

Water Storage Investment Program

THE ROAD TO FINAL FUNDING

Proposition 1: The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 dedicated \$2.7 billion for investments in the public benefits of water storage projects.

The proposition defined public benefits as:

- Ecosystem improvements
- Water quality improvements
- Flood control
- Emergency response
- Recreation

The proposition requires all projects to include an ecosystem benefit as well as a measurable improvement to the Delta.

Proposition 1 does not allow the California Water Commission to make final awards until a project has completed Proposition 1 requirements. The Commission made maximum conditional eligibility determinations (MCEDs) for seven projects that would boost the state's water storage capacity by 2.77 million acre-feet. The MCED is the **maximum** amount of Prop. 1 funding available to a given project.

Before requesting a final funding hearing with the Commission, project proponents are required to submit documentation showing all of the following have been completed:

- Contracts for administration of public benefits (CAPBs)
- Completed environmental documentation
- All required federal, state, and local approvals and agreements necessary for construction
- Contracts for non-program funding

These requirements help protect the State's investment and ensure taxpayer dollars are being spent for their intended purpose.

USEFUL LINKS:

California Water Commission Home Page: cwc.ca.gov

Frequently Asked Questions: cwc.ca.gov/-/media/CWC-Website/Files/Documents/2023/WSIP/WSIP_FAQs_MAY2023_FINAL.pdf

WSIP Home Page: cwc.ca.gov/Water-Storage

CONTACT THE COMMISSION

For More Information: cwc@water.ca.gov

Twitter: @CA_WaterCom

CONTRACTS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC BENEFITS

Project proponents must enter into contracts with the state agencies responsible for the administration of the public benefits produced by the project.

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife administers the ecosystem benefits.
- State Water Resources Control Board administers the water quality improvement benefits.
- Department of Water Resources administers the emergency response, flood control, and recreation benefits.

Administering Agencies will present their draft CAPBs to the Commission at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission cannot make a final funding decision during this meeting.

The Commission reviews, but does not approve, the contracts.

The draft CAPBs will be posted on the WSIP project page on the Commission's website for public review and comment.

The public comment period lasts for a **minimum of 14 days**.

All comments received by the Commission will be forwarded to the administering agencies, who may consider comments before executing contracts.

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All environmental documentation associated with the project has been completed.

ALL REQUIRED FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL APPROVALS AND AGREEMENTS

The project applicant must obtain all federal, state, and local approvals, certifications, and agreements required to begin construction.

CONTRACTS FOR NON-PROGRAM FUNDING

The project applicant must enter into a contract with each party that will derive benefits, other than public benefits, from the project. The contract ensures each party to the contract will pay its share of the total costs of the project. Documents meeting this requirement will vary among the projects.

FINAL FUNDING HEARING

Once a project proponent completes all required documentation to the Commission, the project can request a final funding hearing.

Commission staff will review submitted information for compliance with Proposition 1 requirements and make a recommendation to the Commission.

WSIP regulations state that project proponents shall provide a description of changes to the planned project that have occurred since the receipt of the MCED, including any changes to planned operations.

The Commission must consider any changes to the project before it determines the final funding amount.

Commissioners have the discretion to award less than the MCED, but the award cannot exceed the MCED.

The funding agreement will be developed and executed after the Commission's award decision. WSIP funds are paid on a reimbursement basis, after funding recipients incur costs.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE FOR FINAL FUNDING HEARINGS*



*Based on applicant's quarterly reports. Dates subject to change.

CONTACT THE COMMISSION

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