

WHAT INTERESTED APPLICANTS NEED TO KNOW

ABOUT THE Water Storage Investment Program

In November 2014, California voters passed Proposition 1, which dedicated \$2.7 billion for investments in water storage projects. The California Water Commission is responsible for appropriately allocating these funds. The Commission will select water storage projects for funding based on their public benefits through the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP).

Responsibility of project proponents

Proposition 1 defines the responsibilities of the Commission and project proponents. Participation and preparation by local project proponents is just as important as the work of the Commission to this program's success. The Commission cannot develop projects; they can only consider project proposals submitted by eligible applicants. Application solicitation will be in 2017, but project proponents should begin preparing now.

At this time, interested applicants should be:

- **Formulating their projects to:**
 - » Achieve local and regional water supply reliability and other objectives
 - » Maximize public benefits
 - » Consider ecosystem and water quality priorities
 - » Promote ecological health in the Delta
- **Identifying potential beneficiaries and pulling together project funding partners**
- **Developing Concept Papers**
(See back for information on project Concept Papers)

Program Timeline

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- » Hosted seven Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings
- » Conducted nine public meetings throughout the state
- » Held monthly Commission meetings throughout the state
- » Developed and released draft program regulations



- » Develop Concept Papers
- » Formulate projects
- » Comment on draft WSIP regulations
- » Develop and submit pre-applications
- » Develop and submit full project applications
- » Commission staff and peers will review applications
- » Commission decisions and initial funding agreements

2019 AND BEYOND

Projects selected to receive funding will need to finalize:

- » Contracts with agencies responsible for managing public benefits
- » Cost estimates, construction schedule and scopes of work
- » Environmental documentation and permitting
- » Operations planning and permitting

The importance of Concept Papers:

In early 2016, the Commission will be calling upon local project proponents to submit detailed, thoughtful and complete Concept Papers summarizing their project and its benefits. These Concept Papers will help:

- » Local project proponents identify potential regional partners or places to integrate local/regional projects to maximize benefits.
- » Local project proponents identify potential conflicts with other projects, such as water source or operational limitations.
- » Local project proponents identify any eligibility issues early and judge the potential competitiveness of their projects.
- » The Commission assess the number and scope of potential projects, in order to determine how best to assist potential applicants through the application process.
- » The Commission refine and adjust the application review and funding timeline.

Public Benefits that can be funded:

ECOSYSTEM IMPROVEMENT



WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT



FLOOD CONTROL



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EMERGENCY RESPONSE



RECREATION

