Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2017

Armando Quintero
Chair, California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Dear Chairman Quintero,

We write today to convey our support for the Sites Reservoir Project's application for funding from the Proposition 1 Water Storage and Investment Program. The Sites project has the potential to provide multiple benefits to California's farms, cities and to the environment.

As you know, the Sites Project is a 1.8 million acre-foot, off-stream regulating reservoir that would divert and store excess Sacramento River flows. The diversion levels would be dependent upon hydrologic conditions and would be structured to ensure that water taken out of the Sacramento River is truly in excess of downstream needs.

The operational flexibility that the Sites project would provide to the State's entire water system is what makes this project so unique and worthy of funding. A few of the reservoir's many uses include, but are not limited to, a reliable water supply for California cities and agriculture, dedicated water for fishery and environmental flow purposes, increased habitat for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway, and improved flexibility and drought resiliency for the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project.

Opportunities to apply lessons learned during the last five years of drought must not be wasted. The drought, and this year's record breaking rainfall, have shown us how critical it is to develop smart storage that allows us to store more water in wet years for future use in dry ones. Sites Reservoir is that smart storage.

Thank you for the work that you and the Water Commission are doing to increase water supply reliability across California. We look forward to your announcement of funding awards.

Sincerely,

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Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Jeff Denham
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Ken Calvert
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