



Water Storage Investment Program: Sites Project Update and Virtual Tour
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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), codified at Water Code section 79750 *et seq*, and supplemented by funds from Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4).

WSIP project proponents may opt to conduct a “virtual tour” of their project site to share information with the Commission prior to a project’s final award hearing. The virtual tour is intended to provide background information, a project update, and information about the public benefits of the project. Sites Project Authority will present their virtual tour at the June meeting. The Sites Project Authority is developing the Sites Project which will be located in Glenn and Colusa Counties. The Sites project will provide ecosystem, recreation, flood control and emergency response benefits.

Background

Through the WSIP, the Commission will invest \$2.65 billion in the public benefits of water storage projects, consistent with the requirements of Proposition 1 and Proposition 4. The Commission made Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determinations in July 2018, which set the amount of Proposition 1 funding potentially available to each project. One project received a final award at the June 2023 Commission meeting. The four remaining WSIP applicants, including Sites Reservoir, successfully met Proposition 1 interim requirements and were found feasible by the deadline of January 1, 2022, and are working to complete the remaining statutory requirements. These include obtaining permits and completing environmental documents, executing contracts for the administration of public benefits, and completing contracts for non-public benefit cost share. When the applicant completes these requirements, the applicant will return to the Commission for a final award hearing at which the Commission will decide whether to award final funding.

The Commission’s [WSIP regulations](#) allow the Commission to increase the amount of conditional funding committed to a project on a case-by-case basis, to account for inflation and increased public benefits. These conditional funding determinations can be made prior to or after the final funding hearing.

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This agenda item is related to Goal One of the [Commission's Strategic Plan](#), which calls on the Commission to implement the WSIP to achieve public benefits.

Meeting Overview

At this meeting, Jerry Brown, Sites Authority Executive Director, will provide information about the Sites Project.

Following the Sites Project Authority's remarks, the Commission will hear Tribal and public comment on the information presented. Commissioners will then have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

This is an informational item.

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