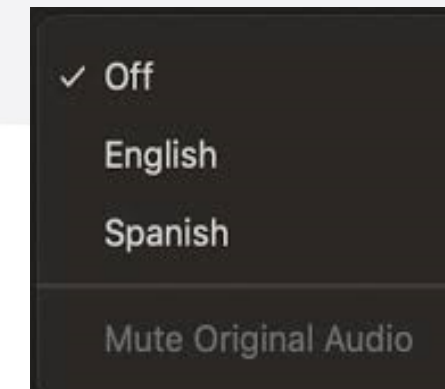


Language Interpretation through Zoom

Click the Interpretation icon in your meeting controls

- Navigate to Language Channels
- Select Spanish
- Mute Original Audio



For technical assistance, email: SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov

SAFER Drinking Water Advisory Group Meeting #1

March 2, 2023

9 am – 3 pm



Ways to Participate

Watch ONLY: Visit video.calepa.ca.gov

Submit a comment:

Email safer@waterboards.ca.gov with subject “AGM Public Comment,” and follow Instructions in return email to join the meeting.

Technical or language interpretation assistance:
safer@waterboards.ca.gov





Water Boards' Mission

Preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Meeting Guidelines

- Mute yourself when not speaking
- Join by video (if possible)
- Take breaks as needed
- Speak slowly
- safer@waterboards.ca.gov



Agenda

Review of SAFER Work Plan 2022-2024

SAFER Program Updates

Advisory Group Member Announcements

Public Comment

Next Steps

Introductions and Warmer

- Your name
- Your affiliation
- Your location
- What is your main resolution for 2023, have you been able to keep it so far?



SAFER Work Plan Discussion #1:

**Overview, Engagement,
Data Acquisition and Systems,
Needs Assessment,
Drinking Water Solutions**

SAFER Work Plan Overview

Alisha O'Loughlin
Office of Public Participation

SAFER DRINKING WATER

SAFE AND AFFORDABLE FUNDING FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE

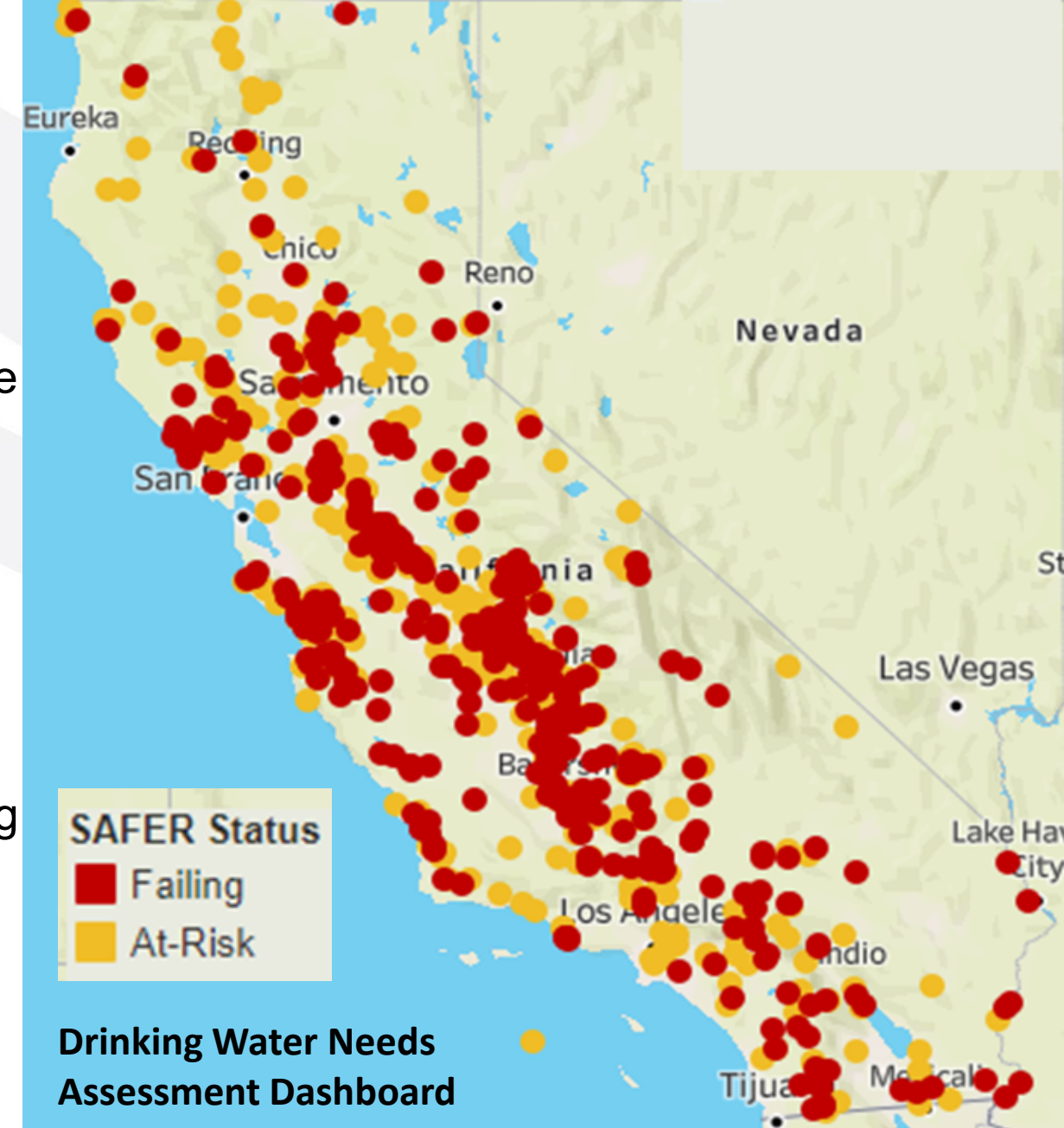


What is SAFER?

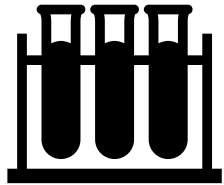
A set of tools, funding sources, and regulatory authorities designed to help struggling water systems sustainably and affordably provide safe drinking water.

Why is the SAFER drinking water program necessary?

- Many Californians lack access to safe and affordable drinking water, with communities of color disproportionately experiencing this environmental burden.
- In California, 2300 out of 3000 community and school water systems are small, serving fewer than 3300 connections each.
- 385 out of 3000 community and school water systems in California are failing to meet safe drinking water standards.
- 90% of drinking water violations occur in water systems serving 500 connections or less.



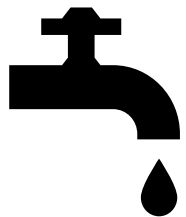
Drinking Water Challenges



Water quality



Technical capacity



Water supply



Managerial



Financial



Governance

SAFER DRINKING WATER

SAFE AND AFFORDABLE FUNDING FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE

SAFER Strategies:



