



Irvine Ranch Water District Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project



Summary:

The Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District (Rosedale-Rio Bravo) are jointly planning the Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project, a 100,000-acre-foot groundwater storage project in Kern County, California. The project will provide water supply reliability and emergency response and ecosystem benefits through better capture, storage and management of surplus State Water Project (SWP) supplies. Unlike other groundwater storage projects, the proposed project will also provide significant environmental benefits to endangered species in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Delta). Approximately 25,000 acre feet (AF) of water stored within the project will be held as SWP system water that can be used to benefit endangered winter- and spring-run Chinook salmon.

Project overview:

The Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project will provide ecosystem benefits for the Delta and its tributaries by recharging and storing up to 100,000 AF of surplus SWP supplies in the Kern County Groundwater Basin. This stored water also will result in reliability enhancements for groundwater supplies developed by IRWD, Rosedale-Rio Bravo and their partners. Stored groundwater recovered from the project will supply local demands in lieu of exporting water from the Delta.

IRWD and Rosedale-Rio Bravo will jointly construct recharge and recovery facilities in the Kern Fan area of Kern County. These facilities will collectively function as a water banking and storage project.

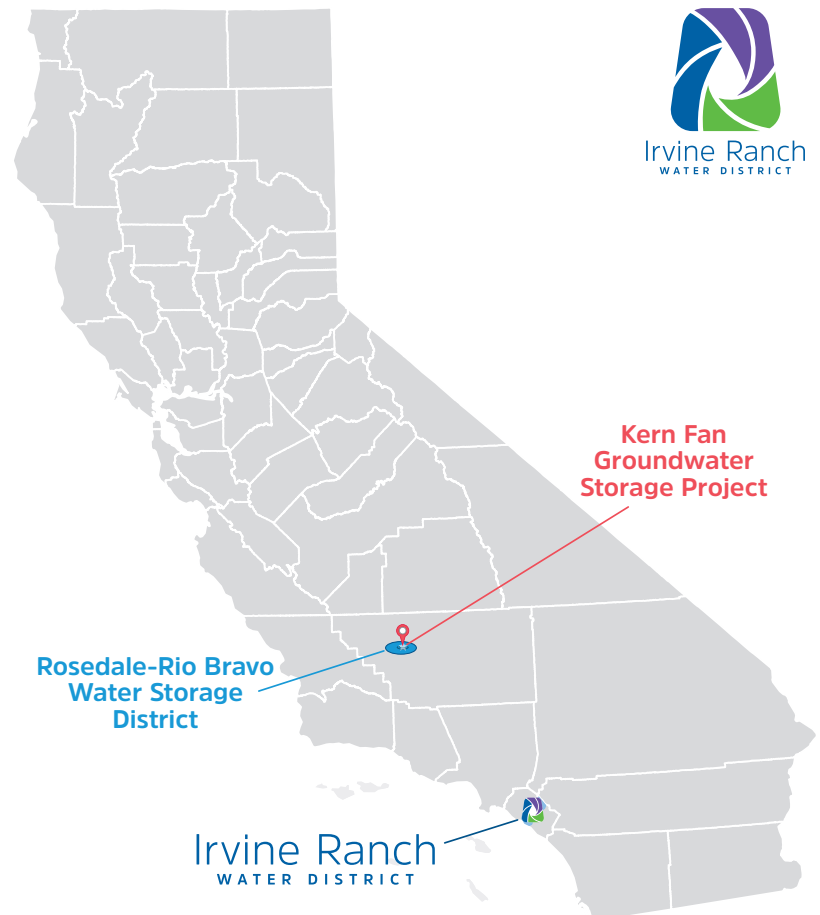
Project capacity:

When the Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project is completed, it will have:

- A 100,000 AF storage capacity;
- A recharge capacity of up to 100,000 AF per year;
- A recovery capacity of up to 70 cubic feet per second or 50,000 AF per year; and
- 500 cubic feet per second of new conveyance.

