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Appendix A. 2025 Needs Assessment

Links:

[Final Report](#)

[Executive Summary](#)

[Data](#)

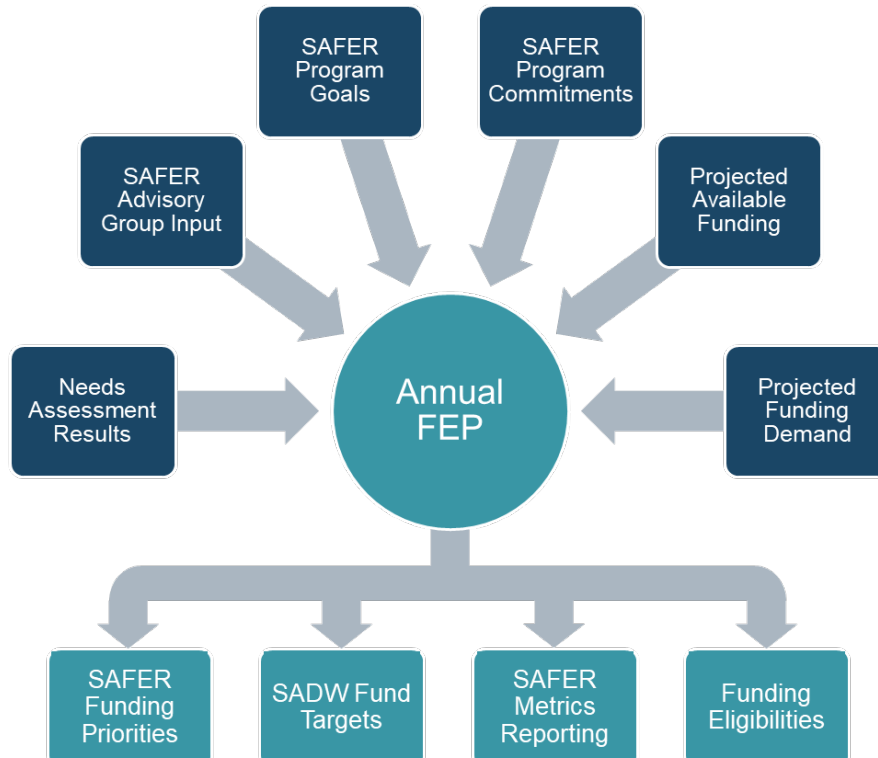
Appendix B. FEP Annual Development Process

BACKGROUND

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) implements the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Drinking Water Program (SAFER Program) Program, which is a set of tools, funding resources, and regulatory authorities coordinated to assist California communities as they work to develop local capacity to ensure reliable access to safe drinking water. The State Water Board administers the SAFER Program primarily through its Division of Drinking Water (DDW), Division of Financial Assistance (DFA), and Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs (OPEETA). The SAFER Program's goal is to provide safe and affordable drinking water in every California community, for every Californian.

Each annual FEP is developed as shown in Figure B- 1. Funding eligibilities established in the annual FEP for the SADW Fund are intended to be complementary to the DWSRF Intended Use Plan (IUP) and are broken out by system category (i.e., public water systems (PWSs) and domestic wells and state small water systems (DW/SSWSs) for each solution type (i.e., interim supplies and emergency repairs, technical assistance (TA), administrator, planning, construction, and operation and maintenance (O&M)).

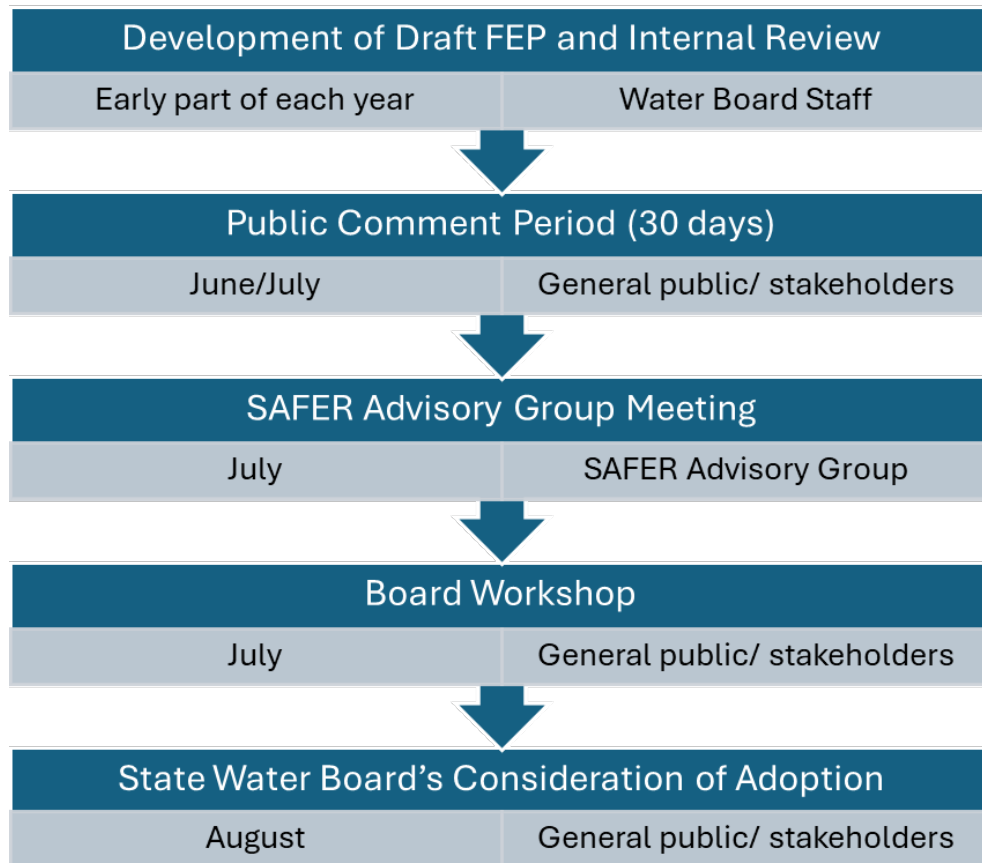
Figure B- 1. Annual FEP Inputs and Outputs



PUBLIC PROCESS

Each annual FEP undergoes a public process from drafting to towards adoption by the State Water Board. Figure B- 2 presents a summary of key milestones within the process each year.

Figure B- 2. Annual FEP Public Process



Appendix C. Metrics and Methodology

SAFER PROGRAM METRICS

Metrics reported on in the main text of this FEP focus on progress for the SAFER Program Goals introduced in the FY 2024-25 FEP for public water systems (PWSs), program highlights for PWSs and domestic wells or state small water systems (DW/SSWSs). This information is summarized in Section III of this FEP.

In prior year FEPs, reported metrics were based on those established in the SADW Fund Policy¹ and are included in this Appendix. The general categories of metrics are described below with details provided in the SADW Fund Policy.

Categories include the number of communities², including areas served by PWSs, state smalls and domestic well communities, and schools, and associated population:

- (1) Provided with interim supplies of safe drinking water;
- (2) Provided with executed and completed planning assistance projects;
- (3) Provided with long-term solutions; and
- (4) Failing Systems and Systems that have come off the Failing List³.

Additional performance metric categories include:

- (5) Climate change adaptation and resiliency;
- (6) Cost-effectiveness of the Program;
- (7) Administrative efficiency of the Program;
- (8) Community engagement effectiveness of the Program (including capacity building);
- (9) Racial Equity and Environmental Justice (added in the FY 2021-22 FEP); and
- (10) Tribal Coordination on Drinking Water Projects (added in the FY 2023-24 FEP).

The subsections below describe metric category performance for either FY 2024-25 or cumulatively, generally from a start date of July 1, 2020, to show SAFER Program performance over time since the adoption of the first FEP.

¹ [SADW Fund Policy](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/docs/2024/final-policy-for-dev-fep-sadwf.pdf) (see Section XI.I)

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/docs/2024/final-policy-for-dev-fep-sadwf.pdf

² The term “communities” includes the area defined by a water system boundary, as well as areas served by state smalls and domestic wells.

³ Metric Category 4 was renamed in the FY 2023-24 FEP to align with terminology used in the Needs Assessment.

INTERIM SOLUTIONS, PLANNING ASSISTANCE, AND LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Tables C-1 and C-2 show progress for Metric Categories 1, 2, and 3 for the SAFER Program (SADW Fund and complementary funding sources), shown for both FY 2024-25 as well as cumulatively from a start date of January 1, 2019. Table C- 1 also establishes numeric goals for FY 2025-26. TA is pulled out into its own category separate from traditional planning for tracking purposes; however, the TA category includes planning projects completed via TA (i.e., full planning).

Table C- 1. FY 2024-25 Performance in Metric Categories 1, 2, and 3
(7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025)

Category	FY 2024-25 Goal	FY 2024-25 Progress	No. of Connections Benefiting	No. of People Benefiting	Total Assistance Provided	FY 2025-26 Goal
Interim and Emergency Assistance	50 communities	107 communities/schools (642 households)	2,093	53,294	\$7.51 M	50 communities
Technical Assistance Projects⁵	100	59 (12 planning via TA)	43,485	142,888	\$12.9 M	100
Planning Projects⁵	25	13 (8)	321,313 (4,447)	1.6 M (12,358)	\$18.2 M (\$7.7 M)	25
Construction Projects^{4,5}	45	52 (35)	1.48 M (145,164)	7 M (369,934)	\$635 M (\$147.6 M)	45

Table C- 2. Cumulative Performance in Metric Categories 1, 2, and 3
(1/1/2019 – 6/30/2025)

Category	Cumulative Progress	No. of Connections Benefiting	No. of People Benefiting	Total Assistance Provided
Interim and Emergency Assistance	401 communities/schools (5,233 households)	24,116	170,537	\$44.82 M
Technical Assistance Projects⁷	616 (110 planning via TA)	197,118	1.02 M	\$118.8 M
Planning	76	472,433	2 M	\$56 M

⁴ Numbers in parentheses for construction projects reflect projects in the Office of Sustainable Water Solutions (OSWS) benefiting primarily small DACs or low-income households. The work in other categories is solely through OSWS and benefiting primarily small DACs or low-income households.

⁵ Progress numbers in these categories include project agreement amendments that increased funding amounts starting in FY 2022-23.

Category	Cumulative Progress	No. of Connections Benefiting	No. of People Benefiting	Total Assistance Provided
Projects⁷	(71)	(155,567)	(429,990)	(\$45.5 M)
Construction Projects^{6,7}	260 (203)	4.28 M (458,481)	19.4 M (828,510)	\$2.53 B (\$1 B)

FAILING SYSTEMS, SYSTEMS THAT HAVE RETURNED TO COMPLIANCE, AND OTHER REGULATORY MEASURES AND TOOLS

Table C- 3 shows cumulative progress since July 1, 2019 for Metric Category 4 on failing systems and those that have come off the Failing list (i.e., returned to compliance), in particular, the systems that were on the Failing List on July 1, 2019 (2019 Cohort).

Table C- 3. Performance in Metric Category 4 (7/1/2019 – 6/30/2025)

Item	Number of Systems	Population
Number of systems on the 2019 Failing List (on 7/1/2019)	366	1,037,721
Systems that have returned to compliance from the 2019 Failing List (7/1/2019 – 6/30/2025)	164	536,621
Number of systems on the Failing List (as of 6/30/2025)	401	861,883
Number of other systems that have returned to compliance that were added to the Failing List after July 1, 2019 (as of 6/30/2025)	153	3,983,166

For the 164 systems that are off the July 1, 2019 Failing List, the average time it took for a system to come off the Failing List from the date that the system was placed on the Failing List was under two years.

⁶ Numbers in parentheses for construction projects reflect projects in OSWS benefiting primarily small DACs. The work in other categories is solely through OSWS and benefiting primarily small DACs or low-income households.

⁷ Progress numbers in these categories include project agreement amendments that increased funding amounts starting in FY 2022-23.

Appendix C. Metrics and Methodology

Additional SAFER metric performance for consolidations and administrators are presented in Tables C-4 and C-5, respectively. This reporting is intended to track the cumulative efforts for consolidations and administrators by the SAFER Program.

Table C- 4. Consolidation Metrics (7/1/2020 – 6/30/2025)

Item	Cumulative Progress	FY 2024-25 Progress
Consolidation Outreach Letters	5,244	2,590
Consolidation/Partnership Events	27	1
Number of Consolidation Projects in Progress as of 6/30/2025	--	262
Mandatory Consolidation Projects Initiated	14	0
Mandatory Orders Issued	1	0
Executed Consolidation Funding Agreements ⁸	29	--
Number of Systems Impacted by Assistance ^{8,9}	65	--
Consolidations Completed	128 All ¹⁰ 117 Physical	12 All 12 Physical

Table C- 5. Administrator Metrics (7/1/2020 – 6/30/2025)

Item	Cumulative Progress	FY 2024-25 Progress
New Water Systems Designated	17	1
Orders Executed	15	4
Public Meetings Completed	19	0
Executed Funding Agreements/Work Plans	16	4
Executed O&M Funding Agreements for Systems with Administrators	13	4
Administrators Completed	1	1

⁸ To be updated in the final version of this FEP.

⁹ Systems impacted by assistance means those systems involved in consolidation projects funded by the State Water Board.

¹⁰ Twenty-eight consolidations were completed with State Water Board funding.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY

Section XI.I of the SADW Fund Policy lists the following metrics for climate change adaptation:

- (1) Pounds of carbon dioxide saved per project, and
- (2) Number of communities, including state small system and domestic well communities, and schools and associated population with a long-term solution being implemented.

As part of the California Climate Investments (CCI) Program, the State Water Board has been semi-annually reporting to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) between 2020 and 2024, with reporting now on an annual basis. Reported items include climate adaptation related information for all funding agreements executed within the calendar year or those that require continuous incremental reporting (e.g., technical assistance (TA), administrator, or regional programs).

Table C- 6 summarizes key information around climate change adaptation and resiliency already being captured through CCI required reporting for projects executed since July 1, 2019. Additional items were added to Metric Category 5 in the FY 2023-24 FEP which include the number of households benefiting from solutions addressing drought-induced contamination or dry wells and the number of communities transitioned from interim water deliveries to long-term solutions.

Table C- 6. Performance in Metric Category 5 (7/1/2019 – 11/30/2024)

Item	Cumulative Progress	FY 2024-25 Progress ¹¹
Total Number of Executed SADW Projects (i.e., projects reported to CARB)	120	16
Number of SADW Projects with Additional Storage Adaptation (i.e., larger storage tanks)	13	2
Number of SADW Projects with New Source Adaptation (i.e., new well drilled or consolidation)	27	4
Number of SADW Projects with Water Quality Improvement Adaptation (i.e., added treatment or upgrades to address contamination)	22	2
Number of Households benefiting from Solutions addressing drought-induced contamination and dry wells	821	478

¹¹ FY 2024-25 progress reported through the last CARB reporting period in November 2024.

Item	Cumulative Progress	FY 2024-25 Progress ¹¹
Number of Communities Transitioned from Interim Water Deliveries to Long-term Solutions	6	0
Estimated Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions associated with SADW-funded Projects ¹²	-5,431	-901

CARB is responsible for providing guidance on estimating the GHG emission reductions and co-benefits from projects receiving monies from the SADW Fund. This guidance includes quantification methodologies, co-benefit assessment methodologies, and benefits calculator tools. DFA staff have been coordinating with CARB on appropriate methodology updates to better capture the benefits from SADW-funded projects. Currently, the SADW Fund Quantification Methodology¹³ uses calculations to estimate avoided GHG emissions from pump motor replacement, variable frequency pump drive, solar photovoltaic electricity generation, energy efficiency retrofits, and GHG emission reductions associated with the implementation of SADW-funded projects. Based on the SADW Fund Quantification Methodology and the types of SADW funded projects reported (since July 1, 2019) the total amount of increased GHG emissions from SADW-funded projects, where quantifiable, is 5,431 MTCO₂E. The recently updated SADW Fund Quantification Methodology now includes GHG reduction from avoided miles traveled related to centralized bottled water delivery projects. Overall, this resulted in a reduction in GHG emissions for bottled water deliveries. DFA staff continue to work with CARB on potential ways to quantify reduced GHG emissions from energy savings associated with projects that include direct water savings and/or conservation measures.

DROUGHT RESILIENCE PROJECTS

State Water Board staff are also tracking projects funded by the broader SAFER Program (since July 1, 2021) that increase drought resiliency for the water systems and communities they serve. Drought resilience projects are projects that allow communities to cope with and respond to drought conditions, both in the near and long term. These projects would typically provide reliable water supply sources, improve water system storage, improve water conservation (meters), replace aging water system infrastructure

¹² Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂E). For SADW-funded projects executed since July 1, 2019, 28 out of 120 have been able to have greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions quantified, mostly for hauled and bottled water projects. For FY 2024-25, three projects with ongoing implementation had quantifiable GHG reductions, with a total of 128 MTCO₂E.

¹³ [SADW Fund Quantification Methodology](https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/auction-proceeds/swrcb_sadwfund_qm_060122.pdf)
https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/auction-proceeds/swrcb_sadwfund_qm_060122.pdf

for reliability or to reduce water loss, increase reuse or groundwater recharge, etc. Some examples of drought resilience projects may include, but not limited to:

- Drilling and equipping of new wells
- Rehabilitation and equipping of existing wells
- Installation of well head treatment or source water treatment
- Consolidations or connections to adjacent water systems
- Recycled water projects that benefit potable water supplies
- Installation of new water system infrastructure (i.e., pipelines, pump stations, water intakes, storage tanks, meters)
- Groundwater recharge projects

Table C- 7 summarizes key information related to drought resilience projects funded since July 1, 2021.

