

SAFER Drinking Water Advisory Group Meeting #3

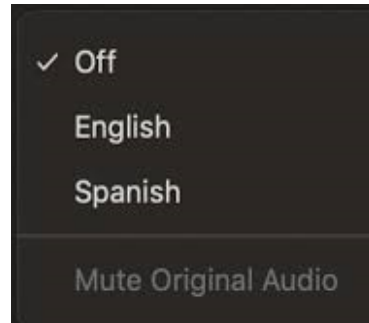
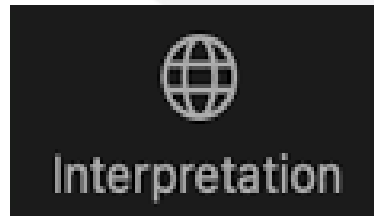
November 18, 2021
9am-4pm



Language Interpretation through Zoom

- Click Interpretation icon in your Meeting/Webinar controls
 - Navigate to Language Channels
 - Select Spanish
 - Mute Original Audio

For technical assistance, email:
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Interpretación de idiomas en Zoom

- Seleccione el icono de interpretación desde los controles de la pantalla
 - En el menú de opciones, seleccione el idioma español (*Spanish*)
 - Seleccione la opción para silenciar el audio original (*Mute Original Audio*)

Si necesita ayuda técnica, envíe un mensaje electrónico a:
SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov

Ways to Participate

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Visit video.calepa.ca.gov

Submit a Comment

Email SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov with subject “AGM Public Comment,” and follow instructions in return email to join the meeting.

Technical or Language Assistance

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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.

Meeting Guidelines

- Join by video (if possible)
- Take breaks as needed
- Mute yourself when not speaking
- Speak slowly
- safer@waterboards.ca.gov



Agenda

Discuss SAFER Community Engagement Strategy

Discuss Direct Operations & Maintenance Funding

Lunch

Discuss Drinking Water Infrastructure Funding

Review SAFER Updates

Public Comment

Next Steps

Introductions and Warmer

- **Your name**
- **Your affiliation**
- **Your location**
- **What is your favorite fall or winter activity?**



8

Discussion Session #1: Proposed SAFER Outreach and Engagement Strategy

Sesión de discusión #1: Estrategia del Programa SAFER para Informar e Involucrar a la Comunidad



BREAK/ DESCANSO

Be back at 11:14 / Regresaremos a la
11:14

Discussion Session #2 Direct Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Funding

Sesión de discusión #2 Fondos para Operaciones y Mantenimiento (O&M)



Lunch/ Descanso para comer

Be back at 1:20 / Regresaremos a la
1:20

Budget Act of 2021 Allocation for Drinking Water Infrastructure Projects

Bridget Chase
Division of Financial Assistance (DFA)



Budget Act of 2021 – State Water Board Allocations

Allocation (Millions)	Project Type
\$650	Wastewater projects <i>*priority to septic-to-sewer conversions</i>
\$650	Drinking water projects <i>*priority to disadvantaged communities (DACs)</i>
\$30-100	Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) support for water systems
\$150-350	Groundwater cleanup and water recycling projects
\$20	Mexico border rivers
\$	Other project-specific/directed allocations

Drinking Water Allocation Outline

- Budget Act of 2021 – Drinking Water Allocation
- Definitions/Acronyms
- Existing Grant Criteria in Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP)
 - Category A-C and/or Consolidation Projects
 - Category D- F Projects
- Potential Changes
- Stay Informed

Budget Act of 2021 – Drinking Water Allocation

- Up to 5% for Administrative Costs
 - Leaves \$617.5 M for grants
- Up to 10% for Technical Assistance (TA) and Capacity Building in DACs
- Must be Encumbered by June 30, 2024
- Must be Liquidated by June 30, 2026
- Resolution No. 2021-0030, August 18, 2021
 - Authorized staff to encumber up to \$100 M of allocation
- Remainder to be addressed in separate resolution early 2022

Relevant Definitions/Acronyms

- Disadvantaged Community (DAC): median household income (MHI) < 80% statewide MHI.
- Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC): MHI < 60% statewide MHI.
- Small: \leq 3,300 connections or \leq 10,000 people.
- Expanded Small: 3,300 – 6,600 connections or 10,000 – 20,000 people.

