



Water Storage Investment Program

Willow Springs Water Bank Conjunctive Use Project
Eligibility and Feasibility Determination

California
WATER COMMISSION

December 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 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



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



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