

State Lead Agency Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):
Sites Project Authority

Federal Lead Agency Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

Location: Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, and Yolo Counties, California

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) have prepared a joint Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the Sites Reservoir Project (Project). In August 2017, the Authority and Reclamation jointly issued a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (2017 Draft EIR/EIS) for the Project. The RDEIR/SDEIS includes a complete revision of the 2017 Draft EIR/EIS to reflect changes to the Project that have occurred since the issuance of the 2017 Draft EIR/EIS.

The Project would involve the construction and operation of an offstream surface water reservoir to provide direct and real benefits to instream flows, the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta ecosystem, and water supply reliability. The Project would use existing infrastructure to divert unregulated and unappropriated flow from the Sacramento River at Red Bluff and Hamilton City and convey the water to a new offstream reservoir west of the community of Maxwell, California. New and existing facilities would move water into and out of the reservoir, with ultimate release back to the Sacramento River system via existing canals and a new pipeline located near Dunnigan, California. Water released from Sites Reservoir would be used to benefit local, State, and federal water use needs, including municipal, industrial, and agricultural public water agencies, anadromous fish species in the Sacramento River watershed, wildlife refuges and habitats, and the Yolo Bypass to help supply food for delta smelt. Construction of Sites Reservoir would necessitate construction of a bridge or bypass road to connect Maxwell with the community of Lodoga. Additional components also include the development of new recreation facilities at the reservoir. In addition to the no project/no action alternative, the RDEIR/SDEIS evaluates three action alternatives. Based on analysis in the RDEIR/SDEIS, all action alternatives would result in some significant and unavoidable impacts/adverse or substantially adverse effects.

Public Review Period: The RDEIR/SDEIS will be available for a 60-day public review from Nov. 12, 2021 to Jan. 11, 2022.

Availability of the RDEIR/SDEIS: Copies are available for public review at the following locations:

1. Sites Project Authority, 122 Old Highway 99 West, Maxwell, CA 95955
2. Bureau of Reclamation, California-Great Basin Regional Office Library, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825
3. Maxwell Branch Library, 34 Oak Street Maxwell, CA 95955
4. Sacramento Public Library, Central Branch, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
5. Colusa County Free Library, Main Branch, 738 Market Street, Colusa, CA 95932
6. Glenn County Public Library, Willows Branch, 201 N. Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988
7. Tehama County Library, Red Bluff Branch, 645 Madison Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080
8. Yolo Branch Library, 37750 Sacramento Street, Yolo, CA 95697
9. Mary L. Stephens – Davis Branch Library, 315 E. 14th Street, Davis, CA 95616

The RDEIR/SDEIS is also accessible from the following websites:

<https://sitesproject.org/environmental-review>
https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_project_details.php?Project_ID=29024

Please contact the Authority at 530-438-2309 if you need additional assistance to review the RDEIR/SDEIS.

Comments: Please submit comments on the RDEIR/SDEIS to the Authority or Reclamation via email at EIR-EIS-Comments@SitesProject.org or via U.S. Mail, Sites Project Authority, P.O. Box 517, Maxwell, CA 95955, or U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, W-2830, Sacramento, CA 95825 by 5:00 p.m. PST on Jan. 11, 2022.

Meetings: Two virtual public meetings will be held to receive comments from individuals and organizations on the RDEIR/SDEIS. Information on accessing the virtual public meetings is available at <https://sitesproject.org/environmental-review>.

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. PST
Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. PST

Further Information: Please contact Alicia Forsythe, Sites Project Authority, at 530-438-2309 or Vanessa King, Bureau of Reclamation, at 916-978-5077.