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Third project meets continuing eligibility requirements, moves forward in Water Storage Investment Program

The Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Environmental Water Storage/Exchange Program met the statutory deadline to ensure progress and remain eligible for [Water Storage Investment Program](#) (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 November 17 meeting, the Commission found that the Chino Basin Program was feasible.

The Chino Basin Program would construct an advanced water treatment facility and distribution facilities that would store up to 15,000 acre-feet per year of treated wastewater in the existing Chino Basin Water Bank. Public benefits of the project include enhanced instream flows in the Feather River to aid Chinook smolt emigration, stored water to be used in the event of an emergency that disables water import infrastructure, and a reduction in the total dissolved solids in the Chino Groundwater Sub-basin to protect groundwater quality. Construction is expected to begin in 2025.

In October, the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project and the Harvest Water Program met the statutory deadline and remained eligible for WSIP funding. The remaining four WSIP projects – the Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project, Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project, Sites Project, and Willow Springs Water Bank Conjunctive Use Project – are expected to come before the Commission for feasibility determinations in 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.