

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) AND PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC MEETINGS

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency resulting from the threat of COVID-19. Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-25-20 (3-12-20) and Executive Order N-29-20 (3-17-20) which temporarily suspend portions of the Brown Act relative to conducting public meetings. Subsequent thereto, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 (3-19-20) ordering all individuals to stay at home or at their place of residence. Accordingly, it has been determined that all Board and Workshop meetings of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District will be held pursuant to the Brown Act and will be conducted via teleconference. There will be no public access to the meeting venue.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP - RESOURCES THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021 – 2:00 P.M.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is welcome and encouraged. You may participate in the March 4, 2021, meeting of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District online and by telephone as follows:

Dial-in Info: (877) 853 5247 US Toll-free Meeting ID: 979 215 700 PASSCODE: 3802020

https://sbvmwd.zoom.us/j/979215700

If you are unable to participate online or by telephone, you may also submit your comments and questions in writing for the District's consideration by sending them to comments@sbvmwd.com with the subject line "Public Comment Item #" (insert the agenda item number relevant to your comment) or "Public Comment Non-Agenda Item". Submit your written comments by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. All public comments will be provided to the Chair and may be read into the record or compiled as part of the record.

IMPORTANT PRIVACY NOTE: Participation in the meeting via the Zoom app is strongly encouraged. Online participants MUST log in with a Zoom account. The Zoom app is a free download. Please keep in mind: (1) This is a public meeting; as such, the virtual meeting information is published on the World Wide Web and available to everyone. (2) Should you participate remotely via telephone, your telephone number will be your "identifier" during the meeting and available to all meeting participants; there is no way to protect your privacy if you elect to call in to the meeting.



SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

380 E. Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, CA 92408

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP - RESOURCES

AGENDA

2:00 PM Thursday, March 4, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson: Director Hayes Vice-Chair: Director Harrison

- 1) INTRODUCTIONS
- 2) PUBLIC COMMENT
- 3) **SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
 - 3.1 February 4, 2021, Meeting (Page 3)
 Summary Notes BOD Workshop Resources 020421

4) PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Presentation by Chris Palmer, California Special Districts Association (Page 8)
Staff Memo - Presentation by Chris Palmer, California Special Districts Association
California Special District Association Update Presentation

5) **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 5.1 Update on the Sites Reservoir Project(Page 18)Staff Memo Update on the Sites Reservoir Project2020 Sites Reservoir Annual Report
- 5.2 Discuss Water Use Efficiency and Education Program Update (Page 30) Staff Memo - Discuss Water Use Efficiency and Education Update Water Use Efficiency and Education Program Update Powerpoint

6) **FUTURE BUSINESS**

7) ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE NOTE:

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Board after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the District's office located at 380 E. Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, during normal business hours. Also, such documents are available on the District's website at www.sbvmwd.com subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting. The District recognizes its obligation to provide equal access to those individuals with disabilities. Please contact Melissa Zoba at (909) 387-9228 two working days prior to the meeting with any special requests for reasonable accommodation.



DATE: March 4, 2021

TO: Board of Directors Workshop – Resources

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Summary of February 4, 2021 Board of Directors Workshop – Resources

The Resources Workshop convened on February 4, 2021. Vice President Hayes chaired the meeting via video conference.

Directors Present: President Kielhold, Vice President Hayes, Director Botello, Director Harrison, and Director Longville.

Staff Present:

Heather Dyer, MS, MBA – CEO/General Manager Cindy Saks, CPA – Chief Financial Officer/Deputy General Manager Bob Tincher, PE, MS – Chief Water Resources Officer/Deputy General Manager Melissa Zoba, MBA, MPA – Chief Information Officer

Kristeen Farlow, MPA – External Affairs Manager
Anthony Flordelis – Systems Analyst
Matthew E. Howard, MS – Water Resources Senior Project Manager
Jose Macedo, ML, CPT-P (USA Retired) – Clerk of the Board/Assistant to the CEO
Adekunle Ojo, MPA – Manager of Water Resources
Shavonne Turner, MPA – Water Conservation Program Manager

Members of the Public Present:

Melody McDonald, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 19, 2020 this meeting will be conducted by teleconference only.

3. Summary of Previous Meeting

The meeting notes from the January 7, 2021 meeting were reviewed with no comments.

4.1 Consider Geoscience Proposal to Calculate the Total Volume in Storage for the Yucaipa Basin and Subbasins

Water Resources Senior Project Manager Matt Howard introduced the proposal to calculate the total volume in storage for each of the nine subbasins in the Yucaipa Basin as established by the US Geological Survey. He described the geography, pointed out fault lines, and noted varying water levels.

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Yucaipa Basin is a high priority basin, and the total volume in storage is required to be calculated, Howard advised. The Yucaipa SGMA plans to divide the Yucaipa Basin into multiple management areas and would like to track the total storage in each of the areas, Howard noted. He detailed the content of the study and methodology, for a total study cost of \$14,158 to be completed in four weeks.

Director Longville asked if there would be opportunity to request more detailed information and indicated she would like to see the study when it is complete. Mr. Howard explained the dual approach to provide the Yucaipa Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency with information to provide sustainability criteria for the Basin, and that this is a needed component to understand the Basin. The Groundwater Sustainability Plan is due in January of 2022 and results will be brought back to the Board before then.

Director Botello inquired about contracting processes and asked how staff makes certain that other companies in the area also have an opportunity to bid on contracts. Mr. Howard explained that staff requested a proposal from Geoscience for this work, as this study uses the new, high-tech Upper Santa Ana River Integrated Model developed by Geoscience as part of a recent project. CEO / General Manager Dyer offered background on development of the model and noted that the District and its regional partners have spent about \$2 million developing the Integrated Model over the last two years, including approximately \$1 million in grant funds received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The additional studies all build upon the original Integrated Model, she noted.

Director Longville added that she had the same concerns previously, but has been reassured because other experts' eyes are on this model and it stands up to scrutiny by

other agencies. She noted that use of a different firm would likely be more costly, and it would delay the District's ability to manage, but advised that she shared the desire to allow the area business community to have opportunities to work with the District.

Mr. Tincher further advised that for professional services contracts, such as this proposed contract, competitive bids are not required, but District practice has been to do so if there are no circumstances that would require a certain contractor. In this case, Geoscience won the project to develop the model being utilized for this project and so it makes sense to have them build upon the work already completed, he added.

President Kielhold asked about the Technical Memoranda. Mr. Howard explained that the memos would be generated after the study and detailed the process and determination of methodology. Howard indicated the results of the study could be presented at a meeting to be determined. Director Harrison requested a copy of an exhibit.

In response to Vice President Hayes, Mr. Howard explained that the deepest well in the basin was at 1,720 feet below ground surface and would be used as the base elevation, as all production activity is happening above 1,700 feet below ground surface. He gave a brief overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014. Mr. Tincher explained the background of the Western-San Bernardino judgment.

