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## **First two projects meet continuing eligibility requirements, move forward in Water Storage Investment Program**

Two projects in the [Water Storage Investment Program](#) (WSIP), the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project and the Harvest Water Program, met the statutory deadline to ensure progress and remain eligible for WSIP funding. Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014, requires all WSIP applicants to complete their feasibility studies, release a draft version of their environmental documents for public review, provide the DWR director documentation of commitments for at least 75 percent of the non-program funding, and have the [California Water Commission](#) find their project feasible no later than January 1, 2022. At the October 20 meeting, the Commission found that the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project and the Harvest Water Program are both feasible.

The [Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project](#) would add 115,000 acre-feet of storage by enlarging the existing off-stream reservoir located in southeastern Contra Costa County from 160,000 to 275,000 acre-feet. The project would deliver water to agencies within Contra Costa Water District's service area, the Bay Area, the Delta, neighboring regions, and south-of-Delta wildlife refuges. Construction is expected to begin in mid-2023.

The [Harvest Water Program](#) is a conjunctive use project that would supply up to 50,000 acre-feet of tertiary treated wastewater per year to irrigate up to 16,000 acres of agriculture and habitat lands in Sacramento County near the lower Cosumnes River and Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. The Harvest Water Program is scheduled to begin operation in mid-2024.

"This is an important step in the progress of these projects and the Water Storage Investment Program as a whole," said Commission Chair Teresa Alvarado. "The applicants have worked hard to get to this point and we are hopeful that they will build upon this success and see these projects through to completion."

Two more projects – the Chino Basin Program and Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project – are expected to come before the Commission for feasibility determinations in November, with the remaining three projects – Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project, Sites Project, and Willow Springs Water Bank Conjunctive Use Project – scheduled for December.

Beyond January 1, 2022, Proposition 1 requires each of the seven projects to meet four requirements before they can appear before the Commission for a final funding decision: final environmental documents, non-public benefit cost share contracts, contracts for the administration of public benefits, and all permits required to begin construction. Combined, the projects, if completed, would add 2.77 million acre-feet to California's water storage capacity.

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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](http://cwc.ca.gov).