



Water Storage Investment Program: Chino Basin Program State Agency Draft Contracts for the Administration of Public Benefits

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).

Applicants within the WSIP are advancing their projects to meet Proposition 1 requirements before returning to the Commission for final award hearings. One requirement for final funding is the execution of the Contracts for the Administration of Public Benefits (CAPBs). The WSIP pays for the public benefits, which are governed by the CAPBs. The contracts are negotiated between the WSIP applicant and the administering agency responsible for overseeing the benefits associated with the project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is responsible for administering ecosystem improvement benefits; State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is responsible for administering water quality improvement benefits; and Department of Water Resources (DWR) is responsible for administering recreation, flood control, and emergency response benefits. The WSIP regulations allow the administering agencies to present a draft of project specific CAPBs at a Commission meeting before the Commission's final award hearing for that project. The administering agencies may consider comments received from Tribes, members of the public and the Commission before they execute the public benefit contracts.

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA), the project proponent for the Chino Basin Program, is negotiating CAPBs with CDFW for ecosystem benefits, SWRCB for water quality benefits and DWR for emergency response benefits. At this meeting, CDFW, SWRCB and DWR will provide their draft contracts and discuss the contents of these contracts, including the public benefits they cover, reporting requirements, and adaptive management. Tribes, members of the public, and Commissioners will have an opportunity to offer comments on the draft CAPBs. CDFW, SWRCB and DWR retain discretion regarding the impact of any comments received.

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 the Chino Basin Program, successfully met Proposition 1 interim requirements and were found feasible 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.

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, Kristal Davis-Fadtke, Environmental Program Manager from CDFW, will present the draft CAPB for ecosystem benefits. Dorena Goding, Senior Environmental Scientist from SWRCB will present the draft CAPB for water quality benefits and David Okita, Program Engineer from Department of Water Resources, will present the draft CAPB for emergency response benefits.

Following the administering agencies' 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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