

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:

Willow Springs Water Bank Conjunctive Use Project

Applicant name:

Southern California Water Bank Authority

Date:

1/30/25

Reporting period:

Q4 2025

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:

In Q3 of 2025 the project updated its cost estimate to reflect a full build out of the bank. The previous cost estimate from the 2020 feasibility study represented a smaller build out. Since that time the project has received increased interest from participants that warrant a full build-out. The full-build out was estimated in the original 2017 application as \$316.59.M The Q3 2025 updated estimate for the project is \$581.2M

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:

In Q4 2025, WSWB hosted a working group meeting with interested contractors to discuss proposed pulse flow operations. Individual follow-up meetings were held to discuss in further detail and answer questions.

In Q4 2025, WSWB drafted the project description for the CEQA ISMND for the proposed conveyance alignments and alternatives agreed upon with AVEK in Q2 2025. WSWB finalized proposed alignments and turnout locations along with engineering reviews for the alignments and pumpstation locations.

In Q4 2025, WSWB continued progression of a focused groundwater model to inform project operations, potential impacts and serves as the basis for a storage agreement with the Antelope Valley watermaster.

In Q4 2025, WSWB coordinate meetings with DWR to discuss a turnout agreement. A series of technical studies have been initiated to support that effort.

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:

The project schedule was updated in Q3 2025 to reflect ongoing negotiations with participating State Water Contractors and AVEK. This schedule was updated to reflect minor changes to the anticipated schedule. Multiple items are concurrently progressing on both the technical and planning fronts. The items with the most focus is groundwater modeling, turnout agreements, SWC partnerships, CEQA coverage for alternative conveyance alignments and updating project cost estimates. See below for project schedule.

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

Primary milestones were continued discussions with partner contractors, advancement of groundwater modeling, and CEQA documentation for pipeline alignments.

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

No known issues at this time. WSWB is progressing quickly with groundwater modeling for proposed operations and watermaster storage agreements. In Q4 WSWB will continue to progress the CEQA process and has developed a working group with interested contractors. WSWB will continue to coordinate with AVEK.

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:

Tribal consultation was conducted as part of the CEQA process for both the 2009 EIR and 2018 Addendum. However, the project is currently discussing the use of an alternate alignment for the conveyance pipeline from the CA Aqueduct to WSWB. This alternate will require additional CEQA coverage with appropriate AB-52 Tribal consultation.

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:

June 2027

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

August 2027

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.

Contract Name	\$ Amount	Status	Est Completion Date
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. However, it is anticipated that further agreements are necessary to finalize participation in WSWB with interested contractors.	7/1/27

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:

Q2 2027

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
Draft CAPB's	WSWB has been tracking the development of the pulse flow CAPB along with both the Chino Basin Program and Kern Fan. Many of the terms, conditions and adaptive management strategies will carry over to an agreement with WSWB. In Q1 2025 WSWB met with CDFW to discuss a project specific plan to develop a CAPB. CDFW noted that it would like WSWB to progress agreements with participating contractors for the nonpublic benefits (water supply) prior to detailed discussion. CDFW estimated that once engaged the process would likely take 6months to one year. This has all been considered when updating the schedule with an anticipated finalization of Q2 2027. WSWB will continue to attend and participate in all monthly meetings with the other pulse flow projects, DWR and CDFW. Based on the pace of progress being made both technically and in agreements with contractors, WSWB will be seeking to expedite this process. WSWB is also providing an emergency response benefit which will require a CAPB with DWR. WSWB has developed a preliminary operations analysis for delivery of the emergency response benefit which has been shared with DWR for review. The development of this CAPB is envisioned to occur following the ecosystem CAPB and to be simplified. WSWB will reinitiate communications for the emergency response CAPB after engaging with CDFW. This is estimated to occur in Q1 of 2026.

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

Q2 2027

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
Final CAPB	CAPB's for both emergency response and ecosystem benefits are still in draft stages.

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
Ecosystem	444TAF over the 50yr lifespan of the project to be provided as pulse flows in the Feather River
Water Quality	N/A
Emergency Response	215TAF to be provided once over the 50yr project lifespan
Recreation	N/A

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:

No changes to the project's proposed ecosystem or emergency response benefits are anticipated.

