# Water Storage Investment Program

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion 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**

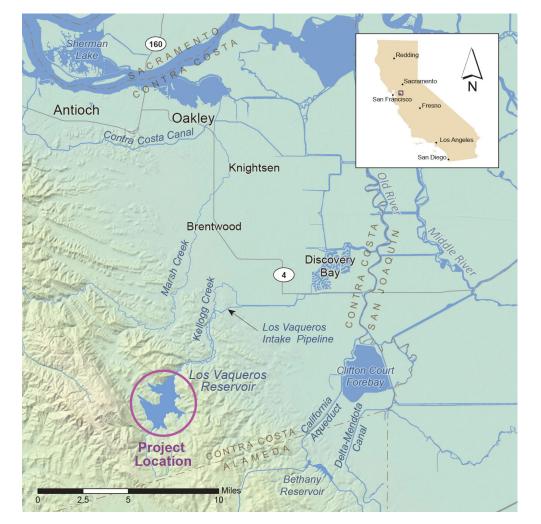
- June 2018: The Commission determined final application scores and made nine determinations for each project.
  - Commission made determination: project *appears* feasible
  - Commission made determination: project will advance long-term objectives of Delta
- Since 2018 applicants have been working 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 Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion.



#### **Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion**

**Contra Costa Water District** 

- Surface storage project
- MCED: \$470,475,000
- Public benefits: Ecosystem, Emergency Response, and Recreation





# **Complete Feasibility Studies**

**Technical Reference defines feasibility in 5 categories** 

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



#### Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Complete Feasibility Studies

**Documents reviewed:** 

- 2017 application materials including environmental documents & feasibility documentation
- 2018 Review materials
- 2020 Final feasibility report
- Response to CWC staff review of feasibility report



## Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion 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



### Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Environmental Feasibility

**Regulations require:** 

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

**Review found:** 

- Final Supplemental EIS/EIR prepared
  - Potentially significant impacts for proposed project will be mitigated and mitigation monitoring plan prepared
  - Documentation shows environmental feasibility



#### Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Economic Feasibility

**Regulations require:** 

- Expected benefits equal or exceed expected costs Review found:
- Based on a review of all benefits and costs under different assumptions, benefits exceed costs showing the benefit to cost ratio is greater than one
- Documentation shows economic feasibility



#### Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion 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
- Not obtaining federal funds could affect financial feasibility
- 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 Supplement to Final EIS/EIR in application
- Since Application, Final Supplement to Final EIS/EIR completed



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

- Recently formed Los Vaqueros Reservoir JPA
- JPA provides governance and stable funding for the project
- Letter of commitment from members received
- Director of DWR received letter and supporting documentation on October 7, 2021



## Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion 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.



## Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion 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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