SAFER Advisory Group Meeting #2

June 26, 2025
Via Zoom

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

Welcome and Meeting Logistics

Alma López
Office of Public Engagement,
Equity, and Tribal Affairs

Ways to Participate

Watch only: Visit video.calepa.ca.gov

Submit a comment:

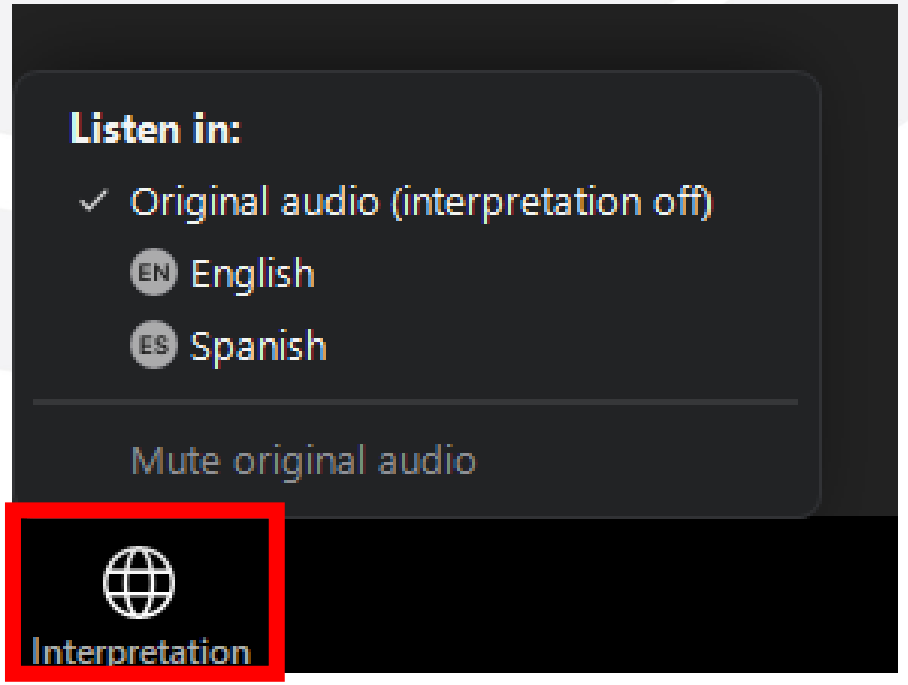
Email safer@waterboards.ca.gov with subject "AGM Public Comment," and follow instructions in return email to join the meeting.

Technical or language interpretation assistance:
safer@waterboards.ca.gov

Language Interpretation through Zoom

Click the **Interpretation** icon in your meeting controls

- Navigate to Language Channels
- Everyone must select English or Spanish
- If listening in Spanish, click **Mute Original Audio**



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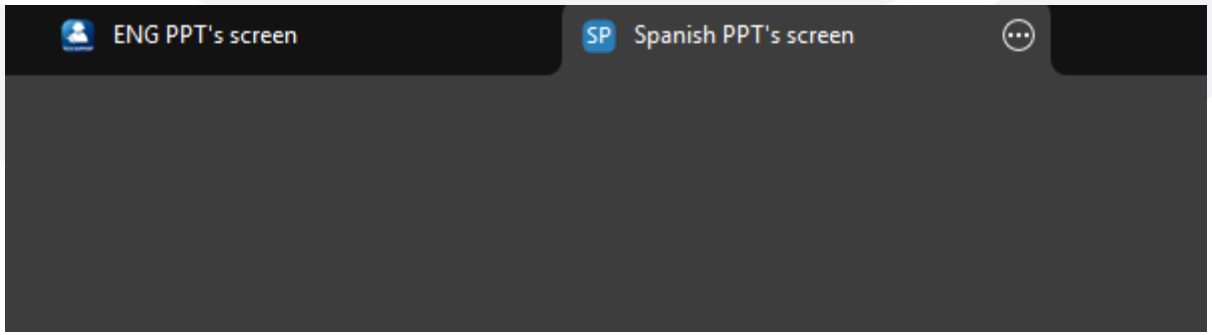
View Presentation Options

Click on one of the **Tab Options** at the top of your screen:

- "Spanish PPT"

OR

- "ENG PPT"



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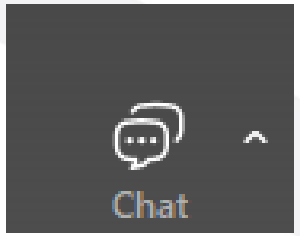
Zoom Interactions

Panelists click on **Chat**.



- To send a message to participants or staff.
- To read a message from participants or staff.

Attendees click on **Q&A**.

- To communicate with staff a technical issue.

Click on **Raise Hand**

- Raise your hand to ask to speak.

Agenda Overview

Morning

- Introductions
- Needs Assessments Results
- Draft Fund Expenditure Plan (FEP)
- Success Story: Consolidations
- **LUNCH: ~12:00 – 1:00pm**

After lunch

- SAFER Accomplishments: Quarterly Updates on Metrics
- Advisory Group Member Announcements
- Public comment
- Adjourn

Meeting Guidelines

- Mute yourself when not speaking
- Join by video
- 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**

Water Boards Mission

Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs

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.

Introductions

Alma López

Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs

SAFER Advisory Group Introductions

- Your name
- Community/organization you represent
- What change or impact would you like to see this year, as a result of the work of this Advisory Group?

2025 Drinking Water Needs Assessments Results

Dan Wang
Needs Analysis Unit
Division of Drinking Water

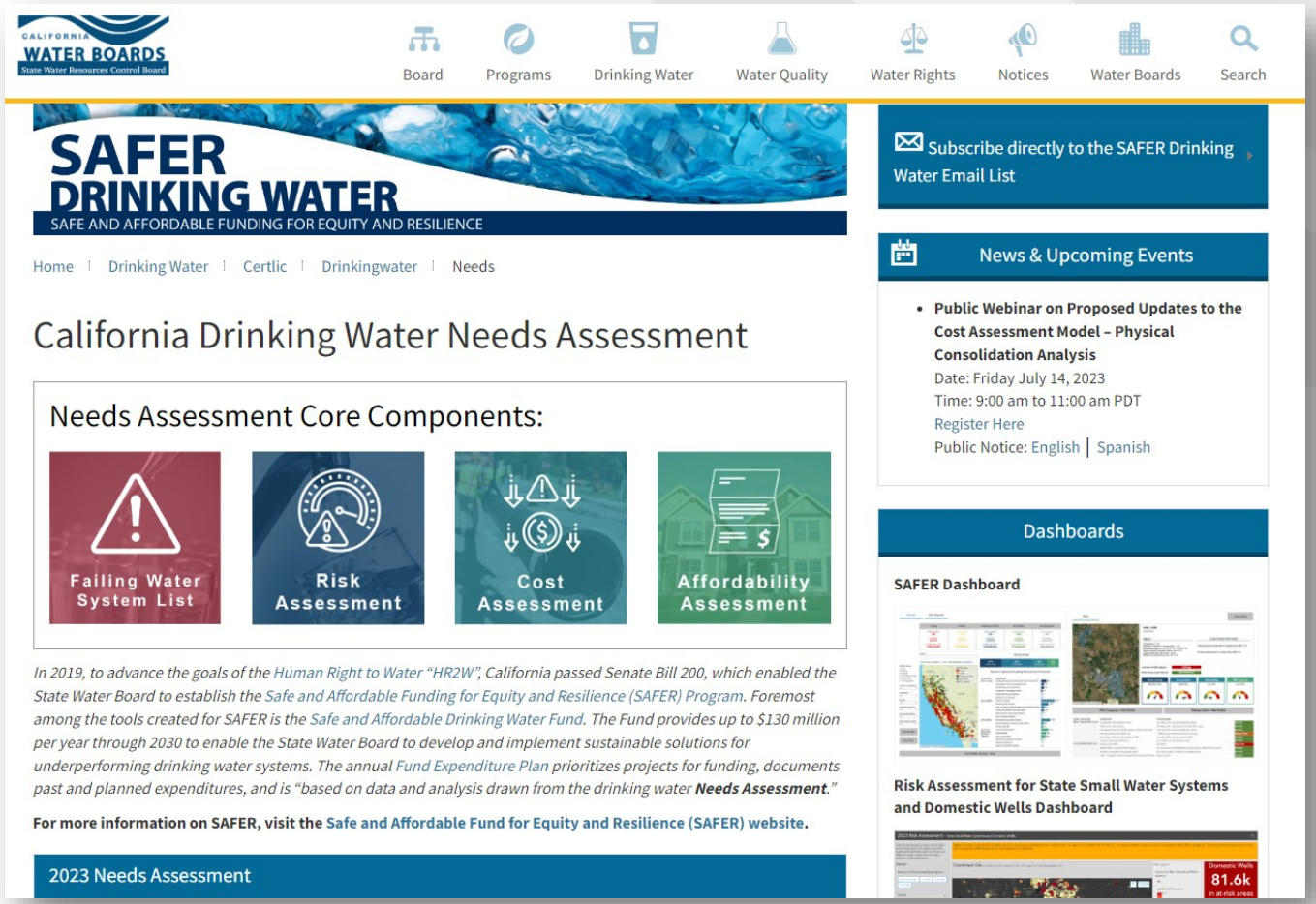
Agenda

1. NEEDS ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW
2. FAILING LIST
3. RISK ASSESSMENTS
4. AFFORDABILITY ASSESSMENT
5. UPCOMING SB 1188

Needs Assessment Components

https://bit.ly/SAFER-NA

2021 – 2024 Drinking Water Needs Assessment



Access the **2021** report here: https://bit.ly/3mAz2yK

Access the **2022** report here: https://bit.ly/3uJSUFH

Access the **2023** report here: https://bit.ly/SAFER-NA-Report-23

Access the **2024** report here: https://bit.ly/43FvZeX

Learn more about the **Needs Assessment** here: https://bit.ly/SAFER-NA

Needs Assessment and the SAFER Program

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Identifies Failing & At-Risk water systems. Quantifies interim & long-term needs.

SAFER ADVISORY GROUP

Uses the Needs Assessment to advise State Water Board SAFER Priorities.

SAFER FUND EXPENDITURE PLAN

Needs Assessment & SAFER Advisory Group inform funding priorities for the Fund.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Staff & technical assistance providers engage with Failing & At-Risk communities.

ACHIEVE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

SAFER funding & technical assistance used to implement long-term solutions.

Failing List

Purpose of the Failing List

Community Water Systems &
K-12 Schools

The State Water Board assesses water systems that fail to meet the goals of the Human Right to Water.

Failing water systems are systems that are **out of compliance** or **consistently fail** to meet drinking water standards

Failing Water Systems

State Water Board has been tracking failing water systems since 2017.

There were **390** Failing public water systems on 12/31/2024.

