



CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS



Draft Safe Drinking Water Plan

workshop

SWB Staff introduction

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Purpose of the Safe Drinking Water Plan & Purpose of the meeting

- Assessment of the overall quality of the state's drinking water.
- Identification of specific water quality problems.
- Analysis of the known and potential health risks that may be associated with drinking water contamination.
- Specific recommendations to improve drinking water quality.
- The Safe Drinking Water Plan does not address private domestic wells or water systems that do not meet the definition of a PWS.
- Opportunity for SWB staff to present an overview of the draft & invite the public to comment on the assessment, analysis and recommendations in the document.



History of the Safe Drinking Water Plan

- "Drinking Water into the 21st Century: Safe Drinking Water Plan for California" in 1993.
- Senate Bill (SB) 1307 in 1996 to require periodic updates.
- No updates to the 1993 plan have been issued.
- Drinking Water Program transitioned from CDPH to the State Water Board in July 2014.
- Draft released in October 2014.



Current Elements of the draft Safe Drinking Water Plan

- Ch. 2 - Current regulation of drinking water.
- Ch. 3 - Quality of California's drinking water.
- Ch. 4 - Water quality issues affecting PWS serving fewer than 10,000 service connections.
- Ch. 5 - Drinking water-related information systems.
- Ch. 6 - Methods and instruments for screening and detecting chemicals and microbial agents.
- Ch. 7 - Treatment technology and health risk reduction.
- Ch. 8 - Financial aspects.
- Ch. 9 - Drinking water security and emergency preparedness.
- Ch. 10 - Implementation plan.



Ch. 2 - Current regulation of drinking water

- Coordination between state & local agencies in the regulation of PWS has improved.
- Further collaboration is needed to:
 - address differences in regulatory requirements;
 - prevent the proliferation of unsustainable systems; and
 - address communities not adequately served by a public water system.
- Regulatory program funding is tenuous and doesn't allow staff to focus on biggest problems.



Ch. 3 - Quality of California's drinking water

- Over 98% of CA's population are served by PWS that meets federal and state drinking water standards.
- Commitment to pursue solutions to ensure that California's small PWS customers receive affordable, safe and reliable drinking water.
- PWS face significant challenges including new contaminants, new regulations, climate change and population growth.
- O&M of water systems has significant impact on quality of drinking water.



Ch. 4 - Water quality issues affecting PWS serving fewer than 10,000 service connections

- Major water quality issues addressed aside from arsenic and nitrates.
- Most issues are with PWS that serve less than 10,000 service connections.
- Small water systems (15-199) group has the largest percentage of non-complying systems.
- Small Water Systems Plan (2012).
- Solutions to compliance problems and operation of small water systems must include:
 - technical support;
 - financial support for infrastructure improvements;
 - sufficient support for O&M.



Ch. 5 - Drinking water-related information systems

- New technologies and programs to manage data.
- Need > funding and capability.
- Importance of sharing water quality data.
- Transparency of information for the public.



Ch. 6 - Methods and instruments for screening and detecting chemicals and microbial agents

- Limited success in developing cheaper methods of analyzing for contaminants in drinking water.
- New contaminants of emerging concern are expensive to analyze and require low levels of detection.
- Continued reliance on indicator bacteria for pathogens analyses.
- Less expensive methods are not likely.



Ch. 7 - Treatment technology and health risk reduction

- All contaminants with MCLs have existing treatment methods/technology.
- Installing & maintaining needed treatments are challenges for small water systems.
- Capital costs vs. ongoing O&M.



Ch. 8 - Financial aspects

- Increasing costs of water.
- Disparity in metering across California.
- Customers of small water systems pay more for water, yet:
 - rates often aren't enough for O&M, and capital investments;
 - rates are unaffordable especially in DACs.
- Funding for improvements is available but O&M is still a problem.
- The State is committed to finding ways to make water affordable for all.



