



**Update on Program and Administrative Activities for Water Storage Investment Program
(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 the foundation for the Water Storage Investment Program.

At this meeting, the Commission will discuss administrative and programmatic activities including:

1) Scoping Survey Results

On February 24, the California Water Commission released an initial scoping survey to collect cursory information about potential water storage projects from project proponents that may request Proposition 1 funding. The survey requests general agency information and project information, such as project type, anticipated completion dates for feasibility studies and environmental documentation, permit requirements, potential public benefits provided, project cost, and potential funding partners. The results of the survey will be used to identify the number and types of projects that may apply for bond funding, their readiness for construction, the types of public benefits that may be achieved, and their potential bond funding request. At this meeting, staff will present preliminary results from the Scoping Survey.

2) Potential Project Evaluation Process

While the Commission will not be evaluating any projects until after program regulations, guidelines and PSPs are completed, and cannot award funding to projects until December 15, 2016, staff has developed an example of a process the Commission may use to complete technical review and evaluation of projects. Staff will present this example for discussion.

3) Program Goals, Objectives, and Principles

In February, staff presented a draft document outlining Program Goals, Objectives, and Principles. Following the meeting, staff incorporated comments from members of the Commission received both at and following the meeting. A revised document is included in the meeting packets for additional review and comments as needed.

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