

## Water Storage Investment Program Concept Paper Form

### Contact Information

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<b>Phone Number:</b> 714-378-3275	
<b>Agency/Organization Name:</b> Orange County Water District	
<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> Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program Phase 2	
<b>Project Type:</b> <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 type="checkbox"/> Reservoir Reoperation <input type="checkbox"/> Local Surface Storage <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Surface Storage <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
<b>Estimated Project Cost:</b> \$200,000,000	
<b>Estimated WSIP Funding Request:</b> \$100,000,000	
<b>Please describe your project, including location, water source, facilities, and operations:</b>	
<p>The Orange County Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Western Municipal Water District and Eastern Municipal Water District are jointly implementing Phase 1 of the Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP). Phase 1 provides for 180,000 acre-feet of groundwater storage in a new groundwater bank. Stored water would be withdrawn from the water bank at up to 60,000 acre-feet per year during dry periods.</p> <p>SARCCUP is a regional conjunctive-use program that utilizes unused storage space in the watershed’s groundwater basins, allowing the banking of wet-year supplies for use in dry years, facilitating the augmentation of drought and emergency water supplies, and reducing demand for imported water during droughts. In Phase 1, groundwater storage by banking water during wet years will occur in the Chino, Elsinore, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Groundwater Basins.</p> <p>The five agencies participating in SARCCUP cover the Santa Ana River Watershed. Water stored in the water bank can be conveyed throughout the watershed via hard piping, exchanges and/or in-lieu use.</p> <p>OCWD is submitting this concept paper on behalf of the five agencies participating in SARCCUP. Phase 2 of SARCCUP would develop an additional 200,000 acre-feet per year of storage. Over 800,000 acre-feet of storage space is currently available in the groundwater basins in the Santa Ana Watershed. Recharge of wet-year water would be increased through construction of new recharge facilities that integrate with existing facilities.</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:**

SARCCUP Phase 2 will improve water quality by providing high quality water to recharge into the groundwater basins. In particular, water recharged into the groundwater basins that originates from the State Water Project during wet years has a lower total dissolved solids concentration than the background water quality in the groundwater basins.

SARCCUP Phase 2 will increase the water agencies abilities to respond to emergencies such as damage to the State Water Project or Colorado River Aqueduct due to an earthquake. By having water in storage in the local groundwater basins, the agencies can draw from the stored water if the imported water facilities are out of service due to an earthquake or other emergencies.

**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:**

SARCCUP Phase 2 will reduce demands on the Delta during dry years by utilizing water available during wet years. It is anticipated that water will be available to recharge into the bank approximately three years out of ten years over the long term. By storing this water in wet years, demands on the Delta during dry years will be reduced.

**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:**

SARCCUP Phase 2 will assist with restoring ecological health and improving water management for beneficial uses in the Delta by reducing dry year water demands on the Delta. By storing water in wet years, demands on the Delta during dry years will be reduced.

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

SARCCUP Phase 2 will increase water supply reliability in the Santa Ana River Watershed. The watershed has a population exceeding six million people and a vibrant economy. The five agencies collaborating to implement SARCCUP are committed to cooperative projects to increase water supply reliability in the watershed. The potential beneficiaries include water uses throughout the entire Santa Ana Watershed, since the five participating agencies span the whole watershed.