- Eligible Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) serves solely the following:
 - Public K-12 school;
 - Not-for-profit K-12 private school, daycare facility, labor camp, elder care facility, health care facility

Planning Grants

- No proposed changes to existing criteria.
- Small DACs may receive up to 100% planning grant.
- No cap on planning grant.
- Planning funds are counted toward total per project grant caps.*

* Current project caps:

- Per connection basis
- Apply to total grants for 5-year period (planning, TA & construction).

Existing Grant Criteria in DWSRF IUP Category A-C and/or Consolidation Projects

Maximum PF, Grant or Combination Thereof Per Construction Project			
Type of Community Served by CWS	Residential Water Rates as a Percentage of MHI	Percentage of Total Eligible Project Cost	Maximum Amount Per Connection
Category A – C and/or Consolidation Projects			
Small DAC, Small SDAC or Eligible NTNC That Serves a Small DAC	N/A	up to 100%	\$60,000
Expanded Small DAC/SDAC or Small Non-DAC		up to 75%	

Broaden Existing Grant Criteria in IUP? Category A-C and/or Consolidation Projects

Potential changes to consider:

- 1) Make Expanded Small DACs & Small Non-DACs eligible for ~~75~~-100%?

- 2) Add new eligible category of "Medium DAC"?
 - 6,600 - 33,000 connections or 20,000 – 100,000 people?
 - Also 100% grant, regardless of rates?
 - Set maximum grant per project of \$20M?

Existing Grant Criteria in DWSRF IUP Category D-F Projects

Maximum PF, Grant or Combination Thereof Per Construction Project			
Type of Community Served by CWS	Residential Water Rates as a Percentage of MHI	Percentage of Total Eligible Project Cost	Maximum Amount Per Connection
Category D – F Projects			
Small SDAC or Eligible NTNC That Serves a Small DAC	N/A	up to 90%	\$45,000
Small DAC	>=1.5%	up to 75%	
	<1.5%	Not Eligible for PF, Grant or Combination Thereof	
Expanded Small SDAC	>=1.5%	up to 50%	\$45,000
	<1.5%	Not Eligible for PF, Grant or Combination Thereof	
Expanded Small DAC	>=1.5%	up to 25%	\$45,000
	<1.5%	Not Eligible for PF, Grant or Combination Thereof	

Broaden Existing Grant Criteria in IUP? Category D-F Projects

Potential changes to consider:

- 1) Small SDACs and eligible NTNCs:
 - Increase to ~~90%~~ 100% grant?

- 2) Small DACs:
 - Eligible ~~with rates >1.5% of MHI~~ regardless of water rates?
 - Increase to ~~75%~~ 100% grant?

- 3) Expanded Small DAC/SDACs with rates >1.5% MHI:
 - Increase to ~~25% or 50%~~ 100% grant?

