

---

## State Water Resources Control Board

**TO:** Joseph Yun, Executive Officer  
California Water Commission

**FROM:** Eileen Sobeck, Executive Director



**DATE:** May 22, 2023

**SUBJECT:** WATER QUALITY BENEFITS OF THE HARVEST PROGRAM  
CONTINUE TO MEET ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF CHAPTER 8, DIVISION 26.7  
OF THE WATER CODE

The State Water Resources Control Board (Board) recognizes the value and importance of additional surface water and groundwater storage in California. The Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) represents an important opportunity to invest in California's water future, ensure a more reliable and resilient water supply, and restore important species and habitat.

Each WSIP project must enter into a contract for the administration of public benefits with each public agency that administers the public benefits. The State Water Board has authority to administer public water quality benefits provided by projects under the WSIP. On May 21, 2018, the Board found that the public water quality benefit of the Harvest Water Program met the requirements of Water Code sections 79750 *et seq.*, based on a technical review of the Harvest Water Program WSIP funding application materials.

The California Water Commission regulations for the implementation of the WSIP recognize that “changes in the amount of public benefits may occur from the time of the reviewing agencies’ findings to the time an applicant enters into a contract with the reviewing agency” and require the reviewing agency, prior to entering into a contract, to confirm that the public benefits continue to meet all the requirements of Water Code section 79750 *et seq.* (Cal. Code Regulations, tit. 23, §6012, subd. (g).).

Since the Board made this finding, the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District has further developed the Harvest Water Program, completed environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act and secured certain critical permits necessary to deliver the public water quality benefit. After review of project changes and

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

development of a contract for the administration of public benefit, the Board finds that the water quality benefit of the Harvest Water Program continues to meet all the requirements of chapter 8, division 26.7 of the Water Code. Specifically, the delivery of recycled water under the Harvest Water Program will result in reduced salt-loading to the lower Sacramento River and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta) waterways. The reduction in mass loading of salts to the river will incrementally lower the electrical conductivity in downstream waterways of the Delta impaired for electrical conductivity.

cc: [via email only]

Amy Young, Program Manager  
California Water Commission  
[Amy.young@water.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.young@water.ca.gov)

Anna Naimark, Undersecretary  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
[Anna.naimark@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:Anna.naimark@calepa.ca.gov)

E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
[Joaquin.esquivel@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Joaquin.esquivel@waterboards.ca.gov)

Terrie Mitchell, Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Manager  
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District  
[Mitchellt@sacsewer.com](mailto:Mitchellt@sacsewer.com)

Michael Lauffer, Chief Counsel  
State Water Resources Control Board  
[Michael.lauffer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.lauffer@waterboards.ca.gov)

Eric Oppenheimer, Chief Deputy Director  
State Water Resources Control Board  
[Eric.oppenheimer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Eric.oppenheimer@waterboards.ca.gov)

Jackie Carpenter, Director  
Office of Public Affairs  
State Water Resources Control Board  
[Jackie.carpenter@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jackie.carpenter@waterboards.ca.gov)

Dana Heinrich, Staff Counsel  
State Water Resources Control Board  
[Dana.heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Dana.heinrich@waterboards.ca.gov)

James Nachbaur, Director  
Office of Research, Planning, and Performance  
State Water Resources Control Board  
[James.nachbaur@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:James.nachbaur@waterboards.ca.gov)

Sarah Sugar, Senior Environmental Scientist  
Office of Research, Planning, and Performance  
State Water Resources Control Board  
[Sarah.sugar@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Sarah.sugar@waterboards.ca.gov)