

**RESOLUTION 15-02**

**A Resolution of the City of Williams to Support Construction of the Sites Reservoir Project.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Williams's mission includes protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability, and quality of water resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Williams is in the center of one of the most productive agricultural areas of California; and

**WHEREAS**, 2014 was the driest year on record in California and the fourth consecutive drought year; and

**WHEREAS**, water is the lifeblood of our agricultural community and farming is the foundation of our economic wellbeing; and

**WHEREAS**, as additional water storage is needed to sustain our water needs for the continued prosperity of our City; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sites Reservoir, technically called the North of the Delta Off stream Storage project, will increase our water supply for our farming community and residents in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sites Reservoir will improve the Delta water quality and be capable of holding up to 1.9 million acre feet of water; and

**WHEREAS**, many water purveyors are implementing or considering actions under their water shortage contingency plans; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Williams encourage the construction of the Sites Reservoir.

**MOVED, PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Williams, California, this 21st day of January, 2015 by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:** Council Member Troughton Jr., Sellers Jr., Bergson, Jauregui  
**NOES:** Council Member Boes.  
**ABSTAIN:** None.  
**ABSENT:** None.



**ATTEST:**

*Mariana Pineda*  
Mariana Pineda, City Clerk

*John J. Troughton Jr.*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John J. Troughton Jr., Mayor  
*Alfred Sellers Jr.*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alfred Sellers Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem

Kent Boes, Council Member  
*Charles Bergson*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Bergson, Council Member  
*Santos Jauregui*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Santos Jauregui, Council Member

June 13, 2017

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

Dear Jim,

The City Council of the City of Willows is pleased to offer its support for the Sites Project.

California will continue to face intense water challenges including limited supplies, a growing population, the effects of climate change, increased flow requirements for native fish, and water for wetlands used by migratory birds. Now more than ever, California's water system needs a more flexible, environmentally friendly and sustainable solution to capturing and storing water for use when it's needed most.

The Sites Project would add up to 1,800,000 acre-ft. of capacity to produce 500,000 acre-feet of critical supplies to California's water system on an annualized basis. With its ability to integrate operations with the state's water system, Sites is an innovative and modern approach that will help the state capture, store and move water where it needs to be, when it is needed most.

The Sites Project will help make California's water system more efficient and reliable. The project helps meet the objectives of the California Water Action Plan by providing a substantial supply of high-quality water to support the economy and the environment. Sites reflects California's innovative approach to meeting the needs of the environment, economic growth, and our quality of life.

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,



Gary L. Hansen  
Mayor





# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF SUTTER

1160 Civic Center Blvd.  
Yuba City, CA 95993

(530) 822-7106  
FAX: (530) 822-7103

June 27, 2017

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

Dear Jim,

The Sutter County Board of Supervisors is pleased to offer its support for the 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 blue ink signature of Dan Flores, consisting of a large, stylized loop at the top and several horizontal strokes below.

Dan Flores  
Vice-Chairman

Members of the Board

Ron Sullenger	District 1
Dan Flores	District 2
Larry Munger	District 3
Jim Whiteaker	District 4
Mat Conant	District 5

County Administrative Officer  
Scott Mitnick

Clerk of the Board  
Donna M. Johnston

# CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
95814

July 10, 2017

Armando Quintero  
Chair, California Water Commission  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Dear Chairman Quintero:

We write today to convey our support for the Sites Reservoir Project's application for funding from the Proposition 1 Water Storage and Investment Program. The Sites project has the proven potential to provide multiple benefits to California's farms, cities and to the environment.

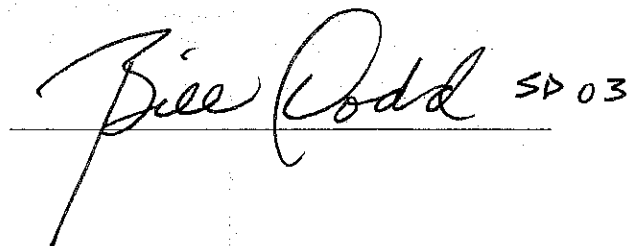
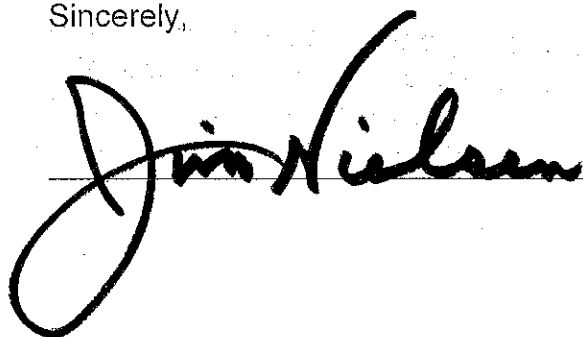
As you know, the Sites Project is a 1.8 million acre-foot, off-stream reservoir that would divert and store excess Sacramento River flows. The diversion levels would be dependent upon hydrologic conditions and would be structured to ensure that water taken out of the Sacramento River is truly in excess of downstream needs.