Table C- 7. Drought Resilience Project Metrics (7/1/2021 – 6/30/2025)

Item	Cumulative Progress	FY 2024-25 Progress
Number of drought resilience projects funded	239	65
Total amount funded	\$1,774.5 M	\$631.5 M
Total number of communities assisted	279	77
Total population assisted	14.5 million	7.6 million
Number of drought resilience projects benefiting DACs	172	44
Amount funded towards DACs	\$977.2 M	\$181.5 M
Number of DACs assisted	215	50
DAC population assisted	1.86 million	265,470

PROGRAM COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY

PROGRAM COST-EFFECTIVENESS

Section XI.I of the SADW Fund Policy states the cost of solution per connection or per person served as a consideration for program cost-effectiveness. Table C- 8 summarizes average costs per connection or person across different project solution categories since July 1, 2020. Project costs listed in Appendix H for Failing systems were used for this analysis.

Table C- 8. Performance in Metric Category 6 (7/1/2020 – 6/30/2025)

Solution Category	Schools		Water Systems	
	Number of Existing and Potential Projects	Average Cost per person	Number of Existing and Pending Projects	Average Cost per connection
Interim Assistance	1	\$910	20	\$4,800
Technical Assistance	25	\$4,000	172	\$7,000
Planning	3	\$3,900	12	\$6,000
Construction	14	\$17,100	76	\$46,500

ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY

Performance metrics around administrative efficiency related to application processing and review time for both planning/construction and TA assistance requests (ARs) and work plans (WPs) are being tracked as summarized in Tables C-9 and C-10. At this time, limited data is available but will continue to be expanded upon in future FEPs.

Table C- 9. Performance in Metric Category 7 – Planning/Construction Projects¹⁴ (7/1/2023 – 6/30/2025)

Item	Key Performance Indicator	Median (days)	Total Number of Projects	Number of Projects that Met the KPI
Time to Assign Application (days)	21	20	96	49
Time to complete application review (days)	221	115	96	66
Time to develop and issue an agreement (days)	120	83	96	66

¹⁴ Projects considered for this table include projects funded in FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25.

Table C- 10. Performance in Metric Category 7 – Technical Assistance Work Plans (7/1/2022 – 6/30/2025)

Item	Progress
Percentage of WPs submitted within 8 to 10 weeks of AR acceptance	46% ¹⁵
Average total cost per TA planning WP	\$369,116
Average time to execute WP ¹⁶ (weeks)	24 ¹⁶
Percentage of WPs needing amendments for budget	57% ^{16,17}
Percentage of WPs needing amendments for time	93% ^{16,18}
Average number of times WP amended	2

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Section XI.I of the SADW Fund Policy lists the following metrics for community engagement effectiveness:

- (1) Number of Advisory Group meetings
- (2) Number of community meetings
- (3) Estimated number of meeting attendees
- (4) Website and social media analytics
- (5) Diversity of communication strategies, platforms, and materials

Table C- 11 summarizes key information around the amount of community engagement that has been done related to the SAFER Program since January 1, 2020.

Table C- 11. Performance in Metric Category 8 (1/1/2020 – 6/30/2025)

Item	Cumulative Progress	FY 2024-25 Progress
Public meetings or presentations led by State Water Board staff or TA Provider	129	6
SAFER Advisory Group Meetings	31	5
Emails sent via listservs	126	24
Number of program listserv subscribers	3,643	977
Social media posts	181	86
Press releases or media advisories	42	8

¹⁵ Data is for the period from 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2025.

¹⁶ Time to execute a WP is measured from the time the AR is assigned to a TA provider and the WP is executed.

¹⁷ These items do not add up to 100% because many amendments include both budget and time increases.

RACIAL EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

In support of the State Water Board's work towards racial equity, a performance metric category for Racial Equity and Environmental Justice was added in the FY 2021-22 FEP to track demographic information of communities receiving various forms of assistance through the SAFER Program.

FAILING SYSTEMS COMPARED TO SYSTEMS EVALUATED IN THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Aligned with the State Water Board's Racial Equity Action Plan's Strategic Direction #1, Goal 1a, this FEP reports on predominant identity characteristics (i.e., race/ethnicity) and other relevant demographic data, associated with the communities that benefit from funding administered by DFA via the SAFER Program. CalEnviroscreen score for these communities is also evaluated as an indicator of pollution burden. Appendix D of this FEP includes similar demographic information as the 2025 Needs Assessment for each project with funding committed in prior FY 2024-25 across the broader SAFER Program. Tables C-12 through C-14¹⁸ summarize analyses done on the systems listed in Appendix H and the systems from the 2025 Needs Assessment that have either approved or executed funding across the broader SAFER Program.

Table C- 12. Performance in Metric Category 9 – Predominant Identity Characteristics

	White	Hispanic	African American	Asian American	Am. American/Alaskan Native	Not Categorized
Failing Systems (Appendix H)						
No. of Systems	213	172	3	1	--	1
Total Amount (Percentage of Total)	\$130.4 M (25.5%)	\$372.3 M (72.9%)	\$5.9 M (1.2%)	\$0 M (0%)	--	\$2.1M (0.4%)
Needs Assessment Systems						
No. of Systems	2,123	828	10	69	5	2

¹⁸ Demographic data for Tables C-12 through C-14 and Appendix D is based on the census tract that the benefitting community resides in and consistent with data used in the DDW Needs Assessment.

CalEnviroscreen data source: OEHHA.ca.gov; Census data source: data.census.gov

Appendix C. Metrics and Methodology

	White	Hispanic	African American	Asian American	Am. American/Alaskan Native	Not Categorized
Total Amount (Percentage of Total)	\$749.9 M (54.7%)	\$611.5 M (44.6%)	\$6 M (0.4%)	\$1.4 M (0.1%)	\$.37 M (0%)	\$2.1 M (0.2%)

Table C- 13. Performance in Metric Category 9 – Average Percent of Households Below 2x Federal Poverty Level

	0-25	25-50	50-75	>75	Not Available
Failing Systems (Appendix B)					
No. of Systems	132	174	76	8	--
Total Amount (Percentage of Total)	\$73 M (14.3%)	\$248.5 M (48.7%)	\$176.2 M (34.5%)	\$13 M (2.8%)	--
Needs Assessment Systems					
No. of Systems	1,392	1,256	360	29	--
Total Amount (Percentage of Total)	\$455.1 M (33.2%)	\$591.5 M (43.1%)	\$310.7 M (22.7%)	\$14 M (1%)	--

Table C- 14. Performance in Metric Category 9 – CalEnviroscreen Score (Percentile)

	0-25	25-50	50-75	>75	Not Available
Failing Systems (Appendix B)					
No. of Systems	48	77	95	169	1
Total Amount (Percentage of Total)	\$26.3 M (5.2%)	\$28.2 M (5.5%)	\$71.7 M (14%)	\$384.5 M (75.3%)	--
Needs Assessment Systems					
No. of Systems	697	707	831	778	24

Appendix C. Metrics and Methodology

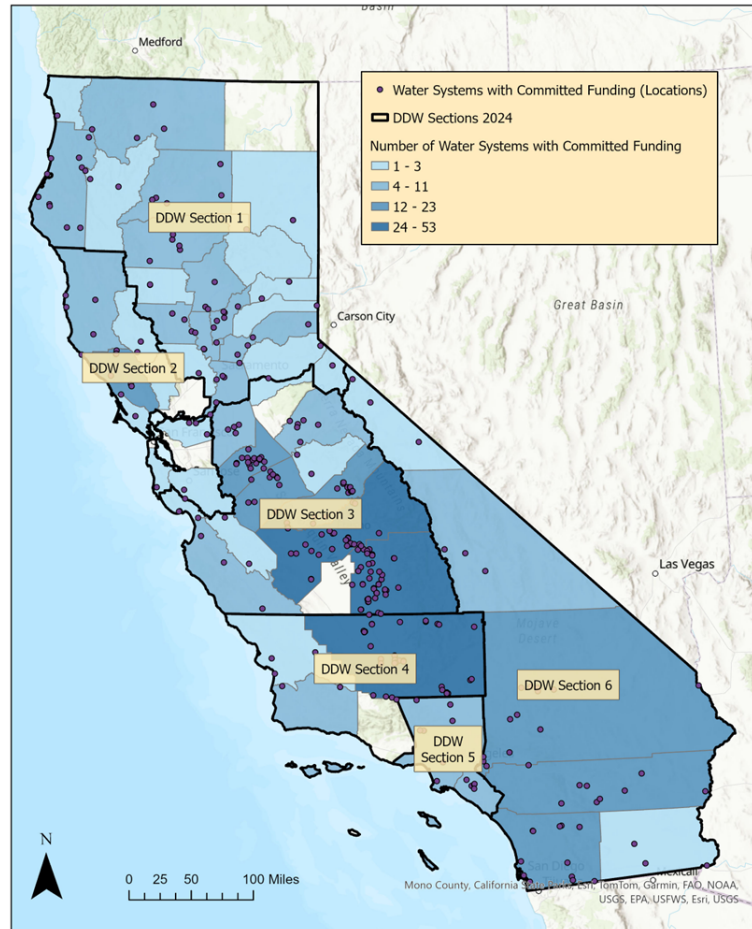
	0-25	25-50	50-75	>75	Not Available
Total Amount (Percentage of Total)	\$266.9 M (19.5%)	\$245.4 M (17.9%)	\$235.9 M (17.2%)	\$622.5 M (45.4%)	\$.6 M (0%)

Based on the information in the tables above, while there are more predominantly white Failing systems, much of the existing funding (72.9%) is benefiting Hispanic-majority communities. In addition, the majority of the Failing systems have a CalEnviroscreen Score (percentile) greater than 25%.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF COMMITTED FUNDING

Figure C- 1 presents a geographic distribution of SAFER Program projects with committed funding by the SAFER Program between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2025. This map is broken out by geographic DDW's regulatory sections and summarizes information regarding total systems, Failing systems and funding commitments by DDW Section.

**Figure C- 1. Geographic Distribution of Committed SAFER Projects
(7/1/2019 – 6/30/2025)**



DDW Section	Number of PWSs	Number of Failing PWSs (as of June 30, 2025)	PWSs with Committed Funding	Failing PWSs with Committed Funding
1	662	39	63	12
2	497	43	21	10
3	690	98	122	68
4	667	138	67	25
5	244	12	26	3
6	437	67	131	14
Totals:	3197	397	430	132

TRIBAL COORDINATION ON DRINKING WATER PROJECTS

In support of ensuring equitable access to funding available through the SAFER Program, improved tracking is being implemented with respect to tribal coordination on drinking water projects and potential pathways for funding, summarized below in Table C- 15. More information on tribal considerations with respect to funding is included in Section VI.E of this FEP.

Table C- 15. Performance in Metric Category 10 (7/1/2020 – 6/30/2025)

Item	Cumulative Progress	FY 2024-25 Progress
Meetings with tribal representatives ¹⁹	121	16
Number of inquiries for funding received from tribes ¹⁷	21	4
Number of drinking water funding requests received from tribes	12	3
Total amount of funding granted to tribes	\$2,571,979	\$820,985
Number of tribal water systems receiving State Water Board funding or technical assistance	11	2

¹⁹ Data for these items reported for 1/1/2023 to 6/30/2025.

METHODOLOGY

The following section provides an overview of the methodology used to compile the metrics presented above. Each subsection corresponds to a specific metric category and briefly describes data sources²⁰, calculation methods, and reporting procedures used to generate the associated tables. This information is provided to support consistency, transparency, and reproducibility in tracking the performance of the SAFER Program over time.

INTERIM SOLUTIONS, PLANNING ASSISTANCE, AND LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS (METRIC CATEGORIES 1–3)

INTERIM SOLUTIONS

Identifies the number of number of communities/households, service connections, and population that are receiving interim assistance funding for one of the following categories:

- Bottled Water – community water systems provided with bottled water
- Point-of-Use/Point-of-Entry (POU/POE) Devices – community water systems (CWSs) provided with POU/POE devices
- Hauled Water – community water systems provided with hauled water
- Repair – community water systems provided with emergency repair projects
- Treatment – community water systems provide with treatment repair projects
- Household Bottled Water – households served by DW/SSWSs provided with bottled water
- Households POU/POE – households served by DW/SSWSs provided with POU/POE devices

PLANNING PROJECTS

Identifies the number of communities, service connections, and population that are benefitting from planning assistance for one of the following categories:

- Executed Planning Agreements – project agreements for the evaluation and development of long term, sustainable solutions
- Completed Planning Projects – completion of planning project activities

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Identifies the number of communities, service connections, and population that are benefitting from construction assistance for one of the following categories:

²⁰ Unless otherwise noted, funding data is pulled from the State Water Board's Loans and Grants Tracking System (LGTS) database.

- Executed Construction Agreements – project agreements for the implementation of long term, sustainable solutions
- Completed Construction Activities – completion of construction project activities
- Consolidations Completed – completed consolidations, per Division of Drinking Water (DDW) (includes non-State Water Board funded consolidations)

FAILING SYSTEMS, SYSTEMS THAT HAVE RETURNED TO COMPLIANCE, AND OTHER REGULATORY MEASURES AND TOOLS (METRIC CATEGORY 4)

FAILING SYSTEMS AND SYSTEMS THAT HAVE RETURNED TO COMPLIANCE

Includes information tracked by DDW on the number of PWSs that were Failing on July 1, 2019, also referred to as the 2019 cohort, and those currently Failing (as of 6/30/2025). Information is also reported on the number of PWSs that are no longer Failing from the 2019 cohort and the number of PWSs that are no longer Failing that came onto the Failing list after July 1, 2019.

CONSOLIDATIONS

Includes information tracked by DDW and DFA related to consolidation outreach letters and events, number of active consolidation projects, including mandatory consolidations, and number of consolidations completed since July 1, 2020 and the progress for the prior FY.

ADMINISTRATORS

Includes information tracked by DDW and DFA related to PWSs that have been designated for an Administrator appointment, the number of administrator orders issued, the number of public meetings that have occurred, the number of executed funding agreements with administrators (or work plans for those administrators with master agreements), the number of executed funding agreements for O&M associated with systems with administrators, and the number of appointments that have been completed.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY (METRIC CATEGORY 5)

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Information related to climate adaptation is compiled through annual reporting to CARB in accordance with requirements of the CCI Program. Reporting includes executed SADW-funded projects beginning July 1, 2019, and captures information related to

climate adaptation features such as additional storage, new sources, and water quality improvements.

GHG emissions are estimated using the SADW Fund Quantification Methodology, which applies CARB-approved methodology to assess emissions from project implementation including energy efficiency retrofits, solar generation, pump replacement, and interim water deliveries. Additional metrics were introduced in FY 2023-24, such as households benefiting from drought-related contamination or dry wells and the number of households transitioned from interim to long-term solution, which are tracked by DFA.

DROUGHT RESILIENCE PROJECTS

Information on drought resilience projects is captured in LGTS for planning and construction projects that allow communities to cope with and respond to drought conditions, both in the near and long term. These projects would typically provide reliable water supply sources, improve water system storage, improve water conservation (meters), replace aging water system infrastructure for reliability or to reduce water loss, increase reuse or groundwater recharge, etc. Information reported includes the number of drought resilience projects, total amount funded, number of communities and population assisted, and the subset of those that benefited DACs.

PROGRAM COST-EFFECTIVENESS (METRIC CATEGORY 6)

Program cost-effectiveness is evaluated by looking at past project data available in LGTS on cost per connection or per person across different solution types including interim assistance, TA, planning, and construction between January 1, 2019 through the end of the prior FY.

ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY (METRIC CATEGORY 7)

PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Administrative Efficiency for Planning and Construction Projects

Information on administrative efficiency for planning and construction projects is captured in the Key Performance Indicators report in LGTS. This report considers the following metrics:

- **Time to Assign the Application:** Defined as the duration between the "Applicant Submitted the first Submittal into the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool" date and the "New Application Assigned to Project Manager" date. The difference between these two dates is reported in days.
- **Time to Complete Application Review:** Defined as the duration between the "Applicant Submitted a Complete Application" date and the "Supervisory Engineer Review of Masterfile Complete" date.

- **Time to Develop and Issue an Agreement:** Defined as the duration between the "Eligibility File Review Complete" date and the "Analyst Emails Agreement to Applicant for Signature" date.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORK PLANS

Data presented in Table 18 is compiled from the TA Metrics Tracker which is managed and updated by Technical Assistance project managers.

