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Commission Approves Investing \$2.7 Billion in Eight Water Storage Projects

Proposition 1 Funds Conditionally Committed to Add 4.3 Million Acre-Feet of Storage Capacity

SACRAMENTO – Eight proposed projects that would boost California’s water storage capacity by 4.3 million acre-feet are in line to receive nearly \$2.7 billion in Proposition 1 funding following action today by the California Water Commission.

The Commission approved conditional funding amounts for the projects, which range from expanding existing reservoirs to boosting groundwater storage to building 21st century surface storage facilities. Applicants must complete the remaining Proposition 1 requirements which are divided into two groups, continuing eligibility and final funding. Continuing eligibility requirements of a completed feasibility study, draft environmental documents available for public review, and commitment of 75 percent of the non-public benefit cost share must be completed so that the Commission can make a finding of feasibility by January 1, 2022. Once an applicant succeeds in meeting the continuing eligibility requirements they must also provide final funding requirements of final necessary permits, final environmental documents, contracts for administration of public benefits, and contracts for 100 percent of the non-public benefit cost share before they can appear before the Commission for a final funding award.

“Today marks a major milestone for the Commission and project applicants,” Commission Chair Armando Quintero said. “After an intensive process, the Commission has concluded that these eight storage projects will ensure the strongest return on the public’s investment. We applaud the applicants for their hard work to get to this point, and we are confident they will use this momentum to do the remaining work needed to secure these crucial investments in California’s water future.”

The Commission also approved requests from three applicants to receive a portion of their funding early to help complete permits and environmental documents. The three projects are Sites Reservoir, Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion, and Pacheco Reservoir Expansion. Proposition 1 allows applicants to receive up to 5 percent of their Commission-approved conditional funding amount as early funding.

Moving forward, the Commission will continue meeting with applicants, state agencies and stakeholders to review the status of each project. Once an applicant has obtained all necessary permits, contracts, and documents, the Commission will hold a final funding hearing.

Below is a summary of the Commission-approved Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determination (MCED) and early funding for each project.

Project	Final Expected Return for Public Investment Score	Rank	Commission-Approved Eligible Amount (May 2018)	Applicant Request (May 2018)	Commission MCED (July 2018)	Early Funding (Portion of MCED)
Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project	82	2	\$484,550,000	\$484,550,000	\$484,550,000	\$24,200,000
South County Ag Program	77	2	\$280,530,000	\$280,500,000	\$280,500,000	None Requested
Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project	76	2	\$459,000,000	\$459,000,000	\$459,000,000	\$13,650,309
Temperance Flat Reservoir Project	73	2	\$171,330,000	\$171,330,000	\$171,330,000	--
Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Program	70	2	\$206,900,000	\$206,900,000	\$206,900,000	None Requested
Sites Project	61	3	\$1,008,280,000	\$916,620,000	\$816,377,686	\$40,818,884
Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project	54	3	\$85,660,000	\$85,700,000	\$67,537,315	None Requested
Willow Springs Water Bank	53	3	\$123,290,000	\$123,290,000	\$95,405,999	None Requested
Totals			\$2,819,540,000	\$2,727,890,000	\$2,581,601,000	\$78,669,193
					Total Available	\$2,581,601,000

Proposition 1, approved by 67 percent of California voters in 2014, created a competitive process for funding projects based on their public benefit aspects. The projects were evaluated and ranked on criteria established in the Water Storage Investment Program [regulations](#).

Proposition 1 dedicated \$2.7 billion for the Water Storage Investment Program. As noted at the beginning of the application process, 2 percent of that amount is set aside for bond financing and 2.5 percent is set aside for state administrative costs over the life of the program, so the total funding available is \$2.582 billion.

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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 regarding the California Water Commission visit cwc.ca.gov.