

# Office of Sustainable Water Solutions

## Newsletter

January/February  
2016  
Issue 6

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/dwsrf>



Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/cwsrf>



**Happy New Year!**

*Californians did a good job of conserving water in 2015! Please resolve to continue to conserve in 2016, even if there is an abundance of rain and snowpack because increasing our water resources to levels before the drought will take years.*



### What's New

- ◆ Statewide Median Household Income used for CWSRF and DWSRF programs in 2016 will be: \$61,489
  - 80% (disadvantaged): \$49,191
  - 60% (severely disadvantaged): \$36,893
- ◆ State Water Board adopted the Technical Assistance (TA) Funding Plan November 4, 2015. The adopted Funding Plan is posted here:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/proposition1/tech\\_asst\\_funding.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/tech_asst_funding.shtml)

Concept proposals for TA projects that will assist small disadvantaged communities with drinking water, wastewater, groundwater quality, or stormwater needs are currently being accepted. Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations and public universities, with larger public utilities or larger public agencies wishing to assist small disadvantaged communities may also be eligible.

### Mutual Water Companies

In the 2015 legislative session two laws pertaining to mutual water companies were passed and signed by Governor Brown: **Assembly Bills 656 (Garcia) and 1077 (Holden)**.

**Assembly Bill 656** allows mutual water companies to participate with public agencies in joint powers agreements (JPA) for the provision of insurance and risk-pooling. This allows mutual water companies to join the public agencies and reduce their insurance costs. Insurance may be provided by a JPA though any of the methods specified in section 990.4 of the California Government Code, for example, self-insurance or insurance purchased from any insurer authorized to transact business in California. Additionally, any revenue generated by the JPA through the insurance provided to its members is to be used for its necessary operating expenses, and to further the technical, managerial and financial capacity of those members.

**Assembly Bill 1077** modified the Mutual Water Company Open Meeting Act, which is found at Corporations Code Section 14305. One of the changes is to prohibit board of directors from holding a meeting entirely in executive session. A board can only meet in executive session during a regular meeting. The board will need to call the regular meeting to order, take public comments, withdraw to executive session, return from executive session and report on the matters discussed there, and adjourn the meeting. This change makes board meetings for mutual water companies similar to public agency meetings. AB 1077 also changed the rules for allowing an eligible person to attend a meeting of the board. A board now must allow a person who failed to give the 24 hour notice access to the meeting. The board may require the person to participate by teleconference under certain conditions.



Applications are continuously being accepted online for wastewater and drinking water projects. Apply online at: <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov>

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## PROJECT NEWS — Wastewater

### City of Tulelake



From left - Councilman Randy Darrow, Terry Sandusky (Adkins Engineering), Bridget Chase (State Water Board), Councilman Mike Campbell, Jim Cook (Grant consultant), Mayor Pro-tem Richard Marcillac, Jeremy Morris (Adkins Engineering) Mayor Henry Ebinger, Brett Nystrom (Director of Public Works), Councilman Kevin Nicholson

On October 20, 2015, the City of Tulelake (City) held a groundbreaking ceremony for their Wastewater Project (Project). The Project will assist the City in complying with Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. R1-2013-0030, dated June 13, 2013. The City's violations are primarily related to coliform, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS), and chlorine residual. The CDO requires the City to complete a compliance project that will eliminate surface water discharge. The project will rehabilitate the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and construct a new recycled water storage and reuse system. The City is working with Adkins Engineering and Integrated Water Systems to dredge accumulated sludge from its two treatment lagoons, convert existing sand filters to a combined third treatment lagoon, construct two recycled water storage ponds, and develop the adjacent field for crop irrigation.

The City is located alongside the Oregon border in Northeastern Siskiyou County, with a population of approximately 1,035 people. As a small (population less than 20,000 persons), severely disadvantaged (median household income [MHI] less than 60% of the statewide MHI) community with wastewater rates greater than 1.5% of the community's MHI, the City received a 100% principal forgiveness/grant of \$6 million through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program.

The City has overcome many hurdles over the last 10+ years to get the Project to construction. City Mayor Henry Ebinger states, "It has been a pleasure to work with a State agency that goes well out of their way to assist a small, rural community like ours." The City also received a Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to purchase the land needed for agronomic reuse.



## PROJECT NEWS (cont.)

### Funding Assistance for California Public Schools



Did you know that the State Department of Education (DOE) can receive funds from state and federal sources, then allocate those funds to local school districts for safe, clean drinking water? Starting this year, \*Assembly Bill 496 (Rendon) allows DOE to access funds from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to provide drinking water to students and faculty. Although this authority is new for DOE, publicly owned schools already have the ability to access funds directly from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). In the current DWSRF Policy, publicly owned schools are deemed to have no ability repay loans and are eligible for principal forgiveness loans/grants from the State Water Board. A public water system, wholly owned by a publicly owned school, that needs funds to provide clean, safe drinking water to its staff and students, is eligible for up to \$500,000 in principal forgiveness loans/grants for a planning project and up to \$5,000,000 for a construction project.

