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Water Commission to consider potential funding options after project's withdrawal from Water Storage Investment Program

Tour of the Lookout Slough Restoration Project will conclude meeting

At the March 19 meeting, the [California Water Commission](#) could decide how to move forward with the utilization of more than \$525 million of [Water Storage Investment Program](#) (WSIP) funding. A portion of this funding, \$454 million, was initially designated for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project, if it met statutory requirements. The project's proponent, Contra Costa Water District, withdrew the project from the WSIP in November 2024. The Commission will also consider options for the use of the \$75 million made available by the voter-approved Proposition 4, the Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure of 2024.

The WSIP funds the public benefits associated with water storage projects (ecosystem improvement, water quality improvement, recreation, emergency response, and flood control). Since the Commission determined the amount of funding potentially available to a given project in 2018, the local project proponents have been in the driver's seat, each responsible for their project's schedule. The Commission cannot award a project its final funding until it is shovel ready, which means the project proponent must complete all of the Proposition 1 requirements – final permits, completed environmental documents, contracts for the administration of public benefits, and contracts for non-program funding – before returning to the Commission for a final award hearing. The Commission considers final funding awards once project proponents are ready.

California Water Commission meeting

When: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 19

Where: California Natural Resources Building, First Floor Auditorium
715 P Street, Sacramento, 95814

Info: (916) 873-5774, www.cwcc.ca.gov

The meeting will be live streamed at www.water-ca.com

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

The March meeting will include a tour of the Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project, completed in September of 2024 as part of State Water Project mitigation. At 3,400-acres, Lookout Slough is the largest single tidal wetland restoration project to date in the Delta. This multi-benefit project restores tidal wetland habitat and produces food for Delta smelt and other fish species, while reducing overall flood risk in the Sacramento area.

Lookout Slough tour location and time:

Tour will begin at Lookout Slough at the terminus of Liberty Island Road, Dixon, CA 95620.

38° 19'44.3" N, 121° 41'39.6" W

Please see [map](#) for directions.

Tour will begin no earlier than 1:00 p.m.

Members of the public are responsible for their own transportation. Comfortable clothing and comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

There will not be a remote option for the tour and it will not be recorded. If you have any questions about the tour, or if you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Commission staff at (916) 873-5774, www.cwc.ca.gov

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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 the California State Legislature on ways to improve water planning and management in response to California's changing hydrology. As required by Water Code section 165, the Commission conducts an annual review of the construction and operation of the State Water Project. For more information regarding the California Water Commission, visit cwc.ca.gov.