

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS TAB**

Q.1 Describe how the project improves the operation of the state water system. See regulations section 6003(a)(1)(M).

Sites Reservoir would improve operational flexibility and reliability of the state water system, especially within the service areas of both the SWP and CVP, in addition to allowing California resource agencies to purposely allocate water for the benefit of environmental uses. CALSIM modeling results indicate that average long-term end of May storage in Lake Oroville would increase by 26 TAF in 2030 and further increase by an additional 31 TAF in 2070 through exchanges with Sites Reservoir. This demonstrates the resiliency of the improvement in the SWP. Likewise, long-term average storage in CVP reservoirs would also increase. End-of-May storage in Shasta Lake would increase by 59 TAF in 2030 and then increase by an additional 80 TAF in 2070. Storage in existing reservoirs that are cooperatively managed with the Sites Project would increase in all year types. This additional storage would provide the state water system greater flexibility in operating the overall system without negative impacts to water supplies and providing California resource agencies with a water supply dedicated to the environment.

Sites Reservoir would be operated collaboratively with the SWP and CVP. The SWP and CVP would make their annual allocations and deliveries as normal. Exchanges with water stored in Sites Reservoir would help to maintain supplies in the existing reservoirs and produce the public benefits described for the project. Sites Reservoir would provide supplemental water that is much needed when allocations are low.

Sites Reservoir Project would provide augment deliveries for both water supply and public benefits, especially during drought years. Sites Reservoir is beneficially located where it can support the operations of existing reservoirs north of the Delta, provide water to the Yolo Bypass for ecosystem restoration, deliver water to be picked up at the North Bay Aqueduct, and export water to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. In addition to preserving water in existing SWP and CVP reservoirs through exchange, Sites Reservoir would facilitate water transfers, one of the initiatives in the California Water Action Plan. Water from Sites could be moved south of the Delta to fill Diamond Valley Reservoir or provided for groundwater recharge to Coachella Valley Water District and Desert Water Agency.

This topic is further discussed in the Executive Summary (Sites\_A1 ExecSum under the ELIGIBILITY AND GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION TAB).

Q.2 Describe how the project provides a net improvement in ecosystem and water quality conditions required by Water Code section 79750.

Sites Reservoir would deliver an average of 125 TAF/yr from 2030 to 2070 for improving ecosystem and water quality conditions. This is an unprecedented amount of water that the State resources agencies will be able to directly manage for environmental benefit. Furthermore, cooperatively managing the operation of Sites Reservoir with State and Federal facilities will preserve higher water levels in the existing reservoirs and thereby protect the coldwater pools, improve temperature conditions downstream for existing reservoirs, and provide flows to support the migration of aquatic species in a variety of life stages.

The potential benefits of the project for fish were modeled using SALMOD. Modeling results predict net improvements in fish populations for Chinook salmon (including endangered winter-run) under 2015, 2030, and 2070 conditions. By providing releases to the Yolo Bypass, Sites Reservoir Project can also benefit Delta smelt, however, there are insufficient studies to characterize the magnitude of this benefit at this time.

Sites Reservoir Project would excel in providing opportunities for in lieu use of surface water, thereby reducing the chronic lowering of groundwater levels, an undesirable result under SGMA. Sites Reservoir will also support the delivery of water for basic human needs to disadvantaged communities.

See Sites\_A4 Mitigation under the BENEFIT CALCULATION, MONETIZATION, AND RESILIENCY TAB and Sites\_A5 Documentation under the BENEFIT CALCULATION, MONETIZATION, AND RESILIENCY TAB for further analysis.

Q.3 If applicable, summarize how the applicant is coordinating with the owners and operators of water system facilities not owned or operated by the applicant or project partners that may be affected by the project. See regulations section 6003(a)(1)(P).

The Authority is coordinating the development of operations with the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. This coordination includes the future development of Principles of Agreement governing operations. See Sites\_A6 Annual Benefits Table under the BENEFIT CALCULATION, MONETIZATION, AND RESILIENCY TAB. A list of project partners is provided in Sites\_A1 Feasibility under the FEASIBILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION RISK TAB.