The operational flexibility that the Sites project would provide to the State's entire water system is what makes this project so unique and worthy of funding. The reservoir's many beneficial uses include, but are not limited to, dedicated water for fishery and flow purposes, a reliable water supply for California agriculture, increased habitat for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway, and greater water security for urban areas.

Opportunities to apply lessons learned during the last five years of drought must not be wasted. The drought and this year's record breaking rainfall have shown us how critical it is to develop smart storage that allows us to store more water in wet years for future use in dry ones. Sites Reservoir is the kind of smart, well-planned water storage project that will achieve a multitude of beneficial uses.

Thank you for the work that you and the Water Commission are doing to increase water supply reliability across California. We look forward to your announcement of funding awards.

Sincerely,

 SD 03

Tom Berryhill  
Scott Hill

John J. Liles  
Jeff Stone

Walter

Carver Salzman

Mike Murrell

Steven M. Leger

John B. Hill

John Hill

cc: Carol Baker, Vice-Chair, California Water Commission  
Andrew Ball, Board Member, California Water Commission  
Joseph Byrne, Board Member, California Water Commission  
Daniel Curtin, Board Member, California Water Commission  
Joe Del Bosque, Board Member, California Water Commission  
Maria Herrera, Board Member, California Water Commission  
Catherine Keig, Board Member, California Water Commission  
David Orth, Board Member, California Water Commission  
Joe Yun, Executive Officer, California Water Commission

Members, Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee  
Members, Joint Legislative Budget Committee

Kim Craig, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown  
John Laird, Secretary, Natural Resources Agency  
Cindy Messer, Acting Director, Department of Water Resources

Kip Lipper, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Kevin De Leon  
Kevin Bassett, Office of Senator Pat Bates

Bill Craven, Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee  
Joe Stephenshaw, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Todd Moffitt, Senate Republican Policy Office  
Rocel Bettencourt, Senate Republican Fiscal Office

Thad Bettner, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District  
Todd Manley, Northern California Water Association  
Kathleen Cole, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

# CITY of WILLIAMS

810 E STREET

POST OFFICE BOX 310

WILLIAMS, CALIFORNIA 95987

PHONE: (530) 473-2955 • FAX: (530) 473-2445

July 10, 2017

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

Dear Jim,

My organization, City of Williams, is pleased to offer its support for the 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,

  
Frank Kennedy, City Administrator



CALIFORNIA  
**FRESH FRUIT**  
ASSOCIATION

TELEPHONE 559.226.6330  
FAX 559.222.8326  
EMAIL [cffa@cafreshfruit.com](mailto:cffa@cafreshfruit.com)

7647 N. Fresno Street, Suite 103  
Fresno, CA 93720

July 11, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Watson,

On behalf of the California Fresh Fruit Association I write to express support for the Sites Reservoir Project. The California Fresh Fruit Association is a non-profit, agricultural trade association representing permanent crops (fresh fruit) grown and packed throughout California. For the past five years, many of our organization's family farming operations were severely impacted by drought and water management decisions that reduced the availability of critically needed surface water supplies. Having additional above-ground surface storage north of the Delta better enables flexible water management as the added supply would help to address Delta salinity levels while relieving overall stress on the state's water system. Moreover, we believe the added capacity would allow other reservoirs to carry water into the summer months, a time that is very critical for crop development. With new supply comes an enhanced opportunity for greater flexibility in water management decision making, whether it's making supplies available, or enhancing fulfillment of water contracts. We are encouraged by the project's potential to free up water for you use through an exchange for irrigation or to put to use to alleviate environmental needs.

It is our understanding the Sites Project would add up to 1,800,000 acre-ft. of capacity to produce 500,000 acre-feet of critical supplies to California's water system on an annualized basis. With its ability to integrate operations with the state's water system, Sites is an approach that will help the state capture, store and move water where it needs to be, when it is needed most. California will continue to face intense water challenges including limited supplies, a growing population, the effects of climate change, increased flow requirements for native fish, and water for wetlands. Now more than ever, California's water system needs a more flexible and sustainable solution to capturing and storing water for beneficial uses, including irrigation, when it is critically needed.

