

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **“Reject the Sites Reservoir Boondoggle,” Friends of the River Urges State Water Resources Control Board During Water Rights Protest Period**

SACRAMENTO, CA — Today, Friends of the River (FOR), one of California’s most respected conservation organizations, announced that they will urge the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to reject the Sites Reservoir boondoggle. This announcement comes at the start of an opportunity to for the public to intervene in the Sites water rights proceeding, which is facilitated by the Board. On Friday, June 2, the Board published a notice of this opportunity finding the Sites Water Authority’s water rights application to be “substantially complete.”

***“Sites Reservoir is a waste of time, money, and resources. It will not improve water security for California. We urge California to reject the Sites Reservoir boondoggle,”*** said Jann Dorman, Executive Director of Friends of the River.

***“The Sites Reservoir project will simply not provide enough new water to make the project worthwhile for California,”*** added Ron Stork, Senior Policy Advocate of Friends of the River. He continued, ***“California needs solutions that will provide water security as the climate changes. What the Sites Project will do, is allow investors to take more water from the already over-allocated Sacramento River, causing even more damage to collapsing populations of salmon and the Delta ecosystem. Sites will not create new water, but rather, will take from the environment and other users. I’ve said many times... you can’t dam your way to paradise anymore.”***

Ron has 35 years of experience in flood management, federal water resources development, hydropower reform, and Wild & Scenic Rivers, and is available for media interviews about the Sites Reservoir boondoggle.

### **About the Sites Reservoir Boondoggle**

If constructed, Sites Reservoir would only expand overall water availability in California by less than 1% – just 0.648% on average. During long drought spells, it would sit useless. Yet the harm caused to waterways throughout California would be permanent and irreversible.

The reality is California has over-allocated water from the Sacramento river by 151%—***that means that there are more rights to divert water out of the river than the river can provide in an average water year.*** The Sites Reservoir project will allow its investors to divert and sell even more of the over-allocated water, further dewatering the Sacramento River and the Delta. The reservoir itself would drown thousands of acres of grassland, oak woodland, and riparian habitat, imperiling threatened and endangered species throughout the Sacramento River.

To learn more about the Sites Reservoir boondoggle, click [HERE](#).

### **About Friends of the River**

For more than a half century, Friends of the River (FOR) has been at the forefront of California's environmentalist movement, fighting the good fight to defend our treasured waterways. FOR is dedicated to protecting and restoring California's rivers, streams, and watersheds, while advocating for sustainable water management and water solutions that protect the environment. With the state's water crisis approaching a breaking point, FOR is in its toughest fight yet as it works to stop the Sites Reservoir boondoggle while offering more meaningful and sustainable alternatives that would preserve California's remaining healthy rivers.

FOR believes that California's water crisis cannot be solved by damming its way to paradise. While big corporate interests spend millions to convince Californians that new dams and reservoirs will solve our water shortage, FOR remains steadfast that the plurality of these projects will irrevocably destroy natural habitats and wildlife, while providing virtually no benefits for the average Californian. Our rivers are too precious and too vulnerable to survive more dams and diversions. Together, we have the opportunity to improve California's water system AND strengthen our rivers and the economies and habitats they support.

For more information on Friends of the River, please visit <https://www.friendsoftheriver.org>.