Action Item(s): This item will be forwarded to a future Board Meeting for consideration.

4.2 Presentation on Water Supply Conditions

Manager of Water Resources Adekunle Ojo noted that California had recently experienced winter storms with significant precipitation and there are questions as to impact on water resiliency. Mr. Ojo explained that the key takeaways are 1) State and local supply conditions, 2) local investment in water supply reliability, and 3) water efficiency as a California way of life helps prepare for climatic extremes.

Mr. Bob Tincher gave an overview of water supply portfolio, more than three-quarters of which is local, plus the District's investment in the State Water Project to provide approximately one-quarter. He pointed out that California's hydrology is "feast or famine" and described atmospheric rivers that provide the "feast." He briefed the Board on storage

reservoirs, noting the importance to Valley District of the San Luis Reservoir and Lake Oroville.

Mr. Tincher presented a chart of average Northern Sierra rainfall on which the State Water Project is reliant. The current year is below average and behind last year in rainfall, and the snowpack is about 71 percent of average, he explained.

The local precipitation index shows the area has been in drought for about 22 years, Tincher stated, but noted there is potential to get a lot of water in a short amount of time as occurred in the 1980s. An advantage of the Valley District service area is the underground storage reservoirs, he advised. The amount of water in storage is impressive with a capacity of about 11 million acre-feet, Tincher said. Right now, there is approximately 9 million acre-feet in storage (85 percent full), he noted.

Another advantage is the region's investment in the State Water Project (SWP), which has paid off by bringing in almost 1 million acre-feet, Tincher said. He explained a chart of SWP allocation history. In 2021, there is a 10 percent allocation. Tincher pointed out that at no previous time of a 10 percent allocation has actual delivery not been increased: the median is 50 percent, he noted, but how much will be received is unknown.

Mr. Tincher gave an overview of available supply with a current need of approximately 30,000 acre-feet. He noted there may not be a need to buy water this year.

Director Longville said she is pleased with staff's analysis and suggested looking concurrently at water supply portfolio in the context of hotter and dryer given the emerging research.

In response to President Kielhold, Mr. Tincher explained that dry year purchase is an open market program of the State Water Contractors to link willing sellers to urban areas.

Director Botello and Director Harrison acknowledged staff for the information. Harrison added that it is good to have this information when questions are asked.

Vice President Hayes pointed out that other groundwater basins import as much as 60 percent of their water. Hayes asked about the differences in storage between Rialto and

Yucaipa and Mr. Tincher explained the comparison of the safe yield of the different basins

and total storage.

Mr. Tincher responded to questions regarding rainfall from Vice President Hayes. Director

Harrison pointed to a recent memo regarding major funding for the Oroville Dam and asked

about costs if there is not enough federal money provided. Mr. Tincher affirmed and said the

cost is currently about \$6 to \$7 per acre-foot to be distributed across all agencies of the

SWP via the Statement of Charges. Chief Financial Officer/Deputy General Manager Cindy

Saks explained funding of the repair work with long-term debt issued by the Department of

Water Resources.

Action Item(s): Receive and file

5. Future Business

CEO / General Manager Dyer noted that Monday is picture day.

External Affairs Manager Kristeen Farlow advised that an update on programs and

education on water use efficiency would be shared next month.

CEO / General Manager Dyer noted that the study by Maureen Erbeznik will be presented at

next Thursday's workshop.

6. Adjournment

Staff Recommendation

Receive and file.

7



DATE: March 4, 2021

TO: Board of Directors' Workshop – Resources

FROM: Kristeen Farlow, MPA – External Affairs Manager

SUBJECT: Presentation by Chris Palmer, California Special Districts Association

Background

The District is a member of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) and participates in the Association's events and programs throughout the year. Mr. Chris Palmer is the regional representative for the Southern Network of CSDA, of which the District belongs. Mr. Palmer will provide the Board of Directors with an update on the happenings at CSDA, including a legislative update, an update on CSDA Professional Development opportunities, and information about the Special District Leadership Foundation.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

Recommended Action

Receive and file.

Attachment

PowerPoint Presentation: California Special Districts Association Update



DISTRICTS STRONGER TOGETHER

csda net

CSDA Report by Chris Palmer

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

- H.R. 535 & S. 91 "Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act"
- AB 361 (Rivas) Remote Meetings During Declared Emergencies
- ACR 17 "Special Districts Week"
- CSDA Professional Development Opportunities
- Special District Leadership Foundation
- CSDA Website Tools

H.R. 535 & S. 91

<u>Summary</u>: The "Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act" would provide special districts access to the Coronavirus Relief Fund, enhance Federal Reserve programs to allow special districts access to capital, and establish a definition for "special district" in federal law for program eligibility.

Main provisions:

- Would require states to distribute 5 percent of future Coronavirus Relief Fund allocations to special districts within their respective state within 60 days of receiving funds from the U.S. Treasury.
- "Special district" would be defined as a "political subdivision of a State, formed pursuant to general law or special act of the State, for the purpose of performing one or more governmental or proprietary functions."
- Would direct the U.S. Department of Treasury to consider special districts as eligible issuers to take advantage of the Municipal Liquidity Facility, as established in the CARES Act, for access to capital during the current financial downturn.

AB 361 (Rivas) - Remote Meetings During Declared Emergencies

- While maintaining transparency and public access, local agencies would be able to meet remotely during a declared state of emergency or a declared local emergency
- While agencies would still be required to post agendas and meeting information, agencies would not be required to post meeting notices and/or agendas in physical locations when remotely meeting during an emergency
- While the public must continue to have access to the remote meeting and provided the ability to make public comment, agencies would not be required to make all remote meeting sites accessible to the public, nor include the remote location details in the meeting notice or agenda during a declared state of emergency or a declared local emergency
- Additionally, agency board members would not be required to be at remote sites within the territorial bounds of the agency during a declared state of emergency or a declared local emergency

ACR 17 – "Special Districts Week"

- Would proclaim the week of May 16 to May 22 of 2021 as "Special Districts Week."
- Would encourage Californians across the state to engage with their local communities and to be actively involved with their government, particularly with special districts and the areas they serve. This year, Special Districts Week will also coincide with CSDA "legislative days."
- During Special Districts Week, special district representatives will come to Sacramento to make their voices heard throughout the state legislature on issues of importance to California's special districts as part of Special Districts Legislative Days.