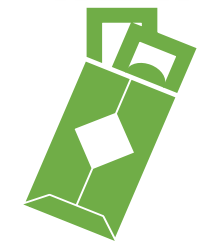
Drinking Water Needs Assessment



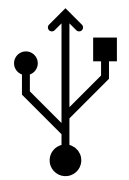
Community Outreach and Engagement



Regulatory Compliance

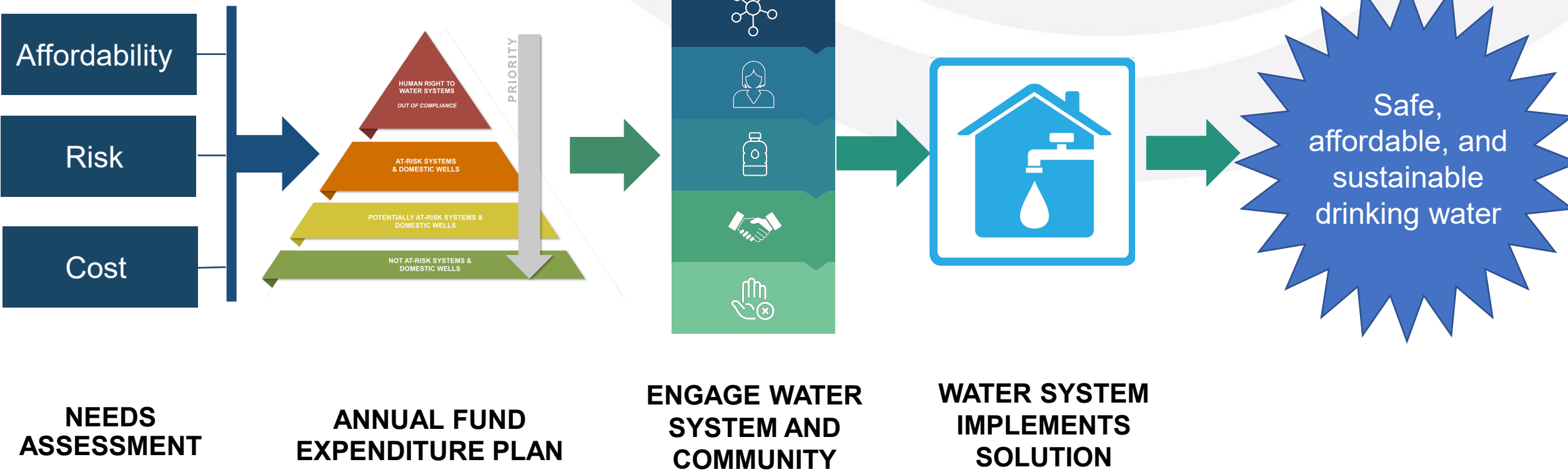


Financial Assistance



Technical Assistance

Process for Achieving Safe Drinking Water



Who Implements SAFER?

Community Groups

Department of Information Technology

Non-profits Advisory Group Office of Public Affairs

Division of Drinking Water Funding Partners

Technical Assistance providers Water systems

Department of Financial Assistance

Office of Legislative Affairs Residents Elected Officials

Legislature Office of Public Participation California tribes

Office of Communications Indian Health Services

Office of Chief Counsel Schools

Domestic well residents

SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Overview

What is the Work Plan?

- Roadmap for Staff and Management
- Tool to Reduce Barriers and Improve Processes
- Summary of Program Priorities, Informed by Multiple Sources
- Outline of Program Activities and Goals
- Flexible and Adaptable
- Respond to Changing Priorities and New Challenges

SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Overview

Work Plan Program Areas:

1. Engagement
2. Data Acquisitions and Systems
3. Needs Assessment
4. Drinking Water Solutions
5. Tribal Affairs
6. Funding Process
7. Communications



Engagement

Adriana Renteria
Office of Public Participation

SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Engagement Focus Areas



SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Engagement

Priority Activities & Projects:

- Increase staff capacity to engage with the public
- Increase local partners and communities' capacity to engage in drinking water efforts
- Standardize engagement toolkits that include templates and guidance for meeting planning
- Increase awareness and understanding of SAFER



Data Acquisitions and Systems

Karen Nishimoto
Division of Drinking Water

SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Data Acquisitions and Systems

Priority Activities & Projects:

- Data collection and compliance decision support
- Data management and development of the SAFER Clearinghouse
- Development of new and existing dashboards for public access to data
 - SAFER Dashboard
 - Aquifer Risk Map – Domestic Wells & State Small Water Systems
- Coordination of data development within the Water Boards, with Department of Water Resources, and others



Needs Assessment

Kristyn Abhold
Division of Drinking Water

SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Needs Assessment

Priority Activities & Projects:

