

March 9, 2023

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## **Commission to review draft Contracts for the Administration of Public Benefits, take virtual tour of the Harvest Water Program**

At the March 15, 2023, meeting, staff from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will present draft contracts for administration of public benefits (CAPBs) for the Harvest Water Program. Once constructed, the Harvest Water Program will store and manage groundwater while improving stream flow, enhancing groundwater-dependent riparian habitats, sustaining prime agricultural lands, and improving regional water supply reliability. Water produced from the Harvest Water Program will be used to irrigate up to 16,000 acres of agricultural and habitat lands in Sacramento County near the lower Cosumnes River and Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

### **California Water Commission meeting**

**When:** 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 15

**Where:** Warren-Alquist State Energy Building 1516 9th Street, Sacramento, 95814

**Info:** (916) 873-5774, [www.cwcc.ca.gov](http://www.cwcc.ca.gov)

The meeting will be live streamed at <https://www.water-ca.com/>.

To comment remotely, [Zoom](#) login information can be found on the [public participation guide](#).

The Harvest Water Program's draft CAPBs are available for viewing on the Commission website. A 14-day comment period will run through March 21.

- [Draft CAPB for Ecosystem Benefits](#)
- [Draft CAPB for Water Quality Benefits](#)

The Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) funds the public benefits of water storage projects, which are administered by State agencies through the CAPBs. CDFW is responsible for administering ecosystem improvement benefits; SWRCB is responsible for administering water quality improvement benefits; and Department of Water Resources is responsible for administering recreation, flood control, and emergency response benefits.

Proposition 1, Chapter 8 requires applicants in the WSIP to enter into contracts with State agencies for administration of public benefits provided by their projects. The WSIP regulations allow the State agencies to present their respective draft CAPBs to the Commission for information and comment. The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San), the project proponent for the Harvest Water Program, is negotiating CAPBs with CDFW and SWRCB for ecosystem and water quality benefits, respectively. At the Commission meeting, CDFW and SWRCB staffs will discuss the contents of the contracts, including the public benefits they cover, reporting requirements, and adaptive management. The public and

Commissioners will have an opportunity to offer comments on the draft CAPBs, which the State agencies may take under consideration. The CAPBs will be finalized prior to the final award hearing for this project.

#### **Harvest Water Program Virtual Site Visit**

Separately, WSIP applicants may opt to conduct a “virtual site visit” to share project information with the Commission prior to a project’s final award hearing. At this meeting, Regional San will present a virtual site visit of the Harvest Water Program. The site visit is intended to provide a project update, a synthesized review of the project’s background information, and updated information about the public benefits of the project.

For more information on WSIP, including general project schedules and timelines, visit [cwc.ca.gov/Water-Storage](http://cwc.ca.gov/Water-Storage).

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The nine-member California Water Commission uses its public forum to explore water management issues from multiple perspectives and to formulate recommendations to advise the director of the California Department of Water Resources, and as appropriate, the California Natural Resources Agency, the Governor and Legislature on ways to improve water planning and management in response to California’s changing hydrology. For more information, visit [cwc.ca.gov](http://cwc.ca.gov).