



Protecting Water for Western Irrigated Agriculture

**P.O. Box 216 Klamath Falls, OR 97601
(541)-892-6244 www.familyfarmalliance.org**

July 24, 2017

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

Re: Family Farm Alliance Support for Sites Project

Dear Mr. Watson:

On behalf of the Family Farm Alliance, I write to you today to convey our support for the proposed Sites Project application for funding from Proposition 1, the Water Storage and Investment Program (WSIP).

The Alliance is a grassroots organization of family farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts and allied industries in 16 Western states. Our membership is strong in California, where many farmers and ranchers rely upon water supplies provided by the water storage projects built by federal, state and local water visionaries of the past century. The Alliance is focused on one mission: To ensure the availability of reliable, affordable irrigation water supplies to Western farmers and ranchers.

The recent drought has ramped up much-needed public interest that will allow Western water providers to better manage and prepare for future dry times. Earlier this year, the heaviest rain in a decade overwhelmed parts of the West Coast, underscoring the critical importance of having modernized and enhanced water storage infrastructure in place to optimize water resources management for the future.

Western farmers and ranchers rely on the traditional water and power infrastructure built over the last century to deliver irrigation water supplies vital to their farming operations. For farmers to survive, and for food to continue to be safely and affordably produced here in America, a stable water supply must be available. If we don't find a way to restore water supply reliability for Western irrigated agriculture through a combination of new water supply and management infrastructure, other water supply enhancement efforts and demand management – our country's ability to feed and clothe itself and the world will be jeopardized.

SUPPORT LETTER FOR SITES PROJECT

The Sites Project is a proposed above ground, off-stream water storage project located in Northern California and would add up to 500,000 acre-feet of critical supplies to California's water system annually. Sites is an innovative and modern approach that goes beyond water supply and flood protection by adding flexibility and generating a much-needed new water source for improved water quality, seasonal fish flows, climate change and drought relief.

The Sites Project creates an additional supply of reliable water that can be used for urban, agricultural, environmental, and industrial purposes. Sites would also improve water quality in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and enhance environmental flows to benefit the Delta's ecosystem.

California will continue to face severe water challenges including limited supplies, a growing population, the effects of climate change, and increased flow requirements for native fish. Now more than ever, California's water system needs a more flexible, environmentally friendly solution to capturing and storing water for use when it's needed most. The Sites Project would provide an additional tool for water managers to effectively balance competing demands and provide safe and reliable water to support the current and future needs of California's environment and economy.

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 'D. Keppen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Keppen, P.E.
Executive Director

cc: Thad Bettner, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Sandy Denn
Jeff Sutton, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority