

**Western Climate Initiative, Inc.
Budget for Calendar 2018 and
Projected Expenditures for 2019 and 2020
October 12, 2017**

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Introduction

This document describes the budget for calendar year 2018 and projected expenditures for calendar year 2019 and 2020 for Western Climate Initiative, Inc. (WCI, Inc.) as adopted by the WCI, Inc. Board of Directors (“Board”) at its October 12, 2017 meeting.

The requirements for cap-and-trade services were defined by the staff from the Participating Jurisdictions based on the support needed by the jurisdictions to implement their programs in 2018, 2019 and 2020. These jurisdiction requirements were used to define the work for the cap-and-trade services contractors. WCI, Inc. developed the requirements for WCI, Inc. personnel and direct operations needed to support the provision of these cap-and-trade services, as well as to carry out its administrative and organizational responsibilities.

The 2018 budget as well as the 2019 and 2020 expenditure projection are also informed by three developments in 2016 and 2017:

- Ontario: In 2016, Ontario passed legislation and published regulations to implement a cap-and-trade program to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and achieve related environmental and economic benefits. Ontario signed a funding agreement with WCI, Inc. in March 2016. In 2017, enhancements were made to the Compliance Instrument Tracking System Service (CITSS) and the auction platform to conform to the Ontario program requirements. The 2018 budget includes costs to complete enhancements to CITSS that are necessary for Ontario’s cap-and-trade program that were not completed in 2017.
- Ontario Linkage: On September 22, 2017, the State of California and the Provinces of Québec and Ontario signed agreements allowing for the linking of their respective cap-and-trade programs. The 2018 budget and the 2019 and 2020 projected budgets include costs associated with joint activities as a result of the newly signed linkage agreement.
- New Jurisdictions: In order to allow for new jurisdictions to utilize cap-and-trade services that conform to their respective cap-and-trade programs, the 2018 budget includes costs associated with the ability to modify services offered by WCI, Inc. to meet the needs of new jurisdictions. All costs associated with new jurisdictions are allocated to those jurisdictions utilizing the services requested from WCI, Inc.

The resulting budget and projection of expenditures presented in this document provide the best estimates of the anticipated fiscal requirements for the operation of WCI, Inc. All amounts shown are in U.S. dollars.

The 2018 budget and the projected 2019 and 2020 expenditures for WCI, Inc. are broken down into two categories – *Cap-and-Trade Services* and *Personnel and Direct Operations* – and summarized in Table 1. The *Cap-and-Trade Services* category includes expenditures for the contract services required to support the Participating Jurisdictions’ greenhouse gas emissions trading programs. The *Personnel and Direct Operations* category includes expenditures for operating WCI, Inc.

Table 1: Total Budget for WCI, Inc. for 2018 and Projected Expenditures for 2019 and 2020

	2018 Budget	2019 Projected Expenditures	2020 Projected Expenditures
Cap-and-Trade Services	\$ 3,352,028	\$ 3,217,720	\$ 3,122,720
Personnel and Direct Operations	\$ 1,302,340	\$ 1,415,537	\$ 1,435,964
Total	\$ 4,654,367	\$ 4,633,257	\$ 4,558,684

Cap-and-Trade Services

The *Cap-and-Trade Services* category contains estimates for WCI, Inc. to accomplish its purpose to “provide technical and scientific advisory services” to its Participating Jurisdictions. WCI, Inc. contracts for services requested by the Participating Jurisdictions to support their programs. The 2018 budget and the projected 2019 and 2020 expenditures for *Cap-and-Trade Services* are described in the text below. The services required, and the cost of those services, are based on WCI Inc.’s experience developing contracts with each of the contractors and managing their work.

Cap-and-Trade Services support the cap-and-trade programs for all Participating Jurisdictions. The contractors providing each of the services below are capable of expanding them, with appropriate funding, to include additional Participating Jurisdictions.

Compliance Instrument Tracking System Service (CITSS) Application Development, Support and Hosting

Since 2011, WCI, Inc. and the Participating Jurisdictions have worked with SRA International, Inc. (SRA) to develop and support the Compliance Instrument Tracking System Service (CITSS). CITSS provides accounts for market participants to hold and retire compliance instruments and to record transactions of compliance instruments with other account holders. CITSS is supporting programs in California, Québec and Ontario (in both English and French).

CITSS hosting includes services and technology (hardware and software) necessary to ensure that CITSS is online and available at specified levels of service to all program participants and the jurisdictions’ staff.

Initial development of CITSS was funded by the California Air Resources Board (ARB). In May 2012, WCI, Inc. contracted with SRA for additional application development and hosting, and the contract has been amended to support continued application development and hosting. The most recent contract amendment (pending Board approval) provides for support through December 31, 2018.

The 2019 and 2020 expenditure projection includes continued hosting and application support, as well as ongoing jurisdiction development needs. These projected expenditures may be revised as these estimates do not take into consideration the potential implementation of recommendations developed as a result of the CITSS IT review, which is ongoing at this time. In June 2017, the WCI, Inc. Board of Directors approved an agreement with Gelder, Gingras and Associates (GGA) to conduct a review of CITSS to assess the scalability and sustainability of the technology. The results of the GGA work will not be released until later this year.