We encourage the California Water Commission to invest in the Sites Project and to look to fund qualifying above-ground surface storage projects, which should also include the Temperance Flat Project, to best ensure our limited financial resources are put towards securing California's water future; a future where agricultural irrigation benefits from reduced uncertainty because of the enhanced ability to manage water more effectively. To strengthen the California water picture, first we must expand our capacity to capture more water for a growing state.

We look forward to advancing important above-ground surface storage projects.

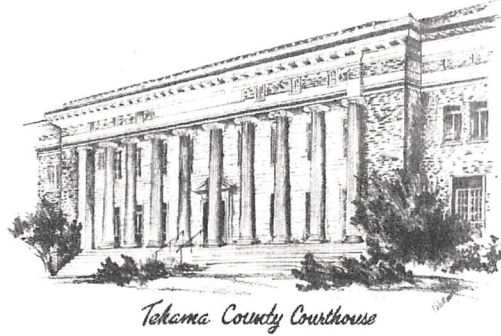
Sincerely,

George Radanovich, President

Cc: Tim Johnson, President, California Rice Commission  
Christopher Valadez, Director, Environmental & Regulatory Affairs, California Fresh Fruit Association



*Board of Supervisors*  
**COUNTY OF TEHAMA**



July 11, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Watson:

The County of Tehama took formal action this date to support the Sites Reservoir Project and its application for Proposition 1 funding.

The Sites Project is a proposed above ground, off-stream water storage project located ten miles west of Maxwell, in Northern California. When complete, this project would add up to 500,000 acre-feet 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. This project would also improve water quality in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and enhance environmental flows which would benefit the Delta's ecosystem.

Into the future 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, our 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,



Dennis Qanta  
Chairman

Tehama County Board of Supervisors



# 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



# 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.

**CITY COUNCIL**

Dennis G. Hoffman, Mayor  
Bruce T. Roundy, Vice Mayor  
James Paschall, Sr.  
Charles Gee  
Salina Edwards

# CITY OF ORLAND

INCORPORATED 1909

815 Fourth Street  
ORLAND, CALIFORNIA 95963  
Telephone (530) 865-1600  
Fax (530) 865-1632



**CITY MANAGER**  
Peter R. Carr

**CITY OFFICIALS**

Angela Crook  
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk  
Pamela Otterson  
City Treasurer

July 17, 2017

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

Dear Jim,

The City of Orland City Council is pleased to offer its support for the 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 blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis G. Hoffman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D".

Dennis G. Hoffman  
Mayor



# CITY OF COLUSA

425 WEBSTER STREET \* COLUSA, CA 95932 \* (530) 458-4740 \* FAX (530) 458-7555

July 18<sup>th</sup> 2017

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

Dear Jim,

My organization, the City of Colusa, is pleased to offer its support for the 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,

KIRK KELLEHER, MAYOR



July 19, 2017

Mr. Armando Quintero  
Chair  
California Water Commission  
PO Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001  
Emailed to: [CWC@water.ca.gov](mailto:CWC@water.ca.gov)

RE: Support for Sites and Temperance Flat Projects

Dear Chairman Quintero:

Founded in 1926, Western Growers members are local and regional family farmers growing fresh produce in Arizona, California, Colorado and New Mexico. Our members and their workers provide half the nation's fresh fruits, vegetables and tree nuts, including half of America's fresh organic produce. It is on their behalf that we express our strong support for both the Sites Reservoir and Temperance Flat Reservoir projects in their applications for Proposition 1 public benefit funding.

One of the consequences of climate change is that California's historic precipitation and runoff patterns will change, resulting in greater unreliability of the Sierra snowpack. We must now contend with less snowpack along with faster, flashier and more chaotic runoff into our existing storage and conveyance infrastructure. Indeed, we may have already begun to experience such changes. This year's record-breaking rain and snow accumulations, coming on the heels of the worst recorded drought ever experienced, vividly demonstrates the need to adapt and enhance a system designed in a climatic era that no longer exists, and for a state population less than half of what it is today.

From October 1, 2016 through July 9, 2017 (nine months of the current water year), more than 50 million acre feet of water flowed into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. After accounting for diversions for in-Delta use and exports by the State Water Project and Central Valley Project, more than 46 million acre feet flowed out to the ocean.

