recognizing the sense of urgency,” Newsom said, “we’ve got to do more, and we’ve got to do better.”

Another central focus of the proposals is maximizing federal funding support. Newsom noted that the lengthy process for getting a project moving forward puts California at a disadvantage. Federal money is “going to other states that are moving more aggressively,” Newsom explained. California seeks to invest state and federal funds of up to \$180 billion over the next decade in infrastructure projects. “This proposal is the most ambitious effort to cut red tape and streamline regulations in half a century. It’s time to make the most out of taxpayer dollars and deliver results,” Newsom said in a press release.

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## AgNet West

### Colorado River Agreement: ‘Important Step Forward’

**Brian German**

California, Nevada, and Arizona have reached an agreement on how to address concerns with the Colorado River. The Lower Basin Plan was accepted after nearly a year of negotiation and development. The three states will conserve three million acre-feet of river water through the end of 2026. At least 1.5 million acre-feet of that total is expected to be saved by the end of 2024. The U.S. Department of Interior will be advancing the process of developing new operating guidelines sometime next month.

“The Lower Basin Plan will generate unprecedented volumes of conservation that will build elevation in Lake Mead, make strategic use of the improved hydrology, and build upon partnerships within and among states, urban water agencies, agricultural irrigation districts, and Basin Tribes who rely upon and share the Colorado River,” Colorado River Board of California Chairman, JB Hamby said in a press release.



The conservation amounts to approximately 13 percent less water used by the three states. Federal compensation will be made available in exchange for conserving 2.3 million acre-feet of water. Funding will come from the Inflation Reduction Act. The amount of compensation is expected to be approximately \$1.2 billion. The remaining 700,000 acre-feet of water will be conserved through voluntary reductions by Lower Basin states.

Prior to the agreement, several federal plans were proposed to prevent Lake Mead from reaching dead pool, stopping operation of the Hoover Dam. The natural flow of the Colorado River has been reduced by approximately 20 percent in light of recent droughts. One proposed plan would have overridden senior water rights in California, severely impacting farmers in the Imperial Valley. The consensus-based proposal from the three Lower Basin states should delay any potential federal intervention until after 2026. While not a complete resolution to the issue, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner, Camille Calimlim Touton acknowledged that the agreement “is an important step forward towards our shared goal of forging a sustainable path for the basin.”

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## Associated Press News

[California governor seeks to speed up water, clean energy projects delayed by lawsuits, permits](#)

**Adam Beam**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday pledged to fast-track hundreds of billions of dollars’ worth of construction projects throughout the state, including a pair of large water endeavors that have languished for years amid permitting delays and opposition from environmental groups.

For the past decade, California officials have pursued the water projects in the drought-prone state. One would construct a giant tunnel to carry large amounts of water beneath the natural channels of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to drier and more populous Southern California.

The other would be a massive new reservoir near the tiny community of Sites in Northern California that could store more water during deluges — like the series of atmospheric rivers that hit the state earlier this year — for delivery to farmers.

But neither project has been built, despite promises from multiple governors and legislative leaders. Environmental groups have sued to block the tunnel project, arguing it would decimate threatened species of fish, including salmon and the Delta smelt. The Sites Reservoir is still trying to acquire necessary permits to begin construction.

Newsom is seeking a slew of changes to make it much faster for these projects to gain the required permits and approvals. Other projects that could be eligible include solar, wind and battery power storage; transit and regional rail; road maintenance and bridge projects; semiconductor plants; and wildlife crossings along Interstate 15, Newsom’s office said. His efforts to speed projects would not apply to building more housing.

One key proposal is to limit the amount of time it takes to resolve environmental lawsuits to about nine months. Newsom said his administration is “not looking to roll over anybody,” including what he called the “fierce champions” of environmental stewardship.

“I mean, nine months, you can have a kid, OK? I mean that’s a long time,” Newsom said Friday while visiting the site of a future solar farm in Stanislaus County.



Still, some environmental groups were furious. Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director of the advocacy group Restore the Delta, said Newsom “wants to do away with standard environmental protections to build the Delta tunnel.”

“We have never been more disappointed in a California governor than we are with Governor Newsom,” she said. “How is perpetuating environmental injustice, which harms public and environmental health, really any different than red state governors perpetuating social injustice in their states, which Governor Newsom likes to criticize vigorously?”

Newsom says California has hundreds of billions of dollars to spend on infrastructure projects over the next decade, the result of voter-approved bonds, bountiful budget surpluses during the pandemic and an influx of federal cash from President Joe Biden’s infrastructure bill.

But he said the state is often too slow to approve those projects and that the federal money is “going to other states that are moving more aggressively.” Newsom said his proposals could shorten how long it takes to build projects by more than three years.

His office said the legislation would allow various state agencies, including the Department of Transportation, to more quickly approve projects and issue permits. Newsom also signed an executive order on Friday creating what he called an “infrastructure strike team” to identify fast-track projects.

Jerry Brown, executive director of the Sites Project Authority that is overseeing the new reservoir, said he thinks Newsom’s proposals could allow construction to start a year early, saving about \$100 million.

“That saves a lot of money and gets a lot of jobs in the pipeline,” he said.

Newsom wants the legislation to be part of the state’s budget, which must be passed before the end of June. That means, if approved, it could take effect sooner and would only require a majority vote of the Democratic-controlled Legislature.

Toni Atkins, a Democrat from San Diego and the leader of the state Senate, said “the climate crisis requires that we move faster to build and strengthen critical infrastructure,” adding that lawmakers will “ensure we can do so responsibly, and in line with California’s commitment to high road jobs and environmental protection.”

Some Republicans cheered Newsom’s proposal, with Republican Senate Leader Brian Jones saying the governor “is finally taking action.” Others were more skeptical, with Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher saying Democrats in the Legislature are the biggest obstacle to Newsom’s proposals.

“Gavin Newsom loves to brag that he can ‘jam’ Democratic lawmakers. Let’s see it,” Gallagher said. “Republicans are ready to work with him towards real reforms.”

This article also ran in *Antelope Valley Press*, *Chron*, *DJC Oregon*, *Fortune*, *KQED*, *NBC Los Angeles*, *Newsday*, and *The Free Press*.



## CalMatters

### Gavin Newsom wants to make it easier to build roads, dams and more. What's in his plan?

Ben Christopher, Alastair Bland, Julie Cart and Alejandro Lazo

“Gavin Newsom loves to brag that he can ‘jam’ Democratic lawmakers. Let’s see it,” Gallagher said. “Republicans are ready to work with him towards real reforms.” Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to make it easier for California to build big things. Today, he unveiled a plan to make it happen.

At an 1,100 acre solar farm near Patterson in Stanislaus County, Newsom announced a package of legislative proposals and signed an executive order aimed at speeding big infrastructure projects. He aims to limit the time opponents can jam projects up in court with challenges under the California Environmental Quality Act, the law known as CEQA (and pronounced see-kwa)

Buoyed by an influx of federal dollars and motivated by the need to dramatically reduce the state’s greenhouse gas emissions, Newsom’s “CEQA-reform” proposal is likely to be cheered by industry groups, construction unions and even some climate activists.

He said the plan was about more than the urgency of climate change, but about rebuilding the public’s faith in the state’s ability to commit to and accomplish big things. “As someone who’s all in on high-speed rail...all I can think about is, ‘what if?’ ‘What if we had these principles before we laid out that project?’” he said, referring to the \$128 billion, much-delayed rail project. “I may not have had to drive down here today. I may have been on that rail.”

California isn’t short on what the governor might call “big hairy audacious goals.” The state has a plan to harvest all of the state’s electricity from carbon-free sources by 2045. The Newsom administration adopted a plan to phase out the sale of gas-guzzling cars, shifting the state’s appetite for driving onto the electricity grid. Proposed projects on water — to store it, to strip it of saltwater, to keep it at bay as sea levels rise and rivers top their banks — abound.

To meet those goals, California needs to build, potentially at a scale that would dwarf even the boom times of the 1960s. At a breakfast gathering of big business representatives in Sacramento on Thursday, the governor stressed that the state is ready to spend \$180 billion over the next 10 years, much of that money coming from the federal government. “The question is, are we going to screw it up by being consumed by paralysis and process?”

Newsom asked. Several leading organizations quickly issued statements expressing skepticism about Newsom’s proposal to modify the state’s landmark environmental law. Their leaders wanted to see more details than his office disclosed this week. “We need to meet the state’s climate goals with smart, carefully considered projects, not knee-jerk construction that bypasses the necessary protections that keep us safe,” said Aruna Prabhala, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity.

Have questions about Newsom’s big proposal? Here’s what we know.

Q: What is the governor actually proposing?



A: Details are still sparse, but his executive order, a summary of 11 bills released by his office, a separate report put out by administration infrastructure adviser Antonio Villaraigosa and Newsom's remarks speak to the following goals: Streamline environmental planning by coordinating among different local, state and federal agencies; Limit the amount of time courts have to weigh environmental challenges to nine months; Provide more funding to agencies to speed up reviews; Cut back on the number of documents that each review requires; Carve out more exemptions in the law to allow favored projects to skip certain environmental reviews. Some of these changes would broaden provisions already included in state law. The nine-month limit on environmental litigation, for example, already applies to renewable energy projects, certain housing and even major sports stadiums. "I love sports," Newsom said. "But I also love roads. I love transit. I love bridges...why the hell can't we translate that to all these other projects?"

Q: Is Newsom's 'CEQA reform' plan a big deal?

A: To hear Newsom say it, this is a very big deal. "If we get nothing else done in the next three years, this may be one of the most consequential things that we can actually deliver," he said on Thursday. For decades, California's deliberate — or as critics argue, glacially slow and unpredictable — permitting process has been a hallmark of its environmental policy. At the heart of that process is the California Environmental Quality Act. California lawmakers passed the law in 1970, riding a new public consciousness of environmental conservation and protection. It was a bipartisan sentiment. The governor who signed the law was Ronald Reagan while President Richard Nixon signed its federal counterpart that same year. At the time, the chief environmental concerns were local and growth-related: The incursion of development into green spaces and sensitive ecosystems; the widespread use of pesticides; the pollution of rivers and the befouling of oceans; littering. Business interests have decried "CEQA abuse" for decades. Now that climate change is the chief environmental concern of the day, some liberals are on board with "permitting reform" bandwagon, too. They argue the state needs to build at an unprecedented scale to decarbonize its electricity grid and transportation networks. Jennifer Hernandez, a land use and environmental attorney in San Francisco, said she was cautiously optimistic that the changes the governor spoke about would speed litigation. In particular, the governor's comments regarding addressing what constitutes an administrative record under the environmental law, could go far, she said. When a civil lawsuit is filed under the environmental law, the first thing that occurs is preparation that can take months to more than a year to gather. That's because the administrative record is broadly defined, she said. It can include emails, text messages by officials and other pieces of information that may not strictly pertain to the environmental impact of a project, she added. "The administrative record was defined about 20 years ago, to include internal agency communications, even emails about whether you want pizza for the meeting," Hernandez said.

Q: What types of projects will be affected?

A: In the executive order, Newsom called out a few spending areas specifically: "transportation, energy, hydrogen, environmental remediation, broadband, water, the CHIPS and Science Act (for semiconductor development), and zero-emission vehicles." Newsom named two major water proposals as examples of the kinds of projects that could benefit from the package: the Sites Reservoir in the Sacramento Valley and a tunnel that would funnel water under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Osha Meserve, an attorney in Sacramento who has represented opponents of the tunnel, said rigorous environmental review is justified when it comes to projects like the tunnel, which has been the focus of disagreement and legal challenges for decades. "If you're going to go across four counties and build the largest new infrastructure project in the whole state, then yes, you're going to need some detailed environmental reviews," Meserve said. Jerry Brown, the executive director of the Sites Project Authority (and not the former governor of the same name), said the governor's proposed CEQA reform could advance the process of acquiring a water right for the proposed Sacramento Valley reservoir by about six months. "That means we get into construction sooner, means we finish construction sooner," he said. "We're talking about a project here where a year delay costs about \$100 million."

Q: What about housing?



A: Newsom didn't mention housing prominently at his press conference. His administration is urging local governments to permit more than 2.5 million new units over the next eight years. Among pro-housing advocates, the environmental law is often cited as an unwelcome impediment — both because opponents can sue and delay projects and because the mere prospect of a lengthy legal battle can result in fewer and smaller housing projects being proposed. Asked about housing by a reporter, Newsom noted that some of the broad changes to permitting and record-keeping policy will speed up the construction of new homes, along with everything else.

Q: Will the plan harm the environment?

A: Not if you ask the governor, it goes without saying. "I care deeply about what the environmental community believes and thinks, but at the same time I care deeply about the progress we're promoting here today," he said today. Newsom had some backing from at least one major green group: Environment California, a nonprofit that often stakes out a centrist position on climate-related policy. "We need to work harder, better, faster, stronger to build five times as much clean energy every year," the group's director Laura Deehan said at today's press conference. But it's not clear whether the state's broader environmental community will be as enthused. In a statement, Sierra Club California director Brandon Dawson said that the group is still reviewing the idea, but expressed serious reservations. "We acknowledge the governor's desire to promote clean infrastructure, but this proposal needs a lot of work," he said. Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, the executive director of the group Restore the Delta, lashed out at the governor following the release of the order. "We have never been more disappointed in a California governor than we are with Gov. Newsom," she said in a statement.

Q: What are the odds this goes anywhere?

A: It's too early to tell. The governor's office released bill language late Friday afternoon and lawmakers in general have yet to read the details. Senate leader Toni Atkins in a written statement said climate change demands the state "move faster to build and strengthen critical infrastructure," but noted only that she looks "forward to working with our colleagues in the Assembly and administration to ensure we can do so responsibly." Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon in a written statement similarly said he would "work with our partners in the Senate as well as the governor to craft responsible proposals to meet California's infrastructure needs." Newsom can at least count on the support of the Legislature's Republicans. "California Senate Republicans have been advocating for CEQA reform for years," GOP Leader Sen. Brian Jones from Santee, said in a statement. "We are thrilled that Gov. Newsom is finally taking action." The current law has its defenders. Chief among them are environmentalists and environmental justice advocates who see it as a vital tool to check unfettered development and pollution. Also among CEQA's supporters: neighborhood groups who often use the law to stymie big, noisy projects in their backyard and organized labor groups, who have found it to be a useful way to block projects in order to extract union-friendly concessions. Newsom appears to have at least part of that latter group in his camp. At today's press conference, the governor was flanked by hardhat wearing carpenters, laborers, and electricians. Among the biggest applause lines: The projection, unverified, that this proposal will lead to the creation of 400,000 new jobs.

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## CapRadio

Delta Tunnel plan touted by Newsom gets push-back from Congress member  
Mike Hagerty

California's long-discussed "Delta tunnels" project is on the front-burner again.



Last week, Governor Gavin Newsom announced sweeping legislation that would fast-track infrastructure projects across the state. That announcement included the latest version of a tunnel project in the Delta, which would divert Sacramento River water and ultimately send it to Southern California.

Congressman Josh Harder, who represents the Stockton area and has been opposed to the Delta tunnels project for five years, is speaking out against the governor's move.

Harder and other advocacy groups say the project could negatively impact the ecosystem of the Delta in the San Joaquin Valley.

Proponents and the governor's office say the project will make the state's water supply more reliable, and allow better options for water movement and storage during and after storms.

"I care deeply about what the environmental community believes and thinks, but at the same time I care deeply about the progress we're promoting here today," Newsom said at a press conference announcing the legislation last week.

CapRadio's Mike Hagerty spoke with Harder to learn more about his effort to stop the Delta tunnel project.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

### **Interview highlights**

Hagerty: So to be clear, you and the governor are both Democrats and there's agreement between you that speeding up the state's transportation and water infrastructure projects is a good idea apart from the Delta Tunnel, right?

Harder: Absolutely. There's no question that we need to move faster on infrastructure projects. It's been 50 years since we built a new water reservoir anywhere in California.

We passed a water bond in 2014. A lot of that money is still sitting in bank accounts and shovels still haven't been put in the dirt all across California because there's so much red tape embedded in the process.

If we'd been able to build those projects before a flood year like this one, then we would have been able to keep countless people safe across the Central Valley and across the state. So we need to absolutely make sure that we're building good projects.

What we don't need is preferential treatment for a boondoggle like the Delta Tunnel that's going to do nothing to keep residents of San Joaquin County and the Central Valley safe and instead is just going to ship our water down south.



**You've hosted several town halls on the issue in your district with those folks. What are they saying?**

Well, people have been very loud and clear. We've done town halls across our district trying to make sure that we're hearing directly from folks who are going to be affected, who are on the frontlines of this fight. And I think, quite frankly, it's been pretty clearly unanimous. And it's not just this iteration. We've been fighting against this project for decades.

This is a zombie project. Every time we kill it, it finds a way to change its iteration. Sacramento brings it up again and comes back with another version. But none of [these Legislators] are going to do anything to keep our community safe, and instead are going to really imperil the livelihoods of folks across our area.

It's been very rigorously tested that if this water slipped down south, we're going to see more toxic algae blooms across the Delta. We're going to see more salt in the land because the water is going to be siphoned out and down, down south, which means that our farmers are going to be dealing with land that's been poisoned because of an infrastructure project like this one.

**Do you see yourself able to change the governor's mind?**

Well, we've won before. Like I said, this is just the latest iteration of a fight that we've been fighting for a long time. We've been able to stop this project again and again. Frankly, I don't understand why Sacramento is so invested in it that they keep bringing it back. But I think we have a good chance if we can build a coalition. The folks affected, obviously we're at the heart of it in San Joaquin County, Lodi, Stockton, Tracy. But folks are going to be affected all over Northern California.

**Is it awkward to put yourself at odds with the governor of your own party on a major project?**

My job is to make sure that I'm representing my community. This is not an issue that is divided by party lines. So often in California we want to pit environmentalists against farmers. The old line in California is whiskey's for drinking, water's for fighting; these water wars have really been a part of our state's history since the very beginning.

One of our farmers told me he doesn't have Democratic cows or Republican cows. He just has cows.

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## **Central Valley**

### **Governor guts landmark environmental law to expedite the salmon-killing Delta Tunnel Dan Bacher**

Advocates for fish, water and environmental justice are outraged over Governor Gavin Newsom's plan to gut the California Environmental Quality Act in order to construct the Delta Tunnel, Sites Reservoir and other destructive infrastructure projects.

At the site of a future solar farm in the San Joaquin Valley in Stanislaus County on May 19, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a legislative package and signed an executive order that would gut the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to expedite the construction of the salmon-killing Delta Tunnel, Sites Reservoir and other controversial infrastructure projects, drawing condemnation from environmental groups.

CEQA is a landmark environmental law that the construction industry, Big Ag, Big Oil and other Big Money interests have been trying to eviscerate for years in order to shorten the contracting process for bridge and water



projects, limit timelines for environmental litigation and simplify permitting for complicated developments in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and elsewhere throughout California.

“The only way to achieve California’s world-leading climate goals is to build, build, build – faster,” claimed Newsom, with no sense of irony, on Endangered Species Day. “This proposal is the most ambitious effort to cut red tape and streamline regulations in half a century. It’s time to make the most out of taxpayer dollars and deliver results while creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs. Not since the Pat Brown era have we had the opportunity to invest in and rebuild this state to create the clean future Californians deserve.”

The Governor claimed the measures will “facilitate and streamline project approval” and completion to maximize California’s share of federal infrastructure dollars and expedite the implementation of projects that meet the state’s ambitious economic, climate, and social goals.”

The widely-criticized announcement by the Governor followed Thursday’s report urging “permitting reform” from Infrastructure Advisor to California, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and California Forward.

Together, these proposals could: “cut project timelines by more than three years, save businesses and state and local governments hundreds of millions of dollars, and reduce paperwork by hundreds of thousands of pages,” according to the Governor.

Also today, Governor Newsom signed an executive order to stand up a “strike team” to accelerate clean infrastructure projects across the state by implementing an all-of-government strategy for planning and development.

The “water-related projects” that would be subject to the new “streamlined process” include the:

(A) The Delta Conveyance Project. (B) Water storage projects funded by the California Water Commission pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 79750) of Division 26.7 of the Water Code. (C) Projects for the production, distribution, or use of recycled water, as defined in Section 13050 of the Water Code. (D) Contaminant and salt removal projects, including, but not limited to, groundwater and seawater desalination and associated treatment, storage, conveyance, and distribution facilities. (E) Canal or other conveyance maintenance and repair.

Advocates for fish, water and the environment responded with outrage over Newsom’s infrastructure plan.

“Governor Newsom does not respect the people in communities that need environmental protection,” said Restore the Delta’s Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla. “During the drought he used emergency rules to destroy Delta water quality and fisheries for tribes and fishing communities. He has now proposed in the May revised budget to subvert rules during flood further weakening water quality protections.”

“He raided funding from the San Joaquin Valley drinking water program budget to pay for needed flood protections, pitting region against region, disadvantaged community against disadvantaged community, as he did during the drought, pitting drinking water solutions against tribal and Delta environmental justice community needs for freshwater flows. He has pitted powerful special interest senior water rights holders against the needs of millions of Californians with the voluntary agreement process,” she observed.



“Now he wants to do away with standard environmental protections to build the Delta tunnel,” Barrigan-Parrilla continued.

“We have never been more disappointed in a California Governor than we are with Governor Newsom. We have repeatedly given him the benefit of the doubt. But sadly, he has no real water management plan to deal with extended drought and flood extremes to meet our climate reality, but instead is choosing to continue with failed ideas from the past to appease his big dollar agriculture donors, like Stewart Resnick,” she argued.

“How is perpetuating environmental injustice, which harms public and environmental health, really any different than red state governors perpetuating social injustice in their states, which Governor Newsom likes to criticize vigorously. It is time for him to walk the talk in California. Environmental justice is social justice. It is not flowery photo-ops with cool language, while doing the opposite by destroying protective standards by executive order and legislative fiat, while leaving everyday Californians to live with the destructive and polluting impacts,” she concluded.

Delta advocates also pointed out that one of the Governor's trailer bills strips the Greater sandhill crane of protected species status.

Delta United tweeted: “Ironically on Endangered Species Day, @CAGovernor proposes budget trailer bill stripping Greater sandhill cranes of fully protected species status to pave way for Delta Tunnel boondoggle. Sad day for our majestic cranes.”

Today's announcement comes as the Newsom administration has presided over the unprecedented destruction of California fish populations at the service of Big Ag billionaires Lynda and Stewart Resnick, the largest orchard fruit growers in the world, and other powerful oligarchs.

Salmon are at their worst-ever crisis in California history at this time. Commercial and recreational salmon fishing is closed on the ocean in California and most of Oregon and in California rivers this year due to the collapse of salmon populations on the Sacramento and Klamath rivers that was caused by terrible water management during a drought.

The closure of salmon fishing on the ocean and rivers this year is just one example of the many fishery disasters caused by federal and state water project diversions from Central Valley reservoirs and rivers to enrich agribusiness contractors during recent drought years.

In one of many fish kills that took place in 2021, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2022 published a monitoring report on 2021's spring Chinook salmon run on Butte Creek, a Sacramento River tributary, revealing that 91 percent of the adult fish died before spawning.

An estimated 19,773 out of the more than 21,580 fish total that returned to spawn in the Butte County stream perished before spawning. Only an estimated 1,807 adults survived to spawn in a year with a record return of fish.

Fish advocates have criticized the CDFW and other government agencies for failing to exert needed pressure on PG&E, the current owner of the hydroelectric project on Butte Creek, to release colder flows when they were needed to alleviate the massive fish kill.



Also in 2021, only 2.6 percent of endangered Sacramento River winter run Chinook juveniles survived, according to another CDFW report. These fish perished due to lethally warm water conditions caused by the failure of the federal government to release cold water to save the fish.

It gets worse! For the fifth year in a row, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fall 2022 Midwater Trawl Survey (FMWT) found zero Delta Smelt in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

The slender 2 to 3 inch fish that smells like cucumber was once the most abundant fish in the Delta. The smelt, found only in the Delta, is considered an indicator species that shows the relative health of the imperiled estuary.

The results of the survey were summed up and analyzed in a memorandum from James White, environmental scientist for the CDFW's Bay Delta Region, to Erin Chappell, Regional Manager Bay Delta Region, on Dec. 29, 2022: Memorandum: 2022 FMWT Annual Fish Abundance and Distribution, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (759 KB).

"An absence of Delta Smelt catch in the FMWT is consistent among other surveys in the estuary," White wrote. "The Enhanced Delta Smelt Monitoring (EDSM) survey of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) caught 3 Delta Smelt among 61 sampling days (between 9/6 and 12/15) comprised of 1,997 tows."

Despite the release of many thousands of hatchery-raised Delta Smelt in Dec. 2021 and Jan., Feb. and Nov. 2022, no Delta smelt were found in any of the surveys.

"On Nov. 29- 30, 2022, the Experimental Release Technical Team released 12,942 marked adult Delta Smelt from culture into the Sacramento River near Rio Vista," said White. "Neither FMWT nor EDSM caught these released Delta Smelt during December sampling."

As scientists have documented for years, the Delta smelt, salmon and other fish populations have collapsed due to state and federal government actions and policies, including the export of massive quantities of Delta and Northern California to agribusiness oligarchs in the San Joaquin Valley, the mismanagement of water flows on Central Valley rivers and dams that benefit agribusiness at enormous expense to fish and people, and the pollution of Central Valley surface and ground water by agribusiness and the powerful oil and gas industry.

Rather than gutting CEQA to expedite destructive infrastructure projects like the Delta Tunnel and Sites Reservoir, the Governor and state leaders should instead work to strengthen and enforce landmark environmental laws like CEQA and CESA, the California Endangered Species Act.

The Delta Tunnel is based on the illogical premise that diverting more water out of the Sacramento River at the town of Hood would somehow "restore" the ecosystem while providing "water supply reliability." However, I'm not aware of any project in U.S. or world history where diverting more water out of an estuary or river has resulted in the restoration of that estuary or river.

If you think the situation with salmon, Delta smelt and other species is bad now, the Delta Tunnel would only make it worse.



## Central Valley

### Governor Modifies Enviro Law to Expedite Favored Projects

At the site of a future solar farm in the San Joaquin Valley in Stanislaus County on May 19, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a legislative package and signed an executive order that would gut the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to expedite the construction of the Delta Tunnel, Sites Reservoir, and other controversial infrastructure projects, drawing condemnation from environmental groups.

CEQA is a landmark environmental law that the construction industry, Big Ag, Big Oil and other Big Money interests have been trying to eviscerate for years in order to shorten the contracting process for bridge and water projects, limit timelines for environmental litigation, and simplify permitting for complicated developments in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and elsewhere throughout California.

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## Central Valley

### California Senate Committee Blocks Governor's Plan to Gut Environmental Law

**Dan Bacher**

Representatives of environmental groups spoke out against the legislation at the hearing, supporting the staff recommendations to move the trailer bills to the regular policy process and to reject the flood and drought trailer bill language.

On May 25, the California Senate Budget Committee in a 3-0 vote temporarily blocked Gavin Newsom's legislative plan to gut the landmark California Environmental Quality Act and other laws in order to fast-track the construction of the environmentally destructive Delta Tunnel, Sites Reservoir and other infrastructure projects. Democratic Senators Josh Becker of San Mateo and Mike McGuire of Santa Rosa and Republican Senator Brian Dahle of Redding all voted no, citing the complexity of the legislative package submitted for last-minute consideration by Governor Newsom.

The 10 bills included measures to streamline water, transportation and clean energy projects with an eye toward helping the state meet its climate goals, according to Cal Matters. "The overwhelming agreement is that we need to build clean faster and cut green tape," said Committee Chair Becker at the hearing.

"That's been a legislative priority for me and will continue to be a legislative priority. Although today we are rejecting the governor's trailer bill proposals based on process, as seven days is insufficient to vet the hundreds of pages of policy nuance in these proposals, we look forward to working with the administration on all of these critical issues."

Representatives of environmental groups spoke out against the legislation at the hearing, supporting the staff recommendations to move the trailer bills to the regular policy process and to reject the flood and drought trailer bill language.

"These are major proposals which are very broadly targeted, may not be necessary to streamline clean energy projects and may be very inadvisable given current actions today by the Supreme Court to greatly narrow



application of the Clean Water Act,” said Deirdre Des Jardins, representing Climate Action California and California Water Research.

“This is moving in the wrong direction for protections for the environment.” “We can have a future where we rapidly decarbonize and also protect biodiversity. So we urge the Senate to completely reject the governor's proposed trailer bill language. Frankly, there was no reason to spring it on the legislature or the public so suddenly and at the end of the legislative session,” she concluded.

Doug Obegi from the Natural Resources Defense Council also said he supported the staff recommendation to reject the flood water trailer bill. “The floodwater trailer bill is opposed by a broad coalition of conservation, fishing and environmental justice groups. In addition, we strongly support the staff recommendation to reject without prejudice the trailer bills regarding infrastructure and agree that those bills should be reviewed in the policy process,” he said.

Erin Wooley, calling on behalf of Sierra Club California, testified, “Thank you for the staff recommendation to reject the administration's trailer bill proposals that would reduce environmental protections and community engagement, including the 11 infrastructure trailer bills that were introduced last week, as well as the flood streamlining trailer bill. I urge you to instead move those through the policy bill process where they can be more thoroughly analyzed and subject to public involvement and engagement.”

Barry Nelson with the Golden State Salmon Association noted that the trailer bills “have a broad range of potentially very significant impacts, including for the salmon fishing industry that is shut down this year because of disastrously low salmon populations. We're here to support your staff recommendation and send those trailer bills to policy committees where of the issues they raised can be addressed properly.”

Regina Chichizola, co-director of Save California Salmon, said, “I just wanted to urge the committee to think seriously about the funding for streamlining environmental permitting, and also funding for massive new reservoirs and water diversions. I live in a community that's a tribal community that's very impacted by the fishery and what has happened with the fishery in the last ten years. And we see a lot of these proposals coming down from the governor, including the budget proposals, as being very threatening to our way of life and to clean water in the state of California in general.”

“As you know, our water rate system is pretty broken and farmers in large ag get the majority of our water. So we feel that the committee should look very seriously at public benefits for any proposals that go around environmental laws or permitting, and also budgeting of large infrastructure projects such as private reservoirs and diversions that will mainly benefit large ag and not the general public,” she commented. In a tweet thread, Artie Valencia of Restore the Delta stated, “We completely reject the governor's trailer bill language. When it comes to complex topics like climate change, we are far-behind in making the right decisions due to negligence to their proper legislative process and review. The trailer bills will exclude the public and could lead to the privatization of groundwater.

Restore the Delta does not only oppose the-drought trailer bill, but also the judicial streamlining, delta reform act and species reclassification trailer bills. We will have a letter stating our concerns next week to you,” he said. Salmon populations collapse due to terrible fish and water management in drought The hearing took place at a time when once-thriving salmon populations are at their worst-ever crisis in California history.



Commercial and recreational salmon fishing is closed on the ocean in California and most of Oregon and in California rivers this year due to the collapse of salmon populations on the Sacramento and Klamath rivers that was caused by terrible water management during a drought, according to independent scientists and fish advocates.

The closure of salmon fishing on the ocean and rivers this year is just one example of the many fishery disasters caused by federal and state water project diversions from Central Valley reservoirs and rivers to enrich agribusiness contractors during recent drought years. In one of many fish kills that took place in 2021, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2022 published a monitoring report on 2021's spring Chinook salmon run on Butte Creek, a Sacramento River tributary, revealing that 91 percent of the adult fish died before spawning.

An estimated 19,773 out of the more than 21,580 fish total that returned to spawn in the Butte County stream perished before spawning. Only an estimated 1,807 adults survived to spawn in a year with a record return of fish. Fish advocates have criticized the CDFW and other government agencies for failing to exert needed pressure on PG&E, the current owner of the hydroelectric project on Butte Creek, to release colder flows when they were needed to alleviate the massive fish kill. Also in 2021, only 2.6 percent of endangered Sacramento River winter run Chinook juveniles survived, according to another CDFW report. These fish perished due to lethally warm water conditions caused by the failure of the federal government to release cold water to save the fish. Delta smelt are virtually extinct in the wild. It gets worse! For the fifth year in a row, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fall 2022 Midwater Trawl Survey (FMWT) found zero Delta Smelt in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

The slender 2 to 3 inch fish that smells like cucumber was once the most abundant fish in the Delta. The smelt, found only in the Delta, is considered an indicator species that shows the relative health of the imperiled estuary. The results of the survey were summed up and analyzed in a memorandum from James White, environmental scientist for the CDFW's Bay Delta Region, to Erin Chappell, Regional Manager Bay Delta Region, on Dec. 29, 2022: "An absence of Delta Smelt catch in the FMWT is consistent among other surveys in the estuary," White wrote.

"The Enhanced Delta Smelt Monitoring (EDSM) survey of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) caught 3 Delta Smelt among 61 sampling days (between 9/6 and 12/15) comprised of 1,997 tows." Despite the release of many thousands of hatchery-raised Delta Smelt in Dec. 2021 and Jan., Feb. and Nov. 2022, no Delta smelt were found in any of the surveys. "On Nov. 29- 30, 2022, the Experimental Release Technical Team released 12,942 marked adult Delta Smelt from culture into the Sacramento River near Rio Vista," said White. "Neither FMWT nor EDSM caught these released Delta Smelt during December sampling."

As scientists have documented for years, the Delta smelt, salmon and other fish populations have collapsed due to state and federal government actions and policies, including the export of massive quantities of Delta and Northern California to agribusiness oligarchs in the San Joaquin Valley, the mismanagement of water flows on Central Valley rivers and dams that benefit agribusiness at enormous expense to fish and people, and the pollution of Central Valley surface and ground water by agribusiness and the powerful oil and gas industry.

Rather than gutting CEQA to expedite destructive infrastructure projects like the Delta Tunnel and Sites Reservoir, the Governor and state leaders should instead work to strengthen and enforce landmark environmental laws like CEQA and CESA, the California Endangered Species Act.

The Delta Tunnel is based on the illogical premise that diverting more water out of the Sacramento River at the town of Hood would somehow "restore" the ecosystem while providing "water supply reliability." However, I'm not aware of any project in U.S. or world history where diverting more water out of an estuary or river has resulted in the restoration of that estuary or river.



If you think the situation with salmon, Delta smelt and other species is bad now, the Delta Tunnel and Sites Reservoir, along with the Big Ag-backed voluntary water agreements, would only make it worse.

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## Courthouse News Service

**Newsom touts plan to cut red tape and speed up green infrastructure projects**

**Natalie Hanson**

The governor said the most aggressive reforms to the development process to take place in the last 50 years will also create thousands of jobs.

PATTERSON, Calif. (CN) — California Governor Gavin Newsom announced plans Friday to reform decades-old development processes in order to get green energy projects moving — and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

Newsom visited the future site of Proxima Solar Farm in the Central Valley town of Patterson to unveil the new legislation package Friday. He said his administration is releasing new measures to reform permit and project review processes.

Newsom said the eight-bill package is designed to streamline project approval, to maximize California's federal infrastructure dollars and expedite projects to meet economic and climate goals. He said that alongside his new executive order, the state will speed up construction, clear delayed construction procurement processes and expedite judicial review for projects that have already passed environmental reviews.

The executive order presented Friday launches a strike team to accelerate clean infrastructure projects across the state by implementing a government-wide strategy for planning and development.

The governor said these are the most aggressive reforms to the development process to take place in the last 50 years, with the goal to build California's clean energy future while creating thousands of jobs.

He pointed to investments in the last two state budgets, alongside the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act, to help the state invest up to \$180 billion over the next decade in clean infrastructure. He said this could create about 400,000 new jobs.

“By streamlining permitting, cutting red tape, and allowing state agencies to use new types of contracts, these proposals will maximize taxpayer dollars and accelerate timelines of projects throughout the state, while ensuring appropriate environmental review and community engagement,” the governor said in a statement.

He is also establishing a Green Bank Financing Program within the Climate Catalyst Fund — to use federal dollars for climate projects that cut pollution, focusing on projects that benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities.



“The only way to achieve California’s world-leading climate goals is to build, build, build — faster,” Newsom said.

“This proposal is the most ambitious effort to cut red tape and streamline regulations in half a century. It’s time to make the most out of taxpayer dollars and deliver results while creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs. Not since the Pat Brown era have we had the opportunity to invest in and rebuild this state to create the clean future Californians deserve,” Newsom said, referring to California’s 32nd governor now touted as the builder of modern California.

Newsom said the goal is also to restore public trust in their government institutions amid the growing dangers from climate change.

“To recognize that urgency is not just to recognize climate change, that urgency is around actually delivering on what we promote and promise,” he said.

At the briefing, Laura Deehan, director of the advocacy group Environment California, said the state is now number one in the nation for solar power, generating enough to power five million homes.

However, she said the state needs to build enough to generate five times as much clean energy every year.

“Here in California, at least 600 species are at risk of extinction, of being lost forever,” Deehan said. “That’s why it’s crucial that we continue to uphold our strong environmental protection in California, so that we don’t make the same mistakes again.”

The state listed projects that could be streamlined including hundreds of solar, wind and battery storage projects, Proposition 1 water storage projects and the Delta Conveyance Project — which proposes modernizing the transport network of waterways comprising the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The governor’s legislation builds on efforts to reform the California Environmental Quality Act and other prior actions lawmakers have taken to streamline state laws and maximize housing production. About 20 CEQA reform bills recently became law in the state.

Newsom credited his predecessor Governor Jerry Brown — Pat Brown’s son — for his commitment to CEQA. However, he said, “It was a fault line of sorts. We can’t just keep saying no.”

The governor said he chose Proxima Solar Farm as the place to unveil the new legislation package, as it broke ground this past August and is expected to be operational by December.

The facility could power 60,000 homes in the region, and can generate up to 210 megawatts of renewable energy and 177 megawatts of battery energy storage. NextEra Energy says the project should create 300 construction jobs and generate \$35 million in local revenue.

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### KCRA 3

#### Newsom announces new effort to speed up construction of environmental and transportation projects

##### KCRA Staff

Gov. Newsom earlier this year vowed to change a law called the California Environmental Quality Act. Critics say the 1970 law has been used to block housing and public transit projects.

STANISLAUS COUNTY, Calif. — California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday announced an effort to save money and speed up the amount of time it takes to finish transportation, environmental and other infrastructure projects across California.

The governor said he has introduced nearly a dozen proposals he said would cut down on paperwork and the process to receive approval permits. He also said the effort would limit the amount of time infrastructure work is caught up in court over environmental lawsuits to no more than nine months.

Newsom also signed an executive order that directs some members of his cabinet to pick projects that should be fast-tracked. The legislative package and executive order build on Newsom's vow earlier this year to change a law called the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The law requires agencies to evaluate and disclose significant environmental effects of projects and find ways to lessen those impacts. Newsom and other critics say the 1970s law has been used to block anything from new apartments, bike lanes, California's High Speed Rail and water projects.

"We're not looking to roll anybody over. We're not looking to roll over local communities. We're not looking to roll over environmental stewardship," Newsom said at Friday's announcement at a future solar farm and renewable energy storage facility in Stanislaus County.

Restore the Delta, an advocacy group that is opposed to the Delta tunnel project, released a statement Friday lambasting the governor.

"Governor Newsom does not respect the people in communities that need environmental protection," said the group's executive director, Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla. "We have never been more disappointed in a California Governor than we are with Governor Newsom. We have repeatedly given him the benefit of the doubt."

Sports stadiums have been able to bypass CEQA's hurdles to be quickly constructed, including the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento and SoFi Stadium in Southern California.

Newsom said he's trying to use similar strategies to transportation and climate work. "I love sports. I take a backseat to nobody on sports, but I also love roads; I love transit; I love bridges; I love clean energy projects," the governor said. "It's not just about stadiums, and we've proven we can get it done for stadiums, so why the hell can't we translate that to all of these other projects?"



Newsom noted Friday he wants to pick up the pace on efforts to expand access to broadband internet, the construction of a reservoir in Northern California, and other projects that have been proposed but are waiting for permits to begin construction. Housing was left out of the governor's proposal because Newsom's administration said climate and infrastructure projects are eligible for federal money.

Speeding up the timeline on those projects makes them more competitive for funds. Newsom noted some parts of his plan could have benefits to housing construction, and said several other efforts are underway in the Legislature to speed up housing production. Newsom's administration late Friday filed 11 bills that are referred to as "budget trailer bills" to map out the plan.

Specifically, Newsom's office said the bills would streamline the construction procurement process, authorize an expedited judicial review to avoid delays from legal challenges, streamline permitting and establish a green bank financing program to leverage federal money for climate projects. Republican lawmakers on Friday said they were cautiously optimistic.

"I hope he's serious about this because if he is, Central California, the state as a whole is going to see some improvements," said Assemblyman Jim Patterson, R-Fresno.

The governor is proposing to pass the set of proposals through the state's budget process, which would speed up the timeline, but have a less thorough public review process than what typical policy proposals go through at the state capitol. If successful, the Legislature would pass his plan in June, and the new rules would take effect immediately.

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## **Manteca Bulletin**

### **Newsom's vow to ram tunnel project thru bigger threat to Delta than climate change Dennis Wyatt**

Either the science is wrong or Gov. Gavin Newsom has no idea of what he is doing.

On Friday, to much fanfare, Newsom, vowed to fast track water and green projects.

That means cutting off the boa constrictor like tentacles of the California Environmental Quality Act enacted into law in 1970. It has since morphed beyond its original intent thanks to the ever expanding blob known as the state bureaucracy, court decisions, and subsequent sessions of the California Legislature.

Newsom, like any politician worth their salt, isn't allowing a good disaster go to waste.

Citing drought-related issues and climate change, Newsom wants to gut the bloated approval process CEQA has created.

This includes a dubious \$20 billion or more endeavor known as the Delta Tunnel.



It's been called other things over the years.

In 1951, when a 40-year-old engineering dream outlined by Lt. Robert B. Marshal of the United States Geological Survey started rolling forward in earnest, it was called a Delta Cross Channel.

Then in 1982 when environmentalists and farmers joined forces to help voters send a ballot measure funding such a project down in flames, it was called the Peripheral Canal.

It was resurrected in 2009 as the Twin Tunnels before Newsom in 2019 made it a seemingly less draconian project in a bid to get everyone to swallow the medicine for California's ills. It is an idea hatched 72 years ago by development that you could argue set the stage to set manmade climate change into overdrive in the Golden State.

No single act of man has transformed California and its growth more than the Central Valley Water Project and the State Water Project, of which a Delta conveyance is the crowning act. Newsom believes sea levels are rising.

The science — and earth's cyclical ocean history — confirms it.

The only disputed aspect is how fast and how soon.

There are those that say it will happen over the course of hundreds of years.

There are others — including Newsom — that align with the models that show the clock is ticking down to 70 years or less.

And days before Newsom vowed to become the man that bureaucratic red tape fears the most, the strong prospect of the advent of another major El Nino prompted the sooner-than-later crowds to lop decades off of their projection.

One would assume that a 10-foot rise in the sea level would devastate the California coast.

Guess again. It would impact it no doubt.

But the amount of land area involved is a mere drop in a gallon of water compared to what devastation awaits the Delta and areas including Stockton, Sacramento, Natomas, Weston Ranch, Tracy, Lathrop, and parts of Manteca.

Also on a much bigger hit list — but significantly less than the Delta — than the coast is the San Francisco Bay south of the Bay Bridge to San Jose.

Go to interactive maps and see for yourself. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is a good site.

Even better is the [climatecentral.org](http://climatecentral.org) site that is ironically what Newsom's own administration has put in place. How does diverting 4.5 million acre feet of water from the Delta via a bypass tunnel protect the Delta or more than a million people from Sacramento to Lathrop? It doesn't.



If anything, the absence of fresh water to push back against rising seawater will aggravate the situation.

The “cross channel” was never about managing anyone’s water except imports from the north state the Los Angeles Basin takes and large swaths of corporate farms use on questionable soil in the southwest portion of the San Joaquin Valley. It creates no more water storage.

What it does is remove 4.5 million acre feet of water from the Delta ecological system each year with the “project” ability to take another 400,000 acre feet, and a design capacity to divert much more.

That 4.5 million acre feet of fresh water would be replaced by only two things: \*4.5 million acre feet of seawater.

\*or upwards of 4.5 million acre feet of water from San Joaquin Valley Basin with the most likely targets being the combined watershed of the Stanislaus, Merced, and Tuolumne rivers.

Either option helps devastate the Northern San Joaquin valley counties of Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin.

That means the most eminent as well as clear and present danger to California from the sea reclaiming land in the Delta is Newsom and not climate change.

Research by scientists shows increased salinity will devastate ecological systems and push endangered fish species to the brink. It also will increase salt water intrusion into aquifers that cities such as Tracy, Lathrop, and Stockton depend on as well as that of farmers.

This means sacrificing the Delta and the economic prosperity and viability of Central California cities just so Los Angeles wouldn’t have to pay for unsightly, expensive desalinization plants that will impact a speck of the environment compared to the Delta damage in order to have adequate water supplies.

In the end, so wealthier coastal cities and corporate farmers can prosper, Newsom is pursuing a path where the most vulnerable and poorest region of the state — the San Joaquin Valley — will be sacrificed. Is Newsom doing this deliberately?

Highly doubtful. But Newsom is doing California no favor by buying into a 112-year-old idea forged in an era when clear cutting redwoods and draining the state’s largest lake — Tulare — was considered progressive.

Why not a barrier system — with locks and fish ladders — that protects the flow of water bound for LA, protects the environment and addresses rising sea levels at the same time. As it stands now, Newsom is cheerleading a Delta solution born in the heyday of environmental destruction and is highly likely to exacerbate issues dealing with climate change as opposed to protecting the environment from them.

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## **myMotherLode.com**

### **Republicans Praise Newsom's Call For CEQA Reforms**

**B.J. Hansen**

Sacramento, CA — California Governor Gavin Newsom is calling for significant reforms to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to speed up the construction of projects like roads, bridges and water infrastructure.

CEQA was signed into law in 1970 as a tool to protect natural resources, but over the years critics have argued that it has become too easy for opposition groups to use it as a mechanism to unnecessarily slow or halt development projects. Often times projects are held up in court to the point that they are no longer cost-effective.

The Governor's plan includes streamlining review processes, expediting court reviews, speeding up permitting, and addressing other "cumbersome CEQA processes across the board."

Newsom says, "This proposal is the most ambitious effort to cut red tape and streamline regulations in half a century."

Specifics are sparse, but the Governor will be releasing more details over the coming weeks.

He added, "If we get nothing else done in the next three years, this may be one of the most consequential things that we can actually deliver."

California Republicans, who regularly argue for CEQA reforms, are embracing the Governor's statements.

Mother Lode District 8 Assemblymember, Jim Patterson, says, "I hope he is serious about this, because if he is, Central California, and the state as a whole, is going to see some improvements and good jobs. Sites (Reservoir) will be under construction, our roads, highways and streets will be improved, and we'll see broadband and high-speed internet."

Patterson added, "I hope he is as good as his press conference, and as good as his press release. Because, sometimes, he says things that don't come true. I hope he is serious about this."

Senate GOP Minority Caucus Chair, Janet Nguyen, noted, "California Senate Republicans have been at the forefront of the CEQA reform movement for years. As evidenced by our extensive legislative track record, we are eager to move California forward in this arena so we can build more housing, water storage, and sensible infrastructure projects in a reasonable timeframe and without costly settlements."

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## **Recordnet.com**

### **Newsom's Delta Tunnel speed-up plan could hurt region's fishing, farming, critics say**

**Mike Hagerty**



*California's long-discussed "Delta tunnels" project is on the front-burner again. Congressman Josh Harder said Newsom's plan is a Trojan horse for a "disastrous water grab that would send our water to Beverly Hills."*

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on May 19 a plan to build out California's clean and green future faster, but some local leaders aren't thrilled with what it could mean for the controversial Delta Tunnel project.

Newsom and the state Department of Water Resources have shown support for the \$16 billion project to convey water from the Delta down to southern California, a concept tossed around since the 1980s. The current iteration downsizes the project from two tunnels to one.

The governor hopes to speed up construction, expedite court reviews, streamline permitting and California Environmental Quality Act processes and start a climate projects financing program — all to expedite clean infrastructure projects across the state.

"The only way to achieve California's world-leading climate goals is to build, build, build — faster," Newsom said. "This proposal is the most ambitious effort to cut red tape and streamline regulations in half a century. It's time to make the most out of taxpayer dollars and deliver results while creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs."

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director at Restore the Delta, said the current draft environmental impact report for the Delta Tunnel is "totally inadequate ... the worst environmental impact report version we've seen," and a revised or completed report is to be submitted by December.

Restore the Delta says a more realistic estimate for the Delta Tunnel is \$50 to \$60 billion when it's all said and done. Environmental groups have sued to stop the project.

"(Newsom is) just going to revise the rules by executive order or fiat, and we're tired of it ... it is a real pattern with this governor," Barrigan-Parrilla told The Record. "(It's) 'we have new rules, and we don't have to adjust for these concerns or standards, so we're just going to do the project and say it's about securing a water future for California.'"

The consequences could be dire for the Delta region, Barrigan-Parrilla said, including the multi-billion-dollar local fishery and ag industries. Hundreds of wildlife and plant species — including the Delta smelt and the endangered Chinook salmon — would risk decimation or extinction without a habitat with adequate amounts of water. Not to mention in years like this year, where water is in surplus, there's no place to put extra water in southern California, Barrigan-Parrilla said.

"(The Delta Tunnel) means the fisheries die, it means we're surrounded by harmful algal blooms and stagnant, polluted water," Barrigan-Parrilla said. "It's not a climate project ... that's not justice. That's not following the rule of law."

Congressman Josh Harder (D-Tracy) said in a statement he's all for speeding up transportation and water infrastructure projects, but he sees Newsom's plan as a Trojan horse to fast-track a "disastrous water grab that would send our water to Beverly Hills."



“We are not fooled. Our community has spoken up time and time again that this is a bad project,” Harder said in a statement. “Sacramento politicians are now trying to change the rules to build the tunnel against our wishes. We will fight this tooth and nail.”

State Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua (D-Stockton) said in a statement he'll continue to “strongly oppose” any attempt at a water grab through conveyance projects, especially without appropriate review.

“Expediting this water grab in the name of ‘building a clean future’ is nothing short of ironic,” Villapudua said in a statement. “Rather, this will expedite the demise of a fragile water supply and put the entire ecosystem at risk.”

For the past decade, officials have pursued water projects in drought-prone California. Another would be a massive new reservoir near the tiny community of Sites in Northern California that could store more water during deluges — like the series of atmospheric rivers that hit the state earlier this year — for delivery to farmers. The Sites Reservoir is still trying to acquire necessary permits to begin construction.

One key proposal is to limit the amount of time it takes to resolve environmental lawsuits to about nine months. Newsom said his administration is “not looking to roll over anybody,” including what he called the “fierce champions” of environmental stewardship.

“I mean, nine months, you can have a kid, OK? I mean that's a long time,”

Newsom said Friday while visiting the site of a future solar farm in Stanislaus County. Newsom says California has hundreds of billions of dollars to spend on infrastructure projects over the next decade, the result of voter-approved bonds, bountiful budget surpluses during the pandemic and an influx of federal cash from President Joe Biden’s infrastructure bill. But he said the state is often too slow to approve those projects and that the federal money is “going to other states that are moving more aggressively.”

Newsom said his proposals could shorten how long it takes to build projects by more than three years. His office said the legislation would allow various state agencies, including the Department of Transportation, to more quickly approve projects and issue permits.

Newsom also signed an executive order on Friday creating what he called an “infrastructure strike team” to identify fast-track projects. Jerry Brown, executive director of the Sites Project Authority that is overseeing the new reservoir, said he thinks Newsom's proposals could allow construction to start a year early, saving about \$100 million.

“That saves a lot of money and gets a lot of jobs in the pipeline,” he said. Newsom wants the legislation to be part of the state's budget, which must be passed before the end of June. That means, if approved, it could take effect sooner and would only require a majority vote of the Democratic-controlled Legislature. Toni Atkins, a Democrat from San Diego and the leader of the state Senate, said “the climate crisis requires that we move faster to build and strengthen critical infrastructure,” adding that lawmakers will “ensure we can do so responsibly, and in line with California's commitment to high road jobs and environmental protection.”



Some Republicans cheered Newsom's proposal, with Republican Senate Leader Brian Jones saying the governor "is finally taking action." Others were more skeptical, with Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher saying Democrats in the Legislature are the biggest obstacle to Newsom's proposals.

"Gavin Newsom loves to brag that he can 'jam' Democratic lawmakers. Let's see it," Gallagher said. "Republicans are ready to work with him towards real reforms."

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## San Francisco Chronicle

### Newsom takes on the CEQA beast, proposes expediting transit, climate projects Dustin Gardener

After years of expressing alarm about the limits California's sweeping environmental laws put on new construction, Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday finally released a plan to wrangle the CEQA beast.

"I mean, nine months, you can have a kid. That's a long time. You can even have twins after nine months," Newsom said during a news conference.

"Beyond that, you start getting the abuse process. Delays start becoming denials. We have a lot at stake." While key details of the plan have not been released, what Newsom is describing could amount to the most significant reform of the landmark California Environmental Quality Act in decades.

Newsom said the law, commonly known as CEQA, has too often delayed projects that would significantly benefit the state's efforts to combat climate change and improve transportation systems.

He unveiled the plan at the site of a future solar farm in the Central Valley, where he was surrounded by union workers in orange construction vests and hard hats. CEQA — pronounced as "seek-wuh" — is a landmark environmental law signed in 1970 by then-Gov. Ronald Reagan.

It requires public agencies and local governments to study the significant environmental impacts of a building project before approving it. But the scope of the law has expanded greatly over the decades since, often through court rulings that require public agencies to consider the health impacts of growth, such as noise and traffic.

State lawmakers and Newsom have passed more than 20 bills to reform CEQA in recent years. But as the governor hinted, those bills have often been carve-outs that benefit pet projects, such as sports arenas in the Bay Area or Los Angeles, or a limited type of construction.

Newsom noted that California stands to benefit from \$180 billion in funding for infrastructure projects over the next decade, including federal and state funding, the most significant government investment of its kind since the 1950s. But he said he including he worries the state could "screw it up" without a paradigm shift.



The governor said he would present the Legislature with 11 draft bills on Friday outlining his proposal, measures that he wants to tack onto the state's budget, which lawmakers must approve by June 15 or go without pay. In addition to CEQA reform, Newsom said the bills will expedite the timeline for receiving some building permits, create a special fund to support climate Newsom climate projects and reduce paperwork needed for construction.

Among the projects that could benefit, according to Newsom's office: solar, wind and battery storage; regional rail lines; bridges; water storage projects, such as the proposed Sites Reservoir in the Sacramento Valley; the Delta Conveyance Project, abridges; along-awaited mega tunnel to carry water south; and wildlife crossings along the Interstate 15 corridor. long-Newsom stressed that the cost and time that it takes to build major infrastructure projects in California — such as the long-embattled project to build a bullet train from San Francisco to Anaheim — has harmed taxpayer faith in government, as well as embattled efforts to reduce planet-warming emissions.

“What if we had these principles before we laid out (plans for high-speed rail)?” Newsom said of the project that has been “bedeviled by CEQA lawsuits as its estimated cost has ballooned from \$33 billion to \$128 billion. “I may not have had to drive bedeviled drive down here today. I may have been on that rail.”

But Newsom needs the Legislature's support in order to pass his proposed overhaul, which his office said will have an urgency clause so it could take effect immediately upon his signature.

On that front, the governor could face some major headwinds in Sacramento. Attempts to reform CEQA have faced fervent opposition from some labor unions and environmentalists. Defenders of the law argue it protects low-income and opposition and disadvantaged communities from harmful development and that CEQA has become a scapegoat for the housing shortage when disadvantaged when many other factors fueled the crisis. Newsom said his administration spent more than a year carefully crafting its proposal to ensure it would ease many of those Newsom THOSE concerns.

“We're not looking to roll over local communities, we're not looking to roll over environmental stewardship and those that are out there as fierce champions,” he said as union workers around him cheered. “And we sure as hell ain't ever going to roll over out over... all of our brothers and sisters in labor.”

“The climate crisis requires that we move faster to build and strengthen critical infrastructure. We look forward to working with our colleagues in the Assembly and Administration to ensure we can do so responsibly, and in line with California with California's commitment to high road jobs and environmental protection.”

But the governor did secure some early GOP support.

In a statement, Senate Minority Leader Brian Jones, R-Santee (San Diego County), said his caucus was “thrilled that Gov. Newsom is finally taking action.” Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher, of Yuba City (Sutter County), prodded Democrats with a similar sentiment: “Gavin Newsom loves to brag that he can ‘jam’ Democratic lawmakers. Let's see it.

Complaints about CEQA have hit fever pitch in recent years, especially as California sinks deeper into a housing crisis. For many housing advocates and others, the concern is that CEQA has become a guise to file lawsuits to challenge projects over many overconcerns that are largely unrelated to the environment.



They say the law has been hijacked by neighbors opposed to housing concerns housing and other development.

The main piece of Newsom's CEQA proposal, to prohibit lawsuits from delaying projects for more than 270 days, would not apply to housing projects. Newsom said other pieces related to permit approvals and document requirements related to CEQ apply CEQ would benefit housing projects, however.

"We've done a lot of work on housing," Newsom said, noting that he hopes to sign other housing-related bills before the legislature this year. "Tremendous progress has been made in that space."

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## San Francisco News & Review

Newsom's war with California environmental groups keeps Sacramento County in its cross-hairs

**Dan Bacher**

'We have never been more disappointed in a California Governor than we are with Governor Newsom'

At the site of a future solar farm in the Central Valley, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a legislative package and signed an executive order that conservationists say would gut the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA, in order to expedite the construction of embattled public projects, including the Delta Tunnel and Sites Reservoir.

This move from Newsom a week-and-a-half ago drew strong condemnation from the state's environmental groups. Yesterday, the Senate budget committee temporarily blocked his plan in a 3-0 vote. But Newsom's executive order is still in effect.

Widely seen as a landmark law, CEQA is something the construction industry, Big Ag, Big Oil and special interest groups have been trying to eviscerate for years. Now they're getting help from Newsom, who has taken campaign contributions from most of those industries. Critics of CEQA argue that changing it would shorten the contracting process for bridge and water projects, limit timelines for environmental litigation and simplify permitting for complicated developments in the Delta and elsewhere throughout California.

"The only way to achieve California's world-leading climate goals is to build, build, build – faster," Newsom claimed. "This proposal is the most ambitious effort to cut red tape and streamline regulations in half a century. It's time to make the most out of taxpayer dollars and deliver results while creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs. Not since the Pat Brown era have we had the opportunity to invest in and rebuild this state to create the clean future Californians deserve."

The governor went on to insist that the measures will "facilitate and streamline project approval" and completion to maximize California's share of federal infrastructure dollars, as well as expedite the implementation of projects that meet the state's ambitious economic, climate, and social goals."

Newsom's widely-criticized announcement followed a recent report urging "permitting reform" from Infrastructure Advisor to California, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and California Forward. Together, these proposals could: "cut project timelines by more than three years, save businesses and state and local governments



hundreds of millions of dollars, and reduce paperwork by hundreds of thousands of pages,” according to the governor.

Newsom also signed an executive order to stand up a “strike team” to accelerate clean infrastructure projects across the state by implementing an all-of-government strategy for planning and development. The “water-related projects” that would be subject to the new “streamlined process” include the controversial Delta Tunnel, which would trigger wide-spread eminent domain seizures by the state against Sacramento County property owners, as well as the demolition of historic properties.

Advocates for fish, water and the environment responded with outrage over Newsom’s infrastructure plan. “Governor Newsom does not respect the people in communities that need environmental protection,” said Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla of Restore the Delta.

“During the drought, he used emergency rules to destroy Delta water quality and fisheries for tribes and fishing communities. He has now proposed in the May revised budget to subvert rules during flood further weakening water quality protections.” She added, “He raided funding from the San Joaquin Valley drinking water program budget to pay for needed flood protections, pitting region against region, disadvantaged community against disadvantaged community, as he did during the drought, pitting drinking water solutions against tribal and Delta environmental justice community needs for freshwater flows ... Now he wants to do away with standard environmental protections to build the Delta tunnel. We have never been more disappointed in a California Governor than we are with Governor Newsom.”

Defenders of Wildlife also blasted Newsom’s move. “These trailer bills establish a dangerous precedent for imperiled wildlife in California,” said Ashley Overhouse, water policy advisor with Defenders of Wildlife. “This policy change, announced on Endangered Species Day of all days, is exclusionary, undemocratic and could spell disaster for the San Francisco Bay Delta estuary.”

Delta advocates went on to point out one of the Governor’s trailer bills would have stripped the Greater sandhill crane of protected species status. “Ironically on Endangered Species Day, [Governor Newsom] proposes budget trailer bill stripping greater sandhill cranes of fully protected species status to pave way for Delta Tunnel boondoggle,” Delta United observed on social media.

“Sad day for our majestic cranes.” The Newsom Administration’s latest dust-up with conservationists comes on the heels of an unprecedented destruction of California fish populations at the service of Big Ag billionaires. Salmon are at their worst-ever crisis in California history at this time.

Commercial and recreational salmon fishing is closed on the ocean in California and most of Oregon and in California rivers this year due to the collapse of salmon populations on the Sacramento and Klamath rivers. Independent scientists generally agree this was caused by how the state manages water during a drought.

In one of many fish kills that took place in 2021, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife published a monitoring report on Butte Creek, a Sacramento River tributary, revealing that 91 percent of the adult fish died before spawning.

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## The Center Square

**'We are thrilled,' say Republicans as Newsom announces permitting reform**  
**Ria Roebuck Joseph**

At a site in the Central Valley earmarked for solar energy generation, Governor Gavin Newsom introduced California's most ambitious measures on clean energy infrastructure.

Acting on a recently released report, the permitting and project reforms propose to streamline project approvals for the state's climate, economic and social goals while taking advantage of California's full share of federal dollars for green infrastructure creation.

Senate Republicans are celebrating the governor's announcement last Friday.

"California Senate Republicans have been advocating for CEQA reform for years. We are thrilled that Governor Newsom is finally taking action." Senate Minority Leader Brian W. Jones said in a released statement.

The Infrastructure Acceleration Report from Infrastructure Advisor to the State of California, Antonio Villaraigosa, California Forward, and the Boston Consulting Group, released on May 18 said "to achieve the utmost value for our infrastructure spending, significant and substantial regulatory and governance reform is necessary ... Average infrastructure project time can be significantly reduced by building a new governance model and streamlining processes, permitting, and approvals for project delivery."

The Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and \$50 billion in state funding, together create a \$180 billion clean infrastructure fund for the next 10 years. By eliminating red tape regulations and streamlining permitting through a process of developing new contracts, the state can shorten project timelines by as much as 3 years.

Newsom noted, "This proposal is the most ambitious effort to cut red tape and streamline regulations in half a century. It's time to make the most out of taxpayer dollars and deliver results while creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs. Not since the Pat Brown era have we had the opportunity to invest in and rebuild this state to create the clean future Californians deserve."

Faster permitting and governance reform means projects will be built faster with the potential for 400,000 construction jobs to be realized.

Senate Republicans have been advocating for CEQA reform for a decade and have proposed more than 33 bills to the California legislature. None of the bills were adopted by the Democrat majority although many addressed the same concerns now advised in the report, including climate considerations, social equity and infrastructure.

The report seems to echo the objectives of some of the bills brought by Republican legislators over the years, but these bills were never heard in committee. A list of projects that could be streamlined, named by the governor, in solar, wind, and battery storage projects, maintenance and bridge projects, transit and regional rail construction, semiconductor fabrication plants, as well as water projects like the Delta Conveyance Project and storage facilities also appears to be in tandem with the objectives of past bills introduced by Republican legislators.



“California Senate Republicans have been at the forefront of the CEQA reform movement for years,” said Senate Minority Caucus Chair Nguyen.

The report also advised the formation of an Infrastructure Strike Team which Newsom accomplished by executive order to “track the status of individual projects ..as they move through design, permitting and construction phases, and use common metrics to measure progress and identify opportunities for streamlining government operations.”

The Strike Team will create working groups focused on transportation, energy, hydrogen, environmental remediation, broadband, water, the CHIPS and Science Act, and zero-emission vehicles.

The pairing of the legislative package and the governor’s executive order amends California law, authorizes expedited judicial review, reduces project timeframes and costs, streamlines the CEQA processes and establishes a Green Bank Financing Program that benefits low-income and disadvantaged communities through pollution-cutting climate projects.

“We support his commitment to help build more housing and infrastructure projects. We remain eager to collaborate with the governor and our colleagues across the aisle in a bipartisan manner to fix California with solutions that address our state’s myriad issues ranging from homelessness to housing to water infrastructure,” said Leader Jones.

It is not clear whether the proposed reforms extend to private construction as well. Newsom’s release referred to “state agencies” and “taxpayer dollars.”

Also in doubt is whether Senate Republicans will be heard and allowed to contribute to reform efforts. Still they remain optimistic.

“As evidenced by our extensive legislative track record, we are eager to move California forward in this arena so we can build more housing, water storage, and sensible infrastructure projects in a reasonable timeframe and without costly settlements,” Nguyen stated.

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## **The Independent**

### **Polls Shows Voters Favor Delta Water Project**

Californians for Water Security, a coalition group that backs a proposal to modernize the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta water-distribution system, including a new tunnel under the Sacramento Rive Delta, released the results of a statewide poll last week showing that 76% of voters support the project.

The project would also include upgrading the pumps and levees used for distributing water from the Sierra Nevada mountain range to homes, farms, and businesses throughout the state. Two-thirds of the state’s water flows through the State Water Project operated by the California Department of Water Resources.



“Californians are saying loud and clear: it’s time to move forward with the Delta Conveyance Project to improve the reliability of our state’s water supply,” said Jennifer Pierre, general manager of the State Water Contractors, a coalition member.

Coalition members say the distribution system is aging, vulnerable to natural disasters, and must be updated to better protect against climate change.

“The local infrastructure that supplies water to two-thirds of our state is in serious need of modernization and is more vulnerable than ever due to the impacts of extreme weather and climate change,” said Charles Wilson, executive director of the Southern California Water Coalition. “As this poll shows, Californians know the Delta Conveyance Project is the right project at the right time to help ensure the State Water Project can continue to meet California’s water needs into the future.”

The poll, conducted by FM3 Research in early February, surveyed 1,099 likely California voters, with a reported 3.1% margin of error.

According to the poll, 76% of the respondents said they support the project, including 40% who say they strongly support it, after reading a description of the proposal. Only 13% said they opposed the project.

The strongest support, 81%, came from Los Angeles County, with 73% of respondents from the Bay Area in favor of the project. Democrats were more likely to support the project than Republicans, 81% to 65%.

The poll did not provide any cost estimates or timeline for the project. For more information, please visit: [www.watersecurityca.com](http://www.watersecurityca.com).

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## **The Mendocino Beacon**

**Gov. Newsom looks to spend \$180 billion on infrastructure, speed through lawsuits**  
**Ethan Baron**

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday announced plans to accelerate the construction of \$180 billion worth of infrastructure for transportation, water, green energy and broadband internet over the next decade by cutting red tape and slashing the time opponents can fight the government in court.

Newsom promised that the work would create more than 400,000 jobs and assist the state in achieving its climate-protection goals. The infrastructure investments, using federal and state funds, would eclipse those of the 1950s and '60s “that helped build the great middle class in the state of California and America,” Newsom said.

His massive spending plan comes as the state faces a projected \$32 billion deficit in its operating budget, mostly separate from capital project spending.



“We’ve got to do more, and we’ve got to do better,” Newsom said, surrounded by union leaders and workers at a news conference in Stanislaus County. “The question is, ‘Are we going to screw it up by being consumed by paralysis and process?’”

The governor’s plans to expedite certain projects drew immediate blowback, including from the Sierra Club, which said they wouldn’t solve California’s persistent water-management issues.

Newsom signed an executive order that creates an inter-agency “infrastructure strike team” charged with maximizing “federal and state funding opportunities.” State Department of Finance documents cite potential federal funding sources along with state funds reflected in Newsom’s latest proposed budget. He said 11 state bills would play vital roles in accomplishing his goals.

A key part of the plan, which would require legislative approval, is a nine-month time limit on lawsuits by opponents wielding the contentious California Environmental Quality Act — best known as a flashpoint in state-wide battles over housing development — that mandates detailed environmental reviews. CEQA, which is also given credit for helping preserve California’s natural beauty, has proven stubbornly resistant to change since it became law in 1970.

The CEQA-litigation cap would be public-infrastructure specific and only apply to projects relating to “water, clean transportation, clean energy, and semiconductor or microelectronic research and development facilities,” according to Newsom’s proposed legislation. A fact sheet issued by the state finance department said the proposal would not change CEQA requirements for public engagement, consideration of alternatives or imposition of mitigation measures.

“We’re not looking to roll over anybody,” Newsom said. “We’re not looking to roll over local communities. We’re not looking to roll over environmental stewardship and those that are out there as fierce champions.”

Exactly what infrastructure could be built is not fully clear. Newsom referred to roads, bridges, high-speed rail and the proposed multi-billion-dollar Sites Reservoir in Colusa County northeast of Clear Lake. The executive order highlights clean energy, modernizing the power grid, providing broadband to those without it, job training, domestic computer-chip manufacturing, mass transit, electric-car supports and permanently strengthening “California’s water resiliency.”

The fact sheet issued Friday by Newsom’s office also mentions wildlife crossings. And it says the plan includes streamlining regulation and reviews to hasten construction of the Delta Conveyance, a long-planned, much-debated multi-billion-dollar tunnel project to make it easier to move water from northern to Southern California.

Laura Deehan, the director of non-profit Environment California, took the podium before Newsom and said the environmental community was “ready to work with the governor and the legislature” on speeding the transition to clean energy.

But the director of the heavyweight Sierra Club of California, Brandon Dawson, on Friday described both the Delta Conveyance and Sites Reservoir plans as “bad for the environment.” Dawson said the developments would not “solve California’s long-term water management issues” and would have “significant environmental consequences for their surrounding communities.”



Dawson said there was “no doubt” California needs more clean energy and transportation and increased water resiliency. His organization noted that Newsom’s plan could create “environmentally friendly” solar, wind, battery storage, clean transportation and wildlife crossing projects.

However, Dawson said “that infrastructure can’t be built without the input of the communities it will exist in.” Restore the Delta, a Stockton-based non-profit that advocates for keeping water in the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta and has long fought state tunnel plans for water movement from north to south, immediately attacked Newsom over the proposal to limit CEQA litigation.

“He has no real water-management plan to deal with extended drought and flood extremes to meet our climate reality but instead is choosing to continue with failed ideas from the past to appease his big-dollar agriculture donors,” said Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, a committee member for the group, who accused the governor of “destroying protective standards by executive order and legislative fiat.”

State Water Contractors, a group of cities and water districts that receive Delta water, applauded what it believes Newsom’s plans will deliver. “Completing the projects that will ensure our ability to responsibly capture, store, release, deliver, recycle and desalinate water throughout California isn’t just smart planning, it is a climate-change imperative,” said the organization’s general manager, Jennifer Pierre.

Newsom’s “infrastructure strike team” will coordinate and facilitate projects and operate public “dashboards” for tracking progress, according to his executive order. The potential federal funding includes money from the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the 2022 CHIPS and Science Act.

Regarding California’s under-funded and politically divisive high-speed rail project, Newsom said, “What if we had these principles before we laid out that project? I may not have had to drive down here today.”

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## The Sacramento Bee

### In Patterson, Newsom rolls out plan to fast-track infrastructure projects in California John Holland and Maggie Angst

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday signed an executive order laying the groundwork for a bold plan to expedite transportation, water, clean energy and other major infrastructure projects across California.

“This is about addressing the issues of our time,” Newsom said during a briefing at the site of a future solar farm in Stanislaus County. “We’re here to assert ourselves a different paradigm, to commit ourselves to results and prove that we can actually do more with taxpayer money.” Newsom’s plan — made up of 11 budget trailer bills and an executive order — comes amid an influx of federal funding for infrastructure projects. California is also poised to spend as much as \$180 billion on new infrastructure over the next decade, Newsom said.

The governor wants to make sure delays associated with permitting and the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA, don’t get in the way. CEQA was signed into law by Gov. Ronald Reagan in 1970 as a way to protect natural resources and the environment from negative consequences of development.



But, over time, critics have blamed the law for bogging down long-sought housing, transportation and energy projects.

The governor's plan does not make substantial changes to the statute but aims to prevent projects from being dragged out during lengthy legal and permitting processes. It would broaden similar procedures in California that helped to substantially fast-track the completion of major NBA stadiums like Sacramento's Golden 1 Center and San Francisco's Chase Center.

"I love sports," Newsom said. "But I also love roads. I love transit. I love bridges. And I love clean energy projects like the one we're seeing here."

Some of the projects that could benefit from the governor's proposal include transit construction, bridge maintenance, Sites Reservoir and the Delta Conveyance Project — the state's solution for repairing its aging water delivery system from the north.

The proposal would prevent lawsuits involving certain climate and transportation projects from lasting more than nine months. And ultimately, Newsom said, he hopes to reduce that time span to just six months.

The bills also include several tweaks to CEQA to streamline procedures around record retention and accelerate permitting for such projects, Newsom said.

Through an executive order, Newsom instructed a slew of public agencies to stand up a strike team tasked with working on a plan to accelerate clean infrastructure projects across the state. The governor wants to incorporate the package of legislation into next year's budget. The Legislature has until June 15 to pass the budget, and the governor must sign budget-related bills before July 1.

Newsom unveiled his plan by standing in front of dozens of laborers at the future site of Proxima Solar Farm near Patterson. The project, which is expected to be up and running by the end of the year, could power up to 60,000 homes and generate hundreds of megawatts of clean energy and battery energy storage.

Also in attendance was former Los Angeles mayor and California infrastructure adviser Antonio Villaraigosa, who said he had been working with the governor's team on this effort since becoming an adviser in August.

"Our legislative partners have to review this, but I think almost everybody agrees: You put a man or a woman back to work and in good middle-class jobs, you change a life," Villaraigosa said.

Newsom's plan quickly garnered support across the aisle. Senate Minority Leader Brian W. Jones, R-San Diego, and Senate Minority Caucus Chair Janet Nguyen, R-Huntington Beach, said in statements that they were both eager to work with the governor to reform CEQA.

"California Senate Republicans have been advocating for CEQA reform for years," Jones said in a statement. "... We remain eager to collaborate with the governor and our colleagues across the aisle in a bipartisan manner to fix California with solutions that address our state's myriad issues ranging from homelessness to housing to water infrastructure."



Absent from Newsom's announcement were any major changes to address concerns that CEQA is being used by some California homeowners and anti-housing NIMBYs — a term that stands for "Not in my backyard" — to legally challenge and delay housing projects they oppose.

After a Feb. 24 state court ruled that UC Berkeley violated CEQA in its plans to build a new student and homeless housing project, Newsom said the law was being "held hostage by NIMBYs" and vowed to work with lawmakers to change it. He has not elaborated since then.

On Thursday, Newsom changed his tune, saying the state had made "tremendous progress in this space." He celebrated some of the more modest CEQA overhaul bills that he signed last year and said he was looking forward to signing other bills introduced this year by lawmakers to ease the housing crisis.

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## **The San Diego-Union Tribune**

### **Gov. Newsom unveils sweeping plan to speed up California infrastructure projects**

**Liam Dillon, Hannah Wiley**

Surrounded by hard hat-wearing construction workers at a solar energy project in the Central Valley, Gov. Gavin Newsom unveiled a sweeping package of legislation and signed an executive order Friday to make it easier to build transportation, clean energy and water infrastructure across California. The governor said the proposal intends to cut through bureaucratic hurdles that have stymied grand public works projects and will help California capitalize on an infusion of money from the Biden administration to boost climate-friendly construction.

Newsom's proposal aims to shorten the contracting process for bridge and water projects, limit timelines for environmental litigation and simplify permitting for complicated developments in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and elsewhere.

Altogether, administration officials hope the package could speed up project construction by more than three years and reduce costs by hundreds of millions of dollars — efforts they say are necessary to achieve the state's aggressive climate goals.

But it quickly garnered criticism both for going too far in weakening the state's environmental protections and not far enough because it limits proposed reforms to select projects.

Newsom characterized the proposal as essential to restoring trust that government can improve people's lives, especially under the threat of climate change.

"The question is, are we going to screw it up by being consumed by paralysis and process?" Newsom said. "We're here to assert a different paradigm, to commit ourselves to results."

Newsom's effort is the latest foray in decades-long debates over quickening the state's sluggish process for building major infrastructure. Major reforms have often failed amid disagreement by environmental, development, local government and labor interests that are influential at the Capitol.



Newsom's plan consists of 11 bills that he wants to fold into the 2023-24 state budget, which must pass the Legislature by June 15. Lawmakers are currently negotiating the final details of the fiscal blueprint with Newsom's office.

State Senate Leader Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) said she agreed with Newsom's goals but was noncommittal about embracing the package.

"The climate crisis requires that we move faster to build and strengthen critical infrastructure," Atkins said in a statement. "We look forward to working with our colleagues in the Assembly and administration to ensure we can do so responsibly, and in line with California's commitment to high road jobs and environmental protection."

At the center of Newsom's plan is the California Environmental Quality Act — a polarizing 1970 law credited for helping preserve the state's natural beauty but often criticized for miring needed housing, energy and transportation projects in litigation.

The proposal does not make major changes to the law, which requires public officials, agencies and developers to broadly consider and make public a project's effects on the existing environment. Rather, it attempts to limit how long environmental lawsuits can drag out in court.

The proposal aims to prevent any lawsuit against certain water, transportation, clean energy, semiconductor and microelectronics projects from lasting longer than nine months.

Qualifying projects, administration officials said, would include the governor's \$16-billion plan to build a tunnel to transport water to Southern California beneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, water recycling and desalination plants, solar fields, offshore wind farms and energy transmission.

The idea is similar to procedures already in place that have helped expedite the construction of NBA arenas in San Francisco and Sacramento as well as other megadevelopments across the state.

"I love sports," Newsom said. "But I also love roads. I love transit. I love bridges. And I love clean energy projects like the one we're seeing here. It's not just about stadiums. And we've proven we can get it done for stadiums. So why the hell can't we translate that to all these other projects?"

Additional CEQA changes in the plan would give government agencies greater control over deciding what's needed in a project's official administrative record and overturn a recent appellate court decision that required the inclusion of internal emails as part of that record. Litigation on the email issue involving a large residential and commercial development proposal in San Diego County lasted nearly two years after it was approved.

The governor's ideas have spurred disparate reactions. Laura Deehan, state director for Environment California, appeared alongside Newsom at the news conference. She said that her organization and others support the governor's broad goals of quickening construction of infrastructure needed to meet environmental goals.



“We agree that we’re going to need some large scale solar,” Deehan said. “We’re going to need some offshore wind. The current rate is too slow and we need to figure out how to speed it up.” But she said she has yet to read Newsom’s proposed legislation and urged caution. “We don’t want to change 50 years of environmental protection law overnight and live to regret it,” Deehan said. Others have already made up their minds. Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director of advocacy group Restore the Delta, which is opposed to the tunnel, said that Newsom’s plan “guts” environmental review for the project. “Governor Newsom does not respect the people in communities that need environmental protection,” Barrigan-Parrilla said in a statement. Meanwhile, Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher said that Newsom should focus on more fundamental changes that could benefit all public works and other developments in the state.

“Rather than piecemeal exceptions for stadiums and pet projects, it’s time for across-the-board reforms,” said Gallagher, who represents Yuba City. Newsom said it was essential to make changes now because of the \$180 billion in state and federal funds expected to be available for infrastructure in California over the next decade, an amount boosted by allocations from President Biden’s signature infrastructure and climate change laws. The governor likened that investment to those made in the state during its historic period of infrastructure investments in the 1950s and ’60s.

To kick-start this process, Newsom also signed an executive order Friday that will instruct various government agencies to work together and create an infrastructure strike team, which in theory will target projects that need to be completed and make sure they get across the finish line.

The newly available federal dollars include many clean energy and other competitive grants. For California to win, it needs to show the federal government that it can deliver, the governor said. Newsom, a Democrat, said those investments are in jeopardy if discussions in Washington over whether to raise the debt limit sour. GOP House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) said Republicans would only agree to raise the limit if Biden agreed to roll back certain provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act, which includes ambitious climate plans and funding for infrastructure projects.

“If Kevin McCarthy has his way, that’s going to set us back,” Newsom said at an event in Sacramento previewing his plan Thursday. “What he’s promoting would have devastating impact on our progress.” Newsom was accompanied Friday by former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who the governor had appointed as state infrastructure czar last year.

The permitting proposals were predicated on a report that Villaraigosa and nonprofit California Forward released Thursday recommending the changes. Villaraigosa said that he had spent months meeting with labor, environmental and community groups gathering input on how to improve contracting for large public works efforts. “What everybody said almost with unanimity: We could do this faster. We could do this smarter. We could do this better,” Villaraigosa said.

Other elements of Newsom’s package would ease contracting barriers that state agencies run into when starting and finishing their projects. Newsom wants to allow the state Department of Water Resources and the California Department of Transportation to use a more flexible contracting process for up to eight complex projects each, which could streamline construction and reduce logistical snafus that cause delays.

Another proposal would allow the transportation department to use a simpler job contracting model that could cut months off of a project’s timeline.



The departments could use these streamlining tactics to more quickly build bridges or modernize dams, repair aqueducts or maintain the state highway system. The package would also expedite three planned wildlife crossings along Interstate 15 in San Bernardino County.

The final part of Newsom's plan would streamline Caltrans' environmental mitigation efforts and permitting for projects that affect endangered species or are within the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The proposals are unlikely to revolutionize the state's infrastructure construction process, said Ethan Elkind, director of the Climate Program at Berkeley Law's Center for Law, Energy and the Environment.

Elkind said certain aspects of the process tying up projects are indefensible, citing that the state has spent \$1 billion solely on environmental documents for its high-speed rail project. But he expressed concern that short-cutting judicial review for the state's biggest public works efforts could backfire.

"If there's ever a time when you want to get CEQA right, it's the massive tunnel affecting our entire water project," Elkind said.

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## Washington Examiner

**Newsom at odds with green groups with bid to speed up construction projects**

**Asher Notheis**

Gov. Gavin Newsom's (D-CA) latest legislation package, a plan to speed up energy and water infrastructure in the state, has upset green energy activists.

The package, consisting of 11 bills, is intended to prevent lawsuits against water, transportation, clean energy, semiconductor, and microelectronics projects in the state from lasting longer than nine months and easing requirements for what is included in a project's records.

Cutting back on litigation and slashing some red tape should prevent projects from hitting speed bumps in production. However, Newsom's proposal isn't bringing in ringing endorsements, according to the Los Angeles Times.

"Governor Newsom does not respect the people in communities that need environmental protection," read a statement from Barrigan-Parrilla, the executive director of advocacy group Restore the Delta.

Barrigan-Parrilla said Newsom's proposal would "gut" the environmental review process for a \$16 billion plan to build a tunnel to bring water to Southern California and create new water recycling and desalination plants along with solar fields and offshore wind farms.

Meanwhile, Laura Deehan, the state director for Environment California, said that her organization and others support Newsom's aim to increase the speed of construction to meet the state's environmental goals. "We agree that we're going to need some large-scale solar," Deehan said.



“We’re going to need some offshore wind. The current rate is too slow, and we need to figure out how to speed it up.” However, she also stated she has not yet read Newsom's legislation and has cautioned people to be wary of sweeping changes.

“We don’t want to change 50 years of environmental protection law overnight and live to regret it,” Deehan said.

Newsom claims California needs to figure out a way to speed up projects so it can take advantage of the roughly \$180 billion in funds it is set to receive as a result of the Inflation Reduction Act and other federal bills passed with infrastructure and climate change in mind.

However, to succeed in winning grant funding for clean energy projects, the state will have to show it is capable of completing the projects it receives funding for.

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Laborers  
International  
Union of  
North America

# LiUNA!

*Feel the Power*

April 11, 2023

California State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for Sites Reservoir Water Right Permit**

Dear Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel:

On behalf of the California State Council of Laborers, I am writing to encourage the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to approve a water right permit for the proposed Sites Reservoir, a unique, multi-benefit water storage project that would provide a reliable water supply for California's environment, communities, and farms for decades to come.

Located 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell in rural Glenn and Colusa counties, Sites Reservoir would be an off-stream storage facility that captures and stores stormwater flows in the Sacramento River for California communities, farms, and businesses. When integrated with the state's existing water management system, it would increase the total amount of managed water in storage and create additional flexibility to adapt to changing conditions.

The Laborers proudly represent 70,000 men and women throughout the state who build, improve, and maintain California's infrastructure. Cognizant of the dynamic climate we live in, we prepare our members with the tangible skills and training to ensure quality results on critical projects – whether it be wildfire mitigation, highway maintenance, or water conservation. Sites Reservoir is one such project that will benefit the state in terms of both water supply needs and in state and local economic development.

Sites Reservoir is a modern, once-in-a-generation water project designed with both environmental values and water supply needs in mind amid our changing climate. It is an off-stream facility that does not dam a major river system and does not threaten fish migration or spawning. Additionally, diversions would occur through existing state-of-the-art fish screens according to highly protective operating and permit conditions. Finally, through its investment in Sites Reservoir under Proposition 1, the state is creating a first-of-its-kind environmental water asset for California with dedicated storage for current and future environmental needs.

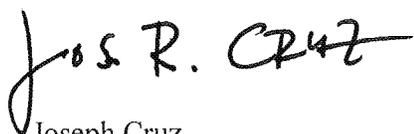
Sites Reservoir is a flexible storage system inherently designed to adapt to California's changing climate by capturing and storing water when flows are high for use generally during dry periods when it is needed most. Climate projections show future precipitation will mostly come in the form of rain and not snow, and Sites Reservoir is specifically designed to capture and store this rain for future use. Sites Reservoir will increase the resiliency of water supplies by capturing water that is surplus to existing water rights in a manner that will not unreasonably affect fish and wildlife and will store it for

future use by project participants. Sites Reservoir would be in the public interest because it would conserve and use water that is in excess of downstream demands, environmental needs, and Delta water quality requirements.

Sites Reservoir has broad and diverse support from cities, counties, water agencies, and irrigation districts throughout the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Bay Area, and Southern California which are working together to advance the project. Now, more than ever, California needs to address its statewide water management challenges through innovative solutions that address our state's need for a sustainable water supply.

For these reasons, the Laborers strongly encourages the State Water Board to timely approve a water right permit for the Sites Reservoir project.

Sincerely,



Joseph Cruz  
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Members of the California State Water Resources Control Board  
Oscar De La Torre – LiUNA, Vice President and NCDCL Business Manager  
Jon P. Preciado – SCDCL, Business Manager  
Rocco Davis – LiUNA, Vice President and PSW Regional Manager

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**From:** Sites Project [info@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 6/2/2023 12:40:00 PM  
**To:** mariahjhugo@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Fw: TEST - For Immediate Release: Sites Reservoir Water Right Application Moves Forward  
**Attachments:** Sites Reservoir Water Right Application Moves Forward FINAL.pdf

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**From:** Sites Project  
**Sent:** Friday, June 2, 2023 12:10 PM  
**To:** qlacpra@katzandassociates.com <qlacpra@katzandassociates.com>; Mariah Hugo <mhugo@katzandassociates.com>  
**Subject:** TEST - For Immediate Release: Sites Reservoir Water Right Application Moves Forward

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached news release for Sites Reservoir, and reach out with any questions.

**For Immediate Release:** June 2, 2023  
**Contact:** Sara Katz, skatz@katzandassociates.com

### **Sites Reservoir Water Right Application Moves Forward**

Maxwell, Calif. – The Sites Project Authority (Authority) received notification from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) that the Sites Reservoir water right application has been deemed complete. Accordingly, the Sites Reservoir Project is moving forward to the next step in the process toward issuing a new water right permit for the project. A water right permit will provide the Authority legal authorization to divert water within certain conditions, for a specific purpose, and for use within a specified area. The Authority will be the State designated steward of the water right for the Sites Reservoir Project.

“We are excited to move into this next phase of the permitting process, which builds on the momentum we’ve had this past year,” said Jerry Brown, Executive Director of the Authority. “We welcome the public review of our work, and we are confident in our analysis that the Sites Reservoir Project can safely and reliably serve as a key component of new infrastructure to manage California’s water in light of our changing climate.”

Through the year-long application development process, the Authority prepared an extensive water availability analysis, more comprehensive than any other in California history. In addition to analyzing a specific scenario requested by the SWRCB, the analysis looked at six other water supply scenarios—ranging from historical conditions to climate change projections as far out as 2070—to determine how much water would be available to store in Sites Reservoir under a variety of hydrologic conditions. This highly technical work includes varying levels of conservatism to ensure cautious and thoughtful analysis.

The findings clearly demonstrate that there is water available to store in Sites Reservoir under a variety of conditions. Sites Reservoir can benefit the public while all other water uses including those serving environmental resources continue to be met.

“We have closely examined a number of scenarios and every analysis showed that there is water available that could be stored in Sites,” said Alicia Forsythe, Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager of the Authority. “This year is a great example. In 2023 alone—after multiple atmospheric rivers—roughly 700,000 acre-feet of water could have been stored in Sites Reservoir and saved for later use.”

As part of the permit process, the SWCRB is required by law to publish public notice of a water right application once it has been accepted and deemed complete. This notice begins a 60-day period whereby the public can protest the issuance of a water right permit for the Project on specific grounds, including alleged injury to prior rights, adverse impact on the environment, or failure to best conserve the public interest or public trust resources.

The 60-day public notice for the Authority application is the next step in the SWCRB's process for issuing a water right permit for the Project. Through this process, a number of factors are considered, including potential injury to senior water right holders, potential environmental impacts, and potential adverse impacts to public trust resources. Finally, the SWCRB must find that unappropriated water is available to supply the Project and that the use of water is in the public interest; the State Water Board will issue a water right permit if they determine the Project meets these criteria.

*Sites is an off-stream reservoir proposed north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, where it would provide unique water supply and environmental benefits during dry periods, especially during extended drought. Additional information can be found at [www.sitesproject.org](http://www.sitesproject.org) or on Facebook and Twitter at @SitesProject.*

###

# Sites Reservoir Project Overview

ACWA Region 2  
Sites Reservoir

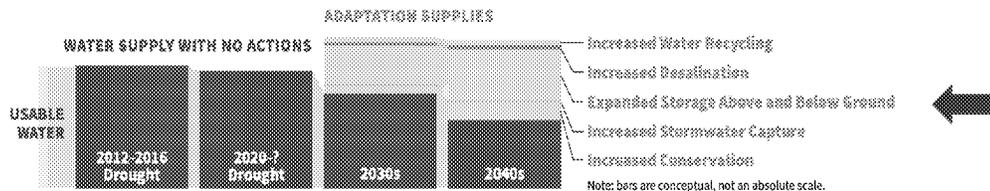
June 1, 2023



# What Problem Does the Sites Project Help Solve?

Over the next 20 years, California could lose 10 percent<sup>1</sup> of its water supplies.

Our climate has changed, and the West continues to get hotter and drier. As it does, we will see on average less snowfall, more evaporation, and greater consumption of water by vegetation, soil, and the atmosphere itself.



In previous droughts the ratio of precipitation to evaporation to runoff has been similar. However, as temperatures rise, evaporation increases, with the consequence of a fall in runoff. As average temperatures continue to increase, the increase in evaporation will continue, with a concurrent drop in runoff.

Excerpted from Aug 2022 "California's Water Supply Strategy, Adapting to a Hotter Drier Future"

## 'What if we had Sites?' – most recent storms update

- Estimate for January 2023 storms - ~250,000af
- Estimate for March-April 2023 ~250,000af
- Forecasted for May-June 2023. ~200,000af
- Total for 22/23 Season – **700,000af** (almost ½ of the reservoir)
- Estimates are based on operations simulation tool that monitors actual and forecasted river/Delta conditions
- This real-time analysis shows that the Project is capable of delivering the expected diversion performance



## Most Frequently Asked Question

Why is it taking so long to build Sites Reservoir?



## Sites Project History

- **2010** – Sites Joint Powers Authority is formed to serve as the lead local agency to advance the project
- **2014** – California passes Proposition 1 that provides \$2.7 billion for water storage projects, dams and reservoirs.
- **2016/17** – Sites Project Reservoir Committee formed. Draft EIR/EIS released
- **2018** – Project is awarded \$816 million from Proposition 1 and a \$449 million construction loan from USDA
- **2019** – The Sites Project goes through an extensive value planning process to make the project affordable, permittable, and buildable.
- **2020/21** – Authority establishes its Strategic Plan, Federal and State feasibility certified, Authority releases revised Draft EIR/EIS, (i.e. Sites 2.0)
- **2022** – The Sites Project is invited to apply for

## Sites Project Authority

*'the Sites Project is a local led project'*

- Joint Powers Authority established under California law
- Authority member agencies located in the Sacramento Valley
- Reservoir Committee made up statewide agencies investing in the Sites Project
- The Sites Project Authority will own and operate Sites Reservoir

### Board of Directors:

Colusa County  
Colusa County Water District  
Glenn County  
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District  
Placer County Water Agency/City of Roseville  
Reclamation District 108  
Sacramento/Sac County Water Agency  
Tehama-Colusa Canal

**Our Strength is in Our  
Broad Statewide Participation**  
*'the Sites Project is Beneficiary  
Days!'*

**Sacramento  
Valley**

City of American Canyon  
Colusa County  
Colusa County Water Agency  
Cortina Water District  
Davis Water District  
Dunnigan Water District  
Glenn County  
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District  
LaGrande Water District  
Placer County Water Agency  
Reclamation District 108  
City of Roseville  
Sacramento County Water Agency  
City of Sacramento  
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority  
Westside Water District  
Western Canal Water District

**Bay Area**

Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Zone 7 Water Agency

**San Joaquin Valley**

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage  
District  
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage  
District

**Southern California**

Antelope Valley - East Kern Water  
Agency  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Desert Water Agency  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Metropolitan Water District  
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water  
District

**Waiting List**

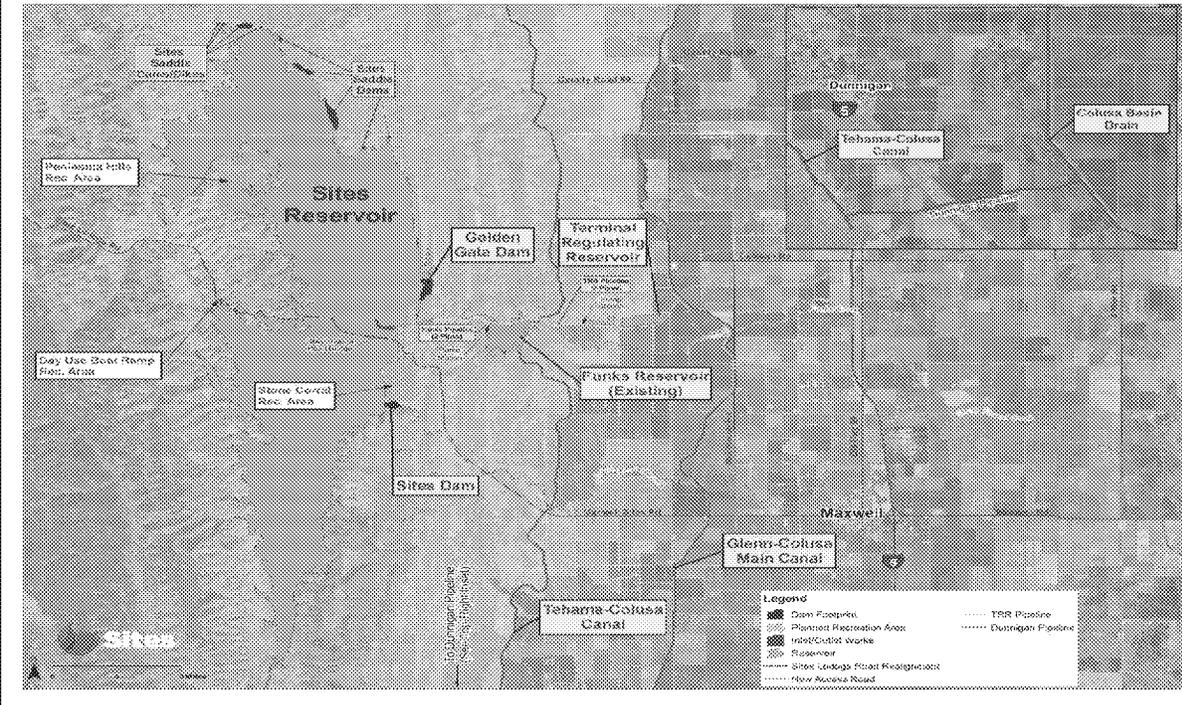
Cal-Am Sacramento  
City of Napa  
Delta View WDA  
Glenn County  
La Cumbre MWC  
Madera County  
Pacific Resources MWC  
Palmdale WD  
Santa Clara Valley WD  
Western Municipal WD  
Westlands WD  
Wheeler Ridge Maricopa WSD  
Woodland Davis CWA



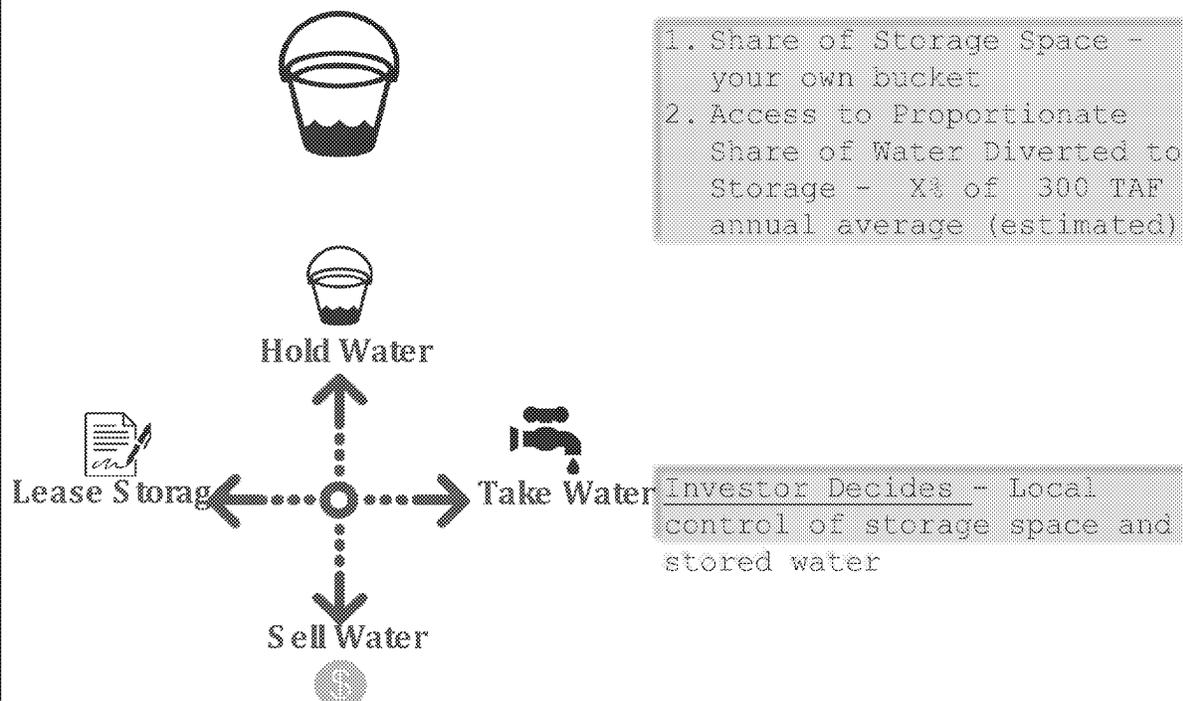
# Overview of Sites Reservoir Project

- The Project is a multi-benefit, beneficiary pays off-stream surface storage project that will help provide needed flexibility, reliability and resiliency to California's water supply.
- **The Project will capture and store 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 California communities, farms, and ecosystems.**
- The Project will use existing intakes with state-of-the-art fish screens. Diversions would only occur when permitted river flows exist that are protective of river and Delta aquatic species.
- The Sites Authority has applied for a new water right to divert water from the Sacramento River at Red Bluff and Hamilton City.
- The Project includes about 180 miles of conveyance. Only about 20 miles is new facilities. The remainder is shared existing infrastructure.
- **Sites water is to be conveyed "through Delta" to southern California participants - not reliant upon the proposed Delta Conveyance Project.**
- The Project is climate resilient; it does not rely on snowmelt but will capture winter river runoff from uncontrolled streams below existing reservoirs in the Sacramento Valley.
  - As such, it will inherently adapt to future climate conditions and will be operated to improve water supply resilience to predicted

# Project Facilities



# What Do You Get With Your Investment in Sites Reservoir?

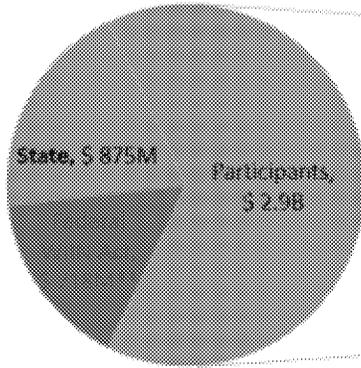


# Project Funding Sources

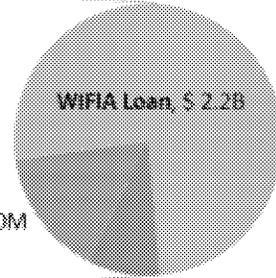
## 'State/Federal Interest in the Sites Project'

Project Investors

Participant Funding Sources



USDA Loan, \$ 450M



Bonds/Cash, \$ 250M

\*\*WIIN Act funding is based on 16% Reclamation investment under Alternative 3 (Preferred Project) and is reported in future dollars.

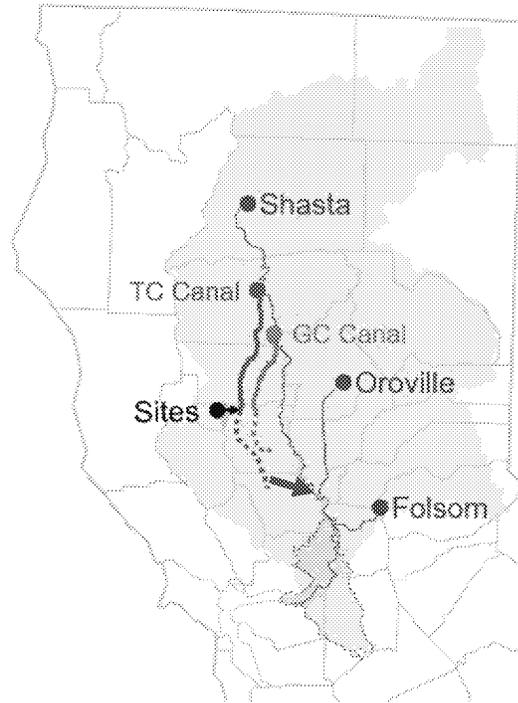
# State Participation Overview

- Prop 1 WSIP – California Water Commission
- 244,000 af of storage and 17.3% of divertable water
- ~\$875M committed to date
- Public Benefits
  - Flood Control ~\$50M
  - Recreation \$225M
  - Ecosystem ~\$600M
- Opportunity to advance Environmental Water Manager concept



## Federal Participation (in progress)

- WIIN/BIL - Bureau of Reclamation
- Has expressed interest in 16% capacity share, currently only 9% available
- ~\$200M committed to date
- Federal Benefits
  - Anadromous Fish temperature control,
  - Refuges,
  - CVP water supply
- WRLCM results demonstrate positive effects for winter run salmon



## Environmental Planning & Permitting Update

- Environmental Impact Report
  - 2017 Draft Document
  - 2021 Revised Draft document
    - Released for public review in November 2021
    - Comment period closed in January 2022
  - 2023 Final document
    - Expected in August 2023
    - All concerns evaluated
    - Revisions to 2021 draft included
    - Response to comments
- Water Right Permit
  - Submitted application to State Board in May 2022
  - Expect Board to complete notice for public review/protests today!

# Engineering Update

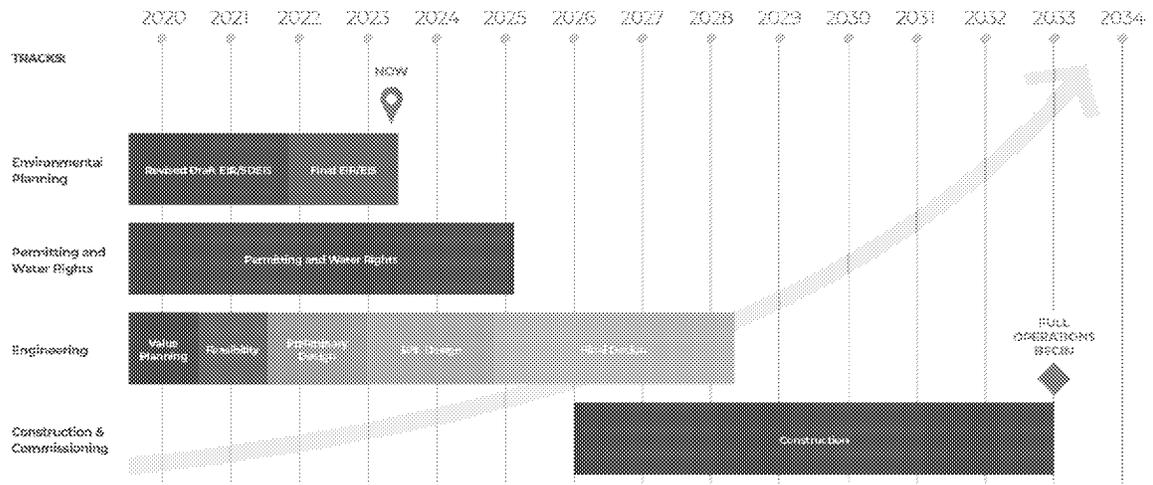
- **2021** - Completed the Feasibility Analysis
  - The California Water Commission Determined the Project is Feasible
- **2022-2024** - Conducting Field Studies
  - Survey Mapping & Geotechnical Investigations to Inform Preliminary Engineering Analysis and Design
- **2024** - Complete 30% Design
  - Update Project Cost Estimate
- **2024** and Beyond - Key Agency Reviews and Approvals
- **2025** - Begin Construction

## Real Estate Update

- Coordinating with Landowners on the project design. Two most frequently asked questions:
  - anticipated land needs and
  - timing for acquisition
- Securing Temporary Rights of Entry (TROE) and other agreements to conduct necessary technical field activities
- Having acquisition discussions on key project parcels or parcels associated with major project infrastructure
- Land Acquisition anticipated to start in 2024.

# Project Schedule

## Sites Reservoir Project Schedule



## Governor Permit Reform Proposal

- Sites would be a beneficiary of the legislation, if passed.
- Three areas of primary interest in the package:
  - Executive Order - directive to expedite state permits and approvals, continuing the Strike Team
  - CEQA Trailer Bills - Court resolution of CEQA lawsuits within 270 days, streamlining the admin record
  - Species Designations Trailer Bill - Some of the species changing status possibly occur within the Sites valley.
- Overall Effect - Positive; reduces uncertainty

## What is the Sites Authority "Ask"?

- Support local water district's efforts to secure reliable, sustainable water supplies for your area including supporting revenue increases needed to pay for projects.
- Publicly express your support for the Sites Project where appropriate - upcoming potential opportunities include:
  - Water Rights Noticing - Right now.
  - EIR/EIS Final Approval - August 2023
  - Federal Appropriations and State Budget Funding - Ongoing
- Sites Authority would like to hear from you if there are any concerns or questions. The Sites team pledges to work in an open and transparent manner to constructively solve challenges and explore opportunities.
- Sites Authority believes that working together, we must get this project built within the next decade.



