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# Biden-Harris Administration Investing \$152 Million Through Investing in America Agenda to Expand Water Storage in the West

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Bipartisan Infrastructure Law investments will fund additional water storage and conveyance for Western communities

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Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023

Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

**WASHINGTON** — The Department of the Interior today announced a \$152 million investment from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that will bring clean, reliable drinking water to communities across the West through six water storage and conveyance projects. The projects in California, Colorado and Washington are expected to develop at least 1.7 million acre-feet of additional water storage capacity, enough water to support 6.8 million people for a year. The funding will also invest in a feasibility study that could advance water storage capacity once completed.

President Biden's Investing in America agenda represents the largest investment in climate resilience in the nation's history and is providing much-needed resources to enhance Western communities' resilience to drought and climate change, including protecting the short- and long-term sustainability of the Colorado River System. Through the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), Reclamation is investing a total of \$8.3 billion over five years for water infrastructure projects, including water purification and reuse, water storage and conveyance, desalination and dam safety. The Inflation Reduction Act is investing an additional \$4.6 billion to address the historic drought.

"In the wake of severe drought across the West, the Department is putting funding from President Biden's Investing in America agenda to work to provide clean, reliable drinking water to families, farmers and Tribes throughout the West," said **Secretary Deb Haaland**. "Through the investments we're announcing today, we will expedite essential water storage projects and provide increased water security to Western communities."

“Water is essential to every community – for feeding families, growing crops, powering agricultural businesses and sustaining wildlife,” said **Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton**. “Our investment in these projects will increase water storage capacity and lay conveyance pipeline to deliver reliable and safe drinking water and build resiliency for communities most impacted by drought.”

The selected projects from today’s announcement are:

## **California**

- B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project: \$10 million to the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Authority, to pursue the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project. The project is associated with the B.F. Sisk Safety of Dams Modification Project. Once completed, the project will develop approximately 130,000 acre-feet of additional storage.
- Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Phase II: \$10 million to efficiently integrate approximately 115,000 acre-feet of additional water storage through new conveyance facilities with existing facilities. This will allow Delta water supplies to be safely diverted, stored and delivered to beneficiaries.
- North of Delta Off Stream Storage (Sites Reservoir Project): \$30 million to pursue off stream storage capable for up to 1.5 million acre-feet of water in the Sacramento River system located in the Coast range mountains west of Maxwell, California. The reservoir would utilize new and existing facilities to move water in and out of the reservoir, with ultimate release to the Sacramento River system via existing canals, a new pipeline near Dunnigan, and the Colusa Basin Drain.

## **Colorado**

- Arkansas Valley Conduit: \$100 million to continue construction of a safe, long-term water supply to an estimated 50,000 people in 39 rural communities along the Arkansas River. Once completed, the project will replace current groundwater sources contaminated with radionuclides and help communities comply with Environmental Protection Act drinking water regulations for more than 103 miles of pipelines designed to deliver up to 7,500 acre-feet of water per year from Pueblo Reservoir.

## **Washington**

- Cle Elum Pool Raise Project: \$1 million to continue to increase the reservoir’s capacity to an additional 14,600 acre-feet to be managed for instream flows for fish. Additional funds for shoreline protection will provide mitigation for the pool raise.
- Upper Yakima System Storage Feasibility Study: \$1 million to begin a feasibility study to identify and assess storage alternatives within the Kittitas Irrigation District area. The district could utilize

conserved water or water diverted for storage as part of total water supply available for tangible improvements in meeting instream flow objectives, tributary supplementation efforts, aquatic habitat improvements, and support the delisting of steelhead and bull trout populations to meet the goals of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

Today’s investments build on \$210 million in funding announced last year from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for [water storage and conveyance projects](#).

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