

# Office of Sustainable Water Solutions

## Newsletter

September/October  
2015  
Issue 4

### Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

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



### Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

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

#### WHAT'S NEW—

- On August 4, 2015, the Water Board adopted the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1— Chapter 5, Section 79724) Intended Use Plan for 2015-2016 which details how the State Water Board intends to disburse DWSRF and Prop. 1 funds. A copy of the adopted IUP can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/services/funding/documents/srf/iup\\_2015/final\\_dwsrf\\_15\\_16\\_iup.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/documents/srf/iup_2015/final_dwsrf_15_16_iup.pdf)

- DWSRF Application Status Reports are now available online. The link to the report is under the “Announcements” section on the DWSRF Homepage: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/services/funding/SRF.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/SRF.shtml)

To view the report directly you can follow this link:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/services/funding/documents/srf/dwsrf\\_app\\_status.xlsx](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/documents/srf/dwsrf_app_status.xlsx)

**“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” - Helen Keller -**

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#### Consolidation Bill Passes California Legislature

Senate Bill 88, which was signed into law on June 24, 2015, gives the State Water Board the authority to order water systems to consolidate when one system consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water. The State Water Board’s Division of Drinking Water will take the lead on implementing Senate Bill 88 by identifying and notifying water systems that do not provide safe drinking water to their customers about the potential of ordered consolidation. The State Water Board’s Division of Financial Assistance will work with water systems on outreach, provide technical assistance as needed, and make funds available for consolidation if requested.

**Did You Know** consolidation can be non-structural or structural? A non-structural consolidation could be the development of partnerships between water systems to share service activities such as billing and collection, management or technical expertise, or to share facilities such as a lab or storage. A structural consolidation can be the physical connection and merger of one or more entities and their assets into a single existing water system, to provide greater economies of scale so costs can be spread over a larger population base. In both cases, consolidation saves time and money by working with neighbors and sharing limited resources to provide safe drinking water to all citizens.

**Need Help With Consolidating?** Talk to your Division of Drinking Water District Engineer. Contact information and locations for the Division of Drinking Water District Offices can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/programs/documents/ddwem/DDWdistrictofficesmap.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/documents/ddwem/DDWdistrictofficesmap.pdf)

For information on technical assistance related to consolidation visit our technical assistance website listed below:

[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)



## PROJECT NEWS

**Legal Entity Formation Assistance (LEFA) Pilot Program**—The LEFA program was established 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 (DWSRF) funding due to the lack of an eligible entity. The purpose of the LEFA program is to provide financial assistance in the formation of a legal entity for such communities which would have among other things, the authority to own/operate a PWS; assess rates and charges for domestic water supply; or have the authority to consolidate with an existing PWS. Possible project outcomes include the identification and/or creation of a regional authority, identification of an existing authority (PWS) which could extend service, or the creation of a new governing authority. Lessons learned from the LEFA program will be considered in the implementation of the Technical Assistance funding provided under Proposition 1. Below is a summary of the LEFA Program status:

- 21 applications submitted totaling \$4,446,931 (Applications were for projects throughout the state.)
- 4 project applications deemed ineligible
- 2 projects withdrew
- 15 projects funded totaling approximately \$2.3M. Three of the 15 projects are for evaluating/formation of a regional entity with the appropriate governing authority over the participating water systems or community
- 4 projects completed - (3 projects resulted in formation of a mutual water company; 1 did not result in the formation of an entity as the affected community's final decision was not to form an entity)
- All eligible projects have been funded.

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS — THE STORY OF WENDELL LANE & LEFA

Written by Mala Abrams and Karen Kubrin,  
Board Members of the new Wendell Lane Mutual Water Company, Inc.

Wendell Lane is located on a small, country lane in Sebastopol, Sonoma County, CA. The community consists of 25 homes with lot sizes of 1/3 to 1/2 acres. The houses were built as a low-income development in 1969/1970. There was one well dug to service the 25 homes with the intention that it would be a mutual water system to be owned by the residents. Somehow, the developer instead signed over the well to a single individual who had worked on the development, and he established the Wendell Lane Water Company. Eventually the original owner was no longer able to manage the system, and signed it over to the company's bookkeeper. There had been several attempts by the residents to buy the water system, but the conditions imposed by the owners made it impossible for the community to buy it. There had been a history of water quality issues for several years that were raised by the Department of Public Health (CDPH). Then, approximately 8 years ago, the owner of the well moved out of the area and essentially abandoned the operations of the water system. At the request of CDPH the water system was put into receivership by Sonoma County Courts. Weeks Drilling and Pump was appointed to oversee the operation and maintenance of the system.

