

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

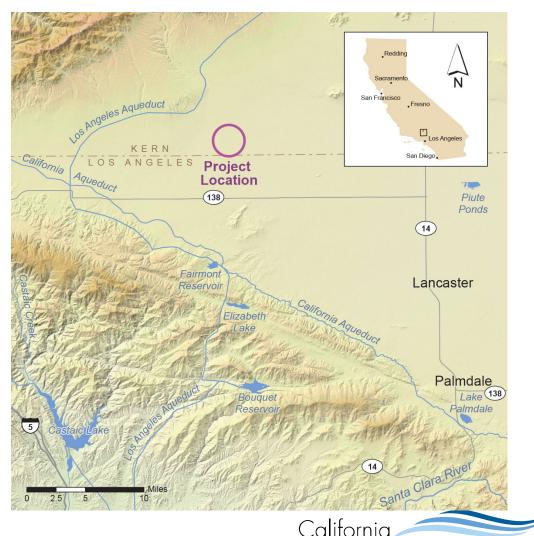
WSIP Background

- 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 Willow Springs Project
- Decision on feasibility only, no funding decisions will be made at this meeting

Willow Springs Water Bank Conjunctive Use Project

Southern California Water Bank Authority

- Conjunctive Use Project
- MCED: \$126,372,250
- Public benefits: Ecosystem,
 Emergency Response



WATER COMMISSION

Complete Feasibility Studies

Technical Reference defines feasibility in 5 categories

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



Willow Springs Water Bank Project Complete Feasibility Studies

Documents reviewed:

- 2017 application materials including related environmental documentation
- 2018 Review materials
- 2021 Feasibility Study
- 2006 Draft EIR, 2018 Addendum to EIR and additional related environmental documents



Willow Springs Water Bank Project 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

Willow Springs Water Bank Project Environmental Feasibility

Regulations require:

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

Review found:

- EIR and Addendum identified significant impacts and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) adopted
- Additional CEQA documents for AVEK facilities indicated no significant impacts and MMRP adopted

Willow Springs Water Bank Project Economic Feasibility

Regulations require:

Expected benefits equal or exceed expected costs

Review found:

- Project has changed since application: facilities, costs, water source
- Based on a review of all benefits and costs, including staff adjusted calculations, benefits exceed costs showing the benefit to cost ratio is greater than one
- Documentation shows economic feasibility



Willow Springs Water Bank Project Financial Feasibility

Regulations require:

 Sufficient funds available to cover costs of construction and operation over life of project

Review found:

- Project costs are much less for current project
- Applicant's commitment to pay its cost share 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

- 2006 Draft EIR
- 2018 Addendum to EIR
- 2014 & 2018 Initial Studies/Mitigated Negative Declarations

Statutory Requirement Director Receives 75% Commitments

- Letter of commitment from applicant received
- Director of DWR received letter and supporting documentation on December 2, 2021

Willow Springs Water Bank Project 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

Willow Springs Water Bank Project 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

