



# CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

1127-11TH STREET, SUITE 626, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 · PHONE (916) 446-4647

July 12, 2017

Jim Watson  
General Manager  
Sites Project Authority  
P.O. Box 517  
Maxwell, CA 95955

Dear Jim,

On behalf of more than 48,000 farm families and individual members, the California Farm Bureau Federation is pleased to offer our support for the Sites Project.

Farm Bureau's purposes are, among others, to work for the solution of the problems of the farm, the farm home and the rural community throughout California and to protect and advance the social, economic and educational interests of California farmers. Farm Bureau strives to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers engaged in production agriculture to provide safe, reliable, and healthful food and farm products through responsible stewardship of California's diverse natural resource base.

With a diminished Sierra snowpack, punctuated by above normal snow and rainfall like we experienced this year, ever-increasing environmental policy demands such as increased flow requirements for native fish, water for wetlands and a growing population, California will continue to face intense water challenges. Now more than ever, California's water system needs a more flexible, environmentally friendly and sustainable solution for diverting and storing water during periods of excess flows for human and environmental uses during dry periods.

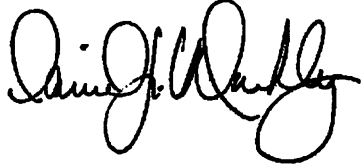
The Sites Project would add up to 1,800,000 acre feet of capacity and produce an average 500,000 acre feet of critical supplies to California's water system a year. With the ability to integrate with the state's water system, Sites is strategically located and provides an innovative approach that will help to capture, store and move water where and when it is needed most. The project would provide significant new water for instream flows, recreation, groundwater recharge and assist with the long-term success of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Providing a substantial supply of high-quality water to support farms, the economy and the environment, the Sites Project meets the objectives of the California Water Action Plan, making California's water system more efficient, flexible and reliable.

Sites works for the ecosystem, and for families, farms, and businesses across the state. We encourage the California Water Commission to invest in the public benefits that the Sites Project would provide.

We look forward to working with the Sites Project Authority to advance this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danny J. Merkley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

Danny Merkley  
Director of Water Resources

Cc: Keith Dunn, Dunn Consulting