Since the Receivership was imposed, there have been marked improvements in quality, delivery and storage, including the removal of leaking redwood tank and installing 3 new polyurethane tanks. In July of 2013, the Receiver attended a Community Meeting and presented an offer to sell the water system to the residents with reasonable terms. Organizing this diverse community was not an

## LEFA PROJECT NEWS

(cont.)

easy task; but after several meetings and much discussion, all 25 homeowners unanimously agreed to purchase the water system and accept the challenge of forming a Mutual Water System. It was apparent to the homeowners how important it was to take the opportunity to control the supply of water to their homes. The reality of water issues and the importance of a safe, reliable source for the families of Wendell Lane was timely with recent articles of system acquisitions by private companies.

In order to purchase the water system, the community would need to form an entity that could own it. A committee of neighborhood volunteers was formed to start the process of researching the options appropriate for a community owned system. Regular open meetings were held to encourage all home owners and given them an opportunity to participate. Notes were sent to the homeowners by E-mail after every meeting. It was important for the community to make sure that all homeowners were part of the process, and encouraged to participate in any way they could. The committee contacted the Rural Community Assistance Corporation, RCAC, a non-profit organization that assists groups such as ours about resources that may be available to our effort. RCAC agreed to work with our community and provided guidance in the initial steps to form a nonprofit mutual water system and identify possible grant funding opportunities available to our entity. Fortunately, (CDPH) now State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), had just announced a pilot program to supply grant funds for formation of water systems. With the help of RCAC as our grant sponsor, Wendell Lane was successful in a grant award to assist with costs associated with setting up our own non-profit mutual water company, the entity which would own the water system.



**Wendell Lane MWC Board of Directors: (left to right) Paul Archibald, Annette (Mala) Abrams, Shelley Redding, Gary Iocco, and Karen Kubrin**

We are very grateful to the SWRCB for providing the funding that made possible the formation of our non-profit. The community can now feel secure by taking control of its own water supply. Janice Thompson and Maria Pang from the SWRCB were great resources during the Legal Entity Formation Assistance (LEFA) grant process. Indispensable were the people at RCAC, Richard Culp and Brian Phillips, who along with the staff of RCAC wrote the grant proposal and shepherded it through to the final award. In addition they have administered the grant on our behalf providing us with the necessary training, legal assistance, guidelines for the by-laws and other requirements for non-profits., among other things. We also have been very fortunate to have Shelley Redding as our president. She has tirelessly spearheaded the formation of the water company. Her mother, Karen Gann, the retired administrator for a public water system in Marin County, has provided us with helpful information and guidance. Our board members Gary Iocco, Karen Kubrin, Paul Archibald and Mala Abrams have been working hard to see our vision to fruition. Most importantly, we are fortunate to have a community willing to work together to a common goal of a safe and reliable source of water for the homeowners of Wendell Lane.





## Technical Assistance

Proposition 1 ([Assembly Bill 1471, Rendon](#)) authorized \$7.545 billion in general obligation bonds for water projects including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection. Proposition 1 requires the State Water Board to operate a multidisciplinary technical assistance program for small disadvantaged communities, and it allows the State Water Board to fund technical assistance work.

Using set-aside and administrative funds associated with the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), the [Office of Sustainable Water Solutions \(Office\)](#) currently contracts with several non-profit technical assistance providers to address a variety of needs. The Proposition 1 Technical Assistance Funding Program is intended to expand upon these services and help address additional needs of small disadvantaged communities.

The Office is developing a *Technical Assistance Funding Plan*, which will outline the process to administer Proposition 1 technical assistance funds. The hope is to provide assistance with drinking water, wastewater, groundwater quality, and stormwater needs under one program. It is anticipated that the State Water Board will consider adoption of the *Technical Assistance Funding Plan* later this fall. 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](mailto:meghan.tosney@waterboards.ca.gov) or 916-341-5729

- 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
- 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



Staff participated in the August 22nd Working Group meeting held in Orsi for the Tulare County LEFA Project for Regional Governance.

