

# SAFER Drinking Water Advisory Group Meeting #3

August 11, 2023

10 am – 4 pm



# Ways to Participate

**Watch ONLY:** Visit [video.calepa.ca.gov](https://video.calepa.ca.gov)

**Submit a comment:**

Email [safer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov) with subject “AGM Public Comment,” and follow Instructions in return email to join the meeting.

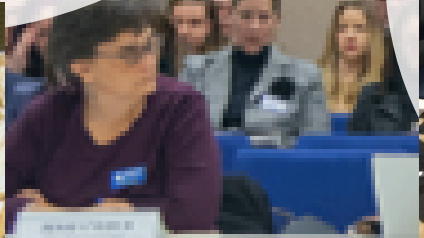
**For technical or language interpretation assistance:** [safer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov)





## **Water Boards' Mission**

*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 the benefit of present and future generations.*



**Happy  
Birthday  
SAFER!**



# Meeting Guidelines

- Take breaks as needed
- Speak slowly
- Raise your hand for comments or questions
- Keep your comments concise and to the point
- For technical support:  
[\*\*safer@waterboards.ca.gov\*\*](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov)



# Agenda

**FY 2023-24 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Expenditure Plan**

**SAFER Website Revamp**

**SAFER Program Updates**

**SAFER Advisory Group Members Announcements**

**Public Comments**

# Introductions and Warmer

- Your name
- Your affiliation
- Your location
- Warmer: What's your favorite sound?



# Discussion #1

## Fiscal Year 2023-24 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Expenditure Plan

**Jeff Wetzel**

**Division of Financial Assistance**



# Fund Expenditure Plan Questions

## Funding Targets

- What feedback do you have on the funding targets?
- Which project types would you prefer increase or decrease funding, and why?

## Operations & Maintenance Funding

- What additional feedback do you have on the direct operations and maintenance funding approach or targets?

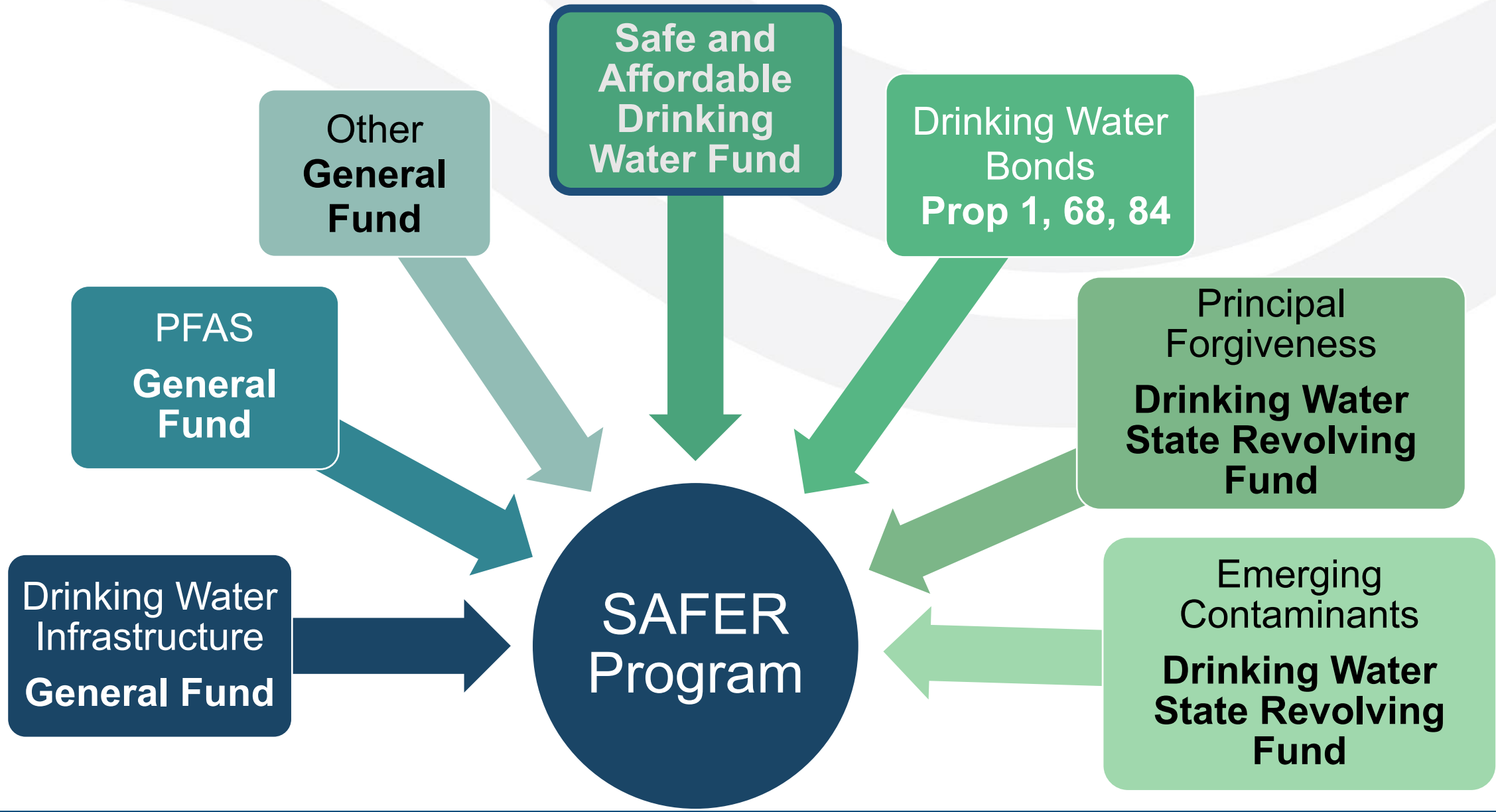
## Other topics

- Are there any specific topics or issues that should be discussed regarding the content of the Fund Expenditure Plan?

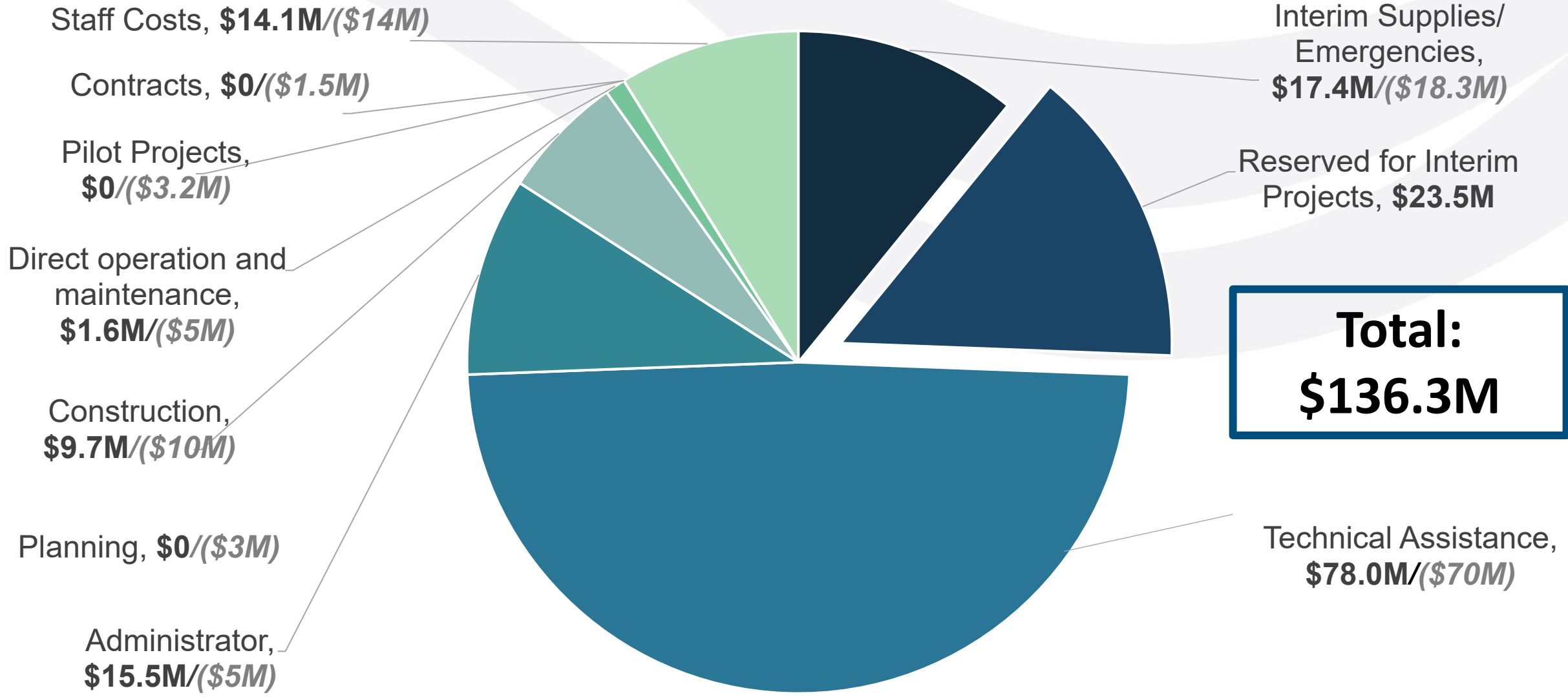
# Fiscal Year 2022-23 Performance



# SAFER Program Funding Sources



# Fiscal Year 2022-23 Committed Expenditures, by Solution Type (\$ committed/(\$ target))



## Fiscal Year 2022-23 SAFER Program Performance

Categories	Water Systems (Communities/ Schools)	Households	Connections Benefiting	People Benefiting	Total Assistance Provided
Interim Assistance	276	4,591	20,783	112,638	<b>\$34M</b>
Technical Assistance (TA) Projects	383 (63 planning via TA)		93,013	325,503	<b>\$50.4M</b>
Planning Projects	50		143,678	403,710	<b>\$26.7M</b>
Construction Projects*	116 (149)		175,402 (1.7M)	394,964 (9.75M)	<b>\$510.8M (\$1.4B)</b>

\* All interim, TA, and planning funds, and a total of \$510.8M in construction funds, are being administered through the State Water Board's Office of Sustainable Water Solutions, which is focused on small or disadvantaged communities. The numbers in parentheses also include drinking water funding provided to larger communities.

# Fiscal Year 2023-24 Funding, Priorities, and Targets

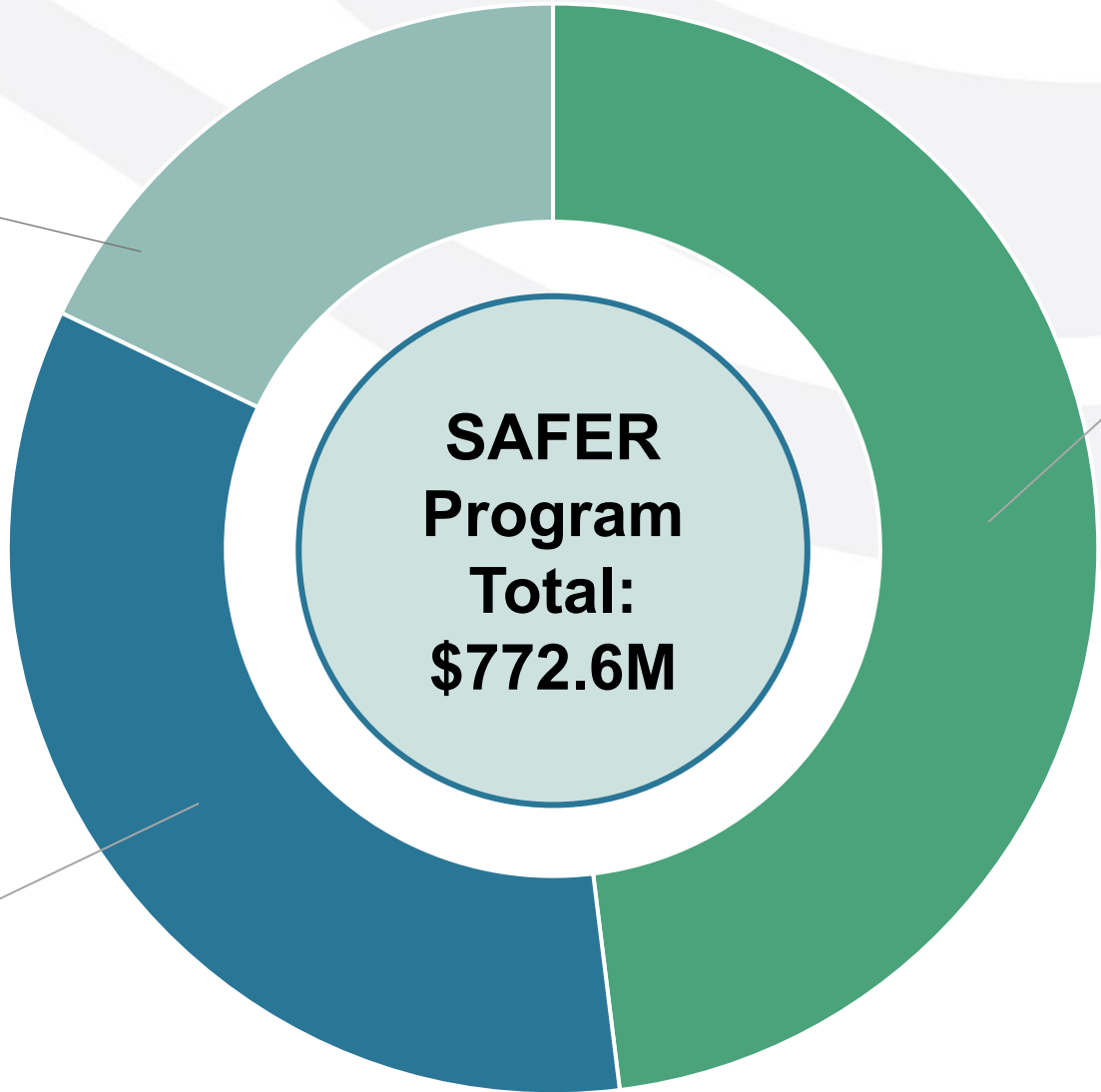


# FY 2023-24 SAFER Program Anticipated Funding Availability for Projects (Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund plus complementary funding)

**Safe and Affordable  
Drinking Water Fund**  
**\$138.1M**

**Capital Funding  
(Planning, Construction)**  
**\$371.2M**

**Other Capital +  
Non-Capital Funding**  
(Interim water and  
emergencies, technical  
assistance, administrators,  
operations & maintenance)  
**\$263.3M**



# Proposed Priorities

(focus on Small Disadvantaged Communities and Low-Income Households)



Emergency or urgent funding needs (only where other funds are not available).



Water systems out of compliance with primary drinking water standards or at-risk of failing, including those relying on bottled or hauled water in the past three years.



Accelerate consolidations and promote regional-scale consolidations, including state smalls and domestic wells near water system boundaries.



Expedite planning with technical assistance.



Provide interim and long-term solutions for state smalls and domestic wells through planning efforts.



Offer direct support for operations and maintenance to assist water systems with the most significant affordability burdens.



Ensure equitable distribution of assistance in accordance with the State Water Board's Racial Equity Resolution and Racial Equity Action Plan.



# Summary of Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 Targets

- Focus on **Small Disadvantaged Communities** and **Low-Income Households**.
- Significant investments proposed to address large number of **state small water systems** and **domestic wells** at-risk for water quality and drought impacts.

Funding	Category	Purpose
\$30M	<b>Administrators</b>	➤ Assist 10-15 designated water systems
\$30M	<b>Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Additional 30 priority systems with <b>backup generators</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Extension of service and well repair/replacement</b> for existing programs</li> </ul>
\$20M	<b>Direct O&amp;M Assistance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Benefit up to <b>30 water systems</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Streamlined approach</b></li> </ul>
\$15M	<b>Technical Assistance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ POU/POE Pilot items</li> <li>➤ Funding partner community outreach</li> <li>➤ Potential TA needs associated with the Direct O&amp;M Program</li> </ul>

# Fiscal Year 2023-24 Summary of Key Updates

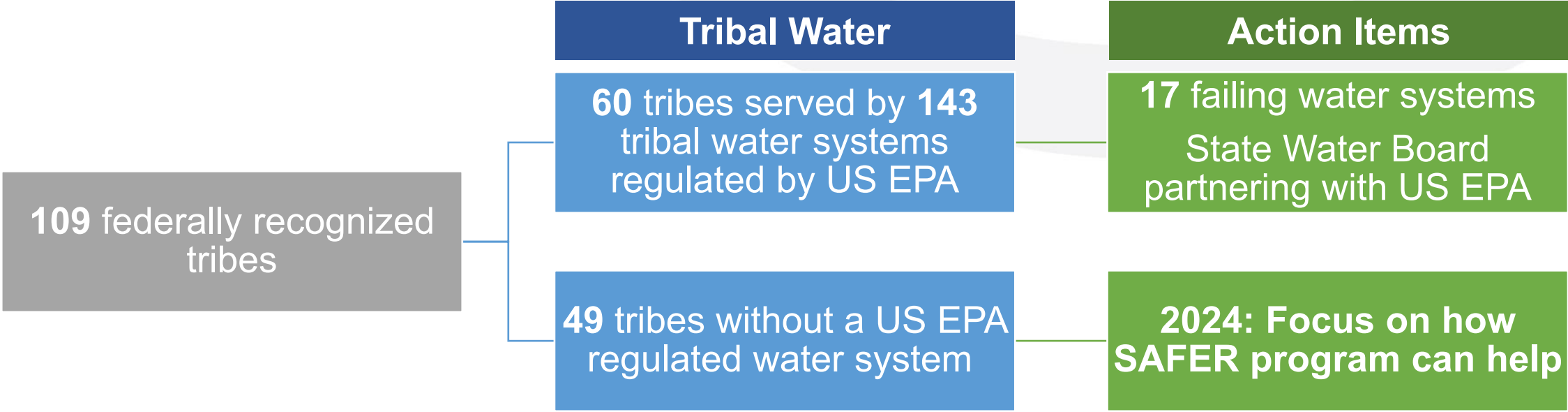


# Summary of Key Updates for Fiscal Year 2023-24

Category	Update
<b>Direct O&amp;M Support</b>	➤ More details for the direct operation and maintenance funding program
<b>Construction</b>	➤ Added description of the new Expedited Drinking Water Grant Program
<b>Drought Infrastructure</b>	➤ Eligible systems can apply for backup generators funding through the Urgent Drinking Water Needs application process.
<b>Metrics and Performance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Improved alignment with SAFER program tracking system</li> <li>➤ New metric category for tribal coordination on drinking water projects</li> </ul>
<b>Tribal Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New tracking requirements from Assembly Bill 2877</li> <li>➤ New appendix on tribal needs assessment</li> </ul>

# Tribal Needs Assessment Chapter (Appendix A.1)

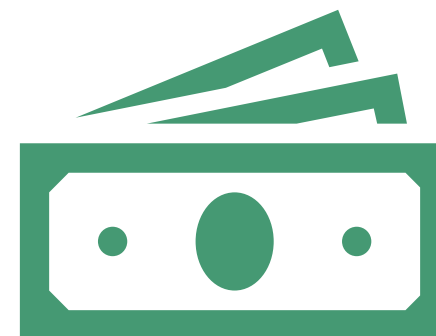
**Collaboration with US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and Indian Health Service to better understand tribal drinking water needs.**



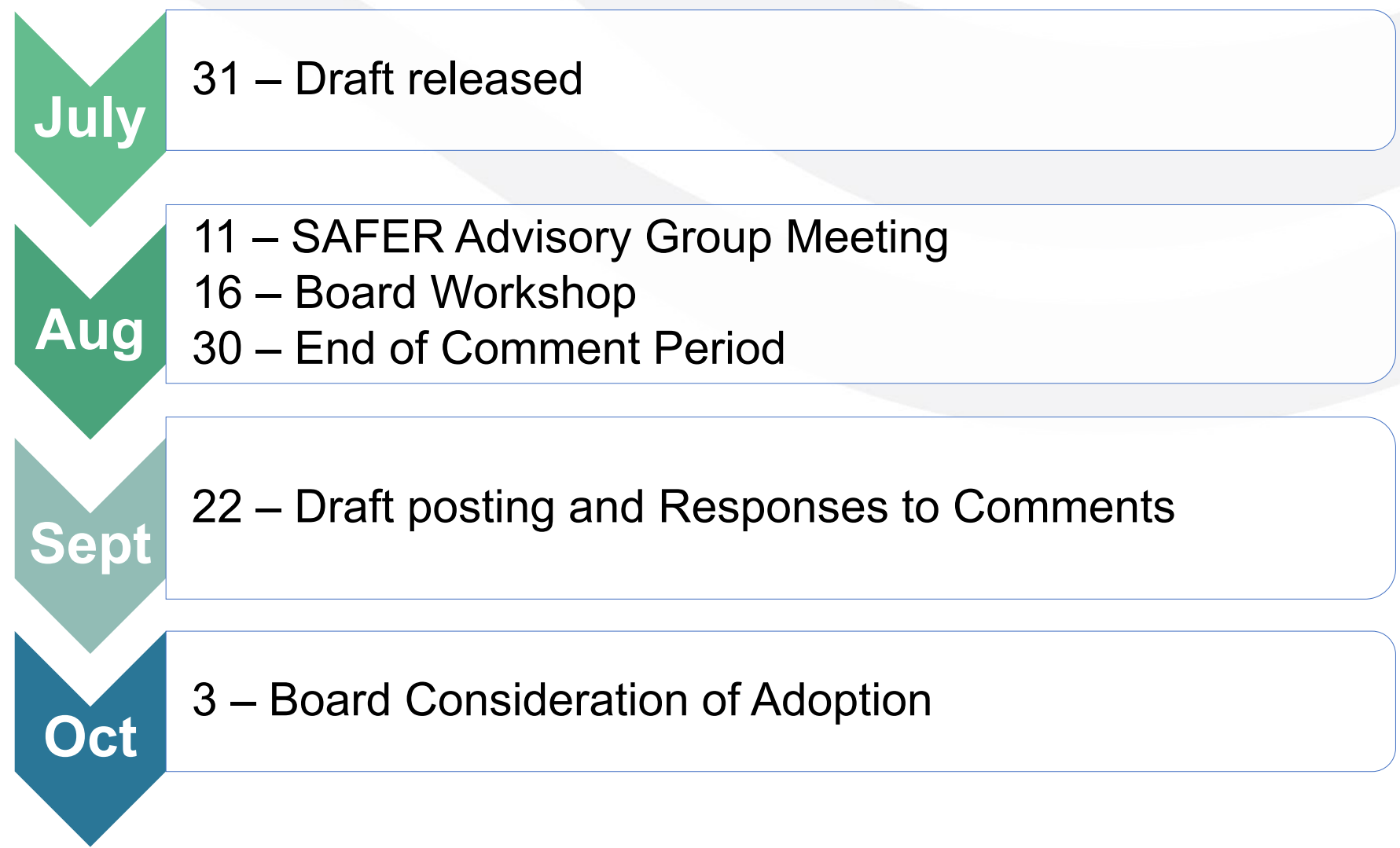
# Tribal Needs Assessment Chapter (Appendix A.1) Contd.

## Funding Partnership Opportunities

- Funding Shortfall
- Ineligible Costs
- Emergency/Urgent Needs
- Operations and Maintenance
- Capacity building



# Fiscal Year 2023-24 Fund Expenditure Plan Timeline



# Fund Expenditure Plan Questions and Answers



- Raise your name tent to ask questions
- Wait for your turn
- Turn on microphone
- Speak slowly
- Limit your questions to 3 minutes
- Turn off microphone

Public comment or technical assistance? Please email: [safer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov)

# **Breakout Session #1**

## **Fiscal Year 2023-24 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Expenditure Plan**





# Fund Expenditure Plan Discussion Questions

## Breakout Groups

### Funding Targets

- What feedback do you have on the funding targets?
- Which project types would you prefer increase or decrease funding, and why?

### Operations & Maintenance Funding

- What additional feedback do you have on the direct operations and maintenance funding approach or targets?

### Other topics

- Are there any specific topics or issues that should be discussed regarding the content of the Fund Expenditure Plan?

# Share Back Session #1

## Fiscal Year 2023-24 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Expenditure Plan



# Main Room Share Back #1

## Draft Priorities for the Fund Expenditure Plan:

- What feedback do you have on the funding targets?
- Which project types would you prefer increase for decrease funding, and why?
- What additional feedback do you have on the direct operation and maintenance funding approach or targets?
- Are there any specific topics or issues that should be discussed regarding the content of the Fund Expenditure Plan?



# LUNCH

# Discussion #2: SAFER Website Revamp

Alisha O'Loughlin  
Office of Public Participation

# Advisory Group Meeting #2 Feedback Received

## Recommendations:

### Layout

- Move “What’s New” toward bottom of homepage or create drop-down menu.
- Ensure icons and images are relatable and intuitive.

### Content

- Distinguish what SAFER does vs. what other programs do.
- Provide tools to help people learn about their drinking water.
- Include information on domestic wells.
- Include project spotlights, testimonials, videos, and case studies.
- Provide list of systems removed from At-Risk list.
- Include number of people served in addition to households served.
- Create Spanish version of website.

# SAFER Website Revamp – Next Steps

## Phase 1

- Homepage update: Layout and content.

## Phase 2

- Update and creation of individual webpages

**Engagement with the SAFER Advisory Group to gather feedback for the website revamp**

# SAFER Website Revamp Questions and Answers



- Raise your name tent to ask questions
- Wait for your turn
- Turn on microphone
- Speak slowly
- Limit your questions to 3 minutes
- Turn off microphone

Public comment or technical assistance? Please email: [safer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov)



# Breakout Session #2

## SAFER Website Revamp



# SAFER Website Revamp Questions and Activities

## Breakout Group

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Divide into breakout groups. Designate a notetaker to record responses to questions and a reporter to report out to the entire group once the breakout session has ended. Perform each activity and respond to each question below.*

### **Actions:**

1. Review the printouts on the table of the six homepage categories. Use Post It notes to add any additional items under each category or to provide general comments.
2. Review the sample icons. Use the feedback form provided to share input on these icons or suggest alternative icons that best represent the six main homepage categories.
3. Should bios and interviews of Advisory Group members be included on the Advisory Group webpage and social media? What specific types of information, formats, and platforms would you recommend for inclusion?

# Share Back Session #2: SAFER Website Revamp

## Main Room Share Back #2

### **SAFER Website Revamp:**

1. What feedback do you have on the homepage categories?
2. What are your favorite icons for the six main homepage categories?
3. What kind of information about the SAFER Advisory Group and its members would be interesting to share with the public and on what platforms?



# SAFER Program Updates

# 2023 SAFER Advisory Group Application

**Application opens:** August 1, 2023.

**Application deadline:** September 30, 2023.

## 3 different ways to apply:

1. **Submit the MS form (preferred):** <https://bit.ly/2023-SAFER-AG-Application>
2. **Email your PDF application to:** [safer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov)
3. **Print and mail an application to:**  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Attention: Office of Public Participation  
SAFER Advisory Group Applications  
1001 I Street, MS 13-A, Sacramento, CA 95814

# Who can apply to the SAFER Advisory Group?

Current SAFER Advisory Group members with expiring terms who wish to continue serving.

## Tribal representatives from:

- Tribal government
- Member of a Tribe
- Tribal water system
- Tribal non-governmental organization

## Residents of:

- Disadvantaged communities
- State small water systems
- Domestic wells served by community water systems

## Public representatives from:

- Public water system
- Technical assistance provider
- Non-governmental organization
- Public agencies

# SAFER Advisory Group Application Resources

## Upcoming Question and Answer Sessions via Zoom:

- August 23, 2023, 6pm-7:30pm: <https://bit.ly/SAFER-AG-App-QandA-8-23>
- August 30, 2023, 11am- 1pm: <https://bit.ly/SAFER-AG-App-QandA-8-30>

**SAFER Advisory Group information:**  
<https://bit.ly/SAFER-AG-App-Resources>

### Contact:

Vanessa Soto, Engagement  
Coordinator

Email: [safer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov)



# 2023 Tentative SAFER Timeline

## July - September

- **7/18:** Board considers adoption of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan
- **7/31:** Release of the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Draft Fund Expenditure Plan
- **8/01:** SAFER Advisory Group member application period opens
- **8/16:** Board Workshop on the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Draft Fund Expenditure Plan
- **8/23:** Questions and Answers Session #1: SAFER Advisory Group member application
- **8/30:** Questions and Answers Session #2: SAFER Advisory Group member application
- **8/30:** Deadline to provide comments on the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Draft Fund Expenditure Plan

## October - December

- **9/30:** SAFER Advisory Group member application period closes
- **10/3:** Board Consideration Fiscal Year 23-24 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Expenditure Plan
- **12/7:** SAFER Advisory Group Meeting #4
- **TBD:** New SAFER Advisory Group members appointed

# Advisory Group Member Announcements

# Advisory Group Member Announcements

- Project/Event title
- Timeline/Event date
- Purpose/Objective
- Next steps
- Please limit 3 minutes per announcement



# Public Comments



# Public Comments



## In-person

1. Raise your hand
2. Wait to be called on
3. Speak slowly
4. Limit comments to 3 minutes



## Remote

1. Email comment to: [safer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov).
2. Wait to be called on. Speaking time is limited to 3 minutes
3. For technical or language assistance, email: [safer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov).

# Closing Remarks and Next Steps

**Adjourn**  
**Thank you!**

**[safer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov)**  
**916-445-5615**