# Questions



# Other Items of Potential Interest



# Overview of Amendment 3 Participants

▪ Participants generally include large urban water wholesalers downstream ("South of Delta") and small agricultural districts primarily located in the Sacramento Valley ("North of Delta")

▪ South of Delta participants comprise 59% of Participants and 76% of total Project subscriptions

▪ North of Delta participants comprise 41% of Participants and 24% of total Project subscriptions

▪ 65% of total Project subscriptions are rated A or higher by S&P

▪ Four Participants (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Zone 7 Water Agency, and Coachella Valley Water District) are rated AAA/AA+ by S&P and account for 55% of total Project subscriptions

▪ The single largest user of water from Sites is the ecosystem portion of the State's Prop 1 investment.

Sites Amendment 3 Participants	Acre Foot Participation
Antelope Valley-East Kern WA	500
City of American Canyon	4,000
Coachella Valley WD	10,000
Colusa County*	10,000
Colusa County WD*	9,256
Cortina WD*	450
Davis WD*	2000
Desert WA	6,500
Dunnigan WD*	2972
Glenn-Colusa ID*	5000
Irvine Ranch WD	1,000
La Grande WD*	1000
Metropolitan Water District of SC	50,000
Reclamation District 108*	4000
Rosedale-Rio Bravo WD	500
San Bernardino Valley Municipal WD	21,400
San Geronio Pass WA	14,000
Santa Clara Valley WD	500
Santa Clarita Valley WA	5,000
Westside WD*	5375
Wheeler Ridge - Maricopa WSD	3050
Zone 7 WA	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,503</b>

\*Denotes North of Delta participant

Denotes agricultural participant

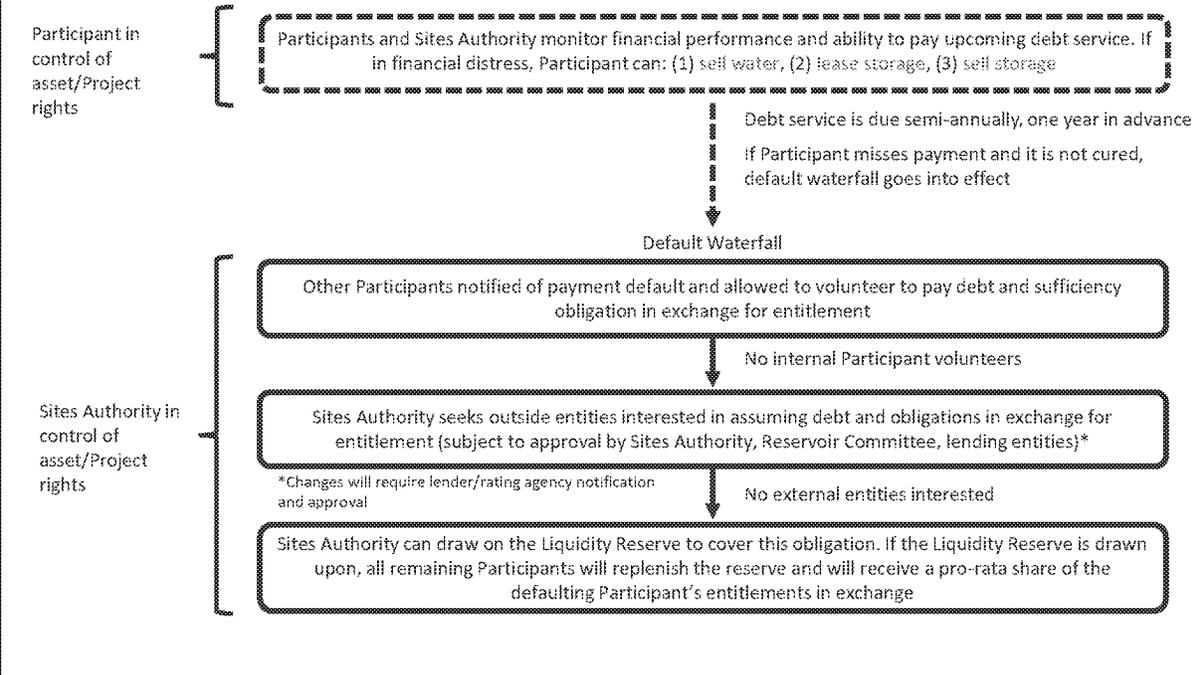
# Securing Revenue to Meet WIFIA Loan Debt Service

- Prior to execution of the WIFIA loan, Sites Authority will enter into a Sites Reservoir Benefits and Obligations Contract (Contract) with Participants that will require Participants to collect revenue sufficient to fund their share of pooled debt service
- Participants have several potential sources of funds that can be used to meet Project financial obligations: (1) include costs on Participant's DWR State Water Project Annual Statement of Charges; (2) levy benefit assessments or other land-based charges; (3) incorporate costs into water rates and charges; or (4) pay-go their share of costs

Rates and Charges or Benefit Assessment (with or without Prop 218)	Land-Based Charges	State Water Project Statement of Charges (through property taxes)
City of American Canyon	Colusa County <sup>4</sup>	Antelope Valley-East Kern
Glenn Colusa Irrigation District	Colusa County WD	Coachella Valley WD
Irvine Ranch Water District <sup>3</sup>	Cortina WD	Desert WA
MWD of Southern California	Davis WD	San Bernardino Valley MWD
Santa Clara Valley WD	Dunnigan WD	San Geronio Pass WA
Santa Clarita Valley WA	La Grande WD	
Reclamation District 108 <sup>1</sup>	Reclamation District 108 <sup>1</sup>	
Rosedale-Rio Bravo WSD	Westside WD	
Zone 7 WA	Wheeler Ridge Maricopa WSD <sup>2</sup>	
Notes:		
1. Still to be determined whether using Rates and Charges or District-wide land-based charges		
2. Land-based charges imposed via recorded Benefits and Obligations Contracts on Certain Lands		
3. Irvine Ranch Water District is exploring funding its share of capital costs separately from the group participating in the pooled Loan borrowing, but is currently included in the group financing for purposes of the pro forma		
4. Colusa County is exploring funding its share of capital costs as a General Fund obligation		

## Summary of Key Security Covenants/Terms

- Contract will also include a default “waterfall” process that will be utilized if a Participant fails to pay by the due date. If Participant efforts outlined below are not successful, the Authority will have the right to suspend or terminate the Contract, including selling water and storage



Discuss JPA rights in case of default

## Summary of WRLCM Results

- The Project has a slightly positive effect on winter-run with the potential to increase the overall population
- Benefits to winter-run are associated with periodic reductions in late summer water temperatures that decreases salmon egg mortality
  - Likely driven mostly by Reclamation’s investment and exchanges with Reclamation
- Model runs included Alternative 3 with Reclamation investment at both a 25% (Alt 3A) and 16% (Alt 3B)
  - Alt 3A has slightly greater benefits than Alt 3B

Draft - Predecisional Working Document - For Discussion Purposes Only

28

Speaker: Ali

Draft - Predecisional Working Document - For Discussion Purposes Only

# Summary of Water Availability Results

Approach	Result Take-away	Annual Average Available (AFY)	Max Water Available (AF)
Historical	Water available in all year types* and 18 of 22 years	748,000	3,879,000
<b>CalSim II</b>			
Historical hydrology	Water available in all year types and 74 of 82 years	1,448,000	5,249,000
Climate change -- 2035 Central Tendency	Water available in all year types and 73 of 82 years	1,518,000	5,330,000
Climate change -- 2070 Central Tendency	Water available in all year types and 70 of 82 years	1,455,000	5,176,000
Unimpaired Flow -- Based on Reclamation's Alternative 4 in their 2019 Reconsultation EIS	Water available in all year types and 73 of 82 years	1,518,000	5,330,000
<b>Face Value</b>	Water available mainly in wet and above normal years and 55 of 93 years	1,118,000	8,681,000

\*Based on the Sacramento Valley Water Year Index (40-30-30 Index)

## Project Next Steps/Goals: 2022 - 2024

- ✓ Secure Final Prop 1 Funding award with CWC
- ✓ Execute Final Operations Agreement
- ✓ Secure WIIN and BIL Federal Funding
- ✓ Complete WIFIA/USDA Loan Agreements
- ✓ Execute Benefits and Obligations Contracts
- ✓ Complete Final EIR/EIS
- ✓ Obtain Critical Environmental Permits (BO, ITP, 404)
- ✓ Receive Water Right Order and Permit
- ✓ Obtain Local Agency Agreements and Permits
- ✓ Execute Benefits Contracts with DWR and 

## Project Next Steps/Goals: 2022 - 2024

- ④ Develop Mitigation Acquisition Master Plan
- ④ Initiate Application for DSOD Permit to Construct
- ④ Advance Engineering Design to achieve Level 3 cost estimate
- ④ Determine Procurement and Delivery Strategy
- ④ Determine Overall Project Schedule
- ④ Develop and Implement Land Acquisition Master Plan
- ④ Conduct Geotech Investigations and Evaluations
- ④ Perform Geotech Evaluation of all "Willing Seller" Properties
- ④ Determine Organization Structure and Governance



**File Provided Natively**

---

**From:** Jerry Brown [jbrown@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 6/5/2023 3:02:24 PM  
**To:** Naomi Tanaka [tanaka@mbkengineers.com]; JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]; Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Spranza, John [john.spranza@hdrinc.com]  
**CC:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** Re: Sites Diversion Forecast - May 16th, 2023

From a simulation perspective, can you notify the date we reach our "observed" 22-23 filling season shutdown? Thanks

---

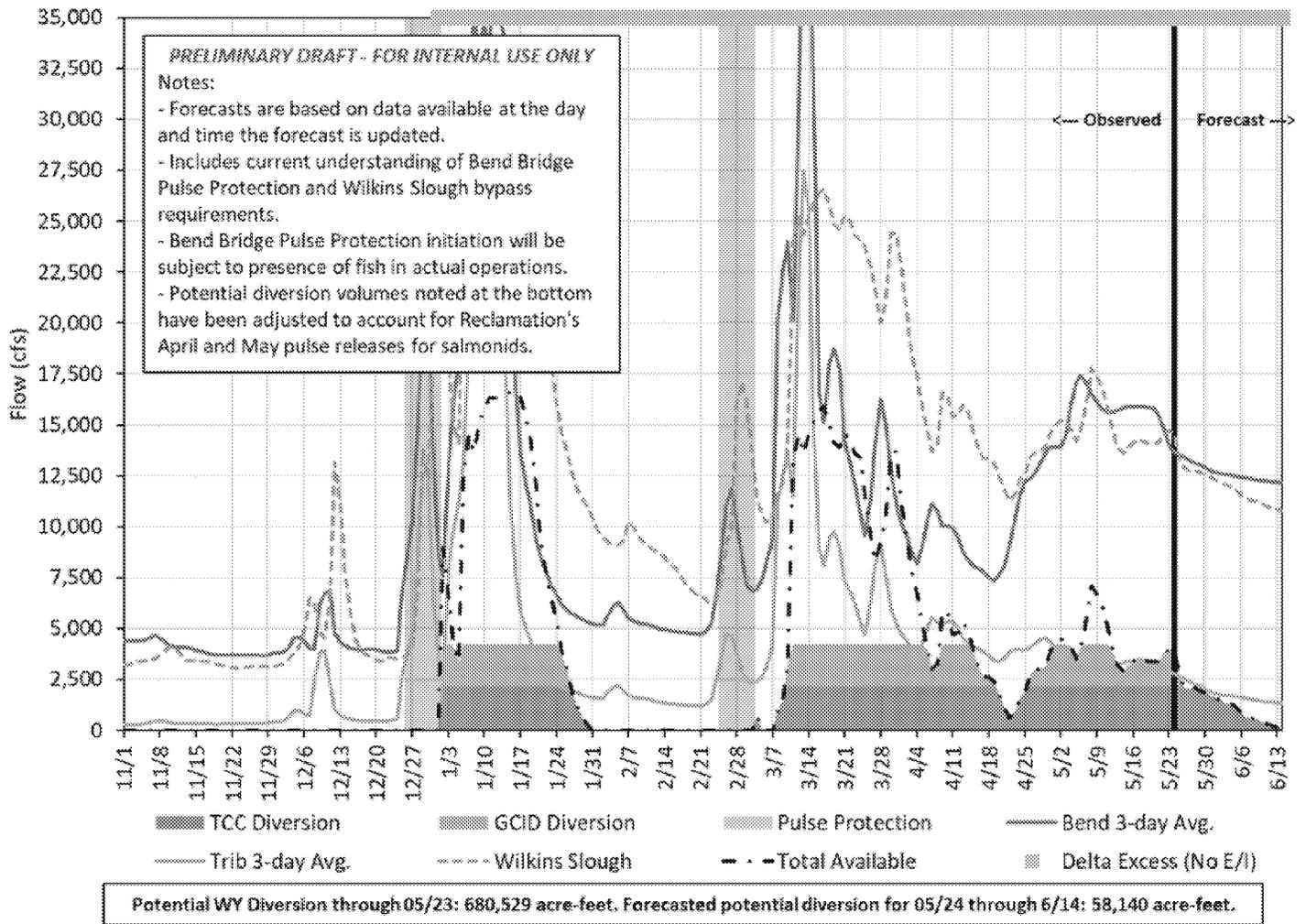
**From:** Naomi Tanaka <tanaka@mbkengineers.com>  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 4:46 PM  
**To:** Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>, JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>, Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>, "Spranza, John" <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>  
**Cc:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>, Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Diversion Forecast - May 16th, 2023

Hi All,

Angela, Ali, and I met this afternoon to discuss the adjustment to potential diversions and have estimated the pulse flows would have decreased diversions by about 81 TAF, resulting in what is shown in the Potential WY Diversion text box below the forecast figure that runs through 6/14, the end of the Sites diversion season. We have added an explanation that the pulse flow adjustment has been made to the Potential WY Diversion text box, even though it is not reflected in the graphic. As shown, Sites could have diverted about 680 TAF to date, with a projection of about 58 TAF more by 6/14.

We will send an update out after the end of the diversion season with final estimates.

Let us know if you have any other questions. Thank you!



Forecasts use CNRFC deterministic and 50% exceedance probability forecasts, and assume the Delta remains in an Excess condition unless otherwise indicated.

**Naomi Tanaka, E.I.T.**

Assistant Engineer

MBK Engineers

455 University Avenue, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95825

Office: 916-456-4400, ext. 183

**From:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:10 AM

**To:** 'Jerry Brown' <jbrown@sitesproject.org>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Naomi Tanaka <tanaka@mbkengineers.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>

**Cc:** Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Diversion Forecast - May 16th, 2023

Jerry – I will work with Ali to have an updated estimate in time for your presentation.

Angela

**From:** Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 7:27 AM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Naomi Tanaka <tanaka@mbkengineers.com>; JP Robinette

<jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>

Cc: Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>; Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>

Subject: Re: Sites Diversion Forecast - May 16th, 2023

**CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Only open links from **TRUSTED** sources.

Oh, one more thing. My next presentation where this will come up is next Thursday for ACWA Region 2. Can we have an updated estimate before then? thanks

---

**From:** Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>

**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2023 at 4:28 PM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>, Naomi Tanaka <tanaka@mbkengineers.com>, JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>, Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>

**Cc:** "Spranza, John" <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>, Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>

**Subject:** Re: Sites Diversion Forecast - May 16th, 2023

I'm fine with holding off but at this juncture, let's make our own best estimate of "adjusted amounts of divertable water during pulse conditions" by analyzing when the pulse flows occurred and then backing off/out those amounts from our calculation without engaging with Reclamation since this is the SPAs operations tool. It is understood that the tool is intended for estimating purposes and is not a substitute for the laws, rules, regulations and approvals that the SPA will operate the project to. Thanks

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>

**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2023 at 12:45 PM

**To:** Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>, Naomi Tanaka <tanaka@mbkengineers.com>, JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>, Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>

**Cc:** "Spranza, John" <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>, Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Diversion Forecast - May 16th, 2023

Jerry – Before we do that, I think we should develop some parameters around Reclamation's pulse flows. And then share those with Reclamation to make sure they agree. And then back out those numbers. While this will take a little bit of time, I'd like to make sure that we can defend in our numbers that we ARE NOT diverting water released for the purpose of the environment/fishery and NOT rediverting CVP water into Sites. I just want to be careful that we don't get pushback that we can't defend from Reclamation or NGOs on the numbers.

Angela, maybe you, Naomi and I schedule 30 minutes to talk about our current assumptions on this water and then figure out how to document those and true them up with Reclamation?

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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---

**From:** Jerry Brown <jbrown@sitesproject.org>

**Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2023 11:54 AM

Draft\_0025312

**To:** Naomi Tanaka <[tanaka@mbkengineers.com](mailto:tanaka@mbkengineers.com)>; Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; JP Robinette <[jrobinette@sitesproject.org](mailto:jrobinette@sitesproject.org)>; Kevin Spesert <[kspesert@sitesproject.org](mailto:kspesert@sitesproject.org)>  
**Cc:** Spranza, John <[john.spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:john.spranza@hdrinc.com)>; Angela Bezzone <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Sites Diversion Forecast - May 16th, 2023

Is it okay to update our projection of “what Sites could have diverted this year” from ~500,000af to ~700,000af?

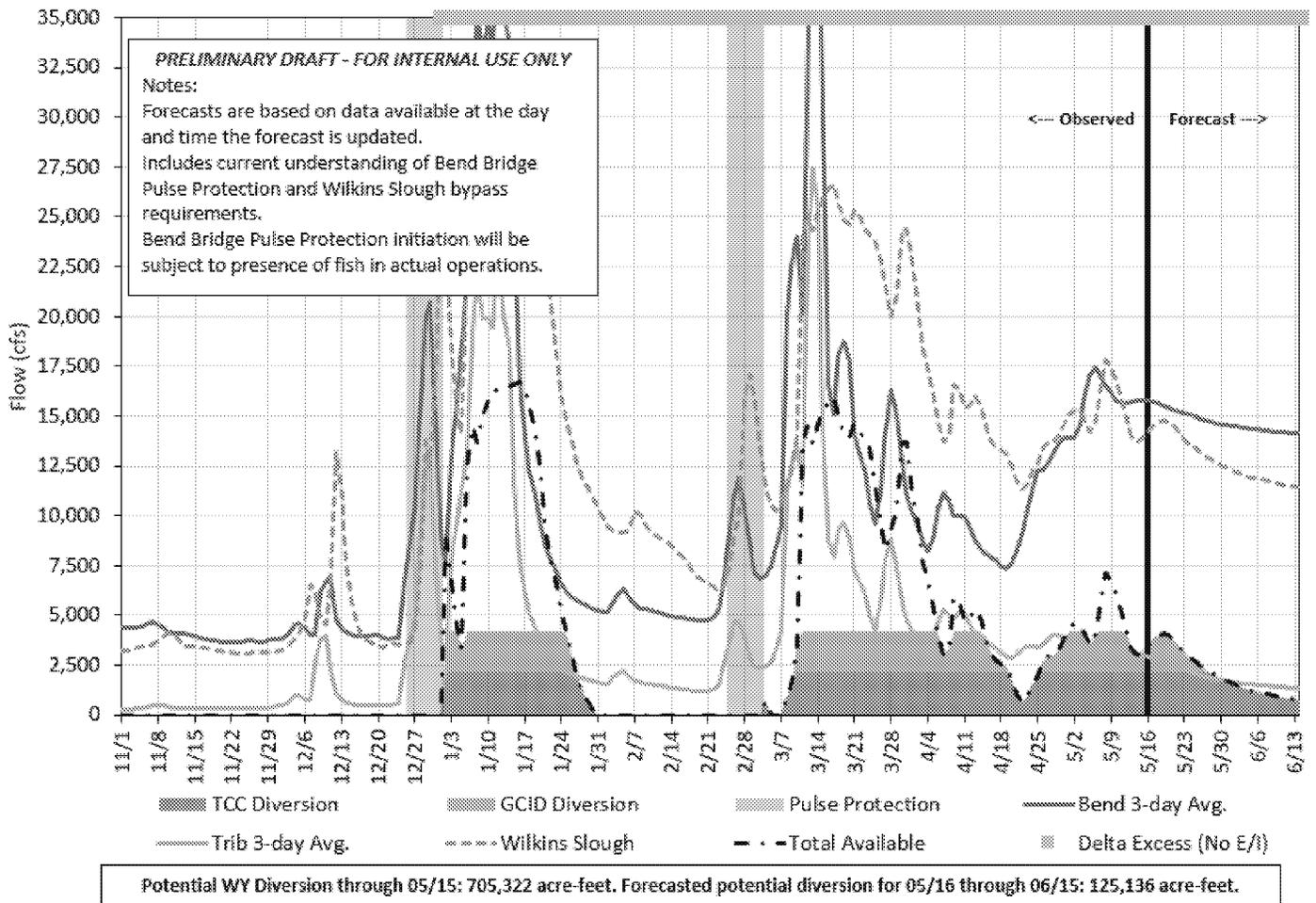
---

**From:** Naomi Tanaka <[tanaka@mbkengineers.com](mailto:tanaka@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 1:30 PM  
**To:** Jerry Brown <[jbrown@sitesproject.org](mailto:jbrown@sitesproject.org)>, Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>, JP Robinette <[jrobinette@sitesproject.org](mailto:jrobinette@sitesproject.org)>, Kevin Spesert <[kspesert@sitesproject.org](mailto:kspesert@sitesproject.org)>  
**Cc:** "Spranza, John" <[john.spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:john.spranza@hdrinc.com)>, Angela Bezzone <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Subject:** Sites Diversion Forecast - May 16th, 2023

Good afternoon All,

Based on current conditions, we estimate that about 705 TAF could potentially be diverted to date. However, Reclamation had two spring pulse flow events scheduled from 4/24 - 4/28 and 5/8 - 5/14. Assuming a one-day travel time from Keswick to Bend Bridge, we estimate that Sites diversions may have been reduced by about 85 TAF based on no Sites diversions to protect the pulse flows. The forecast indicates the potential to divert another 125 TAF over the next 30 days. In addition, the Sacramento River flows are steadily decreasing over the 30-day forecast, reducing projected diversions. Also of note, the Sites diversion season would end on June 14, so the current forecast period includes the remainder of the potential diversions for the year.

We will monitor the forecast and send another update after the end of the diversion season.



Forecasts use CNRFC deterministic and 50% exceedance probability forecasts, and assume the Delta remains in an Excess condition unless otherwise indicated.

As always, if you have any questions, please let me or Angela know, thank you!

**Naomi Tanaka, E.I.T.**  
 Assistant Engineer  
 MBK Engineers

455 University Avenue, Suite 100  
 Sacramento, CA 95825  
 Office: 916-456-4400, ext. 183



Meeting: **Joint Sites Reservoir Committee & Authority Board**

**June 05, 2023  
8:00 – 8:30 AM**

Locations: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

122 Old Hwy 99W, Maxwell, CA 95955

See additional locations below.

Call in: **1-916-538-7066**

Code: **519 320 710#**

- Authority Board Chair: Fritz Durst (Reclamation District 108)
- Authority Board Vice Chair: Jeff Sutton (Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority)
- Reservoir Committee Chair: Valerie Pryor (Zone 7 Water Agency)
- Reservoir Committee Vice-Chair: Mike Azevedo (Colusa County)
- Treasurer: Jamie Traynham (Davis Water District)

## AGENDA

### ROLL CALL & CALL TO ORDER:

- Introductions.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of June 05, 2023, Joint Meeting Agenda.
- Period for Public Comment.

*Any person may speak about any subject of concern, provided it is within the Reservoir Committee’s and Authority Board’s jurisdiction, and a public comment card is submitted. The time allotted for receiving such public communication shall be 3 minutes per person. Note: No action shall be taken on comments made during this period.*

**1. Consent Agenda:** Approximate start time 8:10 am  
None.

**2. Action Items:** Approximate start time 8:10 am

2.1 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of:

1. Communicate general support for the Governor’s Executive Order and Legislative Permit Reform Package.
2. Direct staff to actively advocate on behalf of the three legislative proposals of direct benefit to the Project; CEQA Administrative Record Reforms, CEQA Judicial Streamlining and Reclassification of Fully Protected Species.

**3. Discussion and Information Items** Approximate start time 8:25 am  
None.

**4. Upcoming Meetings:**

Joint Reservoir Committee & Authority Board Meeting  
Friday, June 16, 2023 (9:00 am-noon)

Meetings are held in the Maxwell Project Office & Virtual.

Virtual Information will be provided on the meeting agenda at [Sitesproject.org](https://sitesproject.org).

**ADJOURN**

ADA COMPLIANCE: Upon request, agendas will be made available in alternative formats to accommodate persons with disabilities. In addition, any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation to participate or attend this meeting may request the necessary accommodation. Please make your request to the Board Clerk, specifying your disability, the format in which you would like to receive this Agenda and any other accommodation required no later than 24 hours before the start of the meeting. This meeting will be recorded.

**Alternate Meeting Locations:**

1350 Goat Mountain Road, Stonyford, CA 95979

City of American Canyon, 4381 Broadway Street, American Canyon, CA 94503

Coachella Valley Water District, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA 92211

Colusa County Water District, 436 Market Street, Arbuckle, CA 95912

Davis Water District, 6505 Hillgate Road, Arbuckle, CA 95912

Dunnigan Water District, 975 Wilson Bend Road, Grimes, CA 95950

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, 344 East Laurel Street, Willows, CA 95988

Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618

LaGrande Water District, 2002 Husted Road, Williams, CA 95987

Metropolitan Water District, 1121 L Street, Suite 900, Sacramento, CA 95814

Placer County Water Agency, 144 Ferguson Road, Auburn, CA 95603

Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, 849 Allen Road, Bakersfield, CA 93314

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, 380 E. Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, CA 92408

San Geronio Pass Water Agency, 1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, CA 92223

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 26501 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350

Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, 5513 Highway 162, Willows, CA 95988

Western Canal Water District/Westside WD, 5005 State Highway 20, Williams, CA 95987

Valley Water Agency, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118

Zone 7 Water Agency, 100 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore, CA 94551

# Sites Reservoir Project Overview

MWD Directors Tour  
Sites Reservoir

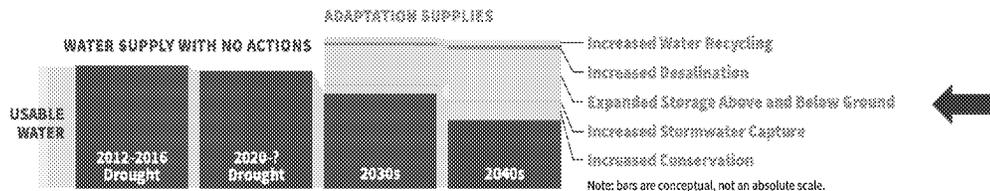
June 8, 2023



# What Problem Does the Sites Project Help Solve?

Over the next 20 years, California could lose 10 percent<sup>1</sup> of its water supplies.

Our climate has changed, and the West continues to get hotter and drier. As it does, we will see on average less snowfall, more evaporation, and greater consumption of water by vegetation, soil, and the atmosphere itself.



In previous droughts the ratio of precipitation to evaporation to runoff has been similar. However, as temperatures rise, evaporation increases, with the consequence of a fall in runoff. As average temperatures continue to increase, the increase in evaporation will continue, with a concurrent drop in runoff.

Excerpted from Aug 2022 "California's Water Supply Strategy, Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future"

## 'What if we had Sites?' – most recent storms update

- Estimate for January 2023 storms - ~250,000af
- Estimate for March-April 2023 ~250,000af
- Forecasted for May-June 2023. ~200,000af
- Total for 22/23 Season – **700,000af** (almost ½ of the reservoir)
- Estimates are based on operations simulation tool that monitors actual and forecasted river/Delta conditions
- This real-time analysis shows that the Project is capable of delivering the expected diversion performance



## Sites Project Authority

*'the Sites Project is a local led project'*

- Joint Powers Authority established under California law
- Authority member agencies located in the Sacramento Valley
- Reservoir Committee made up statewide agencies investing in the Sites Project
- The Sites Project Authority will own and operate Sites Reservoir

### Board of Directors:

Colusa County  
Colusa County Water District  
Glenn County  
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District  
Placer County Water Agency/City of Roseville  
Reclamation District 108  
Sacramento/Sac County Water Agency  
Tehama-Colusa Canal

**Our Strength is in Our  
Broad Statewide Participation  
*'the Sites Project is Beneficiary  
Days!'***

**Sacramento  
Valley**

City of American Canyon  
Colusa County  
Colusa County Water Agency  
Cortina Water District  
Davis Water District  
Dunnigan Water District  
Glenn County  
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District  
LaGrande Water District  
Placer County Water Agency  
Reclamation District 108  
City of Roseville  
Sacramento County Water Agency  
City of Sacramento  
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority  
Westside Water District  
Western Canal Water District

**Bay Area**

Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Zone 7 Water Agency

**San Joaquin Valley**

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage  
District  
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage  
District

**Southern California**

Antelope Valley - East Kern Water  
Agency  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Desert Water Agency  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Metropolitan Water District  
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water  
District

**Waiting List**

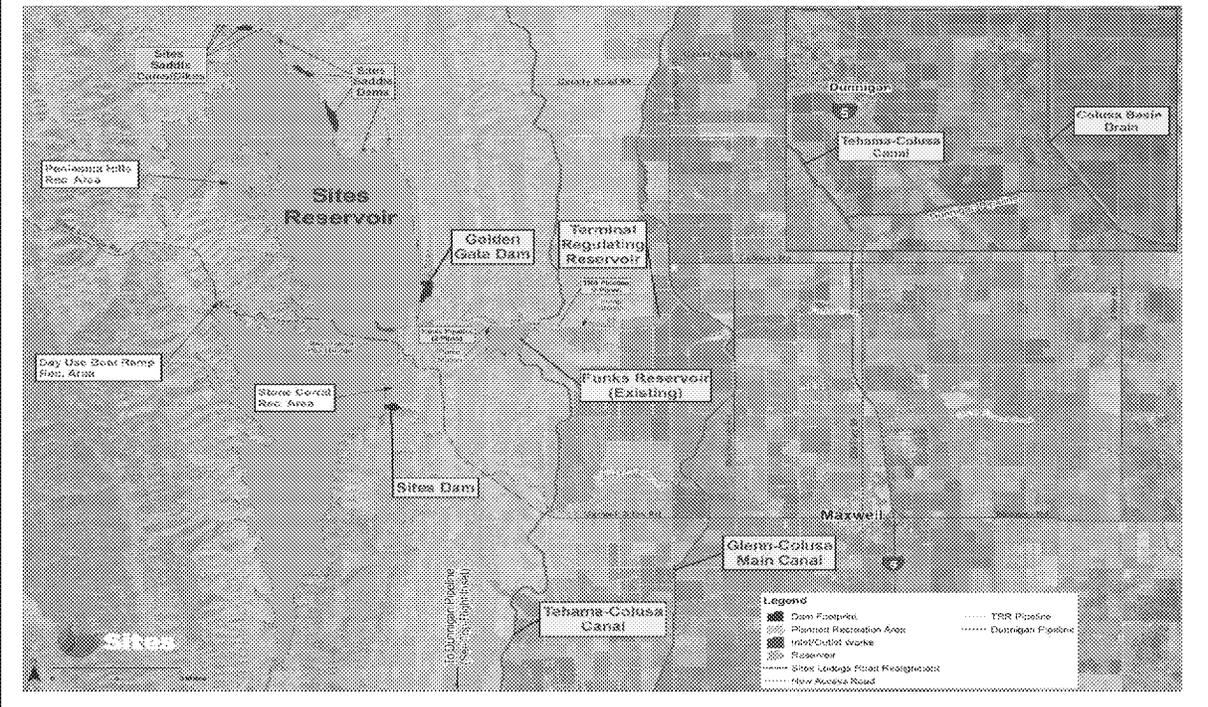
Cal-Am Sacramento  
City of Napa  
Delta View WDA  
Glenn County  
La Cumbre MWC  
Madera County  
Pacific Resources MWC  
Palmdale WD  
Santa Clara Valley WD  
Western Municipal WD  
Westlands WD  
Wheeler Ridge Maricopa WSD  
Woodland Davis CWA



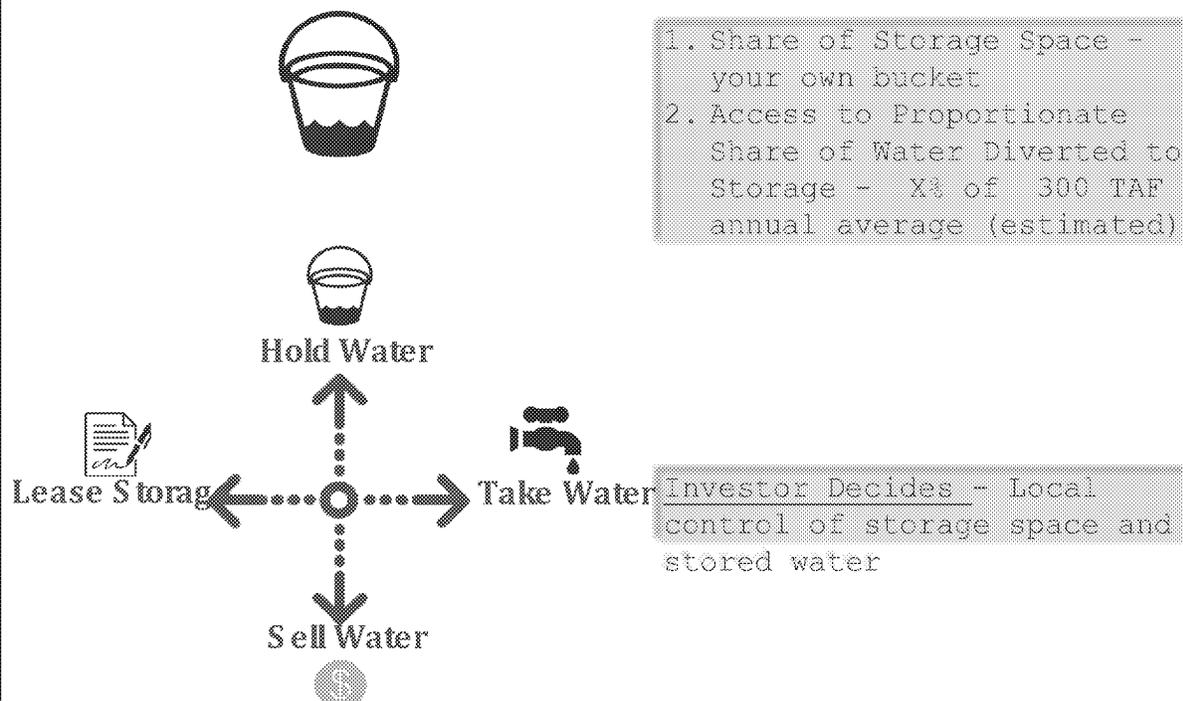
# Overview of Sites Reservoir Project

- The Project is a multi-benefit, beneficiary pays off-stream surface storage project that will help provide needed flexibility, reliability and resiliency to California's water supply
- **The Project will capture and store 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 California communities, farms, and ecosystems.**
- The Project will use existing intakes with state-of-the-art fish screens. Diversions would only occur when permitted river flows exist that are protective of river and Delta aquatic species
- The Sites Authority has applied for a new water right to divert water from the Sacramento River at Red Bluff and Hamilton City.
- The Project includes about 180 miles of conveyance. Only about 20 miles is new facilities. The remainder is shared existing infrastructure.
- **Sites water is to be conveyed "through Delta" to southern California participants - not reliant upon the proposed Delta Conveyance Project.**
- The Project is climate resilient; it does not rely on snowmelt but will capture winter river runoff from uncontrolled streams below existing reservoirs in the Sacramento Valley
  - As such, it will inherently adapt to future climate conditions and will be operated to improve water supply resilience to predicted changes in weather

# Project Facilities



# What Do You Get With Your Investment in Sites Reservoir?

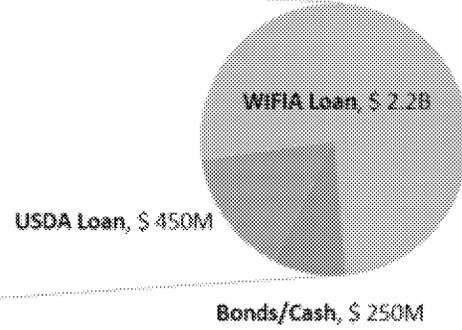
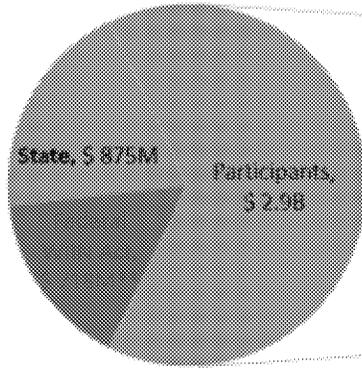


# Project Funding Sources

## 'State/Federal Interest in the Sites Project'

Project Investors

Participant Funding Sources



\*\*WIIN Act funding is based on 16% Reclamation investment under Alternative 3 (Preferred Project) and is reported in future dollars.

## Environmental Planning & Permitting Update

- Environmental Impact Report
  - 2017 Draft Document
  - 2021 Revised Draft document
    - Released for public review in November 2021
    - Comment period closed in January 2022
  - 2023 Final document
    - Expected in August 2023
    - All concerns evaluated
    - Revisions to 2021 draft included
    - Response to comments
- Water Right Permit
  - Submitted application to State Board in May 2022
  - Expect Board to complete review and notice for public review/protests in May 2023

# Engineering Update

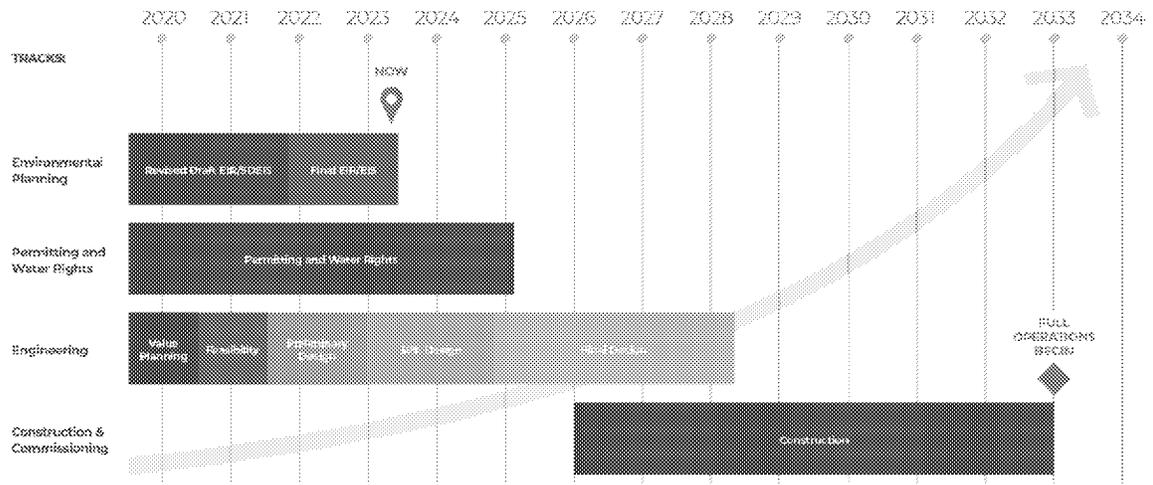
- **2021** - Completed the Feasibility Analysis
  - The California Water Commission Determined the Project is Feasible
- **2022-2024** - Conducting Field Studies
  - Survey Mapping & Geotechnical Investigations to Inform Preliminary Engineering Analysis and Design
- **2024** - Complete 30% Design
  - Update Project Cost Estimate
- **2024** and Beyond - Key Agency Reviews and Approvals
- **2025** - Begin Construction

## Real Estate Update

- Coordinating with Landowners on the project design. Two most frequently asked questions:
  - anticipated land needs and
  - timing for acquisition
- Securing Temporary Rights of Entry (TROE) and other agreements to conduct necessary technical field activities
- Having acquisition discussions on key project parcels or parcels associated with major project infrastructure
- Acquisition transactions not likely to occur sooner than 2024.

# Project Schedule

## Sites Reservoir Project Schedule



# Questions



# Other Items of Potential Interest



# Overview of Amendment 3 Participants

▪ Participants generally include large urban water wholesalers downstream ("South of Delta") and small agricultural districts primarily located in the Sacramento Valley ("North of Delta")

▪ South of Delta participants comprise 59% of Participants and 76% of total Project subscriptions

▪ North of Delta participants comprise 41% of Participants and 24% of total Project subscriptions

▪ 65% of total Project subscriptions are rated A or higher by S&P

▪ Four Participants (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Zone 7 Water Agency, and Coachella Valley Water District) are rated AAA/AA+ by S&P and account for 55% of total Project subscriptions

▪ The single largest user of water from Sites is the ecosystem portion of the State's Prop 1 investment.

Sites Amendment 3 Participants	Acre Foot Participation
Antelope Valley-East Kern WA	500
City of American Canyon	4,000
Coachella Valley WD	10,000
Colusa County*	10,000
Colusa County WD*	9,256
Cortina WD*	450
Davis WD*	2000
Desert WA	6,500
Dunnigan WD*	2972
Glenn-Colusa ID*	5000
Irvine Ranch WD	1,000
La Grande WD*	1000
Metropolitan Water District of SC	50,000
Reclamation District 108*	4000
Rosedale-Rio Bravo WD	500
San Bernardino Valley Municipal WD	21,400
San Geronio Pass WA	14,000
Santa Clara Valley WD	500
Santa Clarita Valley WA	5,000
Westside WD*	5375
Wheeler Ridge - Maricopa WSD	3050
Zone 7 WA	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,503</b>

\*Denotes North of Delta participant

Denotes agricultural participant

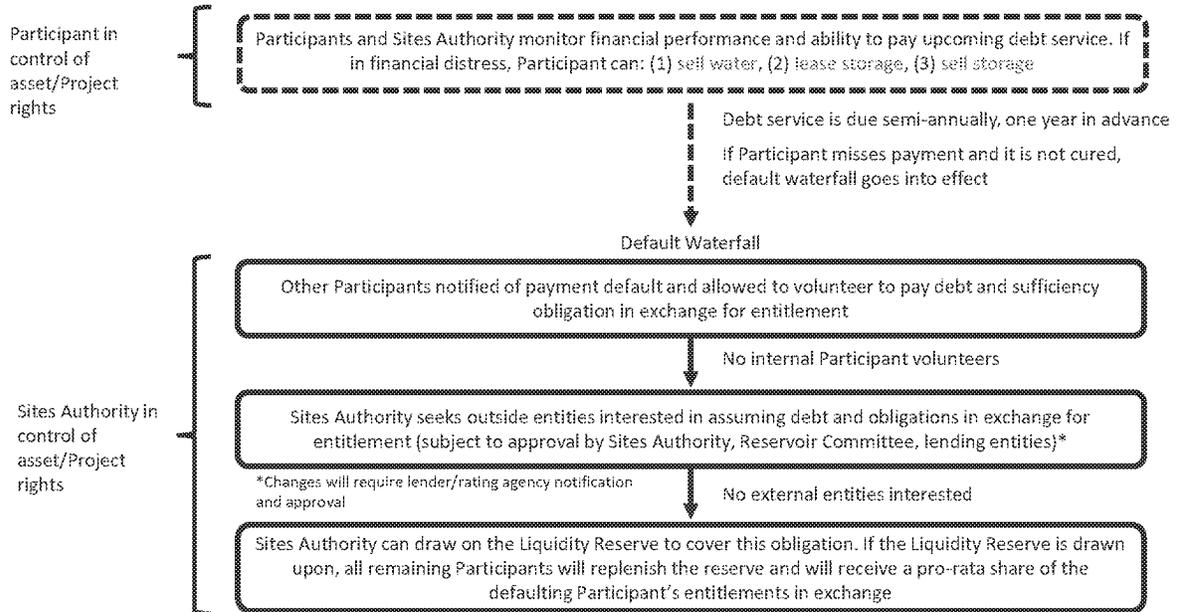
# Securing Revenue to Meet WIFIA Loan Debt Service

- Prior to execution of the WIFIA loan, Sites Authority will enter into a Sites Reservoir Benefits and Obligations Contract (Contract) with Participants that will require Participants to collect revenue sufficient to fund their share of pooled debt service
- Participants have several potential sources of funds that can be used to meet Project financial obligations: (1) include costs on Participant's DWR State Water Project Annual Statement of Charges; (2) levy benefit assessments or other land-based charges; (3) incorporate costs into water rates and charges; or (4) pay-go their share of costs

Rates and Charges or Benefit Assessment (with or without Prop 218)	Land-Based Charges	State Water Project Statement of Charges (through property taxes)
City of American Canyon	Colusa County <sup>4</sup>	Antelope Valley-East Kern
Glenn Colusa Irrigation District	Colusa County WD	Coachella Valley WD
Irvine Ranch Water District <sup>3</sup>	Cortina WD	Desert WA
MWD of Southern California	Davis WD	San Bernardino Valley MWD
Santa Clara Valley WD	Dunnigan WD	San Geronio Pass WA
Santa Clarita Valley WA	La Grande WD	
Reclamation District 108 <sup>1</sup>	Reclamation District 108 <sup>1</sup>	
Rosedale-Rio Bravo WSD	Westside WD	
Zone 7 WA	Wheeler Ridge Maricopa WSD <sup>2</sup>	
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## Summary of Key Security Covenants/Terms

- Contract will also include a default “waterfall” process that will be utilized if a Participant fails to pay by the due date. If Participant efforts outlined below are not successful, the Authority will have the right to suspend or terminate the Contract, including selling water and storage



Discuss JPA rights in case of default

## Summary of WRLCM Results

- The Project has a slightly positive effect on winter-run with the potential to increase the overall population
- Benefits to winter-run are associated with periodic reductions in late summer water temperatures that decreases salmon egg mortality
  - Likely driven mostly by Reclamation’s investment and exchanges with Reclamation
- Model runs included Alternative 3 with Reclamation investment at both a 25% (Alt 3A) and 16% (Alt 3B)
  - Alt 3A has slightly greater benefits than Alt 3B

Draft - Predecisional Working Document - For Discussion Purposes Only

15

Speaker: Ali

Draft - Predecisional Working Document - For Discussion Purposes Only

# Summary of Water Availability Results

Approach	Result Take-away	Annual Average Available (AFY)	Max Water Available (AF)
Historical	Water available in all year types* and 18 of 22 years	748,000	3,879,000
<b>CalSim II</b>			
Historical hydrology	Water available in all year types and 74 of 82 years	1,448,000	5,249,000
Climate change -- 2035 Central Tendency	Water available in all year types and 73 of 82 years	1,518,000	5,330,000
Climate change -- 2070 Central Tendency	Water available in all year types and 70 of 82 years	1,455,000	5,176,000
Unimpaired Flow -- Based on Reclamation's Alternative 4 in their 2019 Reconsultation EIS	Water available in all year types and 73 of 82 years	1,518,000	5,330,000
<b>Face Value</b>	Water available mainly in wet and above normal years and 55 of 93 years	1,118,000	8,681,000

\*Based on the Sacramento Valley Water Year Index (40-30-30 Index)

## Project Next Steps/Goals: 2022 - 2024

- ✓ Secure Final Prop 1 Funding award with CWC
- ✓ Execute Final Operations Agreement
- ✓ Secure WIIN and BIL Federal Funding
- ✓ Complete WIFIA/USDA Loan Agreements
- ✓ Execute Benefits and Obligations Contracts
- ✓ Complete Final EIR/EIS
- ✓ Obtain Critical Environmental Permits (BO, ITP, 404)
- ✓ Receive Water Right Order and Permit
- ✓ Obtain Local Agency Agreements and Permits
- ✓ Execute Benefits Contracts with DWR and 

## Project Next Steps/Goals: 2022 - 2024

- ✓ Develop Mitigation Acquisition Master Plan
- ✓ Initiate Application for DSOD Permit to Construct
- ✓ Advance Engineering Design to achieve Level 3 cost estimate
- ✓ Determine Procurement and Delivery Strategy
- ✓ Determine Overall Project Schedule
- ✓ Develop and Implement Land Acquisition Master Plan
- ✓ Conduct Geotech Investigations and Evaluations
- ✓ Perform Geotech Evaluation of all "Willing Seller" Properties
- ✓ Determine Organization Structure and Governance















**MS-3000: Construction Groundbreaking** -Date pushed out 8 weeks. Logic shown below. This is linked to Investor Commitment (see above) and has moved equally.

#	Activity ID	Activity Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Variance - Prior Finish	2023												2024												2025											
							May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec				
1	ER-250	Complete Final EIR/EIS	54	01-Feb-23 A	18-Aug-23	0	Complete Final EIR/EIS																																			
2	ER-370	Authority Certifies EIR & Approves Project	0		01-Sep-23	0	Authority Certifies EIR & Approves Project																																			
3	ER-360	File CEQA/NOI	5	05-Sep-23	11-Sep-23	0	File CEQA/NOI																																			
4	BA-230	Prepare BA Amendment - Calsim II	135	12-Sep-23	25-Mar-24		Prepare BA Amendment - Calsim II																																			
5	BA-240	Submit BA Amendment - Calsim II (Post LTO Reconsultation)	1	01-Apr-24	01-Apr-24		Submit BA Amendment - Calsim II (Post LTO Reconsultation)																																			
6	MS-1500	Investor Commitment	0		27-Mar-25	-41	Investor Commitment																																			
7	BA-250	Receive USFWS/ NMFS Amended Biological Opinions (Incidental)	0		27-Mar-25		Receive USFWS/ NMFS Amended Biological Opinions (Incidental)																																			
8	MS-3000	Construction Groundbreaking	0	09-Jul-25		-41	Construction Groundbreaking																																			

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**From:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**Sent:** 6/6/2023 4:41:57 PM  
**To:** Wesley Walker [walker@mbkengineers.com]; Dan Easton [Easton@mbkengineers.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Projects  
**Attachments:** Sites Proposed Terms.pdf; CalSim Diversions Criteria\_Amended Sites WAA Report 01.06.2023.pdf

Hi Dan,

Here are some initial responses to CCWD's questions along with attachments to help summarize.

1. Attached is a copy of the draft permit terms submitted with the water right application. Also attached is an excerpt from the Water Availability Analysis that provides a summary of the CalSim modeled diversion criteria. All are consistent with what is/will be included in the final EIR.
2. Yes, this is included in the model. The bypass criteria is 10,700 cfs for October through June and 5,000 cfs in September.
3. That is still in the model for January through March. This is for modeling purposes only, as an effort to prevent model diversions during "near Excess" conditions. This is not intended to be part of any diversion criteria (see footnote 1 in the WAA excerpt table).
4. The Wilkins Slough Bypass Criteria, Bend Bridge Pulse Protection, and Delta Excess conditions are the primary criteria used to meet this.
5. Sites sent the Final CalSim and DSM2 files to CCWD in February. We can provide more info about the water quality assumptions, but I would need to chat with the Jacobs modeling team.

Ali Forsythe and I will be meeting with CCWD on Friday (Jerry is traveling and won't be able to make it). We will be covering the information above, so they will hear it again with more context.

Angela

---

**From:** Wesley Walker <walker@mbkengineers.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2023 8:45 AM  
**To:** Dan Easton <Easton@mbkengineers.com>  
**Cc:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Projects

Hey Dan,

I'll coordinate with Angela and one of us should be able to provide answers for each of those questions.

Thanks,  
Wes

---

**From:** Dan Easton <Easton@mbkengineers.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2023 8:39 AM  
**To:** Wesley Walker <walker@mbkengineers.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Sites Reservoir Projects

Hi Wes,

Do you have answers to any of the questions below regarding Sites modeling? As I recall, you were helping with the Sites water right analysis. Let me know if I should ask someone else.

Thanks  
Dan

~~~~~  
Dan Easton, P.E.  
MBK Engineers  
(916) 456-4400  
~~~~~

---

**From:** Yuan Liu <[yliu@ccwater.com](mailto:yliu@ccwater.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 2, 2023 4:09 PM  
**To:** Dan Easton <[Easton@mbkengineers.com](mailto:Easton@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Cc:** Lu Han <[lhan@ccwater.com](mailto:lhan@ccwater.com)>  
**Subject:** Sites Reservoir Projects

**CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Only open links from **TRUSTED** sources.

Hi Dan,

Can we have a meeting to discuss Sites? We need to figure out how this project is modeled, and what impacts it has on CCWD. A few questions I have so far:

1. Do you have a summary of their diversion criteria (ideally comparing their EIR to what were modeled)?
2. There is this Wilkin Slough bypass flow criteria, is it consistent with the model? "Mitigation Measure FISH-2.1 will prevent Project diversions from reducing Sacramento River flow below 10,700 cfs at Wilkins Slough during March, April, and May"
3. I remember when we reviewed their RDEIR last time, they don't take the Delta surplus water unless it is more than 3,000 cfs in surplus. Is this still the case in their most recent model?
4. Seems that, they are supposed to have some minimum flow requirement and pulse protection for CESA purpose. What is included in the model?
5. I know water quality at CCWD intakes are the same between no action and with project. I think we probably need to fix this, rerun the model, and evaluate the impacts.

Lu and I are pretty flexible next Monday to Wednesday.

Thanks,  
Yuan

**Yuan Liu, Ph.D., P.E.**  
Senior Water Resources Specialist

P (925) 688-8282

**CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT**  
1331 Concord Avenue, Concord, CA 94520

Table 16. Constraints on Availability and Diversion for Sites Reservoir in CalSim II.

Constraint	Description
<b>Delta / System Availability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delta must be in an Excess condition</li> <li>- Diversions in January – March must not cause the Delta to go into a Balanced condition<sup>1</sup></li> <li>- No diversions can occur from April through September in Shasta Critical years and/or in Dry and Critical years<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Shasta Operations</b>	Shasta is not releasing for the Upper Sacramento River Spring Pulse Flow
<b>ITP Delta Outflow</b>	Limit diversions when the SWP is releasing water as part of an ITP Delta Outflow action <sup>2</sup>
<b>Bend Bridge Pulse Protection Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initiation: 3-day forecasted average Sacramento River flow is projected to exceed 8,000 cfs and 3-day forecasted average combined tributary flow must exceed 2,500 cfs</li> <li>- Duration: 7 days upon initiation; if flows exceed 29,000 cfs at Sacramento River at Bend Bridge, diversions are limited to the flow in excess of 25,000 cfs for the remainder of the 7-day period</li> <li>- Reset: After completion of the pulse protection period, resetting criteria must be met for another pulse protection period to commence: 3-day trailing average Sacramento River flow at Bend Bridge is less than 7,500 cfs for 7 consecutive days; 3-day trailing average tributary flow must go below 2,500 cfs for 7 consecutive days</li> <li>- Period: October – May</li> </ul>
<b>Wilkins Slough Minimum Flow Requirement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10,700 cfs in October – June</li> <li>- 5,000 cfs all other times</li> </ul>
<b>Fully Appropriated Streams</b>	No diversions allowed June 15 – August 31 to comply with the fully appropriated stream status of the Sacramento River
<b>Sites Reservoir Capacity</b>	1.5 million acre-feet, including 60,000 acre-feet of dead storage
<b>Diversion Capacity<sup>3</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2,100 cfs plus losses at Red Bluff (limited by hydraulic diversion capability at lower flows)</li> <li>- 1,800 cfs plus losses at Hamilton City (occasionally limited by annual maintenance periods)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The CalSim II model includes a diversion constraint during the January – March period that flow is only available when the Delta Excess surrogate is at least 3,000 cfs. This constraint is designed to prevent a potential effect on the CVP and SWP’s ability to meet the Spring X2 requirement. This constraint is purely a modeling nuance and not intended to be part of any operational criteria.

<sup>2</sup> This constraint is purely a modeling limitation and not intended to be part of any operational criteria.

<sup>3</sup> The diversion capacity noted in CalSim II is the facility capacity for conveyance of water from the TCC and GCID Main Canal into Sites Reservoir. The diversion from the Sacramento River is therefore that flow rate plus assumed flows for losses between each POD and the pipeline from the canal into Sites Reservoir. The total rate diverted from the Sacramento River (diversion to Sites plus losses) does not exceed the 4,200 cfs diversion capacity identified in the Application.

### 3.2.2 CalSim II Water Available for Appropriation Tool

The diversion and operations logic currently implemented in the Sites CalSim II model does not explicitly output a calculated “water available for appropriation” volume at each timestep. The logic only outputs the final diversions to Sites Reservoir. Since this diverted volume is limited by the physical capacity of the diversion infrastructure and the reservoir’s available storage capacity, the actual volume of water

## Timeline of AB 52 Consultation between the Sites Project Authority and the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians

[Note: Consultations with tribal governments started in the late 1990s through the CALFED program, nearly two decades before implementation of AB 52. The Sites Reservoir Project (then known as North-of-Delta Offstream Storage, or NODOS) Study Team (CALFED, California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)) identified the following tribes that could be affected by implementation of the Sites Reservoir: Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians; Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians; Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki; Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians; Round Valley Indian Tribe of Round Valley; Wintun Tribe in Redding; and Yoche Dehe Wintun Nation. The NODOS Study Team developed the “Guiding Principles: Working with Indian Tribes on North-of-the-Delta Offstream Storage” in consultation with the tribes to direct planning activities involving the tribes. The NODOS Study Team met at a scoping meeting on January 23, 2002 and at eight subsequent meetings and one field tour of Sites Reservoir location through March 2004 to provide updates on the NODOS progress and to encourage input on issues of concern from the tribes. A Tribal Forum on the Project was held by DWR and Department of the Interior on February 26, 2004. The Paskenta Band routinely participated in these early meetings.]

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
February 10, 2017	Project notification letter sent from the Authority to the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians (Paskenta) pursuant to Cal. Pub. Res. Code 21080.3.1(d).
November 13, 2020.	Updated project notification letter sent from the Authority to Paskenta pursuant to Cal. Pub. Res. Code 21080.3.1(d).
December 17, 2020	Follow-up email to November 13, 2020 letter
January 12, 2023	Authority sent letter inviting the Tribe to participate in a Tribal Working Group (TWG)
February 7, 2023	Follow-up email to January 12, 2023 letter
February 9, 2023	Email exchange regarding TWG and request from Paskenta for a copy of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Section 106 consultation letter, which was provided the same day
March 8, 2023	To Paskenta: email follow-up regarding TWG and consultation with the Authority.
March 9, 2023	Response from Paskenta requesting a meeting with the Authority and requesting cultural reports
March 10, 2023	Sent existing cultural reports to the tribe
March 21, 2023	Virtual meeting with Laverne Bill; copy of MOA brief sent to tribe after meeting
March 28, 2023	To Paskenta: email reporting on status of Section 106 consultation request with USBR
March 29, 2023	To Paskenta: Sent KMZs of site locational data in the project footprint and copies of site records for resources located in Glenn County
April 18, 2023	Virtual meeting with Laverne Bill
May 18, 2023	Virtual meeting with Laverne Bill
June 22, 2023	Scheduled: Virtual meeting with Laverne Bill



<BOrsak@BrwnCald.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Variances to Work Plan Progress Reporting (WPPR)

David and Ali,  
Please see below for suggested actions.

John Spranza

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 11:59 AM

**To:** David Hubbard <Dhubbard@BrwnCald.com>; Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@brwncald.com>; Spranza, John <john.spranza@hdrinc.com>; Arsenijevic, Jelica <jelica.arsenijevic@hdrinc.com>

**Cc:** Risse, Danielle <danielle.risse@hdrinc.com>; Edwards, Dawn <Dawn.Edwards@hdrinc.com>; Benjamin Orsak <BOrsak@BrwnCald.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Reservoir Project - Variances to Work Plan Progress Reporting (WPPR)

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

A few things –

CWA 404/401 – It looks like this moved forward. Lets keep it where it was and not move it forward in time.

JJS: Okay. We had discussed linking to the final EIR/EIS based on agency input and I had thought we were okay to do that. Still, we can hold off and revise back to previous

Federal ESA – this only moved 6 days, I wouldn't report this.

JJS: Agreed.

CEQA ITP – Operations – This moved into December. Something is wrong here – this is too early. This should be back where it was last month – back in April 2024.

JJS: The table has it in April 2024 which is correct. HOWEVER, the construction ITP should not move into October, it should stay in December 2023 even with the revised NOD logic. Please revise to previous finish.

Mitigation cost estimate – I am not sure why this moved also. Do we know? Can we move it back so there is no change?

JJS: Not sure either. Not really sure what this deliverable is as it will continually be updated as we revise the landcover and perform species surveys. We did update the mitigation cost in May 2023 with the construction ITP.

We need to make some change to the BA lines that I sent to John a few days ago.

JJS: yes, David, please see attached.

Operations Plan – lets unlink the operations plan to the ITP. As Angela mentioned, we are starting on this now.

David – I am booked for most of the day, but available at 4 PM to chat if you want to do that.

Ali









Meeting: **Joint Reservoir Committee & Authority Board**  
**Agenda Item 3.1**

**February 17, 2023**

Subject: **Status Briefing on the Final EIR/EIS, Part 1 of 3**

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**Requested Action:**

Review and comment on the Final EIR/EIS, Part 1 of 3 status briefing in preparation for approval of the Project.

**Detailed Description/Background:**

This staff report provides the first of three planned briefings on the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) in preparation for approval of the document and the Project which is anticipated to occur at the May 2023 meeting. In this segment, we will provide a review of content and format of the final document, an overview of project refinements to be reflected in the final documents, and an overview of the updates to the modeling.

The Authority and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) jointly issued the original Draft EIR/EIS in August 2017 and received comments in January 2018. The Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS) was released November 23, 2021 for the Project pursuant to their respective lead agency obligations under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The public comment period on the RDEIR/SDEIS closed on January 28, 2021. Since that time, staff and the consultant team have been working on analyzing and preparing responses to the comments received on the RDEIR/SDEIS and preparing the Final EIR/EIS. The Final EIR/EIS is anticipated to be published in May 2023.

**Content and Format**

CEQA requires that a Lead Agency prepare a Final EIR prior to approving a project. The Final EIR must include (CEQA Guidelines 15132):

- The draft EIR or revision of the draft;
- Comments and recommendations received on the draft EIR, either verbatim or in summary;
- A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the draft EIR; and
- The responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process.

The Final EIR/EIS will identify refinements to the project, both in facilities and operations; include revised modeling results due to changes in diversion criteria; provide responses to comments received on the RDEIR/SDEIS; and provide any text revisions necessary based on comments and responses or project refinements. The Final EIR/EIS will include three volumes:

- Volume 1 – Chapters from the RDEIR/SDEIS that require revisions.
- Volume 2 – Appendices from the RDEIR/SDEIS that require revisions.
- Volume 3 – Responses to comments on the RDEIR/SDEIS, both master responses to address thematic issues raised in comments as well as individual responses to all comments received.

Changes to text will be denoted with margin lines. Due to federal page limits, comment letters and those chapters and appendices without changes will not be published but will be available on the Authority's website.

### **Project Refinements**

In addition to the substantial changes to the Project which occurred between the original Draft EIR/EIS and the revised documents, changes to the Project between the RDEIR/SDEIS and the Final EIR/EIS include:

- The preferred alternative is now Alternative 3, allowing for Reclamation investment in the Project of up to 25 percent;
- The Project's diversion criteria have been revised to be more protective of fish, including revising the Wilkins Slough bypass flow criteria to 10,700 cubic feet per second from October through June;
- Mitigation Measure Fish-2.1 has been incorporated into the Project;
- Design refinements have been made to some facilities;
- Updated modeling results have been incorporated into the document; and
- Corrections and clarifications in response to comments on the RDEIR/SDEIS.

Attachment A provides a comparison of the revised diversion criteria analyzed in the Final EIR/EIS versus the RDEIR/SDEIS. No new or substantially greater impacts have been identified with the addition of these refinements.

### **Future Meetings**

Additional briefings will be provided in upcoming meetings, as outlined below.

- March 2023 Status Briefing on the Final EIR/EIS, Part 2 of 3 – This briefing will provide an overview of key comments on the RDEIR/SDEIS and master responses; ongoing public and local community outreach; ongoing tribal outreach and AB 52 consultation; and an overview of any refinements to impacts and mitigation measures.
- April 2023, Status Briefing on the Final EIR/EIS, Part 3 of 3 – The April briefing will provide an overview of the Findings, Statement of Overriding

Considerations and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and request approval to publish the Final EIR.

- May 2023, Authority Decision – It is anticipated that the Final EIR will be certified at the May 2023 Board meeting. At that time, the Board will also need to adopt CEQA Findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. The Board will then be able to take action on the Project.

**Prior Authority Board Action:**

August 2022: Receive a status update on the development of the Final EIR/EIS.

March 2022: Received an update on public comments on the RDEIR/SDEIS.

**Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:**

The preparation of the Final EIR/EIS, including responses to comments, can be completed within the budgeted funds for this task and within the Amendment 3 work plan total budget.

**Staff Contact:**

Ali Forsythe

**Primary Service Providers:**

ICF, CH2M Operations

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Comparison of the Project's Operational Criteria between the RDEIR/SDEIS and the Final EIR/EIS.

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 6/9/2023 10:55:21 AM  
**To:** Ann Newton [anewton@katzandassociates.com]; Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** FW: affect of proposed Sites reservoir project on navigation and on fishing.

Hi Ann and Kevin – I got an email question on Project impacts. Below is the question and my response.

Not sure if we keep these anywhere for our records, so sending onto you both for your info and any records we keep.

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2023 10:53 AM  
**To:** 'Francis Coats' <fecoats@msn.com>  
**Subject:** RE: affect of proposed Sites reservoir project on navigation and on fishing.

Hi Francis – Thank you for your patience as it took me a little more time than I expected to follow up with you.

You requested information on the Project's effects to public access to and use of navigable waters. A few items on this:

- The Project would divert water from the Sacramento River, which is a navigable waterway. However, Sites Reservoir is an off-stream reservoir. We are diverting water off the Sacramento River at existing diversion facilities – Red Bluff Pumping Plant and the Hamilton City Pump Station, conveying it down to the new reservoir and then pumping it up into the new reservoir. We are not damming the Sacramento River. There will be no construction in the Sacramento River itself as a result of the Project. In our Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS, the modeling analysis indicates that flows in the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam are not anticipated to change substantially with operation of Sites Reservoir. The changes in flow would be within the historical range of flow fluctuations and would not be perceptible to recreation users. Thus, the Project would not affect the public access to and use of the Sacramento River.
- The Project is damming 2 small creeks in Colusa County – Funks and Stone Corral Creeks. Both of these creeks flow generally only in response to rainstorms and are not considered navigable waterways.
- So all in all, we don't see the Project impacting public access to and use of navigable waters.

You also requested information on the Project's effects on public access to and use of state-owned lands (including lands held in the name of local or state-wide agencies) for fishing. A few items on this:

- The Project itself is not on any lands owned by the State of California, through the State Lands Commission, and held in trust for the public. So no impact there.
- The Project would utilize existing facilities owned by public agencies – such as the Main Canal owned by the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and the Tehama-Colusa Canal owned by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Project wouldn't change the use or purpose of these facilities – it would run water through them, consistent with their existing uses. Some of these facilities allow for public access and fishing, some do not. So whatever exists out there now for these facilities would be unchanged as a result of the Project.
- The Project would also result in a new reservoir and 3 new public recreation areas at the new Sites Reservoir. The reservoir would be open to public access and public fishing.
- So, overall the Project won't change existing public access to and use of state-owned lands for fishing – and would actually increase this through building of the new off-stream reservoir with new recreational access.

I hope all of this helps and am happy to chat if you have additional questions or would like to schedule a call.

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Francis Coats <[fecoats@msn.com](mailto:fecoats@msn.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 3, 2023 10:39 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Subject:** affect of proposed Sites reservoir project on navigation and on fishing.

Please advise me of where I can see the Sites Project Authority's consideration of the effect of the proposed operation of the project on public access to and use of navigable waters (as required by the public trust doctrine) and on public access to and use of state-owned land (including land held in the name of local or state-wide agencies) for fishing ( as required by section 25 article I of the California Constitution).

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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**From:** Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Sent:** 6/12/2023 8:33:26 AM  
**To:** Arsenijevic, Jelica [Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com]; Westcot, Cathy [Cathy.Westcot@hdrinc.com]  
**CC:** Beth Andrus [BAndrus@BrwnCald.com]; Luu, Henry [henry.luu@hdrinc.com]; Joe Trapasso [jtrapasso@sitesproject.org]; Marcus Maltby [mmaltby@brwnald.com]; Spranza, John [john.spranza@hdrinc.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites - DRAFT FFA 3

Cathy and Jelica,

The EIR/EIS appears to be a line item so I don't have any comments except that the date for completion of the EIR/EIS should be extended to the end of this year, with the NEPA ROD coming after we get a BO. Also, Ali has said that that she wants to start working on the supplemental EIR/EIS after 30% design. I'm not sure when that will be achieved but the Authority will need to address all of the design refinements and the specifics of any new components, including the road alignments/improvements we have not addresses in the Final EIR/EIS, before construction can start.

Just wanted to mention for future planning.

Thanks,

Laurie

---

**From:** Arsenijevic, Jelica <Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2023 6:14 PM  
**To:** Westcot, Cathy <Cathy.Westcot@hdrinc.com>  
**Cc:** Beth Andrus <BAndrus@BrwnCald.com>; Luu, Henry <henry.luu@hdrinc.com>; jtrapasso (jtrapasso@sitesproject.org) <jtrapasso@sitesproject.org>; Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@brwnald.com>; Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites - DRAFT FFA 3

Hey Cathy

See attached. I think it should be moved to SharePoint for better collaboration vs. piecemealing the comments together.

Jelica Arsenijevic  
Environmental Project Manager



2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
D 916-679-8854  
M 209-329-6897

[Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com](mailto:Jelica.Arsenijevic@hdrinc.com)

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](http://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

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**From:** Luu, Henry <[Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com](mailto:Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 10, 2023 10:10 AM  
**To:** Westcot, Cathy <[Cathy.Westcot@hdrinc.com](mailto:Cathy.Westcot@hdrinc.com)>

**Cc:** Beth Andrus <BAndrus@BrwnCald.com>; jtrapasso (jtrapasso@sitesproject.org) <jtrapasso@sitesproject.org>; Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@brwncauld.com>; Arsenijevic, Jelica <jelica.arsenijevic@hdrinc.com>; Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites - DRAFT FFA 3

Hi Cathy, my recommended edits for Engineering are in comment bubbles and track-changes within the attached documents.

Henry H. Luu, PE  
D 916.679.8857 M 916.754.7566

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](http://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

---

**From:** Westcot, Cathy <Cathy.Westcot@hdrinc.com>

**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2023 6:12 PM

**To:** jtrapasso (jtrapasso@sitesproject.org) <jtrapasso@sitesproject.org>; Marcus Maltby <mmaltby@brwncauld.com>; Arsenijevic, Jelica <jelica.arsenijevic@hdrinc.com>; Luu, Henry <henry.luu@hdrinc.com>; Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>

**Cc:** Beth Andrus <BAndrus@BrwnCald.com>

**Subject:** Sites - DRAFT FFA 3

Attached are the first critical pieces of the FAA, feel free to review your sections to ensure they are consistent between the Budget Detail, Budget Backup and Scope. I still have the schedule and contract attachments but I need your review on these for consistency and ensure I didn't input anything I shouldn't or missed any key information.

I appreciate the help. The goal is to have this done by Monday, so the sooner the better for me. I'll be working this weekend to finish it, so reach out to me if you have any questions.

Joe, I think it would be good to distribute to the Agents on Monday for a review and then we can submit Tuesday or Wednesday. If you don't have any concerns with these we can send as draft to Allison on Monday also.

Thanks,

Cathy Westcot, PMP  
Project Controls Director

**HDR**  
2379 Gateway Oaks Dr #200  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
M 916-213-3076  
[cathy.westcot@hdrinc.com](mailto:cathy.westcot@hdrinc.com)

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---

**From:** Spranza, John [John.Spranza@hdrinc.com]  
**Sent:** 6/12/2023 11:36:28 AM  
**To:** Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Conner McDonald [conner@cmdwest.com]; Luu, Henry [henry.luu@hdrinc.com]  
**CC:** Arsenijevic, Jelica [jelica.arsenijevic@hdrinc.com]  
**Subject:** Wildlife Crossing Slides for Glenn County  
**Attachments:** Wildlife Collision Risk Reduction 2023-06.pptx

Hi All,

As we discussed, I will be attending the meeting with Glenn County on Wednesday and have developed the attached presentation to help guide the discussion of wildlife corridors. Please let me know if you have any edits or comments. Henry, I will need around 10 minutes for this segment.

Thanks,  
John

**John Spranza, MS, CCN**  
*Senior Aquatic Ecologist / Regulatory Specialist*  
*Fisheries Section Lead -- Northern California*  
*He/Him*

**HDR**  
2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487  
[john.spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:john.spranza@hdrinc.com)

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](https://hdrinc.com/follow-us)  
[hdrinc.com/follow-us](https://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

---

**From:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**Sent:** 6/12/2023 2:31:20 PM  
**To:** steve.micko@jacobs.com  
**CC:** Leaf, Rob/SAC [Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com]; Thayer, Reed/SAC [Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** FW: Water Quality Question  
**Attachments:** Water Quality Impacts at CCWD Intakes.docx

Hi Steve,

Ali and I met with Contra Costa on Friday. They had a LOT of questions, and we barely touched on anything water quality related. They did provide the attached figures. My understanding is that this is a count of the number of days per water year type that water quality was worse under Alt 3 as compared to the NAA. I would like to schedule a meet with you/Jacobs team and CCWD to discuss these figures. We can chat more about this on Wednesday, but in the meantime, could you send me some days/times that work for you?

Thanks!  
Angela

---

**From:** Yuan Liu <yliu@ccwater.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2023 12:39 PM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Lucinda Shih <lshih@ccwater.com>; Lu Han <lhan@ccwater.com>; Marguerite Patil <mpatil@ccwater.com>  
**Subject:** Water Quality Question

You don't often get email from [yliu@ccwater.com](mailto:yliu@ccwater.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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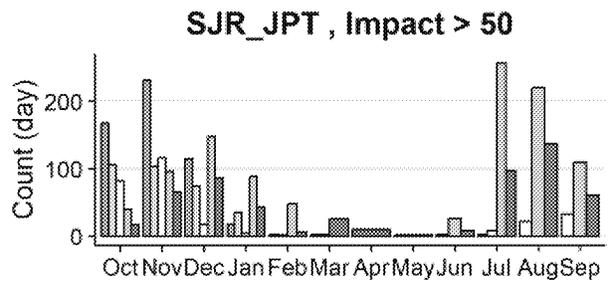
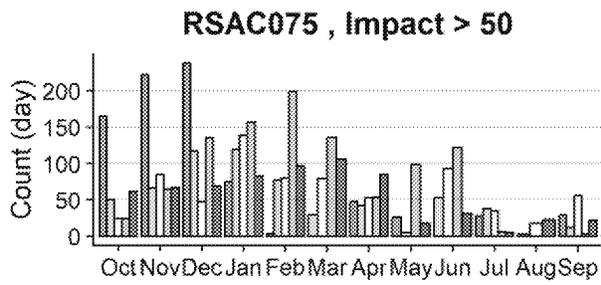
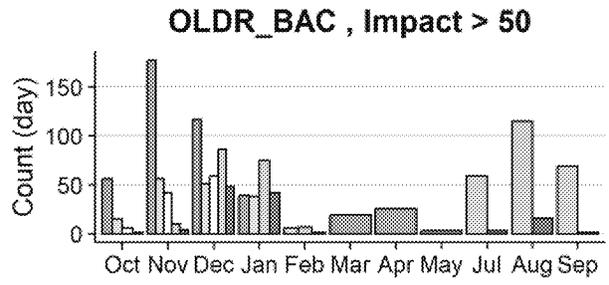
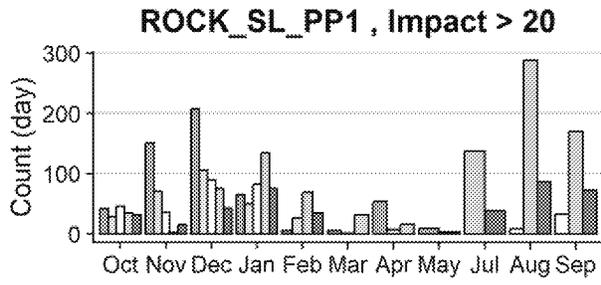
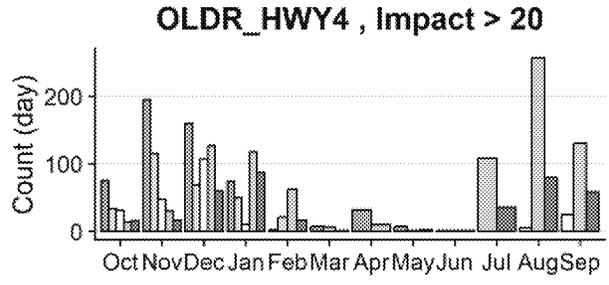
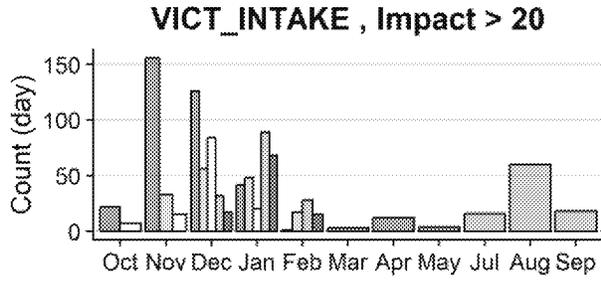
Hi Angela,

I am sending the figure I showed at the end of our meeting. It shows the # of days in a certain month and water year type that EC at 6 stations increased by a certain number.  
Looking forward to further discussion with your team.

Thanks,  
Yuan  
**Yuan Liu, Ph.D., P.E.**  
Senior Water Resources Specialist

P (925) 688-8282

**CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT**  
1331 Concord Avenue, Concord, CA 94520



Water Year Type W AN BN D C

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**From:** Micko, Steve [Steve.Micko@jacobs.com]  
**Sent:** 6/12/2023 2:56:28 PM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**CC:** Leaf, Rob [Rob.Lead@jacobs.com]; Thayer, Reed [Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Saadat, Samaneh [Samaneh.Saadat@jacobs.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Water Quality Question

Hi Angela,

Assuming we should coordinate on Wednesday morning before meeting with CCWD, I have availability at the following times:

- Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>
  - 1 PM to 3 PM
  - 4 PM to 5 PM
- Friday, Jun 16<sup>th</sup>
  - 9 AM to Noon
  - 2 PM to 5 PM
- Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>
  - 9 AM to 10 AM
  - 2:30 PM to 5 PM
- Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>
  - 1 PM to 3 PM
  - 4 PM to 5 PM

Let me know if my assumption is off!

Thanks,  
Steve

---

**From:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 2:31 PM  
**To:** Micko, Steve <Steve.Micko@jacobs.com>  
**Cc:** Leaf, Rob <Rob.Lead@jacobs.com>; Thayer, Reed <Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: Water Quality Question

Hi Steve,

Ali and I met with Contra Costa on Friday. They had a LOT of questions, and we barely touched on anything water quality related. They did provide the attached figures. My understanding is that this is a count of the number of days per water year type that water quality was worse under Alt 3 as compared to the NAA. I would like to schedule a meet with you/Jacobs team and CCWD to discuss these figures. We can chat more about this on Wednesday, but in the meantime, could you send me some days/times that work for you?

Thanks!  
Angela

---

**From:** Yuan Liu <yliu@ccwater.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2023 12:39 PM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Lucinda Shih <lshih@ccwater.com>; Lu Han <lhan@ccwater.com>;

Marguerite Patil <[mpatil@ccwater.com](mailto:mpatil@ccwater.com)>

**Subject:** Water Quality Question

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Looking forward to further discussion with your team.

Thanks,

Yuan

**Yuan Liu, Ph.D., P.E.**

Senior Water Resources Specialist

P (925) 688-8282

**CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT**  
1331 Concord Avenue, Concord, CA 94520

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---

**From:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**Sent:** 6/12/2023 3:20:37 PM  
**To:** steve.micko@jacobs.com  
**CC:** Leaf, Rob [Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com]; Thayer, Reed [Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Saadat, Samaneh [Samaneh.Saadat@jacobs.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Water Quality Question

That assumption is correct! Ali and I are meeting with the CCWD team tomorrow to focus on the water right content. During that meeting, I will try to get more information from them about specific water quality questions they have, and throw out the dates/times below to see what works. Thanks for the quick response on this.

Angela

---

**From:** Micko, Steve <Steve.Micko@jacobs.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 2:56 PM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Cc:** Leaf, Rob <Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com>; Thayer, Reed <Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Saadat, Samaneh <Samaneh.Saadat@jacobs.com>  
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  - 4 PM to 5 PM

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Steve

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**To:** Micko, Steve <Steve.Micko@jacobs.com>  
**Cc:** Leaf, Rob <Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com>; Thayer, Reed <Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com>; Alicia Forsythe

<aforsythe@sitesproject.org>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: Water Quality Question

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Thanks!  
Angela

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**From:** Yuan Liu <yliu@ccwater.com>

**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2023 12:39 PM

**To:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>

**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Lucinda Shih <lshih@ccwater.com>; Lu Han <lhan@ccwater.com>;

Marguerite Patil <mpatil@ccwater.com>

**Subject:** Water Quality Question

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Looking forward to further discussion with your team.

Thanks,  
Yuan

**Yuan Liu, Ph.D., P.E.**

Senior Water Resources Specialist

P (925) 688-8282

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1331 Concord Avenue, Concord, CA 94520

---

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Draft\_0025368

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**From:** Scott Brown [scott@larsenwurzel.com]  
**Sent:** 6/13/2023 9:25:30 AM  
**To:** JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**CC:** William Vanderwaal [wvanderwaal@rd108.org]; Adam Riley [adam@larsenwurzel.com]  
**Subject:** RE: CALSIM Data Discussion (RD108/Sites)

JP/Ali/Angela:

I just wanted to thank you for making time available to meet with us this morning. I appreciated the candid, open discussion or your enthusiasm to support us in developing RD 108's fee.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any afterthoughts/questions.

Thank you,  
Scott

---

**Scott L. Brown, P.E.**

Larsen Wurzel & Associates, Inc.  
2450 Venture Oaks Way, Ste 240 | Sacramento, CA 95833  
Main: (530) 665-8222 | Direct/Cell: (916) 827-1707  
[www.larsenwurzel.com](http://www.larsenwurzel.com)

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Marcia Kivett <MKivett@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 5:43 AM  
**To:** Marcia Kivett; JP Robinette; Scott Brown; Adam Riley; William Vanderwaal; Alicia Forsythe; Angela Bezzone  
**Subject:** CALSIM Data Discussion (RD108/Sites)  
**When:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 8:00 AM-9:00 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

I was unsure if you wanted me to create the event, but I thought I would, so we did not lose the option. Please forward this to anyone I've missed.

**From:** Scott Brown <scott@larsenwurzel.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 6, 2023 5:18 PM  
**To:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Adam Riley <adam@larsenwurzel.com>; William Vanderwaal <wvanderwaal@rd108.org>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Info-data request

Good afternoon, JP.

Reinitiating discussion on our request for CALSIM output data. I agree that a conversation is needed but wanted to layout our intended use of the data in advance of meeting.

In addition to establishing/communicating the RD 108 fee structure, we will need to convey the value of participating in Sites to landowners. To this end, my approach is to use the annualized CALSIM output data, along with an assumed water value/price by water year type, to provide the expected range (min/average/max) of value for the following:

1. Value of water diverted to Sites during the current year net of variable O&M cost to move water into the reservoir
2. Value of water released from Sites during the current year plus generation credit toward variable O&M cost from reservoir releases
3. Value of water stored/available for transfer the following year

This "valuation" would be divided into water year types and juxtaposed against the participation cost (i.e. the District's fee) to inform landowner discussions.

From your presentation last month, I believe that RD 108 is included in the "North of Delta – Sacramento River Settlement Contractors" group for assumed Operations Decisions in the CALSIM model. I believe this is fine for this exercise to inform landowners and we won't need any additional CALSIM modeling runs.

I'm sure there is more to discuss, but I'll leave that to our meeting. Please feel free to forward this to others that should be included in the discussion and let me know what your teams availability is through June 16<sup>th</sup>. I'll try to find a timeslot that works for everyone on our end.

Thank you,  
Scott

---

**Scott L. Brown, P.E.**

Larsen Wurzel & Associates, Inc.

2450 Venture Oaks Way, Ste 240 | Sacramento, CA 95833

Main: (530) 665-8222 | Direct/Cell: (916) 827-1707

[www.larsenwurzel.com](http://www.larsenwurzel.com)

---

**From:** JP Robinette <[jrobinette@sitesproject.org](mailto:jrobinette@sitesproject.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 2:18 PM

**To:** William Vanderwaal <[wvanderwaal@rd108.org](mailto:wvanderwaal@rd108.org)>; Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>

**Cc:** Scott Brown <[scott@larsenwurzel.com](mailto:scott@larsenwurzel.com)>; Adam Riley <[adam@larsenwurzel.com](mailto:adam@larsenwurzel.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Info-data request

Good afternoon,

We can certainly help with this, but I think it will require some conversation. The CalSim model uses assumptions for demand for RD108, but that may not be best for rate-setting purposes. Would you like a call? If so, we should include Ali and Angela.

Based on the project docs (Guiding Principles, Storage Principles, etc.), RD108 will own a capacity interest in the Project, which will be identified in the Benefits and Obligations Contract. As an example, RD108's capacity interest is estimated between 1-2% (1.8% in the tables) depending on forthcoming decisions on Reclamation's participation in the Project and subject to future rebalancing. RD108's available share of Sites diversions is equal to their capacity interest. RD108 will be able to decide if it wants to take its share of diversions. Variable O&M will be based on actual water diverted into and released from the reservoir and include actuals for power cost and wheeling charges. Once water is in storage, the documents allow for RD108 to release water

for their own use or sell water subject to certain limitations and capacity constraints. Additionally, RD108 could lay off costs by leasing storage, or sell storage and thereby reduce its capacity interest.

Regardless of these decisions, RD108 will be charged:

- Debt service and fixed O&M based on their capacity interest.
- Variable O&M based on the actual costs to fill or release their water.

The tables previously released (attached for convenience) show a high and an average variable O&M. They also show the fixed O&M charges, which are based on an agency's capacity interest. These tables will be updated in the next two months, so I recommend using them for understanding purposes only as financing mechanisms, interest rates, and escalation will all get a fresh look.

Thanks,

JP

---

**From:** William Vanderwaal <[wvanderwaal@rd108.org](mailto:wvanderwaal@rd108.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2023 3:35 PM

**To:** JP Robinette <[jrobinette@sitesproject.org](mailto:jrobinette@sitesproject.org)>; Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>

**Cc:** [scott@larsenwurzle.com](mailto:scott@larsenwurzle.com) <[scott@larsenwurzle.com](mailto:scott@larsenwurzle.com)>; Adam Riley <[adam@larsenwurzle.com](mailto:adam@larsenwurzle.com)>

**Subject:** Info-data request

JP or Ali,

We've hired Larsen-Wurzle to help us with the Prop-218 that we're doing in RD-108 and they have provided us a data request, some of which I need from the Sites Project.

I'm going to paste the request below instead of trying to translate it:

In TO1, we outlined two models for evaluating the cost (fee model) and benefit (revenue model). The fixed cost elements (capital and O&M) have been established but these two models will evaluate the variable costs by correlating the following:

1. RD108's share of diversions to Sites Reservoir
2. The variable O&M cost to convey/pump into the reservoir
3. The variable O&M cost to release/convey water from the reservoir
4. Value/price of water based on water year type
5. Operational decisions to transfer/sell/carryover storage by water year type

I would like to base these models on the current CalSim modeling output file for Alternative 3 (the preferred alternative in Final EIR/EIS) with the entire model period (1922 – 2003). The objective would be to evaluate operational options (Item 5 of the list) for each water year type to bracket the range of variable costs and potential revenue, along with the likely frequency and duration of each water year type.

If you do not already have a copy of this data, can you please request a copy of the complete output file for Alternative 3 from the Site Authority. I'm familiar with the output file format and can manipulate the raw data from output file, so there is no need to request any post-processing from the Sites Project team.

I'm assuming that they would release this data to RD108 for use in securing participation in the project. LWA is willing to sign any required acknowledgement/waiver of liability.

Please let me know if there are any issues with providing this modeling output file. I appreciate your assistance with this.

Thanks  
Bill V

William Vanderwaal, P.E.  
Deputy Manager - RD-108  
Manager - Dunnigan WD  
(530) 812-6276

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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Passcode: kUv23t

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Phone Conference ID: 743 251 942#

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*Kidgercut No. elev;*  
The elevation of the top of  
the Cement flood gate at  
the west end of the dam is 27!

*J. Chalmers*  
*Rec'd 10/11/37*

*Page 12* 15

*Rec'd # 907 (1937)*  
OPTION AND AGREEMENT

*OK'd by  
all  
by  
2-1-37  
M. J. ...*

THIS OPTION AND AGREEMENT entered into this 17th day  
of July, 1937, by and between CORNELIA A. HERSHEY,  
DAVIDELLA HERSHEY, GRACE H. HERSHEY, D. N. HERSHEY and FLORENCE  
F. HERSHEY, hereinafter designated as first parties, and  
SACRAMENTO AND SAN JOAQUIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT, a public agency  
operated and created under and by virtue of the laws of the  
State of California, hereinafter designated as second party,

W I T N E S S E T H :

WHEREAS, on June 27, 1911, there was submitted to  
Congress a report by the California Debris Commission, designated  
as House Document No. 81, Sixty-second Congress, First Session,  
setting forth the plan for a flood control project for the  
Sacramento Valley which report and plan were heretofore adopted  
by the Congress of the United States and by the Legislature of  
the State of California; and

WHEREAS, on January 5, 1925, the California Debris  
Commission submitted to Congress a further report, Senate  
Document No. 23, Sixty-ninth Congress, First Session, modifying  
the said plan in some particulars and presenting a revision of  
the costs of completion of the flood control project for the  
Sacramento Valley and reallocating the division of those costs  
among the federal government, the State of California and local  
interests, and said report having been adopted by Congress in  
Public Law No. 569, Sixty-ninth Congress, approved May 15, 1928,  
45 Stats. L., page 534, and by the Legislature of the State of  
California in Chapter 176 of the Statutes of 1925; and

WHEREAS, the Yolo By-pass is an integral part of the  
said plan as adopted and is necessary for the safe passage of  
excess flood waters of the Sacramento River and its tributaries

through said valley and to the sea for the protection of the lands in said valley and for the navigation of said river; and

WHEREAS, by said Senate Document No. 23, the State of California is required as a portion of its share in completion of the said flood control project to acquire the necessary easement and flowage rights over, upon and across the lands situated within the boundaries of the said Yolo By-pass; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California, in accordance with Chapter 176, Statutes of 1925, has made appropriations biennially to meet its share of the cost of completion of the flood control project the larger proportion of which has been used in the past in completion of levee construction and in refinancing of assessments for portions of the flood control project; and,

WHEREAS, the said construction of levees and the refinancing of assessments are now nearing completion and funds are now available for further work and the purchase of easements and flowage rights aforesaid for the passage of floods through the Yolo By-pass; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 176, Statutes of 1925, has limited the sum to be appropriated by the State of California toward the completion of the Flood Control Project to \$17,700,000, of which sum \$13,081,000 has been heretofore appropriated; and,

WHEREAS, the Reclamation Board desires to complete the State's share of the project within the amount set forth in Chapter 176, Statutes of 1925, in all portions of said project and in the area affected by the Yolo By-pass:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged and for other good and valuable considerations, it is understood and agreed as follows:

1. That the first parties do hereby grant to the second party, its successors and assigns, an option to purchase

a perpetual right and easement, without recourse to compensation for damage therefrom, for the passage of all flood waters of the Yolo By-pass, which may from time to time inundate the lands of the first parties over and upon and across all of the following described property in the county of Yolo, State of California:

All that certain real property, situate, lying and being in Yolo County, Township 10 North, Range 3 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, and described as follows, to-wit:

✓ All that portion of the south half of Section 8 lying east of the proposed west levee of the Yolo By-Pass.

✓ All that portion of the south one-half of Section 9 lying east of the proposed west levee of and west of the east levee of the Yolo By-Pass.

✓ All that portion of the west one-half of Section 10 lying west of the east levee of said Yolo By-Pass.

✓ All that portion of Section 17 lying east of the proposed west levee of the Yolo By-Pass and north of the center line of the Tule Canal.

✓ All that portion of Section 16 lying west of the east levee of Yolo By-Pass.

✓ All that portion of the northwest 1/4 of Section 15 lying west of the east levee of Yolo By-Pass.

✓ All that portion of Section 20 lying east of the proposed west levee of the Yolo By-Pass.

✓ All that portion of Section 21 lying west of the east levee of Yolo By-Pass, excepting all those portions of Swamp Land Surveys 448 and 449 lying Westerly of the east levee of Yolo By-Pass.

2. This option shall be deemed accepted if and when at any time prior to August 1, 1937, the second party shall pay to the first parties twenty-five per cent (25%) of the purchase price hereinafter specified. If not accepted by payment of twenty-five (25%) of the purchase price prior to August 1, 1937, this option will cease and terminate.

3. The total purchase price of the easement and flowage rights aforesaid over, upon and across the premises aforesaid shall be \$42,576.20, of which \$10,644.05 shall be paid by the second party to the first parties upon acceptance of this option, and the remainder of the total purchase price

shall be paid only if and when appropriations are made by the State Legislature in connection with the flood control project pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 176, California Statutes of 1925, and then only out of the joint navigation and flood control project fund, or such other fund as the Legislature may create for the flood control project. It is expressly understood that said payments are to be paid from no other source than legislative appropriations for the flood control project under Chapter 176, California Statutes of 1925 aforesaid, and out of the joint navigation and flood control project fund, or such other fund as the Legislature may establish in connection with the flood control project aforesaid, and then only in the event that there shall be sufficient money received into that fund, or such other fund as the Legislature may create under Chapter 176 of the California Statutes of 1925 aforesaid and made available for that purpose.

4. At least twenty per cent (20%) of the total amount made available for the flood control project by the Legislature as aforesaid for expenditure by the State Reclamation Board under Chapter 176, California Statutes of 1925, shall be set aside and allocated by the State Reclamation Board for the purpose of meeting payments on accepted options for purchase of flowage rights in the Yolo By-pass, and the amount so made available shall be pro-rated annually upon such accepted options. Such pro-rating shall be made so that the first parties shall receive such proportion of said money so available as the total purchase price hereunder shall bear to the total amount of all accepted options.

5. In the event that full payment of the purchase price hereunder, to-wit, \$42,576.20, shall not have been made to the first parties prior to July 1, 1948, all rights of the second party hereunder shall cease and terminate, and the flowage rights and easements upon, over and across the lands

hereinabove described, herein contracted to be sold, shall revert to the first parties, their successors or assigns.

Any and all payments made hereunder shall be deemed full compensation for all use made by the second party of the property hereinabove described for flood control purposes during the period of this agreement.

6. Upon full payment by the second party to the first parties of the purchase price as aforesaid, prior to July 1, 1948, the first parties shall contemporaneously execute and deliver to the second party a deed covering all of the rights and easements hereinbefore specified upon, over and across the lands of the first parties in Yolo County, hereinbefore described.

7. Title insurance in the full amount of the purchase price issued by a responsible title insurance company shall be provided by the sellers, at their sole cost and expense, contemporaneously with final payment and delivery of deed, and said policy shall insure the second party in the flowage rights hereby granted; subject, however, to state and county taxes and public easements, assessments and taxes of all kinds, including roads, rights of way, reclamation assessments, and any other charges or assessments or incumbrances which in the opinion of the second party will not affect its enjoyment of the flowage rights herein granted, provided however that the preceding provisions of this paragraph shall be deemed subject to certain qualifications hereinafter set out.

8. Acceptance of this option or any compliance with its terms by the parties hereto shall not be deemed or considered an admission of legal liability or obligation except as herein specifically provided contractually, and shall be without prejudice to the right of the parties hereto, and The Reclamation Board of the State of California, to set up any defenses in any action or proceeding now or hereafter brought not growing out of the specific contractual provisions of this option and agreement.

9. This option and agreement and all of its terms and provisions shall be binding upon the parties hereto, their successors and assigns.

10. The first parties, subject to the conditions and agreements hereinafter set forth, do hereby grant to the second party, right of way for the construction, reconstruction and maintenance of the West levee and the connecting levees, of the Yolo By-pass over the following described tracts or parcels of land:

Parcel No. 1

178E-10N-3E All that portion of that certain real property situate, lying and being in the County of Yolo, State of California, being the property of Cornelia A. Hershey, et al., located in Section 20, Township 10 North, Range 3 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at a point on the section line between Sections 19 and 20, Township 10 North, Range 3 East, M.D.B. & M., Yolo County, California, said point being located S. 02° 31' E. 2,255.44 feet from the section corner common to Sections 17, 18, 19 and 20 of said Township and Range; thence from said point of beginning and along the easterly boundary of the herein described right of way for the proposed west levee of the Yolo By-pass N. 22° 26' E. 2,419.1 feet to a point on the north boundary of said Section 20, said point being also on the southerly boundary of that certain 30.64 acre tract described in document from Norman P. Ellis to Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District, dated March 16, 1935, and recorded in Book 84 of Official Records of Yolo County, at page 69; thence along said last named southerly boundary N. 89° 02' W. 365.34 feet to a point, said point being located S. 89° 02' E. 656.75 feet from said section corner common to Sections 17, 18, 19 and 20; thence leaving said southerly boundary and along the westerly right of way line of the proposed west levee of the Yolo By-pass S. 22° 26' W. 1,554.04 feet to the westerly boundary of said Section 20; thence leaving said westerly boundary and along the said westerly boundary of Section 20 S. 02° 31' E. 806.53 feet to the point of beginning.

Parcel No. 2

159E-10N-3E All that portion of that certain real property situate, lying and being in the County of Yolo, State of California, being the property of Cornelia A. Hershey, et al., located in Sections 8 and 17, Township 10 North, Range 3 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at a point where the easterly boundary line of the lands of the first parties in said Section 8 (which line runs north and south) intersects the quarter section line running east and west through the center of said Section 8, which point of beginning is at the westerly termination of a line running east and west between the property formerly owned by D. N. Hershey, also known as David N. Hershey, who is now deceased, the first parties being his successors in interest, and the property formerly owned by Antonio Freitas; thence from said point of beginning easterly and along said east and west boundary between said two properties 340.0 feet to a point; thence leaving said boundary and along the easterly boundary of the herein described right of way for the proposed west levee of the Yolo By-pass the four following course and distances: South 169.1 feet to a point, S. 61° 45' W. 1,860.45 feet to a point, S. 30° 23' E. 1,439.4 feet to a point, and S. 22° 13' W. 2,031.9 feet to a point on the center line of Tule Canal, said point being also on the north-easterly boundary of that certain 162.4 acre tract described in document from Norman P. Ellis to Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District, dated March 16, 1935, and recorded in Book 84 of Official Records of Yolo County at page 69; thence leaving said easterly boundary of said levee right of way and along the center line of said Tule Canal N. 40° 21' W. 383.7 feet to a point on the Westerly boundary of said levee right of way, said last named point being also located S. 89° 02' E. 656.75 feet and N. 22° 13' E. 3,912.5 feet from the southwest corner of Section 17, Township 10 North, Range 3 East, M. D. B. & M.; thence along said westerly right of way boundary N. 22° 13' E. 1,360.0 feet to a point; thence continuing along said westerly boundary N. 30° 23' W. 1,936.75 feet to a point opposite the mouth of the existing Knights Landing Ridge Cut; thence northeasterly across the mouth of the said Knights Landing Ridge Cut, a distance of approximately 790 feet to a point located S. 61° 45' W. 1,532.5 feet from the hereinabove described point of beginning; thence along the westerly boundary of said levee right of way N. 61° 45' E. 1,532.5 feet to the point of beginning.

Parcel No. 3

160 E - 10N - 3 E

All that portion of that certain real property situate, lying and being in the County of Yolo, State of California, being the property of Cornelia A. Hershey, et al., located in Sections 7 and 8, Township 10 North, Range 3 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning for a beginning point for the description of said Parcel No. 3 at a point on the westerly boundary of the levee right of way for the proposed west levee of the Yolo By-pass, said point being located S. 61° 45' W. 1,532.5 feet from the beginning point of the description of

Parcel No. 2; thence from said beginning point of the description of said Parcel No. 3 along and parallel to the existing north levee of Knights Landing Ridge Cut the four following courses and distances: N. 39° 51' W. 677.32 feet to a point, N. 48° 13' W. 478.76 feet to a point, N. 55° 34' W. 408.56 feet to a point, and N. 58° 21' W. 1,201.3 feet to a point; thence across said Knights Landing Ridge Cut S. 30° 58' W. 749.68 feet to a point southerly of the existing south levee of said Knights Landing Ridge Cut; thence along and parallel to said existing south levee the four following courses and distances: S. 59° 14' E. 1,291.16 feet to a point, S. 54° 54' E. 292.14 feet to a point, S. 47° 21' E. 293.70 feet to a point, and S. 43° 20' E. 390.48 feet to a point opposite the mouth of the existing Knights Landing Ridge Cut, said point being also on northwesterly boundary of "Parcel No. 2" hereinbefore described; thence northeasterly across the mouth of said Knights Landing Ridge Cut a distance of approximately 790 feet to the beginning point of the description of said Parcel No. 3.

11. The foregoing option and grant of right of way and easement is made upon the following conditions, terms and agreements:

a. The word "plans" as used herein are the plans exhibited by and shown on blue print, file 50, Div. 4, Sheet 1548-, Sacramento River Flood Control Project, Proposed levees, Yolo By-pass, Knights Landing Ridge Cut, Cache Creek and Cache Creek Settling Basin, Scale 1" - 400'; dated July, 1936, a copy of which blue print has been furnished the first parties. All elevations referred to herein are based on U. S. E. D. datum.

b. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed an agreement that first parties grant or agree to grant land not within the legal description of lands of said first parties nor as an agreement that any other person owns any land within such descriptions, nor as an agreement fixing any boundaries.

c. In the construction of levees or other work in connection with this agreement, borrow areas shall be limited to the following: Parcels No. 1 and No. 3 as hereinbefore in Section 10 described; that portion of Parcel No. 2 lying northeast of a line running S. 30° 23' E. from a point on the

south line of said Parcel No. 3, 300 feet southwest of the extreme southeast corner of Parcel No. 3, and extended southerly to intersect with the westerly projection of that course of said Parcel No. 2 running S. 61° 45' W. 1860.45 feet; and to an area hereinafter called the "high area" and bounded as follows:

On the northeast by a line parallel to and 50 feet westerly of the westerly bank of the "Wallace Ditch"; on the southeast by a line connecting said "Wallace Ditch" and the center line of the Old Tule Canal at a point where the distance between said "Wallace Ditch" and the Old Tule Canal is 150 feet; on the southwest by a line parallel to and 50 feet easterly of the easterly levee of the old Tule Canal; on the Northwest by a line parallel to and 50 feet southeast of the toe of the proposed levee.

In this "high area" no borrow as it proceeds southeasterly shall be made below an elevation which is lower than the elevation of the natural ground 50 feet out from the bank of the "Wallace Ditch"; and to an area known as the "156 acre tract", lying between the Ellis property and the west levee of the Knights Landing Ridge Cut and its extension. In said 156 acre tract, borrow may be obtained to the extent necessary as follows:

After all available borrow shall have been made or projected from all other areas above described, material from the 156 acre tract shall be used for the construction of the extension of the west levee of the Knights Landing Ridge Cut to the west line of Yolo By-pass and for the proposed west Yolo By-pass levee from the mouth of said Knights Landing Ridge Cut to the north line of the property of Norman P. Ellis to the following extent: No borrow shall be taken nearer than 75 feet of the landside toe of the proposed levee nor further away than usual engineering practice dictates in view of conditions; no borrow shall be taken nearer than 50 feet of the east bank of the Old Tule Canal; material shall be excavated as deeply as possible, considering the character of soil and ground water level as affecting the excavating tools, machinery and equipment used by the contractor; excavation shall be consistent and shall be in strips parallel to the two portions of levee so as to take as

small an amount of the land as is reasonably possible. It is the intention of this paragraph to provide that all possible material for borrow shall be used from Parcel No. 3 and from the "high area" rather than from the 156 acre tract for the levee bordering said 156 acre tract on the east and northeast, but such intention does not extend to the uneconomical use of material from said Parcel No. 3 nor from the "high area". This does not imply that the material from the "high area" shall be moved by the drag line method. It is agreed that a distance of 1600 feet shall not be deemed an uneconomical haul in this high area.

d. The north borrow pit of the Knights Landing Ridge Cut shall be connected to the borrow pit for the levee connecting the north levee of the said Ridge Cut with the west levee of the Yolo By-pass near Station 113+64.5 "F".

e. The extension of the westerly levee of Knights Landing Ridge Cut shall be in a straight line along the southwesterly side of the "Wallace Ditch" a distance of approximately 1450 feet to the intersection with the west levee of Yolo By-pass on the original proposed location northerly of the Ellis land, the waterside toe of the proposed extension of said westerly levee of the Ridge Cut shall in no case be nearer than 5 feet to the top of the bank of the "Wallace Ditch".

f. There shall, as hereinafter stated, be a standard and head-on road crossing on the first parties' land immediately north of the Ellis land with the head-on approach on the land side; on the water side there shall be left an area of undisturbed land or plug which shall extend 100 feet northeasterly from the base of said approach and shall extend 250 feet southeasterly from the center line of said road approach. No borrow shall be made within 50 feet of the approach or roadway on the land side of the levee.

g. No borrow material shall be removed from the lands of the first parties except for use in the works herein referred to and located solely on the lands of said first parties.

h. It is not the intention to record this instrument; recording thereof, however, is not prohibited if any of the parties so desire. It is agreed that when the levee construction is completed, new descriptions shall be drawn for the levee and borrow areas in accordance with actual location of the areas actually used and the same shall be substituted for the areas generally described herein. This does not apply to the high area.

i. The following construction details and methods of operation are hereby agreed upon:

The first parties have irrigation ditches established for use of water from Knights Landing Ridge Cut. Nothing herein shall prohibit or prevent first parties from maintaining on their own lands irrigating ditches connecting with water in said cut or with water in the borrow pit running northeasterly from the mouth of said cut, or from maintaining the water at the mouth of the cut or in said borrow pit at a level of 24.9 feet or at approximately the working level of the Wallace Ditch or at approximately the working level required to take water out on their lands from the source to irrigate the same through the Wallace Ditch or through other means. Nothing herein contained is a restriction on the elevation at which first parties may elect to maintain water for irrigation of their lands from the sources indicated, it not being in any way understood that the second party is or will be a party to the irrigation operations of first parties. Second party shall, in the doing of the work which it proposes to do, leave the Wallace Ditch and the head thereof undisturbed. Nothing herein contained shall prohibit first parties from installing, maintaining or restoring

irrigation works for irrigating their lands.

A standard and head-on approach shall be constructed about 200 feet southwesterly of Station 113+64.5 "F", with 14' roadway and 6% maximum grade; a regulation plug shall be left in the borrow pit and two 42-inch levelling pipes with Calco No. 1001 gates shall be installed through the plug at the bottom of the borrow pit. First parties shall have control of said gates for irrigation purposes. The intent herein is to avoid interference with the irrigation of first parties' lands and in case of omission or of uncertainty, this intent shall govern.

