

## Water Storage Investment Program Quarterly Report

The quarterly reporting covered by this template documents an applicant's progress toward complying with [California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 6013\(d\)](#) in preparation for a final WSIP funding hearing with the Commission. This report also documents any changes to the physical quantity and type of public benefit being provided by the project. Commission staff relies on this report to keep the Commission informed of the project's progress, challenges and timeline. It is expected that each Applicant will be forthright and transparent in its reporting.

Applicants must provide an update of the project status for the requirements and milestones listed below. Applicants may deviate from this fill-in format, however, please provide the information requested in this template. Applicants must ensure this report is consistent with other publicly available project information, such as materials presented to the Applicant's governing body.

### Project Information

Project name:

Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project

Applicant name:

Groundwater Banking Joint Powers Authority (GBJPA)

Date:

April 30, 2025

Reporting period:

January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025

Provide a brief project description:

The Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project (Kern Fan Project) is a proposed regional water bank with a storage capacity of 100,000 acre-feet located in the Kern Sub-Unit of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin in Kern County, California. The Project would be constructed and owned by the Groundwater Banking Joint Powers Authority (GBJPA). The GBJPA is comprised of members Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District (Rosedale). The Kern Fan Project would capture, recharge and store wet-year surface water that would otherwise be lost to the ocean for water use as needed.

Proposed project facilities include approximately 1200 acres of recharge basins, up to 12 wells, and associated pipelines. Water will be conveyed from the California Aqueduct to and from the Project sites via a newly proposed turnout at the California Aqueduct and a new conveyance canal with up to 500 cubic feet per second conveyance capacity.

Project storage capacity will be split between three storage accounts for Public and Non-Public Benefits. 25,000 AF will be allocated to an Ecosystem account, 37,500 AF to an IRWD account and the remaining 37,500 AF to a Rosedale account. The Project would be operated to store Article 21 water during wet years for the administration of Public and Non-Public Benefits. When Article 21 is not available, Project facilities would be used to recharge other sources of water including Section 215 water. During dry years, the stored water would be recovered for use

Provide a brief description of public benefits:

Ecosystem Benefit- Fish Species Recovery: Approximately 25% of the Article 21 water stored by the Project would be dedicated for ecosystem benefits. The water would be used by DWR in an exchange that would provide short-term pulse flows to generate ecosystem benefits by improving habitat for fish species in the Feather and Sacramento Rivers and San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta.

Ecosystem Benefit- Incidental Wetland Habitat: The Central Valley is a crucial area along the Pacific Flyway for waterfowl. During recharge events, the inundated basins provide temporary habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and other migratory birds.

Emergency Response Benefits- Extended Drought and Delta Failure: Groundwater stored as part of the project will be available to call on during a drought emergency or as an alternative supply in the case of a local supply outage. A separate emergency response benefit of the Project is the water supply provided by the Project in event of levee failure in the Delta that curtails water deliveries.

Water Supply Benefits: Water stored in the IRWD and Rosedale storage accounts would provide water supply benefits to IRWD, Rosedale and Dudley Ridge Water District. This water would be used for M&I and Agricultural purposes.

Increased Groundwater Level Benefit: The groundwater basin in Kern County is operated such that a portion of banked groundwater is not recovered by the banking entity and remains in the ground to bolster local groundwater levels. This "leave behind" water will improve water levels and provide a groundwater level benefit.

Agricultural Impact Benefit: An additional agricultural benefit from the Kern Fan Project is the preservation of permanent agricultural crops that would need to be replaced with low-value crops if the water from the Project were not available. The Article 21 water stored by the Project would allow for preservation of 600 acres of permanent crops.

Current total project cost:

\$353.75 million (2024 dollars)

## **General Update and Key Issues**

Provide a general update and describe any **key issues** that occurred during this reporting period. You may attach additional documents or pages if more space is needed:

During the current reporting period, the GBJPA and technical hosted a roundtable discussion with five other water districts potentially interested in participation in the design, construction, and operation conveyance facilities for the project. The new conveyance facilities would serve both existing and new recharge facilities while also improving operations of the Cross Valley Canal. Two of the five districts indicated a desire to further discuss the opportunity in the project with their respective Board of Directors.

During the current reporting period, construction activity continued at the West Enos Recharge Facility. The Goose Lake Turnout Facility was completed, the Enos Lane crossing headworks structure was completed, and the interbasin structures were installed. In addition, slope protection was installed around the interbasin structures .

