

Water Storage Investment Program benefits public in many ways

Proposition 1: The Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act, dedicated \$2.7 billion for investments in the public benefits of water storage projects through the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP).

To qualify for funding, projects are required to provide public benefits in the form of ecosystem improvements, water quality improvements, recreational benefits, flood control benefits, or emergency response. While every project is required to deliver an improvement to the ecosystem, here are some of the other benefits the seven WSIP projects will provide, based on their 2017 applications.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Some projects will provide a certain amount of water storage or water supply for emergency response purposes that are outside of normal facility operations or average water supply. This could include securing emergency water supplies and flows for dilution and salinity repulsion following a natural disaster or act of terrorism, or for human health and safety purposes during declared emergencies, such as a drought.

- **Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Environmental Water Storage/Exchange Program**
The program would provide a withdrawal of up to 50,000 acre-feet per year of stored water after an event that disables water import infrastructure.
- **Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project**
The project will provide supplemental water in the event of extreme drought, during a drought emergency or as an alternative supply in the case of a local supply outage.
- **Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project**
The project will make available a maximum of 42,000 acre-feet of water during drought emergencies, and a maximum of 160,000 acre-feet of water for non-drought emergencies, such as a Delta outage.
- **Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project**
The project will make available approximately 86,000 acre-feet of water in response to a drought emergency, earthquake disruption, or Delta disruption. If an imminent risk to essential public health and safety occurs, an emergency drawdown of the reservoir would be possible.
- **Willow Springs Water Bank Conjunctive Use Project**
The project will provide up to 215,000 acre-feet of water during emergencies such as a Delta disruption.



Applicants must enter into contracts with the state agencies responsible for the administration of the public benefits produced by the project.

**California
Department of
Fish and Wildlife**

Ecosystem
improvements

**Department of
Water Resources**

Emergency response
Flood control benefits
Recreational benefits

**State Water
Resources
Control Board**

Water quality
improvements

FLOOD CONTROL

This public benefit reduces or prevents the extent or magnitude of the expected detrimental effects of flooding as a result of new, expanded, or re-operated storage projects.

- **Sites Reservoir Project**

The reservoir will include enough incidental storage to capture and store flood flows from Funks Creek, Stone Corral Creek, and ephemeral streams, reducing the risk of flooding in up to 9,570 acres in the Maxwell area.

RECREATION

This benefit includes recreational pursuits generally associated with the outdoor activities typically associated with water bodies and wildlife refuges that are accessible to the public. Recreational benefits must be open to the public, and may provide interpretive, educational, health, or intrinsic value.

- **Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project**

Enhancements to recreational opportunities at the reservoir are expected to increase visitation by an average of 17,000 users each year. A new marina complex will include a new pier, concessions, electric boats and pontoon boats. The interpretive center will be remodeled and the barn will be upgraded to complement the outdoor education program. Other projects include a new 100-seat amphitheater and a half-mile ADA-accessible trail.

- **Sites Reservoir Project**

The reservoir will offer new recreational opportunities for an anticipated 187,000 visitors annually. The proposed Stone Corral Recreation Area and Peninsula Hills Recreation Area will include campsites, picnic sites, a boat ramp, equestrian trails, an interpretive area, and a vista point.

WATER QUALITY

Water quality improvements are to provide significant public trust resources (fishery protection, fish and wildlife conservation, preservation of waterways in their natural state) in the Delta or in other river systems, or clean up or restore groundwater resources

- **Harvest Water Program**

To achieve a reduced salinity load to surface water, the program will provide 50,000 acre-feet per year of treated water for agriculture and restoration projects, leading to a reduction of about 44.6 million gallons per day of discharge to the Sacramento River.

- **Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Environmental Water Storage/Exchange Program**

To protect the groundwater, the program will inject 15,000 acre-feet per year of advanced-treated water (with total dissolved solids (TDS) levels of 100 mg/L) into the Chino groundwater sub-basin that will result in reductions in TDS concentrations.

USEFUL LINKS:

California Water Commission Home Page: <https://cwc.ca.gov>

Frequently Asked Questions: https://cwc.ca.gov/-/media/CWC-Website/Files/Documents/2018/WSIP/WISP_FAQs_Nov2018.pdf

WSIP Home Page: <https://cwc.ca.gov/Water-Storage>

CONTACT THE COMMISSION

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