CSDA Professional Development Opportunities

- All CSDA webinars, both live and on-demand, are FREE for CSDA members in 2021. All Board members and Staff have access.
- Upcoming Professional Development events:
 - Special District Leadership Academy (VIRTUAL)
 - 3/24/21 Module 1 Governance Foundations
 - 4/12/21 Module 2 Setting Direction
 - 5/12/21 Module 3 Board's Role in Finance
 - 5/26/21 Module 4 Board's Role in HR
 - 2021 Special District Legislative Days (VIRTUAL)
 - 5/18/21
 - 2021 General Manager Leadership Summit (Olympic Valley)
 - 6/27/21
 - 2021 Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase (Monterey)
 - 8/30/21
 - Special District Leadership Academy (South Lake Tahoe)
 - 9/26/21
 - 2021 Board Secretary / Clerk Conference (Garden Grove)
 - 10/25/21

Special District Leadership Foundation

- In 1999, the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF), a 501(c)(3) organization, was formed to provide recognition and certification opportunities to special district officials and employees to enhance service to the public. It is dedicated to excellence in local government.
- To date, SDLF has designed and implemented the following programs: Certified Special District Manager (CSDM); Certificate in Special District Governance; District of Distinction Accreditation; and District Transparency Certificate of Excellence.
- The Certified Special District Manager (CSDM) is for general managers and other management staff of the district, the Certificate in Special District Governance is for directors or trustees, District of Distinction Accreditation and the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence are programs for the district as a whole.
- SDLF offers a number of scholarships, designed to help special district elected/appointed officials and staff participate in the foundation's programs and other educational offerings.

CSDA Communities



DISTRICTS STRONGER TOGETHER

csda.net

- Advocacy News
- Novel Cornonavirus / COVID -19 Resources Community
- Open Forum
- RFP Clearing house
- Virtual Exhibitor Showcase

To access these visit www.csda.net

CSDA Resources

Member Resources +

Knowledge Base

Member Benefits

Buyer's Guide

Consultant Connection

Insurance

RFP Clearinghouse

Member Directory

Magazine

Articles

Financing

Career Center

Bookstore

Salary Survey

Surplus Marketplace

To access these visit www.csda.net

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714-743-7404 cell



DATE: March 4, 2021

TO: Board of Directors Workshop - Resources

FROM: Bob Tincher, Chief Water Resources Officer/Deputy General Manager

SUBJECT: Update on the Sites Reservoir Project

Valley District has been participating in the Sites Reservoir Project (Project) since 2017 and has chosen a participation level of 21,400 acre-feet per year. In July 2020, the Board continued its support of the project by approving its proportionate share of the planning and permitting costs, \$2,140,000. At this meeting, staff will give an overview of the accomplishments made toward the Sites Reservoir Project in 2020.

Background:

As a result of a series of endangered species protection decisions in the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta, the average water supply reliability of the State Water Project has been reduced by approximately 20% (20,000 af per year reduction for Valley District) since 2007 with possible future reductions likely due to ongoing fish population issues. To help overcome these reductions, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), along with Valley District and many other State Water Contractors, are promoting the Delta Conveyance Project (Delta Conveyance) which will restore some of this lost supply. Although progress continues to be made on Delta Conveyance, Valley District Staff continues to investigate possible, additional supplies both locally and in other parts of the State to help ensure that we can reliably meet supplemental water demands long into the future. Conjunctive use in the San Bernardino Basin through programs like the Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Project (SARCCUP) will rely on supplemental water supplies like those from the Sites Reservoir Project. In addition, securing additional supplies, like Sites Reservoir, helps Valley District mitigate any further risk of further cutbacks on the State Water Project and prepare for droughts.

The Sites Reservoir has been anticipated for more than 30 years. It was originally

envisioned as part of, what was then referred to, as Stage II of the State Water Project which was administered by DWR until 2010 when the Sites Reservoir Authority took over. The project was envisioned as an off-stream reservoir with 1.3 to 1.8 million acre-feet of storage capacity that would be filled from several diversions off the Sacramento River. The water supply benefits have been studied for years and are currently estimated at about 243,000 acre-feet per year. Up to 50% of the annual yield is being reserved for public benefit purposes like fish habitat that would be funded with Proposition 1 grants and other Federal and State funding. The remaining annual yield is being reserved for water supply purposes.

The Valley District Board decided to participate in Phase 1 of the Project for of 30,000 af per year with 17,100 acre-feet (57%) being originally classified as Class 1 water and 12,900 acre-feet (43%) being classified as Class 2 water. The total participation level in Phase 1 exceeded the available water (oversubscribed). The current participation level is about 85% so there is still 15% of the total water available for water agencies and/or the environment. Due to the decrease in partner participation levels from Phase 1 to Phase 2, Valley District's Class 1 water was increased to 21,400 af. During Phase 1, Valley District staff estimated that 50% (15,000 af) of Valley District's Phase 1 total water amount would support Valley District and its customers and the other 50% (15,000 af) would support Santa Ana River Watershed (Watershed) wide projects like SARCCUP. Since that time, the SARCCUP agencies expressed less interest. For this reason, the Board reduced Valley District's total participation amount for Phase 2 to the Class 1 water available to Valley District, or 21,400 acre-feet per year.

A value planning study evaluated the size of the reservoir based upon the number of participants and the need for certain project features. The results of this study was a "right sized" project that is 1.5 million acre-feet and cost about \$3 billion, or \$2 billion less than the original construction cost estimate. Valley District's portion of the total construction cost is about 9%, or about \$270 million. The estimated additional cost per acre foot from the Project is now estimated to be about \$600 delivered north of the Delta. After considering Delta losses and power costs to deliver to Valley District, the total, additional cost would range from around \$700 to \$1,000, about the same as Delta Conveyance. This cost is considered very reasonable for a new water supply in the State of California. It is also worth noting that the Sites Reservoir Project complements Delta Conveyance by providing more water in dry and critically dry years while Delta

Conveyance provides more water in wet years.

Fiscal Impact:

None

Staff Recommendation:

Receive and file

Attachments:

2020 Sites Annual Report













Jerry Brown Joins Sites Project Authority as Executive Director

Since joining Sites as Executive Director in March 2020 Jerry has set the stage to take Sites Reservoir from planning to groundbreaking.

Now more than ever, California needs to address its statewide water management challenges by implementing innovative solutions that address the need for a sustainable and affordable water supply for both people and the environment. I am dedicated to providing open and clear communication to complete this project in a manner that protects and enhances fish and wildlife in addition to providing water reliability for Californians.



Letter from the Sites Board Chair

With 2020 in the rearview mirror, many of us are personally and professionally looking to the promise of the coming year. Just like our fellow Californians, the Sites Project Authority and its members faced new challenges this year. We also saw important successes and progress for Sites Reservoir that we are excited to build on in 2021.

In many ways, 2020 was a pivotal year for the project. Under the leadership of our new executive director, Jerry Brown, we rolled out a new and improved version of Sites Reservoir after completing a robust value planning process. Today's Sites Reservoir reflects the needs of our project participants and is a lower cost project that leaves a smaller footprint while still providing the water our agencies need.

We also convened a Strategic Planning process where we assessed and defined our values as an organization. This process resulted in a renewed mission and vision for the Sites Project.

Local agencies and our members across the state continue to be the driving force behind the project and will be key to its success. Our member agencies reaffirmed their commitment and interest in Sites Reservoir by committing an additional \$17 million to advance the project. The financial commitments from our members are bolstered by the early state funding we received. Sites was also named in the State of California's Water Resilience Portfolio as a project that will help the state meet the challenges of climate change and the growing strain on our water supplies and environment in the coming years.