- The "Percentage of WPs submitted within eight to ten weeks of AR acceptance" was showing the percentage of work plans that were submitted by the time target in weeks that is established for TA providers. The target duration of time between WP start date and the submittal of the draft work plan by the TA provider is eight weeks for for-profit TA providers and ten weeks for non-profit and university TA providers.
- The "Average total cost per TA planning WP" was the mean average budget of all planning work plans that were active. These WPs include all planning projects which include smaller scope projects where TA is supporting previous planning work. The numbers are not representative of projects where TA completes the planning from the start.
- The "Average time to execute WP" was the mean average number of weeks to execute a WP. Time is measured from the time the AR is assigned to a TA provider and the WP is executed.
- The "Percentage of WPs needing amendments for budget" was showing the percentage of work plans that required an amendment that increased the budget from the initial approved work plan budget.
- The "Percentage of WPs needing amendments for time" was showing the percentage of work plans that required an amendment that extended the deliverable dates of the approved tasks in the WP.
- The "Average number of time WP amended" was showing the mean average of time that a WP has been amended after it is executed, rounded to the nearest whole number.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (METRIC CATEGORY 8)

Information on community engagement for the SAFER Program is tracked by the Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs (OPEETA) and the Office of Public Affairs (OPA). This includes the number of public meetings, SAFER Advisory Group meetings, emails sent via listservs (including the total number of subscribers), social media posts, and press releases or media advisories, both since January 1, 2020 and the progress for the prior FY.

RACIAL EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (METRIC CATEGORY 9)

For the Racial Equity and Environmental Justice metrics tables, the data sources include the most recent annual Drinking Water Needs Assessment, census tract information²¹, and CalEnviroScreen 4.0²². Information presented is a comparison of Failing systems (Appendix H of this FEP) versus all PWSs evaluated in the current annual Needs Assessment and includes predominant identity characteristics, average percent of households two times below the federal poverty level, and the CalEnviroScreen percentile score as an indicator of pollution burden.

For the geographic distribution of committed SAFER projects²³, spatial location information is plotted for each project with committed funding between July 1, 2019 and through the prior FY (i.e., a compilation of the appendices on committed SAFER projects for each of the prior FY's FEPs) with boundaries for the DDW Regulatory Sections across the state and information on how many water systems are located in each section, how many of those are Failing, and how many have funding commitments from the State Water Board.

TRIBAL COORDINATION ON DRINKING WATER PROJECTS (METRIC CATEGORY 10)

Information on tribal coordination on drinking water projects was more specifically tracked following the passage of AB 2877²⁴ by OPEETA and DFA and includes the number of meetings with tribal representatives, the number of drinking water related inquiries or funding requests received from tribes, the total amount of funding granted to projects benefitting tribes, and the number of tribal water systems receiving State Water Board funding or TA.

²¹ Census data source: data.census.gov

²² [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40)
<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40>

²³ To be included in the final version of this FEP.

²⁴ Health & Saf. Code, § 116766.

Appendix D. SAFER Program Committed Expenditures for FY 2024-25

Link: [SAFER Program Committed Expenditures for FY 2024-25](#)

Appendix E. Other SAFER Program Updates

INTRODUCTION

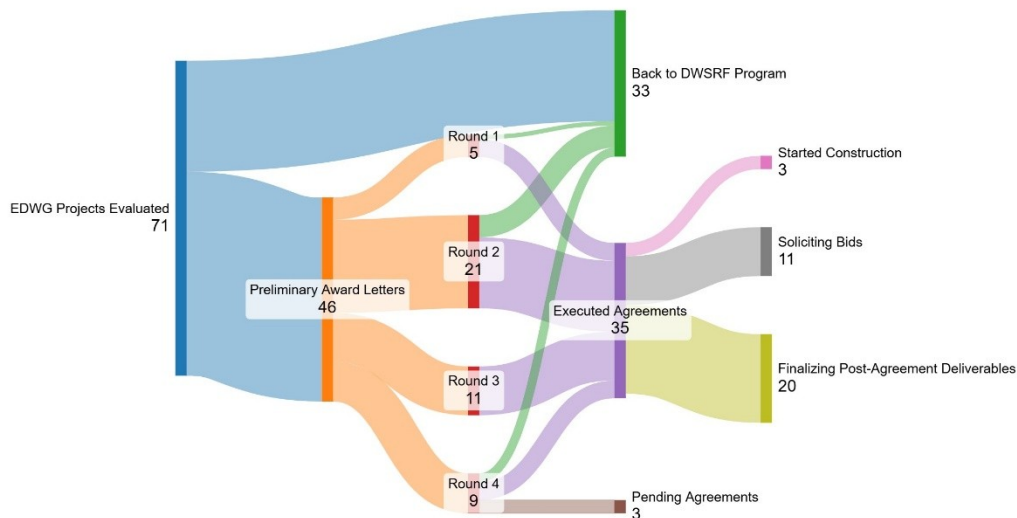
This appendix provides programmatic updates for the following:

- Expedited Drinking Water Grant (EDWG) Program
- Direct Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Program
- Pilot Projects
- Community Engagement

EXPEDITED DRINKING WATER GRANT PROGRAM

The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) has administered four rounds of funding since the State Water Board's adoption of the Guidelines for the Expedited Drinking Water Grant Program on March 8, 2023. Figure E- 1 shows the status of the seventy-one projects that were evaluated for the program.

Figure E- 1. Status of EDWG Projects



The EDWG program has produced 35 executed agreements for approximately \$171 million from the SADW Fund, the General Fund, and Propositions 68 funding. Table E- 1 provides a funding breakdown for each round of the EDWG program.

Table E- 1. EDWG Program Funding per Round

EDWG Round	Projects Invited	Projects Funded ²⁵	Percent Funded	Total Grant Amount
1	5	4	80%	\$28,224,948
2	21	16	76%	\$81,764,948
3	11	11	100%	\$32,775,633
4 ²⁶	9	4	44%	\$28,656,251
Total	46	35	76%	\$171,421,780

TIMELINES

The EDWG program was developed to provide an expedited process by which applicants with qualifying high priority projects can receive state grant funding through a reduction of information submittal requirements and processing times. To evaluate the efficiency of the EDWG program, data was compared with Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program construction projects that submitted a complete funding application after March 8, 2023 and received an executed funding agreement.

The data analysis shows that the submittal of a complete EDWG funding application (median of 34 days) is significantly faster than the submittal of a complete DWSRF funding application (median of 675 days). Additionally, the data analysis shows that the timeframe for executing an initial funding agreement was also significantly faster for the EDWG program (median of 211 days) in comparison to the DWSRF program (median of 915 days).

PROJECT PROGRESS

The EDWG program is structured such that the submittal of certain funding application documents, such as the financial and environmental package, are not required prior to the execution of the initial funding agreement and can be submitted prior to the solicitation of bids. DFA must receive all remaining application documents, conduct the remaining application package reviews, and provide bid solicitation approval before the project can advertise bids.

For the 35 executed funding agreements, six projects have received bid solicitation approval and one is pending. Four of these projects have submitted a Final Budget

²⁵ Per Section 6.3 of the EDWG Funding Program Guidelines, unique legal issues or other challenges related to the project or funding may lead to the withdrawal of preliminary funding awards. As a result of such issues, projects have been removed from rounds but may be reconsidered for funding in a future round, or through the DWSRF program.

²⁶ Projects in Round 4 of the EDWG program are currently being processed and three additional projects are anticipated to be funded.

Approval (FBA) package and were issued a FBA letter to start construction, with an additional project that has a FBA letter pending for issuance. The remaining 28 projects are working towards submitting the necessary documents to receive bid solicitation approval from DFA.

In comparison to the DWSRF projects that submitted a complete application after March 8, 2023, and received an executed funding agreement, the EDWG projects are going out to bid at a comparable rate to the hundred percent (100%) grant/principal forgiveness (PF) funded projects in the DWSRF Program. Additional time and data are necessary to determine if the EDWG program results in projects being completed faster than the DWSRF Program, and this will be further evaluated in a future FEP.

PROGRAM UPDATES

The EDWG program guidelines are in the process of being updated to align with the SAFER Program's funding priorities, DWSRF Intended Use Plan (IUP), and DWSRF Policy. The guidelines and application documents will also be updated to rectify issues that were identified within the first four rounds of the program and to allow additional flexibility for projects to advertise bids.

DIRECT OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

In August 2024, the State Water Board adopted guidelines for the Direct Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Funding Program²⁷, establishing a framework to support small, disadvantaged communities (DACs) facing unaffordable water rates. The Program categorizes projects into two groups:

Group 1 includes systems where water rates exceed 2.5% of the community's Median Household Income (MHI) and exhibit a high affordability burden as identified in the annual Drinking Water Needs Assessment.

Group 2 includes projects that are considered on a case-by-case basis, such as schools, Tribes, or systems with unique financial challenges (e.g., existing debt, lack of revenue).

Following adoption of the guidelines, outreach to eligible Group 1 systems proved challenging. Targeted solicitation efforts were met with limited interest, mostly because the benefit accrues directly to residents rather than the water system itself. In total, 14 projects were not pursued due to ineligibility, five projects had over 50% second home

²⁷ See [FY 2024-25 FEP](https://waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/docs/2024/draft-final-fy2024-25-fep-clean-version.pdf), Section V.D and Appendix K.
https://waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/docs/2024/draft-final-fy2024-25-fep-clean-version.pdf

Appendix E. Other SAFER Program Updates

percentage, six projects were non-DACs, and three projects had water rates below the 2.5% MHI threshold.

As a result of these challenges, and the establishment of refined SAFER Program Goals in the FY 2024-25 FEP, DFA is no longer actively promoting Group 1 Direct O&M projects. The O&M Program has continued to evolve, with a focus on addressing high-affordability burdens and supporting systems on a case-by-case basis as requests are made. Table E- 2 below lists the current O&M projects that have either been approved or executed along with the project criteria used to support the project.

Table E- 2. FY 2024-25 Direct O&M Approved Projects

Project Name	Category	Criteria Fulfilled
Spindrifft Marina	Group 1	High Water Rates, High Affordability, DAC
Weott Community Services District	Group 1	High Water Rates, High Affordability, SDAC
Benton Paiute	Group 2	Tribe, Ineligible Fed Funding, Failing POU's, SDAC
Fresno El Porvenir	Group 1	High Water Rates (Debt), SDAC, Failing
Rio Bravo-Greeley	Group 2	Lack of Funds for Treatment Facility

In addition, O&M funding is being leveraged to facilitate voluntary consolidations and provide interim support for water systems under administrator appointment.

ADMINISTRATORS

In September 2019, the State Water Board adopted an Administrator Policy Handbook to provide direction regarding the appointment of administrators by the State Water Board of designated water systems, as authorized by Health and Safety Code section 116686. A revised version of the Administrator Policy Handbook was adopted in January 2025²⁸. The revision updated the prior version, adopted in September 2023, to incorporate provisions of Assembly Bill 805 which provides authority for the State Water Board to appoint administrators to designated sewer systems.

Administrators may be individual persons, businesses, nonprofit organizations, local agencies including counties or nearby larger utilities, and other entities. Administrators may be assigned broad duties such as acting as general manager for the designated water system, or specific duties, such as managing an infrastructure improvement project on behalf of a designated water system. Non-administrator funding can be

²⁸ [Administrator Policy Handbook](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/docs/2025/administrator-policy-handbook.pdf)

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/docs/2025/administrator-policy-handbook.pdf

awarded to an administrator on behalf of a designated water system (e.g., O&M or bottled water).

The appointment of an administrator is an authority that the State Water Board may consider when necessary to ensure an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water to certain water systems. Water systems in need of an administrator are identified based on the Needs Assessment, the prioritization process outlined in Section IV, and the direct local knowledge and expertise of DDW District Office staff. The State Water Board recognizes the significance and potentially disruptive effect of ordering a designated water system to accept an administrator and therefore intends to use its authority carefully and will incorporate significant community engagement as outlined in the Administrator Policy Handbook.

Appointed administrators must be an eligible entity qualified to be an administrator through DDW's Administrator Request for Qualifications process²⁹. Administrators appointed to provide services to designated water systems can be funded via the SADW Fund either through a singular system-specific funding agreement or through a master agreement that will assist multiple designated water systems. For administrators funded through a master agreement, system-specific administrator work plans are executed to outline the scope, budget, and schedule for administrator work in a given community (similar to the TA work plan process).

Administrator funding provided by the State Water Board is intended for the administrator's salary to conduct or oversee managerial, administrative, technical, operational, and legal services, as appropriate for the system, i.e., to take on the role of a general manager. The funding provided under the administrator agreement is not used for direct O&M activities or to fund capital projects. A water system managed by an administrator may still receive separate funding from the State Water Board for direct O&M support or capital projects, typically in the form of the administrator applying for funding on behalf of the system. The State Water Board may also provide separate funding for O&M support or capital projects, to an administrator, including an administrator's subsidiary company or designee as approved by the State Water Board, consistent with the Administrator Policy Handbook. Limited funding may also be provided to an administrator, consistent with the Administrator Policy Handbook, to address emergency repairs or maintenance activities for those systems that have inadequate reserves.

Since 2020 the State Water Board has appointed eight administrators to 15 designated water systems. There is currently one additional designated water system that is going through the process of having an administrator appointed. One administrator assignment has been completed and there are 14 assignments that are ongoing. Table

²⁹ [Administrator Request For Qualifications Guidelines](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/docs/rfq_admin-(002).pdf)

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/docs/rfq_admin-\(002\).pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/docs/rfq_admin-(002).pdf)

E- 3 lists the designated water systems along with the appointed administrator with the status.

Table E- 3. Administrator Approved Projects

Designated Water System	Administrator	Status
North Edwards Water District	California Rural Water Association	Completed
West Water Company	County of Sonoma	Active
Six Acres Water Company	Demery and Associates	Transferred ³⁰
Norcal Water Works	Provost & Pritchard	Active
Sierra Vista Association	Provost & Pritchard	Active
Old River Mutual Water Company	Provost & Pritchard	Active
South Kern Mutual Water Company	Provost & Pritchard	Active
Las Deltas Mutual Water System	Provost & Pritchard	Active
Keeler Community Service District	Provost & Pritchard	Active
Daggett CSD	Provost & Pritchard	Pending
Cazadero Water Company	Russian River Utility	Active
Valley Ford Association	Russian River Utility	Active
Six Acres Water Company	SRT Consultants	Active
Teviston Community Services District	Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	Active
Lake Morena View	Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	Active
Allensworth CSD	Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	Active
East Orosi CSD	Tulare County Resource Management Agency	Active

³⁰ On May 31, 2024, Demery and Associates notified the Board for Six Acres Water Company of their withdrawal as an administrator, effective August 30, 2024. Effective October 22, 2024, the State Water Board appointed SRT Consultants as full-scope administrator for the Six Acres Water Company.

The State Water Board is currently assessing the effectiveness of the administrator program along with the cost associated an administrator, as well as the realistic timeline for when an administrator's support would no longer be needed in a community.

PILOT PROJECTS

Section IX.C of the FY 2020-21 FEP identified two pilot projects to be funded by the SADW Fund – the Innovative POU/POE Technology Pilot (POU/POE Pilot, led by DDW) and the Direct O&M Support Pilot (no longer being pursued)³¹. Updates to the POU/POE Pilot are provided below.

INNOVATIVE POU/POE TECHNOLOGY PILOT

The purpose of the POU/POE Pilot is to prepare an authoritative report on the current state and use of POU/POE technologies as drinking water solutions, and to provide suggestions for future research and development. Some of the limitations to be considered include needs related to regulation of POU/POE in PWSs, POU/POE as a drinking water solution for private domestic wells, performance certification and testing, installation challenges, and ensuring reliable O&M of the devices once installed.

The State Water Board developed the 2023 Drinking Water Point-of-Use Point-of-Entry Report (POU/POE Report)³² in coordination with stakeholders (community groups, industry groups, and other stakeholders identified in the FY 2020-21 FEP). The POU/POE Report includes numerous recommendations to improve implementation of POU/POE as a drinking water solution. The POU/POE Report includes six recommended research efforts, comprising a POU/POE Pilot, to fill specific knowledge gaps for funding consideration. Three of the six projects have been funded initially via a TA master agreement with Stantec, and include:

- (1) Educational Strategy and Materials
- (2) Performance Certification
- (3) POU/POE Operator Education Cohort and Workforce Development

The three initial projects will be completed in March 2026. Scopes of work for the remaining three projects will be developed by the end of 2025, with work anticipated to begin in 2026. The remaining three projects include:

- (4) Solutions for Bacteriological Contamination in Domestic Wells
- (5) Integration of Smart Technology in POU/POE Solutions
- (6) Key considerations in determining POU/POE Solutions

³¹ More information on the Direct O&M Program is included in a prior section of this Appendix.

³² [2023 Drinking Water Point-of-Use Point-of-Entry Report](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/docs/2023/2023-POU-POE-report.pdf)

<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/docs/2023/2023-POU-POE-report.pdf>

Projects 4 through 6 are estimated to cost between \$1.5 and \$2 million, which is included in the SADW Fund targets for FY 2025-26.

Lastly, the State Water Board will collaborate to write a white paper that reports the findings of the overall POU/POE Pilot. The white paper and other supporting communication materials will be added to the State Water Board's website to facilitate knowledge sharing across various stakeholder groups.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Proactive engagement with water systems and communities is a core aspect of the SAFER Program. State Water Board staff will increase engagement with water systems, tribal governments, community residents, domestic well owners, schools, local community-based organizations, or other funding recipients at all stages of the SAFER Program.

SAFER ADVISORY GROUP

Purpose: The SAFER Advisory Group is a consultative body that advises the State Water Board on the FEP, SADW Policy, implementation of the Fund, and other related analyses and components of the SAFER Program.