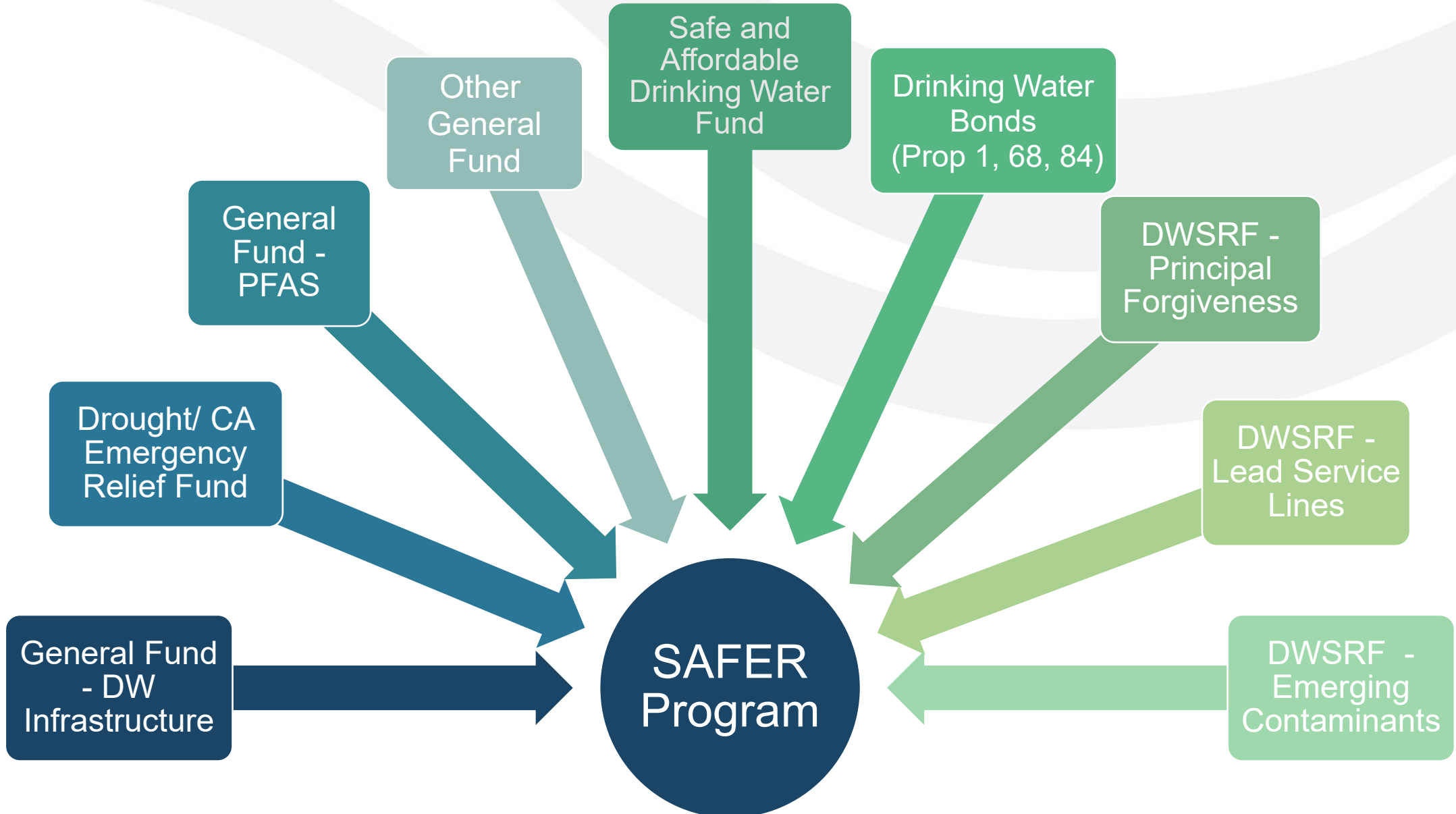
- Continued development and refinement of affordability indicators
- Revision of the cost model
- Identify risk associated with water supply (source capacity)
- Yearly updates to the Needs Assessment



Drinking Water Solutions

Meghan Tosney
Division of Financial Assistance

What Funding Sources are Part of SAFER?



SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Prioritization and Drinking Water Solutions



Emergency or urgent funding needs (only where other funds are not available).



Water systems that are out of compliance with primary drinking water standards or at-risk of failing.



Accelerate consolidations and promote opportunities for regional-scale consolidations.



Expedite planning through use of technical assistance.



Interim solutions and planning efforts for long-term solutions for state smalls and domestic wells.



Provide direct operation and maintenance support to assist water systems facing the highest affordability burdens.



Ensure assistance is distributed consistent with the State Water Board's Racial Equity Resolution and Racial Equity Action Plan.

What can SAFER fund?

- **Emergency Drinking Water**
 - Temporarily connecting to safe water sources
 - Point-of-use or point-of-entry treatment systems
 - Bottled water or hauled water
- **Technical Assistance**
 - Preparing grant funding requests
 - Planning and budgets
 - Reviewing project alternatives
 - Compliance audits
 - Addressing permit violations or operations
- Operations and maintenance
- Community outreach and education
- Training for technical and managerial staff

Capital infrastructure improvements:

- Infrastructure improvements and upgrades
- Drilling wells into uncontaminated aquifers
- Consolidation and regionalization (connecting domestic wells or smaller systems to larger systems)

SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Prioritization and Drinking Water Solutions

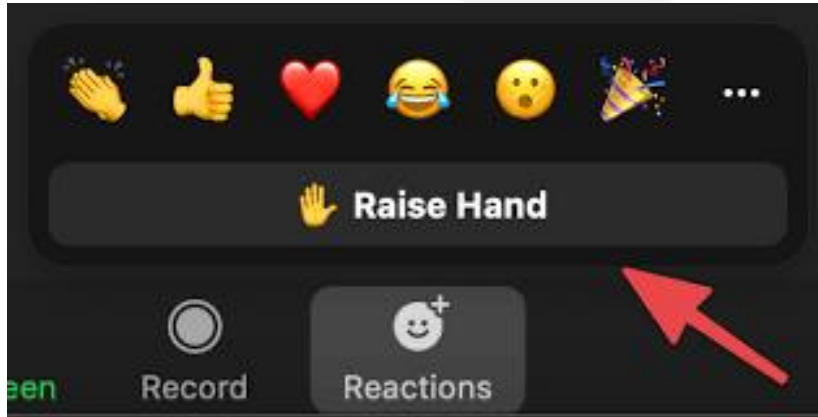
Community Water Systems- Priority Activities and Projects

- Promote Regional-scale Consolidations Statewide
- Expansion of the Drinking Water Technical Assistance Program
- Develop the Direct O&M Assistance Program
- Enhanced enforcement and standardization of enforcement approaches

State Smalls and Domestic Wells – Priority Activities and Projects

- Expand use of County-wide and Regional Funding Solicitation
- Increase engagement in priority communities across the state by partnering with funding community experts
- Implementation of the Point-of-Use and Point-of-Entry drinking water solution pilot project

Questions



Computer Screen

- To speak, please select 'Raise Hand'.
- A hand will appear next to your initials used for this meeting. We call your name.

Phone Instructions

- Select *9 to raise hand.
- We will ask you to unmute
- Select *6 to mute or unmute

Comment or technical assistance? Please email:

safer@waterboards.ca.gov

Breakout Session #1

Engagement,
Data Acquisitions and Systems,
Needs Assessment,
Drinking Water Solutions

Discussion Questions #1

Engagement

1. How do the Engagement priorities align with the goals of SAFER?
2. What other areas of Engagement should be prioritized for improvement in the future?

Data Acquisition and Systems

1. What enhancements would you find helpful for using the water system data?
2. Are there other water system data you would like to see prioritized for development?

Needs Assessment

1. What new information or data analysis could better inform your recommendations?

Drinking Water Solutions

1. How do the priorities for community water systems align with the goals of SAFER?
2. How do the priorities for state smalls and domestic wells align with the goals of SAFER?
3. What types of drinking water solutions should be prioritized in the future?