Compliance Instrument Tracking System Service (CITSS) Help Desk

The WCI, Inc. Help Desk provided multi-jurisdictional telephone and online customer assistance for CITSS users. The help desk service provider fielded inquiries from CITSS users, resolved user questions that fell within their scope of service, and referred inquiries that fell outside their scope of services to the appropriate staff designated by WCI, Inc. and the jurisdictions.

Due to low inquiry volume and the inability of the service provider (ICF Incorporated, LLC) to support the needs of WCI, Inc. and its Participating Jurisdictions beyond September 30, 2017, the contract was allowed to expire. On an interim basis, WCI, Inc. staff have supported the transition of the help desk to staff within the Participating Jurisdictions. The need to engage with a new service provider will be reevaluated during the 4th Quarter of 2017. If it is determined that a Help Desk would benefit the Participating Jurisdictions, a procurement will be undertaken in 2018. The 2019 and 2020 budget projections include estimated costs to support onboarding a new service provider and an estimate for monthly support.

Auction and Reserve Sale Services

WCI, Inc. supports Participating Jurisdictions in executing coordinated auctions of greenhouse gas emission allowances that conform to the jurisdictions' requirements. WCI, Inc. also supports the execution of reserve sales from the Participating Jurisdictions' programs. In 2011, ARB contracted with Markit Group Limited (Markit) to develop and implement an auction and reserve sale platform, and to serve as auction and reserve sale administrator. In January 2013, WCI, Inc. contracted with Markit to build on its work with ARB and develop and implement the auction and reserve sale platform to support auctions and reserve sales among linked programs in California and Québec. The contract with Markit was amended to provide auction and reserve sale services through December 31, 2016. In June 2016, the Board approved a new contract with Markit over the period of June 15, 2016 to January 31, 2021.

The 2018 budget includes costs associated with Joint Auctions and Reserve Sales for California, Québec and Ontario.

Financial Administrative Services

As part of supporting the execution of auctions and reserve sales, WCI, Inc. provides financial administrative services, which includes evaluation of bid guarantees and conduct of settlement for auctions and reserve sales. In collaboration with the Participating Jurisdictions, ARB contracted with Deutsche Bank in 2011 to provide these services for ARB auctions and reserve sales. WCI, Inc. contracted with Deutsche Bank in 2013 to support Quebec's first auction and to support joint auctions.

WCI, Inc. released a request for expression of interest (REI) in February 2016 to procure financial administrative services, in accordance with the Procurement Policy. The result of this procurement was a contract with Deutsche Bank. The 2018 budget and projected expenditures for 2019 and 2020 includes costs associated with joint auctions and Reserve Sales for California, Québec and Ontario.

Market Monitoring

WCI, Inc. supports the Participating Jurisdictions by contracting for analyses that support market monitoring. These analyses include review and evaluation of auctions and reserve sales to identify any inappropriate market activity or deviations from the requirements of each Participating Jurisdiction's program. Also, the analyses include ongoing examination of allowance and offset holdings and transfer activity to identify any potentially inappropriate market activity. The results of the analyses are provided to the Participating Jurisdictions, each of which retains its market monitoring responsibilities and authorities.

In 2015, in accordance with the WCI, Inc. Procurement Policy, WCI, Inc. staff, with the assistance and involvement of Participating Jurisdictions, developed and executed an open competitive process for procuring Market Monitoring Services. The contract was awarded to Monitoring Analytics, over the period of December 1, 2015 to January 31, 2020. The contract includes an optional two-year extension.

In addition to the support provided by Monitoring Analytics, the 2018 budget and 2019 and 2020 projected expenditures include costs associated with a subscription to California Carbon Info (pending Board approval) to provide jurisdiction staff access to market data to support their market monitoring responsibilities.

Cash Flow Reserve

Prudent management of funds and cash flow requires that WCI, Inc. maintain funds such that an unexpected expenditure or an unexpected delay in receipt of funds through the funding agreements would not impede its ability to provide services to the jurisdictions. A cash flow reserve also recognizes that jurisdiction funding agreements have typically been for two years, while budgets are annual, and allows WCI, Inc., with the approval of the Board and Participating Jurisdictions, some inter-year flexibility in expenditures.

Because of conservative budgeting (e.g., budgeting for reserve sales even though they have not yet been required) and some shifting of the timing of expenses such as hiring WCI, Inc. staff, WCI, Inc. has had a cash flow reserve since the end of its first full year of operation, 2012. Since mid-2013, that cash flow reserve has been approximately six months of anticipated expenditures.

The cash flow reserve does not appear as a budget line item, because it is not a projected expenditure. The development of jurisdiction funding agreements has incorporated and will in the future incorporate the existence of a cash flow reserve. The level of jurisdiction funding agreements could be lower than a future budget, if the cash flow reserve were to be drawn down. The Executive Director recommends that approximately 6 months of expenses provides an appropriate level of cash flow reserves. For 2018, the cash flow reserve is approximately \$2,300,000. The Executive Director recommends revisiting the level of the reserve with the development of the 2019 budget and 2020 projected expenditures.