## Resource Corner

- ◆ 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)
- ◆ **Drought Rebate Programs**  
Information about rebates for household appliances and devices is available at the California Energy Commission's website below:  
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/drought/rebate/>

## FAAST APPLICATION Tips of the Month

Attention FAAST User: If you are having difficulty getting started or have gotten stuck within FAAST, please do not hesitate to contact the FAAST Help Desk. The Help Desk is staffed Monday – Friday from 8:00 – 5:00PM.

[FAAST\\_ADMIN@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:FAAST_ADMIN@waterboards.ca.gov) or 1-866-434-1083.

Please provide the following information:

- Proposal Identification Number (PIN) assigned to the application;
- Name of the funding program you are applying to;
- A short description of the problem (including where in the application the problem is occurring); and
- A screen shot of the error received (if applicable).

For funding program specific questions, please visit the webpages for Clean Water State Revolving Fund [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 [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/services/funding/SRF.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/SRF.shtml)



## Upcoming Key Events

### ◆ **September 23, 2015 California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) Funding Fair (Free)**

The CFCC is conducting the last of six funding fairs for 2015. The funding fair will be held at Sacramento County Sanitation 10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA 95827. The CFCC was formed in 1998 and is made up of six funding members: CA Department of Housing and Community Development, CA Department of Water Resources, CA Infrastructure and Economic Bank, State Water Resources Control Board, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Reclamation. The CFCC conducts free funding fairs statewide each year to educate the public and potential customers about the different member agencies and the financial and technical resources available. Each attendee receives a copy of all slide presentations and additional infrastructure financing material. The funding fairs also provide an opportunity for attendees to speak directly with program staff about specific projects and issues affecting their community. In addition to the brief presentations given by member agencies, at the Sacramento funding fair, there will also be 10 non-member agencies available throughout the day to discuss their funding for potential projects. More information can be found online at: <http://cfcc.ca.gov/res/docs/2015/Sacramento%20Flyer.pdf>

### ◆ **October 21, 2015 - CalTAP Fair for Water Systems (Free)**

This workshop is an opportunity for water systems to learn about the California Technical Assistance Providers (CalTAP) programs that are supported by the California State Water Resources Control Board. For more information and to register for this event go to the following site:

<http://www.rcac.org/pages/58%20>

## Questions or Comments?

### **Email**

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

### **Phone**

(916) 327-9978

### **Mailing Address**

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance  
Office of Sustainable Water Solutions  
1001 I Street, 16th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

# 2014 DWSRF FUNDING AGREEMENTS EXECUTED

(Calendar Year)



Map ID	Water Agency Name		
1	BEACON WEST	23	LAKE CO CSA 20-SODA BAY
2	BITTERWATER-TULLY SCHOOL WS	24	LAKESIDE SCHOOL
3	BORON CSD	25	LEBEC CO. WD
4	BUENA VISTA SCHOOL	26	LEWISTON VALLEY WC
5	CALLAYOMI COUNTY WD	27	LITTLE BALDY
6	CASCADEL MWS	28	NEW AUBERRY WATER ASSOC.
7	CITY OF CHOWCHILLA	29	NORTH KAWEAH MWC
8	CITY OF DORRIS	30	OAK VALLEY SCHOOL
9	CITY OF LEMOORE	31	OLYMPIA MWC
10	CITY OF LOS ANGELES-DWP	32	PLEASANT VALLEY ELEMENTARY
11	CITY OF ORANGE COVE	33	RIVERDALE PUD
12	CITY OF SAN DIEGO	34	HARBOR VIEW MWC
13	CITY OF SEBASTOPOL	35	SEMI TROPIC SCHOOL WS
14	CITY OF WESTMORLAND	36	SIERRA EAST HOME ASSOC.
15	CITY OF WOODLAND	37	SOUTH TAHOE PUD-MAIN
16	CUESTA LA HONDA GUILD	38	TERRACE WC
17	CUTLER PUD	39	TRACT 92 CSD
18	DUNLAP ACADEMY	40	TRINITY KNOLLS MWC
19	EMERALD VALLEY MWC	41	TROUT GULCH MWC
20	FLORISTON WS	42	TUD-COLUMBIA WS
21	GROVELAND CSD	43	WOODLAND-DAVIS CLEAN WA
22	ISLAND UNION SCHOOL		

## Legend

- 2014 FA
- County Boundary

0 20 40 80 120 160  

Miles

