

# What is the Water Storage Investment Program?

The Water Storage Investment Program fulfills the requirements of Chapter 8 of Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. **Through the Water Storage Investment Program, the California Water Commission (Commission) will fund the public benefits of water storage projects that improve the operation of the state water system, are cost effective, and provide a net improvement in ecosystem and water quality conditions.** The Commission will develop and

adopt regulations, guidelines, and criteria to award bond funding for water storage projects that provide public benefits, such as ecosystems improvements, recreation, flood control, emergency response, and water quality improvements. The Commission is currently developing the guidelines and regulations for the Program through an open, transparent, and engaging public process. The Commission must adopt regulations by December 15, 2016, which is the earliest date the Commission can award bond funding to eligible projects.



## What are Public Benefits?

Public benefits are defined in Proposition 1 as:

- **Ecosystem improvements**, including changing the timing of water diversions, improvement of flow conditions, temperature, or other benefits that contribute to the restoration of aquatic ecosystems and native fish and wildlife, including those ecosystems and fish and wildlife in the Delta.
- **Water quality improvements** in the Delta, or in other river systems, that provide significant public trust resources, or that clean up and restore groundwater resources.
- **Flood control benefits**, including, but not limited

- to, increases in flood reservation space in existing reservoirs by exchange for existing or increased water storage capacity in response to the effects of changing hydrology and decreasing snow pack on California's water and flood management system.
- **Emergency response**, including, but not limited to, securing emergency water supplies and flows for dilution and salinity repulsion following a natural disaster or act of terrorism.
- **Recreational purposes**, including, but not limited to, those recreational pursuits generally associated with the outdoors.

## Who is the California Water Commission?

The California Water Commission is a nine-member Governor-appointed board charged with several statutory responsibilities related to water resources management. All of its meetings are open to the public to watch and participate.



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# Is my project eligible for funding?

## Are you an eligible applicant?

YES	Applicant Eligibility Criteria
✓	Public agency
✓	Nonprofit organization
✓	Public utility
✓	Federally recognized Indian tribe or state Indian tribe listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List
✓	Mutual water company
✓	Local joint powers authority formed irrigation districts and other local water districts and local governments (only if project is a surface storage project identified in the CALFED Bay-Delta ROD)

## Is your project an eligible project type?

YES	Project Eligibility Criteria
✓	Surface storage projects identified in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Record of Decision, dated August 28, 2000, except for projects prohibited by Chapter 1.4 (commencing with Section 5093.50) of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code
✓	Groundwater storage projects
✓	Groundwater contamination prevention or remediation projects that provide water storage benefits
✓	Conjunctive use projects
✓	Reservoir reoperation projects
✓	Local surface storage projects that improve the operation of water systems in the state and provide public benefits
✓	Regional surface storage projects that improve the operation of water systems in the state and provide public benefits

## Does your project meet the following criteria?

YES	Project Funding Eligibility Criteria
✓	Provide public benefits as defined by the legislation and one of those public benefits must be ecosystem improvements
✓	Improve the operation of the state water system
✓	Is cost effective
✓	Provide a net improvement in ecosystem and water quality conditions
✓	Provide measurable improvements to the Delta ecosystem or to the tributaries to the Delta

## How much funding?

The California Water Commission can fund a maximum of 50% of a project's total cost and ecosystem improvements must be at least 50% of the total public benefits funded.



# How can I get involved?

**Take the project scoping survey.** The scoping survey project will gauge the level of interest from potential applicants and their understanding of the legislation and the process for funding water storage projects. The survey results will inform the development of the Water Storage Investment Program.

**Attend a public meeting in your area.** Public meetings will occur in early spring and late summer throughout the State.

**Attend a Commission meeting.** Commission meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month. In 2015, Commission meetings will be held in Sacramento, Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Jose.

**Participate in Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings.** Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings occur the first Wednesday of every month through October 2015.

**Join the Commission's email list** by emailing [cwc@water.ca.gov](mailto:cwc@water.ca.gov).

**Visit the Commission's website** for more information on the Water Storage Investment Program.  
**[www.cwc.ca.gov](http://www.cwc.ca.gov)**

## Project Timeline

