



Water Storage Investment Program: Chino Basin Program 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), codified at Water Code section 79750 *et seq*, and supplemented by funds from Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4).

One of the WSIP projects, the Chino Basin Program is a conjunctive use project that will develop an advanced water purification facility, aquifer replenishing wells, and groundwater production wells that will treat, store, and produce purified wastewater in the Chino Groundwater Basin in San Bernardino County. The project will provide ecosystem improvements by delivering Table A water for pulse flows from Lake Oroville for salmon on the Feather River through an exchange agreement with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The project will also provide local water quality and emergency response benefits. The investment of WSIP funds in this project is based on the value of the ecosystem, water quality, and emergency response benefits provided by the project.

At this meeting, the Commission will hear from representatives leading the Chino Basin Program. This meeting will provide the Commission with information on the project's status and will help the Commission understand whether the project is making demonstrable progress and has viable public benefits.

Background

Through the WSIP, the Commission will invest \$2.65 billion in the public benefits of water storage projects, consistent with the requirements of Proposition 1, Chapter 8 and Proposition 4. The Commission made Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determinations in July 2018, which set the amount of Proposition 1 funding potentially available to each project. One project received a final award at the June 2023 Commission meeting. The four remaining WSIP applicants successfully met Proposition 1 interim requirements by the deadline of January 1, 2022, and are working to complete the remaining statutory requirements. These include obtaining permits and completing environmental documents, executing contracts for the administration of public benefits, and completing contracts for non-public benefit cost share. When the applicant completes these requirements, the applicant will return to the Commission for a final award hearing at which the Commission will decide whether to award final funding. On November 19, 2025, the Commission approved [modifying its WSIP regulations](#). The

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modification allows the Commission to increase the amount of conditional funding committed to a project on a case-by-case basis, to account for inflation and increased public benefits. These supplemental funding determinations can be made prior to or after the final funding hearing.

This agenda item is related to Goal One of the [Commission's Strategic Plan](#), which calls on the Commission to implement the WSIP to achieve public benefits.

Meeting Overview

At this meeting Kevin Alexander, Inland Empire Utilities Agency General Manager, and Elizabeth (Liz) Hurst, Chino Basin Program Manager, will provide an update on the Chino Basin Program.

Following their remarks, the Commission will hear Tribal and public comment on the information presented. Commissioners will then have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

This is an informational item.

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