

# Cartography meets Modeling: Implementing a Complex Offstream Reservoir in CalSim 3

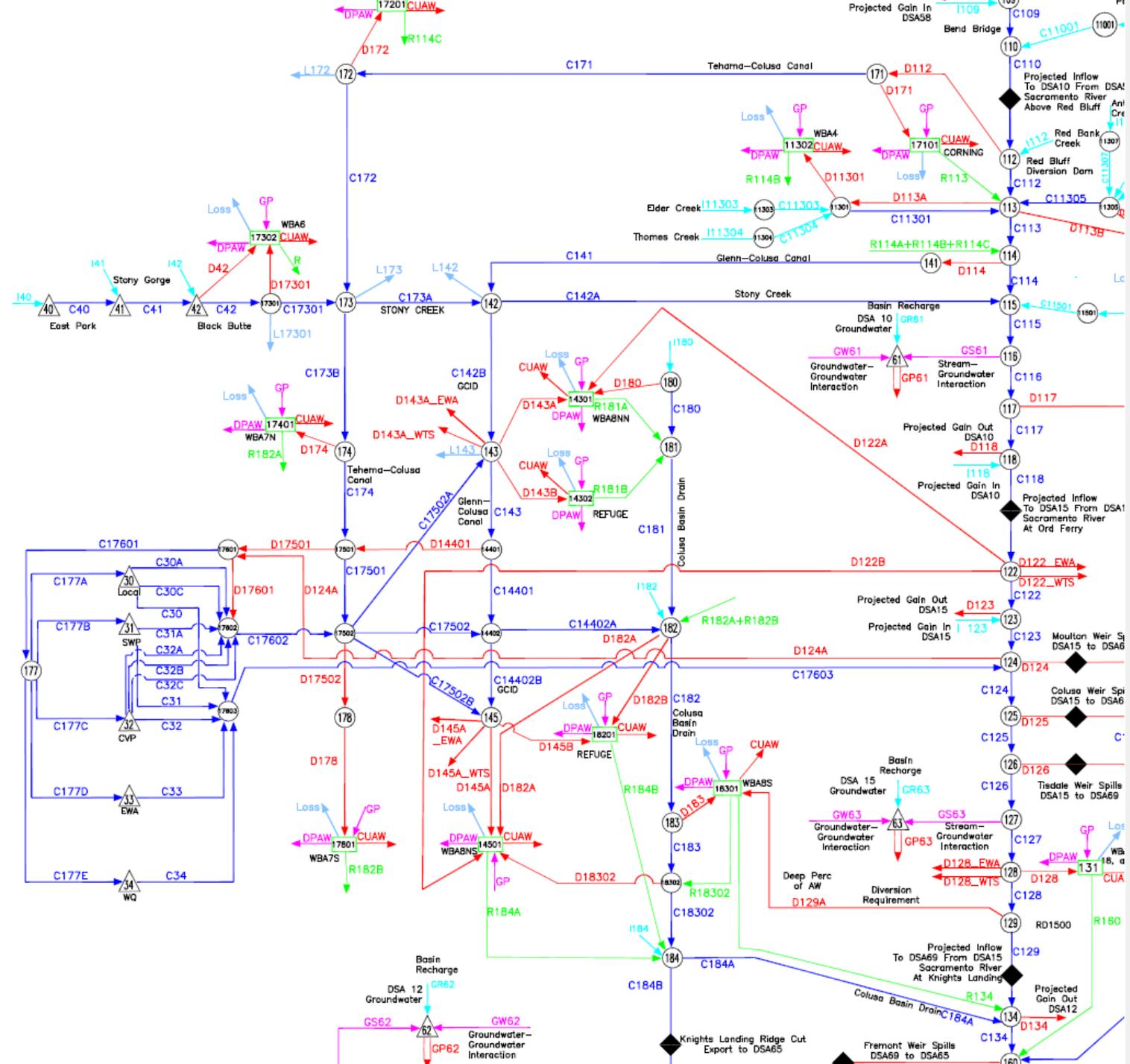
Reed Thayer, PE

Jacobs

# DISCLAIMER

This is a work in progress. All slides, figures, tables, and information is draft and pre-decisional but is presented with permission from the Sites Project Authority.





# Baseline

- 2021 BiOp – established in 2024 (based on CalSim 3 model provided by Reclamation) with:
  - No Healthy Rivers & Landscapes
  - Daily flow estimates in the Upper Sacramento River to more accurately determine weir spills into the Sutter Bypass and Yolo Bypass
- Existing facilities
- Currently using 2022 Median hydrology but 2040 Median in progress

# Guiding Principles

- Represent current project
- Make turning on and off as simple as possible
- Model like a watershed

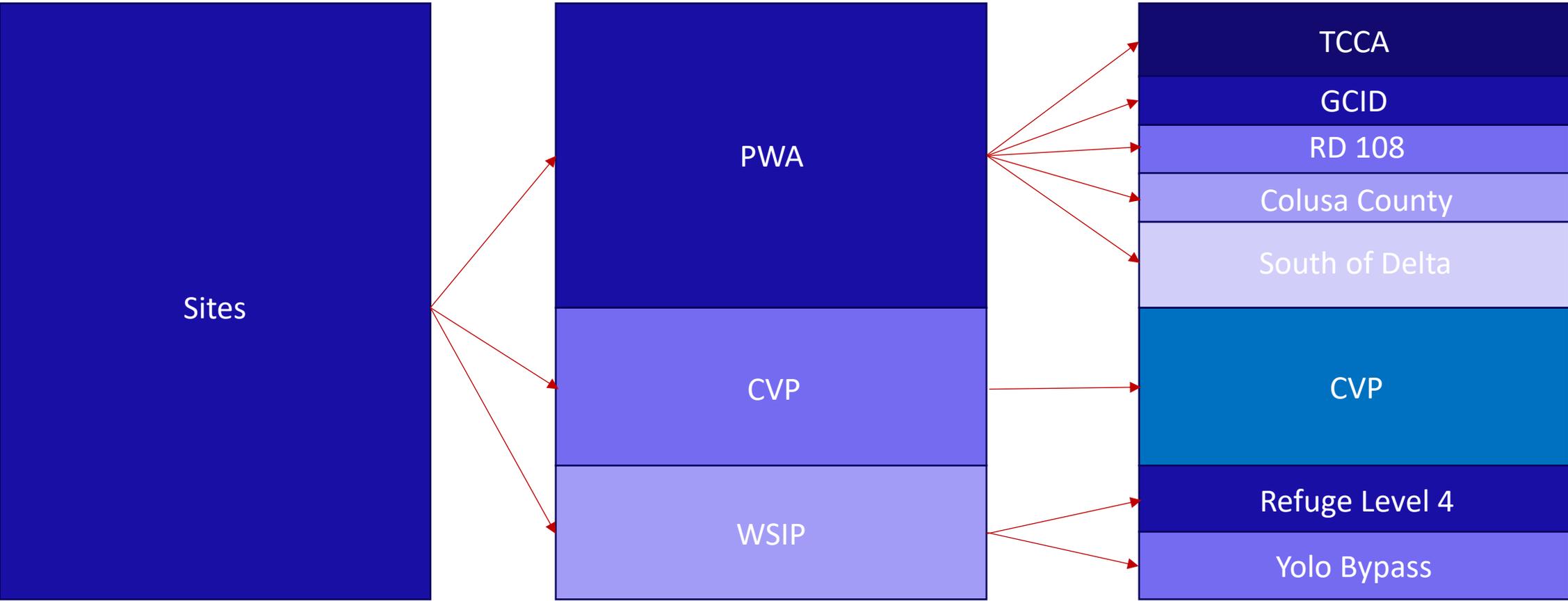
# The Sites “Watershed”