BREAK

Discussion Session #2

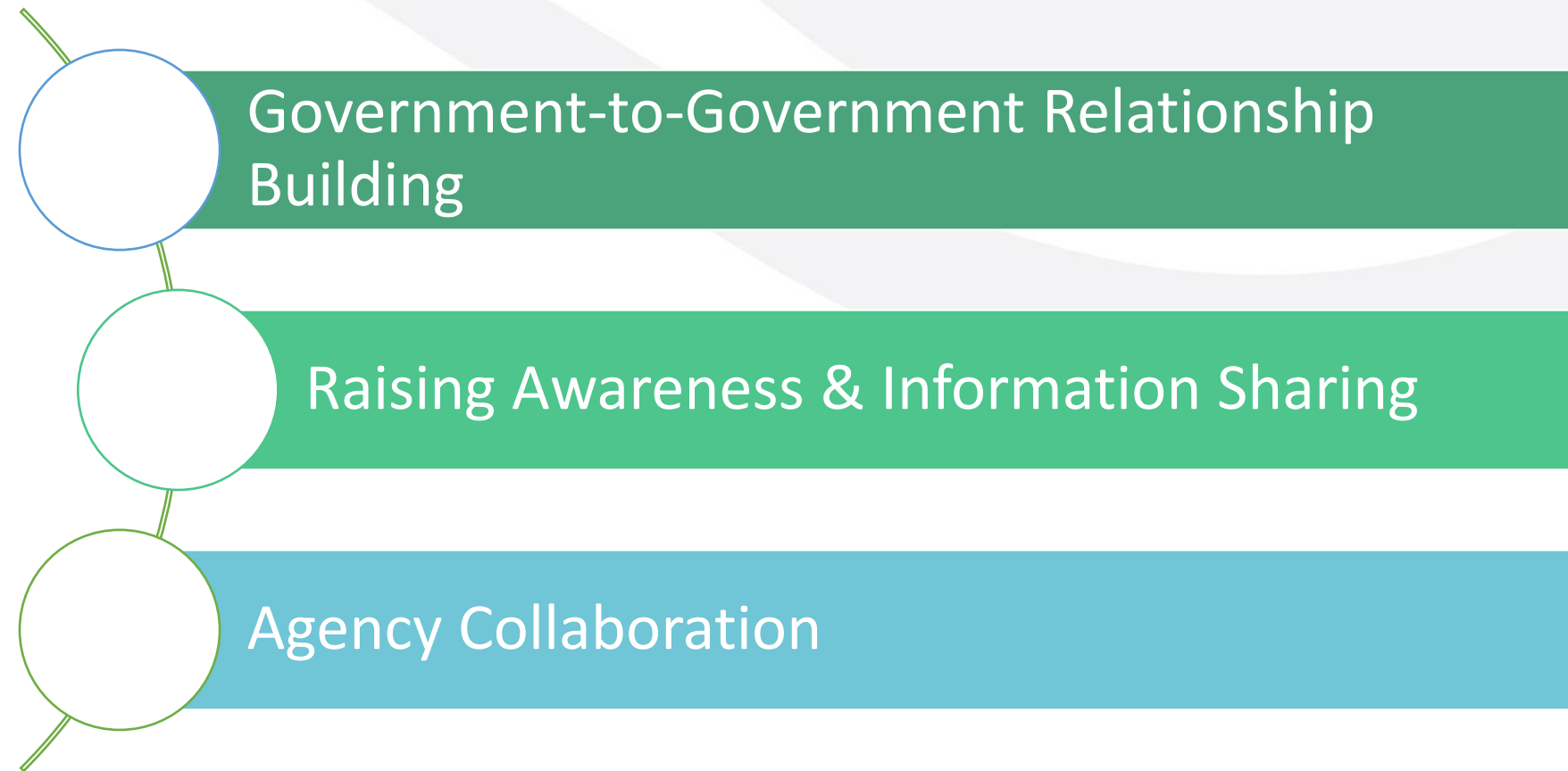
Tribal Affairs, Funding Process, Communication



Tribal Affairs

Adriana Renteria
Office of Public Participation

SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Tribal Affairs Focus Areas



SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Tribal Affairs

Priority Activities & Projects:

- Improve process in which tribal water system projects are identified, managed, and funded.
- Improve and expand staff's internal resources, systems, and processes for working with tribes.
- Increase external SAFER resources, including webpages, SAFER-funded tribal water projects, and more.

