



Water Storage Investment Program: Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project Update

Introduction

The California Water Commission (Commission) administers the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) to fund the public benefits associated with water storage projects using funds from the Proposition 1 Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1). Currently, seven projects have a WSIP maximum conditional eligibility determination (MCED), which is the amount of Proposition 1 funding potentially available to a given project. At the June meeting, staff provided a general update for all seven projects and, based on that report, the Commission requested a project update for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project from the project proponent, located in southeast Santa Clara County. The Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project, being advanced by project proponent Valley Water, is a regional surface storage project that would enlarge the existing reservoir from 6 thousand acre-feet (TAF) to 140 TAF and be operated to provide emergency water supply benefits and ecosystem benefits specifically for steelhead in Pacheco Creek as well as refuge water supplies.

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, Chapter 8. The seven WSIP applicants have successfully met the Proposition 1, Chapter 8 interim requirements and are working to complete the remaining statutory requirements, which include obtaining permits and completed environmental documents, executing contracts for the administration of public benefits, and contracts for non-public benefit cost share. Once these requirements are complete, each WSIP applicant will return to the Commission for a final award hearing. One project received a final award from the Commission in June 2023. This agenda item implements Goal Four of the Commission’s Strategic Plan, which calls on the Commission to carry out its statutory responsibilities for WSIP.

Meeting Overview

At the meeting, Ryan McCarter, Acting Deputy Operating Officer, and Julianne O’Brien, Engineering Unit Manager, of the Dam Safety and Capital Delivery Division at Valley Water will provide a status of the project. This is an informational item.

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Meeting Date: October 18, 2023

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