Learn more: https://bit.ly/HR2W-FailingWaterSystems

Current list here: https://bit.ly/SAFER-Dashboard

Risk Assessments

Public Water Systems
State Small Water Systems & Domestic Wells

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The Inventory: Public Water Systems

Included:

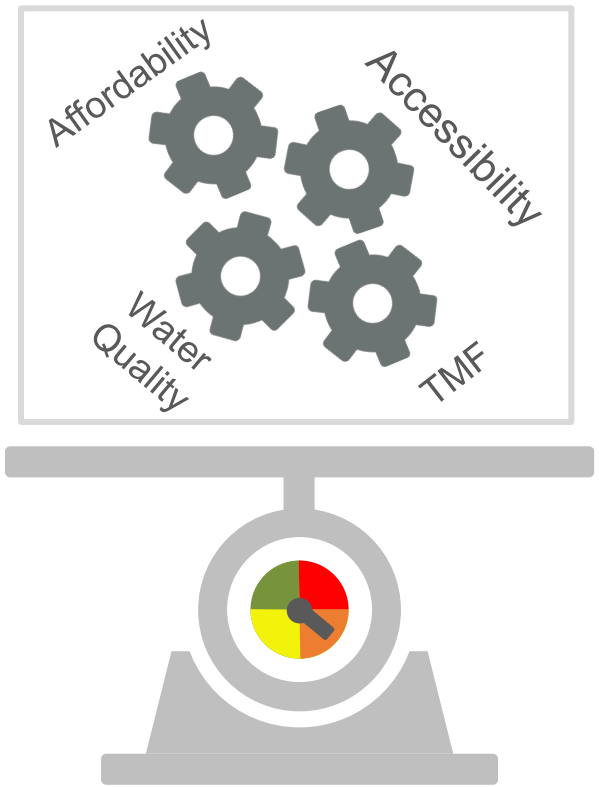
- Community water systems with up 30,000 service connections and 100,000 populations served.
- Non-transient, non-community water systems serving K-12 schools.

Excluded:

- Wholesalers
- Community water systems with more than 30,000 connections or 100,000 population served.
- Military bases are excluded from the financial risk indicators.

Risk Assessment for Public Water Systems

Public Water System



RISK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

RISK INDICATORS

Quantifiable measurements of key data used to assess a water system's risk of becoming non-compliant with water quality standards.

RISK INDICATOR THRESHOLDS

Values associated with a risk indicator that designates when a water system is more at-risk of becoming non-compliant with water quality standards.

WEIGHTS / SCORES

Application of weight to each risk indicator and indicator category – some are more critical than others in contributing to overall risk.

2025 Risk Indicators for Public Water Systems: No Change

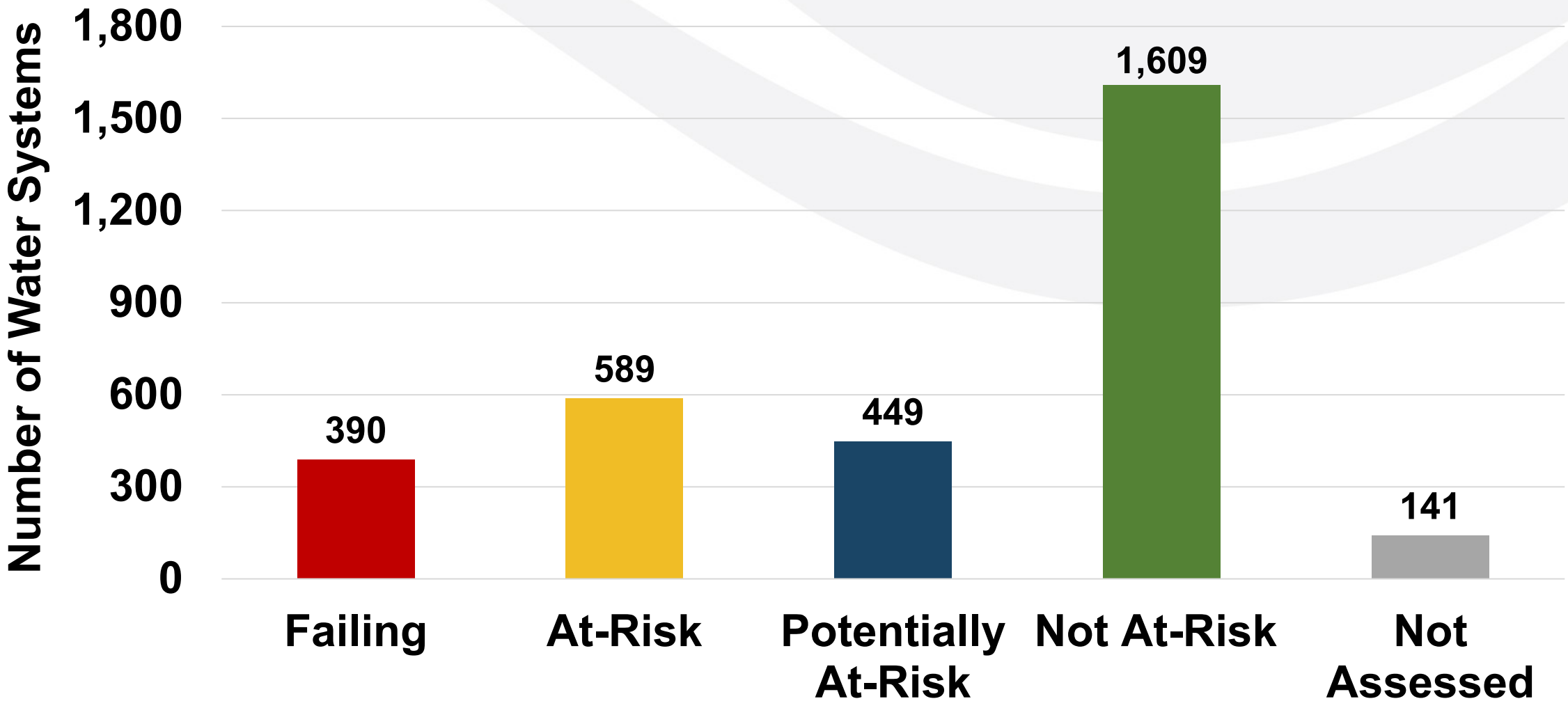
WATER QUALITY
E. Coli Presence
Increasing Presence of Water Quality Trends Towards MCL
Treatment Technique Violations
Past Presence on the Failing List
Percentage of Sources Exceeding an MCL
Constituents of Emerging Concern

ACCESSIBILITY
Number of Sources
Absence of Interties
DWR – Drought & Water Shortage Risk Assessment Results
Critically Overdrafted Groundwater Basin
Bottled or Hauled Water Reliance
Source Capacity Violations

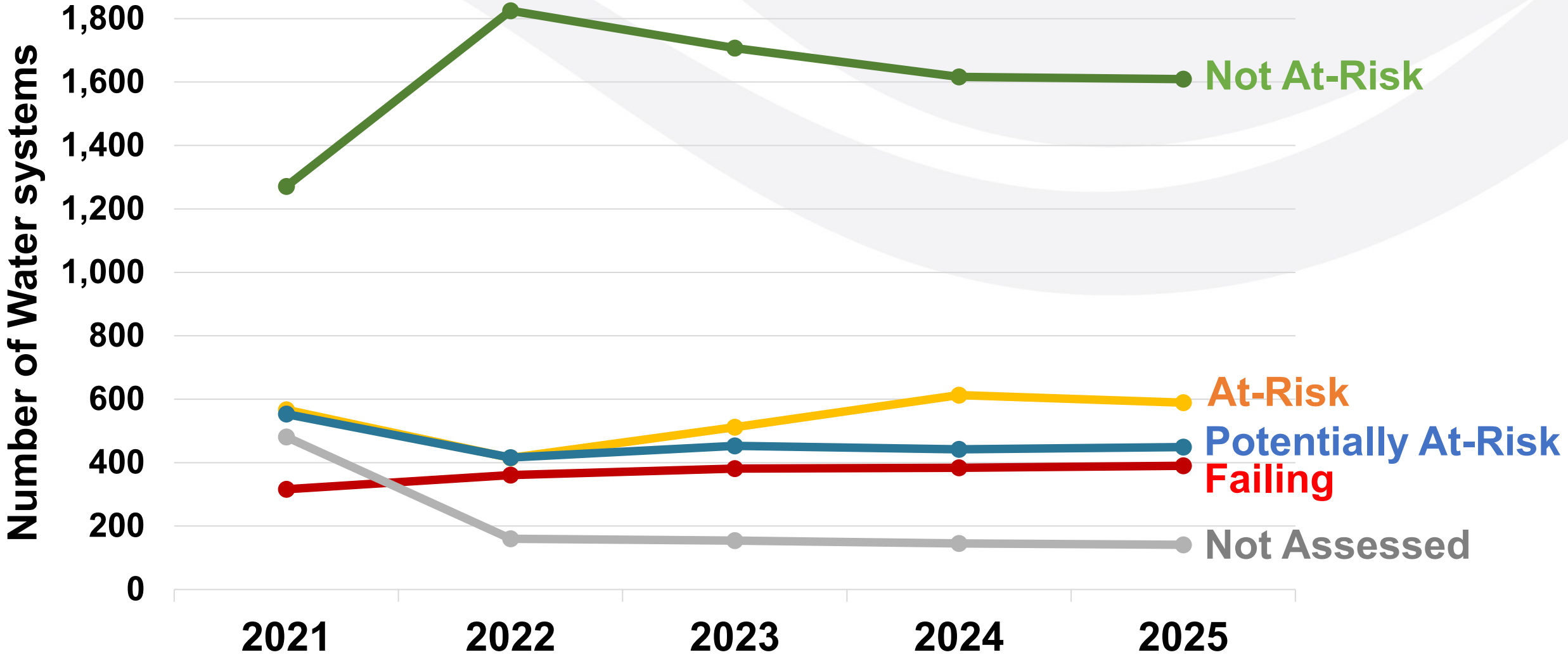
AFFORDABILITY
% Median Household Income
Extreme Water Bill
Household Socioeconomic Burden

TMF CAPACITY
Operator Certification Violations
Monitoring and Reporting Violations
Significant Deficiencies
Income
Operating Ratio
Days Cash on Hand