Second party shall construct an elevated area of approximately 40 feet in width and to an elevation of approximately 25.5 feet, beginning approximately 200 feet northeasterly of the head of the Wallace Ditch and running northeasterly along or near the borrow pit to connect with the levee at the road approach of the road last referred to. Material for this elevated area may be taken from first parties' lands by the widening of the borrow area adjacent to said elevated area, if sufficient material is not available in borrow areas hereinbefore described. Said elevated area so to be constructed by second party shall be rolled and tamped so as to make a compact body, but water may be taken out through this area by first parties in irrigating their lands and they are not required to leave said area undisturbed. It shall belong to them after it is constructed by second party. Nothing herein contained shall prevent first parties from extending said area southerly or southwesterly to connect with the northerly bank of the Wallace Ditch or from constructing a similar area between the southerly bank of said Ditch and the levee or from extending such area on their lands along the borrow pit northerly of the regulation plug last referred to. Sub-

ject to the qualifications herein set out, the northerly levee and the southerly levee of the Knights Landing Ridge Cut shall be built up as indicated on said plans and made to connect with the westerly By-pass levees.

Second party shall also leave a plug in the borrow pit which will run northeasterly in the most northerly segment of said Parcel No. 2 and shall furnish and install in such plug at the level of the bottom of the borrow pit two 40-inch corrugated iron pipes extending through the plug which pipes shall be approximately 100 feet in length and have Calco No. 1001 gates. And second party shall construct a spur to the said elevated area which shall extend at right angles from such area as hereinbefore described across and over the said last named plug and which spur shall be of the height and width of the elevated area hereinbefore referred to. A distance of approximately 1200 feet shall be left between the said plug hereinbefore mentioned in this subparagraph and the plug at the road crossing which is to be about 200 feet southwesterly of Station 113 + 64.5 "F". First parties shall also have control of this additional elevated area and of said gates last named for purposes of irrigation.

All the levees as shown on the plans hereinbefore mentioned shall be constructed without expense to parties of the first part. From said Parcel No. 1 the levee shall extend southerly at least to a point one-third of the width of the Hauser lands from the south boundary of section 19. The levee starting from the north as shown on said plans shall be continuous to this point last referred to and without gaps excepting the mouth of

the Knights Landing Ridge Cut.

The borrow pit for the levee through Parcel No. 1 shall be on the water side of the levee and shall terminate not less than 100 feet from the west line of Section 20, thereby leaving a plug on lands of the first parties and there shall be no borrow pit in Parcel No. 1 nearer than 75 feet from the north boundary of said parcel. First parties may construct and maintain at their own expense a levee along the said west line of Section 20; said levee shall be of a height not to exceed 4 feet, and may begin at the intersection of said west line of Section 20 with the main west Yolo By-pass levee and may continue southerly along first parties' lands and along said west line of Section 20 to the Southwest corner thereof, thence east at a height not to exceed 3 feet along the south line of first parties' lands; said levee may be built of such crown and side slopes as may be proper to ward off low waters originating westerly or southerly of first parties' lands.

*See*  
*at* → The drainage culvert shown on plans at Station 11 + 00 "F", shall be moved to approximately Station 3+70 "M" and shall be constructed so as not to empty drain water onto lands of the first parties.

The standard road crossing shown on the plans at Station 31 + 40 "F" shall have a maximum 6% grade and shall be 14 feet wide.

The road crossing shown on plans at Station 85 + 00 "F" shall be eliminated.

In place of the road crossing shown at Station 85+00 "F", there shall be a standard and head-on crossing, hereinbefore mentioned, immediately north of the Ellis land, having a width of 14 feet and a maximum grade of 6%, with head-on approach on the land side.

At Station 74+00 "F" there shall be installed a 24 inch drain pipe leading from the 156 acre tract with concrete box inlet, and proper gate. This and each of the other gates shall, unless otherwise specified, be a No. 1001 Calco gate. The top of said pipe shall be 3 feet below natural ground surface.

At approximate Station 14+00 "I", there shall be installed a 36 inch drain pipe with No. 1001 Calco gate on water side and with proper concrete spill box on land side, so as to be used for irrigation pipe when necessary. This pipe shall be laid so that the top of pipe shall be at least 3 feet below ground surface.

The borrow pit on the land side shall not be nearer than 50 feet to this pipe nor shall it extend westerly or northwesterly thereof.

All Calco No. 1001 gates or gates of screw type herein referred to may be operated by first parties during irrigation season for their own use.

At approximate Station 14+00 "NA" there shall be installed two 42 inch drain pipes with Calco No. 1001 gates, said pipes connecting with borrow pit on water side and having suitable concrete box inlets on land side. The tops of the pipes shall be at least 3 feet below ground surface.

A ditch shall be constructed on land side of levee from vicinity of low ground near Station 92+00 "G" to the pipes at approximate Station 14+00 "NA" so as to drain the said low ground. There shall be installed a 24 inch culvert in said ditch under the road crossing near Station 0+00 "NA", and the ditch at its northerly end shall be at least 100 feet south of pipes at Station 92+00 "G".

At Station 92+00 "G" there shall be installed a 42 inch drain pipe with No. 1001 Galco gate with top of pipe at elevation 23.0 and connecting east and west borrow pit in first parties' lands to borrow pit on water side of new levee; first parties may use this pipe for drainage of their lands. Irrigation waters shall not be dumped into the borrow pit on water side in such quantities as to damage lands of second party, but all such water as shall not cause damage during "dry" season may be passed into said main borrow pit and thence south to first parties' lands.

Irrigation pipe installation shown on plans at Station 42+00 "G" shall be moved to approximate Station 44+00 "G" on land of first parties.

j. In the past certain waters have flowed in the Knights Landing Ridge Cut in irrigation season. The present mouth of the cut is on first parties' lands. It is realized that first parties have made use of these waters upon their accessible lands for irrigation and will desire to do so in the future. Should the borrow pits on the water side of the levee extending northeasterly from the mouth of the Knights Landing Ridge Cut on first parties' lands and thence north on lands adjacent to the first parties' lands become clogged or filled so as to impede the flow of water therein, the first parties may at their option clean out such borrow pits and in so doing the material necessarily removed may be thrown and left upon either side of the said borrow pits and water coming from those lands of first parties which lie within the Knights Landing Ridge Cut and which may in irrigation seasons flow northerly into any such borrow pits from the borrow pit on first parties' lands may be used by the first parties in irrigating their lands located westerly of such levees through any pipe systems suitable therefor and provided in such levees under the terms of this agreement or otherwise as hereinafter set out, it being understood that this use shall not injure or inter-

here with such levees and that nothing herein is an undertaking that the second party shall be a party to any irrigation operations of first parties.

Nothing herein shall be construed as a grant to others to pass water over lands of first parties for irrigation purposes. The grants herein made and provided for are all grants of easements limited to the purposes herein expressed, it being expressly understood and agreed that subject only to such easements the right is reserved to the parties of the first part to enter upon, cultivate, farm, irrigate and drain and otherwise use their lands. It is not intended that the rights of the parties of the first part to make those agricultural uses of their lands of the type which they have been making is or shall be granted away, it being specifically understood and agreed that every kind of use that may be conceivably made of the lands of the parties of the first part that is not inconsistent with the easements agreed to be granted therein is and shall be reserved to the parties of the first part. It is explicitly agreed that the party of the second part is not granted and that there is no option or agreement to grant to the party of the second part any right to cultivate or graze or make any farming or agricultural use of any lands herein referred to, but each and all such uses except solely to the extent the same may be limited by the

X { easements referred to shall continue forever in the parties of the first part their successors and assigns. The reservations and conditions which are herein set out may all be incorporated in and shall be conditions of the flowage easement covered by the option herein referred to.

No mining or mineral rights in lands of first parties are granted or are to be granted. While it is not implied in the grant of a flowage right that the rights next mentioned are granted away, nevertheless it is expressly stated that there is reserved to the first parties the right at all times to enter upon all of the lands of the first parties hereinbefore referred to exclusive of those lands affected by easement for levee construction for the purpose of sinking shafts or mining or drilling or sinking wells in any manner usual or customary in searching for or obtaining minerals, oil or gas, together with the right or privilege of erecting derricks and such other structures as are required for the aforesaid purposes and together with the right to remove all such minerals and to remove through pipes or otherwise any oil or gas in said lands. The construction and plac-

ing of storage tanks for storing oil shall be subject to consent of proper authorities. But the first parties shall have the right to have such consent to construction and placing of storage tanks granted in the event the construction and placing thereof does not materially interfere with flowage.

These privileges of operation subject to the same qualifications are likewise reserved in borrow areas, this to be subject to the qualification that the exercise of the privileges shall in no manner materially interfere with the enjoyment of the easements granted therein. But no mineral or mineral rights in said areas are granted to anyone else.

k. First parties shall have the right to have waters coming upon their lands in the By-pass area, including waters that come thereon from Knights Landing Ridge Cut or Cache Creek or other sources, drain off their lands into the By-pass area and to that end may establish drains on their lands having spoil banks not above four feet in height.

First parties shall have the right to have the waters that may be stopped from flowing into such By-pass area by the levee systems of the By-pass or that may accumulate on their lands westerly of and behind such levees drain off through such By-pass area. To accomplish this, they may use the pipes installed for such purposes in accordance with this agreement. To accomplish this they may also use pumping plants.

First parties may use pumping plants both in drainage of and in irrigating their lands providing it is understood and agreed that they shall not have the right to place such works upon or in the levees of the By-pass in such a way as to weaken or injure the same and provided that if it is the law that before a pumping plant or works shall be located upon or in such levees consent of public authority shall be obtained in order to insure a method of installation or operation that will not cause injury, consent of such authority shall be obtained but it is understood that such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or withheld in any case when first parties are ready to and do comply with

all conditions which will avoid injury to such levees as a result of any such plant installation or the operation thereof.

First parties agree that it is not intended by this paragraph that they shall have the right to interfere with the Bypass levees in any way that will injure the same. The intent is to preserve consistently with the maintenance of such levees for the purposes which they are intended the drainage and irrigation of the first parties' lands and avoid unnecessary injury thereto.

1. All work hereinbefore referred to shall except as otherwise expressly agreed be done by and at the expense of the second party; all material hereinbefore referred to shall, except as otherwise agreed, be supplied by the second party. No assessment of any kind for such work or for acquiring flowage rights in the Bypass, or levees or drains in such levees shall be imposed upon first parties nor upon their lands. The requirement that the work shall be done by and at the expense of the second party, all as last set forth, shall not apply to the work which this instrument states the first parties may do under various provisions hereof.

Second party states that it is not at present authorized by law to maintain the works to be by it constructed and which are hereinbefore referred to. For that reason the second party does not in this instrument agree to maintain such works. To the extent it has authority so to agree, second party does hereby agree that if it hereafter has authority to maintain such works it shall perform such duty. This paragraph is in no way an indication that it is the expectation of the parties that the first parties will be under any obligation to maintain such works or be charged with the expense of so doing. The right and easement to construct such works shall include the right, privilege and easement to restore and maintain the same. Furthermore,

second party agrees, insofar as it has authority to so agree, that in the event it shall become necessary in order to protect the lands of first parties to repair or maintain any such works and the second party has not authority to do such work and the work is not otherwise done, then first parties may do or cause the performance thereof, it being understood that any such work that may be performed by first parties shall be in accordance with consent and regulations of legal authority, but second party agrees, in so far as it has power to agree, that such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

m. All levee construction shall be standard construction and shall be provided with a core trench filled and tamped in the usual way where standard construction so requires.

n. While it may not be necessary to so state in the grant of an easement that the grantee shall have the privilege of entry for the purpose of doing the work which this instrument permits, nevertheless it is hereby stated and agreed that there is in connection with the grant of the easement herein granted to second party the right to enter upon the land of the first parties in order to do the work on their land herein referred to. This includes agents, employees, officers, contractors and the bringing in and use of such equipment, tools and materials as are required. However, it is strictly understood that all reasonable care shall be exercised by second party to avoid injury or damage to the first parties and said right shall be exercised and enjoyed only to the extent the same is reasonably necessary. No camp or headquarters established in doing the work shall, without written consent of first parties, be in any field where first parties may have land in cultivation. If entry is through any gate, the same shall be kept closed.

o. Reference herein to a "proposed" west levee of the Yolo By-pass used in describing the flowage option shall not without the further and additional written consent of first parties be taken as referring to land further westerly than the levee as depicted on said plans, and the easterly levee referred to shall not without such written consent be taken as referring to land further easterly than the back levee of District 1600.

p. The following shall qualify paragraph 7: Second party shall, if first parties allow the expense of present title insurance out of their first payment, satisfy itself now as to the present condition of first parties' title, and in said event and if the first parties pay their taxes for 1937-38, no objection shall under paragraph 7 be made to the title of the first parties to any of their land on account of anything up to the time of such title insurance. If title insurance shall be so obtained at the present time, then the only objections that might otherwise be raised under the terms of paragraph 7 hereof shall relate to the period between the present time and the time title insurance is otherwise called for by said paragraph and the only additional title insurance first parties shall be required to furnish under said paragraph 7 shall relate to said last named period, and the only objections raisable shall be such as arise from and after the present time and present time shall mean the date of the execution hereof and provided further that in no event shall an objection to first parties' title be valid that has been caused by any failure of second party to comply with this contract and in no event shall it ever be deemed a defect in first parties' title that an assessment has been levied or attempted to be levied on first parties' land as an expense of creating any By-pass easement, levees or works. And the foregoing is subject to this further qualification: Second party specifically agrees that no objection to first parties' title shall ever be based on the contention that first parties' title has been impaired by occupancy prior to the present time of others beyond their boundaries.

q. This agreement calls for payments. Second party strictly agrees that no preference whatsoever shall hereafter be shown in the distribution of those payments derived from appropriations made by governmental authority to pay for this and like agreements signed by other owners.

r. It is understood that first parties have heretofore constructed on their lands westerly of the proposed westerly By-pass levees a levee extending along the southerly side of the old Sacramento River channel and that they intend to continue to protect their lands westerly of the proposed westerly By-pass levees. First parties shall in the protection of their lands westerly of the proposed westerly By-pass levees have the right to construct on their said lands levees connecting on the land side with the said proposed westerly By-pass levees, although this involves levee construction on State land, but it is understood that this shall not require providing first parties with rights of way for levees on privately owned land of others or the privilege of injuring or damaging such By-pass levees.

s. Notwithstanding the use herein of the word "perpetual" or the use herein of any equivalent language in referring to the grant of any easement or easements mentioned herein, it is understood and agreed that should the second party, its successors or assigns, determine to abandon such easement, then the title of the first parties, their successors or assigns, to the land originally affected by such grant of easement shall be deemed free from such easement without the right to the second party to the return of any compensation that may have been paid for such easement.

t. Execution of this instrument shall proceed as follows: Three copies shall be prepared. Second party shall certify on a third copy that it is a copy of the two copies and deliver such third copy to the first parties. The certifying shall be by the <sup>Assistant</sup> Secretary of the State Reclamation Board. Second party shall then sign and acknowledge the two copies and they shall then be signed and acknowledged by first parties and one thereof delivered back to second party on payment of

the initial payment herein called for less the expense of the title policy mentioned in paragraph "p". <sup>Best call</sup> It is understood first parties do, unless they give written notice to the contrary, elect to proceed as they are permitted to proceed with respect to title as set forth in paragraph "p". <sup>Best - call</sup>

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this option and agreement, on the day and year first above written, has been executed in duplicate by the first parties who have hereunto set their hands and seal, and by the proper officers of the second party, hereunto duly authorized, and its corporate seal affixed hereto.

Cornelia A. Hershey  
Dariceela Hershey  
Grace H. Hershey  
D M Hershey  
Florence F. Hershey  
First Parties.

Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SACRAMENTO AND SAN JOAQUIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT, Acting by and through the Reclamation Board of the State of California.

By J. P. Salinas  
President.

And by A. S. Howland  
Assistant Secretary.

Second Party.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

ss.

County of Yolo

On this 20th day of July, A. D. 1937,  
before me, E. M. Suter, a Notary Public in and for  
the said county and State, duly commissioned and qualified,  
personally appeared CORNELIA A. HERSHEY, DAVIDELLA HERSHEY,  
GRACE H. HERSHEY, D. N. HERSHEY and FLORENCE F. HERSHEY, known  
to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the above  
instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and  
affixed my Official Seal, the day and year in this certificate  
first above written.

E. M. Suter  
Notary Public in and for the County  
of Yolo, State of California.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

ss.

County of Sacramento,

On this 17th day of July, A. D. 1937,  
before me, B. Hicks, a Notary Public in and for  
the said county and state, duly commissioned and qualified,  
personally appeared A. R. GALLAWAY, JR., and S. A. HONAKER,  
known to me to be the President and Assistant Secretary, re-  
spectively, of the Reclamation Board of the State of California,  
and acknowledged to me that they executed the same for and on  
behalf of the Reclamation Board of the State of California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and  
affixed my official seal, the day and year in this certificate  
first above written.

B. Hicks  
Notary Public in and for the County  
of Sacramento, State of California.

# Sites Project Group Presentation

Colusa Basin Drain

Facilities and Background

February 13, 2020

# Summary

- Overview of Colusa Drain
  - Key Facilities
  - Operational Considerations
- Questions and Discussion



# Overview: Facilities

From Red Bluff  
(TC Canal)



From Hamilton City  
(GCID Canal)



From Sacramento  
River (Proposed)



# Colusa Drain Key Facilities

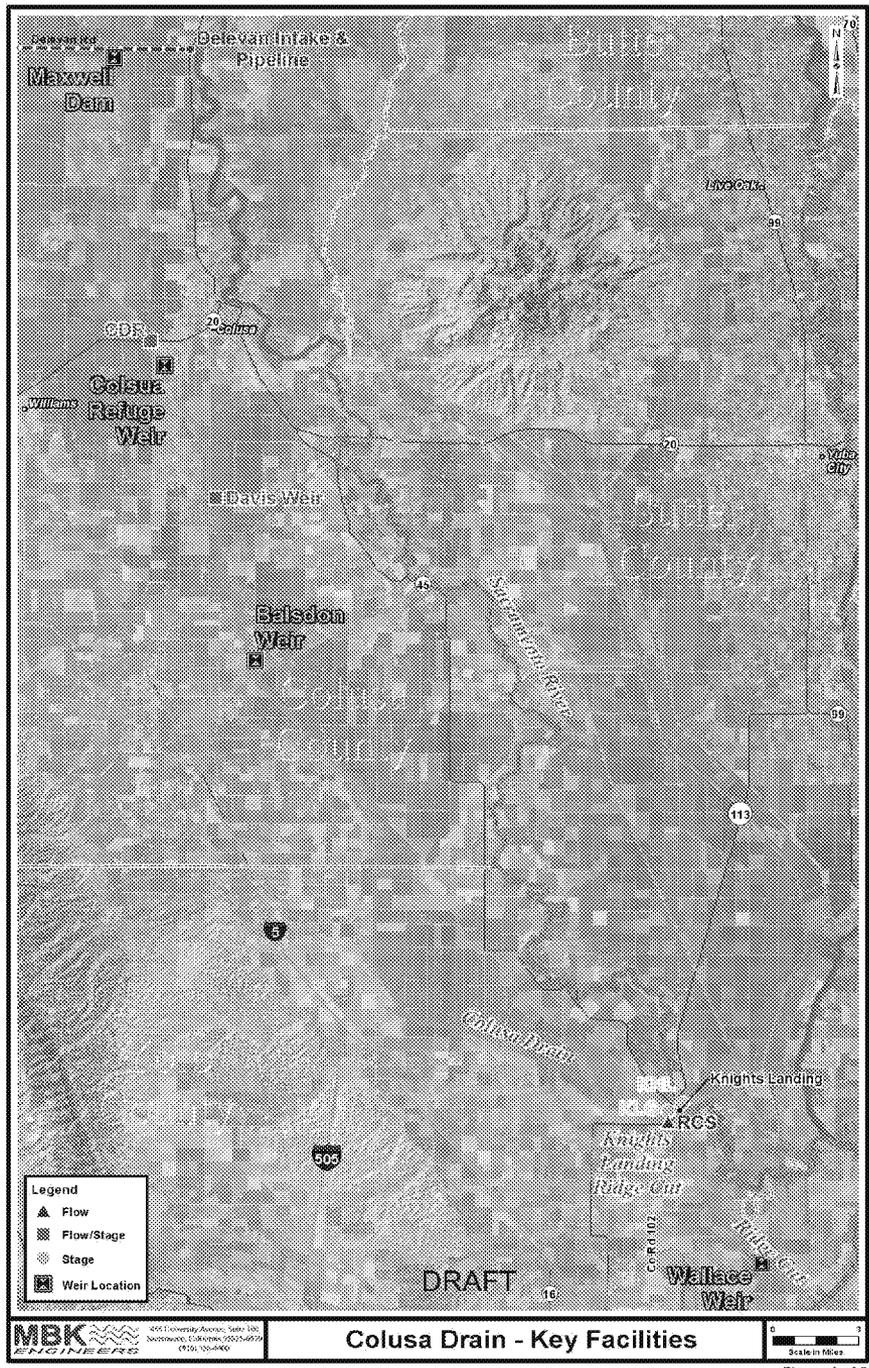
## Control Structures

- Colusa Basin Drain
  - Maxwell Dam
  - Colusa NW Refuge Weir
  - Davis Weir
  - Balsdon Weir
  - Knights Landing Outfall Gates (KLOG)
- Knights Landing Ridge Cut
  - Ridge Cut
  - Wallace Weir
- Tule Canal/Yolo Bypass
  - Swanston Weir
  - Lisbon Weir
  - Cache Slough

# Key Facilities

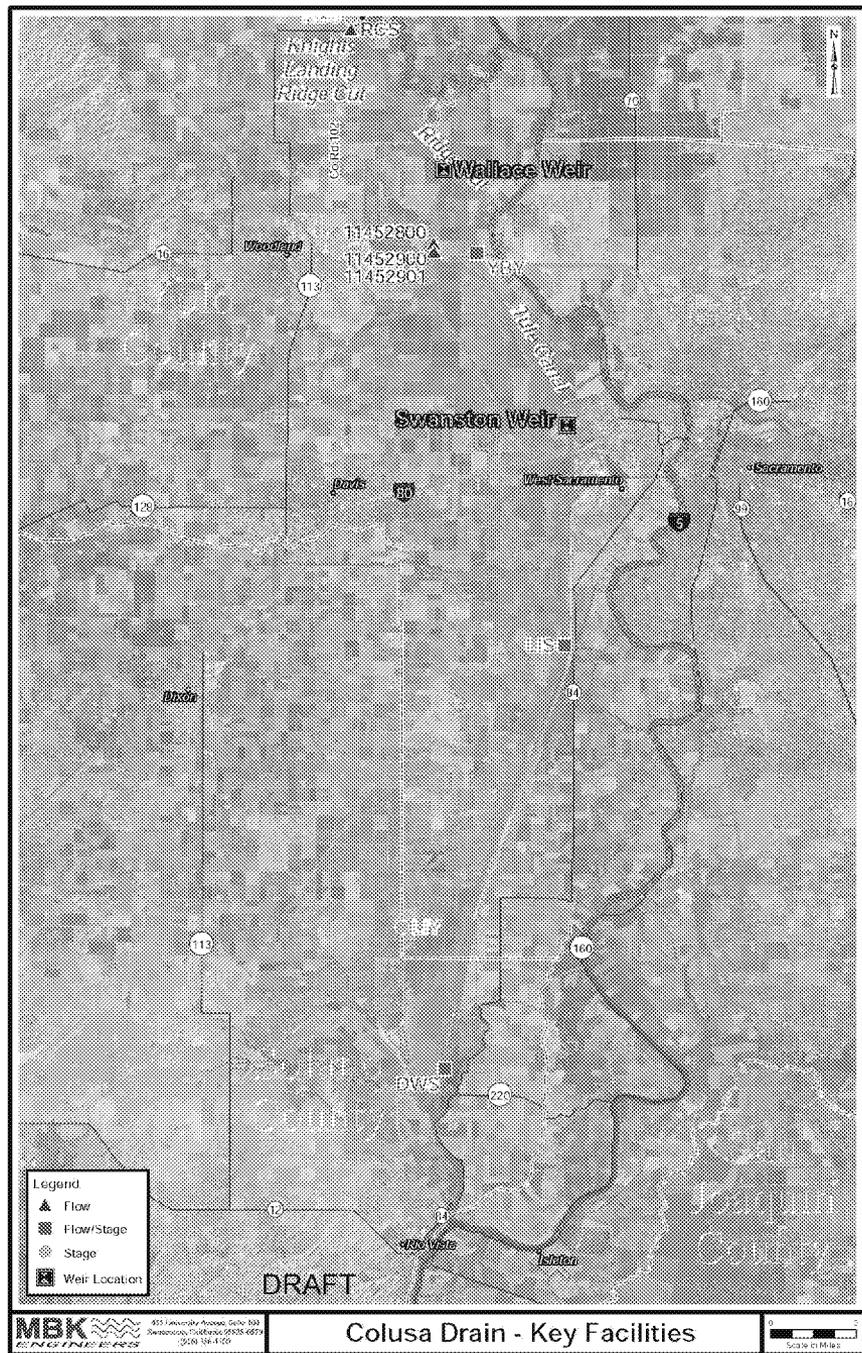
## Measurement

- Colusa Drain at Highway 20 (CDEC - Flow & Stage)
- Colusa Drain at Davis Weir (GCID – Flow & Stage)
- Colusa Drain at KLOG (CDEC – Stage & Gate Openings)
- Sacramento River at Knights Landing (CDEC - Stage)
- Knights Landing Ridge Cut (CDEC - Flow & Stage)
- Wallace Weir ???
- Yolo Bypass near Woodland (CDEC - Flow & Stage)



**Colusa Drain - Key Facilities**

Figure 1 of 2



**MBK** 451 University Avenue, Suite 300  
 Sacramento, California 95833-6979  
 (916) 584-4200

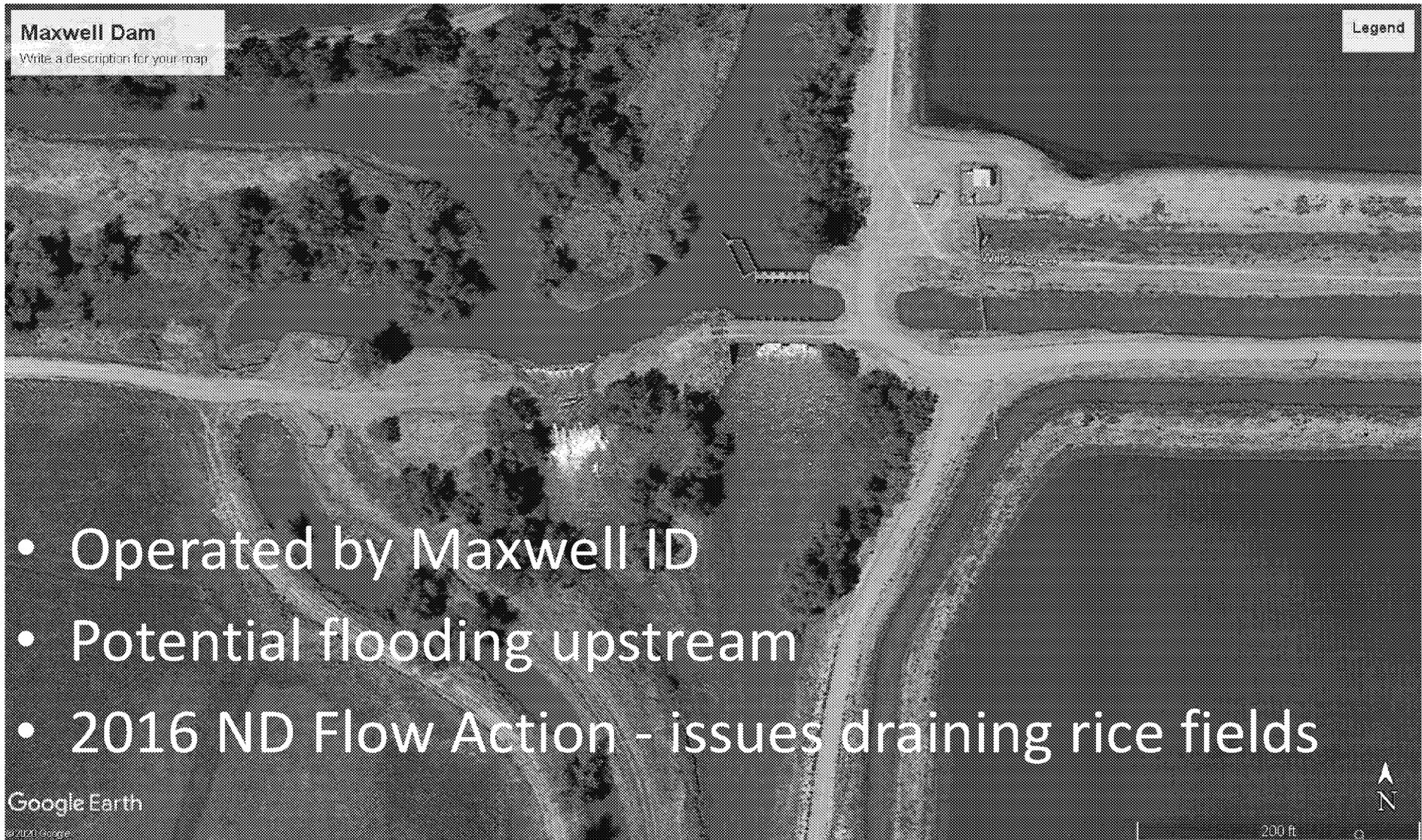
**Colusa Drain - Key Facilities**



Figure 2 of 2

# Operational Considerations

## Maxwell Dam



Maxwell Dam  
Write a description for your map

Legend

- Operated by Maxwell ID
- Potential flooding upstream
- 2016 ND Flow Action - issues draining rice fields

Google Earth

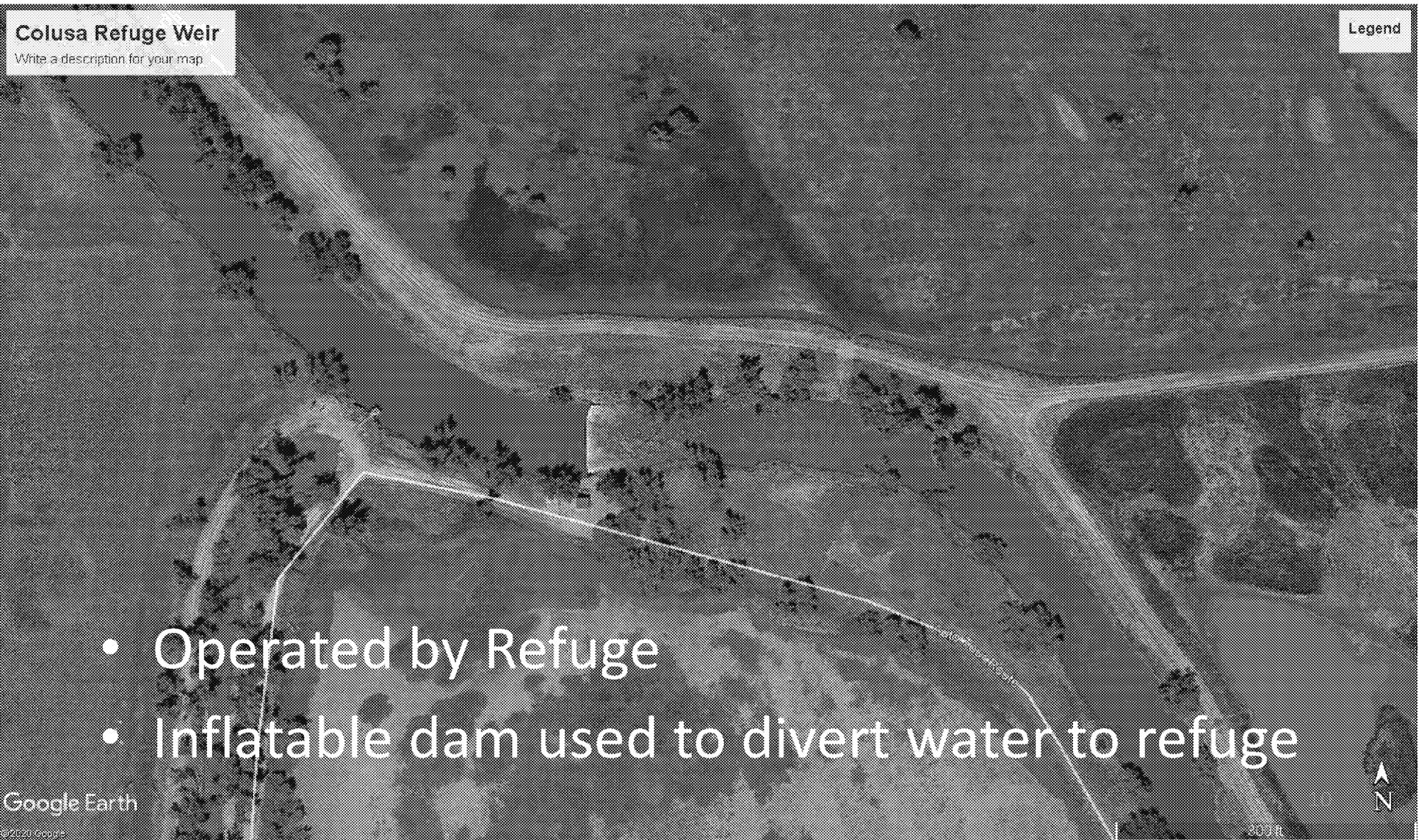
© 2020 Google



200 ft

# Operational Considerations

## Colusa Refuge Weir



Colusa Refuge Weir

Write a description for your map

Legend

- Operated by Refuge
- Inflatable dam used to divert water to refuge

# Operational Considerations

## Davis Weir



- Operated by GCID
- Maintains water levels upstream
- Bladder dam - remote sensing and measurement

# Operational Considerations

## Balsdon Weir

**Balsdon Weir**  
Write a description for your map.

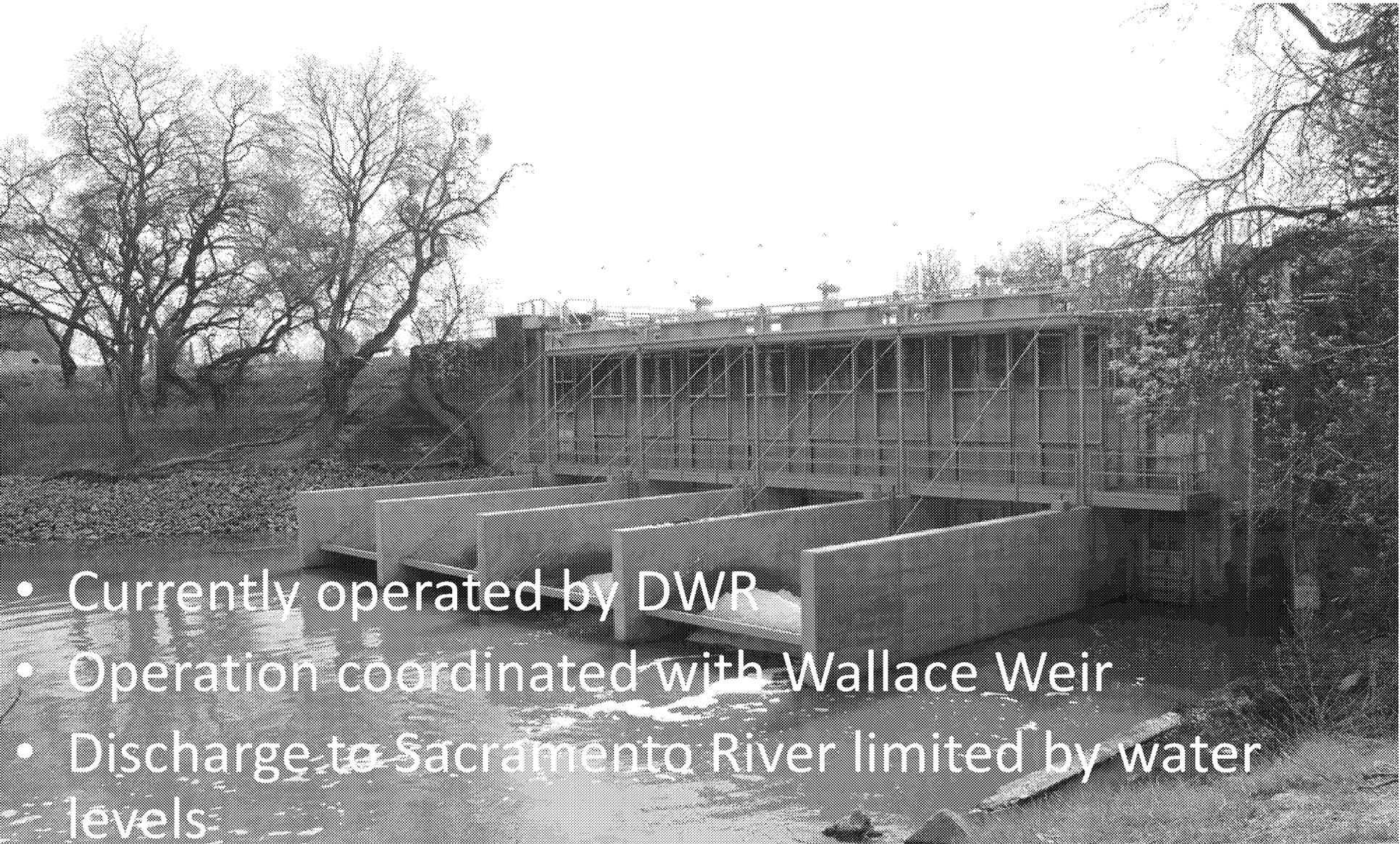
Legend



- Operation unknown

# Operational Considerations

## KLOG

- 
- Currently operated by DWR
  - Operation coordinated with Wallace Weir
  - Discharge to Sacramento River limited by water levels

# Operational Considerations

## Wallace Weir



- Currently Operated by RD 108
- Water level control and fish trap
- Operation coordinated with KLOG

# Operational Considerations

## KLOG and Wallace Weir

- Hershey Agreement
  - 1937 Agreement between Hershey Family and Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District
  - Currently operated by DWR
  - KLOG & Wallace Weir operated to maintain water levels between 24.5 feet and 25.5 feet
- Operation affects water levels to County Line Rd

# Alternative 5a –Replaces Delevan Canal/ Pipeline with Canal from the T-C Canal to the CBD - \$3.5B

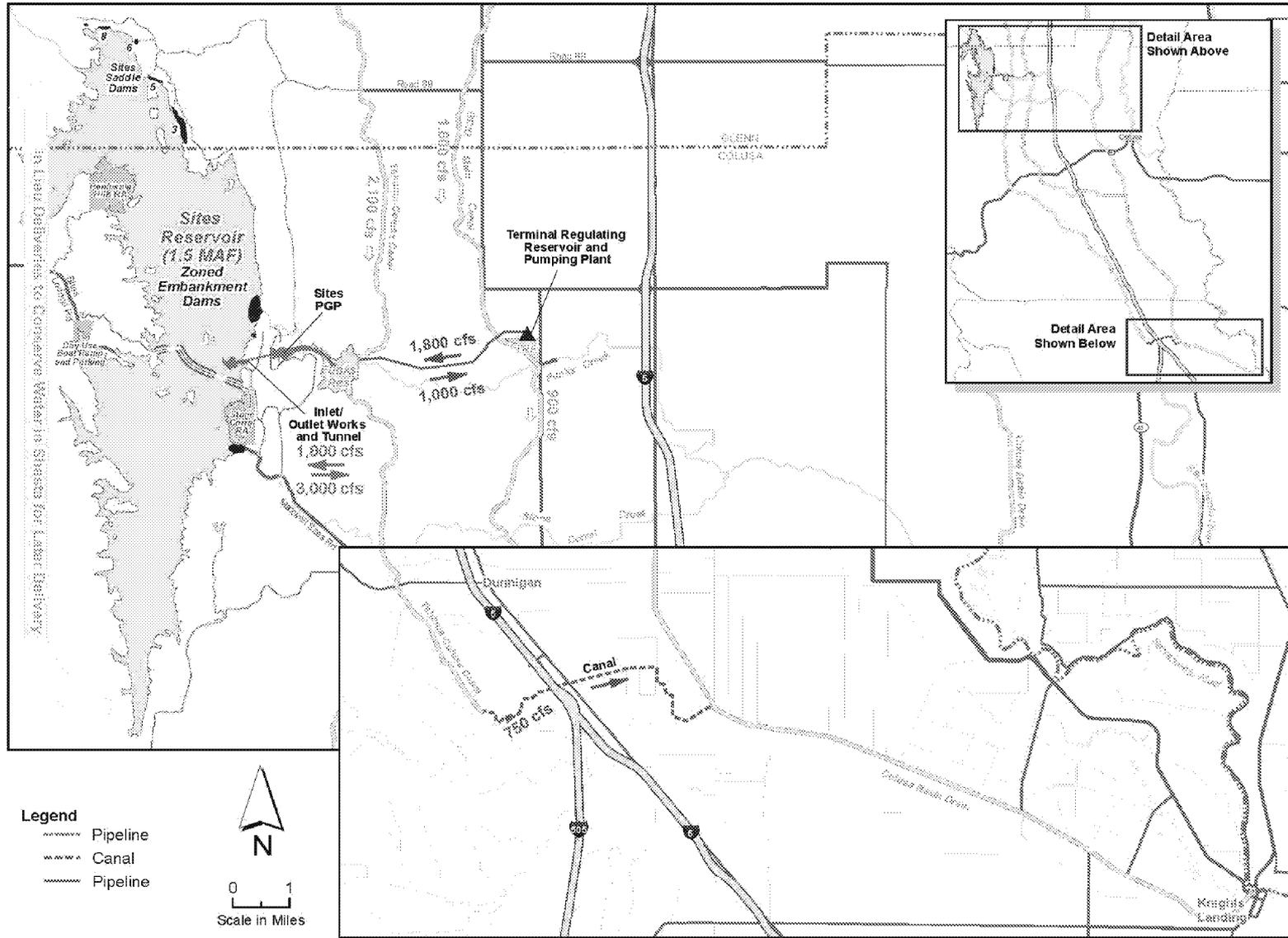
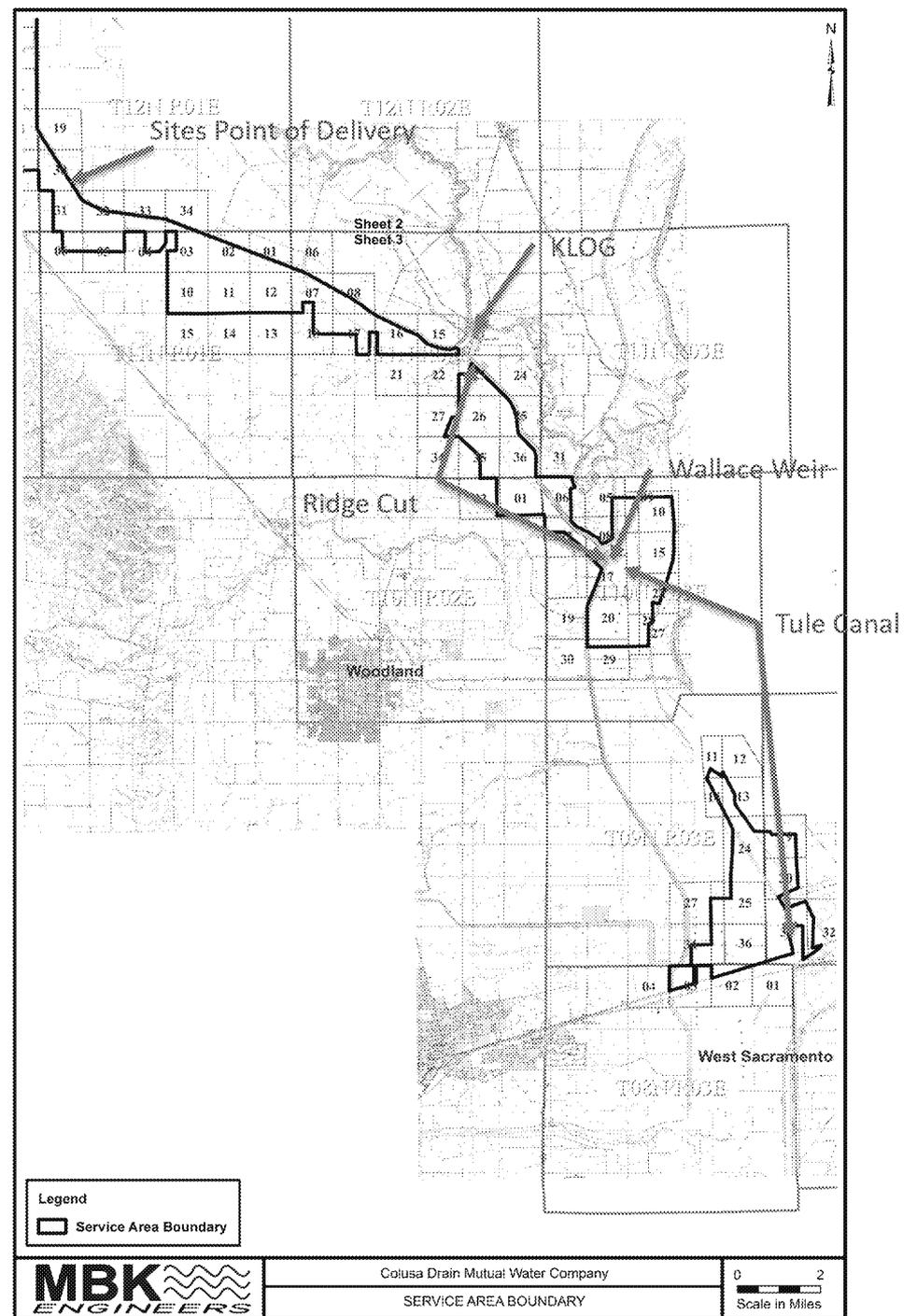


Figure 5a

# Operational Considerations

- Colusa Drain MWC
- Water Rights



# Operational Considerations



# Operational Considerations

- Increased flow = increased water levels
- Potential for seepage and flooding and impacting drainage of fields
  - Upstream of weirs and dams
  - Mostly along western or right bank of Colusa Drain
  - Both sides of Ridge Cut

# Questions & Discussion

- Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company
- Water Rights
- Flows
  - Timing
  - Quantity
  - Location
- Water Quality
- Other ???

---

**From:** Quin La Capra [qlacapra@katzandassociates.com]  
**Sent:** 6/13/2023 2:47:12 PM  
**To:** Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Sara M. Katz [skatz@katzandassociates.com]; Sarah Rossetto [srossetto@katzandassociates.com]; Ann Newton [anewton@katzandassociates.com]; kim@floydcommunications.com  
**Subject:** Sites Agenda 6/14

1. Kevin Update
2. Community Working Group
3. Water Right Permit: Follow up comms
4. EIR: Update on videos and materials
5. Virtual Tour



**Quin La Capra**  
Senior Account Executive  
San Diego · Los Angeles · San Francisco

---

**From:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**Sent:** 6/13/2023 2:50:02 PM  
**To:** 'Yuan Liu' [yliu@ccwater.com]; Lucinda Shih [lshih@ccwater.com]; Lu Han [lhan@ccwater.com]; Marguerite Patil [mpatil@ccwater.com]  
**CC:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; steve.micko@jacobs.com  
**Subject:** RE: Water Quality Question  
**Attachments:** 20230608\_Contra Costa\_Sites Water Right.pdf

All –

Thanks again for the great discussion! Attached are the slides that were shared during Friday's and today's meetings.

As mentioned, I have set up a Doodle Poll with times for a future 1-hour meeting to focus on water quality. Please let me know when works for all of you, and we will get that scheduled. <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/b8Eq47md>

Thanks!  
Angela

---

**From:** Yuan Liu <yliu@ccwater.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2023 12:39 PM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Lucinda Shih <lshih@ccwater.com>; Lu Han <lhan@ccwater.com>; Marguerite Patil <mpatil@ccwater.com>  
**Subject:** Water Quality Question

You don't often get email from [yliu@ccwater.com](mailto:yliu@ccwater.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Only open links from **TRUSTED** sources.

Hi Angela,

I am sending the figure I showed at the end of our meeting. It shows the # of days in a certain month and water year type that EC at 6 stations increased by a certain number.  
Looking forward to further discussion with your team.

Thanks,  
Yuan  
**Yuan Liu, Ph.D., P.E.**  
Senior Water Resources Specialist

P (925) 688-8282

**CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT**  
1331 Concord Avenue, Concord, CA 94520

---

**From:** Lucinda Shih [lshih@ccwater.com]  
**Sent:** 6/13/2023 3:08:16 PM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]; Yuan Liu [yliu@ccwater.com]; Lu Han [lhan@ccwater.com]; Marguerite Patil [mpatil@ccwater.com]  
**CC:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; steve.micko@jacobs.com  
**Subject:** RE: Water Quality Question

Thanks, Angela!

---

**From:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 2:50 PM  
**To:** Yuan Liu <yliu@ccwater.com>; Lucinda Shih <lshih@ccwater.com>; Lu Han <lhan@ccwater.com>; Marguerite Patil <mpatil@ccwater.com>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Micko, Steve/SAC <Steve.Micko@jacobs.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Water Quality Question

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Senior Water Resources Specialist

P (925) 688-8282

**CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT**  
1331 Concord Avenue, Concord, CA 94520

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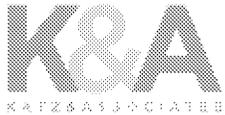
**From:** Quin La Capra [qlacapra@katzandassociates.com]  
**Sent:** 6/13/2023 3:56:53 PM  
**To:** Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Sara M. Katz [skatz@katzandassociates.com]; Sarah Rossetto [srossetto@katzandassociates.com]; Ann Newton [anewton@katzandassociates.com]; kim@floydcommunications.com  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Agenda 6/14

Revised below!

---

**From:** Quin La Capra  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 2:47 PM  
**To:** Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>; Sara M. Katz <skatz@katzandassociates.com>; Sarah Rossetto <srossetto@katzandassociates.com>; Ann Newton <anewton@katzandassociates.com>; kim@floydcommunications.com  
**Subject:** Sites Agenda 6/14

1. Kevin Update
2. Community Working Group
3. Water Right Permit: Follow up comms
4. EIR: Update on videos and materials
5. Virtual Tour
6. Other



**Quin La Capra**  
Senior Account Executive  
[San Diego](#) · [Los Angeles](#) · [San Francisco](#)

---

**From:** Sara M. Katz [skatz@katzandassociates.com]  
**Sent:** 6/13/2023 7:40:50 PM  
**To:** Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Jerry Brown [jbrown@sitesproject.org]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sites Reservoir: Media Monitoring 6.13

Media coverage below. FYI only.

Sent from my iPhone

**Subject: Sites Reservoir: Media Monitoring 6.13**

Hi team,

Here is an article mentioning Sites from today.

**Public News Service** – [Conservation Groups Ask for Big Changes to CA Budget Bills](#)

Conservation groups are asking the California Legislature to pull a number of budget "[trailer bills](#)" they say amount to a backroom deal to loosen environmental standards in order to facilitate infrastructure projects. The deadline to pass a [budget](#) is this Thursday. Governor Gavin Newsom [contends](#) the state needs to streamline environmental reviews in order to meet deadlines to apply for federal matching funds for infrastructure projects.

Ashley Overhouse, water policy advisor for the California program at the nonprofit Defenders of Wildlife, said big policy changes should be handled instead as regular bills in the next legislative session in January.

"We all agree that our planet is indeed facing a climate crisis, and that we need to move forward with climate infrastructure quickly," she said. "However, there is no reason why legislation to tackle these important issues must be moved through this 'trailer bill' process instead of the regular process."

One of the trailer bills would make it easier to approve large-scale water projects, like the proposed [Sites reservoir](#) and Delta tunnels. In a [letter to lawmakers](#), more than 70 environmental nonprofits argue that the shortcuts would undermine critical environmental protections and reduce public input.

Overhouse added she particularly objects to a trailer bill that would remove "fully protected" status from 37 species - including sea otters, sandhill cranes, California condors and golden eagles.

"They would go under the California Endangered Species List, which then would make it easier in the future for the state to delist them," she explained.

Conservation groups say more funding for regulatory agencies would allow them to hire more staff and accelerate environmental reviews. In a statement, the governor claimed the changes are necessary in order to cut red tape, speed up 'clean' infrastructure projects, create jobs and help the state reach its climate goals.

Disclosure: Defenders of Wildlife contributes to our fund for reporting on Climate Change/Air Quality, Endangered Species & Wildlife, Energy Policy, Public Lands/Wilderness. If you would like to help support news in the public interest, [click here](#).

Best,  
Sarah



**Sarah Joyce**

Account Coordinator

dt: 858.926.7004

[San Diego](#) · [Los Angeles](#) · [San Francisco](#)



Laborers  
International  
Union of  
North America

# LiUNA!

*Feel the Power*

April 11, 2023

California State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for Sites Reservoir Water Right Permit**

Dear Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel:

On behalf of the California State Council of Laborers, I am writing to encourage the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to approve a water right permit for the proposed Sites Reservoir, a unique, multi-benefit water storage project that would provide a reliable water supply for California's environment, communities, and farms for decades to come.

Located 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell in rural Glenn and Colusa counties, Sites Reservoir would be an off-stream storage facility that captures and stores stormwater flows in the Sacramento River for California communities, farms, and businesses. When integrated with the state's existing water management system, it would increase the total amount of managed water in storage and create additional flexibility to adapt to changing conditions.

The Laborers proudly represent 70,000 men and women throughout the state who build, improve, and maintain California's infrastructure. Cognizant of the dynamic climate we live in, we prepare our members with the tangible skills and training to ensure quality results on critical projects – whether it be wildfire mitigation, highway maintenance, or water conservation. Sites Reservoir is one such project that will benefit the state in terms of both water supply needs and in state and local economic development.

Sites Reservoir is a modern, once-in-a-generation water project designed with both environmental values and water supply needs in mind amid our changing climate. It is an off-stream facility that does not dam a major river system and does not threaten fish migration or spawning. Additionally, diversions would occur through existing state-of-the-art fish screens according to highly protective operating and permit conditions. Finally, through its investment in Sites Reservoir under Proposition 1, the state is creating a first-of-its-kind environmental water asset for California with dedicated storage for current and future environmental needs.

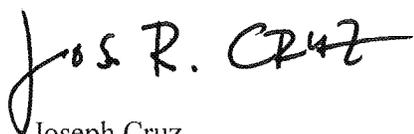
Sites Reservoir is a flexible storage system inherently designed to adapt to California's changing climate by capturing and storing water when flows are high for use generally during dry periods when it is needed most. Climate projections show future precipitation will mostly come in the form of rain and not snow, and Sites Reservoir is specifically designed to capture and store this rain for future use. Sites Reservoir will increase the resiliency of water supplies by capturing water that is surplus to existing water rights in a manner that will not unreasonably affect fish and wildlife and will store it for

future use by project participants. Sites Reservoir would be in the public interest because it would conserve and use water that is in excess of downstream demands, environmental needs, and Delta water quality requirements.

Sites Reservoir has broad and diverse support from cities, counties, water agencies, and irrigation districts throughout the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Bay Area, and Southern California which are working together to advance the project. Now, more than ever, California needs to address its statewide water management challenges through innovative solutions that address our state's need for a sustainable water supply.

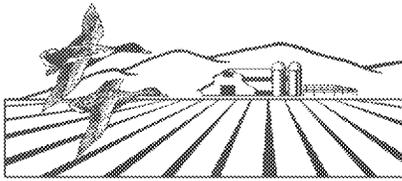
For these reasons, the Laborers strongly encourages the State Water Board to timely approve a water right permit for the Sites Reservoir project.

Sincerely,



Joseph Cruz  
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Members of the California State Water Resources Control Board  
Oscar De La Torre – LiUNA, Vice President and NCDCL Business Manager  
Jon P. Preciado – SCDCL, Business Manager  
Rocco Davis – LiUNA, Vice President and PSW Regional Manager



"Every Day is Earth Day on the Farm"

# FWA

*Family Water Alliance, Inc.*

May 15, 2023

California State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel,

Family Water Alliance, Inc. (FWA) is writing to encourage the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to approve a water right permit for the proposed Sites Reservoir, a unique, multi-benefit water storage project that would provide a reliable water supply for California's environment, communities, and farms for decades to come.

For the last 30 years FWA has been a voice for family farms. In addition to advocacy for farmers, we also created the Sacramento Valley Fish Screen Program. This program has installed 43 screens that make irrigation water safe for endangered salmon. We believe that Sites Reservoir will also be of benefit to endangered salmon and other endangered species.

Located 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell in rural Glenn and Colusa counties, Sites Reservoir would be an off-stream storage facility that captures, and stores storm water flows in the Sacramento River for California communities, farms, and businesses. When integrated with the state's existing water management system, it would increase the total amount of managed water in storage and create additional flexibility to adapt to changing conditions. Last year's drought and this year's rain, is a perfect example of how water from Sites could have been used to protect salmon and other endangered species such as Western Pond Turtles and Giant Garter Snakes.

Sites Reservoir is a modern, once-in-a-generation water project designed with both environmental values and water supply needs in mind amid our changing climate. It is an off-stream facility that does not dam a major river system and does not threaten fish migration or spawning. Additionally, diversions would occur through existing state-of-the-art fish screens according to highly protective operating and permit conditions. Finally, through its investment in Sites Reservoir under Proposition 1, the state is creating a first-of-its-kind environmental water asset for California with dedicated storage for current and future environmental needs.

Sites Reservoir is a flexible storage system inherently designed to adapt to California's changing climate by capturing and storing water when flows are high for use generally during dry periods when it is needed most. Climate projections show future precipitation will mostly come in the form of rain and not snow, and Sites Reservoir is specifically designed to capture and store this rain for future use. Sites Reservoir will increase the resiliency of water supplies because it will capture water that is surplus to existing water rights and in a manner that will not unreasonably affect fish and wildlife, and store it for future use by project participants. Sites Reservoir would be in the public interest because it would conserve and use water that is in excess of downstream demands, environmental needs, and Delta water quality requirements.

Sites Reservoir has broad and diverse support from cities, counties, water agencies, and irrigation districts throughout the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Bay Area, and Southern California which are working together to advance the project. Now, more than ever, California needs to address its statewide water management challenges through innovative solutions that address our state's need for a sustainable water supply.

For these reasons, FWA encourages the State Water Board to timely approve a water right permit for the Sites Reservoir project.

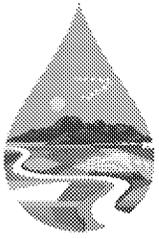
Sincerely,

Nadine Bailey

COO/Family Water Alliance, Inc.

2963 Davison Court, Suite A • Colusa, California 95932 • (530) 438-2026

Draft\_0025426



**NCWA**  
Northern California Water Association

#SourcingOurSustainableFuture

455 Capitol Mall, Suite 703  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4496  
(916) 442-8333  
www.norcalwater.org



May 19, 2023

E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair  
Members of the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Esquivel and Members of the Board:

The Northern California Water Association encourages the State Water Resources Control Board to approve a water right permit for the proposed Sites Reservoir--a 21st century multi-benefit water storage facility on the west-side of the Sacramento Valley that will provide a reliable water supply for California's environment, communities, and farms.

As Sacramento River Basin water resources managers look to serve multiple benefits in the future, the importance and need for Sites Reservoir becomes clear. Sites Reservoir is an innovative 21st century water project: an off-stream regulating reservoir on the west-side of the Sacramento Valley that can store water for the future by capturing it during high runoff periods, and then releasing it for various beneficial uses at a later time. With its location upstream of the Delta and near the Sacramento River, water in Sites Reservoir would serve multiple benefits in the Sacramento River Basin, as well as the Delta and the rest of the state. Recent dry years have shown the value that off-stream reservoirs provide California communities and multi-benefit water management.

Sites Reservoir would be a dramatic enhancement to California's water system and the first storage project in California with a dedicated supply for the environment. Through the investment approved by voters with Proposition 1, Sites Reservoir will provide a first-of-its-kind environmental water asset for California with dedicated storage for current and future environmental needs. Sites Reservoir can provide a freshwater ecosystem water budget that would help provide flexibility and make water available during drier years--which would help ensure water availability for the ecosystem.

Additionally, as an off-stream facility, water will be diverted through state-of-the-art fish screens and Sites Reservoir will increase the resiliency of water supplies because it will capture water that is surplus to existing water rights and in a manner that will not unreasonably affect fish and wildlife. Sites Reservoir would be in the public interest because it will conserve and use water that is in excess of downstream demands, environmental needs, and Delta water quality requirements.



**Sourcing our sustainable future through responsible management of the essential resource that millions of birds, hundreds of thousands of fish, thousands of farms and millions of people all rely on—water!**

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Sites Reservoir has deep support from every part of Northern California and broad and diverse support from throughout California and it will help unify the state around our precious water supplies. Now, more than ever, California needs to address its statewide water management challenges through innovative solutions that address our state's need for a sustainable water supply. Sites Reservoir is a major step forward to address these water supply challenges throughout California.

For these reasons, we encourage the State Water Board to timely approve a water right permit for the Sites Reservoir project.

Sincerely yours,



David J. Guy  
President

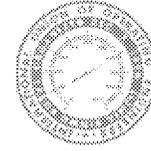


**Sourcing our sustainable future through responsible management of the essential resource that millions of birds, hundreds of thousands of fish, thousands of farms and millions of people all rely on—water!**

**CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CONFERENCE OF OPERATING ENGINEERS**  
*OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS*

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**DAN REDING**  
President

**DAVID SIKORSKI**  
Vice-President

**EDWARD CURLY**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**TIM CREMINS**  
Director of Education  
and Research

May 23, 2023

California State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Approval of Water Right Permit for the Sites Reservoir Project. - SUPPORT**

Dear Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel,

On behalf of the California-Nevada Conference of Operating Engineers we write to encourage the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to approve a water right permit for the proposed Sites Reservoir, a unique, multi-benefit water storage project that would provide a reliable water supply for California's environment, communities, and farms for decades to come.

Located 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell in rural Glenn and Colusa counties, Sites Reservoir would be an off-stream storage facility that captures and stores stormwater flows in the Sacramento River for California communities, farms, and businesses. When integrated with the state's existing water management system, it would increase the total amount of managed water in storage and create additional flexibility to adapt to changing conditions.

The International Union of Operating Engineers is a progressive, diversified trade union that primarily represents operating engineers, who work as heavy equipment operators, mechanics, and surveyors in the construction industry. Our organization prides itself on standing ready to provide highly trained workers to support the building of our state's critical infrastructure.

The State of California has been experiencing large swings between drought and flood and these swings are becoming more severe. While the 2023 storms provided trillions of gallons of water that assisted in replenishing the States existing aquifers and reservoirs, the State unfortunately missed an opportunity to store much of that water to be used in dry years. Simply put, the State of California needs more water storage capacity.

Sites Reservoir is a modern, once-in-a-generation water project designed with both environmental values and water supply needs in mind amid our changing climate. It is an off-stream facility that does not dam a major river system and does not threaten fish migration or spawning. Additionally, diversions would occur through existing state-of-the-art fish screens according to highly protective operating and permit conditions. Finally, through its investment in Sites Reservoir

SERVING THE STATES OF CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA



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under Proposition 1, the state is creating a first-of-its-kind environmental water asset for California with dedicated storage for current and future environmental needs.

Sites Reservoir is a flexible storage system inherently designed to adapt to California's changing climate by capturing and storing water when flows are high for use generally during dry periods when it is needed most. Climate projections show future precipitation will mostly come in the form of rain and not snow, and Sites Reservoir is specifically designed to capture and store this rain for future use. Sites Reservoir will increase the resiliency of water supplies because it will capture water that is surplus to existing water rights and in a manner that will not unreasonably affect fish and wildlife and store it for future use by project participants. Sites Reservoir would be in the public interest because it would conserve and use water that is in excess of downstream demands, environmental needs, and Delta water quality requirements.

Sites Reservoir has broad and diverse support from cities, counties, water agencies, and irrigation districts throughout the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Bay Area, and Southern California which are working together to advance the project. Now, more than ever, California needs to address its statewide water management challenges through innovative solutions that address our state's need for a sustainable water supply.

For these reasons, The California-Nevada Conference of Operating Engineers encourages the State Water Board to timely approve a water right permit for the Sites Reservoir project.

Sincerely,



**Tim Cremins**

International Union of Operating Engineers





May 25, 2023

E. Joaquin Esquivel  
Chair, California State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Sites Reservoir water right permit**

Dear Chair Esquivel,

On behalf of our respective organizations, we are writing to encourage the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to approve a water right permit for the proposed Sites Reservoir, a unique, multi-benefit water storage project that would provide a reliable water supply for California's environment, communities, and farms for decades to come.

Located 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell in rural Glenn and Colusa counties, Sites Reservoir would be an off-stream storage facility that captures and stores stormwater flows in the Sacramento River for California communities, farms, and businesses. When integrated with the state's existing water management system, it would increase the total amount of managed water in storage and create additional flexibility to adapt to changing conditions.

California's economic security depends on adequate and reliable freshwater. Today, snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada Mountains comprises approximately one third of California's total water supply. Scientists from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories estimate climate change will reduce the Sierra Snowpack to functional zero most years beginning in the 2040s, even as overall precipitation is projected to remain relatively stable. Expanding California's water storage capacity is necessary for adapting to shifting climate patterns and strengthening California's drought resilience. That's why in August 2022, Governor Newsom announced a new goal to expand water storage by 3.7 million acre-feet by 2030. Sites Reservoir will help meet this goal and ensure our regions are continuously served by adequate and reliable freshwater throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Sites Reservoir is a modern, once-in-a-generation water project designed with both environmental values and water supply needs in mind amid our changing climate. It is an off-stream facility that does not dam a major river system and does not threaten fish migration or spawning. Additionally, diversions would occur through existing state-of-

the-art fish screens according to highly protective operating and permit conditions. Finally, through its investment in Sites Reservoir under Proposition 1, the state is creating a first-of-its-kind environmental water asset for California with dedicated storage for current and future environmental needs.

Sites Reservoir is a flexible storage system inherently designed to adapt to California's changing climate by capturing and storing water when flows are high for use generally during dry periods when it is needed most. Climate projections show future precipitation will mostly come in the form of rain and not snow, and Sites Reservoir is specifically designed to capture and store this rain for future use. Sites Reservoir will increase the resiliency of water supplies because it will capture water that is surplus to existing water rights and in a manner that will not unreasonably affect fish and wildlife, and store it for future use by project participants. Sites Reservoir would be in the public interest because it would conserve and use water that is in excess of downstream demands, environmental needs, and Delta water quality requirements.

Sites Reservoir has broad and diverse support from cities, counties, water agencies, and irrigation districts throughout the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Bay Area, and Southern California which are working together to advance the project. Now, more than ever, California needs to address its statewide water management challenges through innovative solutions that address our state's need for a sustainable water supply.

For these reasons, our organizations encourage the State Water Board to timely approve a water right permit for the Sites Reservoir project.

Sincerely,



Adrian Covert  
Senior Vice President, Public Policy  
Bay Area Council



Derrick Seaver  
President & CEO  
San Jose Chamber of Commerce



John Coleman  
President & CEO  
Bay Planning Coalition



Cynthia Murray  
President & CEO  
North Bay Leadership Council

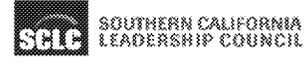
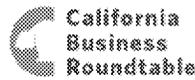


Rosanne Foust  
President & CEO  
SAMCEDA



Charles Wilson  
Executive Director & CEO  
Southern California Water Committee

Rodney Fong  
President & CEO  
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce



May 31, 2023

TO: E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair  
California State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor<sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>  
Sacramento, CA 95814

FR: California Business Properties Association	California Manufacturing & Technology Assn
Building Owners & Managers Assn of California	California Building Industry Association
California Business Roundtable	NAIOP California
Orange County Business Council	Southern California Leadership Council
NFIB – Small Business Association	

**RE: *Support for Sites Reservoir Permit***

On behalf of the listed organizations, we are writing to encourage the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to approve a water right permit for the proposed Sites Reservoir, a unique, multi-benefit water storage project that would provide a reliable water supply for California’s environment, communities, and farms for decades to come.

Located ten miles west of the town of Maxwell in rural Glenn and Colusa counties, Sites Reservoir would be an off-stream storage facility that captures and stores stormwater flows in the Sacramento River for California communities, farms, and businesses. When integrated with the state’s existing water management system, it would increase the total amount of managed water in storage and create additional flexibility to adapt to changing conditions.

Sites Reservoir is a modern, once-in-a-generation water project designed with both environmental values and water supply needs in mind. It is an off-stream facility that does not dam a major river system and does not threaten fish migration or spawning. Additionally, diversions would occur through existing state-of-the-art fish screens according to highly protective operating and permit conditions. Finally, through its investment in Sites Reservoir under Proposition 1, the state is creating a first-of-its-kind environmental water asset for California with dedicated storage for current and future environmental needs.

Sites Reservoir is a flexible storage system inherently designed to adapt to California’s changing climate by capturing and storing water when flows are high for use during dry periods when it is needed most. Climate projections show future precipitation will mostly come in the form of rain and not snow, and Sites Reservoir is specifically designed to capture and store this rain for future use. Sites Reservoir will increase the resiliency of water supplies because it will capture water that is surplus to existing water rights and in a manner that will not unreasonably affect fish and wildlife, and store it for future use by project participants. Sites Reservoir would be in the public interest because it would conserve and use water that is in excess of downstream demands, environmental needs, and Delta water quality requirements.

Sites Reservoir has broad and diverse support from cities, counties, water agencies, and irrigation districts throughout the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Bay Area, and Southern California which are working together to advance the project. Now, more than ever, California needs to address its statewide water management challenges through innovative solutions that address our state’s need for a sustainable water supply.

For these reasons, we encourage the State Water Board to timely approve a water right permit for the Sites Reservoir project.

Thank you for taking our views into consideration. Please contact Matthew Hargrove, President/CEO at CA Business Properties Association if you have any questions (916-443-4676 or mhargrove@cbpa.com).



March 26, 2023  
California State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel,

We are writing to encourage the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to approve a water right permit for the proposed Sites Reservoir, a unique, multi-benefit water storage project that would provide a reliable water supply for California's environment, communities, and farms for decades to come.

Located 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell in rural Glenn and Colusa counties, Sites Reservoir would be an off-stream storage facility that captures and stores stormwater flows in the Sacramento River for California communities, farms, and businesses. When integrated with the state's existing water management system, it would increase the total amount of managed water in storage and create additional flexibility to adapt to changing conditions. For example, rice fields provide key seasonal habitat to waterfowl and a host of other species. Having a dedicated water supply that can help ensure that habitat is maintained at sufficient levels during drier years is critical to support the wildlife that depend on it.

Sites Reservoir is a modern, once-in-a-generation water project designed with both environmental values and water supply needs in mind amid our changing climate. It is an off-stream facility that does not dam a major river system and does not threaten fish migration or spawning. Additionally, diversions would occur through existing state-of-the-art fish screens according to highly protective operating and permit conditions. Finally, through its investment in Sites Reservoir under Proposition 1, the state is creating a first-of-its-kind environmental water asset for California with dedicated storage for current and future environmental needs. Sites Reservoir is a flexible storage system inherently designed to adapt to California's changing climate by capturing and storing water when flows are high for use generally during dry periods when it is needed most.

Climate projections show future precipitation will mostly come in the form of rain and not snow, and Sites Reservoir is specifically designed to capture and store this rain for future use. Sites Reservoir will increase the resiliency of water supplies because it will capture water that is surplus to existing water rights and in a manner that will not unreasonably affect fish and wildlife, and store it for future use by project participants. Sites Reservoir would be in the

public interest because it would conserve and use water that is in excess of downstream demands, environmental needs, and Delta water quality requirements.

Sites Reservoir has broad and diverse support from cities, counties, water agencies, and irrigation districts throughout the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Bay Area, and Southern California which are working together to advance the project. Now, more than ever, California needs to address its statewide water management challenges through innovative solutions that address our state's need for a sustainable water supply.

For these reasons, Ducks Unlimited encourages the State Water Board to timely approve a water right permit for the Sites Reservoir project.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Engstrom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Marc Engstrom  
Director of Public Policy, California

# SITES RESERVOIR

## GOVERNOR NEWSOM CLEAN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN & EXECUTIVE ORDER

### Media Coverage

- AgNet West
  - Newsom Seeks to Streamline Infrastructure Projects
  
- AgNet West
  - Colorado River Agreement: 'Important Step Forward'
  
- Associated Press News
  - California governor seeks to speed up water, clean energy projects delayed by lawsuits, permits
  
- CalMatters
  - Gavin Newsom wants to make it easier to build roads, dams and more. What's in his plan?
  
- CapRadio
  - Delta Tunnel plan touted by Newsom gets push-back from Congress member
  
- Central Valley
  - Governor guts landmark environmental law to expedite the salmon-killing Delta Tunnel
  
- Central Valley
  - Governor Modifies Enviro Law to Expedite Favored Projects
  
- Central Valley
  - California Senate Committee Blocks Governor's Plan to Gut Environmental Law
  
- Courthouse News Service
  - Newsom touts plan to cut red tape and speed up green infrastructure projects



- KCRA 3
  - Newsom announces new effort to speed up construction of environmental and transportation projects
- Manteca Bulletin
  - Newsom's vow to ram tunnel project thru bigger threat to Delta than climate change
- My Mother Lode.com
  - Republicans Praise Newsom's Call For CEQA Reforms
- RecordNet.com
  - Newsom's Delta Tunnel speed-up plan could hurt region's fishing, farming, critics say
- San Francisco Chronicle
  - Newsom takes on the CEQA beast, proposes expediting transit, climate projects
- Sacramento News & Review
  - Newsom's war with California environmental groups keeps Sacramento County in its cross-hairs
- The Center Square
  - 'We are thrilled,' say Republicans as Newsom announces permitting reform
- The Independent
  - Polls Shows Voters Favor Delta Water Project
- The Mendocino Beacon
  - Gov. Newsom looks to spend \$180 billion on infrastructure, speed through lawsuits



- The Sacramento Bee
  - In Patterson, Newsom rolls out plan to fast-track infrastructure projects in California
  
- The San Diego-Union Tribune
  - Gov. Newsom unveils sweeping plan to speed up California infrastructure projects
  
- The Washington Examiner
  - Newsom at odds with green groups with bid to speed up construction projects



# Articles

## AgNet West

### Newsom Seeks to Streamline Infrastructure Projects

**Brian German**

Governor Gavin Newsom recently introduced a series of proposals to expedite infrastructure projects. The legislative package seeks to speed up the construction process while also streamlining permitting and court review. An executive order was also signed by the governor, establishing a strike team to accelerate clean energy projects. During a press conference, Newsom said that the action taken is simple, “it’s about saving time, and saving money, and addressing bureaucratic malaise.”

A total of 11 budget trailer bills are being introduced to the Legislature, focusing on eight fundamental principles. A key factor in the proposals is addressing the time-consuming process related to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Legal challenges under CEQA would be limited to 270 to achieve a resolution. The action complements other recent efforts to reform CEQA. Newsom said the reason for approaching the issue with trailer bills is because “people want to see results.”

Infrastructure projects that could be streamlined through the package include the Delta Conveyance Project as well as water storage projects funded through Proposition 1. Newsom specifically highlighted the Sites Reservoir Project as a beneficiary of the reforms included in the trailer bills. Altogether, the proposals could cut project timelines by more than three years, save hundreds of millions of dollars, and simplify paperwork procedures by hundreds of thousands of pages. “Recognizing the sense of urgency,” Newsom said, “we’ve got to do more, and we’ve got to do better.”

Another central focus of the proposals is maximizing federal funding support. Newsom noted that the lengthy process for getting a project moving forward puts California at a disadvantage. Federal money is “going to other states that are moving more aggressively,” Newsom explained. California seeks to invest state and federal funds of up to \$180 billion over the next decade in infrastructure projects. “This proposal is the most ambitious effort to cut red tape and streamline regulations in half a century. It’s time to make the most out of taxpayer dollars and deliver results,” Newsom said in a press release.

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## AgNet West

### Colorado River Agreement: ‘Important Step Forward’

**Brian German**

California, Nevada, and Arizona have reached an agreement on how to address concerns with the Colorado River. The Lower Basin Plan was accepted after nearly a year of negotiation and development. The three states will conserve three million acre-feet of river water through the end of 2026. At least 1.5 million acre-feet of that total is expected to be saved by the end of 2024. The U.S. Department of Interior will be advancing the process of developing new operating guidelines sometime next month.

“The Lower Basin Plan will generate unprecedented volumes of conservation that will build elevation in Lake Mead, make strategic use of the improved hydrology, and build upon partnerships within and among states, urban water agencies, agricultural irrigation districts, and Basin Tribes who rely upon and share the Colorado River,” Colorado River Board of California Chairman, JB Hamby said in a press release.



The conservation amounts to approximately 13 percent less water used by the three states. Federal compensation will be made available in exchange for conserving 2.3 million acre-feet of water. Funding will come from the Inflation Reduction Act. The amount of compensation is expected to be approximately \$1.2 billion. The remaining 700,000 acre-feet of water will be conserved through voluntary reductions by Lower Basin states.

Prior to the agreement, several federal plans were proposed to prevent Lake Mead from reaching dead pool, stopping operation of the Hoover Dam. The natural flow of the Colorado River has been reduced by approximately 20 percent in light of recent droughts. One proposed plan would have overridden senior water rights in California, severely impacting farmers in the Imperial Valley. The consensus-based proposal from the three Lower Basin states should delay any potential federal intervention until after 2026. While not a complete resolution to the issue, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner, Camille Calimlim Touton acknowledged that the agreement “is an important step forward towards our shared goal of forging a sustainable path for the basin.”

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## Associated Press News

[California governor seeks to speed up water, clean energy projects delayed by lawsuits, permits](#)

**Adam Beam**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday pledged to fast-track hundreds of billions of dollars’ worth of construction projects throughout the state, including a pair of large water endeavors that have languished for years amid permitting delays and opposition from environmental groups.

For the past decade, California officials have pursued the water projects in the drought-prone state. One would construct a giant tunnel to carry large amounts of water beneath the natural channels of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to drier and more populous Southern California.

The other would be a massive new reservoir near the tiny community of Sites in Northern California that could store more water during deluges — like the series of atmospheric rivers that hit the state earlier this year — for delivery to farmers.

But neither project has been built, despite promises from multiple governors and legislative leaders. Environmental groups have sued to block the tunnel project, arguing it would decimate threatened species of fish, including salmon and the Delta smelt. The Sites Reservoir is still trying to acquire necessary permits to begin construction.

Newsom is seeking a slew of changes to make it much faster for these projects to gain the required permits and approvals. Other projects that could be eligible include solar, wind and battery power storage; transit and regional rail; road maintenance and bridge projects; semiconductor plants; and wildlife crossings along Interstate 15, Newsom’s office said. His efforts to speed projects would not apply to building more housing.

One key proposal is to limit the amount of time it takes to resolve environmental lawsuits to about nine months. Newsom said his administration is “not looking to roll over anybody,” including what he called the “fierce champions” of environmental stewardship.

“I mean, nine months, you can have a kid, OK? I mean that’s a long time,” Newsom said Friday while visiting the site of a future solar farm in Stanislaus County.



Still, some environmental groups were furious. Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director of the advocacy group Restore the Delta, said Newsom “wants to do away with standard environmental protections to build the Delta tunnel.”

“We have never been more disappointed in a California governor than we are with Governor Newsom,” she said. “How is perpetuating environmental injustice, which harms public and environmental health, really any different than red state governors perpetuating social injustice in their states, which Governor Newsom likes to criticize vigorously?”

Newsom says California has hundreds of billions of dollars to spend on infrastructure projects over the next decade, the result of voter-approved bonds, bountiful budget surpluses during the pandemic and an influx of federal cash from President Joe Biden’s infrastructure bill.

But he said the state is often too slow to approve those projects and that the federal money is “going to other states that are moving more aggressively.” Newsom said his proposals could shorten how long it takes to build projects by more than three years.

His office said the legislation would allow various state agencies, including the Department of Transportation, to more quickly approve projects and issue permits. Newsom also signed an executive order on Friday creating what he called an “infrastructure strike team” to identify fast-track projects.

Jerry Brown, executive director of the Sites Project Authority that is overseeing the new reservoir, said he thinks Newsom’s proposals could allow construction to start a year early, saving about \$100 million.

“That saves a lot of money and gets a lot of jobs in the pipeline,” he said.

Newsom wants the legislation to be part of the state’s budget, which must be passed before the end of June. That means, if approved, it could take effect sooner and would only require a majority vote of the Democratic-controlled Legislature.

Toni Atkins, a Democrat from San Diego and the leader of the state Senate, said “the climate crisis requires that we move faster to build and strengthen critical infrastructure,” adding that lawmakers will “ensure we can do so responsibly, and in line with California’s commitment to high road jobs and environmental protection.”

Some Republicans cheered Newsom’s proposal, with Republican Senate Leader Brian Jones saying the governor “is finally taking action.” Others were more skeptical, with Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher saying Democrats in the Legislature are the biggest obstacle to Newsom’s proposals.

“Gavin Newsom loves to brag that he can ‘jam’ Democratic lawmakers. Let’s see it,” Gallagher said. “Republicans are ready to work with him towards real reforms.”

This article also ran in *Antelope Valley Press*, *Chron*, *DJC Oregon*, *Fortune*, *KQED*, *NBC Los Angeles*, *Newsday*, and *The Free Press*.



## CalMatters

### Gavin Newsom wants to make it easier to build roads, dams and more. What's in his plan?

Ben Christopher, Alastair Bland, Julie Cart and Alejandro Lazo

“Gavin Newsom loves to brag that he can ‘jam’ Democratic lawmakers. Let’s see it,” Gallagher said. “Republicans are ready to work with him towards real reforms.” Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to make it easier for California to build big things. Today, he unveiled a plan to make it happen.

At an 1,100 acre solar farm near Patterson in Stanislaus County, Newsom announced a package of legislative proposals and signed an executive order aimed at speeding big infrastructure projects. He aims to limit the time opponents can jam projects up in court with challenges under the California Environmental Quality Act, the law known as CEQA (and pronounced see-kwa)

Buoyed by an influx of federal dollars and motivated by the need to dramatically reduce the state’s greenhouse gas emissions, Newsom’s “CEQA-reform” proposal is likely to be cheered by industry groups, construction unions and even some climate activists.

He said the plan was about more than the urgency of climate change, but about rebuilding the public’s faith in the state’s ability to commit to and accomplish big things. “As someone who’s all in on high-speed rail...all I can think about is, ‘what if?’ ‘What if we had these principles before we laid out that project?’” he said, referring to the \$128 billion, much-delayed rail project. “I may not have had to drive down here today. I may have been on that rail.”

California isn’t short on what the governor might call “big hairy audacious goals.” The state has a plan to harvest all of the state’s electricity from carbon-free sources by 2045. The Newsom administration adopted a plan to phase out the sale of gas-guzzling cars, shifting the state’s appetite for driving onto the electricity grid. Proposed projects on water — to store it, to strip it of saltwater, to keep it at bay as sea levels rise and rivers top their banks — abound.

To meet those goals, California needs to build, potentially at a scale that would dwarf even the boom times of the 1960s. At a breakfast gathering of big business representatives in Sacramento on Thursday, the governor stressed that the state is ready to spend \$180 billion over the next 10 years, much of that money coming from the federal government. “The question is, are we going to screw it up by being consumed by paralysis and process?”

Newsom asked. Several leading organizations quickly issued statements expressing skepticism about Newsom’s proposal to modify the state’s landmark environmental law. Their leaders wanted to see more details than his office disclosed this week. “We need to meet the state’s climate goals with smart, carefully considered projects, not knee-jerk construction that bypasses the necessary protections that keep us safe,” said Aruna Prabhala, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity.

Have questions about Newsom’s big proposal? Here’s what we know.

Q: What is the governor actually proposing?



A: Details are still sparse, but his executive order, a summary of 11 bills released by his office, a separate report put out by administration infrastructure adviser Antonio Villaraigosa and Newsom's remarks speak to the following goals: Streamline environmental planning by coordinating among different local, state and federal agencies; Limit the amount of time courts have to weigh environmental challenges to nine months; Provide more funding to agencies to speed up reviews; Cut back on the number of documents that each review requires; Carve out more exemptions in the law to allow favored projects to skip certain environmental reviews. Some of these changes would broaden provisions already included in state law. The nine-month limit on environmental litigation, for example, already applies to renewable energy projects, certain housing and even major sports stadiums. "I love sports," Newsom said. "But I also love roads. I love transit. I love bridges...why the hell can't we translate that to all these other projects?"

Q: Is Newsom's 'CEQA reform' plan a big deal?

A: To hear Newsom say it, this is a very big deal. "If we get nothing else done in the next three years, this may be one of the most consequential things that we can actually deliver," he said on Thursday. For decades, California's deliberate — or as critics argue, glacially slow and unpredictable — permitting process has been a hallmark of its environmental policy. At the heart of that process is the California Environmental Quality Act. California lawmakers passed the law in 1970, riding a new public consciousness of environmental conservation and protection. It was a bipartisan sentiment. The governor who signed the law was Ronald Reagan while President Richard Nixon signed its federal counterpart that same year. At the time, the chief environmental concerns were local and growth-related: The incursion of development into green spaces and sensitive ecosystems; the widespread use of pesticides; the pollution of rivers and the befouling of oceans; littering. Business interests have decried "CEQA abuse" for decades. Now that climate change is the chief environmental concern of the day, some liberals are on board with "permitting reform" bandwagon, too. They argue the state needs to build at an unprecedented scale to decarbonize its electricity grid and transportation networks. Jennifer Hernandez, a land use and environmental attorney in San Francisco, said she was cautiously optimistic that the changes the governor spoke about would speed litigation. In particular, the governor's comments regarding addressing what constitutes an administrative record under the environmental law, could go far, she said. When a civil lawsuit is filed under the environmental law, the first thing that occurs is preparation that can take months to more than a year to gather. That's because the administrative record is broadly defined, she said. It can include emails, text messages by officials and other pieces of information that may not strictly pertain to the environmental impact of a project, she added. "The administrative record was defined about 20 years ago, to include internal agency communications, even emails about whether you want pizza for the meeting," Hernandez said.

Q: What types of projects will be affected?

A: In the executive order, Newsom called out a few spending areas specifically: "transportation, energy, hydrogen, environmental remediation, broadband, water, the CHIPS and Science Act (for semiconductor development), and zero-emission vehicles." Newsom named two major water proposals as examples of the kinds of projects that could benefit from the package: the Sites Reservoir in the Sacramento Valley and a tunnel that would funnel water under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Osha Meserve, an attorney in Sacramento who has represented opponents of the tunnel, said rigorous environmental review is justified when it comes to projects like the tunnel, which has been the focus of disagreement and legal challenges for decades. "If you're going to go across four counties and build the largest new infrastructure project in the whole state, then yes, you're going to need some detailed environmental reviews," Meserve said. Jerry Brown, the executive director of the Sites Project Authority (and not the former governor of the same name), said the governor's proposed CEQA reform could advance the process of acquiring a water right for the proposed Sacramento Valley reservoir by about six months. "That means we get into construction sooner, means we finish construction sooner," he said. "We're talking about a project here where a year delay costs about \$100 million."

Q: What about housing?



A: Newsom didn't mention housing prominently at his press conference. His administration is urging local governments to permit more than 2.5 million new units over the next eight years. Among pro-housing advocates, the environmental law is often cited as an unwelcome impediment — both because opponents can sue and delay projects and because the mere prospect of a lengthy legal battle can result in fewer and smaller housing projects being proposed. Asked about housing by a reporter, Newsom noted that some of the broad changes to permitting and record-keeping policy will speed up the construction of new homes, along with everything else.

Q: Will the plan harm the environment?

A: Not if you ask the governor, it goes without saying. "I care deeply about what the environmental community believes and thinks, but at the same time I care deeply about the progress we're promoting here today," he said today. Newsom had some backing from at least one major green group: Environment California, a nonprofit that often stakes out a centrist position on climate-related policy. "We need to work harder, better, faster, stronger to build five times as much clean energy every year," the group's director Laura Deehan said at today's press conference. But it's not clear whether the state's broader environmental community will be as enthused. In a statement, Sierra Club California director Brandon Dawson said that the group is still reviewing the idea, but expressed serious reservations. "We acknowledge the governor's desire to promote clean infrastructure, but this proposal needs a lot of work," he said. Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, the executive director of the group Restore the Delta, lashed out at the governor following the release of the order. "We have never been more disappointed in a California governor than we are with Gov. Newsom," she said in a statement.

Q: What are the odds this goes anywhere?

A: It's too early to tell. The governor's office released bill language late Friday afternoon and lawmakers in general have yet to read the details. Senate leader Toni Atkins in a written statement said climate change demands the state "move faster to build and strengthen critical infrastructure," but noted only that she looks "forward to working with our colleagues in the Assembly and administration to ensure we can do so responsibly." Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon in a written statement similarly said he would "work with our partners in the Senate as well as the governor to craft responsible proposals to meet California's infrastructure needs." Newsom can at least count on the support of the Legislature's Republicans. "California Senate Republicans have been advocating for CEQA reform for years," GOP Leader Sen. Brian Jones from Santee, said in a statement. "We are thrilled that Gov. Newsom is finally taking action." The current law has its defenders. Chief among them are environmentalists and environmental justice advocates who see it as a vital tool to check unfettered development and pollution. Also among CEQA's supporters: neighborhood groups who often use the law to stymie big, noisy projects in their backyard and organized labor groups, who have found it to be a useful way to block projects in order to extract union-friendly concessions. Newsom appears to have at least part of that latter group in his camp. At today's press conference, the governor was flanked by hardhat wearing carpenters, laborers, and electricians. Among the biggest applause lines: The projection, unverified, that this proposal will lead to the creation of 400,000 new jobs.

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## CapRadio

Delta Tunnel plan touted by Newsom gets push-back from Congress member  
Mike Hagerty

California's long-discussed "Delta tunnels" project is on the front-burner again.



Last week, Governor Gavin Newsom announced sweeping legislation that would fast-track infrastructure projects across the state. That announcement included the latest version of a tunnel project in the Delta, which would divert Sacramento River water and ultimately send it to Southern California.

Congressman Josh Harder, who represents the Stockton area and has been opposed to the Delta tunnels project for five years, is speaking out against the governor's move.

Harder and other advocacy groups say the project could negatively impact the ecosystem of the Delta in the San Joaquin Valley.

Proponents and the governor's office say the project will make the state's water supply more reliable, and allow better options for water movement and storage during and after storms.

"I care deeply about what the environmental community believes and thinks, but at the same time I care deeply about the progress we're promoting here today," Newsom said at a press conference announcing the legislation last week.

CapRadio's Mike Hagerty spoke with Harder to learn more about his effort to stop the Delta tunnel project.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

### **Interview highlights**

Hagerty: So to be clear, you and the governor are both Democrats and there's agreement between you that speeding up the state's transportation and water infrastructure projects is a good idea apart from the Delta Tunnel, right?

Harder: Absolutely. There's no question that we need to move faster on infrastructure projects. It's been 50 years since we built a new water reservoir anywhere in California.

We passed a water bond in 2014. A lot of that money is still sitting in bank accounts and shovels still haven't been put in the dirt all across California because there's so much red tape embedded in the process.

If we'd been able to build those projects before a flood year like this one, then we would have been able to keep countless people safe across the Central Valley and across the state. So we need to absolutely make sure that we're building good projects.

What we don't need is preferential treatment for a boondoggle like the Delta Tunnel that's going to do nothing to keep residents of San Joaquin County and the Central Valley safe and instead is just going to ship our water down south.



**You've hosted several town halls on the issue in your district with those folks. What are they saying?**

Well, people have been very loud and clear. We've done town halls across our district trying to make sure that we're hearing directly from folks who are going to be affected, who are on the frontlines of this fight. And I think, quite frankly, it's been pretty clearly unanimous. And it's not just this iteration. We've been fighting against this project for decades.

This is a zombie project. Every time we kill it, it finds a way to change its iteration. Sacramento brings it up again and comes back with another version. But none of [these Legislators] are going to do anything to keep our community safe, and instead are going to really imperil the livelihoods of folks across our area.

It's been very rigorously tested that if this water slipped down south, we're going to see more toxic algae blooms across the Delta. We're going to see more salt in the land because the water is going to be siphoned out and down, down south, which means that our farmers are going to be dealing with land that's been poisoned because of an infrastructure project like this one.

**Do you see yourself able to change the governor's mind?**

Well, we've won before. Like I said, this is just the latest iteration of a fight that we've been fighting for a long time. We've been able to stop this project again and again. Frankly, I don't understand why Sacramento is so invested in it that they keep bringing it back. But I think we have a good chance if we can build a coalition. The folks affected, obviously we're at the heart of it in San Joaquin County, Lodi, Stockton, Tracy. But folks are going to be affected all over Northern California.

**Is it awkward to put yourself at odds with the governor of your own party on a major project?**

My job is to make sure that I'm representing my community. This is not an issue that is divided by party lines. So often in California we want to pit environmentalists against farmers. The old line in California is whiskey's for drinking, water's for fighting; these water wars have really been a part of our state's history since the very beginning.

One of our farmers told me he doesn't have Democratic cows or Republican cows. He just has cows.

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## **Central Valley**

### **Governor guts landmark environmental law to expedite the salmon-killing Delta Tunnel Dan Bacher**

Advocates for fish, water and environmental justice are outraged over Governor Gavin Newsom's plan to gut the California Environmental Quality Act in order to construct the Delta Tunnel, Sites Reservoir and other destructive infrastructure projects.

At the site of a future solar farm in the San Joaquin Valley in Stanislaus County on May 19, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a legislative package and signed an executive order that would gut the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to expedite the construction of the salmon-killing Delta Tunnel, Sites Reservoir and other controversial infrastructure projects, drawing condemnation from environmental groups.

CEQA is a landmark environmental law that the construction industry, Big Ag, Big Oil and other Big Money interests have been trying to eviscerate for years in order to shorten the contracting process for bridge and water



projects, limit timelines for environmental litigation and simplify permitting for complicated developments in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and elsewhere throughout California.

“The only way to achieve California’s world-leading climate goals is to build, build, build – faster,” claimed Newsom, with no sense of irony, on Endangered Species Day. “This proposal is the most ambitious effort to cut red tape and streamline regulations in half a century. It’s time to make the most out of taxpayer dollars and deliver results while creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs. Not since the Pat Brown era have we had the opportunity to invest in and rebuild this state to create the clean future Californians deserve.”

The Governor claimed the measures will “facilitate and streamline project approval” and completion to maximize California’s share of federal infrastructure dollars and expedite the implementation of projects that meet the state’s ambitious economic, climate, and social goals.”

The widely-criticized announcement by the Governor followed Thursday’s report urging “permitting reform” from Infrastructure Advisor to California, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and California Forward.

Together, these proposals could: “cut project timelines by more than three years, save businesses and state and local governments hundreds of millions of dollars, and reduce paperwork by hundreds of thousands of pages,” according to the Governor.

Also today, Governor Newsom signed an executive order to stand up a “strike team” to accelerate clean infrastructure projects across the state by implementing an all-of-government strategy for planning and development.

The “water-related projects” that would be subject to the new “streamlined process” include the:

(A) The Delta Conveyance Project. (B) Water storage projects funded by the California Water Commission pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 79750) of Division 26.7 of the Water Code. (C) Projects for the production, distribution, or use of recycled water, as defined in Section 13050 of the Water Code. (D) Contaminant and salt removal projects, including, but not limited to, groundwater and seawater desalination and associated treatment, storage, conveyance, and distribution facilities. (E) Canal or other conveyance maintenance and repair.

Advocates for fish, water and the environment responded with outrage over Newsom’s infrastructure plan.

“Governor Newsom does not respect the people in communities that need environmental protection,” said Restore the Delta’s Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla. “During the drought he used emergency rules to destroy Delta water quality and fisheries for tribes and fishing communities. He has now proposed in the May revised budget to subvert rules during flood further weakening water quality protections.”

“He raided funding from the San Joaquin Valley drinking water program budget to pay for needed flood protections, pitting region against region, disadvantaged community against disadvantaged community, as he did during the drought, pitting drinking water solutions against tribal and Delta environmental justice community needs for freshwater flows. He has pitted powerful special interest senior water rights holders against the needs of millions of Californians with the voluntary agreement process,” she observed.



“Now he wants to do away with standard environmental protections to build the Delta tunnel,” Barrigan-Parrilla continued.

“We have never been more disappointed in a California Governor than we are with Governor Newsom. We have repeatedly given him the benefit of the doubt. But sadly, he has no real water management plan to deal with extended drought and flood extremes to meet our climate reality, but instead is choosing to continue with failed ideas from the past to appease his big dollar agriculture donors, like Stewart Resnick,” she argued.

“How is perpetuating environmental injustice, which harms public and environmental health, really any different than red state governors perpetuating social injustice in their states, which Governor Newsom likes to criticize vigorously. It is time for him to walk the talk in California. Environmental justice is social justice. It is not flowery photo-ops with cool language, while doing the opposite by destroying protective standards by executive order and legislative fiat, while leaving everyday Californians to live with the destructive and polluting impacts,” she concluded.

Delta advocates also pointed out that one of the Governor's trailer bills strips the Greater sandhill crane of protected species status.

Delta United tweeted: “Ironically on Endangered Species Day, @CAGovernor proposes budget trailer bill stripping Greater sandhill cranes of fully protected species status to pave way for Delta Tunnel boondoggle. Sad day for our majestic cranes.”

Today's announcement comes as the Newsom administration has presided over the unprecedented destruction of California fish populations at the service of Big Ag billionaires Lynda and Stewart Resnick, the largest orchard fruit growers in the world, and other powerful oligarchs.

Salmon are at their worst-ever crisis in California history at this time. Commercial and recreational salmon fishing is closed on the ocean in California and most of Oregon and in California rivers this year due to the collapse of salmon populations on the Sacramento and Klamath rivers that was caused by terrible water management during a drought.

The closure of salmon fishing on the ocean and rivers this year is just one example of the many fishery disasters caused by federal and state water project diversions from Central Valley reservoirs and rivers to enrich agribusiness contractors during recent drought years.

In one of many fish kills that took place in 2021, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2022 published a monitoring report on 2021's spring Chinook salmon run on Butte Creek, a Sacramento River tributary, revealing that 91 percent of the adult fish died before spawning.

An estimated 19,773 out of the more than 21,580 fish total that returned to spawn in the Butte County stream perished before spawning. Only an estimated 1,807 adults survived to spawn in a year with a record return of fish.

Fish advocates have criticized the CDFW and other government agencies for failing to exert needed pressure on PG&E, the current owner of the hydroelectric project on Butte Creek, to release colder flows when they were needed to alleviate the massive fish kill.



Also in 2021, only 2.6 percent of endangered Sacramento River winter run Chinook juveniles survived, according to another CDFW report. These fish perished due to lethally warm water conditions caused by the failure of the federal government to release cold water to save the fish.

It gets worse! For the fifth year in a row, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fall 2022 Midwater Trawl Survey (FMWT) found zero Delta Smelt in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

The slender 2 to 3 inch fish that smells like cucumber was once the most abundant fish in the Delta. The smelt, found only in the Delta, is considered an indicator species that shows the relative health of the imperiled estuary.

The results of the survey were summed up and analyzed in a memorandum from James White, environmental scientist for the CDFW's Bay Delta Region, to Erin Chappell, Regional Manager Bay Delta Region, on Dec. 29, 2022: Memorandum: 2022 FMWT Annual Fish Abundance and Distribution, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (759 KB).

"An absence of Delta Smelt catch in the FMWT is consistent among other surveys in the estuary," White wrote. "The Enhanced Delta Smelt Monitoring (EDSM) survey of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) caught 3 Delta Smelt among 61 sampling days (between 9/6 and 12/15) comprised of 1,997 tows."

Despite the release of many thousands of hatchery-raised Delta Smelt in Dec. 2021 and Jan., Feb. and Nov. 2022, no Delta smelt were found in any of the surveys.

"On Nov. 29- 30, 2022, the Experimental Release Technical Team released 12,942 marked adult Delta Smelt from culture into the Sacramento River near Rio Vista," said White. "Neither FMWT nor EDSM caught these released Delta Smelt during December sampling."

As scientists have documented for years, the Delta smelt, salmon and other fish populations have collapsed due to state and federal government actions and policies, including the export of massive quantities of Delta and Northern California to agribusiness oligarchs in the San Joaquin Valley, the mismanagement of water flows on Central Valley rivers and dams that benefit agribusiness at enormous expense to fish and people, and the pollution of Central Valley surface and ground water by agribusiness and the powerful oil and gas industry.

Rather than gutting CEQA to expedite destructive infrastructure projects like the Delta Tunnel and Sites Reservoir, the Governor and state leaders should instead work to strengthen and enforce landmark environmental laws like CEQA and CESA, the California Endangered Species Act.

The Delta Tunnel is based on the illogical premise that diverting more water out of the Sacramento River at the town of Hood would somehow "restore" the ecosystem while providing "water supply reliability." However, I'm not aware of any project in U.S. or world history where diverting more water out of an estuary or river has resulted in the restoration of that estuary or river.

If you think the situation with salmon, Delta smelt and other species is bad now, the Delta Tunnel would only make it worse.



## Central Valley

### Governor Modifies Enviro Law to Expedite Favored Projects

At the site of a future solar farm in the San Joaquin Valley in Stanislaus County on May 19, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a legislative package and signed an executive order that would gut the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to expedite the construction of the Delta Tunnel, Sites Reservoir, and other controversial infrastructure projects, drawing condemnation from environmental groups.

CEQA is a landmark environmental law that the construction industry, Big Ag, Big Oil and other Big Money interests have been trying to eviscerate for years in order to shorten the contracting process for bridge and water projects, limit timelines for environmental litigation, and simplify permitting for complicated developments in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and elsewhere throughout California.

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## Central Valley

### California Senate Committee Blocks Governor's Plan to Gut Environmental Law

**Dan Bacher**

Representatives of environmental groups spoke out against the legislation at the hearing, supporting the staff recommendations to move the trailer bills to the regular policy process and to reject the flood and drought trailer bill language.

On May 25, the California Senate Budget Committee in a 3-0 vote temporarily blocked Gavin Newsom's legislative plan to gut the landmark California Environmental Quality Act and other laws in order to fast-track the construction of the environmentally destructive Delta Tunnel, Sites Reservoir and other infrastructure projects. Democratic Senators Josh Becker of San Mateo and Mike McGuire of Santa Rosa and Republican Senator Brian Dahle of Redding all voted no, citing the complexity of the legislative package submitted for last-minute consideration by Governor Newsom.

The 10 bills included measures to streamline water, transportation and clean energy projects with an eye toward helping the state meet its climate goals, according to Cal Matters. "The overwhelming agreement is that we need to build clean faster and cut green tape," said Committee Chair Becker at the hearing.

"That's been a legislative priority for me and will continue to be a legislative priority. Although today we are rejecting the governor's trailer bill proposals based on process, as seven days is insufficient to vet the hundreds of pages of policy nuance in these proposals, we look forward to working with the administration on all of these critical issues."

Representatives of environmental groups spoke out against the legislation at the hearing, supporting the staff recommendations to move the trailer bills to the regular policy process and to reject the flood and drought trailer bill language.

"These are major proposals which are very broadly targeted, may not be necessary to streamline clean energy projects and may be very inadvisable given current actions today by the Supreme Court to greatly narrow



application of the Clean Water Act,” said Deirdre Des Jardins, representing Climate Action California and California Water Research.

“This is moving in the wrong direction for protections for the environment.” “We can have a future where we rapidly decarbonize and also protect biodiversity. So we urge the Senate to completely reject the governor's proposed trailer bill language. Frankly, there was no reason to spring it on the legislature or the public so suddenly and at the end of the legislative session,” she concluded.

Doug Obegi from the Natural Resources Defense Council also said he supported the staff recommendation to reject the flood water trailer bill. “The floodwater trailer bill is opposed by a broad coalition of conservation, fishing and environmental justice groups. In addition, we strongly support the staff recommendation to reject without prejudice the trailer bills regarding infrastructure and agree that those bills should be reviewed in the policy process,” he said.

Erin Wooley, calling on behalf of Sierra Club California, testified, “Thank you for the staff recommendation to reject the administration's trailer bill proposals that would reduce environmental protections and community engagement, including the 11 infrastructure trailer bills that were introduced last week, as well as the flood streamlining trailer bill. I urge you to instead move those through the policy bill process where they can be more thoroughly analyzed and subject to public involvement and engagement.”

Barry Nelson with the Golden State Salmon Association noted that the trailer bills “have a broad range of potentially very significant impacts, including for the salmon fishing industry that is shut down this year because of disastrously low salmon populations. We're here to support your staff recommendation and send those trailer bills to policy committees where of the issues they raised can be addressed properly.”

Regina Chichizola, co-director of Save California Salmon, said, “I just wanted to urge the committee to think seriously about the funding for streamlining environmental permitting, and also funding for massive new reservoirs and water diversions. I live in a community that's a tribal community that's very impacted by the fishery and what has happened with the fishery in the last ten years. And we see a lot of these proposals coming down from the governor, including the budget proposals, as being very threatening to our way of life and to clean water in the state of California in general.”

“As you know, our water rate system is pretty broken and farmers in large ag get the majority of our water. So we feel that the committee should look very seriously at public benefits for any proposals that go around environmental laws or permitting, and also budgeting of large infrastructure projects such as private reservoirs and diversions that will mainly benefit large ag and not the general public,” she commented. In a tweet thread, Artie Valencia of Restore the Delta stated, “We completely reject the governor's trailer bill language. When it comes to complex topics like climate change, we are far-behind in making the right decisions due to negligence to their proper legislative process and review. The trailer bills will exclude the public and could lead to the privatization of groundwater.

Restore the Delta does not only oppose the-drought trailer bill, but also the judicial streamlining, delta reform act and species reclassification trailer bills. We will have a letter stating our concerns next week to you,” he said. Salmon populations collapse due to terrible fish and water management in drought The hearing took place at a time when once-thriving salmon populations are at their worst-ever crisis in California history.



Commercial and recreational salmon fishing is closed on the ocean in California and most of Oregon and in California rivers this year due to the collapse of salmon populations on the Sacramento and Klamath rivers that was caused by terrible water management during a drought, according to independent scientists and fish advocates.

The closure of salmon fishing on the ocean and rivers this year is just one example of the many fishery disasters caused by federal and state water project diversions from Central Valley reservoirs and rivers to enrich agribusiness contractors during recent drought years. In one of many fish kills that took place in 2021, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2022 published a monitoring report on 2021's spring Chinook salmon run on Butte Creek, a Sacramento River tributary, revealing that 91 percent of the adult fish died before spawning.

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The slender 2 to 3 inch fish that smells like cucumber was once the most abundant fish in the Delta. The smelt, found only in the Delta, is considered an indicator species that shows the relative health of the imperiled estuary. The results of the survey were summed up and analyzed in a memorandum from James White, environmental scientist for the CDFW's Bay Delta Region, to Erin Chappell, Regional Manager Bay Delta Region, on Dec. 29, 2022: "An absence of Delta Smelt catch in the FMWT is consistent among other surveys in the estuary," White wrote.

"The Enhanced Delta Smelt Monitoring (EDSM) survey of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) caught 3 Delta Smelt among 61 sampling days (between 9/6 and 12/15) comprised of 1,997 tows." Despite the release of many thousands of hatchery-raised Delta Smelt in Dec. 2021 and Jan., Feb. and Nov. 2022, no Delta smelt were found in any of the surveys. "On Nov. 29- 30, 2022, the Experimental Release Technical Team released 12,942 marked adult Delta Smelt from culture into the Sacramento River near Rio Vista," said White. "Neither FMWT nor EDSM caught these released Delta Smelt during December sampling."

