

### 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](mailto:cwc@water.ca.gov) by 5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2016. Completed concept papers should not exceed four pages.

#### Contact Information

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<b>Agency/Organization Name:</b> Nevada Irrigation District (NID)
<b>Agency Type (select one):</b> <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

<b>Project Name:</b> Centennial Reservoir Project
<b>Project Type:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> CALFED Surface Storage <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater Storage <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater Contamination Prevention or Remediation <input type="checkbox"/> Conjunctive Use <input type="checkbox"/> Reservoir Reoperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Surface Storage <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Surface Storage <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<b>Estimated Project Cost:</b> \$300,000,000
<b>Estimated WSIP Funding Request:</b> \$100,000,000
<b>Please describe your project, including location, water source, facilities, and operations:</b>  <p>NID is proposing to implement the Centennial Reservoir Project (Proposed Project) to provide drought and climate change-mitigation, meet projected future water supply needs, and improve water supply reliability for NID's customers. The Proposed Project involves the construction of a new 110,000 acre-foot reservoir, on the Bear River. The Proposed Project would extend upriver from just above the existing Combie Reservoir for slightly over six miles to a point west of the Town of Colfax, approximately two miles downstream of the existing Rollins Dam.</p> <p>The Proposed Project would involve construction of a new dam and associated facilities. The anticipated water depth at the dam would be approximately 255 feet and the height of the dam would be approximately 275 feet.</p> <p>The region's climate and precipitation patterns are changing, bringing more rain and less snow resulting in an increase in the need for mid-elevation storage to capture runoff from rain storms within NID's water system.</p>

**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:**

In addition to water supply benefits, the project will also provide recreation and ecosystem improvement benefits.

The recreation benefits will result in visitation and usage of the reservoir with low impact activities such as flatwater boating/paddling/ kayaking, hiking/pedestrian trails, vista points, fishing, and swimming. Additionally, ecosystem improvement benefits will be realized through development of lacustrine fish and aquatic habitat. The reservoir will also provide habitat for migratory and native shorebirds/waterfowl. Where possible, the Project would maintain shaded riverine aquatic habitat, oak woodland habitat, and mixed-conifer forest habitat, and remove invasive vegetation.

This project is still in the planning stage and thus the magnitude of the actual benefits is still under development.

**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:**

The reservoir would improve the ecosystem of the Bear River, tributary to the Feather River, which is a tributary to the Delta, with additional lacustrine aquatic habitat complexity and diversity and terrestrial species such as migratory and native shorebirds/waterfowl. The Project would also maintain shaded riverine aquatic habitat, oak woodland habitat, and mixed-conifer forest habitat, and remove invasive vegetation.

**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:**

The dam and reservoir, while not planned to be designed with flood control requirements, will often reduce peak flood flows that would otherwise reach the Delta and could cause adverse water quality and/or aquatic habitat impacts. The Proposed Project's reservoir storage will generally reduce the levels of flow fluctuation from the Bear River tributary to the Delta during periods of high flow, resulting in a net benefit to ecological health.

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

NID has determined that its current water system is over-reliant on runoff from the annual mountain snowpack, resulting in an urgent and greater need for storage to capture runoff from rain storms as well as snow storms. The region's climate and precipitation patterns are changing, bringing more rain and less snow resulting in an increase in the need for mid-elevation storage within NID's water system. The Proposed Project is designed as a storage recovery project, rather than an expansion project. The Proposed Project would provide drought-mitigation and recapture water lost due to changing climate and reduced snowpack. The Proposed Project would also allow NID to continue to meet existing water delivery commitments and to bring more flexibility in meeting the future water supply needs of customers in all parts of NID's service area.