



Water Storage Investment Program

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Eligibility and
Feasibility Determination

California 
WATER COMMISSION

October 2021

WSIP Background

Water Code section 79757 requirements:

By January 1, 2022

- Feasibility studies are complete
- Draft environmental documentation is available for public review.
- Commission makes a finding project is feasible
- Commission makes a finding that the project will advance the long-term objectives of restoring ecological health and improving water management for beneficial uses of the Delta.
- Director of DWR receives commitments for not less than 75% of non-public benefit cost share of the project.

WSIP Background

- **June 2018:** The Commission determined final application scores and made nine determinations for each project.
 - Commission made determination: project *appears* feasible
 - Commission made determination: project will advance long-term objectives of Delta
- **Since 2018** applicants have been working to complete feasibility studies and eligibility requirements set forth in Water Code section 79757.
- **Today** Staff presents
 - Review of feasibility documentation and recommendation
 - Status of continuing eligibility requirements for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion.

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion

Contra Costa Water District

- **Surface storage project**
- **MCED: \$470,475,000**
- **Public benefits: Ecosystem, Emergency Response, and Recreation**



Complete Feasibility Studies

Technical Reference defines feasibility in 5 categories

- **Technical feasibility**
- **Constructability**
- **Environmental feasibility**
- **Economic feasibility**
- **Financial feasibility**

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Complete Feasibility Studies

Documents reviewed:

- **2017 application materials including environmental documents & feasibility documentation**
- **2018 Review materials**
- **2020 Final feasibility report**
- **Response to CWC staff review of feasibility report**

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion

Technical Feasibility & Constructability

Regulations Require:

- **Technical feasibility & Constructability– Project is technically feasible based on how it will operate and can be constructed with existing technology and availability of materials, etc.**

Review found:

- **Operations, engineering designs and costs and construction methods demonstrate project can be technically and physically constructed and operated**

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Environmental Feasibility

Regulations require:

- **Project is environmentally feasible and significant issues mitigated or lead agency plans to file statement of overriding considerations**

Review found:

- **Final Supplemental EIS/EIR prepared**
 - **Potentially significant impacts for proposed project will be mitigated and mitigation monitoring plan prepared**
 - **Documentation shows environmental feasibility**

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Economic Feasibility

Regulations require:

- **Expected benefits equal or exceed expected costs**

Review found:

- **Based on a review of all benefits and costs under different assumptions, benefits exceed costs showing the benefit to cost ratio is greater than one**
- **Documentation shows economic feasibility**

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion

Financial Feasibility

Regulations require:

- **Sufficient funds available to cover costs of construction and operation over life of project**

Review found:

- **Funds from all sources are sufficient to cover all costs**
- **Not obtaining federal funds could affect financial feasibility**
- **Documentation shows financial feasibility**

Statutory Requirement Complete Feasibility Study

- **Feasibility study information addressed the five feasibility categories and is complete**

Statutory Requirement Draft Environmental Documentation Available for Public Review

- **Draft Supplement to Final EIS/EIR in application**
- **Since Application, Final Supplement to Final EIS/EIR completed**

Statutory Requirement

Director Receives 75% Commitments

- **Recently formed Los Vaqueros Reservoir JPA**
- **JPA provides governance and stable funding for the project**
- **Letter of commitment from members received**
- **Director of DWR received letter and supporting documentation on October 7, 2021**

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Eligibility

- **Statutory Requirements met:**
 - **Complete feasibility studies and draft environmental documentation**
 - **Director receives 75% commitment**
- **Based on documentation received, Staff recommends Commission find project feasible.**

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Eligibility

Commission Decision:

- If Commission determines project is feasible, project continues to work towards returning for a final funding hearing
- If Commission does not make a finding, project no longer eligible for funding under WSIP



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