



Water Storage Investment Program

Sites Reservoir Project
Eligibility and Feasibility Determination

California
WATER COMMISSION

December 2021

WSIP Background

Water Code section 79757 requirements:

By January 1, 2022

- Feasibility studies are complete
- Draft environmental documentation is available for public review
- Commission makes a finding project is feasible
- Commission makes a finding that the project will advance the long-term objectives of restoring ecological health and improving water management for beneficial uses of the Delta
- Director of DWR receives commitments for not less than 75% of non-public benefit cost share of the project

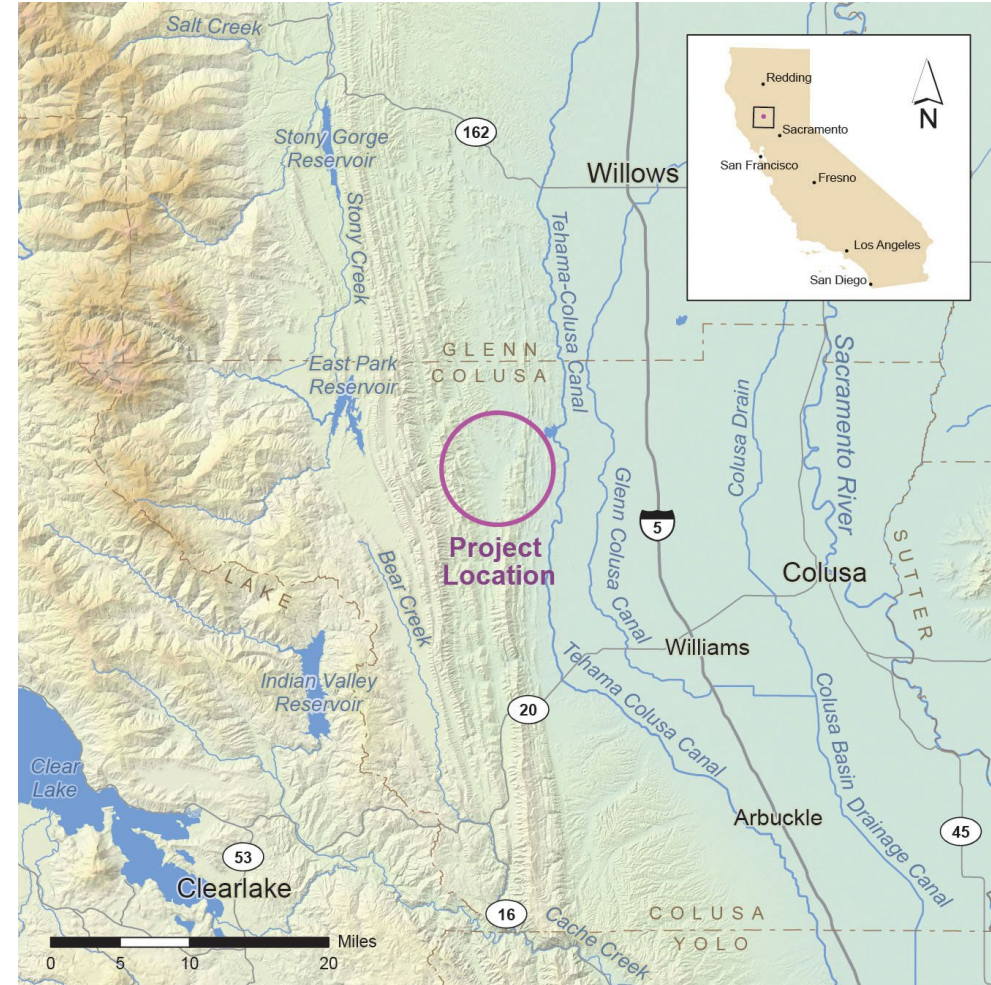
WSIP Background

- **June 2018:** The Commission determined final application scores and made nine determinations for each project
 - Commission made determination: project *appears* feasible
 - Commission made determination: project will advance long-term objectives of Delta
- **Since 2018** applicants have been working to complete feasibility studies and eligibility requirements set forth in Water Code section 79757
- **Today** Staff presents
 - Review of feasibility documentation and recommendation
 - Status of continuing eligibility requirements for the Sites Reservoir Project
- **Decision on feasibility only, no funding decisions will be made at this meeting**

Sites Reservoir Project

Sites Project Authority

- CALFED Surface Storage Project
- MCED: \$836,787,128
- Public benefits: Ecosystem, Flood Control, Recreation



Complete Feasibility Studies

Technical Reference defines feasibility in 5 categories

- **Technical feasibility**
- **Constructability**
- **Environmental feasibility**
- **Economic feasibility**
- **Financial feasibility**

Sites Reservoir Project

Complete Feasibility Studies

Documents reviewed:

- **2017 application materials including related environmental documentation**
- **2018 Review materials**
- **2021 Final feasibility report and Appendices**
- **2021 Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS**

Sites Reservoir Project

Technical Feasibility & Constructability

Regulations require:

- **Technical feasibility & Constructability– Project is technically feasible based on how it will operate and can be constructed with existing technology and availability of materials, etc.**

Review found:

- **Operations, engineering designs and costs and construction methods demonstrate project can be technically and physically constructed and operated**

Sites Reservoir Project

Environmental Feasibility

Regulations require:

- **Project is environmentally feasible and significant issues mitigated or lead agency plans to file statement of overriding considerations**

Review found:

- **Document lists significant impacts for project that can be mitigated; significant and unavoidable impacts identified, and Statement of Overriding Considerations will be prepared**
- **Documentation shows environmental feasibility**

Sites Reservoir Project

Economic Feasibility

Regulations require:

- **Expected benefits equal or exceed expected costs**

Review found:

- **Changes to the dam size and facilities since application submitted**
- **Based on a review of all benefits and costs, benefits exceed costs showing the benefit to cost ratio is greater than one**
- **Documentation shows economic feasibility**

Sites Reservoir Project

Financial Feasibility

Regulations require:

- **Sufficient funds available to cover costs of construction and operation over life of project**

Review found:

- **Funds from all sources are sufficient to cover all costs based on Authority's financial plan**
- **Costs allocated to non-public beneficiaries do not exceed benefits received**
- **Documentation shows financial feasibility**

Statutory Requirement Complete Feasibility Study

- **Feasibility study information addressed the five feasibility categories and is complete**

Statutory Requirement Draft Environmental Documentation Available for Public Review

- **Application included Draft EIR/Draft EIS**
- **In November, released Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS**

Statutory Requirement

Director Receives 75% Commitments

- **Letter of commitment from Sites Project Authority received**
- **Non-public benefit funding sources include those of Project Members (Currently 23 participants)**
- **Director of DWR received letter and supporting documentation on November 5, 2021**

Sites Reservoir Project Program Eligibility

- **Statutory Requirements met:**
 - **Complete feasibility studies and draft environmental documentation**
 - **Director receives 75% commitment**
- **Based on documentation received, Staff recommends Commission find project feasible**

Sites Reservoir Project Eligibility

Commission Decision:

- If Commission determines project is feasible, project continues to work towards returning for a final funding hearing
- If Commission does not make a finding, project no longer eligible for funding under WSIP



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