



Water Storage Investment Program Concept Paper Form

Please complete the questions below and return your completed concept paper by email to cwc@water.ca.gov by 5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2016. Completed concept papers should not exceed four pages.

Contact Information

Contact Name: Gary Serrato, General Manager
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Phone Number: 559-233-7161
Agency/Organization Name: Fresno Irrigation District (the project is a joint effort between the Fresno Irrigation District, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, City of Fresno, City of Clovis, and the County of Fresno)
Agency Type (select one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utility <input type="checkbox"/> Tribe <input type="checkbox"/> Mutual Water Company <input type="checkbox"/> Local Joint Powers Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Project Information

Project Name: Fresno Eastside Stream Facilities Conjunctive Use Improvement Project
Project Type: <input type="checkbox"/> CALFED Surface Storage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Groundwater Storage <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater Contamination Prevention or Remediation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conjunctive Use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reservoir Reoperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Surface Storage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional Surface Storage <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Estimated Project Cost: \$40,000,000
Estimated WSIP Funding Request: \$20,000,000
Please describe your project, including location, water source, facilities, and operations: <p>The project includes improvements associated with the re-operation of the Redbanks and Fancher Creek in Fresno County to better retain and beneficially use water from the local ephemeral streams and tributaries referred to locally as the eastside streams, including portions of Big Dry, Pup, Dog, Redbanks, Fancher and Mud Creeks. The system is located in Fresno County east of the cities of Fresno and Clovis. The current system of reservoirs, basins and conveyance improvements were designed and developed by the Army Corps of Engineers with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District in cooperation with the Fresno Irrigation District, the City of Fresno, City of Clovis and County of Fresno. FMFCD has led the development of the facilities included in the system over the last 25 years. The system requires routing of water through several conveyance facilities through the Fresno-Clovis area, that are also an integral part of the urban storm water management system. FMFCD and FID coordinate the routing of eastside stream water with basin de-watering under the terms of the Agreement for Use of Fresno Irrigation District Canals for the Disposal of Storm Water (1972). Since the original design memorandum and operational criteria were established for the system, there have been additional improvements to the system, including channel improvements, new basins, and telemetry systems not previously considered as part of the original design.</p> <p>The project being proposed with this application is to provide levee, diversion, conveyance,</p>

measurement and automation improvements to increase the detention duration of the existing facilities to allow for diversion to basin facilities that have been developed downstream that were not previously considered when the facilities were originally developed and the operational criteria determined. The project will also provide diversion capacity from the nearby Friant-Kern Canal to divert water into the creek channels and reservoir facilities for storage as well as recharge benefit.

Per Water Code section 79753, the Commission may only fund the public benefits of water storage projects. Further, ecosystem improvements must make up 50% of the funded public benefits (Water Code section 79756(b)). What public benefits does your project provide? (select all that apply):

Ecosystem Improvements Water Quality Improvements Flood Control
 Emergency Response Recreation

Please describe the magnitude of the public benefits and how the project will be operated to provide the public benefits:

The project will help provide storage and supply to the City of Fresno, Fresno Irrigation District, and potentially other CVP Friant Division Contractors, who have made water available for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program. The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) includes two components: 1) Increased environmental flows; and 2) a water management component to mitigate impacts to historical San Joaquin River water users. Both are part of the river restoration settlement and both are necessary for successful restoration of the river. This project will allow for some further mitigation of the impacts to historical San Joaquin River water users.

The project will also provide additional flood control improvements to capture, retain, and recharge supply that was historically lost to the region.

Water Code section 79752 requires that funded projects provide measurable improvements to the Delta ecosystem or to the tributaries of the Delta. Please describe how your project provides ecosystem improvements in the Delta or tributaries to the Delta:

As noted, the project will help facilitate the SJRRP by mitigating for lost supplies to agencies that are providing water supply for the restoration program. The project will also provide additional storage and flood water capture to make water historically lost to the region available locally. Providing additional local supply available to Friant contractors will reduce demand for these agencies to seek other state supplies, including Delta related supplies.

Water Code sections 79755 and 79757 require the Commission to make a finding that a project will advance the long-term objectives of restoring ecological health and improving water management for beneficial uses in the Delta prior to allocating funding for a project. Please describe how your project could help advance the long-term objectives of restoring ecological health and improving water management for beneficial uses in the Delta:

As noted above, providing additional local supply will help facilitate the SJRRP, as well as reduce demands on water supply markets including the Delta.

Please describe any other benefits provided by your project, such as water supply reliability benefits, and the potential beneficiaries:

The project will provide the following benefits:

- Capture and recharge flood water lost to the region, and the recharge water will be available for pumping by nearby wells.
- Reduce reliance on water supplies from the Delta.
- Allow higher quality surface water supplies to percolate and blend with the groundwater at the sites.
- Provide an additional facility to divert floodwaters and increase the capacity to handle floodwater in a critical groundwater reliant area.
- The project will make water available to address a specific concern. The project will directly address a heightened competition for a finite water supply, specifically within the Friant Unit of the CVP in which water supply contracts have been reduced to restore the San Joaquin River, and operations of the Friant system is impacted by Delta pumping operations.
- Within the San Joaquin River watershed, there is limited surface storage and climate change is expected to increase run-off earlier in the season likely encroaching on storage limitations.