Structure: The Advisory Group is composed of 20 appointed members that represent public water systems, technical assistance providers, local agencies, non-governmental organizations, the public, California Native American Tribes, and residents served by Community water systems in DACs, state smalls, and domestic wells. The Advisory Group meets up to four times a year to discuss and provide feedback on the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Expenditure Plan and other related policies and analyses. The meetings provide a chance for public participation and public comments. Feedback and recommendations from both Advisory Group members and the public are maintained with State Water Board members through meeting notes. Advisory Group meeting materials are available on the State Water Board website in English and Spanish, and the meetings are held with live interpretation services.

Application for membership: The Advisory Group application period typically opens every year in the summer. The State Water Board's Executive Director or designee reviews applications and appoints members in the fall/winter. Advisory Group members are provided with an orientation to the SAFER Program, which includes an overview of their role as an Advisory Group member, background on the SAFER Program, and an overview of upcoming discussion topics. Newly appointed members started their two-year terms in January 2025. Details for applying to join the SAFER Advisory Group for the 2026-2028 term will be posted on the SAFER website in July 2025 and applications will be reviewed in Fall 2025.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Building public awareness and education of the SAFER Program is a priority for the State Water Board. State Water Board staff will continue implementing and revising a communication and outreach plan that outlines key actions and deliverables for educating, informing, and engaging various audiences on the SAFER Program. The following goals and potential strategies are included in the communication and outreach plan:

- (1) Increase awareness of the SAFER Program and SB 200 regulatory tools, funding, and approaches.
- (2) Build broad support for regulatory and enforcement efforts (e.g., consolidations, administrators, etc.) and garner acceptance of State and Regional Water Boards regulatory approach among affected communities through education about drinking water quality issues.
- (3) Increase opportunities for transparency, awareness, and engagement with the public throughout SAFER Program development and implementation.
- (4) Employ a proactive approach to obtaining applications and requests for funding by engaging directly with communities, water systems, and tribes.
- (5) Promote success stories through various media forums.

PARTNERING TO EXPAND OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

In 2022, the SAFER Program launched an outreach and engagement strategy intended to increase early community engagement with SAFER; keep local drinking water projects on track; identify potential risks, issues, or delays; build local capacity; and create a path towards equitable and resilient water governance. Partnering with and funding community experts to conduct local outreach and engagement activities may catalyze collaborative solutions in hard-to-reach communities. The strategy involves several types of Outreach and Engagement Partners:

- **Funding Partner** enters into a funding agreement with the State Water Board and funds Community Partners for outreach and engagement activities. The Funding Partner is a liaison between the State Water Board and Community Partners and helps address barriers to accessing funding for outreach. The State Water Board has identified Stantec as the first Funding Partner and they have a recently executed work plan to provide assistance to hard-to-reach communities. State Water Board staff and Stantec have identified specific communities for this focused engagement effort and will begin the process of onboarding Community Partners in spring 2025.
 - **Community Partners** receive funding from Funding Partners for outreach and engagement activities in selected communities with drinking water challenges. Community Partners foster inclusive cultures and are experts in grassroots organizing, community education, outreach and engagement, and community capacity building.

- **Technical Assistance Providers** have separate funding agreements with the State Water Board to provide administrative, technical, operational, legal, managerial, and/or community engagement support to failing water systems. Technical Assistance Providers oversee the subcontracting and management of various types of assistance for communities and assist water systems that may not have the technical capacity to address drinking water challenges on their own.

TRIBAL OUTREACH

The State Water Board understands that California tribes face unique challenges to providing safe and affordable drinking water to their communities. Although federally regulated tribal water systems are regulated by U.S. EPA and not by the State Water Board, there are federal funding gaps that the SAFER Program could support. The SAFER Program engages with California tribal nations to collaboratively develop tribal-led drinking water solutions.

The State Water board, in coordination with the U.S. EPA, DWR, IHS, and other partners, have established regular and ongoing coordination meetings to share data, identify tribal water system funding gaps, and prioritize outreach efforts for tribal water systems. State Water Board staff in the OPP proactively reach out to tribal water systems and track progress on tribal drinking water solutions.

COMMUNITY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The SAFER Program's workforce development efforts are focused on job and workforce creation to support the long-term sustainability, which includes O&M and TMF capacity, of small DAC drinking water systems. The State Water Board is exploring opportunities to leverage existing efforts within the State Water Board, CalEPA, and other CCI programs to incorporate water sector workforce needs. Involvement of community leaders and residents is supported through the State Water Board's new and established TA programs.

In FY 2019-20, State Water Board staff began working with the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) and University Enterprises, Inc. to develop a workforce development program, but these efforts were delayed due to the COVID-19 emergency. In 2022, State Water Board staff reinitiated discussions with the CWDB and began looking for synergies and intersections between workforce development programs being offered by the CWDB and those offered by the drinking water sector, with particular focus on drinking water operator training and retention.

In 2023, State Water Board staff began interviewing representatives from stakeholder groups involved in workforce development within the San Joaquin Valley to better understand what is needed at the local level to advance workforce development, what is already being done, and where challenges and opportunities may exist to leverage

efforts and build partnerships. In a future phase, a small stakeholder working group will be convened to further identify and advance local workforce development initiatives through partnerships and collaboration. This effort will serve as a pilot project that can be replicated elsewhere in the state.

As this program evolves, State Water Board staff will continue to consider opportunities to implement racial equity measures, consistent with the State Water Board's Racial Equity Resolution and associated Racial Equity Action Plan.

EXISTING EFFORTS

The State Water Board currently funds third-party capacity building, through the SADW Fund, to develop and conduct training workshops covering all aspects of operating and maintaining a PWS, including the legal responsibilities of PWS board members. The State Water Board will continue to expand these programs, working with members of impacted communities to provide support for local training and apprenticeship programs.

DFA staff also manages the State Water Board's Drinking Water Operator Certification Program (DWOCP). The DWOCP is responsible for the testing and certification of water treatment and water distribution operators throughout the state of California.

In February 2021, DWOCP transitioned to computer-based testing to allow greater testing accessibility and opportunities at more than 30 vendor hosted sites throughout California. DFA staff expanded their program improvement efforts, in collaboration with stakeholders, to address the issues and concerns related to operator certification and workforce challenges. In July 2022, DFA staff, in coordination with the State Water Board's Division of Information Technology, initiated an online application submittal portal project. Under a phased approach, the online application submittal portal became operational in September 2023 with the launch of Phase I.

Since the launch of Phase I, continued development of the portal has remained a priority for DFA staff and subsequent phases were launched in October 2024, December 2024, and February 2025. Operators now have the ability to access their profile through the portal and view their certifications, certification expiration dates, track application statuses, submit applications for all grades of drinking water distribution operator examination and drinking water treatment operator examination electronically, and review and resolve application deficiencies. The development of the ability to submit applications to renew drinking water distribution operator certifications and drinking water treatment operator certifications electronically has been initiated and is expected to launch in 2026.

Appendix F. Median Household Income Determination Methodology

In general, the median household income (MHI) determination for a community water system (CWS) will be based on the entire permitted service area of the CWS. The MHI and Economic Status Determination Methodology can be found online at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/documents/needs/2024/2024MHI-caclulation.pdf

Public water system (PWS) MHI data can be found on the SAFER Dashboard website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/saferdashboard.html.

Domestic Well and/or State Small System MHI data can be found at the following Risk Assessment website: <https://gispublic.waterboards.ca.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=ece2b3ca1f66401d9ae4bfce2e6a0403&page=Homepage>.

If the MHI cannot be determined due to unavailable American Community Survey (ACS) data or the available data is not considered representative based on consultation with DDW or Regional Board staff, an income survey may be conducted. An impartial third party must conduct an income survey in accordance with the current Multiagency Income Survey Guidelines.

A non-transient non-community water system (NTNC) owned by a K-12 public school district is deemed to serve a severely disadvantaged community because the primary users are minor students. Minors generally have incomes below 60 percent (60%) of the statewide MHI. All other eligible NTNCs and the MHI of the small community they serve will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis based upon the intended customer base.

For a consolidation including the extension of water service by a PWS to a small community not currently being served by a PWS, for purposes of providing reduced interest rates and PF, the MHI of the PWS extending service/the Receiving Water System or the community receiving service/Subsumed Water System may be considered, consistent with statutory requirements. Grant eligibility for state small water systems or individual residences may be determined based on the best fit block group, an income survey, individual household certifications, or a combination thereof.

Appendix F. Median Household Income Determination Methodology

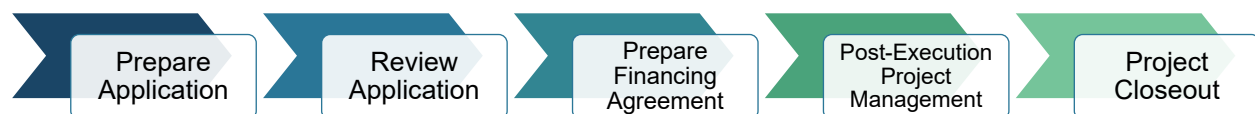
If a project will benefit a system that has industrial/commercial connections that account for greater than ten percent of the total water consumption, then grant/PF funding may be reduced for costs attributable to industrial/commercial use. In addition, project components that are solely for industrial/commercial use (e.g., water meters at an industrial/commercial facility) generally are not grant/PF eligible. On a case-by-case basis, the Deputy Director of DFA may approve grant/PF for industrial/commercial connections for consolidation projects for good cause. Individual project components such as water meters or private laterals that benefit individual facilities such as the following are not considered industrial/commercial connections and, therefore, may be eligible for grant/PF: a public K-12 school, a not-for-profit K-12 private school, a not-for-profit daycare facility, a not-for-profit labor camp, a not-for-profit elder care facility, a not-for-profit health care facility, or a not-for-profit facility serving a tribe.

Appendix G. Funding Process and Improvement

DFA implements the State Water Board's financial assistance programs, which include loan and grant funding for drinking water projects through the SAFER Program, as well as other types of projects such as construction of municipal sewage and water recycling facilities, remediation for underground storage tank releases, watershed protection projects, and nonpoint source pollution control projects.

The funding process, from the submittal of a complete application to the end of a project, has five phases, shown in figure below. Descriptions below focus on how the funding process would go for a capital planning or construction project.

Funding Process Overview



Prepare Application

- In this phase, the potential recipient prepares and submits a complete application through FFAST. More information on applying for SAFER Program funding is included in Section IX.C. of this FEP.
- This phase can take a few months to many months depending on several factors such as the availability and completeness of key documents. In cases of consolidation, preparation of these documents can take longer as more than one entity is involved.

Review Application

- In this phase, DFA staff review the application's various packages (i.e., General, Environmental, Technical, Financial, and Legal) and prepares the Master File. (A master file is a compilation of application documents, reviews, and clearances for a project).
- This phase can also take a few months to many months, again based on many factors. Each project is unique, but some reasons review might take longer is if the project is controversial, on federal land, or if the applicant is undergoing litigation.
- The applicant is notified at the end of this phase.

Prepare Financing Agreement

- This phase includes scope negotiation between DFA and the potential recipient, financing agreement preparation, and agreement routing for approvals and execution.

Appendix G. Funding Process and Process Improvements Overview

- This phase typically takes several months up to a year, depending on the nature and complexity of a project.

Post-Execution Project Management

- Once the financing agreement is executed, project work begins. This phase includes ongoing project management by DFA staff, final budget approval (FBA), amendments, and disbursements.
- Depending on the project, this phase can last from months to years.

Project Closeout

- This phase includes the final invoice, final project inspection, and project closeout and can take weeks to months.

Priority Funding Process Improvements for FY 2024-25

Table G.1. FY 2024-25 Process Improvements in Process

Improvement	Fiscal Year Identified	Description	Status
Bridge Loan Funding to Initial Agreement	2021-22	Investigate when and how to include bridge loan financing in the initial construction financing agreements to reduce project delays while the FBA is processed.	In Development
Comprehensive State Revolving Fund (SRF) Policy Review for Streamlining Opportunities	2021-22	Holistic review of the Drinking Water SRF (DWSRF) and Clean Water SRF (CWSRF) Policies to identify opportunities to streamline both funding programs.	Completed
Guidelines for Consolidation Projects Update	2021-22	Update the Guidelines for Consolidation Projects (Appendix A of the DWSRF Policy).	In Development
Increased Encumbrance Amount	2021-22	Procedures to reduce cost increase amendments due to inaccurate engineer's cost estimate. Request costs projections based on realistic project schedules and if necessary, provide guidance to PMs to increase the construction line item about the engineer's cost estimate.	Piloting
Streamline Planning Application Review	2021-22	Investigate use of the Urgent Drinking Water application and review for DWSRF planning projects. Incorporate the Alt-F procedures once approved.	In Development
Streamline the Final Budget Approval (FBA) Process	2021-22	Develop FBA procedures to streamline approval of cost increase requests because bids exceed initial cost estimate. Identify specific workflow improvements to reduce time and resources associated with duplicative tasks. Develop new FBA documents, procedures, update the Wiki/SharePoint, add due diligence procedures, and develop training.	In Development

Appendix G. Funding Process and Process Improvements Overview

Improvement	Fiscal Year Identified	Description	Status
Collaboration with Division of Drinking Water (DDW) on Enforcement	2022-23	Collaborate with DDW on potential enforcement actions and/or directives associated with funding and/or TA requests to ensure that projects are not stalled and that the water system is responsible for meeting the requirements of the compliance actions.	In Development
Comprehensive CWSRF/DWSRF Procedure Manual	2022-23	Establish and implement a SharePoint uniform procedural manual. Ensure that the manual is in a centralized/accessible place and kept up to date with current policies and procedures.	In Development
Establish a DFA Training Academy	2022-23	Identify individual training classes. Coordinate with Water Board's Training Academy to develop training curriculum for project managers and analysts.	In Development
Establish SharePoint as Digital Workspace	2022-23	Develop vision and framework for SharePoint digital workspace amongst sections. Establish master file in LGTS and master file Adobe rules.	In Development
LGTS Training for Project Managers and Analysts	2022-23	Develop training or review and update project records page in the procedure documents in the shared location.	In Development
Policy and Procedure Streamline – Indirect Cost (IDC)	2022-23	Develop an IDC eligibility framework for the loans/grants funding programs, including SRFs, GO Bonds, and SADW. Expected to reduce conflicts when co-funding.	In Development
Produce GLRF/215 from LGTS	2022-23	Identify all data elements in LGTS related to the GLRF and Form 215. Coordinate with the LGTS contractor to make the necessary changes and incorporate them into the database to be able to develop the forms. The LGTS contractor will add the functionality of developing the forms in LGTS.	On hold
Provide Guidance for Alternatives Analysis	2022-23	Develop guidance for applicants and TA providers addressing the alternatives analysis that is required.	In Development

Appendix G. Funding Process and Process Improvements Overview

Improvement	Fiscal Year Identified	Description	Status
		Include relevant requirements from the Policy, IUP, SERP, and/or other applicable documentation.	
Reduce Redundant Data Input Requirements by Linking Fields in Various Forms and Software Programs	2022-23	Evaluate how project-level data is collected, analyzed, and utilized. Determine how LGTS can be used as a data source to generate forms and other documents.	Overarching Goal
Update Project Manager (PM) Expectations	2022-23	Update Project Manager Expectations with existing and new KPIs for communication with internal and external stakeholders.	Under Review for Approval
Establish Cross-Organizational Teams	DFA Action Plan	Promote understanding of respective roles/responsibilities. Jointly explore how to better assist communities we serve by visiting those communities. Identify common challenges, potential solutions, and evaluate effectiveness of process improvements/KPIs.	In Development
Establish Mentors Or “Buddies” For New Staff	DFA Action Plan	Ensure each new staff person is assigned an experienced peer to serve as a mentor or “buddy” during their first year with DFA.	Piloting

Completed Process Improvements since FY 2019-20

The following table describes improvements made since FY 2019-20 relative to the funding process phases described above to streamline internal processes and coordination. Improvements completed in FY 2024-25 are bolded below.

Table G.2. Completed Process Improvements since FY 2019-20

Improvement	Description
Administrator	Use of an administrator master agreement for qualified entities that can serve multiple counties or statewide
Adobe Sign to Execute Agreements	Implement Adobe Sign for the digital signing of agreements/amendments by recipients and DFA.
Application Status Tool Update	Review existing application status report in LGTS and make modifications to include the additional information outlined in the State Auditors report. Coordinate with the LGTS contractor to make the necessary changes in LGTS and with DIT to make modification to the public facing tool.
Combine Multiple Projects for Same Entity into a Single Agreement	Where possible, multiple grant projects for the same entity are being combined into a single agreement to minimize processing and paperwork related to having multiple agreements.
Continued DDW/DFA/OPP Coordination	DFA and DDW regularly coordinate on projects during the development of the funding agreement, in review of project deliverables, and in ensuring projects are properly constructed to meet permit requirements. DDW, DFA, and OPP are increasing this coordination through regular DDW District-specific quarterly meetings to evaluate progress on addressing needs of small DAC water systems. These discussions include evaluation of needed enforcement and compliance efforts; progress on completing State Water Board funded projects; identification of unmet needs, such as TA or interim replacement water; status of community outreach and engagement; and evaluation of opportunities for and progress in consolidation and administrator appointment efforts. DDW and DFA have also started meeting monthly on various consolidation projects. OPP will also help facilitate discussions with tribes, as appropriate.

