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## California Water Commission to hear updates from two Water Storage Investment Program proponents: Sites Project and the Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project

July meeting agenda also includes presentations on the dam safety review process, Sites' ecosystem benefits, and the third State Water Project briefing of 2025.

The July 16 meeting of the <u>California Water Commission</u> will include presentations on the status of two <u>Water Storage Investment Program</u> (WSIP) projects: the <u>Sites Project</u> and the <u>Kern Fan Groundwater</u> <u>Storage Project</u>.

California Water Commission meeting When: Wednesday, July 16 at 9:30 a.m. Where: California Natural Resources Building 715 P Street, Sacramento, 95814 Info: (916) 873-5774, <u>www.cwc.ca.gov</u> The meeting will be live streamed at <u>www.water-ca.com</u> To comment remotely, <u>Zoom</u> login information can be found on the <u>public participation guide</u>.

Funded by <u>Proposition 1</u>, also known as the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Act of 2014, and <u>Proposition 4</u>, also known as the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Act of 2024, the Commission administers the WSIP to fund the public benefits associated with water storage projects (flood control, ecosystem improvement, water quality improvement, emergency response, and recreation). Each project proponent drives its own project schedule and is responsible for completing the WSIP statutory requirements before seeking a final award decision. The project proponents will appear before the Commission to provide updates on the projects' progress.

The proposed Sites Project is a 1.5 million acre-foot off-stream surface storage reservoir located in the Sacramento Valley west of the town of Maxwell. The project will provide ecosystem, recreation, and flood control public benefits. The Kern Fan Project is a regional water bank that will recharge and store water in the Kern County Groundwater Sub-basin in the San Joaquin Valley. The project will provide ecosystem and emergency response public benefits.

The Department of Water Resources' Division of Safety of Dams will also explain the phased permitting process for the construction of large-scale dam projects, including the Sites Project, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff will explain Sites' ecosystem benefits.

The meeting will also include the third State Water Project (SWP) briefing of 2025. Topics will include a brief overview on how ongoing subsidence effects on the California Aqueduct will impact operations; the SWP's budget process for calendar year 2025; an update on current-year operations, water year allocation, and planning decisions made to date; and a State Water Contractor's perspective on the SWP budget, cost pressures, and other budgetary considerations.

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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 <u>cwc.ca.gov</u>.