



California Water Commission

Panel 4: Criteria & Methods for Evaluating Public Benefits of Storage Projects

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Chapter 8: State Wide System Operational Improvements

- \$3 billion continuously appropriated to the California Water Commission “for public benefits associated with water storage projects that improve the operation of the state water system, are cost-effective, and provide a net improvement in ecosystem and water quality conditions”
Section 79740(b)
- Funds awarded through a competitive process based on expected returns on public investment. Section 79740(C)

Public Benefits

Public benefits associated with storage projects include:

1. Ecosystem improvements including timing, amount and temperature of flows for fisheries
2. Water quality improvements in the Delta/Tributaries
3. Flood Control
4. Emergency Response
5. Recreation



Strong Emphasis on Analysis & Quantification

- Requires "measurable improvements to the Delta ecosystem" and watershed. Section 79742
- Directs the CWC "to adopt, by regulation, methods for the quantification and management of public benefits." Section 79744
- Requires projects to be ranked on basis of "expected return for public investment" as basis for award of funds Section 79740(c)
- Limits public cost share to 50%. Section 79746(a)
- Specifies that environmental benefits must be at least 50% of public benefits. Section 79746(b)