Water Storage
Investment Program
Chino Basin Program
Eligibility and Feasibility Determination

California WATER COMMISSION  November 2021
Water Storage Investment Program

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 Chino Basin Program
Chino Basin Program

Inland Empire Utilities Agency

- Conjunctive Use Project
- MCED: $212,072,500
- Public benefits: Ecosystem, Water Quality, and Emergency Response
Complete Feasibility Studies

Technical Reference defines feasibility in 5 categories

• Technical feasibility
• Constructability
• Environmental feasibility
• Economic feasibility
• Financial feasibility
Chino Basin Program
Complete Feasibility Studies

Documents reviewed:

• 2017 application materials including related environmental documentation
• 2018 Review materials
• 2021 Final feasibility report
• 2021 Draft Chino Basin Program PEIR
Chino Basin 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:

• Operations, engineering designs and costs and construction methods demonstrate project can be technically and physically constructed and operated
Chino Basin 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:

• Most significant impacts for project will be mitigated; may be significant and unavoidable impacts and Statement of Overriding Considerations will be prepared

• Documentation shows environmental feasibility
Chino Basin Program
Economic Feasibility

Regulations require:
• Expected benefits equal or exceed expected costs

Review found:
• Based on a review of all benefits and costs, benefits exceed costs showing the benefit to cost ratio is greater than one
• Documentation shows economic feasibility
Chino Basin 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
• Costs allocated to non-public beneficiaries are consistent and do not exceed benefits received
• 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

• Application included some related CEQA documents
• Draft PEIR released for public review October 28, 2021
Statutory Requirement
Director Receives 75% Commitments

• Letter of commitment from IEUA received
• Director of DWR received letter and supporting documentation on October 21, 2021
Chino Basin Program 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
Chino Basin 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