So far this year, the State Water Board has executed 12 DWSRF financing agreements totaling over \$77 million. Of those executed financing agreements, three (3) went to school districts and totaled over \$3.3 million. Below are the details:

School District	Amount Funded	Project Type	Issue
Winship-Robbins Elementary School District	\$250,250	Planning	Arsenic
Pope Valley Union Elementary School District	\$68,550	Planning	Disinfection by-product problem
Central Unified School District	\$3,000,000	Construction (consolidation)	Nitrate/ Uranium
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,318,800</b>		



\* A full text of AB 496 can be found at:

[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB496](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB496)

## Is There Funding for Photovoltaic Solar Projects?

The **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)** can provide financing for photovoltaic system (PV) installations as long as they are part of an otherwise CWSRF eligible project or activity. The PV could be a stand-alone project or part of a larger project. The PV could also be considered a green project which could receive funding under CWSRF's Green Project Reserve. For general information about the CWSRF please see the CWSRF brochure at the following webpage:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/docs/pubs/cwsrf\\_small\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/docs/pubs/cwsrf_small_brochure.pdf)

The **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)** can only provide financing for PV if it is a component of a project and not as a stand-alone project. The PV cannot be a major component of the project as the primary purpose of the DWSRF is to provide financing for infrastructure projects needed to achieve or maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements and to further the public health objectives of the SDWA. While PV can be an eligible component, it may or may not be approved for financing depending upon the results of State Water Board staff's technical evaluation of the proposed project.

### How do I apply?

An eligible applicant would apply to the CWSRF or DWSRF just like any other project. The application process starts by completing and submitting an application online through the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) at <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov>. The required project report would need to include an evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of the project in order to get an initial financing agreement. The financing agreement would be finalized once design and bidding is completed. The actual amount funded would be based on actual bid costs.

### Are there companies that can be contracted with for annual maintenance of the PV systems?

We are not aware of any specific companies but suspect there probably are some that provide this service.

### Questions?

If you have any questions please contact the Division of Financial Assistance at (916) 327-9978 or you can email the CWSRF at: [CleanWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:CleanWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov) or DWSRF at: [DrinkingWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DrinkingWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov)

### Other Potential Funding Source for PV Solar Projects

- ◆ **California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) - Statewide Energy Efficiency Program (SWEEP):**  
[http://www.ibank.ca.gov/clean\\_energy.htm](http://www.ibank.ca.gov/clean_energy.htm)

### Green Infrastructure Information

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) provides a lot of tools and resources for Green Infrastructure that can be found at the following website: <http://www2.epa.gov/green-infrastructure>

**“Nothing is impossible, the word itself says  
‘I’m possible!’”**

**— Audrey Hepburn —**

## Resource Corner

- ◆ **FREE** - Rural Community Assistance Corporation has free Drinking Water Workshops. The goal of the workshops is to provide information to help small, rural water systems deliver safe, reliable drinking water to their customers and to demonstrate how to properly manage a water system. For information go to  
[http://www.rcac.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Jan-June2016\\_at-a-glance.pdf](http://www.rcac.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Jan-June2016_at-a-glance.pdf)
- ◆ Sign up at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml) to receive updates and periodic announcements by email, including this newsletter
- ◆ For information on the Division of Drinking Water District Office locations go to [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/programs/documents/ddwem/DDWdistrictofficesmap.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/documents/ddwem/DDWdistrictofficesmap.pdf)
- ◆ Contact information for the Technical Units within the Office of Sustainable Water Solutions are as follows:  
  
Kyle Ochendusko, Unit Chief (916) 539-1985  
Small Drinking Water Systems  
  
Jennifer Toney, Unit Chief (916) 318-8246  
Small Community Wastewater  
  
Meghan Tosney, Unit Chief (916) 341-5729  
Small Community Technical Assistance
- ◆ To request **drinking water technical assistance**, please contact George Faggella at: [George.Faggella@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:George.Faggella@waterboards.ca.gov) or (916) 449-5652.
- ◆ To request **wastewater technical assistance**, please contact Meghan Tosney at: [Meghan.Tosney@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Meghan.Tosney@waterboards.ca.gov) or (916) 341-5729
- ◆ For funding program specific questions, please visit the webpages for Clean Water State Revolving Fund at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/index.shtml) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/services/funding/SRF.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/SRF.shtml)



### Water Facts

- ⇒ There is no “new” water: whether our source water is a stream, river, lake, springs, or well, we are using the same water the dinosaurs used millions of years ago. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. “Water on Tap: what you need to know.” 2009.)
- ⇒ Per the USEPA, “more than 97% of the nation’s 156,000 public water systems are small systems, meaning they serve 10,000 or fewer people”.

### Questions or Comments?

#### Email

[DrinkingWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DrinkingWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov)  
[CleanWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:CleanWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov)

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