

**Requested Action:**

Review and comment on the key parameters for the Sites Project Authority's water right application to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board).

**Detailed Description/Background:**

With water rights legal counsel (Somach, Simmons and Dunn) and technical consultants (MBK Engineers) under contract, staff has reinitiated efforts to develop the Project's water right application(s) to the State Board. As part of this effort, the team is initially focusing on development of the key parameters for the application. The key parameters are as follows:

- Purpose of Use: How water diverted into Sites Reservoir would subsequently be used. Purpose of use would generally follow the purposes of use in the State Water Project and Central Valley Project water right permits.
  - Irrigation, Domestic, Municipal, Industrial, Water Quality, Recreational, Fish and Wildlife Preservation and Enhancement and Incidental Power Generation.
- Source: Sources of water that the project seeks to "control". Sacramento River would be the main source. Stone Corral and Funks creeks would also be included.
- Diversion to Off-stream Storage: How much the project seeks to divert and store over what time period. Diversion request would be consistent with the available canal capacity and facilities to move water into Sites (consistent with the level of service standards adopted by the Authority Board in October 2020). Diversion season would be limited to the season when the Sacramento River is not fully appropriated. Storage of up to 1.5 million acre-feet per year from all sources is anticipated to be requested.
- Points of Diversion: Locations where the project would divert water (or take "control" of water).
  - Tehama-Colusa Canal
  - Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District's Main Canal
  - Sites Dam
  - Golden Gate Dam
- Points of Re-diversion: Waterways where water previously diverted for the project could be re-diverted.
  - North Bay Aqueduct
  - Contra Costa Water District's Old River Intake
  - Contra Costa Water District's Victoria Canal Intake
  - Bureau of Reclamation's Rock Slough Intake

- Central Valley Project (CVP) Jones Pumping Plant and associated facilities
- State Water Project (SWP) Banks Pumping Plant and associated facilities
- Del Valle Dam (re-regulating reservoir on the SWP South Bay Aqueduct)
- San Luis Forebay Dam
- B.F. Sisk Dam (San Luis Dam)
- Cedar Springs Dam (Silverwood Lake on the California Aqueduct East Branch)
- Perris Dam (Lake Perris on the California Aqueduct East Branch)
- Pyramid Dam (Pyramid Lake on the California Aqueduct West Branch)
- Castaic Dam (Castaic Lake on the California Aqueduct West Branch)
- Place of Use: Area where water diverted to storage could subsequently be used.
  - Sites Reservoir, associated facilities and recreation areas
  - Reservoir Committee member districts upstream of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta where water from Sites Reservoir can physically be delivered with existing or currently planned facilities
  - All areas of Colusa County where water from Sites Reservoir can physically be delivered with existing or currently planned facilities
  - Entire CVP and SWP place of use where water from Sites Reservoir can physically be delivered with existing or currently planned facilities, or otherwise served via exchange agreements with the CVP or SWP

The proposed place of use includes the Yolo Bypass. Staff is currently exploring the possible need for additional points of redirection to divert water in the Yolo Bypass (for example, additional point(s) of redirection to inundate floodplain, wetland, and tidal marsh habitat in or adjacent to the bypass) in conjunction with serving the ecosystem benefits funded by a portion of the Proposition 1, Water Storage Investment Program's \$816 million approved for the project.

These key parameters may change as additional analysis is completed and as the team works with State Board staff. Staff will inform the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board of any substantial changes to these parameters, if any occur in the future.

Staff continue to work with the team to assess the application approach and whether to file a new application or seek assignment of the California Department of Water Resources previous application. No recommended approach has been identified at this time.

**Prior Action:** None.

**Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:** No impact.

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**Attachments:** None.