
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS AND BOARD CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT AMENDED PROPOSITION 1 GROUNDWATER GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Opportunity for Public Comments on Draft Amended Guidelines

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will accept written comments on the Draft Amended Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program Guidelines (Draft Amended Guidelines). Written comments must be submitted no later than **12:00 noon on Tuesday, April 25, 2023**. Written comments must be submitted per the procedures in the “Submission of Comments” section of this public notice.

Board Consideration of Draft Amended Guidelines

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will consider adoption of the Draft Guidelines on May 2, 2023, at the State Water Board Meeting (Board Meeting). The anticipated date, time, and location of the Board Meeting are provided below:

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.
Coastal Hearing Room, Second Floor
Joe Serna Jr. – CalEPA Building
1001 I Street, Sacramento
And via Video and Teleconference
(For public commenters)

Video and Teleconference Option: This meeting will occur with both a physical meeting location and an option for the public to participate from a remote location.

- For those who only wish to watch the meeting, the webcast remains available at either <https://www.youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport/> or <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/> (closed captioning available) and should be used UNLESS you intend to comment.
- For members of the public who wish to comment on an agenda item or are presenting to the Board, additional information about participating telephonically or via the remote meeting solution is available here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/remote_meeting/

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

At the May 2, 2023, Board Meeting, the State Water Board will consider adoption of the Draft Amended Guidelines. Participants may summarize and supplement written materials with oral presentations during the Board Meeting. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants. However, State Water Board members and staff may ask clarifying questions. To ensure a productive and efficient Board Meeting, a time limit may be imposed for oral comments.

For recommendations regarding presentations to the Board, please go to:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/meetings/board_presentations.html.

ACCESSIBILITY

Telecommunications device for the hearing impaired (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922. A broadcast of the hearing will be available via internet and can be accessed at
<https://video.calepa.ca.gov>.

Draft Amended Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program Guidelines

BACKGROUND

The *Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014* (Proposition 1) was approved by California voters on November 4, 2014. Proposition 1 authorizes \$720 million to the State Water Board to provide competitive grants for projects that prevent or clean up contamination of groundwater that serves or has served as a source of drinking water (California Water Code § 79771). The State Water Board set aside \$144 million for projects serving disadvantaged communities (DACs)/economically distressed areas (EDAs) and will ensure that at least \$72 million of those funds go to projects that serve severely disadvantaged communities (SDACs) (Water Code section 79774(d)).

The [Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program](#) (Prop 1 GWGP) Guidelines (Guidelines) were adopted on May 18, 2016 ([Resolution No. 2016-0028](#)) and amended on December 19, 2017 ([Resolution No. 2017-0075](#)) and February 2, 2021 ([Resolution No. 2021-0003](#)). The Guidelines outline the process to solicit applications, criteria to evaluate and select eligible proposals, and requirements that apply to funded projects.

The Prop 1 GWGP has funded two rounds of projects (Round 1 and Round 2), leaving \$102.2 million for a third round of funding (Round 3). The State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) solicited proposals for Round 3, and the Round 3 solicitation closed on July 15, 2022. Full proposals were reviewed and scored by technical experts from DFA, the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, the Division of Drinking Water, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control. Based on the technical experts' recommendations, the Deputy Director of the DFA approved preliminary funding awards, totaling approximately \$52.9 million, for eight projects.

Execution of the Round 3 funding agreements will exhaust the DAC set-aside funds; however, approximately \$21.8 million will be left in the SDAC set-aside, and approximately \$27.5 million will be left for all GWGP-funded and co-funded projects regardless of DAC status (approximately \$49.3 million total remaining).

The remaining \$49.3 million in funds will be used to provide additional funds for existing or Round 3 projects and to fund Drinking Water Treatment or Wastewater projects that serve SDACs. The current Guidelines authorize the Deputy Director of DFA to reduce the match funds requirement for projects that clean up or prevent the contamination of an aquifer and serve DACs, SDACs, or economically distressed areas as defined therein. The Draft Amended Guidelines would authorize the Deputy Director of DFA to completely waive the match requirements for Round 3 projects benefiting DACs and SDACs and future additional funding requests from projects that serve DACs and SDACs, to the extent authorized by statute. The Draft Amended Guidelines also clarify the language regarding the Drinking Water Treatment and Wastewater Projects, update the technical assistance set-aside section, and provide minor updates throughout the document.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Draft Amended Guidelines are available for public review at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/docs/prop-1-GWGP-amended-guidelines.pdf

You may also request a copy of the Draft Amended Guidelines by contacting Groundwater.Funding@waterboards.ca.gov.

After reviewing public comments received before 12:00 noon on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, the Draft Amended Guidelines will be updated if necessary and will be posted on the May 2, 2023, Board Meeting agenda. This will occur as part of the regular State Water Board Meeting Agenda process and can be viewed online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept both written and oral comments on the Draft Amended Guidelines. To submit written comments, please use the subject line: **“Comment Letter – Draft Amended Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program Guidelines”**. Written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on Tuesday, April 25, 2023**, and should be submitted to the attention of:

Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comment letters may be submitted to Clerk to the Board via email (if less than 15 megabytes) at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. If the electronic comment letter is greater than 15 megabytes, it may be submitted by fax at (916) 341-5620. Couriers delivering hard copies of comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel, who can contact Ms. Tyler at (916) 341-5611.

FUTURE NOTICES

Any change to the public comment period or the meeting date for the State Water Board to consider adoption of the Draft Amended Guidelines will be provided via the State Water Board's email distribution list. Any person desiring notice of any changes must be subscribed to the State Water Board's email list.

The subscription form is located at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.html.

To subscribe, select the "General Interests" category, then check the box for "Board Meetings," and provide the required information.

Additionally, any person desiring notices concerning funding opportunities for groundwater cleanup may subscribe to the groundwater cleanup list. To subscribe, use the above link and select the "Financial Assistance (Grants and Loans)" category, then check the box for "Groundwater Quality Funding Assistance" and provide the required information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct all questions regarding this notice to

Groundwater.Funding@waterboards.ca.gov.

Date March 23, 2023



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board