We began 2020 with a new \$6 million federal investment in Sites Reservoir, increasing federal support and underscoring the importance of our local, state, and federal partnerships. Then, as we closed out 2020, Sites reached two major

milestones with the inclusion of \$13.7 million in Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act funding for Sites Reservoir in the federal budget bill and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Final Feasibility Report. By issuing the Feasibility Report, our federal partners have determined Sites is a viable, worthwhile project.

We continued the important work of collaborating with stakeholders across the state, particularly those in the local communities where Sites Reservoir will be built. We adapted to the changes that came with COVID-19, and held virtual town hall meetings and continued our outreach safely during this challenging time.

We look forward to a successful year ahead as we continue a project that is affordable, permittable, and buildable. I want to personally thank our members, stakeholders across California, and the many local, state, and federal partners that helped us advance Sites Reservoir this year.

Sincerely, Fritz Durst

Chairman, Sites Project Authority Board of Directors





Sites Reservoir: A 21st Century Solution

A modern water storage project designed to create a resilient water supply for California



A RICH HISTORY

Sites Reservoir has been decades in the making as a practical solution to water management challenges.

Support for Sites continues to build momentum. The Authority celebrated its tenth anniversary this year and has brought the concept identified 60 years ago to an concise and innovative plan that can be implemented today.

THE CHALLENGE

Climate change and other stressors are taxing California's already strained water supplies.

Today we face a myriad of challenges to our water supply: extreme droughts and floods, rising temperatures, declining fish populations, aging infrastructure and population growth. Existing water storage facilities were designed to capture snowmelt, but today we see more rain than snow. Our demands for water to serve our communities, fuel our economy, and revitalize our environment have increased far beyond what the system was designed to reliably and sustainably support. Today's water supply system is not able to manage future conditions without severe consequences to our communities, families, farms, businesses, and the environment.

A UNIQUE SOLUTION

No other storage project in California can positively influence our statewide water system like Sites Reservoir.

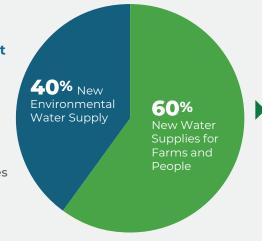
Sites Reservoir is a generational opportunity to construct a multi-benefit water storage project that helps restore flexibility, reliability, and resiliency to our statewide water supply. Sites is not a "traditional" reservoir project. It is an off-stream facility that does not dam a major river system and would not block fish migration or spawning. Sites is unique in that it performs best under some of the most challenging climate change scenarios, enabling water and resource managers to capture more water from storms to save for use during dry periods. These saved supplies can later be used for the environment, people and farms. Sites Reservoir offers participants the flexibility to utilize new water supplies how and when they need them.



REAL BENEFITS

Sites is on track to deliver impactful benefits for the people and environment of California.

Sites will average over 230 thousand acre-feet per year of water releases to benefit local, state, and federal water use needs. Water benefits include public water agencies, anadromous fish species in the Sacramento River watershed, wildlife refuges and habitats, and the Yolo Bypass to help supply food for Delta Smelt.



The Sites Project is an example of **teamwork and regional collaboration** to advance a practical solution for our statewide water management challenges.



IN 2020, TWO NEW PARTICIPANTS JOINED:

Irvine Ranch Water District and Rosedale-Rio
Bravo Water Storage District, representing
both urban and agricultural regions.

Blue shading represents participant service areas.

Sites Project Water Supply			
Year Type	Water Supply (thousand acre-feet)		
Wet	87		
Above Normal	154		
Below Normal	224		
Dry	427		
Critically Dry	348		
Long-Term Average	232		

30 participants span California One thousand acre-feet of water supply can serve about 2,000-3,000 households for one year, or 200-500 acres of productive California agriculture.

Participants Include:

Sacramento Valley governing agencies

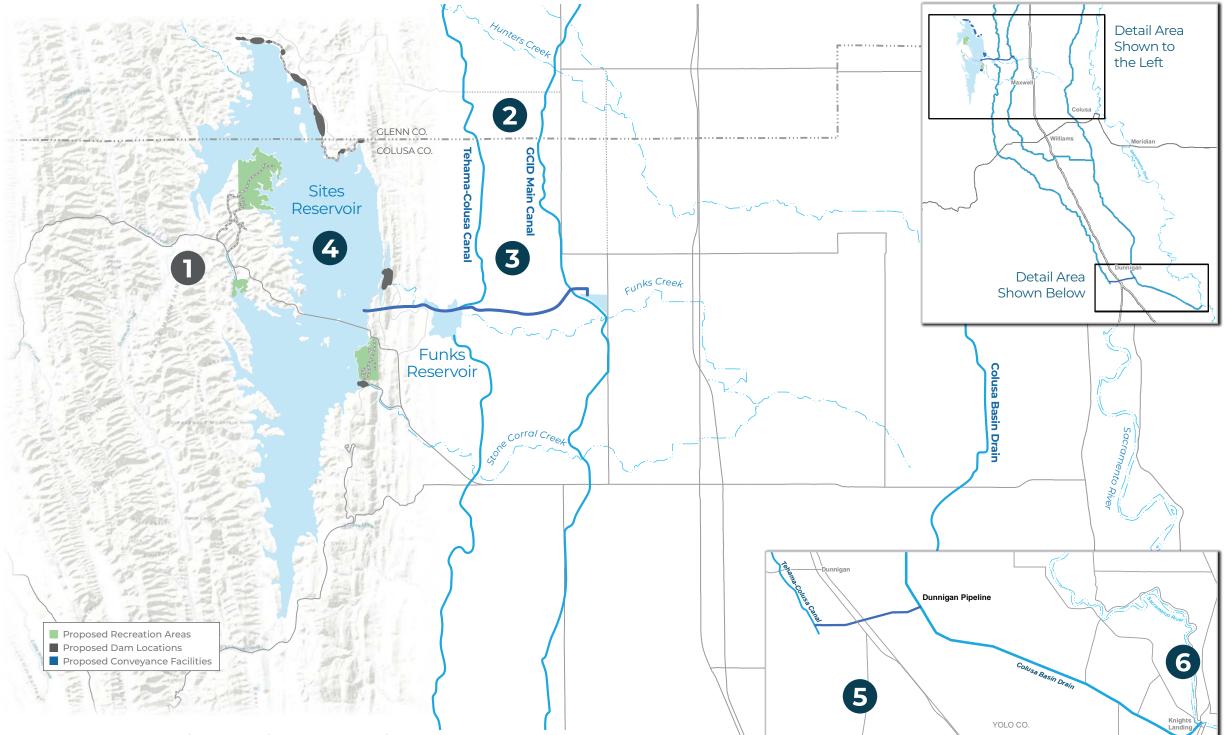
Reservoir Committee members

Participants Serve:

24.5+ million people

500,000+ acres of farmland

2 | Sites Project Authority



Sites is a "Right-Sized" project

The Authority listened, collaborated, and responded

Right-sizing the reservoir was a result of responding to input from state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), elected officials, landowners, stakeholders, and local communities. This feedback was critical to developing a reservoir that is the right size for both people and the environment, and better meets the needs of all Californians.