Appendix G. Funding Process and Process Improvements Overview

Improvement	Description
Credit Review Memo for Cost Increases for 100% Grant Projects	A credit review is part of a financial capacity review that is performed to establish a borrower's credit to help ensure that repayable financing will be repaid. As a best practice, credit reviews have been conducted for all projects during the eligibility review and again should the project require a cost increase. Where repayable financing is not contemplated, a streamlined financial capacity review will be undertaken that assesses the sustainability of the system.
Develop Income Survey and Second Home Survey Procedures	Approved as Appendix B to the Policy for Developing the Fund Expenditure Plan for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, these procedures for staff and applicants to demonstrate eligibility and reduce the number of applications stalled while an eligibility determination is determined.
Develop Standard Operating Environmental Procedures	Develop Standard Operating Procedures standardizing the DFA environmental review processes. The purpose is to develop standard processes to assist staff with consistent review of projects for compliance with CEQA and federal environmental cross-cutters.
Develop Streamlined Financial Review Procedures for Small Community/100% Non-repayable Financing Projects	Financial Review Framework for 100% non-repayable projects. Recommendations will be incorporated in the revisions of the SRF policies per the schedules for those respective policies. Advise the team working on the Expedited Drinking Water Funding Program on appropriate streamlined financial review procedures. Consider alternatives for privates, consolidation.
Develop TA Drinking Water Master Agreement Template	Develop a master agreement template to be used for new drinking water TA agreements.
Develop TA Internal Procedures	Develop a master agreement template to be used for new drinking water TA agreements.
Document Communication with Applicants/Recipients	Establish application communication policy.
Drinking Water Application Package Update	Align application with current procedures and Intended Use Plan. Revise application templates and guidance accordingly. Survey stakeholders for comments.
Drinking Water TA Provider RFQ Process	The Division solicited statements of qualifications from entities that are interested in being added to the qualified drinking water TA provider pool.

Appendix G. Funding Process and Process Improvements Overview

Improvement	Description
DWSRF IUP	The FY 2020-21 DWSRF IUP was revised to ease funding restrictions on planning projects and larger dollar amount projects. These modifications are retained in the proposed FY 2021-22 DWSRF IUP.
Earlier Engagement with ERU Staff Procedures	Coordinate to incorporate participation of Environmental Section staff into appropriate project planning meetings to assure adequate development of the environmental package. Expectations for Environmental Review staff participation in project meetings will be incorporated into appropriate procedures described on the Wiki.
Earlier Management Review of Project Scope and Budget	DFA management has been added earlier on in the funding agreement review process during scope and budget development to catch potential issues and redirect early, which should minimize re-work.
Electronic Disbursement Procedures and Training for PMs	In June of 2021, Disbursement Staff conducted a training for PM's to formalize the electronic disbursement process.
Electronic Invoice Submittal	Using electronic invoice submittals for recipients through FFAST in addition to mailing hard copies has allowed DFA staff easier access to invoices for review purposes during telework.
Electronic Processing of Encumbrance Documents	In April 2021, DFA implemented use of Adobe Sign for encumbrance documents (i.e., Grant and Loan Request Form and Standard Form 215) which replaces the need for wet signatures by the DFA Deputy Director or Assistant Deputy Director.
Electronic Signature Process for TA Work Plans	Amend TA funding agreements to include language that allows for electronic signatures to execute amendments to the agreement such as work plans.
Emergency Grant Agreement Template/Process	Streamlined grant agreement template and process to expeditiously award emergency drinking water funding and other relatively straightforward, short duration projects.
Environmental California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-only Review	Projects meeting certain requirements can proceed with a CEQA-only review which reduces the need to conduct certain studies and get concurrence from federal agencies on certain environmental aspects of a project.
Escalated PO and Invoice Review and Approval w/ DAS (Develop and Post Procedures)	Develop/memorialize escalation PO and invoice criteria, approval, and submittal processes to Accounting by SPOC.

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Improvement	Description
Establish a Compliance & Surveillance Unit dedicated email inbox and monitoring procedures	The objective is to establish a dedicated email inbox and monitoring procedures to receive and distribute specific email communication in/from a central location, monitored by the staff of the Compliance and Surveillance Unit. This will help ensure critical compliance reporting information and requests are received and distributed timely.
Establish Expedited Funding Program	Draft program guidelines to establish expedited drinking water funding for small communities.
Evaluate Projects in Queue	By evaluating which projects have complete applications and are in the queue for review and funding agreement preparation, DFA can better match appropriate funding sources before timing becomes critical with fiscal year-end deadlines.
Expedited Disbursement Review and Approval Process PO (Develop and Post Procedures)	Develop a process with KPIs to support Item 2 of the Disbursement Section of the DFA Action Plan.
FI\$CaL	Evaluate best timing for entering a new applicant into FI\$CaL to minimize time to route a new financing agreement.
Gen/Tech Checklist Redesign - Drinking Water	Revise the general/technical drinking water checklists to reduce duplicative efforts and merge checklists as appropriate. Revisions will be done in conjunction with application package revisions (separate effort).
Identify and Establish Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Milestones in the Application, Agreement, and FBA Processes	Identify existing and proposed new KPIs, receive input, train staff, post final KPIs in central location, analyze effectiveness of KPIs and adjust as needed.
Improved Tracking of Final Disbursement Dates	Timely amendment requests can reduce project delays associated with date extensions. Determine if new checks are necessary to ensure timely amendment requests. 2021-2022 (FEP)

Appendix G. Funding Process and Process Improvements Overview

Improvement	Description
Interim Water Supplies and Emergencies	1) Enter into regional agreements where possible rather than water system-specific agreements. 2) Utilize a checklist to be completed by the funding recipient, as appropriate, to self-certify specific details of a funding agreement. (i.e., contact information, budget summary, deliverable submittal dates, etc.) in place of holding a teleconference. 3) Write scopes to be more broad describing main tasks but allowing for details to be approved by DFA staff as the project develops. 4) Use of advance approval authority for simple projects to allow direct invoicing for services like bottled or hauled water.
Internal Decision Tracking	The Division created business rules to track program, policy and process decisions to improve consistency among the
Legal Consultation Request Form	Streamline legal consultations on loans.
Master File Documents Button in LGTS	Coordinate with the LGTS contractor to add a new button for master file documents to be uploaded.
Perform Concurrent Reviews to Resolve Issues as Early as Possible	The Master File will be provided to the assigned OCC attorney at the same time the Master File is routed to the Contracts Unit for drafting. The attorney may be able to identify and resolve issues before receiving the Funding Agreement for review. Incorporate into procedures.
Perform Legal Eligibility Reviews Concurrent with Contract Drafting (Prior to Routing)	The Master File will be provided to the assigned OCC attorney at the same time the Master File is routed to the Contracts Unit for drafting.
Pre-application	The pre-application process allows DFA staff to engage with interested parties early to better assist with the application, connect interested parties with TA providers if needed, and determine which funding source within the larger SAFER Program is most appropriate.
Pre-determine Funding Sources for Projects	Streamline the application review of certain projects by identifying the funding source and associated requirements early. Improvement piloted and expanded under another name "Batch Encumbrance and timing of OCC eligibility review.

Appendix G. Funding Process and Process Improvements Overview

Improvement	Description
Process Improvements Work Group	In FY 2020-21 DFA formed an internal Process Improvement Work Group to identify program inefficiencies, evaluate potential improvements, and revise internal procedures accordingly. The focus is to reduce the amount of time needed to approve projects, execute funding agreements, and process reimbursement requests. Process improvements implemented because of this work group will be described in future Fund Expenditure Plans. Note that DDW is also working on evaluating their regulatory process and identifying areas for improvement. DDW and DFA will consider where respective processes intersect and interplay and how they can be improved. In the future, as this is discussed with the SAFER Advisory Group, there may be opportunity to invite additional stakeholder input on process improvements.
Project Closeout (hardcopies) for CWSRF and DWSRF planning and construction	Develop procedures to closeout hardcopy master files for planning and construction of CWSRF and DWSRF projects.
Project Schedule and Standardize Scopes for Construction Agreements	Standardize scope of work language and provide Project Schedules template to improve consistency across DFA units/sections.
Reestablish Periodic Coordination Meeting with US EPA	Meet with U.S. EPA to discuss and review SRF expectations for both the loan program and for projects and communities that will be funded with principal forgiveness. Feedback and information gathered from these discussions will help inform revisions to the SRF policies. Includes TMF expectations of USEPA for SRF.
Review current delegation authorities and revise as appropriate	Evaluate current division delegation authorities and expand or amend as deemed appropriate.
Review Effectiveness of Documents Requested in the Application	Review the purpose of the SRF application requirements and the effectiveness of the attachments to meet their intended purpose. Develop recommendations to improve the application to ensure DFA fulfills its regulatory requirements while streamlining the requirements for applicants. Merged into the Application Update improvement.

Appendix G. Funding Process and Process Improvements Overview

Improvement	Description
Revised DWSRF IUP to include Infrastructure Appropriation	The Board adopted a resolution in July 2021 incorporating Budget Act of 2021 (SB 170) “Infrastructure Appropriation” into the DWSRF IUP. The additional funding allows DFA to make additional grant/pf available to eligible applicants with qualified project. This remove the need for a loan component in most DWSRF projects which is expected to reduce application processing times.
Revised MHI Determination Guidelines	Revised MHI Determination Guidelines were added to the Policy as Appendix A in December 2020. The revised guidelines will reduce the number of income surveys that need to be conducted to determine a system’s eligibility for funding, which has historically caused delays.
SAFER Clearinghouse	The State Water Board has initiated the development of a new database platform, known as the SAFER Clearinghouse, which will collect, manage, and analyze data from a variety of internal and external data sources to effectively implement the SAFER Program and track progress toward bringing a safe and affordable drinking water supply to communities. Once completed, over the course of the next several years, the SAFER Clearinghouse will be used by the State Water Board to oversee and manage the identification and prioritization of high priority water systems and domestic wells; the provision of TA; assigned Administrators; provision of interim water supplies; status of violations and compliance with issued enforcement orders; as well as tracking the funding of planning and construction projects to address drinking water issues. It will also be used to demonstrate progress toward achieving the human right to water, and provide information to the State Water Board, the public, and stakeholders on SAFER Program implementation.
Staff Training	DDW, DFA, and OPP have made efforts to onboard and train new staff through a combination of cross training across Divisions as well as internal training. In DFA, for example, monthly webinars are being conducted for both technical and administrative staff to provide training on the different phases of the funding process.
Standardize Special Conditions	Standardize common special technical conditions to improve consistency across the Division.
Streamline Application for Specific Projects	Identify in the 2021-2022 (FEP). Create a fast-track application/review for the DWSRF program to meet the most urgent needs. Opportunities to streamline specific projects were identified and are listed as improvements.

Appendix G. Funding Process and Process Improvements Overview

Improvement	Description
TA for non-DACs	The Division amended TA master agreements to allow for TA resources to assist small, non-DAC applicants with good cause to complete planning activities.
Technical Assistance (TA)	1) Delegation of authority for funding approvals of TA routine and non-controversial projects to the Supervising Engineer level. 2) Revised work plan template and budget to be used by TA providers. 3) Increased coordination with TA providers on work plan priorities. 4) Developed guidance for TA providers on best practices for planning projects. 5) Provided training to TA providers on application process, revised work plan and budget templates
Uniform Cover Page for Invoice Submittals	Use of a uniform cover page for invoice submittals helps the recipient organize invoices and submit necessary supporting documentation. This also helps DFA and accounting staff in their reviews and minimizes back and forth with the recipient for missing information.
Update Delegated Authority for Approving TA Projects	Develop an updated delegation memo with the recommended changes. Potential team members would include the TA unit seniors, TA supervisor, and one OCC attorney for review and approval of the delegation memo. Include under Review current delegation authorities and revise as appropriate.
Update Quarterly Progress Report Review Process	Ensure consistent and timely review of project quarterly progress reports and follow up compliance steps.
Update TA Workplans to Ensure Critical Deliverables are Identified	Coordinate to revise TA workplan to ensure milestones are included to meet the DFA environmental package requirements.
Updated Package Checklists	The main package checklists have been updated recently to ensure that all relevant information and documentation is being requested up front to minimize back and forth between DFA staff and the applicant during the review process.
Use of a Digital Master File	A master file is a compilation of application documents, reviews and clearances for a project and is used for project review and routing for approvals prior to funding agreement execution. As a result of the telework situation, DFA has replaced the physical master file with a digital master file which has increased the ability to conduct reviews electronically.
Use of a Final Inspection Checklist	This has helped ensure all necessary requirements are verified upon project completion.

Appendix G. Funding Process and Process Improvements Overview

Improvement	Description
Use of Expedited Amendments	Using an expedited amendment process for time extensions or FBAs that do not include a cost increase can save time.
Use of Phased Approach for Complex Projects	For some complicated projects, a phased approach is being implemented. For example, construction of all elements related to addressing an emergency need would be part of the first phase, with the remaining items as phase two. This helps get critical parts of a project done faster.
Use of TA for Non-DAC	The Division amended TA master agreements to allow for TA to assist non-DACs with good cause.
Use of TA for Planning Projects	TA is being used more often to conduct planning for projects, which eliminates the need for small DAC systems to go through a separate, potentially lengthy process to apply for planning grants.
Virtual Inspection Procedures	During the COVID-19 emergency, virtual inspection procedures were established to ensure that project site inspections, including the final inspection, could be conducted appropriately and adequately in a virtual setting
Vision Statement/Description of Future State, Articulate Organizational Cultural Values	Develop vision statements for small communities and SRF loan programs, respectively. Teams will be led by a DFA manager. Feedback will be solicited from DFA staff and key internal and external partners. Develop list of key organizational values that are critical to the successful implementation of our drinking water and clean water funding programs. Feedback will be solicited from DFA staff.
Waive Updated Financials	Clarify when the current year's financial documents can be waived or conditioned in the financing agreement to continue the application review. This may reduce the number of applications that stall due to an incomplete application. Merged into the Alt-F improvement in Table 2.
Work Plan Development and Approval	Create a template letter that will outline expectations of TA providers for work plan submittals. Develop an internal memo concurrently that would establish DFA expectations of the approval and issuance of submitted work plans. Potential team members could include two TA staff, one TA senior, and the TA supervisor for review and approval of the template letter and internal memo.

Appendix G. Funding Process and Process Improvements Overview

Improvement	Description
Advanced Payment Guidelines	Develop comprehensive advance payment guidelines and procedures that can be generally applied to eligible programs.
Application Status Tool Update (Phase II)	Review existing application status report in LGTS and make modifications to include the additional information outlined in the State Auditors report. Coordinate with the LGTS contractor to make the necessary changes in LGTS and with DIT to make modification to the public facing tool.
Clean Water and Drinking Water Policies	Expand recent steps made to reduce the number of application documents required for 100% PF/grant planning projects by implementing similar improvements for 100% PF/grant construction projects, with a focus on building TMF prior to and during their project by providing TA and other assistance.
CWSRF Planning Project Streamlining	Similar to the DWSRF efforts. Streamline the process, standardize language, and ease transition from planning to construction.
Grant Eligibility Determination and Criteria Established by IUP	Simplify the grant eligibility criteria in the IUP and ensure that review checklists are not tied to a specific year's IUP. For example, currently the DWSRF general checklist template gets updated annually because it includes a copy of the IUP's Appendix E: Construction Project Grant and PF Limitations for an Eligible PWS. Consider replacing FY-specific information by requiring that the PM instead insert or attach relevant information from the IUP being applied (i.e., attach a highlighted copy of the table). OCC requested some type of documentation for determination of grant eligibility (DWSRF).
Historic Context for Wastewater and Drinking Water Facilities	Develop a statewide historic context for drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities that will aid internal staff and funding applicants in the evaluation of these facilities for the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources.

Appendix G. Funding Process and Process Improvements Overview

Improvement	Description
Modify Travel Expense Submittal Requirements & Limit Review Process	Propose SRF Policy amendment language to require recipients, when submitting reimbursement for travel related expenses, to submit cost within the parameters of the Agreement and Policy, no longer submitting backup documentation unless the requested, and retaining such backup documentation within their own records for audit purposes.
Update TA Procedure Manual	Update the TA Funding Program Procedure Manual that is available on the Technical Assistance Funding Program webpage to reflect program changes.
1) Streamline Claims Process 2) Escalated Claim Approval and Processing 3) Develop Invoice/Reimbursement Request (RR) Status Communication Procedure for Recipients	1) Improve the workflow between the 17th floor disbursement units and PM, both regarding receiving and recording of RRs, timeliness of PM reviews, changing the dispute/cut process, and minimizing the need for unnecessary RRs (\$0.00). 2) Develop/memorialize escalation claim criteria, approval, and submittal processes to Accounting by SPOC. 3) Standardize communication with recipients to inform them of when a claim/RR/invoice has been approved, providing detail of any adjustments, and to included project specific references in the email.
Due Diligence Financial Review	1) Expand recent steps made to reduce the number of application documents required for 100% PF/grant planning projects by implementing similar improvements for 100% PF/grant construction projects, with a focus on building TMF. 2) Discontinue the need to continually ask for updated financial documents. 3) For 100% PF/grant projects, do not require that the financial review be revised simply because it references the previous year's IUP; add a checkbox on the route slip that accomplishes the task of recording that the project supports eligibility under whichever IUP is being applied.

