

September 10, 2026

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California Water Commission to review public benefits contracts for the Chino Basin Program

**September meeting to include a virtual tour of the proposed
Water Storage Investment Program project**

The [Chino Basin Program](#), a water treatment and storage facility in San Bernardino County, has reached an important milestone on the path to securing state funding. The project's draft contracts for the administration of the public benefits – or CAPBs – will be presented to the [California Water Commission](#) at this month's meeting. These contracts ensure the project will deliver the public benefits that are the basis of the state's investment, as approved by voters in Proposition 1 Chapter 8 (2014).

The Water Commission administers the State's funding through the [Water Storage Investment Program](#) (WSIP). At the September 16, 2026, meeting, the public will have an opportunity to offer comment on the draft contracts, which must be finalized before the Commission can consider awarding WSIP funding to the project.

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency, the project proponent, is negotiating contracts with the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (CDFW) for its ecosystem benefit, with the [State Water Resources Control Board](#) (Water Board) for its water quality benefit, and with the [Department of Water Resources](#) (DWR) for its emergency response benefit.

[What is a CAPB?](#)
[How to make a public comment](#)

The project will allow water to be released for juvenile Chinook salmon at key times, provide stored water in the event of an emergency, and put treated water into the groundwater sub-basin to improve water quality. The presentation of draft contracts at the Commission's meeting show that the project has made significant headway toward proving its ability to deliver these important, voted-approved public benefits for communities and species.

Once constructed, the Chino Basin Program will be able to store up to 15,000 acre-feet per year of treated water in the Chino Basin Water Bank, increasing local water supply resiliency and reliability.

The Chino Basin Program draft CAPBs are available for viewing on the Commission website. A 30-day comment period opened September 4 and will run through October 5.

- [Draft Contract for Administration of Public Ecosystem Benefit](#)
- [Draft Contract for Administration of Public Water Quality Benefit](#)

- [Draft Contract for Administration of Public Emergency Response Benefit](#)

California Water Commission meeting

When: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Where: California Natural Resources Building, Room 221
715 P Street, Sacramento, 95814

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

The meeting will be live streamed at <https://www.water-ca.com/>.

Public comment can be made to the Commission until October 5, 2026, via the following methods:

- Email – cwc@water.ca.gov
- Written – California Water Commission
P.O. Box 924836 Sacramento, CA 94236
- At the Commission's meeting – The public will be able to attend the hearing in-person or via Zoom.

All comments received by the Commission will be forwarded to the administering agencies for their consideration before executing contracts.

Chino Basin Program Virtual Tour

At this meeting, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency will present a virtual tour of the project. The tour is intended to provide a project update, a synthesized review of the project's background information, and updated information about the public benefits of the project.

For more information on WSIP, including general project schedules and timelines, visit cwc.ca.gov/Water-Storage.

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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 Legislature on ways to improve water planning and management in response to California's changing hydrology. For more information, visit cwc.ca.gov.