



Water Storage Investment Program

Harvest Water Program 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 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**



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