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Sacramento County Water Agency and the City of Sacramento Join the Sites Project Authority

New Water Storage to Enhance and Secure Regional Supplies while improving Environmental Flows

Sacramento, CA – In an effort to develop new water supply storage opportunities and improve water availability for the environment, the Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) and City of Sacramento today announced their decision to participate as a member of the Sites Project Authority. The move to join the Board of Directors will support the planning and ultimate construction of the Sites Reservoir Project. SCWA and the City are joined by 33 public agencies from across California in a commitment to fulfill the will of California voters who overwhelmingly voted for new storage by passing Proposition 1.

“Sites will be an important feature for the Sacramento Valley as we cope with effects of climate change. This reservoir will be helpful for preserving agriculture, municipal water supplies and the environment,” said Councilmember Jeff Harris, the City’s member on the Sites Authority Board.

“The Sacramento County Water Agency is pleased to be part of this joint venture with the City to pursue long-term water solutions through the creation of new water storage in the state. This valuable partnership is a rare opportunity to participate with other regional water partners to develop and implement a broadly beneficial project that can improve regional water supplies and address statewide water issues,” said Michael Peterson, Sacramento County Department of Water Resources Director.

Sites is managed by a Joint Powers Authority comprised of counties and water districts in the Sacramento Valley to advance the project, an off-stream reservoir located on the west-side of the Sacramento Valley, just west of the town of Maxwell. The project will have a capacity to store

up to 1.8 million acre-feet of water, of which approximately 500,000 acre-feet per year would be available on an average, annualized long-term basis for beneficial uses. Under Proposition 1, up to half of the annualized water is eligible for state funding to provide public benefits to improve conditions in the Sacramento River and Delta.

“The Authority welcomes our new partnership with Sacramento County and the City of Sacramento,” said the Authority’s Chair Fritz Durst. “Aside from providing important environmental flows, we have a priority to deliver water for the benefit of the environment, cities and agricultural lands across California.”

“The Sites Project creates a critical water management tool, providing more reliable water supplies for all beneficial purposes,” continued Durst. “Had Sites been in operation in 2017, the reservoir would have been completely full by May. An additional 1.8 million acre-feet of water would help protect against future drought conditions, support native fisheries, and secure water for California farms, homes, and businesses.”

About Sites

The Sites Project is an innovative and environmentally-focused offstream water management solution. It creates a unique opportunity for direct and real benefits to instream flows, the Delta ecosystem, and water supply. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.sitesproject.org>. Follow the Sites Project on social media @SitesProject.

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