



Water Storage Investment Program

Chino Basin Program
Eligibility and Feasibility Determination

California 
WATER COMMISSION

November 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 Chino Basin Program

Chino Basin Program

Inland Empire Utilities Agency

- **Conjunctive Use Project**
- **MCED: \$212,072,500**
- **Public benefits: Ecosystem, Water Quality, and Emergency Response**



Complete Feasibility Studies

Technical Reference defines feasibility in 5 categories

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

Chino Basin Program Complete Feasibility Studies

Documents reviewed:

- **2017 application materials including related environmental documentation**
- **2018 Review materials**
- **2021 Final feasibility report**
- **2021 Draft Chino Basin Program PEIR**

Chino Basin Program

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**

Chino Basin Program Environmental Feasibility

Regulations require:

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

Review found:

- **Most significant impacts for project will be mitigated; may be significant and unavoidable impacts and Statement of Overriding Considerations will be prepared**
- **Documentation shows environmental feasibility**

Chino Basin Program Economic Feasibility

Regulations require:

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

Review found:

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

Chino Basin Program 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**
- **Costs allocated to non-public beneficiaries are consistent and do not exceed benefits received**
- **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

- **Application included some related CEQA documents**
- **Draft PEIR released for public review October 28, 2021**

Statutory Requirement

Director Receives 75% Commitments

- Letter of commitment from IEUA received
- Director of DWR received letter and supporting documentation on October 21, 2021

Chino Basin Program 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**

Chino Basin Program 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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