Funding Process

Meghan Tosney
Division of Financial Assistance

SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Funding Process Overview (Planning and Construction Projects)



Funding Focus Areas

- 1 Funding Application Process
- 2 Process of Executing Agreements
- 3 Grant Administration (post-execution)

SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Funding Process Activities and Projects

1 Funding Application Process

- Expedited Drinking Water Grant (EDWG) Program for Small Communities
- Alternative Financial Capacity Review
- Ability to Pay

SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Funding Process Priorities and Projects

2 Process of Executing Agreements

- Emergency Grant Agreement Templates
- Adobe Sign for Agreement Routing and Execution
- Electronic Signatures for Technical Assistance (TA) Work Plans

SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Funding Process Priorities and Projects

3

Grant Administration (post-execution)

- Streamline the Final Budget Approval (FBA) Process
- Advance Payment Guidelines
- Streamlining Disbursement Process Timelines

Communications

**Nefretiri Cooley
Communications Office**

SAFER Work Plan 2022-24: Communications Focus Areas

- Demonstrate clear progress toward the state's goal of fulfilling the human right to water
- Showcase SAFER program innovations and expertise
- Inform interested parties about funding process improvements and accelerated timelines
- Raise awareness of the complexity of drinking water challenges and the importance of collective responsibility

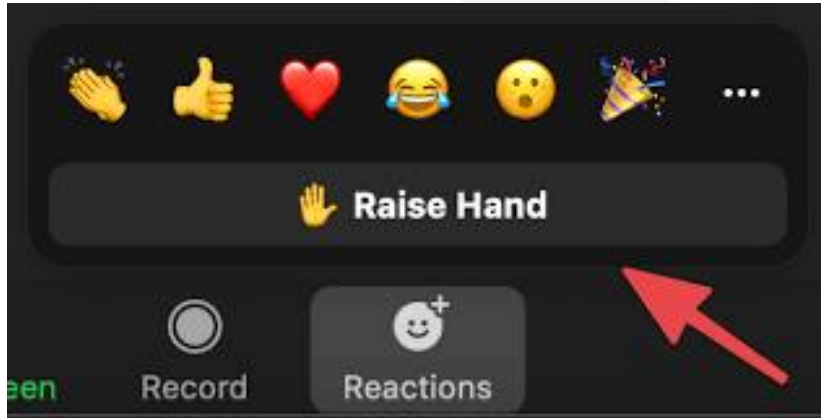
SAFER York Plan 2022-24: Communications

Leverage program developments and milestones to promote messaging in the communication focus areas through various channels, including press releases, media interviews, social media posts, event coordination, visual storytelling, and partnering.

- Promote:
 - SAFER Needs Assessment
 - Project Milestones, including 100 Consolidations
 - Ongoing Projects and Community Involvement
 - Process Improvements and Funding Acceleration



Questions?



Computer Screen

- To speak, please select 'Raise Hand'.
- A hand will appear next to your initials used for the meeting. We call your name.

Phone Instructions

- Select *9 to raise hand.
- We will ask you to unmute
- Select *6 to mute or unmute

Comment or technical assistance? Please email:

safer@waterboards.ca.gov

Breakout Session #2: Tribal Affairs, Funding Process and Communications

Discussion Questions #2

Tribal Affairs

1. What recommendations do you have for ways to improve access to drinking water for tribal communities?

Funding Process

1. How do the funding process focus areas align with the goals of SAFER?
2. What other areas of funding process should be prioritized for improvement in the future?

Communications

1. How do the communications focus areas align with the goals of SAFER?
2. What other areas of communications should be prioritized for improvement in the future?