SystemTables_Bear	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder
SystemTables_Delta	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder
SystemTables_LowerAmerican	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder
SystemTables_LowerMokelumne	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder
SystemTables_LowerYuba	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder
SystemTables_Sac	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder
<b>SystemTables_SitesProject</b>	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder
SystemTables_SJREast	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder
SystemTables_SJRWest	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder
SystemTables_SOD	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder
SystemTables_UpperAmerican	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder
SystemTables_UpperFeather	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder
SystemTables_UpperMokelumne	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder
SystemTables_UpperStanislaus	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder
SystemTables_UpperYuba	5/7/2025 11:40 AM	File folder

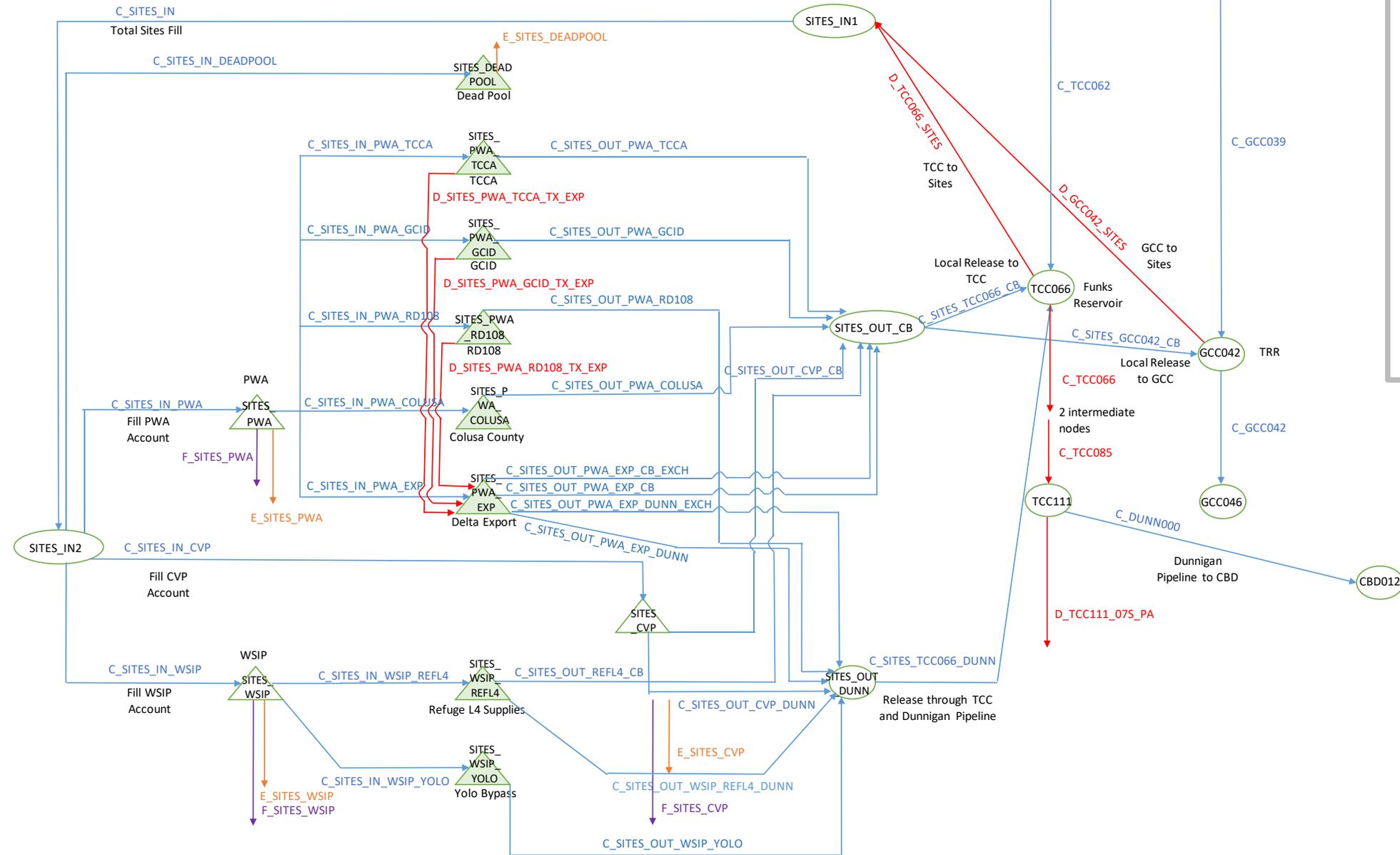
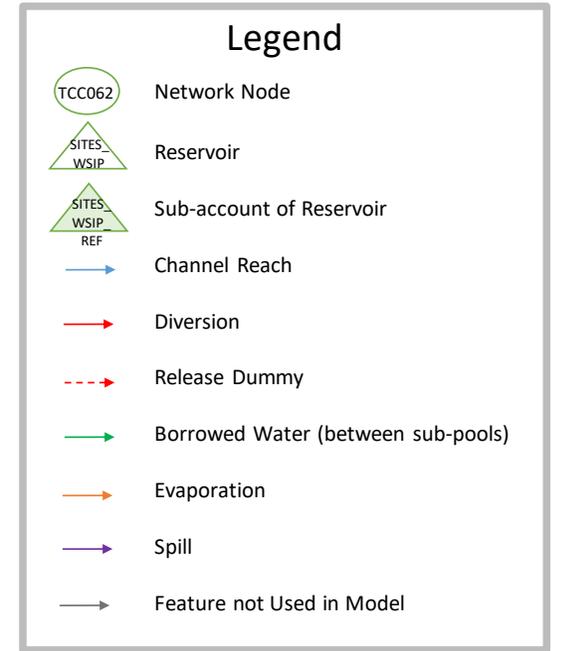
**Storage**