The Sites Project would add up to 1.8 million acre feet of capacity in an off-stream reservoir north of the Delta. State and federal water project operations in recent years have demonstrated the great need for this project as operators struggled with conflicting demands on the Sacramento River system. The Sites Project would provide critically needed flexibility for system operators by capturing high runoff flows on the Sacramento River and allowing later releases from Sites or upstream reservoirs for environmental and economic uses.

Temperance Flat Reservoir would be located on the San Joaquin River in the foothills northeast of Fresno and would create an additional 1.26 million acre-feet of water storage. Combined with the existing Millerton Lake, the complex would provide storage capacity of 1.78 million acre feet. The need is obvious: In 17 of the last 40 years, water has been released from Millerton Lake (Friant Dam) for flood control purposes, due to lack of storage capacity. This season alone Millerton will have released approximately 2.5 million acre feet to the ocean, lost for groundwater recharge or water supply.





Mr. Armando Quintero  
July 19, 2017  
Page 2

The voters of California approved Proposition 1 by a margin of more than two-to-one, and they had a clear understanding, in the midst of a historic drought, that they were being asked whether California should invest in new water storage projects. Governor Brown and other signatories of the official ballot argument in support of Proposition 1 wrote in relevant part: "Proposition 1 invests in *new storage increasing the amount of water that can be stored during wet years* for the dry years that will continue to challenge California." (Emphasis added.)

As surface water storage projects, Sites and Temperance Flat provide the only means of capturing and storing heavy snowmelt and rain runoff – especially in wet years – that can be later utilized for groundwater recharge. Without this surface storage supply, groundwater recharge opportunities are lost as flood flows cannot be accommodated by saturated recharge lands. As the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is implemented, the need for this capacity and flexibility is greater than ever.

Both projects would also provide needed additional flood protection for communities throughout the Central Valley.

These projects will help make California's water system more efficient and reliable. The projects help meet the objectives of the California Water Action Plan by providing a substantial supply of high-quality water to support the economy and the environment.

We respectfully urge the Commission to support both the Sites Reservoir Project and the Temperance Flat Reservoir Project to the fullest extent possible.

Sincerely,

Dave Puglia  
Executive Vice President

C: Carol Baker, Member, California Water Commission  
Andrew Ball, Member, California Water Commission  
Joseph Byrne, Member, California Water Commission  
Daniel Curtain, Member, California Water Commission  
Joe Del Bosque, Member, California Water Commission  
Maria Herrera, Member, California Water Commission  
Catherine Keig, Member, California Water Commission  
David Orth, Member, California Water Commission  
Joe Yun, Executive Officer, California Water Commission  
Jim Watson, General Manager, Sites Project Authority  
Mario Santoyo, Executive Director, San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority

# California Legislature

July 21, 2017

Armando Quintero  
Chair, California Water Commission  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Dear Chairman Quintero:

We write today to convey our support for the Site Reservoir Project's application for funding from the Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP). The Sites project would provide valuable benefits to California's farms and cities, while providing much needed flexibility for water managers to adjust flows for the environment and for flood control.


As you know, the Sites Project is a 1.8 million acre-foot off-stream reservoir that would divert and store excess Sacramento River flows. The diversion levels would be dependent upon hydrologic conditions and would be structured to ensure that water taken out of the Sacramento River is truly in excess of downstream needs. If Sites Reservoir had been operational during the last wet season (October 2016-March 2017), 1.4 million acre-feet of water could have been diverted and stored.

The operational flexibility that the Sites project would provide to the State's entire water system is what makes this project so unique and worthy of funding. A few of the reservoir's many uses include, but are not limited to, dedicated water for fishery and flow purposes, a reliable water supply for California's agriculture, increased habitat for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway, and greater water security for urban areas.

Opportunities to apply lessons learned during the last five years of drought must not be wasted. The drought and this year's record breaking rainfall have shown us how critical it is to develop smart storage that allows us to store more water in wet years for future use in dry ones. Sites Reservoir is that smart storage.

Thank you for the work that you and the Water Commission are doing to increase water supply reliability across California. We look forward to your announcement of funding awards. Please call us at (916)-319-2003 should you need any further information regarding our support for this vital project.

