

PUBLIC ECOSYSTEM BENEFIT ADMINISTRATION



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CDFW's ROLE IN THE WSIP

- Developed ecosystem priorities and relative environmental value of ecosystem benefits
- Technical review of projects and finding of net benefit
- Contract development
- Administering ecosystem benefit over life of contract

EVALUATING ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS

Basis for Ecosystem Priorities

- Existing environmental laws and regulations
- Species recovery plans and strategies
- Conservation plans

Relative Environmental Value

- Magnitude of ecosystem improvement
- Spatial and temporal scale
- Duration
- Resilience

ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS: INITIALLY CONFIRMED

Flow and Water Quality Improvements

- Pulse flows in Feather River
- Base flows in Cosumnes River
- Water for wildlife refuges
- Flow in Yolo Bypass for Delta smelt

Physical Processes and Habitat Improvements

- Wetland, riparian, and vernal pool habitat
- Sandhill crane habitat
- Steelhead trout habitat
- Reduced salmon entrainment

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: DETERMINATION OF BENEFIT

WSIP regulations anticipated changes to the public benefits (CCR §6012(g)).

CDFW is required to confirm public benefits still meet the requirements of Water Code §79750 et seq, including that the project provides net, measurable improvements to the ecosystem (See CCR § 6013(c)(2)); Water Code §79750(b); Water Code §79752).

CONTRACT FOR ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC BENEFITS (CAPB)

Contract expectations consistent with WSIP Regulations:

- Benefit description including timing, frequency, location of ecosystem benefit
- Project and benefit implementation actions necessary to achieve the anticipated environmental response (i.e. the ecosystem benefit)
- Reporting annually with 5-year performance review

CAPB CONTINUED

Adaptive Management Plan

- Structured according to definitions and requirements outlined in Proposition 1 and WSIP Regulations
- Includes monitoring plan, project milestones, performance thresholds, and triggers
- Describes decision-making process for adaptive management through a meet and confer process

NEXT STEPS: BENEFIT CONFIRMATION

- Benefit quantity may have changed since technical review and MCED
- Confirm project operations provide water at sufficient volume, frequency, duration and location to provide an ecosystem improvement
- Confirm completion of final environmental documents and agreements required to manifest the public ecosystem benefit
 - Landowner agreements/conservation easements
 - Refuge Water Supply Program
 - Conveyance priority
 - Exchange agreements

NEXT STEPS: CAPB DEVELOPMENT

- Developed and shared CAPB and Adaptive Management Plan templates with all project proponents
- Continue to meet with projects regularly
- Projects working to different timelines

LONG-TERM ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC BENEFITS

- Annual reporting to CWC
- Evaluating 5-year AM Plans
- Long-term agency facilitation and/or management of public ecosystem benefits not funded
- Monitoring needs

QUESTIONS?

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