



Water Storage Investment Program: Contracts for the Administration of Public Benefits

Introduction

Applicants within the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) are advancing their projects to meet Proposition 1 requirements before returning to the Commission for final award hearings. Applicants are responsible for moving their projects toward construction, and each project is on its own timeline. As projects move toward final funding awards, the Commission is receiving briefings on the overall process. This briefing will focus on the contracts for the administration of public benefits. Commission staff will provide an overview of the contracts and how they fit into the overall WSIP process and funding agreements. Staff from the three administering agencies, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and California Department of Water Resources (DWR), will provide information about the public benefits they administer, the types of information that will be included in the contracts, reporting requirements, and adaptive management.

Background

Through the WSIP, the Commission will invest nearly \$2.6 billion in the public benefits of water storage projects, consistent with the requirements of Proposition 1 (the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014), Chapter 8. In July 2018, the Commission made MCEDs, decisions that set the amount of Proposition 1 funding potentially available to a given project. Since then, one applicant withdrew from the program, making its MCED available for potential use elsewhere. From January 2021 through March 2022, the Commission considered options and made several decisions to redistribute the returned MCED amount. The Commission decided to not pursue a second solicitation, and used the returned MCED amount for a series of inflationary adjustments and adjustments to MCEDs for three projects that were shorted in 2018 because total project requests exceeded available funding. The seven remaining applicants are working to complete the Proposition 1 requirements, which include obtaining permits and completed environmental documents, contracts for the administration of public benefits, and contracts for non-public benefit cost share, before returning to the Commission for a final award hearing.

This agenda item implements Goal Four of the Commission's Strategic Plan, which calls on the Commission to carry out its statutory responsibilities for the Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program.

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Meeting Overview

At the September meeting, staff from the Commission, CDFW, SWRCB, and DWR will provide high level information about the contracts for the administration of public benefits.

This is an informational item.

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