

## Benefit Calculation, Monetization, and Resiliency Tab

### Attachment 7: Non-Monetized Benefits

*If applicable, provide a summary of public benefits that cannot be monetized. Provide the following information for each non-monetized benefit.*

- *Justification why benefit cannot be monetized,*
- *Qualitative description of importance of benefit (who is affected, how and how often),*
- *Evidence to show how the physical change is beneficial and important to Californians.*

*WSIP Application Instructions, March 2017*

#### Response

There are several benefits from the Sites Project that have not been monetized. These are described below.

**Operational Flexibility:** The addition of the Sites Project would provide increased operational flexibility for the SWP and CVP that would support both public and non-public benefits. It is difficult to find a suitable metric for this benefit without double counting the monetized benefits; nevertheless this is a real benefit. This flexibility is beneficial to the Sacramento River watershed, the Delta, and all beneficiaries served by the SWP and CVP. This is consistent with the Natural Resources Agency, California Water Action Plan (2016) which states:

“Today, water storage is also needed to help provide widespread public and environmental benefits, such as seasonal fish flows, improved water quality, water cool enough to sustain salmon, and increased flexibility to meet multiple demands, especially in increasingly dry years. The financing of additional water storage in California must reflect not just specific local benefits, but also these broader public benefits.”

**Groundwater Sustainability:** As indicated in the response to Q6 and Sites\_A6C Groundwater Basins under the ELIGIBILITY AND GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION TAB, water from Sites Reservoir would be used by project participants to help prevent undesirable results. The details of how the specific participants will use water from Sites for direct or in lieu recharge have not yet been developed, but are expected to be incorporated into forthcoming sustainable groundwater management plans if this project is approved. At a minimum, Sites Reservoir would contribute to improved groundwater management practices for Glenn and Colusa.

**Ecosystem Enhancement – Anadromous Fish - Other Species in Sacramento River:** This application includes monetized benefits for Chinook salmon (all runs) downstream of the Sacramento River. Other species in the portion of the Sacramento River between Keswick Dam and Red Bluff would also benefit from improved temperature conditions. These include steelhead and green sturgeon which receive protection from the Federal Endangered Species Act and have recreational value as gamefish. These benefits were not monetized because models for these species are not available for this watershed.

**Ecosystem Enhancement – Anadromous Fish – Lower American River:** The Sites Project would also provide temperature benefits in the American River watershed below Folsom Dam. These benefits have not been monetized. These benefits were not monetized because models for are not available to estimate the improvement in returning spawners for this watershed.

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NOTES:				PAGE:	1	OF	2

**Recreation – Benefits to Nearby Reservoirs:** The addition of Sites Reservoir would improve water surface elevations in existing reservoirs, including Lake Oroville, Shasta Lake and Folsom Lake. Both of these reservoirs are popular for recreation that is dependent on maintaining an adequate surface water elevation. This benefit was not monetized.

**Recreation – Benefits to Fishing:** Sites Reservoir operations will provide additional coldwater and augment flows to support the migration of important game fish, including Chinook salmon and steelhead.