



Water Storage Investment Program Determinations Summary

This document presents background information and a summary of the nine determinations the Commission must make in the next step of the California Water Commission's Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) project evaluation process.

Background

Prior to determining each project's maximum conditional eligibility for funding, WSIP regulations require the Commission to make a series of determinations for each project based on technical review and appeal information. All nine determinations must be made for any project to move forward in the process. Specifically, the Commission must determine that each project:

1. Is cost effective;
2. Improves the operations of the State water system;
3. Provides a net improvement in ecosystem and water quality conditions;
4. Provides measurable improvements to the Delta ecosystem or to the tributaries to the Delta;
5. Would have a Program cost share that is less than or equal to 50 percent of the proposed project's total capital costs, with the exception of conjunctive use projects and reservoir reoperation projects;
6. Would have Program-funded ecosystem improvement benefits that make up at least 50 percent of the total public benefits funded by the Program;
7. Appears to be feasible;
8. Will advance the long-term objectives of restoring ecological health and improving water management for beneficial uses of the Delta; and
9. Is consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

To make the determinations, the Commission may consider technical reviews already completed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board, as well as input from applicants and the public during a public meeting held in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Act.

Staff Recommendation Regarding Determinations

Commission staff has assessed the technical reviews and appeal information for each project and finds the nine determinations can affirmatively be made for each project. Though the Commission is required to make the determinations before the projects have completed all formulation steps specified in the regulations, staff finds there is generally sufficient information available for the Commission to make affirmative determinations for the projects. Staff also recommends that the Commission discuss with applicants at its June 27-29 meeting any additional information that can inform the determinations.

Through remaining process steps, the Commission will have the opportunity to consider whether all required feasibility studies, permits and environmental documentation have been completed prior to determining each project's final funding award. All applicable laws and regulations must be met to receive and maintain WSIP funding.