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## **Water Commission to review draft Contracts for the Administration of Public Benefits for the Sites Project**

Virtual tour of the proposed reservoir, request for potential funding increase also on June meeting agenda

At the June 17, 2026, meeting of the [California Water Commission](#) (Commission), staff from the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (CDFW), and the [Department of Water Resources](#) (DWR) will present [draft contracts for administration of public benefits](#) (CAPBs) for the [Sites Project](#), a surface storage reservoir in the Sacramento Valley. These contracts capture the details on how the Sites Project will provide the public benefits in which the Commission is investing public dollars through its [Water Storage Investment Program](#) (WSIP).

Once constructed, the Sites Reservoir will be a 1.5 million acre-foot off-stream surface storage reservoir located west of the town of Maxwell. As proposed, the reservoir will capture and store flood flows from the Sacramento River, reducing potential flood damage in the Maxwell area. The reservoir will also provide new opportunities for recreation for an anticipated 187,000 visitors annually, including 150 campsites, 20 picnic sites, a two-land boat ramp, equestrian trails, and a 35-acre overlook and interpretive area. And the Sites Reservoir plans to deliver water to wildlife refuges north and south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The project is also pursuing a funding commitment from the Commission to deliver up to 200,000-acre feet of captured water to create a new water supply for use during emergency-declared droughts.

The WSIP funds the public benefits of water storage projects, which are administered by State agencies through the CAPBs. Proposition 1, Chapter 8 (2014) requires applicants in the WSIP to enter into contracts with State agencies for administration of public benefits provided by their projects. The WSIP regulations allow the State agencies to present their respective draft CAPBs to the Commission for information and comment. The Commission reviews but does not approve the contracts.

[What is a CAPB?](#)  
[How to make a public comment](#)

The Sites Project Authority, the project proponent, is negotiating contracts with CDFW for ecosystem benefits, and with DWR for flood control, emergency response, and recreation benefits. At the Commission meeting, CDFW and DWR staffs will discuss the contents of the

contracts, including the public benefits they cover, reporting requirements, and adaptive management. The public and Commissioners will have an opportunity to offer comments on the draft CAPBs, which the State agencies may take into consideration. The CAPBs will be finalized prior to the final award hearing for this project.

The Sites Project draft CAPBs are available for viewing on the Commission website. A 30-day comment period opened June 5 and will run through July 6.

- [Draft CAPB for Ecosystem Benefits](#)
- [Draft CAPB for Flood Control, Emergency Response, and Recreation Benefits](#)

### **California Water Commission meeting**

**When:** 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 17, 2026

**Where:** California Natural Resources Building, Room 221  
715 P Street, Sacramento, 95814

**Info:** (916) 873-5774, [www.cwc.ca.gov](http://www.cwc.ca.gov)

The meeting will be live streamed at <https://www.water-ca.com/>.

Public comment can be made to the Commission until July 6, 2026, via the following methods:

- Email – [cwc@water.ca.gov](mailto:cwc@water.ca.gov)
- Written – California Water Commission  
P.O. Box 924836 Sacramento, CA 94236
- At the Commission’s meeting – The public will be able to attend the hearing in-person or via Zoom. Information about the meeting is available [here](#).

### **Sites Reservoir Virtual Tour**

Separately, WSIP applicants may opt to conduct a “virtual tour” to share project information with the Commission prior to a project’s final award hearing. At this meeting, the Sites Reservoir project proponent will present a virtual tour of the Sites Project. The tour is intended to provide a project update, a synthesized review of the project’s background information, and updated information about the public benefits of the project.

### **Supplemental Funding Request**

Also on the June meeting agenda, the Commission will decide whether to commit supplemental funding for the Sites Project to offset inflation or for additional public benefits, with funds made available from Proposition 4 (2024) and the withdrawal of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project from the WSIP.

For more information on WSIP, including general project schedules and timelines, visit [cwc.ca.gov/Water-Storage](http://cwc.ca.gov/Water-Storage).

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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 Legislature on ways to improve water planning and management in response to California's changing hydrology. For more information, visit [cwc.ca.gov](http://cwc.ca.gov).