As scientists have documented for years, the Delta smelt, salmon and other fish populations have collapsed due to state and federal government actions and policies, including the export of massive quantities of Delta and Northern California to agribusiness oligarchs in the San Joaquin Valley, the mismanagement of water flows on Central Valley rivers and dams that benefit agribusiness at enormous expense to fish and people, and the pollution of Central Valley surface and ground water by agribusiness and the powerful oil and gas industry.

Rather than gutting CEQA to expedite destructive infrastructure projects like the Delta Tunnel and Sites Reservoir, the Governor and state leaders should instead work to strengthen and enforce landmark environmental laws like CEQA and CESA, the California Endangered Species Act.

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If you think the situation with salmon, Delta smelt and other species is bad now, the Delta Tunnel and Sites Reservoir, along with the Big Ag-backed voluntary water agreements, would only make it worse.

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## Courthouse News Service

**Newsom touts plan to cut red tape and speed up green infrastructure projects**

**Natalie Hanson**

The governor said the most aggressive reforms to the development process to take place in the last 50 years will also create thousands of jobs.

PATTERSON, Calif. (CN) — California Governor Gavin Newsom announced plans Friday to reform decades-old development processes in order to get green energy projects moving — and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

Newsom visited the future site of Proxima Solar Farm in the Central Valley town of Patterson to unveil the new legislation package Friday. He said his administration is releasing new measures to reform permit and project review processes.

Newsom said the eight-bill package is designed to streamline project approval, to maximize California's federal infrastructure dollars and expedite projects to meet economic and climate goals. He said that alongside his new executive order, the state will speed up construction, clear delayed construction procurement processes and expedite judicial review for projects that have already passed environmental reviews.

The executive order presented Friday launches a strike team to accelerate clean infrastructure projects across the state by implementing a government-wide strategy for planning and development.

The governor said these are the most aggressive reforms to the development process to take place in the last 50 years, with the goal to build California's clean energy future while creating thousands of jobs.

He pointed to investments in the last two state budgets, alongside the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act, to help the state invest up to \$180 billion over the next decade in clean infrastructure. He said this could create about 400,000 new jobs.

“By streamlining permitting, cutting red tape, and allowing state agencies to use new types of contracts, these proposals will maximize taxpayer dollars and accelerate timelines of projects throughout the state, while ensuring appropriate environmental review and community engagement,” the governor said in a statement.

He is also establishing a Green Bank Financing Program within the Climate Catalyst Fund — to use federal dollars for climate projects that cut pollution, focusing on projects that benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities.



“The only way to achieve California’s world-leading climate goals is to build, build, build — faster,” Newsom said.

“This proposal is the most ambitious effort to cut red tape and streamline regulations in half a century. It’s time to make the most out of taxpayer dollars and deliver results while creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs. Not since the Pat Brown era have we had the opportunity to invest in and rebuild this state to create the clean future Californians deserve,” Newsom said, referring to California’s 32nd governor now touted as the builder of modern California.

Newsom said the goal is also to restore public trust in their government institutions amid the growing dangers from climate change.

“To recognize that urgency is not just to recognize climate change, that urgency is around actually delivering on what we promote and promise,” he said.

At the briefing, Laura Deehan, director of the advocacy group Environment California, said the state is now number one in the nation for solar power, generating enough to power five million homes.

However, she said the state needs to build enough to generate five times as much clean energy every year.

“Here in California, at least 600 species are at risk of extinction, of being lost forever,” Deehan said. “That’s why it’s crucial that we continue to uphold our strong environmental protection in California, so that we don’t make the same mistakes again.”

The state listed projects that could be streamlined including hundreds of solar, wind and battery storage projects, Proposition 1 water storage projects and the Delta Conveyance Project — which proposes modernizing the transport network of waterways comprising the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The governor’s legislation builds on efforts to reform the California Environmental Quality Act and other prior actions lawmakers have taken to streamline state laws and maximize housing production. About 20 CEQA reform bills recently became law in the state.

Newsom credited his predecessor Governor Jerry Brown — Pat Brown’s son — for his commitment to CEQA. However, he said, “It was a fault line of sorts. We can’t just keep saying no.”

The governor said he chose Proxima Solar Farm as the place to unveil the new legislation package, as it broke ground this past August and is expected to be operational by December.

The facility could power 60,000 homes in the region, and can generate up to 210 megawatts of renewable energy and 177 megawatts of battery energy storage. NextEra Energy says the project should create 300 construction jobs and generate \$35 million in local revenue.

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### KCRA 3

**Newsom announces new effort to speed up construction of environmental and transportation projects**

**KCRA Staff**

Gov. Newsom earlier this year vowed to change a law called the California Environmental Quality Act. Critics say the 1970 law has been used to block housing and public transit projects.

STANISLAUS COUNTY, Calif. — California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday announced an effort to save money and speed up the amount of time it takes to finish transportation, environmental and other infrastructure projects across California.

The governor said he has introduced nearly a dozen proposals he said would cut down on paperwork and the process to receive approval permits. He also said the effort would limit the amount of time infrastructure work is caught up in court over environmental lawsuits to no more than nine months.

Newsom also signed an executive order that directs some members of his cabinet to pick projects that should be fast-tracked. The legislative package and executive order build on Newsom's vow earlier this year to change a law called the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The law requires agencies to evaluate and disclose significant environmental effects of projects and find ways to lessen those impacts. Newsom and other critics say the 1970s law has been used to block anything from new apartments, bike lanes, California's High Speed Rail and water projects.

"We're not looking to roll anybody over. We're not looking to roll over local communities. We're not looking to roll over environmental stewardship," Newsom said at Friday's announcement at a future solar farm and renewable energy storage facility in Stanislaus County.

Restore the Delta, an advocacy group that is opposed to the Delta tunnel project, released a statement Friday lambasting the governor.

"Governor Newsom does not respect the people in communities that need environmental protection," said the group's executive director, Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla. "We have never been more disappointed in a California Governor than we are with Governor Newsom. We have repeatedly given him the benefit of the doubt."

Sports stadiums have been able to bypass CEQA's hurdles to be quickly constructed, including the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento and SoFi Stadium in Southern California.

Newsom said he's trying to use similar strategies to transportation and climate work. "I love sports. I take a backseat to nobody on sports, but I also love roads; I love transit; I love bridges; I love clean energy projects," the governor said. "It's not just about stadiums, and we've proven we can get it done for stadiums, so why the hell can't we translate that to all of these other projects?"



Newsom noted Friday he wants to pick up the pace on efforts to expand access to broadband internet, the construction of a reservoir in Northern California, and other projects that have been proposed but are waiting for permits to begin construction. Housing was left out of the governor's proposal because Newsom's administration said climate and infrastructure projects are eligible for federal money.

Speeding up the timeline on those projects makes them more competitive for funds. Newsom noted some parts of his plan could have benefits to housing construction, and said several other efforts are underway in the Legislature to speed up housing production. Newsom's administration late Friday filed 11 bills that are referred to as "budget trailer bills" to map out the plan.

Specifically, Newsom's office said the bills would streamline the construction procurement process, authorize an expedited judicial review to avoid delays from legal challenges, streamline permitting and establish a green bank financing program to leverage federal money for climate projects. Republican lawmakers on Friday said they were cautiously optimistic.

"I hope he's serious about this because if he is, Central California, the state as a whole is going to see some improvements," said Assemblyman Jim Patterson, R-Fresno.

The governor is proposing to pass the set of proposals through the state's budget process, which would speed up the timeline, but have a less thorough public review process than what typical policy proposals go through at the state capitol. If successful, the Legislature would pass his plan in June, and the new rules would take effect immediately.

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## **Manteca Bulletin**

### **Newsom's vow to ram tunnel project thru bigger threat to Delta than climate change Dennis Wyatt**

Either the science is wrong or Gov. Gavin Newsom has no idea of what he is doing.

On Friday, to much fanfare, Newsom, vowed to fast track water and green projects.

That means cutting off the boa constrictor like tentacles of the California Environmental Quality Act enacted into law in 1970. It has since morphed beyond its original intent thanks to the ever expanding blob known as the state bureaucracy, court decisions, and subsequent sessions of the California Legislature.

Newsom, like any politician worth their salt, isn't allowing a good disaster go to waste.

Citing drought-related issues and climate change, Newsom wants to gut the bloated approval process CEQA has created.

This includes a dubious \$20 billion or more endeavor known as the Delta Tunnel.



It's been called other things over the years.

In 1951, when a 40-year-old engineering dream outlined by Lt. Robert B. Marshal of the United States Geological Survey started rolling forward in earnest, it was called a Delta Cross Channel.

Then in 1982 when environmentalists and farmers joined forces to help voters send a ballot measure funding such a project down in flames, it was called the Peripheral Canal.

It was resurrected in 2009 as the Twin Tunnels before Newsom in 2019 made it a seemingly less draconian project in a bid to get everyone to swallow the medicine for California's ills. It is an idea hatched 72 years ago by development that you could argue set the stage to set manmade climate change into overdrive in the Golden State.

No single act of man has transformed California and its growth more than the Central Valley Water Project and the State Water Project, of which a Delta conveyance is the crowning act. Newsom believes sea levels are rising.

The science — and earth's cyclical ocean history — confirms it.

The only disputed aspect is how fast and how soon.

There are those that say it will happen over the course of hundreds of years.

There are others — including Newsom — that align with the models that show the clock is ticking down to 70 years or less.

And days before Newsom vowed to become the man that bureaucratic red tape fears the most, the strong prospect of the advent of another major El Nino prompted the sooner-than-later crowds to lop decades off of their projection.

One would assume that a 10-foot rise in the sea level would devastate the California coast.

Guess again. It would impact it no doubt.

But the amount of land area involved is a mere drop in a gallon of water compared to what devastation awaits the Delta and areas including Stockton, Sacramento, Natomas, Weston Ranch, Tracy, Lathrop, and parts of Manteca.

Also on a much bigger hit list — but significantly less than the Delta — than the coast is the San Francisco Bay south of the Bay Bridge to San Jose.

Go to interactive maps and see for yourself. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is a good site.

Even better is the [climatecentral.org](http://climatecentral.org) site that is ironically what Newsom's own administration has put in place. How does diverting 4.5 million acre feet of water from the Delta via a bypass tunnel protect the Delta or more than a million people from Sacramento to Lathrop? It doesn't.



If anything, the absence of fresh water to push back against rising seawater will aggravate the situation.

The “cross channel” was never about managing anyone’s water except imports from the north state the Los Angeles Basin takes and large swaths of corporate farms use on questionable soil in the southwest portion of the San Joaquin Valley. It creates no more water storage.

What it does is remove 4.5 million acre feet of water from the Delta ecological system each year with the “project” ability to take another 400,000 acre feet, and a design capacity to divert much more.

That 4.5 million acre feet of fresh water would be replaced by only two things: \*4.5 million acre feet of seawater.

\*or upwards of 4.5 million acre feet of water from San Joaquin Valley Basin with the most likely targets being the combined watershed of the Stanislaus, Merced, and Tuolumne rivers.

Either option helps devastate the Northern San Joaquin valley counties of Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin.

That means the most eminent as well as clear and present danger to California from the sea reclaiming land in the Delta is Newsom and not climate change.

Research by scientists shows increased salinity will devastate ecological systems and push endangered fish species to the brink. It also will increase salt water intrusion into aquifers that cities such as Tracy, Lathrop, and Stockton depend on as well as that of farmers.

This means sacrificing the Delta and the economic prosperity and viability of Central California cities just so Los Angeles wouldn’t have to pay for unsightly, expensive desalinization plants that will impact a speck of the environment compared to the Delta damage in order to have adequate water supplies.

In the end, so wealthier coastal cities and corporate farmers can prosper, Newsom is pursuing a path where the most vulnerable and poorest region of the state — the San Joaquin Valley — will be sacrificed. Is Newsom doing this deliberately?

Highly doubtful. But Newsom is doing California no favor by buying into a 112-year-old idea forged in an era when clear cutting redwoods and draining the state’s largest lake — Tulare — was considered progressive.

Why not a barrier system — with locks and fish ladders — that protects the flow of water bound for LA, protects the environment and addresses rising sea levels at the same time. As it stands now, Newsom is cheerleading a Delta solution born in the heyday of environmental destruction and is highly likely to exacerbate issues dealing with climate change as opposed to protecting the environment from them.

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## **myMotherLode.com**

### **Republicans Praise Newsom's Call For CEQA Reforms**

**B.J. Hansen**

Sacramento, CA — California Governor Gavin Newsom is calling for significant reforms to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to speed up the construction of projects like roads, bridges and water infrastructure.

CEQA was signed into law in 1970 as a tool to protect natural resources, but over the years critics have argued that it has become too easy for opposition groups to use it as a mechanism to unnecessarily slow or halt development projects. Often times projects are held up in court to the point that they are no longer cost-effective.

The Governor's plan includes streamlining review processes, expediting court reviews, speeding up permitting, and addressing other "cumbersome CEQA processes across the board."

Newsom says, "This proposal is the most ambitious effort to cut red tape and streamline regulations in half a century."

Specifics are sparse, but the Governor will be releasing more details over the coming weeks.

He added, "If we get nothing else done in the next three years, this may be one of the most consequential things that we can actually deliver."

California Republicans, who regularly argue for CEQA reforms, are embracing the Governor's statements.

Mother Lode District 8 Assemblymember, Jim Patterson, says, "I hope he is serious about this, because if he is, Central California, and the state as a whole, is going to see some improvements and good jobs. Sites (Reservoir) will be under construction, our roads, highways and streets will be improved, and we'll see broadband and high-speed internet."

Patterson added, "I hope he is as good as his press conference, and as good as his press release. Because, sometimes, he says things that don't come true. I hope he is serious about this."

Senate GOP Minority Caucus Chair, Janet Nguyen, noted, "California Senate Republicans have been at the forefront of the CEQA reform movement for years. As evidenced by our extensive legislative track record, we are eager to move California forward in this arena so we can build more housing, water storage, and sensible infrastructure projects in a reasonable timeframe and without costly settlements."

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## **Recordnet.com**

### **Newsom's Delta Tunnel speed-up plan could hurt region's fishing, farming, critics say**

**Mike Hagerty**



*California's long-discussed "Delta tunnels" project is on the front-burner again. Congressman Josh Harder said Newsom's plan is a Trojan horse for a "disastrous water grab that would send our water to Beverly Hills."*

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on May 19 a plan to build out California's clean and green future faster, but some local leaders aren't thrilled with what it could mean for the controversial Delta Tunnel project.

Newsom and the state Department of Water Resources have shown support for the \$16 billion project to convey water from the Delta down to southern California, a concept tossed around since the 1980s. The current iteration downsizes the project from two tunnels to one.

The governor hopes to speed up construction, expedite court reviews, streamline permitting and California Environmental Quality Act processes and start a climate projects financing program — all to expedite clean infrastructure projects across the state.

"The only way to achieve California's world-leading climate goals is to build, build, build — faster," Newsom said. "This proposal is the most ambitious effort to cut red tape and streamline regulations in half a century. It's time to make the most out of taxpayer dollars and deliver results while creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs."

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director at Restore the Delta, said the current draft environmental impact report for the Delta Tunnel is "totally inadequate ... the worst environmental impact report version we've seen," and a revised or completed report is to be submitted by December.

Restore the Delta says a more realistic estimate for the Delta Tunnel is \$50 to \$60 billion when it's all said and done. Environmental groups have sued to stop the project.

"(Newsom is) just going to revise the rules by executive order or fiat, and we're tired of it ... it is a real pattern with this governor," Barrigan-Parrilla told The Record. "(It's) 'we have new rules, and we don't have to adjust for these concerns or standards, so we're just going to do the project and say it's about securing a water future for California.'"

The consequences could be dire for the Delta region, Barrigan-Parrilla said, including the multi-billion-dollar local fishery and ag industries. Hundreds of wildlife and plant species — including the Delta smelt and the endangered Chinook salmon — would risk decimation or extinction without a habitat with adequate amounts of water. Not to mention in years like this year, where water is in surplus, there's no place to put extra water in southern California, Barrigan-Parrilla said.

"(The Delta Tunnel) means the fisheries die, it means we're surrounded by harmful algal blooms and stagnant, polluted water," Barrigan-Parrilla said. "It's not a climate project ... that's not justice. That's not following the rule of law."

Congressman Josh Harder (D-Tracy) said in a statement he's all for speeding up transportation and water infrastructure projects, but he sees Newsom's plan as a Trojan horse to fast-track a "disastrous water grab that would send our water to Beverly Hills."



“We are not fooled. Our community has spoken up time and time again that this is a bad project,” Harder said in a statement. “Sacramento politicians are now trying to change the rules to build the tunnel against our wishes. We will fight this tooth and nail.”

State Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua (D-Stockton) said in a statement he'll continue to “strongly oppose” any attempt at a water grab through conveyance projects, especially without appropriate review.

“Expediting this water grab in the name of ‘building a clean future’ is nothing short of ironic,” Villapudua said in a statement. “Rather, this will expedite the demise of a fragile water supply and put the entire ecosystem at risk.”

For the past decade, officials have pursued water projects in drought-prone California. Another would be a massive new reservoir near the tiny community of Sites in Northern California that could store more water during deluges — like the series of atmospheric rivers that hit the state earlier this year — for delivery to farmers. The Sites Reservoir is still trying to acquire necessary permits to begin construction.

One key proposal is to limit the amount of time it takes to resolve environmental lawsuits to about nine months. Newsom said his administration is “not looking to roll over anybody,” including what he called the “fierce champions” of environmental stewardship.

“I mean, nine months, you can have a kid, OK? I mean that's a long time,”

Newsom said Friday while visiting the site of a future solar farm in Stanislaus County. Newsom says California has hundreds of billions of dollars to spend on infrastructure projects over the next decade, the result of voter-approved bonds, bountiful budget surpluses during the pandemic and an influx of federal cash from President Joe Biden’s infrastructure bill. But he said the state is often too slow to approve those projects and that the federal money is “going to other states that are moving more aggressively.”

Newsom said his proposals could shorten how long it takes to build projects by more than three years. His office said the legislation would allow various state agencies, including the Department of Transportation, to more quickly approve projects and issue permits.

Newsom also signed an executive order on Friday creating what he called an “infrastructure strike team” to identify fast-track projects. Jerry Brown, executive director of the Sites Project Authority that is overseeing the new reservoir, said he thinks Newsom's proposals could allow construction to start a year early, saving about \$100 million.

“That saves a lot of money and gets a lot of jobs in the pipeline,” he said. Newsom wants the legislation to be part of the state's budget, which must be passed before the end of June. That means, if approved, it could take effect sooner and would only require a majority vote of the Democratic-controlled Legislature. Toni Atkins, a Democrat from San Diego and the leader of the state Senate, said “the climate crisis requires that we move faster to build and strengthen critical infrastructure,” adding that lawmakers will “ensure we can do so responsibly, and in line with California's commitment to high road jobs and environmental protection.”



Some Republicans cheered Newsom's proposal, with Republican Senate Leader Brian Jones saying the governor "is finally taking action." Others were more skeptical, with Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher saying Democrats in the Legislature are the biggest obstacle to Newsom's proposals.

"Gavin Newsom loves to brag that he can 'jam' Democratic lawmakers. Let's see it," Gallagher said. "Republicans are ready to work with him towards real reforms."

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## San Francisco Chronicle

### Newsom takes on the CEQA beast, proposes expediting transit, climate projects Dustin Gardener

After years of expressing alarm about the limits California's sweeping environmental laws put on new construction, Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday finally released a plan to wrangle the CEQA beast.

"I mean, nine months, you can have a kid. That's a long time. You can even have twins after nine months," Newsom said during a news conference.

"Beyond that, you start getting the abuse process. Delays start becoming denials. We have a lot at stake." While key details of the plan have not been released, what Newsom is describing could amount to the most significant reform of the landmark California Environmental Quality Act in decades.

Newsom said the law, commonly known as CEQA, has too often delayed projects that would significantly benefit the state's efforts to combat climate change and improve transportation systems.

He unveiled the plan at the site of a future solar farm in the Central Valley, where he was surrounded by union workers in orange construction vests and hard hats. CEQA — pronounced as "seek-wuh" — is a landmark environmental law signed in 1970 by then-Gov. Ronald Reagan.

It requires public agencies and local governments to study the significant environmental impacts of a building project before approving it. But the scope of the law has expanded greatly over the decades since, often through court rulings that require public agencies to consider the health impacts of growth, such as noise and traffic.

State lawmakers and Newsom have passed more than 20 bills to reform CEQA in recent years. But as the governor hinted, those bills have often been carve-outs that benefit pet projects, such as sports arenas in the Bay Area or Los Angeles, or a limited type of construction.

Newsom noted that California stands to benefit from \$180 billion in funding for infrastructure projects over the next decade, including federal and state funding, the most significant government investment of its kind since the 1950s. But he said he including he worries the state could "screw it up" without a paradigm shift.



The governor said he would present the Legislature with 11 draft bills on Friday outlining his proposal, measures that he wants to tack onto the state's budget, which lawmakers must approve by June 15 or go without pay. In addition to CEQA reform, Newsom said the bills will expedite the timeline for receiving some building permits, create a special fund to support climate Newsom climate projects and reduce paperwork needed for construction.

Among the projects that could benefit, according to Newsom's office: solar, wind and battery storage; regional rail lines; bridges; water storage projects, such as the proposed Sites Reservoir in the Sacramento Valley; the Delta Conveyance Project, abridges; along-awaited mega tunnel to carry water south; and wildlife crossings along the Interstate 15 corridor. long-Newsom stressed that the cost and time that it takes to build major infrastructure projects in California — such as the long-embattled project to build a bullet train from San Francisco to Anaheim — has harmed taxpayer faith in government, as well as embattled efforts to reduce planet-warming emissions.

“What if we had these principles before we laid out (plans for high-speed rail)?” Newsom said of the project that has been “bedeviled by CEQA lawsuits as its estimated cost has ballooned from \$33 billion to \$128 billion. “I may not have had to drive bedeviled drive down here today. I may have been on that rail.”

But Newsom needs the Legislature's support in order to pass his proposed overhaul, which his office said will have an urgency clause so it could take effect immediately upon his signature.

On that front, the governor could face some major headwinds in Sacramento. Attempts to reform CEQA have faced fervent opposition from some labor unions and environmentalists. Defenders of the law argue it protects low-income and opposition and disadvantaged communities from harmful development and that CEQA has become a scapegoat for the housing shortage when disadvantaged when many other factors fueled the crisis. Newsom said his administration spent more than a year carefully crafting its proposal to ensure it would ease many of those Newsom THOSE concerns.

“We're not looking to roll over local communities, we're not looking to roll over environmental stewardship and those that are out there as fierce champions,” he said as union workers around him cheered. “And we sure as hell ain't ever going to roll over out over... all of our brothers and sisters in labor.”

“The climate crisis requires that we move faster to build and strengthen critical infrastructure. We look forward to working with our colleagues in the Assembly and Administration to ensure we can do so responsibly, and in line with California with California's commitment to high road jobs and environmental protection.”

But the governor did secure some early GOP support.

In a statement, Senate Minority Leader Brian Jones, R-Santee (San Diego County), said his caucus was “thrilled that Gov. Newsom is finally taking action.” Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher, of Yuba City (Sutter County), prodded Democrats with a similar sentiment: “Gavin Newsom loves to brag that he can ‘jam’ Democratic lawmakers. Let's see it.

Complaints about CEQA have hit fever pitch in recent years, especially as California sinks deeper into a housing crisis. For many housing advocates and others, the concern is that CEQA has become a guise to file lawsuits to challenge projects over many overconcerns that are largely unrelated to the environment.



They say the law has been hijacked by neighbors opposed to housing concerns housing and other development.

The main piece of Newsom's CEQA proposal, to prohibit lawsuits from delaying projects for more than 270 days, would not apply to housing projects. Newsom said other pieces related to permit approvals and document requirements related to CEQ apply CEQ would benefit housing projects, however.

"We've done a lot of work on housing," Newsom said, noting that he hopes to sign other housing-related bills before the legislature this year. "Tremendous progress has been made in that space."

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## San Francisco News & Review

Newsom's war with California environmental groups keeps Sacramento County in its cross-hairs

**Dan Bacher**

'We have never been more disappointed in a California Governor than we are with Governor Newsom'

At the site of a future solar farm in the Central Valley, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a legislative package and signed an executive order that conservationists say would gut the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA, in order to expedite the construction of embattled public projects, including the Delta Tunnel and Sites Reservoir.

This move from Newsom a week-and-a-half ago drew strong condemnation from the state's environmental groups. Yesterday, the Senate budget committee temporarily blocked his plan in a 3-0 vote. But Newsom's executive order is still in effect.

Widely seen as a landmark law, CEQA is something the construction industry, Big Ag, Big Oil and special interest groups have been trying to eviscerate for years. Now they're getting help from Newsom, who has taken campaign contributions from most of those industries. Critics of CEQA argue that changing it would shorten the contracting process for bridge and water projects, limit timelines for environmental litigation and simplify permitting for complicated developments in the Delta and elsewhere throughout California.

"The only way to achieve California's world-leading climate goals is to build, build, build – faster," Newsom claimed. "This proposal is the most ambitious effort to cut red tape and streamline regulations in half a century. It's time to make the most out of taxpayer dollars and deliver results while creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs. Not since the Pat Brown era have we had the opportunity to invest in and rebuild this state to create the clean future Californians deserve."

The governor went on to insist that the measures will "facilitate and streamline project approval" and completion to maximize California's share of federal infrastructure dollars, as well as expedite the implementation of projects that meet the state's ambitious economic, climate, and social goals."

Newsom's widely-criticized announcement followed a recent report urging "permitting reform" from Infrastructure Advisor to California, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and California Forward. Together, these proposals could: "cut project timelines by more than three years, save businesses and state and local governments



hundreds of millions of dollars, and reduce paperwork by hundreds of thousands of pages,” according to the governor.

Newsom also signed an executive order to stand up a “strike team” to accelerate clean infrastructure projects across the state by implementing an all-of-government strategy for planning and development. The “water-related projects” that would be subject to the new “streamlined process” include the controversial Delta Tunnel, which would trigger wide-spread eminent domain seizures by the state against Sacramento County property owners, as well as the demolition of historic properties.

Advocates for fish, water and the environment responded with outrage over Newsom’s infrastructure plan. “Governor Newsom does not respect the people in communities that need environmental protection,” said Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla of Restore the Delta.

“During the drought, he used emergency rules to destroy Delta water quality and fisheries for tribes and fishing communities. He has now proposed in the May revised budget to subvert rules during flood further weakening water quality protections.” She added, “He raided funding from the San Joaquin Valley drinking water program budget to pay for needed flood protections, pitting region against region, disadvantaged community against disadvantaged community, as he did during the drought, pitting drinking water solutions against tribal and Delta environmental justice community needs for freshwater flows ... Now he wants to do away with standard environmental protections to build the Delta tunnel. We have never been more disappointed in a California Governor than we are with Governor Newsom.”

Defenders of Wildlife also blasted Newsom’s move. “These trailer bills establish a dangerous precedent for imperiled wildlife in California,” said Ashley Overhouse, water policy advisor with Defenders of Wildlife. “This policy change, announced on Endangered Species Day of all days, is exclusionary, undemocratic and could spell disaster for the San Francisco Bay Delta estuary.”

Delta advocates went on to point out one of the Governor’s trailer bills would have stripped the Greater sandhill crane of protected species status. “Ironically on Endangered Species Day, [Governor Newsom] proposes budget trailer bill stripping greater sandhill cranes of fully protected species status to pave way for Delta Tunnel boondoggle,” Delta United observed on social media.

“Sad day for our majestic cranes.” The Newsom Administration’s latest dust-up with conservationists comes on the heels of an unprecedented destruction of California fish populations at the service of Big Ag billionaires. Salmon are at their worst-ever crisis in California history at this time.

Commercial and recreational salmon fishing is closed on the ocean in California and most of Oregon and in California rivers this year due to the collapse of salmon populations on the Sacramento and Klamath rivers. Independent scientists generally agree this was caused by how the state manages water during a drought.

In one of many fish kills that took place in 2021, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife published a monitoring report on Butte Creek, a Sacramento River tributary, revealing that 91 percent of the adult fish died before spawning.

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## The Center Square

**'We are thrilled,' say Republicans as Newsom announces permitting reform**  
**Ria Roebuck Joseph**

At a site in the Central Valley earmarked for solar energy generation, Governor Gavin Newsom introduced California's most ambitious measures on clean energy infrastructure.

Acting on a recently released report, the permitting and project reforms propose to streamline project approvals for the state's climate, economic and social goals while taking advantage of California's full share of federal dollars for green infrastructure creation.

Senate Republicans are celebrating the governor's announcement last Friday.

"California Senate Republicans have been advocating for CEQA reform for years. We are thrilled that Governor Newsom is finally taking action." Senate Minority Leader Brian W. Jones said in a released statement.

The Infrastructure Acceleration Report from Infrastructure Advisor to the State of California, Antonio Villaraigosa, California Forward, and the Boston Consulting Group, released on May 18 said "to achieve the utmost value for our infrastructure spending, significant and substantial regulatory and governance reform is necessary ... Average infrastructure project time can be significantly reduced by building a new governance model and streamlining processes, permitting, and approvals for project delivery."

The Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and \$50 billion in state funding, together create a \$180 billion clean infrastructure fund for the next 10 years. By eliminating red tape regulations and streamlining permitting through a process of developing new contracts, the state can shorten project timelines by as much as 3 years.

Newsom noted, "This proposal is the most ambitious effort to cut red tape and streamline regulations in half a century. It's time to make the most out of taxpayer dollars and deliver results while creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs. Not since the Pat Brown era have we had the opportunity to invest in and rebuild this state to create the clean future Californians deserve."

Faster permitting and governance reform means projects will be built faster with the potential for 400,000 construction jobs to be realized.

Senate Republicans have been advocating for CEQA reform for a decade and have proposed more than 33 bills to the California legislature. None of the bills were adopted by the Democrat majority although many addressed the same concerns now advised in the report, including climate considerations, social equity and infrastructure.

The report seems to echo the objectives of some of the bills brought by Republican legislators over the years, but these bills were never heard in committee. A list of projects that could be streamlined, named by the governor, in solar, wind, and battery storage projects, maintenance and bridge projects, transit and regional rail construction, semiconductor fabrication plants, as well as water projects like the Delta Conveyance Project and storage facilities also appears to be in tandem with the objectives of past bills introduced by Republican legislators.



“California Senate Republicans have been at the forefront of the CEQA reform movement for years,” said Senate Minority Caucus Chair Nguyen.

The report also advised the formation of an Infrastructure Strike Team which Newsom accomplished by executive order to “track the status of individual projects ..as they move through design, permitting and construction phases, and use common metrics to measure progress and identify opportunities for streamlining government operations.”

The Strike Team will create working groups focused on transportation, energy, hydrogen, environmental remediation, broadband, water, the CHIPS and Science Act, and zero-emission vehicles.

The pairing of the legislative package and the governor’s executive order amends California law, authorizes expedited judicial review, reduces project timeframes and costs, streamlines the CEQA processes and establishes a Green Bank Financing Program that benefits low-income and disadvantaged communities through pollution-cutting climate projects.

“We support his commitment to help build more housing and infrastructure projects. We remain eager to collaborate with the governor and our colleagues across the aisle in a bipartisan manner to fix California with solutions that address our state’s myriad issues ranging from homelessness to housing to water infrastructure,” said Leader Jones.

It is not clear whether the proposed reforms extend to private construction as well. Newsom’s release referred to “state agencies” and “taxpayer dollars.”

Also in doubt is whether Senate Republicans will be heard and allowed to contribute to reform efforts. Still they remain optimistic.

“As evidenced by our extensive legislative track record, we are eager to move California forward in this arena so we can build more housing, water storage, and sensible infrastructure projects in a reasonable timeframe and without costly settlements,” Nguyen stated.

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## **The Independent**

### **Polls Shows Voters Favor Delta Water Project**

Californians for Water Security, a coalition group that backs a proposal to modernize the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta water-distribution system, including a new tunnel under the Sacramento Rive Delta, released the results of a statewide poll last week showing that 76% of voters support the project.

The project would also include upgrading the pumps and levees used for distributing water from the Sierra Nevada mountain range to homes, farms, and businesses throughout the state. Two-thirds of the state’s water flows through the State Water Project operated by the California Department of Water Resources.



“Californians are saying loud and clear: it’s time to move forward with the Delta Conveyance Project to improve the reliability of our state’s water supply,” said Jennifer Pierre, general manager of the State Water Contractors, a coalition member.

Coalition members say the distribution system is aging, vulnerable to natural disasters, and must be updated to better protect against climate change.

“The local infrastructure that supplies water to two-thirds of our state is in serious need of modernization and is more vulnerable than ever due to the impacts of extreme weather and climate change,” said Charles Wilson, executive director of the Southern California Water Coalition. “As this poll shows, Californians know the Delta Conveyance Project is the right project at the right time to help ensure the State Water Project can continue to meet California’s water needs into the future.”

The poll, conducted by FM3 Research in early February, surveyed 1,099 likely California voters, with a reported 3.1% margin of error.

According to the poll, 76% of the respondents said they support the project, including 40% who say they strongly support it, after reading a description of the proposal. Only 13% said they opposed the project.

The strongest support, 81%, came from Los Angeles County, with 73% of respondents from the Bay Area in favor of the project. Democrats were more likely to support the project than Republicans, 81% to 65%.

The poll did not provide any cost estimates or timeline for the project. For more information, please visit: [www.watersecurityca.com](http://www.watersecurityca.com).

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## **The Mendocino Beacon**

**Gov. Newsom looks to spend \$180 billion on infrastructure, speed through lawsuits**  
**Ethan Baron**

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday announced plans to accelerate the construction of \$180 billion worth of infrastructure for transportation, water, green energy and broadband internet over the next decade by cutting red tape and slashing the time opponents can fight the government in court.

Newsom promised that the work would create more than 400,000 jobs and assist the state in achieving its climate-protection goals. The infrastructure investments, using federal and state funds, would eclipse those of the 1950s and '60s “that helped build the great middle class in the state of California and America,” Newsom said.

His massive spending plan comes as the state faces a projected \$32 billion deficit in its operating budget, mostly separate from capital project spending.



“We’ve got to do more, and we’ve got to do better,” Newsom said, surrounded by union leaders and workers at a news conference in Stanislaus County. “The question is, ‘Are we going to screw it up by being consumed by paralysis and process?’”

The governor’s plans to expedite certain projects drew immediate blowback, including from the Sierra Club, which said they wouldn’t solve California’s persistent water-management issues.

Newsom signed an executive order that creates an inter-agency “infrastructure strike team” charged with maximizing “federal and state funding opportunities.” State Department of Finance documents cite potential federal funding sources along with state funds reflected in Newsom’s latest proposed budget. He said 11 state bills would play vital roles in accomplishing his goals.

A key part of the plan, which would require legislative approval, is a nine-month time limit on lawsuits by opponents wielding the contentious California Environmental Quality Act — best known as a flashpoint in state-wide battles over housing development — that mandates detailed environmental reviews. CEQA, which is also given credit for helping preserve California’s natural beauty, has proven stubbornly resistant to change since it became law in 1970.

The CEQA-litigation cap would be public-infrastructure specific and only apply to projects relating to “water, clean transportation, clean energy, and semiconductor or microelectronic research and development facilities,” according to Newsom’s proposed legislation. A fact sheet issued by the state finance department said the proposal would not change CEQA requirements for public engagement, consideration of alternatives or imposition of mitigation measures.

“We’re not looking to roll over anybody,” Newsom said. “We’re not looking to roll over local communities. We’re not looking to roll over environmental stewardship and those that are out there as fierce champions.”

Exactly what infrastructure could be built is not fully clear. Newsom referred to roads, bridges, high-speed rail and the proposed multi-billion-dollar Sites Reservoir in Colusa County northeast of Clear Lake. The executive order highlights clean energy, modernizing the power grid, providing broadband to those without it, job training, domestic computer-chip manufacturing, mass transit, electric-car supports and permanently strengthening “California’s water resiliency.”

The fact sheet issued Friday by Newsom’s office also mentions wildlife crossings. And it says the plan includes streamlining regulation and reviews to hasten construction of the Delta Conveyance, a long-planned, much-debated multi-billion-dollar tunnel project to make it easier to move water from northern to Southern California.

Laura Deehan, the director of non-profit Environment California, took the podium before Newsom and said the environmental community was “ready to work with the governor and the legislature” on speeding the transition to clean energy.

But the director of the heavyweight Sierra Club of California, Brandon Dawson, on Friday described both the Delta Conveyance and Sites Reservoir plans as “bad for the environment.” Dawson said the developments would not “solve California’s long-term water management issues” and would have “significant environmental consequences for their surrounding communities.”



Dawson said there was “no doubt” California needs more clean energy and transportation and increased water resiliency. His organization noted that Newsom’s plan could create “environmentally friendly” solar, wind, battery storage, clean transportation and wildlife crossing projects.

However, Dawson said “that infrastructure can’t be built without the input of the communities it will exist in.” Restore the Delta, a Stockton-based non-profit that advocates for keeping water in the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta and has long fought state tunnel plans for water movement from north to south, immediately attacked Newsom over the proposal to limit CEQA litigation.

“He has no real water-management plan to deal with extended drought and flood extremes to meet our climate reality but instead is choosing to continue with failed ideas from the past to appease his big-dollar agriculture donors,” said Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, a committee member for the group, who accused the governor of “destroying protective standards by executive order and legislative fiat.”

State Water Contractors, a group of cities and water districts that receive Delta water, applauded what it believes Newsom’s plans will deliver. “Completing the projects that will ensure our ability to responsibly capture, store, release, deliver, recycle and desalinate water throughout California isn’t just smart planning, it is a climate-change imperative,” said the organization’s general manager, Jennifer Pierre.

Newsom’s “infrastructure strike team” will coordinate and facilitate projects and operate public “dashboards” for tracking progress, according to his executive order. The potential federal funding includes money from the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the 2022 CHIPS and Science Act.

Regarding California’s under-funded and politically divisive high-speed rail project, Newsom said, “What if we had these principles before we laid out that project? I may not have had to drive down here today.”

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## The Sacramento Bee

### In Patterson, Newsom rolls out plan to fast-track infrastructure projects in California John Holland and Maggie Angst

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday signed an executive order laying the groundwork for a bold plan to expedite transportation, water, clean energy and other major infrastructure projects across California.

“This is about addressing the issues of our time,” Newsom said during a briefing at the site of a future solar farm in Stanislaus County. “We’re here to assert ourselves a different paradigm, to commit ourselves to results and prove that we can actually do more with taxpayer money.” Newsom’s plan — made up of 11 budget trailer bills and an executive order — comes amid an influx of federal funding for infrastructure projects. California is also poised to spend as much as \$180 billion on new infrastructure over the next decade, Newsom said.

The governor wants to make sure delays associated with permitting and the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA, don’t get in the way. CEQA was signed into law by Gov. Ronald Reagan in 1970 as a way to protect natural resources and the environment from negative consequences of development.



But, over time, critics have blamed the law for bogging down long-sought housing, transportation and energy projects.

The governor's plan does not make substantial changes to the statute but aims to prevent projects from being dragged out during lengthy legal and permitting processes. It would broaden similar procedures in California that helped to substantially fast-track the completion of major NBA stadiums like Sacramento's Golden 1 Center and San Francisco's Chase Center.

"I love sports," Newsom said. "But I also love roads. I love transit. I love bridges. And I love clean energy projects like the one we're seeing here."

Some of the projects that could benefit from the governor's proposal include transit construction, bridge maintenance, Sites Reservoir and the Delta Conveyance Project — the state's solution for repairing its aging water delivery system from the north.

The proposal would prevent lawsuits involving certain climate and transportation projects from lasting more than nine months. And ultimately, Newsom said, he hopes to reduce that time span to just six months.

The bills also include several tweaks to CEQA to streamline procedures around record retention and accelerate permitting for such projects, Newsom said.

Through an executive order, Newsom instructed a slew of public agencies to stand up a strike team tasked with working on a plan to accelerate clean infrastructure projects across the state. The governor wants to incorporate the package of legislation into next year's budget. The Legislature has until June 15 to pass the budget, and the governor must sign budget-related bills before July 1.

Newsom unveiled his plan by standing in front of dozens of laborers at the future site of Proxima Solar Farm near Patterson. The project, which is expected to be up and running by the end of the year, could power up to 60,000 homes and generate hundreds of megawatts of clean energy and battery energy storage.

Also in attendance was former Los Angeles mayor and California infrastructure adviser Antonio Villaraigosa, who said he had been working with the governor's team on this effort since becoming an adviser in August.

"Our legislative partners have to review this, but I think almost everybody agrees: You put a man or a woman back to work and in good middle-class jobs, you change a life," Villaraigosa said.

Newsom's plan quickly garnered support across the aisle. Senate Minority Leader Brian W. Jones, R-San Diego, and Senate Minority Caucus Chair Janet Nguyen, R-Huntington Beach, said in statements that they were both eager to work with the governor to reform CEQA.

"California Senate Republicans have been advocating for CEQA reform for years," Jones said in a statement. "... We remain eager to collaborate with the governor and our colleagues across the aisle in a bipartisan manner to fix California with solutions that address our state's myriad issues ranging from homelessness to housing to water infrastructure."



Absent from Newsom's announcement were any major changes to address concerns that CEQA is being used by some California homeowners and anti-housing NIMBYs — a term that stands for "Not in my backyard" — to legally challenge and delay housing projects they oppose.

After a Feb. 24 state court ruled that UC Berkeley violated CEQA in its plans to build a new student and homeless housing project, Newsom said the law was being "held hostage by NIMBYs" and vowed to work with lawmakers to change it. He has not elaborated since then.

On Thursday, Newsom changed his tune, saying the state had made "tremendous progress in this space." He celebrated some of the more modest CEQA overhaul bills that he signed last year and said he was looking forward to signing other bills introduced this year by lawmakers to ease the housing crisis.

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## **The San Diego-Union Tribune**

### **Gov. Newsom unveils sweeping plan to speed up California infrastructure projects**

**Liam Dillon, Hannah Wiley**

Surrounded by hard hat-wearing construction workers at a solar energy project in the Central Valley, Gov. Gavin Newsom unveiled a sweeping package of legislation and signed an executive order Friday to make it easier to build transportation, clean energy and water infrastructure across California. The governor said the proposal intends to cut through bureaucratic hurdles that have stymied grand public works projects and will help California capitalize on an infusion of money from the Biden administration to boost climate-friendly construction.

Newsom's proposal aims to shorten the contracting process for bridge and water projects, limit timelines for environmental litigation and simplify permitting for complicated developments in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and elsewhere.

Altogether, administration officials hope the package could speed up project construction by more than three years and reduce costs by hundreds of millions of dollars — efforts they say are necessary to achieve the state's aggressive climate goals.

But it quickly garnered criticism both for going too far in weakening the state's environmental protections and not far enough because it limits proposed reforms to select projects.

Newsom characterized the proposal as essential to restoring trust that government can improve people's lives, especially under the threat of climate change.

"The question is, are we going to screw it up by being consumed by paralysis and process?" Newsom said. "We're here to assert a different paradigm, to commit ourselves to results."

Newsom's effort is the latest foray in decades-long debates over quickening the state's sluggish process for building major infrastructure. Major reforms have often failed amid disagreement by environmental, development, local government and labor interests that are influential at the Capitol.



Newsom's plan consists of 11 bills that he wants to fold into the 2023-24 state budget, which must pass the Legislature by June 15. Lawmakers are currently negotiating the final details of the fiscal blueprint with Newsom's office.

State Senate Leader Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) said she agreed with Newsom's goals but was noncommittal about embracing the package.

"The climate crisis requires that we move faster to build and strengthen critical infrastructure," Atkins said in a statement. "We look forward to working with our colleagues in the Assembly and administration to ensure we can do so responsibly, and in line with California's commitment to high road jobs and environmental protection."

At the center of Newsom's plan is the California Environmental Quality Act — a polarizing 1970 law credited for helping preserve the state's natural beauty but often criticized for miring needed housing, energy and transportation projects in litigation.

The proposal does not make major changes to the law, which requires public officials, agencies and developers to broadly consider and make public a project's effects on the existing environment. Rather, it attempts to limit how long environmental lawsuits can drag out in court.

The proposal aims to prevent any lawsuit against certain water, transportation, clean energy, semiconductor and microelectronics projects from lasting longer than nine months.

Qualifying projects, administration officials said, would include the governor's \$16-billion plan to build a tunnel to transport water to Southern California beneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, water recycling and desalination plants, solar fields, offshore wind farms and energy transmission.

The idea is similar to procedures already in place that have helped expedite the construction of NBA arenas in San Francisco and Sacramento as well as other megadevelopments across the state.

"I love sports," Newsom said. "But I also love roads. I love transit. I love bridges. And I love clean energy projects like the one we're seeing here. It's not just about stadiums. And we've proven we can get it done for stadiums. So why the hell can't we translate that to all these other projects?"

Additional CEQA changes in the plan would give government agencies greater control over deciding what's needed in a project's official administrative record and overturn a recent appellate court decision that required the inclusion of internal emails as part of that record. Litigation on the email issue involving a large residential and commercial development proposal in San Diego County lasted nearly two years after it was approved.

The governor's ideas have spurred disparate reactions. Laura Deehan, state director for Environment California, appeared alongside Newsom at the news conference. She said that her organization and others support the governor's broad goals of quickening construction of infrastructure needed to meet environmental goals.



“We agree that we’re going to need some large scale solar,” Deehan said. “We’re going to need some offshore wind. The current rate is too slow and we need to figure out how to speed it up.” But she said she has yet to read Newsom’s proposed legislation and urged caution. “We don’t want to change 50 years of environmental protection law overnight and live to regret it,” Deehan said. Others have already made up their minds. Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director of advocacy group Restore the Delta, which is opposed to the tunnel, said that Newsom’s plan “guts” environmental review for the project. “Governor Newsom does not respect the people in communities that need environmental protection,” Barrigan-Parrilla said in a statement. Meanwhile, Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher said that Newsom should focus on more fundamental changes that could benefit all public works and other developments in the state.

“Rather than piecemeal exceptions for stadiums and pet projects, it’s time for across-the-board reforms,” said Gallagher, who represents Yuba City. Newsom said it was essential to make changes now because of the \$180 billion in state and federal funds expected to be available for infrastructure in California over the next decade, an amount boosted by allocations from President Biden’s signature infrastructure and climate change laws. The governor likened that investment to those made in the state during its historic period of infrastructure investments in the 1950s and ’60s.

To kick-start this process, Newsom also signed an executive order Friday that will instruct various government agencies to work together and create an infrastructure strike team, which in theory will target projects that need to be completed and make sure they get across the finish line.

The newly available federal dollars include many clean energy and other competitive grants. For California to win, it needs to show the federal government that it can deliver, the governor said. Newsom, a Democrat, said those investments are in jeopardy if discussions in Washington over whether to raise the debt limit sour. GOP House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) said Republicans would only agree to raise the limit if Biden agreed to roll back certain provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act, which includes ambitious climate plans and funding for infrastructure projects.

“If Kevin McCarthy has his way, that’s going to set us back,” Newsom said at an event in Sacramento previewing his plan Thursday. “What he’s promoting would have devastating impact on our progress.” Newsom was accompanied Friday by former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who the governor had appointed as state infrastructure czar last year.

The permitting proposals were predicated on a report that Villaraigosa and nonprofit California Forward released Thursday recommending the changes. Villaraigosa said that he had spent months meeting with labor, environmental and community groups gathering input on how to improve contracting for large public works efforts. “What everybody said almost with unanimity: We could do this faster. We could do this smarter. We could do this better,” Villaraigosa said.

Other elements of Newsom’s package would ease contracting barriers that state agencies run into when starting and finishing their projects. Newsom wants to allow the state Department of Water Resources and the California Department of Transportation to use a more flexible contracting process for up to eight complex projects each, which could streamline construction and reduce logistical snafus that cause delays.

Another proposal would allow the transportation department to use a simpler job contracting model that could cut months off of a project’s timeline.



The departments could use these streamlining tactics to more quickly build bridges or modernize dams, repair aqueducts or maintain the state highway system. The package would also expedite three planned wildlife crossings along Interstate 15 in San Bernardino County.

The final part of Newsom's plan would streamline Caltrans' environmental mitigation efforts and permitting for projects that affect endangered species or are within the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The proposals are unlikely to revolutionize the state's infrastructure construction process, said Ethan Elkind, director of the Climate Program at Berkeley Law's Center for Law, Energy and the Environment.

Elkind said certain aspects of the process tying up projects are indefensible, citing that the state has spent \$1 billion solely on environmental documents for its high-speed rail project. But he expressed concern that short-cutting judicial review for the state's biggest public works efforts could backfire.

"If there's ever a time when you want to get CEQA right, it's the massive tunnel affecting our entire water project," Elkind said.

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## Washington Examiner

**Newsom at odds with green groups with bid to speed up construction projects**

**Asher Notheis**

Gov. Gavin Newsom's (D-CA) latest legislation package, a plan to speed up energy and water infrastructure in the state, has upset green energy activists.

The package, consisting of 11 bills, is intended to prevent lawsuits against water, transportation, clean energy, semiconductor, and microelectronics projects in the state from lasting longer than nine months and easing requirements for what is included in a project's records.

Cutting back on litigation and slashing some red tape should prevent projects from hitting speed bumps in production. However, Newsom's proposal isn't bringing in ringing endorsements, according to the Los Angeles Times.

"Governor Newsom does not respect the people in communities that need environmental protection," read a statement from Barrigan-Parrilla, the executive director of advocacy group Restore the Delta.

Barrigan-Parrilla said Newsom's proposal would "gut" the environmental review process for a \$16 billion plan to build a tunnel to bring water to Southern California and create new water recycling and desalination plants along with solar fields and offshore wind farms.

Meanwhile, Laura Deehan, the state director for Environment California, said that her organization and others support Newsom's aim to increase the speed of construction to meet the state's environmental goals. "We agree that we're going to need some large-scale solar," Deehan said.



“We’re going to need some offshore wind. The current rate is too slow, and we need to figure out how to speed it up.” However, she also stated she has not yet read Newsom's legislation and has cautioned people to be wary of sweeping changes.

“We don’t want to change 50 years of environmental protection law overnight and live to regret it,” Deehan said.

Newsom claims California needs to figure out a way to speed up projects so it can take advantage of the roughly \$180 billion in funds it is set to receive as a result of the Inflation Reduction Act and other federal bills passed with infrastructure and climate change in mind.

However, to succeed in winning grant funding for clean energy projects, the state will have to show it is capable of completing the projects it receives funding for.

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**For Immediate Release:**

May 19, 2023

**Contact: Ann Newton**

(310) 774-7639

### **Governor Newsom Includes Sites Reservoir in Building More, Creating Jobs Initiative**

SACRAMENTO – Governor Newsom announced that Sites Reservoir is included in a list of beneficiaries in his sweeping reforms in a press conference today. As the Governor articulated in his remarks, these reforms will save time and save money.

“We applaud the Governor and his leadership to deliver critical infrastructure,” said Fritz Durst, Chair, Reclamation District 108. “We look forward to engaging with the governor and his team as this works through the legislative process. Any efforts to speed up project construction and reduce costs by millions of dollars are more than welcome by the Sites Project Authority. We look forward to supporting the Governor’s efforts to build more critical infrastructure and create jobs for all Californians.”

Sites Reservoir is at the cusp of significant milestones, including consideration of a water right permit by the State Water Resources Control Board and the certification of its Final Environmental Impact Report/Statement, anticipated for later this year. The Governor’s proposed legislation provides even more momentum and would allow us to more quickly realize the benefits of Sites Reservoir for people, the environment and farms.

*Sites is an off-stream reservoir proposed north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, where it would provide unique water supply and environmental benefits during dry periods, especially during extended drought. Additional information can be found at [www.sitesproject.org](http://www.sitesproject.org) or on Facebook and Twitter at @SitesProject.*

###

**STATEMENT OF WORK (SOW)**

- 1. Public Law***, including Section and Sub-section verbatim, which provides Reclamation authority to award Financial Assistance for this project. Provide a statement that directly relates the activities to be funded to the referenced authority.

This Financial Assistance Agreement (Agreement) is entered into between the United States of America, acting through the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Sites Project Authority (Recipient), pursuant to PL 114-322; Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act Section 4007. Storage. (a)(2)(c)(d)(e)(g)(h)(i)(k). The following section, provided in full text, authorizes Reclamation to award this financial assistance agreement:

PL 114-322; Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act  
Section 4007. Storage. (a)(2)(c)(d)(e)(g)(h)(i)(k)

(a) Definitions. --In this subtitle:

(1) Federally owned storage project. --The term "federally owned storage project" means any project involving a surface water storage facility in a Reclamation State--  
(A) to which the United States holds title; and  
(B) that was authorized to be constructed, operated, and maintained pursuant to the reclamation laws.

(2) State-led storage project.--The term "State-led storage project" means any project in a Reclamation State that--

(A) involves a groundwater or surface water storage facility constructed, operated, and maintained by any State, department of a State, subdivision of a State, or public agency organized pursuant to State law; and  
(B) provides a benefit in meeting any obligation under Federal law (including regulations).

(c) State-Led Storage Projects.—

(1) In General.—Subject to the requirements of this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior may participate in a State-led storage project in an amount equal to not more than 25 percent of the total cost of the State-led storage project.

(2) Request by Governor.—Participation by the Secretary of the Interior in a State-led storage project under this subsection shall not occur unless— (A) the participation has been requested by the Governor of the State in which the State-led storage project is located; (B) the State or local sponsor determines, and the Secretary of the Interior concurs, that— (i) the State-led storage project is technically and financially feasible and provides a Federal benefit in accordance with the reclamation laws; (ii) sufficient

non-Federal funding is available to complete the State-led storage project; and (iii) the State-led storage project sponsors are financially solvent; (C) the Secretary of the Interior determines that, in return for the Federal cost-share investment in the State led storage project, at least a proportional share of the project benefits are the Federal benefits, including water supplies dedicated to specific purposes such as environmental enhancement and wildlife refuges; and (D) the Secretary of the Interior submits to Congress a written notification of these determinations within 30 days of making such determinations.

(3) Environmental Laws.—When participating in a State led storage project under this subsection, the Secretary shall comply with all applicable environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(4) Information.—When participating in a State-led storage project under this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior— (A) may rely on reports prepared by the sponsor of the State-led storage project, including feasibility (or equivalent) studies, environmental analyses, and other pertinent reports and analyses; but (B) shall retain responsibility for making the independent determinations described in paragraph (2).

(d) Authority To Provide Assistance.--The Secretary of the Interior may provide financial assistance under this subtitle to carry out projects within any Reclamation State.

(e) Rights To Use Capacity.--Subject to compliance with State water rights laws, the right to use the capacity of a federally owned storage project or State-led storage project for which the Secretary of the Interior has entered into an agreement under this subsection shall be allocated in such manner as may be mutually agreed to by the Secretary of the Interior and each other party to the agreement.

(g) Partnership and Agreements.--The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner, may partner or enter into an agreement regarding the water storage projects identified in section 103(d)(1) of the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act (Public Law 108-361; 118 Stat. 1688) with local joint powers authorities formed pursuant to State law by irrigation districts and other local water districts and local governments within the applicable hydrologic region, to advance those projects.

(h) Authorization of Appropriations.--

(1) \$335,000,000 of funding in section 4011(e) is authorized to remain available until expended.

(2) Projects can only receive funding if enacted appropriations legislation designates funding to them by name, after the Secretary recommends specific projects for funding pursuant to this section and transmits such recommendations to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(i) Sunset.--This section shall apply only to federally owned storage projects and Stateled storage projects that the Secretary of the Interior determines to be feasible before January 1, 2021.

(j) Consistency With State Law.--Nothing in this section preempts or modifies any obligation of the United States to act in conformance with applicable State law.

(i) Sunset.--This section shall apply only to federally owned storage projects and State-led storage projects that the Secretary of the Interior determines to be feasible before January 1, 2021.

(k) Calfed Authorization.--Title I of Public Law 108-361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) (118 Stat. 1681; 123 Stat. 2860; 128 Stat. 164; 128 Stat. 2312) (as amended by section 207 of Public Law 114-113) is amended by striking ``2017" each place it appears and inserting ``2019". Public Law 116-94, H. R. 1865—132 “That in accordance with section 4007 of Public Law 114–322, and as recommended by the Secretary in a letter dated February 13, 2019, funding provided for such purpose in fiscal years 2017 and 2018 shall be made available to...the North-of-the Delta Off stream Storage (Sites Reservoir Project)”

**2. Background:** *Clear background for program and project.*

The Sites Reservoir is a proposed off-stream reservoir that will be filled by pumping water from the Sacramento River. The project includes the Sites Reservoir and new facilities to integrate with both the existing Tehama-Colusa Canal (TC Canal) and Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Main Canal. Once constructed, the Sites Reservoir will be one of the state’s largest reservoirs and will substantially increase surface water storage in the Sacramento Valley. The project’s facilities will be independently owned and operated by the Sites Project Authority (Authority) under its own water rights and other regulatory requirements, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR)—operators of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP), respectively.

Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act funding will allow the project to progress by incorporating necessary services including engineering design and conveyance design advancement, geological and geotechnical engineering functions, project permitting and environment planning support, mitigation, operations simulation modeling, real estate functions, communication efforts, program operations support, and program support. The project scope is funding-limited, and deliverables are identified based on the level of funding available to the project. The scope outlined in the following sections will allow the Authority to update and complete the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) and further the development of feasibility- and preliminary-level designs. It will provide needed staffing resources to augment Authority staffing and further the communication and real estate needs of the project.

**3. Non-Competitive Selection** *(if applicable Per ACM 01-02): The merit based selection of a recipient for a financial assistance agreement through any means other than a competition must follow the noncompetitive selection process. A non-competitive selection may be made as either a discretionary or non-discretionary selection.*

*(1) Mandatory/Non-Discretionary. Selection of a recipient for a financial assistance agreement may be made without competition if Reclamation has no discretion in regards to the selection of the recipient for the proposed award. Non-discretionary selection must be based on either a statutorily mandated recipient or on other preexisting agreements or arrangements which remove Reclamation’s discretion in the selection process.*

*(2) Discretionary Selection. Non-competitive selection of a financial assistance recipient may be made on a discretionary basis when circumstances would limit selection to a single entity. The justification must include how the selection is both based upon merit and in the best interest of the government. The allowable justifications for a non-competitive discretionary selection are as follows.*

*(a) Unsolicited Proposal. The proposed recipient submitted an unsolicited application for funding for a project or activity which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract, financial assistance agreement, or funding opportunity, but is deemed advantageous to the funding program's objectives.*

*(b) Continuation. The activity to be funded is necessary for the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of an activity currently being funded, and for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity of the activity.*

*(c) Unique Qualifications. The proposed recipient is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, technical expertise, or other factors which preclude other entities from performing the proposed activities.*

*(d) Legislative Intent. The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress' intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient.*

*(e) Emergencies. There is insufficient time available for an adequate competitive process due to a compelling or urgent circumstance such as a substantial danger to health or safety.*

Congress approved funding for the Sites Reservoir Project under Section 4007 of the WIIN Act, authorizing funding from 2017-2022. Pursuant to Reclamation's Directives and Standard ACM 01-02 Section 5 A. (2)(b), Reclamation's Discretionary Selection of Sites Reservoir Authority is based on the continuation of funding under Agreement R20AC00105 providing funding through June 30, 2022. The proposed Agreement will continue the work Reclamation has previously funded, furthering the development of the Sites Reservoir Project.

**4. Public Purpose (grants and cooperative agreements must have this):** *Prove sufficient explanation as to how the project will assist the recipient in accomplishing its public purpose/needs, which are authorized by the public law. Demonstrate that the project is not primarily for the direct benefit of Reclamation or other Federal government agencies.*

The Authority has requested funding to apply towards engineering, geotechnical, planning/permitting, mitigation, operations modeling, real estate services, communications efforts, program operations, and program support. These services provide the foundation by

which the Sites Reservoir Authority can accomplish its ultimate vision, to provide affordable water that is sustainably managed for California's farms, cities, and environment for generations to come. Funding moves the Sites Project closer to providing California the benefits the reservoir project is being designed to provide. These benefits include improved water supply, improved water supply reliability, incremental Level 4 water supply for refuges, improved survival of anadromous fish, enhance the Delta ecosystem, provide opportunities for recreation, and provide flood damage reduction. These benefits reach the general public, the environment, the economy, as well as local, state and federal agencies.

**5. Objectives:** *Describe specifically what the agreement will be accomplishing; demonstrating that it is an undertaking of a clearly defined objective that supports the purpose.*

The agreement will accomplish 9 objectives that directly support the purpose and progress of the Sites Reservoir Project.

**Objective 1: Engineering**

The Engineering tasks performed under this agreement will advance the design of the Sites Reservoir Service Area facilities from feasibility design through preliminary design.

**Objective 2: Geology/Geotechnical Engineering**

The geology and geotechnical tasks performed under this agreement involves work associated with planning, permitting and execution of field data collection efforts at locations which have received environmental permitting and right of access clearance.

**Objective 3: Planning and Permitting**

The work performed under this agreement includes the planning and permitting work required to finalize the EIR/EIS and obtain key permits and environmental clearances.

**Objective 4: Compensatory Natural Resource Mitigation**

This task will provide for the development of a comprehensive mitigation plan and begin the planning process for the mitigation needed for the Project.

**Objective 5: Operations Simulation Modeling**

The operations modeling performed under this agreement will provide analysis, modeling and documentation needed to support the Authority with environmental planning, operational agreements, permitting and water rights applications. This includes the EIR/EIS, Biological Assessment/Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and WSIP benefits agreements. This objective will also support the development of Version 2 of the Sites Reservoir Operations Plan.

**Objective 6: Real Estate**

The real estate tasks performed under this agreement involves Landowner engagement, Geotech Right-of-Entry, preparation of a Right-of -Way manual, and potential early acquisition activities.

### **Objective 7: Communications**

The communication efforts performed under this agreement will support the operational needs of the Authority as well as the environmental review and permitting process. Support will include outreach, strategic counsel and communication guidance, information materials, and media relations.

### **Objective 8: Program Operations**

Program operations support is required to provide the Authority the additional support needed to establish and manage reservoir operations. This includes project management, project controls, project funding tasks, quality management, coordination, project administrative support and risk management functions.

### **Objective 9: Program Support**

Program support is required to provide the Authority the additional staffing needed to perform needed support functions such as document management, GIS functions, IT support and staffing support.

**6. Benefits:** *Explain the benefits to be derived from the performance of the project.*

*Demonstrate that the activity to be undertaken is of a public benefit and is in furtherance of Reclamation mission.*

The Sites Reservoir Project will offer several benefits to California on the state, regional, and local level.

**Improve Water Supply and Water Supply Reliability.** The water stored and released from Sites Reservoir will allow for improved water supply and reliability for participants in the project and California on the state, regional, and local level.

**Provide Incremental Level 4 Water Supply for Refuges.** The State has committed to invest in incremental Level 4 water supply for refuges at an undetermined level. Level 4 refuge demand is located primarily south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta).

**Improve the Survival of Anadromous Fish.** The Authority is supportive of actions that benefit salmon, steelhead, and other anadromous fish species of concern in the Sacramento River watershed. Exchanges with Reclamation enable the conservation of the coldwater pool in Shasta and Folsom Lakes. The species benefit from improved coldwater pool management, lower river water temperatures, and supplemental flows to prevent the dewatering of redds.

**Enhance the Delta Ecosystem.** Water released from Sites Reservoir would be conveyed to the Yolo Bypass toe drain to convey biomass to the Delta to help supply food for Delta smelt.

**Provide Opportunities for Recreation.** State funding will support the construction of new recreation facilities, including the Stone Corral Creek Recreation Area on the east side of the reservoir, a boat ramp on the west side of the reservoir, and the Peninsula Hills Recreation Area on the west side of the reservoir.

**Provide Flood Damage Reduction.** Once completed, Sites Dam will reduce the likelihood of flooding in the Stone Corral Creek watershed, and Golden Gate Dam will improve flood damage reduction for extreme events on Funks Creek.

7. **Period of Performance:** *(date of execution through month/date/year). Agreements and/or modifications **will not** exceed a total of 5 years.*

January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026

8. **Scope of Work:** *MUST have detailed descriptions of project objectives. The project plan must describe, in detail, the activities to be undertaken, including the proposed work, reporting, major tasks, and project milestones including the identification of the anticipated start and ending dates of all major stages/objectives of the project proposal.*

Descriptions of the objectives of the project activities funded under this agreement are provided below.

#### **Task 1: Engineering**

This scope of work covers advancing the design of the Sites Reservoir facilities from the Feasibility Design (10-15%) undertaken in Task Order No. 2 through Preliminary Engineering (20-30%) Design, while also advancing construction access and maintenance road design to approximately 60% level of design. The major activities under Preliminary Engineering Design include (1) coordinating with the Authority, California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) and other jurisdictional agencies; (2) coordinating with the Environmental, Permitting, Real Estate, Geology/Geotechnical and Engineering teams; (3) geotechnical data monitoring during the field investigations and data interpretation for use in design analyses; (4) value engineering; (5) updating the project schedule; (6) engineering analyses and Basis of Design Report; (7) Preliminary Engineering Design drawings and specification list; (8) updating the construction cost estimates to reflect the Preliminary Engineering design; and (9) developing contract procurement strategies/project delivery methods.

#### **Major Tasks:**

- Survey & Topo Mapping
- Geology/Geotechnical Field Investigations Data Monitoring and Interpretation Reports
- Preliminary Engineering Basis of Design Report

- Preliminary Design Engineering Analysis
- Preliminary Design Drawings and Specifications List
- Reservoir Package - Construction Access and Maintenance Road 60% Design
- Value Engineering
- Coordination with jurisdictional Agencies
- Utility Coordination
- DSOD fees
- Identify and Initiate Procurement Strategies
- Project Construction Schedule
- Project Construction Cost Estimate
- Project Coordination and Management
- Project Risk Management
- Support Real Estate Activities

### **Task 2: Geology/Geotechnical Engineering**

The geology and geotechnical tasks performed under this agreement involves work associated with planning, permitting and execution of field data collection efforts at locations which have received environmental permitting and right of access clearance.

#### **Major Tasks:**

- Environmental Permitting Document Review
- Field investigation activities scheduled between 2022 and 2024

### **Task 3: Planning and Permitting**

The work performed under this agreement includes the planning and permitting work required to finalize the EIR/EIS and obtain key permits and environmental clearances.

Deliverables for this task will consist of technical reports documenting the results of testing and evaluations. Ethnographic studies will be conducted to identify and assess tribal cultural resources, traditional cultural properties, and traditional cultural landscapes. These studies must be conducted by and in coordination with potentially affected Native American Tribes. Due to the complexity and breadth of the Project, development and management of a cultural and tribal program is necessary to streamline and coordinate efforts between consultants, the Authority, state and federal agencies, Native American Tribes, and other interested parties. The management program will include developing and maintaining a strategic plan and schedule for the Project related to cultural and tribal initiatives and objectives, informing and advising consulting parties, reviewing the status and progress of program tasks, and reviewing the quality of each program deliverable.

#### **Major Tasks:**

- 401 Permit submitted and start amendments based on 30% design

- 404 Permit submitted and start amendments based on 30% design
- Aquatic Resources Management Plan
- Revised USFWS/NMFS BA - Draft and Final
- Amended USFWS/NMFS BA - Draft and Final
- Programmatic Historic Properties Management Plan
- Tribal Resources-AB 52 Tribal Consultation Support
- Section 106 Documents and Consultation Support
- Eagle Permit & Surveys
- Continued NEPA/CEQA Compliance
- Geotech Pre-Construction Surveys

#### **Task 4: Mitigation**

To construct the Project, the Authority will need to acquire approximately 14,000 acres of land for Project facilities through a mix of fee title acquisitions and permanent easements for the reservoir and its associated facilities. As discussed in the Project's CEQA and NEPA document, Biological Assessment and California Incidental Take Permit, compensatory mitigation requirements for Project effects to terrestrial and aquatic state and federally threatened or endangered species, jurisdictional waters of the United States, waters of the State, and other protected resources such as bald and golden eagles are anticipated to be in excess of 14,000 acres.

The Authority will develop a comprehensive plan for implementing the compensatory measures as well as subsequent site-specific mitigation plans, in coordination with permitting agencies, identifying specific locations for the compensatory measures for each species. Also included in the plan will be the monitoring, performance criteria, and adaptive management measures that will be implemented to ensure the compensatory lands will be adequately managed and monitored for each species in perpetuity. The compensatory lands will be secured through onsite protection, acquisition of conservation easements or purchase of conservation credits prior to each phase of project construction and are required to be complete before incurring impacts to the species or vegetation.

This task will provide for the development of a comprehensive mitigation plan and provide initial funding for the monitoring and management of mitigation credits at existing banks or the development of mitigation lands should sufficient credits not exist.

#### **Major Tasks:**

- Continue to develop comprehensive mitigation plan
- Mitigation development support
- 1 Year of Mitigation Management and Monitoring

#### **Task 5: Operations Simulation Modeling**

The operations modeling performed under this agreement will provide analysis, modeling and documentation needed to support the Authority with environmental planning, operational agreements, permitting and water rights applications. This includes the EIR/EIS and WSIP benefits agreement. This objective will also support the development of Version 2 of the Sites Reservoir Operations Plan.

**Major Tasks:**

- Operations Analysis for Final EIR/EIS
- Operations Plan, Version 2
- Support for operational agreements
- Modeling for water Rights
- WSIP Benefits Agreements

**Task 6: Real Estate**

The real estate task involves work associated with land, real estate, right-of-way, interagency coordination, and public/landowner engagement considerations in support of the engineering, environmental, permitting, geotechnical, and communications efforts for the Sites Reservoir Project, in addition to programmatic real estate development for near-term land access, future land needs, land acquisition, and land management, in support of the Authority’s objectives. Any land acquisitions will comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act (URA).

**Major Tasks:**

- Continued Landowner Engagement
- Geotech Right-of-Entry (ROE)
- Right-of-Way Manual
- Real Estate ROE Fees
- Early real estate acquisition

**Task 7: Communications**

The communication efforts performed under this agreement will support the operational needs of the Authority as well as the environmental review and permitting process. Support will include outreach, strategic counsel and communication guidance, information materials, and media relations.

**Major Tasks:**

- Authority Board/Reservoir Committee Engagement/Public Affairs Support
- Environmental Public Involvement
- Informational Materials and Media
- Communications for Permitting and Agency Outreach

- Strategic Communications and Message Development

### **Task 8: Program Operations**

Project operations support is required to provide Authority staff assistance with project funding, project controls, project management, risk management, coordination, quality management and business management functions.

#### **Major Tasks:**

- Accounts Payable and Receivable for funding invoices and subcontractor invoices
- Contract Administration, Compliance, and Contract Strategy
- Administration of Local, State, and Federal Funding
- Health & Safety for field activities
- Creating and documenting Policies & Procedures
- Project Administrative Support and Board Clerk
- Project Controls to monitor and control scope, schedule and costs
- Project Financing and Agreements Support
- Develop a Plan of Finance
- Project Management of overall Program and Service Area Providers oversight of program
- Quality Management oversight and prepare Quality Plan
- Updating and monitoring Risks Register
- Creating and Updating Work Plan and Schedule
- Authority Agents and Executive Director to manage and direct the Program

### **Task 9: Program support**

Program support includes document management, GIS data management, Information Technology and Staff support.

#### **Major Tasks:**

- Document Management
- GIS to support Program
- IT to support SharePoint
- Staff Support

9. **Milestones/Timeline/Schedule:** *The project plan must describe, in detail, the activities to be undertaken, including the proposed work, reporting, major tasks, and project milestones including the identification of the anticipated start and ending dates of all major stages/tasks of the project proposal. It is highly recommended that the milestones within the SOW are constructed around the reporting frequency. For example, if the reporting frequency is semi-annual, then there would be milestones for each semi-annual period.*

A schedule with tasks and deliverables is presented below:

<b>Task No.</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Estimated Start Date</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
01	Engineering	Geology/Geotechnical Field Investigations Data Monitoring	01/03/2022	12/27/2024
01	Engineering	Geology/Geotechnical Investigations Interpretation Reports	03/06/2023	12/27/2024
01	Engineering	Preliminary Engineering Design	07/28/2022	12/27/2024
01	Engineering	Survey & Topo Mapping	01/03/2022	08/31/2022
01	Engineering	Risk Management	01/03/2022	12/27/2024
01	Engineering	Project Delivery/Procurement Strategy	01/03/2022	12/27/2024
01	Engineering	Preliminary Design Value Engineering	01/02/2023	07/05/2024
01	Engineering	Preliminary Engineering Cost Estimate	07/28/2022	07/05/2024
01	Engineering	Project Construction Schedule	05/22/2022	01/05/2024
01	Engineering	Preliminary Design Engineering Analysis	07/28/2022	01/05/2024
01	Engineering	Preliminary Engineering Drawings and Specifications List	07/28/2022	01/05/2024
01	Engineering	Preliminary Engineering – Independent Cost Estimator	3/01/2024	6/02/2025
01	Engineering	Reservoir Package - Construction Access and Maintenance Road 60% Design	08/01/2023	03/03/2025
02	Geotechnical	Env Planning Document Review	01/01/2022	12/29/2023
02	Geotechnical	Geotech Work Package #1	07/28/2022	12/30/2023
02	Geotechnical	Geotech Work Package #2	02/03/2023	06/30/2023
02	Geotechnical	Geotech Work Package #3	07/03/2023	12/29/2023
02	Geotechnical	Geotech Work Package #4	01/01/2024	06/28/2024
02	Geotechnical	Geotech Work Package #5	07/01/2024	12/30/2024
03	Planning/Permitting	401 Permit	01/01/2022	12/29/2023
03	Planning/Permitting	404 Permit	01/01/2022	12/29/2023

Task No.	Task	Deliverable	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date
03	Planning/Permitting	Aquatic Resources Management Plan	09/01/2022	12/29/2023
03	Planning/Permitting	BA	01/02/2022	12/30/2022
03	Planning/Permitting	Eagle Permit & Surveys	01/02/2022	12/29/2023
03	Planning/Permitting	EIR/EIS Supplement	04/01/2022	12/30/2022
03	Planning/Permitting	Invasive Species Plan	08/19/2024	12/16/2024
03	Planning/Permitting	Surveys	04/01/2022	12/31/2024
04	Mitigation Planning	Mitigation Master Plan	08/17/2022	05/31/2024
04	Mitigation Planning	Mitigation Management & Monitoring	06/03/2024	06/03/2025
05	Operations Modeling	Operations Analysis	01/02/2022	12/31/2024
05	Operations Modeling	Operations Plan Version 2	01/02/2023	12/27/2023
05	Operations Modeling	Support Operational Agreements	01/02/2022	12/29/2023
05	Operations Modeling	Water Rights Modeling	01/03/2022	12/31/2024
05	Operations Modeling	WSIP Benefit Agreements	01/03/2022	12/29/2023
06	Real Estate	Real Estate	01/03/2022	12/31/2024
06	Real Estate	Early Land Acquisition	01/01/2024	12/31/2024
07	Communications	Communications	01/03/2022	12/31/2024
08	Program Operations	Coordination and Management Support	01/03/2022	12/31/2024
09	Program Support	Document management, IT/GIS Support	01/03/2022	12/31/2024

**10. Recipient Responsibilities:** *If the SOW contains construction activities, the Recipient is responsible for construction inspection, oversight, and acceptance. If applicable, the Recipient shall also coordinate and obtain approvals from site owners and operators.*

Responsibilities of Sites Project Authority:

The responsibilities of Sites Project Authority are described below and incorporated as part of this Agreement.

1. Perform all tasks specified in the proposal.

2. Ensure that project activities are in compliance with all relevant local, State, and Federal regulations.
3. Recognize the contribution of Reclamation through documents and in any public statements, publications, or signage relevant to the project.
4. Comply with the reporting and distribution requirements of this Agreement. Submit reports and correspondence to:

Allison Jacobson, Grants Officer Technical Representative  
Bureau of Reclamation  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2830  
Sacramento CA 95825

5. Provide Reclamation with manuscripts published in scientific journals, as data warrant. Promptly provide to Reclamation, at the Recipient's sole cost, electronic files of all field data, photographs, and research products including reports, analyses, databases, and models, as applicable, that are produced by the Recipient in connection with the investigations undertaken through this Agreement, whether published or not.

If the agreement is a Cooperative Agreement, the proposal must include both the responsibilities of the recipient and of Reclamation. Please review the information below:

**11. Reclamation Responsibilities: (REQUIRED IF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT)**

*Must clearly state as to how Reclamation's responsibilities constitute "substantial involvement." in which the GOTR participates and collaborates jointly with the recipient partner, volunteer, scientist, technician, or other personnel, in carrying out the scope of work, trains recipient personnel, or details federal personnel to work on the project effort.*

*If Substantial involvement between Reclamation and the Recipient is anticipated during the performance of this Agreement, then add the following statement and outline the activities and responsibilities that Reclamation will perform in support of the agreement that constitute substantial involvement:*

*Substantial involvement by Reclamation is anticipated during the performance of activities funded under this cooperative agreement. In support of this Agreement, Reclamation will be responsible for the following:*

Cooperative Agreements must include the responsibilities of the recipient and of Reclamation:

*Responsibilities of Reclamation:*

N/A

**12. Budget:** *As an Attachment, must provide a DETAILED budget (including Reclamation, Recipients and other entity contribution) using the Recommended Budget Table Format. Budget documents must include supporting documents for each line items (with justification), an approved indirect cost rate, if applicable. Budget must be reviewed and approved by GOTR before submitting to MP-3800. Detailed budget is attached.*

**13. Pre-Award Incurrence of Costs:** *Provide date with justification. Incurrence of costs is authorized (if approved by the GO) if the cost was incurred after the agreement was entered into, and would have been allowable, allocable, and reasonable under the terms and conditions of the agreement.*

The Applicant will submit a request for approval of the pre-award incurrence of costs effective from January 1, 2022.

**14. Cost Sharing Requirement:** *(List of participants/collaborators (including type of recipient and amount). If program authority requires a cost share/match, provide a copy of the Public Law, section and sub-section, verbatim.*

*At least 75% non-Federal cost-share is required for costs incurred under this Agreement. If pre-award costs are authorized, reimbursement of these costs is limited to federal cost share percentage identified in this agreement.*

Funding Source	Original Funding Amount (\$)	Amendment 1	Total Funding Amount (\$)
Non-federal entities	—	—	—
Participation partners funding	90,064,246	—	90,064,246
<b>Subtotal (non-federal)</b>	<b>90,064,246</b>	—	<b>90,064,246</b>
Requested Reclamation funding	30,000,000	—	30,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,064,246</b>	—	<b>120,064,246</b>

**15. Reporting:** *Any type of special reporting beyond Reclamation's requirement.*

Reports and Deliverables

In compliance with the terms of the Authority's Financial Assistance Agreement with Reclamation, the Authority will submit performance and financial reports describing the progress completed during the previous quarter. The performance reports include a summary of percent complete, deliverable status, and work anticipated for the next period whereas the financial report includes a budget status reported in the form of the appropriate federal

template (SF-425). Separate from the FAA reporting, the Authority will also continue to provide quarterly financial reports to Reclamation in compliance with cost share reporting requirements. The Authority will continue to track overall expenses against requests for reimbursement on a quarterly basis and will confirm that requests for reimbursement do not exceed the overall 25% total cost share.

Financial Status Report	Interim	Final
Format	Hard copy	Hard copy
Form	SF-425	SF-425
Reporting Frequency	Quarterly	Due upon completion of agreement period of performance
Reporting Period	3/31, 6/30, 9/30, 12/31	Entire period of performance
Due Date	Within 30 days after the end of the Reporting Period	Within 90 days after the completion date of the agreement
Send one original to each:	GO and GOTR	GO and GOTR

**16. Recipient Key Personnel:** *(contact information) Name of person Project/Program Manager, Title, Address, Phone, Email and etc.*

Recipient

Sites Project Authority  
 112 Old Highway 99 West  
 Maxwell, CA 95955  
 530-438-2309

DUNS # 0812668150000  
 TIN # 90-0635251  
 Special District Government

Points of Contact (POC)

Joe A. Trapasso  
 112 Old Highway 99 West  
 Maxwell, CA 95955  
 Program Operations Manager  
 530-387-1102  
 jtrapasso@sitesproject.org

Jerry Brown

112 Old Highway 99 West  
Maxwell, CA 95955  
Executive Director  
925-260-7417  
jbbrown@sitesproject.org

**17. GOTR:** *(contact information) Name of person, Title, Address, Phone, Email and etc.*

Bureau of Reclamation, Interior Region 10, California-Great Basin, Resource  
Management Division  
Allison Jacobson  
Bureau of Reclamation, Room W-2830  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento CA 95825  
(916) 978-5099  
jassalek@usbr.gov

**18. Post-Award Monitoring Plan:** *A completed and signed post-award monitoring plan for agreement's with a total estimated federal amount in excess of \$500,000.00.*

The Sites Project Authority is responsible for oversight of the completion of activities supported under this agreement. Sites Project Authority must monitor activities to ensure compliance with applicable Federal requirements and performance expectations are being achieved. Monitoring by the non-Federal entity must cover each program, function, or activity.

Performance progress reports will be submitted quarterly as described in the reporting section above.

**19. Government-Furnished Property:** *Must clearly state if government furnished property is provided.*

N/A

**20. Real Property:** *Must clearly state if real property is acquired.*

No real property is being acquired as part of this request.

**21. Research Agreement:** *Include a statement if the agreement will result in Patents and Inventions.*

The agreement will not result in Patents and Inventions being created.

**22. Recipient Signature**

*Joe Trapasso*  
Joe A. Trapasso  
Program Operations Manager

---

**From:** Rude, Pete [Pete.Rude@jacobs.com]  
**Sent:** 6/14/2023 8:59:40 PM  
**To:** Luu, Henry [Henry.Luu@hdrinc.com]; JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]  
**CC:** Ohlin, Wayne [Wayne.Ohlin@jacobs.com]  
**Subject:** Sites HC: Design changes mtg topics for 9am

Hi Henry and JP – the topics we were going to cover with you tomorrow morning:

- Tunneling of TRR pipelines at the Funks reservoir
  - 10% Design – Tunnel under TC Canal
  - Prelim 30% Design – Extend tunnel under 100' tall hill west of TC Canal and Under area where Funks Creek comes into Funks reservoir
  - Prelim 30% Design Internal QC Review – Tunnel from east side of TC Canal across entire Funks reservoir
- Move TRR energy dissipation structures from TRR to Funks reservoir
  - Best use of limited area at TRR
- TRR Sizing based on 6/12 mtg with GCID: Stay with 600 ac-ft but keep 450 ac-ft as option
  - One Cell east of PG&E corridor
  - How do we leave flexibility to expand in future?
  - Potential effect of high groundwater table

Thanks

Peter H. Rude, PE (CA, OR, HI, CO) /Jacobs/ Civil Engineer & Principal Project Manager  
1-530-229-3396 (office)/ 1-530-917-4164 (mobile)/ 2525 Airpark Drive, Redding, CA 96001  
[pete.rude@jacobs.com](mailto:pete.rude@jacobs.com) / [www.jacobs.com](http://www.jacobs.com)

Pete- Here are the items we have discussed covering during tomorrows 9am call:

**Wayne Ohlin, PE (CA) | Jacobs | Civil Engineer & Conveyance Project Manager**  
M:530.828.4339 | [Wayne.Ohlin@jacobs.com](mailto:Wayne.Ohlin@jacobs.com)  
2525 Airpark Drive | Redding, CA 96001

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**From:** JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 6/14/2023 9:11:37 PM  
**To:** Newens, Richard [Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com]; Cheyanne Harris [charris@brwncald.com]  
**CC:** Tiffany Tran [TTran1@BrwnCald.com]  
**Subject:** Re: Lower CBD Mapping  
**Attachments:** Image.jpeg

As for style, we should be consistent with the materials we have released to the public. I have taken a screenshot from the EIR. I think these were done by ICF. There are several more maps in the document, I just selected one that had similar components. We should use the same template and formatting, generally. I am sure if we need to get any templates or other resources from ICF you could just ask John or Laurie, Richard.

JP

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---

**From:** Newens, Richard <Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 1:59:50 PM  
**To:** Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Tiffany Tran <TTran1@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Lower CBD Mapping

Thanks Cheyanne.

Richard Newens  
D 916.679.8883 M 916.719.7800

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](https://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

---

**From:** Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 12:07 PM  
**To:** Newens, Richard <Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Tiffany Tran <TTran1@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Lower CBD Mapping

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Richard,

Following up from today's meeting:

- NCWA Map (this was on my other email, but consolidating correspondence for ease of reference)
- Draft RD-108 Cooperative Agreement is good to go as is to RD-108 (I put a copy of the agreement in our working meeting folder: [6.20.2023 Sites RD108 Mtg](#))
- Resolution format is attached (highlights are items to be updated for this resolution)
- My edits are reflected in the agenda.
- Related to meeting material distribution, please coordinate with Marcia to post the finalized agenda and draft cooperative agreement to the calendar invite (then you can follow up to meeting attendees with a separate email notifying that the materials can be accessed from the calendar invite – that way people don't have to hunt through their email inboxes to find the meeting materials.

Draft\_0025498

Thanks.

**Cheyenne Harris, P.E.\***

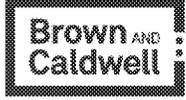
Brown and Caldwell

CHarris@brwncald.com

T 916.853.5349 | C 916.628.2352

\*Professional Registration in California

Pronouns: she/her/hers



-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Newens, Richard <Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com>

**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2023 3:10 PM

**To:** Newens, Richard; JP Robinette; Cheyanne Harris

**Cc:** Tiffany Tran

**Subject:** Lower CBD Mapping

**When:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 10:30 AM-11:30 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

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Passcode: C2rYKT

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**From:** JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 6/15/2023 8:08:01 AM  
**To:** Newens, Richard [Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com]; Cheyanne Harris [charris@brwncald.com]  
**CC:** Tiffany Tran [TTran1@BrwnCald.com]  
**Subject:** Re: Lower CBD Mapping

Not critical for near term meetings to be in this format, focus on content for now.

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**From:** Newens, Richard <Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 6:08:56 AM  
**To:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Cheyanne Harris <charris@brwncald.com>  
**Cc:** Tiffany Tran <TTran1@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Lower CBD Mapping

Hi JP - well certainly put the final map into the appropriate template/style. Do you want the preliminary draft for the board meeting, TD108 meeting, and Sites team workshop in this style too? I'll have to you this morning, and if you want it the template, we may need an additional day to coordinate between Sites team and GIS folks.

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**From:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2023 9:11:37 PM  
**To:** Newens, Richard <Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com>; Cheyanne Harris <charris@brwncald.com>  
**Cc:** Tiffany Tran <TTran1@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Lower CBD Mapping

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As for style, we should be consistent with the materials we have released to the public. I have taken a screenshot from the EIR. I think these were done by ICF. There are several more maps in the document, I just selected one that had similar components. We should use the same template and formatting, generally. I am sure if we need to get any templates or other resources from ICF you could just ask John or Laurie, Richard.

JP

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**From:** Newens, Richard <Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 1:59:50 PM  
**To:** Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Tiffany Tran <TTran1@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Lower CBD Mapping

Thanks Cheyanne.

Richard Newens  
D 916.679.8883 M 916.719.7800

Draft\_0025500

---

**From:** Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 12:07 PM  
**To:** Newens, Richard <Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Tiffany Tran <TTran1@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Lower CBD Mapping

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Richard,

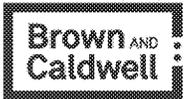
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Thanks.

**Cheyenne Harris, P.E.\***

Brown and Caldwell  
CHarris@brwncald.com  
T 916.853.5349 | C 916.628.2352  
\*Professional Registration in California  
Pronouns: she/her/hers



-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Newens, Richard <Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2023 3:10 PM  
**To:** Newens, Richard; JP Robinette; Cheyanne Harris  
**Cc:** Tiffany Tran  
**Subject:** Lower CBD Mapping  
**When:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 10:30 AM-11:30 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

---

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Passcode: C2rYKT

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---

**From:** Newens, Richard [Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com]  
**Sent:** 6/15/2023 9:09:27 AM  
**To:** JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]; Cheyanne Harris [charris@brwncald.com]  
**CC:** Tiffany Tran [TTran1@BrwnCald.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Lower CBD Mapping

Noted – thanks JP.

Richard Newens  
D 916.679.8883 M 916.719.7800

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---

**From:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 8:08 AM  
**To:** Newens, Richard <Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com>; Cheyanne Harris <charris@brwncald.com>  
**Cc:** Tiffany Tran <TTran1@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Lower CBD Mapping

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**To:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Cheyanne Harris <charris@brwncald.com>  
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**Subject:** Re: Lower CBD Mapping

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**Subject:** Re: Lower CBD Mapping

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JP

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**To:** Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Tiffany Tran <TTran1@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Lower CBD Mapping

Thanks Cheyanne.

Richard Newens  
D 916.679.8883 M 916.719.7800

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**Cc:** Tiffany Tran <TTran1@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Lower CBD Mapping

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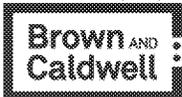
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Brown and Caldwell  
CHarris@brwncald.com  
T 916.853.5349 | C 916.628.2352  
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-----Original Appointment-----

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**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2023 3:10 PM

**To:** Newens, Richard; JP Robinette; Cheyanne Harris

**Cc:** Tiffany Tran

**Subject:** Lower CBD Mapping

**When:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 10:30 AM-11:30 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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Passcode: C2rYKT

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---

**From:** Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Sent:** 6/15/2023 2:17:04 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Sites Final EIS/EIR - length estimate

FYI – page count for Vol 1 and Vol 3.

---

**From:** Harris, Melissa <Melissa.Harris@icf.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 1:46 PM  
**To:** Dekar, Melissa D <mdekar@usbr.gov>  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Sites Final EIS/EIR - length estimate

V1 is 1,961 pages (399 pages of tables)  
V3 is 1,671 pages (1464 pages of tables)  
(1863 total pages of tables)  
There are 61 appendices and sub-appendices.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Melissa



**Melissa Harris, PMP**  
916.210.5916 (direct)  
980 9th Street Suite 1200, Sacramento, CA, 95814, USA

I will be out of the office the majority of July 3 to July 7.

---

**From:** Dekar, Melissa D <mdekar@usbr.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 11:53 AM  
**To:** Harris, Melissa <Melissa.Harris@icf.com>  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Sites Final EIS/EIR - length estimate

Hi Melissa,

Please count everything except the appendices. I think the total pages of Vol 1 and Vol 3 should do it. If you can also provide the number of pages that are tables (summing half pages into the table total) to provide some context for how much of the total page count is tables, that may be helpful.

Thanks,  
Melissa

---

**From:** Dekar, Melissa D  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 9:33 AM  
**To:** Harris, Melissa <Melissa.Harris@icf.com>  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Sites Final EIS/EIR - length estimate

Hi Melissa,

These are good questions. Shane and I are working through some guidance docs, regs, etc and will get back to you with some suggestions for the page count.

Thanks!  
Melissa

---

**From:** Harris, Melissa <Melissa.Harris@icf.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2023 3:12 PM  
**To:** Dekar, Melissa D <mdekar@usbr.gov>  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Sites Final EIS/EIR - length estimate

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

We can get this to you tomorrow. Here are a few questions we need answered so we can provide this information:

- For the "pages of tables", what would you classify that as? Any pages that cover a whole page?
- Do the RTC files need to be factored into the total page/table count?

Melissa



**Melissa Harris, PMP**  
916.210.5916 (direct)  
980 9th Street Suite 1200, Sacramento, CA, 95814, USA

---

**From:** Dekar, Melissa D <mdekar@usbr.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2023 2:10 PM  
**To:** Harris, Melissa <Melissa.Harris@icf.com>; Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Allison M <ajacobson@usbr.gov>  
**Subject:** Sites Final EIS/EIR - length estimate

Hi Melissa and Laurie,

I'm working on the briefing paper and came to some text from the SDEIS/RDEIR briefing that should be updated. Can you make an updated ballpark estimate for this sentence? 🤔

The main body of the Final EIS/EIR is approximately 1600 pages long, including approximately 400 pages of tables, and is supported by an additional 72 appendices and sub appendices

Thanks!  
Melissa

Melissa Dekar (she/her)  
Natural Resources Specialist  
Environmental Compliance and Conservation Branch, CGB-152  
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA, 95825

Interior Region 10, Bureau of Reclamation  
916-978-6153 [mdekar@usbr.gov](mailto:mdekar@usbr.gov)

---

**From:** Newens, Richard [Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com]  
**Sent:** 6/15/2023 3:08:54 PM  
**To:** JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]; Cheyanne Harris [charris@brwncald.com]  
**CC:** Tiffany Tran [TTran1@BrwnCald.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Lower CBD Mapping  
**Attachments:** LowerCBD\_Jurisdiction\_17x11\_tallview.pdf; Lower CBD System Map Update\_06152023.docx

Hi JP and Cheyanne:

An update on the mapping effort – attached is the latest iteration (as of 6/15/2023). The map shows water agencies, existing structures, conservation easements, local streams and waterways, and an outline of the reaches (as defined by MBK). There are still several “quick fixes” to really clean up the map; I am hoping the GIS team can get it done by 8AM tomorrow morning. The remaining edits are also attached for reference. I will forward you the updated map as soon as I receive it.

**Additionally:**

The Principles of Use document(s) were starting to take its own so I moved it to its own folder: [Principles of Use](#). The files associated with this effort have been moved out of the “5.15.2023 RD108 Meeting” folder and now resides in the linked location.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Richard

Richard Newens  
D 916.679.8883 M 916.719.7800

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**Subject:** Re: Lower CBD Mapping

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JP

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**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 1:59:50 PM  
**To:** Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Tiffany Tran <TTran1@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Lower CBD Mapping

Thanks Cheyanne.

Richard Newens  
D 916.679.8883 M 916.719.7800

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**From:** Cheyanne Harris <CHarris@BrwnCald.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 12:07 PM  
**To:** Newens, Richard <Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Tiffany Tran <TTran1@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Lower CBD Mapping

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Richard,

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Draft\_0025510

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Thanks.

**Cheyenne Harris, P.E.\***

Brown and Caldwell

CHarris@brwncald.com

T 916.853.5349 | C 916.628.2352

\*Professional Registration in California

Pronouns: she/her/hers



-----Original Appointment-----

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**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2023 3:10 PM

**To:** Newens, Richard; JP Robinette; Cheyenne Harris

**Cc:** Tiffany Tran

**Subject:** Lower CBD Mapping

**When:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 10:30 AM-11:30 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

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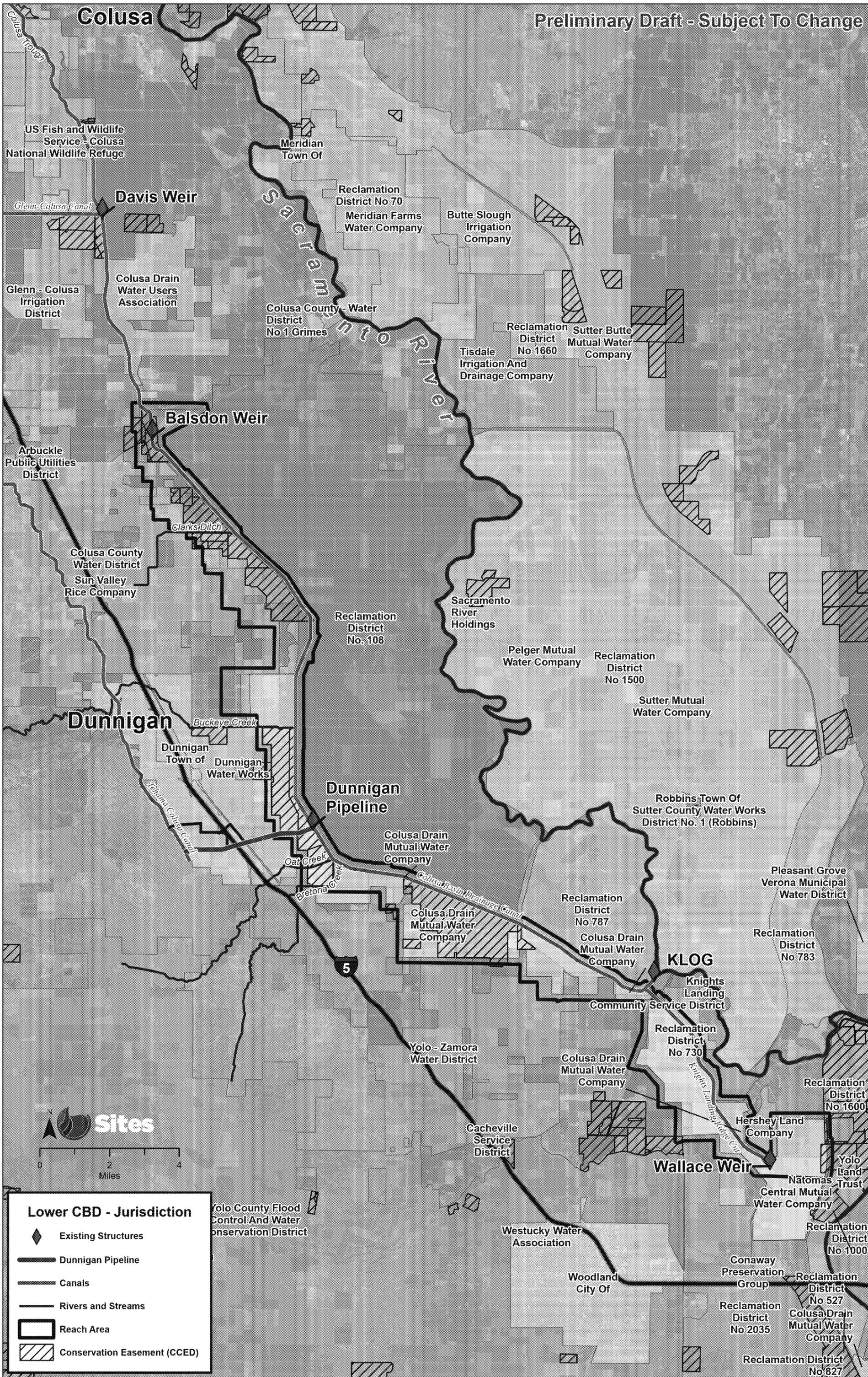
Meeting ID: 299 037 562 557

Passcode: C2rYKT

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---

**From:** JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 6/15/2023 6:13:56 PM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**Subject:** Fw: Lower CBD Mapping  
**Attachments:** LowerCBD\_Jurisdiction\_17x11\_tallview.pdf

Hello Angela!

I could use your help marking this up per our discussion last week! Any thoughts?

The team is getting closer but this has a ways to go.

JP

---

**From:** Newens, Richard <Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 5:42 PM  
**To:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Cheyanne Harris <charris@brwncald.com>  
**Cc:** Tiffany Tran <TTran1@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Lower CBD Mapping

Here is the updated map – please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

Richard Newens  
D 916.679.8883 M 916.719.7800

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---

**From:** Newens, Richard  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 3:09 PM  
**To:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>; Cheyanne Harris <charris@brwncald.com>  
**Cc:** Tiffany Tran <TTran1@BrwnCald.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Lower CBD Mapping

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**Subject:** RE: Lower CBD Mapping

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D 916.679.8883 M 916.719.7800

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**Cheyenne Harris, P.E.\***

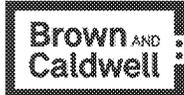
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T 916.853.5349 | C 916.628.2352

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**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2023 3:10 PM  
**To:** Newens, Richard; JP Robinette; Cheyanne Harris  
**Cc:** Tiffany Tran  
**Subject:** Lower CBD Mapping  
**When:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 10:30 AM-11:30 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

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# Microsoft Teams meeting

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---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 6/16/2023 7:41:43 AM  
**To:** Ann Newton [anewton@katzandassociates.com]; Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** FW: affect of proposed Sites reservoir project on navigation and on fishing.

Sending on most recent email for our records.

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2023 7:41 AM  
**To:** 'Francis Coats' <fecoats@msn.com>  
**Subject:** RE: affect of proposed Sites reservoir project on navigation and on fishing.

Francis – Thank you for the additional information. The Sites Project Authority has completed an extensive analysis of the Project’s potential impacts to aquatic resources, including fish and recreation. This analysis was released in November 2021 in our Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS). The document can be found here: [Environmental Review - Sites Reservoir \(sitesproject.org\)](#).

Chapter 11 of the RDEIR/SDEIS considers the effects of diverting higher than ordinary flows on salmon in the river. With the exception of Funks and Stone Corral creeks, two creeks impounded by the new reservoir, the Project would not change fishing on smaller streams as the Project does not change flows on these streams. For Funks and Stone Corral creeks, the Project will comply with CA Fish and Game code to maintain fish in good condition below the dams, and thus, whatever fishing that exists there today would not be affected.

The Authority has not yet began land acquisition and I think the analysis you are requesting is a detailed review of the chain of title of each parcel that the Project would acquire. This effort would be conducted with our land acquisition efforts, which are currently scheduled to begin in 2025.

I hope this information helps. And again, I am happy to have a call on this as I realize these are detailed subjects that may not be covered well in emails.

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Francis Coats <[fecoats@msn.com](mailto:fecoats@msn.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 10, 2023 9:23 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: affect of proposed Sites reservoir project on navigation and on fishing.

Alicia:

Fishing is an incident of the navigable easement, and my understanding is that wet year high level flows may be necessary for maintenance of salmon in the river- therefore consideration of the effect of taking the above normal flows on fishing may be necessary as the diversion of the water may affect the public rights included in the navigable easement.

In addition the constitutional right to fish provided in section 25 article I of the California Constitution is protected by the public trust doctrine, and this right is not dependent upon the waters being navigable

Has there been consideration of the effect of diverting higher than ordinary flows as contemplated on maintenance of salmon in the river?

Has there been consideration of the effect of the project on fishing in the smaller streams?

Where may I see the consideration of the affect of the project on the public right to fish on state-owned land and on land owned by the state on or after November 8, 1910 and sold or transferred after that date, as provided in section 15 article I of the California Constitution?

I am aware that it will be burdensome to determine which lands are burdened by the fishing rights of section 25.

Land owned by the state, including land held in the name of local agencies, is burdened.

Land owned by the state at the effective date of section 25 (November 8, 1910) and subsequently transferred subject to an express reservation of the fishing rights. This would include all school and in lieu lands, and likely all Overflowed lands, transferred by the Surveyor General, the division of state lands, and the State Lands Commission since the effective date.

Lands owned by the state including that land held in the name of state-wide and local agencies, sold or transferred after November 8, 1910 without an express reservation of fishing rights.

I am aware of, and bothered by the fact that agencies selling or transferring state-owned land after November 8, 1910, failed to maintain usable records of the fishing rights expressly reserved and failed to maintain usable records of lands sold or transferred without expressly reserving fishing rights. Particularly annoying given that the agency reserving the rights would be the trustee of the rights. A sale or transfer of state-owned lands without an express reservation of fishing rights is void from the beginning, the land still belonging to the state; unless the reservation is given effect even though not expressed in the instrument. If the land is still owned by the state because a purported transfer is void, then the fishing rights apply. See section 25 article I, Cal. Const.; California v. San Luis Obispo Sportsman's Assc. (1978) 22 Cal. 3d 440; California's Constitutional Right to Fish, Lewis and Clark Environmental Law Review Vol 51 No. 4).

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**From:** [Alicia Forsythe](#)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2023 10:53 AM  
**To:** [Francis Coats](#)  
**Subject:** RE: affect of proposed Sites reservoir project on navigation and on fishing.

Hi Francis – Thank you for your patience as it took me a little more time than I expected to follow up with you.

You requested information on the Project's effects to public access to and use of navigable waters. A few items on this:

- The Project would divert water from the Sacramento River, which is a navigable waterway. However, Sites Reservoir is an off-stream reservoir. We are diverting water off the Sacramento River at existing diversion facilities – Red Bluff Pumping Plant and the Hamilton City Pump Station, conveying it down to the new reservoir and then pumping it up into the new reservoir. We are not damming the Sacramento River. There will be no construction in the Sacramento River itself as a result of the Project. In our Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS, the modeling analysis indicates that flows in the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam are not anticipated to change substantially with operation of Sites Reservoir. The changes in flow would be within the historical range of flow fluctuations and would not be perceptible to recreation users. Thus, the Project would not affect the public access to and use of the Sacramento River.
- The Project is damming 2 small creeks in Colusa County – Funks and Stone Corral Creeks. Both of these creeks flow generally only in response to rainstorms and are not considered navigable waterways.
- So all in all, we don't see the Project impacting public access to and use of navigable waters.

You also requested information on the Project's effects on public access to and use of state-owned lands (including lands held in the name of local or state-wide agencies) for fishing. A few items on this:

- The Project itself is not on any lands owned by the State of California, through the State Lands Commission, and held in trust for the public. So no impact there.
- The Project would utilize existing facilities owned by public agencies – such as the Main Canal owned by the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and the Tehama-Colusa Canal owned by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Project wouldn't change the use or purpose of these facilities – it would run water through them, consistent with their existing uses. Some of these facilities allow for public access and fishing, some do not. So whatever exists out there now for these facilities would be unchanged as a result of the Project.
- The Project would also result in a new reservoir and 3 new public recreation areas at the new Sites Reservoir. The reservoir would be open to public access and public fishing.
- So, overall the Project won't change existing public access to and use of state-owned lands for fishing – and would actually increase this through building of the new off-stream reservoir with new recreational access.

I hope all of this helps and am happy to chat if you have additional questions or would like to schedule a call.

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Francis Coats <[fecoats@msn.com](mailto:fecoats@msn.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, June 3, 2023 10:39 AM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>

**Subject:** affect of proposed Sites reservoir project on navigation and on fishing.

Please advise me of where I can see the Sites Project Authority's consideration of the effect of the proposed operation of the project on public access to and use of navigable waters (as required by the public trust doctrine) and on public access to and use of state-owned land (including land held in the name of local or state-wide agencies) for fishing ( as required by section 25 article I of the California Constitution).

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# Salmon Fry Movement and Exposure to Diversions

## Technical Memorandum



---

**To:** John Spranza  
**CC:** Eric Chapman, Jim Lecky, Monique Briard (ICF), Daniel Deng (PNNL)  
**Date:** April 10, 2023  
**From:** Dr. Jason Hassrick, Research Fish Biologist (ICF)  
**Subject:** Salmon fry movement and exposure to diversions for Sites Reservoir  
**Comments:** Fry entrainment studies concept proposal for consideration as part of the Sites Reservoir science program

---

Most of what is understood about juvenile Chinook salmon outmigration passage rates and survival in the last 15 to 20 years is primarily based on acoustic telemetry studies. Acoustic telemetry is a method used to track the survival and movement behavior of fish that involves surgically implanting them with small acoustic transmitters that emit a unique signal, which can be detected by receivers placed in rivers, streams, and the ocean. However, the size of existing transmitters has limited the minimum size of fish that can be studied to smolts ( $\geq 80$  millimeters [mm] Fork Length [FL]), introducing bias to study results for earlier life stages (e.g., fry are generally  $\leq 60$  mm FL). Until now adverse effects of surgical implantation and tag burden have prevented critical information from being obtained on smaller-sized fish (Deng et al. 2015).

Water diversions can be detrimental to young salmon directly via entrainment (Kimmerer 2008; Lai 2022), and indirectly via flow-survival relationships that change exposure duration to predators (Hassrick et al. 2022; Henderson et al. 2018; Michel et al. 2021; Perry et al. 2018), with effects that cascade to rearing habitat (Hassrick et al. 2022), route entrainment (Hance et al. 2022), and changes in water quality that can increase risk of disease and predation (Williams 2012).

