

# California WATER COMMISSION

## Water Storage Investment Program Public Participation Guide

### **Commission Office**

California Water Commission  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, California 94236-0001  
916-651-7501  
Email: [CWC@water.ca.gov](mailto:CWC@water.ca.gov)

### **Commission Meeting Location**

Department of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street  
Auditorium  
Sacramento, California 95814

## CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION

The [California Water Commission](#) consists of nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Seven members are chosen for their expertise related to the control, storage, and beneficial use of water and two are chosen for their knowledge of the environment. The Commission advises the Director of the Department of Water Resources on matters within the Department's jurisdiction, approves rules and regulations promulgated by the Department, and monitors and reports on the construction and operation of the State Water Project. Comprehensive water legislation enacted in 2009 gave the Commission new responsibilities regarding the distribution of public funds for the public benefits of water storage projects. The Water Commission must develop regulations for the quantification and management of those benefits, which include restored ecosystems, recreation, flood control, emergency response and water quality.

The [California Water Commission](#) is committed to an open and transparent public process in all of its decision making, including the development of the Water Storage Investment Program. The Commission is subject to the [Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act](#) (Gov. Code section 11120 et seq.). There are many ways for the public and stakeholders to participate. All Commission meetings are open to the public and most are webcast. The Commission welcomes public comments at all meetings. Comments may be submitted to the Commission online or through email or mail. Commission staff read all public comments and post communications in a [Document Library](#) on the Commission website.

The Commission seeks your participation in any of these ways:

- Attend Commission meetings
- View meetings via webcast
- Attend an informational meeting in your area
- Participate in public workshops
- Submit comments by mail or email
- Visit the Commission website for more information and other opportunities.

# WATER STORAGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The [California Water Commission](#) will allocate \$2.7 billion for water storage projects in California, through the [Water Storage Investment Program](#) (WSIP). The Commission is committed to developing the WSIP in an open and transparent public process, and to funding projects that provide the maximum return on public investment as represented by the magnitude of public benefits. Proposition 1 funding allocated through the WSIP requires the Commission to engage with stakeholders to create quantification regulations governing the program. Unlike traditional bond programs, the public has, and will continue to have, the ability to participate in the application review process.

Beginning in early 2017, the Commission will open the application period for the WSIP. The Commission is committed to continue to operate the WSIP in an open and transparent process, and will provide members of the public with opportunities to review documents related to the application and review process. The public will also continue to have the opportunity to address the Commission and provide feedback and suggestions on a variety of topics related to the WSIP application and review process.

## **Commission Decisions**

Decisions made by the Commission for the WSIP will be made by majority vote in a public meeting after the Commission has heard public comment. Staff informs the Commission decisions by providing technical comment and preliminary recommendations for the Commission's consideration. Supporting information shall be made available to the Commission and the public in advance of the meeting consistent with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

## **Public Review**

The Commission will develop a WSIP Web Portal that will be available through the Commission's website, [www.cwc.ca.gov](http://www.cwc.ca.gov), where members of the public will be able to view information related to the applications for Proposition 1 funding. Information available on the WSIP Web Portal will include, but is not limited to: The project application, status of eligibility and technical reviews, draft public benefits, draft Public Benefit Ratio (PBR), staff modified PBR, appeal of benefits and response from staff, final PBR, final technical review, and final staff report on eligible projects. All of this information will be available to the public a minimum of 10-days prior to the Commission meeting at which the information will be discussed.

Additionally, staff will provide to the Commission all component scores, including appealed public benefit ratio and technical review comments for the Commission's deliberation. The Commission and public will have a minimum of 30 days to consider this information before any Commission meeting regarding decisions on application component scores.

## **Public Input**

Members of the public have many different opportunities and avenues available to express their opinions to the Commission. Members of the public are encouraged to:

- Provide comments directly to the Commission at a public meeting
- Provide written comments to the Commission via email or mail
- Schedule in person meetings with Commissioners and/or Commission Staff
- Participate in public informational workshops and webinars

# Water Storage Investment Program Implementation Timeline

