



Action Item: Review of Updated Staff Draft of Proposed Regulations and Guidelines for Quantifying the Public Benefits of Water Storage Projects

The Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2009 (Water Code Section 74744), requires the California Water Commission to develop and adopt, by regulation, methods for the quantification and management of public benefits associated with eligible water storage projects. Although this section of the Water Code will not become operative unless and until approved by voters in November 2014, the Commission has begun evaluating existing research and analytical work, and discussing a variety of associated policy issues on the subject. It is intended that the Commission's work on this issue will also provide useful information, policy guidance, and direction that could support other future State activities and investments related to water storage projects.

In August of 2012, staff presented initial working drafts of regulations and guidelines to the Commission. At the August 2013 meeting staff presented an updated working draft of the potential regulation text related to SBX7-2, for Commission discussion and public comment. The Commission requested several changes to the draft prior to the start of an informal public review period, and requested to review the regulations and guidelines for submitting applications for funding related to the Act simultaneously. DWR staff will present a revised staff draft of the regulations at the October meeting as well as staff draft guidelines.

Following Commission approval, the regulations and guidelines will be available for public review and comment. All comments and recommendations received will be considered in the development of the subsequent drafts. This process is not part of a formal rulemaking process.

Updated Review Schedule:

- August /October 2013 Meeting: Review Second Working Staff Draft Regulations and Guidelines
- October 2013 - January 2014: Public Review and Comments*
- January /February 2014 Meeting: Review Third Working Staff Draft Regulations and Guidelines
- Spring 2014: Ongoing Public Review and Comments, Revisions as Needed

* While public comments are always welcome, we request comments be submitted during this time frame for inclusion in the next staff draft. Timeline is subject to change.

Contact

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