Ch. 9 - Drinking water security and emergency preparedness

- PWS need updated emergency response plans.
- Public water systems personnel are now considered first responders.
- Training is needed.



Ch. 10 - Implementation Plan



Ch. 10 - Implementation plan

Topic Area: Drought

- 8-1: Recommend legislation to require metering for all PWS.
- 3-3: Require source reliability studies.



Ch. 10 - Implementation plan

Topic Area: Affordable, Safe Drinking Water for Disadvantaged Communities

- 2-3 & 2-4: Improved coordination among State and local agencies.
- 2-7: Funding for infrastructure improvements to PWS.
- 4-3: A stable, long-term funding source for safe drinking water for small DACs.
- 4-4: Require responsible parties to cover the cost of mitigating contamination.
- 4-5: Funding is needed to help small water systems cover the cost of operating their treatment facilities, particularly those serving disadvantaged communities.
- 8-4: Investigate drinking water affordability for all low income households.
- 8-6: Annually assess alternatives for providing safe, affordable drinking water for small public water systems in DACs.
- 8-7: Continue emergency grant funds to disadvantaged communities that have serious water quality problems.



Ch. 10 - Implementation plan

Topic Area: Shared Solutions

- 3-1: Encourage large systems to provide assistance to small systems.
- 4-2: Promote consolidation of small water systems where ever feasible.
- 8-5: Recommend legislation to mandate consolidation.



Ch. 10 - Implementation plan

Topic Area: Capacity Development

- 4-1: Expand the goal of the Small Water System Plan.
- 8-3: Encourage assets management planning for infrastructure replacement.
- 2-1: Develop closer relationships with DHCD.
- 2-2: Identify the most efficient mechanism of working more closely with LAFCOs
- 3-2: Explore possible funding sources to facilitate operator education opportunities.



Ch. 10 - Implementation plan

Topic Area: Program Funding

- 2-6: Recommend legislation to implement a funding strategy that will ensure that the program is adequately and consistently funded.



Ch. 10 - Implementation plan

Topic Area: Program Actions

- 2-5: Continue to encourage new and existing board members of public water systems to complete a course on their duties.
- 4-4: Require responsible parties to cover the cost of mitigating contamination.
- 8-2: Collaborate with the water utility industry, public interest groups and other organizations to develop strategies to educate consumers on the factors that affect the cost of operating a water system.



Ch. 10 - Implementation plan

Topic Area: Transparency and Information Management

- 5-1: Funding is needed to maintain and expand the information management systems to implement the drinking water program efficiently and effectively and make such information available to the public.



Ch. 10 - Implementation plan

Topic Area: Treatment and Analytical Methods

- 6-1: Coordinate research needs, including methods for testing for microbes using emerging technologies.
- 6-2: Stay abreast of and provide technical input on the development of field testing methods for regulated chemicals.
- 7-1: Provide funding for research and demonstration grants to develop new treatment processes or improve the cost efficiency of existing treatment processes for small water systems, including POU/POE devices.