However, others have shown a limited effect in smolts at unscreened diversions (Hanson 2001), and recent work by Cyril Michel (pers. comm.), with support from the Science Integration Team of the Central Valley Improvement Act, indicates that the cumulative effect of many agricultural diversions along the Sacramento River may have a minor effect on smolt outmigration survival. This is because diversions are sparsely distributed along the channel margins and because they have a limited zone of influence as ambush habitat for predators. With an estimated zone of influence of approximately 9 meters from the associated infrastructure, a small fraction of smolt outmigrants were expected to encounter diversion structures because acoustic studies showed that they tended to distribute uniformly across the channel, which is typically 100 to 150 meters (m) wide in the upper Sacramento River.

Whether Chinook salmon fry are similarly exposed to these diversions is unclear. Smaller fish, which tend to have weaker swimming ability, actively search out low velocity niches as they move downstream to control volitional passage and, therefore, seek refuge and foraging opportunities along channel

margins (Heggenes and Traaen 1988). If salmon fry preferentially move downstream along the main channel margins (i.e., the banks), encounters with diversion screens will be disproportionately higher than what Michel (pers. comm.) has estimated for smolts.

Unlike the small diversions described for the 5 to 150 cubic feet per second (cfs) range, there are few large diversions lining the bank of the Sacramento River that have undergone extensive designs to mitigate the impacts to listed fish (Vogel 2013); two are planned to be used to divert water into Sites Reservoir. The most upstream is the Red Bluff Diversion Pumping Plant and Fish Screens located in the mainstem Sacramento River (40.15°N, -122.21°W). It is approximately 350 m long on the river right bank. Further downstream is the second-largest screened diversion (~370 m long) of the Hamilton City Pump Station managed by Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District. It is situated in an off-channel oxbow (39.79°N, -122.05°W) that is much narrower than the mainstem Sacramento River.

The Red Bluff Pumping Plant fish screen was completed in 2012, using a 1,118-foot-long flat plate screen having the capacity to divert 2,500 cfs of water from the Sacramento River into the Tehama-Colusa and Corning Canals when Sites Reservoir is operational. The structure was designed by the Bureau of Reclamation to allow unimpeded fish passage for salmonids and green sturgeon. The Hamilton City Pumping Plant fish screen was completed in 1997, and is also a flat plate design. It has 3,000 cfs capacity, of which 1,800 cfs will be available to Sites Reservoir when it is operational. Both fish screens are maintained to keep the average approach velocity below 0.33 feet per second (ft/s) through openings not exceeding 0.09 inch in accordance with 1993 California Department of Fish and Wildlife criteria to prevent killing individuals of endangered species. Both pumping facilities are planned for operation of the Sites Reservoir in winter months, with an increased pumping capacity of 3,250 cfs.

In an extensive literature review of fish screens in the Central Valley, where there are over 3,000 diversions—424 of which were located upstream of the I Street Bridge on the Sacramento River (Herren and Kawasaki 2001)—Moyle and Israel (2005) found a paucity of studies that evaluated the effectiveness of screens at preventing loss of fish. Recognizing that using limited public funds to screen small diversions may not be as useful as ecosystem restoration, they still articulated a clear need for more information on how diversions cumulatively affect fish populations. Consistent with this need, the Sites Authority has planned to conduct a baseline study using 10 years of acoustic telemetry data on winter-run Chinook salmon smolt-sized fish (> 80 mm FL) to place the impacts of these two diversions in the context of outmigration survival to the ocean. It is now also possible to empirically study whether salmon as small as fry respond to large diversion screens like their well-studied smolt counterparts. We are proposing a more targeted study to determine if fry and smolts experience similar movement and survival rates at one or both diversion locations, and ultimately whether results from the 10-year dataset on winter-run smolts apply to fry-sized fish. We have miniaturized the smallest acoustic transmitter in the world to weigh 0.05 gram and measure 7.6 mm in length by 2.0 mm in diameter. We have also used this tag in two-dimensional arrays to accurately position fish in areas of interest. This transmitter is dubbed the "Shad tag" because it was initially tested in American Shad (Deters et al. 2022).

We propose to conduct a focused study above one of the two diversion facilities using a two-dimensional acoustic receiver array that will allow evaluation of size-dependent distribution across the river channel under different flow dynamics. Ideally, the study site would be collocated at a river location where two-dimensional hydrodynamic modeling exists so that features (e.g., critical streakline) could be evaluated for their effect on size-based entrainment toward the diversion screens during high winter flow conditions when Sites diversions would occur. Work would be performed in collaboration with Russ Perry and Dalton Hance of the U.S. Geological Survey, who are world experts at modeling

route entrainment and survival of juvenile salmon in the Sacramento River and the Delta. A key objective will be to develop a flow-survival curve for fry and smolts upstream of the intakes to just downstream of the intakes based on a given flow upstream of the intake. This curve developed during baseline conditions would be a point of comparison for survival once Sites Reservoir operations begin. This study would ideally be conducted at both intakes, but if only one is feasible, the diversion at Red Bluff Pumping Plant should be prioritized given that it is planned to divert more water than the Hamilton City diversion (RDEIR/SDEIS Tables 11-6 and 11-7). Hydrodynamic modeling information could be provided by Yong Lai at the Technical Services Center of the Bureau of Reclamation or by Eli Ateljevich of California's Department of Water Resources using the Semi-implicit Cross-scale Hydroscience Integrated System Model (SCHISM).

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**From:** Yuan Liu [yliu@ccwater.com]  
**Sent:** 6/16/2023 8:54:20 AM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**CC:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Lucinda Shih [lshih@ccwater.com]; Lu Han [lhan@ccwater.com]; Marguerite Patil [mpatil@ccwater.com]  
**Subject:** Re: Water Quality Question

Hi Angela,

It shows the # of days in a certain month and water year type that EC at 6 stations increased by a certain number. The unit of EC is us/cm.

---

**From:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2023 7:54 AM  
**To:** Yuan Liu <yliu@ccwater.com>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Lucinda Shih <lshih@ccwater.com>; Lu Han <lhan@ccwater.com>; Marguerite Patil <mpatil@ccwater.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Water Quality Question

Good morning, Yuan –

Can you tell me the units in these figures?

Thanks!  
Angela

---

**From:** Yuan Liu <yliu@ccwater.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2023 12:39 PM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Lucinda Shih <lshih@ccwater.com>; Lu Han <lhan@ccwater.com>; Marguerite Patil <mpatil@ccwater.com>  
**Subject:** Water Quality Question

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**CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Only open links from **TRUSTED** sources.

Hi Angela,

I am sending the figure I showed at the end of our meeting. It shows the # of days in a certain month and water year type that EC at 6 stations increased by a certain number.  
Looking forward to further discussion with your team.

Thanks,  
Yuan  
**Yuan Liu, Ph.D., P.E.**  
Senior Water Resources Specialist

P (925) 688-8282

**CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT**  
1331 Concord Avenue, Concord, CA 94520

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**From:** Risse, Danielle [Danielle.Risse@hdrinc.com]  
**Sent:** 6/16/2023 8:55:33 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**CC:** Janis Offermann [jaoffermann@montrose-env.com]  
**Subject:** FW: Sites Project - Tribal Section  
**Attachments:** Power Point for the Sites.docx

Hi Ali,

Janis prepared the attached outline for the requested powerpoint presentation. If this looks good to you, we will plan to dig into preparing the slides next week. We can probably have a draft slide show for you to review by the end of next week or early the following week.

Thanks, Danielle

**Danielle Risse**, M.A. (she/her)  
Office 916-679-8796 Mobile 707-372-5007

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2023 10:07 AM  
**To:** Risse, Danielle <Danielle.Risse@hdrinc.com>; Janis Offermann <jaoffermann@montrose-env.com>  
**Cc:** Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Sites Project - Tribal Section

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Danielle and Janis – One of the other Agents asked this morning about understanding the Tribes use of the Project footprint more. I love this question!

I wonder if you both could put together a handful of slides and we can do an hour special session on Tribes in the Project footprint. I could see opening this up to all of our consultant team, but maybe our leadership team first. But I love the idea of our team getting more knowledge on this and starting to really think about the Tribal nations that have used the Project site since time immemorial. I think we should cover the Governor's apology and how tribes have historically been treated as this is important context to understand the world from the tribes perspective.

Could we target a project briefing in July sometime? The EIR/EIS is our highest priority right now, so this would come after we've wrapped up this effort.

Ali

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe  
**Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2023 10:01 AM  
**To:** JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** Sites Project - Tribal Section

Hi JP – I love your request! Here's the link to the RDEIR/SDEIS Chapter.

[Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Sites Reservoir \(sitesproject.org\)](#)

See Chapter 23.

The MS Word file is here – just be careful not to change this:

[Environmental Planning Team - 01\\_Chapters - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

If you can wait a few weeks, we're actually updating this now to try to bridge the gap a little more between physical evidence and how the Tribes have traditionally and culturally used the Project footprint. We'll have a revised chapter in a few weeks (pens down May 31) that may have a little more.

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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## Power Point for the Sites Project Authority

SLIDE 1: Title

SLIDE 2: Introduction/Outline of Presentation

SLIDE 3: Map of Project area. Discussion about the purpose of the presentation

SLIDE 4: Brief discussion of the history of the region prior to 1800 based on archaeological studies to emphasize the deep timeline for indigenous occupation of the area.

- Evidence for occupation by 13,000 Before Present (BP) in Clear Lake Region
- Evidence for occupation of the North Coast Ranges by around 8,000 BP
- Evidence for occupation of Sacramento Valley in Project vicinity by 3,000 BP

SLIDE 5: Early 1800s: Spanish/Mexican/Fur Traders – brief discussion

- Missions
- Ranchos
- Impact on indigenous populations due to disease

SLIDE 6: Map of traditional tribal territories<sup>1</sup>, as documented by early ethnographers, in the Project vicinity (show Project footprint on the map). Discussion about tribes whose traditional territories are in the Project area: Valley Patwin, Hill Patwin, Hill Nomlaki

SLIDE 7: Valley Patwin

SLIDE 8: Hill Patwin

SLIDE 9: Nomlaki

SLIDE 10: Treatment of Tribes after 1800

- Genocide
- Forced removal to Round Valley
- Forced removal of children to boarding schools

SLIDE 11: Modern Tribal groups potentially affected by the Project

- All tribes in Project area are federally recognized

SLIDE 12: Cachil Dehe Colusa Indian Community

SLIDE 13: Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

SLIDE 14: Kletsel Dehe Cortina Band of Wintun Indians

SLIDE 15: Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians

SLIDE 16: Grindstone Indian Rancheria

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<sup>1</sup> Use map from *Pomo Indians of California and Their Neighbors* as the basemap.

SLIDE 17: Moving forward

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 6/17/2023 11:08:28 AM  
**To:** Risse, Danielle [Danielle.Risse@hdrinc.com]  
**CC:** Janis Offermann [jaoffermann@montrose-env.com]  
**Subject:** Re: Sites Project - Tribal Section

I think this looks great. I wonder if we add a slide or two on tribal culture - meaning, how tribes moved around, how they used the landscape for resources and how many of the tribes' creation stories originate in places on the landscape or in animals that or a combination of the two. A slide or 2 to introduce the concept that Tribes have a different "value" system and culture than non-Native Americas. And that is based on natural things - hence why these natural places and animals are so important to them.

This looks great!

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Reservoir Project | 916.880.0676 | aforsythe@sitesproject.org | www.SitesProject.org

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**From:** Risse, Danielle <Danielle.Risse@hdrinc.com>  
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Hi Ali,

Janis prepared the attached outline for the requested powerpoint presentation. If this looks good to you, we will plan to dig into preparing the slides next week. We can probably have a draft slide show for you to review by the end of next week or early the following week.

Thanks, Danielle

**Danielle Risse**, M.A. (she/her)  
**Office** 916-679-8796 **Mobile** 707-372-5007

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**Cc:** Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Sites Project - Tribal Section

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Danielle and Janis – One of the other Agents asked this morning about understanding the Tribes use of the Project footprint more. I love this question!

I wonder if you both could put together a handful of slides and we can do an hour special session on Tribes in the Project footprint. I could see opening this up to all of our consultant team, but maybe our leadership team first. But I love the idea of our team getting more knowledge on this and starting to really think about the Tribal nations that have used the Project site since time immemorial. I think we should cover the Governor's apology and how tribes have historically been treated as this is important context to understand the world from the tribes perspective.

Could we target a project briefing in July sometime? The EIR/EIS is our highest priority right now, so this would come after we've wrapped up this effort.

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe  
**Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2023 10:01 AM  
**To:** JP Robinette <[jrobinette@sitesproject.org](mailto:jrobinette@sitesproject.org)>  
**Cc:** Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>  
**Subject:** Sites Project - Tribal Section

Hi JP – I love your request! Here's the link to the RDEIR/SDEIS Chapter.

[Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Sites Reservoir \(sitesproject.org\)](#)

See Chapter 23.

The MS Word file is here – just be careful not to change this:

[Environmental Planning Team - 01\\_Chapters - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

If you can wait a few weeks, we're actually updating this now to try to bridge the gap a little more between physical evidence and how the Tribes have traditionally and culturally used the Project footprint. We'll have a revised chapter in a few weeks (pens down May 31) that may have a little more.

Ali

---

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**From:** Janis Offermann [jaoffermann@montrose-env.com]  
**Sent:** 6/17/2023 1:58:02 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**CC:** Risse, Danielle [Danielle.Risse@hdrinc.com]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Sites Project - Tribal Section

Absolutely, Ali. I had thought to include how the tribes moved on the landscape under Slide 6. But I agree, we should add a slide or two towards the end to emphasize the different cultural values the tribes have with the natural environment.

Thanks for the quick review of the outline.

Janis

On Sat, Jun 17, 2023, 11:08 AM Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org> wrote:

I think this looks great. I wonder if we add a slide or two on tribal culture - meaning, how tribes moved around, how they used the landscape for resources and how many of the tribes' creation stories originate in places on the landscape or in animals that or a combination of the two. A slide or 2 to introduce the concept that Tribes have a different "value" system and culture than non-Native Americas. And that is based on natural things - hence why these natural places and animals are so important to them.

This looks great!

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Reservoir Project | 916.880.0676 | [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Risse, Danielle <Danielle.Risse@hdrinc.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2023 8:55:33 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Janis Offermann <jaoffermann@montrose-env.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Sites Project - Tribal Section

Hi Ali,

Janis prepared the attached outline for the requested powerpoint presentation. If this looks good to you, we will plan to dig into preparing the slides next week. We can probably have a draft slide show for you to review by the end of next week or early the following week.

Thanks, Danielle

**Danielle Risse**, M.A. (she/her)

**Office** 916-679-8796 **Mobile** 707-372-5007

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](http://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2023 10:07 AM

**To:** Risse, Danielle <Danielle.Risse@hdrinc.com>; Janis Offermann <jaoffermann@montrose-env.com>  
**Cc:** Laurie Warner Herson <laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Sites Project - Tribal Section

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe  
**Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2023 10:01 AM  
**To:** JP Robinette <[jrobinette@sitesproject.org](mailto:jrobinette@sitesproject.org)>  
**Cc:** Laurie Warner Herson <[laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com](mailto:laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com)>  
**Subject:** Sites Project - Tribal Section

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[Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Sites Reservoir \(sitesproject.org\)](http://sitesproject.org)

See Chapter 23.

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Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 6/19/2023 10:43:16 AM  
**To:** Jerry Brown [jbrown@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** FW: Grant Alert: FY 2023 Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program

FYI...I will follow-up with Mike on this...I like the connection with the Tribe...

I also sent this to Don Rust at Glenn County (Public Works Director) to see if they have any projects that would fit

---

**From:** Michael Azevedo <mjazevedo@countyofcolusa.com>  
**Date:** Monday, June 19, 2023 at 10:31 AM  
**To:** Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Grant Alert: FY 2023 Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program

Interesting..... perhaps....

The Tribe has requested improvements to Reservation Road, which sits atop west bank of Sac River. As such any work will require cooperation with DWR, State Flood Control Board and ACOE.... This looks like it might be able to help with an effort of that magnitude.

*Michael J Azevedo*

Colusa County Public Works  
530.458.0466

---

**From:** Kevin Spesert <kspesert@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2023 9:31 AM  
**To:** Michael Azevedo <mjazevedo@countyofcolusa.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Grant Alert: FY 2023 Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program

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Any thoughts...does the county have projects that would fit in this opportunity

---

**From:** Roger Gwinn <[rgwinn@tfgnet.com](mailto:rgwinn@tfgnet.com)>  
**Date:** Friday, June 16, 2023 at 7:51 AM  
**To:** Jerry Brown <[jbrown@sitesproject.org](mailto:jbrown@sitesproject.org)>, Kevin Spesert <[kspesert@sitesproject.org](mailto:kspesert@sitesproject.org)>  
**Cc:** JP Robinette <[jrobinette@sitesproject.org](mailto:jrobinette@sitesproject.org)>, Garrett Durst ([garrett@naturalresourceresults.com](mailto:garrett@naturalresourceresults.com)) <[garrett@naturalresourceresults.com](mailto:garrett@naturalresourceresults.com)>, Mark Limbaugh <[mlimbaugh@tfgnet.com](mailto:mlimbaugh@tfgnet.com)>  
**Subject:** Grant Alert: FY 2023 Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program

Jerry/Kevin – Just an FYI... for Sites, your community partners and community outreach efforts...

The Department of Transportation has announced a solicitation for the [FY 2023 Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program](#). The purpose of this program is to augment organizational capacity in communities that may not have resources available to evaluate and develop transportation infrastructure projects that qualify for federal funding and financing programs. Funding will support the hiring of staff or the procurement of expert firms to provide financial, technical, and legal assistance; assistance with development phase activities; and information regarding innovative financing best practices and case studies. Supported predevelopment phase activities include but are not limited to feasibility studies, procurement support, cost estimation, project planning, environmental review and permitting, revenue forecasting, and cost estimation.

**Eligible applicants** are local governments and political subdivisions located outside of an urbanized area with a population of more than 150,000, states seeking to advance a project in an area located outside of an urbanized area with a population of more than 150,000 residents, federally recognized Indian tribes, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

**Funding:** In FY 2023, a total of \$3.4 million will be available to support awards ranging from \$150,000 - \$360,000. No more than twenty percent of available funds for a single fiscal year may be awarded for projects in a single state. There is no requirement for cost sharing or matching the grant funds.

**Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. They will make awards until they run out of funds.**

Also, below are a few additional bits of information that were shared during a webinar yesterday.

1. These funds are for preliminary elements of projects, not for construction or physical purchases.
2. The application template is already available ([click here](#)) but will only begin accepting applications from August 14 – September 27.
  1. Awards will be on a first-come, first-served basis as highlighted above
3. The grant can cover costs for things like grant writing or BCA development for future grants/loans to USDOT like TIFIA, RAISE, MEGA, INFRA, etc.
  1. The cost of preparing the rural and tribal pilot program application is not eligible for reimbursement, however, a rural/tribal entity can request money for a grant writer to help them write a future DOT grant application, a RAISE, etc.
4. The project location is the determining factor for eligibility. If the project is outside an urban area, it is eligible. Any public agency/tribal government in the Sites service area will be eligible.

Attached is a comprehensive summary of the program. Please let us know if you anticipate needing grant services for this program.

Thanks,  
Roger



**Roger Gwinn**  
202.261.6006 OFFICE  
202.255.5759 MOBILE  
1901 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20006  
[TheFergusonGroup.com](http://TheFergusonGroup.com)

---

**From:** Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 6/19/2023 11:56:02 AM  
**To:** Garrett Durst [garrett@naturalresourceresults.com]; Jeff Sutton (jsutton@tccanal.com) [jsutton@tccanal.com]; Jerry Brown [jbrown@sitesproject.org]; Roger Gwinn [rgwinn@tfgnet.com]; Mark Limbaugh [mlimbaugh@tfgnet.com]; Christopher B. Kearney [CKearney@tfgnet.com]; Mitch Butler [mitchbutler@naturalresourceresults.com]  
**Subject:** Topics for today's Government Affairs Team Call

Topics for today's GA Team meeting...please feel free to add any additional topics.

**General**

Tribal Relations Update  
Final EIR/EIS Briefing  
WRLCM follow-up  
2023 DOT Rural & Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Solicitation – sent to Colusa & Glenn Counties  
LCWG – next meeting July 20th

**State**

General Update  
Permit Reform Proposal update  
Prop 1 PBA Harvest Water  
Water Rights Analysis of VA/Delta Outflow

**Federal**

General Update  
BA/BO/ITP Process

**Kevin Spesert**

External Affairs Manager  
Sites Project Authority  
Phone: 530.632.4071  
Email: [kspesert@sitesproject.org](mailto:kspesert@sitesproject.org)  
Web: [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)  
P.O. Box 517  
122 Old Hwy 99W  
Maxwell, CA 95955

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# Sites

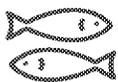
# 2022 Progress Report

2022 was another pivotal year for Sites Reservoir. This year certainly underscored the need for Sites Reservoir amid a changing climate—from months of prolonged drought to weeks of heavy rains and flooding, there were many opportunities where Sites would have shined if it were operational. Thankfully, we've continued to build momentum and are much closer to final approval of the project and a more resilient water supply for California.

We advanced important environmental and permitting processes, achieved key funding objectives, and continued to cultivate statewide partnerships. These remarkable achievements keep Sites Reservoir affordable, permittable, and buildable for our partners—and aligns with the mission, vision, and values of the Sites Project Authority.

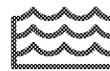
Looking ahead to 2023, the Sites Project Authority expects to issue the final Environmental Impact Report/Statement and will move forward with key regulatory and permitting efforts including advancing the water right permitting process. As always, we will continue to engage and collaborate with stakeholders throughout the state.

## With Sites Reservoir, there can be significant benefits for California's communities, farms, and environment including:



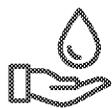
### Off-stream Storage

Does not create a barrier to native fish migration



### Cooperative Operation

Increases effectiveness and efficiency of existing water storage infrastructure



### Federal and State Agencies Manage Environmental Water

Adaptable to current and future conditions and priorities



### Adaptable to Climate Change

Contributes to system reliability and performance with climate change



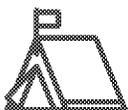
### Local Leadership and Cooperation

Aligns with Sacramento Valley's values and fosters regional and statewide collaboration



### Dry Year Water Supply

Reliable dry year water supply for California communities, farms and businesses



### Recreational Opportunities

Provides northern Sacramento Valley with additional opportunities for recreation



### Environmental Support

Provides environmental water in drier periods for native fish, and habitat for native species and birds

## AFFORDABLE

### Obtained Substantial Federal Funding

Leveraging ongoing relationships with federal partners, the Sites Authority secured significant federal appropriations through two programs: \$30 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and an additional \$80 million from the Water Infrastructure Investments for the Nation (WIIN) Act. **OUTCOME: With the allocation of these funds, the Sites Authority has now received roughly \$214 million in federal funding to date from the Bureau of Reclamation.**

### Increased the State Funding Award by \$39 million

Following the California Water Commission's (CWC) determination of feasibility, the Sites Authority worked with the CWC to increase the conditional Proposition 1 award by \$39 million. **OUTCOME: The Sites Authority is working with state partners to secure the \$875 million of state funding to advance toward construction.**

### Enhanced Project Financing Action Plan

Building on the initial Financing Action Plan executed in 2020 and 2021, the Sites Authority conducted four public workshops and two series of one-on-one check ins with Participants focused on the "three big questions" related to financing the project: What do we get?, What does it cost?, and How do we pay for it?. This culminated in the adoption of the Final Guiding Principles and Preliminary Terms and other financial documents to support the Indicative Credit Rating for the Sites Authority's WIFIA Loan application. **OUTCOME: A financing approach that works for all participants.**

## BUILDABLE

### Conducted Construction Contractor Open House

In partnership with contractors throughout the nation, the Sites Authority hosted a Construction Contractor open house to seek input on the delivery of the Sites Project. Following the open house, additional meetings informed the project construction packages. In July 2022, the Sites Authority adopted its Contracting Strategy consisting of nine construction packages of varying sizes with delivery methods best suited to the facilities and schedule. **OUTCOME: The Contracting Strategy sets the stage for the Sites Authority to develop a program baseline schedule to inform delivery of nearly \$4 billion of critical infrastructure for California.**

### Strengthened Geotechnical Program

The Sites Authority enhanced the geotechnical program by establishing a dedicated project manager to guide the necessary field investigations and coordination efforts to inform the project's engineering design and permitting activities. Over 120 barrels of nonhazardous material waste were removed from the project area as part of field investigations in late 2022. **OUTCOME: The Sites Authority is allocating resources to advance the geotechnical program to continually improve the buildability of Sites Reservoir.**



## PERMITTABLE

### Advanced Final EIR/EIS

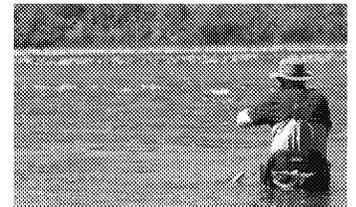
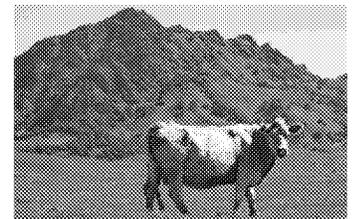
Working jointly with Reclamation, the Sites Authority developed master and individual responses to comments on the 2021 Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) while also advancing the administrative Final EIR/EIS. **OUTCOME: The Sites Authority is on track to complete final environmental documentation in partnership with state, federal, and local agencies.**

### Progressing Key Permit Applications

In conjunction with state and federal partners, the Sites Authority is advancing key permit applications including the Operations Incidental Take Permit and Biological Assessment. **OUTCOME: The Sites Authority's advancement of permitting elements is providing greater certainty to participants and improving understanding of the Sites Project with resource agencies.**

### Submitted Water Right Application

Submitting the Water Right application is a key step in advancing the Sites Reservoir Project. The Sites Authority is working on the updated application response (with the hope to have this finalized by early 2023). **OUTCOME: The Sites Authority continues the commitment to partnering with the state to work through the Water Right process.**



## EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION

### Aligned Potential Future Participants

With California's drought crisis, the Sites Authority experienced an unprecedented increase in requests from agencies throughout the state of California to participate in the Sites Project. Staff hosted informational sessions to inform these interested parties of project progress. **OUTCOME: Sites Reservoir is a solution for California communities to strengthen their water supply resiliency in the face of extreme drought.**

### Conducted Outreach and Tours for Project Partners and Interested Parties

Throughout 2022, Sites Authority staff hosted outreach and project tours for state, federal, and local project partners including permitting, funding, and governmental interests. **OUTCOME: The Sites Authority continues its commitment to keep its partners informed of project progress.**

# Sites Reservoir

Roadway Design Workshop with Colusa County

May 31, 2023



1

# Overview: Project Goals & Design Considerations

Howard Michael



# Today's Meeting Goals

- County Roads Design Concurrence
- Select Dirks Road Extension Alternate Southerly Access or maintain McDermott/Maxwell-Sites Southerly Access

# Objectives

- Public safety – avoid, minimize, manage commingling of public with construction traffic
- Provide public and landowner access
- Provide safe and efficient access to construction sites to expedite the completion of construction



# Challenge for HR – Truck Trips

- Minimize trips
- Appropriate routes for off-site deliveries
- Construction AADT:
  - ~ 30 to 35 Trucks/hour each way per day (6,000 to 7,000 tons)



# Summary of Truck Traffic

	Year 1-5	Year 6-10	10-40 Years
<b>Description of activities</b>	Dam construction. Primarily, vehicles on the roads will be haul trucks. Use of small trucks will be minimal with occasional large double trailer trucks traveling to each site.	Construction ends and startup begins. More small trucks than haul trucks, although some hauling may occur as construction timelines change and worksites shut down.	Very minimal haul trucks/large trucks traveling the roads. Primarily small trucks using roads.
<b>Southern Access AADTT Values</b>			
<b>2-axle</b>	150 Assumed 50 small trucks per job site for workers/etc.	150 Assumed 50 small trucks per job site.	150 Assumed 50 small trucks per job site
<b>3-axle</b>	15 ^same as reasoning above	30 Assumed 10 vehicles per job site.	30 Assumed 10 small trucks per job site
<b>4-axle</b>	155 Total loads per day for southern access	15 Assumed 10 trucks per job site	9 Assumed 3 trucks per job site.
<b>5-axle</b>	3 1 large truck per job site	1 One large truck per day	0 No large trucks
<b>Northern Access AADTT Values</b>			
<b>2-axle</b>	80 Assumed 8 small truck per job site for workers/etc.	80 Assumed 8 small trucks per job site	80 Assumed 8 small trucks per job site
<b>3-axle</b>	10 ^same as reasoning above	20 ^same as reasoning above	20 Assumed 2 trucks per job site because saddle dams/dikes likely not accessed often by this vehicle type
<b>4-axle</b>	72 Total loads per day for northern access	10 Assumed 1 truck per job site	5 Assumed 1 truck per every other job site.
<b>5-axle</b>	2 1 large truck services dikes and one for saddle dams	1 One large truck per day	0 No large trucks

# TI Calculations

<b>Baseline</b>				
<b>S. Access (75% of total haul)</b>				
	Year 1-5	Year 6-10	Year 30+	
2-axle	150	150	150	
3-axle	15	30	30	
4-axle	155	15	9	
5 or more axle	3	1	0	
Design Life	5	5	30	
LDF Adj. ESALs	303735	104845	555480	
Sum ESALs	964,060			
<b>TI</b>	<b>9.0</b>			
<b>N. Access (75% of total haul)</b>				
	Year 1-5	Year 6-10	Year 30+	
2-axle	80	80	80	
3-axle	10	20	20	
4-axle	72	10	5	
5 or more axle	2	1	0	
Design Life	5	5	30	
LDF Adj. ESALs	149530	64145	437135	
Sum ESALs	650,810			
<b>TI</b>	<b>8.5</b>			

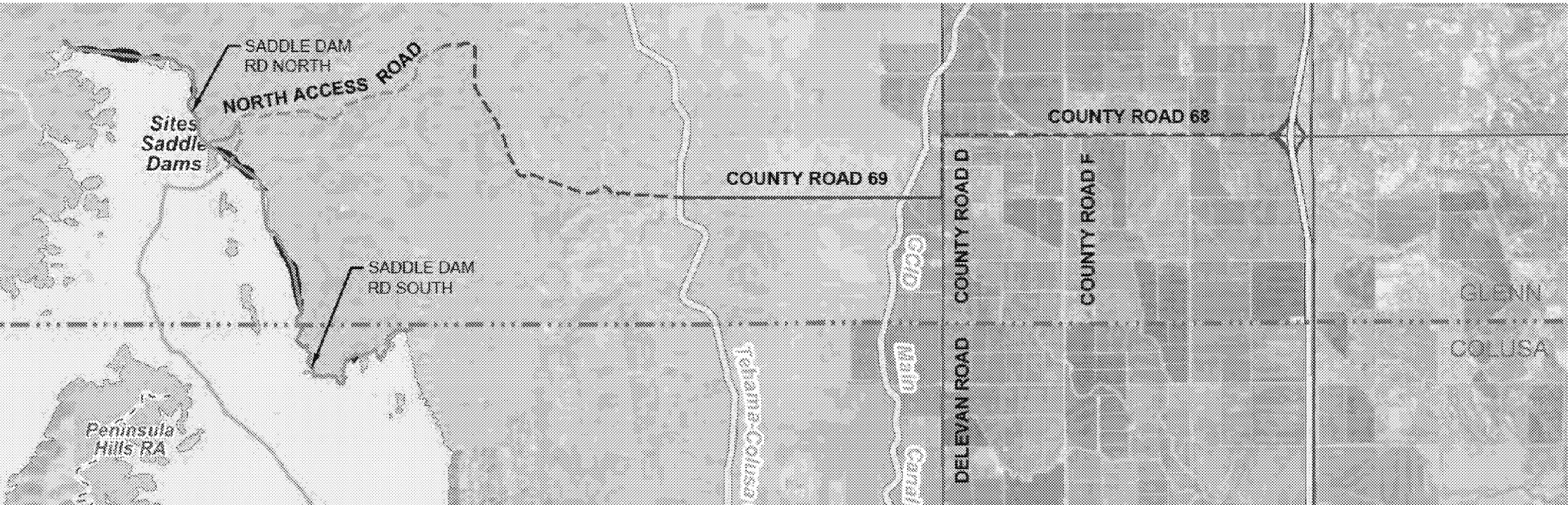
<b>Add 10% total loads in year 1-5</b>				
<b>S. Access (75% of total haul)</b>				
	Year 1-5	Year 6-10	Year 30+	
2-axle	150	150	150	
3-axle	15	30	30	
4-axle	170	15	9	
5 or more axle	3	1	0	
Design Life	5	5	30	
LDF Adj. ESALs	325785	104845	555480	
Sum ESALs	986,110			
<b>TI</b>	<b>9.0</b>			
<b>N. Access (75% of total haul)</b>				
	Year 1-5	Year 6-10	Year 30+	
2-axle	80	80	80	
3-axle	10	20	20	
4-axle	79	10	5	
5 or more axle	2	1	0	
Design Life	5	5	30	
LDF Adj. ESALs	159820	64145	437135	
Sum ESALs	661,100			
<b>TI</b>	<b>8.5</b>			

<b>Add 20% total loads in year 1-5</b>				
<b>S. Access (75% of total haul)</b>				
	Year 1-5	Year 6-10	Year 30+	
2-axle	150	150	150	
3-axle	15	30	30	
4-axle	186	15	9	
5 or more axle	3	1	0	
Design Life	5	5	30	
LDF Adj. ESALs	349305	104845	555480	
Sum ESALs	1,009,630			
<b>TI</b>	<b>9.0</b>			
<b>N. Access (75% of total haul)</b>				
	Year 1-5	Year 6-10	Year 30+	
2-axle	80	80	80	
3-axle	10	20	20	
4-axle	86	10	5	
5 or more axle	2	1	0	
Design Life	5	5	30	
LDF Adj. ESALs	170110	64145	437135	
Sum ESALs	671,390			
<b>TI</b>	<b>8.5</b>			

# Roadway Overview Map

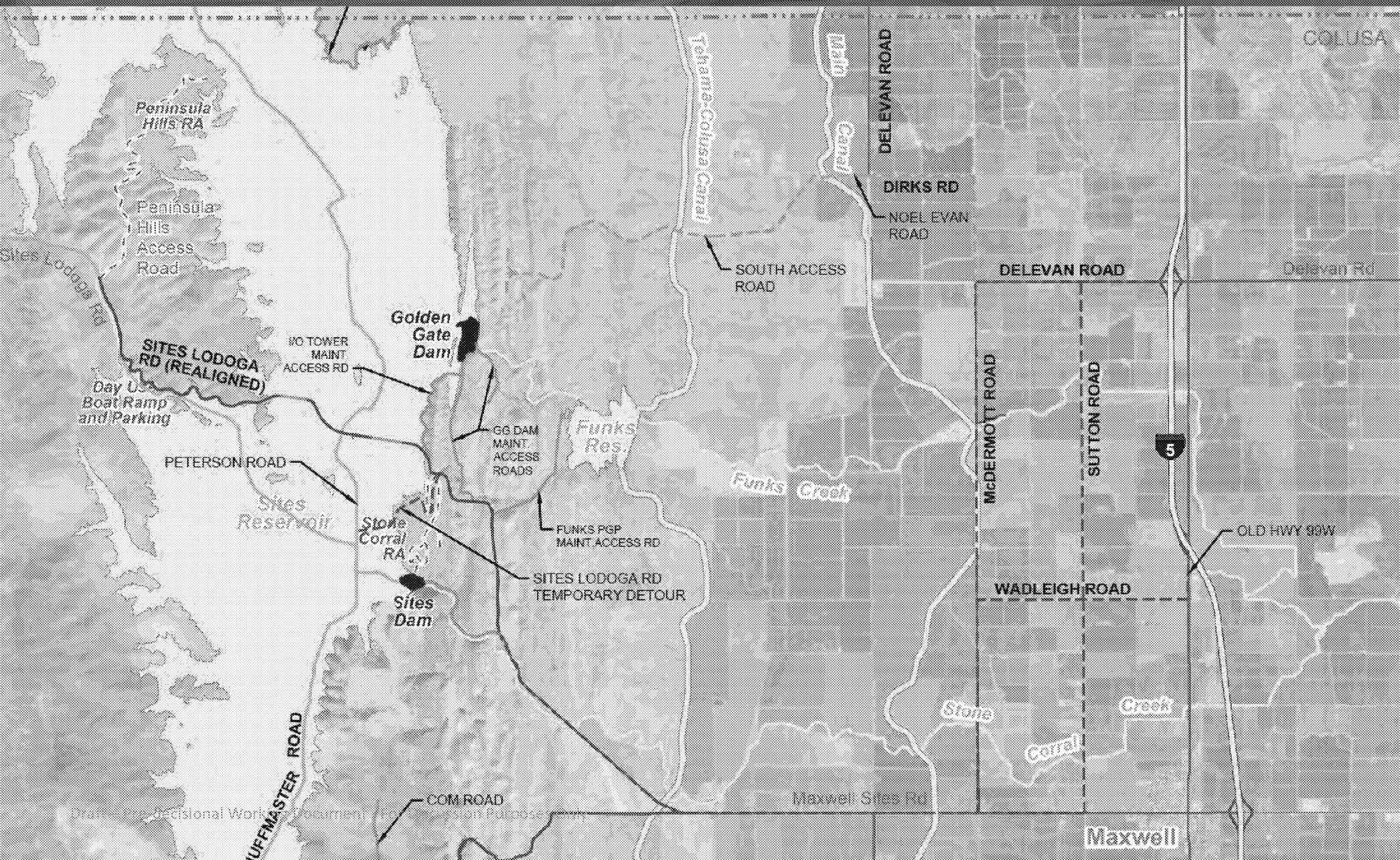


# Northerly Construction Access Route



Not included in today's presentation

# Southerly Construction Access Route Options



Draft Regional Work Program for Construction Purpose

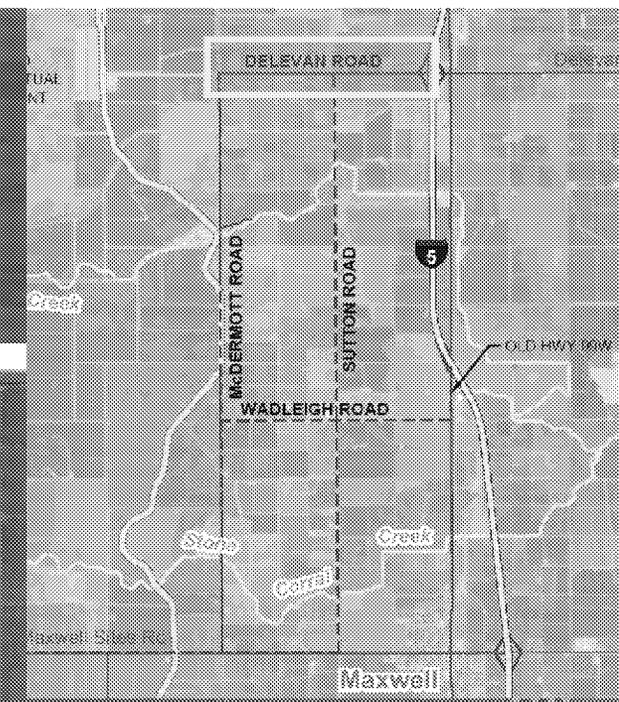
2

# Valley Floor County Roads

Howard Michael



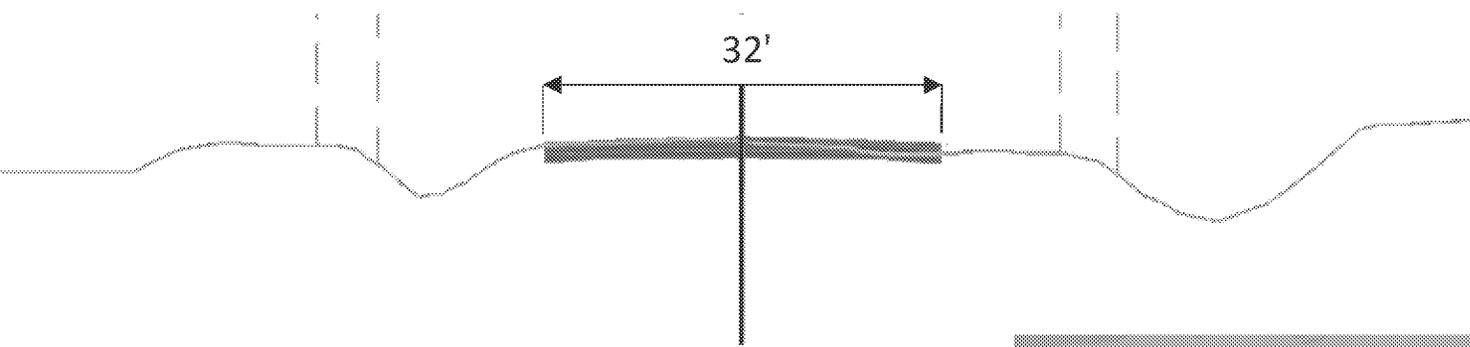
# Delevan Road Alignment



- Functional Classification – Local Collector (Rural)
- Design Speed – 55 mph
- Lane Width – 12 ft
- Shoulder Width – 4 ft
- Cross Slope – 2% to 5% (maintain existing)
- Side Slopes – 2:1 to 4:1 (non-recoverable, non-traversable)
- Clear Recovery Zone – 14 ft from ETW
- Vertical Grades – Maintain existing

Draft – Pre-decisional Working Document - For Discussion Purposes Only

# Delevan Road Typical Cross Section



- Existing Road = 24 ft, no shoulders
- Existing OH Utility Poles to the north

- 40 yr Total Design Life = 8 yr Construction + 32 yrs
- Calculated TI = 9
- Widen roadbed for shoulders

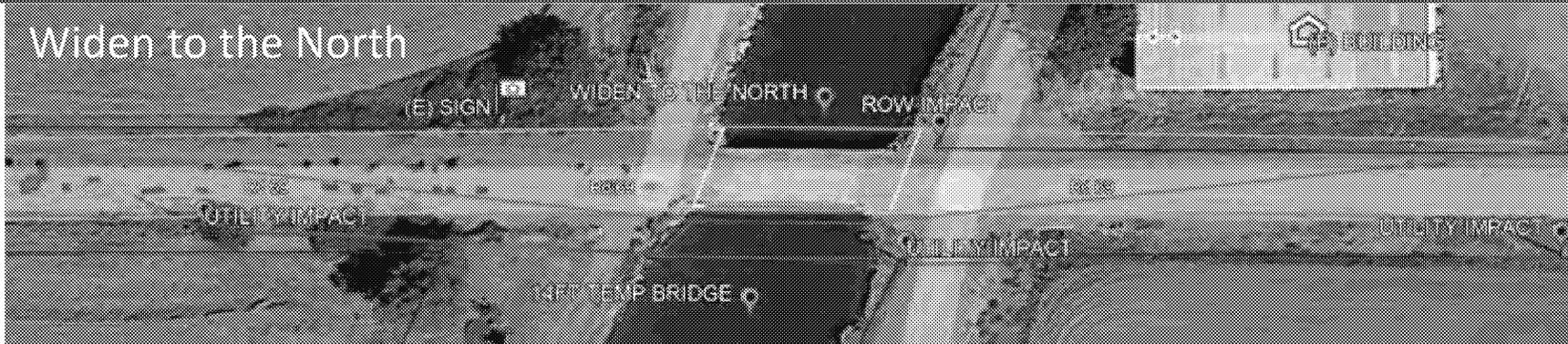


Existing Delevan Road Looking East

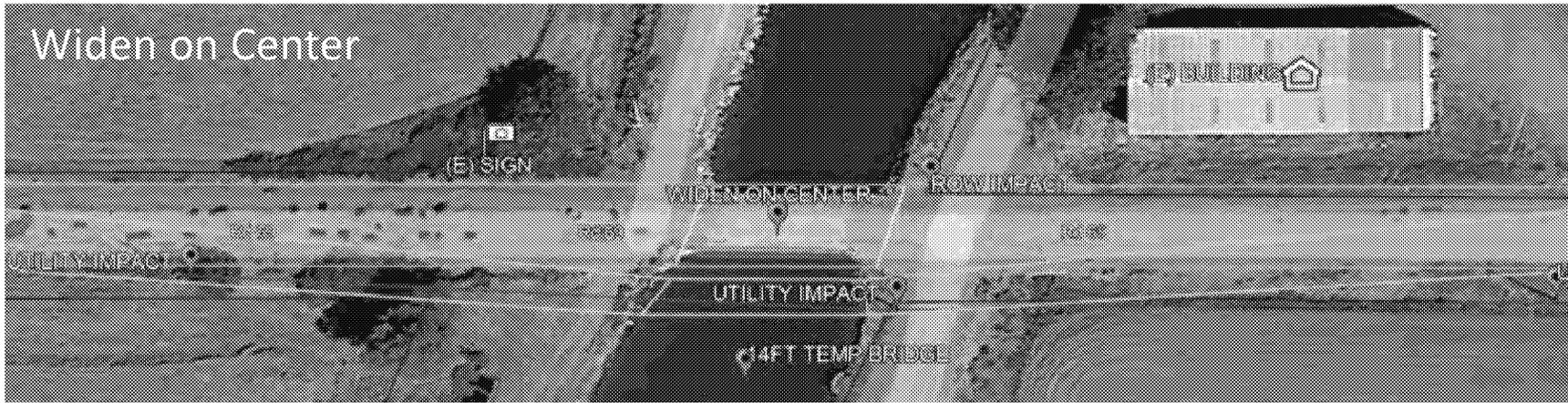
# Existing Bridges

- Perform Load Ratings
  - Widen Exist
  - Replace
- Impacts
  - ROW
  - OH Utility
  - Building
- Temp Bridge Cost
  - Rent
  - Purchase

## Widen to the North



## Widen on Center

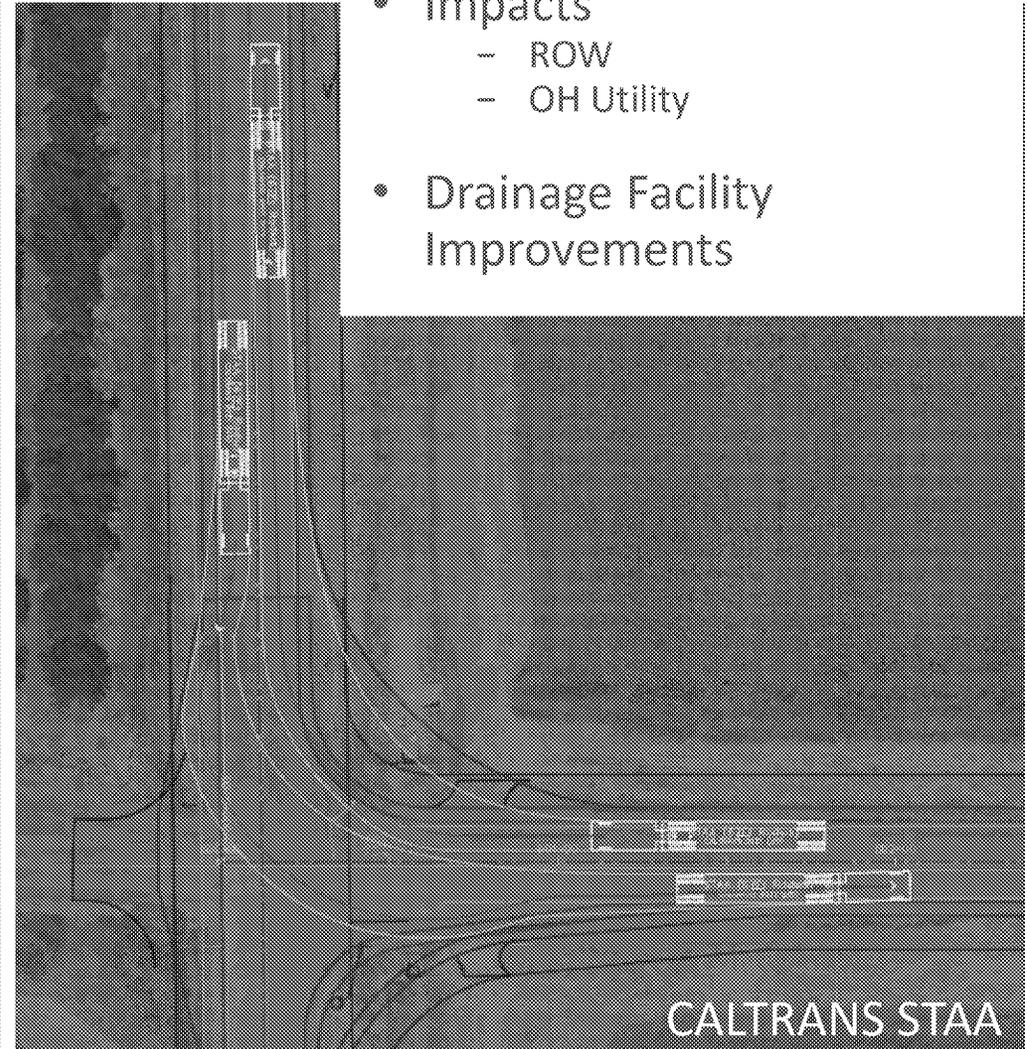
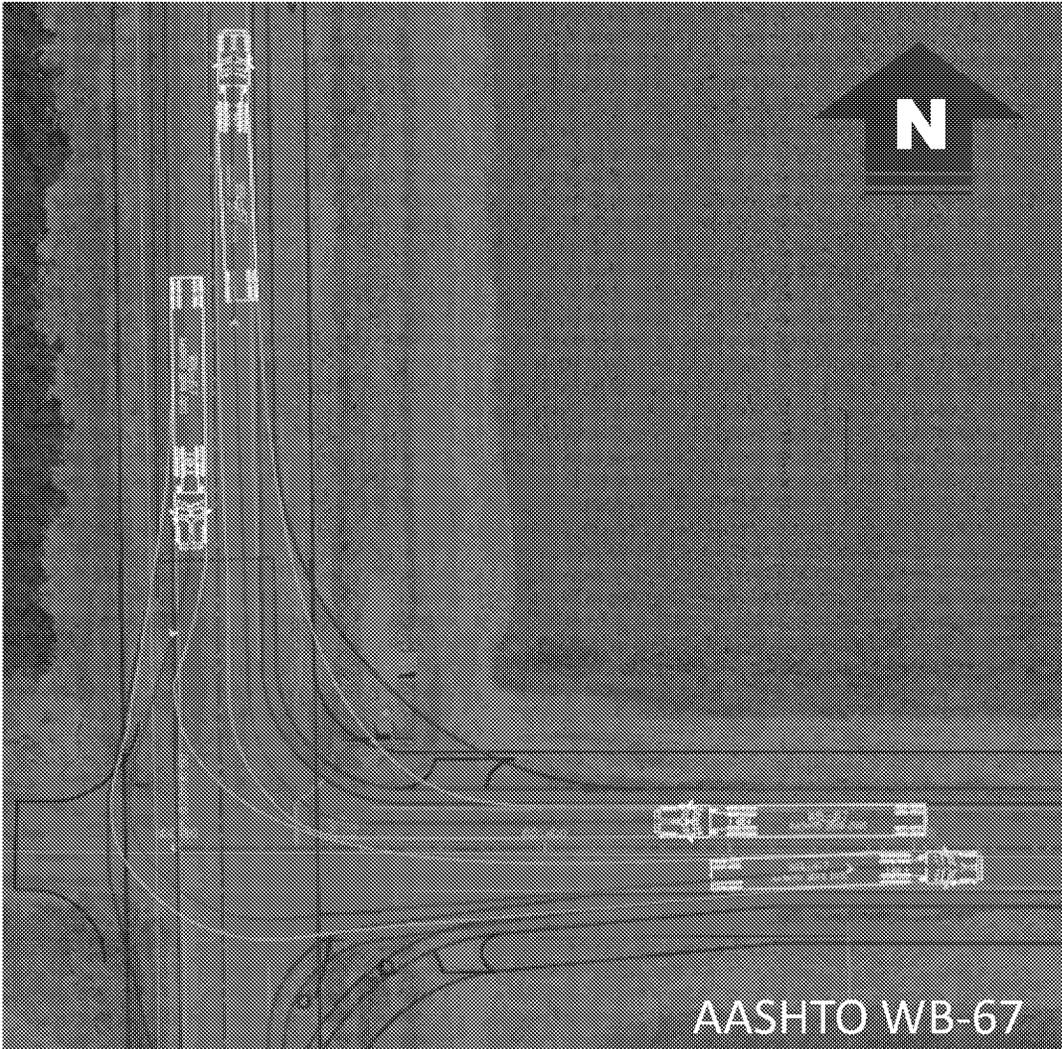


## Widen to the South



# Intersection Improvements

- Accommodate Two-way Truck Turning/Off-Tracking
- Permit trucks occupy complete intersection
  - Pilot vehicle
  - Infrequent access
- Impacts
  - ROW
  - OH Utility
- Drainage Facility Improvements

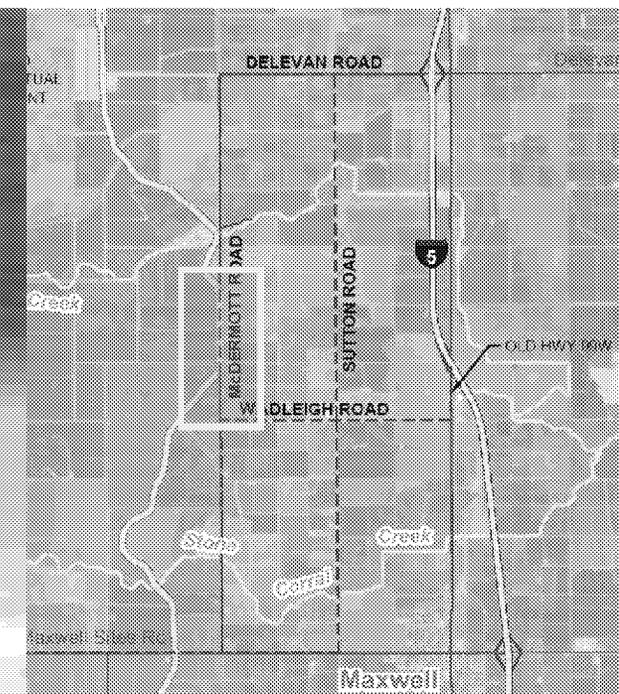


# Evaluation of McDermott Road

Howard Michael



# McDermott Road



- Exist 30/35 mph curves
- Sub-standard sight distance
- Exist Width ~10 ft
- OH Utility pole conflict
- Property and Canal constraints

Existing McDermott Road  
Looking South

# McDermott Road

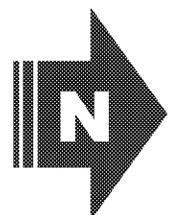
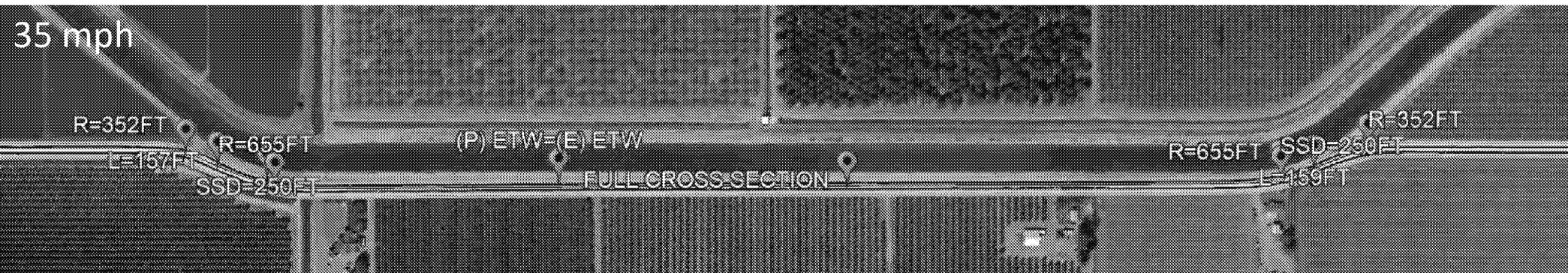
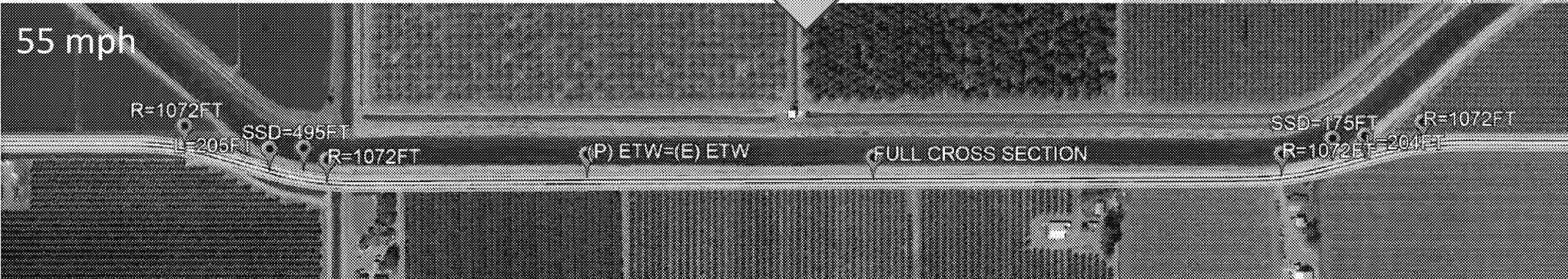
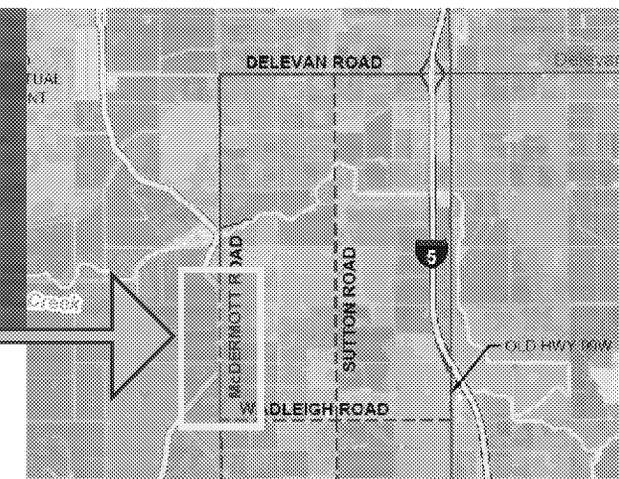


- Exist 30/35 mph curves
- Sub-standard sight distance
- Exist Width ~10 ft
- OH Utility pole conflict
- Property and Canal constraints

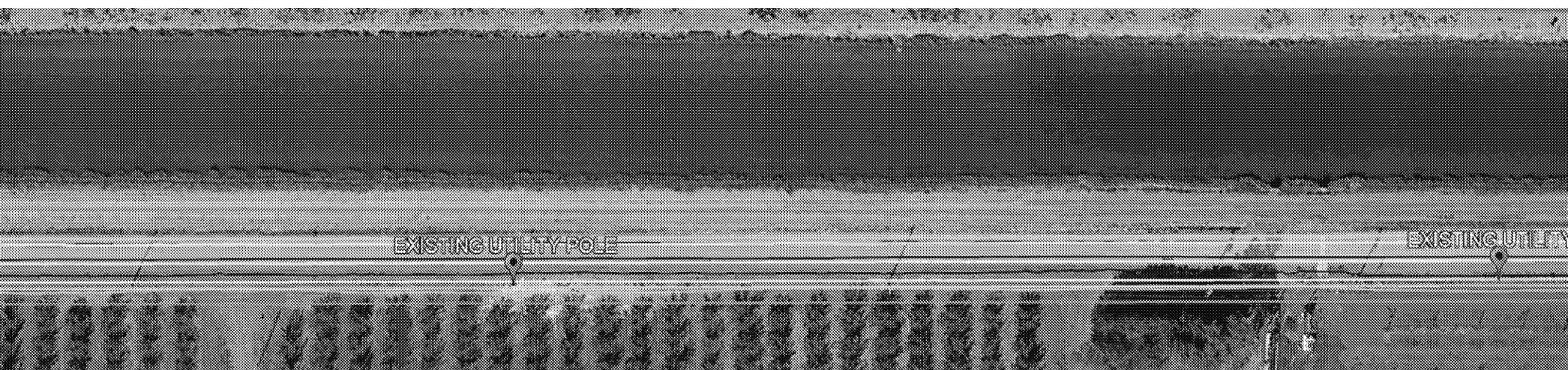
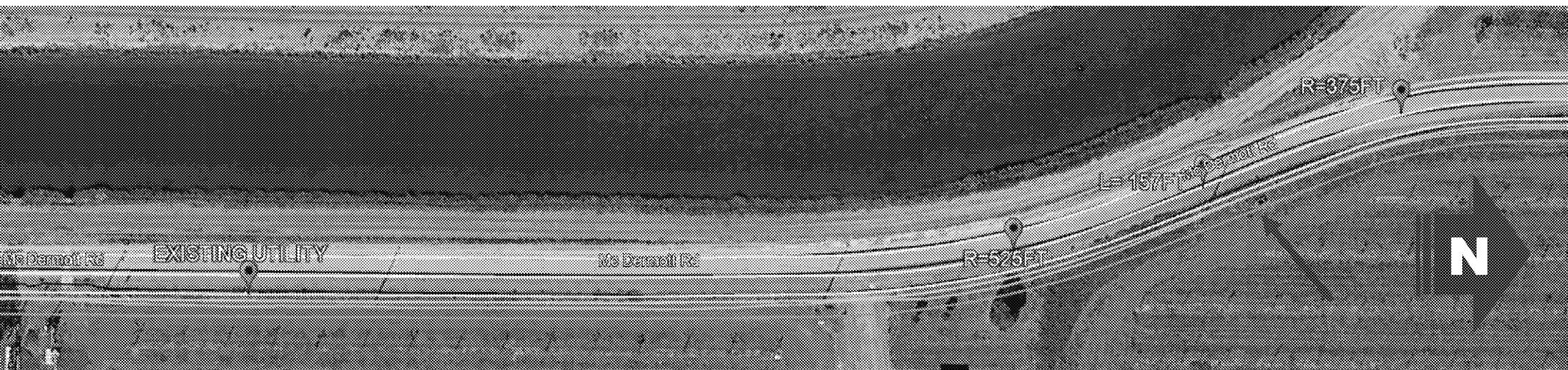
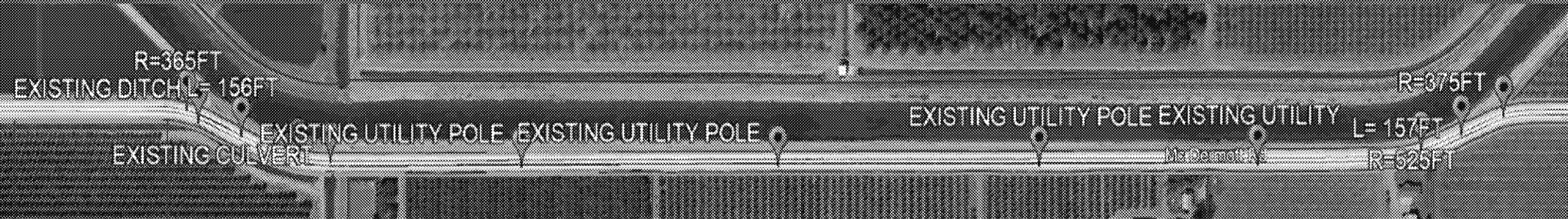


Existing McDermott Road Looking South

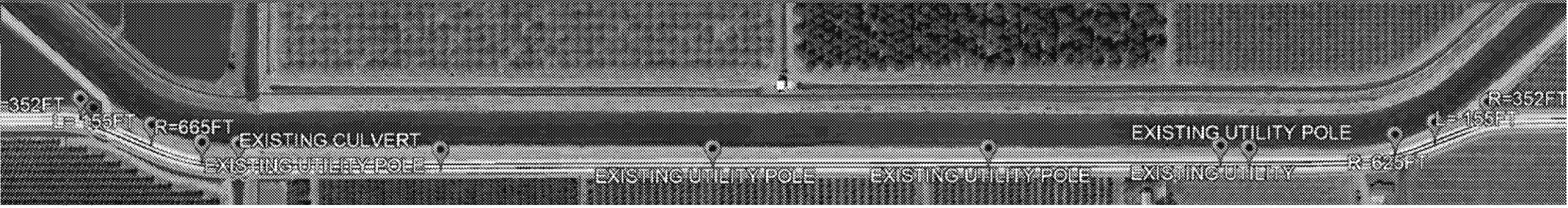
# McDermott Road Alignment Options



# McDermott Road Alignment 35 mph – widen to bottom of berm



# McDermott Road Alignment 35 mph – maintain EP near berm



# McDermott Road Alignment 55 mph – maintain EP near berm

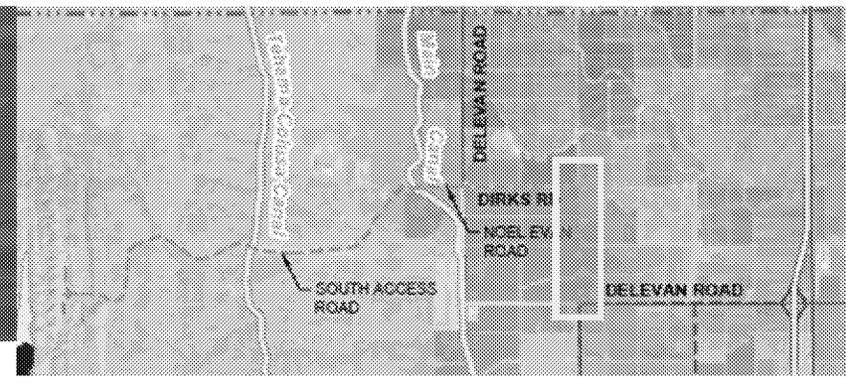


# Alternate Southerly Access: McDermott Road

Howard Michael



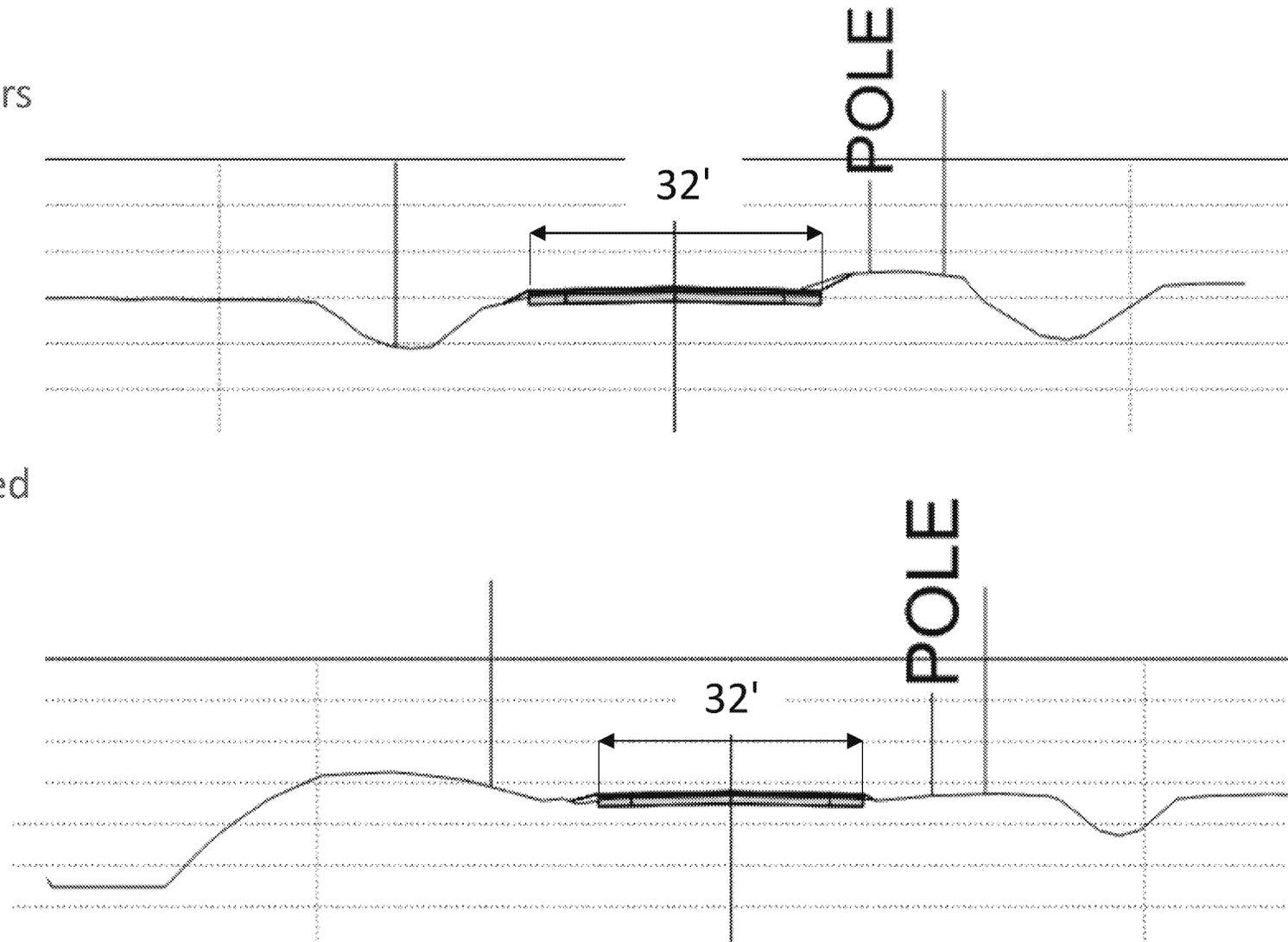
# McDermott Rd Alignment Between Delevan Rd & Dirks Rd



- Functional Classification – Local Collector (Rural)
- Design Speed – 55 mph
- Lane Width – 12 ft
- Shoulder Width – 4 ft
- Cross Slope – 2% to 5%
- Side Slopes – 2:1 to 4:1 (non-recoverable, non-traversable)
- Clear Recovery Zone – 14 ft from ETW
- Vertical Grades – Maintain Existing

# McDermott Rd Typical Cross Sections Between Delevan Rd & Dirks Rd

- 40 yr Total Design Life =  
8 yr Construction + 32 yrs
- Calculated TI = 9
- Widen roadbed for  
shoulders
- North of the existing  
bridge - ~700 ft proposed  
EP is 3.5+ ft clear of  
power poles

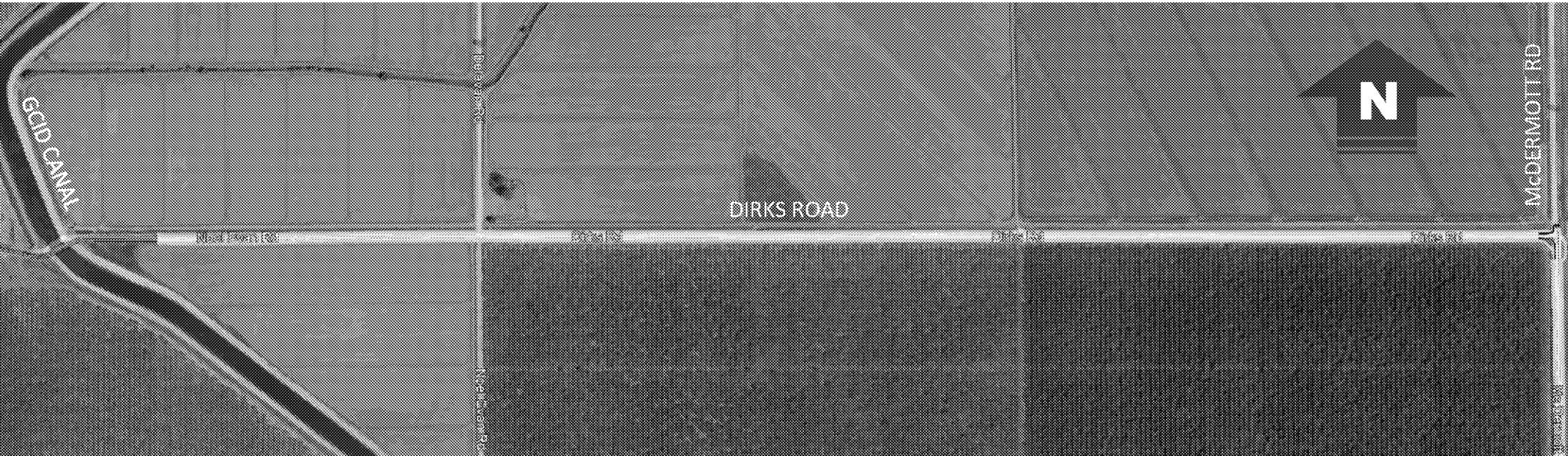
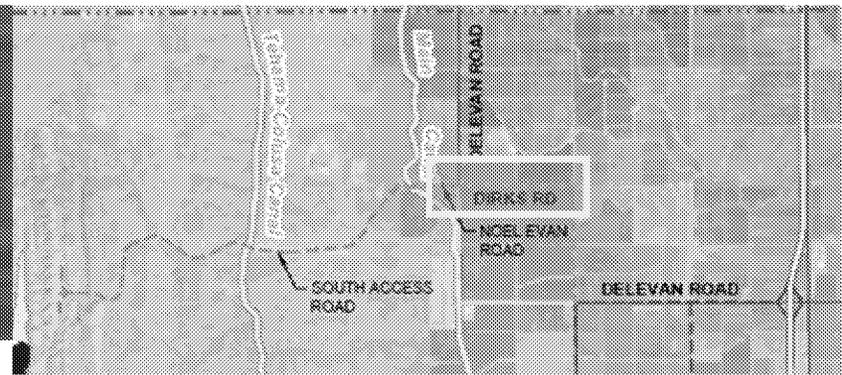


# Alternate Southerly Access: Dirks Road Extension

Howard Michael



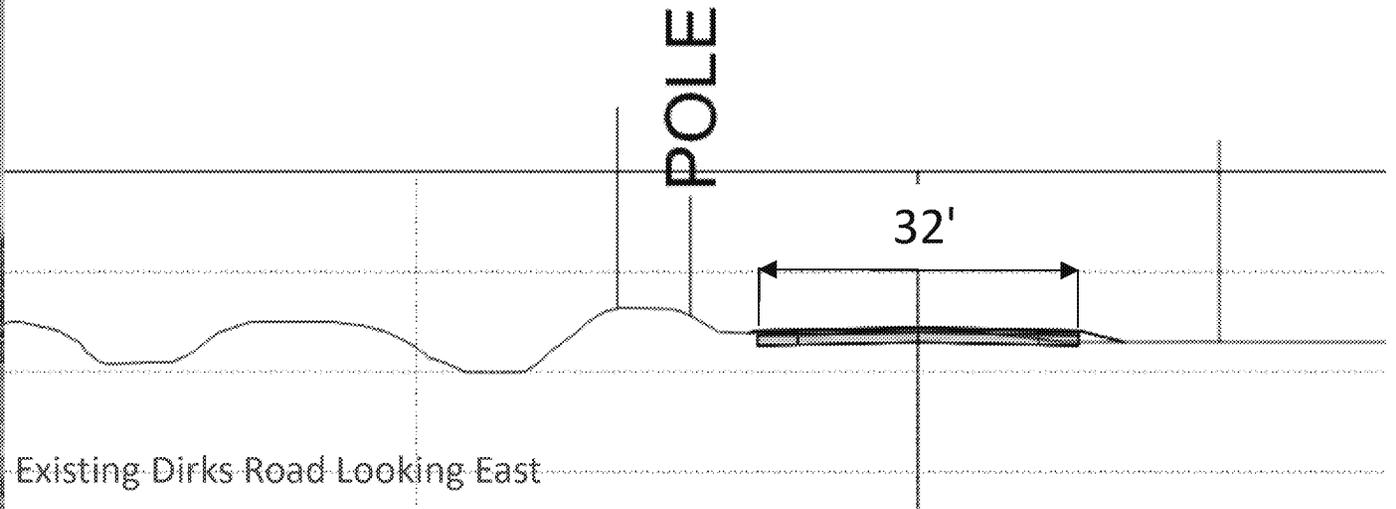
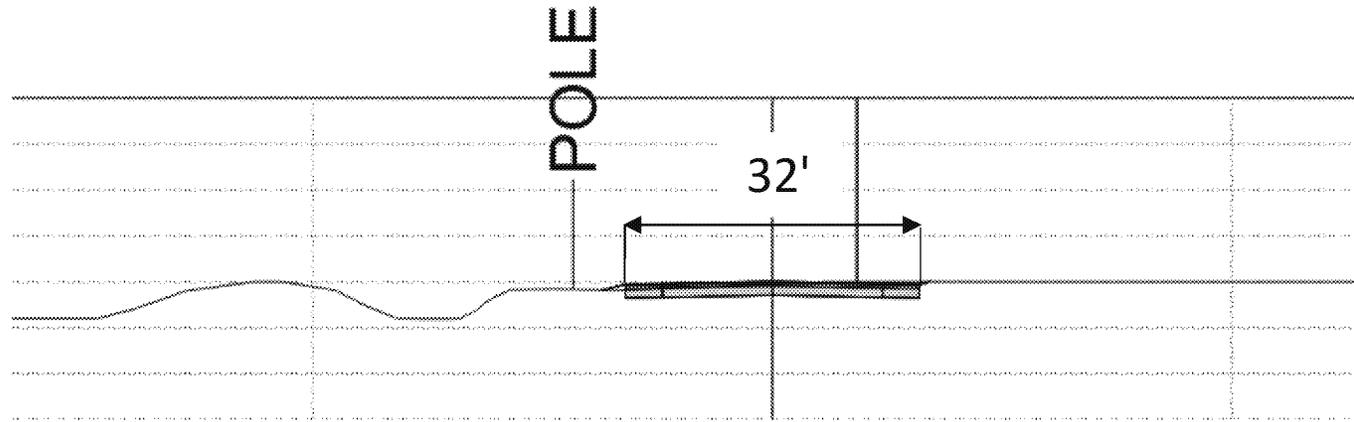
# Dirks Road Alignment



- Functional Classification – Local Collector (Rural)
- Design Speed – 55 mph
- Lane Width – 12 ft
- Shoulder Width – 4 ft
- Cross Slope – 2% to 5%
- Side Slopes – 2:1 to 4:1 (non-recoverable, non-traversable)
- Clear Recovery Zone – 14 ft from ETW
- Vertical Grades – Maintain Existing

# Dirks Road Typical Cross Sections

- 40 yr Total Design Life =  
8 yr Construction + 32 yrs
- Calculated TI = 9
- Widen pavement for  
shoulders



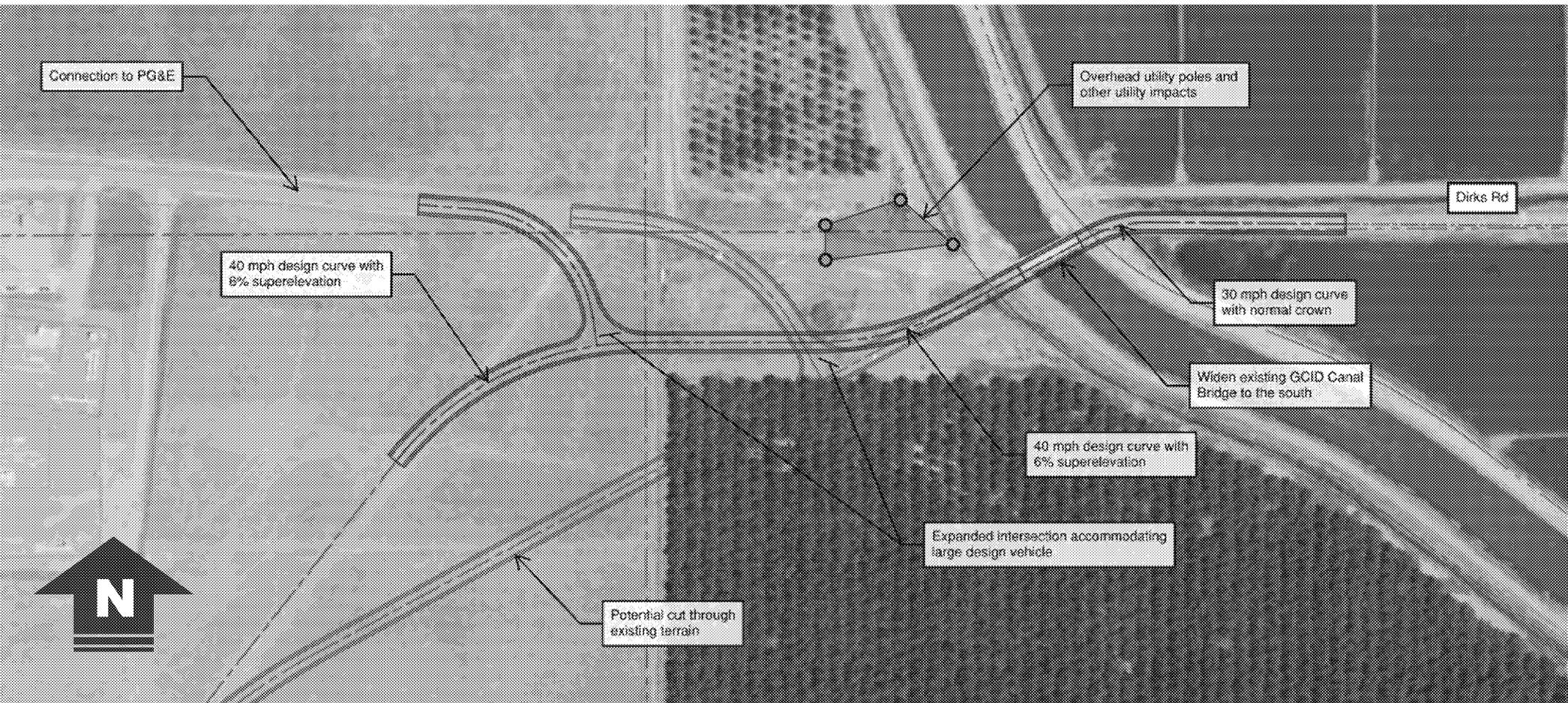
# Dirks Road Exist GCID Bridge

- Perform Load Ratings
  - Widen Exist
  - Replace
- Impacts
  - ROW
  - OH Utility
  - Building
- Temp Bridge Cost
  - Rent
  - Purchase



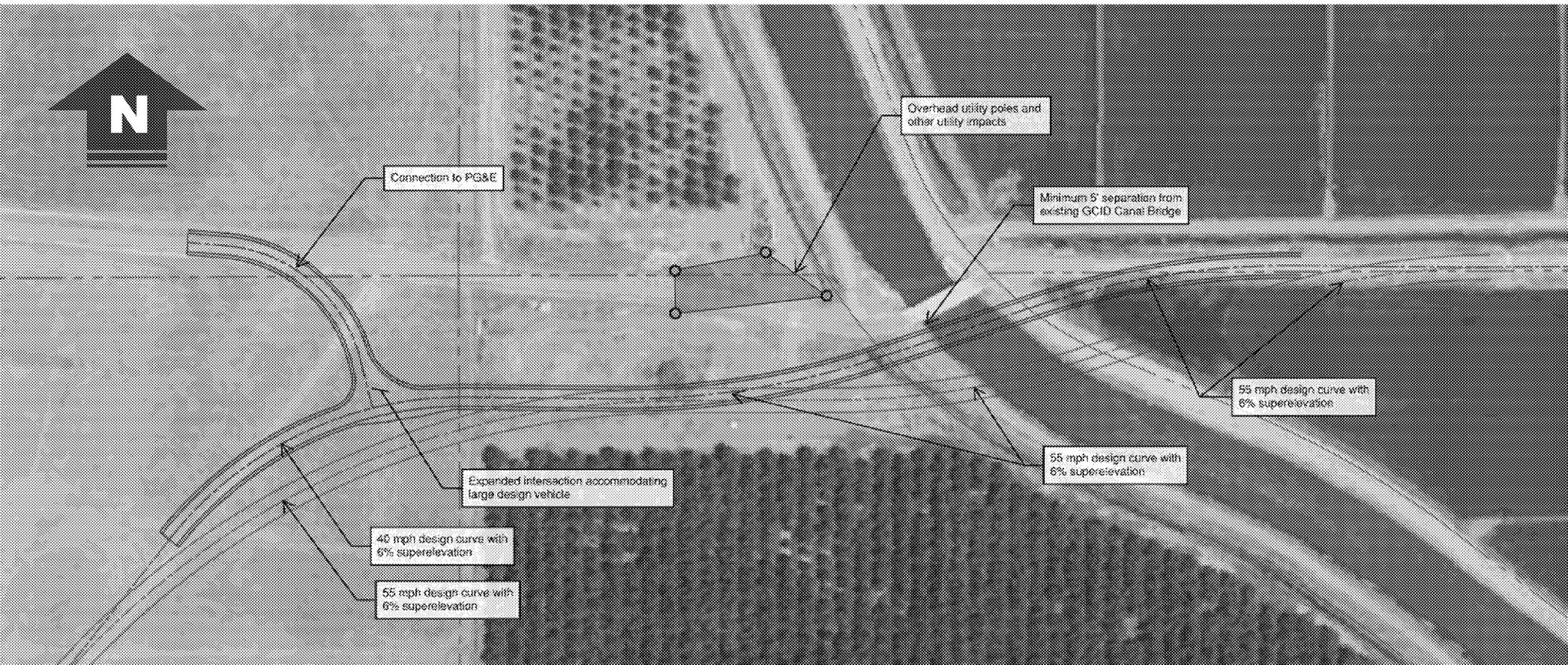
# Dirks Road GCID Bridge

## Alt 1: Bridge Widen to South



# Dirks Road GCID Bridge

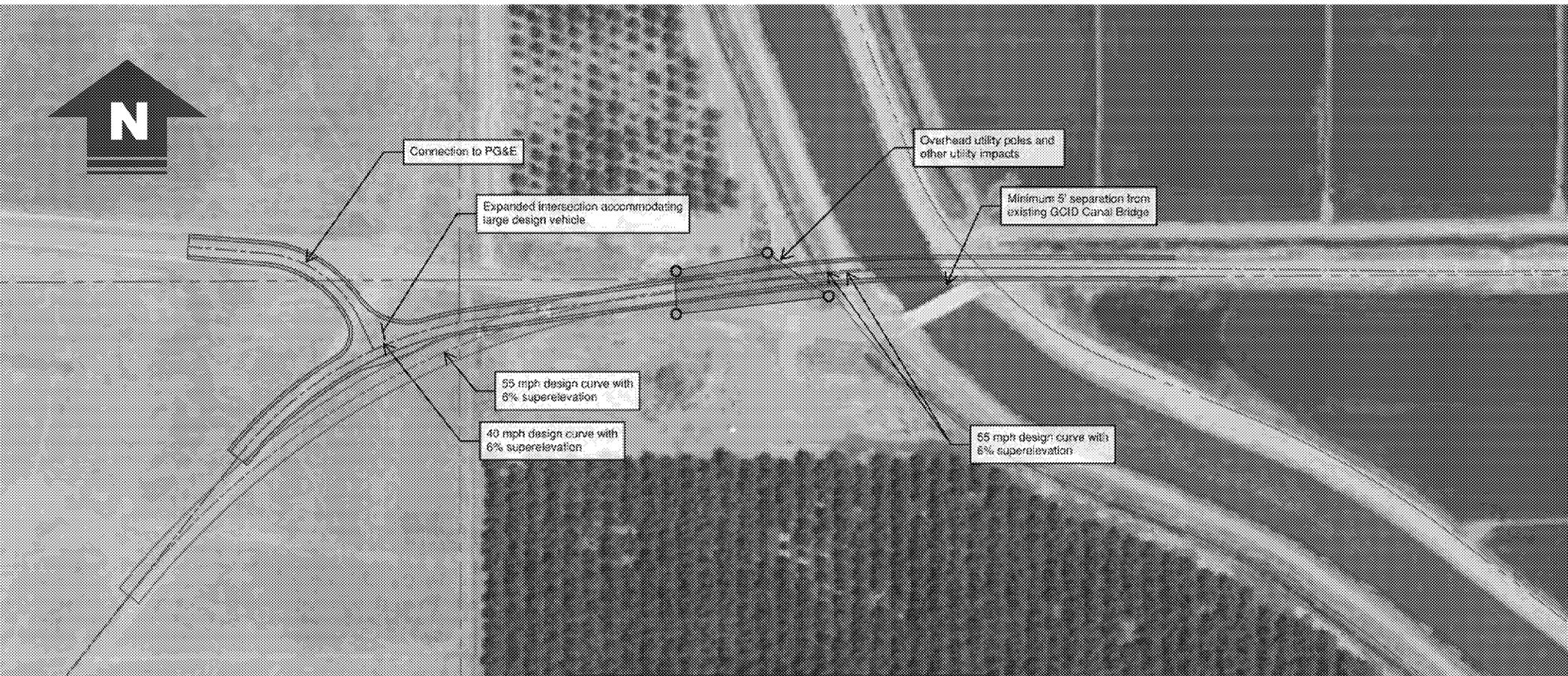
## Alt 2: 55 mph – 6% Superelevation



# Dirks Road GCID Bridge

## Alt 3: Through Existing Poles

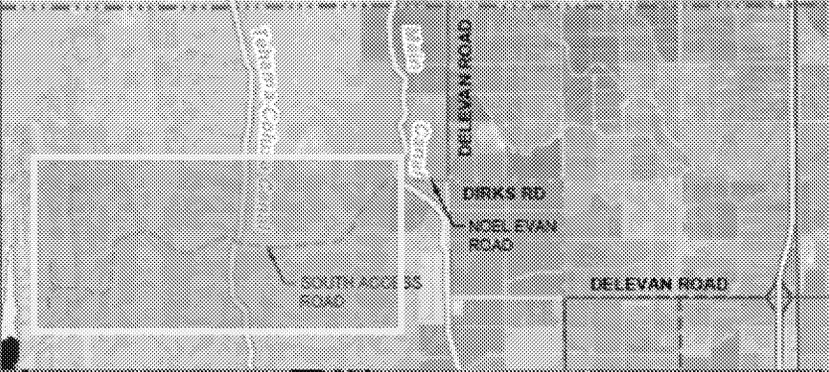
### 55 mph – 6% Superelevation



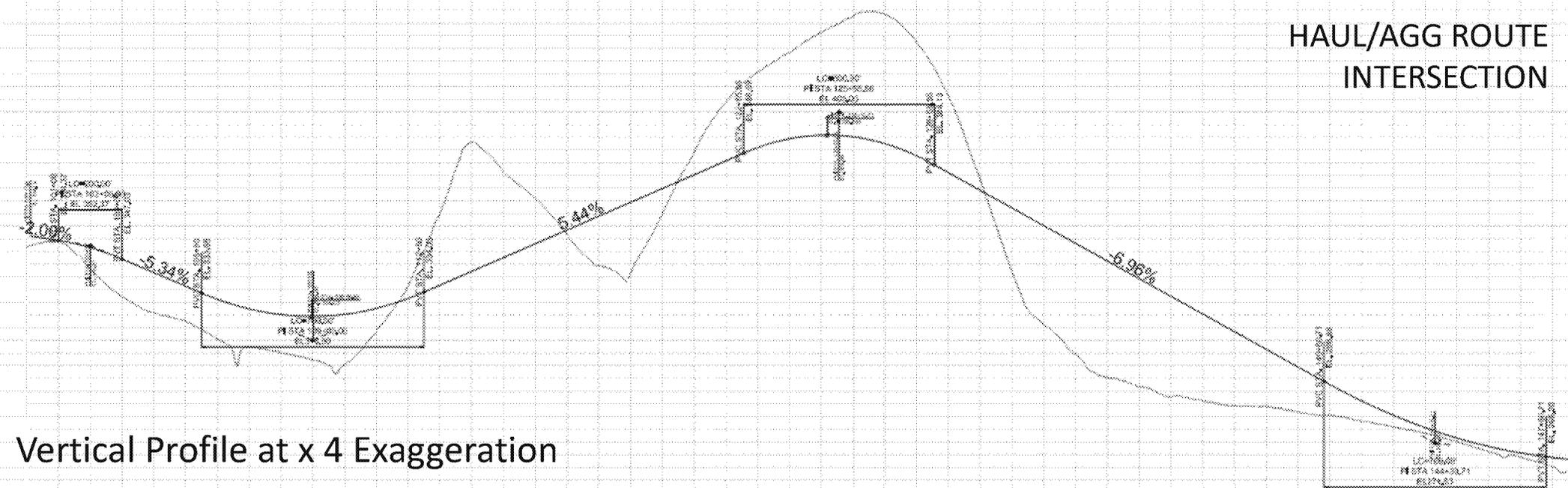
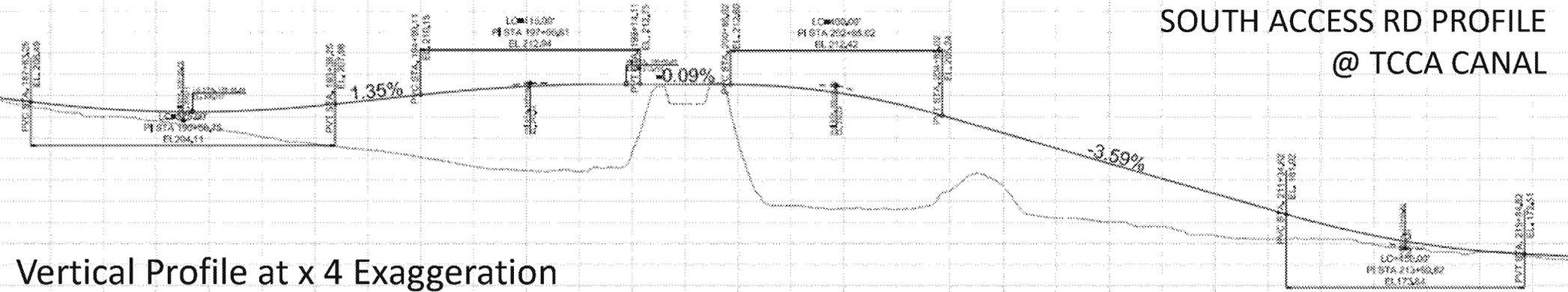
# Dirks Rd. Ext. & Haul/Agg Route Alignment



- Functional Classification – Const. Agg. Route
- Design Speed – 35/55 mph
- Lane Width – 12 ft
- Shoulder Width – 4 ft
- Cross Slope – 2% to 5%
- Side Slopes – 1.5:1 to 2:1  
(non-recoverable, non-traversable)
- Paved or Unpaved
- Vertical Grades:
  - 35 to 45 mph = 8%
  - 55 mph = 7%

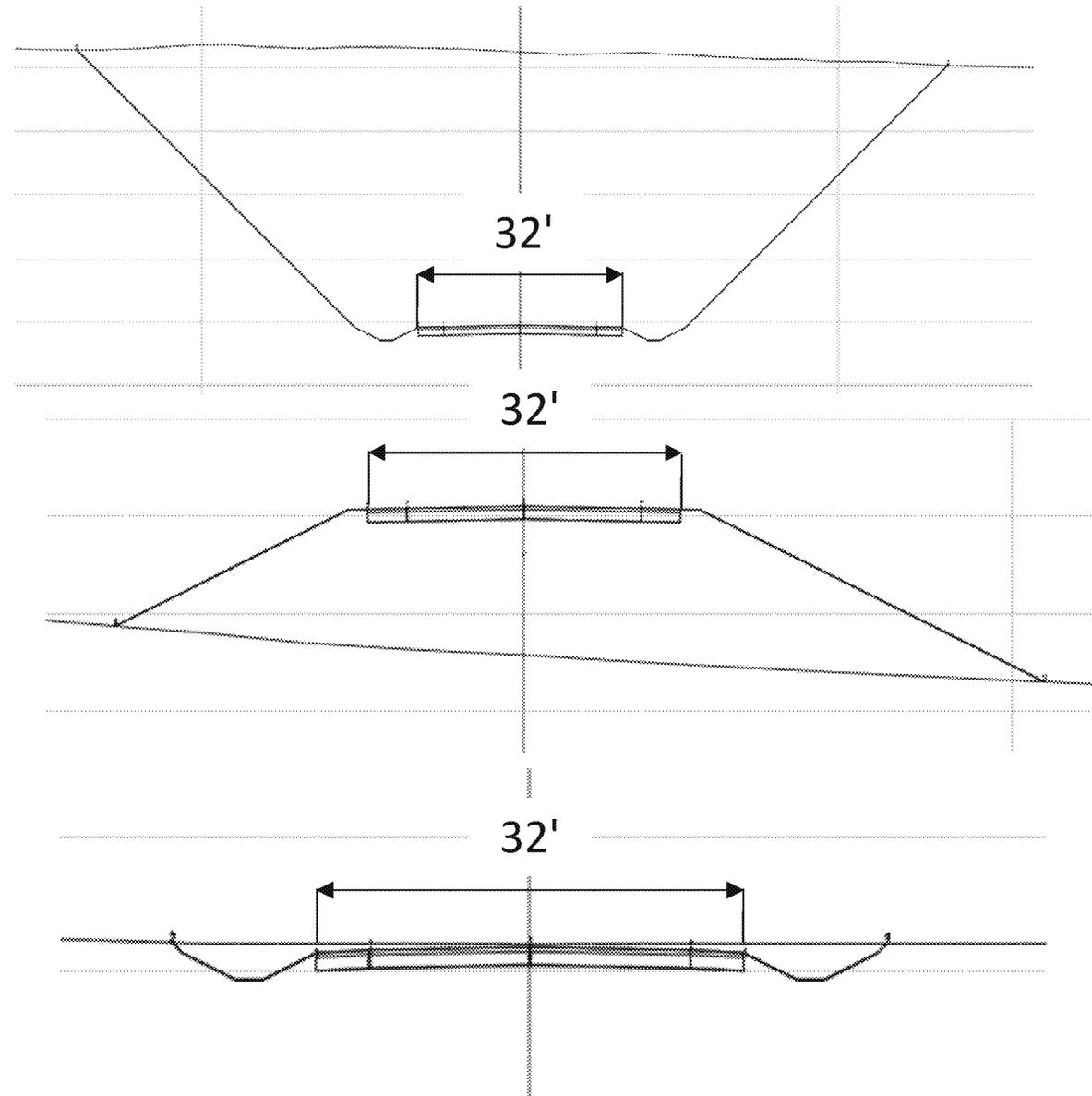


# Dirks Rd. Ext. & Haul/Agg Route Alignment



# Dirks Rd. Ext. & Haul/Agg Route Alignment

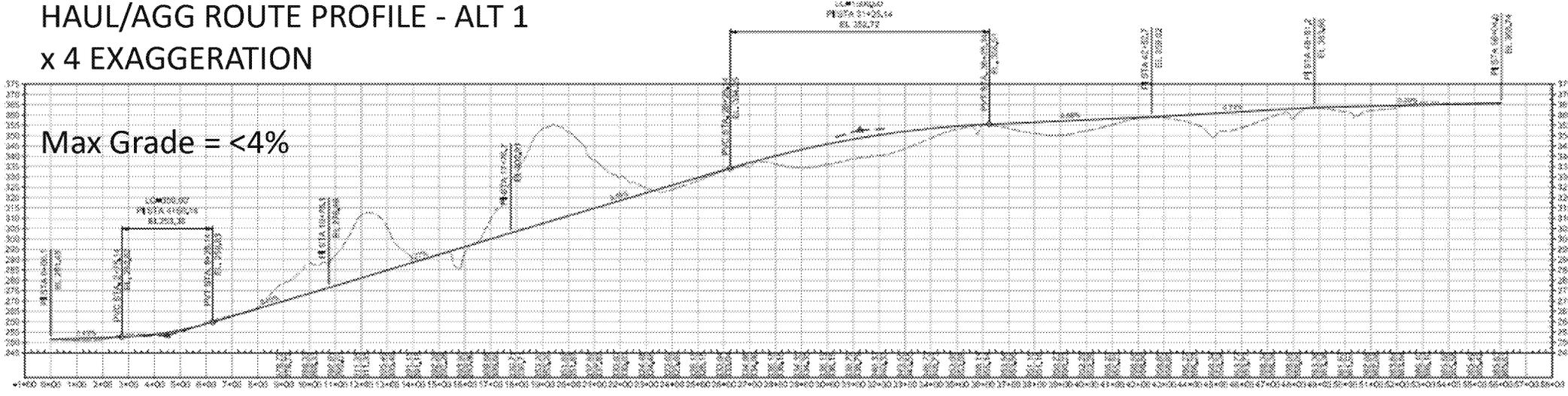
- 40 yr Total Design Life =  
8 yr Construction + 32 yrs
- Calculated TI = 9
- Paved or Gravel



# Haul/Agg Route Profile

## HAUL/AGG ROUTE PROFILE - ALT 1 x 4 EXAGGERATION

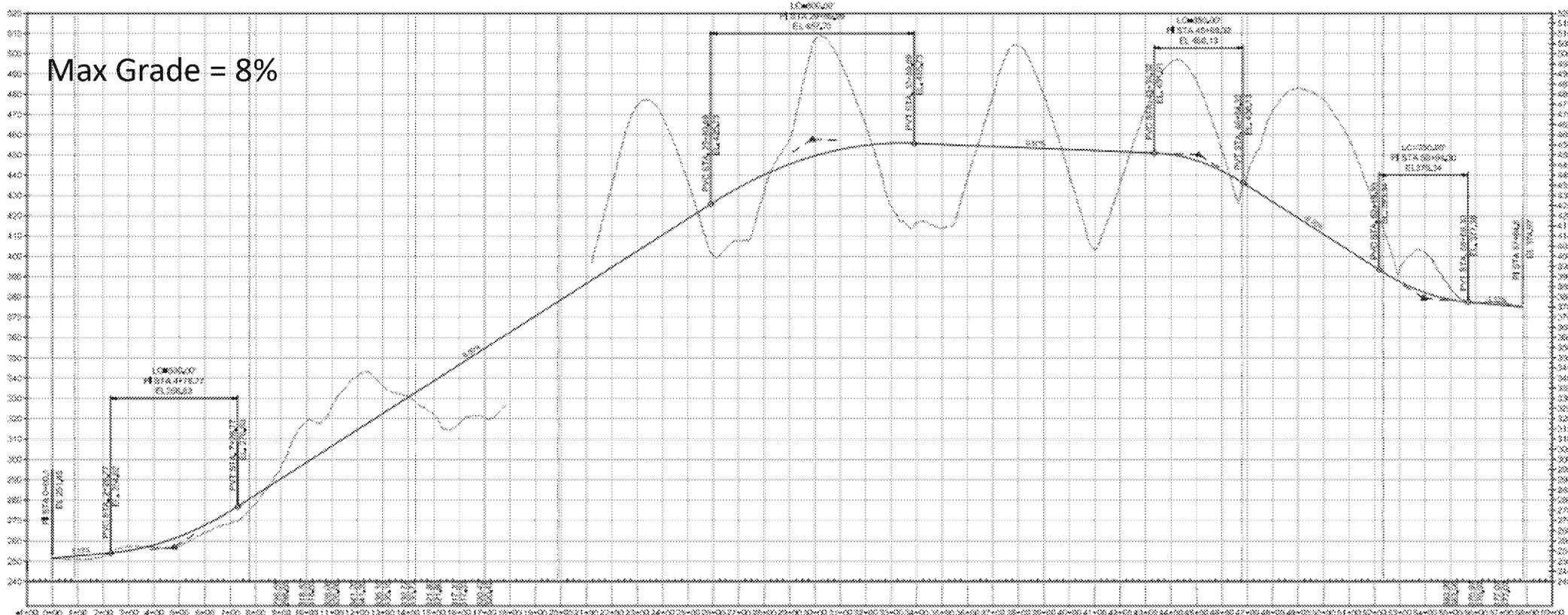
Max Grade = <4%



# Haul/Agg Route Profile

HAUL/AGG ROUTE PROFILE - ALT 2  
x 4 EXAGGERATION

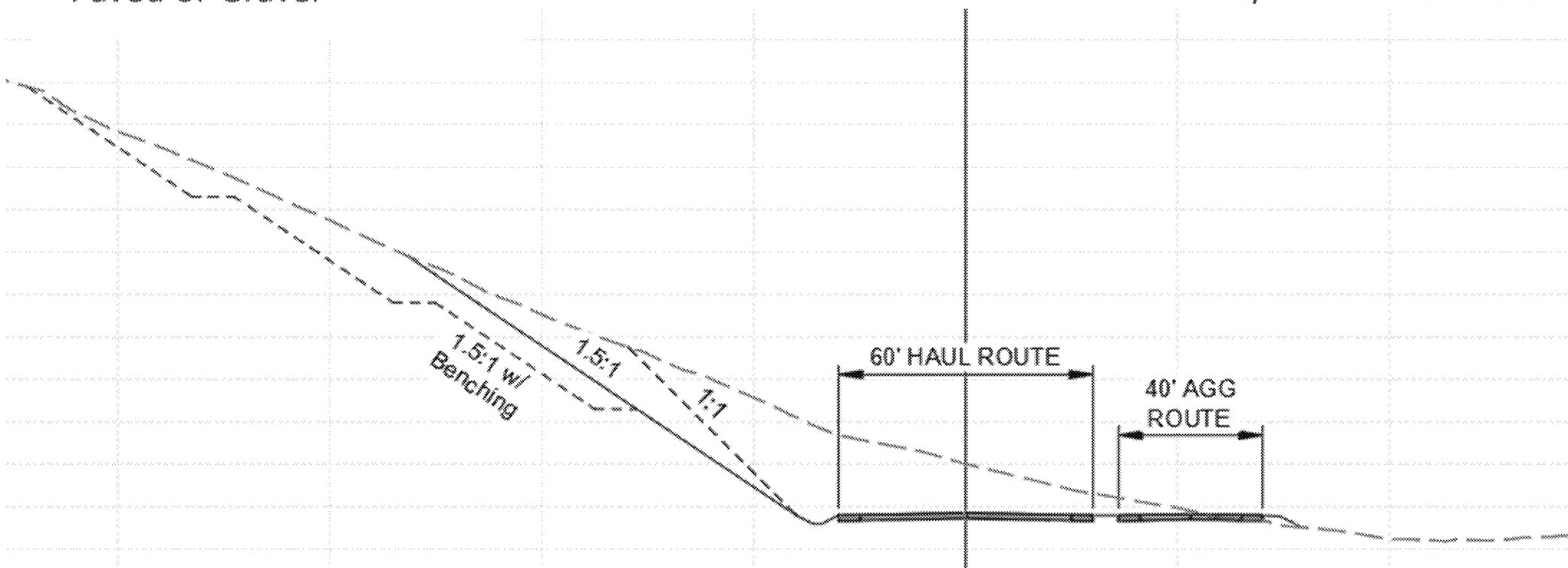
Max Grade = 8%



# Haul/Agg Route Typical Cross Sections

- 40 yr Total Design Life =  
8 yr Construction + 32 yrs
- Calculated TI = 9
- Paved or Gravel