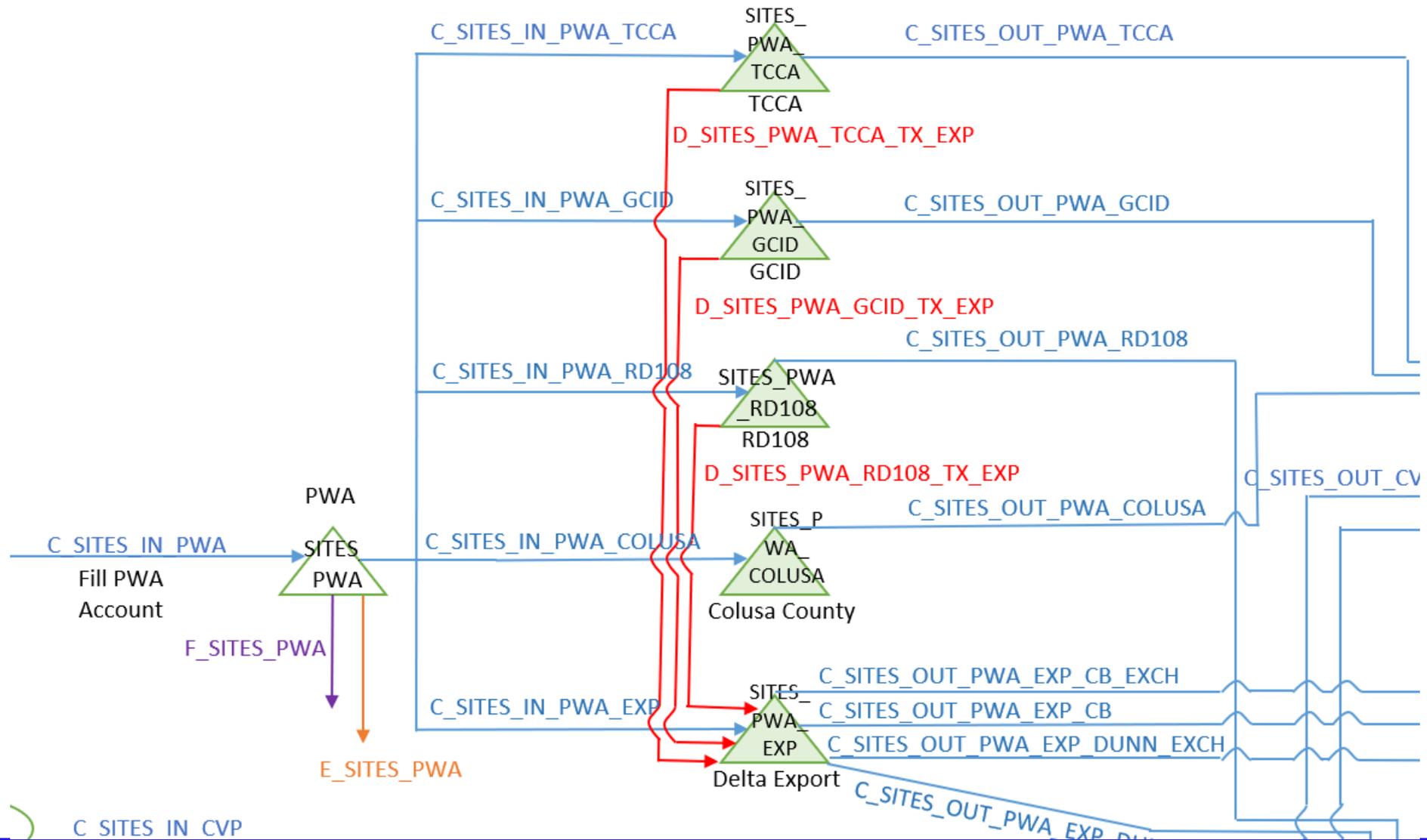


# Many reservoirs in one



# Sites Reservoir CalSim 3 Schematic





# Standardized Nomenclature

- C\_SITES\_[IN/OUT]\_[ACCOUNT]\_[SUB-ACCOUNT]
  - C\_SITES\_IN\_WSIP\_REFL4
- S\_SITES\_[ACCOUNT]\_[SUB-ACCOUNT]
  - S\_SITES\_WSIP\_REFL4

