

State Building and Construction Trades Council of California

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Established 1901
Chartered by
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES
DEPARTMENT
AFL - CIO

August 4, 2017

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

**RE: Sites Reservoir Project Application for Funding from the
Proposition 1 Water and Storage Investment Program**

Dear Chairman Quintero:

On behalf of the State Building and construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO I write today to convey our support of the Sites Reservoir Project's application for funding from the Proposition 1 Water Storage and Investment Program. The Sites project not only has the potential to provide multiple benefits to California's farms, cities, and environment, but will also create good paying construction jobs which will help the economy.

As you know, the Sites Project is a 1.8 million acre-foot, off-stream regulating 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. A few of the reservoir's many uses include, but are not limited to: dedicated water for fishery and environmental flow purposes, a reliable water supply for California cities and agriculture, increased habitat for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway, and improved flexibility and drought resiliency for the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project.

Opportunities to apply lessons learned during the last five years of drought must not be wasted. The drought (exacerbated by climate change), and this year's record-breaking rainfall, have proven 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.

Sincerely,



CESAR DIAZ
Legislative Director

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CC: Members, California Water Commission

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