Sincerely,



James Callagher  
Assemblyman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Vince Fong AD-34  
Vince Fong  
Assemblymember, 34<sup>th</sup> District

Chad Mayes AD42  
Chad Mayes  
Assemblymember, 42<sup>nd</sup> District

Anna Caballero AD30  
Anna Caballero  
Assemblymember, 30<sup>th</sup> District

Raul Bocanegra AD35  
Raul Bocanegra  
Assemblymember, 35<sup>th</sup> District

Ken Cooley AD8  
Ken Cooley  
Assemblymember, 8<sup>th</sup> District

Blanca E. Rubio AD48  
Blanca Rubio  
Assemblymember, 48<sup>th</sup> District

Brian Dahle AD1  
Brian Dahle  
Assemblymember, 1<sup>st</sup> District

Catherine Baker AD16  
Catherine Baker  
Assemblymember, 16<sup>th</sup> District

Health Flora AD12  
Health Flora  
Assemblymember, 12<sup>th</sup> District

Jay Obernolte AD33  
Jay Obernolte  
Assemblymember, 33<sup>rd</sup> District

Jim Cooper AD9  
Jim Cooper  
Assemblymember, 9<sup>th</sup> District

Marc Steinorth AD40  
Marc Steinorth  
Assemblymember, 40<sup>th</sup> District

Kevin Kiley AD06  
Kevin Kiley  
Assemblymember, 6<sup>th</sup> District

Kevin McCarty AD7  
Kevin McCarty  
Assemblymember, 7<sup>th</sup> District

*Ken Cooley AD 8*

Ken Cooley  
Assemblymember, 8<sup>th</sup> District

*Timothy Grayson AD 14*

Timothy Grayson  
Assemblymember, 14<sup>th</sup> District

*Frank Bigelow AD-5*

Frank Bigelow  
Assemblymember, 5<sup>th</sup> District

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1785 N. Fine Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93727  
Telephone: 559 / 252-0684  
Fax: 559 / 252-0551

July 21, 2017

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

Dear Jim,

Representing over 600 cotton growers and 27 operating gins in the State of California, the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association wishes to express our support for the Sites Project. After the entire state was crippled by several years of drought, it is increasingly evident that innovative water storage projects are needed.

The Sites Project would create an additional 1.8 million acre-feet of storage which would produce up to 500,000 acre-feet of supplies to California's water system annually. This water would be extremely valuable in helping achieve a more efficient and reliable water supply system. Capturing and capitalizing on years of increased precipitation would not only help keep families and farms in business but it would also generate economic growth, produce jobs and help California achieve ecosystem benefits.

We have seen billions of gallons of precious water be lost to the ocean due to the lack of adequate infrastructure. The water challenges that California has encountered over the past several years will continue, however investing in opportunities such as the Sites Project will bring balance and sustainability to the most precious resource in the state. We look forward to do anything we can to help advance the Sites project.

Sincerely,

Roger Isom  
President/CEO



WESTERN AGRICULTURAL PROCESSORS  
ASSOCIATION

1785 N. Fine Avenue, Fresno, California 93727  
559-455-9272  
f: 559-251-4471

[www.agprocessors.org](http://www.agprocessors.org)

July 21, 2017

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

Dear Jim,

Representing over 128 tree nut hullers and processors of almonds, pecans, pistachios and walnuts in the State of California, the Western Agricultural Processors Association wishes to express our support for the Sites Project. After the entire state was crippled by several years of drought, it is increasingly evident that innovative water storage projects are needed.

The Sites Project would create an additional 1.8 million acre-feet of storage which would produce up to 500,000 acre-feet of supplies to California's water system annually. This water would be extremely valuable in helping achieve a more efficient and reliable water supply system. Capturing and capitalizing on years of increased precipitation would not only help keep families and farms in business but it would also generate economic growth, produce jobs and help California achieve ecosystem benefits.

We have seen billions of gallons of precious water be lost to the ocean due to the lack of adequate infrastructure. The water challenges that California has encountered over the past several years will continue, however investing in opportunities such as the Sites Project will bring balance and sustainability to the most precious resource in the state.

We look forward to do anything we can to help advance the Sites project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Isom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" being more prominent and the last name "Isom" following in a similar style.

Roger Isom  
President/CEO



*Protecting Water for Western Irrigated Agriculture*

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



Dan Keppen, P.E.  
Executive Director

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





AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Promoting business, building community*

July 26, 2017

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

Dear Jim,

The Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to offer its support for the Sites Reservoir Project.

As the voice of local businesses to the City of Rocklin and beyond, the Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce advocates for improving and developing the business community both locally and regionally. A reliable water supply is essential to furthering our mission and promoting a stable economic environment.

The Sites Project would add up to 1,800,000 acre-feet of capacity to produce 500,000 acre-feet of critical supplies to California's water system on an annualized basis. With its ability to integrate operations with the state's water system, Sites is an innovative and modern approach that will help the state capture, store and move water where it needs to be, when it is needed most.