**Fills**



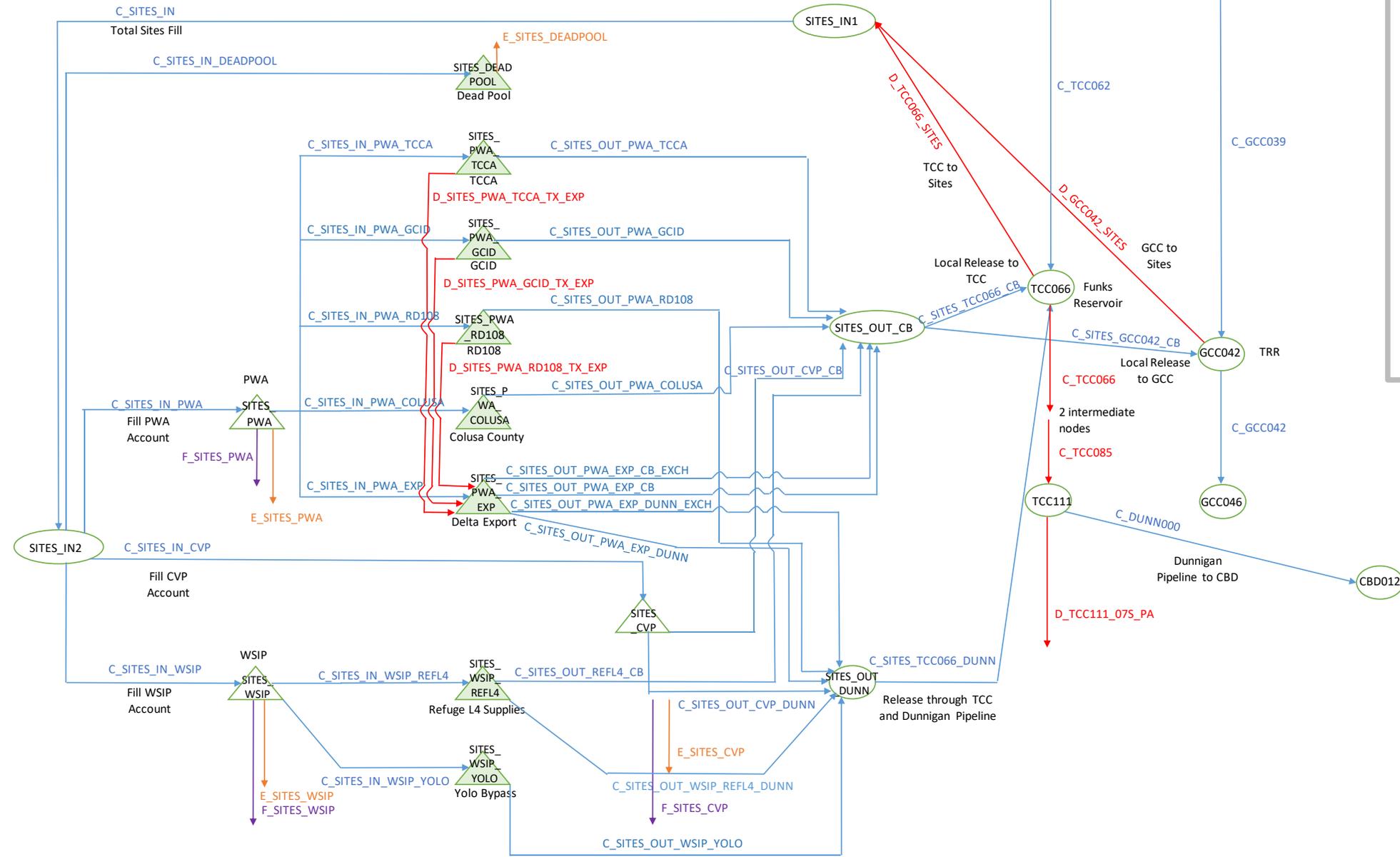
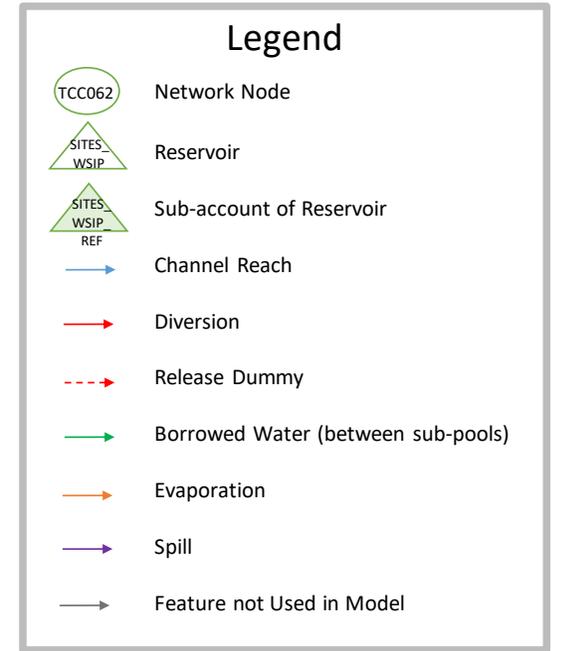
<b>Sites Modeling Diversion Criteria</b>		<b>Daily vs Monthly Implementation</b>
<b>Sites Storage Capacity</b>	1.5 MAF	Daily
<b>Red Bluff diversion capacity</b>	2,100 cfs	Daily
<b>Red Bluff Bypass</b>	3,250 cfs	Daily
<b>Hamilton City diversion capacity</b>	1,800 cfs & variable winter capacities	Daily
<b>Hamilton City Bypass</b>	4,000 cfs	Daily
<b>GCID Main Canal maintenance</b>	Last week in Jan, first week in Feb	Daily
<b>Wilkins Slough Bypass</b>	10,930 cfs	Daily
<b>Balanced Conditions</b>	No diversions when Delta is in Balanced conditions	Monthly
<b>Fully Appropriated Streamflow</b>	No diversion from Jun 15 to Aug 31	Daily
<b>Flow Dependent Diversions</b>	Diversions limited by flow at Bend Bridge and Hamilton City (per Section 9.14 of the Sites Ops ITP)	Daily
<b>Near Excess conditions</b>	Limit diversions to not use first 3,000 cfs of Surplus Delta Outflow	Monthly
<b>Shasta Spring Pulse</b>	Limit diversions in months with Shasta releases for Spring Pulse objectives	Monthly

