



**Water Storage Investment Program: Willow Springs Water Bank Conjunctive Use Project
Progress Update**

Introduction

The California Water Commission (Commission) administers the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) to fund the public benefits associated with water storage projects using funds from the Proposition 1 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1). Currently, six projects have a WSIP maximum conditional eligibility determination (MCED), which is the amount of Proposition 1 funding potentially available to a given project, and one project received a final funding award. Staff provided a general update for all seven projects in March 2023, and, based on that report, the Commission requested a project update for the Willow Springs Water Bank Conjunctive Use Project (Project). At the June meeting, the Commission heard an update on the Project and asked Project representatives to return at the November meeting for another update. The Project requested that item be deferred to the January 2024 meeting. The Commission is particularly interested in the Project's progress toward finding a State Water Contractor partner, which the Project needs to move forward.

The Willow Springs Water Bank is a conjunctive use project that will store groundwater in exchange for pulse-flow releases from Lake Oroville for ecosystem improvement and emergency response benefits. The State Water Contractor partner is necessary because one of the State Water Contractors would need to forego its allocation from Lake Oroville and agree to substitute water from the Project for the Project to achieve the public benefits for the WSIP.

Background

Through the WSIP, the Commission will invest nearly \$2.6 billion in the public benefits of water storage projects, consistent with the requirements of Proposition 1, Chapter 8. The six remaining WSIP applicants have successfully met the Proposition 1, Chapter 8 interim requirements and are working to complete the remaining statutory requirements, which include obtaining permits and completing environmental documents, and executing contracts for the administration of public benefits and contracts for non-public benefit cost share. Once these requirements are complete, each WSIP applicant will return to the Commission for a final award hearing.

This agenda item implements Goal Four of the Commission's Strategic Plan, which calls on the Commission to carry out its statutory responsibilities for WSIP.

Meeting Overview

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At the January meeting, representatives from the Southern California Water Bank Authority will provide a status of the project.

This is an informational item.

Contact

Amy Young

Program Manager

California Water Commission

(916) 882-2399