



To promote the economic, social and environmental viability of Northern California by enhancing and preserving the water rights, supplies and water quality of our members.

SITES RESERVOIR IS NEEDED NOW

California's population has more than doubled since the Central Valley Project and State Water Project were built. The Sacramento Valley's water supplies currently satisfy its demands, but, because much of the state's water originates in the Valley, new storage there is necessary both to meet the state's growing demands and to fulfill the decades-old promise that the areas of the water's origin would not be deprived of necessary supplies. Sites Reservoir is needed now to ensure that both needs are met in the future.

- The state's water supplies depend on the area-of-origin laws. The CVP and SWP could not be built until the State gave the Sacramento Valley legal assurances that the projects would not deprive the Valley of water. New storage in the Valley will help the state meet growing demand while respecting the area-of-origin laws' assurances.
- California's climate and increasing water demands require new storage. California's water arrives in the winter, but is needed in the summer, and its growing population will demand more water supplies. Water conservation and recycling can stretch existing supplies and create new ones, but do not carry-over water from season to season and year to year. New storage is necessary to serve that function and Sites Reservoir's 1,800,000-acre-foot capacity would serve much of the state's need for storage.
- Sites will provide environmentally-friendly storage to enable wet-season diversions. Sites Reservoir would be located off-stream and would be supplied through wet-season diversions using existing conveyance facilities (see reverse). By capturing wet-season water, Sites would enable more groundwater storage by releasing water on schedules that work for percolation or injections. The Delta Vision Strategic Plan (p. 36) called for "speedy implementation of any options that optimize the capture of wet-period flows."
- Sites will enhance water transfers by enhancing system flexibility. Sacramento Valley transfers helped meet much of the state's marginal water demand during the 1987-1992 drought. One obstacle to transfers is coordinating water's upstream availability with Delta pumping, as it is constrained by Endangered Species Act rules. Sites Reservoir would simplify this coordination and make upstream water supplies more flexible, benefiting the entire state's water supplies.
- Sites will provide a new, flexible source of water to meet Delta ecosystems needs. The Delta Vision Strategic Plan's Action 3.2.2 advocated providing "adequate flows at the right times to support fish migrations." The SWP and CVP's current reservoirs currently have difficulty responding to the Delta's changing needs because of the projects' many operational and regulatory constraints. Sites Reservoir would be able to respond more flexibly to the Delta's needs and help provide flows at the right times.

