

Conejo Simi Moorpark Association of REALTORS® Hot Issues: California State Water Project



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WATER SUPPLY – CALIFORNIA STATE WATER PROJECT – IN FAVOR

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A stable water supply is critical to maintaining our standard of living and property values. Two key projects (Sites Dam and Peripheral Canal) of the California State Water Project were basically suspended in 1963. At that time, California's population was 17,668,000, currently 38,965,000.

Water agencies have resorted to using limited supplies of recycled water, groundwater, desalination plants, and expensive processes to purify wastewater to drinking water specifications. Water bills have risen dramatically. Without completion of the Sites Dam and the Delta tunnel project, we will remain in constant jeopardy of inadequate water supply.

CSMAR

Conejo Simi Moorpark Association of REALTORS® (CSMAR) boundaries contain five cities: Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Moorpark, Westlake Village, Agoura Hills; in two counties: Ventura and Los Angeles. We also have three Municipal Advisory Councils areas: Oak Park, Santa Rosa Valley, and Casa Conejo. A great deal of coordination is required in dealing with overlapping rules, regulations, and ordinances which may affect real estate and property rights. Our Board of Directors has adopted Position Papers on issues which affect real estate the most. We believe it is important to articulate our positions on these issues to our roughly 2,000 members, citizens, and those in civic leadership positions.

WHY CSMAR IS IN FAVOR

The original California water project was envisioned as a statewide plan to supply Southern California with additional water resources and to minimize flooding in Northern California during very wet periods. We also face a potential that an earthquake could damage existing canals and cut off our water supply to Southern California. Completing the California State Water Project should proceed with that in mind.

- In 2014, voters approved Prop 1, a \$7.5 Billion water bond which included \$2.7 Billion for water storage.
- In 2023, more than 70% of the stormwater falling on California was returned to the ocean.
- As of 2024, no major projects have been accomplished.
- CSMAR wants to partner and coordinate with local Government bodies and Water Agencies to push for completion of the Sites Dam and the Delta tunnel conveyance project.
- In 2023, the Sacramento delta — the heart of the state's vast water system — lost nearly 95% of incoming water that flowed into the Pacific Ocean, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.
- The Tunnel would provide the ability to move and store excess water currently being dumped into the ocean in wet years, and the ability to store that excess water in the Sites dam for use in dry years.