2025 Risk Assessment Results for Public Water Systems

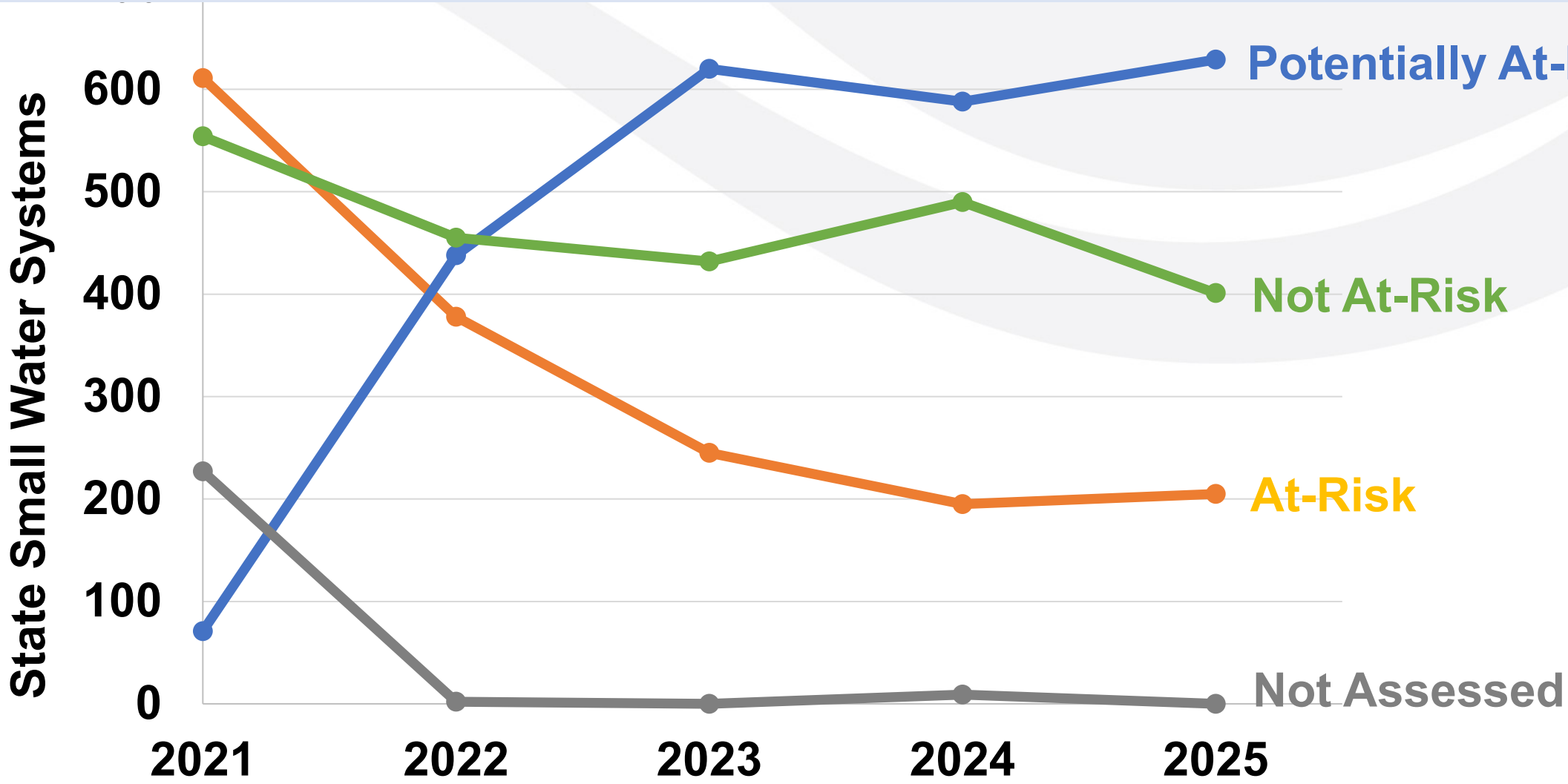


2025 Risk Assessment Results for Public Water Systems

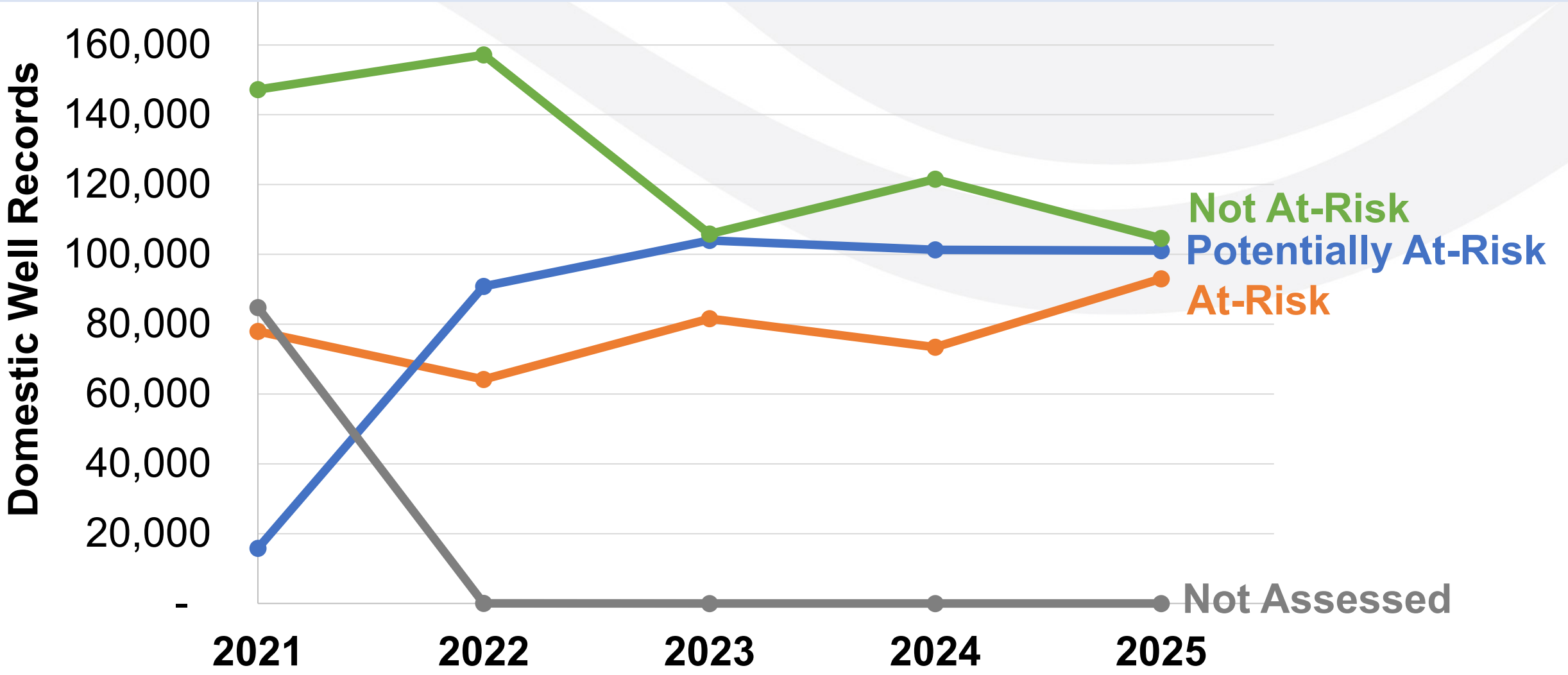


Risk Assessment for State Small Water Systems & Domestic Wells

State Small Water Systems Risk Assessment Methodology Expanded to Include 4 PFAS and Cr VI



Domestic Well Risk Assessment Methodology Expanded to Include 4 PFAS and Cr VI



Affordability Assessment

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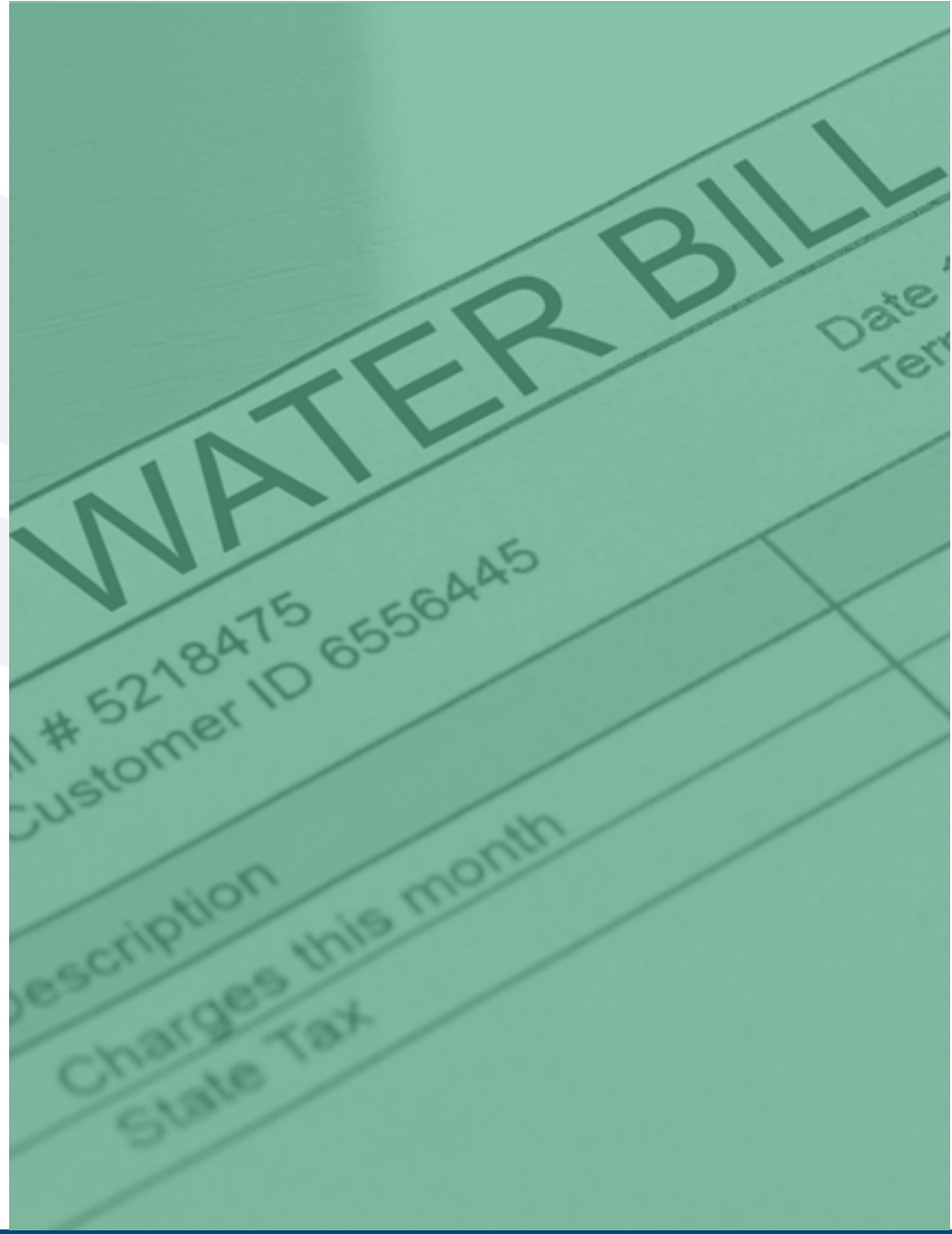
Affordability Assessment Purpose

Identify **disadvantaged community water systems**, that have instituted customer charges that **exceed** the **"Affordability Threshold."**

Legislation does not define what the Affordability Threshold should be. The State Water Board hosted a series of public workshops to solicit feedback and collaborated with partners and stakeholders to develop indicators and corresponding thresholds.