Tentative Next Steps

December 2021: Public Workshop

February 2022: Board Adoption of Proposed Criteria

Stay Informed

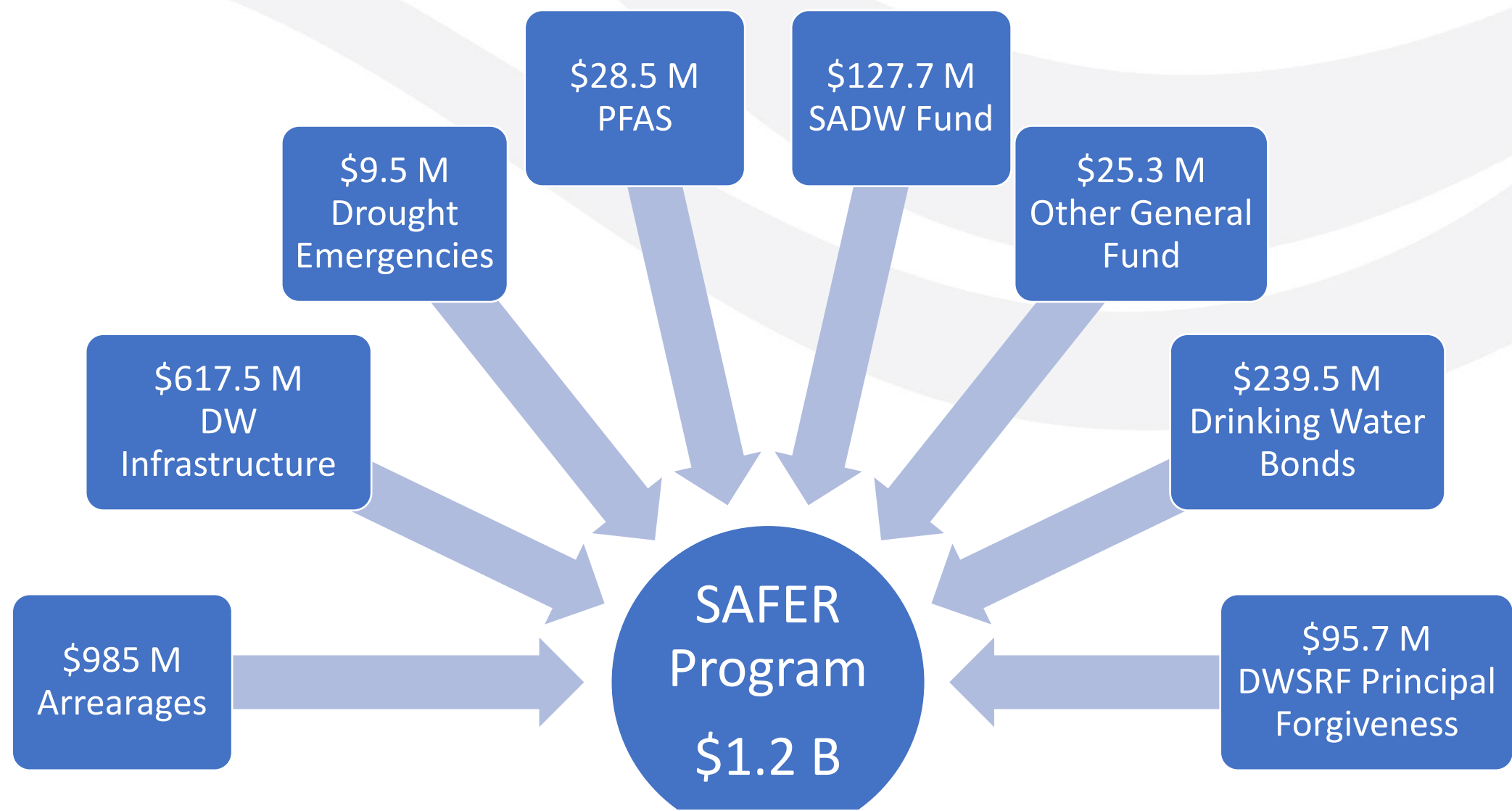
- Subscribe for email updates at:
www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.html
 - Click on “Financial Assistance”
 - Check box titled “Drinking Water State Revolving Fund”
- Updated information on the Drinking Water Infrastructure Appropriation will be in the “What’s New” section on the DWSRF Program webpage:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/SRF.html

BREAK/ DESCANSO

Be back at 3:15 / Regresaremos a la 3:15

FY 2021-22 Fund Expenditure Plan

FY 2021-22 Available Funds for the SAFER Program



Proposed Priorities (focus on small DACs and low-income households)



Emergency funding needs



Water systems that are consistently out of compliance with primary drinking water standards



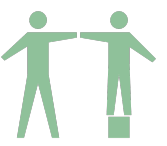
Accelerate consolidations and regional-scale planning for consolidations



Expedite planning through use of technical assistance



Interim solutions and planning for long-term solutions for state smalls and domestic wells



Ensure assistance is distributed consistent with the State Water Board's Racial Equity Resolution.