Sites Fill

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Sites Modeling Diversion Criteria	
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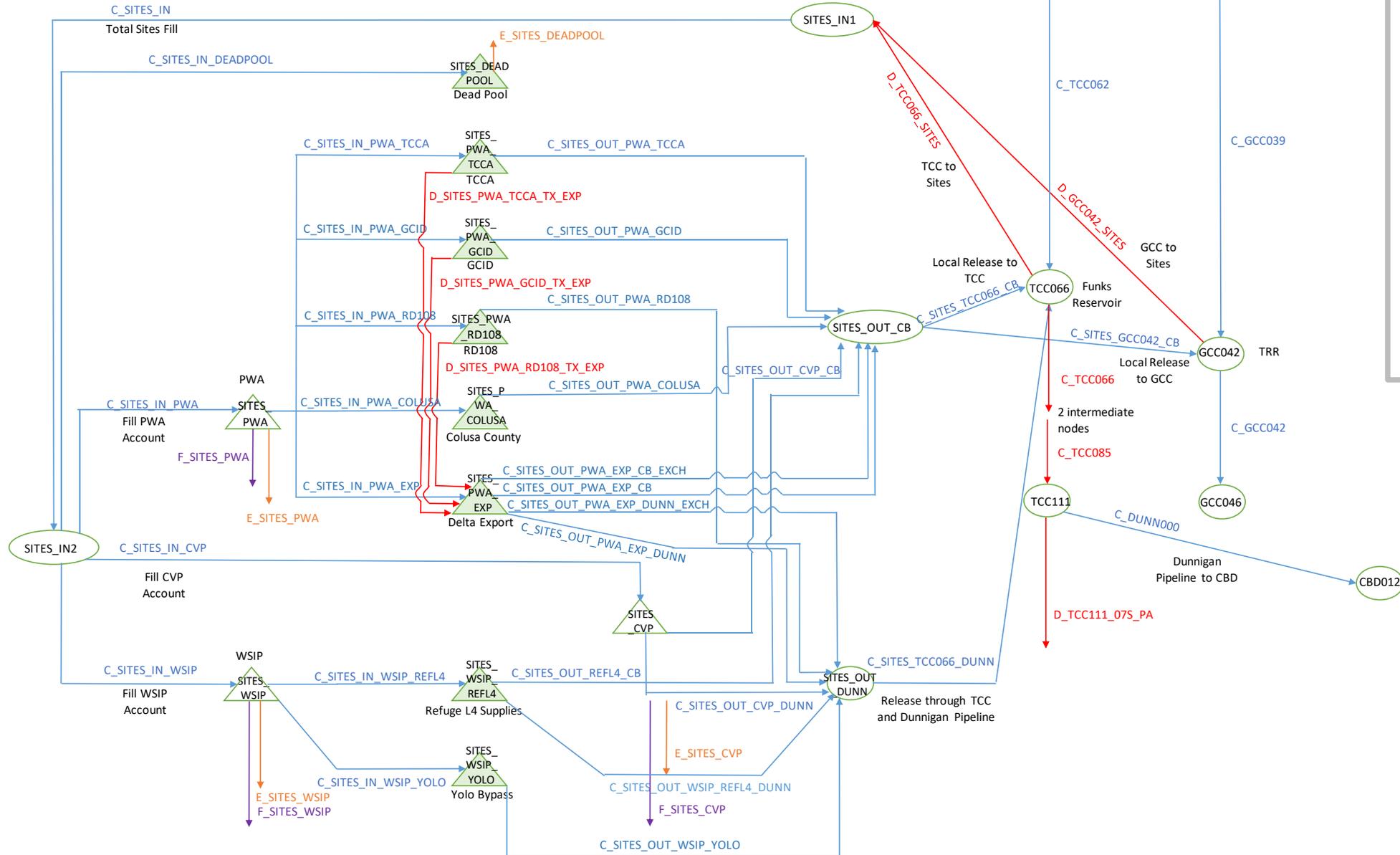
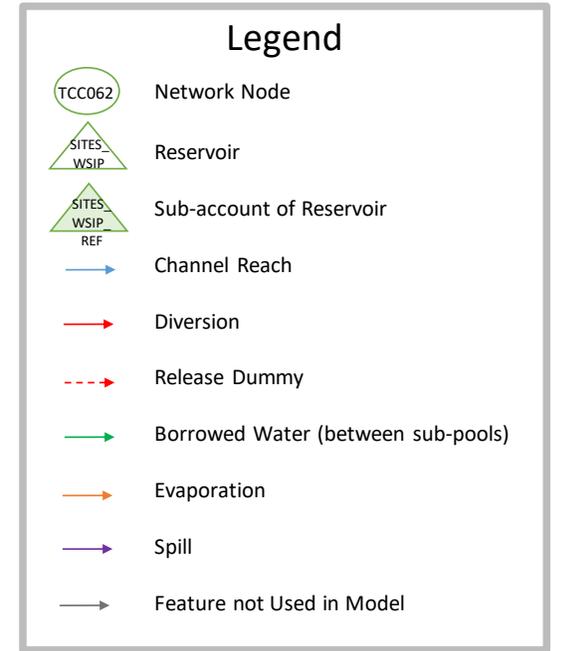
# Sites Reservoir CalSim 3 Schematic



**Releases**



# Sites Reservoir CalSim 3 Schematic



# Operations

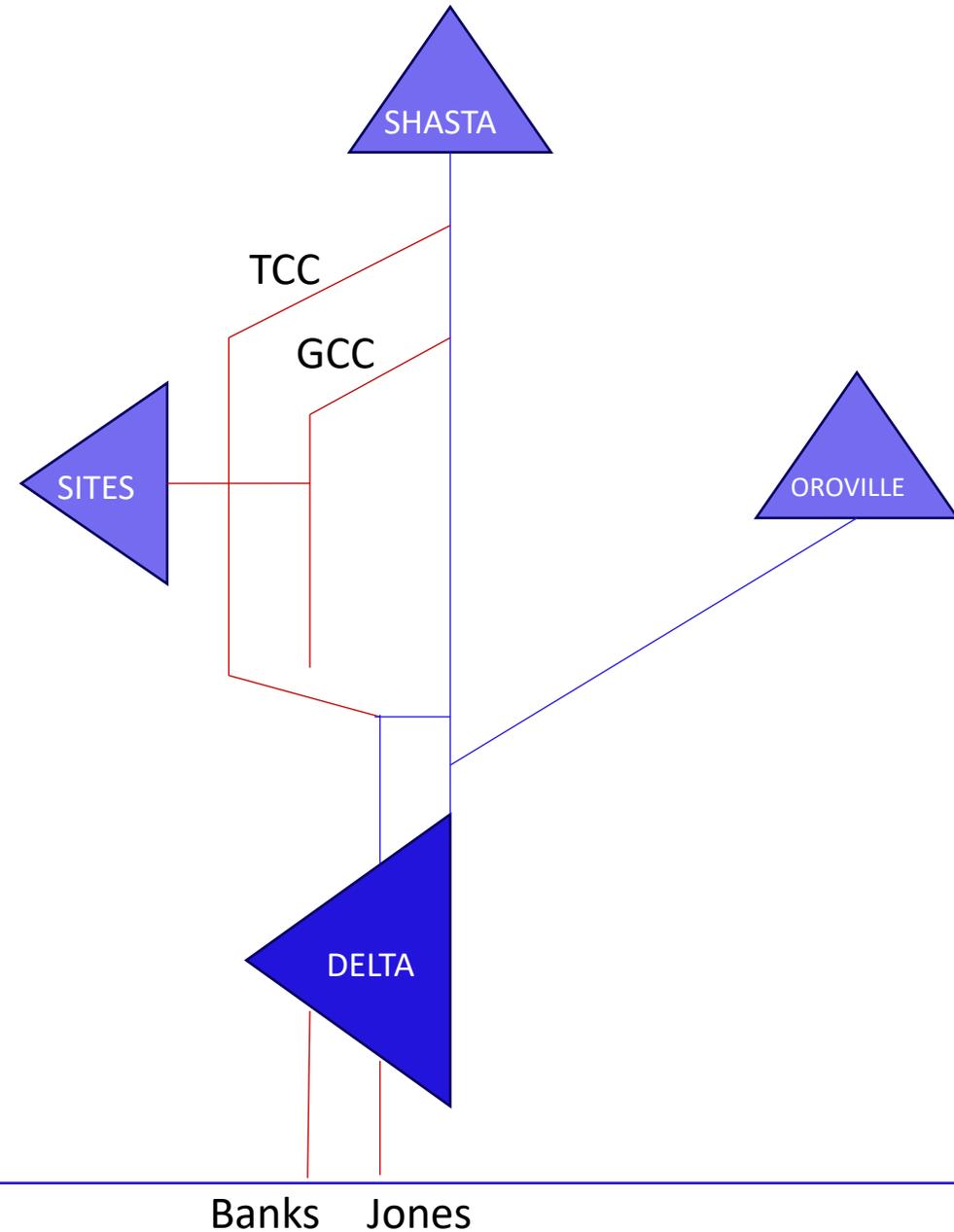
- Public Water Agencies (PWA)
  - North of Delta
    - Ag Service Contractors
    - Settlement Contractors
  - South of Delta
- CVP Operational Flexibility
- Public Benefits (WSIP)
  - Yolo Bypass Augmentation Flows
  - CVPIA Level 4 Refuge Deliveries