Affordability Indicator

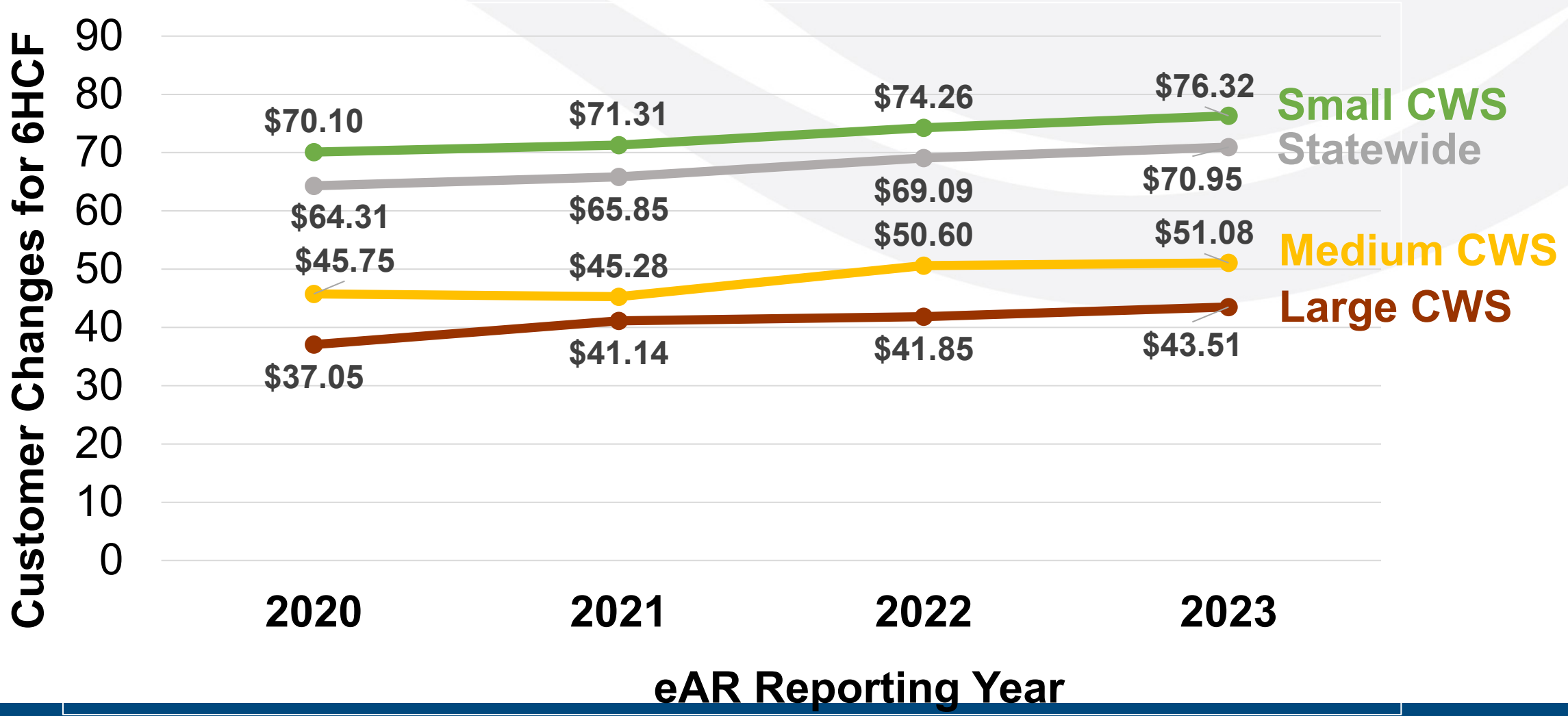
Affordability Indicator	Household / Community	Rates-Based?	2021	2022	2023-25
Percent of Median Household Income (%MHI)	Community	Yes	✓	✓	✓
Extreme Water Bill	Community	Yes	✓	✓	✓
% Shut-Offs (Removed 2022)	Household	Yes	✓		
Percentage of Residential Arrearages (Removed 2023)	Household	Yes		✓	
Residential Arrearage Burden (Removed 2023)	Community	Yes		✓	
Household Socioeconomic Burden	Community	No			✓

Affordability Assessment Score

Based on the total sum of thresholds met for all affordability indicators.

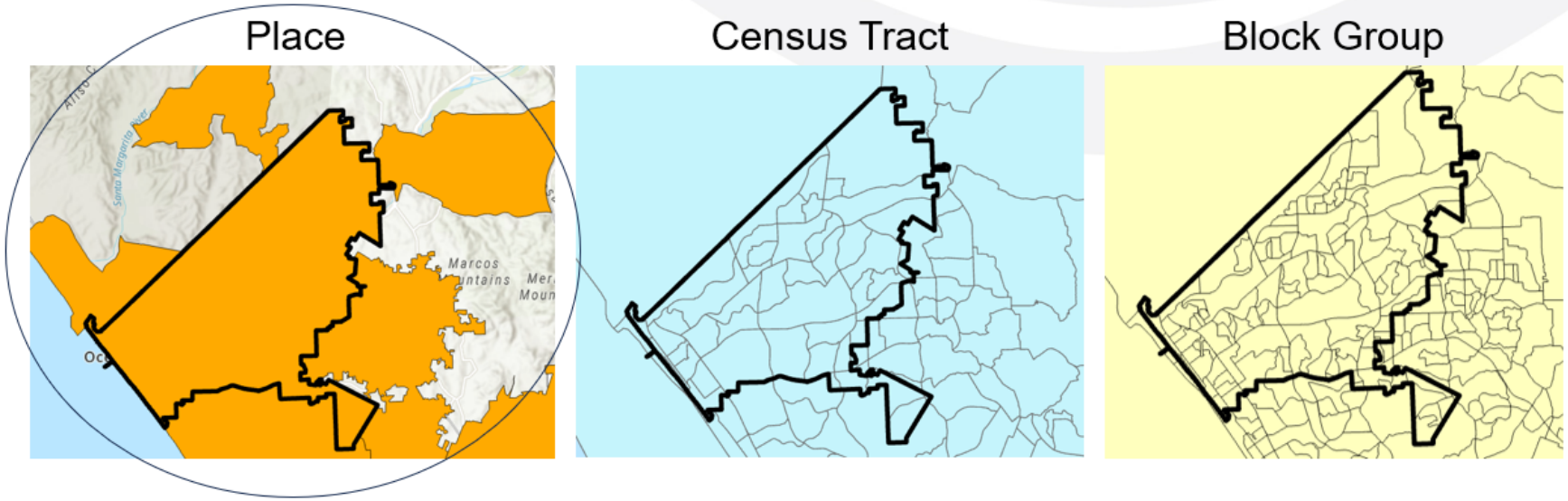
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NONE
3 Indicator Thresholds Exceeded	**2** Indicator Thresholds Exceeded	**1** Indicator Threshold Exceeded	**0** Indicator Thresholds Exceeded

Average Monthly Residential Customer Charges for 6 HCF



Updated MHI Calculation

- **Refined MHI Calculation:** use the geographic level of the best fit or the lowest median household income (MHI) value from three American Community Survey (ACS) data layers—block group, census tract, and place—to represent each water system.
- **Rationale for the Change:** enhance data coverage and improve accuracy, allowing more water systems to be assessed.



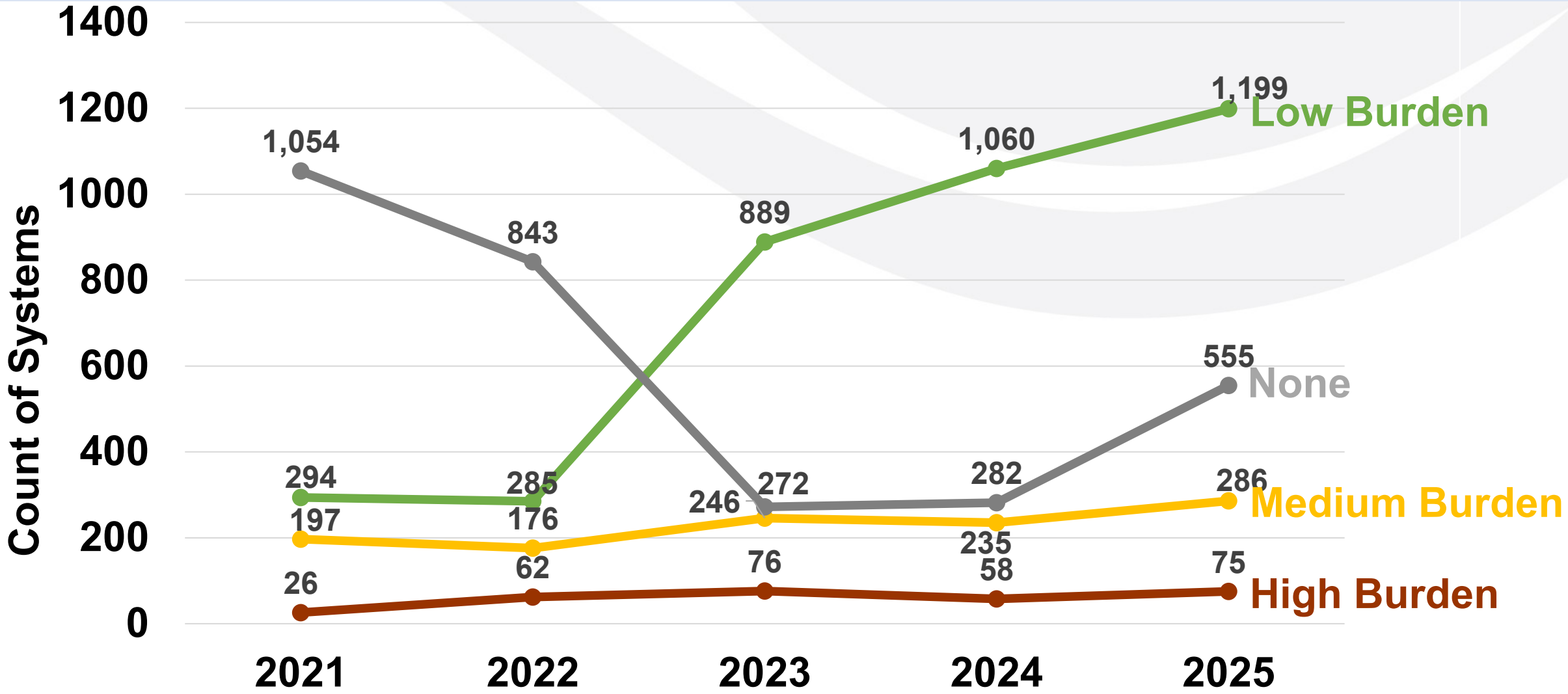
DAC Determination

- **DAC Definition:** per CA Health & Safety Code §116275, a "disadvantaged community" (DAC) is one where the MHI is less than 80% of the statewide average.

- **MHI Calculation:** enhanced data coverage and improved accuracy, allowing more water systems to be assessed.

- **DAC Determination:** 66% of community water systems are identified as serving DAC communities in the 2025 Needs Assessment — up from approximately 50% in prior years (2021–2024).

