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Superintendent/Principal

MAXWELL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 9, 2018

Mr. Fritz Durst, Chair
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell, CA 95955

Mr. Durst and Members of Sites Project Authority:

This letter is being written on behalf of the Maxwell Unified School District with respect to the Sites Reservoir Project. I, along with the Maxwell Unified School District Board of Trustees, have discussed the following points as possible effects the project may have on the Maxwell Unified School District:

1. We are concerned about the accommodation of students that attend Maxwell schools from Sites Valley, Bear Valley, Leesville and the Stonyford area. We understand that this is one of the key factors driving the inclusion of the bridge substituting for Maxwell-Sites Road. We understand that Colusa County has commented about this bridge and have suggested an alternative route around the southern portion of the proposed reservoir. Our district may incur a loss in average daily attendance funding if we see a reduction in students who are unable to get to our district because of construction and the change in road access from the areas of Sites, Bear Valley, Leesville, Stonyford and Elk Creek. In addition, this reduction in students could affect our funding band for our necessary Small School District funding.
2. We are concerned about the possible increase in our transportation costs if there are longer bus routes due to changes in roadways. In addition, we may have increased costs/time for bus staff due to construction wait times, etc. If the suggested alternative route from Colusa County is adopted it will cause increased cost/travel time. We also wish to note safety concerns for our staff and students that will be navigating the construction areas. We request to meet with the General Manager and Sites Reservoir leadership to address our transportation concerns and find ways to mitigate our impacts.
3. We anticipate a fiscal loss to our district in property tax roll monies received from properties that will be sold to the Sites Reservoir and are no longer generating funds for the district. We strongly suggest that Sites Project Authority develop a process to replace the loss of property tax for acquired lands and ensure there is no decrease in funding to our school district.

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4. We have many concerns over the increased traffic through Maxwell due to the long period of construction and following the opening of the reservoir, due to increased recreation. Many of our students walk to our campuses, one of which is located on Oak Street and the Maxwell-Sites road. We have numerous school, sporting, and community events at our schools in the afternoons, evenings, and weekends. Our town pool is located at our High School throughout the summer. What precautions in terms of added CHP/Sheriff staffing, adequate signage, increased safe road crossings, automated signage or crossing buttons, sidewalks, speed deterrents, etc. will be provided to keep our students safe as they travel to and from school and school events? We request to meet with the General Manager and Sites Reservoir leadership to develop appropriate mitigation and assistance.
5. We anticipate a temporary influx of students for the District as families of dam workers may move to the area and enroll their students in Maxwell Schools. We will require assistance in mitigating any costs if our enrollment numbers increase temporarily with the possibility of decreasing when the project is finished. The District will need to add additional classrooms, purchase more curriculum and supplies, increase transportation, and increase staff to accommodate students during the construction phase of the project. We request to meet with the General Manager and Sites Reservoir leadership to develop appropriate assistance measures to mitigate our costs and impacts.

Our expectation is that the Sites Project Authority considers and mitigates the impacts the Sites Reservoir Project will have on the students, staff and stakeholders of the Maxwell Unified School District. We request direct discussion, collaboration and accommodation of these concerns including long-term budgeting of funds to compensate the District for impacts.

Sincerely,



Zach Thurman
Superintendent
Maxwell Unified School District