

**H.R. 1435, Sites Reservoir Project Act**  
*Section-by-Section*

**Section 1 – Short Title**

- Establishes the title of the bill as the “Sites Reservoir Project Act”.

**Section 2 – Findings**

- Notes the impacts of recent drought on the State of California and highlights various benefits that would result from the construction of Sites Reservoir including: additional water management flexibility as a result of increase surface water storage; regional flood control; job creation via construction; and improved conditions for fish and wildlife in the Sacramento Valley. It also notes the robust (\$816 million) investment in the project by the State of California.

**Section 3 – Definitions**

- Defines numerous terms that are used throughout the text of the legislation.

**Section 4 – Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement**

- Designates the Bureau of Reclamation as the lead agency for all federal permits, licenses and reviews required under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Directs the Bureau of Reclamation to expeditiously complete all necessary environmental reviews required to construction and operate the project. The legislation does not mandate a completion date for these reviews, but states that they should be finished “to the maximum extent practicable” by January 2022, which is a requirement by the State of California in order for the project to access the \$816 million it was awarded from the California Water Quality Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act (also known as Prop 1).
- Directs the Bureau of Reclamation to develop a plan for completion of the environmental review process within 6-months of the bill’s enactment.

**Section 5 – Construction and Operation of Non-Federal Project**

- Authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the design, planning and construction of Sites Reservoir if the final feasibility study finds it to be feasible and determines that any federal investment in the project will generate a proportionate amount of public benefit.
- Directs the Bureau of Reclamation to support the advancement of the project as a non-federal project, meaning the federal government will be a partner in the project, rather than an owner and operator of the project.
- Directs the Bureau of Reclamation to enter into an agreement with the Sites Project Authority to integrate operations of Sites Reservoir into the Central Valley Project, thereby maximizing the water supply benefits of the project in comparison to the project being operated in isolation.

### **Section 6 – Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act Amendments**

- Directs the Bureau of Reclamation to develop guidelines for the completion of a State-led (defined in the WIIN Act) feasibility study.
- Clarifies that WIIN Act funding for water storage projects can be used for permitting activities, exclusive of the cost of any mitigation required as a condition of permit approval.

### **Section 7 – Compliance with Environmental Laws**

- Requires the Bureau of Reclamation to comply with all relevant state and federal environmental and water laws when carrying out the Act.

### **Section 8 – Savings Clause**

- Clarifies that the bill does not preempt or modify any obligation of the federal government to abide by applicable state laws, including area of origin and water rights protections.