



**District Council of Iron Workers of the State of California and Vicinity**  
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Telephone (510) 724-9277

December 9, 2021

Teresa Alvarado, Chair  
California Water Commission  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

**President**  
David Osborne

**District Representative**  
Erik Schmidli

**Field Representative**  
Jonathan Paramo

**Executive Council**

Local Union 75  
Jason Sangster

Local Union 118  
Karl Pineo

Local Union 155  
Jesus Castaneda

Local Union 229  
Beau Coleman

Local Union 377  
Charles Hernandez

Local Union 378  
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Local Union 416  
Vidal Zambrano

Local Union 433  
Keith Harkey

Local Union 509

Local Union 625  
Joe O'Donnell

Local Union 790  
Jacob Jameson

Dear Chairwoman Alvarado:

On behalf of the District Council of Iron Workers of the State of California and Vicinity, we are writing to express our continued support for the Sites Reservoir Project (Sites Project) and the invaluable benefits it would bring to California's working families, farms and cities, providing much needed flexibility in our statewide water management system, providing water for environmental purposes, and providing much needed regional flood control benefits. Sites Reservoir was named as one of the projects to "expand smart surface water storage where it can benefit water supply and the environment" in the Governor's 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio, we agree Sites Reservoir is vital to California's long-term success.

Sites Reservoir is a 21st century project that can meet the needs of today and tomorrow. While many traditional water storage projects were designed and built to capture snowmelt, the realities of climate change mean less snow and more rain for California. To capture the excess water from faster moving and often more intense storms that come more frequently, we need a new model for water storage. As an off-stream reservoir, Sites Reservoir captures excess water from major storms.

As you know, the Sites Project is a 1.5 million acre-foot off-stream reservoir that will divert and store excessive Sacramento River flows. The diversion levels will be dependent upon hydrologic conditions and will ensure that water taken from the Sacramento River is truly in excess of downstream needs. If Sites Reservoir had been operational at the beginning of 2021, nearly 1 million acre feet of additional water would have been available to support California's environment, farms and cities during this critically dry year.

What makes this project most unique and valuable is the operational flexibility it provides the State's entire water system. The reservoir will have many uses, including but not limited to, dedicated water for fishery and flow purposes, a reliable water supply for California agriculture, increased Pacific Flyway habitat for migratory birds, and greater water security for urban areas.

As we continue to see more extreme shifts in weather of punishing droughts and excessive rainfall the development of smart storage, like the Sites Project and flexibility it provides, is critical.

Thank you for the continued work that you and the Water Commission are doing to increase water supply reliability in the state. We look forward to the continued partnership with exciting and valuable projects like Sites Reservoir.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Osborne", with a stylized, flowing script.

David S. Osborne  
President