In particular, we believe that the Sites Reservoir Project can significantly increase water supply reliability for Placer County residents by reducing the burden on Folsom Reservoir during summer months. A fuller Folsom Reservoir means better access to water supplies and recreation opportunities for Placer businesses and citizens.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'St. Makis'.

Stephen Makis, 2017 Chair  
Rocklin Area Chamber of Commerce



metrochamber

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

August 2, 2017

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

Dear Jim,

The Sacramento Metro Chamber believes that the Sites Project is a cost-effective solution to California's long-term water needs and an important step forward for California's water future. We are pleased to offer our support.

The Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber is the California Capital Region's leading proponent of regional cooperation and advocacy to secure the public policy and infrastructure investments necessary for business growth, economic development, and quality of life. Our members account for 200,000 employees in El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties.

As a fast-growing region of 2.4 million people – already larger than 15 states – California's Capital Region is critical to our state and national economy. We are known for our unique farming economy that contributes to California's role as the nation's largest agricultural producer. In 2015, California provided over a third of our country's vegetables and two-thirds of our country's fruits and nuts valued at over \$20 billion.

Additional water storage above the Delta is critical to continue our significant role in the nation's agricultural economy, maintain environmental standards, and increase state-wide water supply reliability. Current infrastructure and facilities are unable to capture much-needed water in wet years to hedge against our cyclical droughts that devastate agriculture. The Sites Project is an innovative solution to help capture, store and move water where it needs to be and when it is needed most for the benefit of the entire state.

With the capacity to hold 162 billion of gallons of water, and the ability to add 500,000 acre-feet of water annually to the state's water system, California needs Sites Reservoir. The additional water source will not only protect the long-term viability of our agricultural community, it will also bring additional water supply reliability to help create and protect thousands of regional and statewide jobs.

For over 120 years, the Sacramento Metro Chamber has been a leader in advocating for and supporting our regional agricultural and business community. We take pride in the critical role that we play in helping to craft an economic blueprint for the region and state. On behalf of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased to offer our support for the Sites Project.

Sincerely,

Robert Dugan, Senior Vice President  
Public Policy and Economic Development  
Sacramento Metro Chamber  
Advocate | Support | Grow  
m. 916.425.3232 o. 916.321.9115 f. 916.443-2672



# NDWA

NORTH DELTA WATER AGENCY

Chairman	Steve Mello
Vice-Chairman	Jack Kuechler
Secretary/Treasurer	Tom Hester
Director	Topper van Loben Sels
Director	Ryan Mahoney
Manager	Melinda Terry

December 6, 2017

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

SUBJECT: Support of Sites Water Storage Project

Dear Mr. Watson:

The North Delta Water Agency (NDWA) is writing to express support for construction of the Sites Reservoir Project.

The additional off-stream storage would provide increased operational flexibility to manage instream flows to benefit flood control, water supply, fish species, and Delta water quality. The NDWA board is particularly supportive of the opportunity for the Project to integrate operations with the State Water Project which could assist the Department of Water Resources in maintaining the water quality criteria and water supply objectives specified in the NDWA-DWR 1981 Contract.

The fact that the Sites Project is being developed by and would be managed by a Joint Powers Authority dominated by local counties and flood control and water supply agencies that will ensure the water diverted into storage from Sacramento River Flows is truly in excess of downstream needs in accordance with area-of-origin and Delta protection water rights statutes.

NDWA looks forward to working with the Sites Project Authority to advance this important project.

Sincerely,

Melinda Terry,  
Manager

Cc: David Guy, NCWA Executive Director



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 27, 2018

Secretary Ryan Zinke  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

I am writing to request federal participation in certain proposed new surface water and groundwater storage projects (if sought by project proponents) set to receive funding through California's Water Storage Investment Program. Pursuant to the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 (WIIN Act), the Secretary of the Interior may participate in state-led storage projects in California if requested by the Governor and if the California Water Commission has made specified determinations.

In 2014, California voters overwhelmingly approved a \$7.5 billion water bond (Proposition 1) that provided \$2.7 billion for water storage projects. The California Water Commission recently determined funding amounts for these projects and has awarded early funding to complete environmental documentation and permitting for three of them.

The eight state funded projects are: Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project; South Sacramento County Agriculture and Habitat Lands Recycled Water, Groundwater Storage, and Conjunctive Use Program; Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project; Temperance Flat Reservoir Project; Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Program; Sites Project; Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project; and Willow Springs Water Bank. Some, if not all, may seek federal funding through the WIIN Act.