Appendix G. Funding Process and Process Improvements Overview

Improvement	Description
Project Manager Training and Performance Measures	Develop comprehensive training to review responsibilities, best practices, and recent process improvements. Set clear performance measures and track effectiveness.
SAFER Integration	Develop criteria for transferring small Drinking Water State Revolving Fund projects or Urgent Drinking Water Needs projects to the SAFER Program. Approve project scope and funding via a SAFER Technical Memo.
Comprehensive State Revolving Fund (SRF) Policy Review for Streamlining Opportunities	Holistic review of the Drinking Water SRF (DWSRF) and Clean Water SRF (CWSRF) Policies to identify opportunities to streamline both funding programs.

Appendix H. FY 2025-26 Funding Solution List for Failing Systems

Link: [FY 2025-26 Funding Solution List for Failing Systems \(Excel\)](#)

Appendix I. FY 2025-26 Funding Solution List for At-Risk Systems

Link: [FY 2025-26 Funding Solution List for At-Risk Systems \(Excel\)](#)

Appendix J. Technical Assistance

DRINKING WATER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance (TA) is direct support to communities provided by third parties receiving financial assistance from the State Water Board. These parties identify challenges, develop plans, build capacity, and develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding. In many cases TA does not eliminate the need for other capital improvements, but it should increase the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of water systems. TA is designed to assist water systems in developing the financial and managerial structures necessary to maintain a sustainable water system, including asset management plans, water rate studies, fiscal policies, drought plans, etc. A combination of updated infrastructure and proactive long-term managerial and fiscal policies can help address affordability issues and preventatively meet the needs of these water systems before expensive emergency responses are necessary.

The State Water Board prioritizes Failing water systems serving small, disadvantaged communities (DACs) or low-income households for TA support. TA providers utilize the results of the Drinking Water Needs Assessment as a starting point to better assess entrenched challenges and work with the water systems to better understand their needs. TA providers often support project scoping, including development of an engineering report, cost estimate, plans and specifications, and necessary environmental documentation for the most feasible long-term solution.

In addition, the State Water Board may use a regional approach to pool services to multiple systems within an area to reduce costs.³³ In all cases, Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) staff are assigned to monitor the scope, cost and progress of all technical assistance work, with increased attention given to new types of services that have been approved under the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) program.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

The State Water Board categorizes TA into two categories: planning assistance and capacity development assistance. The following provides a summary of what each includes. Communities receiving TA often require both types of assistance to address regulatory compliance needs.

PLANNING: FROM PROBLEM TO SOLUTION

The State Water Board provides TA to help communities navigate from problem to solution, this is often called “planning assistance,” which typically results in plans for an infrastructure-

³³ [Policy for Developing the Fund Expenditure Plan](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/docs/2023/final_policy_for_dev_fep_sadwf_0130.pdf)

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/docs/2023/final_policy_for_dev_fep_sadwf_0130.pdf

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related project and a funding strategy to implement the project. Often, State Water Board planning assistance will include support in drafting grant/principal forgiveness funding application required documents.

The following summarize the key steps and associated deliverables of typical planning TA work plans.

Feasibility Study/Engineering Report: A feasibility study is the initial step in determining alternatives for systems where long-term solutions are not conceptually or readily apparent. This document is not required for a State Water Board construction funding application; however, it can be the basis for an Engineering Report, which is a required component of a State Water Board construction funding application. The development of the feasibility study often is paired with community outreach and engagement as well.

The Engineering Report (ER), which is a required component of a State Water Board construction funding application. An ER serves as the vetting document of the proposed long-term solution. The ER generally defines the issues faced by the project; identifies and evaluates different alternatives including an analysis of consolidation as an alternative; and provides a comparison of proposed alternatives with respect to design criteria, environmental considerations, constructability, overall advantages/disadvantages, a life cycle cost analysis, cost estimate, and more. The ER will also include the engineering consultant's recommended alternative.

Community Outreach/Engagement: Community outreach and engagement will be provided as needed to solicit feedback from the community and inform them of alternatives and the selected project. The outreach effort can include, but is not limited to, developing a community outreach plan, planning and organizing meetings, developing multilingual outreach materials, providing translation services, and tracking community engagement efforts. TA can continuously engage the community throughout the long-term solution planning process.

Community outreach will be conducted in phases throughout the life of the project. The outcomes of community outreach and engagement will inform the progression of a long-term project through the State Water Board's TA funding process.

Full Planning for Funding Application: Full Planning involves completing the plans and specifications (P&S) needed for a State Water Board construction application and funding agreement. This often includes an engineer's cost estimate. This TA may also include support in developing and/or completing the four required State Water Board funding application packages: (1) General (2) Technical (3) Environmental and (4) Financial Security. TA services in this category may also include post funding application support.

Construction Support: Construction Support assistance involves providing construction grant administration and/or construction management services to the

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funding recipient. These services may include, but are not limited to bidding services, submitting invoices and quarterly reports, engineering services during construction, and construction oversight.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Capacity Development (CapDev) services are intended to enhance the technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity of public water systems. These services may include, but are not limited to conducting an income survey, a rate study, financial audit, asset management, Board training, application development, funding agreement administration, meeting TMF or compliance requirements, leak detection, and operating training. These CapDev TA services are often paired with the TA planning services above to help navigate the development of long-term drinking water solutions.

Appendix J. Technical Assistance

SUMMARY OF SERVICES OFFERED BY TA PROVIDER

Table J- 1. Services Rendered

TA Provider	Geographical Focus	Full Planning	Legal Services	Rate Studies	TMF Assessment	Capacity Development	Additional Services
California Urban Water Agencies	Statewide			X	X		
Community Water Center	San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast	X	X	X	X		
GHD, Inc.	Statewide	X	X	X	X		
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability	San Joaquin Valley ³⁴ and Coachella Valley ³⁵		X				
NV5, Inc.	Statewide	X	X				
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group	All Counties except: Alpine, Del Norte, Humboldt, Imperial, Lake, Marin, Modoc, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Deigo, San Francisco, San Mateo, Stanislaus	X		X	X		
Rural Community Assistance Corporation	Statewide	X	X	X	X	X	Circuit Riders, Workshops and Trainings
Sanbell	All Counties except: Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	X	X	X	X		
Self-Help Enterprises	San Joaquin Valley Counties ⁴	X	X	X	X	X	Emergency Fund ³⁶ Revolving Bridge Loan ³⁷

³⁴ San Joaquin Valley includes: Fresno, Tulare, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Mariposa, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties.

³⁵ Coachella Valley is in Riverside County.

³⁶ Emergency Fund to provide grants to eligible recipients for eligible emergencies (i.e., loss of water supply, fire damage to system, sudden contamination by primary drinking water contaminants) and costs associated with those emergencies.

³⁷ Revolving Bridge Loans for Interim Construction Financing to provide loans to water systems serving small, DACs that are a party to an executed Drinking Water State Revolving Fund construction funding agreement for incurred costs eligible under that agreement and submitted for reimbursement.

Appendix J. Technical Assistance

TA Provider	Geographical Focus	Full Planning	Legal Services	Rate Studies	TMF Assessment	Capacity Development	Additional Services
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	All Counties	X		X	X	X	Community Partners, POU/POE Studies
University Enterprises Inc. at California State University, Sacramento	Statewide	X		X	X		
University Enterprises Inc. at California State University, Sacramento	Statewide	X		X	X		
University of California at Davis, School of Law	Statewide		X				

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDER REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Legislation enacted in 2021 added qualified TA providers as a new eligible funding recipient for monies from the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund.³⁸ The State Water Board developed a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to identify qualified TA providers,³⁹ including for-profit entities. State Water Board solicited Statements of Qualification (SOQs) to establish an eligible drinking water TA provider pool. The solicitation was posted on the State Water Board website and potential TA providers submitted SOQs and other qualifying documents to the State Water Board for review.

The State Water Board reviewed SOQs and qualified 21 eligible TA providers in the pool. In 2024, DFA had 14 drinking water TA providers actively providing TA. The expanded list of qualified TA providers enables new types and a greater volume of services to be available to communities and public water systems, as well as the expansion of services to other areas of the state.

Table J- 2. Drinking Water Technical Assistance Providers in 2024

Drinking Water Technical Assistance Providers	
California Rural Water Association	Pueblo Unido Community Development Corporation
California Urban Water Agencies	Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Community Water Center	Sanbell Engineering
GHD, Inc.	Self-Help Enterprises
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability	Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
NV5, Inc.	University Enterprises Inc. at California State University, Sacramento
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group	University of California at Davis, School of Law

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MASTER AGREEMENTS & WORK PLANS

From 2019 through April 2025, TA was provided to approximately 764 water systems, committing nearly \$200 million to support this work. Table J- 3 summarizes the amount of

³⁸ [Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/safer.html)

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/safer.html

³⁹ [Drinking Water Technical Assistance Provider Request for Qualifications Guidelines](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/docs/2022/rfq-guidelines.pdf)

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/docs/2022/rfq-guidelines.pdf

Appendix J. Technical Assistance

funding committed by funding source to support TA via master funding agreements with qualified TA providers.

Table J- 3. Technical Assistance Funding Committed to Master Agreements (2019 – 2025)

Year	Prop 1 ⁴⁰	Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund	General Fund	TOTAL
2025	0	\$7,490,715	\$0	\$7,490,715
2024	- \$213,260	\$1,336,900	\$324,775	\$1,448,415
2023	- \$163,995	\$56,368,394	\$16,885,948	\$73,090,347
2022	- \$364,057	\$51,766,654	\$2,176,087	\$53,578,684
2021	- \$481,187	\$8,058,045	\$0	\$7,576,858
2020	- \$10,734,692 ⁴¹	\$67,171,151	\$0	\$56,436,459
2019	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$250,000
TOTAL:	- \$11,707,191	\$192,191,859	\$19,386,810	\$199,871,478

TA MASTER AGREEMENTS

Once a potential TA provider's SOQ has been approved, they are designated as an eligible TA provider and can enter into a grant agreement (master agreement) with the State Water Board. Once a TA provider enters into a master agreement with the State Water Board they can be assigned TA requests. A TA master agreement includes a maximum grant budget which establishes a funding ceiling for all of the individual project work plans and administrative support costs that are associated providing TA. The master agreement is a multi-year agreement that establishes the scope of potential TA services that a TA provider can provide to recipients of TA. The master agreement will establish overall project timelines, reporting intervals and requirements, invoicing expectations, and includes general terms and conditions and any special conditions that may apply to the TA provider.

Any assignment or TA request under the master agreement is typically classified into two categories: Planning or CapDev. A planning project can include identifying and evaluating potential long-term solutions and helping a system or community develop the necessary application materials to submit a construction funding application. CapDev tasks are typically single tasks to assist with enhancing the TMF capacity of a water system. CapDev tasks may include a rate study, income survey, preparing TMF documents, compliance plans, etc.

⁴⁰ For 2020 – 2024, this represents the approximate amount of Prop 1 funding disencumbered due to either funding swap or unused funding at the end of a funding agreement. A total amount of \$ 24,998,396 Prop 1 funds were encumbered for technical assistance from 7/1/2016 to 12/31/2019.

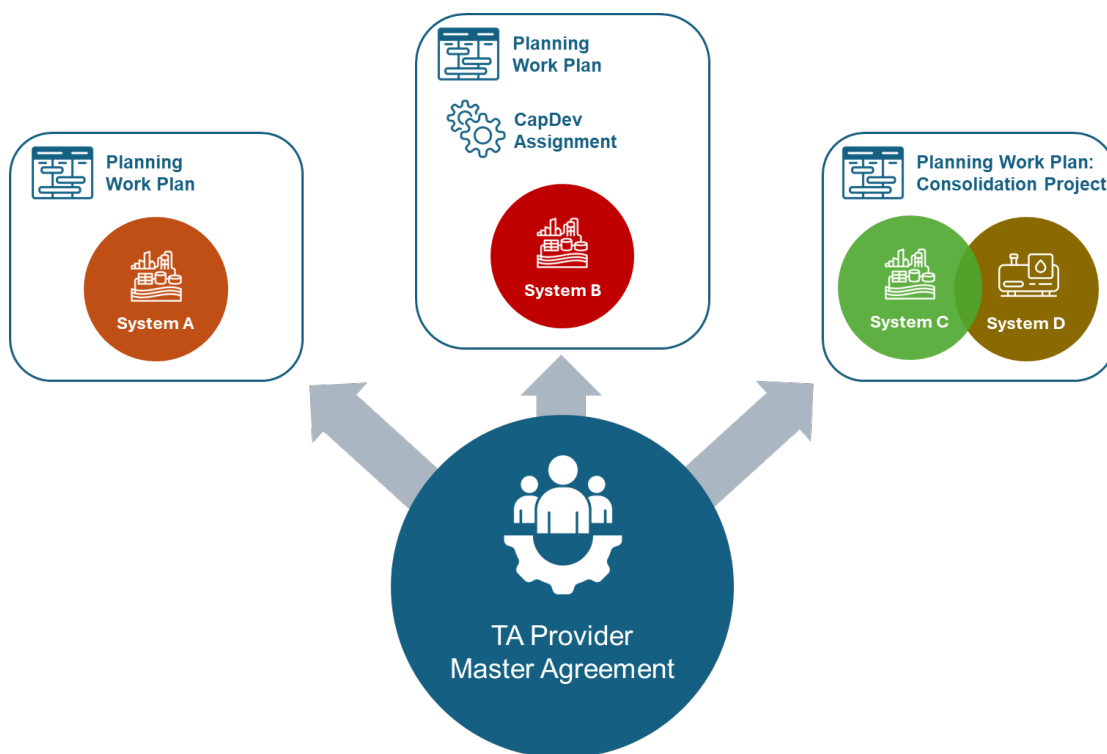
⁴¹ In 2020, Prop 1 funds on five technical assistance agreements were swapped for Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund funding.

Appendix J. Technical Assistance

TA WORK PLANS

Technical Assistance work plans are documents that outline tasks, deliverables, budget and schedule for each project assigned to the TA provider under their master agreement (Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.). Projects are assigned to providers based on Assistant Requests (ARs) that the State Water Board continuously accepts for communities in need of TA. ARs can be submitted by water systems, State Water Board staff, and TA providers on behalf of a community.⁴² State Water Board staff review ARs and work with TA providers to access their capacity under a TA master agreement before assigning eligible ARs to a TA provider. AR eligibility requirements are included in the annual DWSRF Intended Use Plan (IUP) and Fund Expenditure Plan (FEP).

Figure J- 1. Technical Assistance Master Agreements and Work Plans



Capacity of a TA provider to assume a new AR is determined in coordination between the State Water Board and the TA provider. TA providers periodically submit budget projections for all the existing work plans under the TA master agreement. Budget projections typically include existing work plan allocated amounts, spent to date, grant administration costs, indirect, etc. Coordination with the TA provider also includes determination if a TA provider has adequate staffing to lead the project. Once the State Water Board's Project Manager (PM) reviews an AR and a TA provider confirms that they have adequate capacity to take on

⁴² The water system and/or community must be a willing TA recipient.

Appendix J. Technical Assistance

additional TA, a new AR is assigned subsequently. The TA provider will then confirm whether they accept the AR assignment and will notify the PM via email of the decision.

Upon accepting an AR, the TA provider will organize and conduct a kickoff call with the PM, TA recipient, and other project stakeholders to discuss the scope of the project. A final work plan will be executed by the State Water Board and the TA provider outlining a specific scope of work and allocating a specific budget amount from the overall master agreement budget. A work plan amends the TA master agreement. A work plan is under the umbrella of the master agreement and typically includes scope, schedule, and budget for an assigned AR. A TA work plan clarifies the project scope as part of the assistance request, includes compliance and background information, and determines the schedule and budget for tasks set forth in the TA.

Certain administrative costs are captured under individual work plans, where other administrative costs are covered by the master agreement's budget, and invoiced outside of an executed project work plan. Administrative costs that are attributed to the project management associated with a work plan will be billed to that work plan. These costs include coordination with project stakeholders, submitting work plan deliverables, conducting project meetings and responding to questions, monitoring work plan scope, schedule and budget, and preparing the closeout of a completed work plan. Administrative costs that are attributed to the overall management of the master agreement are billed to the overall project budget instead of to a work plan. These costs include conducting master agreement status meetings with State Water Board and preparing and submitting reports and invoices as required in the master agreement.

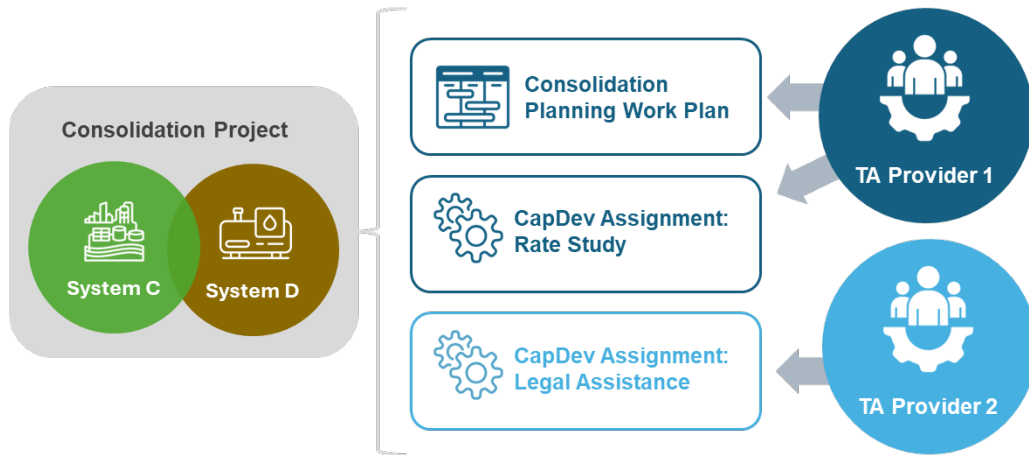
The State Water Board expects work plans to be completed on time and according to the scope of work that is approved in the executed work plan. However, there may be certain situations that require a change to the work plan as the project progresses. In a case where a work plan amendment is required the TA provider will submit a draft amended version of the work plan to the PM for review. A work plan amendment may incorporate additional budget for reasonable and justified cost increases to previously approved work plan tasks. Additional tasks may also be added as part of the work plan amendment as the project evolves.