A robust value planning process resulted in a project that includes facilities and operations at a reduced cost with a smaller reservoir footprint (now 1.5 million acre-feet). The Authority listened and the elimination of undesirable components, such as the Delevan pipeline, allows for the use of existing facilities with proven state-of-the-art fish screens. The recommended project reduces impacts to the environment while providing future flexibility to manage the project for the greatest overall benefit to California.

The Sites Project Authority conducted a rigorous value planning effort to review the project's proposed operations and facilities. This effort resulted in a project that is the right size for our investors and participants while providing water supply reliability and enhancing the environment.

The right-sized project cuts roughly \$2 billion from the original proposal.

Sites is now more affordable, permittable, and buildable.

Sites Reservoir will support California's water needs today and in the future.

How Sites Works

Sites Reservoir stores water for release in dry and critical years to support the environment and for California's communities, farms, businesses.

- Excess water from local watersheds is captured in Sites to help prevent catastrophic local flooding.
- 2 Stormwater flows in the Sacramento River are captured after all other water rights and regulatory requirements are met.
- Water is directed to existing state-of-the-art fish screens and the Tehama-Colusa and GCID Main canals to convey water to Sites Reservoir.
- Water is stored in Sites Reservoir for
- Water is conveyed from the reservoir through the Dunnigan Pipeline.
- 6 Water is conveyed to the Colusa Basin Drain and back to the Sacramento River.

4 | Sites Project Authority

Sites Reservoir is a modern water storage project that benefits the environment, families, and farms

Climate Change Resiliency and Water for the Environment

Sites Reservoir is a 21st century project that can meet the needs of today and tomorrow. While many traditional water storage projects were designed and built to capture snowmelt, the realities of climate change mean less snow and more rain for California. To capture the excess water from faster moving and often more intense storms that come more frequently, we need a new model for water storage.

As an off-stream reservoir, Sites captures excess water from major storms. This water is saved and used later when it's most needed.



As snowpack declines and more of our water comes in the form of atmospheric rivers, Sites Reservoir will become even more vital to the future resiliency of our statewide water supply. Sites will significantly improve the state's water management system in drier periods and restore much-needed flexibility and reliability that has been lost in the system. The project will increase water supplies for people, the environment, and farms by providing up to 1.5 million acre-feet of new water storage for California.

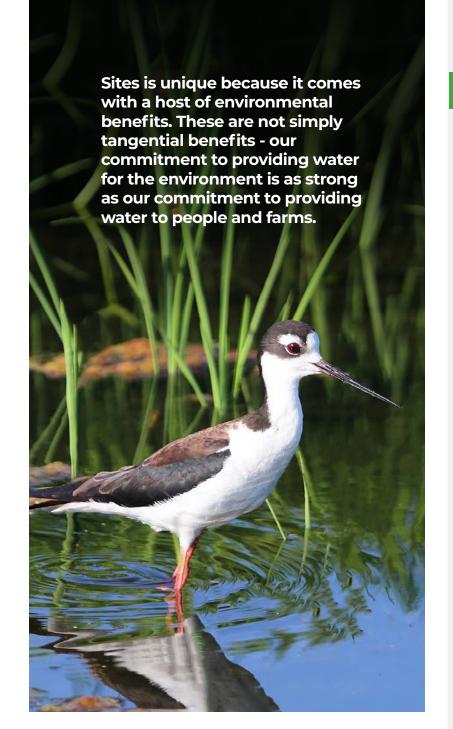


With the continued onset of climate change, there will be less cold water stored in other, upstream, major reservoirs, making it more difficult to manage the temperature of water released for salmon and other species downstream. During drier periods, the operation of Sites Reservoir will allow larger reservoirs like Shasta to conserve more cold water later into the summer months for the benefit of fisheries.





Extensive modeling has indicated that Sites Reservoir performs better and provides the most benefit to the people and environment of California, under the most challenging climate change scenarios.



A significant portion of the Sites Reservoir Project's storage space and annual water supplies will be dedicated to help improve conditions for delta smelt; help preserve the cold-water pool in Shasta Lake later into the summer months to support salmon development, spawning, and rearing; and improve Pacific Flyway habitat for migratory birds and other native species. While there are many possibilities for using this environmental water, water dedicated for the environment provided by Sites Reservoir will be flexibly managed by resources agency managers who will decide how, and when, this water will be used for environmental purposes.

BENEFITS



Adaptable to Climate Change

Improves water system reliability and performance as climate changes



Off-stream Storage

Does not create a barrier to native fish migration



Flood Control and Protection

Creates opportunities for local flood damage reduction and flood protection



Local Leadership and Cooperation

Aligns with Sacramento Valley's values and fosters regional and statewide collaboration



Dry Year Water Supply

Provides reliable dry year water supply for California communities, farms and businesses



Recreational Opportunities

Provides new recreational opportunities in the northern Sacramento Valley



Local Economy

Creates hundreds of constructionrelated jobs, along with long-term operation jobs



Cooperative Operation

Increases effectiveness and efficiency of existing water storage infrastructure



Federal and State Partners

Provides adaptability to current and future priorities

2020 Highlights and Milestones

2020 resulted in a more affordable, permittable, and buildable Sites Project and an organization built for the future.

2020 was a year marked with significant project progress and organizational growth. The Authority adopted a right-sized project in April that resulted in a more affordable, smarter project. In August, the Authority celebrated its 10-year anniversary and held a Strategic Planning Session to discuss the Authority's opportunities, challenges, and refresh its mission, vision, and values.

The Plan presents four primary goals to make Sites more affordable, permittable, buildable, and to build an effective organization. Each of the key milestones in 2020 supports these four goals, keeping Sites on the path towards success both now, and in the future. The Strategic Plan is more than a document—it is a commitment to delivering the Sites Project in a way that reflects the values of the communities it serves and provides benefits for generations to come.



Continued Partnership between the Authority and California

The Authority maximized funding from its Early Funding Agreement with the California Water Commission to fund over 90% of Amendment 1B (January to August) work. The partnership with the state results in cost sharing for the development of public benefits and allows participant money to go further, as well as providing much needed flexibility in 2020. OUTCOME: The Authority continues to advance the state's Proposition 1, Water Storage Investment Program objectives through the Early Funding Agreement.

Secured Flexible Cash Calls

Responsible management of expenses and funding were critical to maintaining the schedule in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing for the first cash call of Amendment 2 (September 2020 - December 2021) to be delayed by two months, giving flexibility to member agencies. Members are committed to advancing the project, even through challenging and uncertain times. OUTCOME: Two new investor agencies were added this year in addition to all prior investors that continued funding the project for a total of 23 investor agencies.

