

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 27, 2018

The Honorable Brenda Burman
Commissioner of Reclamation
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Commissioner Burman,

As members of the California congressional delegation who seek to increase water supply reliability in our state, we appreciate Reclamation's recent commitment of \$4.34 million for the North-of-Delta Offstream Storage, also known as Sites Reservoir, pursuant to Section 4007 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN Act). We urge you to build upon that investment and include \$37.4 million in Section 4007 funding in fiscal year 2019 for Sites Reservoir.

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. Diversions into Sites 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.

Sites Reservoir has been awarded \$816 million by the State of California, demonstrating a strong non-federal commitment. In order to be eligible for funding, the project was required to submit a substantial amount of documentation which was reviewed by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). DWR found a substantial flow benefit in the spring time¹ for salmon and a substantial temperature reduction benefit for salmon in the critical July to September months².

Given the multi-benefit nature of Sites Reservoir, and the reliable water supply that it would create for both humans and the environment, we believe that it is a worthy candidate for additional funding under the authority of Section 7001 of the WIIN Act. Thank you for your attention to this matter.


¹ Water Operations Review Response to Applicant's Appeal on Public Benefits Ratio: Sites Project; Comment 1.4.

² Water Operations Review Response to Applicant's Appeal on Public Benefits Ratio: Sites Project Comment 2.

Sincerely,



JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress




AMI BERA
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress




ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



LINDA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress



JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress



JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress



TED LIEU
Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress