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## State Water Resources Control Board

### NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

#### DRAFT FUND EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR THE SAFE AND AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER FUND

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will receive public comments on the draft Fund Expenditure Plan for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (Plan), dated May 2020. Written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on Tuesday, June 16, 2020**, see additional details regarding comments submission below.

#### BACKGROUND

The Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (the Fund) was established through Senate Bill 200 (SB 200) in July 2019. The Fund will provide up to \$130 million per year that will be used to develop and implement solutions for water systems that are not sustainable or have violations of drinking water standards. The Fund will help water systems provide an adequate and affordable supply of safe drinking water in both the near and long terms. Types of projects include, but are not limited to, consolidation with a larger system, extension of service, provision of interim replacement water, planning assistance, reducing and supporting operations and maintenance costs, and providing administrators. Projects generally must benefit a disadvantaged community or low-income households or communities.

The State Water Board adopted the Policy for Developing the Fund Expenditure Plan (Policy) for the Fund on May 5, 2020. The Policy established and documented the State Water Board's direction on how the Fund Expenditure Plan (Plan) will be developed. The Policy identified and defined key terms and metrics; described how proposed remedies will be identified, evaluated, prioritized, and included in the Plan; established a petition process for consideration of consolidation orders for disadvantaged communities; and included a public hearing requirement.

The State Water Board is developing the Fund Expenditure Plan, which is an annual document required by Health and Safety Code section 116768.5, and documents past and planned expenditures and prioritize projects for funding. The Plan will be based on a drinking water needs assessment, developed in consultation with the Department of Finance and other stakeholders. The purposes of the Plan are to: (1) identify public water systems (PWS), community water systems (CWS), state small water systems and regions where domestic wells consistently fail or are at risk of failing to provide adequate safe drinking water, the causes of failure, and appropriate remedies;

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

(2) determine the amounts and sources of funding needed to provide safe drinking water or eliminate the risk of failure to provide safe drinking water; and (3) identify gaps in supplying safe drinking water, and determine the amounts and sources of funding to eliminate those gaps.

Expenditures from the Fund on or after July 1, 2020 must be consistent with the FY 20-21 Fund Expenditure Plan. The Plan for FY 20-21 will be considered for adoption by the State Water Board on **July 7, 2020**. A new Fund Expenditure Plan will be developed and approved by the State Water Board annually.

#### **DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY**

The draft Plan is available for review online at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/sustainable\\_water\\_solutions/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/)

You may also request a copy of the draft Plan by contacting Mr. Harish Bagha at (916) 341-5716 or [Harish.Bagha@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Harish.Bagha@waterboards.ca.gov).

After reviewing public comments, an updated version of the draft Plan will be posted for public comment prior to the Board Meeting. This will occur as part of the regular State Water Board Meeting Agenda process, at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/calendar](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar).

#### **SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS**

The State Water Board will accept written comments on the draft Plan. To submit written comments, please use the subject line: “**Comment Letter – Draft Fund Expenditure Plan for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund**”. Written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on Tuesday, June 16, 2020** 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](mailto: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 in the date, time, the public comment period, or to the intended date of State Water Board consideration of the adoption draft Plan will be provided via the State Water Board email distribution list. Any person desiring to receive future notices concerning the Plan must subscribe to the State Water Board’s email distribution list.

The subscription form is located at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.html](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.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Please direct all questions regarding this notice to Mr. Harish Bagha at (916) 341-5716 or [Harish.Bagha@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Harish.Bagha@waterboards.ca.gov).

May 27, 2020

Date



Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board