



**Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) Issue Working Session**

**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 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, along with program guidelines. The Commission committed to engaging with stakeholders, California Native American Tribes, other agencies, and the public as it implements the Water Storage Investment Program.

In this issue working session, the Commission will consider specific issues relevant to the implementation of the WSIP, consistent with the schedule outlined in the document “Topics for Issue Working Sessions.” The Commission will provide direction to staff for the development of regulations and guidelines. At this meeting Tracie Billington, Chief of DWR’s Financial Assistance Branch, and Maureen King, Commission Counsel, will present a variety of issues.

Grant Program Constraints	Staff will explain to Commission members legal requirements for state grant programs. Further, staff will discuss: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Balancing the spreading of funding to many projects (funding a portion of many) against making a smaller number of viable investments (funding greater portion of request of fewer projects)</li> <li>2. Implications of considering multiple projects options within an application (Consideration requested by Commissioner Curtin at May meeting)</li> <li>3. Implications of applicants submitting 1 separate and 1 joint application (i.e., multiple applications packages) (Consideration requested by Commissioner Curtin at May meeting)</li> </ol>
Outline of Guidelines	Staff will present to the Commission an outline of the Guidelines and provide a verbal description of what will be included in each section. (Requested by Commissioner Daniels at May meeting)

Funding for Environmental Documents and Permitting	At the March meeting, Commission requested staff to develop a process that allows for flexibility for funding environmental documentation and permitting. Staff will develop several proposals. Staff will ask for Commission direction on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How would the Commission prefer funding related to section 79755 (c) for Environmental Documentation and Permitting of a project be distributed?</li><li>• How much funding will be available related to section 79755 (c) for Environmental Documentation and Permitting of a project? Does the 10% funding cap in 79704 apply? Should there be a maximum, if it is not 10%?</li></ul>
CEQA Responsible Agency	Staff will discuss with the Commission members legal requirements for being a responsible agency under CEQA.
Definition of tributaries to the Delta	Staff will provide the Commission members a proposed draft definition of “tributaries to the Delta” for comment, incorporating additional research and comment from the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Staff will ask for tentative acceptance of the definition for developing the regulations package.

**Contact**

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