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Sites Project JPA Lauds Introduction of Legislation to Authorize Sites Reservoir

MAXWELL, CA. - Wednesday, March 19, 2014 - Representatives Doug LaMalfa (CA-1) and John Garamendi (CA-3) today announced the introduction of bipartisan legislation to expedite construction of Sites Reservoir. When enacted, the legislation will create significant off-stream storage capacity that will increase water supply certainty throughout California, while also ensuring in-stream flows to benefit the Delta ecosystem.

The leadership and members of the Sites Project Joint Powers Authority (Sites JPA) strongly support this important legislation. The Sites JPA is a regional consortium of local water agencies and Counties who are united behind a shared goal of constructing the Sites Reservoir Project. Members of the Sites JPA include Glenn County, Colusa County, Reclamation District No. 108, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, Maxwell Irrigation District, and Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

The many benefits that will result from construction of Sites reservoir were summarized by Sites JPA Chair Fritz Durst, "Construction of Sites Reservoir will improve statewide water reliability in a manner that protects and enhance the lifeblood of our economy while also providing the necessary water to conserve our rich wildlife and natural resources."

Kim Vann, Colusa County Supervisor and Alternate Director of the Sites JPA highlighted the importance of expeditious congressional consideration of this measure, "With the eyes of the country focused on California's historic drought, it is vital that that we work jointly to seize this opportunity to develop the infrastructure needed to store additional water at Sites Reservoir and beyond. Doing so will go a long way toward enhancing operational efficiency of the Central Valley Project while also serving to mitigate the impacts of similar droughts going forward"

The legislation calls for expedited completion of the feasibility study currently being developed for the Sites Project. It also creates the versatility necessary for the Project to be constructed by the entity or entities best positioned to provide the funding and human resources necessary to quickly complete the Project.

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