STATUS: FINAL

PURPOSE: PROGRAM REQUIREMENT

CAVEAT:

NOTES:

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QA/QC:

PHASE: 1 VERSION: A

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PAGE: 1 OF 2

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS TAB**

	<p>Q.4 Describe how the project advances the long-term objectives of restoring the ecological health and improving water management for beneficial uses of the Delta. See regulations section 6003(a)(1)(R).</p> <p><b>The operations proposed for Sites Reservoir Project were developed with the intent of contributing to the attainment of the co-equal goals for the Delta of ecological health and improving water management for beneficial use. As a result, the annual yield from the Sites Project is divided between environmental and water supply purposes.</b></p> <p><b>The Sites Project would provide a unique opportunity to allocate reservoir storage and establish the first firm asset Ecosystem Enhancement Account in California. Based on the operations assumptions included in this application, the allocated storage would deliver approximately 125 TAF/yr ( in 2030 through 2070 (with deliveries of up to 200 TAF/yr in critically dry years) that would be managed by the State (CDFW, SWRCB, and DWR) and Federal government to perform restoration actions beyond existing regulatory requirements. Conceptually, this account would use Sites Reservoir project assets to support modified operations that facilitate habitat enhancement actions. A Sites Reservoir Ecosystem Enhancement Governance Board would be created to manage the water account. The water account would be managed to adaptively support operational actions and respond to changing future conditions throughout the Sacramento River watershed and Delta.</b></p> <p><b>Sites Reservoir would also provide water for beneficial uses throughout the State, including water for agriculture and M&amp;I purposes, and State and Federal wildlife refuges. Project participants include agencies in the Sacramento River Valley, Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Southern Desert, and South Coast regions of California.</b></p>
	<p>Q.5 Describe how the applicant will ensure that the proposed project will comply with and be consistent with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations, including existing environmental mitigation or compliance obligation requirements. See regulations section 6003(a)(1)(V).</p> <p><b>The Authority has initiated pre-applications discussions with several of the critical resource management and regulatory agencies in order to expedite compliance with all required laws and regulations. This early and diligent effort to understand the evolving concerns for regulatory compliance will reduce the overall compliance schedule and help ensure compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws in the planning, construction, and operation of Sites Reservoir, including mitigation requirements. The EIR/EIS (attached at <a href="http://sitesproject.org/information/DraftEIR-EIS">http://sitesproject.org/information/DraftEIR-EIS</a>) describes the impacts and mitigation measures that when implemented would reduce or avoid impacts and support compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and statutes. This includes all applicable regulations regarding water operations on the Sacramento River. Regulations are identified in Sites_A2 Permits under the FEASIBILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION RISK TAB. The Authority's commitment to mitigation is further described under Sites_A4 Mitigation under the BENEFIT CALCULATION, MONETIZATION, AND RESILIENCY TAB.</b></p>
	<p>A.1 What measurable improvements to the Delta ecosystem or tributary to the Delta does the project provide? Where is the location of the improvement? If the project is not within the watershed of the Delta, what specific water rights or water contracts would be created or amended to ensure public benefits to the Delta ecosystem? Provide supporting documentation of the willingness of these water right or water contract holders to enter into such contracts or amendments. Explain how these changes would assure measurable improvements to the Delta ecosystem. See regulations section 6003(a)(1)(L).</p> <p><b>See Sites_A1 Measurable Benefits under the PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS TAB.</b></p>
	<p>A.2 Provide documentation indicating the proposed project is cost-effective. If there is at least one feasible alternative means of providing the same amount or more of the total public and non-public physical benefits as provided by the proposed project, calculate, display and document the least-cost of these alternative means and justify the proposed project by comparison.</p> <p><b>See Sites_A2 Cost Effectiveness under the PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS TAB.</b></p>