

Water Storage Investment Program

Technical Analysis

Project Application Evaluation Criteria

All projects will be evaluated using criteria based on requirements of the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), particularly Chapter 8, and program goals, objectives, and principles identified by the Commission. This document identifies the fundamental questions the Commission must ask project applicants in order to evaluate projects and ensure that the projects selected for public funding satisfy the intent of Proposition 1. An applicant will be required to document in detail (through reference to CEQA documentation, feasibility study documents, etc.) and summarize in the application questionnaire how their project satisfies each of the evaluation criteria identified below. The evaluation criteria will be tied to metrics and common units (described in a future summary document) and guidance will be provided to potential applicants on methods of analysis and common assumptions as necessary to support their evaluation. The Commission will use the following project evaluation criteria during the application screening process:

1. Magnitude of the Quantified Public Benefits [79750 (c); 79753(a); 79754]

1.A Evaluation Criteria Related to Ecosystem Improvement Benefits

- 1.A.1 What is the magnitude of the ecosystem improvements benefits? [79753(a)(1)]
- 1.A.2 What are the measurable improvements to the Delta ecosystem or tributaries to the Delta? [79752]
 - 1.A.2.1 How does the project advance the long-term objectives of the restoring ecological health of the Delta? [79755(a)(5)(B), 79757(a)(2), Program Goal]
- 1.A.3 How does the project provide a net improvement in ecosystem conditions (i.e., on balance how are ecosystems improved in comparison to project impacts)? [79750(b)]
- 1.A.4 What ecosystem priorities identified by DFW does the project address? How and to what extent are the priorities addressed? [79754]
- 1.A.5 What is the relative environmental value of the ecosystem benefits? [79754]
- 1.A.6 How are the ecosystem improvement benefits resilient under future scenarios (e.g., climate change, operations, regulations, etc.)? [Climate change EO, Water Action Plan, Program Goal]

1.B. Evaluation Criteria Related to Water Quality Improvement Benefits

- 1.B.1 What is the magnitude of the water quality improvement benefits? [79753(a)(2)]

- 1.B.2 How does the project provide a net improvement in water quality conditions (i.e., on balance how are water quality conditions improved in comparison to project impacts)? [79750(b)]
- 1.B.3 What water quality priorities identified by the State Water Board does the project address? How and to what extent are the priorities addressed? [79754]
- 1.B.4 What is the relative environmental value of the water quality benefits? [79754]
- 1.B.5 How are the water quality improvement benefits resilient under future scenarios (e.g., climate change, operations, regulations, etc.)? [Climate change EO, Water Action Plan, Program Goal]

1.C Evaluation Criteria Related to Flood Control Benefits

- 1.C.1 If the project provides flood control benefits, what is the magnitude of those benefits? [79753(a)(3)]
- 1.C.2 How are the flood control benefits resilient under future scenarios (e.g., climate change, operations, regulations, etc.)? [Climate change EO, Water Action Plan, Program Goal]

1.D Evaluation Criteria Related to Emergency Response Benefits

- 1.D.1 If the project provides emergency response benefits, what is the magnitude of those response benefits? [79753(a)(4)]
- 1.D.2 How are the emergency response benefits resilient under future scenarios (e.g., climate change, operations, regulations, etc.)? [Climate change EO, Water Action Plan, Program Goal]

1.E Evaluation Criteria Related to Recreation Benefits

- 1.E.1 If the project provides recreation benefits, what is the magnitude of those benefits? [79753(a)(5)]
- 1.E.2 How are the recreation benefits resilient under future scenarios (e.g., climate change, operations, regulations, etc.)? [Climate change EO, Water Action Plan, Program Goal]

2 Cost & Cost Share [79755(a)(1), 79756(a), 79756(b)]

- 2.A What is the cost of the project associated with providing public benefits (by individual public benefit category and total)? [79755(a)(1)]
- 2.B Does each beneficiary pay its share of the total costs of the project and are benefits consistent with the share of costs? [79755(a)(2)]
- 2.C Does public benefit cost share request exceed 50% of the total costs of the project? [79756(a)]

