**Water Storage Investment Program** Harvest Water Program Eligibility and Feasibility Determination



# **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 nonpublic benefit cost share of the project.



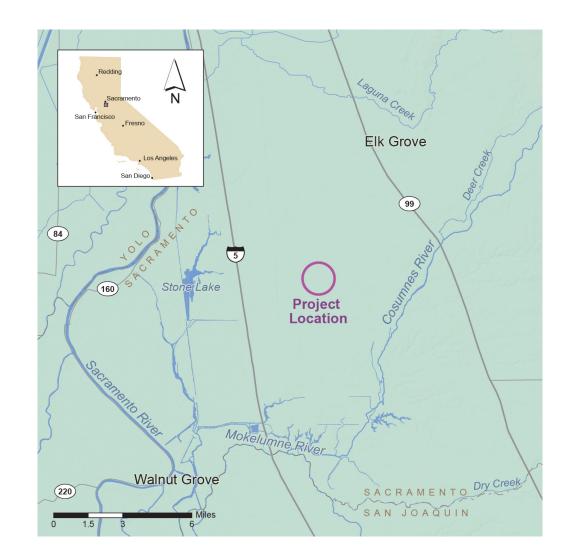
# **WSIP Background**

- 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 Harvest Water Program.



Harvest Water Program Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San)

- Conjunctive use project
- MCED: \$287,512,500
- Public benefits: Ecosystem and Water Quality





# **Complete Feasibility Studies**

- **Technical Reference defines feasibility in 5 categories:**
- Technical Feasibility
- Constructability
- Environmental Feasibility
- Economic Feasibility
- Financial Feasibility



### Harvest Water Program Complete Feasibility Studies

**Documents reviewed:** 

- 2017 application materials including environmental documents & feasibility documentation
- 2018 Review materials
- 2019 Technical Memo Feasibility Study Update
- Recently completed environmental documentation



## Harvest Water 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:
- Project operations, designs, costs and construction methods demonstrate the Project can be technically and physically constructed and operated.



### Harvest Water 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:** 

 Project level CEQA documentation and feasibility study indicated no significant impacts. Documentation shows environmental feasibility.



Harvest Water Program Economic Feasibility

**Regulations require:** 

- Expected benefits equal or exceed expected costs Review found:
- The value of benefits well exceeds the expected costs showing the project's benefit to cost ratio is greater than one
- Documentation shows economic feasibility



### Harvest Water 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
  - Regional San is primary beneficiary of non-public benefits and is expected to provide financial commitment for project
  - 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 and Final Programmatic EIR included some project level analyses released prior to WSIP application
- Since application, final CEQA completed
  - Initial study for Lateral Pipelines & On-farm connections
  - EIR Addendums for Groundwater Accounting, Ecological Plan & Winter-time applications, On-farm connections vehicle turnouts



#### **Statutory Requirement** Director Receives 75% Commitments

- Regional San funding remainder of project costs
- Director of DWR received letter of commitment covering those costs on September 28, 2021



# Harvest Water Program Eligibility

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



# Harvest Water 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



# cwc.ca.gov/water-storage