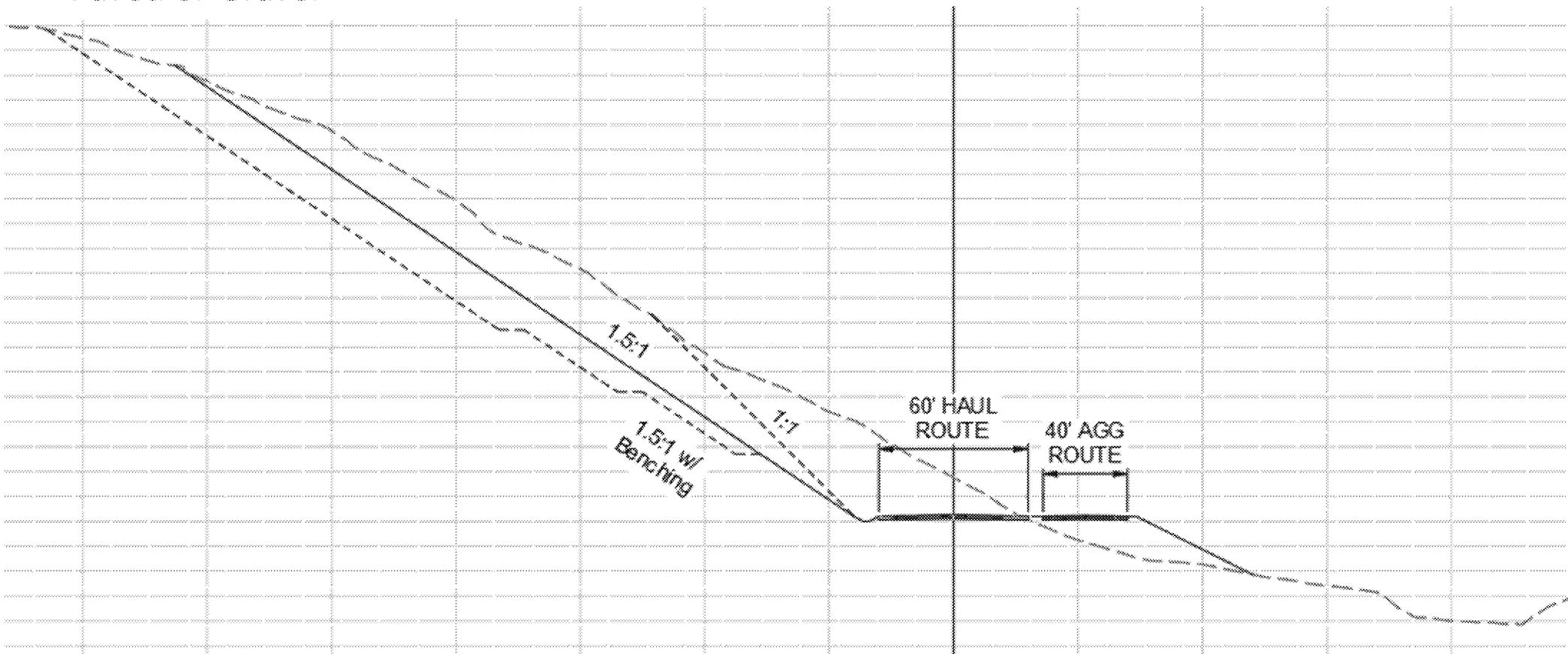
HAUL/AGG ROUTE – ALT 1



# Haul/Agg Route Typical Cross Sections

- 40 yr Total Design Life =  
8 yr Construction + 32 yrs
- Calculated TI = 9
- Paved or Gravel

HAUL/AGG ROUTE - ALT 2



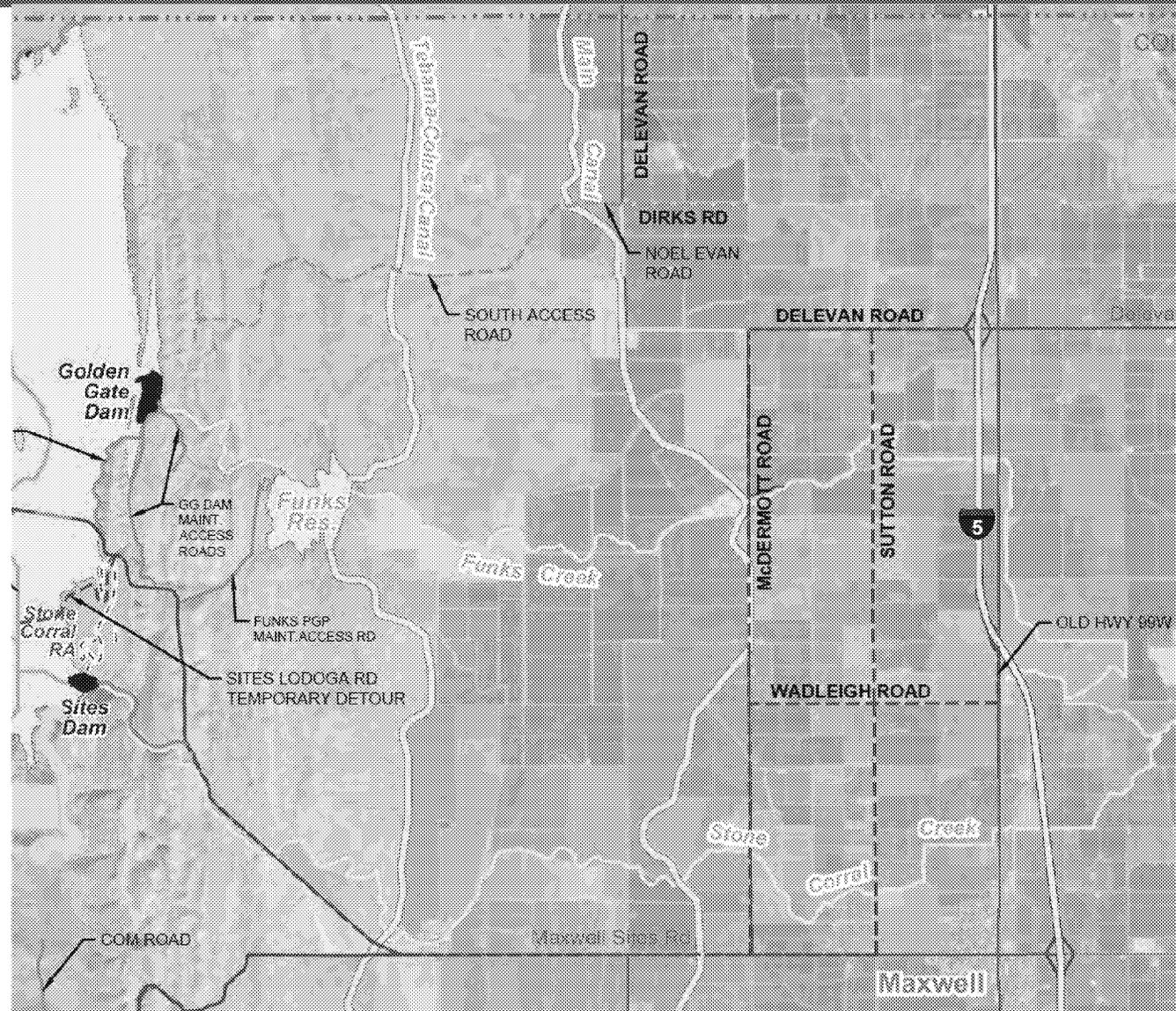
# Dirks Rd Extension Alternate Southerly Access vs. McDermott/Maxwell-Sites Southerly Access

## DIRKS vs. McDERMOTT

- Access Efficiency
- Property Impacts
- Safety
  - Construction + Agg Equip Traffic
  - Construction + Local traffic
- Community Impact
- Utility Impacts

## DIRKS 35 mph vs. 55 mph

- Travel Time/Cost vs. Cost to Construct
  - 2 min/trip over 8 yrs = 41,000 hrs



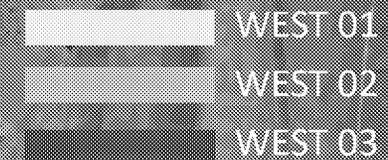
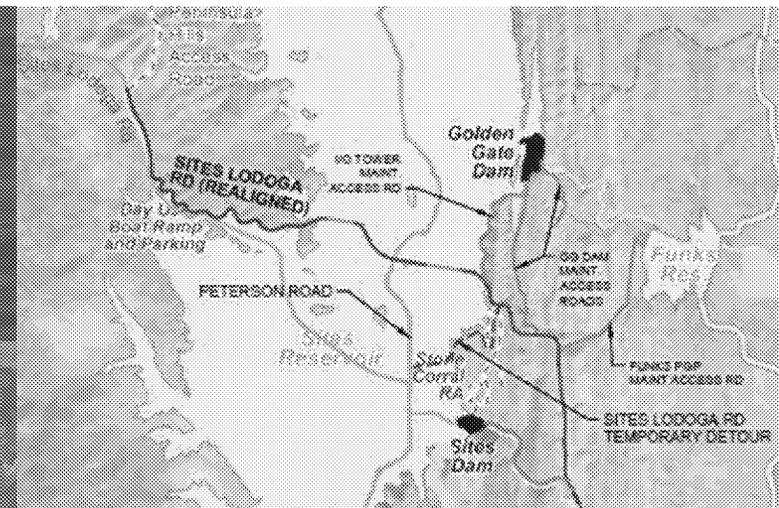
3

# Sites Lodoga Road Realignment

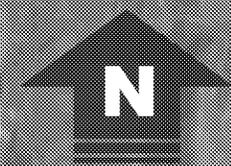
Howard Michael



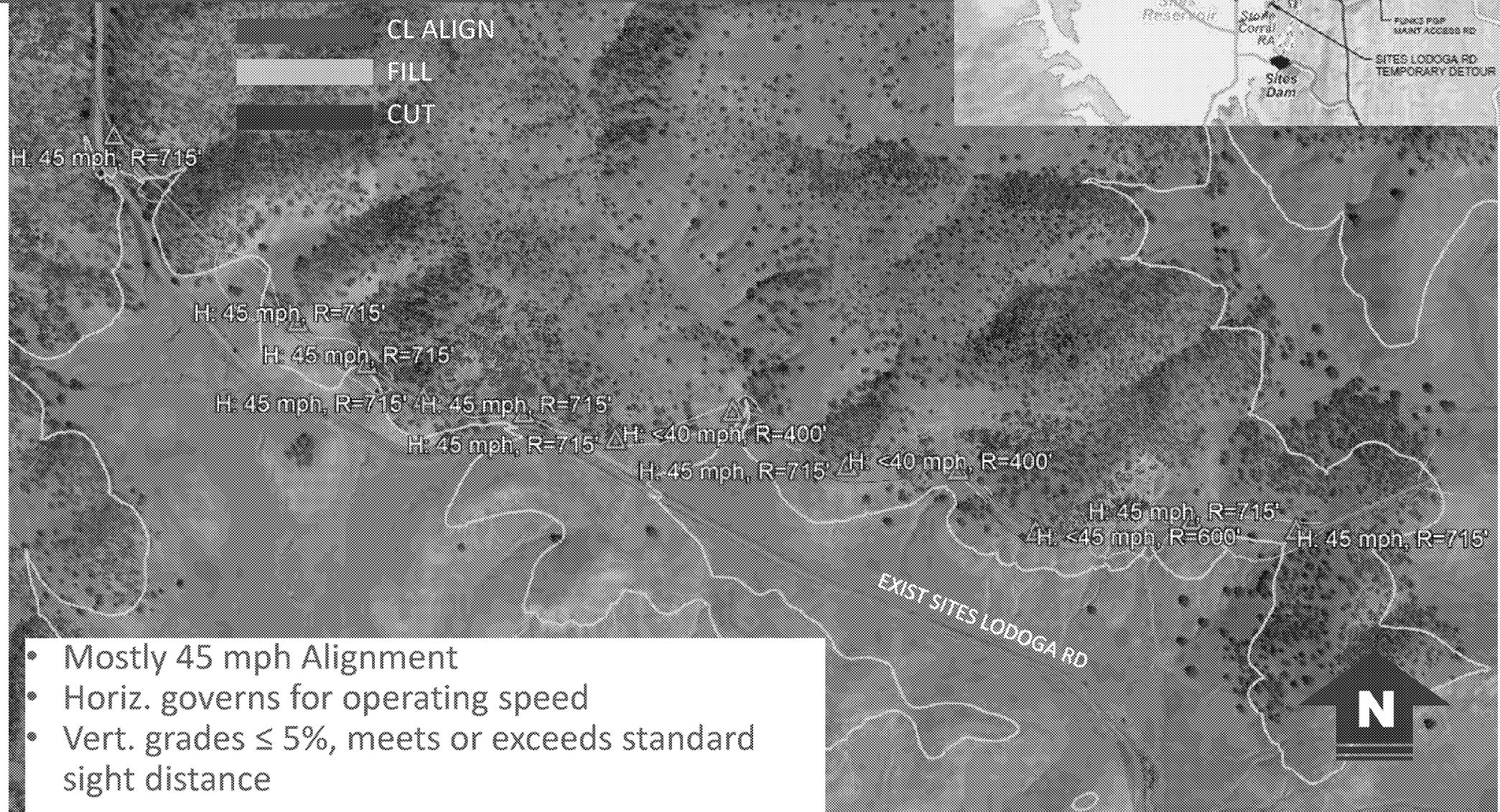
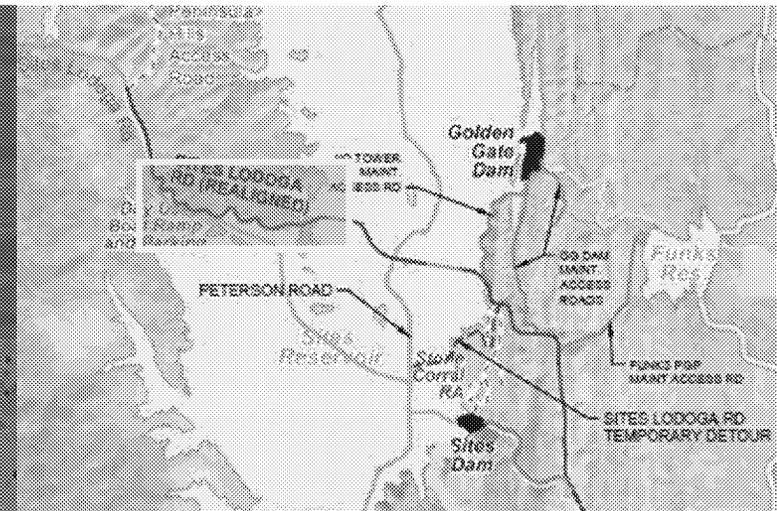
# Sites Lodoga Road Realignment



- Functional Classification – Major Collector (Rural)
- Design Speed – 55 mph
- Lane Width – 12 ft
- Shoulder Width – 4 ft
- Cross Slope – 2%
- Side Slopes – 2:1 (non-recoverable, non-traversable)
- Fill Prism Slopes – 3.25:1
- Max Vertical Grades
  - 45 mph, 8%
  - 55 mph, 7%

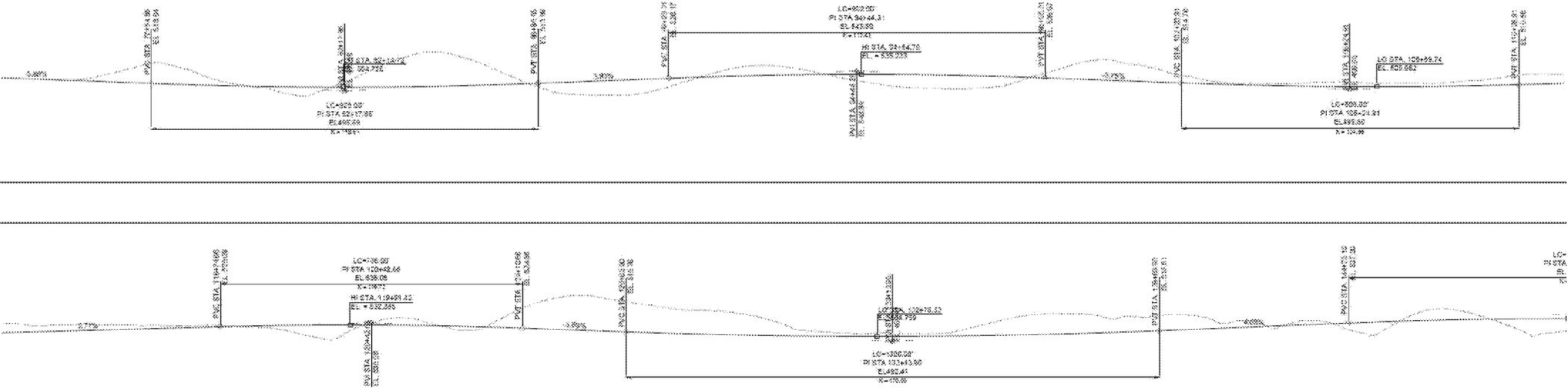


# Sites Lodoga Road Alignment West Portion

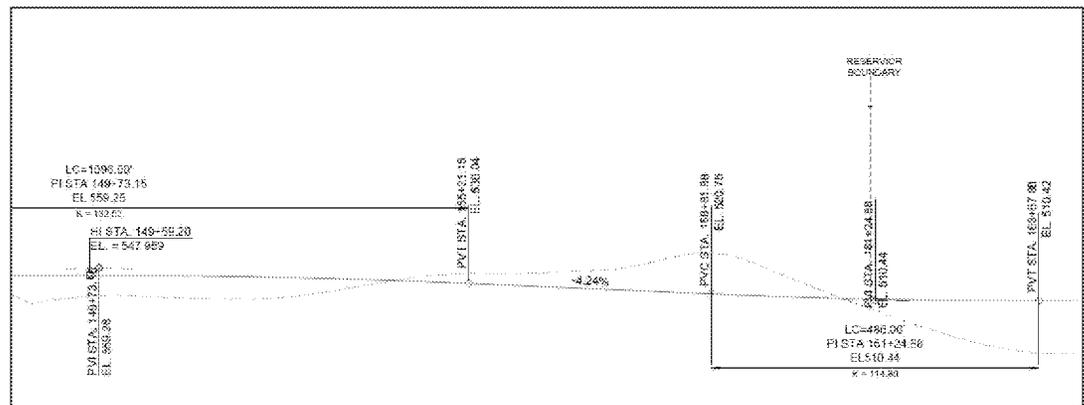


- Mostly 45 mph Alignment
- Horiz. governs for operating speed
- Vert. grades  $\leq 5\%$ , meets or exceeds standard sight distance

# Sites Lodoga Road Profile West Portion



- Profiles at 1:1 (No Exaggeration)
- Max Grades  $\leq 5\%$



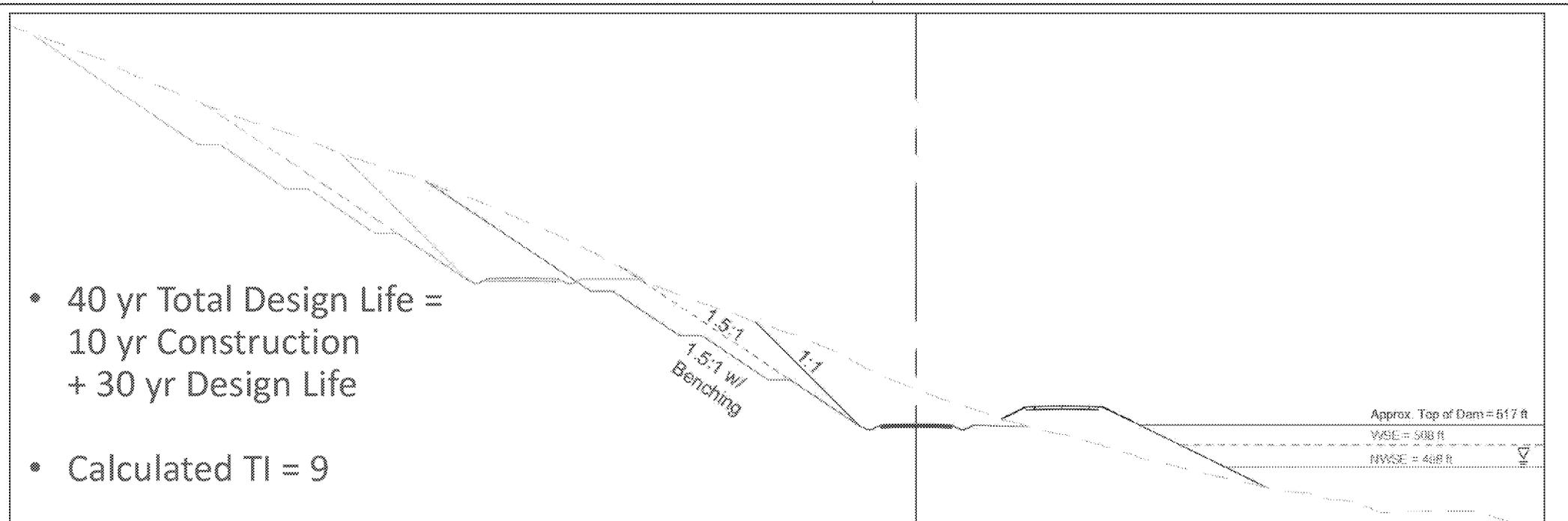
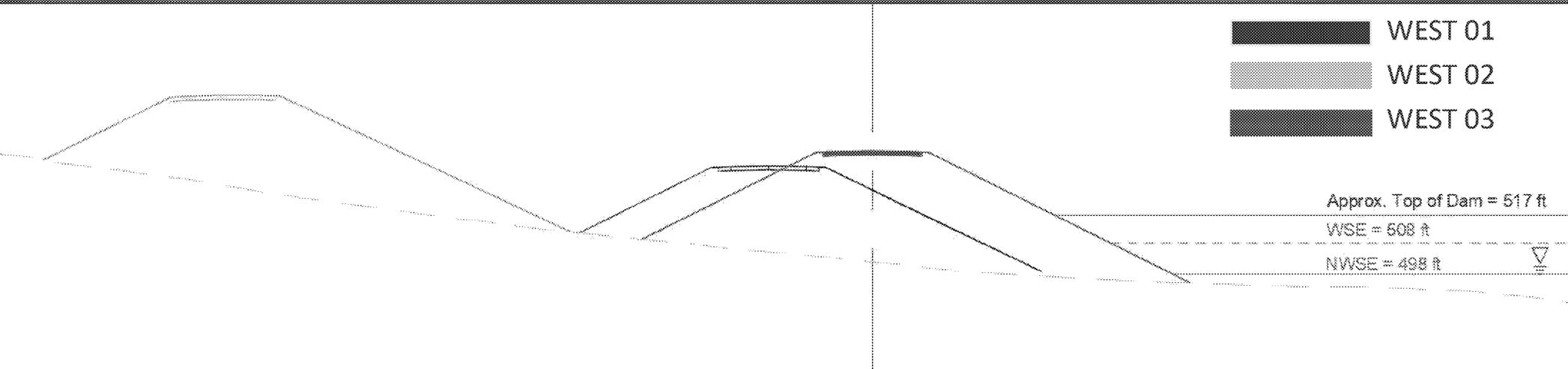
# Sites Lodoga Road Realignment Wildlife Crossing

## Wildlife Crossing General Guidance (from meeting 2023-05-03)

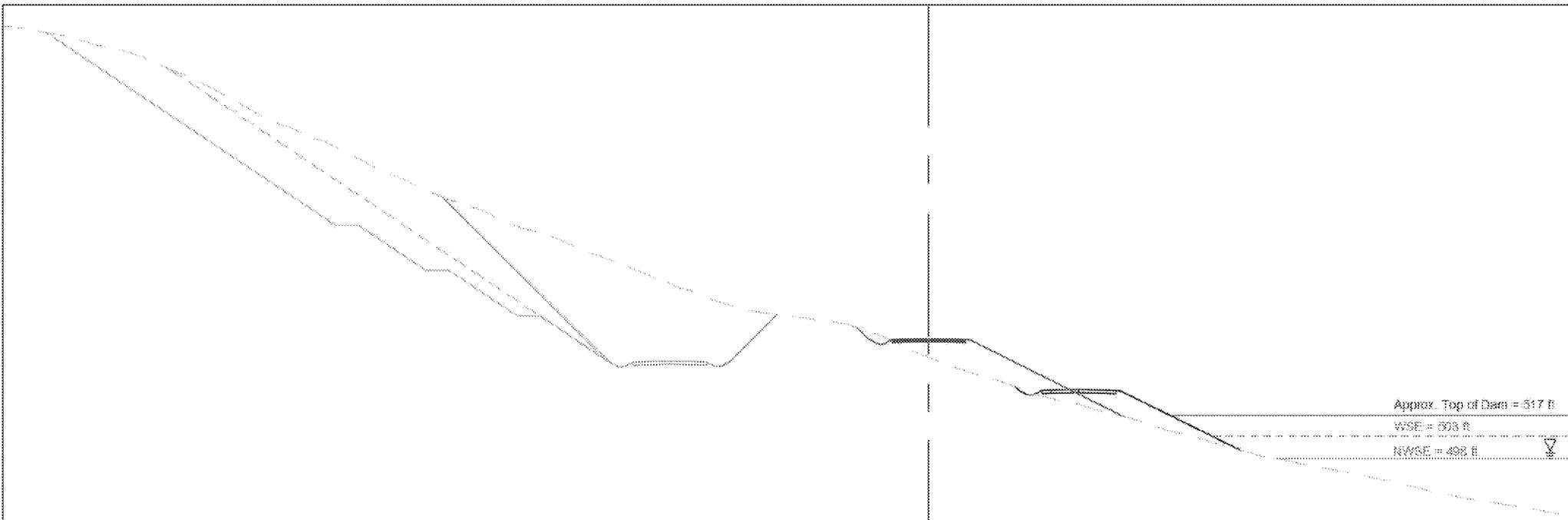
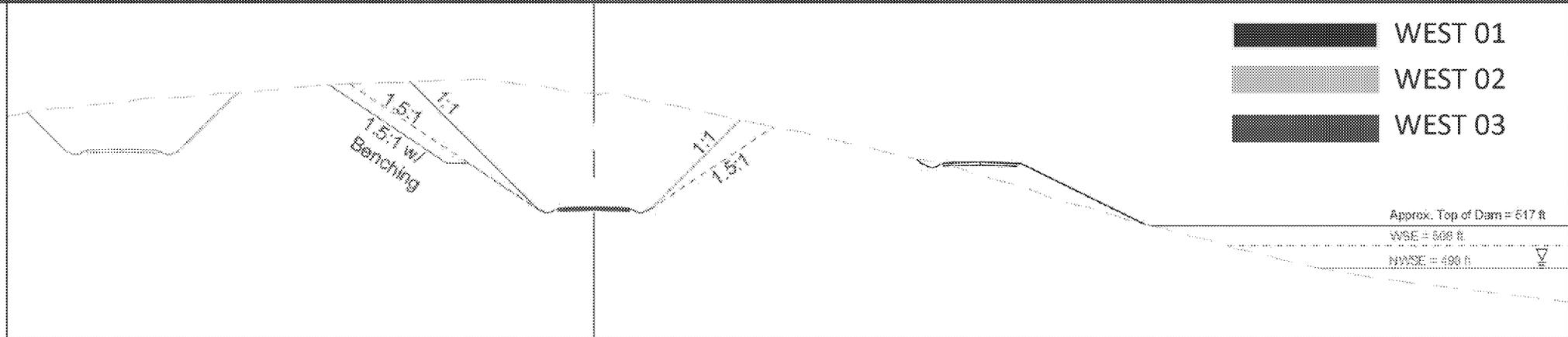
- 3' to 5' dia. approx. every half mile
- 10' x 10' bottomless culvert every 1 to 1.5 miles



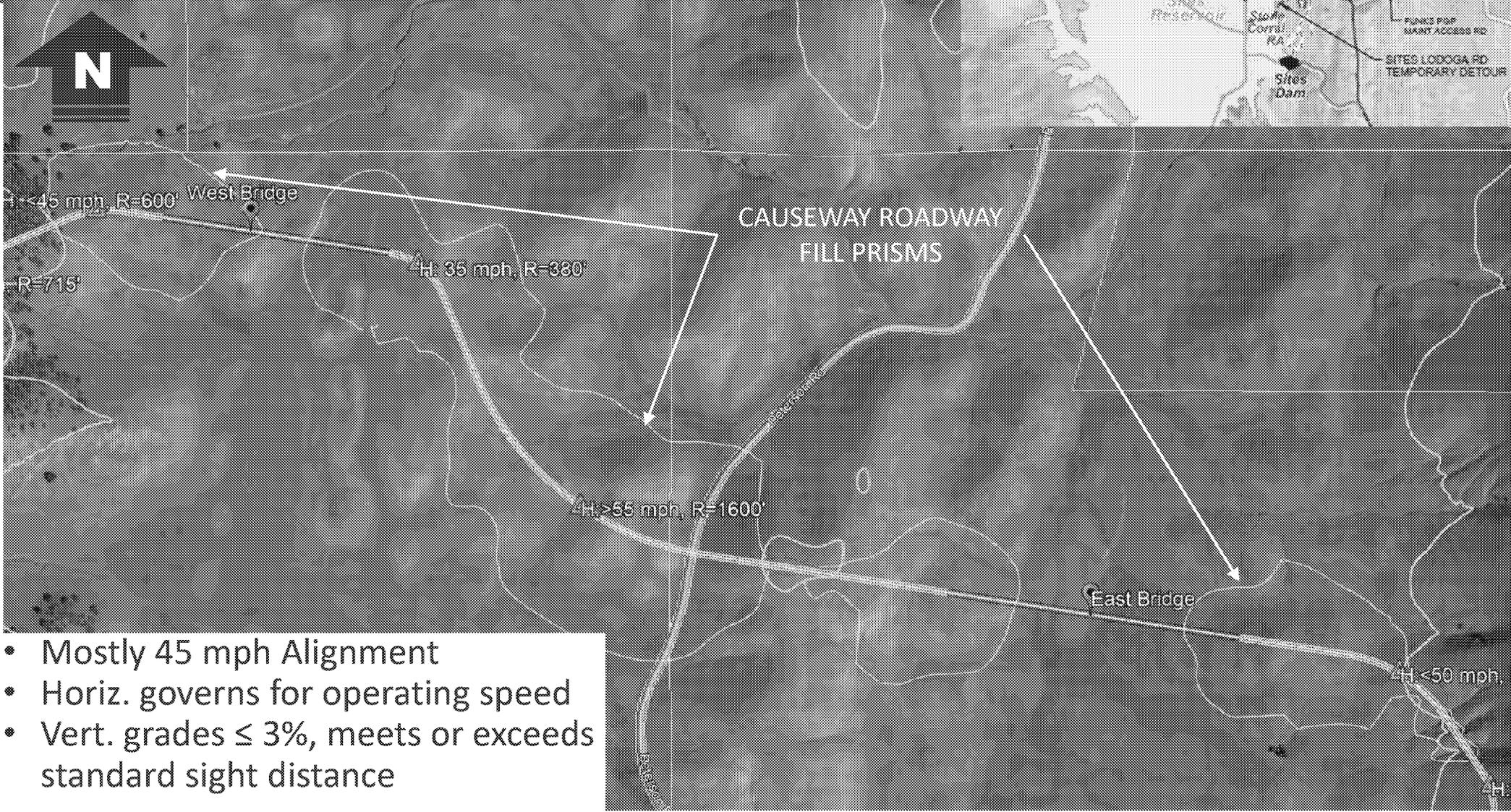
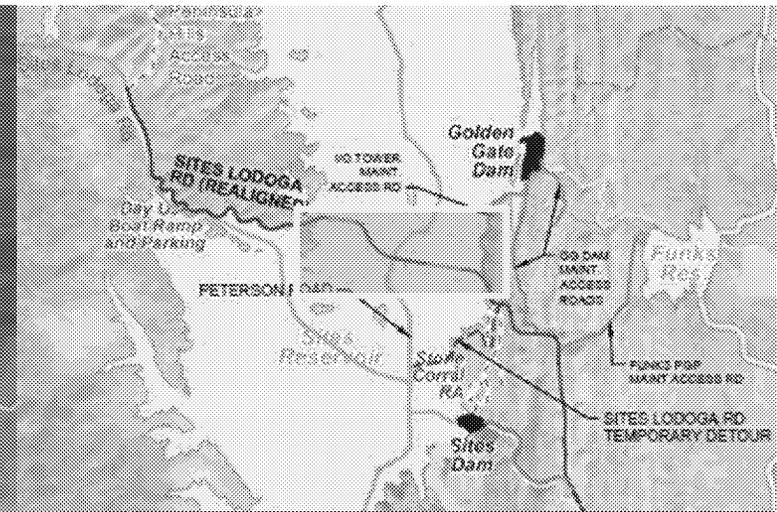
# Sites Lodoga Rd Typical Cross Sections West Portion Evaluation



# Sites Lodoga Rd Typical Cross Sections West Portion Evaluation

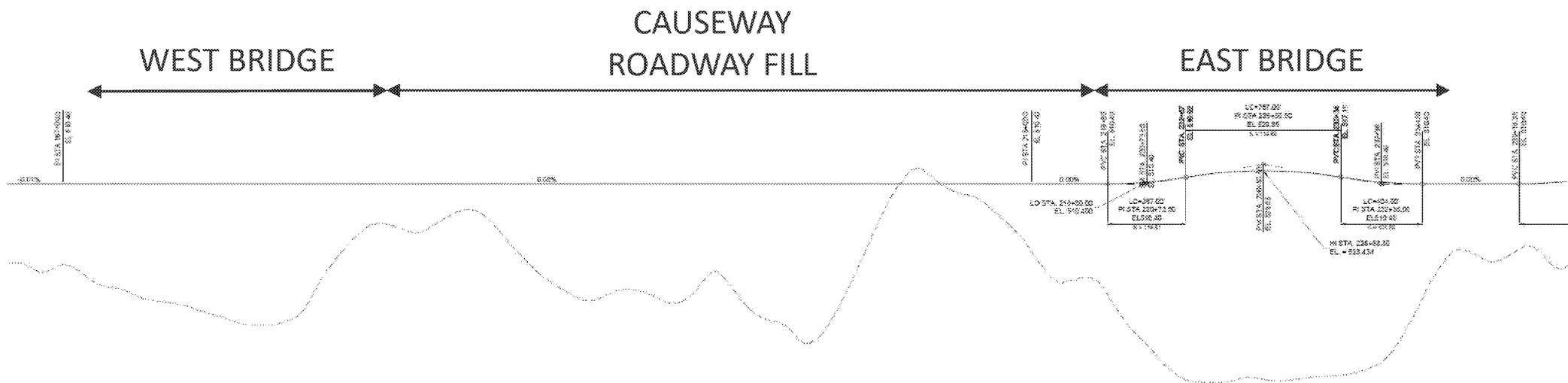


# Sites Lodoga Road Alignment Causeway Portion



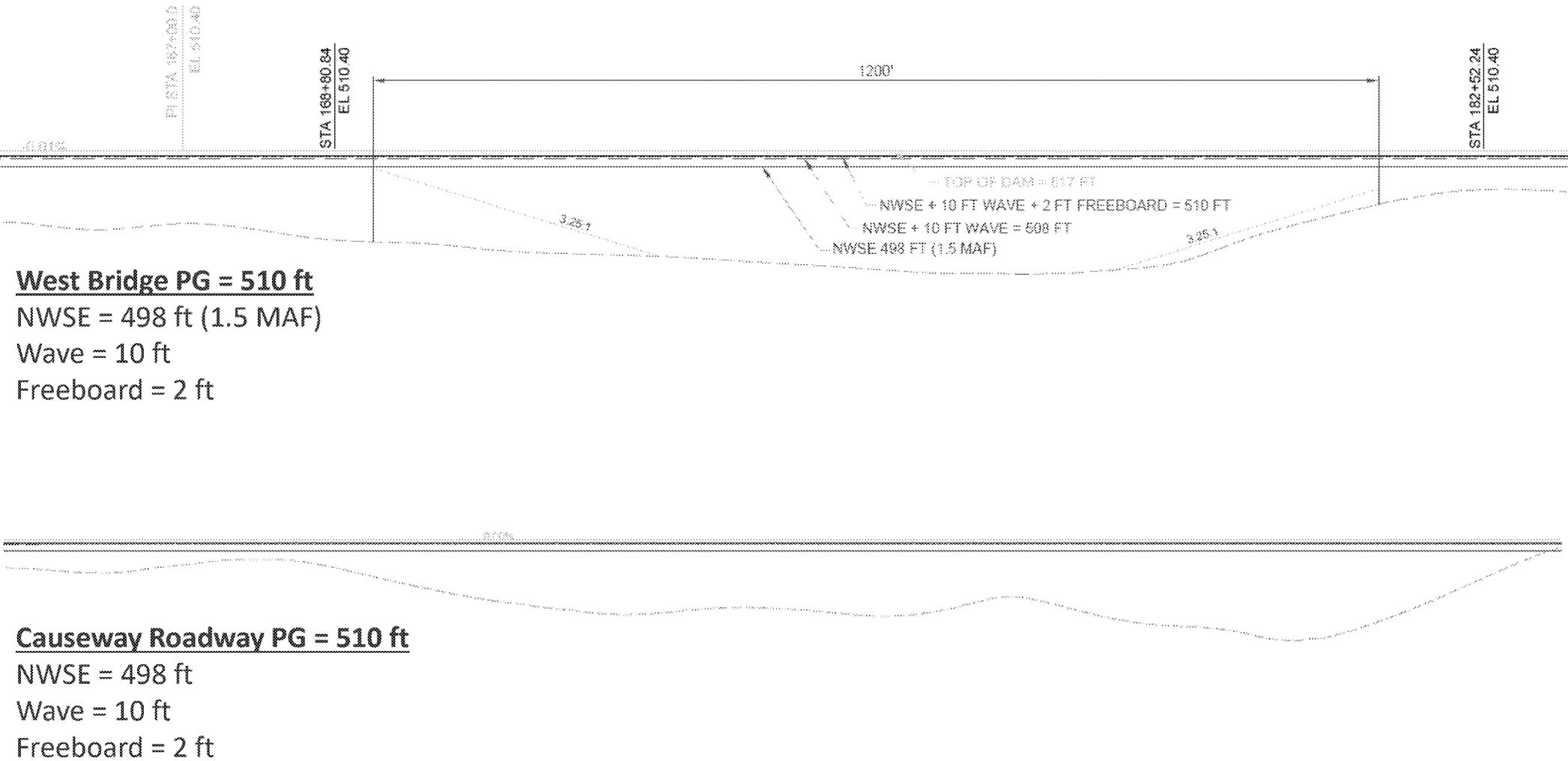
- Mostly 45 mph Alignment
- Horiz. governs for operating speed
- Vert. grades  $\leq 3\%$ , meets or exceeds standard sight distance

# Sites Lodoga Road Profile Causeway Overall Profile In Reservoir



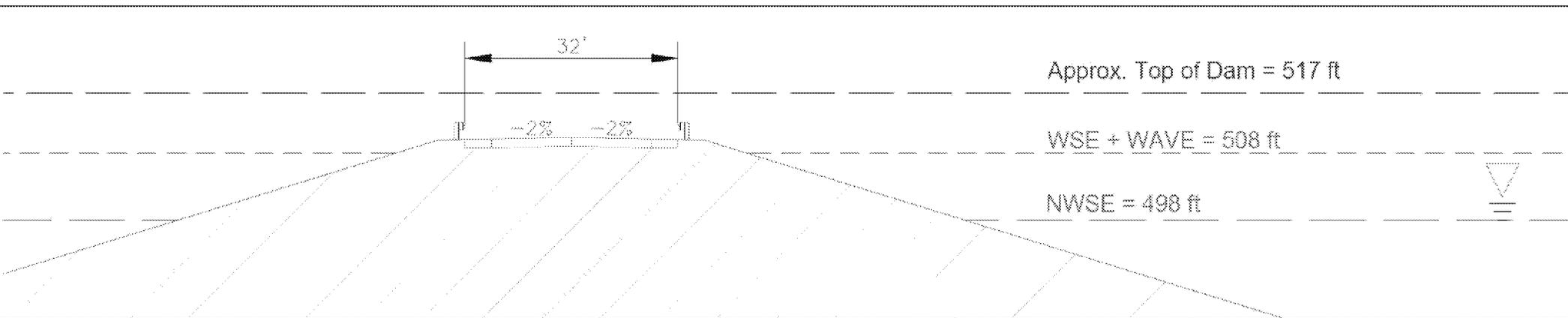
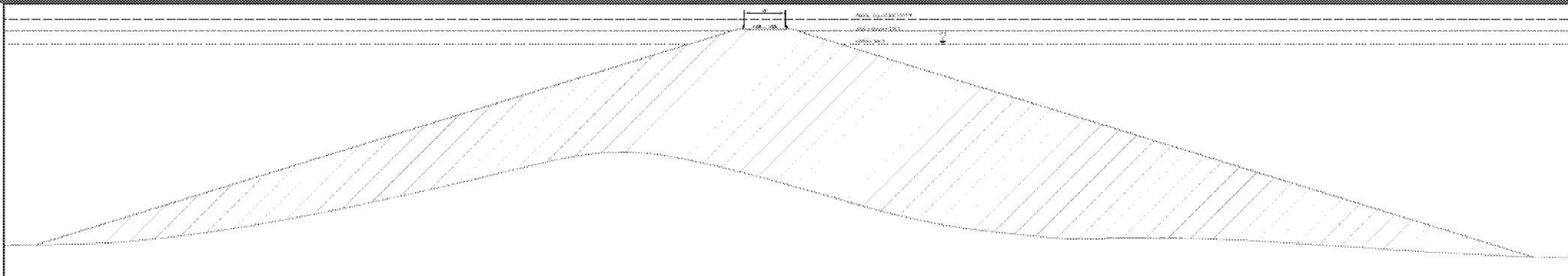
- Max Grade  $\leq$  3% (Flat on West Bridge and Causeway Roadway portions)

# Sites Lodoga Road Profile West Bridge & Causeway Portion



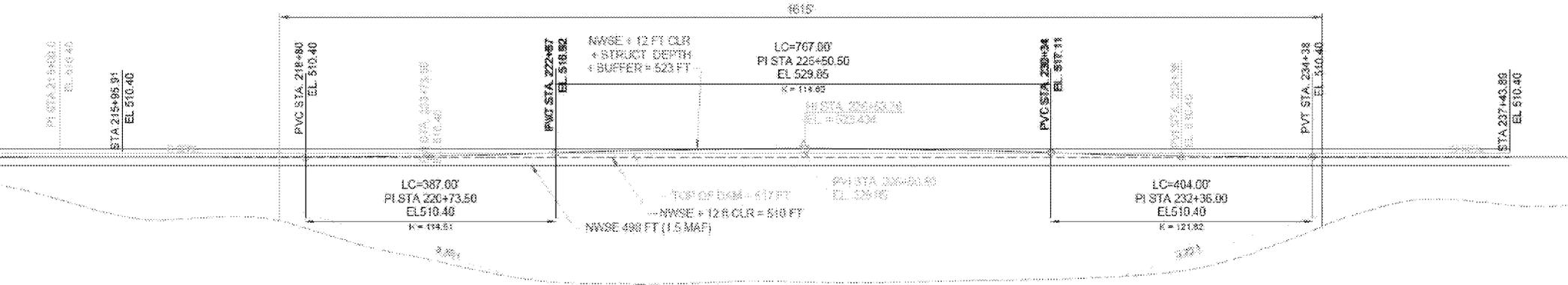
# Sites Lodoga Rd Typical Cross Sections

## Fill Prism



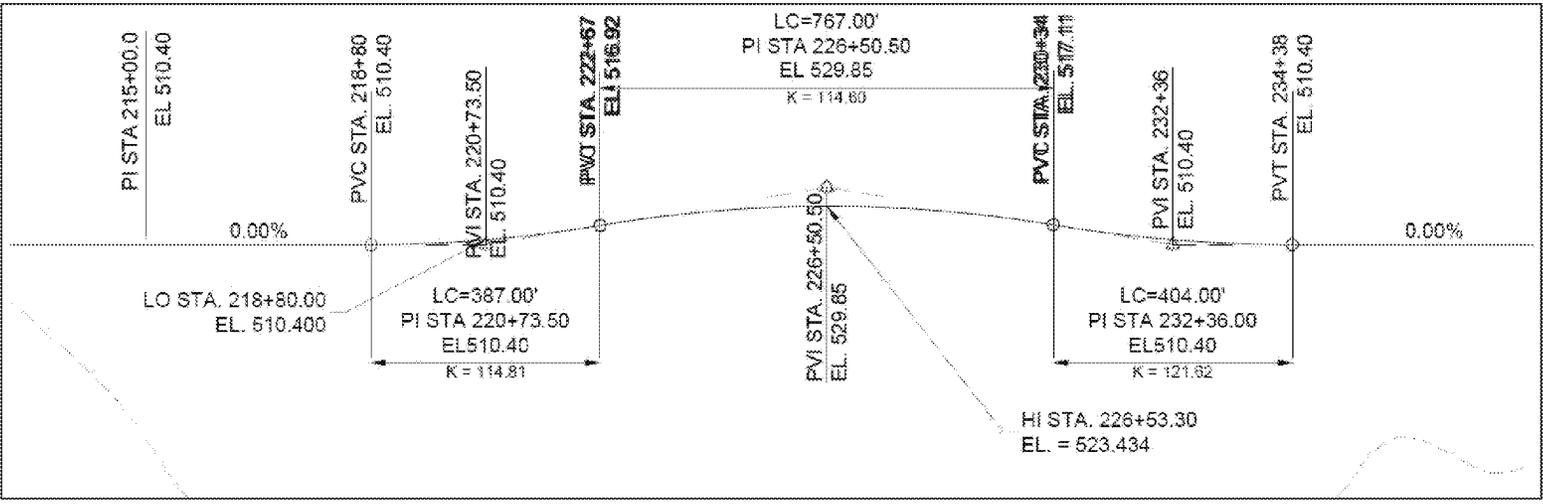
- 40 yr Total Design Life = 10 yr Construction+ 30 yr Design Life
- Side Slopes = 3.25:1
- 2 ft below bottom of structural section
- Plan for Settlement

# Sites Lodoga Road Profile East Bridge



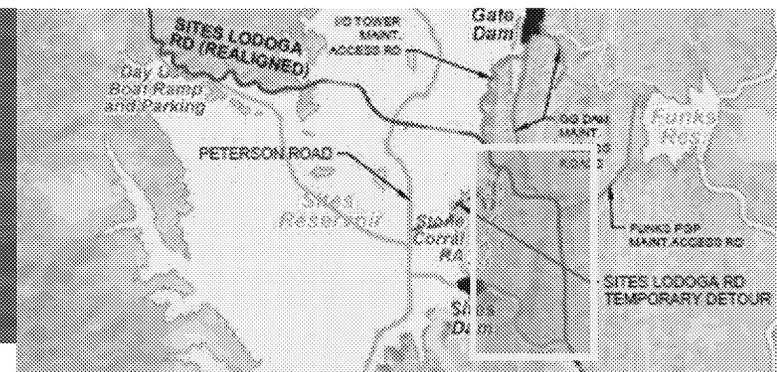
**East Bridge PG = Varies from 510 ft to 523 ft**  
 NWSE = 498 ft (1.5 MAF)  
 Vertical Vessel/Boat Clr = 12 ft  
 Structure Depth = 12.5 ft  
 Buffer = 0.5 ft

Vertical Profile at 1:1 (No Exaggeration)



Vertical Profile at x5 Exaggeration

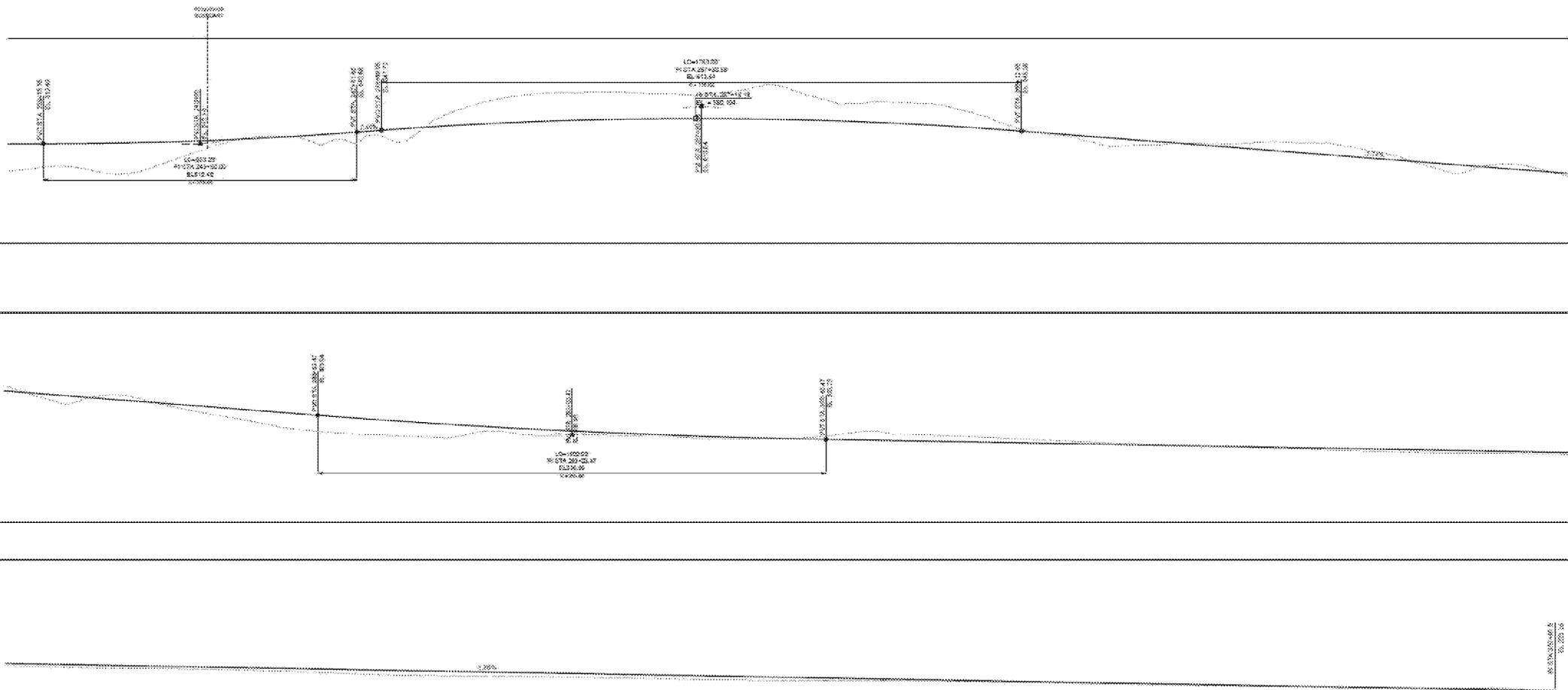
# Sites Lodoga Road Alignment East Portion



- 55 mph Alignment
- Horiz. Match Exist Road
- Vert.  $\leq 3\%$

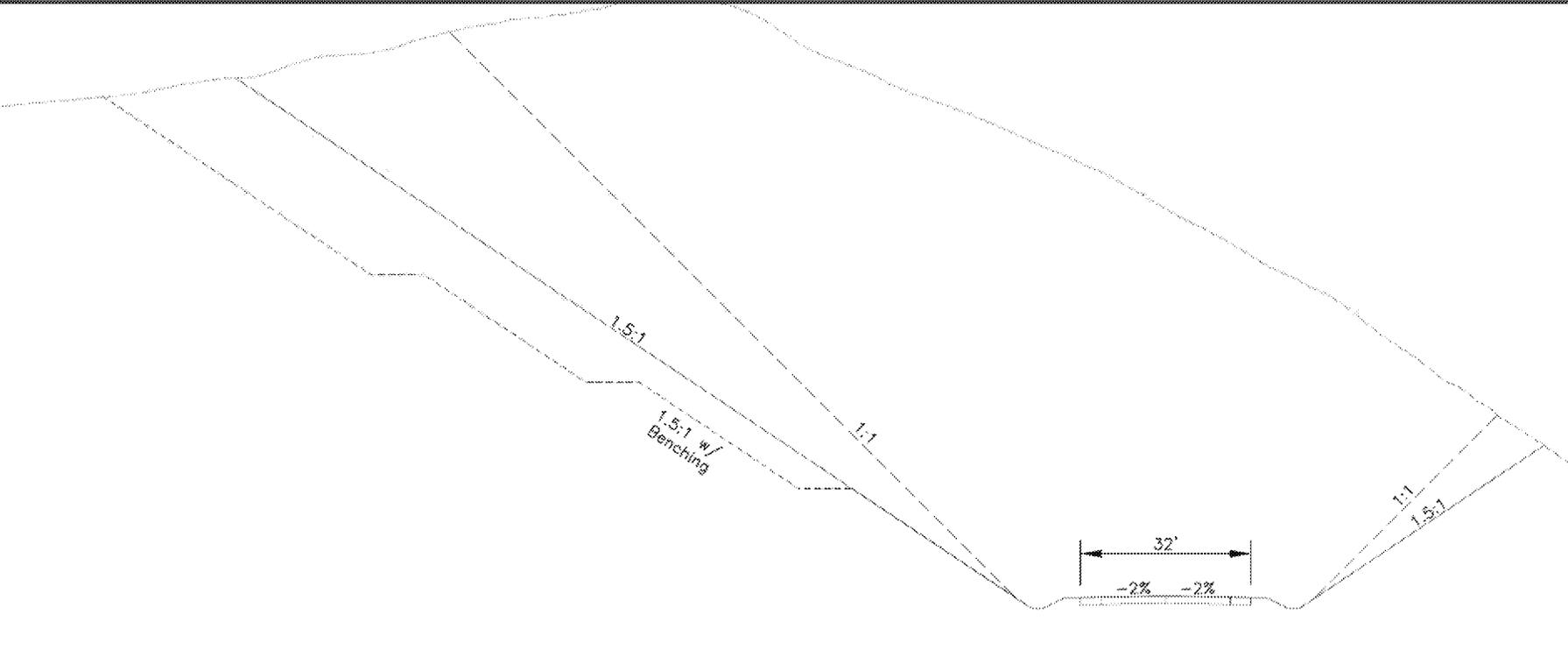


# Sites Lodoga Road Profile East Portion

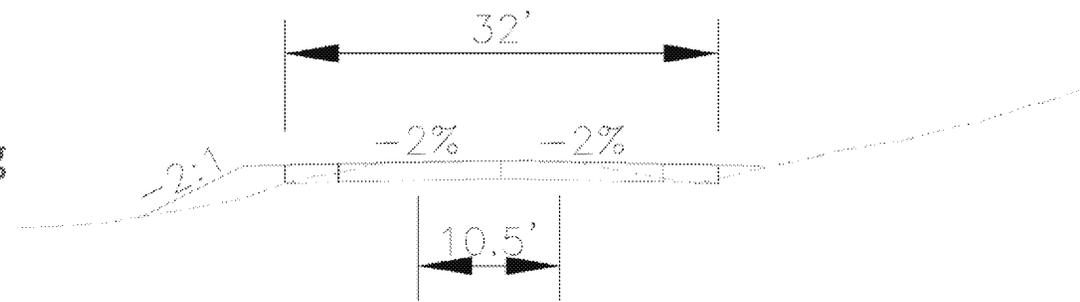


Vertical Profile at 1:1 (No Exaggeration)

# Sites Lodoga Rd Typical Cross Sections East Portion



- 40 yr Total Design Life = 10 yr Construction+ 30 yr Design Life
- Retaining Wall Considerations vs. Benching
- Widen Exist (width < 12 ft)



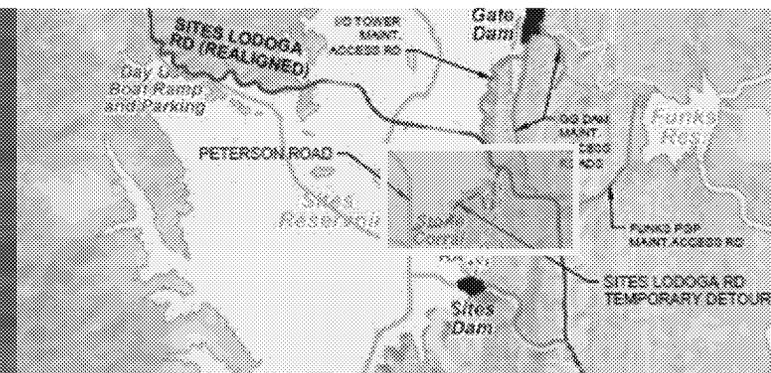
# Sites Lodoga Road Temporary Detour

Howard Michael

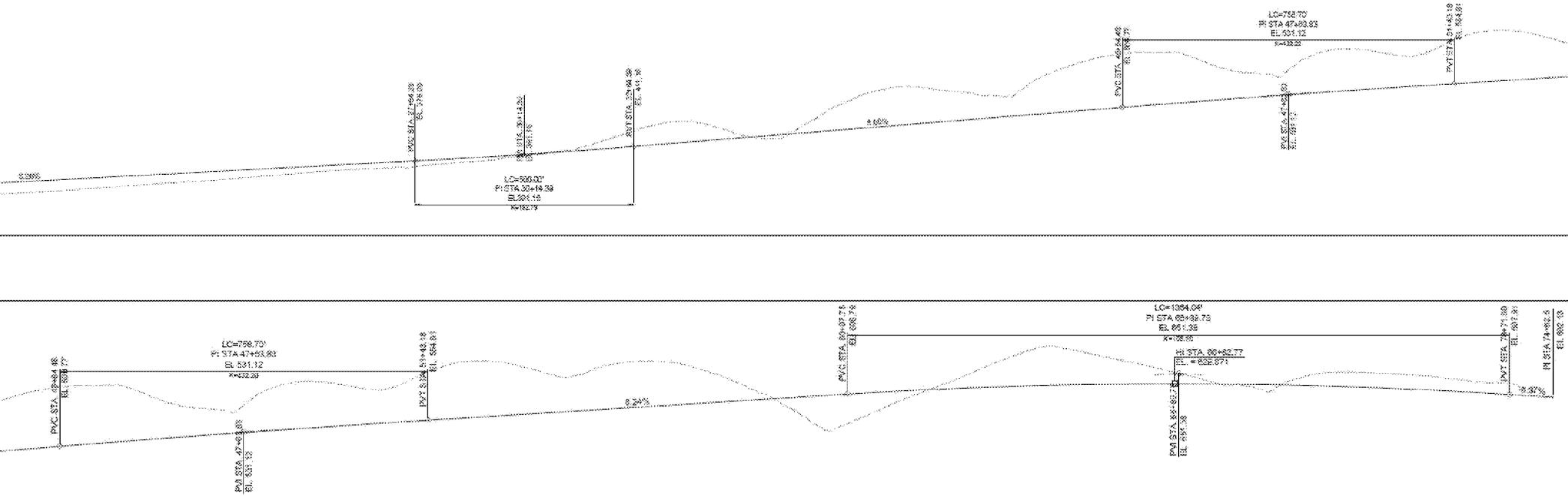


# Sites Lodoga Road Temporary Detour Alignment

- Functional Classification – Local (Rural)/Construction Access
- Design Speed – 55 mph
- Paved
- Lane Width – 12 ft
- Shoulder Width – 4 ft
- Cross Slope – 2%
- Side Slopes – 2:1 (non-recoverable, non-traversable)
- Max Vertical Grade, 8%



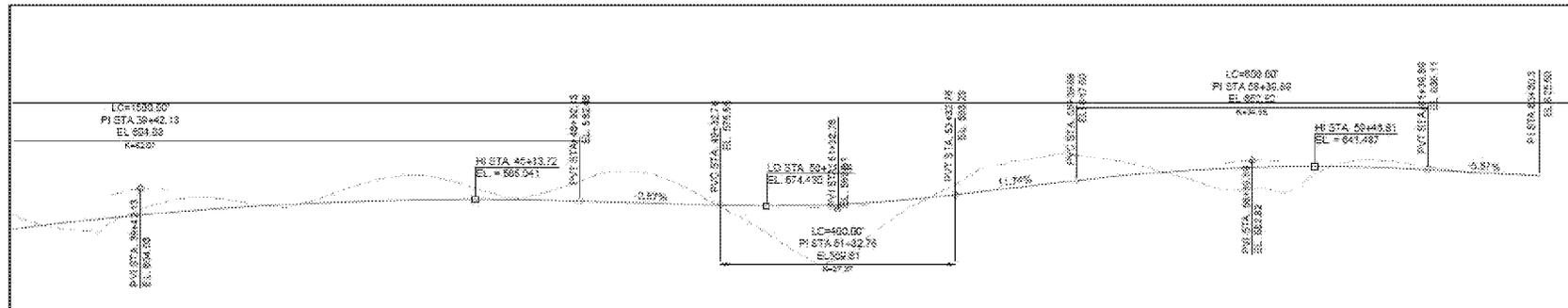
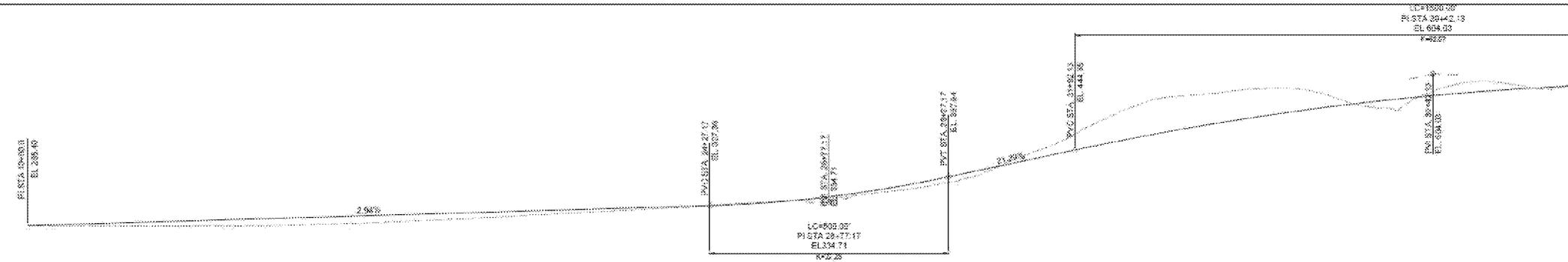
# Sites Lodoga Road Temporary Detour Profile Align 01



Vertical Profile at 1:1 (No Exaggeration)

- Mostly 45 mph Alignment
- Horiz. governs for operating speed
- Vert. grades  $\leq 8\%$ , Significant Earthwork

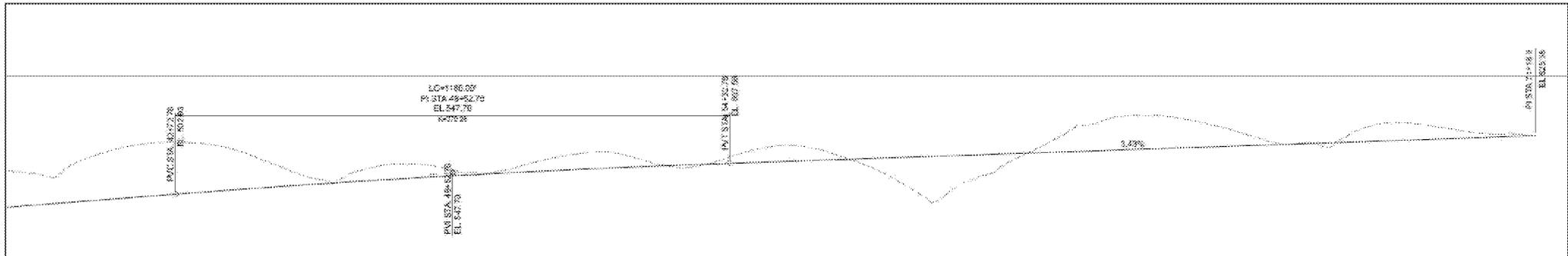
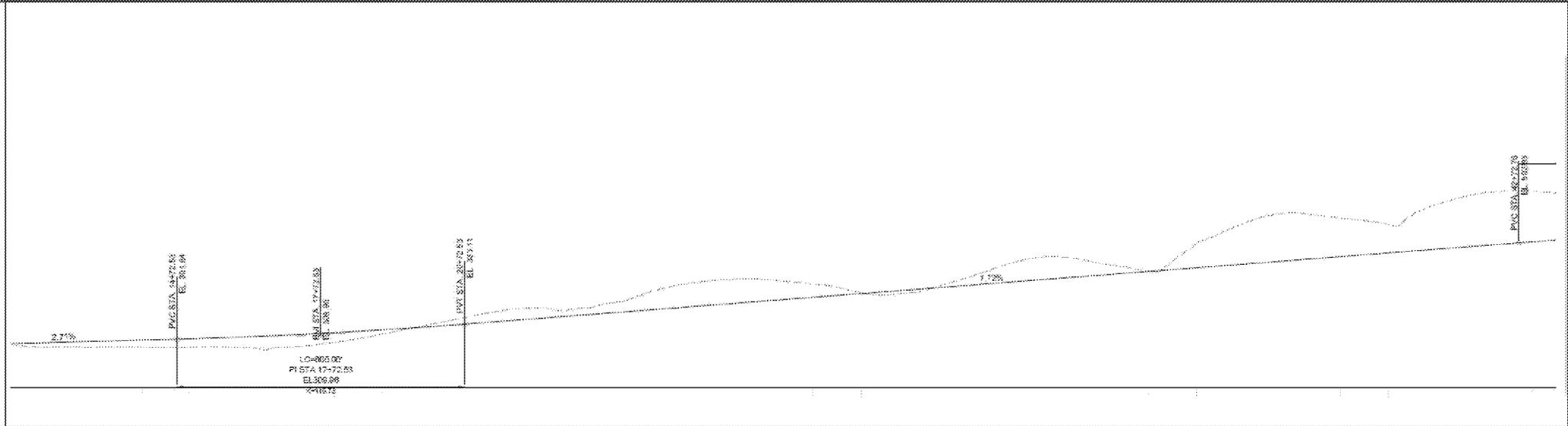
# Sites Lodoga Road Temporary Detour Profile Align 02



- Mostly  $\leq 35$  mph Alignment
- Vertical governs for operating speed
- Vert. grades too steep

Vertical Profile at 1:1 (No Exaggeration)

# Sites Lodoga Road Temporary Detour Profile Align 03

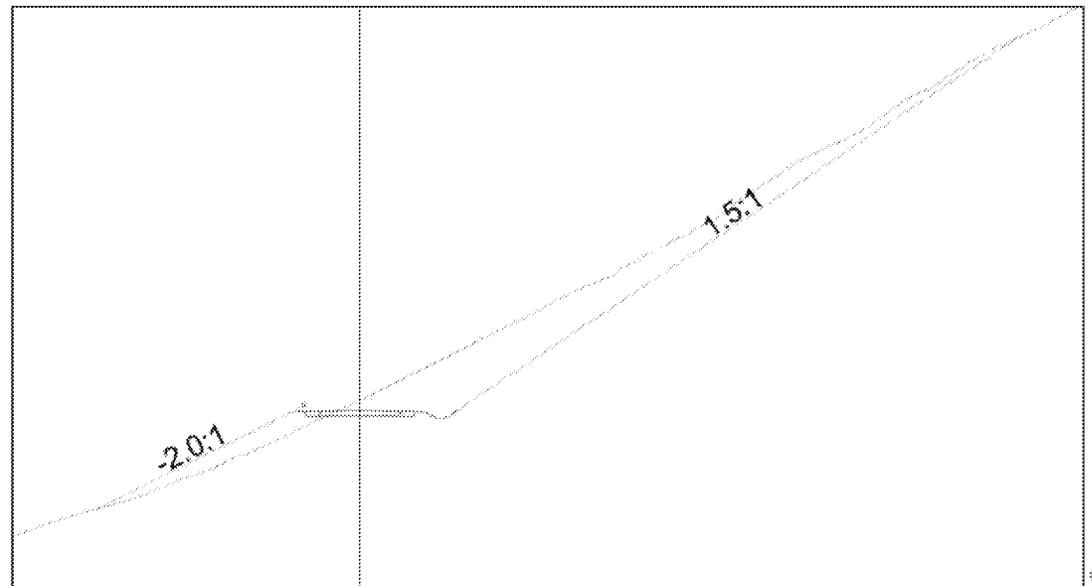
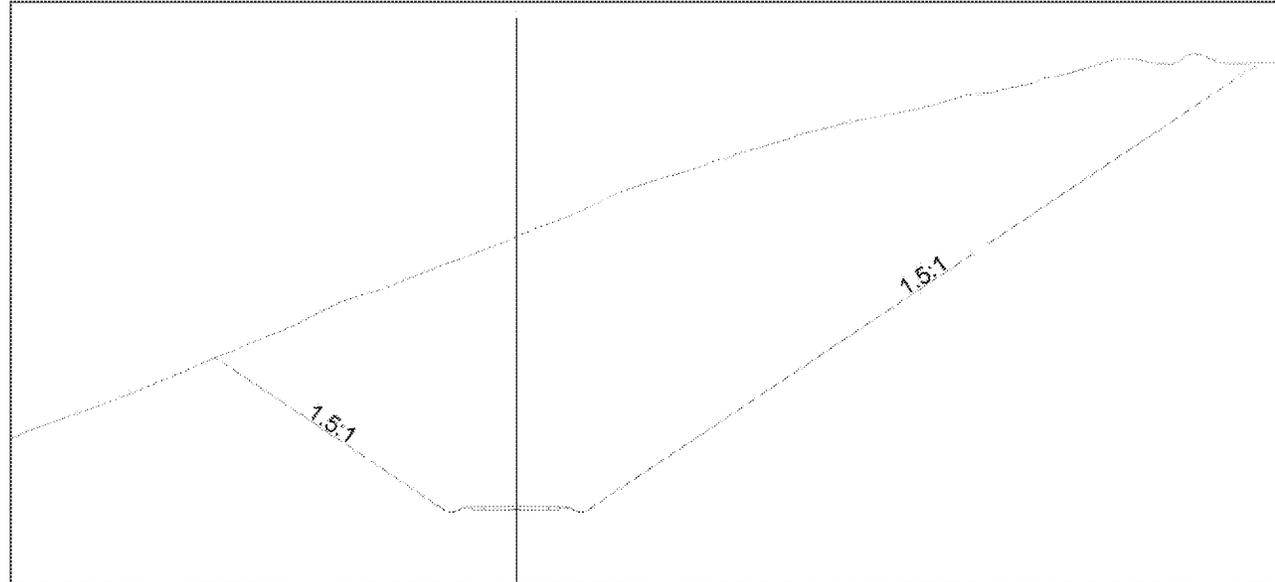


Vertical Profile at 1:1 (No Exaggeration)

- Mostly 45 to 50 mph Alignment
- Horiz. governs for operating speed
- Vert. grades  $\leq 8\%$ , Optimize/Balance Earthwork

# Sites Lodoga Rd Temporary Detour Typical Cross Sections

- Total Design Life = +10 yr Construction
- Retaining Wall Considerations vs. Benching



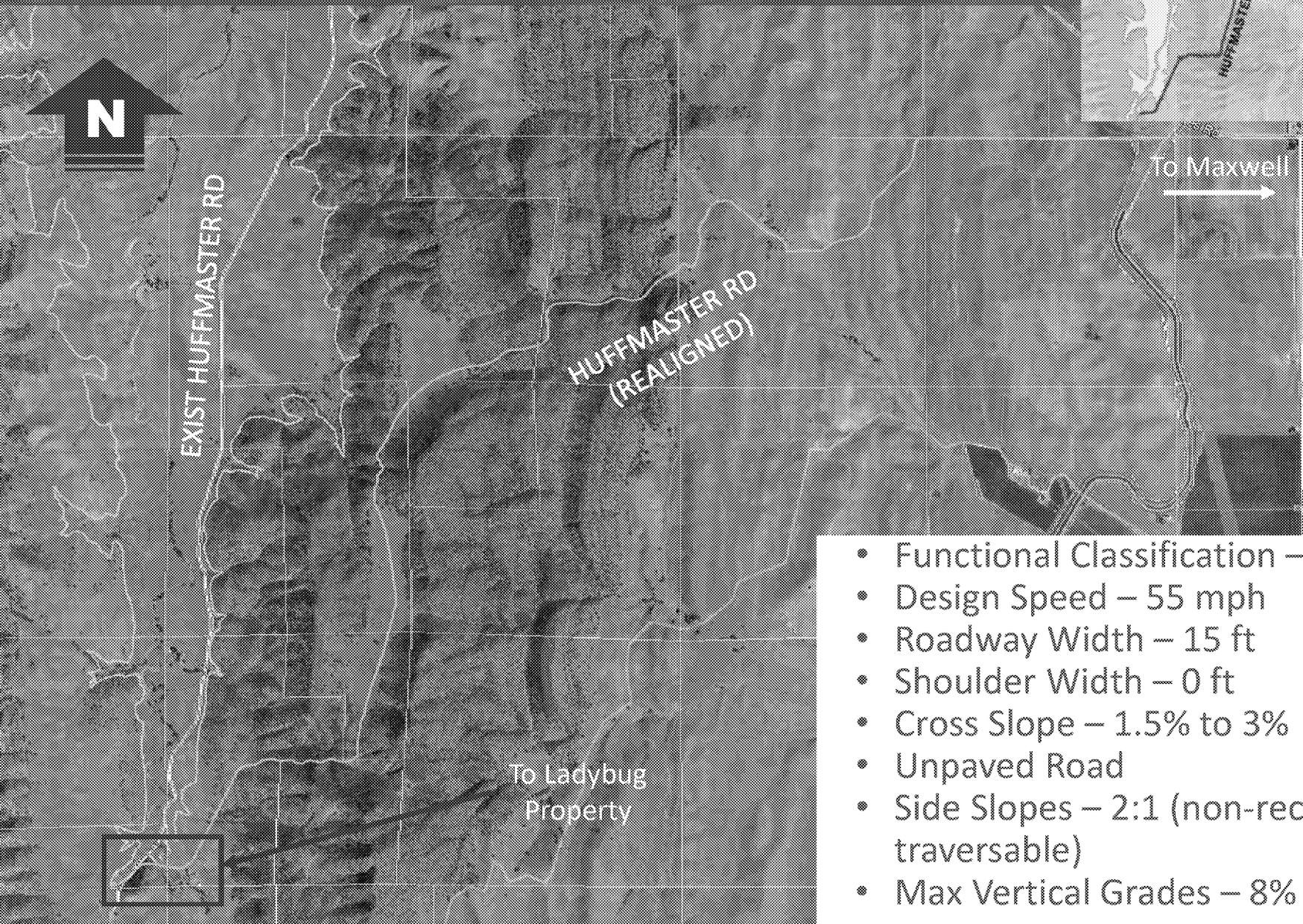
4

# Huffmaster Road Realignment

Howard Michael



# Huffmaster Road Realignment - Conceptual



- Functional Classification – Local (Rural)
- Design Speed – 55 mph
- Roadway Width – 15 ft
- Shoulder Width – 0 ft
- Cross Slope – 1.5% to 3%
- Unpaved Road
- Side Slopes – 2:1 (non-recoverable, non-traversable)
- Max Vertical Grades – 8%

**Questions?**



**Sites**

---

**From:** Spranza, John [John.Spranza@hdrinc.com]  
**Sent:** 6/20/2023 9:19:24 AM  
**To:** Hartman, Rosemary@DWR [Rosemary.Hartman@water.ca.gov]; Hassrick, Jason@ICF [jason.hassrick@icf.com]; Davis, Brittany E.@DWR [Brittany.E.Davis@water.ca.gov]; Holmes, Eric@DWR [Eric.Holmes@water.ca.gov]; Clabaugh, Anna [Anna.Clabaugh@hdrinc.com]  
**CC:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites water and DCG  
**Attachments:** 2023\_0623\_Agenda\_Sites\_DeltCordGrp\_WSIP Flows.docx

Hi Rosie,

I put the attached agenda to guide us today. As this is our initial coordination/fact-finding meeting I thought it would be helpful to go over some general project slides to give you an introduction to the project and the proposed Yolo Bypass flows that are funded under the State's Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP). From there, we are hoping to discuss how Sites might work with the existing programs as we develop our WSIP Ecosystem benefit contract, adaptive management plan and operations and implementation plan that combined, would be used to manage the WSIP Yolo Bypass flows the Sites Project Authority would provide to the bypass to benefit smelt in Cache Slough. Below is some additional background you may find helpful, we will cover this today in the initial portion of the meeting. Please feel free to add any items to the agenda.

### **General Project Overview**

Located 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell in rural Glenn and Colusa Counties, Sites Reservoir would be an off-stream storage facility that stores stormwater flows from the Sacramento River—after all other water rights and regulatory requirements are met—for release in dry and critical years for environmental use and for California communities, farms, and businesses when it is so desperately needed. The Project would be built and operated by the Sites Project Authority, and is located on the west side of the Sacramento Valley in Glenn and Colusa Counties, approximately 10 miles west of the community of Maxwell. It is designed to store unappropriated water from winter and spring storm events in the northern Sacramento River watershed. The Project would impound 1.5 million acre-feet of water in a reservoir that would be created by building Sites Dam on Stone Corral Creek, Golden Gate Dam on Funks Creek, and a series of saddle dams on the northeastern rims of Antelope Valley. While a portion of naturally occurring seasonal flows in Stone Corral Creek and Funks Creek would be retained in the reservoir, the primary source of water for the reservoir would be diversions from the Sacramento River. These diversions would be up to 4,200 cubic feet per second (cfs) via two existing facilities: the Red Bluff fish screen and pumping plant (operated by the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority [TCCA]) and the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District's (GCID) fish screen and pumping plant near Hamilton City. Releases from Sites Reservoir would ultimately return to the Sacramento River system via existing canals and a new pipeline located near Dunnigan that would terminate in the Colusa Basin Drain.

When operated in coordination with other Northern California reservoirs such as Shasta and Oroville, Sites Reservoir will greatly increase flexibility, reliability, and resiliency of statewide water supplies in drier periods. With Sites Reservoir, California has a rare opportunity to enhance statewide water supplies and provide a dedicated allocation of water storage specifically for environmental purposes. Federal and state resource agencies will have a dedicated and reliable supply of water they can manage to provide benefits. A significant portion of the Project's annual water supplies will be provided for environmental flows, which will help to improve conditions for Delta smelt and wildlife refuges (WSIP benefits), and benefit anadromous fish by improving CVP operations consistent with the laws, regulations, and requirements in effect at the time of operation (federal benefit).

### **Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program Funding**

The Sites Reservoir Project is one of eight projects chosen by the California Water Commission (Commission) based on the public benefits the Project will provide, including flood control, ecosystem improvement, and recreation. In July

2018, the Commission established \$816M as the maximum amount of Proposition 1 funding available to support Sites Reservoir. Since July 2018, one project withdrew from the WSIP, and the Commission adjusted the remaining projects' MCEs. Sites Reservoir is currently eligible for up to \$836,787,128, including \$40,818,884 in early funding.

- The WSIP funding level for Sites Reservoir was established through the WSIP application process, which identified the following maximum potential public benefits resulting from the Project:
- Ecosystem Benefits – \$766M
- Recreation Benefits – \$197M
- Flood Damage Reduction Benefits – \$45M

The above funding has been adjusted upward since 2018.

As part of its funded Ecosystem Benefits, Sites Reservoir could provide up to two pulse flows of at least 400 cubic feet per second (cfs) over a two- to three-week period into the Yolo Bypass. The pulses will be adaptively managed by the State's designated resource agencies in coordination with the Authority to push water from the Toe Drain/Tule Canal in the Yolo bypass such that has had sufficient residency time to produce high volumes of phytoplankton and zooplankton directly into the Cache Slough Complex and eventually into the Sacramento River. The resulting increase in desirable food sources is intended to improve delta smelt population viability by fostering growth as they mature into adults.

As currently conceived, but still under development, the Yolo Bypass Flows action involves:

- Water delivery to Yolo Bypass
  - A WSIP-specific Operations and Implementation Plan that is specific to actions/operation required to fulfill the Authority's WSIP Benefit Contract(s)
  - Agreements with agricultural and other entities to deliver and move Benefit water
  - Production and delivery of plankton suitable for delta smelt consumption
  - Adaptively managed frequency, magnitude, and duration of floodplain inundation to increase primary and secondary productivity during Sites Project Flow Actions and deliver that biomass to delta smelt in the CSC

Table 1. Yolo Bypass flow delivery estimates, 2030 and 2070 conditions, in 1,000 AF per year

Period	North-of-the-Delta
<b>2030 Results</b>	
Long-Term Average <sup>(a)</sup>	36
Wet	46
Above Normal	48
Below Normal	39
Dry	27
Critical	15
<b>2070 Results</b>	
Long-Term Average <sup>(a)</sup>	31
Wet	35
Above Normal	38
Below Normal	34
Dry	29
Critical	18

• Source: CWC 2021

(a) Average weighted based on water-year frequency rates

Talk to you later today.

John

John Spranza

D 916.679.8858 M 818.640.2487

---

**From:** Hartman, Rosemary@DWR <Rosemary.Hartman@water.ca.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023 8:16 AM

**To:** Hassrick, Jason@ICF <jason.hassrick@icf.com>; Davis, Brittany E.@DWR <Brittany.E.Davis@water.ca.gov>; Holmes, Eric@DWR <Eric.Holmes@water.ca.gov>; Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites water and DCG

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jason et al,

Is there an agenda for this meeting? The meeting topic is pretty broad and I'm not familiar at all with your project. Are there any materials you can share that will make our meeting more productive?

Rosie

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Hassrick, Jason <Jason.Hassrick@icf.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 2:06 PM

**To:** Hassrick, Jason; Davis, Brittany E.@DWR; Holmes, Eric@DWR; John Spranza; Hartman, Rosemary@DWR

**Subject:** Sites water and DCG

**When:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023 3:00 PM-4:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

If this doesn't work, I'll send out a poll for next week.

This meeting is on how the Sites Reservoir WSIP Adaptive Management Plan for a flow-food pulse might engage the Delta Coordination Group and the trail it has already blazed.

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 225 773 201 820

Passcode: ySTX6W

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**Join with a video conferencing device**

[731643270@t.plcm.vc](tel:731643270)

Video Conference ID: 115 567 434 9

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**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 213-493-7443](tel:+12134937443), [780108472#](tel:+1780108472) United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 780 108 472#

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**From:** JP Robinette [jrobinette@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 6/20/2023 9:26:23 AM  
**To:** Luu, Henry [henry.luu@hdrinc.com]  
**Subject:** Fw: Hershey Agreement and More  
**Attachments:** Hershey Agreement 07.17.1937.pdf; CDMWC Background.pdf

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**From:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 10:47 AM  
**To:** Newens, Richard <Richard.Newens@hdrinc.com>; Tiffany Tran <ttran1@brwncald.com>; JP Robinette <jrobinette@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Hershey Agreement and More

Hi all –

MBK had a quick internal discussion about the Colusa Basin Drain yesterday morning. It is a hot topic in our office now that the water right has been officially noticed. I believe the attached materials have been provided in the past, but as noted in the email below, this was back in 2020. I wanted to make sure that you have seen the attached Hershey Agreement which is relevant to operations of the Lower CBD and Ridge Cut. Gary also provided the attached presentation, and noted that there are important details of the Hershey Agreement summarized on slide 15 (i.e., water levels are to be maintained between 24.5 feet and 25.5 feet).

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Angela

---

**From:** Gary Kienlen <Kienlen@mbkengineers.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 12:04 PM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Cc:** Kyle Knutson <knutson@mbkengineers.com>; Anne Williams <williams@mbkengineers.com>; Kyle Knutson <knutson@mbkengineers.com>  
**Subject:** Hershey Agreement and More

Attached is the 1937 Hershey Agreement re operations of the lower Colusa Drain and the Ridge Cut. Also attached is the presentation I believe we gave to some of the Sites folks in in February or March of 2020. The relative portions of the Hershey Agreement are summarized on slide 15. The presentation also provides other operational information and background. Let me know if there's anything else I can do.

*Gary*

Gary Kienlen  
[kienlen@mbkengineers.com](mailto:kienlen@mbkengineers.com)

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Fax: (916) 456-0253  
<http://www.mbkengineers.com>

# Sites Project Group Presentation

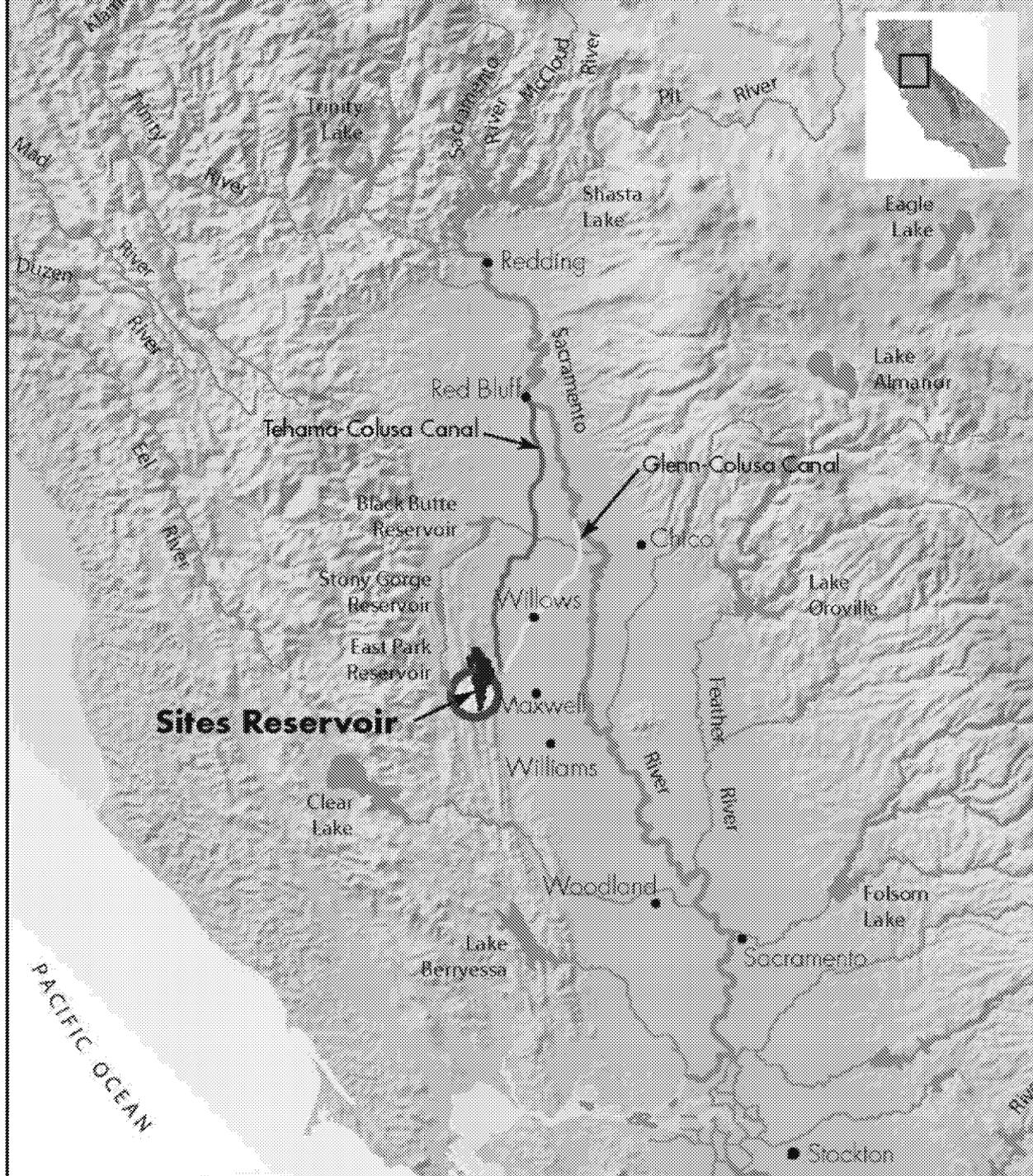
Colusa Basin Drain

Facilities and Background

February 13, 2020

# Summary

- Overview of Colusa Drain
  - Key Facilities
  - Operational Considerations
- Questions and Discussion



# Overview: Facilities

From Red Bluff  
(TC Canal)



From Hamilton City  
(GCID Canal)



From Sacramento  
River (Proposed)



# Colusa Drain Key Facilities

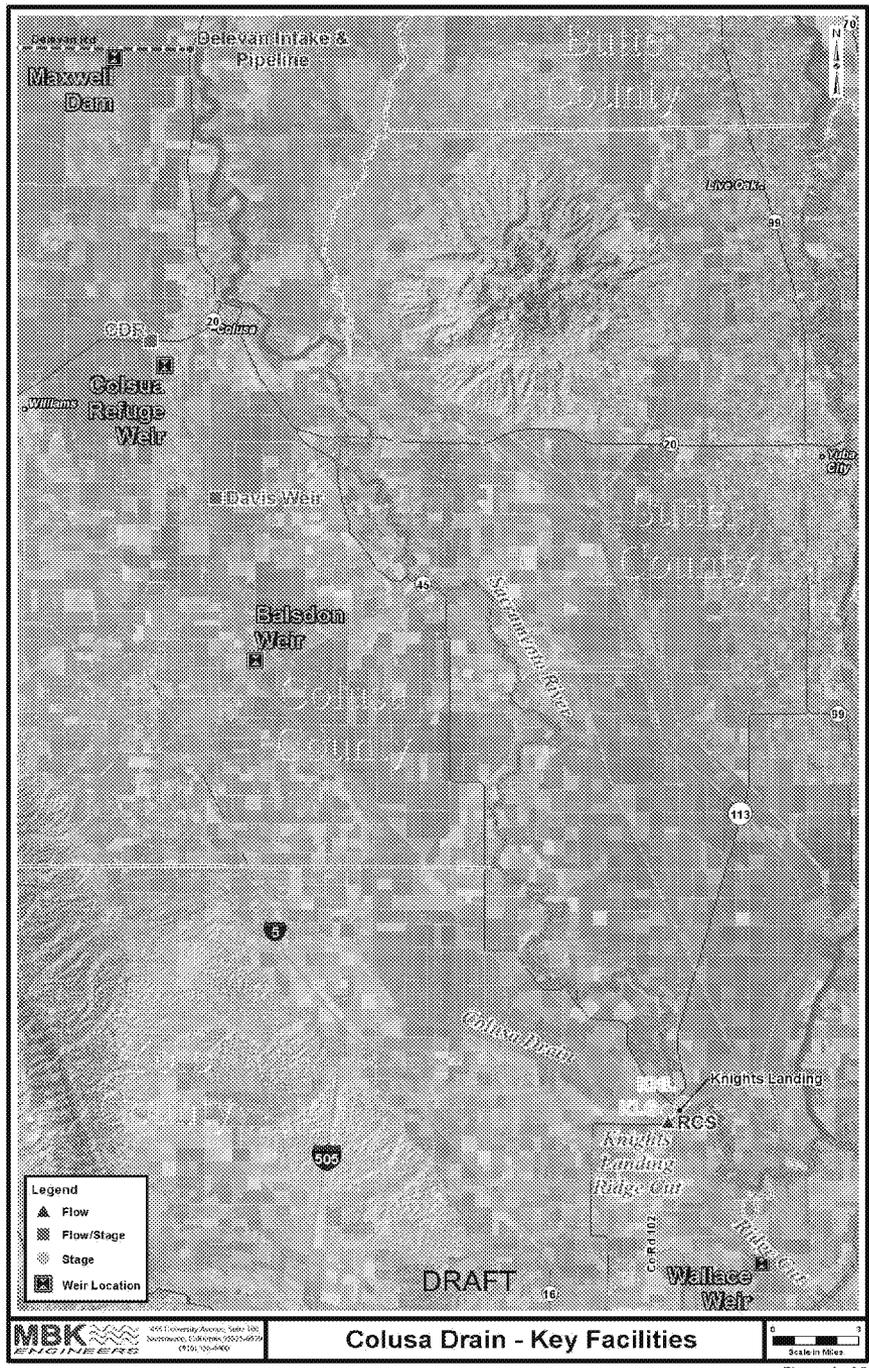
## Control Structures

- Colusa Basin Drain
  - Maxwell Dam
  - Colusa NW Refuge Weir
  - Davis Weir
  - Balsdon Weir
  - Knights Landing Outfall Gates (KLOG)
- Knights Landing Ridge Cut
  - Ridge Cut
  - Wallace Weir
- Tule Canal/Yolo Bypass
  - Swanston Weir
  - Lisbon Weir
  - Cache Slough

# Key Facilities

## Measurement

- Colusa Drain at Highway 20 (CDEC - Flow & Stage)
- Colusa Drain at Davis Weir (GCID – Flow & Stage)
- Colusa Drain at KLOG (CDEC – Stage & Gate Openings)
- Sacramento River at Knights Landing (CDEC - Stage)
- Knights Landing Ridge Cut (CDEC - Flow & Stage)
- Wallace Weir ???
- Yolo Bypass near Woodland (CDEC - Flow & Stage)



**MBK**  
 400 University Avenue, Suite 100  
 Sacramento, CA 95833 (916) 441-1111  
 (916) 336-9900

**Colusa Drain - Key Facilities**

Scale in Miles  
 0 1 2 3

Figure 1 of 2

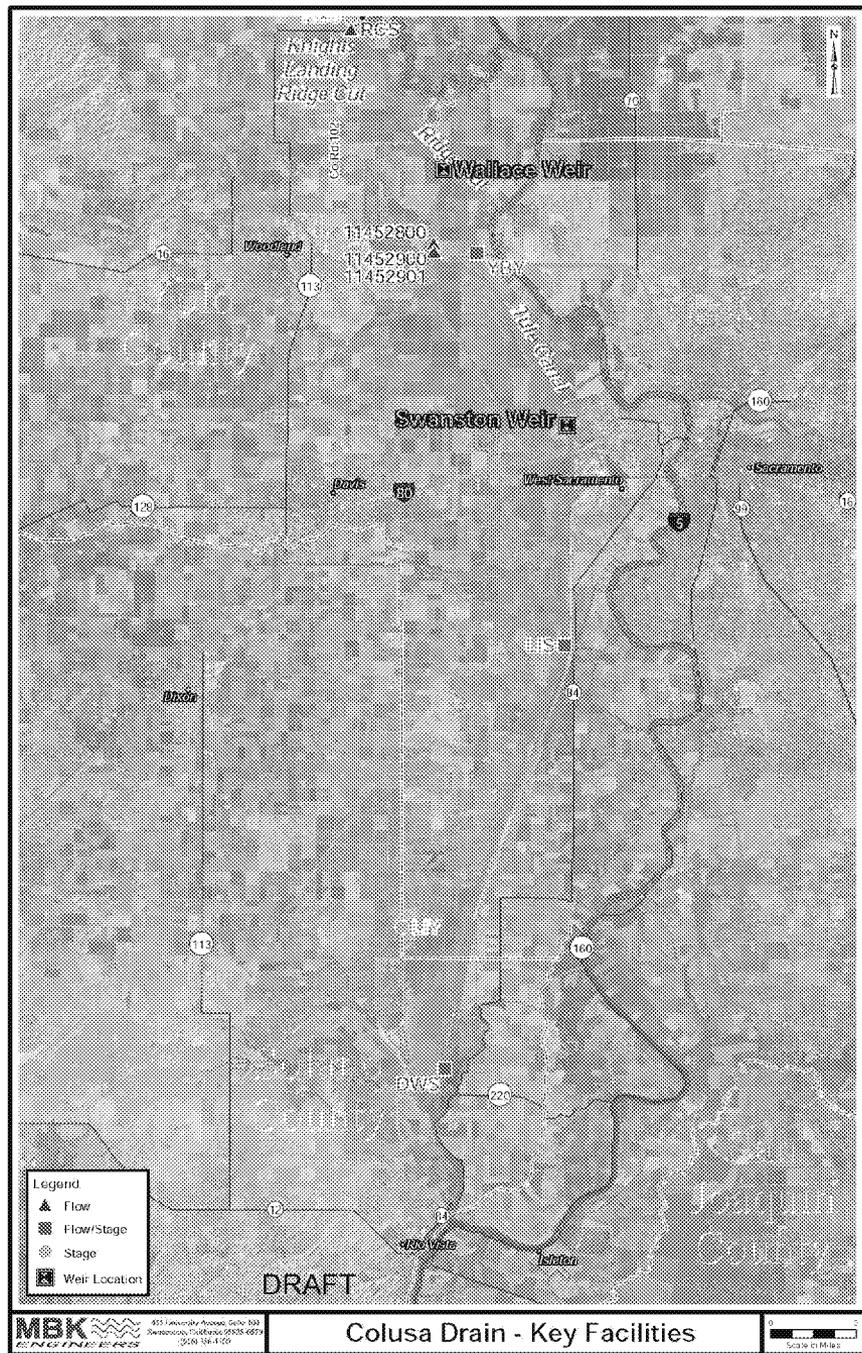
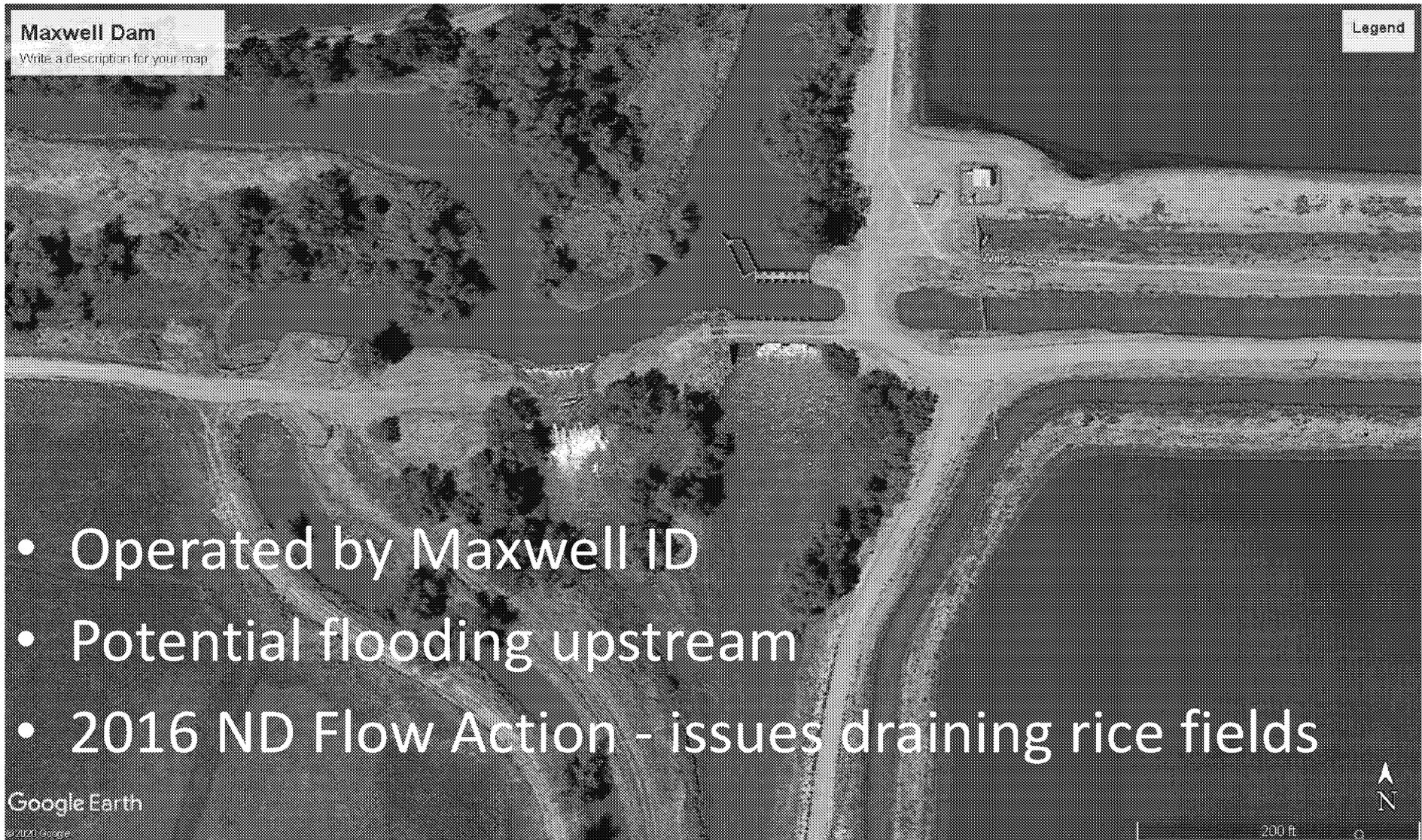


Figure 2 of 2

# Operational Considerations

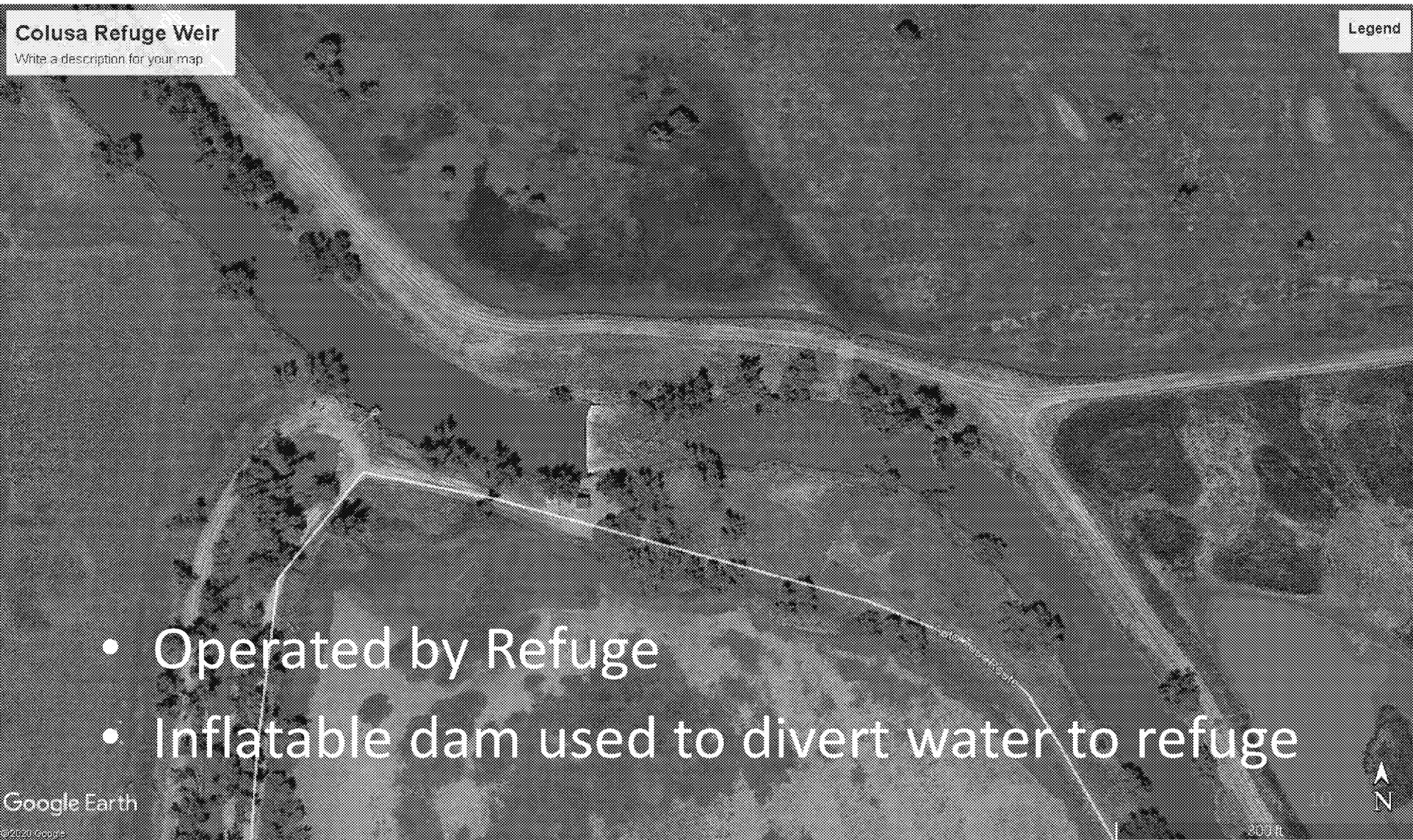
## Maxwell Dam



- Operated by Maxwell ID
- Potential flooding upstream
- 2016 ND Flow Action - issues draining rice fields

# Operational Considerations

## Colusa Refuge Weir



# Operational Considerations

## Davis Weir



- Operated by GCID
- Maintains water levels upstream
- Bladder dam - remote sensing and measurement

# Operational Considerations

## Balsdon Weir



Balsdon Weir

Write a description for your map.