This cash flow reserve is different from items in previous budgets with similar names, such as the "Procurement Reserve" in the 2015 budget. WCI, Inc. executed several competitive procurement processes in 2015 and 2016. The procurement reserve allowed for the possibility of

additional development work for any new or modified systems, or overlap of service providers if there was a transition to a new service provider.

Personnel and Direct Operations

The *Personnel and Direct Operations* category contains cost estimates for the operation of WCI, Inc. This category includes expenditures for staff salaries and benefits, office rent and equipment, professional and administrative support services, insurance fees, travel and meeting expenses, and other direct operating expenses. The budget estimates are based on WCI, Inc. operating experience, and the anticipated evolution of the cap-and-trade program requirements as specified by the Participating Jurisdictions. The 2018 budget and projected expenditures for 2019 and 2020 are summarized in Table 2 and described in the text below.

Personnel

WCI, Inc. personnel carry out the responsibilities for WCI, Inc. as directed by the Board and are responsible for day-to-day operation of the organization and for oversight and management of the contractors hired to provide cap-and-trade services as described above. The 2018 budget and projected 2019 and 2020 expenditures include six staff positions. The six staff positions are:

- an Executive Director located in the U.S.;
- an Assistant Executive Director located in Canada to support the Executive Director with operational and business requirements and to assist with oversight of Project Managers for cap-and-trade services;
- two Project Managers to coordinate cap-and-trade services;
- a Business Analyst to support Project Managers in the documentation and coordination of cap-and-trade services; and
- an Operations Manager.

The revised 2018 personnel budget and projected 2019 and 2020 expenditures include salary and benefits for employees and payments to contractors providing technical advisory services. The budget for personnel and staffing is \$874,892 in 2018 and the projected expenditures for personnel and staffing in 2019 and 2020 are 951,089 and \$971,516, respectively.

Office Rent and Equipment

WCI, Inc. opened an office in Sacramento, California, in September 2012 and opened an Office in Québec City in March 2016. Both the Sacramento office and Québec City office are located in executive office suites that are fully furnished; rent includes access to a copier, telephone, internet and other standard office amenities.

The budget for office rent, as well as computers, office supplies, and other equipment, totals \$108,648 in 2018, increasing to \$111,648 in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Professional and Administrative Support Services

WCI, Inc. has engaged the services of several professionals to support WCI, Inc. operations in Sacramento and Quebec, including:

- legal counsel;
- accountants to administer the accounting systems, advise on accounting procedures, report on the financial activities of the corporation, and prepare tax returns;
- an auditor; and
- payroll services that also supports all payroll tax filings and the management of several human resources activities, including employee benefits.

WCI, Inc. has also budgeted for translation services (French and English), information technology (IT), and outreach and communications services. The budget for IT services primarily covers the purchase of security certificates (SSL) for the WCI, Inc. websites maintained to administer the program and for an IT contractor to maintain WCI, Inc. equipment. The budget for outreach and communications covers the costs of stakeholder engagement sessions, communication of key program information, and hosting, maintenance, and updates to the WCI, Inc. website, as determined by the Board and Executive Director.

The total estimate for these professional and administrative support services is \$240,300 for 2018 and \$266,300 for 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Insurance Fees

WCI, Inc. has obtained corporate insurance policies including coverages for general liability, professional liability, directors and officers liability, employment practices liability, and workers' compensation to meet needs for both U.S. and Canadian operations. The total cost for insurance coverage is \$48,000 each year.

Travel, Meetings and Other Expenses

The 2018 budget and projected 2019 and 2020 expenditures include travel by U.S. and Canadian staff as necessary to carry out their project management responsibilities and to attend organizational meetings. All WCI, Inc. travel must be approved in advance by the Executive Director and is limited by *per diem* rates equal to those established by the U.S. and Canadian federal government for staff based respectively in the U.S and in Canada.

The budget and projected expenditures also include expenses associated with WCI, Inc. meetings in the U.S. and Canada, including meetings of the Board. Consistent with WCI, Inc.'s Open Meeting Policy, the budget for meeting expenses includes costs associated with hosting public meetings, including conference room rental, audio-visual equipment, reproduction of documents, and other direct expenses.

The budget and projected expenditures include a category for other operating costs that are not yet otherwise included or anticipated.

The total estimate for Travel, Meetings and Other Expenses is \$ 30,500 in 2018, with projected expenditure level of \$ 38,500 for 2019 and 2020.

**Table 2: 2018 Personnel and Direct Operations Budget and
Projected Expenditures for 2019 and 2020**

	2018 Budget	2019 Projected	2020 Projected
Personnel	\$ 874,892	\$ 951,089	\$ 971,516
Office Rent and Equipment	\$108,648	\$111,648	\$111,648
Professional and Administrative Support	\$ 240,300	\$ 266,300	\$ 266,300
Insurance Fees	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000
Travel, Meetings and Other Expenses	\$30,500	\$38,500	\$38,500
Total	\$ 1,302,340	\$ 1,415,537	\$ 1,435,964