# Release Rules

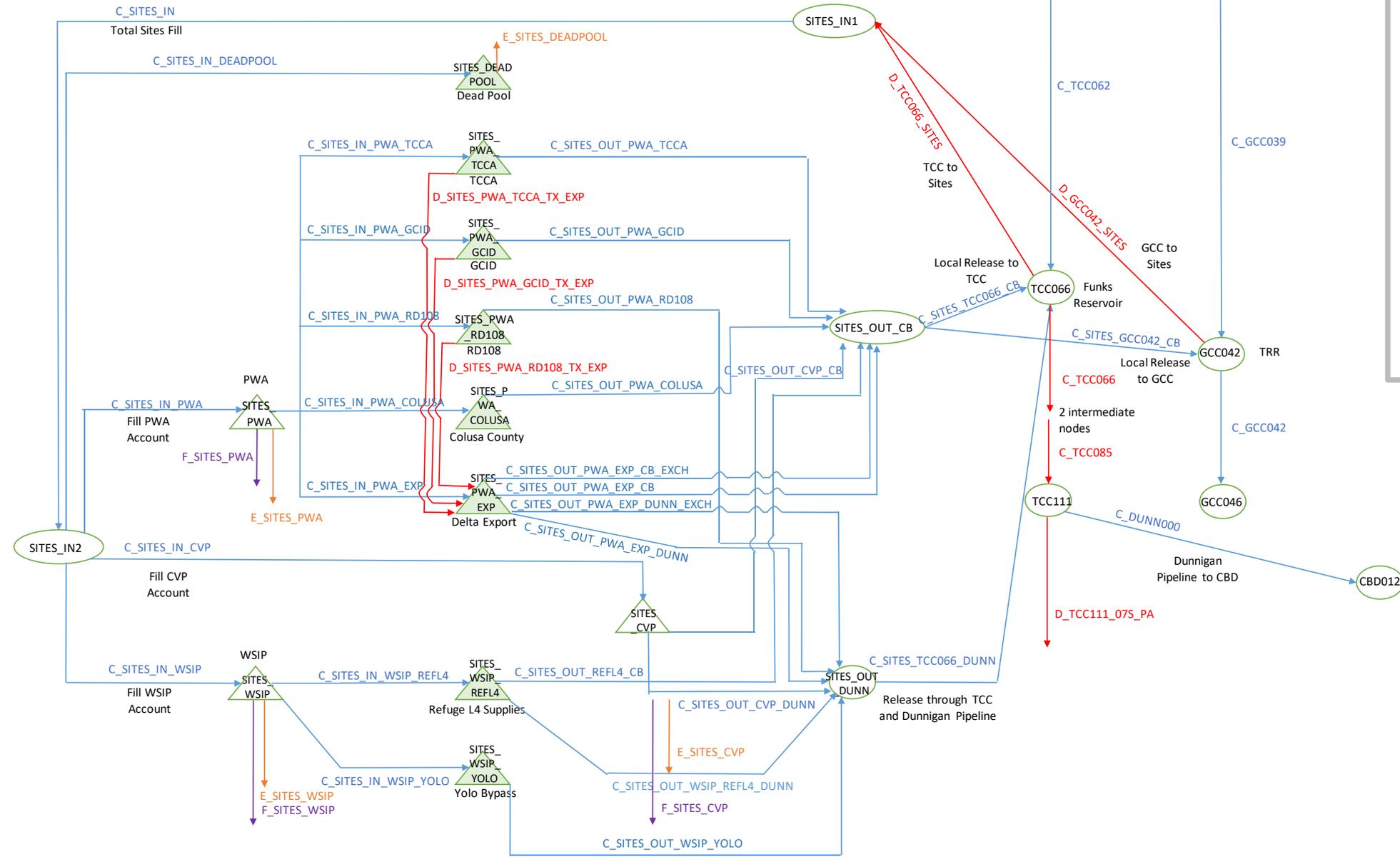
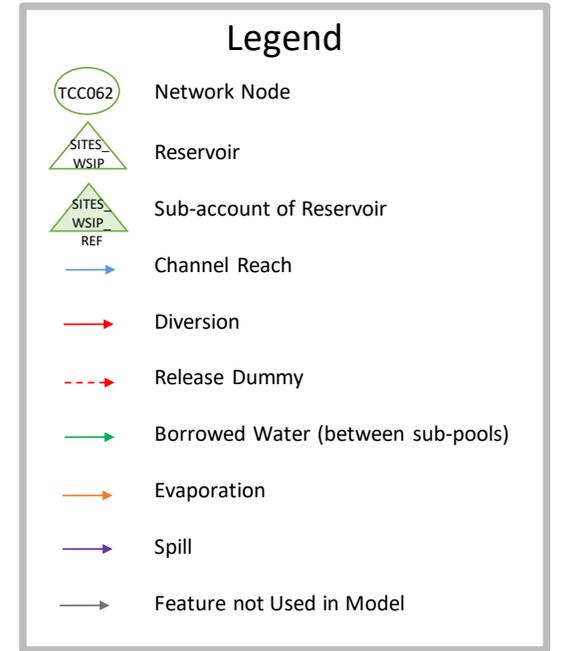
- There must be storage!!!
- Can release to North of Delta when Sites is not filling
  - Ag Service Contractors – release to meet target allocation
  - Settlement Contractors – Shasta Critical Years
  - Colusa County – Set GW replenishment release
- Can only release to South of Delta between July and November
  - Limited by conveyance capacity and Delta constraints
- CVP water belongs to the CVP

# Release Mechanisms

- Direct releases to Colusa Basin
- Dunnigan Pipeline
- In-river exchange at Hamilton City
- Oroville reoperation
- Shasta exchange



# Sites Reservoir CalSim 3 Schematic



# Grand Continuity Equation

Sites PWA SOD Release + Oroville Sites Release +  
Shasta Sites Release + Exchange Spill

