



September 27, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via email only

Subject: Request for Certification of the Sites Reservoir Project as an Infrastructure Project under Senate Bill No. 149

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Sites Project Authority would like to commend and thank you and the California State Legislature for working together to pass the critically important infrastructure streamlining package. Senate Bill 149 is especially important for accelerating timelines on critical projects necessary to achieving the State's climate and clean energy goals. Senate Bill 149 will assist project proponents like the Authority in navigating key aspects of our important regulatory process in an expeditious manner to both protect our environment and communities and to bring projects to construction in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

The Authority respectfully requests that you certify the Sites Reservoir Project as a water-related infrastructure project under Senate Bill 149. Enclosed is the Authority's application which provides detailed information on the Project and how the Authority either has already complied with or will comply with each requirement in Senate Bill 149 for your consideration.

The Sites Reservoir provides an unprecedented opportunity to expand the toolbox of measures to help the State maintain a resilient water supply in the face of climate change, weather extremes, and water scarcity. Sites Reservoir is a local led, multi-benefit, off-stream water storage project that provides a resilient and reliable supply of water for California's environment, communities, and farms during dry periods. The Project would be uniquely located to responsibly capture and store Sacramento River water during high river flow events—after all other water rights and regulatory requirements are met— and make that water available to California's environment, communities, and farms when it's most needed – especially during times of drought. Sites Reservoir would have water storage capacity of approximately 1.5 million acre-feet, which is enough water to serve the water needs of



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approximately 4.5 million homes for a year. California can and must utilize all tools in our collective toolbox of measures to adjust and continue to prosper in the face of the growing challenges presented by climate change.

Your certification of the Sites Project under Senate Bill 149 would streamline any litigation on the Project to be resolved, to the extent feasible, in 270 days, without compromising the scope or substance of the environmental review for the Project. The Authority is committed to fulfill its obligations under the applicable provisions of Senate Bill 149. The Authority is locally led and is 100% funded by public agencies, including the State of California, and the Federal Government who are spending public dollars to continue the planning, permitting and design efforts for Sites. Your certification of the Project would strike the right balance—saving time and reducing costs for delivery of critically important water projects like Sites, while still ensuring key safeguards for our communities and our environment.

We appreciate your continued efforts on this urgently needed Project as we work to develop this 21st Century, climate-adapted, water storage system for the benefit of California's farms, cities, and environment for generations to come. If there are any questions on this letter or attached application, please contact me at jbrown@sitesproject.org or 530-438-2309.

Sincerely,



Jerry Brown
Executive Director

Enclosure



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530.438.2309