



**Update from Department of Fish and Wildlife and the State Water Resources Control Board on  
Water Storage Investment Program Participation (Proposition 1)**

**Background**

In November 2014, California voters passed [Proposition 1: the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014](#), a \$7.5 billion water bond that will make needed investments in the state's water management systems.

The bond dedicated \$2.7 billion to be continuously appropriated to the California Water Commission to pay for the public benefits of water storage projects. The Commission, through the Water Storage Investment Program, will fund the public benefits, which are defined as ecosystem improvements, water quality improvements, flood control benefits, emergency response, or recreational purposes that result from eligible water storage projects. Eligible projects must also provide measurable benefits to the Delta ecosystem or its tributaries.

The bond requires the Commission to develop regulations for the quantification and management of the public benefits of water storage projects, which will serve as a foundational document for the Water Storage Investment Program. It directs the Commission to consult with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). Additionally, the regulations must include priorities and relative environmental value of ecosystem benefits as provided by DFW and the priorities and relative environmental value of water quality benefits as provided by the state board. (WC 79754).

The Commission has worked closely with DWR, DFW and the State Water Board as it developed its initial draft regulations and guidelines, based on a previous version of the bond. As part of this process the State Water Board developed [Priorities for Public Benefits of Water Supply Projects](#) and the DFW developed [Ecosystem Improvement Priorities](#). With the passage of Proposition 1 and the development of the Water Storage Investment Program, the Commission is initiating formal working relationships (interagency agreements) for DFW and the State Board to participate in the development of regulations and guidelines, and develop revised priorities.

At this meeting, Scott Cantrell, Chief of DFW's Water Branch and Eric Oppenheimer, Chief of the State Water Board's Office of Research, Planning and Performance will update the Commission on their participation in the Water Storage Investment Program

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