Also during the current reporting period, construction activity commenced at the Stockdale North Recharge Facility. The earthwork for the recharge facilities started in January 2025 and included removal of existing buried irrigation lines, removal and demolition of old pump standpipes, site clearing and grubbing, subgrade and keyway preparation, levee embankment fill, and installation of a 48" diameter cased crossing beneath Stockdale Highway.

Attach latest project schedule. In addition, describe below how the actual schedule is progressing in comparison to the schedule provided in the last reported schedule:

Attached as Exhibit "A" is the Funding Agreement Milestone Schedule entitled "Project Schedule (CWC Table 1)". The schedule provides the milestones stipulated in the Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determination Letter dated July 27, 2018.

Attached as Exhibit "B" is an updated Kern Fan Project overall schedule, which includes the Commission requirements, as well as planning and project studies, environmental documentation, design, and construction. The schedule has been modified to reflect timing of ongoing discussions with interested parties regarding the proposed turnout on the California Aqueduct and the Joint Works Project.

Both Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B" have been updated to reflect earlier projected completion dates of Phase 1 construction and extending the Phase 2 schedule. The Phase 2 schedule reflects additional time necessary to finalize discussions and agreements on the location of the California Aqueduct turnout and conveyance infrastructure facilities. As a result, the timing of the contracts for public benefits has been extended to April 2026, and submittal of CWC funding agreements extended to August 2026. The timing of the funding agreement with the CWC has been extended by one month to February 2027. The project is still expected to be completed in 2030.

Note any milestones or accomplishments that occurred since submitting the prior Quarterly Report:

During the current reporting period, construction progressed on the permanent recharge facilities on the West Enos property. Construction commenced for the permanent recharge facilities at the Stockdale North Recharge Facility.

Note any issues, milestones, or accomplishments projected for the next Quarterly Report:

Installation of the underground recovery pipelines at West Enos Recharge Facility will commence during the next reporting period.

Provide an update on Tribal consultation, and Tribal and community engagement, if any. Please note any ongoing issues with Tribal communities, including differences of opinion or opportunities to work together:

N/A

### **Items Required Prior to Scheduling a Final Award Hearing**

Provide the date (month/year) that you expect to request a Final Award Hearing from the Commission. Note: the request should be received at least 2 months before the anticipated Final Award Hearing date and after all items required by California Water Code section 79755 are completed:

December 2026

Provide the date (month/year) that you anticipate a Final Award Hearing with the Commission:

July 2028

The following items must be provided prior to scheduling a final award hearing. Please describe the status and include the estimated completion date for the following items. These dates should align with any attached project schedule:

#### **1. Contracts for non-public benefit cost share:**

List all required contracts for non-public benefit cost share, and provide the amount of associated funds, the status and estimated completion date. Please note any issues or concerns that have, will, or could affect the timing of executing contracts for non-public benefit cost share.

<b>Contract Name</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Est Completion Date</b>
GBJPA Agreement	\$255.9 million (estimated)	The Groundwater Banking Authority JPA agreement executed in 2020 includes a provision that IRWD and Rosedale will each fund 50% of the non-grant funded project cost. No contracts, other than the executed Joint Powers Authority Agreement between Rosedale and IRWD, are anticipated. A funding commitment letter to the Director of the Department for the non-public benefits was submitted in October 2021.  The current estimated project cost is \$353.75 million in 2024 dollars. The Kern Fan Project has been awarded approximately \$97.8 million in grant funding. The GBJPA will fund the remaining cost of the Project.	October 2021

#### **2. Contracts for administration of public benefits (CAPB):**

Provide an estimated date when all Draft CAPBs will be complete. The Draft CAPB completion date is when the agreement is ready and available to post for public review at a subsequent Commission meeting:

In August 2023, the GBJPA met with CDFW to discuss development of the CAPB agreement. At that time, CDFW staff recommended that work on the CAPB agreement be deferred until the location of the Aqueduct turnout has been finalized with updated modeling of pulse flows. That decision is still pending and is expected to be resolved in 2025. Additional modeling would also be required to develop the emergency supplies agreement with DWR.