Requested funding:

IRWD and Rosedale-Rio Bravo have jointly submitted a grant application to the California Water Commission for \$86 million in funding through the Water Storage Investment Program, a Proposition 1 funded program. The project partners remain interested in federal and state funding opportunities for the \$172 million project.



Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project



How will it work?

The project will capture and recharge surplus SWP supplies in a water bank within the Kern Groundwater Basin. Stored water will be extracted from the bank when needed to benefit the environment, and to provide emergency and water supply benefits.

The project's 100,000 AF storage capacity will be split between the project's beneficiaries:

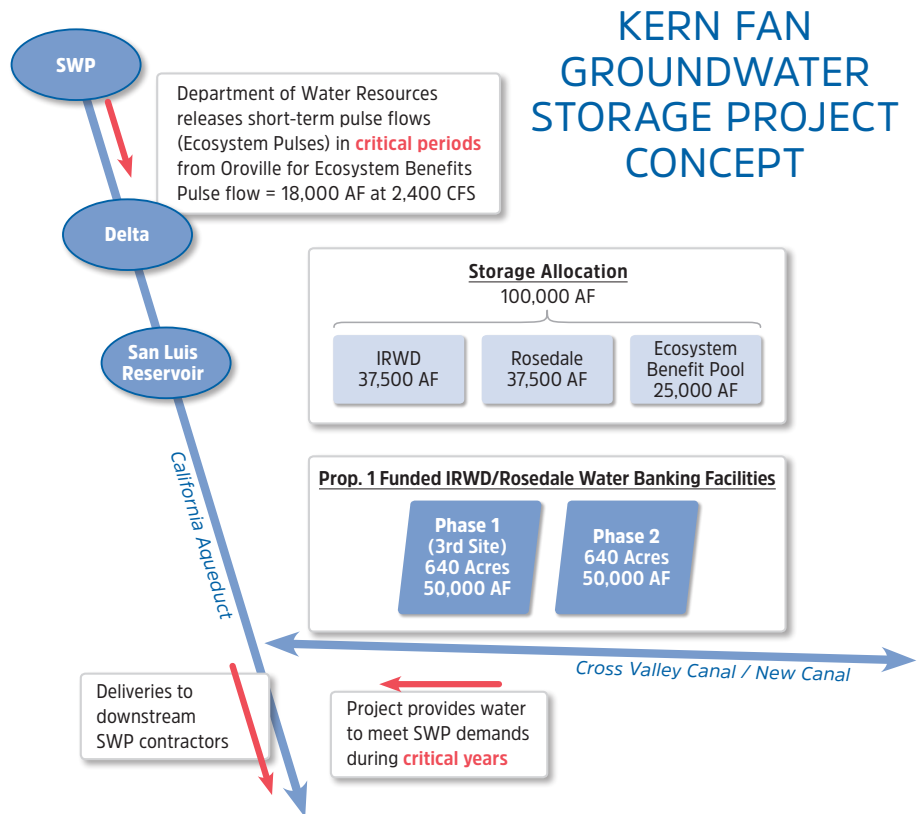
- 25,000 AF, or 25%, reserved for public ecosystem benefits; and
- 75,000 AF, or 75%, shared equally by IRWD and Rosedale-Rio Bravo for use within their respective water supply reliability programs.

Operation of the project will be coordinated with the SWP, and could be integrated with the operations of other large regional storage projects such as Sites Reservoir.

Multiple statewide benefits:

The Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project is unique because it provides water supply benefits while providing significant statewide public benefits. Specific statewide benefits of the project will include:

- New groundwater storage and recharge facilities within the Kern Fan sub-basin of the overdrafted Kern Groundwater Basin;
- Regional enhancements in water supply reliability, resiliency and sustainability;
- Reduced water demands on the Delta at critical times, which will benefit endangered winter- and spring-run Chinook salmon;
- Availability of water during drought conditions and for emergency response;
- Establishment of temporary wetlands during recharge events that will benefit migratory and other water birds; and
- Potential for integration between groundwater storage facilities and surface water storage projects.



KERN FAN GROUNDWATER STORAGE PROJECT CONCEPT

For more information, please visit irwd.com/services/water, or contact:

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