Over time the State Water Board may receive multiple ARs for the same water system or community. An AR that is submitted for a current TA recipient will go through eligibility review once received. If the AR for a current TA recipient is deemed to be eligible the State Water Board will evaluate whether the TA that is requested in the AR could be added to an existing TA work plan scope or if it would necessitate initiating a new work plan. Factors that will be considered will include overall progress and timeline of any existing work plan, as well as TA provider capacity. State Water Board may consult with a TA provider while considering these factors. If an existing work plan is likely to be completed prior to the timeline associated with a new AR for the same TA recipient, a new work plan may be assigned as opposed to amending an existing work plan. Additionally, if a TA provider does not have capacity within its master agreement to include scope from the new AR in an existing work plan, then a new work plan may be assigned to a separate TA provider with capacity to address the AR. Figure J- 2 illustrates an example where one project benefitting two water systems can receive TA from

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two different TA providers.

Figure J- 2. Projects Receiving Support from Multiple TA Providers



Appendix J. Technical Assistance

Table J- 4. Technical Assistance Master Agreement Summary as of 04.01.2025

Provider	Funding Source	Agreement Start Date	Agreement End Date	# Active Work Plans (WP)	% of All Active WPs	WPs Completed	Agreement Amount	Estimated Amount Committed	Estimated Remaining Budget	# Active WP w/ Failing System ^e	# of Active WP with Domestic Wells
California Urban Water Agencies	SAFER	3/27/2022	4/30/2027	3	1%	0 (0%)	\$8,000,000	\$1,843,502	\$6,156,498	1 (33%)	1
Sanbell	SAFER	11/22/2022	2/28/2027	12	4%	1 (7%)	\$7,000,000	\$4,685,349	\$2,314,651	7 (59%)	0
Community Water Center	SAFER	3/9/2020	12/31/2027	7	2%	0 (0%)	\$8,999,994	\$7,218,013	\$1,781,981	2 (29%)	7
GHD, Inc.	SAFER	11/10/2022	2/28/2027	23	7%	2 (8%)	\$17,999,924	\$12,534,003	\$5,465,921	15 (65%)	2
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability	SAFER	2/14/2024	1/31/2026	6	2%	0 (0%)	\$324,775	\$281,082	\$43,693	3 (50%)	4
NV5, Inc.	SAFER	11/1/2022	6/30/2027	10	3%	0 (0%)	\$6,650,000	\$2,295,880	\$4,354,120	3 (30%)	0
Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, Inc.	SAFER	11/10/2022	7/31/2027	25	8%	9 (24%)	\$14,318,470	\$10,069,062	\$4,249,408	15 (60%)	4
Rural Community Assistance Corporation	SAFER	3/9/2020	2/28/2026	53	16%	20 (23%)	\$36,820,721	\$35,332,432	\$1,488,289	33 (62%)	6
Self-Help Enterprises	SAFER, General Infrastructure	3/23/2020	3/31/2026	111	33%	15(11%)	\$40,633,488	\$39,324,210	\$1,309,278	64 (58%)	8
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	SAFER	11/21/2022	5/31/2027	15	5%	0 (0%)	\$10,000,000	\$6,244,247	\$3,755,753	3 (18%)	2

Appendix J. Technical Assistance

Provider	Funding Source	Agreement Start Date	Agreement End Date	# Active Work Plans (WP)	% of All Active WPs	WPs Completed	Agreement Amount	Estimated Amount Committed	Estimated Remaining Budget	# Active WP w/ Failing System ^e	# of Active WP with Domestic Wells
University Enterprises, Inc. ⁷	SAFER & Prop 1	3/9/2020	2/28/2026	47	14%	10 (16%)	\$39,057,304	\$24,925,510	\$14,131,794	35 (74%)	4
University of California, Regents of the	SAFER, General Infrastructure	8/22/2022	3/31/2026	18	5%	11 (46%)	\$2,576,087	\$2,617,250	\$(41,163)	12 (70%)	0
Total				330		68 (15%)	\$199,871,478	\$147,370,539	\$37,071,745	193	34 (10%)

SUMMARY OF DRINKING WATER TA ACTIVITIES

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

PLANNING

The State Water Board has \$147,370,539 committed to total of 442 work plans, out of which 330 are currently still active, to assist communities with infrastructure planning and capacity development as of April 2025. These work plans assist approximately 389 public water systems, 2,695 domestic wells, 98 state small water systems, serving 99,000 households / connections and approximately 324,500 Californians.

In 2024, on average, 15 ARs were made each month, with an average of 10 eligible requests being assigned to TA providers. Some requests are not assigned due to ineligibility of the type of entity requesting assistance, request being outside of the scope of available TA, proposed project not meeting funding priorities, and lack of TA program capacity at the time the request was received. After assignments are made, TA providers may begin work on developing work plans for planning tasks which are proposed for DFA's review and approval. Since 2021, on average, 8 new work plans and 12 work plan amendments are approved each month.

Since 2019, the State Water Board has on average started 74 new work plans each year, with a total of 442 work plans being assigned under the SAFER program. Currently, 330 (75%) of these work plans are still active and 200 (60%) active work plans are supporting Failing drinking water systems. Approximately 110 (25%) work plans have been closed out either because the scope of the approved work plan was completed or the work plan was cancelled. Between 2019-2024, 82 construction funding agreements were executed with the support of TA, with 27 (33%) agreements addressing a system's Failing SAFER status.

Figure 3 below provides a summary of when new work plans were assigned to TA providers, when work plans have been closed and the workload of active work plans actively being managed and implemented by State Water Board and TA providers.

CURRENT ACTIVE PLANNING WORK PLANS

There are currently 330 active planning work plans assisting 315 public water systems, 2,367 domestic wells, 95 state small water systems and, serving 78,120 households / connections and approximately 280,520 Californians.

Appendix J. Technical Assistance

Figure J- 3. Planning Work Plans Associated with Current Master Agreements

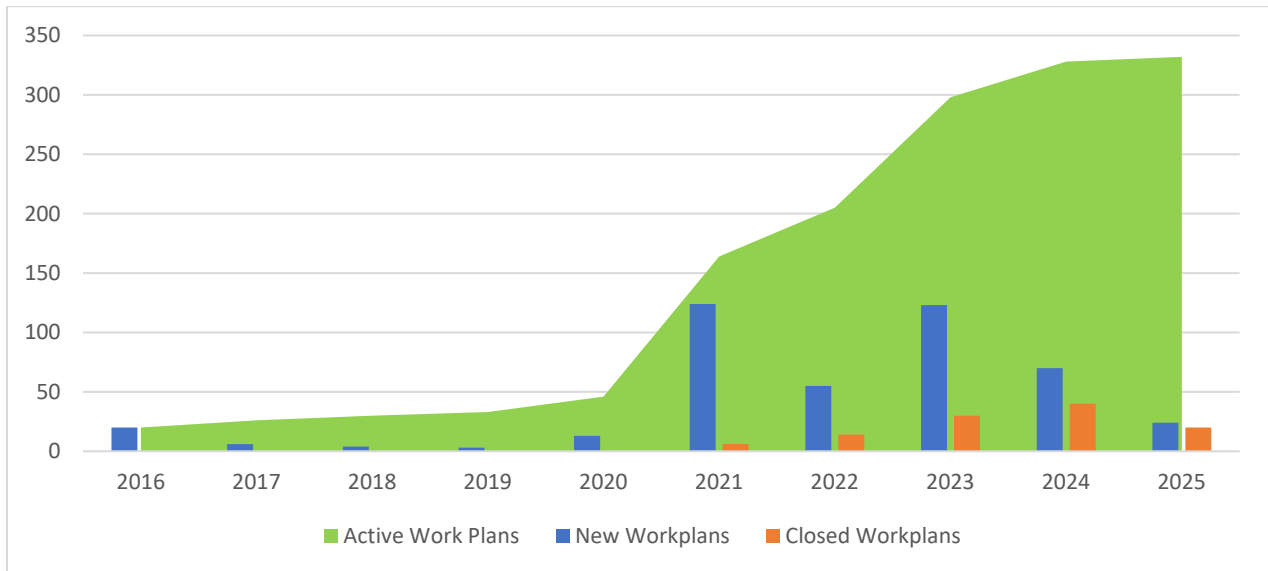
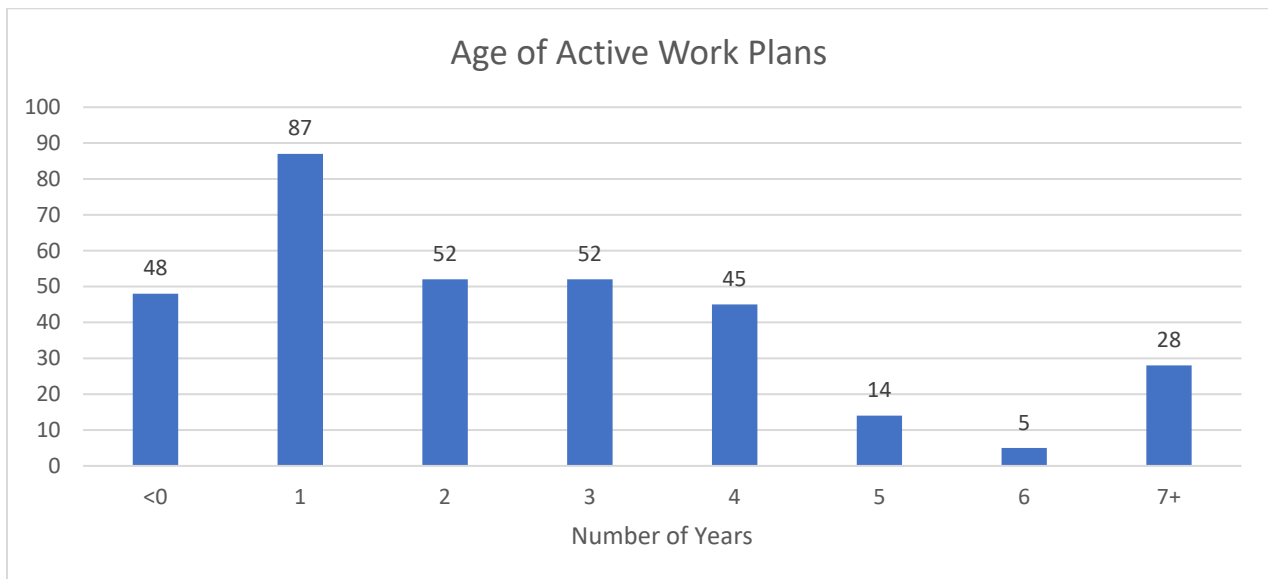


Figure J- 4. Age of Active Planning Work Plans



COMPLETED PLANNING WORK PLANS (2016 – 2025)

Under the current drinking water TA master agreements the State Water Board has with 12 drinking water TA providers 110 (25%) work plans have closed across all of the master agreements. Table J- 5 below summarizes closed work plans per TA provider.

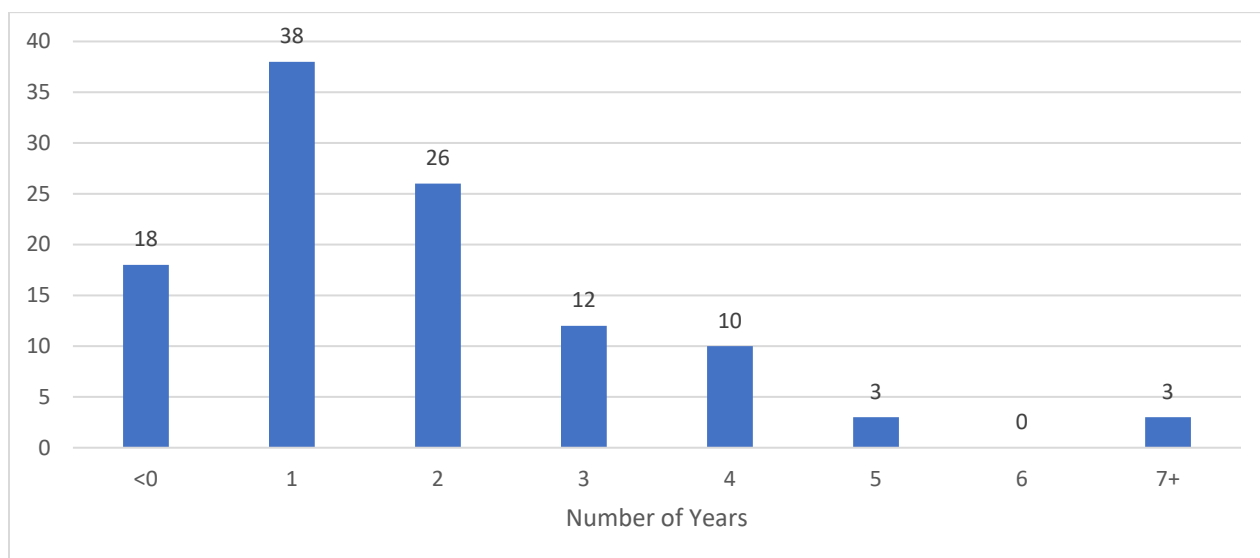
Appendix J. Technical Assistance

Table J- 5. Completed Planning Work Plans Since Master Agreement Start Date

Provider	Agreement Start Date	Agreement End Date	# Work Plans (WP)	# Closed Work plans	# Closed WP w/ Failing System ¹²	# Work Plans Completed
California Urban Water Agencies	3/27/2022	4/30/2027	3	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Sanbell	11/22/2022	2/28/2027	15	3	0 (0%)	1 (33%)
Community Water Center	3/9/2020	12/31/2027	7	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
GHD, Inc.	11/10/2022	2/28/2027	26	3	2 (66%)	2 (66%)
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability	2/14/2024	1/31/2026	6	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
NV5, Inc.	11/1/2022	6/30/2027	11	1	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, Inc.	11/10/2022	7/31/2027	37	12	4 (25%)	9 (75%)
Rural Community Assistance Corporation	3/9/2020	2/28/2026	88	35	9 (26%)	20 (57%)
Self-Help Enterprises	3/23/2020	3/31/2026	139	28	5 (18%)	15 (54%)
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	05/22/2023	5/31/2027	7	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
University Enterprises, Inc. ¹³	3/9/2020	2/28/2026	64	17	4 (24%)	10 (59%)
University of California, Regents of the	8/22/2022	3/31/2026	29	11	5 (45%)	11 (100%)
Total			442	110	30 (27%)	68 (62%)

Appendix J. Technical Assistance

Figure J- 5. Age of Closed Planning Work Plans (2016 - 2025)



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The State Water Board has \$751,530.89 committed to 165 ARs to enable TA providers to assist communities with CapDev across active TA agreements as of April 2025. These assignments assist approximately 131 public water systems serving 38,855 connections and approximately 116,954 Californians.

CapDev TA requests were included in the average 15 ARs that were received each month in 2024 provided above. After an assignment to a TA provider is made the TA provider may begin work immediately on the CapDev task. On average since 2021, 3 new CapDev assignments are made each month.

Since 2021, the State Water Board has on average started 41 new CapDev assignments each year, with a total of 163 being assigned under the SAFER program. Currently, 38 (23%) of these assignments are still active and 10 (26%) of these assignments are supporting Failing drinking water systems. Approximately 126 (77%) CapDev assignments have been closed out because the assignment was completed or the work was cancelled.

Figure 6 below provides a summary of when new CapDev assignments were assigned to technical assistance providers, when assignments were closed and the workload of active CapDev assignments.

CURRENT ACTIVE CAPDEV WORK PLANS

TA also provides assistance for CapDev tasks, such as rate studies, income surveys, TMF capacity assessments, etc. Of the current 12 drinking water TA providers only two, RCAC and SHE, include scope language in their master agreements that allow for the assignment of CapDev tasks that can be completed without a work plan. Overall, under

Appendix J. Technical Assistance

RCAC's agreement, TA has provided 143 CapDev assignments to approximately 112 public water systems and 7 communities not served by public water systems. Under the SHE agreement, TA has provided 20 CapDev assignments to 20 public water systems. There are currently 38 active CapDev tasks managed by RCAC and SHE, 28 of which are for Failing systems, with an average task duration of 1.35 years, which is less than half the age of active planning work plans. Figure J- 7 below summarizes the age of active CapDev tasks.