Provide a status for each applicable administering agency's Draft CAPB. Please note any issues or concerns that have, will, or could affect the timing of the Draft CAPBs:

	Status
<b>Draft CAPB</b>	Pending determination of the location of the turnout (anticipated in 2025) and subsequent additional modeling. In August 2023, the Kern Fan Project proponents met with CDFW to discuss development of the draft CAPB. At that time, CDFW requested that updated modeling of the pulse flows from the Kern Fan Project be finalized before initiating further discussions. It is anticipated that the work on the Chino Basin project pulse flow CAPB can be leveraged to expedite the process for the Kern Fan Project.

Provide an estimated date when all Final CAPBs will be complete. The Final CAPB completion date is when it will be executed:

12/20/26

Provide a status for each applicable administering agency's Final CAPB. Please note any issues or concerns that have, will, or could affect the timing of executing CAPBs:

	Status
<b>Final CAPB</b>	Discussions with DWR and CDFW will resume once final Aqueduct turnout and updated modeling of the pulse flows from the Kern Fan Project have been finalized (see Draft CAPB status above).

List all public benefits, including quantity of benefit (e.g., acres of habitat, acre-feet of water for pulse flows, etc.):

Benefits	Description and Quantity of Benefits
<b>Ecosystem Benefit – Fish Species Recovery</b>	Approximately 25% of the Article 21 water stored by the Project would be dedicated for ecosystem benefits. The water would be used by DWR in an exchange that would provide short-term pulse flows to generate ecosystem benefits by improving habitat for fish species in the Feather and Sacramento Rivers and San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta.
<b>Ecosystem Benefit – Incidental Wetland Habitat</b>	The Central Valley is a crucial area along the Pacific Flyway for waterfowl. During recharge events, the inundated basins provide temporary habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and other migratory birds.
<b>Emergency Response Benefits – Extended Drought and Delta Failure</b>	Groundwater stored as part of the project will be available to call on during a drought emergency or as an alternative supply in the case of a local supply outage. A separate emergency response benefit of the Project is the water supply provided by the Project in event of levee failure in the Delta that curtails water deliveries.
<b>Water Supply Benefits</b>	Water stored in the IRWD and Rosedale storage accounts would water supply benefits to IRWD, Rosedale and Dudley Ridge Water District. This water would be used for M&I and Agricultural

	purposes.
<b>Increased Groundwater Level Benefit</b>	The groundwater basin in Kern County is operated such that a portion of banked groundwater is not recovered by the banking entity and remains in the ground to bolster local groundwater levels. This "leave behind" water will improve water levels and provide a groundwater level benefit.
<b>Agricultural Impact Benefit</b>	An additional agricultural benefit from the Kern Fan Project is the preservation of permanent agricultural crops that would need to be replaced with low-value crops if the water from the Project were not available. The Article 21 water stored by the Project would allow for preservation of 600 acres of permanent crops.

Indicate if there are any anticipated changes to the benefit or quantity of the benefit since the original application and whether these changes affect the cost allocation:

Not at this time. Benefits will be updated and recalculated as warranted based on future modeling once turnout location is finalized.

### 3. Completed feasibility studies:

Completion Date:

November 22, 2021

### 4. Complete environmental documentation:

Provide the status and estimated completion date for all required environmental documentation (draft and final) for the project, including all Board resolutions adopting or certifying CEQA environmental documents, CEQA findings, mitigation monitoring and reporting program, Notice of Determination (NOD), and CEQA Addenda, and all NEPA completion documents, including the Record of Decision (ROD). Please note any issues or concerns that have, will, or could affect the timing of providing complete environmental documentation at the state or federal level.

<b>Environmental Document</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Est Completion Date</b>
State Document	Draft:	
	Final: Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project Final EIR	12/20/2020
	NOD: Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project Final EIR	1/22/2021
	Pulse Flow Component of WSIP Groundwater Projects SEIR	5/20/2024
	Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project Supplemental EIR (Turnout/Conveyance)	10/1/2026
Federal Document	Draft:	
	Final: Phase 1 No Effect Determination	5/20/2024
	ROD	

### 5. All required federal, state, and local approvals, certifications, and agreements:

List permits needed for project to begin construction, describe status in acquiring them, and include estimated

date to be acquired. Please note any issues or concerns that have, will, or could affect the timing of acquiring all federal, state, and local approvals, certifications, agreements, and permits necessary to begin project construction.

<b>Approvals / Certifications / Agreements / Permits</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Est Date Acquired</b>
Permits	<p>Provided as Exhibit C</p> <p>Timing to obtain all project permits tied to Delta benefits has been extended to February 2028, based on revised anticipated schedule for DWR permitting of the new turnout on the California Aqueduct. Therefore final award date has been pushed out to July 2028.</p>	
Right of Way and Easements	Provided as Exhibit C	
Agreements	Provided as Exhibit C	

#### **Items Required to Execute a Funding Agreement**

Provide an update on the following documents needed to execute a funding agreement for the project and indicate if any significant change has occurred. The Commission may request updated information prior to executing a funding agreement.

	<b>Status</b>	<b>Significant Change?</b>
Applicant's audited financial statements	Audited financial statements are available and will be submitted at prior to the funding agreement hearing.	No
Final project costs, schedule, and scope of work	The most recent Project cost and scope of work is available in the Feasibility Study submitted to the CWC November 2021. Updated Project schedules are provided as Attachments A and B. Final project costs, scope of work, and schedule will be provided to the CWC prior to the funding agreement hearing. The Kern Fan Project is preparing a project cost, scope and schedule update in the next quarter.	No
Evidence of bilateral communications with operators and owners of potentially impacted facilities regarding potential impacts of the proposed project to their	n/a	n/a

facilities		
Limited waiver of sovereign immunity	n/a	n/a

### **Status Update**

Provide a status update for the following and indicate if any significant change has occurred. The Commission may request updated information prior to executing a funding agreement.

	<b>Status</b>	<b>Significant Change?</b>
Labor Compliance	n/a	n/a
Urban Water Management Plans	IRWD is an urban water supplier and is required to submit an Urban Water Management Plan. IRWD's most recent Urban Water Management Plan was submitted to DWR on June 29, 2021.	No
Agricultural Water Management Plans	Rosedale is an independent special district under the provisions of the California Water Storage District Law and therefore is not required to complete an Agricultural or Urban Water Management Plan.	n/a
Potential effect of other conditional eligible projects on the applicant's public benefits	A Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for proposed pulse flow benefits provided by the Kern Fan Project, Willow Springs Water Bank and Chino Basin Program has been released. A Final SEIR was completed and certified by DWR in July 2024, reported in last quarterly report.	No

### **Other Pertinent Information:**

#### **1. Sources of Funding**

List sources of funding (e.g., Federal, State grants, local partnerships, rate payers, loans...) to move the project to construction and provide the associated amount of funds from that source and a status of obtaining that funding source below:

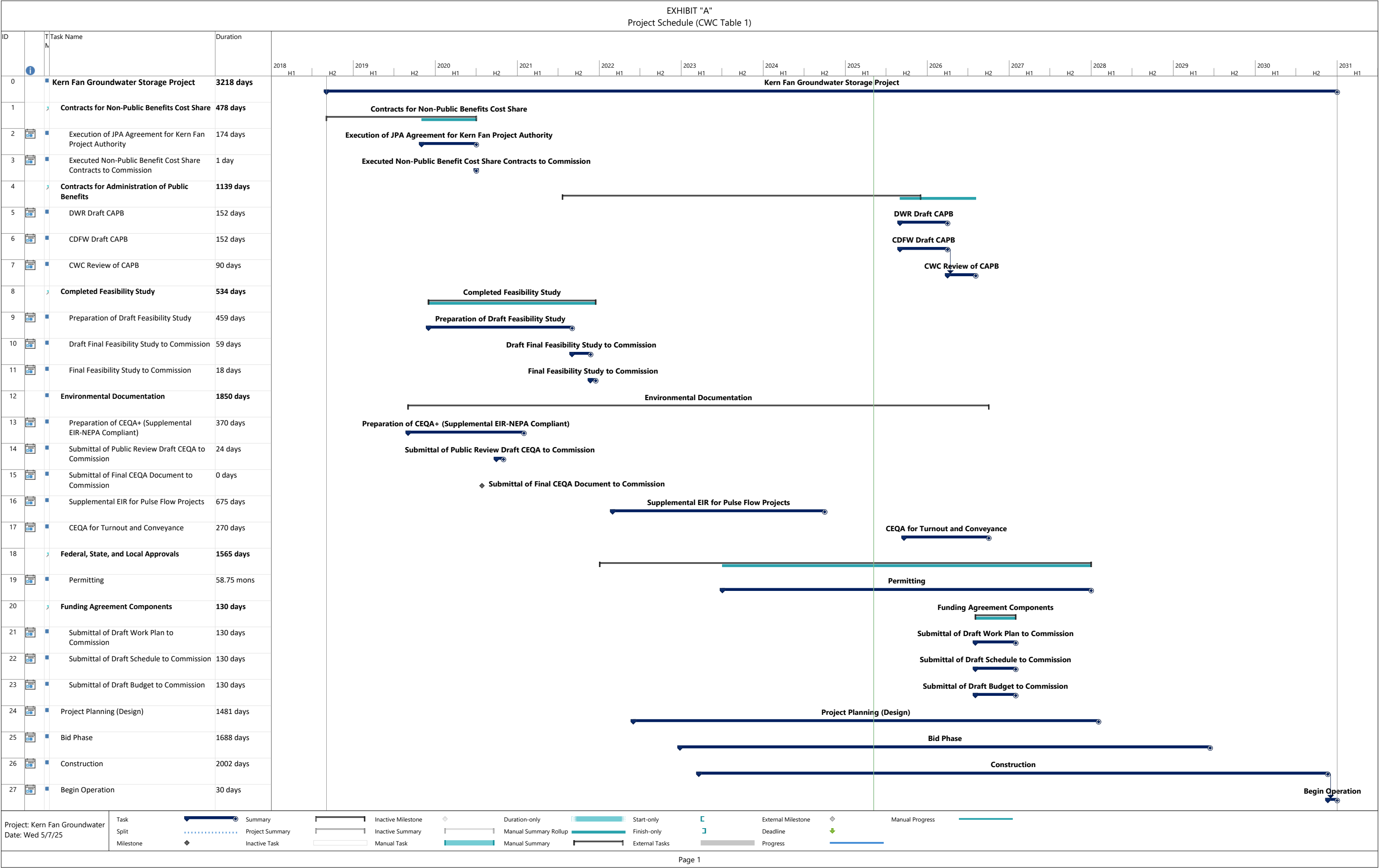
<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Est Award Date</b>
GBJPA	\$255.9 million	Under the GBJPA, both IRWD and Rosedale will fund the Project. IRWD and Rosedale have established funding plans for their share of Project costs.	Completed
State of California	\$89.1 million	The GBJPA expects to have a Funding Agreement with the CWC in February 2027.	Feb-2027
Bureau of Reclamation	\$8.7 million	IRWD has an executed funding agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation for \$8.7 million for work on Phase 1 of the Project.	May-2024



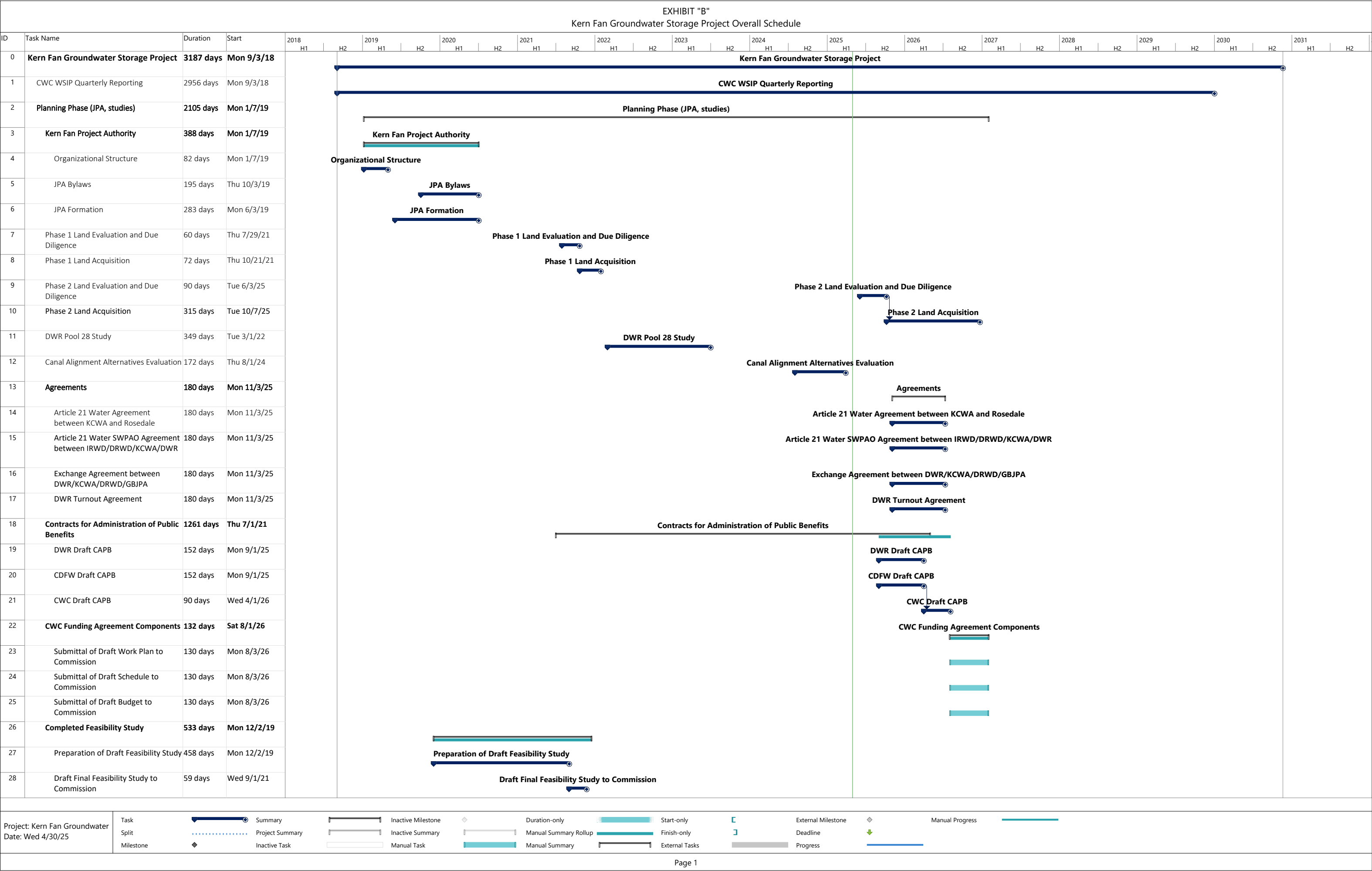

**2. Early Funding Agreement Status**

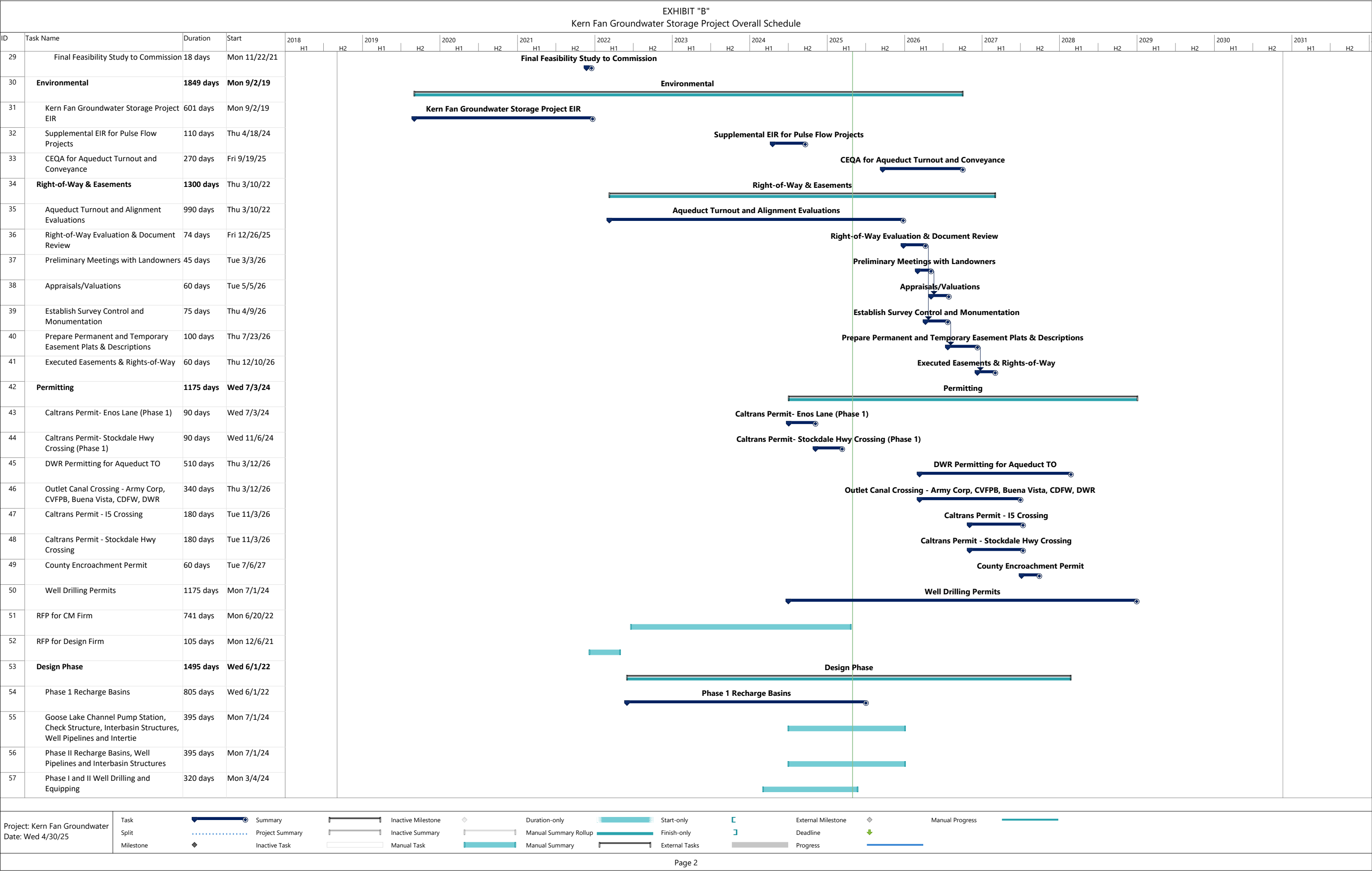
Provide the status of the Early Funding Agreement (EFA), as applicable, and the percentage of EFA funds expended. If the EFA has been closed, describe how the remaining work needed to move the project to a final award hearing will be financed.

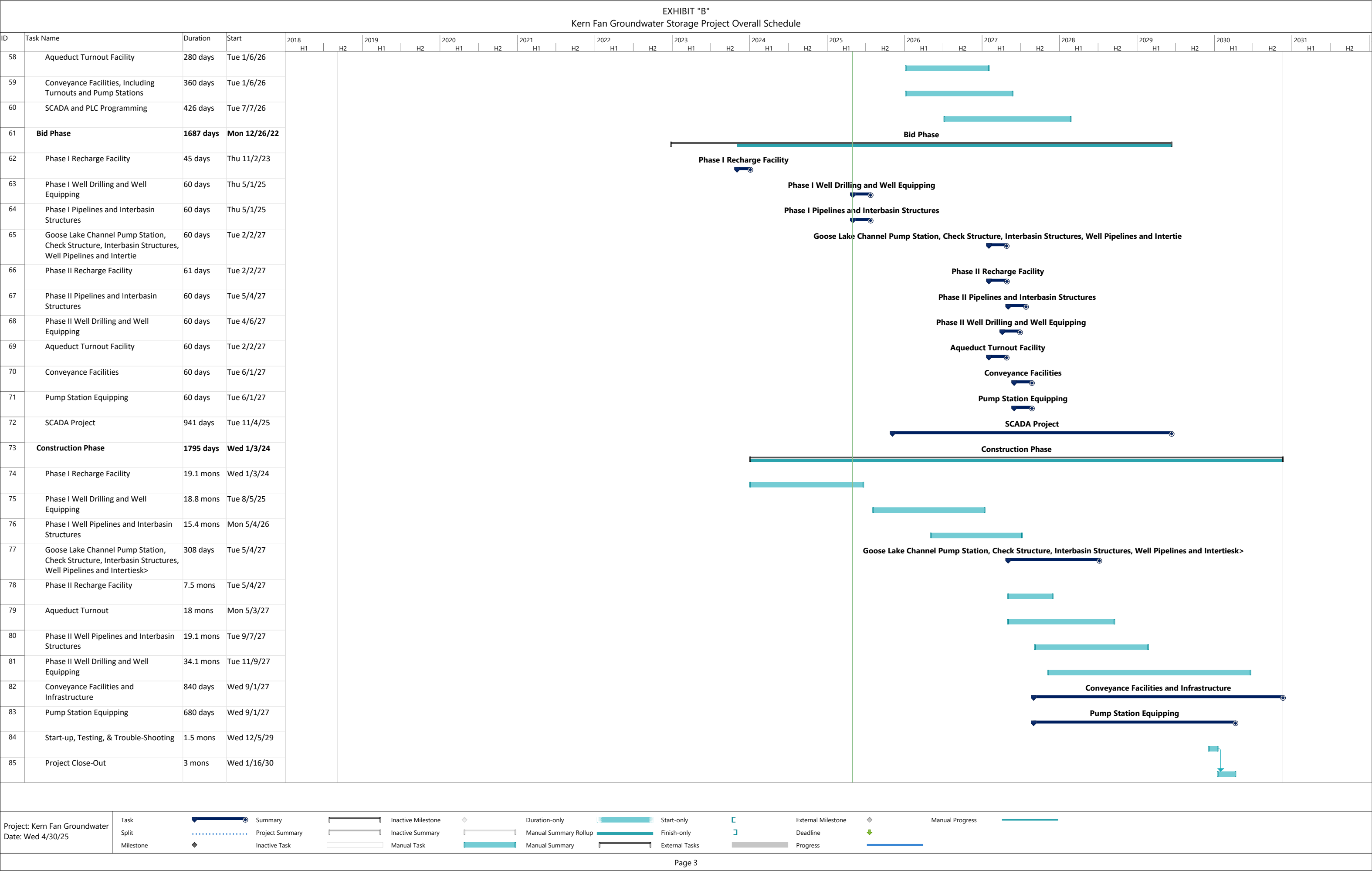
Status	Percentage of EFA funds expended
The GBJPA plans to request early funding, and intends to prepare a request for consideration by the Commision in the third quarter of 2025.	n/a



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**Exhibit "C"**

**All Required Federal, State, and Local Approvals, Certifications, and Agreements**

Permits	Start	Complete	Required to Initiate Phase 2/ Deliver Public Benefits to the Delta	Notes
Caltrans Permit - Enos Lane Crossing Phase 1	Jul-24	Nov-24	N/A	Permit Issued
Caltrans Permit - Stockdale Hwy Crossing Phase 1	Jul-24	Nov-24	N/A	Permit Issued
Petition for Instream Flow Dedication (1707)	Oct-24	Oct-25	N/A	As of April 2025 per David Okita, State Board has indicated it will not be required.
Outlet Canal Crossing - Permits and Approvals:	Mar-26	Jun-27	Yes	
<i>Army Corps of Engineers</i>				Section 404
<i>Regional Water Quality Control Board</i>				Section 401
<i>California Dept of Fish and Wildlife</i>				Section 1601 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement
<i>DWR Turnout</i>				Encroachment Permit/Right of Entry
<i>State Parks - Tule Elk Preserve</i>				Encroachment Permit - need depends on final alignment of conveyance
<i>Central Valley Flood Protection Board</i>				
Caltrans Permit I-5 Crossing	Nov-26	Jul-27	Yes	
Caltrans Permit - Stockdale Hwy Crossing	Nov-26	Jul-27	Yes	
Incidental Take Permit - CDFW	Nov-26	Jul-27	Yes	
County of Kern - Encroachment Permit	Jul-27	Sep-27	Yes	
Kern County Environmental Health Dept - Well Drilling Permits	Jul-24	Dec-29	No	Wells are phased in. Permits can be secured earlier.
Right of Way and Easements	Start	Complete	Required to Initiate Phase 2/Deliver Public Benefits to the Delta	Notes
Executed Right of Way and Easements for Conveyance	Mar-22	Mar-27	Yes	Requirements for easements and right of way will depend on property acquisition locations and final canal alignment
California Dept of Fish and Wildlife				Approval of conveyance easement across Kern Water Bank Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) area (could be part of ITP approval above)
Kern Water Bank Authority				Conveyance easement across Kern Water Bank property
U.S. Fish and Wildlife				Approval of conveyance easement across HCP area. Possible concurrence with CDFW ITP approval.
Kern County Water Agency				Cross Valley Canal easement and/or crossing. Approval for Aqueduct turnout.
Buena Vista Water Storage District				Outlet canal crossing and main canal crossing
Agreements	Start	Complete	Required to Initiate Phase 2/Deliver Public Benefits to the Delta	Notes
Article 21 Agreement between KCWA and Rosedale	Nov-25	Jul-26	Yes	
Article 21 Agreement between DRWD/IRWD/KCWA/DWR	Nov-25	Jul-26	Yes	Approval of a change in Point of Delivery of a portion of DRWD SWP supplies (consent by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California)
Pulse Flow Exchange Agreement between DWR/KCWA/DRWD/GBJPA	Nov-25	Jul-26	Yes	
DWR/KCWA Turnout Agreement	Nov-25	Jul-26	Yes	
CDFW - Public Benefits Agreement	Nov-25	Jul-26	Yes	