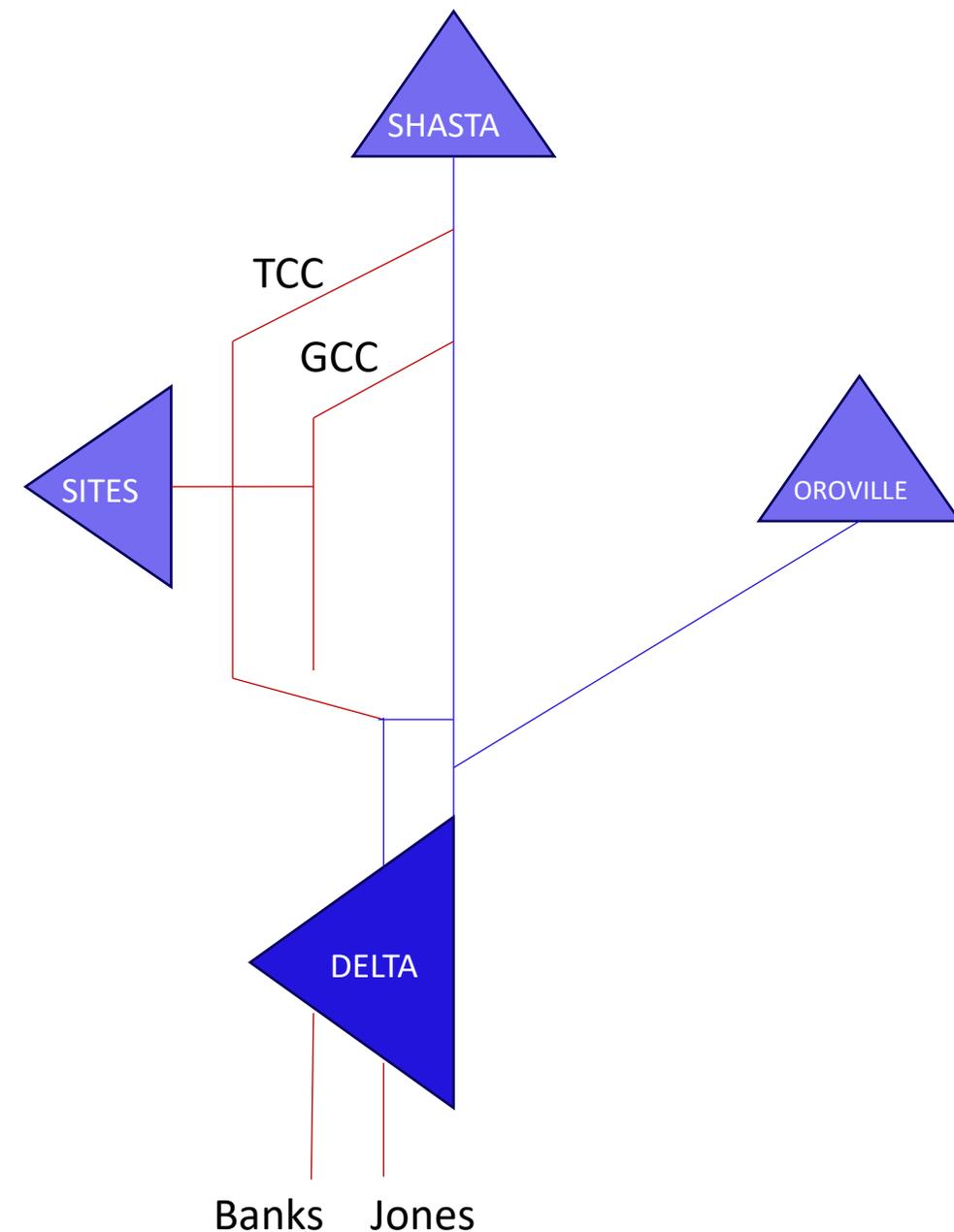
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Exchange with Oroville + Exchange with Shasta + Sites  
PWA EXP Exports + Sites PWA EXP Delta Outflow

**What's being released?**

=

**Where's it going?**

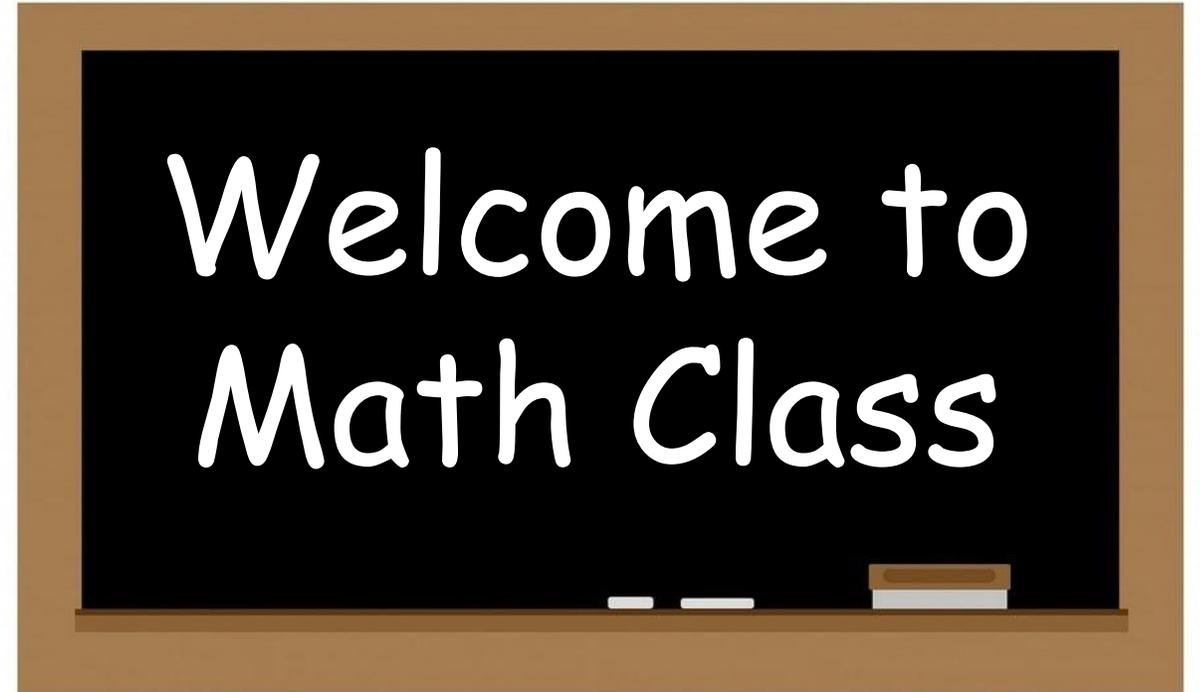


**Deliveries**



## How do releases become deliveries?

- North of Delta
  - Release = Delivery
- South of Delta
  - Release - Carriage water = Deliveries
- CVP
  - To be taught in grad school



