

Milestone year for Water Storage Investment Program

Proposition 1: The Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act, dedicated \$2.7 billion for investments in the public benefits of water storage projects. The California Water Commission approved maximum conditional eligibility determinations (MCEs), which is the amount of Prop 1 funding available to a given project, for seven proposed projects in the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP). In addition, the Commission is receiving screening information from new projects.

Both existing WSIP projects and screening projects are subject to the eligibility deadline discussed here.

PROP 1 ELIGIBILITY DEADLINE REQUIREMENTS

To ensure progress, existing projects and screening projects must meet a statutory deadline of January 1, 2022, after which a project will not be eligible for funding if the following conditions are not met:

- ✓ All feasibility studies are complete and draft environmental documentation is available for public review;
- ✓ The Director of the Department of Water Resources receives commitments from not less than 75 percent of the non-public benefit cost shares of the project; and
- ✓ The Commission makes a finding that the project is feasible, and will advance the long-term objectives of restoring ecological health and improving water management for beneficial uses of the Delta.



FINDING OF FEASIBILITY

Once an existing project or screening project has the required documents for eligibility, they will submit them to CWC staff for review. Once reviewed, CWC staff will place an item on the next Commission meeting agenda to present Staff's recommendation for the Commission's consideration and a finding of feasibility. The public can access information submitted by project proponents by visiting the [WSIP page](#) on the Commission's website. Documents not posted to the website will be made available upon request. Materials for the Commission's consideration will be linked to the agenda 10 days prior to the meeting.

Because Proposition 1 requires the Commission to make a finding of feasibility by January 1, 2022, the Commission strongly encourages receipt of a project's information as soon as possible in 2021 and no later than mid-October to allow for staff review and placement on a Commission meeting agenda. The Commission has the discretion to make a finding of feasibility or not. If the Commission does not make a finding of feasibility a project would not be eligible for funding within the program.

MOVING FORWARD

Existing project applicants will continue working to fulfill the requirements outlined in Prop 1, which includes obtaining the necessary permits and final environmental documents, developing contracts for the administration of public benefits, and securing all non-public benefit funding, before returning before the Commission for a final award hearing.

FINAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS



Feasibility Study



Permits



Environmental Documents



Public Benefits Contracts



Non-Program Funding

NEW PROJECT SCREENING

With approximately \$64 million in available funding, a screening process has begun that will allow the Commission to receive conceptual submittals for water storage projects that provide public benefits as defined by Proposition 1, Chapter 8. Submitted projects must meet the eligibility requirements listed above. It is recommended and encouraged that project proponents submit screening proposals to Commission staff no later than mid October in order to meet the eligibility deadline. If the Commission should decide to open a second solicitation, only projects successful in the screening process would be eligible to apply. To download a screening form, visit cwc.ca.gov/Water Storage and scroll down to the Project Screening tab.

USEFUL LINKS:

California Water Commission Home Page: <https://cwc.ca.gov>

Frequently Asked Questions: https://cwc.ca.gov/-/media/CWC-Website/Files/Documents/2018/WSIP/WISP_FAQs_Nov2018.pdf

WSIP Home Page: <https://cwc.ca.gov/Water-Storage>

CONTACT THE COMMISSION

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