Continued Federal Funding

In August, the Authority worked with Reclamation staff to execute a Financial Assistance Agreement to leverage Congressionally appropriated funds

authorized through the WIIN Act. This \$6 million agreement consists of a 50% cost share between the Authority and Reclamation, In December, an additional \$13.7 million was appropriated under the WIIN act, representing a significant federal commitment to the advancement of Sites. OUTCOME: The Authority is working with Reclamation to use WIIN Act funds to advance environmental planning and permitting efforts through December 2021.

Developed Project Financing Action Plan

In October, as a key component of the strategic plan, the Authority approved a Project Financing Action Plan to define the approach, schedule, and resources to develop a Plan of Finance, Successor Agreement/ Work Plan, and a Storage and Supply Services Term Sheet. OUTCOME: The Authority is committed to developing an approach to continually fund the project that works for all participants.

✓ Permittable

Initiated Revised Draft Environmental Document

As an outcome of the value planning process and coordination with Reclamation, the Authority initiated a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS) to address project changes. **OUTCOME:** The Authority is preparing documentation to provide details regarding environmental impacts and conducting operations modeling to establish protective conditions for spawning salmon.

Prepared Key State and Federal **Environmental Permits**

The Authority continued discussions with state and federal resource agencies to advance several key permit applications which are anticipated to be submitted in 2021. OUTCOME: The Authority is working to advance key federal and state permits for the project.

Developed Preliminary Project Description

The Authority developed a preliminary project description that supports the Authority's September designation of the preferred project for the environmental analysis, consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). **OUTCOME:** The preliminary project description designation represents a right-sized project and is consistent with CEQA.

✓ Buildable

Initiated Feasibility Design

The Authority performed focused geotechnical investigations in March and on-boarded engineering design firms in April to further develop the feasibility design and improve cost certainty. **OUTCOME:** Sites is advancing the necessary technical studies to support the Water Commission's Feasibility Determination and improve cost certainty.

Completed Value Planning

The Authority conducted a value planning effort to review the proposed operations and facilities, evaluating multiple alternatives and ultimately selecting a preferred project that is permittable and affordable while significantly driving down costs. **OUTCOME:** Sites Reservoir is a right-sized project that will provide water supply reliability today and in the future and resulted in savings over \$2 billion.

Effective Organization

Conducted Townhall Meetings

In July, the Authority hosted two townhalls to provide a project overview for landowners, community members, conservation organizations, and the public. OUTCOME: The Authority continues its commitment to keep its partners and stakeholders informed of project progress.

Named in Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio

Sites Reservoir was named within the State's Final Water Resilience Portfolio, released in July. The portfolio assesses and recommends local and regional strategies and actions to help California adapt to a changing climate and increased environmental stressors. OUTCOME: Sites Reservoir embodies the future needs of California's water supply and is supported by state leaders.

Held Consultations with Native American Tribes and Conservation Organizations

The Authority held coordination meetings with representatives from Native American Tribes including the Colusa Indian Community Council of the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation as part of the CEQA process. Outreach efforts continued with NGO groups, with many meetings being held to discuss the project and receive input. OUTCOME: The Authority maintained important partnerships with tribes and conservation organizations.

The Strategic Plan provides:

OUR VISION: Affordable water sustainably managed for California's farms, cities, and environment for generations to come.

OUR MISSION: The Authority will build and operate a climate-resilient, 21st Century water storage system to responsibly manage and deliver water, improve the environment, and provide flood control and recreational benefits.

OUR VALUES:

- Safety
- Trust and Integrity
- Respect for Local Communities
- Environmental Stewardship
- · Shared Responsibility for Shared Benefits
- · Accountability and Transparency
- Proactive Innovation
- Diversity and Inclusivity

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Looking Ahead: Planning for 2021 and Beyond

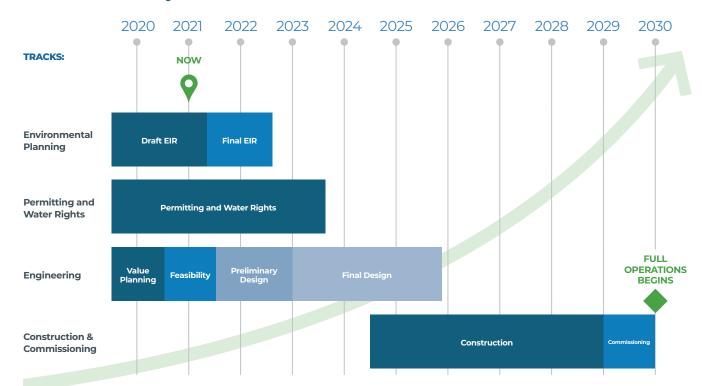
The Authority is focused on achieving near-term goals throughout 2021 that will continue the path towards success in 2030.

2021 goals are to:

- Submit Key Project Permit applications including: Biological Assessment, State of California Incidental Take Permit Applications, Programmatic Agreement, Section 404 and 401 application(s), and Water Rights Application
- Meet the Proposition 1 (WSIP) Requirement for 75% Local Cost Share by developing the Plan of Finance, Storage and Supply Services Contract Term Sheet, and Successor Agreement/Work Plan
- Develop Operating Agreement Term Sheets with the Department of Water Resources, Reclamation, and local facility partners

- Support Water Commission Feasibility Determination by completing additional engineering work and refining the cost
- Update and refine Master Project Schedule through construction completion
- Circulate the RDEIR/SDEIS for public review
- Continue to collaboratively engage with tribes, local communities, and non-governmental organizations

Sites Reservoir Project Schedule



What our PARTICIPANTS say about Sites Reservoir

Securing the future of our communities, farms, families, and environment.

"Sites Reservoir is the 21st century project we need to adapt to the realities of climate change. It's the water project of the future."

— VALERIE PRYOR, General Manager, Zone 7 Water Agency

"While local water projects are essential to our regional sustainability, we also need to invest in forward-thinking statewide projects that can provide much-needed water when we need it most. Sites Reservoir can help sustain people, the environment and farms through future droughts."

— **HEATHER DYER**, General Manager, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

"Sites Reservoir is a critical part of a greater portfolio of solutions to address California's water supply challenges. It will facilitate a more certain water future for the farms. environment, people and businesses in the Sacramento Valley, and ultimately throughout California."

- JEFF HARRIS,

Vice Mayor, City of Sacramento

"Sites Reservoir will help to increase the reliability of the imported water we receive which is critical to our environment, our vibrant economy, and our livelihood. We are committed to this project to ensure that all of California sees the benefits."

> - ROBERT CHENG, Assistant General Manager, Coachella Valley Water District

"Sites Reservoir provides flood control benefits without damming any major rivers. This is vitally important for our local communities who are especially vulnerable during heavy storm events."

- GARY EVANS, Supervisor, County of Colusa

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Costs and Funding

The Authority leveraged local, state, and federal funds in 2020 to advance the right-sized project.

