

Notice of Determination

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate
Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
North Central Region
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Alyssa Obester
(916) 880-0479



Lead Agency
Sites Project Authority
P.O. Box 517
Maxwell CA 95955
Alicia Forsythe
(916) 880-0676
aforsythe@sitesproject.org

SUBJECT: *Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108*

State Clearinghouse Number: 2001112009

Project Title: Sites Reservoir Project (Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. COL-46998-R2)

Project Location: The Sites Reservoir Project (Project) region is located within the Antelope Valley, bordered on the west by the Coast Ranges and the Central Valley to the east. The reservoir inundation area would be in rural, unincorporated areas of Glenn and Colusa Counties, located approximately 10 miles west of the town of Maxwell. Other Project components would be located in Tehama and Yolo Counties.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Master Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification Number COL-46998-R2, pursuant to section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the project Applicant, Sites Project Authority as represented by Alicia Forsythe.

The Project consists of the construction of a new off-stream surface water reservoir with a capacity of approximately 1.3-1.5 million acre-feet. The Project will use existing infrastructures to divert unappropriated flow from the Sacramento River at Red Bluff and Hamilton City and convey the water to a new off-stream reservoir west of the community of Maxwell, California. New and existing facilities will move water into and out of the reservoir, with ultimate release back to the Sacramento River system via existing canals and a new pipeline located near Dunnigan, California. The Project will require modifications to the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District system and the Tehama-Colusa Canal to move water into and out of the reservoir. Water conveyance between Sites Reservoir and the canals and Dunnigan pipeline will be facilitated by an existing and one new regulating reservoir and two new associated pumping/generating plants. New electrical substations will connect the pumping/generating facilities and their associated electrical switchyards to an existing overhead power line. Three new recreation areas will also be constructed around the new Sites Reservoir. New roads will be constructed to provide access to Project facilities and recreation areas, and some existing roads will be relocated or improved. Construction of Sites Reservoir will also necessitate construction of a bridge or bypass road to connect Maxwell with the community of Lodoga.

Notice of Determination

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, executed the above Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement on the date signed below and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. CDFW considered the environmental impact report prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A statement of overriding considerations was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings were made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The final environmental impact report prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of execution of the above Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement as Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:

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Signature: _____
Morgan Kilgour, Regional Manager

Date: 7/7/2025