

Office of Sustainable Water Solutions Newsletter

March/April 2016
Issue 7

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

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



Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

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

California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) Funding Fairs



What is CFCC? - Formed in 1998, the CFCC is made up of state and federal funding agencies who work together to evaluate and co-fund water infrastructure projects.

CFCC Funding Fairs provide a free opportunity to learn about available funding and technical assistance.

2016 Funding Fairs

April 13, 2016—Sacramento

May 10, 2016— San Luis Obispo

June 1, 2016—Coachella

July 26, 2016—Redding

August 23, 2016—Alhambra

September 14, 2016—Fresno

Funding fair website: http://www.cfcc.ca.gov/funding_fairs.htm



Asset Management —What is it and why is it important?

Asset management is a planning process used to ensure that a water or wastewater system maximizes the value of its assets and maintains a financial reserve in the event aging or failing infrastructure needs to be rehabilitated or replaced. Asset management is particularly important for small communities, which have to rely on limited resources and funds due to their small customer base. The key components of asset management are:

- Conducting a thorough inventory of system assets
- Prioritizing rehabilitation and replacement of system assets
- Developing an annual estimate of needed financial reserves
- Creating an annual budget
- Creating and implementing an asset management plan, and
- Reviewing and revising the asset management plan on a regular basis.

For more information on asset management, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/asset-management-resources-small-drinking-water-systems>

The Office of Sustainable Water Solutions (OSWS) has a contract in place with technical assistance providers who can assist systems with preparing an asset management plan. For more information about the OSWS's technical assistance programs, please visit our website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/index.shtml

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

Professional Engineering Services

Why Do I Need Professional Engineering Services? - Public water systems and entities with wastewater facilities often need professional engineering services when pursuing a new or updated planning document, or constructing new or replacement facilities.

What Kind of Engineer Does my System Need? - There are many categories of engineering specialties. The engineer you select must be a Professional Engineer (PE) licensed by the state of California as a Civil Engineer. If the engineering services are for a public water system, the engineer must have experience in design of public water systems or drinking water treatment facilities and likewise, for engineering services for a wastewater facility, have wastewater facility design experience.

What is a Professional Engineer? - A Professional Engineer is a person who has specialized college education and engineering experience, passed the written state exams, and is currently licensed by the state of California. He or she will have a license number, which you can find on California Department of Consumer Affairs' website: <http://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/> The license number is included on the PE's stamp that must appear on all your documents.

California Law—Requires among other things, that a Professional Engineer utilize a written contract when providing professional engineering services. The contract is to be executed by the Professional Engineer and the client or his/her representative, prior to the engineer commencing work. California law requires that the written contract for engineering services shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:



- ◆ Description of the services to be provided by the professional engineer
- ◆ Description of any basis of compensation applicable to the contract, and the method of payment agreed upon by the parties
- ◆ Name, address, and license or certificate number of the professional engineer, and the name and address of the client
- ◆ Description of the procedure that the professional engineer and the client will use to accommodate additional services
- ◆ Description of the procedure to be used by any party to terminate the contract

Consider using a qualification based selection process when procuring engineering services instead of a competitive bid process. Information about a qualification based selection process can be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/documents/srf/dwsrf_policy/appendix_k.pdf

Proposition 1 Technical Assistance

The Office of Sustainable Water Solutions is administering the Proposition 1 Technical Assistance Funding Program to provide assistance to small disadvantaged communities with their drinking water, wastewater, groundwater quality, and stormwater needs. Information about the Proposition 1 Technical Assistance Funding Program can be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/tech_asst_funding.shtml

The Office is soliciting proposals from 501c(3) non-profits and public universities interested in providing technical assistance. The first group of concept proposals is currently under review. **The Office intends to continue accepting concept proposals through June 30, 2016.**

If you represent a non-profit or public university that might be interested in providing technical assistance, please contact Meghan Tosney at Meghan.Tosney@waterboards.ca.gov or call (916) 341-5729.

PROJECT NEWS

Legal Entity Formation Assistance (LEFA) Pilot Program— Highland Acres (aka Okieville)

Located five miles west of the city of Tulare in Tulare County, is a community of about 300 people living in an area called Highland Acres, an area where the groundwater table has dropped due to the persistent drought. Nearly all of the properties in the community obtain their domestic water from private wells, and more than 14 wells have gone dry. To remedy the lack of water, several of the owner-occupied households have received a water tank through Tulare County's water tank program. The water tank is connected to the household plumbing system as a means to temporarily provide water. Tenants not eligible for the County's water tank program pay a monthly fee to obtain water from their neighbor via a water hose and drip irrigation type system.

