

FOOD & AGRICULTURE TEAM

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SITES RESERVOIR

Requested Action: Support Sites Reservoir qualification for RIFIA funding (Reclamation Innovation Finance Investment Act), which would reduce the financing costs of this project.

Background: A number of efforts continue to be advanced to help alleviate the impacts of what is likely to be the state's 5th year of drought. In the Sacramento Valley, Sites Reservoir is uniquely positioned to provide additional water for the environment, urban uses and allow the continued success of agriculture.

Bills that include RIFIA funding for Sites include:

- S. 2533 (Feinstein)
- H.R. 1060 (LaMalfa/Garamendi)
- H.R. 2898 (Valadao)

RIFIA funding would reduce the cost of the project and reduce the cost of the water developed through its low interest rates and payment timing, which begins only when the project is completed.

Fifty percent of the water behind Sites would be available for the environment, including enhancing salmon habitat and migrating waterfowl and shorebirds.

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Sites would greatly enhance urban water supplies by allowing more water to be reserved behind Folsom reservoir for the region's cities. Water for the environment would instead come from Sites first.

Sites would ensure that agriculture and food processing would remain vibrant and a key component of the region's growing economy and identity.

If Sites had been in place last year, 1.2 million acre-feet of new water would have been available for the state and the region. As of late February, Sites could have captured 448,000 acre-feet, or 146 billion gallons of water.

For additional information, please contact Chris Worden, Vice President of Public Policy
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