



Update on Program and Administrative Activities for Water Storage Investment Program

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 the foundation for the Water Storage Investment Program.

At the January 21 Commission meeting, staff presented a draft workplan for development of the Water Storage Investment Program. The Commission provided feedback to staff. At this meeting, staff will be providing updated work products based on Commission feedback. The Commission will also discuss additional programmatic issues.

Subject Areas will include:

- 1) Staffing and Budget
 - a. Report back form Ad Hoc Committee on Administration
 - b. Staff report on program budget and staffing needs
- 2) Statute, Regulations, Guidelines, and Proposal Solicitation Packages
 - a. Staff report on work being done to clarify the appropriate content for each type of document
- 3) Public Benefits of Groundwater Projects
 - a. Staff will provide examples of how groundwater projects may provide public benefits to qualify for Water Storage Investment Program funding
- 4) Program Goals, Objectives, and Principles
 - a. Staff will present a staff draft document highlighting the goals, objectives, and principles of the Water Storage Investment Program and clarifying the overarching vision for the program for Commission discussion and feedback

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