

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

July 10, 2017

Armando Quintero
Chair, California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Dear Chairman Quintero:

We write today to convey our support for the Sites Reservoir Project's application for funding from the Proposition 1 Water Storage and Investment Program. The Sites project has the proven potential to provide multiple benefits to California's farms, cities and to the environment.

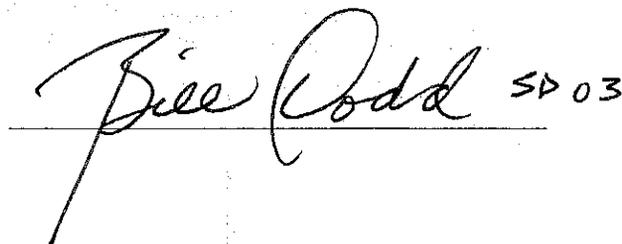
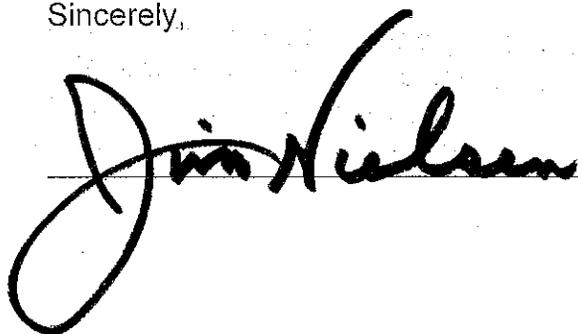
As you know, the Sites Project is a 1.8 million acre-foot, off-stream reservoir that would divert and store excess Sacramento River flows. The diversion levels would be dependent upon hydrologic conditions and would be structured to ensure that water taken out of the Sacramento River is truly in excess of downstream needs.

The operational flexibility that the Sites project would provide to the State's entire water system is what makes this project so unique and worthy of funding. The reservoir's many beneficial uses include, but are not limited to, dedicated water for fishery and flow purposes, a reliable water supply for California agriculture, increased habitat for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway, and greater water security for urban areas.

Opportunities to apply lessons learned during the last five years of drought must not be wasted. The drought and this year's record breaking rainfall have shown us how critical it is to develop smart storage that allows us to store more water in wet years for future use in dry ones. Sites Reservoir is the kind of smart, well-planned water storage project that will achieve a multitude of beneficial uses.

Thank you for the work that you and the Water Commission are doing to increase water supply reliability across California. We look forward to your announcement of funding awards.

Sincerely,

 SD 03

Tom Berryhill
Scott Hill

John J. Liles
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Mike Murrell

Steven M. Leger

John D. Hill

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cc: Carol Baker, Vice-Chair, California Water Commission
Andrew Ball, Board Member, California Water Commission
Joseph Byrne, Board Member, California Water Commission
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Maria Herrera, Board Member, California Water Commission
Catherine Keig, Board Member, California Water Commission
David Orth, Board Member, California Water Commission
Joe Yun, Executive Officer, California Water Commission

Members, Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee
Members, Joint Legislative Budget Committee

Kim Craig, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown
John Laird, Secretary, Natural Resources Agency
Cindy Messer, Acting Director, Department of Water Resources

Kip Lipper, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Kevin De Leon
Kevin Bassett, Office of Senator Pat Bates

Bill Craven, Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee
Joe Stephenshaw, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Todd Moffitt, Senate Republican Policy Office
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Thad Bettner, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Todd Manley, Northern California Water Association
Kathleen Cole, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California