

From: [Mary Kay Benson](#)
To: [California Water Commission](#)
Subject: Sites - Public Comment - Opposed
Date: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:34:30 PM

Dear CA Water Commission:

The thing that water regulators don't seem to get is that northern CA, which has the water, has to have a big say in all the water that gets shipped south to grow almonds in the desert like Big Ag does. No matter how much we conserve, the southern demand is always going to be growing - especially in the major droughts coming our way due to accelerated climate change. Instead, EIR enviro testing was bypassed in a rush to get at more water. It's an economic boondoggle.

I live in the area of the proposed boondoggle called Sites Reservoir. Water experts here tell us it is one dumb place to store water, as the ground is porous there, and it sits on land that used to mine copper and cinnabar, so the water will be toxic.

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-leslie-how-to-spend-calif-water-bond-20180412-story.html>

"Jim Brobeck, a policy analyst for the Chico-based environmental group AquAlliance, goes so far as to predict that Sites, if built, will become a "biological wasteland." AquAlliance fights what it sees as threats "to the hydrologic health of the northern Sacramento River watershed," according to its [website](#). "The project has been considered since the middle of the last century and has never moved forward because it is not feasible economically, environmentally, technically or financially," argues Brobeck.

<http://chicosol.org/2019/05/28/sites-reservoir-become-biological-wasteland/>

"The application for the proposed Sites Reservoir project also has major problems; state agencies, as well as conservation and fishing organizations, recently submitted written comments explaining that the proposed Sites Reservoir project would harm salmon and other native fish in the Sacramento River and Bay-Delta, worsening ecological conditions rather than improving them (here are CEQA comments on Sites Reservoir project from the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), [State Water Resources Control Board](#), and a [coalition of fishing and conservation groups including NRDC](#))." <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/doug-obegi/initial-review-storage-projects-process-working>

In these extra trying times of multiple crises including climate, economic and Covid 19, your \$5B budget to build the Doomed Sites Reservoir could feed all the people and house the homeless,

something tangible. There is a revolution for systemic overhaul, and CA history hangs in the balance. People have been swindled and this bond could sink us. Transparency is also on the People's Agenda. It's a new era, hope you can join it.

--



In Solidarity,

Mary Kay

~*~

<>