

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2025-07

RESOLUTION TO GRANT ADDITIONAL EARLY FUNDING TO THE
SITES WATER STORAGE PROJECT

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2014, California voters approved Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (“Proposition 1”);

WHEREAS, Proposition 1 contained Chapter 8, “Statewide Water System Operational Improvement and Drought Preparedness,” (“Chapter 8”) which appropriates \$2.7 billion to the California Water Commission (“Commission”) to invest in public benefits associated with water storage projects “that improve the operation of the state water system, are cost effective, and provide a net improvement in ecosystem and water quality conditions” (Water Code section 79750);

WHEREAS, the Sites Project Authority applied for funding for its water storage project, the Sites Project, and, consistent with regulations governing WSIP, received a Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determination (MCED), pursuant to section 6011 of the regulations, of \$816,377,686;

WHEREAS, Title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 6010 sets a maximum award of 5% of the total Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determination (MCED) for the early funding used to complete environmental documentation and permitting, pursuant to Water Code section 79755(c);

WHEREAS, the California Water Commission (Commission), when it evaluated the Sites Project in July 2018, granted the Sites Project Authority’s early funding request of \$40,818,884, or 5% of its MCED, to for the project;

WHEREAS, at its January 20, 2021 meeting, the Commission adjusted each applicant’s MCED by 2.5% to account for inflation, bringing the Sites Project’s MCED to \$836,787,128;

WHEREAS, at its March 16, 2022 meeting, the Commission adjusted to the Sites Project’s MCED to account for eligible costs not covered when the Commission made the original MCED, and provided a 1.5% inflation adjustment to MCEDs for all the projects in the WSIP, bringing the Sites Project’s MCED to \$875,396,369;

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2023, in response to the Sites Project Authority’s request, the Commission approved additional early funding of \$2,950,934, bringing total early funding for the project to \$43,769,818, which was equal to 5% of its revised MCED;

Agenda Item: 11
Meeting Date: September 17, 2025

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2025, the Commission adjusted the MCEDs for three projects in the WSIP, including the Sites Project, to account for increases in inflation;

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2025, the Commission specifically increased the MCED for the Sites Project by \$218,977,138, from \$875,396,369 to \$1,094,373,507; and

WHEREAS, the Sites Project Authority requested an additional increase to its early funding award, consistent with the regulations governing the WSIP and the Commission's most recent adjustment of MCEDs to account for inflation, to the entire 5% of its revised MCED.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California Water Commission approves the increase of the early funding by \$10,948,857 for a total early funding award of \$54,718,675 to complete environmental documentation and permitting for the Sites Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission directs staff to complete those ministerial tasks associated with completing the implementation of the Commission's direction.

Signed:

Fern Steiner
Fern Steiner, Chair
California Water Commission

9/18/2025
Date

Attest:

Laura Jensen
Laura Jensen, Executive Officer
California Water Commission

9/18/2025
Date