

June 13, 2023



Willow Springs
Water Bank



Matthew Swanson, Chair
California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

The purpose of this letter is to inform the California Water Commission (CWC) of the renewed collaboration between the Willow Springs Water Bank (WSWB) and Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) to jointly reach an agreement for the implementation of the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) benefits as described in the grant application.

To deliver both public and non-public benefits for the WSIP, a SWP contractor must support the project. We believe that AVEK, as the incumbent SWP contractor for the WSWB project, is the preferred choice for the following reasons:

- 1) AVEK's service territory includes the WSWB project area.
- 2) Collaborating with AVEK enables the utilization of existing facilities, enhancing the potential for generating additional public and non-public benefits with the full conditional award.

In October 2021, a WSWB project feasibility study was completed for the California Water Commission (CWC or Commission) to satisfy WSIP Regulations Section 6013(f)(2) subsection (A). This feasibility study included the utilization of AVEK-owned facilities and was produced in collaboration with AVEK. As part of this process, WSWB and AVEK jointly filed a commitment letter for a 75% cost share of the non-public benefit costs (O&M) for facilities built utilizing Proposition 1 funds, satisfying WSIP Regulations Section 6013(f)(2) subsection (C).

Since that time, negotiations focused on a larger project scope than contemplated in the grant. Recent meetings have shifted the approach to focus on delivering the benefits of the grant and to build out the necessary infrastructure in a mutually beneficial way, which has accelerated the progress of developing the arrangements.

Currently, WSWB representatives and AVEK staff engage in bi-weekly meetings to develop project configuration, costs, asset allocation, and operational aspects that would ensure compliance with the public benefit requirements under the grant as well as creating additional non-public benefits. Additionally, technical staff members from both parties have been meeting to analyze the joint operation of proposed facilities on an as-needed basis.

Both WSWB and AVEK are working together to arrive at an agreement within the disclosed timeline of the project, so that we can deliver the WSIP public and non-public benefits for which AVEK will be the SWP contractor under the grant.

Yours sincerely,

Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency:


Matt Knudson, General Manager

Willow Springs Water Bank:


John Whitt, General Manager