LUNCH

Share Back Session: SAFER Workplan 2022-24



Main Room Share Back

SAFER Work Plan 2022-24 program areas:

1. Engagement
2. Data Acquisitions and Systems
3. Needs Assessment
4. Drinking Water Solutions
5. Tribal Affairs
6. Funding Process
7. Communications



SAFER Program Updates

Key Metrics from the FY 2022-23 SADW FEP*

Category	FY 2021-22 Progress	No. of Connections Benefiting	No. of People Benefiting	Total Assistance Provided	FY 2022-23 Goal
Interim Solutions	55 communities/ schools (1,265 households)	6,451	35,244	\$13 M	50 communities
Technical Assistance (TA) Projects	94 (27 planning via TA)	35,515	128,283	\$14.6 M	100
Planning Projects	10	117,996	335,877	\$4.5 M	10
Construction Projects	37 (26)**	1 M (32,051)**	7.3 M (56,293)**	\$691 M (\$97 M)**	30

*SADW FEP – Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Expenditure Plan

**Numbers in parentheses for construction projects reflect projects in Office of Sustainable Water Solutions (OSWS) benefitting primarily small DACs or low-income households. The work in other categories is solely through OSWS and benefitting primarily small DACs or low-income households.

SAFER Program Updates

Advisory Group Member Appointments

SAFER Timeline

SAFER Program Goal Progress

Expedited Water Grant Funding Workshops

Consolidation Projects

Drinking Water Needs Assessment Workshops

Technical Assistance

Legislation

2023 Tentative SAFER Timeline

January
March

- **February 6, 7, 8:** Expedited Drinking Water Grant Program Draft Guidelines Workshops
- **March 8:** Board Consideration on Expedited Drinking Water Grant Program Draft Guidelines
- **March TBD:** Board Meeting on Administrator Handbook

April
June

- **TBD:** Board consideration of Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Policy Amendments
- **TBD:** Release of Needs Assessment
- **TBD:** Needs Assessment Cost model Workshop #1: Consolidation
- **May 18:** Advisory Group Meeting #2

July
September

- **TBD:** FY 23/24 DWSRF Intended Use Plan
- **TBD:** Needs Assessment Cost model Workshop #2: Treatment cost
- **TBD:** Needs Assessment Cost model Workshop
- **TBD:** Advisory Group member application period opens

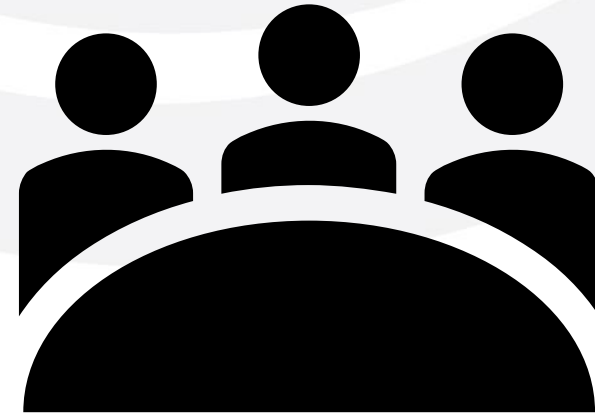
October
December

- **TBD:** Board Consideration FY 23/24 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Expenditure Plan
- **TBD:** Needs Assessment Cost model Workshop #3: Other essential infrastructure and admin costs
- **December 7:** Advisory Group Meeting #4
- **TBD:** New Advisory Group members appointed

Advisory Group Member Announcements

Advisory Group Member Announcements

- Project/Event title
- Timeline/Event date
- Purpose/Objective
- Next steps
- Please limit 3 minutes per announcement



Public Comments

1. Email Comment to safer@waterboards.ca.gov.
2. Follow instructions in the return email to join Zoom.
3. Wait to be called on. Speaking time is limited to 3 minutes
4. Technical or language assistance, email safer@waterboards.ca.gov.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Adjourn
Thank you!

safer@waterboards.ca.gov
916-445-5615