



State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC WORKSHOPS, AND BOARD CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR EXPEDITED DRINKING WATER GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM

Opportunity for Public Comments on Draft Guidelines

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will accept written comments on the Draft Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding Program Guidelines (Draft Guidelines). Written comments must be submitted no later than **12:00 noon on Friday, February 10, 2023**. Written comments must be submitted per the procedures in the “Submission of Comments” section of this public notice.

Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding Program Workshops

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that State Water Board staff will conduct three public workshops on the Draft Guidelines. The workshops will be held on:

Monday, February 6, 2023 – 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Southern California Workshop

Highgrove Room

3737 Main Street, Suite 200

Riverside, CA 92501

In-Person Participation

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

State Water Board Workshop (Northern California Workshop)

Coastal Hearing Room, Second Floor

Joe Serna Jr. - CalEPA Building

1001 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

In Person and Remote Participation

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Central Valley Workshop

Self-Help Enterprises Board Room

8445 W Elowin Ct

Visalia, CA 93291

In Person Participation

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

The workshops will include a presentation about the Draft Guidelines as well as the opportunity for participants to provide oral comments. Any interested person may ask questions or provide input. However, formal written comments should not be submitted during the workshops and instead should be submitted per the procedures in the “Submission of Comments” section of this public notice.

A quorum of the State Water Board may be present at the workshops, but the State Water Board will take no action.

WORKSHOP LOGISTICS

The ***Southern California*** and ***Central Valley*** workshops will be conducted in-person only.

The ***Northern California*** workshop will be held in conjunction with the **State Water Board Meeting**. This workshop will be conducted in-person, with 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/

The agenda for the February 7, 2023, State Water Board Meeting will indicate the sequencing of agenda items scheduled for that date, including the Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding Program Workshop. The agenda will be released 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.

LANGUAGE SERVICES

To request language interpretation or sign language services, please submit your request at least ten business days before the meeting (by January 23, 2023) by contacting Marina Pérez at (916) 322-4265.

SERVICIO DE INTERPRETACIÓN DE IDIOMAS

Para solicitar el servicio de interpretación de idiomas o en el lenguaje de señas, comuníquese a más tardar el 23 de enero con Marina Pérez al número telefónico (916) 322-4265.

Board Consideration of Draft Guidelines

NOTICE IS ADDITIONALLY HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Board will consider adoption of the Draft Guidelines on March 7, 2023, at the State Water Board Meeting (Board Meeting). The anticipated date, time, and location of the Board Meeting are provided below:

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.
State Water Resources Control Board
Board Meeting

Coastal Hearing Room, Second Floor
Joe Serna Jr. - CalEPA Building
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
In Person and Remote Participation

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/

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

At the March 7, 2023, Board Meeting, the State Water Board will consider adoption of the Draft 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.

Draft Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding Program Guidelines

BACKGROUND

Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) staff are proposing to implement the Draft Guidelines to provide an expedited process by which public agency applicants with qualifying high priority projects can receive State grant funding. The Expedited Drinking Water Grant funding program will utilize a variety of state funding sources for drinking water infrastructure projects, including but not limited to: Proposition 1, Proposition 68, the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, and the Budget Act of 2021.

Application forms, reviews, procedures, and requirements may vary from the DWSRF funding program to support the reduction of processing times and information submittal requirements. By establishing this program, critical drinking water infrastructure projects will be constructed on a shorter timeline, resulting in many small communities gaining access to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water much sooner than would occur without this program.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Draft Guidelines are available for public comment at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/expedited-grant-funding.html

You may also request a copy of the Draft Guidelines by contacting Mr. Pete Stamas at Pete.Stamas@waterboards.ca.gov.

After reviewing public comments received before 12:00 noon on Friday, February 10, 2023, the Draft Guidelines will be updated if necessary and will be posted as part of the March 7, 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 COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept written comments on the Draft Guidelines. Participants may also provide oral comments to supplement their written comments, as described above. To submit written comments, please use the subject line: "**Comment Letter – Draft Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding Program Guidelines.**" Written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on Friday, February 10, 2023**, and should be submitted to the attention of:

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

Comment letters may be submitted to the 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. Townsend at (916) 341-5600.

FUTURE NOTICES

Any change to the public workshop dates, the public comment period, or the meeting date for the State Water Board to consider adoption of the Draft 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 drinking water infrastructure projects more broadly may subscribe to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund list. To subscribe, use the above link and select the "Financial Assistance (Grants and Loans)" category, then check the box for "Drinking Water State Revolving Fund" and provide the required information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct all questions regarding this notice to Mr. Pete Stamas at (916) 552-9983 or Pete.Stamas@waterboards.ca.gov.

Date January 6, 2023

 for

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board