3 Return on Investment [79750(c), Program Goal]

- 3.A What is the total expected return for public investment (as measured by the magnitude of public benefits provided)?
- 3.B How does the total magnitude of public benefits compare to the total WSIP benefit cost share?
 - 3.B.1 How does the magnitude of ecosystem benefits compare to the ecosystem WSIP cost share?
 - 3.B.2 How does the magnitude of water quality benefits compare to the water quality WSIP cost share?
 - 3.B.3 How does the magnitude of flood control benefits compare to the flood control WSIP cost share?
 - 3.B.4 How does the magnitude of emergency response benefits compare to the emergency response WSIP cost share?
 - 3.B.5 How does the magnitude of recreation benefits compare to the recreation WSIP cost share?
- 3.C Do the ecosystem benefits of a project account for at least 50% of the total benefits funded? [79756(b)]
- 4 Cost-Effectiveness [79750(b)]**
 - 4.A. What is the net present value of costs of providing the same package of public benefits by the least-cost alternative means?
- 5 Improvements to the Operation of the State Water System [79750(b)]**
 - 5.A. How does the project increase local and regional water supply reliability and/or reduce reliance on water supplies conveyed through the Delta? [Program Goal]
 - 5.A.1 How does the project advance the long-term objective of improving water management for beneficial uses of the Delta? [79755(a)(5)(B), 79757(a)(2), Program Goal]
 - 5.B How does the project improve water supply reliability in average and dry years? (Program Goal)
- 6 Project Feasibility [79755(a)(5)(B), 79757(a)(2)]**
 - 6.A. What are the proposed project operations and roles and responsibilities for operating the project? {Draft regs text}
 - 6.B Is the project feasible from an engineering/construction perspective?
 - 6.C Is the project feasible from an economic perspective?
 - 6.D Is the project feasible from a financial perspective?
 - 6.E Is the project feasible from an environmental perspective?

- 6.E.1 Is draft CEQA document available for public review? [79757(a)(1)]
 - 6.E.1.1 What are project impacts? [79750(b)]
 - 6.E.1.1.1 How are impacts mitigated?
 - 6.E.1.1.2 Is there a statement of overriding considerations? Or how are unmitigated impacts addressed?
 - 6.E.2 Does the project have an adverse effect on the values upon which a wild and scenic river or another river is afforded protections pursuant to the CA Wild and Scenic Rivers Act or the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act? [79711(e)]

6.F Are the feasibility studies complete? [79755(a)(5)(A), 79757(a)(1)]

7 Monitoring and Management of Public Benefits [79754, 79755(a)(3)]

7.A How will the public benefits be monitored and managed to ensure the public contribution of funds achieves the public benefits identified? [79754, 79755(a)(3), draft regs text]

8 Additional Considerations (e.g., Chapter 4)?

- 8.A Does the project leverage private, federal, or local funding? [79707(b)]
- 8.B Does the project provide the greatest public benefit? [79707(b)]
- 8.C Does the project use best available science? [79707(d)]
- 8.D Does the project employ new or innovative technology or practices? [79707(e)]
- 8.E Does the project directly support the Human Right to Water, i.e., provide safe, clean, affordable, accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes? [106.3, Program Goal]

9 Project Integration [Program Goal, 79707(b)]

- 9.A How will this project integrate with other projects to maximize benefits or improve operational efficiency of the system? [Program Goal]
- 9.B Are there source water or benefit conflicts? (Technical team analysis objective, Applicant would not answer this)

10 Quality of Analysis

- 10.A What is the quality of the analysis and documentation for the above criteria? [Tied to 79707(d)]
 - 10.A.1 What is the quality of the quantification of public benefits?
 - 10.A.2 What is the quality of the project cost estimate and cost share calculations?
 - 10.A.3 What is the quality of the operations analysis and modeling?
 - 10.A.4 What is the quality of the feasibility analysis?

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10.A.5 What is the quality of the Monitoring , Assurances, and Reporting Plan?

10.B What is the overall quality of the analysis and documentation? [Tied to 79707(d)]