

SITES RESERVOIR

Description

Sites Reservoir would be located about 10 miles west of Maxwell in Antelope Valley. A storage capacity of 1.8 MAF would be developed by constructing a 290-foot-high dam on Stone Corral Creek, a 300-foot-high dam on Funks Creek, and nine saddle dams along the reservoir's northern boundary. Sites would serve as an offstream storage reservoir, filled primarily through pumped diversions from the Sacramento River and its tributaries. Water would be diverted to storage during high flow periods when flows exceed the needs of the local watershed, Sacramento River, and the Bay-Delta.

Potential Benefits

- Improved water supply reliability for local and export uses (annual dry year water supply of 280-320 TAF).
- Increased operational flexibility for managing fisheries and water quality.
- Improved Sacramento River diversion management, by making irrigation season releases from the reservoir directly to local irrigation canals to provide water that would otherwise be diverted from the Sacramento River.
- Cooler water for Sacramento River salmon. Irrigation water exchanges between Sites Reservoir and Lake Shasta would allow increased storage of cold water in Lake Shasta.
- Substantial recreation use potential.

Potential Impacts

- Potential impacts to Sacramento River fisheries and geomorphological processes from diversions to the reservoir. Protective operating rules must be developed and implemented.
- Inundation of 14,000 acres, with the most significant loss of wildlife habitat being about 900 acres of oak-woodland and up to 70 acres of potential fairy shrimp habitat.
- Relocation of about 100 residents in the reservoir area, five miles of roads, and power lines.

Estimated Cost (for 1.9 MAF reservoir and conveyance facilities)

Conveyance Capacity:	3,800 CFS ¹	5,000 CFS ²
Total Capital Cost:	\$870,000,000	\$1,400,000,000
Total Annual Cost:	\$65,000,000	\$110,000,000

Notes:

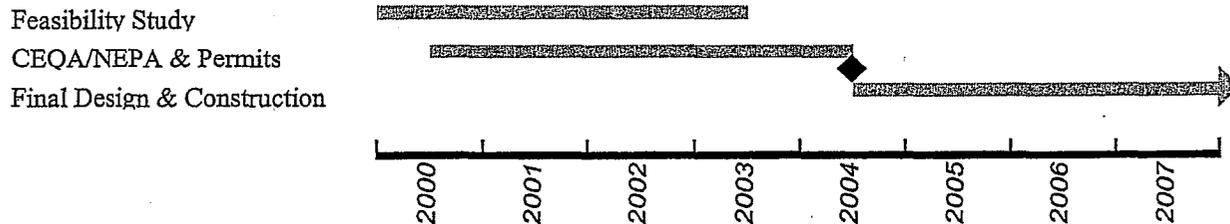
¹Includes smaller pumping plant and no conveyance improvements.

²Includes larger pumping plant, screened intake at Red Bluff, and enlargement of existing conveyance facilities.

Implementation Issues

Sites Reservoir, along with Thomes-Newville and Redbank, are currently under feasibility study by DWR in a North of Delta Offstream Storage Investigation. DWR recommends eliminating the Redbank alternative and initiating a NEPA/CEQA review for Sites and Thomes-Newville. Glenn-Colusa I. D. has indicated an interest in sponsoring this project. Diversion strategy issues appear to overshadow footprint impact issues. There is a current need to resolve fairy shrimp sampling take permit issues to continue environmental studies.

Implementation Timeline



Recommendations

Develop partnership agreements with GCID and other local entities to develop the project. Continue funding to complete the feasibility study and a joint DWR/USBR NEPA/CEQA review.