FY 2021-22 Proposed Targets (in millions)

	Solution Type						
Water System Category	Interim Water Supplies and Emergencies	Technical Assistance (includes Planning)	Administrator	Planning	Direct O&M Support	Construction	SUBTOTAL BY WATER SYSTEM CATEGORY
Systems Out of Compliance or At-Risk	\$10	\$30	\$5	\$3	\$7	\$15	\$70
State Smalls/ Domestic Wells	\$30.3	\$10	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5	\$45.3
SUBTOTAL BY SOLUTION TYPE	\$40.3	\$40	\$5	\$3	\$7	\$20	
TOTAL							\$115.3
Other Program Needs	Pilot Projects	Contracts	Staff Costs				
	\$0	\$1.5	\$13.2				
GRAND TOTAL							\$130

Summary of Comments and Plan Revisions

- New funding from Budget Act of 2021 and subsequent trailer bills. Additionally noted new authorities.
- Funding target adjustments
- Added clarity around use of SADW Funds to address funding gaps and to expedite priority project
- Added information on O&M Pilot and O&M support eligibility
- Added information on cost-sharing approach to supplement CV-SALTS well sampling efforts with SAFER funding

Summary of Comments and Plan Revisions, cont.

- Addition of a subsection to consider funding of domestic well testing for contaminants of emerging concern/other contaminants without maximum contaminant levels
- Discussion of data to be tracked in FY 2021-22 around cost effectiveness and administrative efficiency
- Addition of basic information related to racial equity and environmental justice for projects where funding was committed from the larger SAFER Program in FY 2020-21

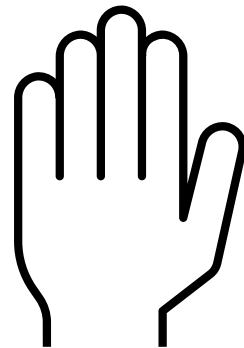
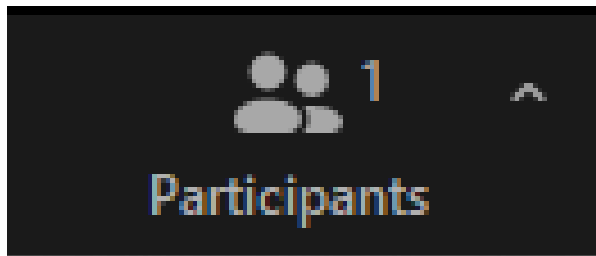
Concurrent Targeted Policy Amendments

- New consolidation authorities (effective January 1, 2022) for at-risk DAC water systems, or for a DAC that is substantially reliant on at-risk domestic wells
- New eligible recipient type for SADW funding:
 - “*Technical Assistance Provider*”, which is defined as a person, including a privately owned public utility, whom the State Water Board has determined is competent to assist a water system by providing administrative, technical, operational, legal, or managerial services
- New advance payment authorities

Advisory Group: Questions?

