

SAFER Drinking Water Advisory Group Meeting #3

Meeting Notes | September 18, 2025

Overview

The Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Advisory Group participated in the third quarterly Advisory Group meeting of the year. The presentations included a panel of domestic well programs by SAFER Advisory Group members, the Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs, and the Office of Enforcement. A quarterly update on metrics for the SAFER Program Goals was also presented by the Division of Drinking Water.

Panel of Domestic Wells Programs

A panel of Advisory Group members presented several well-known domestic programs. Advisory Group member Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Water and Natural Resources for Madera County discussed domestic well mitigation in Madera County Subbasins and Groundwater Sustainability Agencies. Advisory Group member Parry Klassen, Executive Director of the Coalition for Urban Rural Environmental Stewardship, highlighted the Valley Water Collaborative's Nitrate Control Program in the Central Valley. Advisory Group member Juan Cano, Community Development Manager and Emily McCague, Assistant Director with Self-Help Enterprises, presented on service extensions for domestic well projects and emergency services, respectively, for communities while long-term solutions are developed. Advisory Group member Erick Orellana, Senior Policy Advocate with Community Water Center and Advisory Group member Silverio Perez, resident in Central Coast, highlighted a community-centered model for addressing water challenges in the Central Coast. Additionally, Adriana Renteria, Director of the Office of Public Engagement, Equity and Tribal Affairs together with Eric Garner, Senior Engineering Geologist with the Office of Enforcement provided an overview of the enforcement process for Assembly Bill 2454, which mandates rental property domestic well testing, and Assembly Bill 664, which addresses domestic well consolidations.

The Advisory Group engaged in a question-and-answer session and discussion, including well mitigation, where they discussed the depths, quality issues, and challenges of the process. They compared different approaches to water quality and supply across various subbasins such as Delta Mendota, Chowchilla, and Madera. The discussion also highlighted strategies for community engagement, addressing the challenges of securing community buy-in and effective outreach methods. They sought clarifications on legislation and funding, specifically focusing on AB 664 and AB 2454, which outline well owner responsibilities and funding sources for well replacement.

The importance of accessible groundwater level data was emphasized, supporting regional assessments. Temporary solutions like using bottled water and storage tanks until long-term measures are implemented were also considered. Concerns over GeoTracker were raised, with homeowners worried about property values and insurance implications due to data availability.

SAFER Program Goals: Quarterly Updates on Metrics

The Division of Drinking Water provided updates on the metrics for the three SAFER Program Goals. These updates included projections that 89.6% of the 2019 failing systems are expected to return to compliance by 2030. Other goals addressed closing the gap for corrective action plans and reducing the

time from violation to compliance to fewer than five years. The Division highlighted achieving an average of twenty consolidations per year, impacting a total of 169 systems and benefiting 344,000 people.

Staff shared the link to the SAFER Dashboard where information on the water systems can be found.

[SAFER Dashboard | California State Water Resources Control Board](#)

The Division of Financial Assistance updated the status of the Fund Expenditure Plan for fiscal year 2025-2026, noting that it will be presented to the State Water Board for consideration and adoption at the November 4th Board meeting. Additionally, staff shared that on August 19th, the Board adopted the Annual Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan, which relates to the SAFER Program for funding eligibilities around planning and construction projects. The revised version of the Fund Expenditure Plan will include similar information. [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund \(DWSRF\)](#)

Advisory Group Member Announcements & Discussion

- Advisory Group member Parry Klassen announced that the Central Valley Regional Water Board will provide an update on October 21st where management zones will report on progress and actions related to the Nitrate Control Program.
- Advisory Group member Angela Islas invited the Advisory Group members to listen in on the Drought Resilience Interagency & Partners (DRIP) Collaborative public meeting on October 17, which will provide guidance on Senate Bill 552 drought resilience implementation. [Drought Resilience Interagency & Partners Collaborative](#)
 - Fall 2025 Meeting: October 17, 2025, at 10:00AM-5:00PM
In person meeting located at California Natural Resources Agency, [715 P St, Room 221-A/B/C \(second floor\), Sacramento, CA, 95814](#). [Zoom link](#) and [YouTube streaming link](#) options will be available.
- Advisory Group member Kristin Dobbin reported the completion of the [Consolidation Case Study Library](#) a multi-year project funded by the California Institute for Water Resources and the United States Geological Survey. The library examines ten consolidation cases from across California identifying challenges, successes, and key takeaways from consolidation projects funded through SAFER.
 - Short URL: bit.ly/Consolidation_casestudies_library
 - Also available at: <https://www.kristindobbin.com/resources>

Public Comment

- No public comments

Advisory Group Attendance (P= present, A= absent)

Norma I. Amezcua (A)	Angela Islas (P)	Edwin Alonzo (P)
Juan Cano (P)	Parry Klassen (P)	Stephanie Anagnoson (P)
Irene Cacho (P)	Michael Knight (P)	Don James (P)
Kristin Dobbin (P)	Erick Orellana (P)	Rami Kahlon (P)
Tequita Jefferson (P)	Adam J. Rausch (P)	Shannon Murphy (A)

Soren Nelson (P)
Silverio Pérez (P)

Isabel Solorio (P)
James Sullivan (P)

State Water Board Attendance

Division of Drinking Water: Bryan Potter, Chad Fischer, Andrew Altevogt

Office of Financial Assistance: Jasmine Oaxaca

Office of Public Engagement, Equity and Tribal Affairs: Adriana Renteria, Amelia Nishimura, Manuel Leon, Mandy Roman, Alma López

Office of Chief Counsel: Lauren Marshall

Office of Enforcement: Yvonne West, Mayumi Okamoto, Samantha Ramada, Erin Garner