2025 Affordability Assessment Results: DAC Only



Upcoming

SB 1188

- **Senate Bill 1188** (2024) directs the State Water Resources Control Board to develop minimum technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) standards.
- **Applies to** small community water systems (serving fewer than 10,000 people or 3,300 service connections) and nontransient noncommunity systems serving K–12 schools.
- **Purpose** is to ensure long-term capacity to provide safe, clean, and reliable drinking water. Standards will be based on established federal and industry best practices.
- **Timeline after regulation development/adoption:** existing systems must comply within a timeline determined by the Board, but no sooner than two years after standards are adopted. New systems must demonstrate compliance as part of their initial permit application.
- **Stay tuned** for future public engagement opportunities

THANK YOU
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Questions and Answers

- Raise your hand 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:
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BREAK

Draft Funding Expenditure Plan

Division of Financial Assistance

Questions and Answers

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- Turn off microphone

Public comment or technical assistance? Please email:
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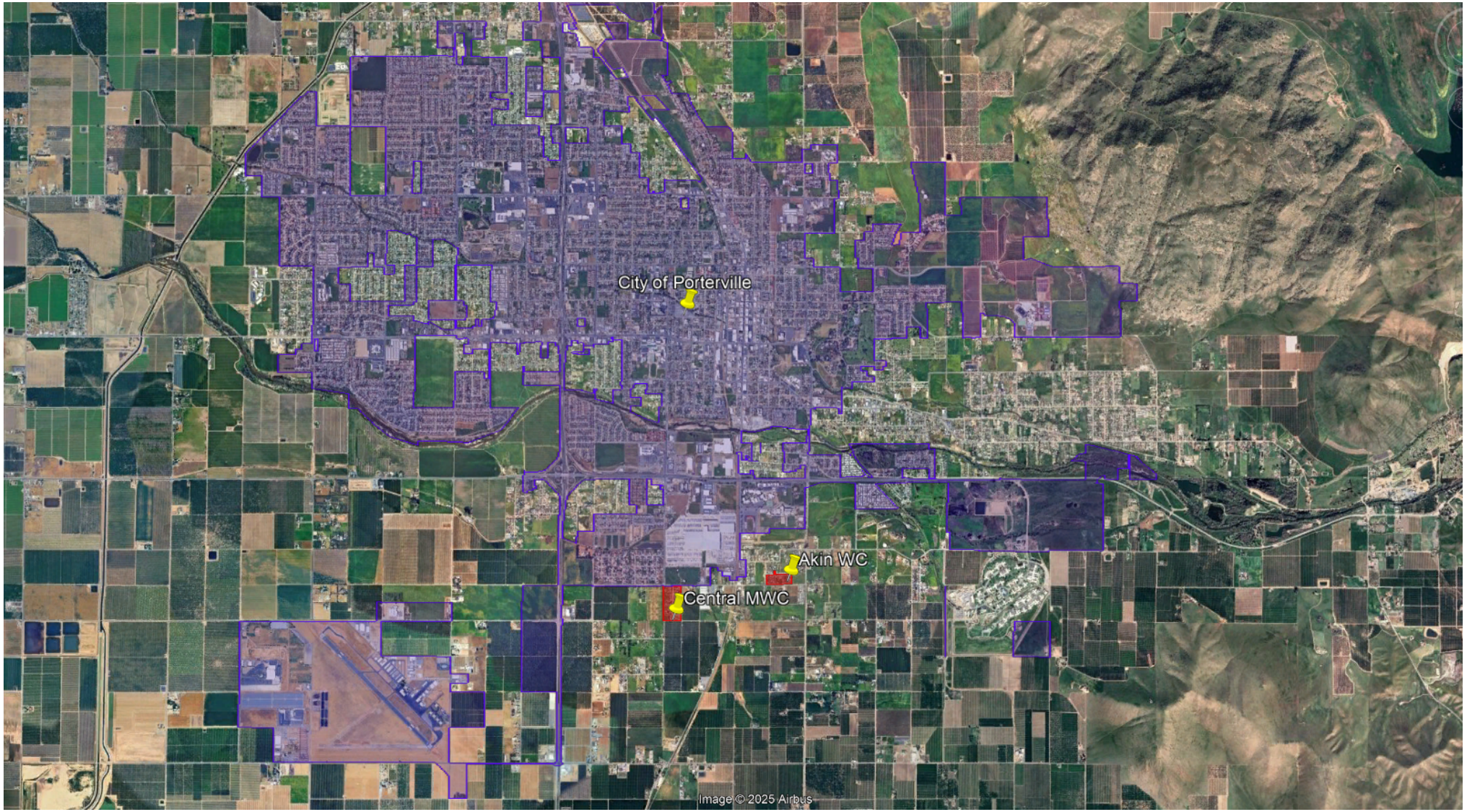
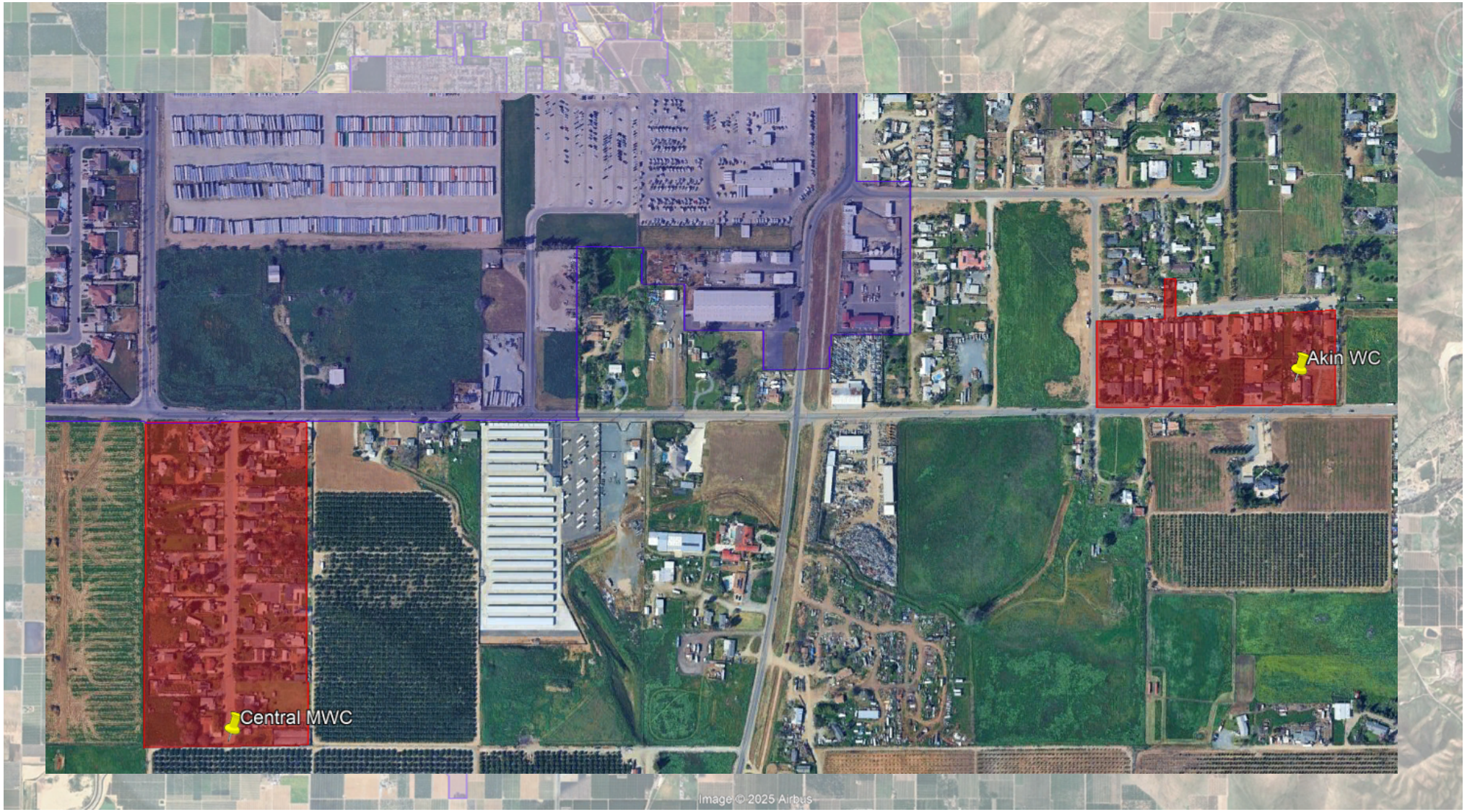
Success Story: Consolidations

Division of Drinking Water

Consolidations with City of Porterville



Consolidations with City of Porterville



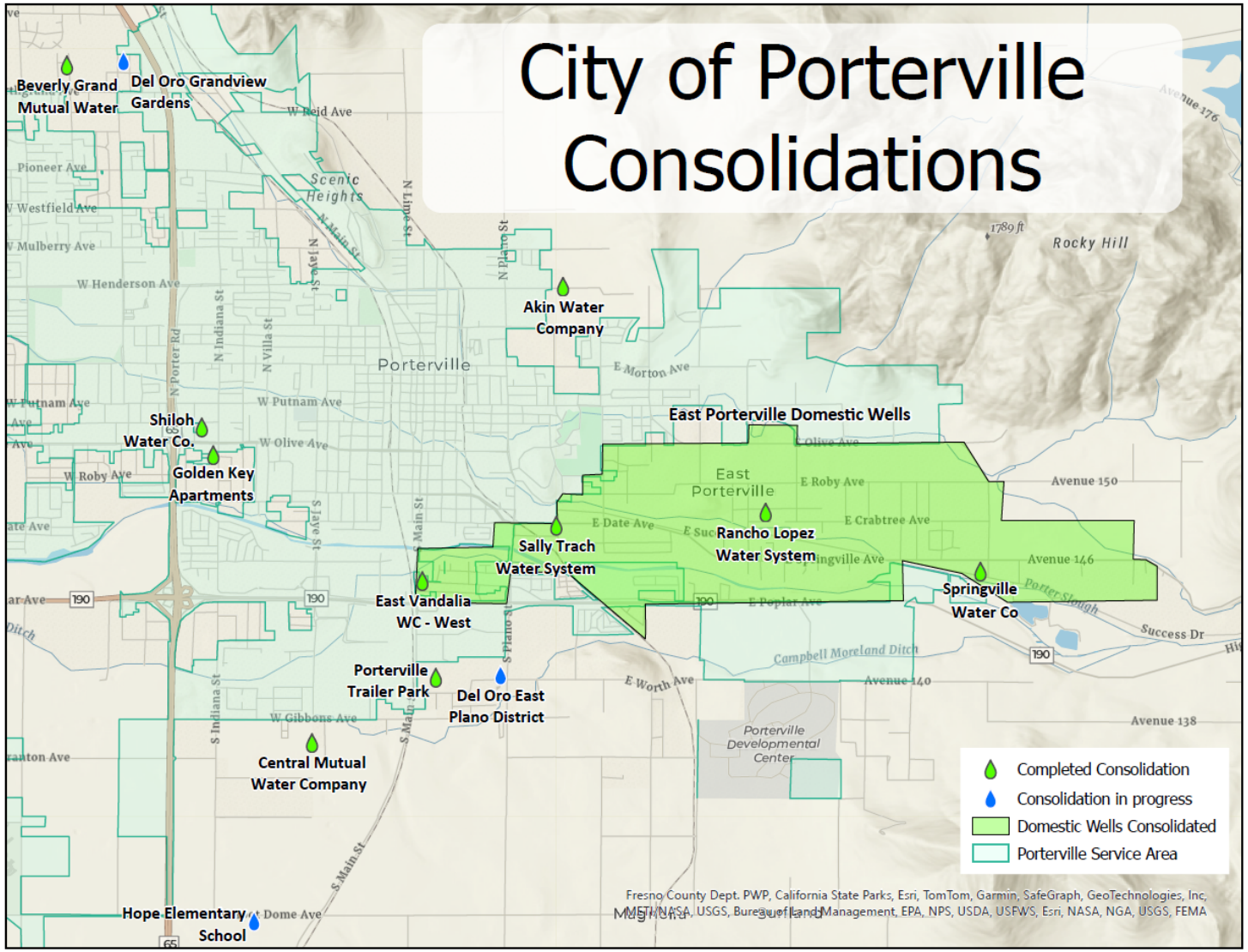
Akin Water Company
Consolidation with City of Porterville

- Small disadvantaged community water system
- 26 connections
- 86 People
- Two groundwater wells
- Bacteriological Contamination Aging Infrastructure
- City of Porterville Intertie (2018)
- DFA Funded

