



## Water Storage Investment Program: Sites Project Update

### Introduction

The California Water Commission (Commission) administers the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) to fund the public benefits associated with water storage projects using funds from the Proposition 1 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), codified at Water Code section 79750 *et seq*, and supplemented by funds from Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4).

One of the WSIP projects, the Sites Project, will create a 1.5-million acre-foot (MAF) off-stream water storage facility in Glenn and Colusa Counties. This storage facility will capture and store excess stormwater flows from the Sacramento River system for later use by storage partners, including federal, State, and local agencies from across the state. The project will provide ecosystem improvements by delivering water to wildlife refuges north and south of the Delta. The project will also provide recreation and flood control benefits. The State, through WSIP, is investing in the ecosystem, recreation, and flood control benefits provided by the project.

At this meeting, representatives from the Sites Project will provide an update on their Construction Manager at Risk or CMAR contractor, and the status of a Project Labor Agreement or PLA. A PLA is a collective bargaining agreement between the Contractor and one or more labor unions that establishes terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project.

### Background

Through the WSIP, the Commission will invest \$2.65 billion in the public benefits of water storage projects, consistent with the requirements of Proposition 1 and Proposition 4. The Commission made Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determinations in July 2018, which set the amount of Proposition 1 funding potentially available to each project. One project received a final award at the June 2023 Commission meeting. The four remaining WSIP applicants, including Sites Reservoir, successfully met Proposition 1 interim requirements by the deadline of January 1, 2022, and are working to complete the remaining statutory requirements. These include obtaining permits and completing environmental documents, executing contracts for the administration of public benefits, and completing contracts for non-public benefit cost share. When the applicant completes these requirements, the applicant will return to the Commission for a final award hearing at which the Commission will decide whether to award final funding.

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On November 19, 2025, the Commission approved [modifying its WSIP regulations](#) using the emergency rulemaking process. The modification allows the Commission to increase the amount of conditional funding committed to a project on a case-by-case basis, to account for inflation and increased public benefits. These conditional funding determinations can be made prior to or after the final funding hearing.

This agenda item is related to Goal One of the [Commission's Strategic Plan](#), which calls on the Commission to implement the WSIP to achieve public benefits.

### **Meeting Overview**

At this meeting, Jerry Brown, Sites Authority Executive Director and JP Robinette, Sites Authority Engineering and Construction Manager will provide an update on the Sites Project.

Following the Sites Project Authority's remarks, the Commission will hear Tribal and public comment on the information presented. Commissioners will then have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

This is an informational item.

### **Contact**

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