California shares the Department of the Interior's commitment to investing in new water storage. I respectfully ask for your support and partnership in funding these critical projects.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.

# CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
95814

RECEIVED

MAR 31 2021

SITES PROJECT AUTHORITY

March 26, 2021

Mr. Keith Corum, Chairman  
Glenn County Board of Supervisors  
526 W Sycamore Street  
Willows, CA 95988

## **RE: Support and Update of Sites Reservoir Off River Storage Project**

Dear Chairman Corum:

Assemblyman James Gallagher and I want to re-affirm our strong support for the Sites Reservoir Project (Project) and the importance of this Project, not just for the vital water needs it meets but also for the tremendous economic development impact Sites Reservoir has for Glenn County and the region.

In addition to the well-known benefits to agricultural, environmental, and drinking water reliability, the project will provide extensive economic benefits for Glenn County.

With an estimated 10,500 jobs provided by construction and 2.8 million cubic yards of material used from the Orland Quarry the economic benefits to Glenn County are substantial. Material from the Quarry is estimated to cost \$200 million.

A portion of the jobs during construction are expected to pay a daily per diem that will bring approximately \$7.4 million into the local economy each year, totally just over \$44 million for the entirety of construction. Not only will these provide support to local businesses, but will bring in significant tax revenue to the county.

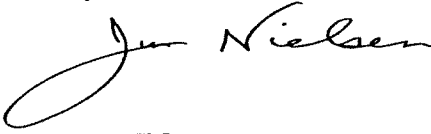
Also of critical importance is the "Area of Origin" protection language in the Proposition 1 bond funding. This same "Area of Origin" language is also in the 2010 legislation that updated the California Water Plan.

As we continue to move forward toward project construction and operation, we are committed to supporting the project and ensuring that the county's needs are met and concerns are addressed. We greatly value the involvement and input from the North State on this vital project, recognizing it would not be possible without unwavering local support.

Assemblyman Gallagher and I are truly looking forward to the day we can stand with the partnering agencies in the Sites Reservoir Project to put that first shovel in the ground for the construction of this

historic and critical project. If you have any further questions or comments, please contact my Chief of Staff, Rob Olmstead, at (916) 772-0571, or Assemblyman Gallagher's Chief of Staff Curtis Grima, at (530) 671-0303.

Sincerely,



JIM NIELSEN  
Senator, Fourth District



JAMES GALLAGHER  
Assemblyman, Third District

Cc: Tom Arnold, Glenn County Board of Supervisors  
Paul Barr, Glenn County Board of Supervisors  
Grant Carmon, Glenn County Board of Supervisors  
Ken Hahn, Glenn County Board of Supervisors

JN:ln



Dec 14, 2021

Teresa Alvarado  
Chair, California Water Commission  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Chairwoman Alvarado,

We continue to support the Sites Reservoir Project (Sites Project) and the invaluable benefits it would bring to California's farms and cities, providing much needed flexibility in our statewide water management system, providing water for environmental purposes, and providing much needed regional flood control benefits. Named as one of the projects to "expand smart surface water storage where it can benefit water supply and the environment" in the Governor's 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio, Sites Reservoir is vital to California's long-term success.

As you know, the Sites Project is a 1.5 million acre-foot off-stream reservoir that will divert and store excessive Sacramento River flows. The diversion levels will be dependent upon hydrologic conditions and will ensure that water taken from the Sacramento River is truly in excess of downstream needs. If Sites Reservoir had been operational at the beginning of 2021, nearly 1 million acre feet of additional water would have been available to support California's environment, farms and cities during this critically dry year.

What makes this project most unique and valuable is the operational flexibility it provides the State's entire water system. The reservoir will have many uses, including but not limited to, dedicated water for fishery and flow purposes, a reliable water supply for California agriculture, increased Pacific Flyway habitat for migratory birds, and greater water security for urban areas. As we continue to see more extreme shifts in weather of punishing droughts and excessive rainfall the development of smart storage, like the Sites Project and flexibility it provides, is critical.

Thank you for the continued work that you and the Water Commission are doing to increase water supply reliability in the state. We look forward to the continued partnership with exciting and valuable projects like Sites Reservoir. Please call (916) 319-2003 should you need any additional information regarding our support of this vital project.

