



Media Release

Drinking water advisory group welcomes nine appointees

Members represent water systems, communities, local agencies and tribes

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board announced today nine appointments and two re-appointments to the [Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience \(SAFER\) Advisory Group](#), which provides input on the [Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund](#)'s annual spending priorities to ensure they reflect the needs and perspectives of California communities. The recent [appointments](#) round out the 11 continuing members who will serve until December 2024.

The [Advisory Group](#) comprises members with diverse drinking water backgrounds and experiences, including representatives of public water systems, local agencies, tribes, nongovernmental organizations and residents served by domestic wells or water systems in disadvantaged communities. The group meets quarterly to provide feedback on key SAFER plans and proposals.

“We have learned and accomplished a great deal during the first years of the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience program, and this is in no small part due to the insight and experience with drinking water issues that past and continuing Advisory Group members have shared with us. Their input is critical to helping us ensure our funding priorities respond to the changing needs of communities and water systems,” said Board Chair Joaquin Esquivel. “I thank the new appointees for their commitment to partnering on these issues. We are grateful for their collaboration, which ensures the board’s financial assistance is as effective as possible in helping communities and water systems achieve safe drinking water.”

In 2019, California enacted Senate Bill 200, establishing the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (SADW) to strengthen access to safe and affordable drinking water and advance the [Human Right to Water](#). The same year, the board launched the SAFER drinking water program to administer the SADW Fund and several complementary funding sources. Together with the board’s regulatory authorities, data, analysis and other tools, the SAFER program uses this funding to improve access to safe and affordable drinking water for all Californians, especially those in disadvantaged communities. The board adopts and publishes a [Fund Expenditure Plan](#) annually to



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

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outline goals for the SADW fund; the plan is developed in consultation with advisory group members.

The Advisory Group maintains 20 appointees who serve staggered two-year terms and are selected through an application process. The reappointed and newly appointed members represent communities from throughout California. Listed by [appointment category](#) and affiliation, they are:

- Rami Kahlon, public water system, California Water Service
- Isabel Solorio, resident, Lanare
- James Sullivan, resident, Mendocino
- Don James, tribal representative, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
- Stephanie Anagnoson, local agency, Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- Edwin Alonzo, resident, Victorville
- Silverio Perez, resident, Royal Oaks
- Soren Nelson, non-governmental organization, Association of California Water Agencies
- Shannon Murphy, technical assistance provider, Water Quality Association

The following continuing SAFER Advisory Group Members will serve until December 31, 2024:

- Tonya Moreno, resident, Le Grand
- Erick Orellana, non-governmental organization, Community Water Center
- Ileana Miranda, public water system, San Jerardo Cooperative Inc.
- Kristen Dobbin, public, UC Berkeley
- Castulo Estrada (reappointed), public water system, Coachella Valley Water District
- Rob Burroughs, resident, Cottonwood and State Small Water System Operator
- Martha Curiel, public, resident of Woodville
- Eva Dominguez, technical assistance provider, Self-Help Enterprises
- Michael Prado Sr. (reappointed), public water system, Sultana Community Services District
- Sarah Rutherford, local agency, Kaweah Water Foundation
- Chelsea Hsin-Feng Tu, non-governmental organization, Monterey Water Keeper

The board acknowledges and extends gratitude to the SAFER Advisory Group members who served from 2023-2024 and will no longer be serving in 2024-2025. They are:

- Jennifer Hazard, non-governmental organization, Rural Community Assistance Corporation
- Kassy Chauhan, local agency, North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- Esther Espinoza, resident, domestic well owner in Riverdale

- Sergio Carranza, technical assistance provider, Pueblo Unido Community Development Corporation
- Ethel See Winchell, resident, Dobbins Community

More [information](#) about the SAFER Advisory Group can be found on the board's website.

The State Water Board's mission is to 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 current and future generations.



The SAFER Drinking Water Program includes projects funded by the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, which is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment-particularly in disadvantaged communities.