Legend

- Operation unknown

Google Earth

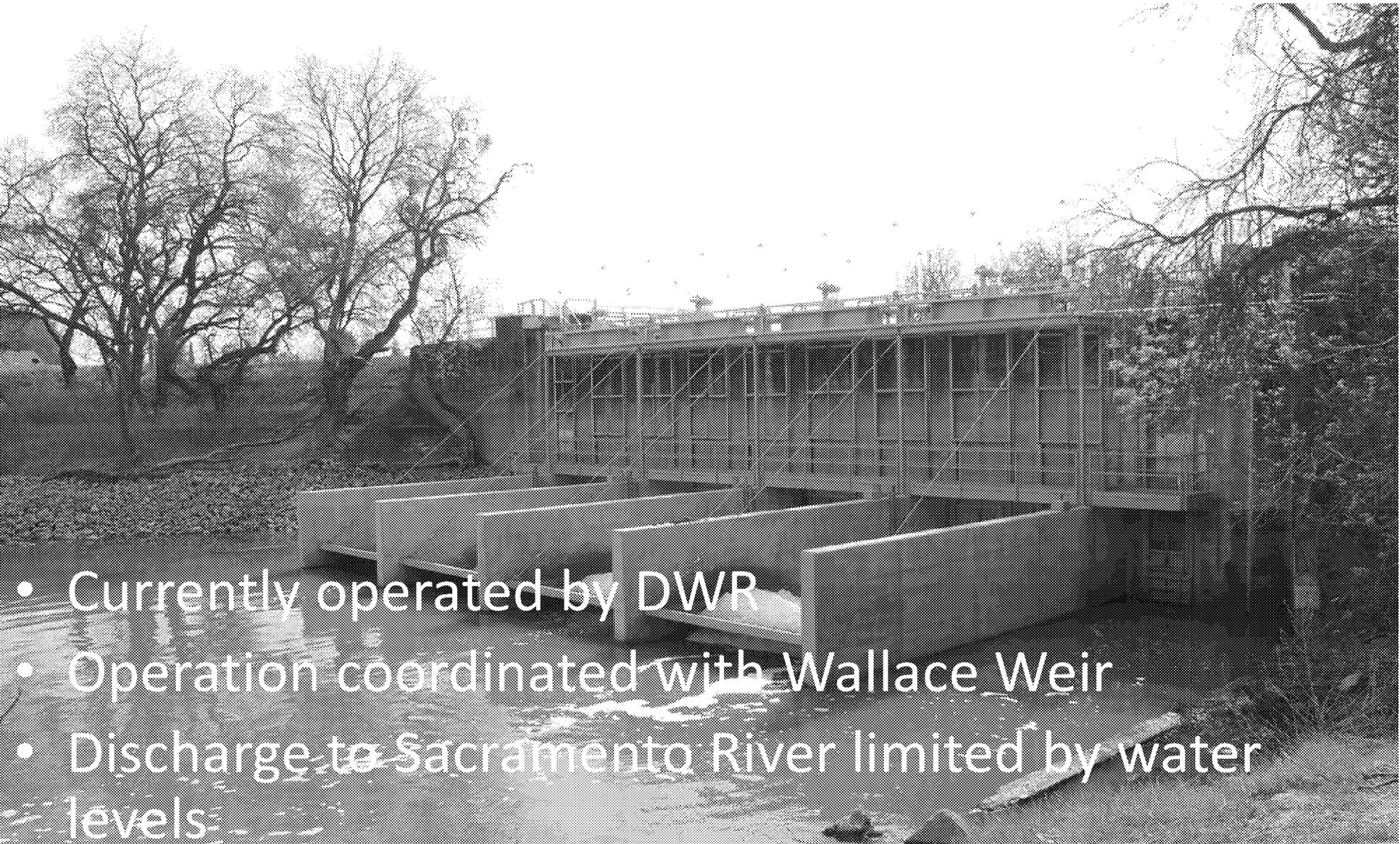


100 ft

Draft\_0025622

# Operational Considerations

## KLOG

- 
- Currently operated by DWR
  - Operation coordinated with Wallace Weir
  - Discharge to Sacramento River limited by water levels

# Operational Considerations

## Wallace Weir



- Currently Operated by RD 108
- Water level control and fish trap
- Operation coordinated with KLOG

# Operational Considerations

## KLOG and Wallace Weir

- Hershey Agreement
  - 1937 Agreement between Hershey Family and Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District
  - Currently operated by DWR
  - KLOG & Wallace Weir operated to maintain water levels between 24.5 feet and 25.5 feet
- Operation affects water levels to County Line Rd

# Alternative 5a –Replaces Delevan Canal/ Pipeline with Canal from the T-C Canal to the CBD - \$3.5B

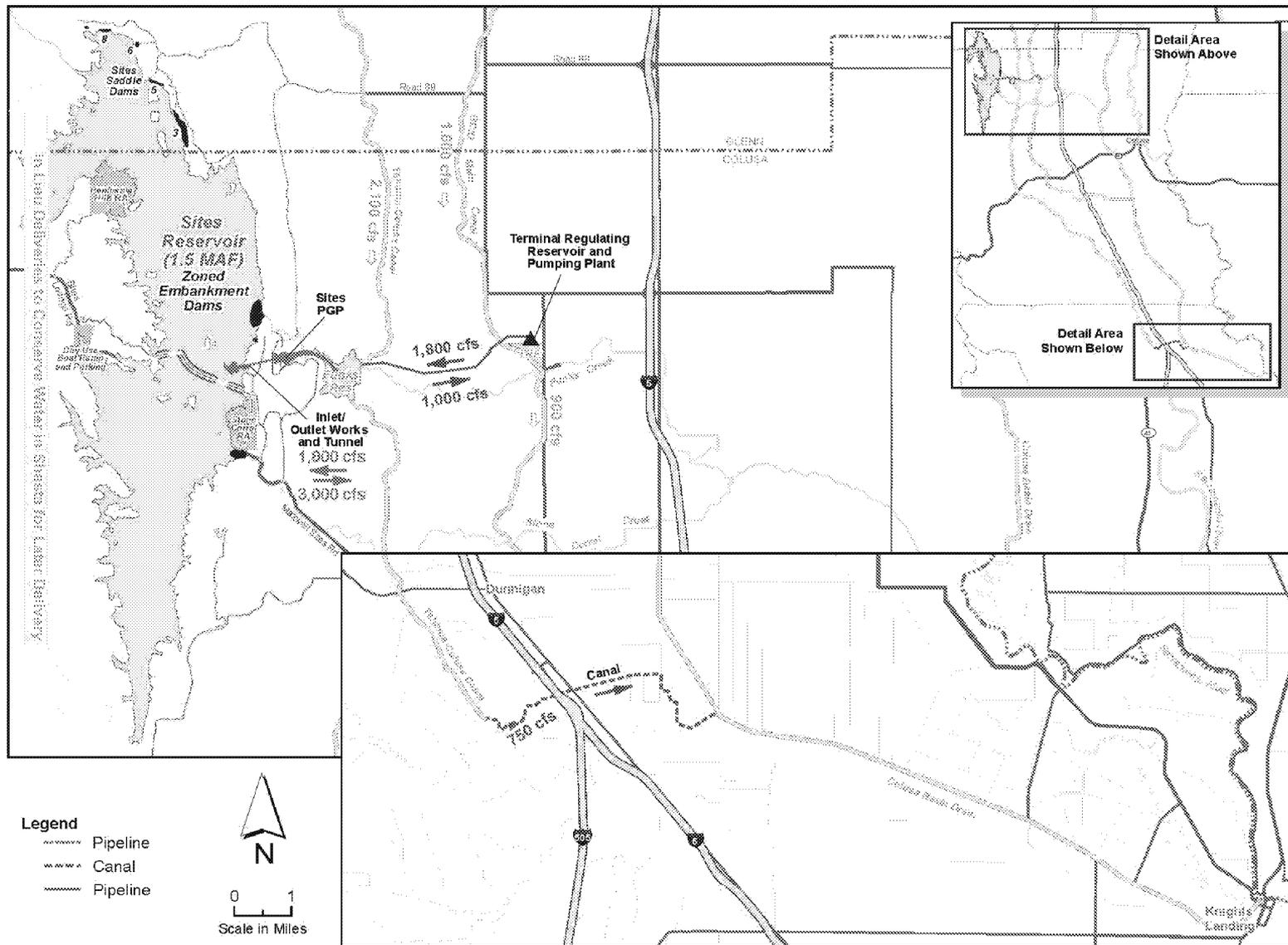
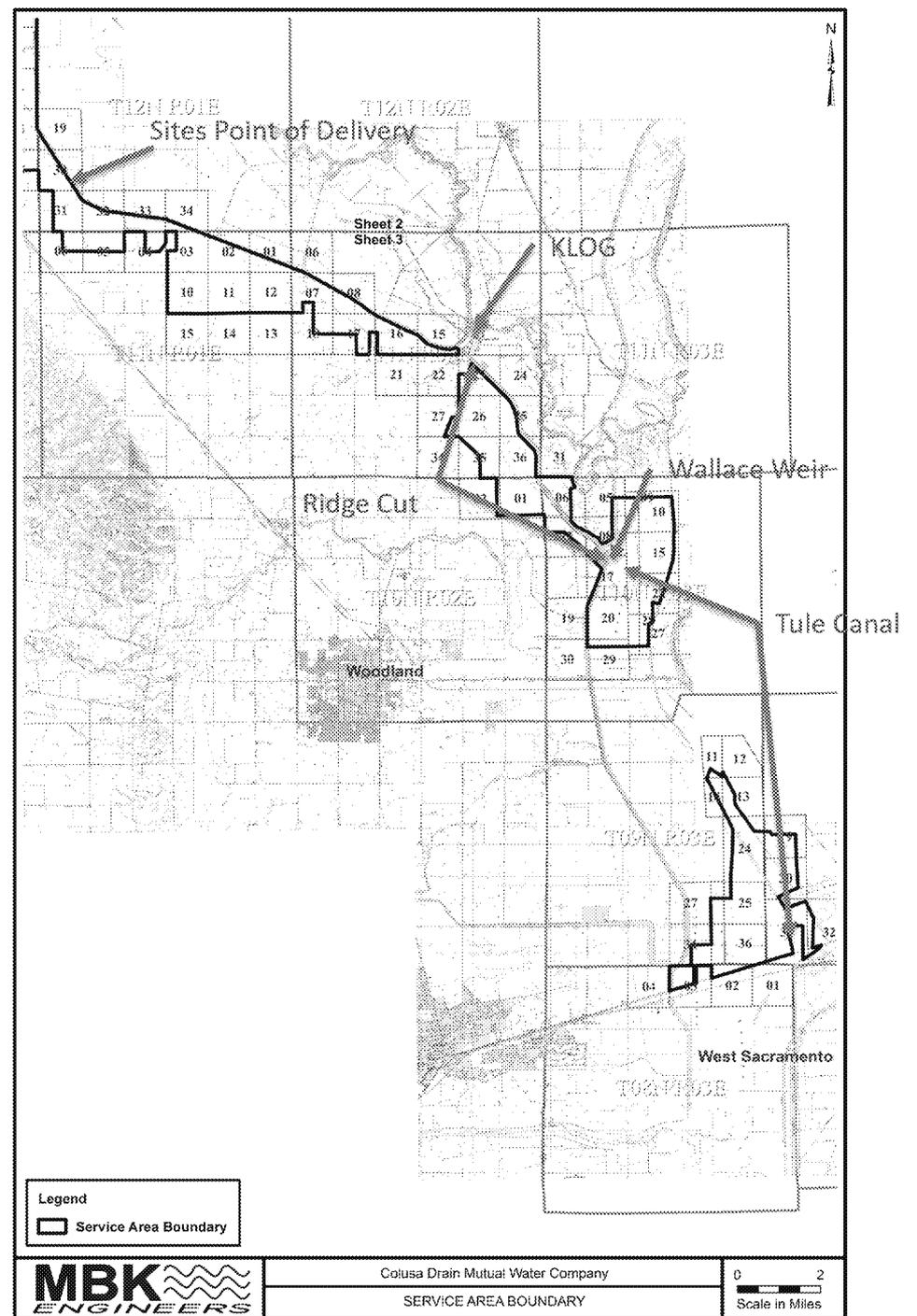


Figure 5a

# Operational Considerations

- Colusa Drain MWC
- Water Rights



# Operational Considerations



# Operational Considerations

- Increased flow = increased water levels
- Potential for seepage and flooding and impacting drainage of fields
  - Upstream of weirs and dams
  - Mostly along western or right bank of Colusa Drain
  - Both sides of Ridge Cut

# Questions & Discussion

- Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company
- Water Rights
- Flows
  - Timing
  - Quantity
  - Location
- Water Quality
- Other ???

## TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 16, 2023  
**TO:** Sites Project Authority  
**PREPARED BY:** Wesley Walker, P.E., and Angela Bezzone, P.E., MBK Engineers  
**SUBJECT:** Sites Diversions and the Voluntary Agreements

### Introduction and Key Take-Aways

On January 5, 2023, State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff released their Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement in Support of Proposed Voluntary Agreements for the Sacramento River, Delta, and Tributaries (SBRS)<sup>1</sup>. The SBRS includes modeling of the proposed Voluntary Agreements (VA), including the changes in Delta outflow under the proposed agreements. As the SBRS was released the day prior to when the Sites Project Authority (Authority) supplemental water right application materials were due, on January 6, it was not possible for the Authority to complete a quantitative analysis of the Sites Reservoir Project (Project) and the VAs in the Authority's submittal. Nevertheless, the Authority's January 6, 2023, submittal addressed the VAs qualitatively, reasoning that the Sites Project, "will not reduce or otherwise modify proposed VA additive flows because the additive flows are accounted for within existing water right demands used to calculate water available for the Sites Project and the results of the calculations show water is available for the Sites Project."

Through discussions with State Water Board staff, the Authority understands that State Water Board staff requested that the Authority prepare a quantitative analysis regarding the following:

1. How the Sites Project diversions may interact with the VA flow assets.
2. How the Sites Project may affect Delta outflow under the VAs.

As described in the Authority's letter to the State Water Board, dated April 27, 2023, the Authority has developed two quantitative analyses to answer each of these requests. The analyses presented in this Technical Memorandum evaluate the potential interaction of Sites diversions and VA flow assets, as well as the net change in Delta outflow resulting from Sites Project operations and VA flow assets. Each analysis provides information to enhance understanding of the potential changes in Delta outflow with Sites Project operations and VA flow assets. Each method is also subject to limitations.

These two different analyses, the Daily Comparison and the Monthly Comparison (as detailed below), inform the following key take-aways as explained further in the Conclusions section at the end of this memorandum:

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/docs/2023/202301-bd-draft-sbrsupp.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/docs/2023/202301-bd-draft-sbrsupp.pdf)

- Potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets have limited interaction, as diversions to Sites Reservoir will occur during periods when flows are available above regulatory requirements, Project-specific requirements, and senior water right demands, while VA flow assets are proposed to be deployed during times when additional flow is expected to be most beneficial to the system. Most of Sites' diversions occur during December through March of Wet and Above Normal years. VA flow assets, as currently modeled, are utilized during March through May of Above Normal, Below Normal, and Dry years.
- Most instances of overlap between potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets occur in the spring months of Wet and Above Normal years. However, in these years, potential Sites diversions typically occur during periods with relatively high Delta outflow. In drier years, overlap between potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets is minimal, as potential Sites diversions typically occur during individual storm events in the winter months, outside of the primary period that VA flow assets are anticipated to be utilized under the Default Plan (explained below).
- The Sites Project would result in a limited reduction in Delta outflow, which would primarily occur in the winter months and largely in Wet and Above Normal years. On a water year basis, the Sites Project and the VA with LSJR result in essentially no change in Delta outflow in Wet years, with increases of approximately 3% in Above Normal years, 6% in Below Normal years, 9% in Dry years, and 4% in Critical years.

## Daily Comparison Using the Sites Historical Analysis

A daily, historical analysis (Daily Comparison) was performed by combining the Sites Historical Water Availability Analysis (WAA) Tool and changes in Delta outflow under the VAs from the post-processed CalSim 3 results, which are the basis of the SBRS. The following sections describe these tools and analyses.

### Historical WAA Tool

The Historical WAA Tool<sup>2</sup> was developed as part of the Sites Project water right application for the purpose of demonstrating a reasonable likelihood of water available for appropriation during the proposed diversion season of the Sites Project, from September 1 through June 14. The Historical WAA Tool is used to identify when Sites could divert based on Project-specific diversion criteria including a Wilkins Slough Minimum Bypass Flow Requirement; Bend Bridge Pulse Protection Criteria; and Delta conditions. These criteria are described in further detail in the Sites Amended Water Availability Analysis (Amended WAA), dated January 6, 2023. During periods when historical flows and Delta conditions meet the bypass requirements, potential Sites diversions are assumed to be the minimum of water available or the maximum combined diversion rate<sup>3</sup> requested in the water right application at the two

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<sup>2</sup> See Appendix A of the Amended Water Availability Analysis for Sites Reservoir Water Right Application, dated January 6, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Combined maximum diversion rate of 4,200 cubic feet per second (cfs) as listed in the Sites water right application; 2,200 cfs at the Tehama Colusa Canal POD; and 2,000 cfs at the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Main Canal POD.

Sacramento River diversion facilities: the Tehama-Colusa Canal point of diversion (POD) and the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Main Canal POD.

The Historical WAA Tool is not an operations model for the Sites Project and does not simulate diversions into Sites Reservoir as part of overall Project operations. The Historical WAA Tool identifies periods when diversions into Sites Reservoir would have been possible over the historical period of analysis. The calculation of potential Sites diversions in the Historical WAA Tool does not limit potential Sites diversions based on available reservoir capacity, reservoir operations, or other diversion facility constraints (i.e., hydraulic limitations, available canal capacity, and/or operational decisions). Accordingly, the volume and frequency of these potential Sites diversions can be considered to be the maximum possible diversions over the period of analysis (January 2000 – September 2021). For the above reasons, Sites diversions as estimated by the Historical WAA Tool, are referred to as “potential” Sites diversions. By including the simplifying assumptions itemized below for this analysis, the potential Sites diversions can be used to estimate the daily change in Delta outflow due to potential Sites diversions.

- For this analysis, face value water right demands are not included in the availability and diversion calculations produced by the Historical WAA Tool, which allows for a greater volume and frequency of potential diversions. Therefore, the maximum, potential effects to historical Delta outflow (DO) from Sites diversions are able to be estimated.
- A 1:1 reduction in Delta outflow from Sites’ diversions is assumed, which:
  - Does not account for travel time from Sites’ POD(s) to the Delta, and
  - Does not account for potential attenuation of flows between Sites’ POD(s) and the Delta.
- Calculated Delta outflow from DAYFLOW<sup>4</sup> is used as the daily historical Delta outflow.

As the analysis only accounts for potential diversions by Sites, releases made from Sites Reservoir that increase Delta outflow both directly (environmental flow account releases) or indirectly (due to carriage water requirements) are not included. Furthermore, the Daily Comparison does not show the effect of Sites Reservoir operations, or other incidental effects from changed Central Valley Project (CVP) or State Water Project (SWP) operations, on Delta outflow. Therefore, the Daily Comparison provides a conservative analysis which shows larger changes in Delta outflow than are likely to occur when accounting for all Project operations. For these reasons, the Monthly Comparison (presented later in this document) provides a better representation of the overall effect of Sites Reservoir operations on Delta outflow.

### SBRS Delta Outflow with VAs

The maximum, daily periods when Sites diversions could occur were combined with modeling results and analysis from the SBRS that represent the potential changes in Delta outflow that are expected to

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<sup>4</sup> <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Science-and-Engineering/Compliance-Monitoring-And-Assessment/Dayflow-Data>

occur under the VAs. VA flow assets are proposed to occur during times when additional flow is expected to be most beneficial to the system. There are no daily estimates of the change in Delta outflow under the VAs; however, monthly estimates are available from CalSim 3 model results that reflect the monthly simulation of VA flow assets identified in rows 1 through 9 of SBRS Table 4-1. State Water Board staff post-processed these CalSim 3 results to create two separate scenarios which include additional VA flow assets. These VA scenarios: “VA without lower San Joaquin”<sup>5</sup> and “VA with lower San Joaquin”<sup>6</sup>, are presented in Chapter 4 of the SBRS. Results presented in Chapter 4 of the SBRS assumed that the VA flow assets in rows 10 through 12 of SBRS Table 4-1 would occur during the seasonal periods identified in SBRS Table 4-11, but did not explicitly identify which months, nor in what volumes within each month, these flows assets would occur. For the purpose of the Daily Comparison, it is assumed that the VA flow assets in rows 10 through 12 of SBRS Table 4-1 are equally split between the months of April and May, and occur in the volumes identified by each water year type<sup>7</sup>. The monthly change in Delta outflow under the VA scenarios was then calculated on an average monthly basis according to Sacramento Valley water year type. This was achieved by taking the difference between the CalSim 3 Baseline, and the VA without lower San Joaquin and the VA with lower San Joaquin. The monthly volumes produced by this analysis are assumed to be equally distributed on a daily basis in the month they are simulated or assumed to occur. The monthly increases in Delta outflow are assumed to represent the presence of VA flow assets in Delta outflow.

The representation of VA flow assets in the CalSim 3 modeling and SBRS post-processing is approximate. The governance, objectives, and decision-making process to utilize VA flow assets are currently under development. The modeling and assumptions prepared by State Water Board staff for the SBRS represent the latest approximation of VA flow assets for a “Default Plan” flow schedule and the resulting changes in Delta outflow. The actual deployment of VA flow assets in the future will be done through the Governance Committee, based on real-time conditions, data, and objectives for what the VA flow assets are intended to achieve.

### Daily Comparison Results

The Historical WAA Tool provides Delta outflows, and the maximum potential change, resulting from Sites diversions on a daily timestep. This daily information is combined with approximate average monthly changes by water year type for the VAs. The Daily Comparison results presented in the following figures provide more granular information that aids in understanding Delta outflow conditions during potential Sites diversions, as compared to what can be inferred from average monthly flows; average monthly flows by water year type; or seasonal volumes (subsequent tables). Diversions to Sites Reservoir occur during times of high flow when water available for the Sites Project exceeds regulatory requirements, Project-specific requirements, and senior water right demands. The figures show that while most potential Sites diversions are expected to occur in the winter of wetter years, there can be periods of high flows across all years and months of the diversion season proposed for the Sites Project (September 1 through June 14). Additionally, the Historical WAA Tool provides results for a 22-year

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<sup>5</sup> CalSim 3 VA scenario post-processed with flow assets in rows 10 and 11 from SBRS Table 4-1.

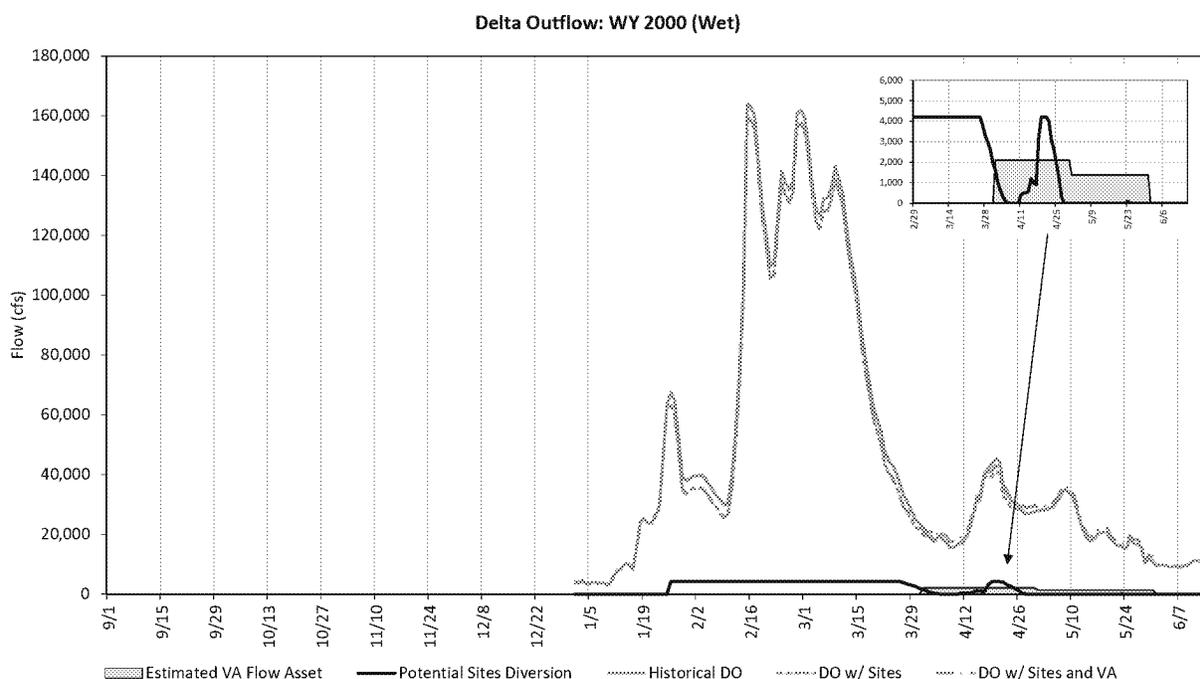
<sup>6</sup> CalSim 3 VA scenario post-processed with flow assets in rows 10 – 12 from SBRS Table 4-1.

<sup>7</sup> The Lower San Joaquin River placeholder volumes (row 12, SBRS Table 4-1) were mapped from San Joaquin Valley water year types to Sacramento Valley water year types in the same manner as performed in the SBRS.

period of the recent past – January 2000 through September 2021. The analysis takes this recent period of observed Delta outflow, which reflects actual conditions, and layers on the effects of both potential Sites diversions and estimated changes in Delta outflow from the VAs. For these reasons, but subject to the aforementioned limitations, the Daily Comparison provides the most useful information regarding how potential Sites diversions may interact with the VAs flow assets (Question 1<sup>8</sup>).

Figure 1 through Figure 22 illustrate periods of potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets for each year of the analysis included in the Sites Historical WAA Tool. Each figure includes the historical Delta outflow; potential Sites diversions from the Historical WAA Tool; the change in Delta outflow under the CalSim 3 VA with lower San Joaquin River (LSJR)<sup>9</sup>; historical Delta outflow minus potential Sites diversions; and historical Delta outflow, minus potential Sites diversions, plus the change in Delta outflow under the CalSim 3 VA with LSJR. As previously noted, the average monthly change to Delta outflow from the VA with LSJR was converted to equal daily flow rates for each month. The change in Delta outflow under the VA with LSJR shown for each year is based on the average monthly volume by water year type, using the May 1 Sacramento Valley water year type applied to each calendar year (e.g., the Water Year 2012 figure shows changes in Delta outflow for a Wet year [2011] from September through December, and a Below Normal year [2012] for January through June). The May 1 water year type can vary from the final water year type, but was used as a representation of the potential VA flow assets in that year.

A short commentary is included for each year with observations regarding potential Sites diversions, historical Delta outflows, and VA flow assets. Please note that the magnitude of the y-axis changes each year relative to the magnitude of flows that occurred.

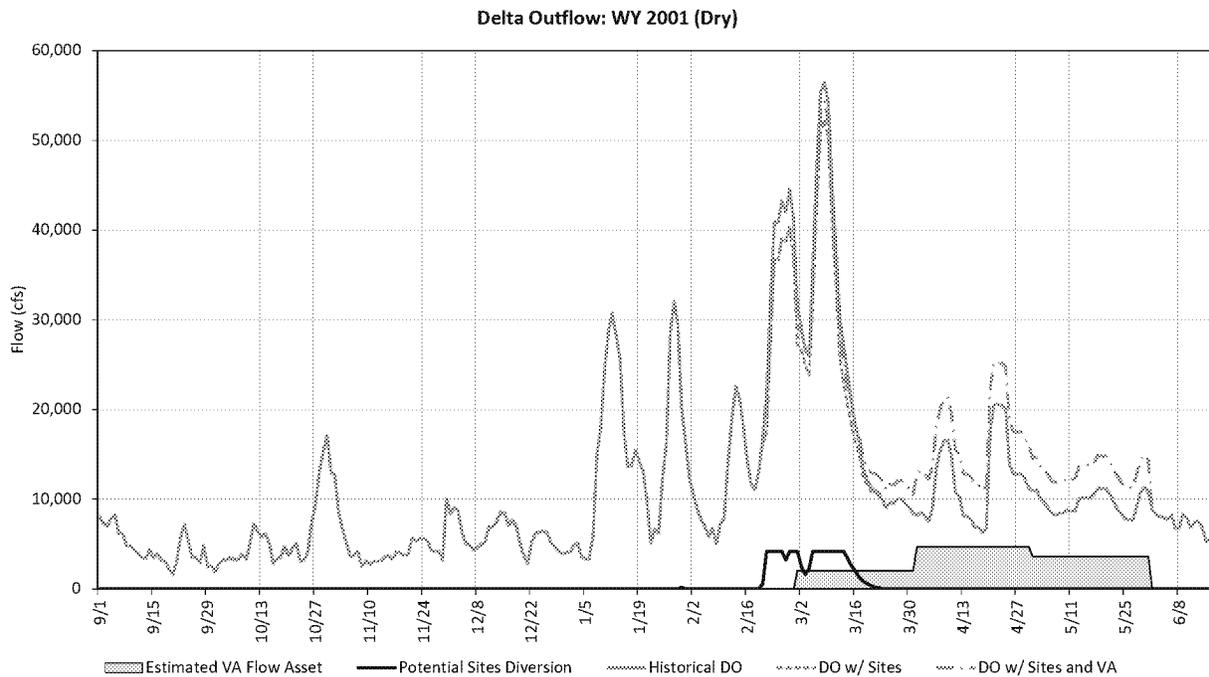


<sup>8</sup> From the Introduction section of this technical memorandum.

<sup>9</sup> Estimated VA Flow Asset

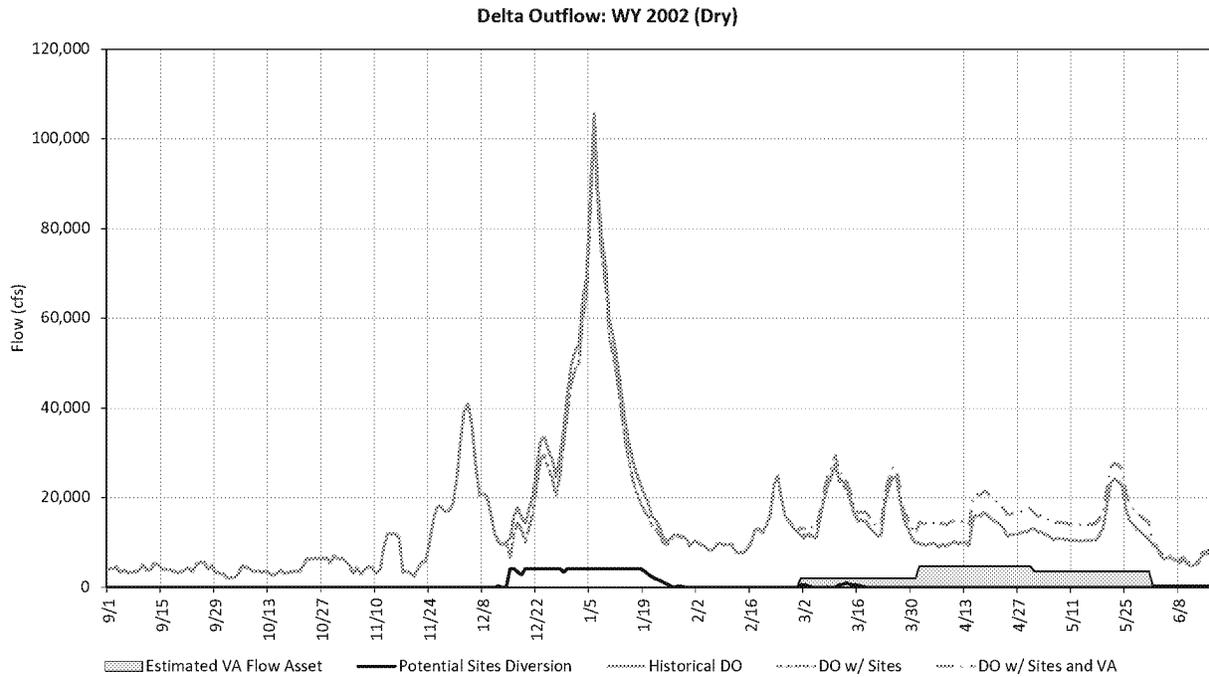
**Figure 1. Water Year 2000: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water Year 2000 was a Wet year based on the May 1 forecast, though the final water year type was an Above Normal year. The majority of potential Sites diversions occurred from late-January through March, outside of modeled VA actions and largely during periods when Delta outflow was greater than 100,000 cfs. A shorter period of potential Sites diversions occurred in the latter half of April, primarily when Delta outflow was greater than approximately 40,000 cfs. This period overlapped with VA flows under the Default Plan flow schedule. Although most of the VA flow assets in Wet years are modeled to occur in April, the adaptive range allows for a portion of flows to be spread over any period from March through June. Based on current proposals and assumptions, VA flow assets in Wet years are small in comparison to VA flow assets in other water year types.



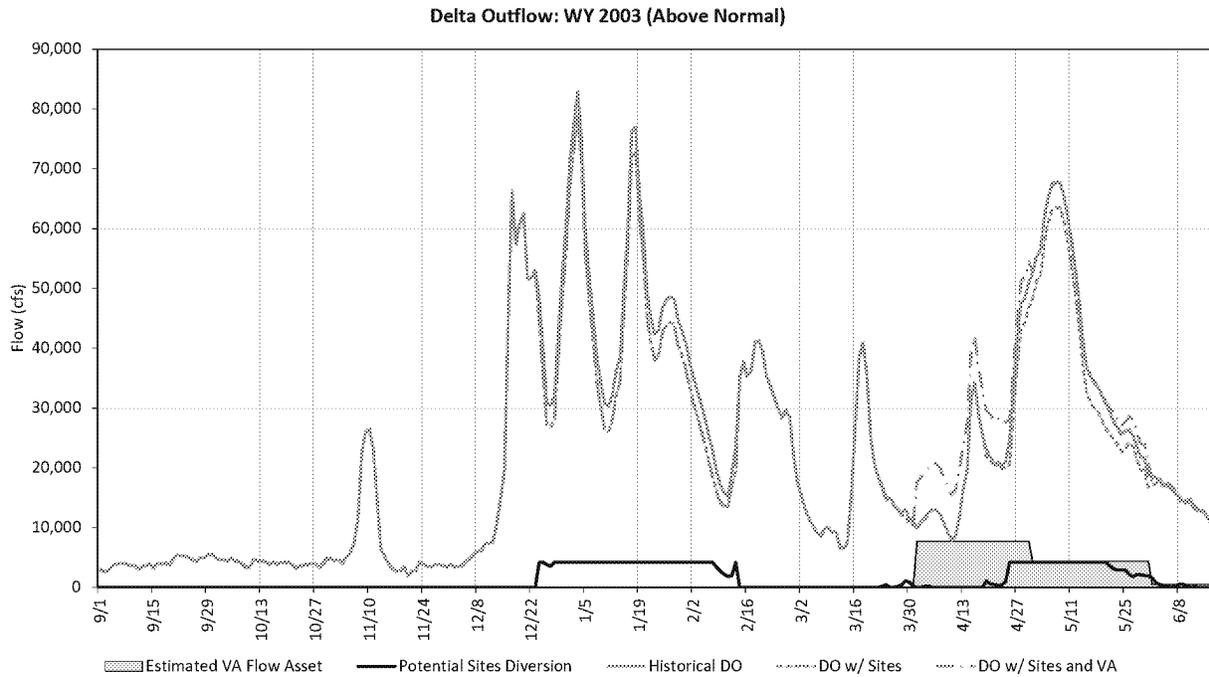
**Figure 2. Water Year 2001: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2001 was a Dry year, with limited opportunities for potential Sites diversions outside of late-February through early-March when Delta outflow typically exceeded 30,000 cfs. The modeled VA flows overlap with potential Sites diversions in the first part of March when Delta outflow ranged from approximately 20,000 to 50,000 cfs.



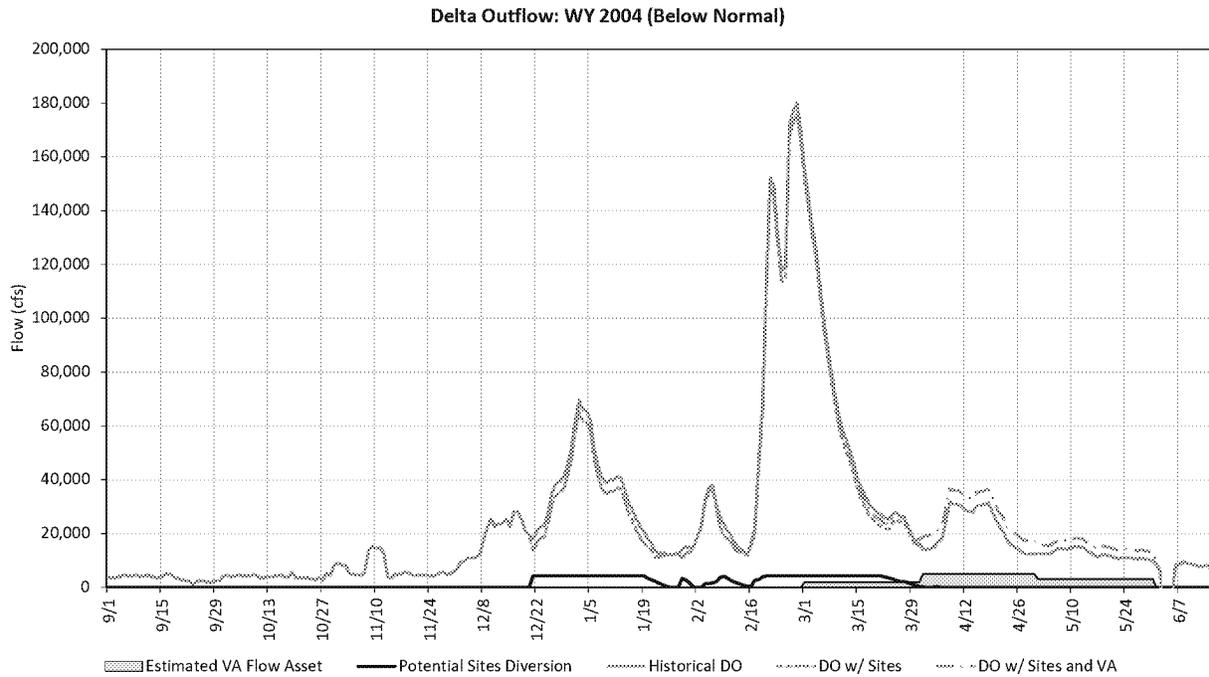
**Figure 3. Water Year 2002: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2002 was again a Dry year. Potential Sites diversions occurred in December and January when Delta outflow typically exceeded 20,000 cfs and peaked at approximately 100,000 cfs. The Historical WAA Tool indicates potential diversions for a short period of time at less than capacity in early March – the same time VA flows may have been present.



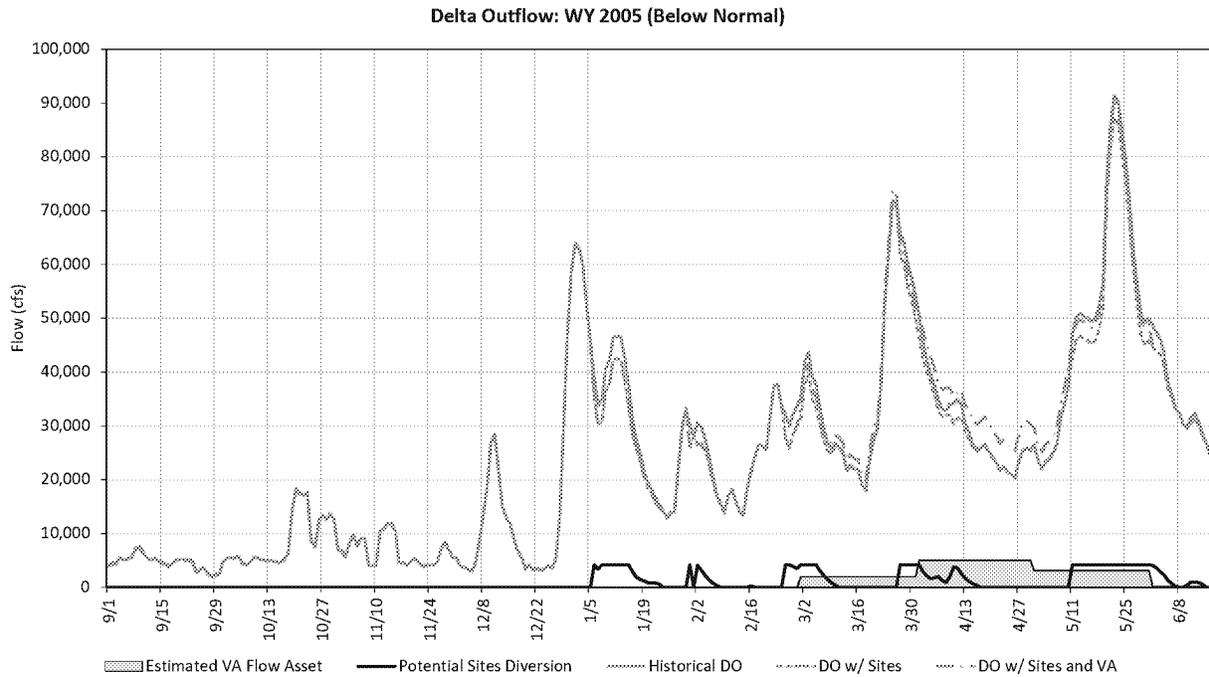
**Figure 4. Water Year 2003: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2003 was an Above Normal year, with Delta outflow ranging from approximately 30,000 to 80,000 cfs from mid-December through mid-February, and approximately 20,000 to above 60,000 cfs from late-April through May. The majority of potential Sites diversions would occur during these two periods, with the latter period overlapping modeled VA flow assets.



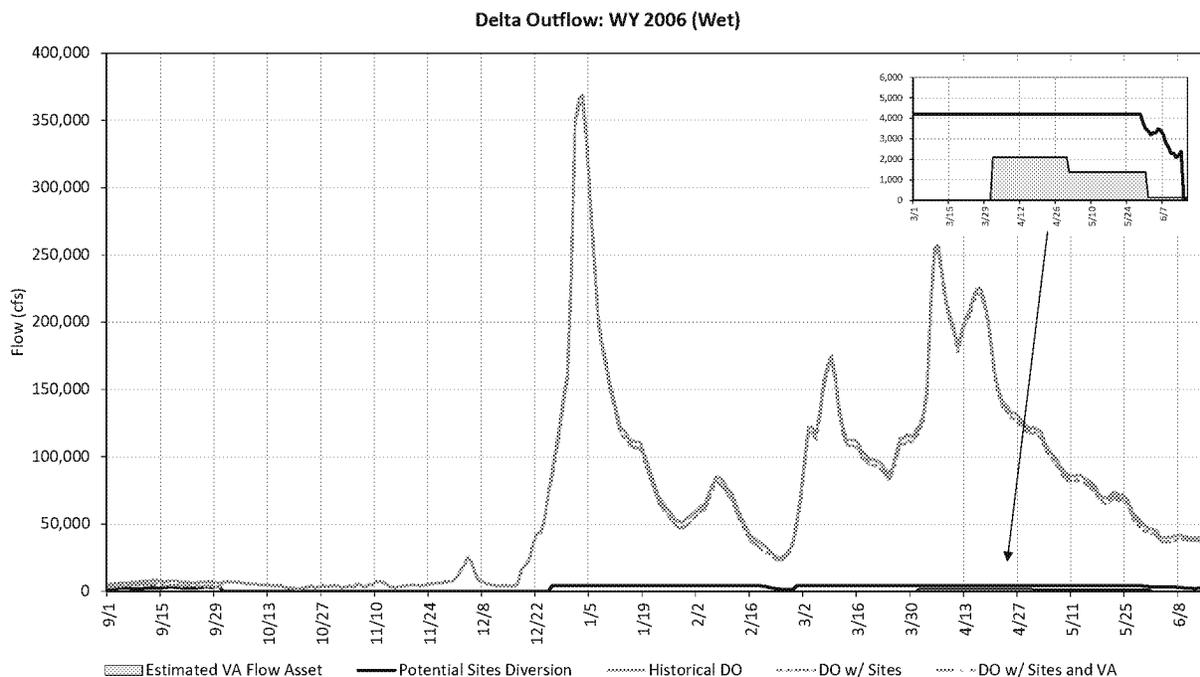
**Figure 5. Water Year 2004: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2004 was a Below Normal year, although conditions were generally wet enough to allow for potential Sites diversions for extended periods when Delta outflow frequently, but not always, exceeded 20,000 cfs. Potential overlap between Sites diversions and VA flow assets could have occurred during a period in March when Delta outflow exceeded 20,000 cfs and at times exceeded 100,000 cfs. Most VA flows in Below Normal years have flexibility to occur between March and May. Please note, Delta outflow of zero shown in June is due to the levee failure and flooding of Jones Tract.



**Figure 6. Water Year 2005: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

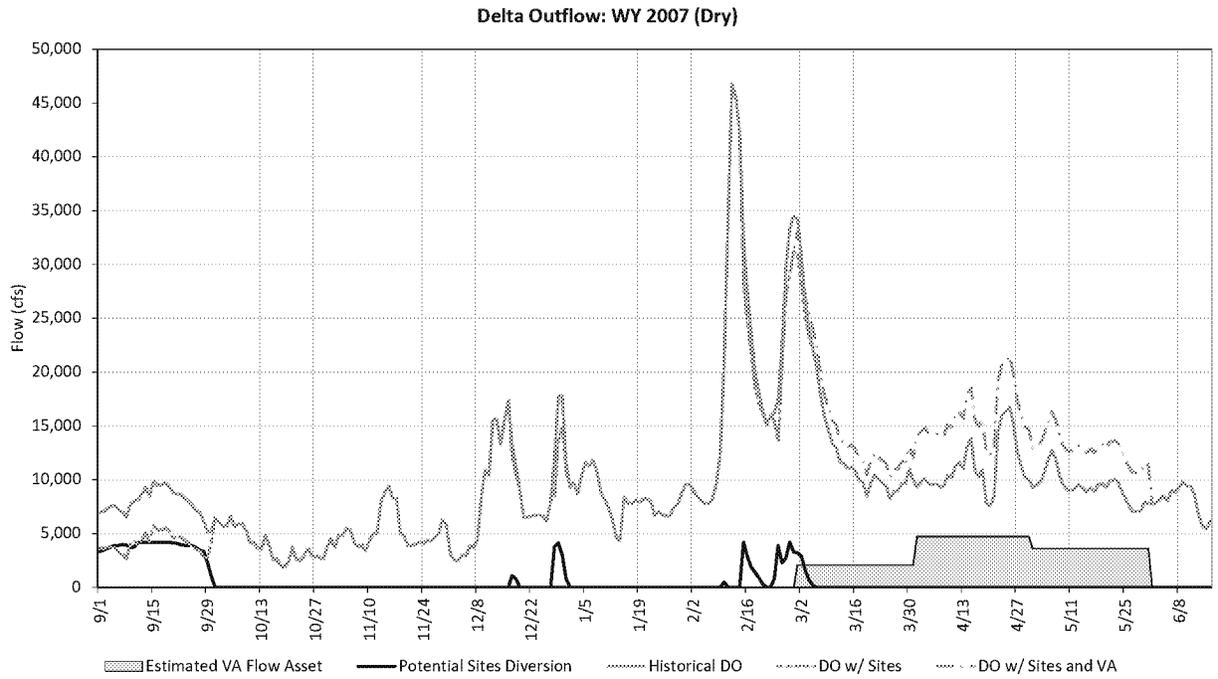
Water year 2005 was a Below Normal year based on the May 1 forecast (the final water year type was Above Normal) and would have allowed for five periods of potential Sites diversions. The latter three periods of potential Sites diversions would have overlapped with VA flow assets. During each of these periods Delta outflow exceeded at least 20,000 cfs, and often exceeded 40,000 cfs.



**Figure 7. Water Year 2006: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

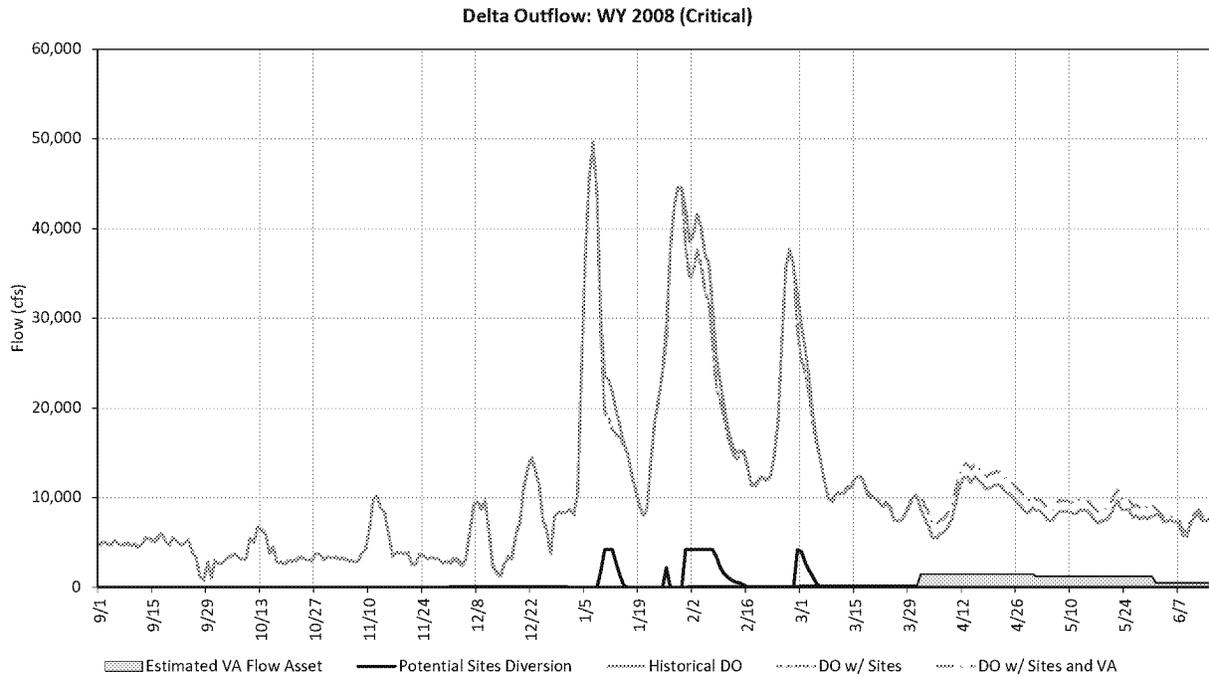
Water year 2006 was a Wet year, with the potential for nearly uninterrupted<sup>10</sup> Sites diversions from late-December through early-June. VA flow contributions to Delta outflow in Wet years are assumed to occur in April and May. Although potential Sites diversions and VA flows overlap during these months, daily Delta outflow exceeded 100,000 cfs in April and at least 45,000 cfs in May. Additionally, the potential diversion volume calculated by the Historical WAA Tool under this scenario exceeded 1.5 MAF – the capacity of Sites Reservoir and maximum annual diversion volume requested in the water right application. This volume illustrates how the potential Sites diversions in this analysis represent a maximum potential, and not actual operations. Under these circumstances, it would only be possible to divert up-to the reservoir capacity, and only possible to divert 1.5 MAF if the reservoir were empty at the start of the water year.

<sup>10</sup> Water year 2006 is the year with the largest potential Sites diversions in the Historical WAA Tool, 1.572 MAF, over the period of analysis.



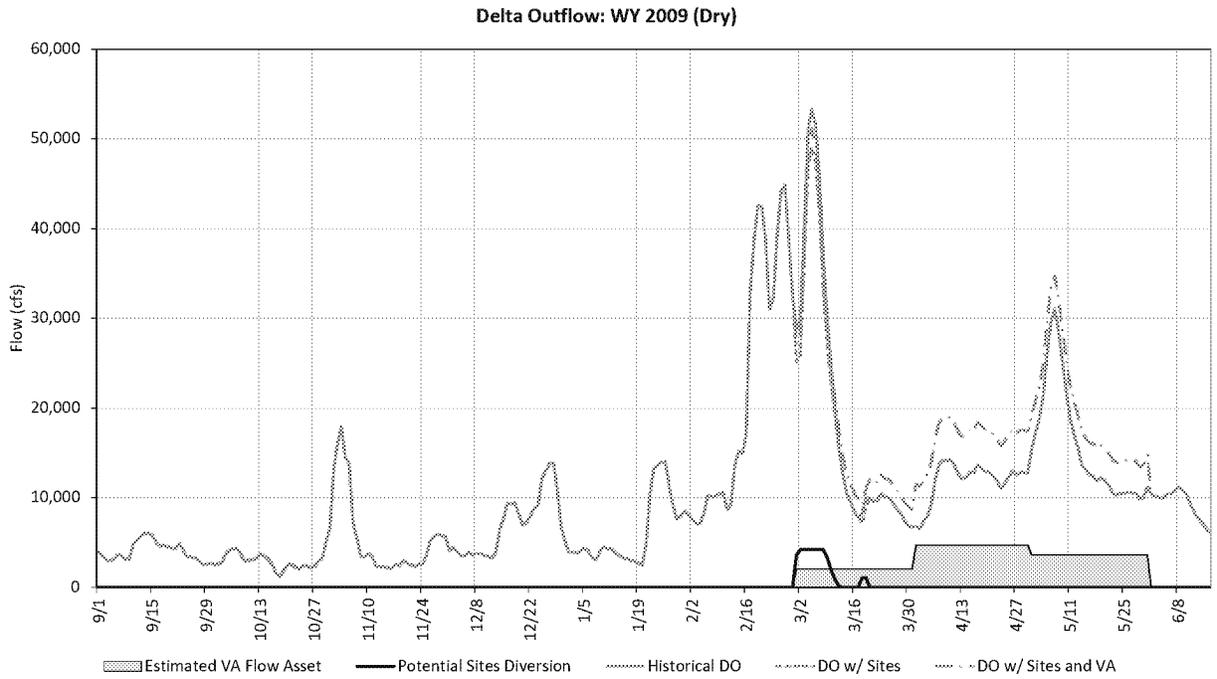
**Figure 8. Water Year 2007: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2007 was a Dry year, with a few opportunities of 11 continuous days or less for Sites to divert in December, February, and March. Potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets would have overlapped for five days at the beginning of March when Delta outflow exceeded 20,000 cfs.



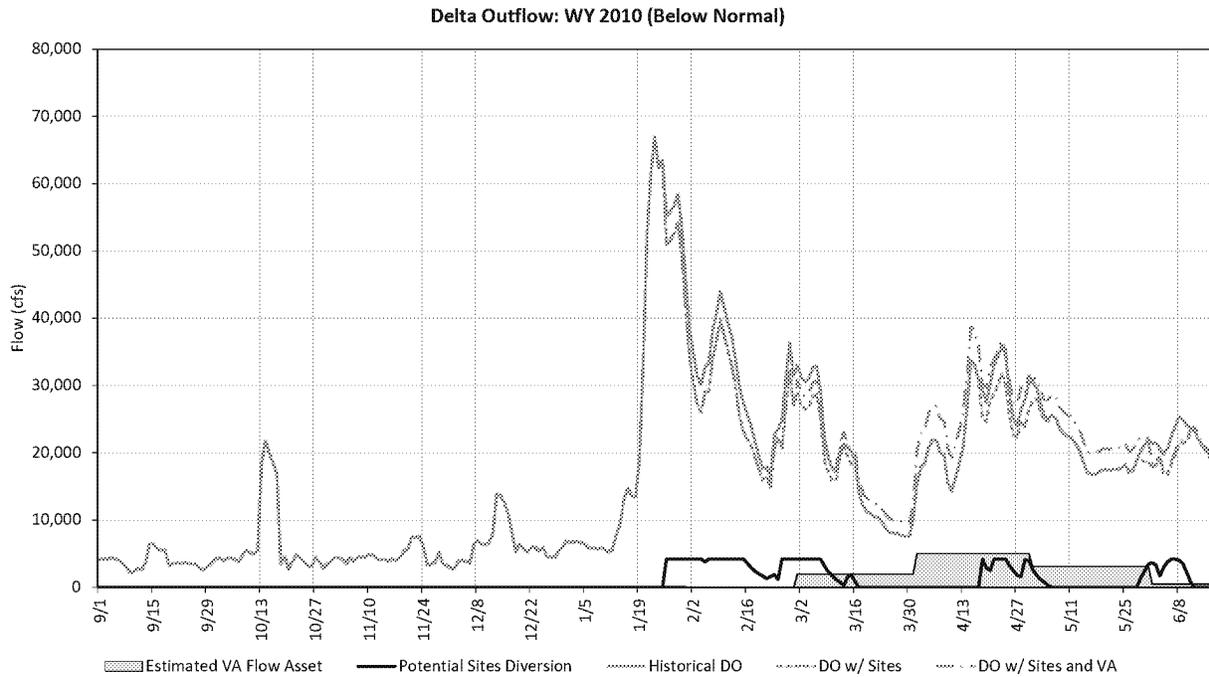
**Figure 9. Water Year 2008: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2008 was a Critical year, with potential Sites diversions only occurring during three storm events in January, February, and early-March. VA flow contributions to Delta outflow in Critical years are assumed to occur in April and May; thus, no overlap would have occurred between potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets.



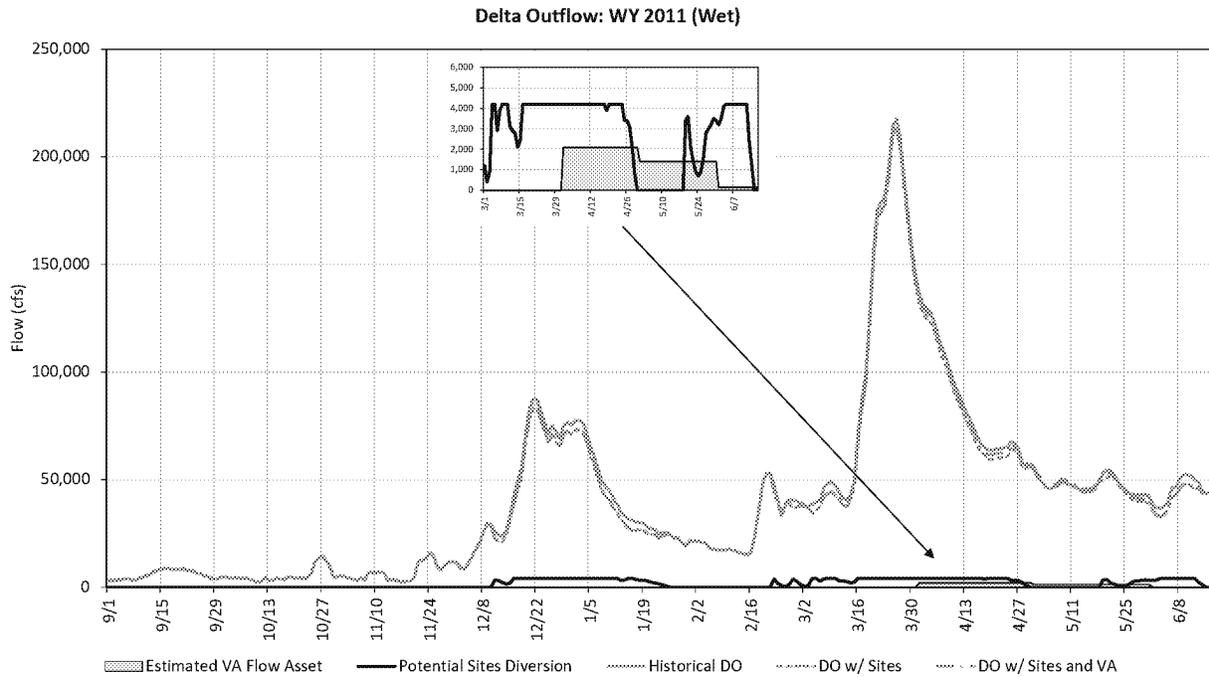
**Figure 10. Water Year 2009: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2009 was a Dry year, with only one period of potential Sites diversions in the first half of March, when historical Delta outflow typically ranged from approximately 20,000 to more than 50,000 cfs. Potential Sites diversions and VA assets would have overlapped during this time period.



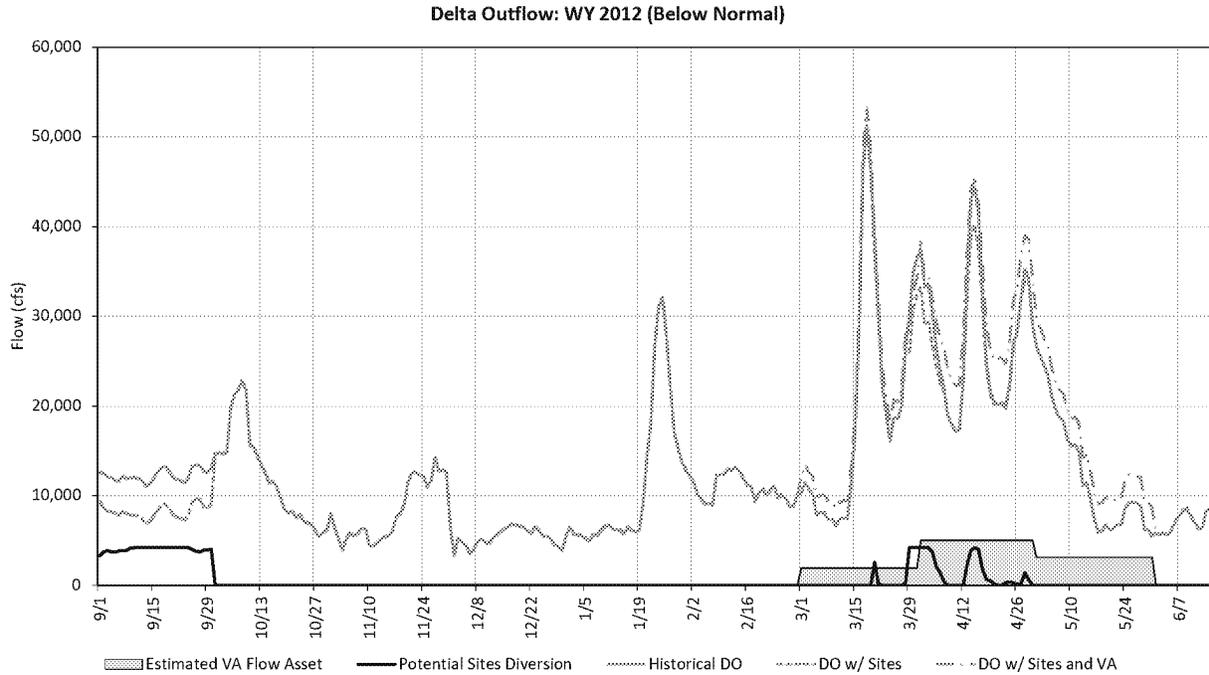
**Figure 11. Water Year 2010: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2010 was a Below Normal year, with three distinct periods of potential Sites diversions from late January through early March, mid-April through early May, and late-May through mid-June. During these potential periods the historical Delta outflow frequently, but not always, exceeded 20,000 cfs. Potential Sites diversions in the March through May period would have overlapped with VA flow assets.



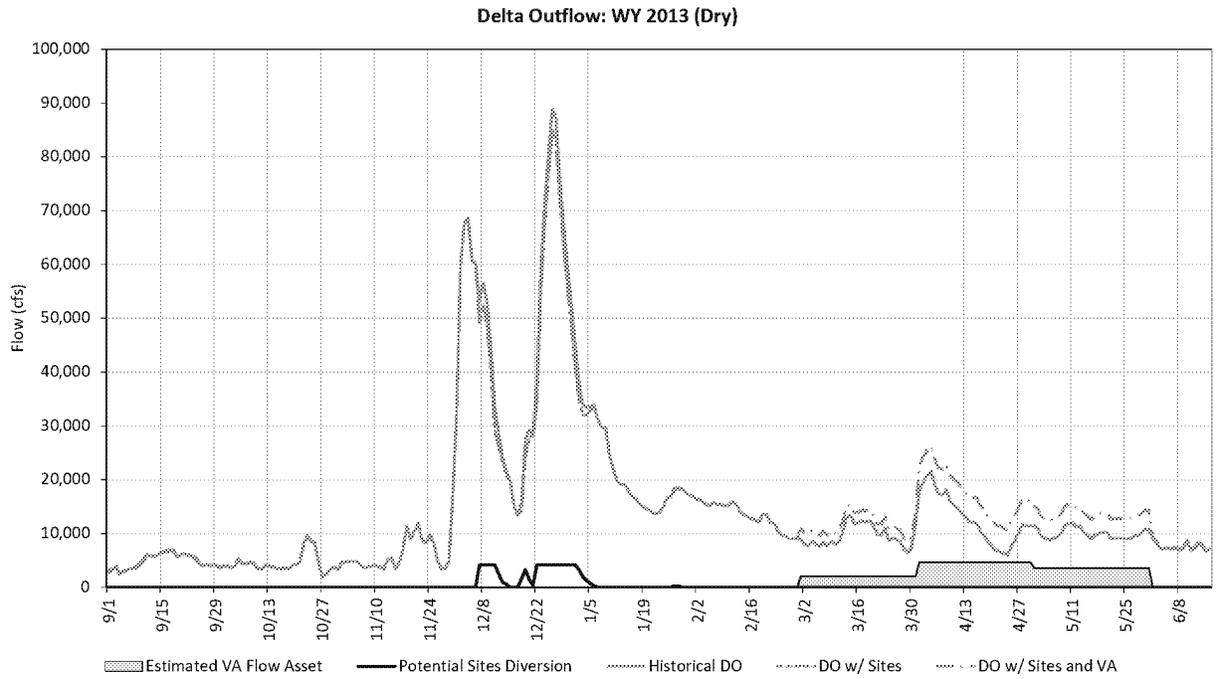
**Figure 12. Water Year 2011: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2011 was a Wet year with three extended periods of potential Sites diversions, of which the latter two may have overlapped with VA flow assets in April and May. Historical Delta outflow in April ranged from approximately 55,000 to 130,000 cfs, while historical Delta outflow in May ranged from approximately 40,000 to 50,000 cfs. Estimated potential diversions from the Historical WAA Tool totaled 1.2 MAF in 2011. Depending on reservoir storage at the beginning of the water year, diversions may have been limited by available reservoir capacity.



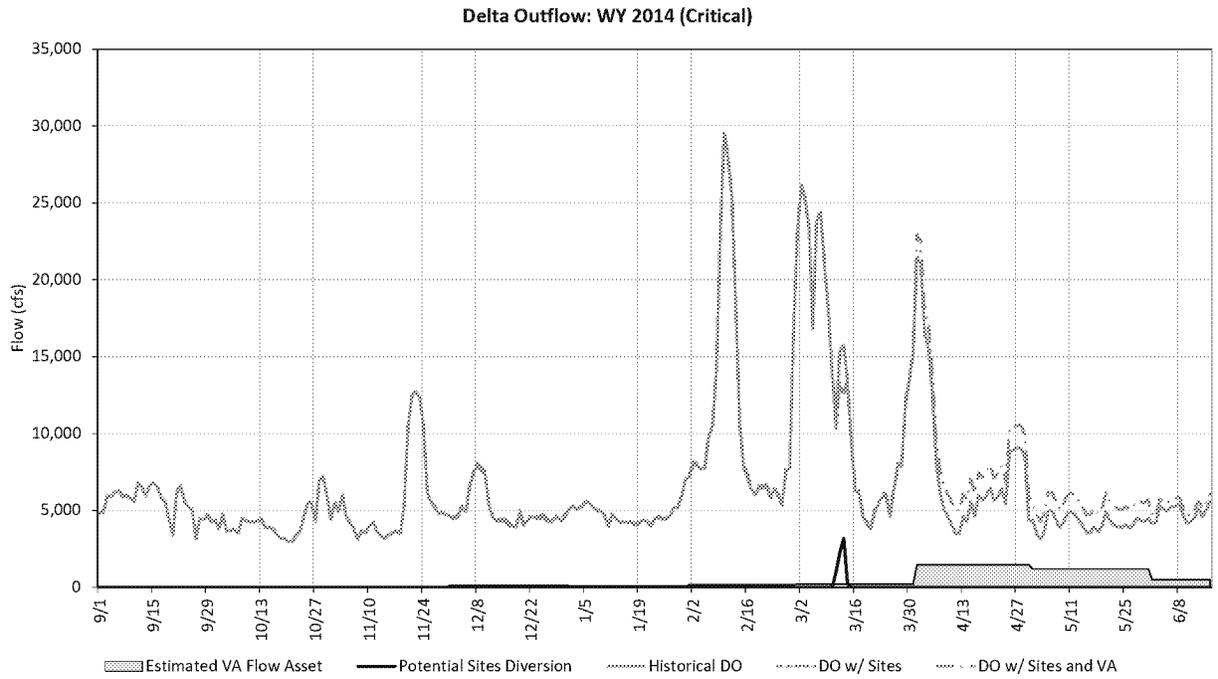
**Figure 13. Water Year 2012: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2012 was a Below Normal year, with potential Sites diversions in March and April when historical Delta outflow peaked and typically exceeded 20,000 cfs. Potential Sites diversions in late-April are less than the full diversion capacity. Potential Sites diversions would have overlapped with VA flow assets during these months.



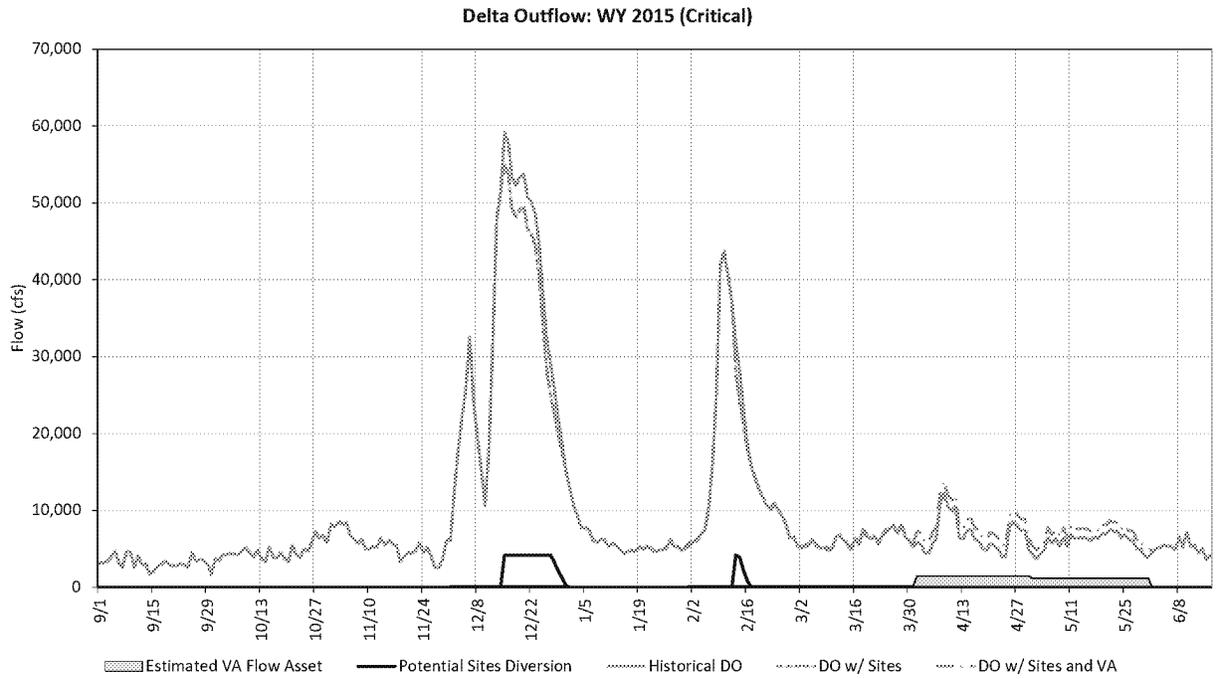
**Figure 14. Water Year 2013: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2013 was a Dry year, with potential Sites diversions during a period in December and early January. There was no modeled overlap between potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets.



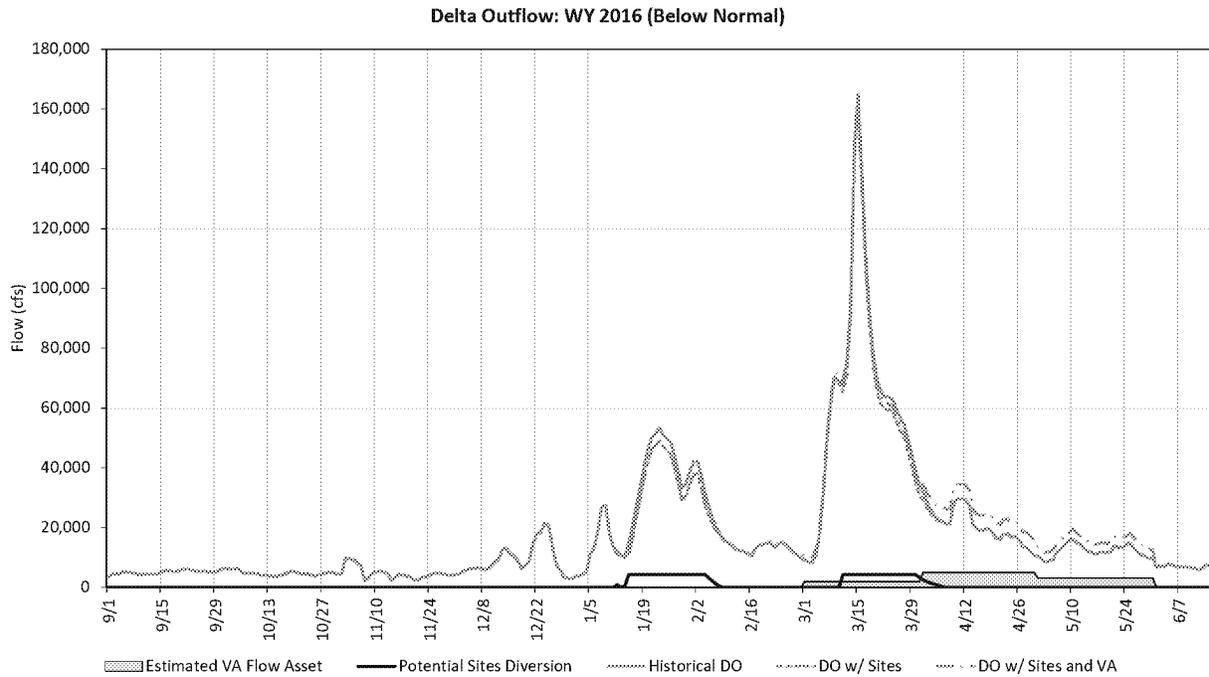
**Figure 15. Water Year 2014: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2014 was a Critical year with one brief period of potential Sites diversions in March. There was no modeled overlap between potential Sites diversion and VA flow assets.



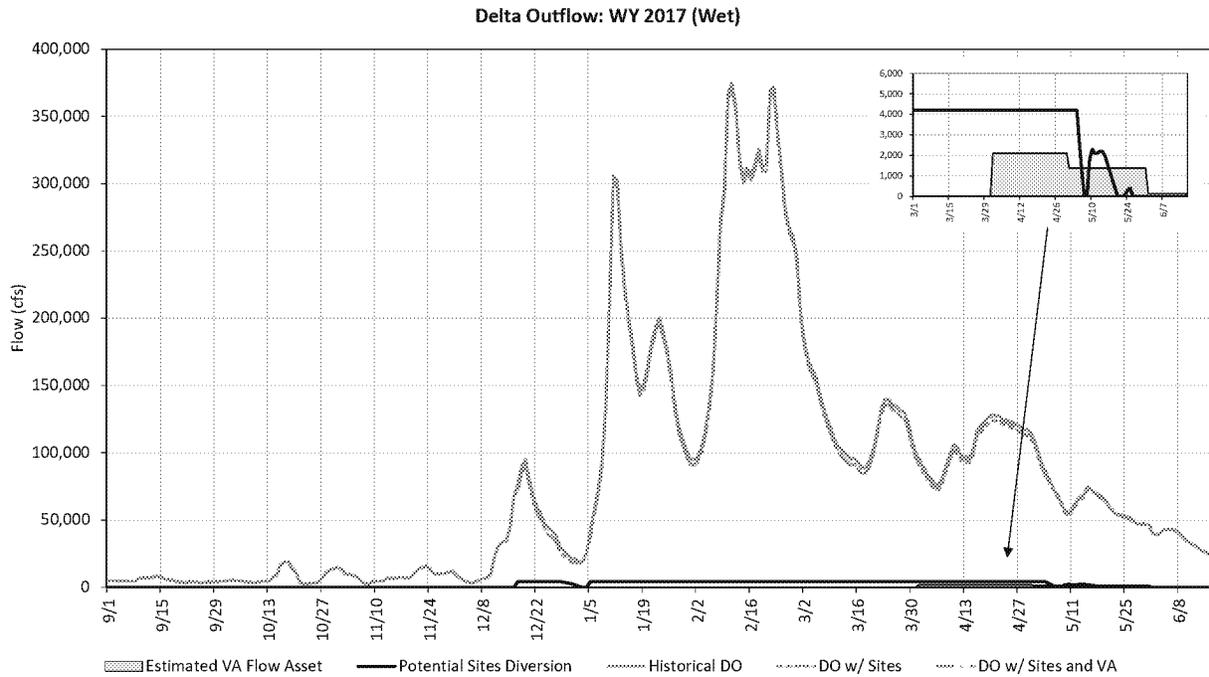
**Figure 16. Water Year 2015: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2015 was another Critical year with two brief periods of potential Sites diversions in December and early February. There was no modeled overlap between potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets.



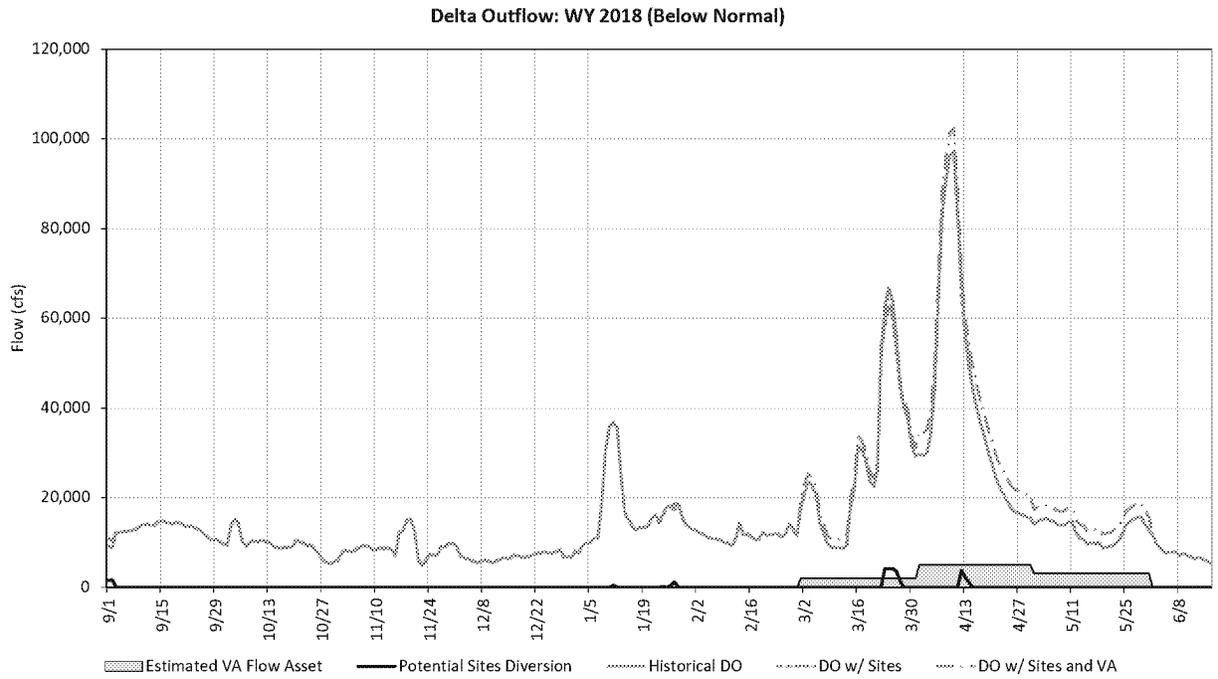
**Figure 17. Water Year 2016: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2016 was a Below Normal year with two periods of potential Sites diversions, the latter half of January and most of March. Potential Sites diversions in January did not overlap with VA flow assets. Potential Sites diversions in March overlapped with VA flow assets, but occurred when historical Delta outflow ranged from approximately 20,000 to 160,000 cfs.



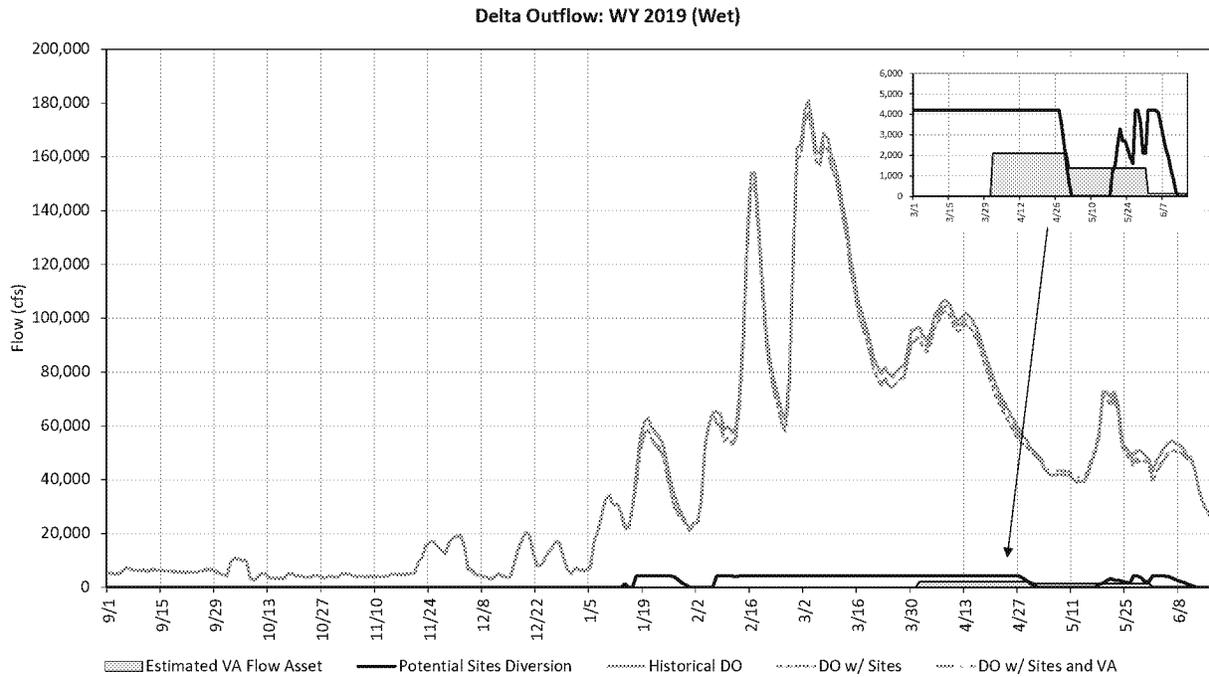
**Figure 18. Water Year 2017: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2017 was a Wet year, with potential Sites diversions occurring through most of the winter and spring. Delta outflow was above 100,000 cfs for most of this same period. There was modeled overlap of potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets in April and early-May, when Delta outflow exceeded 75,000 cfs. Estimated potential diversions in the Historical WAA Tool totaled 1.2 MAF in 2017. Depending on reservoir storage at the beginning of the water year, diversions may have been limited by available reservoir capacity.



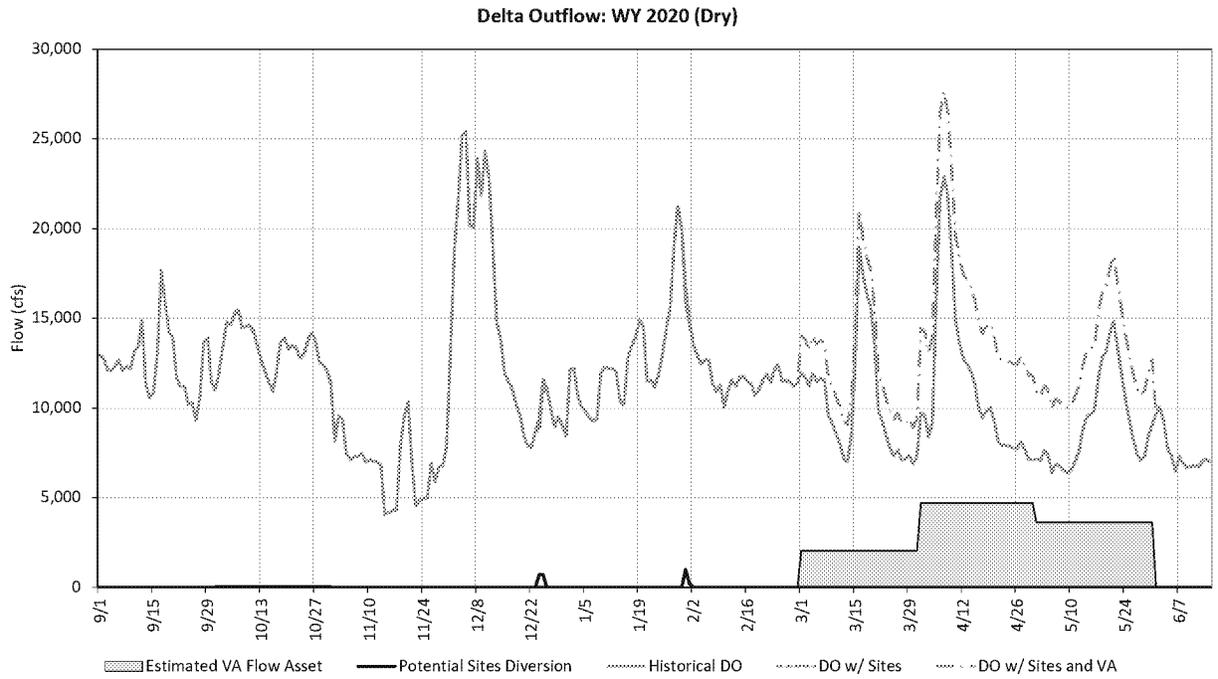
**Figure 19. Water Year 2018: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2018 was a Below Normal year with a relatively dry winter and wet spring. Potential Sites diversions overlapped with VA flow assets in March and April during periods of peak Delta outflow that exceeded 45,000 cfs.



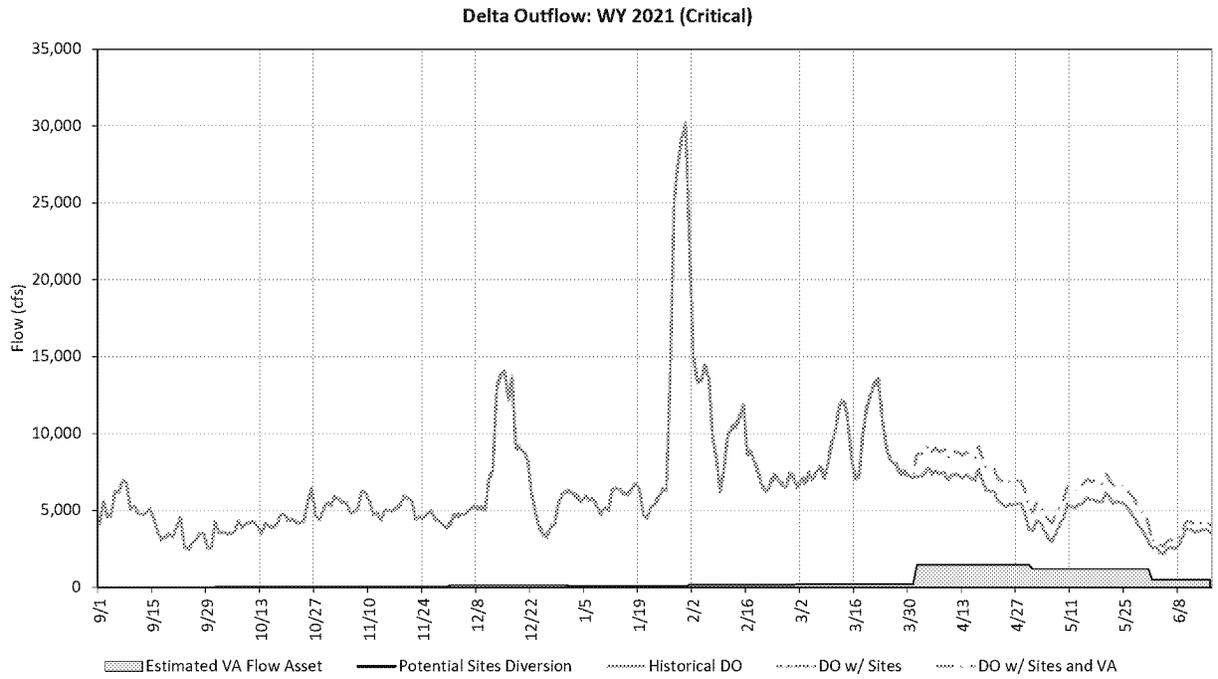
**Figure 20. Water Year 2019: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2019 was a Wet year, with potential Sites diversions over an extended period in January, most of February through April, and intermittently at the end of May and early June. Some modeled overlap occurred between potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets. However, Delta outflow was greater than 60,000 cfs during most of the periods of overlap. Estimated potential diversions in the Historical WAA Tool totaled 925 TAF in 2019. Depending on reservoir storage at the beginning of the water year, diversions may have been limited by available reservoir capacity.



**Figure 21. Water Year 2020: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2020 was a Dry year, with two brief potential periods when Sites could divert, both outside of the period when VA flow assets were modeled to be deployed.



**Figure 22. Water Year 2021: Potential Sites Diversions, VA Flows, and Delta Outflow**

Water year 2021 was a Critical year that did not have any opportunities for Sites to divert; therefore, no potential overlap with VA flow assets occurred.

Table 1 is a summary of the potential Sites diversion days for each month during the period of analysis in the Daily Comparison. Months when VA flow assets may be deployed are highlighted. Diversions to Sites Reservoir will occur during periods when flows are available above regulatory requirements, Project-specific requirements, and senior water right demands. Whereas VA flow assets are proposed to occur during times when additional flow is expected to be most beneficial to the system. As previously stated, it is uncertain when and how VA flow assets may be deployed each year. The representation of VA flow assets is based on general assumptions and average monthly changes by water year type equally distributed across each day of a month. These results are one indication of the potential for overlap between Sites diversions and VA flow assets; however, the assumptions and caveats above are important when interpreting results in Table 1, and in the following sections.

**Table 1. Days per Month of Potential Sites Diversions; Highlighted Months Indicate Potential Presence of VA Flow Assets.**

WY Type	WY	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
AN	2000	-	-	-	6	29	31	22	1	0	-	-	0
D	2001	0	0	0	1	9	22	0	0	0	-	-	0
D	2002	0	0	18	28	0	10	0	0	0	-	-	0
AN	2003	0	0	8	31	13	7	14	31	9	-	-	0
BN	2004	0	0	11	29	26	31	3	0	0	-	-	0
AN	2005	0	0	0	19	11	15	16	21	12	-	-	30
W	2006	0	0	6	31	28	31	30	31	14	-	-	30
D	2007	0	0	6	0	13	5	0	0	0	-	-	0
C	2008	0	0	0	9	16	5	0	0	0	-	-	0
D	2009	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	-	-	0
BN	2010	0	0	0	6	28	16	13	8	11	-	-	0
W	2011	0	0	21	25	7	31	29	13	14	-	-	30
BN	2012	0	0	0	0	0	6	22	0	0	-	-	0
D	2013	0	0	22	8	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
C	2014	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	-	-	0
C	2015	0	0	17	0	4	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
BN	2016	0	0	0	19	8	21	6	0	0	-	-	0
W	2017	0	0	15	29	28	31	30	20	0	-	-	2
BN	2018	0	0	0	4	0	5	3	0	0	-	-	0
W	2019	0	0	0	15	22	31	30	15	12	-	-	0
D	2020	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
C	2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0

### Monthly and Seasonal Summary of Daily Comparison

The results from the Daily Comparison are summarized as average monthly change by Sacramento Valley water year type, and for each season where flow abundance relationships are discussed and evaluated in the SBRS. It is important to restate, the Historical WAA Tool is not an operations model for the Sites Project and therefore does not simulate diversions into Sites Reservoir as part of the overall operations. Results from the Historical WAA Tool provide a conservative, and in some cases an over estimation, of the potential impact of the Sites Project on Delta outflow. A better representation of the overall effect of Sites Project operations on Delta outflow is found in the Sites' Revised Draft

Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS) and the upcoming Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIR/EIS). Analysis for the RDEIR/SDEIS and upcoming Final EIR/EIS evaluates all aspects of Sites Reservoir operations. The representation from the Final EIR/EIS is utilized in the Monthly Comparison, discussed later in this document.

### Change in Delta Outflow with Potential Sites Diversions

Table 2 shows the average monthly change in Delta outflow by Sacramento Valley water year type resulting from potential Sites diversions over the period of analysis in the Sites Historical WAA Tool. As previously stated, this assumes a 1:1 change in Delta outflow, relative to potential Sites' diversions; does not account for travel time; and does not include releases from Sites that increase Delta outflow. Changes in Delta outflow are greatest in Wet and Above Normal years and the greatest monthly volumes generally occur in January through March.

**Table 2. Average Monthly Change in Delta Outflow Resulting from Potential Sites Diversions in the Sites Historical WAA Tool. Values in 1,000 acre-feet.**

WY Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Wet	0	0	-82	-191	-161	-249	-241	-117	-62	0	0	-117	-1,220
Above Normal	0	0	-32	-140	-129	-117	-66	-132	-16	0	0	-51	-684
Below Normal	0	0	-18	-79	-78	-109	-40	-6	-14	0	0	0	-343
Dry	0	0	-52	-35	-21	-38	0	0	0	0	0	0	-146
Critical	0	0	-30	-12	-27	-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	-79

### Change in Delta Outflow for VA without Lower San Joaquin River

Table 3 shows the average monthly change in Delta outflow by Sacramento Valley water year type between the post-processed CalSim 3 VA study without LSJR and the CalSim 3 baseline. The proposed VA flow contributions (both those modeled in CalSim 3 and those that are post-processed) are concentrated in the months of April and May, with the largest volumes occurring in Above Normal, Below Normal, and Dry water year types. As such, the largest changes in Delta outflow generally occur in these months and year types.

**Table 3. Average Monthly Change in Delta Outflow under the VA without Lower San Joaquin (VA without Lower San Joaquin minus CalSim 3 Baseline). Values in 1,000 acre-feet.**

WY Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Wet	2	-4	-7	-19	-5	-3	98	59	-1	5	0	0	123
Above Normal	-8	0	-1	1	-11	-7	394	206	-3	23	10	-6	600
Below Normal	4	-4	-2	4	-1	120	246	138	9	11	9	12	521
Dry	4	0	2	-1	-2	126	227	170	29	28	14	-2	596
Critical	1	2	9	5	10	12	61	47	0	1	1	1	148

The potential changes in Delta outflow from the Sites Historical WAA Tool (Table 2) can be combined with the changes in Delta outflow from the CalSim 3 VA scenario without LSJR (Table 3) to suggest how potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets may overlap and/or interact. As the analysis blends output from two different models with different assumptions, baselines, and operating criteria, results of this

analysis are intended to be illustrative of the potential changes in magnitude and timing of Delta outflow with both Sites and the VAs. As modeling of the VAs is refined, it may be possible to further evaluate how flows and potential Sites diversions directly interact.

Table 4 shows the average monthly net change in Delta outflow by Sacramento Valley water year type when considering the modeled change in Delta outflow under the VAs without LSJR and the potential Sites diversions as calculated by the Sites Historical WAA Tool.

**Table 4. Average Monthly Net Change in Delta Outflow under the VA without Lower San Joaquin and Sites Diversions. Values in 1,000 acre-feet.**

WY Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Wet	2	-4	-89	-210	-166	-251	-143	-59	-63	5	0	-118	-1,097
Above Normal	-8	0	-33	-139	-140	-125	328	74	-19	23	10	-57	-84
Below Normal	4	-4	-21	-75	-79	12	206	133	-5	11	9	-12	178
Dry	4	0	-50	-35	-23	88	227	170	29	28	14	-2	451
Critical	1	2	-22	-8	-18	4	61	47	0	1	1	1	70

#### Change in Delta Outflow for VA with Lower San Joaquin River

Similar results were produced by combining the changes in Delta outflow from the CalSim 3 VA scenario with LSJR with potential Sites diversions from the Historical WAA Tool to suggest how potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets with the inclusion of LSJR contributions may overlap and/or interact.

Table 5 shows the average monthly net change by Sacramento Valley water year type in Delta outflow between the post-processed CalSim 3 VA study with LSJR and the CalSim 3 baseline. Results are similar to those presented in Table 4, albeit with a larger change to Delta outflow in April and May of all year types due to the added LSJR contribution to Delta outflow.

**Table 5. Average Monthly Change in Delta Outflow under the VA with Lower San Joaquin (VA with Lower San Joaquin minus CalSim 3 Baseline). Values in 1,000 acre-feet.**

WY Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Wet	2	-4	-7	-19	-5	-3	125	85	-1	5	0	0	177
Above Normal	-8	0	-1	1	-11	-7	456	268	-3	23	10	-6	723
Below Normal	4	-4	-2	4	-1	120	299	191	9	11	9	-12	627
Dry	4	0	2	-1	-2	126	280	223	29	28	14	-2	701
Critical	1	2	9	5	10	12	87	73	0	1	1	1	201

Table 6 shows the average monthly net change in Delta outflow by Sacramento Valley water year type when considering the modeled change in Delta outflow under the VA with LSJR (Table 5) and the potential Sites diversions, as calculated by the Sites Historical WAA Tool (Table 2).

**Table 6. Average Monthly Net Change in Delta Outflow under the VA with Lower San Joaquin and Sites Diversions. Values in 1,000 acre-feet.**

WY Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Wet	2	-4	-89	-210	-166	-251	-116	-32	-63	5	0	-118	-1,043
Above Normal	-8	0	-33	-139	-140	-125	390	136	-19	23	10	-57	40
Below Normal	4	-4	-21	-75	-79	12	259	186	-5	11	9	-12	284
Dry	4	0	-50	-35	-23	88	280	223	29	28	14	-2	556
Critical	1	2	-22	-8	-18	4	87	73	0	1	1	1	123

Resulting Delta Outflow Seasonal Summary

Table 7 provides a summary of the seasonal changes in Delta outflow for each of the VA scenarios, with and without Sites diversions. Differences in Delta outflow are smallest in Below Normal, Dry, and Critical years, as potential Sites diversions are greatest in Wet and Above Normal years. Potential Sites diversions from the Historical WAA Tool are typically greatest in the January through March period, so the January through June season shows the greatest difference since this season overlaps with Sites' highest monthly diversions. Differences in the seasonal volumes are the smallest in the March through June and March through May seasons, as these periods do not include two of Sites' largest diversion months (January and February). In particular, differences in Below Normal, Dry, and Critical years are increasingly small since Sites generally has limited to no diversion opportunities in the spring months of these water year types.

**Table 7. Summary of Seasonal Changes in Delta Outflow. Values in 1,000 acre-feet.**

Season	WY Type	VA without LSJR	VA without LSJR with Sites	VA with LSJR	VA with LSJR and Sites
Feb – May	Wet	149	-619	202	-565
	Above Normal	582	137	706	261
	Below Normal	503	271	609	377
	Dry	521	463	627	568
	Critical	130	94	183	147
Jan – Jun	Wet	129	-892	182	-839
	Above Normal	580	-20	704	104
	Below Normal	516	191	622	297
	Dry	550	457	655	562
	Critical	134	86	187	139
Mar – Jun	Wet	153	-516	207	-463
	Above Normal	590	259	714	383
	Below Normal	513	345	619	451
	Dry	553	514	658	620
	Critical	120	111	173	164
Mar – May	Wet	154	-453	208	-399
	Above Normal	593	278	717	402
	Below Normal	504	350	610	456
	Dry	523	485	629	590
	Critical	120	112	173	165

## Monthly Comparison to the Scientific Basis Report Supplement Modeling Results

A monthly, CalSim-based analysis (Monthly Comparison) was developed to estimate how the Sites Project may affect Delta outflow under the VAs (Question 2<sup>11</sup>). The analysis was performed by combining the changes in Delta outflow under the VAs with the changes in Delta outflow with Sites Reservoir. Changes in Delta outflow under the VAs come from the post-processed CalSim 3 results that are the basis of the SBRS, while the change in Delta outflow with Sites Reservoir comes from the Alternative 3 CalSim II model produced in support of Sites’ Final EIR/EIS. As the Sites CalSim II model simulates the complete operation (diversions and releases) of Sites Reservoir, compared to only the maximum potential diversions in the Sites Historical WAA Tool, the resulting change in Delta outflow provides a better estimate of how the Sites Project might affect Delta outflow under the VAs.

### Sites CalSim II Modeling

To determine the change in Delta outflow with Sites Reservoir, the change in Delta outflow was calculated by taking the difference between Delta outflow under Sites Alternative 3 and Sites No Action Alternative (NAA). Results from Sites CalSim II modeling are summarized as monthly averages by Sacramento Valley water year type to be consistent and comparable with results from the post-processed VA modeling.

As it relates to the change in Delta outflow, it is important to keep in mind the timing and magnitude of simulated Sites diversions. Table 8 provides a summary of the average monthly simulated Sites diversions by Sacramento Valley water year type, as modeled in Sites Alternative 3. Diversions primarily occur during December through March, and occur in the greatest volumes in Wet and Above Normal years. Simulated diversion volumes in Wet years are similar to volumes in Above Normal years, as simulated diversions in some Wet years are limited by available reservoir and canal capacity.

**Table 8. Sites Project Diversions as Modeled in Sites Alternative 3. Values in 1,000 acre-feet.**

WY Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Wet	9	25	107	91	98	64	45	13	0	0	0	5	458
Above Normal	0	10	31	126	119	109	18	0	2	0	0	0	414
Below Normal	0	5	17	44	60	48	14	0	0	0	0	7	195
Dry	0	14	21	11	39	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	143
Critical	1	0	0	14	14	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	44

As modeled in CalSim II, Sites diversions do not necessarily result in a 1:1 change in Delta outflow, especially when considered on an annual (water year) basis. Table 9 shows the monthly average change in Delta outflow with Sites Reservoir under Sites Alternative 3, as compared to Sites NAA. There are several reasons for the differences between modeled Sites diversions and Delta outflow. These include changes in CVP/SWP operations (increased reservoir spills, changes in diversions and exports); increases

<sup>11</sup> From the Introduction section of this technical memorandum.

in carriage water to support export of Sites Project water conveyed across the Delta; and release of Sites Project water from Sites’ environmental account.

**Table 9. Average Monthly Change in Delta Outflow with Sites Reservoir (Alternative 3 minus NAA). Values in 1,000 acre-feet.**

WY Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Wet	3	-10	-42	-79	-102	-43	-44	-6	-1	-1	21	23	-282
Above Normal	47	-19	-33	-110	-72	-106	-10	18	-9	5	22	28	-238
Below Normal	16	32	5	-48	-40	-50	-16	2	-4	5	9	11	-79
Dry	18	-4	-4	-17	-40	-39	1	0	0	7	15	12	-51
Critical	5	9	-7	-12	-5	-19	0	3	1	6	7	5	-8

### Monthly Comparison Results

To calculate the change in Delta outflow under the VAs and with Sites Reservoir, the values in Table 9 were combined with the average monthly change in Delta outflow under the post-processed VA modeling, both with and without the LSJR (Table 5 and Table 3, respectively). Although the analysis developed provides a reasonable evaluation of the effects to Delta outflow with the Sites Project under the VAs, it is important to note several limitations of this approach:

1. Sites modeling was completed in CalSim II, while the VA modeling is developed from post-processed CalSim 3 runs. While the operational assumptions and model structure of CalSim II and CalSim 3 are similar, the difference in model detail and granularity can result in different simulated operations, particularly when evaluated over the entire simulation period.
2. As previously stated, the representation of VA flows in the post-processed CalSim 3 runs is approximate and based on the “Default Plan”. The actual use of VA flow assets in the future will be based on real-time conditions, data, and objectives regarding what the VA flow assets are intended to achieve.
3. The analysis developed can provide a useful illustration of the potential effect to Delta outflow from Sites Reservoir under the VAs. However, a robust assessment of the potential effects would require development of a single model with both Sites Reservoir and the VAs.

Table 10 provides the average monthly net change in Delta outflow with Sites Reservoir and the VA without LSJR by Sacramento Valley water year type. Also included in parentheses is the percentage change from the CalSim 3 Baseline. The patterns and magnitude of changes are generally consistent with those observed in Table 3 and Table 9. These tables show reductions in Delta outflow in the winter months of all years, particularly in Wet and Above Normal years; and increases in Delta outflow in the spring months of all years (particularly in Above Normal, Below Normal, and Dry years). In some months, reductions in average monthly Delta outflow resulting from the Sites Project reduce the increase in Delta outflow from the VA flows. However, most of the reduction to the annual or seasonal increase in Delta outflow from VA flows results from the overlap in season, not the direct overlap of Sites diversions and presence of VA flow assets. Any average monthly reduction in Delta outflow in a specific water year type, due to the Sites Project as compared to the CalSim 3 Baseline, is less than or equal to 5%.

**Table 10. Average Monthly Net Change in Delta Outflow with Sites Reservoir and the VA without LSJR. Values in 1,000 acre-feet.**

WY Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Wet	5 (1%)	-15 (-2%)	-49 (-2%)	-98 (-2%)	-107 (-2%)	-46 (-1%)	54 (2%)	53 (2%)	-2 (0%)	4 (1%)	21 (5%)	22 (3%)	-158 (-1%)
Above Normal	39 (8%)	-19 (-5%)	-33 (-2%)	-109 (-4%)	-83 (-3%)	-113 (-4%)	384 (20%)	225 (14%)	-12 (-1%)	28 (5%)	33 (9%)	22 (4%)	362 (2%)
Below Normal	20 (5%)	29 (6%)	3 (0%)	-44 (-4%)	-41 (-3%)	70 (5%)	229 (28%)	140 (20%)	4 (1%)	15 (3%)	18 (7%)	-1 (0%)	442 (5%)
Dry	21 (6%)	-3 (-1%)	-1 (0%)	-18 (-2%)	-42 (-3%)	87 (7%)	229 (27%)	170 (23%)	29 (6%)	35 (11%)	29 (13%)	10 (5%)	545 (8%)
Critical	7 (2%)	11 (4%)	2 (0%)	-8 (-1%)	5 (1%)	-7 (-1%)	60 (11%)	50 (11%)	1 (0%)	7 (3%)	8 (4%)	5 (3%)	140 (3%)

Table 11 provides the average monthly net change in Delta outflow with Sites Reservoir and the VA with LSJR by Sacramento Valley water year type. Also included in parentheses is the percent change from the CalSim 3 Baseline. Observations and conclusions are essentially the same as those observed in Table 10, albeit with a greater increase in Delta outflow from the VAs due to the inclusion of the Lower San Joaquin River contributions.

**Table 11. Average Monthly Net Change in Delta Outflow with Sites Reservoir and the VA with LSJR. Values in 1,000 acre-feet.**

WY Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Wet	5 (1%)	-15 (-2%)	-49 (-2%)	-98 (-2%)	-107 (-2%)	-46 (-1%)	81 (3%)	80 (3%)	-2 (0%)	4 (1%)	21 (5%)	22 (3%)	-105 (0%)
Above Normal	39 (8%)	-19 (-5%)	-33 (-2%)	-109 (-4%)	-83 (-3%)	-113 (-4%)	446 (23%)	286 (18%)	-12 (-1%)	28 (5%)	33 (9%)	22 (4%)	486 (3%)
Below Normal	20 (5%)	29 (6%)	3 (0%)	-44 (-4%)	-41 (-3%)	70 (5%)	282 (34%)	193 (27%)	4 (1%)	15 (3%)	18 (7%)	-1 (0%)	548 (6%)
Dry	21 (6%)	-3 (-1%)	-1 (0%)	-18 (-2%)	-42 (-3%)	87 (7%)	281 (33%)	222 (31%)	29 (6%)	35 (11%)	29 (13%)	10 (5%)	650 (9%)
Critical	7 (2%)	11 (4%)	2 (0%)	-8 (-1%)	5 (1%)	-7 (-1%)	87 (15%)	76 (17%)	1 (0%)	7 (3%)	8 (4%)	5 (3%)	193 (4%)

Table 12 provides a summary of the average total seasonal Delta outflow during each of the seasons identified in the SBRS. The CalSim 3 Baseline, Post-processed Baseline, and each of the VA scenarios are provided for reference, along with each of the VA scenarios with Sites Reservoir. The largest seasonal differences in Delta outflow between the “VA-only scenarios” and the “VA scenarios with Sites Reservoir” occur in the January through June period, as this season includes more of Sites’ primary diversion months compared to other periods.

**Table 12. Summary of Average Total Seasonal Delta Outflow for SBRS Scenarios and VA Scenarios with Sites Reservoir. Values in 1,000 acre-feet.**

Season	WY Type	CalSim 3 Baseline	Post-processed Baseline	VA w/o LSJR	w/o LSJR & Sites	VA w/ LSJR	w/ LSJR & Sites
Feb-May	Wet	16,593	16,948	16,742	16,547	16,795	16,600
	Above Normal	9,130	9,355	9,712	9,542	9,835	9,666
	Below Normal	4,567	4,719	5,070	4,966	5,176	5,072
	Dry	4,005	4,118	4,527	4,449	4,632	4,554
	Critical	2,605	2,639	2,734	2,713	2,788	2,766
Jan-Jun	Wet	23,331	23,593	23,460	23,185	23,513	23,239
	Above Normal	12,796	12,919	13,376	13,088	13,500	13,211
	Below Normal	6,085	6,135	6,601	6,444	6,707	6,550
	Dry	5,273	5,398	5,823	5,727	5,928	5,832
	Critical	3,601	3,673	3,735	3,702	3,788	3,755
Mar-Jun	Wet	12,178	12,598	12,331	12,237	12,384	12,291
	Above Normal	7,145	7,420	7,736	7,629	7,860	7,753
	Below Normal	3,496	3,710	4,009	3,941	4,115	4,047
	Dry	3,252	3,339	3,804	3,767	3,910	3,872
	Critical	2,113	2,164	2,233	2,217	2,286	2,270
Mar-May	Wet	10,773	11,197	10,927	10,835	10,981	10,888
	Above Normal	6,207	6,520	6,801	6,703	6,924	6,826
	Below Normal	3,025	3,283	3,530	3,466	3,636	3,572
	Dry	2,777	2,875	3,301	3,263	3,406	3,368
	Critical	1,756	1,806	1,876	1,859	1,929	1,912

## Conclusions

Available VA modeling from the SBRS was utilized, together with the Sites Historical WAA Tool and the available Sites CalSim II modeling, to produce a quantitative analysis which answers the two questions posed by State Water Board staff regarding:

1. How the Sites Project diversions may interact with the VA flow assets.
2. How the Sites Project may affect Delta outflow under the VAs.

