

Interagency Coordination with Department of Fish and Wildlife and State Water Resources Control Board

Proposition 1 authorizes the Commission to develop and adopt, by regulation, methods for the quantification and management of public benefits associated with eligible water storage projects in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the State Water Resources Control Board. Water Code §79754 provides that, “the regulations shall include the priorities and relative environmental value of ecosystem benefits as provided by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the priorities and relative environmental value of water quality benefits as provided by the state board.”

The Commission is completing interagency agreement contracts with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to provide technical assistance and policy expertise to the Commission to develop the Water Storage Investments Program. These agreements will define the assistance and technical support that DFW and the State Board will provide to the Commission during the program development process to ensure that the program objectives and requirements are met.

DFW and the State Board will support the development and implementation of the Water Storage Investment Program by performing the tasks listed and described below:

- **Priorities and Public Benefits:** Provide the Commission with updated priorities for the water quality and ecosystem public benefits of water storage projects
- **Regulations Support:** Provide technical expertise and policy review of draft regulations for the quantification and management of the public benefits of water storage projects.
- **Program Guidelines Support:** Provide technical expertise and policy review of program guidelines for the Water Storage Investment Program, which will include information about eligible applicants for funding and define the evaluation criteria and process the Commission will use to evaluate funding applications.
- **Stakeholder Meeting Participation:** Participate in stakeholder advisory group meetings and other public meetings during the rulemaking process on the proposed regulations and guidelines.
- **Commission Meeting Participation:** Attend and, as necessary, participate in Commission meetings.
- **Staff Meeting Participation:** Meet with Commission and Department of Water Resources staff, as necessary, to review and provide input on Water Storage Investment Program implementation work products.
- **Research and Analysis:** Conduct research to evaluate, quantify, and or monetize the environmental and water quality costs and benefits associated with water storage projects.