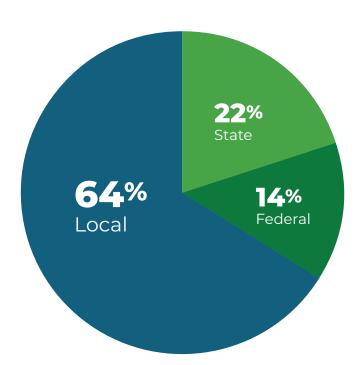
In 2020, the Authority focused resources on advancing the right-sized project identified in the value planning process. The Authority continued to progress through the planning phase of the project, known as phase 2, by extending the 2019 work plan through the end of August, 2020.

In August, the Authority approved a comprehensive work plan, driving the project through the end of 2021. The \$33.5 million plan, with local, state and federal funding sources, provides the deliverables, schedule, and operational budget needed to meet the state's requirements for continued Proposition 1 eligibility, improve operational, cost and permit certainty while advancing the preferred project identified in the value planning study through the Authority's project feasibility process.

The project went through a re-balancing in September with the transition to the new work plan, which included the addition of two new Reservoir Committee members. The Authority focused on leveraging local investments by executing a financial assistance agreement with Reclamation in 2020 and continuing to administer the Early Funding Agreement with the state for Proposition 1 funding.

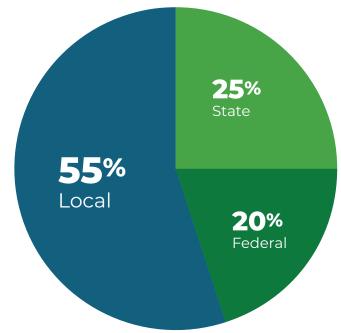
Total local investment reached \$37 million in 2020, which has been leveraged to approximately \$58 million in total project revenue to date with state and federal support. With the recent federal appropriations and continued early funding from the state, the forecast shows improved leverage of local funds through 2021.

Cost Share (Actual)Since 2015 through December 31, 2020 Sin



Cost Share (Forecast)

Since 2015 through December 31, 2021



Authority 2020 Sources and Uses of Funds*

Income

Membership Admin/Authority	\$492,000
Membership Water	\$7,484,351
Proposition 1 Funding	\$4,376,261
WIIN Funding	\$658,092
Interest	\$43,154
Total Income	\$13,053,858

Expense

Financial Fees and Subscriptions	\$18,069
Office Expenses	\$11,365
Credit Reimbursement (Phase 1)	\$0
Total Professional Fees	\$13,089,623
Website, Data, Computer Support	\$14,203
Total Expense	\$13,133,260

^{*}unaudited, rounded to the nearest dollar



Sites Reservoir participants are committed to seeing this project constructed.

through 2020.

Continued Progress through COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis impacted each member agency on the Reservoir Committee. On the Sites Project, this crisis hit when



members were being asked to make a significant project payment. Members were surveyed to better understand individual impacts and a plan was rolled out in May allowing members two additional months without payment. This adjustment was accommodated without any schedule slip. The commitment of the Authority Board and the Reservoir Committee to the success of the project, along with vital state and federal funds, have continued to drive the project through this crisis.



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Diverse Statewide Support for Sites Reservoir

























































Carter Mutual Water Company | Colusa County Water District

Cortina Water District | Davis Water District | LaGrande Water District

Printed on recycled paper





DATE: March 4, 2021

TO: Board of Directors Workshop – Resources

FROM: Shavonne Turner, Water Conservation Program Manager

SUBJECT: Discuss Water Use Efficiency and Education Program Update

Staff is providing the Board of Directors with an update on the Water Use Efficiency and Education Program covering the start of the current fiscal year in July 2020 through February 2021.

Summary

USEPA WaterSense

On February 12, the District received official welcome from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a WaterSense EPA Promotional Partner. As a Promotional Partner, the District has exclusive access to the partner website and materials. Partners promote the WaterSense brand and the value of water through education, outreach, progams, marketing efforts, and participation in national outreach campaigns. Staff will be required to submit an annual report in February of each year that includes the District's water-efficiency activities and rebate levels. Submission of an annual report qualifies the District to apply for a WaterSense Award; the award categories include Sustained Excellence, Partners of the Year, and Excellence Award for helping to advance and promote WaterSense and water efficiency.

Water Conservation Reimbursements and Rebates

The District's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget for the Water Use Efficiency Program is \$625,000. The existing program includes three main components:

- The District contributes to the cost of water use efficiency rebates offered by retailers at a 25% reimbursement rate:
- The District offers \$1/square foot of turf removed and replaced with low-water use landscaping;

 The District funds 50% of the retrofit costs for large water users (1,500 cubic feet or more annually) who participate in the Weather Based Irrigation Controller Program, which includes a landscape audit followed by installation of a weather station (if needed) and weather-based irrigation controller(s).

The total reimbursement requests to date for all three is \$14,856 or 2.4% of budget. It should be noted that many retail agencies file for reimbursements at the end of a fiscal year, therefore, reimbursements may increase towards May and June. In addition, reimbursements are not a good indicator of actual demand reductions and conservation efforts by retail agencies and their customers.

Outreach and Education Program

In Fiscal year 2020 – 2021, as part of the Districts response to the COVID-19 pandemic, portions of the outreach and education program were moved to a virtual platform. The Inland Empire Resources Conservation District (IERCD) conducted eight (8) live virtual classroom presentations, reaching approximately 200 students. Staff worked with IERCD to host a Fall workshop, titled *Make a Difference in Your Yard*, reaching 35 attendees. Online resource tools have been created for teachers to download and share with their students. These resources are designed to be hands-on water quality and water conservation activities providing a supplement to distant learning programs and curriculums.

To date, no virtual Teacher Workshops featuring the Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) curriculum have been hosted for the current fiscal year. The Project WET curriculum was developed to provide action-oriented education that enables every child to understand and value water, ensuring a sustainable future.

Cotract Deliverable	Total Completed	Attendees
Live Virtual Classroom Presentation	8	200
Narrated Google Slide Presentation	3	
Video Lesson	3	
Virtual Resident Workshop 10/24/20	1	35
Virtual Project WET Teacher Workshop	0	

Three (3) Landscape Workshops are scheduled for Spring as part of the *WISE UP* Series, recently presented by the IERCD, and covers education on ways to save water outdoors. The landscape workshops will be hosted on a virtual platform from 10am-12pm on March 20th, April 10th, and April 24th

WISE UP stands for:

- Water Conservation: Expand your knowledge on how to save water outdoors.
- Irrigation: Get the basics on retrofitting your irrigation system, learn how to transition to drip irrigation, and find out about rebates and resources available to you.
- **S**ustainability: Make your yard a healthy habitat for beneficial pollinators... you know, those bees and butterflies that keep your yards' ecosystem flourishing.
- Efficiency: Receive insight on water management in your yard to use water efficiently while getting resources to rebates.
- **U**tility: Find out how to design your yard to maximize its use and make it work for you.
- Productivity: Make your veggie garden work for you. Learn effective ways to grow fruit and vegetables while using water wisely.