Highland Acres, also known as Okieville due to its Dust Bowl roots and history of migrants from Oklahoma who settled there, are unable to connect to an established water system as there is not a neighboring community in close proximity. Additionally, without a legal entity in place, the community found itself unable to access State and/or Federal funding to plan and construct a public water system. Fortunately, grant funding became available through a pilot program known as the Legal Entity Formation Assistance (LEFA) program. LEFA is administered by the State Water Board to assist communities not currently served domestic water from an existing community water system and public water systems not eligible for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund money due to the lack of an eligible entity. Funds are used to assist with the formation of legal entity with the appropriate governing authorities over the water system or community.

Self-Help Enterprises obtained LEFA funding to assist the community of Highland Acres in pursuing the formation of a legal entity with the authority to own and operate a community water system to serve the community. Utilizing LEFA funds, Self-Help's Community Development department began holding community meetings in early spring of 2015 to provide residents with information about their drinking water supply. The LEFA funding provided for the project included money for limited water testing/sounding of local wells, community meetings/outreach to discuss water source options and legal entity options, and funding of the community selected legal entity.

In July 2015, a community meeting was held in partnership with Self-Help Enterprises, Provost and Pritchard and McCormick, Kabot, Jenner and Lew to discuss water source options and legal entity options available to the community for a long-term solution. At the conclusion of the meeting, the community supported the creation of a public water system and the formation of a mutual water company. In November 2015, the community elected their first Board of Directors. The Articles of Incorporation for the newly formed mutual water company were sent to the Secretary of State for review and approval in early 2016. As of January 19, 2016, the Okieville Highland Acres Mutual Water Company is officially listed as an active corporation with the Secretary of State. The Corporation is still in the process of obtaining State and federal approval of non-profit status.



With the Mutual Water Company now formed and incorporated, the next step is securing funding to construct the water system, which will provide a permanent solution and clean, reliable water to the drought-stricken community. Self-Help Enterprises' Community Development department will continue to work with the Mutual Water Company to secure funding.

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
- ◆ The State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water has developed a Small Water Systems Plan to bring small community systems into sustainable compliance with primary drinking water standards. Information is available at the following at the following webpage: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Smallwatersystems.shtml
- ◆ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Drinking Water Treatment and Distribution Operator Certification can be found at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/occupations/DWopcert.shtml
- ◆ Clean Water State Revolving Fund http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/index.shtml
- ◆ Drinking Water State Revolving Fund http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/SRF.shtml
- ◆ Sign up at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml to receive updates and periodic announcements by email, including this newsletter
- ◆ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has information about drinking water at: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/public/index.html>

- ◆ To request **drinking water technical assistance**, please contact George Faggella at: George.Faggella@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 449-5652.
- ◆ To request **wastewater technical assistance**, please contact Meghan Tosney at: Meghan.Tosney@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 341-5729



Questions or Comments?

Email

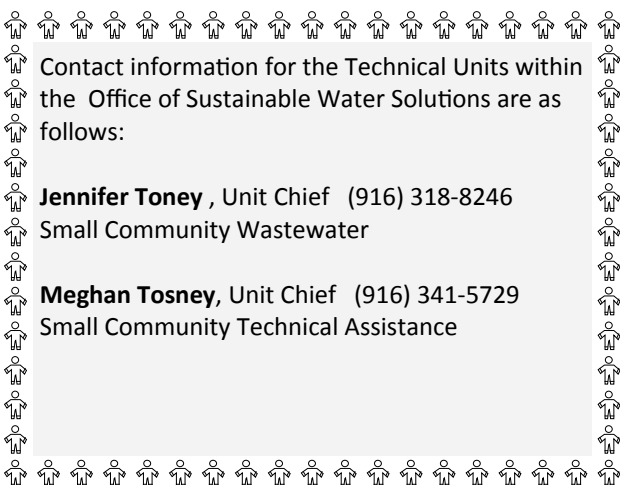
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Contact information for the Technical Units within the Office of Sustainable Water Solutions are as follows:

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Small Community Technical Assistance