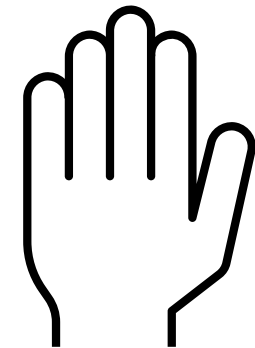
Raise Hand on Zoom

Go to “Participants” window and click “Raise Hand” icon



Raise Hand on Phone

Press *9 on your keypad



SAFER Program Updates

Metrics & Progress

Audit

Arrearages – Water Debt Relief

Affordability Threshold

Drought Response

Process Improvements

Wastewater Infrastructure Funding

Racial Equity Resolution

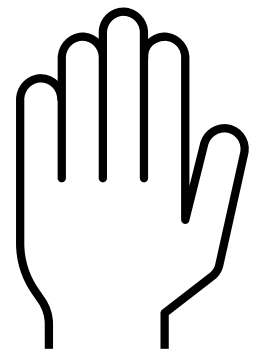
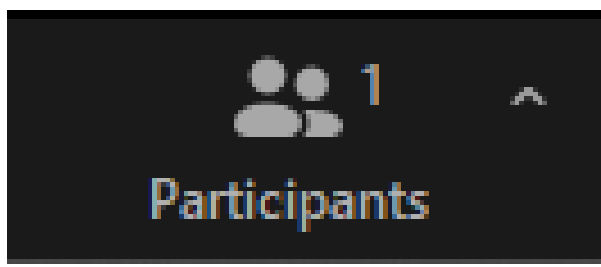
Point of Use

Legislative Updates

Advisory Group: Questions?

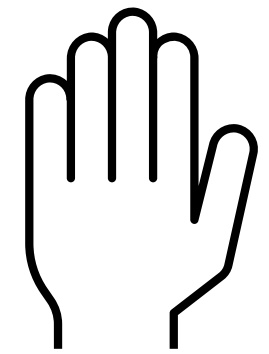
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Raise Hand on Phone

Press *9 on your keypad



BREAK/ DESCANSO

Be back at 3:xx / Regresaremos a la 3:xx

Public Comments will begin after the break

Resume in 15 minutes

Public Comment: How to Participate

1. Submit Comment

Email SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject “AGM Public Comment.”

2. Join Zoom

Follow instructions in the return email to join Zoom.

3. Wait to be called on

Unmute (phone callers, press *6 to unmute).

You will have 3 minutes to speak

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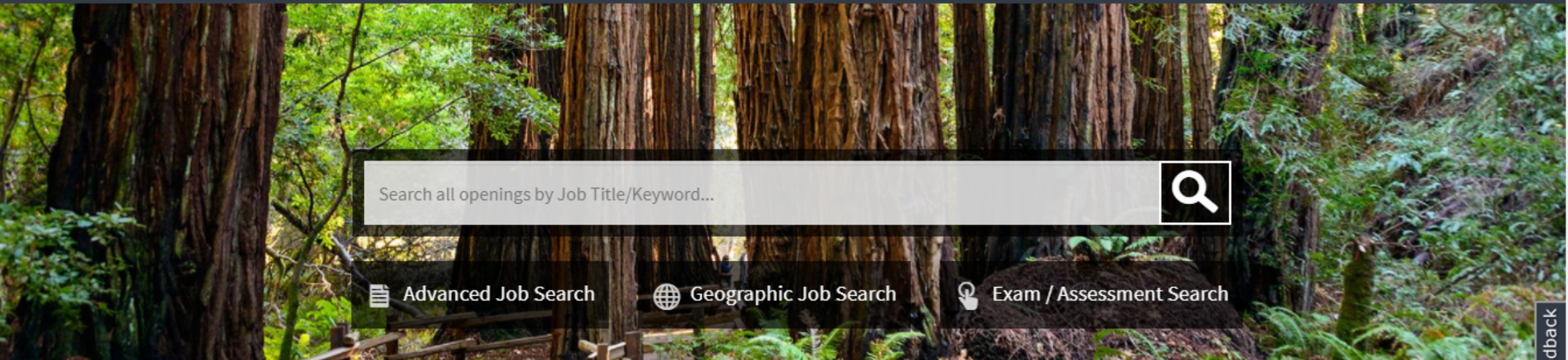
State Retirees



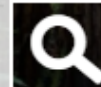
Create Account / Log In

Please note:

In response to increases in COVID-19 cases, California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) is implementing COVID-19 testing of all unvaccinated state employees working on site as an additional health and safety standard to protect the state workforce and the public it serves. Any employee seeking exemption from COVID-19 testing must provide evidence of vaccination.



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CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS

SAFER PROGRAM

Adjourn / Cierre de la Reunión
Thank you! / ¡Gracias a todos!

safer@waterboards.ca.gov
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