

**Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program:
Draft Water Quality Priorities, Relative Environmental Values (REVs), and REV Definitions**

Water Quality Priorities

1. Improve water temperature conditions in water bodies on California’s Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) list that are impaired for temperature.
2. Improve dissolved oxygen conditions in water bodies on California’s CWA 303(d) list that are impaired for dissolved oxygen.
3. Improve nutrient conditions in water bodies on California’s CWA 303(d) list that are impaired for nutrients.
4. Improve mercury conditions in water bodies on California’s CWA 303(d) list that are impaired for mercury.
5. Improve salinity conditions in water bodies on California’s CWA 303(d) list that are impaired for sodium, total dissolved solids, chloride, or specific conductance/electrical conductivity.
6. Protect, clean up, or restore groundwater resources in CASGEM high- and medium-priority basins.
7. Achieve Delta tributary stream flows that resemble natural hydrograph patterns or other flow regimes that have been demonstrated to improve conditions for aquatic life.
8. Reduce current or future water demand on the Delta watershed by developing local water supplies.
9. Provide water for basic human needs, such as drinking, cooking, and bathing, in disadvantaged or similarly situated communities, where those needs are not being met.

Relative Environmental Values (REVs) for Water Quality Priorities

- a) Number of water quality priorities addressed by the project.
- b) Magnitude and certainty of water quality improvements.
- c) Spatial and temporal scale of water quality improvements.
- d) Inclusion of an adaptive management and monitoring program that includes measurable objectives, performance measures, thresholds, and triggers for managing water quality benefits.
- e) Immediacy of water quality improvement actions and realization of benefits.
- f) Duration of water quality improvements.
- g) Consistency with water quality control plans, water quality control policies, and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (2014).
- h) Connectivity of water quality improvements to areas that support beneficial uses of water or are being managed for water quality.
- i) Resilience of water quality improvements to the effects of climate change.
- j) Extent to which water quality improvement provides water for basic human needs, such as drinking, cooking, and bathing, in disadvantaged or similarly situated communities, where those needs are not being met.
- k) Extent to which undesirable results that are caused by groundwater extractions are addressed.

Preliminary Draft Definitions for Water Quality REV Terms (under development and subject to change):

“Adaptive management” as defined in Water Code 85052 means a framework and flexible decision making process for ongoing knowledge acquisition, monitoring, and evaluation leading to continuous improvements in management planning and implementation of a project to achieve specified objectives.

“Certainty of water quality improvement” means the degree of confidence that the proposed water quality improvement will be achieved.

“Disadvantaged or similarly situated community” means a disadvantaged community, as defined in section 79702, subdivision (j) of the Water Code, or a similarly situated community.¹

“Duration of ecosystem or water quality improvement” means the length of time an ecosystem or water quality improvement is expected to exist.

“Immediacy of water quality improvement action” means how quickly, expressed as the expected time, a water quality improvement action will be taken.

“Magnitude of water quality improvement” means the quantity of physical, chemical, or biological water improvement expressed in the appropriate unit, such as concentration, mass, volume.

“Spatial scale” means the geographical dimensions of an ecosystem or water quality improvement.

“Temporal scale” means the scheduled time in which an ecosystem or water quality improvement action will be implemented such as a specific calendar date or after the achievement of a specific project landmark.

“Trigger” means, in the context of adaptive management, an event, situation, or measurement that will require a management action.

“Threshold” means, in the context of adaptive management, a numerical value for a specific metric that is a boundary between acceptable and unacceptable situations or conditions.

“Realization of benefit” means how quickly, expressed as the expected time, that an ecosystem or water quality improvement will achieve quantified outcomes.

“Resilience to the effects of climate change” means the flexibility a project will have through operations or other means to adapt to climate change, in order to maintain its ecosystem or water quality improvements.

“Undesirable result” means an undesirable result, as defined in Section 10721, subsection (w) of the Water Code.²

¹ Water Code Section 79702(j) defines a “disadvantaged community” as a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income, per Water Code Section 79505.5(a).

² Water Code Section 10721(w) defines “undesirable result” as one or more of the following effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin:

(1) Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply if continued over the planning and implementation horizon. Overdraft during a period of drought is not sufficient to establish a chronic lowering of groundwater levels if extractions and recharge are managed as necessary to ensure that reductions in groundwater levels or storage during a period of drought are offset by increases in groundwater levels or storage during other periods.

(2) Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage.

(3) Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion.

(4) Significant and unreasonable degraded water quality, including the migration of contaminant plumes that impair water supplies.

(5) Significant and unreasonable land subsidence that substantially interferes with surface land uses.

(6) Depletions of interconnected surface water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water.