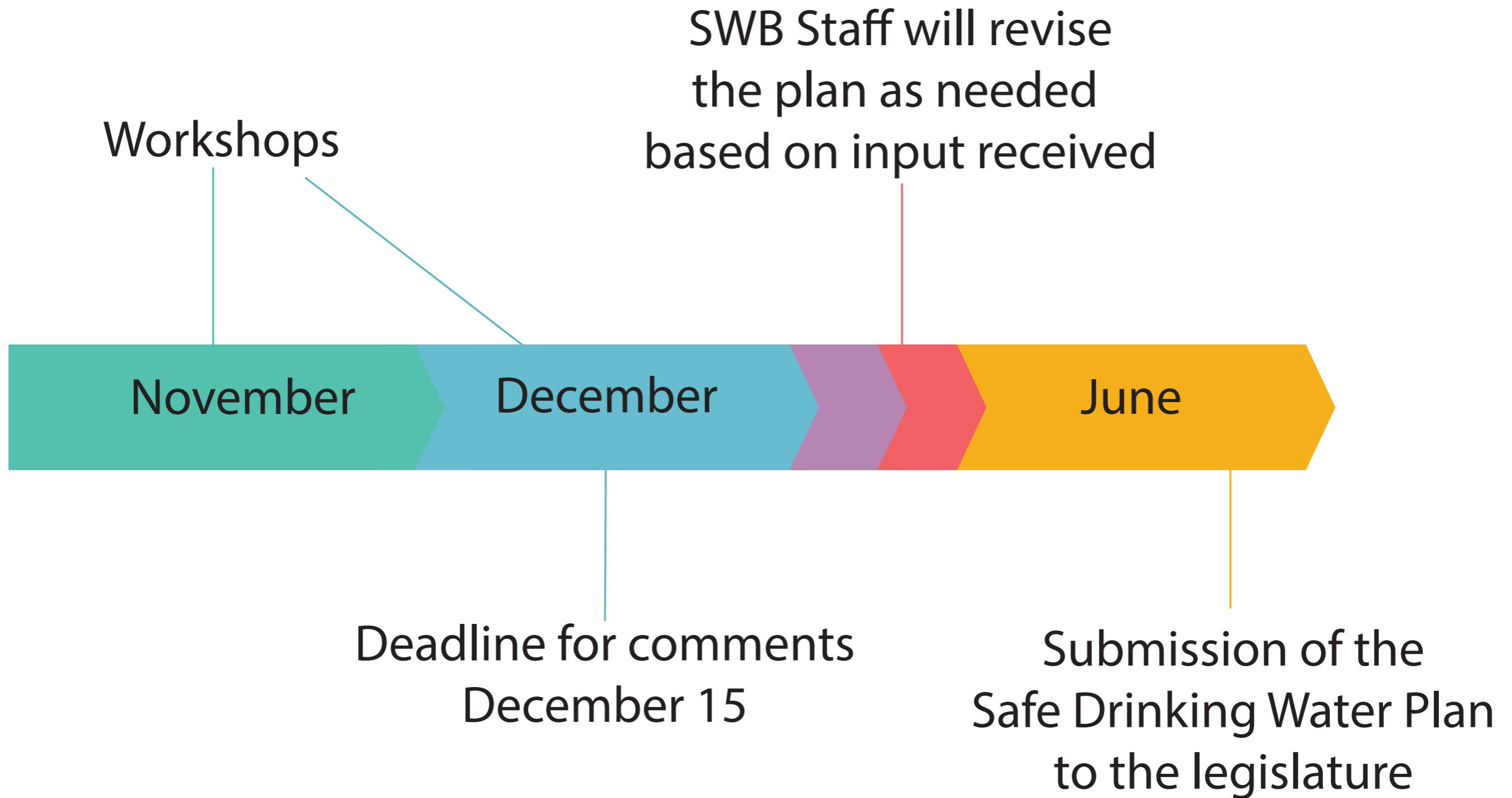
Ch. 10 - Implementation plan

Topic Area: Emergency Preparedness and Response

- 3-3: Require source reliability studies.
- 5-2: Explore the best method for notifying PWS during emergencies.
- 9-1: Require that all PWS update their ERP at least every five years.
- 9-2: Encourage ongoing training for water system staff on the Standardized Emergency Response System/Incident Command System.
- 9-3: Encourage all PWS to plan for the next major disaster and become a member of CALWARN for the mutual aid/assistance that it offers.



Timeline



Resources

- Draft plan, notices, agendas, etc.:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/safedrinkingwaterplan

- Karen Larsen - (916) 341-5125 - Karen.Larsen@waterboards.ca.gov
- Nick Chudeau - (916) 341-5559 - Nick.Chudeau@waterboards.ca.gov



Thank you!

¡Gracias!



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