



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

April 29, 2019

The Honorable John Garamendi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2368 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Garamendi:

I am writing on behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to express support if amended for H.R. 1435, the Sites Reservoir Project Act of 2019.

In addition to providing a valuable, much needed new water storage, Sites Reservoir would provide greater operational flexibility for local flood control, enhance waterfowl and fisheries habitats while, at the same time, creating improved recreational and economic opportunities for the State. The Board of Directors has authorized and appropriated over \$5 million dollars since April 2017 for the preliminary collaborative work needed on this project. There are two areas in the legislation we would like to address with you and your office.

- Water Interest Protections for State Water Project Contractors  
While there are provisions to address protecting the water interests of the Central Valley Project and other references to protecting all water needs of water users, including Delta flows, there is no parallel provision protecting the interests of the State Water Project Contractors in the conveyance operations for the California State Water Project (SWP). We respectfully request parallel protective language be added.
- Coordinated Operations  
Metropolitan is in overall agreement that the federal government should have a role with respect to the current laws referenced in the legislation. Additionally, we respectfully request clarifying language to express commitment to continued coordination between the SWP and the Central Valley Project facilities to maximize water supply benefits for both projects, in a manner consistent with the provisions of the existing federal Coordinating Operating Agreement of 1986.

For your convenience, we are enclosing a redline of draft amendments for consideration.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to advance legislation authorizing a federal nexus to the Sites Reservoir Project once the concerns raised in this correspondence have been addressed, as H.R.1435 moves forward in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Kightlinger".

Jeffrey Kightlinger  
General Manager