Central Mutual Water Company
Consolidation with City of Porterville

- Small disadvantaged community water system
- 41 connections
- 119 People
- Single groundwater well
- Drought & Aging Infrastructure
- DFA Funded

Consolidations with City of Porterville



- East Porterville Domestic Wells
- Rancho Lopez Water System (2017)
- Sally Trach Water System (2017)
- Golden Key Apartments (2017)
- Springville Water Co. (2018)
- Beverly Grand MWC (2020)
- Akin Water Company (2023)
- Central MWC (2023)
- Del Oro East Plano District (In Progress)
- Del Oro Grandview Gardens District (In Progress)
- Hope Elementary School (In Progress)

Questions and Answers

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- Turn off microphone

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LUNCH

SAFER Accomplishments & Quarterly Update on Metrics

Division of Drinking Water

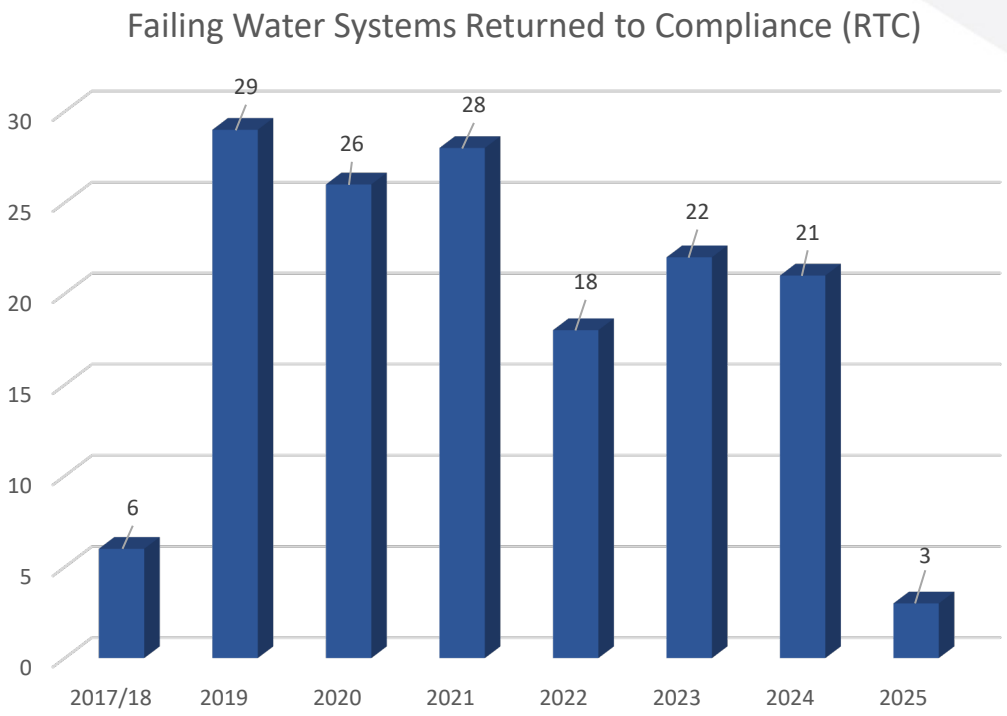
Division of Financial Assistance

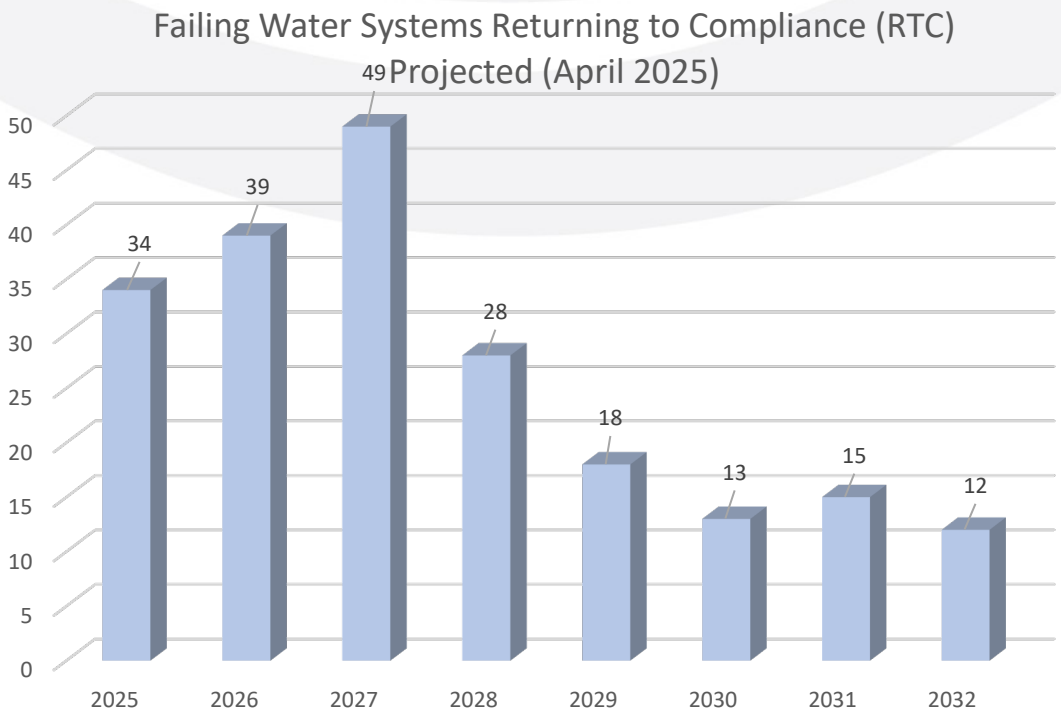
SAFER Goals and Metrics

- Goal 1: People in Communities and Schools that didn't have access to safe drinking water now have it.
- Goal 2: All communities and schools without safe drinking water are on track to get lasting solutions in place as swiftly as feasible.
- Goal 3 : California's most vulnerable communities and schools are transitioning to be resilient and prevent cycles of failures.

SAFER Goal 1: People in Communities and Schools that didn't have access to safe drinking water now have it.

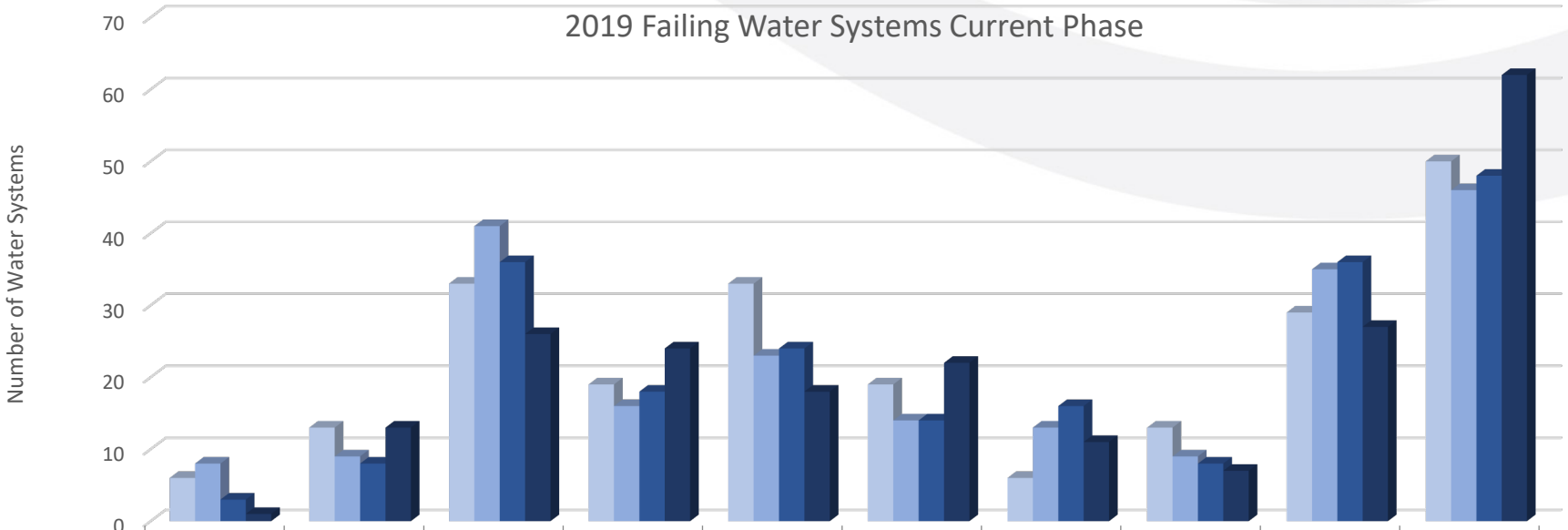
Systems now and projected to have safe drinking water (2019 failing list)





SAFER Goal 1: People in Communities and Schools that didn't have access to safe drinking water now have it.

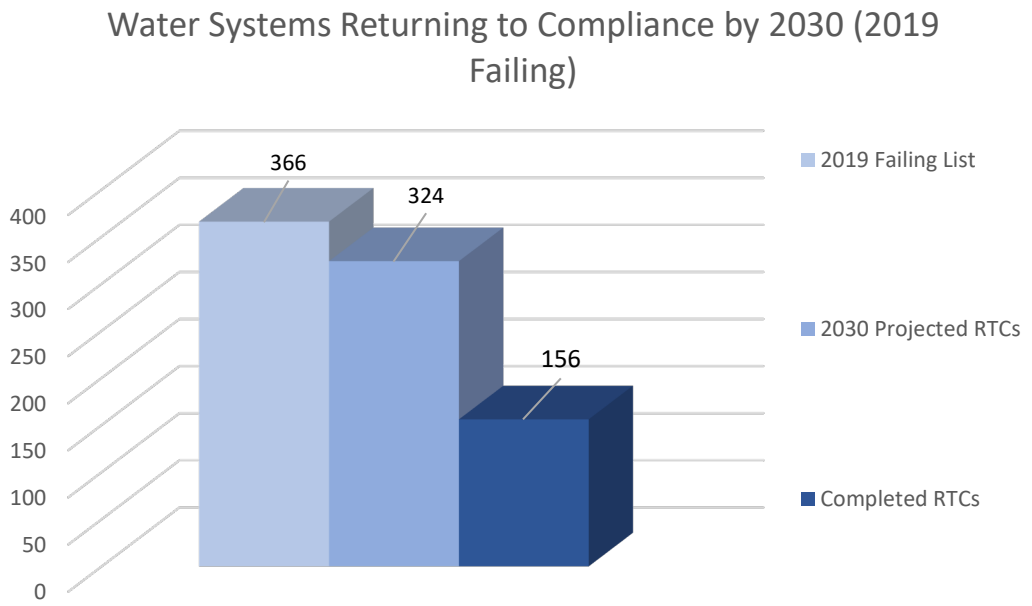
More water systems moving closer to project completion