Upcoming virtual workshops in the series include:

- Water Well Spent: Water Conservation and Irrigation (3/20/21)
- Healthy Habitats: Sustainability and Efficiency (4/10/21)
- Be Water Wise and Maximize Your Yard: Utility and Productivity (4/24/21)

Water Saving Garden Friendly for the Inland Empire

The Water Saving Garden Friendly website is a resource for homeowners interested in exploring water efficient plant options that are climate appropriate for the Inland Empire. The website continues to be a valuable resource, producing 492 hits in the month of January. Those that visited the website looked at approximately seven (7) pages per session, and spent almost three (3) minutes per session browsing the website. Many of the web sessions used computers located in the cities of Yucaipa, San Bernardino, and Colton. In total, 281 sessions were direct hits to the website, while the remaining used other search engines to find our site.

Social Media

Staff worked with our social media consultant to develop five (5) water use efficiency videos that

focus on outreach and education. The videos include Delta Conveyance, Visual Presentation,

Rain Barrels, Spring Time Adjustment, and Fix-A-Leak Week. Staff took this opportunity to

incorporate Fix-A Leak Week and the Ten Minute Challenge into our social media efforts,

promoting one of WaterSense EPA's most popular annual campaigns.

1. Delta Conveyance: https://youtu.be/E_vLa3j8b2g

2. Visual Presentation: https://youtu.be/DEW6engwgL4

3. Rain Barrels: https://youtu.be/vmf3GAxUDnc

4. Fix-A-Leak_Week: https://youtu.be/GcsiwngJ4t0

5. Spring Time Adjustment: https://youtu.be/JuvgXWL4co0

Water Use Efficiency Assessment and Plan Update

The recently completed Water Use Efficiency Assessment and Plan by Maureen Erbeznik and

Associates (MEA) will be incorporated into a medium-term implementation plan that will be

presented to the Board at the March 11th Policy Workshop. Staff will deliver the MEA draft report

to the Board on approximately March 1, 2021 for a period of review and feedback from the Board,

which will be incorporated into the final version.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact associated with this update

Staff Recommendation

Receive and file.

Attachment

Water Use Efficiency and Education Program Update Powerpoint

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Water Use Efficiency and Education Program Update

March 4, 2021



USEPA WaterSense Partnership



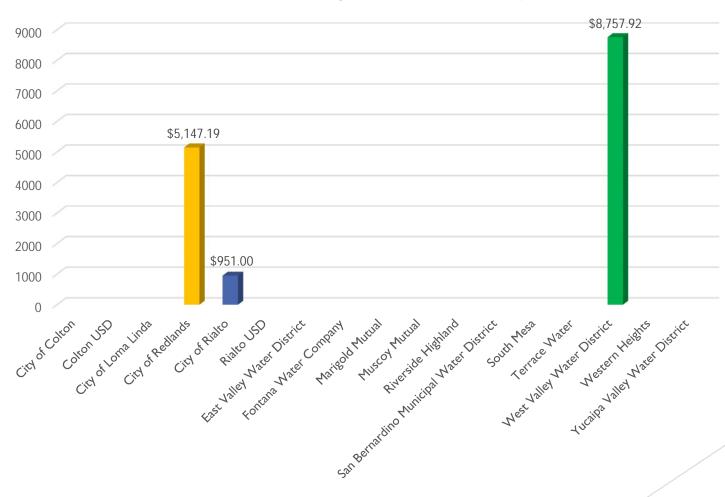




Water Conservation Reimbursements



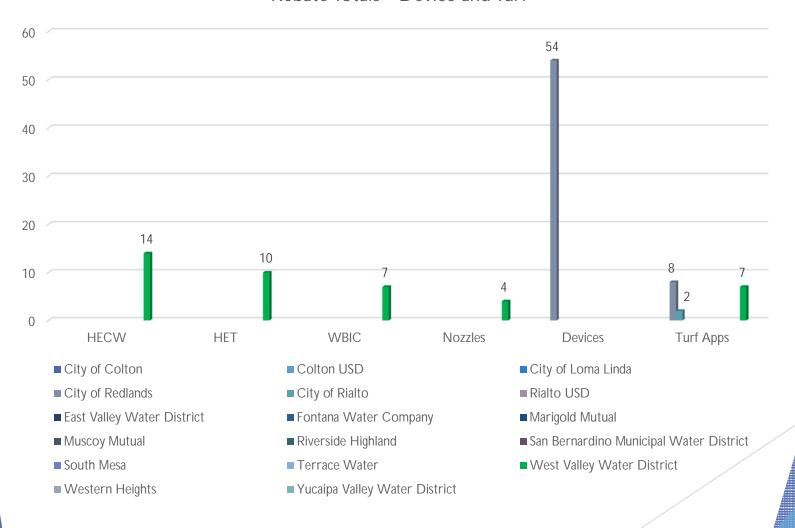
Water Use Efficiency Reimbursement Requests







Rebate Totals - Device and Turf



Outreach and Education Program



Cotract Deliverable	Total Completed	Attendees
Live Virtual Classroom Presentation	8	200
Narrated Google Slide Presentation	3	
Video Lesson	3	
Virtual Resident Workshop 10/24/20	1	35
Virtual Project WET Teacher Workshop	0	

February 25, 2021

Outreach and Education Program



Join Valley District's FREE webinar series to learn how to save water and money!





Water Well Spent

Saturday, March 20th 10:00 am-12:00 pm







Join Valley District's FREE webinar series to learn how to save water and money!





Healthy Habitats

Saturday, April 10th 10:00 am-12:00 pm





WISE UP!

Join Valley
District's FREE
webinar series to
learn how to save
water and money!







Be Wise and Maximize Your Yard

Saturday, April 24th 10:00 am-12:00 pm





SAN BERNARDINO

Water Saving Garden Friendly Inland Empire





Social Media













Looking Ahead





March

- •Mar. 1: Staff provides the revised draft Maureen Erbeznik Assessment to Board for review; feedback to be incorporated into the Final document and Demand Management Plan
- •Mar. 11 (Policy Workshop): Draft Demand Management Plan (Outline and Key Components) proposed to the Board at the Policy Workshop for initial input and feedback
- Mar. 29 (BTAC Conservation Subcommittee): Draft Demand Management Plan presented to the BTAC Conservation Subcommittee for input and feedback

April

- Apr. 5 (BTAC): Draft
 Demand Management Plan
 presented to the full Basin
 Technical Advisory Committee
- Apr. 8 (Advisory Commission): Draft Demand Management Plan presented to the Advisory Commission on Water Policy

May and June

- May 13 (Policy Workshop): Staff presents the proposed Demand Management Plan with BTAC and Advisory Commission inputs
- Demand Management Plan discussed and approved as part of the annual budget process

February 25, 2021



Questions/Comments

This is an informational item.