

Contact: Paul Cambra
(916) 873-5774
paul.cambra@cw.com

Commission to discuss potential funding options after project's withdrawal from Water Storage Investment Program

Also on the agenda: Harvest Water Program update, State Water Project briefing

At the February 19 [California Water Commission](#) meeting, Commission staff will present options on the potential utilization of more than \$525 million of [Water Storage Investment Program](#) (WSIP) funding. A portion of this funding, \$454 million, was initially designated for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project, if it met statutory requirements. The project's proponent, Contra Costa Water District, withdrew the project from the WSIP in November 2024. Commission staff will also present options for the use of the \$75 million made available by the voter-approved Proposition 4, the Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure of 2024. Commissioners will then discuss the options presented to them.

The WSIP funds the public benefits associated with water storage projects (ecosystem improvement, water quality improvement, recreation, emergency response, and flood control). Since the Commission determined the amount of funding potentially available to a given project in 2018, the local project proponents have been in the driver's seat, each responsible for their project's schedule. The Commission cannot award a project its final funding until it is shovel ready, which means the project proponent must complete all of the Proposition 1 requirements – final permits, completed environmental documents, contracts for the administration of public benefits, and contracts for non-program funding – before returning to the Commission for a final award hearing. The Commission is ready to consider final funding awards once project proponents are ready.

Also on the February meeting agenda, the Commission will hear from SacSewer, proponents of the [Harvest Water Program](#), the first WSIP project to receive its final funding award. The Commission will receive an update on the other projects in the WSIP, which include the Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Project, Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project, Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project, Sites Project, and the Willow Springs Water Bank Conjunctive Use Project. The meeting will also include the first [State Water Project](#) briefing of 2025, and a presentation on engagement numbers, near-term actions, and planning in support of Goal 2 of the Commission's [2025 Strategic Plan](#), which aims to develop, implement, and evaluate a targeted approach to increasing engagement in the Commission's work.

The meeting is open to the public and will also be live streamed online.

California Water Commission meeting
When: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, February 19
Where: California Natural Resources Building
715 P Street, Sacramento, 95814

Info: (916) 873-5774, www.cwc.ca.gov

The meeting will be live streamed at www.water-ca.com

To comment remotely, [Zoom](#) login information can be found on the [public participation guide](#).

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The nine-member California Water Commission uses its public forum to explore water management issues from multiple perspectives and to formulate recommendations to advise the director of the California Department of Water Resources, and as appropriate, the California Natural Resources Agency, the Governor and the California State Legislature on ways to improve water planning and management in response to California's changing hydrology. As required by Water Code section 165, the Commission conducts an annual review of the construction and operation of the State Water Project. For more information regarding the California Water Commission, visit cwc.ca.gov.