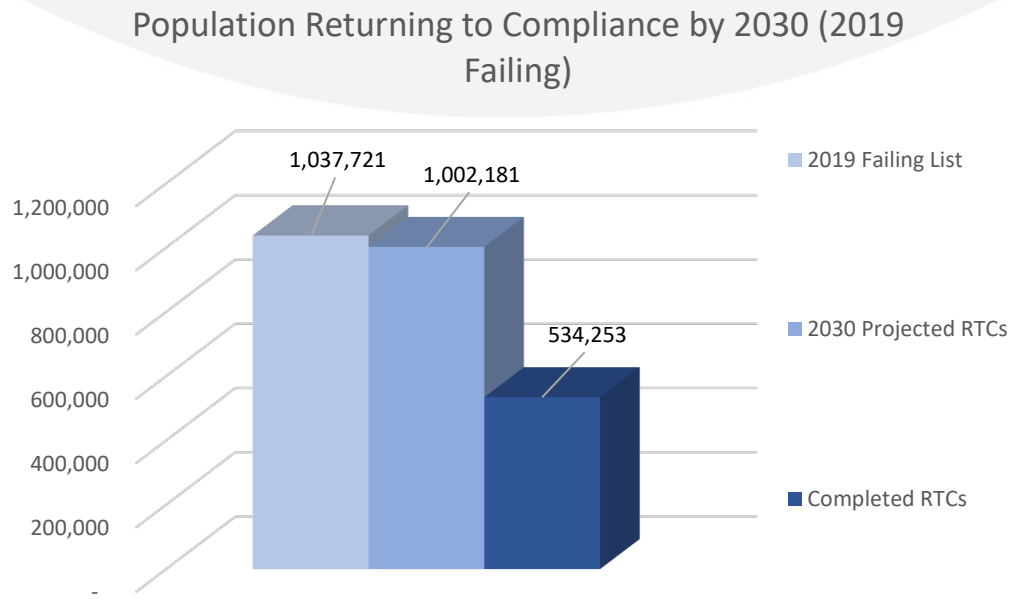


	P01	P02	P03	P04	P05	P06	P07	P08	P09	P10
Q2-2024	6	13	33	19	33	19	6	13	29	50
Q3-2024	8	9	41	16	23	14	13	9	35	46
Q4-2024	3	8	36	18	24	14	16	8	36	48
Q1-2025	1	13	26	24	18	22	11	7	27	62

SAFER Goal 1: People in Communities and Schools that didn't have access to safe drinking water now have it.

- 2019 failing systems
- 89% of systems projected to Return to Compliance by 2030





SAFER Goal 2: All communities and schools without safe drinking water are on track to get lasting solutions in place as swiftly as feasible.

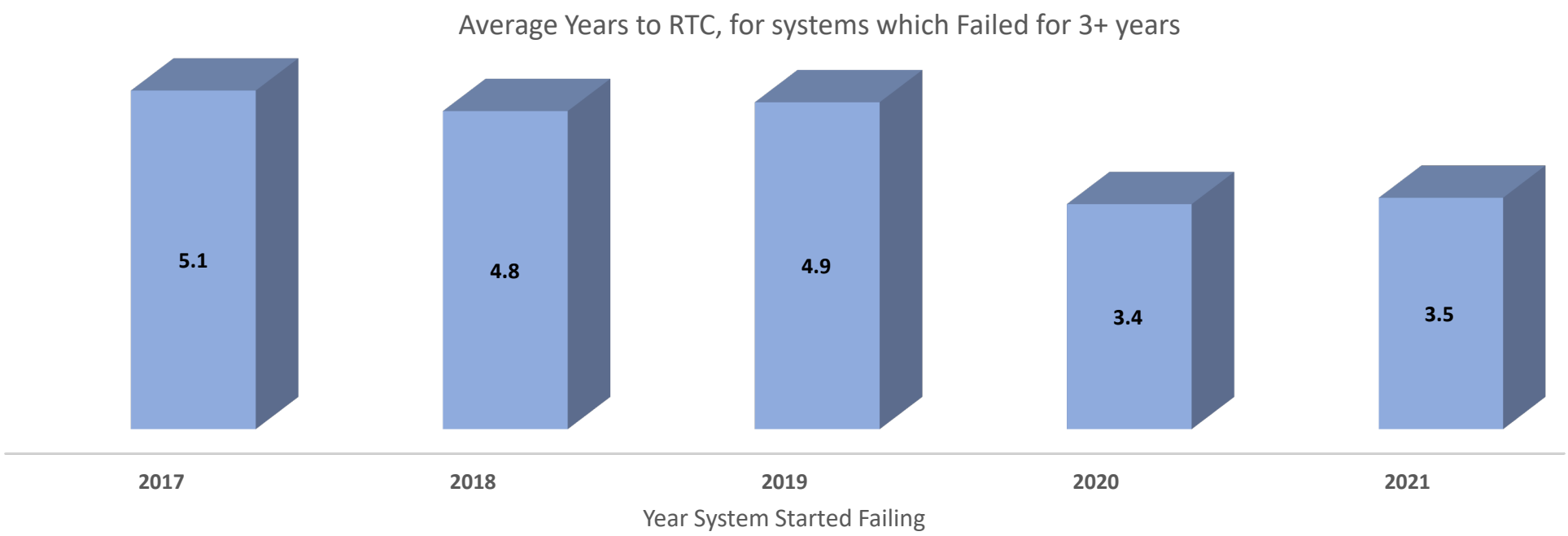
- Corrective Action Plans – Status
  - Initial effort = 87 Acceptable CAPs
  - Technical Order = Approximately 100 Systems
    - Failing Pre 1/1/2022
    - Not in Pre-Construction or Construction
    - Expanded to include all failing criteria categories

SAFER Goal 2, Measure 2b
Active TA Project Summary

- TA has 209 active projects relating to Planning Activities:
  - 49% of projects address the 2019 Failing Cohort Systems
  - 18% of projects address other Failing Systems
  - 33% of projects are assisting non-failing systems. About half are for consolidation projects.
- 152 of the Projects will result in a Construction Application.
  - 30 have a complete application.
  - 77 have a complete Preliminary Engineering Report.
  - 130 are estimated to have a complete application by 12/31/26.

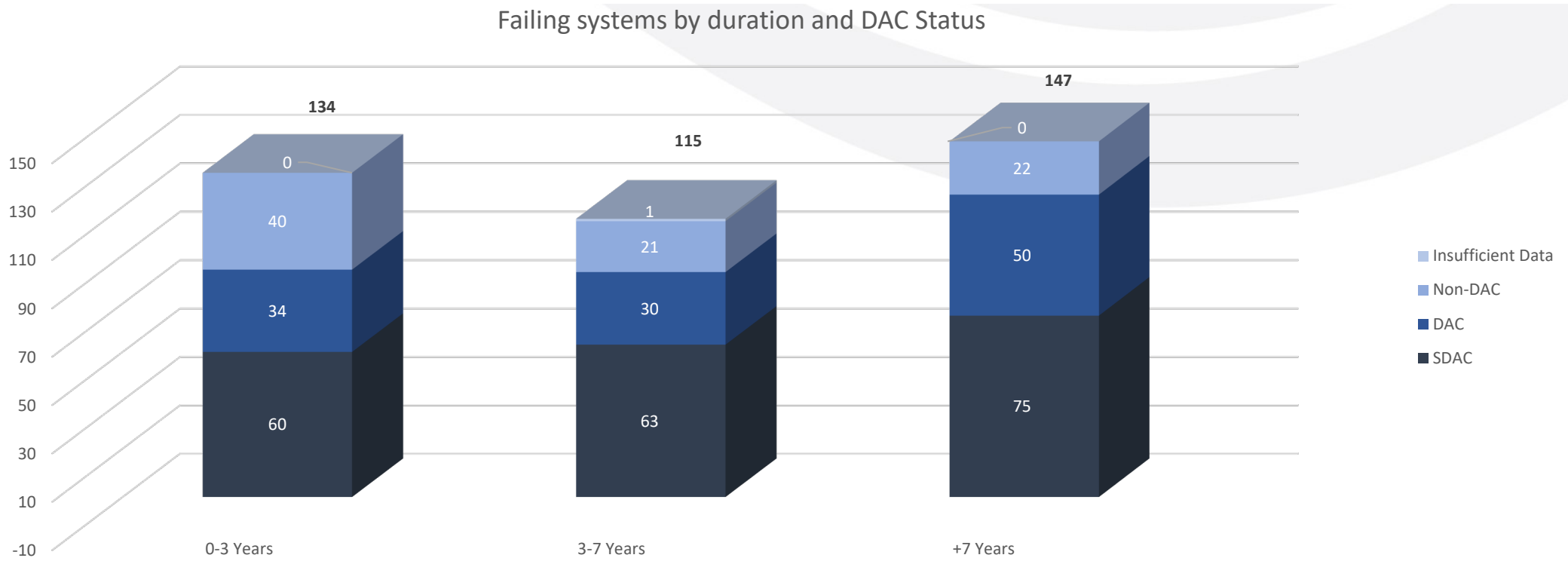
SAFER Goal 2: All communities and schools without safe drinking water are on track to get lasting solutions in place as swiftly as feasible.

- Reduce total time from violation to RTC to less than five years.
  - Average time failing by year of RTC



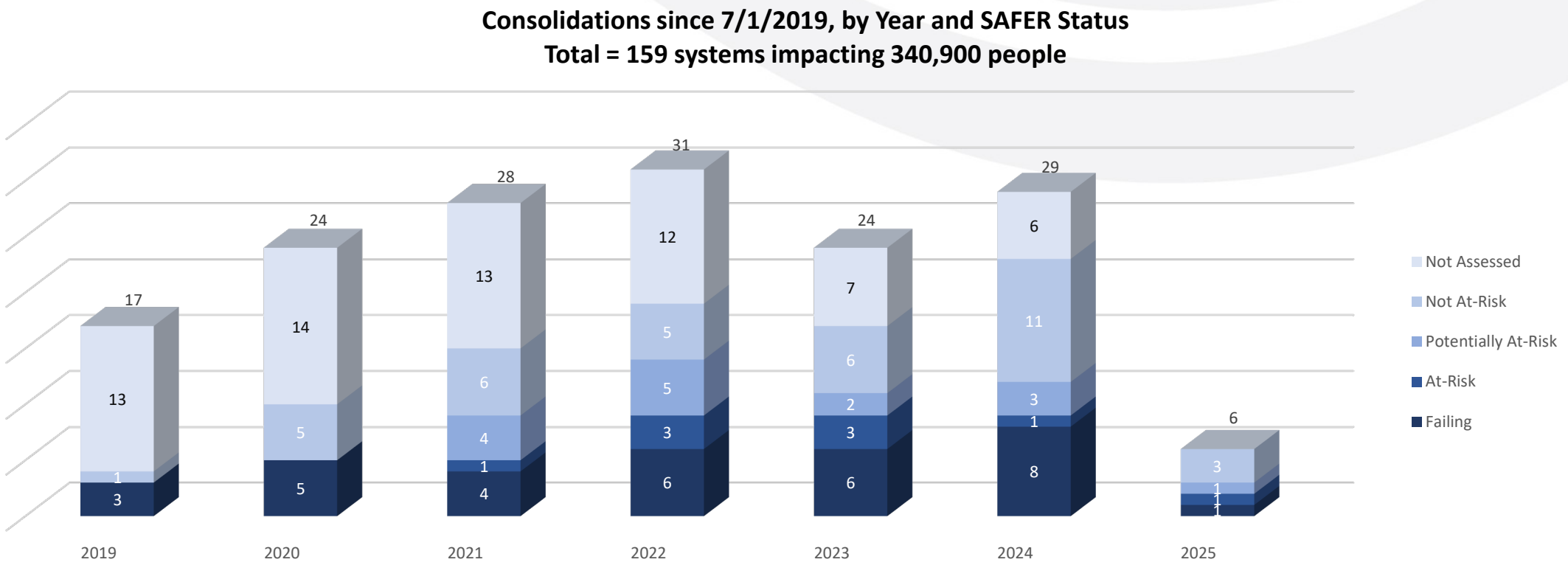
SAFER Goal 2: All communities and schools without safe drinking water are on track to get lasting solutions in place as swiftly as feasible.