Sincerely,



James Gallagher  
Assemblymember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District



Bill Dodd  
Senator, 3<sup>rd</sup> District



Kevin Kiley  
Assemblymember, 6<sup>th</sup> District



Vince Fong  
Assemblymember, 34<sup>th</sup> District



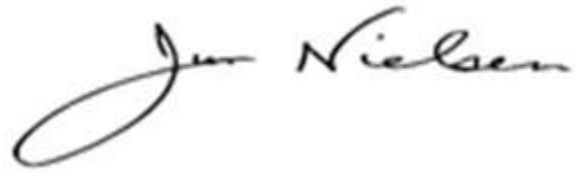
Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh  
Senator, 23<sup>rd</sup> District



Thurston "Smitty" Smith  
Assemblymember, 33<sup>rd</sup> District



Brian Dahle  
Senator, 1<sup>st</sup> District



Jim Nielsen  
Senator, 4<sup>th</sup> District



Blanca Rubio  
Assemblymember, 34<sup>th</sup> District



Kelly Seyarto  
Assemblymember, 67<sup>th</sup> District



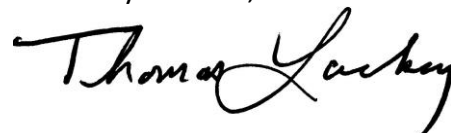
Heath Flora  
Assemblymember, 12<sup>th</sup> District



Janet Nguyen  
Assemblymember, 72<sup>nd</sup> District



Devon Mathis  
Assemblymember, 26<sup>th</sup> District



Tom Lackey  
Assemblymember, 36<sup>th</sup> District





Chad Mayes  
Assemblymember 42<sup>nd</sup> District



Freddie Rodriguez  
Assemblymember, 52<sup>nd</sup> District



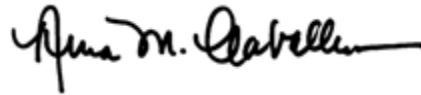
Shannon Grove  
Senate, 16<sup>th</sup> District



Brian Jones  
Senator, 38<sup>th</sup> District



Carlos Villapudua  
Assemblymember, 13<sup>th</sup> District



Anna Caballero  
Senator, 12<sup>th</sup> District



Megan Dahle  
Assemblymember, 1<sup>st</sup> District



January 7, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor  
1021 O Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

In spite of the recent rain and snow, California continues to endure a severe drought. Conditions are so dire that Californians have been asked to conserve their water use. Farmers have already been told they will not receive any allocations from the State Water Project.

Water is life.

This cannot be truer than in the Central Valley.

Yet, the State has failed in its planning for water storage and conveyance to meet the growing demand. Many have said that the state budget is a reflection of our values. If this is the case, then this year's budget must include funding for water storage and conveyance.

With an estimated \$31 billion surplus, the State must dedicate \$3.285 billion to water storage and conveyance that could be allocated as follows:

- \$2.6 billion to fully fund the already voter-approved Sites Reservoir; and
- \$685 million for the repair of the Friant-Kern/Delta-Mendota Canals and the San Luis Field/San Joaquin Divisions of the California Aqueduct.

This critical funding will provide drinking water for the State's nearly 40 million residents, help maintain river flows, and irrigate California's robust farms that grow a third of the country's vegetables and two-thirds of its fruits and nuts.

Water agencies and districts across the State including the Kern County Water Agency have declared a water emergency.

This follows the draconian announcement by the California Department of Water Resources that 2022's water supply allocation will be zero. Already hit by the port congestion crisis, this is another detrimental blow to California's farmers.

As a result, farmers are forced to rely on already strained groundwater basins to make up for the shortage.

Water efficiency has been a priority for farmers for years, hence, conservation alone cannot solve the state's scarce water supply. Conservation is a short-term solution to a long-term problem. California law asserts that humans have water rights.

California is heading into its third year of bone-dry conditions. There must be a sense of urgency. The need for reliable and dependable water supply infrastructure and conveyance is paramount to public health, animal life and economic viability.

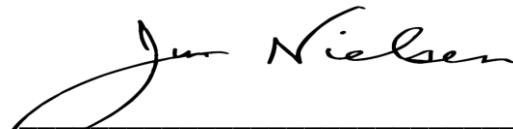
It was only six years ago that the State experienced devastating dry conditions. Droughts are recurring, and will occur again. To avert economic pain and harm to public health and the environment, we ask you to commit \$3.285 billion to fund water storage and conveyance.

Sincerely,



---

Vince Fong  
Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee



---

Jim Nielsen  
Vice Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review  
Committee

Cc: Assemblymember Marie Waldron, Assembly Republican Leader  
Senator Scott Wilk, Senate Republican Leader  
Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee