

## Water Storage Investment Program Quarterly Report

The Quarterly Reporting covered by this template documents applicants' progress toward complying with regulation section 6013 to receive a final WSIP funding hearing with the Commission as well as any changes to the physical quantity and type of public benefit being provided by the project.

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.

### **Project Information**

Project name:

Willow Springs Water Bank Conjunctive Use Project

Applicant name:

Southern California Water Bank Authority JPA

Date:

1/28/25

Reporting period:

Quarter 4 2024

Provide a brief project description:

The WSWB Project is proposed as a conjunctive use project to integrate the State Water Project (SWP) reservoir and conveyance system with south of Delta groundwater storage and existing Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) facilities. Operations of the WSWB Project will provide ecosystem and emergency response public benefits and additional non-public benefits such as enhanced local water supply reliability. WSWB Project infrastructure includes upgrades to conveyance systems along with building out of groundwater recharge basins and extraction wells.

Provide a brief description of public benefits:

Ecosystem Benefit:

The WSWB water bank proposes to make water available in Lake Oroville for spring pulse flow releases to benefit the federally threatened Central Valley spring run Chinook salmon. Specifically, the pulse flow releases would be during dry and below normal years to increase the survival of outmigrating juvenile fish. The WSWB Project will provide pulses of up to 28.8 TAFY.

Emergency Response:

A major benefit of the WSWB Project is that it will be able to deliver water to Southern California under normal conditions as well as under emergency conditions or during periods when hydrology or other factors restrict conveyance from the Delta. It would provide water for emergency response to events such as seismic failure of Delta levees or outages of the California Aqueduct north of WSWB facilities, thus mitigating the risk to water supplies in the event of failure or damages resulting from earthquakes or floods. WSWB will enter into agreements to provide water for emergency response to AVEK and other partnering entities. Up to 215,000 AF of storage will be loaned from the project yield, to be repaid within five years.

Current total project cost:

Last estimate was made in 2020 to be \$79 million in 2015 dollars which equated to \$85.7 million in 2020 dollars. Project costs will be updated following completion of MOU and finalized project configurations.

### **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:

WSWB and AVEK worked diligently at finalizing and signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The terms of the MOU were finalized in September 2024 and approved by AVEK's board in October 2024. Additionally, WSWB project team and AVEK presented to the CWC on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting. At this meeting WSWB presented the progress that has been with AVEK and the contents of the MOU.

Throughout Q4 of 2024 WSWB conducted outreach to State Water Project Contractors (SWPCs) who may be interested in utilizing storage at WSWB. WSWB subsequently received letters of interest from 10 SWPCs that included estimates of put/take capacity. WSWB and AVEK followed up with introductory meetings to all interested and fielded questions about the project. WSWB informed interested parties that follow up meetings would be scheduled for Q1 of 2025.

As expressed above, WSWB and AVEK continue working together on project details and necessary agreements. Specifically, the focus has been on beginning the process of a turnout agreement and watermaster approval for put/take in the adjudicated Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin.

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:

See attached schedule below. Note that the schedule was updated to reflect the most recent timeline for the pulse flow SEIR. Additionally, a detailed schedule update is being completed in coordination with AVEK as part of the MOU process. Currently, parties are working on a detailed 6-month workplan to expedite progress on design and permitting. This schedule has been updated to reflect the latest progress with AVEK.

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

A MOU was signed between AVEK and WSWB that formalizes a joint effort to progress the project. This milestone was to be presented to the CWC at the monthly meeting in September. However, the meeting was cancelled and the item moved to the October meeting.

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

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>
Non-public benefit (O&M costs)	Variable by year	AVEK has signed a commitment to a 75% coverage of non-public benefit cost share. Will be included as part of final agreement with AVEK.	10/31/25

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

Provide a status for each applicable administering agency Draft and Final CAPB and estimated completion date for both. The Draft CAPB completion date is when Commission receives the Draft CAPB for a subsequent Commission meeting. The Final CAPB completion date is when it will be executed. Please note any issues or concerns that have, will, or could affect the timing of executing CAPBs or could change the magnitude of the public benefits that could affect cost allocation.

CAPB Admin Agency	Status	Est Completion Date
SWRCB	N/A	N/A
CDFW	Preliminary drafts of operational agreements have been coordinated with other pulse flow projects and will commence active progress following agreement with AVEK.	8/1/2025
DWR	Emergency Response agreement will follow completion of the ecosystem benefit response and will utilize similar terms to expedite completion. WSWB has developed a draft operations plan for delivery of emergency response	8/1/2025

### 3. Completed feasibility studies:

Completion Date: 10/21/21

Willow Springs Water Bank Conjunctive Use Feasibility Study: Completed in October of 2021 and submitted to the CWC as part of the feasibility hearing in compliance with statutory requirement that studies be completed by 1/1/22.

### 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.

Environmental Document	Status	Est Completion Date
State Document	Completed EIR and Addendum for local infrastructure	2016
State Document	Adoption of Supplemental EIR for pulse flow delivery by CEQA lead.	3/1/25
Federal Document	N/A No federal nexus or funding is being provided to this project	N/A

### 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>
ROW and Easement	Dependent on final pipeline alignment from CA Aqueduct to WSWB. May utilize existing ROW and Easements from AVEK but one alternative will include additional ROW's and Easements.	5/1/25
CA Dept of Health	Public Water System permit	9/1/25
Kern County Environmental Health Servies Department	Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan	7/1/25
Kern County Environmental Health Services Department	Agreement with a local Mosquito Abatement District	7/1/25
Region 5 Regional Water Quality Control Board: Lahontan Region	Construction General Permits (NPDES/Waste Discharge Requirements)	7/1/25
Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District	Authority to Construct	7/1/25
Kern County Planning Department	Grading Permit for construction of basins	7/1/25
DWR	1707 Agreement	8/1/2025
CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement	Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement	No water bodies are anticipated to be impacted at this time
CDFW	California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit	Not anticipated to be needed.
United States Fish and Wildlife Services and/or National Marine Fisheries Service	Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation	Not anticipated to be needed but may be required for pulse flow

## **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	Items to commence following completion of environmental documentation, CAPB's, and permits.	No
Final project costs, schedule, and scope of work	Items to commence following completion of environmental documentation, CAPB's, and permits.	No
Evidence of bilateral communications with operators and owners of potentially impacted facilities regarding potential impacts of the proposed project to their facilities	Items to commence following completion of environmental documentation, CAPB's, and permits.	No
Limited waiver of sovereign immunity	Items to commence following completion of environmental documentation, CAPB's, and permits.	No

### **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	All project proponents will adhere to the necessary labor compliance requirements. Documentation can be provided as necessary.	No
Urban Water Management Plans	AVEK has a completed UWMP in 2020	No
Agricultural Water Management Plans	N/A. Project will be providing potable water sources only	No
Potential effect on other conditional eligible projects on the applicant's public benefits	No effects have been identified on other projects or their proposed benefits. A supplemental EIR is being completed for the delivery of the pulse flow benefit to the Feather River as the proposed ecosystem benefit. This EIR is being led by DWR and in coordination with project proponents to evaluate potential cumulative impacts of the WSWB, Chino Basin Program and Kern Fan project's delivery of these flows.	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:

Funding Sources	\$ Amount	Status	Est Completion Date
CA Prop 1 Water Storage Investment Program	\$128 M	See above. As a conjunctive use project, the WSWB was eligible for 100% of the capital funds. This is the primary source of funding for project implementation.	Construction completed 10/31/26
CA Energy Commission (EPC19-058 and EPC20-008)	\$8.3 M	Grant work is in progress with wells being equipped and testing for aquifer pumped hydropower generation to begin this year. Once operational generation capacities will be tested under various circumstances followed by reporting and closeout in 2027.	6/1/2027

## 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
Close out of the initial early funding agreement was completed in Q3 of 2024.. Multiple drafts of the early funding agreement have been shared with CWC staff and will be finalized early in Q1 2025. The renewed agreement will reflect the most recent project status and update to the fully allotted ~\$6M. Any early funding not expended will roll over into capital.	38%

California   
**WATER COMMISSION**

2024				2025				2026				2027			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Project Management</b>															
<b>Project Partnership Agreements</b>															
	<b>Contracts for Administration of Public Benefits</b>														
		<b>30%, 60%, 90%, Final Design</b>													
	<b>Pulse Flow SER</b>														
	<b>1707 Agreement</b>														
				<b>Construction Permits</b>											
							<b>Development of Final Funding Agreement with</b>								
									<b>Final Funding Implementation</b>						
									<b>WSWB Construction</b>						