The approach used two different analyses, the Daily Comparison and the Monthly Comparison, to help answer these questions. Both analyses informed the following conclusions:

1. The Daily Comparison is the most appropriate analysis to evaluate how potential Sites diversions may interact with VA flow assets. The Monthly Comparison is the most appropriate analysis to evaluate how the Sites Project may affect Delta outflow under the VAs.
2. Potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets have limited interaction, as diversions to Sites Reservoir will occur during periods when flows are available above regulatory requirements, Project-specific requirements, and senior water right demands, while VA flow assets are proposed to be deployed during times when additional flow is expected to be most beneficial to the system. Most of Sites' diversions occur during December through March of Wet and Above

Normal years. VA flow assets, as currently modeled, are utilized during March through May of Above Normal, Below Normal, and Dry years.

3. Most instances of overlap between potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets occur in the spring months of Wet and Above Normal years. However, in these years, potential Sites diversions typically occur during periods with relatively high Delta outflow. Given the approximate assumptions for the Default Plan included in the currently available modeling, it is unclear how and when VA flow assets would be deployed during these same times in actual operations. Additionally, Sites diversions may not occur in the spring months of these year types due to reservoir capacity limitations, conveyance canal availability, and/or other infrastructure related constraints. In drier years, overlap between potential Sites diversions and VA flow assets is minimal, as potential Sites diversions typically occur during individual storm events in the winter months, outside of the primary period that VA flow assets are anticipated to be utilized under the Default Plan.
4. The Sites Project would result in a limited reduction in Delta outflow, which would primarily occur in the winter months and largely in Wet and Above Normal years. On a water year basis, the Sites Project and the VA with LSJR result in essentially no change in Delta outflow in Wet years, with increases of approximately 3% in Above Normal years, 6% in Below Normal years, 9% in Dry years, and 4% in Critical years.. As compared to the CalSim 3 Baseline, the percent reduction in Delta outflow in any month under the Sites and VAs scenarios is less than or equal to 5%.

## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1: "20230616B\_Sites Historical WAA Tool&VA Analysis.xlsm"

Meeting: **Sites Land Management Committee**

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Locations: Maxwell Project Office, 122 Old Highway 99W, Maxwell, CA 95955

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Call in: **1-916-538-7066** Code: **456 178 009#** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Committee Chair: Gary Evans (Colusa County Board of Supervisors)

Staff Lead: Kevin Spesert, External Affairs Manager

## **AGENDA**

**Friday, June 23, 2023, 2:00 – 3:00 pm**

**NO ACTION or DECISION WILL BE TAKEN**

### **ROLL CALL & CALL TO ORDER:**

- Introductions.
- Period for Public Comment.

*Any person may speak about any subject of concern, provided it is within the committee's jurisdiction and a public comment card is submitted. The time allotted for receiving such public communication shall be limited to 3 minutes per person. Note: No action shall be taken on comments made during this period.*

### **1. Discussion and Information Items:**

- 1.1 Review and receive input on updated Construction Access and County Road Improvements. *(15 minutes)*
- 1.2 Review and receive input on TRR West design considerations. *(15 minutes)*
- 1.3 Update on the development of the Sites Right-of-Way Manual. *(10 minutes)*
- 1.4 Right-of-Way 101 – Appraisals. *(20 minutes)*

### **2. Upcoming Meetings:**

**Joint Authority Board/Reservoir Committee Meeting**

Friday, July 21, 2023 (9:00 am – 12:00 Noon)

**Land Management Committee**

To Be Determined

Virtual Information will be provided before all meetings at [Sitesproject.org](https://sitesproject.org).

**ADJOURN**

ADA COMPLIANCE: Upon request, agendas will be made available in alternative formats to accommodate persons with disabilities. In addition, any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation to participate or attend this meeting may request the necessary accommodation. Please make your request to the Board Clerk, specifying your disability, the format in which you would like to receive this Agenda, and any other accommodation required no later than 24 hours before the start of the meeting.

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**From:** Harris, Melissa [Melissa.Harris@icf.com]  
**Sent:** 6/20/2023 4:06:59 PM  
**To:** Dekar, Melissa D [mdekar@usbr.gov]; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]; Briard, Monique [Monique.Briard@icf.com]; Brick, David A [dbrick@usbr.gov]; Jacobson, Allison M [ajacobson@usbr.gov]  
**CC:** Cohen, Ariel [Ariel.Cohen@hdrinc.com]; Lake, Victoria K [vlake@usbr.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites - Weekly Meeting  
**Attachments:** 20230621\_Weekly EIR-EIS Coordination\_Meeting-Agenda.docx

Attached is the agenda for tomorrow's weekly Sites meeting with Reclamation. If you have any additions please let me know.



**Melissa Harris, PMP**  
**916.210.5916 (direct)**  
**980 9th Street Suite 1200, Sacramento, CA, 95814, USA**

I will be out of the office the majority of July 3 to July 7.

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Harris, Melissa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 24, 2023 12:57 PM  
**To:** Harris, Melissa; Dekar, Melissa D; Alicia Forsythe; Laurie Warner Herson; Briard, Monique; Brick, David A; Jacobson, Allison M  
**Cc:** Cohen, Ariel; Lake, Victoria K  
**Subject:** Sites - Weekly Meeting  
**When:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 10:00 AM-11:00 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

PURPOSE: Weekly meeting working towards finalization and publication of the Sites Final EIR/EIS. This meeting replaces the Sites - Biweekly NEPA Meeting.

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

### Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

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Meeting ID: 279 729 937 059

Passcode: bZBcBA

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### Join with a video conferencing device

[731643270@t.plcm.vc](tel:731643270@t.plcm.vc)

Video Conference ID: 112 557 928 3

[Alternate VTC instructions](#)

### Or call in (audio only)

[+1 571-348-5774,217131617#](tel:+15713485774,217131617#) United States, Arlington

Phone Conference ID: 217 131 617#

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	d. Updates on Availability of Reclamation Staff, SES and Solicitor for Reviews		
	e. Schedule and process for Final EIR/EIS		
3.	CAR Update	Melissa D/David	10 min
	a. No update		
4.	Action Items	All	5 min

# Glenn County Roadway Design Meeting Minutes



*Our Core Values – Safety, Trust and Integrity, Respect for Local Communities, Environmental Stewardship, Shared Responsibility and Shared Benefits, Accountability and Transparency, Proactive Innovation, Diversity and Inclusivity  
Our Commitment – To live up to these values in everything we do*

## Meeting Information:

<b>Date:</b>	June 14, 2023	<b>Location:</b>	Glenn County Public Works - 777 North Colusa Street - Willows CA
<b>Start Time:</b>	1:00 p.m.	<b>Finish Time:</b>	3:00 p.m.
<b>Purpose:</b>	Share, for consideration, Design Concepts and Alternatives for Project Roadway Improvements		

## Meeting Participants:

Supervisor Tom Arnold	Kevin Spesert - Sites Project Authority	Howard Michael - AECOM
Director Don Rust	JP Robinette - Sites Project Authority	Jeff Herrin - AECOM
Deputy Director Talia Richardson	Henry Luu - Engineering Integration	Vanessa Doctolero - AECOM
Assistant Director Gary Gordon	Conner McDonald - Real Estate Integration	Ron Valdez - AECOM
Superintendent John Miller	John Spranza - Environmental Integration	

## Agenda:

Discussion Topic	Topic Leader
i. Welcome and Introductions	K Spesert
ii. Meeting Purpose	K Spesert
1. Overview - Project Goals and Design Considerations	H Michael
a. Today's Meeting Goals	
b. Objectives	
c. Northerly Construction Access Route	
2. Valley Floor - County Roads	H Michael
a. Roads 68, D, and 69	
b. Typical Sections	
c. Existing Bridges	
d. Intersection Improvements	
3. North Access Road & County Road 69	H Michael
4. Wildlife Collision Risk Reduction	J Spranza
5. Discussion, Questions, Input	All

## Meeting Minutes:

Note: A copy of the PowerPoint as presented at the meeting is attached to these notes.

### 1. Overview - Project Goals and Design Considerations

Primary purpose of the meeting:

- County Roads Design Concurrence
- Existing Bridge Replacement Strategies Concurrence
- Potential Utility Relocations Concurrence

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#### e. Valley Floor - County Roads

#### f. Roads 68, D, and 69

- a. Paved shoulders on valley floor where construction and public traffic will commingle. Unpaved shoulder in the rolling terrain may be considered.
- b. FDR methods to be implemented to utilize exist roadway pavement.
- c. The design criteria was presented and the County is in agreement to maintain this design criteria.
- d. Clear Recovery Zones may be a challenge with existing utility pole locations as the poles may currently reside within the existing standard clear recover zone. If so, and the ETW is maintained, then the existing separation/condition between the ETW and poles will be maintained. If the ETW is adjusted anywhere toward the poles, then the County will need to make a decision to accept the reduced distance to poles or relocate the poles as needed.
- e. Known flooding issues discussed
  - i. Road 69 from the GCID canal is susceptible to flooding (may be from a 10-year storm event).
  - ii. Road 68 has been reported to have 4 to 5 inches of water in several areas.
  - iii. From Road F to TCCA canal is also susceptible to flooding – as much as a foot or more.
  - iv. County reported an area was washed out the pavement in the prior year.
  - v. Roadway team to investigate and evaluate improvements such as elevating the roadbed.
- f. Confirmed roadway design priority is to minimize ROW impacts
  - i. Intent is to not encroach into private property
  - ii. Keep design tight at the edges, avoid ditches
  - iii. Shoulder/lane width adjustments as needed to avoid private property impacts and maintain 4 foot shoulders where possible.
- g. Construction routes to have posted speeds to control/limit speeds with special attention during harvest season(s)
- h. Utilities

- 
- i. Concurrence on utility relocation approach: 1) Relocate poles in franchise, 2) Protect motorist from blunt obstacles using traffic barriers, 3) Undergrounding.
      - ii. PG&E has plans for undergrounding (near 69 - just north of this project) due to fire area concerns.
      - iii. Broadband considerations– Authority is working on this to be incorporated.
      - iv. Need to confirm if PGE poles are in franchise or are in fee easement.
    - g. Typical Sections
      - a. Maintain roadway alignment and widen for 4-foot shoulders on each side. Meandering the roadway with widening may be needed in isolated areas to avoid impacts to ditches and private improvements. Hinge locations may control the design.
      - b. Shoulder width may need to be reduced from 4 feet, if necessary in spot locations to avoid roadside impacts.
    - h. Existing Bridges
      - a. GCID canal bridges are owned by the County.
      - b. Concurrence on approach to implement the most efficient method for bridge widening or replacements as appropriate (e.g. installation for temp bridges, traffic handling and minimizing impacts to existing features).
      - c. If temporary bridges are used, it may be more cost advantageous to purchase the bridge rather than rent for long periods of time. A secondary benefit may be to the Authority or County to have a temporary bridge in a maintenance yard for future use.
      - d. Consideration for determining the most optimal time of year for bridge widening or replacement.
        - i. Cattle shipped to Oregon for the summer could be present from November to May.
        - ii. Canals may be “dry” during the winter months for maintenance.
        - iii. County mentioned water has been re-routed for maintenance in the past.
    - i. Intersection Improvements
      - a. Concurrence from County to accommodate 2-way traffic w/construction trucks through sliver acquisitions for widening the intersections.
      - b. County inquired about the frequency of permit trucks. Project team anticipates infrequent occurrences of maybe once a week for start-up/mobilization.
      - c. Coordination with property owners for understanding the impacts, including volume of heavy trucks through public roads and additional widened areas for truck turning movements.
        - i. Safety first – no one wants an incident to occur.
      - d. County mentioned that Road 68 from Road D to F involves one landowner and then another three for the remaining route. The property owner closest to freeway, near Road 69, is problematic.
      - e. Discussion for nightwork
        - i. Nightwork has not yet been decided by the Authority

- ii. Discussions with CMAR for night work traffic may be preferred, to avoid impact to harvest seasons or for permit truck travel.
- iii. Work restrictions will be addressed in the specifications.

2. North Access Road & County Road 69

- a. County road jurisdiction is along Road 69 up to the fork in the road, just west of the gate over the road.
  - i. From the split, the road heading north is also County jurisdiction.
  - ii. The road is private west of the fork. The Authority will need to work out permanent access for Reservoir O&M in the final condition.
- b. Authority will establish an MOU with the County to document decisions and agreements on roadway uses.
- c. Considerations for a boat ramp in this northern region was eliminated.
- d. Consideration is being given to realign the road around Owens Headquarters. This will be coordinated with the property owner.
- e. The Authority and the County is working on potentially adding Broadband service.

3. Wildlife Collision Risk Reduction – No additional questions from presentation

- a. Giant garter snake and Swainson’s hawk throughout the area
- b. Antelope have been known to travel through the area

4. Further Discussion, Questions, Input

- a. CMAR conversations yet to be initiated but will be under development and CMAR involvement is anticipated to occur 2025.
- b. Counties own all the bridges on GCID and TCCA
- c. Request bridge inspection information from counties
- d. County’s point of contact is Don
- e. The County noted that the specific sand and gravel sources may impact local County roads to reach I-5. The County owns some small quarries for their use and is very knowledgeable of the local geology and supply. Additional discussion(s) for hauling aggregate truck travel for county roads beyond I-5 to occur after the materials source location is identified.

**Summary of Action Items**

Action Item	Owner	Date to Complete
Coordinate with utility companies for design related conflicts and additional services such as Broadband.	AECOM	ASAP
Roadway design team to investigate flooding locations and evaluate for drainage improvements.	AECOM	ASAP

Coordination between Authority, County and Irrigation Districts to occur for construction and maintenance agreements for work at the GCID & TCCA bridges.	Sites – Real Estate	TBD
Request list of all bridge crossings along GCID & TCCA and for as-builts and conditions.	AECOM	ASAP
Utility coordination and verify if PG&E poles are in franchise or easement.	Sites Team	TBD
Agreement with County and Authority for infrastructure upgrades and O&M after construction, including North Access Road – Sites team to initiate the conversations.	Sites Team	TBD
Roadway and Bridge design team to proceed with bridge evaluation and widening.	AECOM	Ongoing
Identify and provide list of intersections that will be widened and ditches/poles along roads to be rerouted to Real Estate.	AECOM	ASAP
Work restrictions will be incorporated into the specifications that will outline night work and permit truck travel window after discussions with CMAR.	Sites Team	TBD
Roadway team to re-access roadway alignment to avoid Owen’s Headquarters for North Access Road.	AECOM	ASAP
Additional discussion(s) for hauling aggregate truck travel for county roads beyond I-5 to occur after an aggregate materials location is identified.	Sites Team	TBD
Study potential impacts and mitigation to County roads due to Long-haul truck traffic on County roads beyond the limits of what is currently being studied.	Sites Team	TBD

### Summary of Key Decisions

Priority for handling utility poles: 1) Relocate poles, 2) Protect motorists from blunt obstacles using traffic barriers such as guard railing, 3) Undergrounding
Design Roads for 55 mph and use administrative means to control speeds during harvesting periods and otherwise as desired.
Design roads with 4-foot shoulders to the greatest extent possible. Reductions may be necessary and will be coordinated with the County.
Avoid impacts to properties and farming operations

# Sites Reservoir

Roadway Design Workshop with Glenn County

June 14, 2023



1

# Overview: Project Goals & Design Considerations

Howard Michael



# Today's Meeting Goals

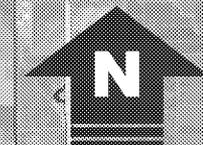
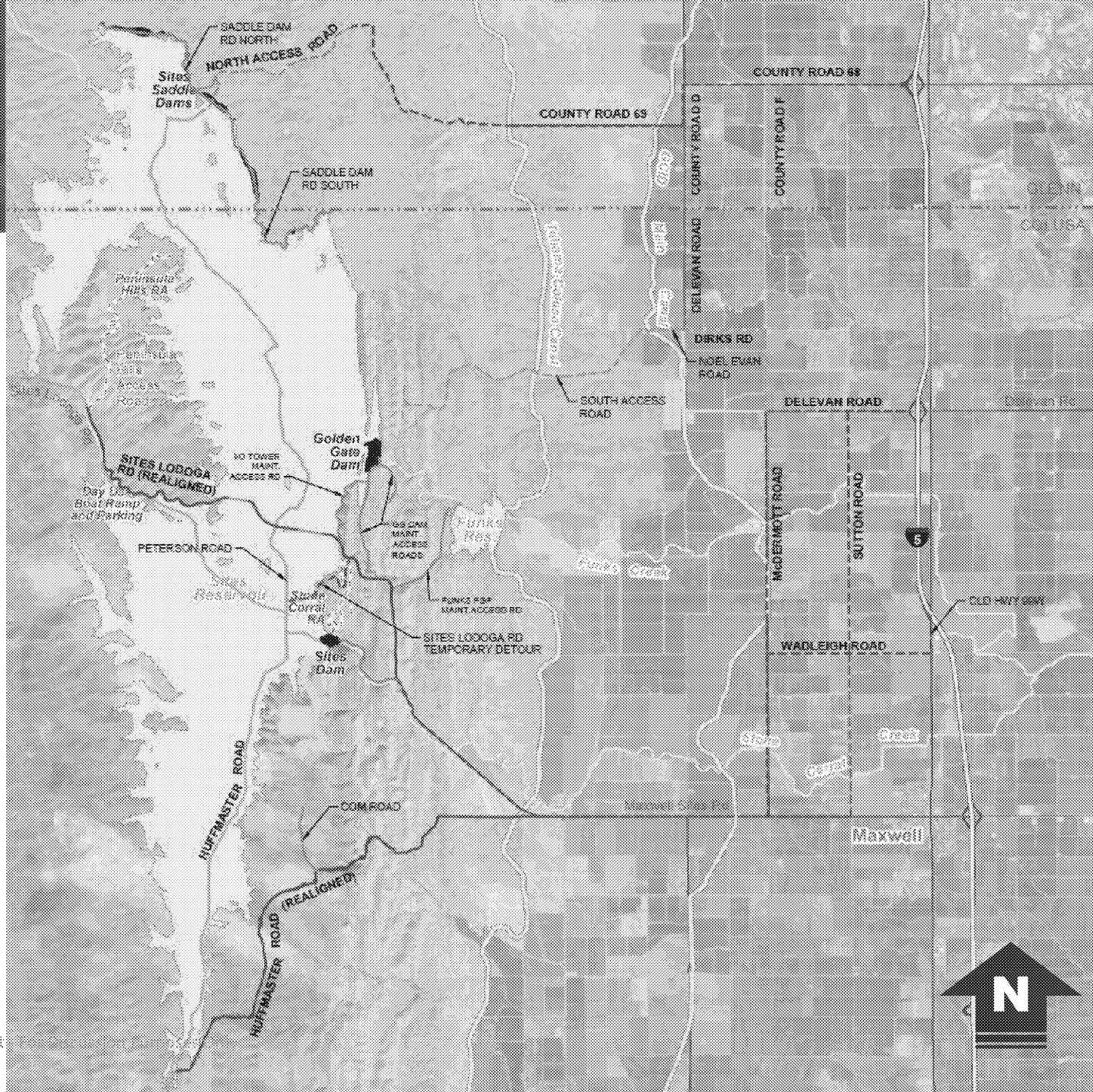
- County Roads Design Concurrence
- Existing Bridge Replacement Strategies Concurrence
- Potential Utility Relocations Concurrence

# Objectives

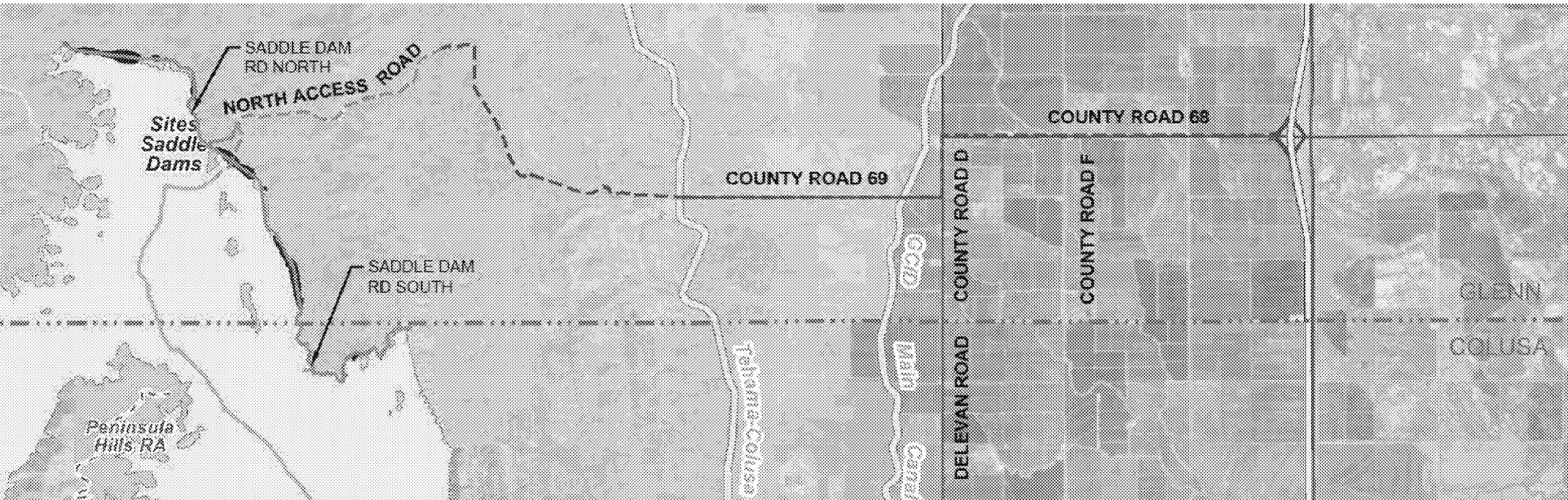
- Public safety – avoid, minimize, manage commingling of public with construction traffic
- Provide public and landowner access
- Provide safe and efficient access to construction sites to expedite the completion of construction



# Roadway Overview Map



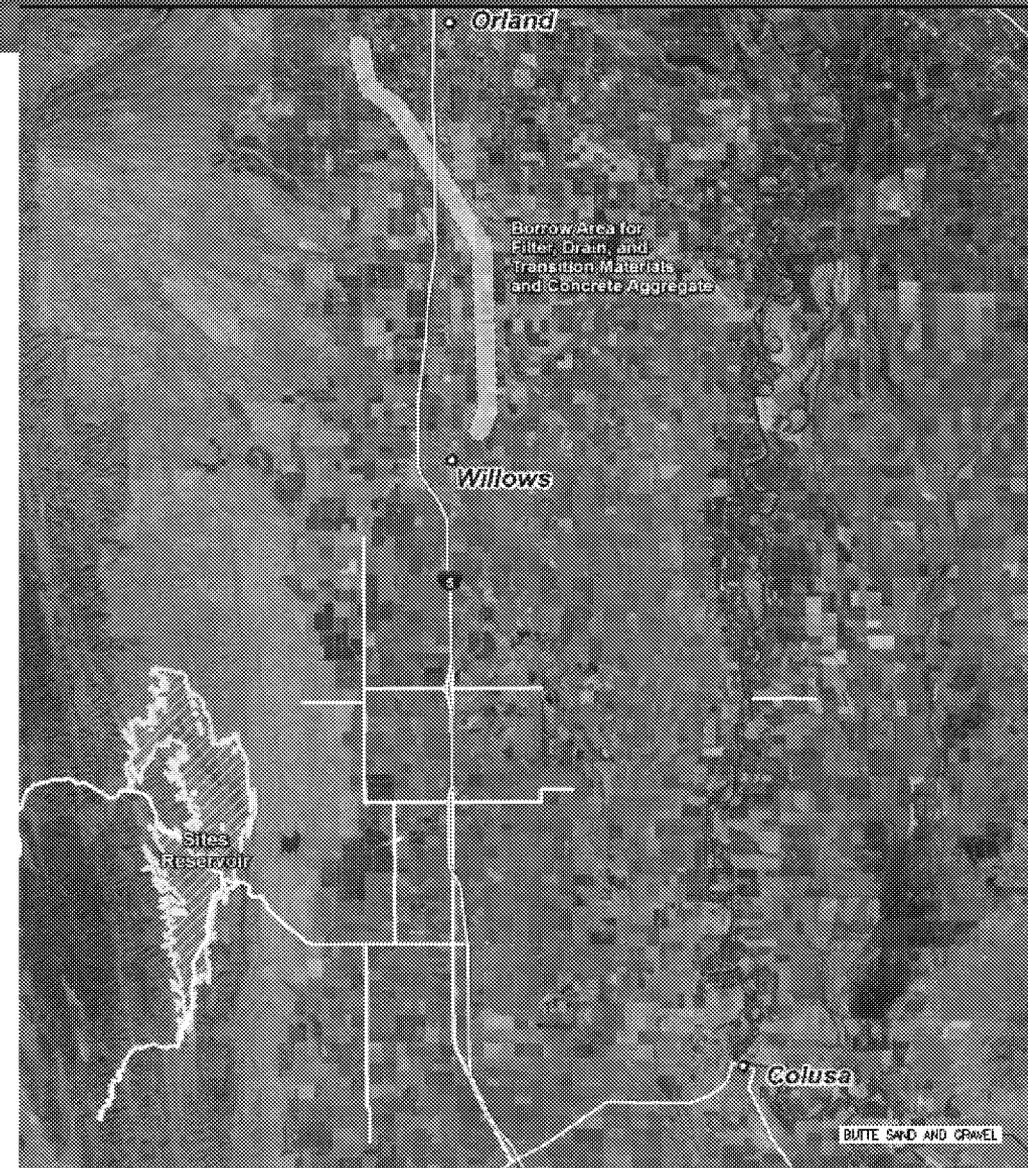
# Northerly Construction Access Route





# Challenge for HR – Truck Trips

- Minimize trips
- Appropriate routes for off-site deliveries
- Exist ADT (2015) = 109  
Exist Truck ADT = 0%
- Construction AADT:
  - ~ 30 to 35 Trucks/hour each way per day (6,000 to 7,000 tons)



# Summary of Truck Traffic

	Year 1-5	Year 6-10	10-40 Years
<b>Description of Activities</b>	Dam construction. Primarily, vehicles on the roads will be haul trucks. Use of small trucks will be minimal with occasional large double trailer trucks traveling to each site.	Construction ends and start-up begins. More small trucks than haul trucks, although some hauling may occur as construction timelines change and worksites shut down.	Very minimal haul trucks/large trucks traveling the roads. Primarily small trucks using roads.
<b>Southern Access AADTT Values</b>			
<b>2-Axle</b>	150	150	150
<b>3-Axle</b>	15	30	30
<b>4-Axle</b>	155	15	9
<b>5-Axle</b>	3	1	0
<b>SUBTOTAL Trips/day (One-Way)</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>Northern Access AADTT Values</b>			
<b>2-Axle</b>	80	80	80
<b>3-Axle</b>	10	20	20
<b>4-Axle</b>	72	10	5
<b>5-axle</b>	2	1	0
<b>SUBTOTAL Trips/day (One-Way)</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>105</b>

# TI Calculations

- Calculations based on CALTRANS HDM
- Applied Safety Factor = 1.1
- Performed sensitivity check with added loads
  - 10%
  - 20%

Haul Truck Assumptions	
Loaded Truck Weight	40tons
Max load per axle (CA)	20,000lb
No. Axles	4axles
Haul Capacity Per Truck	25tons
Additional Assumptions	
Roadways (Base course + subbase)	800,000 tons
Asphalt Aggregates	188,000 tons
Construction Duration	1,180 days
Total Project Haul	6,078,885tons
Total Loads over public roadways	243,155loads
Total Loads per Day (project)	206load/day

Design Results for Flexible Pavement		
Asphalt Binder Grade:	PG 64-10	
GE Requirement:	2.58	ft
HMA Thickness:	6.0	inches
Base Thickness:	12	inches
Subbase Thickness:	8	inches
Total Design GE:	2.74	ft

# TI Calculations

<b>Baseline</b>			
<b>S. Access (75% of total haul)</b>			
	Year 1-5	Year 6-10	Year 30+
2-axle	150	150	150
3-axle	15	30	30
4-axle	155	15	9
5 or more axle	3	1	0
Design Life	5	5	30
LDF Adj. ESALs	303,735	104,845	555,480
Sum ESALs	964,060		
<b>TI</b>	<b>9.0</b>		
<b>N. Access (35% of total haul)</b>			
	Year 1-5	Year 6-10	Year 30+
2-axle	80	80	80
3-axle	10	20	20
4-axle	72	10	5
5 or more axle	2	1	0
Design Life	5	5	30
LDF Adj. ESALs	149,530	64,145	437,135
Sum ESALs	650,810		
<b>TI</b>	<b>8.5</b>		

<b>Add 10% total loads in year 1-5</b>			
<b>S. Access (75% of total haul)</b>			
	Year 1-5	Year 6-10	Year 30+
2-axle	150	150	150
3-axle	15	30	30
4-axle	170	15	9
5 or more axle	3	1	0
Design Life	5	5	30
LDF Adj. ESALs	325,785	104,845	555,480
Sum ESALs	986,110		
<b>TI</b>	<b>9.0</b>		
<b>N. Access (35% of total haul)</b>			
	Year 1-5	Year 6-10	Year 30+
2-axle	80	80	80
3-axle	10	20	20
4-axle	79	10	5
5 or more axle	2	1	0
Design Life	5	5	30
LDF Adj. ESALs	159,820	64,145	437,135
Sum ESALs	661,100		
<b>TI</b>	<b>8.5</b>		

<b>Add 20% total loads in year 1-5</b>			
<b>S. Access (75% of total haul)</b>			
	Year 1-5	Year 6-10	Year 30+
2-axle	150	150	150
3-axle	15	30	30
4-axle	186	15	9
5 or more axle	3	1	0
Design Life	5	5	30
LDF Adj. ESALs	349,305	104,845	555,480
Sum ESALs	1,009,630		
<b>TI</b>	<b>9.0</b>		
<b>N. Access (35% of total haul)</b>			
	Year 1-5	Year 6-10	Year 30+
2-axle	80	80	80
3-axle	10	20	20
4-axle	86	10	5
5 or more axle	2	1	0
Design Life	5	5	30
LDF Adj. ESALs	170,110	64,145	437,135
Sum ESALs	671,390		
<b>TI</b>	<b>8.5</b>		

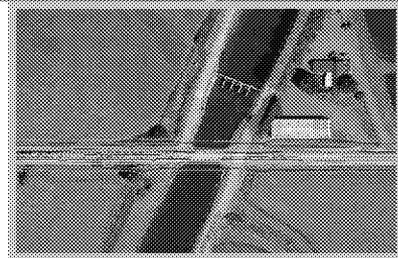
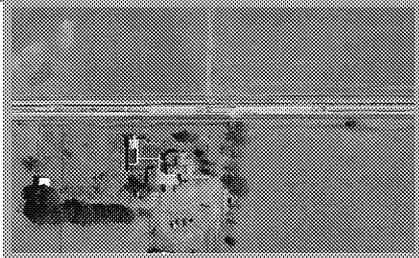
2

# Valley Floor Glenn County Roads

Howard Michael



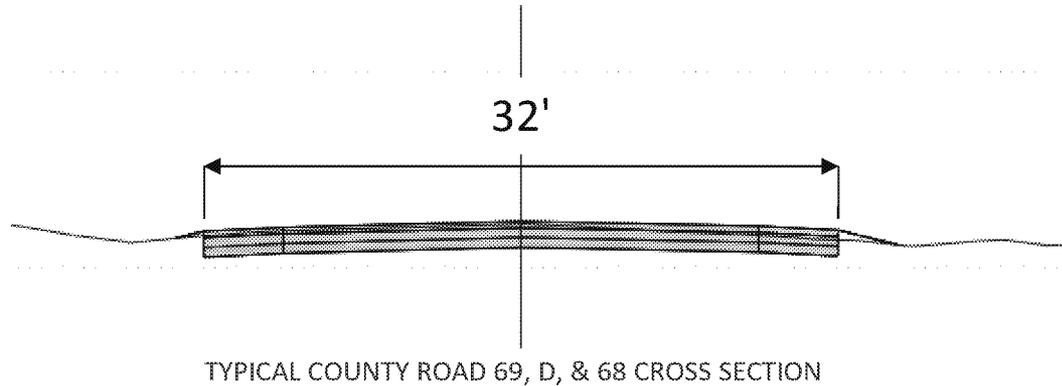
# County Roads 68, D, & 69 Alignments



- Functional Classification - Local Road
- Design Speed - 55mph
- Lane Width - 12ft
- Shoulder Width - 4ft
- Roadway Cross Slope - Traveled way 2%-5%, Shoulder 5%
- Clear Recovery Zone – 14 ft from ETW
- Vert Grades: Match Existing
- Overhead lines and gas lines to be affected
- May require FDR

Draft – Pre-decisional Working Document - For Discussion Purposes Only

# County Roads 68, D, & 69 Typical Cross Section



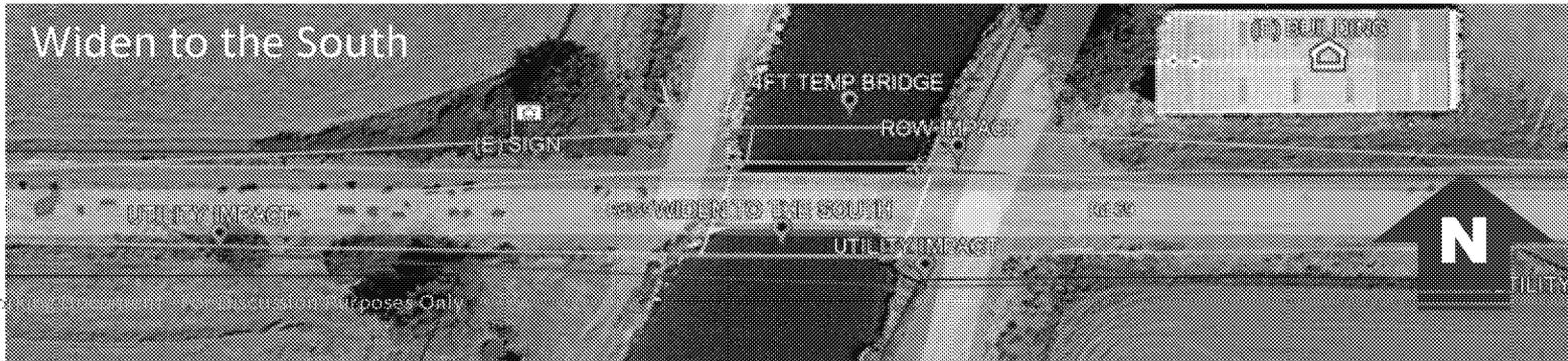
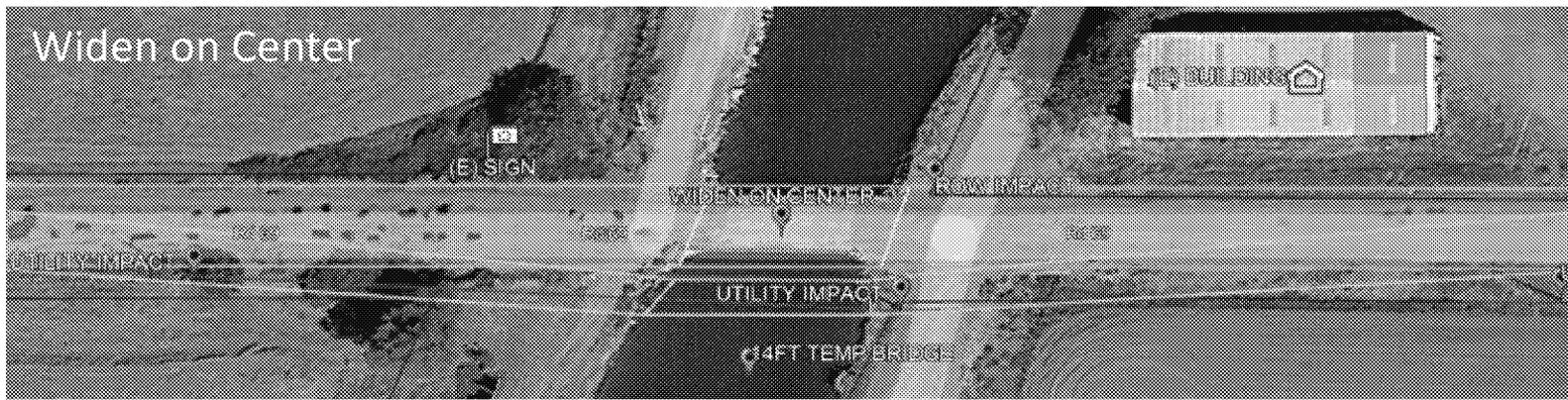
- Existing Road = 20-22 ft, no shoulders
- Existing OH Utility Poles
  - South of Road 69
  - West of Road D
  - North of Road 68
- 40-year Total Design Life =
  - 8-yr Constr. + 32-yr Design Life
  - Calculated TI = 9
- Widen pavement for shoulders



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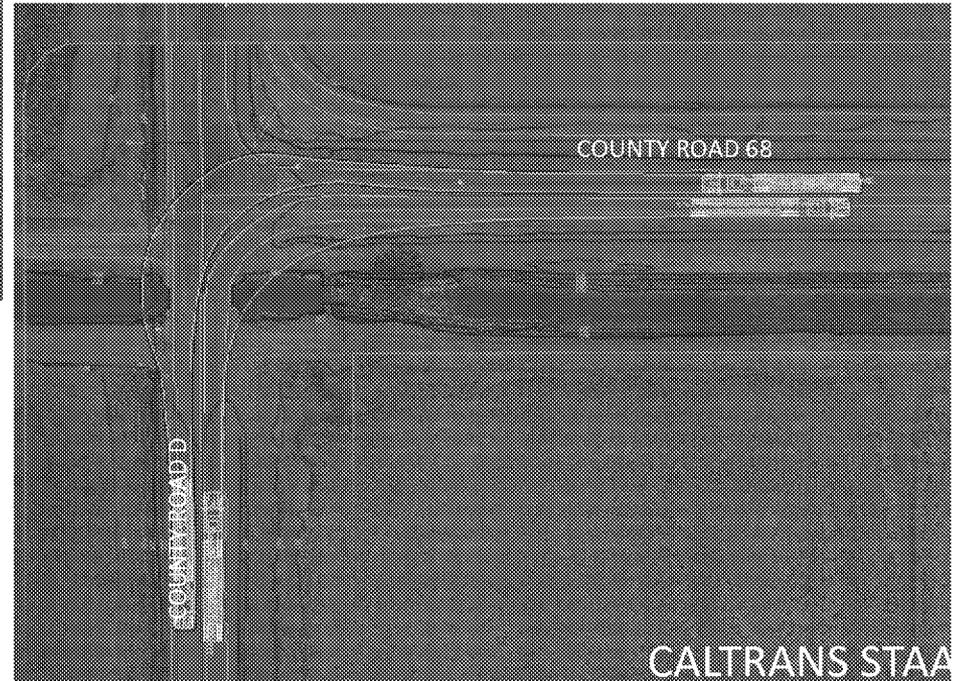
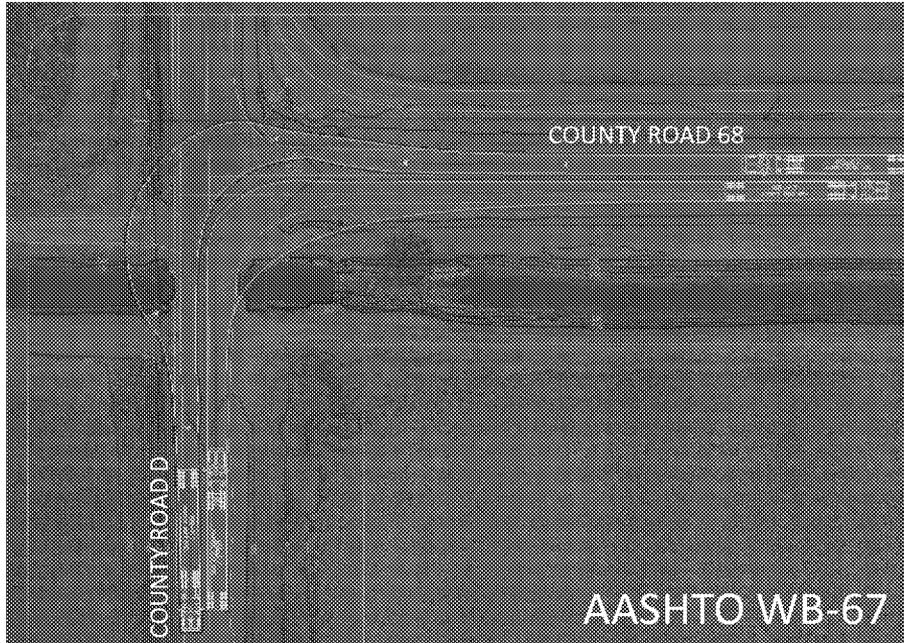
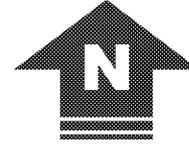
# Existing Bridges

- Perform Load Ratings
  - Widen Exist
  - Replace
- Impacts
  - ROW
  - OH Utility
  - Building
- Temp Bridge Cost
  - Rent
  - Purchase



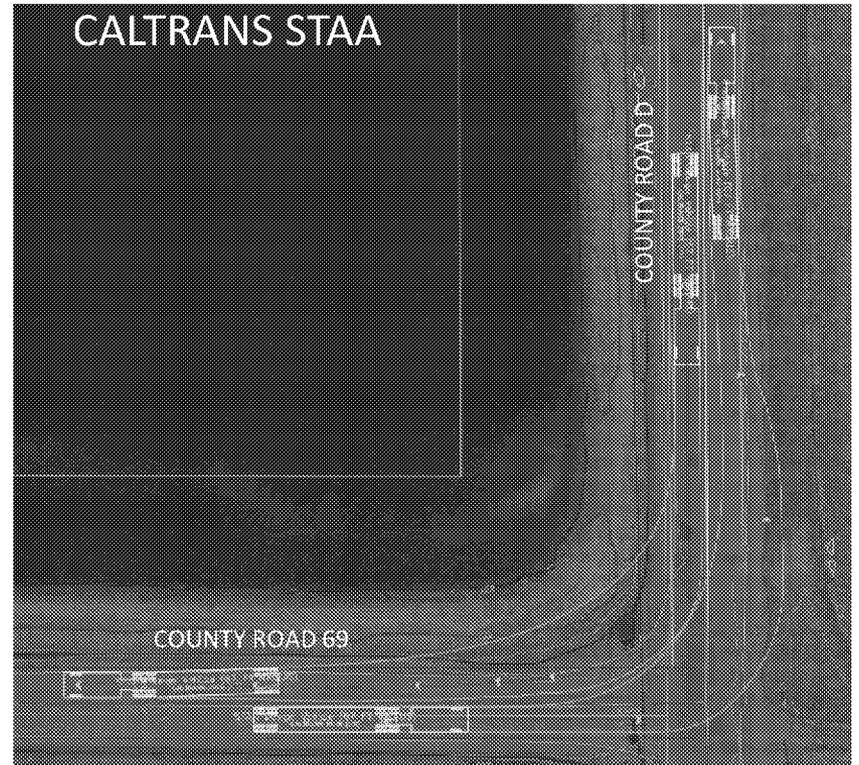
# Intersection Improvements

- Accommodate Two-way Truck Turning/Off-Tracking
- Permit trucks occupy complete intersection
  - Pilot vehicle
  - Infrequent access
- Impacts
  - ROW
  - OH Utility
- Drainage Facility Improve.



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- Permit trucks occupy complete intersection
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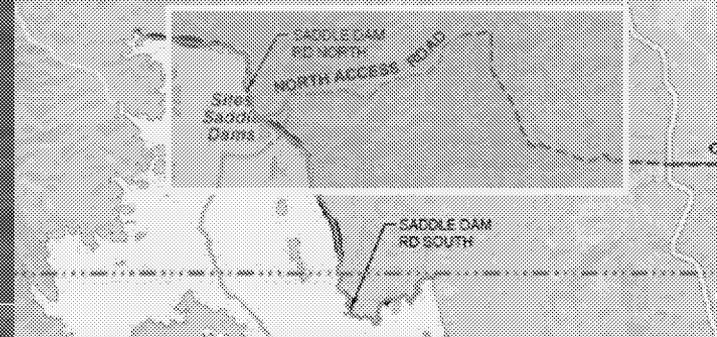
3

# North Access Road & County Road 69

Howard Michael



# North Access Rd & CR 69 Alignment

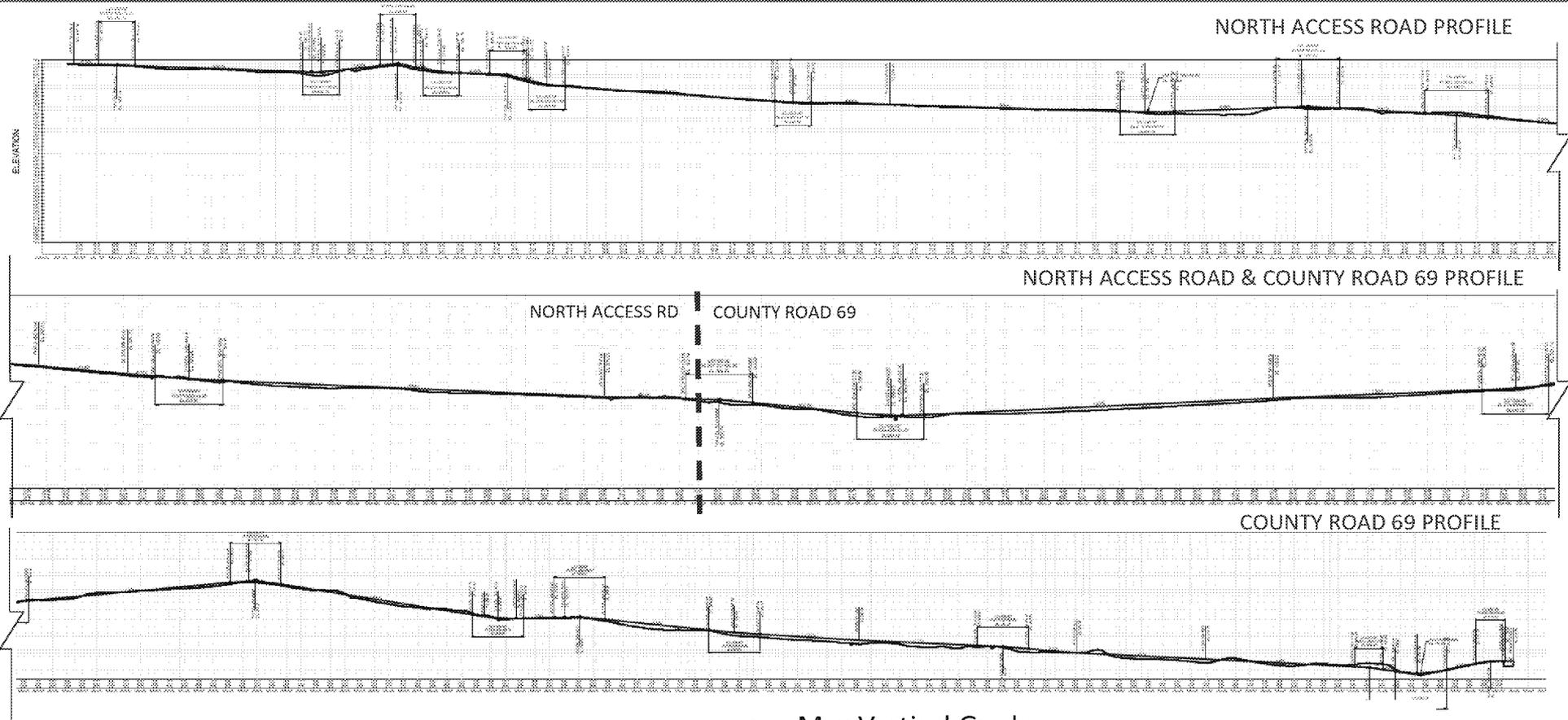


- Functional Classification - Construction Access Road
- Design Speed - 25-35mph
- Lane Width - 12ft
- Shoulder Width - 4ft
- Roadway Cross Slope - Traveled way and Shoulder 2%

- Min. 200' Horizontal Curve with 4% Superelevation
- Side Slopes – 2:1 (non-recoverable, non-traversable)
- Fill Prism Slopes – 3.25:1
- Max Vertical Grades
  - 45mph, 8%
  - 55mph, 7%

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# North Access Road & CR 69 Profile



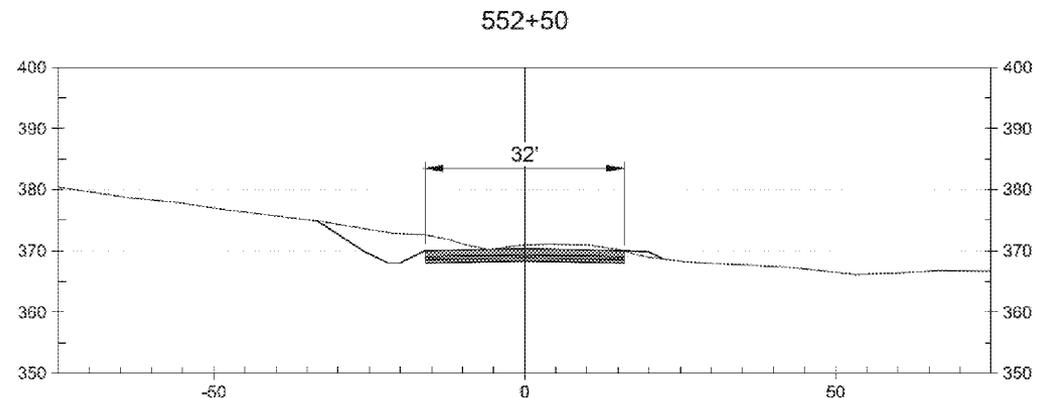
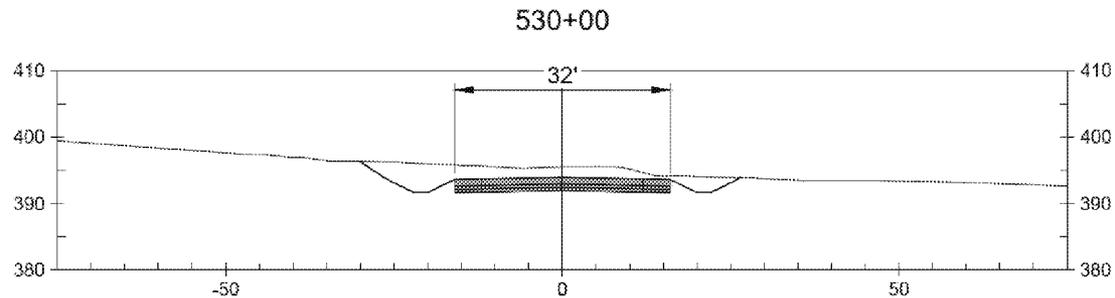
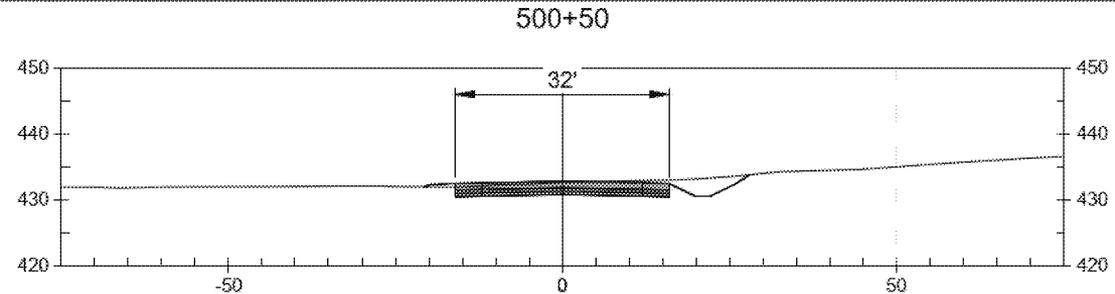
- Minimum Vertical Design Speed – 30 mph
- Minimum 200' VC
- 0.50% < Design Grades < 6%

- Max Vertical Grades  
- 35 mph, 8%

Draft – Pre-decisional Working Document - For Discussion Purposes Only

# North Access Road & CR 69 Cross Sections

- Existing Road = 12 ft, no shoulders
- No Existing OH Utility Poles
- 40-year Total Design Life =
  - 8-yr Constr. + 32-yr Design Life
  - Calculated TI = 9
- Widen gravel roadway
  - 2 lanes + shoulders
  - Safe passage



4

# Wildlife Collision Risk Reduction: Engineered Wildlife Crossing Overview

John Spranza



# Collisions are Costly In Many Ways

Type	Number/Adjusted Number	Cost/Incident, Value <sup>1</sup> (\$)	Total/Adjusted Total
K (Fatal crash)	9/25 <sup>2</sup>	12,180,371	(\$109,623,339) /\$304,509,275 <sup>2</sup>
A (Debilitating injury)	46	706,282	\$32,488,972
B (Non-debilitating injury)	555	214,043	\$118,793,865
C (Possible injury)	1050	135,400	\$142,170,000
O (Property damage)	27,371/110,000 <sup>3</sup>	12,839	\$351,416,269 /\$1,390,977,260 <sup>3</sup>
Mule Deer	27,134/110,000 <sup>3</sup>	1,500	(\$40,701,000) /\$162,154,500 <sup>3</sup>
Coyote	1,911	250	\$477,750
Black Bear	557	1,500	\$835,500
Wild Pig	502	500	\$251,000
Mountain Lion	302	1,500	\$453,000
Elk	144	2,500	\$360,000
Bighorn Sheep	42	8,000	\$336,000
Pronghorn	18	1,500	\$27,000
Total			\$1,114,273,131 /\$2,153,834,122 <sup>3</sup>

23

2016-2020 Data

# What Are Wildlife Crossings & Why Do They Matter?

- Wildlife crossings are areas of concentrated animal movement intercepted by roadways.
  - In most cases, effects are seen because animals are inadvertently hit by drivers as they attempt to cross the road surface
  - Leads to mortality of animals (“road-kill”) and safety concerns to the motoring public
- In other cases, animals choose to avoid crossing, and the roads present barriers to animal movement, dividing a formerly single population into two or more isolated populations causing negative effects.

# Regulations Surrounding Wildlife Crossings

- CDFW, a trustee agency, asserts jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project.
  - CDFW’s Areas of Conservation Emphasis viewer shows that portions of the study area are identified as “irreplaceable and essential corridors”
  - CEQA requires analysis of effect
- Project’s EIR Impact WILD-2:
  - *Fragmentation and loss of natural landscape blocks and essential connectivity areas would result in a significant impact on wildlife movement and wildlife corridors.*
- Mitigation Measure WILD-1.15: Design and Construct Wildlife Crossings for New Roadways at Suitable Locations.

# Mitigation Measure WILD-1.15: Design and Construct Wildlife Crossings

- Requires Suitable Crossings to:
  - be located at appropriate frequencies within contiguous suitable habitat and in other locations where crossing structures are warranted (e.g., riparian/riverine crossings)
  - only where species habitat and movement needs are present
  - accommodate a range of species expected to move through the area, large and small
  - provide appropriate spacing 0.5 to 1 mile apart certain areas
- Can be dedicated to only wildlife or serve multiple purposes like drainage and bridgework

# Example Wildlife Crossings

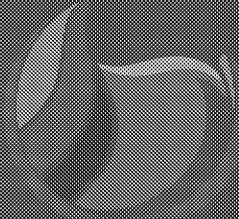


# Next Steps

- Wildlife Corridor analysis is underway per MM:WILD-1.5
- Continued coordination with design and wildlife teams
- Development of conceptual crossing plan
  - Review and discuss with Glenn and Colusa County
  - Coordinate with CDFW and USFWS
- Integration of conceptual crossing plan with design as appropriate
- Provide updates as necessary



**Questions?**



**Sites**

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**From:** Leaf, Rob [Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com]  
**Sent:** 6/21/2023 9:51:17 AM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]; steve.micko@jacobs.com; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Thayer, Reed [Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Operations Weekly Check-In

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**From:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 9:06 AM  
**To:** Micko, Steve <Steve.Micko@jacobs.com>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Leaf, Rob <Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com>; Thayer, Reed <Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Sites Operations Weekly Check-In

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Reed – I do have one question about the CalSim 3 model. Will it use the historical hydrology (and with that the same water year types as the historical CalSim II models)? Or will it use a different/climate change hydrology? Feel free to give me a call at 775-450-6408 if it’s better to discuss this over a call.

Thanks everyone,  
Angela

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**From:** Micko, Steve <Steve.Micko@jacobs.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 8:51 AM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Leaf, Rob <Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com>; Thayer, Reed <Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com>; Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
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Hi all,

Rob is addressing an urgent family matter today and I am out on PTO. As such, I suggest we forgo this call. That being said, Reed’s ready to coordinate if you like too. I posted updates below. Let us know if there are additional items we should highlight!

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- SWC
- Coordinate with Wes and Chandra on historical tool evaluation
- Evaluate Sites under Chandra's proposed criteria
- Regrouping on July 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>

Apologies for the last-minute email,  
Steve

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 2:48 PM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe; Micko, Steve; Leaf, Rob; Thayer, Reed; Angela Bezzone

**Subject:** Sites Operations Weekly Check-In

**When:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 9:30 AM-10:30 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Updated Agenda Link:  
[Internal Team Meetings](#)

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

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**Sent:** 6/21/2023 9:59:28 AM  
**To:** 'Leaf, Rob' [Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com]; steve.micko@jacobs.com; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Thayer, Reed [Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Operations Weekly Check-In

Thanks, Rob! That is helpful. Follow up question: Does that mean that all of the water year types will be reassigned based on the hydrology in the model? In other words, the WYTs will not align with what is in the Sites CalSim II historical hydrology models?

---

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**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Updated Agenda Link:

[Internal Team Meetings](#)

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**From:** Leaf, Rob [Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com]  
**Sent:** 6/21/2023 11:26:29 AM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]; steve.micko@jacobs.com; Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Thayer, Reed [Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Operations Weekly Check-In

Yes, that is correct – water year types will change

---

**From:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 9:59 AM  
**To:** Leaf, Rob <Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com>; Micko, Steve <Steve.Micko@jacobs.com>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Thayer, Reed <Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Sites Operations Weekly Check-In

Thanks, Rob! That is helpful. Follow up question: Does that mean that all of the water year types will be reassigned based on the hydrology in the model? In other words, the WYTs will not align with what is in the Sites CalSim II historical hydrology models?

---

**From:** Leaf, Rob <Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 9:51 AM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>; Micko, Steve <Steve.Micko@jacobs.com>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Thayer, Reed <Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Operations Weekly Check-In

**CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Only open links from **TRUSTED** sources.

Reclamation has developed a climate condition and hydrology to represent median 2022 conditions projected on the period of record 1922-2021. It reflects the shift in climate that has been observed over that period of record as well as what is projected for the 30 years (+/- 15) around 2022. Reclamation is using this as the main scenario for the LTO, however they will have other scenarios as well.

---

**From:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 9:06 AM  
**To:** Micko, Steve <Steve.Micko@jacobs.com>; Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Leaf, Rob <Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com>; Thayer, Reed <Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Sites Operations Weekly Check-In

Hi Steve & all – No worries! We can skip today's call (I see that Ali sent a cancellation). Thank you for the notes below.

Reed – I do have one question about the CalSim 3 model. Will it use the historical hydrology (and with that the same water year types as the historical CalSim II models)? Or will it use a different/climate change hydrology? Feel free to give me a call at 775-450-6408 if it's better to discuss this over a call.

Thanks everyone,  
Angela

---

**From:** Micko, Steve <Steve.Micko@jacobs.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 8:51 AM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Leaf, Rob <Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com>; Thayer, Reed <Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com>; Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Operations Weekly Check-In

**CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Only open links from **TRUSTED** sources.

Hi all,

Rob is addressing an urgent family matter today and I am out on PTO.

As such, I suggest we forgo this call. That being said, Reed's ready to coordinate if you like too.

I posted updates below. Let us know if there are additional items we should highlight!

Updates include:

- DWR Big Notch
  - Wes and I coordinated yesterday evening. He's wrapping up the WAAT and is planning to have results by COB today
  - Chad completed the analysis in DDFT yesterday. The results are available to send. Angela and Wes have them in their inbox.
- CalSim 3 – Reed is continuing development of the Sites CalSim 3 model
- CCWD – Steve to review changes to salinity in Oct – Dec for our July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting
- SWC
  - Coordinate with Wes and Chandra on historical tool evaluation
  - Evaluate Sites under Chandra's proposed criteria
  - Regrouping on July 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>

Apologies for the last-minute email,  
Steve

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2022 2:48 PM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe; Micko, Steve; Leaf, Rob; Thayer, Reed; Angela Bezzone

**Subject:** Sites Operations Weekly Check-In

**When:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 9:30 AM-10:30 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Updated Agenda Link:

[Internal Team Meetings](#)

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

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---

**From:** Whittington, Chad [Chad.Whittington@jacobs.com]  
**Sent:** 6/21/2023 5:23:23 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**CC:** Leaf, Rob [Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com]; steve.micko@jacobs.com; Thayer, Reed [Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com]  
**Subject:** Sites Variables Request from Reclamation  
**Attachments:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Sites Variables (CalSim 2)

Hi Ali,

Please see the attached email in which Amanda Becker from Reclamation asked for CalSim II information to evaluate Sites Project benefits.

I wanted to let you know that we have prepared to share the following with Reclamation:

- Trend Reporting spreadsheet of ALT1A, ALT1B, ALT2, and ALT3 from the Final EIR/EIS
- Sites Metrics report of ALT1A, ALT1B, ALT2, and ALT3 from the Final EIR/EIS
- Document that includes a lists of CalSim II reporting variables for the Sites Metrics report

The files can be accessed here:  [Sites Metrics](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

**Chad Whittington, PE (he/him) | [Jacobs](#) | Water Resources Engineer**  
925.788.1087 | [Chad.Whittington@jacobs.com](mailto:Chad.Whittington@jacobs.com)  
2485 Natomas Park Drive Suite 600 | Sacramento, CA 95833 | USA

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**From:** Janis Offermann [jaoffermann@montrose-env.com]  
**Sent:** 6/22/2023 8:33:10 AM  
**To:** Laverne D. Bill [lbill@paskenta.org]  
**CC:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Kevin Spesert [kspesert@sitesproject.org]; Laurie Warner Herson [laurie.warner.herson@phenixenv.com]  
**Subject:** Agenda for meeting today on Sites Reservoir  
**Attachments:** 20230622\_Paskenta\_Agenda.docx

Good morning, Laverne  
Attached please see the proposed agenda for our meeting later this morning.  
We look forward to talking with you then.

Thanks  
janis

**Janis Offermann, M.A., RPA**

*Senior Cultural Resources Manager*

M: 530.220.4918

[jaoffermann@montrose-env.com](mailto:jaoffermann@montrose-env.com)

**Please note new email address after April 1, 2023. I can still receive emails as [janis@horizonh2o.com](mailto:janis@horizonh2o.com); however, all of my outgoing emails to you will be from [jaoffermann@montrose-env.com](mailto:jaoffermann@montrose-env.com).**

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---

**From:** Sites Project [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FE3D979238CE48168411DD8F93D5A6E6-INFO00041]  
**Sent:** 6/22/2023 1:26:34 PM  
**To:** n\_kuklo@u.pacific.edu  
**BCC:** Mariah Hugo [mhugo@katzandassociates.com]; qlacapra@katzandassociates.com  
**Subject:** Sites Reservoir Inquiry - Reservoir Users and Water Rights

Hi Nikki,

Thank you for reaching out to us about the operations of Sites Reservoir.

Water can move out of the reservoir at any time of the year; however, most water is moved out of the reservoir from June through November. Water would be held in storage in Sites Reservoir until requested for release by a storage partner, or participating agency. Generally, this would occur from May to November but could occur at any time of the year, depending on the participant's need and capacity to convey water to their intended point of delivery. (Please see [Chapter 2](#) of our RDEIR-SDEIS for more information.)

Sites Reservoir currently has [29 participants](#) throughout the state of California, including the federal government, state government, and local public agencies. The water captured by Sites Reservoir will be used for agriculture, meeting water demands of businesses and residents, and serving the needs of the environment throughout California.

Finally, as part of the application process for a water right permit, the Sites Project Authority prepared an extensive water availability analysis, more comprehensive than any other in California history. The analysis looked at water supply scenarios—ranging from historical conditions to climate change projections as far out as 2070—to determine how much water would be available to store in Sites Reservoir under a variety of hydrologic conditions. It found there is water for Sites Reservoir, the environment, and existing senior water right holders in the Sacramento River and Delta watersheds under a wide range of water supply scenarios, now and in the future. (Please see our [Permitting webpage](#) for more information).

Please reach out if you have further questions. Thanks!

**From:** Nikki Kuklo <n\_kuklo@u.pacific.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 11:58 AM  
**To:** Sites Reservoir <[info@sitesproject.org](mailto:info@sitesproject.org)>  
**Subject:** Sites Reservoir Inquiry - Reservoir Users

Hello,

I'm a law student in Sacramento. I am interested in the operation of the Sites Reservoir. In particular, I am interesting in when water will be re-released from the reservoir and who the ultimate users of the reservoir water will be. I have read many of your informational documents and saw nothing that clearly stated how the water will get back to the Sacramento River to ensure that places like San Joaquin County, south of the delta, will have its water rights fulfilled. If you could point me to this information, I would very much appreciate it.

Thank you,  
Nikki

---

**From:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]  
**Sent:** 6/22/2023 2:08:09 PM  
**To:** Whittington, Chad [Chad.Whittington@jacobs.com]; Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]; Wesley Walker [walker@mbkengineers.com]  
**CC:** Leaf, Rob [Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com]; steve.micko@jacobs.com; Thayer, Reed [Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com]  
**Subject:** Re: Sites Variables Request from Reclamation

Sounds great Chad. Please go ahead and send those to Reclamation.

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Reservoir Project | 916.880.0676 | aforsythe@sitesproject.org | www.SitesProject.org

---

**From:** Whittington, Chad <Chad.Whittington@jacobs.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 5:23:23 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Leaf, Rob <Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com>; steve.micko@jacobs.com <steve.micko@jacobs.com>; Thayer, Reed <Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com>  
**Subject:** Sites Variables Request from Reclamation

Hi Ali,

Please see the attached email in which Amanda Becker from Reclamation asked for CalSim II information to evaluate Sites Project benefits.

I wanted to let you know that we have prepared to share the following with Reclamation:

- Trend Reporting spreadsheet of ALT1A, ALT1B, ALT2, and ALT3 from the Final EIR/EIS
- Sites Metrics report of ALT1A, ALT1B, ALT2, and ALT3 from the Final EIR/EIS
- Document that includes a lists of CalSim II reporting variables for the Sites Metrics report

The files can be accessed here:  [Sites Metrics](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

**Chad Whittington, PE (he/him) | [Jacobs](#) | Water Resources Engineer**  
925.788.1087 | [Chad.Whittington@jacobs.com](mailto:Chad.Whittington@jacobs.com)  
2485 Natomas Park Drive Suite 600 | Sacramento, CA 95833 | USA

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Draft\_0025719

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A6CDF06A7E904B65BAA21702A82AD329-AFORSYTHE]  
**Sent:** 6/26/2023 9:06:40 AM  
**To:** Nikki Kuklo [n\_kuklo@u.pacific.edu]  
**CC:** Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Operation Info on Sites

No problem Nikki. I am out of the office a bit in early July. Below are some dates/times that work for me to chat over the next few weeks. Let me know if there is a day that works for you.

July 3 – anytime from 1 pm to 4 pm  
July 5 – anytime from 11 am to 2 pm  
July 11 – 1 to 2 pm  
July 12 – 2 to 3 pm  
July 17 – 11 am to noon; 2:30 to 4 pm  
July 18 – noon to 1:30 pm  
July 19 – 11 am to 1:30 pm or 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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-----  
**From:** Nikki Kuklo <n\_kuklo@u.pacific.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 23, 2023 3:38 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Cc:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Operation Info on Sites

Hi Alicia,

Thank you so much for responding! I am currently out of town for a wedding. Can I get back to you by the end of next week. I appreciate your follow up very much.

Best,  
Nikki

On Wed, Jun 21, 2023 at 5:27 PM Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)> wrote:

Hi Nikki – I just wanted to check in on this. Would you be interested in having a call to walk through your questions? If so, I can get you some new dates/times as the ones below have passed.

If you prefer that I respond via email, I am happy to do that also. Just let me know your preference.

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2023 8:13 AM  
**To:** 'Nikki Kuklo' <[n\\_kuklo@u.pacific.edu](mailto:n_kuklo@u.pacific.edu)>  
**Cc:** 'Angela Bezzone' <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Operation Info on Sites

It just occurred to me that, in the meantime, Chapter 2 of the Project's Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS likely has most of the operations information you're looking for in a concise format. The water operations discussion starts on page 2-29 or page 70 or 117 in the PDF file. The file can be found here:

[Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Sites Reservoir \(sitesproject.org\)](http://sitesproject.org)

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2023 8:08 AM  
**To:** Nikki Kuklo <[n\\_kuklo@u.pacific.edu](mailto:n_kuklo@u.pacific.edu)>  
**Cc:** Angela Bezzone <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Operation Info on Sites

Hi Nikki – Thanks for your patience while it took me a little longer to get back to you. Would you be open to having a call to go over these items? The information you are looking for is all in the materials – its just not

all in one place. I would be happy to have a call, provide an overview of the application and answer your questions, and we can chat about where to find all of this material.

Let me know if this would work for you. Below are some dates/times next week that would work for me for a call.

Monday, June 19 – 11 am to noon OR 2:30 to 3:30 pm

Tuesday, June 20 – 1 to 2 pm

Thursday, June 22 – anytime 11 am to 12:30 pm OR 3:30 to 4:30 pm

I've copied Angela with MBK Engineers who helped us with the application. Depending on the day/time of our call, Angela may join us also.

Ali

---

Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Nikki Kuklo <[n\\_kuklo@u.pacific.edu](mailto:n_kuklo@u.pacific.edu)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 1:19 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Subject:** Operation Info on Sites

Hello Ms. Forsythe,

My name is Nikki. I am a law student in Sacramento focusing on water law. I have access to the FTP site for Application A025517X01 attachments and I was wondering if you could point out where and in which document I can learn more about the proposed water operations during water years, I admit to being a bit overwhelmed by the volume of analysis. I am particularly interested in the manner of re-release from the reservoir, the ultimate users of the water, and plans to assure the southern delta water users of their water from the Sacramento River. Any direction regarding this would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,  
Nikki

--

Nicole I. Kuklo

McGeorge School of Law JD Candidate

Evening Class 2024

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Nicole I. Kuklo

McGeorge School of Law JD Candidate

Evening Class 2024



d. Holthouse - R/E	
e. Red Stick	
f. Wells	
g. LaGrande	
h. Kellogg	
i. Cody Arnold	
j. Ming "Wayne" Webster	
5. Local Coordination – Recap, Current Engagement, Look-Ahead	Conner / Jeff / All
a. USBR / TCCA	
a) TCCA Canal - Yolo County - Dunnigan Borings - Figure Pending	
b. GCID Coordination – Geotech Work Package 3 - November	
6. Right-of-Way Manual	Conner / Jeff / Caitlin / Trishna
a. Draft For Review	
7. Project Team – Interdisciplinary Coordination	Conner / All
a. Cultural Team - Cemetery - After Dry Season	
b. Geotech - Test Pit - In Town - For Borrow Information	
c. Engineering - Roadways - Glenn County Meeting - June 14	
d. Engineering - Utility Outreach	
e. Land Survey - Awaiting Word From Glenn County	
f. Environmental Mitigation	
g. Engineering - Aggregate Materials - Import / Borrow - Tours	
h. Land Management Committee - Debrief	
8. Administrative	Conner
a. Red Stick - Payment Processing	
9. Open Discussion	All
10. Action-Item Recap	Caitlin
11. Next Steps	Kevin / Conner / All
12. Closing Thoughts	Kevin



Owner	County	Work Package 3- 7/1/23 to 12/31/23 Work Package 4- 1/24 to 12/31/24	Potential Start Month	Notes
Red Stick Farms, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 3.07	Jul-23	
Wells, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 3.08	Aug-23	
Cody Arnold, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 3.09	Sep-23	
Holthouse, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 3.10	Oct-23	
Jensen, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 3.11	Nov-23	
GCID Canal APN, Owner Unknown	Colusa	Work Package 3.11	Nov-23	
Banyan Transport Systems, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 3.12	Dec-23	Locations on Northern Parcel that require access through Red Stick / Arnold
USA TCCA Government	Yolo	Work Package 3.12	Dec-23	Dunnigan
USA TCCA Government	Colusa	Work Package 3.12	Dec-23	Depends on Reservoir Drawdown - Funks Reservoir - Schedule dependent on TCCA Operations; Rank Order of Preference Required
Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 3.x	Town of Sites	

Owner	County	Work Package 3- 7/1/23 to 12/31/23 Work Package 4- 1/24 to 12/31/24	Notes
Aulman LLC, Yolo County	Yolo	Work Package 4	
B&G Ranches, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 4	
Brothers Doherty, Yolo County	Yolo	Work Package 4	
Butler, Yolo County	Yolo	Work Package 4	
C & H ORCHARDS III FARMING VENTURE LP, Yolo County	Yolo	Work Package 4	
Christy Lee Snelgrove, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 4	
Douglas Parker, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 4	
Dunn Family Trust , Yolo County	Yolo	Work Package 4	
GCID Canal APN, Owner Unknown	Colusa	Work Package 4	possible if on GCID Corridor, and not on adjacent lands
Giutere Vineyard , Yolo County	Yolo	Work Package 4	
Holthouse, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 4	
Jensen, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 4	
LaGrande, Brett, Glenn County	Glenn	Work Package 4	
LaGrande, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 4	
LaGrande, Glenn County	Glenn	Work Package 4	
LaGrande, M&R, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 4	
Mathis Family, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 4	
Maureen Doherty, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 4	
Morgan Twin Holdings LLC, Yolo County	Yolo	Work Package 4	
MOUNTANOS TRUST, Yolo County	Yolo	Work Package 4	
Mumma, Yolo County	Yolo	Work Package 4	
Owens, Glenn County	Glenn	Work Package 4	
P Doherty, Yolo County	Yolo	Work Package 4	
Richard Riolo, Yolo County	Yolo	Work Package 4	
Ritchie Bros, Yolo County	Yolo	Work Package 4	
Banyan Transport Systems, Colusa County	Colusa	Work Package 4.zzz	Southern Parcel Activities - accessibility to the locations is unlikely - no clearance to remove trees to traverse forested area, wildfire danger, fire suppression equipment access issues



# Sites Project Community Working Group Meeting Highlights



*Our Core Values – Safety, Trust and Integrity, Respect for Local Communities, Environmental Stewardship, Shared Responsibility and Shared Benefits, Accountability and Transparency, Proactive Innovation, Diversity, and Inclusivity  
Our Commitment – To live up to these values in everything we do*

## Meeting Information:

<b>Date:</b>	May 18, 2023	<b>Location:</b>	122 Old Hwy 99W, Maxwell
<b>Start Time:</b>	2:30 p.m.	<b>Finish Time:</b>	4:30 p.m.
<b>Purpose:</b>	Local Community Working Group		

## Meeting Participants:

Anastacia Allen – Colusa County Agriculture	Summer Shadley – Maxwell Unified School District 8
Brenda Haynes – Congressman Doug LaMalfa	Tom Arnold – Glenn County B.O.S.
Conner McDonald – CDM West	Vicki Doll – Chabin Concepts
Eliana Pimente – Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry	Wendy Tyler – Colusa County
Elijah Navarro – Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry	Mary Hester – Stonyford Museum
Eric Paden – Maxwell Inn Bar – Grill	Michael West – Colusa County Office of Education
Evan Cragin – Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry	Mike Azevedo – Colusa County Public Works
Gary Evans – Supervisor, Colusa County	Mike Bradwell – Colusa County Sheriff’s Department
Jennifer Diaz – Colusa County Chamber of Commerce	Nadine Bailey – Family Water Alliance
Jerry Brown – Sites Project Authority	Randal Toews – Kanawha Glenn Fire District
Joyce Bond – Stonyford Museum	Rob Timm – Sour Robs
JP Robinette – Sites Project Authority	Robert Kunde – Wheeler Ridge – Maricopa Water Storage District
Juleah Cordi – Assemblymember Gallagher	Sam Perkins – Senator Brian Dahle
Kenny Cohen – Maxwell Fire Department	Sandra Yarbrough – Sites Project Authority
Kent Boes – County of Colusa	Sara Katz – Katz & Associates
Kevin Spesert – Sites Project Authority	Steve Geiger – Colusa County Community Development
Kurt Chambers – Maxwell Public Utility District	Wes LeRoux – Neil’s Controlled Blasting
Mariah Hugo – Katz & Associates	
Marlena Spaticman – Glenn Co. Business Association	

## Welcome & Introductions

Sara Katz (meeting facilitator) welcomed attendees to the fourth meeting of the Sites Project Authority's Community Working Group (CWG). Meeting attendees introduced themselves and the organizations they represent.

## Sites Reservoir Project Update

Sites Project Authority Executive Director Jerry Brown provided an update on the Sites Reservoir Project with an emphasis on project progress, finances, and funding opportunities.

- If Sites Reservoir was fully operational in 2023, 500,000 acre-feet of stormwater could have been diverted to the reservoir. The filling opportunities would continue if Lake Shasta spills. The current monitoring shows that the Project capabilities are in line with modeling projections. The Authority will continue to monitor conditions and adjust forecasts as needed.
- The Authority submitted the WIFIA application on March 30, 2023. The Authority's Board of Directors will receive the updated Plan of Finance at its May board meeting.
- The timeline for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was adjusted. The draft document was released for public review in November 2021; the public comment period closed in January 2022. The final document is now expected to be completed in August 2023 instead of early 2023. This delay may help prevent litigation and allow for revisions to address comments received on the draft document.
- The Water Rights Permit application was submitted to the State Board in May 2023. The board is expected to complete the review that same month. This will then move into a mandated public review and protest period for 60 days, starting in early June.
- Geotechnical investigations and related field work resumed in April 2023. It continues at various locations in and around Sites Valley and is expected to be completed in December 2024.

The updated project schedule includes the following changes from the timeline communicated during Meeting 3:

- Water right permitting was extended by 4 months
- Construction start was adjusted for early land acquisition
- Period of construction was extended to 7 years

The Authority will also continue to review project construction and operations oversight considerations, which are made by local and participant interests.

## **WORKFORCE**

External Affairs Manager Kevin Spesert presented the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) from the North American Building Trades Union (NABTU).

NABTU's Building Trades Apprenticeship Readiness Program is geared toward young people and adults who are transitioning careers. MC3 is the education foundation that introduces students to building trades. This collaboration is between local trade councils and local community groups, construction contractors, government agencies, and schools.

MC3 covers nine units completed over five weeks, or 120 hours. The course includes hands-on learning experiences, such as simulators. The regional program requires 140 hours with the additional 20 hours focusing on finances and professional development. Participants receive a \$550 stipend to help cover the cost of transportation. The stipend increases to \$800 for plumbers. Upon graduation, if a student is accepted to an apprenticeship program, they receive funding to cover necessary tools and equipment.

The regional program will be led by Plumbers, Pipefitting, and HVACR Technicians UA Local 228 in Marysville, Calif. The next course is from May 30 to June 30, 2023. Most classes are from Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. However, the schedule is flexible. Local groups can decide to meet over the weekends instead. To be eligible, participants must:

- Be 18 years old
- Have a valid driver's license
- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Have reliable transportation
- Have a working cell phone

The MC3 Training Coordinator met with the Colusa County Superintendent on May 11, 2023. The next steps include scheduling meetings with the Glenn County Superintendent, presenting to the CWG at its July meeting, and establishing a steering committee to support recruitment and outreach.

- C:** People need training in Colusa County instead of driving to Redding or hours away. The participants here will get an overview of blueprints, the construction industry, and what's expected on the job, such as character, etiquette, and soft skills.
- Q:** What's the size of the target population?
- A:** The first cohort could start with 30 participants. Even if 10 complete the process, that's considered a success. Some projects, such as the Keystone pipeline, required employment from 15% of the local population.
- C:** Jobs opportunities should look at the local workforce, which is the Authority's priority. However, we must have the workforce trained and ready to go. This program can create a pathway.
- Q:** Does the certificate have an expiration date? Some participants may pause before applying for the apprenticeship program.
- A:** The Authority will confirm if the certificates expire.
- Q:** Has the program reached out to community colleges?
- C:** Vicki Doll volunteered to introduce the Sites and MC3 Training Coordinator to the community colleges.
- Q:** What is the plan for recruiting 30 participants, since the group starts soon?
- A:** Kevin and the MC3 team will meet with Glenn County. Once they approve the program, the team will set up a steering committee to help oversee, recruit, and connect with the community.

Other recommendations include speaking to high school students, connecting with parents who are already in the trades, and attending career days and local schools and colleges.

### **ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**

Vicki Doll, principal at Chabin Concepts, Inc., explained the Colusa County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). It's the foundational element for defining sources and uses of funds from the project within the community. CEDS is a grant process that enables Sites to apply for federal funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

CEDS separates into four sections:

- Analysis of economic conditions (Examines the current state of funding and challenges)
- SWOT analysis (Drives the implementation plan)
- Vision and goals

- Strategic direction and implementation roadmap (Includes workforce development, DEI, and resiliency)

Vicki explained that CEDS establishes a five-year plan with annual updates to the following:

- Goals: Diversify its economic base, improve, and maintain physical and social infrastructure, and preserve and balance rural values
- Strategic direction: Enhance business climate, improve economic competitiveness, and cultivate talent
- Priority initiatives: Build Sites Reservoir, develop the I-5 corridor, and support local business and entrepreneurship.

The analysis of economic conditions and SWOT analysis is complete. The next steps are to host committee meetings, receive public input over 30 days, identify development areas, collect capital improvement plans, submit the final document for public review to the CEDS approval committee, and then submit the document to the EDA.

The Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) provides \$600 million for 13 regions across California, with Colusa County in Sacramento's region. Vicki concluded the presentation and shared the contact information with the team (ColusaCountyCEDS.com, [Audrey@chabinconcepts.com](mailto:Audrey@chabinconcepts.com), [vicki@chabinconcepts.com](mailto:vicki@chabinconcepts.com)).

- C:** Colusa County does not receive much if it's included in the Sacramento region.
- C:** Colusa County sent surveys and marketed through different channels about community improvement. Only 225 of 22,000 residents responded. The feedback came mostly from the City of Colusa, so their input will be recognized more.
- C:** Focus groups at coffee shops and bars are sometimes more effective than surveys.

Other recommendations include establishing a subcommittee for funding or hosting a separate meeting to focus on funding. This should be discussed at the next meeting.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE**

Jerry Brown and Wendy Tyler, Colusa County CAO, presented the socioeconomic effects of the Project with modeling conducted in 2017 and included in the environmental documentation. The analysis identified potential effects on the regional and local economy using the IMPLAN modeling.

The overall effect of the Project will be an increase in direct labor income and total labor income. The project construction will lead to an increase in construction-related jobs and income. The overall effects indicate the increase in total labor income would be between \$59,676,000 and \$66,607,000. However, existing agricultural land will be disturbed during construction, which results in reduced agricultural income and jobs.

The estimates of jobs created vary. The Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) indicates that approximately 600 direct and indirect jobs will be created. The State feasibility report indicates 1,100 to 2,000 workers will be employed during peak construction. These increases could affect the local community.

- Q:** How and where will there be temporary disturbances in agriculture?

- A:** The effects will be primarily on the grazing properties in the valley where properties will be inundated. There may be temporary effects during road and pipeline construction.
- Q:** Will landowners be compensated?
- A:** Compensation will be provided for the use and/or acquisition of property within the legal limits allowed for public agencies.
- Q:** The increase in labor income of \$60 million is an overall benefit, but how much will come to Colusa County? That income share doesn't reach our communities.
- A:** Unknown, but the Authority will continue exploring and evaluating opportunities for the economic effects to be retained within the region as much as possible. Suggestions from this group how to best accomplish this could be provided as recommendations for the Authority Board to consider.
- C:** Regarding labor, some laborers will need certain special requirements, skills, and experience to work on the project.
- Q:** How can we keep employees housed locally to support our economy?
- A:** **One possibility is** using the PG&E plant project example where there was a percentage requirement for labor preferences to those residing in the local or region area. We would need to understand the availability of labor in the area to meet preset requirements. We don't want to establish expectations that cannot be met.
- C:** Project and employment information from the construction at Lake Shasta is available online for the Authority to reference.

Recommendations include researching the economic benefits to the region and previous examples from other reservoir projects.

- C:** Consider reaching out to investors for hotels and homes. People are watching the project and feel motivated. A person is preparing his quarry for this project.
- Q:** How much air pollution will there be? Yuba County & Sutter County asked about the potential truck traffic.
- A:** Sand and gravel are to be procured within a 35-mile radius. Workers may be commuting from these areas but not any more than what is likely occurring currently.
- C:** When removing property, those taxes are removed from the district. The renovations and developer impact fees should also be considered.

Regarding the recreational economic effects, Sites Reservoir is expected to add approximately \$2.4 million annually in revenue to local and regional economies. The CWG discussed if the estimate was too high, so the Authority will analyze the findings.

Following this analysis, the Authority will move on to the next steps for economic development and local government revenue:

- Economic Development: Continue working on CEDS to finalize the plan, coordinate with other CEDS in the region and identify funding opportunities to leverage Sites investment for local cost match.
- Local Government Revenue: Coordinate with the three counties, identify the "Developer Agreement" conditions, and update economic effects estimates as appropriate.

### **COLLABORATION ON FEDERAL/STATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Kevin Spesert shared the results of a thorough review of federal funding sources, such as grants, that could help community priorities of transportation, broadband, and economic development. Kevin reviewed grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Department of Commerce, the

Economic Development Administration, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. A “local champion” is needed from the community and could support the Project through grant applications and implementation. Kevin shared the collaboration that would take place between the community and the Authority, which includes a steering committee that focuses on federal and state funding opportunities.

- The local agency and community can establish priorities, identify opportunities, and develop implementation strategies.
- The Authority can leverage resources and make connections, participate in the steering committee, and provide technical support to secure potential funding.

Kevin explained that the hardest part for a rural community is figuring out where to start. However, the Authority can help support the process. They can work with local officials to identify other connections with federal and state representatives. A survey could be sent to CWG members to determine interest and meeting frequency for a proposed steering committee to consider the issues, opportunities, and required next steps.

Sara Katz announced that the next meeting will be held from 2:30-4:30 p.m., on July 20, at the Sites Project Authority Office. She adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

### **Proposed Discussion Topics for the 7/20 Local Community Working Group Meeting**

Mid-year review

MC3 Training presentation

Engineering update

Environmental update

### **Future Meetings**

- July 20, 2023
- September 21, 2023
- November 16, 2023

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**From:** Micko, Steve [Steve.Micko@jacobs.com]  
**Sent:** 6/27/2023 3:06:09 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe [aforsythe@sitesproject.org]; Angela Bezzone [bezzone@mbkengineers.com]  
**CC:** Leaf, Rob [Rob.Lead@jacobs.com]; Thayer, Reed [Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com]; Wesley Walker [walker@mbkengineers.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Project - Participant Modeling  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Participant Account Dashboard Description\_Ali\_SM.docx

Hi Angela,

Thanks for leading this up!

In the model, the CVP prioritizes use of Sites water to increase (in order of priority):

1. Shasta storage (for cold water pool),
2. frequency and volume of Fall Flow Stability releases,
3. frequency and volume of Spring Pulse releases, and
4. deliveries to CVP contractors.

Most of the releases from the Sites federal account are going to Shasta storage.

Therefore, the increase in CVP deliveries make up a relatively small portion of releases from the Sites federal account.

Since the CVP may store Sites releases from the federal account, increases in CVP deliveries may not occur in the same year as Sites releases from the federal account.

The negative 1.9 TAF in cell Z13 (for Alternative 1B) is a modeling artifact.

Although Reclamation is working with more water, CalSim's assumed operations of the CVP shift around a little bit.

Overall, the federal investment in Sites increases long-term average deliveries.

I added a couple of these notes to the attached Word document.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks again,  
Steve

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 23, 2023 12:29 PM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone <bezzone@mbkengineers.com>; Micko, Steve <Steve.Micko@jacobs.com>  
**Cc:** Leaf, Rob <Rob.Lead@jacobs.com>; Thayer, Reed <Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com>; Wesley Walker <walker@mbkengineers.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Sites Project - Participant Modeling

Thanks Angela. I had just a few minor suggestions/questions in the Word file.

Ali

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Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Angela Bezzone <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 3:43 PM

**To:** [steve.micko@jacobs.com](mailto:steve.micko@jacobs.com); Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>

**Cc:** Leaf, Rob <[Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com](mailto:Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com)>; Thayer, Reed <[Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com](mailto:Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com)>; Wesley Walker <[walker@mbkengineers.com](mailto:walker@mbkengineers.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Project - Participant Modeling

Steve/All –

I have drafted a description of the Participant Account Dashboard for your review and comment. This description will be incorporated as a new tab in the Dashboard so that it is easy for participants to reference. The information for the NOD, SOD, State, and Federal tabs is fairly repetitive. My original plan was to send this out by the end of the week, but I hadn't put together Steve's PTO and that timeline. So if this needs to wait until Steve has an opportunity to review next week, that is fine!

I also have some questions about Deliveries on the Federal tab. There is a negative number in cell Z13. Also, deliveries exceed releases for Wet years under Alt 3B and Critically Dry years under Alt 1B. I'm wondering if these occurrences have something to do with exchanges. I'm also surprised by how low deliveries are relative to releases – something to do with the assumed use of Reclamation's water? Any additional explanation you can share for Reclamation's releases and deliveries would be greatly appreciated!

Please provide any questions, comments, suggestions to the description document you may have.

Thanks!  
Angela

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**From:** Micko, Steve <[Steve.Micko@jacobs.com](mailto:Steve.Micko@jacobs.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 3:24 PM

**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Angela Bezzone <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>

**Cc:** Leaf, Rob <[Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com](mailto:Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com)>; Thayer, Reed <[Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com](mailto:Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Sites Project - Participant Modeling

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Hi all,

Revised drafts of the participant dashboard are posted here: [Participant Dashboard](#)

Revisions include:

- Addition of utilization metrics:
  - Percent time above 90% capacity
  - Percent time below 10% capacity
  - Exceedance plot of EO Sep Storage
  - Releases/Fills
  - Transfers/Fills (for NOD only)
  - Deliveries/Releases

- For SOD storage partners, deliveries include the volumes transferred from NoD participants.
- Set minimum value on y-axis to zero on all plots
- Underlined the contract year assumed on each sheet
- Happy to implement another method for displaying the year selection

Please note that I posted two versions of the dashboard:

- SPJPA\_Sites\_ParticipantAccountDashboard\_rev06\_20230613.xlsm
  - presents SRSC data by CVP contract year (Mar – Feb).
- SPJPA\_Sites\_ParticipantAccountDashboard\_rev06b\_20230613.xlsm
  - Presents SRSC data by calendar year (Jan – Dec).

In review of GCID and RD108 contracts, the schedule is for Apr – Oct. So, for the terms of the settlement contract, either year selection (Jan – Dec or Mar – Feb) should work.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Steve

---

**From:** Micko, Steve  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 4:49 PM  
**To:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Angela Bezzone <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Cc:** Leaf, Rob <[Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com](mailto:Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com)>; Thayer, Reed <[Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com](mailto:Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Project - Participant Modeling

Yep! Each dashboard sheet describes the contract year under the “Summary of Assumptions”. Currently, it specifies Mar – Feb on the “NOD” and “Federal” dashboards and Jan – Dec on the “SOD” and “State” dashboards. I could underline those terms to make it more clear to the user.

Thanks for the note on the SRSCs. I’ll look at the contracts and adjust accordingly.

Best,  
Steve

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**From:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 3:57 PM  
**To:** Micko, Steve <[Steve.Micko@jacobs.com](mailto:Steve.Micko@jacobs.com)>; Angela Bezzone <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Cc:** Leaf, Rob <[Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com](mailto:Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com)>; Thayer, Reed <[Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com](mailto:Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Sites Project - Participant Modeling

This is great. We should note how the results are presented for both the CVP and SWP somewhere in the file. They will likely appreciate that we summarized based on their individual contract year.

Although are the CVP Settlement contractors on a calendar year? I know the exchange contractors are calendar year. Not sure about the Sac River folks though.

Ali

-----  
Alicia Forsythe | Environmental Planning and Permitting Manager | Sites Project Authority | 916.880.0676  
| [aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org) | [www.SitesProject.org](http://www.SitesProject.org)

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**From:** Micko, Steve <[Steve.Micko@jacobs.com](mailto:Steve.Micko@jacobs.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 10:31 AM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Leaf, Rob <[Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com](mailto:Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com)>; Thayer, Reed <[Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com](mailto:Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Project - Participant Modeling

Good morning Angela,

Thanks! Glad the unveiling went well!

And to answer your questions:

- Yes, this has to do with subtracting the “NoD to SoD transfers” from the SoD releases value. If there’s a year when “NoD to SoD transfers” occur and releases are zero, we’ll see a negative value. To prevent confusion on this plot, I’ll set the minimum y-axis value to 0.
- Yes, this is intentional. The results are presented by contract year (Jan – Dec for SWP contractors; Mar – Feb for CVP contractors). As the 2003 contract year is only partially covered, we do not present results for that year.

I’ll have a revised draft with utilization metrics and a fixed minimum y-axis value for you tomorrow.  
Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks again!  
Steve

---

**From:** Angela Bezzone <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 9:44 AM  
**To:** Micko, Steve <[Steve.Micko@jacobs.com](mailto:Steve.Micko@jacobs.com)>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Leaf, Rob <[Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com](mailto:Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com)>; Thayer, Reed <[Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com](mailto:Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Sites Project - Participant Modeling

Hi Steve,

The draft dashboard was presented at O&E workgroup last week. The participants seemed to really like it and are excited to look into the info when we send it out – great job!!

Two things that were noticed while sharing this on screen:

- There were negative numbers showing up on the SOD releases chart (I’m guessing this had something to do with the changes related to transfers)
- The bar charts go through 2002, not 2003. Maybe this was on purpose since the model doesn’t include the full 2003 calendar year?

Angela

---

**From:** Micko, Steve <[Steve.Micko@jacobs.com](mailto:Steve.Micko@jacobs.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 2, 2023 5:30 PM  
**To:** Angela Bezzone <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>; Leaf, Rob <[Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com](mailto:Rob.Leaf@jacobs.com)>; Thayer, Reed <[Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com](mailto:Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Project - Participant Modeling

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Hi Angela,

Attached dashboard tool includes the following updates.

- “NOD” sheet presents NOD to SOD transfers in:
  - summary table (on right hand side of sheet), and
  - participant specific release plot (as hashed bars).
- SOD Storage Partner releases are slightly lower.
  - Previously, NOD to SOD storage partner transfers were considered in SOD storage partner releases and deliveries. Now, NOD to SOD storage partner transfers have been separated out of SOD releases (causing the slight reduction to SOD storage partner releases).
- NOD to SOD storage partner transfer assumptions are presented in the “Demand Assumptions” sheet.
- “Summary of Assumptions” in “NOD” and “SOD” sheets have been revised to more specifically describe NOD to SOD storage partner transfers.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Have a great weekend!  
Steve

---

**From:** Angela Bezzone <[bezzone@mbkengineers.com](mailto:bezzone@mbkengineers.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 31, 2023 10:23 AM  
**To:** Micko, Steve <[Steve.Micko@jacobs.com](mailto:Steve.Micko@jacobs.com)>; Thayer, Reed <[Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com](mailto:Reed.Thayer@jacobs.com)>; Bert Bryan <[bert@wrid.us](mailto:bert@wrid.us)>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: Sites Project - Participant Modeling

Attached is the Dashboard with the tab summarizing participant demand/constraint assumptions.

Angela

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## Participant Account Dashboard

### Dashboard Descriptions (new tab to be added to spreadsheet with this information)

The Participant Account Dashboard is intended to provide information regarding diversions, storage volumes, releases, and use of Sites Water for each of the current participants. Graphs and tables have been developed for each participant and can be viewed on the relevant worksheet tab: NOD, SOD, State, and Federal. In addition to the dashboards, all displayed data is available in the spreadsheet for review and use. Information displayed on each Dashboard, and the associated data, is described below.

Each Dashboard presents information from Alternative 1B and Alternative 3B.

- Alternative 1B is displayed because it includes the Amendment 3 participation volumes for local participants (NOD and SOD tabs).
- Alternative 3B is displayed because it includes the investment amount requested by Reclamation – 16%. However, local participants' participation volumes were proportionately decreased to accommodate the increase in Reclamation's storage allocation. This is a modeling assumption. The methodology to accommodate additional investment by Reclamation that has not been approved by the Authority Board and/or Reservoir Committee.

### Demand Assumptions Tab

- Summarizes the release/demand modeling assumptions and constraints for each group of participants.

## NOD Tab

- Function:
  - Click on the participant name you would like to view in the “Select Participant” box in column W.
- Figures on Left Side:
  - Top two graphs summarize combined monthly storage volume and annual diversions for all NOD participants (in 1,000 acre-feet [TAF]) for Alternatives 1B and 3B.
  - Second two graphs show monthly storage volume (TAF) and annual release, including transfers to SOD participant accounts, (TAF) for the participant selected.
  - Bottom graph shows modeled End of May CVP/SWP storage and water year type for Alternative 1B. Intended to provide context for when/why each participant will call on water in Sites Reservoir.
  - Note water year 2003 is not included in Diversions and Release figures as the CalSim II model does not cover the entire 2003 contract year (i.e., CalSim II goes through September 2003).
- Information on Right Side:
  - Summary of Assumptions for all NOD participants.
  - Table summarizes Releases, NOD to SOD Transfers, and Deliveries for the selected participant. Averages for long-term, dry and critically dry, and each water year type are included in the table; along with the number of years in the model and frequency of occurrence associated with that average.
    - Example – There are 10 above normal years in the 82 years summarized in the Dashboard, representing 12% of the years.
  - Utilization statistics provide summary of use of Sites water for the selected participant.
    - Percent of years, based on end of September storage, that the participant’s storage account is “full” (more than 90% of its capacity).
    - Percent of years, based on end of September storage, that the participant’s storage account is “empty” (~~more less than 90~~10% of its capacity).
    - Percentage of water released as related to water filled in reservoir, transferred related to filled, and delivered as related to released. Note that the amount delivered is 100% of the amount released as there are no losses assumed for deliveries to NOD participants in the CalSim II model.
    - Probability of exceedance graph shows percent of participant’s capacity full at end of September.
- NOD\_Data Tab
  - The NOD\_Data tab provides all data shown for the participant selected on the NOD tab.
    - Columns K through V provide monthly data for the selected participant for each Alternative.
    - Columns AB through AJ provide annual data for the selected participant for each Alternative.
    - Columns AL through AQ provide the annual CVP/SWP storage data.
    - Utilization statistics are below the monthly data and begin in Cell K1008.

**Commented [AF1]:** Should this be less than 10% of its capacity?

**Commented [MS2R1]:** agreed

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**Commented [MS3]:** Should this be “full capacity” instead?

## SOD Tab

- Function:
  - Click on the participant name you would like to view in the “Select Participant” box in column W.
- Figures on Left Side:
  - Top two graphs summarize combined monthly storage volume (TAF) and annual diversions (TAF) for all SOD participants for Alternatives 1B and 3B.
  - Second two graphs show monthly storage volume (TAF) and annual release (TAF) for the participant selected.
  - Bottom graph shows modeled End of May CVP/SWP storage and water year type for Alternative 1B. Intended to provide context for when/why each participant will call on water in Sites Reservoir.
  - Note water year 2003 is not included in Diversions and Release figures as the CalSim II model does not cover the entire 2003 contract year (i.e., CalSim II goes through September 2003).
- Information on Right Side:
  - Summary of Assumptions for all SOD participants.
  - Table summarizes Releases and Deliveries for the selected participant. Averages for long-term, dry and critically dry, and each water year type are included in the table; along with the number of years in the model and frequency of occurrence associated with that average.
    - Example – There are 10 above normal years in the 82 years summarized in the Dashboard, representing 12% of the years.
    - Deliveries include delivery of water transferred from NOD participant accounts. These volumes are not included in the releases, as they are considered to be released/transferred from the NOD participants (see NOD tab).
  - Utilization statistics provide summary of use of Sites water for the selected participant.
    - Percent of years, based on end of September storage, that the participant’s storage account is “full” (more than 90% of its capacity).
    - Percent of years, based on end of September storage, that the participant’s storage account is “empty” (~~more less than 90~~10% of its capacity).
    - Percentage of water released as related to water filled in reservoir and delivered as related to released. Note that the amount delivered includes volumes of water transferred from a NOD participant account. Assumed losses, such as carriage water, are applied to deliveries for SOD participants in the CalSim II model.
    - Probability of exceedance graph shows percent of participant’s capacity full at end of September.
- SOD\_Data Tab
  - The SOD\_Data tab provides all data shown for the participant selected on the SOD tab.
    - Columns K through T provide monthly data for the selected participant for each Alternative.
    - Columns Z through AF provide annual data for the selected participant for each Alternative.

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- Utilization statistics are below the monthly data and begin in Cell K1008.
- Note: the annual CVP/SWP storage data is provided in Columns AL through AQ of the NOD\_Data tab.

## State Tab

- Function:
  - Click on the category of State water you would like to view in the “Select Participant” box in column W.
- Figures on Left Side:
  - Top two graphs summarize combined monthly storage volume (TAF) and annual diversions (TAF) for both categories of State water for Alternatives 1B and 3B.
  - Second two graphs show monthly storage volume (TAF) and annual release (TAF) for the category selected.
  - Note water year 2003 is not included in Diversions and Release figures as the CalSim II model does not cover the entire 2003 contract year (i.e., CalSim II goes through September 2003).
- Information on Right Side:
  - Summary of Assumptions for State water.
  - Table summarizes Releases and Deliveries for the selected category. Averages for long-term, dry and critically dry, and each water year type are included in the table; along with the number of years in the model and frequency of occurrence associated with that average.
    - Example – There are 10 above normal years in the 82 years summarized in the Dashboard, representing 12% of the years.
  - Utilization statistics provide summary of use of Sites water for the selected category.
    - Percent of years, based on end of September storage, that the storage account associated with the selected category of water is “full” (more than 90% of its capacity).
    - Percent of years, based on end of September storage, that the category’s storage account is “empty” (more less than 90% of its capacity).
    - Percentage of water released as related to water filled in reservoir and delivered as related to released. Assumed losses, such as carriage water for SOD refuge deliveries, are applied to deliveries for each category of State water in the CalSim II model.
    - Probability of exceedance graph shows percent of the category’s capacity full at end of September.
- State\_Data Tab
  - The State\_Data tab provides all data shown for the category of State water selected on the State tab.
    - Columns K through T provide monthly data for the selected participant for each Alternative.
    - Columns Z through AF provide annual data for the selected participant for each Alternative.
    - Utilization statistics are below the monthly data and begin in Cell K1008.

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## Federal Tab

- Figures on Left Side:
  - The Federal storage account is not separated into any different categories of water for use.
  - The three graphs summarize monthly storage volume, annual diversions, and annual release (all in TAF) for the Federal water for Alternatives 1B and 3B.
  - Note water year 2003 is not included in Diversions and Release figures as the CalSim II model does not cover the entire 2003 contract year (i.e., CalSim II goes through September 2003).
- Information on Right Side:
  - Summary of Assumptions for Federal water.
  - Table summarizes Releases and Deliveries for the selected category. Averages for long-term, dry and critically dry, and each water year type are included in the table; along with the number of years in the model and frequency of occurrence associated with that average.
    - \* Example – There are 10 above normal years in the 82 years summarized in the Dashboard, representing 12% of the years.
      - Note that the CVP may store water released from the Sites federal account. Therefore, increases in CVP deliveries may not occur in the same year (or water year type) as Sites releases from the federal account. This leads to some occurrences when Sites releases in a given water year type are lower than the increase to CVP deliveries.
    - Utilization statistics provide summary of use of Sites water for the selected category.
      - Percent of years, based on end of September storage, that the Federal storage account is “full” (more than 90% of its capacity).
      - Percent of years, based on end of September storage, that the Federal storage account is “empty” (more less than 90% of its capacity).
      - Percentage of water released as related to water filled in reservoir and delivered as related to released. Assumed losses, such as carriage water, are applied to deliveries of Federal water in the CalSim II model. Note that most releases from the Sites federal account supplement Shasta storage. As such, only a small portion of releases from the Site federal account increase CVP deliveries.
      - Probability of exceedance graph shows percent of the Federal storage account’s capacity full at end of September.
- Federal data
  - The monthly and annual data used for the figures and tables on the Federal tab to illustrate Alternative 1B and Alternative 3B are located in the ALT 1B 051722 and ALT 3B 041222 tabs, respectively.
    - Columns BB and BC provide monthly data.
    - Columns EU and EV provide annual data.

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**From:** Sites Project [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FE3D979238CE48168411DD8F93D5A6E6-INFO00041]  
**Sent:** 6/29/2023 3:22:02 PM  
**To:** Mariah Hugo [mhugo@katzandassociates.com]  
**Subject:** For Immediate Release: Sites Reservoir on a Regulatory Fast Track with State's Permitting Reforms

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached news release for Sites Reservoir, and reach out with any questions.

**For Immediate Release:** June 30, 2023

**Contact:** Ann Newton, anewton@katzandassociates.com

### **Sites Reservoir on a Regulatory Fast Track with State's Permitting Reforms**

Maxwell, Calif. – The Sites Project Authority would like to commend and thank Governor Gavin Newsom and the California State Legislature for working together to pass a critically important infrastructure streamlining package that will allow eligible projects certified by the Governor to use a streamlined approval process to get essential infrastructure into construction and operation for the benefit of all Californians. All seven of the Proposition 1 water storage projects are eligible, including the Sites Reservoir Project.

In May, Governor Newsom introduced proposals to streamline permitting and project review for critical infrastructure projects, like Sites Reservoir, that would help meet the state's needs to climate resilient new water supplies.

"We are grateful to Governor Newsom and the State Legislature for their leadership on such a challenging aspect of our regulatory process. Their actions to incorporate these policy changes will expedite securing our water supplies to become more resilient to a changing climate," said Jerry Brown, Executive Director of the Sites Project Authority. "These actions strike the right balance—time saved and costs reduced for delivery of critically important water projects like Sites, while still providing our communities and environments proper safeguards".

The passage of these critical legislative proposals adds even more momentum to the Sites Reservoir project, which is nearing key milestones, including a consideration of a water right permit by the State Water Resources Control Board and the certification of its Final Environmental Impact Report/Statement.

*Sites is an off-stream reservoir proposed north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, where it would provide unique water supply and environmental benefits during dry periods, especially during extended drought. Additional information can be found at [www.sitesproject.org](http://www.sitesproject.org) or on Facebook and Twitter at @SitesProject.*

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