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
Antelope Valley Water Bank Project (Renamed Willow Springs Water Bank Project)	Final: Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (SCH #2005091117)	Complete
	NOD: PEIR Certified by Kern County Board of Supervisors: 9/12/2006 NOD: 9/18/2006	Complete
Willow Springs Water Bank Addendum	Final: Addendum to AVWD EIR (SCH # 2005091117)	Complete
	NOD: Approved by Rosamond Community Services District (RCSD): 8/21/2028 NOD Filed: 8/22/2018	Complete
Pulse Flows Component of the Water Storage Improvement Program Groundwater Project	Final: Supplemental EIR (SCH # 2022080216)	Complete
	FEIR Certified by DWR Director: 7/24/2024 Notice of Certification: 7/31/2024	Complete
Willow Springs Water Bank (WSWB) AVEK West Feeder Improvement Project	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (SCH# TBD) Draft:	Draft 1/1/26
	Final	Final: 7/1/26
	NOD:	10/31/26

Note: This project does not currently have a federal nexus that would require NEPA compliance.

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.

Approvals / Certifications / Agreements / Permits	Status	Est Date Acquired
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. WSWB is currently in discussion with other landowners for new or reciprocal easements for the well fields. Percolation ponds are anticipated to be only property currently owned by WSWB.	3/1/27
Kern County Environmental Health Services Department	Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan	3/1/27
Kern County Environmental Health Services Department	Agreement with a local Mosquito Abatement District	3/1/26
Region 5 Regional Water Quality Control Board: Lahontan Region	Construction General Permits (NPDES/Waste Discharge Requirements)	3/1/27
Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District	Authority to Construct	3/1/27
Kern County Planning Department	Grading Permit for construction of basins	3/1/27
Antelope Valley Watermaster	Storage and Extraction Agreement	3/1/26
Department of Water Resources	Turnout/Turn-in Agreement on CA Aqueduct	3/1/27
Kern County	Building Permit for Pumpstation	3/1/27

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.

	Status	Significant Change?
Applicant's audited financial statements	Final funding is anticipated to be in Q2 of 2027. WSWB will provide audited financial statements at that time to satisfy this requirement.	No
Final project costs, schedule, and scope of work	Project cost was updated in Q3 2025 to reflect a larger build out to support contractor interest.	No
Evidence of bilateral communications with operators and owners of potentially impacted facilities regarding potential impacts of the proposed project to their facilities	WSWB has started the process with Antelope Valley Watermaster for a storage and extraction agreement. Groundwater modeling will be conducted to analyze a variety of put and take scenarios. Part of this agreement and analysis is to show no harm to other users of the Antelope Valley groundwater basin. Additionally, WSWB is working to obtain a turnout/turn-in agreement with DWR on the California Aqueduct. This work and analysis will ensure no harm to upstream or downstream users of the aqueduct.	No
Limited waiver of sovereign immunity	Final funding is anticipated to be in Q2 of 2027. WSWB will provide a limited waiver of sovereign immunity, if needed, at that time to satisfy this requirement.	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.

	Status	Significant Change?
Labor Compliance	The project will adhere to all labor compliance regulations and has to date. WSWB will provide any necessary backup information required prior to final funding.	No
Urban Water Management Plans	The WSWB is not a public agency that requires UWMP. However, participating contractors do have individual UWMP's as necessary.	No
Agricultural Water Management Plans	The WSWB is not a public agency that requires AWMP. However, participating contractors do have individual AWMP's as necessary.	No
Potential effect of other conditional eligible projects on the applicant's public benefits	WSWB is not aware of nor do we anticipate any impacts to the proposed public benefits as a result of changes in the status of other eligible projects.	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 Award Date
CA Prop 1 Water Storage Investment Program	\$128M	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.	3/30/29
CA Energy Commission (EPC19-058 and EPC20-008)	\$8.3M	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.	6/1/27

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
WSWB has activated the renewed early-funding agreement and has received reimbursement from the CWC. WSWB will continue to work with CWC staff to provider quarterly reports and reimbursement as stated in the agreement.	45%

2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030															
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4												
Project Management																																			
Project Partnership and Water Supply Agreements (SWPC for supply)																																			
Contracts for Administration of Public Benefits (Pulse flow and Emergency)																																			
O&M Planning and Agreements																																			
Predesign, 30%, Field Data (geotech, well and aquifer testing), 60%, 90%, Final Design, and Bid Packaging																																			
Pulse Flow SEIR and Pipeline Alignment CEQA																																			
Groundwater Modeling and AV Watermaster Agreement																																			
DWR Turnout Agreement and Aqueduct Modeling																																			
Project Permits																																			
Development of Final Funding Agreement																																			
WSWB Construction and Final Funding Implementation																																			