

Water Storage Investment Program

State Water Board
Administration of
Water Quality
Public Benefits



California Water Commission Meeting, September 2022

State Water Board

Administering Agency Roles

1. Identified water quality priorities and criteria for assessing “relative environmental value” for the WSIP regulations
2. Conducted technical review of WSIP applications for projects that proposed water quality public benefits
3. Will contract for the administration of public benefits for any project that provides water quality benefits consistent with WSIP.

Water Quality Public Benefits

1. Reduce Salinity in Impaired Surface Water

Improve surface water bodies not meeting salinity water quality standards

2. Improve Groundwater Quality

Protect, clean up, or restore groundwater resources

Water Quality Public Benefits - Details

1. Magnitude of the benefits depends primarily on quality and volume of water stored or delivered
2. Volumes / flows of water are small relative to the receiving target waterbodies
3. Benefits to occur in a highly managed surface or groundwater basin

Considerations for Water Quality Contracts and Findings

1. Limitations on how much water can be delivered or stored would affect water quality benefits
 - a) Water supply limits would set some bounds for adaptive management
 - b) Value of assurances regarding water rights, water supply agreements, or other approvals that could affect water supply or use

Questions?

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