## South of Delta

- South of Delta deliveries are calculated at Banks PP
- Deliveries are assigned to storage partners based on participation level



Los Angeles Times

# CVP Operational Flexibility

- Left to CVP logic
- Add storage to COA equations
- Some goes to storage, some goes direct to contractor deliveries

# Big Lesson Learned

- Keep Sites deliveries outside of delivery equations

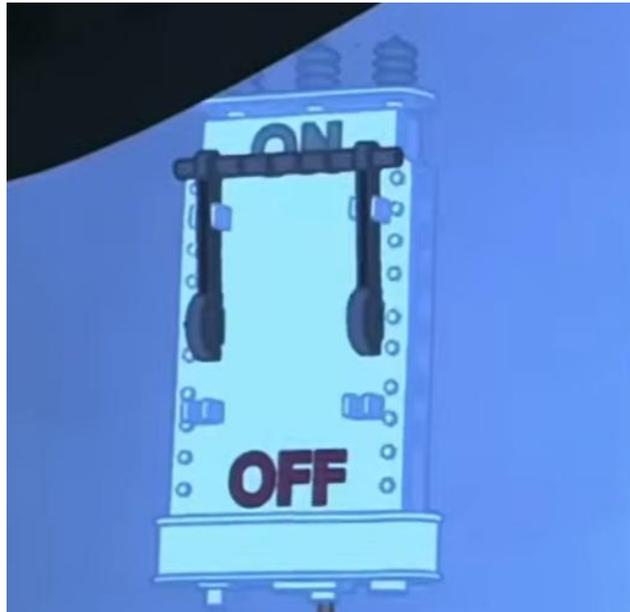
```
!=====
! 8N_PR1
!=====
! gross surface water diversions
goal setDG_08N_PR1 {DG_08N_PR1 = D_GCC027_08N_PR1/* + D_GCC027_08N_PR1_SITES*/}
! net surface delivery = surface diversion - conveyance losses
goal setDN_08N_PR1 {DN_08N_PR1 = DG_08N_PR1 - DL_08N_PR1}
! Total Applied Water = net surface delivery + groundwater pumping
goal meetAW_08N_PR1 {AW_08N_PR1 + RP_08N_PR1 = DN_08N_PR1 + GP_08N_PR1 + RU_08N_PR1 + SHRTG_08N_PR1 } ! shortage activated
```

**Development**



# Centralize controls

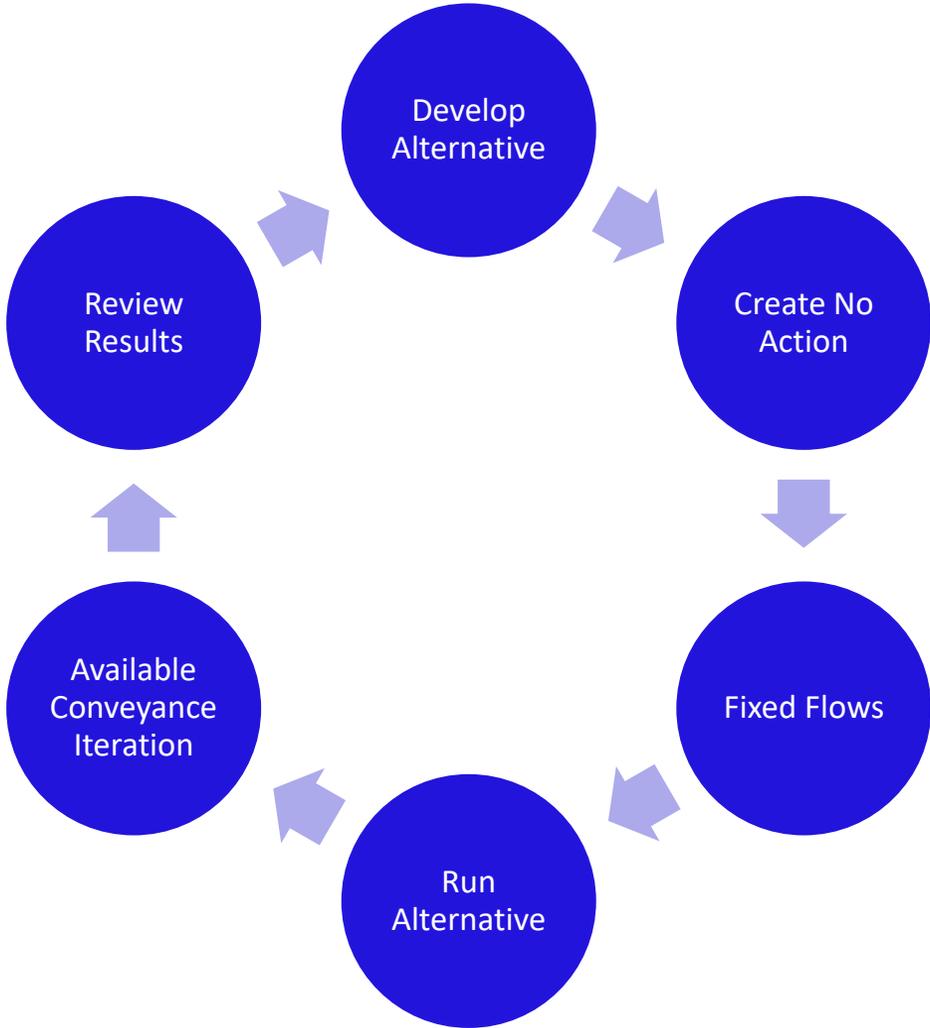
- Sites\_JobControl.table
- If it can be adjusted, put it in Job Control!
- Goal: the only two things that need to be turned on and off are a master Sites switch and zeroing out initial storages



## Fortunately, we had a CalSim II model to start with

- Fix all releases to CalSim II output timeseries
- Replace each one with a dynamic operation

# Iterative Process



# Cycle Implementation

CYCLE #	CYCLE NAME	SITES PROJECT ELEMENTS
19-22	SJR	Sites is inactive, but need parameters defined
23-27	GW	
28	PRESETUP	Sites is active, but no diversions to Sites storage
29	SETUP	Rough Sites diversions
30	MONTHLYWEIGHTED	All NOD actions are activated (NOD PWA, NOD REFL4, Yolo, CVP OpFlex - inc Jones PP exports)
31	UPSTREAM	
32	DELTASRPLS	
33	DELTA	
34	TRANSFERS_STAGE1	
35	WHEELCVC	
36	WHEELJPOD	
37	STOREXCH	Storage exchange operations
38	SITES_EXPORT	All Sites operations
39	ITP	Sites operations fixed to SITES_EXPORT

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**Jacobs**

Challenging today.  
Reinventing tomorrow.