- Reduce total time from violation to RTC to less than five years.
  - Time failing for current failing systems

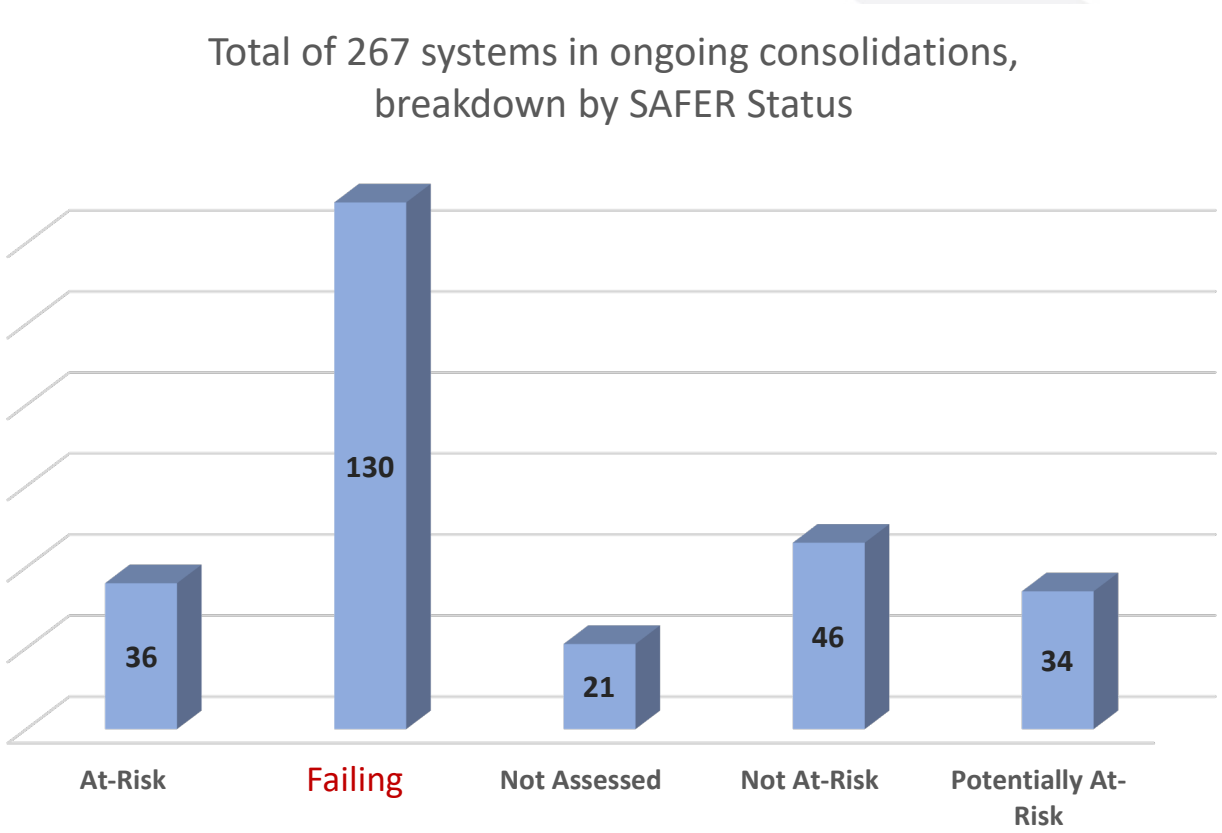


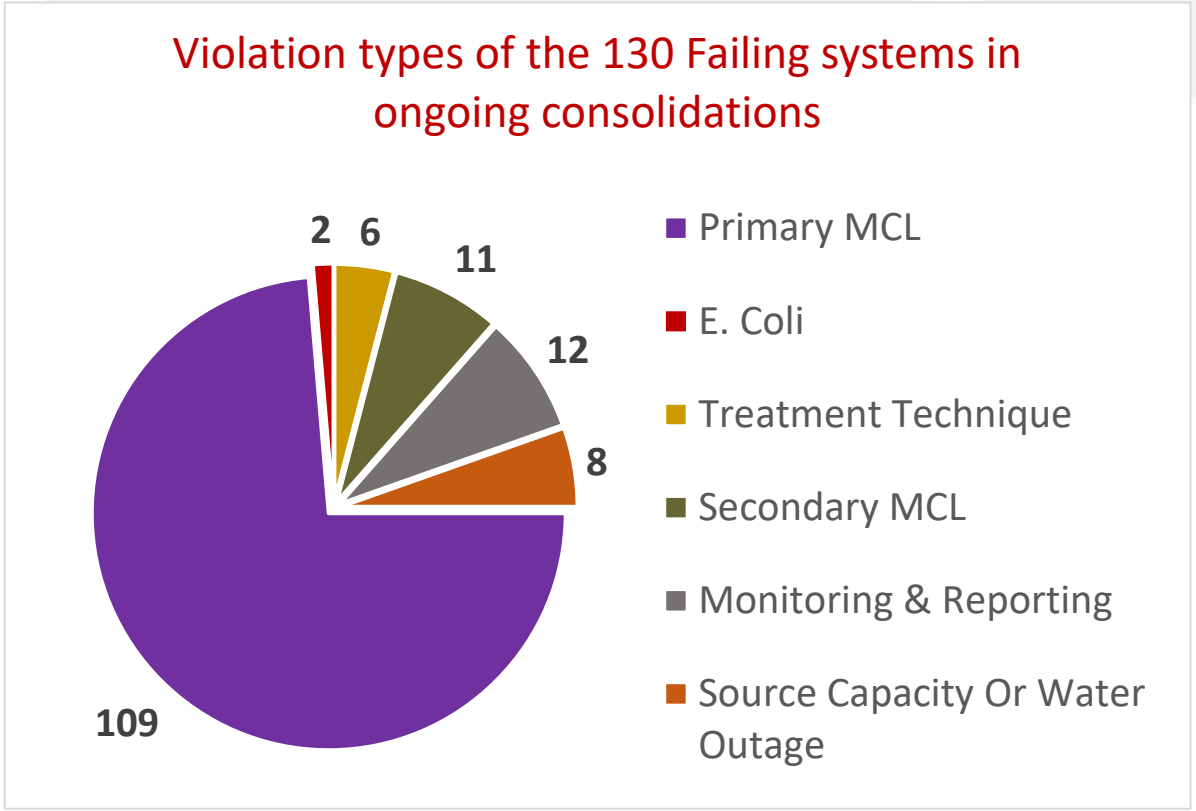
SAFER Goal 3:California's most vulnerable communities and schools are transitioning to be resilient and prevent cycles of failures.

- At least 20 consolidations per year



SAFER Goal 3:California's most vulnerable communities and schools are transitioning to be resilient and prevent cycles of failures.

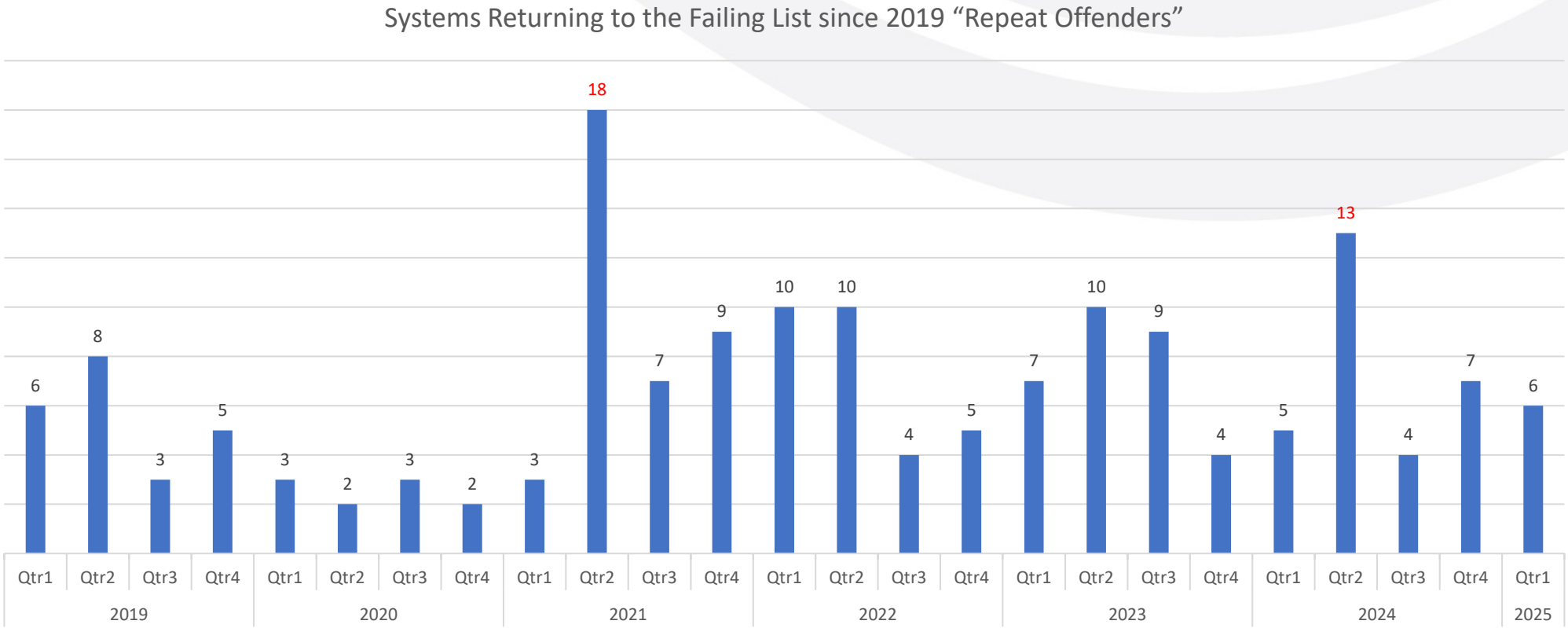




*Total number of failing criteria types for 130 systems = 148.
Many Failing systems have more than one Violation Criteria Type

SAFER Goal 3:California's most vulnerable communities and schools are transitioning to be resilient and prevent cycles of failures.

- Fewer water systems have repeat violations.



SAFER Goal 3:California's most vulnerable communities and schools are transitioning to be resilient and prevent cycles of failures.

- Fewer water systems are submitting multiple emergency repair funding requests.
  - 38 systems with multiple emergency requests since July 2019
  - Two new additions in Q1 2025

Questions and Answers

- Raise your hand 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

Advisory Group Member Announcements

Alma López
Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs

SAFER Advisory Group Members Announcements

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

Public Comments

Alma López
Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs

Public Comments Guidelines

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.
2. Follow instructions in the return email to join Zoom.
3. Wait to be called on. Speaking time is limited to 3 minutes
4. For technical or language assistance, email: safer@waterboards.ca.gov.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Alma López
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Adjourn

Thank you!

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