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Water Commission increases potential funding for seven water storage projects

The California Water Commission has increased the potential funding amounts for the seven projects in the [Water Storage Investment Program](#) (WSIP).

[Proposition 1](#), approved by California voters in 2014, directed the Commission to create a competitive process for funding water storage projects based on their public benefits. The projects were evaluated and ranked on criteria established in the WSIP [regulations](#). In 2018 the California Water Commission approved Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determinations (MCEDs) for eight projects. Since that time, one project has withdrawn from the WSIP, and in 2021, the Commission voted to redirect a portion of that project’s MCED amount to bring two projects up to their requested amount (due to a shortage of funds, three projects received MCEDs less than they were eligible for) and to adjust the MCEDs of all existing projects to account for inflation at approximately 2.5 percent.

This month, with approximately \$64 million in available funding remaining, the Commission voted to increase the potential funding amount for the Sites Project by \$25 million, correcting a shortage from 2018 due to limited funding. In addition to adjusting the Sites Project’s MCED, the Commission also voted to adjust the MCEDs of all existing projects to account for inflation at approximately 1.5 percent.

Project	1.5% Inflation Adjustment	Resulting 2022 MCED
Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Program	\$3,192,905	\$215,265,405
Harvest Water Program	\$4,328,709	\$291,841,209
Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project	\$1,321,915	\$89,123,415
Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project	\$7,083,343	\$477,558,343
Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project	\$7,477,633	\$504,141,383
Sites Project	\$12,984,241	\$875,396,369
Willow Springs Water Bank and Conjunctive Use Project	\$1,902,626	\$128,274,876
Inflation Adjustment Total	\$38,291,372	\$2,581,601,000

“I am excited to watch the work of the applicants as they move these projects forward, and to see them all reach their final award hearings so we can help make these projects a reality,”

Once an applicant obtains the necessary permits, final environmental documents, contracts for administration of public benefits, and contracts for 100 percent of the non-public benefit cost share, they can appear before the Commission for a final funding award.

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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 regarding the California Water Commission visit cwc.ca.gov.