Figure J- 6. Capacity Development Tasks Associated with Current Master Agreements

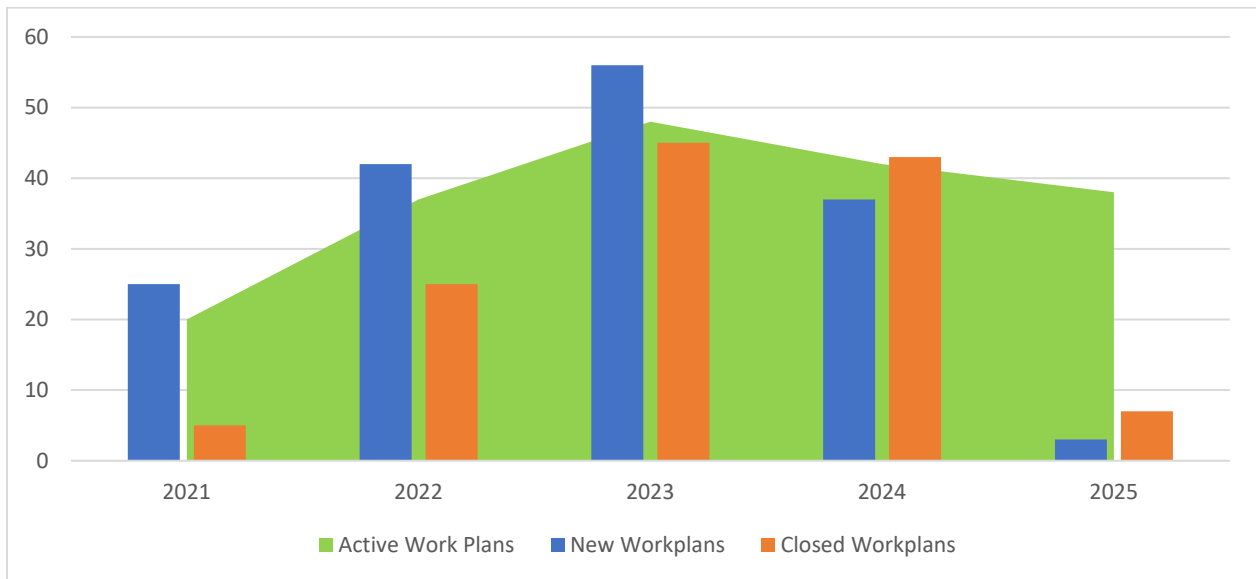
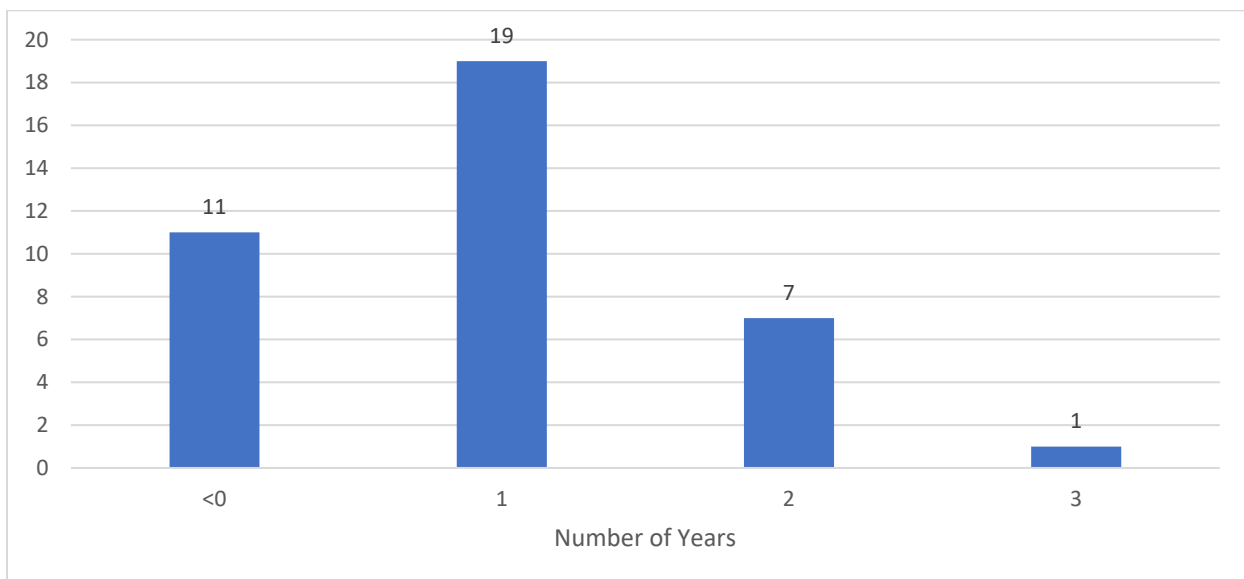


Figure J- 7. Age of Active Capacity Development Tasks



Appendix J. Technical Assistance

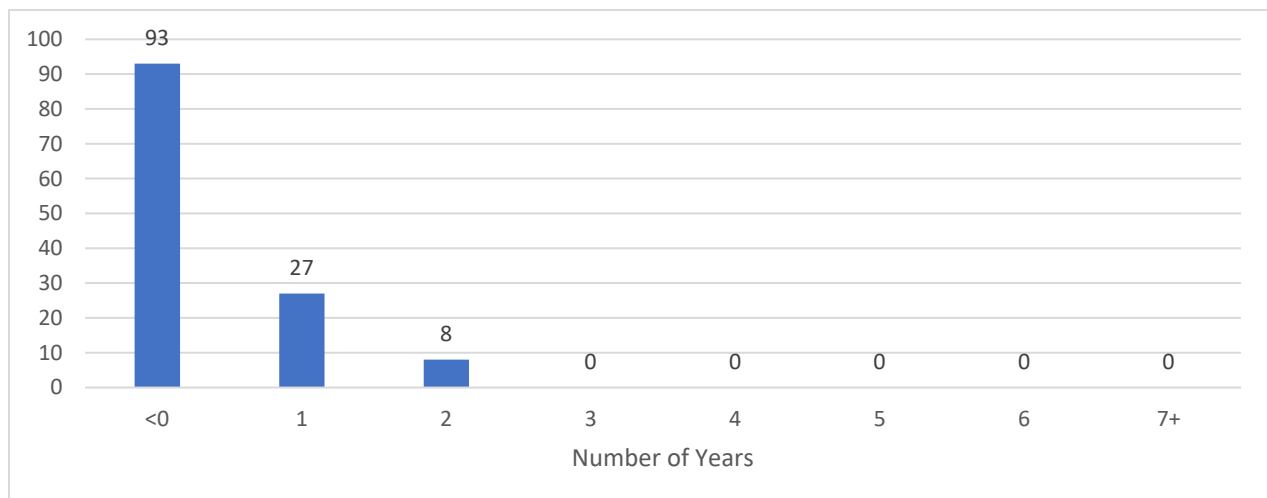
Table J- 6. Work Plan/Task Count per Services Rendered

	Full Planning	Legal Services	Rate Studies	TMF Assessment	Capacity Development	Additional Services
Total Work Plans/Tasks	248	19	6	1	38	50
No. Work Plans Addressing Failing	157 (63%)	11 (58%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)	28 (74%)	21 (42%)

COMPLETED CAPDEV WORK PLANS (2016 – 2025)

Since 2019, 125 CapDev assignments have been closed and 98 have been completed. On average the completed CapDev tasks were finished within 9 months.

Figure J- 8. Age of Completed Capacity Development Work Plans



PROJECTED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DEMAND

The State Water Board estimates the TA program has the capacity to initiate approximately 125 new full planning projects over the next three years as of May 2025. This assistance is estimated to be assigned to 93 Failing systems based on historical demand, the current number of Failing systems without TA or planning assistance, and the rate of systems being added to the Failing list. The remaining allocation will need to be determined based on funding priorities.

Approximately \$118 M in TA needs, in addition to existing master agreement capacity, is estimated to complete currently active work plans as well as take on the additional 125 full planning projects.

Appendix J. Technical Assistance

The State Water Board estimates the assignment of 2 new TA planning work plans for domestic wells and/or state small water systems (DW/SSWS) each year over the next 3 fiscal years. These work plans would be solely for DW/SSWS and would not also include subsumed public water systems. The assumption will be that an eligible entity, such as a public water system, will apply as an applicant for State Water Board construction funding for projects solely for DW/SSWS.

Table J- 7. Estimated Drinking Water TA Funding Needs (3 Yrs.)

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	Total	Est. # of Systems Benefitting
Est. Funding Needed to Complete Existing TA Work Plans					
Failing Systems	\$22,540,204	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$26,540,204	90
At-Risk Systems	\$1,745,568	\$0	\$0	\$1,745,568	26
DW/SSWSs	\$9,862,000	\$0	\$0	\$9,862,000	89
Est. New TA Demand					
Failing Systems	\$40,950,000	\$17,131,848	\$17,131,848	\$75,213,695	125
DW/SSWSs	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$4,500,000	6 Communities
TOTAL:	\$76,597,772	\$22,631,848	\$18,631,848	\$117,861,467	

Appendix K. Cost per Connection Methodology

The following methodology is utilized by the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance for calculating the cost per connection for drinking water and wastewater construction projects.

The State Water Board requires a cost per connection calculation to determine the funding eligibility for a construction project prior to the execution of an initial agreement, a cost increase amendment, and a final budget approval (FBA) amendment (if there is a cost increase).

The definitions for terms referenced in this document, in addition to the maximum grant/principal forgiveness (PF) funding limits that a community can receive, are set forth under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended Use Plans (IUPs), as applicable.

CALCULATION

The equation below (Equation K- 1) is used to calculate the cost per connection.

Equation K- 1. Cost Per Connection

$$\frac{\text{Construction Project Cost} + \text{Prior State Water Board Funded Project Costs}}{\text{Number of Residential Connections Benefiting from Project}}$$

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT COST

The construction project cost includes the construction funding requested from the State Water Board. Project costs may include, but are not limited to, construction, pre-purchased material/equipment, real property/easement acquisition, change order contingency, force account (a public entity or agency using their own in-house workforce and equipment for construction, rather than hiring a contractor, which must be pre-approved by the State Water Board), connection fees, capacity purchase fees, permits, planning, design, construction management, and administrative costs. Additional eligible and ineligible construction costs can be found in the CWSRF and DWSRF Policies.

Construction and prior funds received from agencies other than the State Water Board are not considered in the calculation.

PRIOR STATE WATER BOARD FUNDED PROJECT COSTS

Prior State Water Board funded project costs include the drinking water construction grant/PF funding that the benefiting community(ies) has received within the last five years. The five-year period is based on the initial funding agreement execution date and

Appendix K. Cost per Connection Methodology

does not consider the date that an agreement was amended to incorporate additional costs or to extend dates. Once the initial execution date exceeds five years, the associated agreement, including any cost increases via amendment(s), are not considered in the calculation.

Included in the calculation is any State Water Board drinking water grant/PF funding provided for construction funding. The following funding is excluded from this calculation: planning, technical assistance (TA), urgent drinking water needs, Administrator, direct operation and maintenance support, groundwater grant program funding, consolidation incentive, loan funds, funding under any supplemental IUP for the current or previous fiscal year(s), and non-drinking water funding.

BENEFITTING RESIDENTIAL CONNECTIONS

In general, the connections considered in the cost per connection calculation are permanent residential connections that are benefiting from the project. Permanent residential connections are those that intend to have occupants within a residence/household for more than six (6) months out of the year. Industrial, commercial, irrigation, agricultural, and transient non-community (such as campsites and recreational vehicle parks) are not grant/PF eligible and are not considered in the calculation.

Additional connection considerations include the following:

- For non-transient non-community (NTNC) water systems that serve a small disadvantaged community (DAC) or small severely disadvantaged community (SDAC), such as public K-12 schools, not-for-profit K-12 private schools, not-for-profit daycare facilities, not-for-profit labor camps, not-for-profit elder care facilities, and not-for-profit health care facilities, equivalent service connections can be determined by calculating the total number of staff, students, workers, residents, and/or patients, and dividing by 3.3, as determined in the Title 22 Drinking Water Regulations.
- For multi-family residential properties that are served by a single connection, such as apartment complexes or duplexes, and mobile home parks (MHPs) served by a master meter connection, the single connection can be treated as multiple service connections for the cost per connection calculation and are based on the number of households or housing units within the building, complex, or MHP. For example, if there is one connection serving an apartment complex consisting of five (5) residential units, then five (5) connections can be considered for the cost per connection calculation.
- For multi-use connections, such as a single connection serving a commercial business and residential units, the single connection can be treated as multiple service connections for the cost per connection calculation and is based on the number of residential units served by the connection.

Appendix K. Cost per Connection Methodology

- For state small water systems, the number of residential service connections that are receiving water for human consumption will be considered for the cost per connection calculation.
- For residential domestic wells, the number of residential service connections that are utilizing the domestic well(s) will be considered for the cost per connection calculation.
- For secondary homes (classified as vacation or seasonal homes), homes that are connected to the community's existing system will be considered for the cost per connection calculation regardless of whether the homes have occupants for six (6) months per year.
- Vacant lots that have an existing connection to the community's system or have an approved building permit may be considered for the cost per connection calculation.
- Accessory dwelling units (ADUs), such as a small residential unit that is located on a property that has a separate main residential home, units that have a submeter may be considered for the cost per connection calculation.

For consolidation or extension of service projects, the connections of the community(ies) benefiting from the project will be considered. If improvements to the receiving system are required for the consolidation or extension of service project, the receiving system connections benefiting from the project components can also be considered in the calculation. Two (2) common examples of a receiving system benefiting from a consolidation or extension of service project include:

- If a new pipeline is required within the receiving water system to connect to another community (or multiple communities), any permanent residential connections within the receiving system directly benefiting from the new pipeline, such as those connected to the pipeline and receiving water service, can be considered.
- If water system infrastructure (water source, treatment, storage, pump station, etc.) is required within the receiving system to connect to another community (or multiple communities), the permanent residential connections within the receiving system that are utilizing the infrastructure for water service can be considered.

If improvements are solely benefiting the receiving system and not the community(ies) that are being consolidated or receiving extended services, the connections associated with the receiving water system will be the only connections included in the calculation for those improvements.

PROJECTS INVOLVING MULTIPLE COMMUNITIES

Consolidation or extension of service projects often have a primary community that is involved due to their regulatory compliance status or the priority of the community; however, additional communities and/or private households are often added due to their proximity or as part of a large-scale regionalization project. For a project that is adding communities and/or private households to the primary consolidation/extension of

Appendix K. Cost per Connection Methodology

service project, the total project cost per connection must remain within the limits set forth in the CWSRF or DWSRF IUP. Furthermore, if the completion of the primary consolidation/extension of service project is not dependent on the additional communities and/or private households, and significant infrastructure is needed to add the communities and/or private households, the project costs associated with adding the additional communities and/or private households must also adhere to the cost per connection limits specified in the IUP. Any costs exceeding the limit for a specific community and/or private household added to the primary consolidation/extension of service project may not be grant/PF eligible. Depending on the overall project cost and cost per connection, the Deputy Director has the discretion to approve a higher cost per connection limit in accordance with the limits set forth elsewhere in this IUP. If the overall project cost and cost per connection limits are exceeded for Deputy Director approval, Board approval may be required.

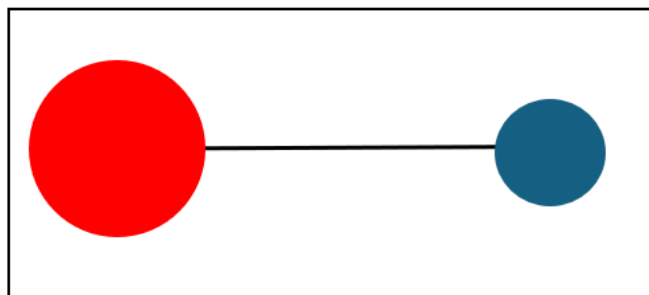
Significant infrastructure that is needed to add communities and/or private households includes components that are not required for the primary consolidation or extension of service project, such as pump stations and significant transmission/distribution lines. Infrastructure such as laterals and minor piping that are needed to add communities and/or private households are not considered significant and can be considered as part of the primary consolidation/extension of service project.

Figure K-1 shows examples of primary consolidation or extension of service projects that do not have significant infrastructure to include additional communities and/or private households. Conversely, Figure K-2 shows examples of primary consolidation or extension of service projects that have significant infrastructure to include additional communities and/or private households and will require an additional cost per connection calculation for each additional community/private household. For the figures, a red circle indicates the receiving system, a blue circle indicates a subsumed system, and a green circle indicates a community served by a state small water system or private household. The straight black lines indicate a transmission pipeline, distribution pipeline, and/or lateral. The rectangle with a solid border is used to show the primary consolidation or extension of service project, and the rectangle with a dashed border is used to show the significant infrastructure added to the primary consolidation/extension of service project to add an additional community/private household.

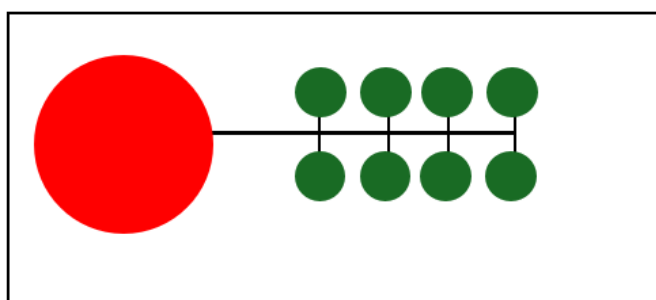
Appendix K. Cost per Connection Methodology

Figure K-1. Primary consolidation or extension of service projects

(a)



(b)



(c)

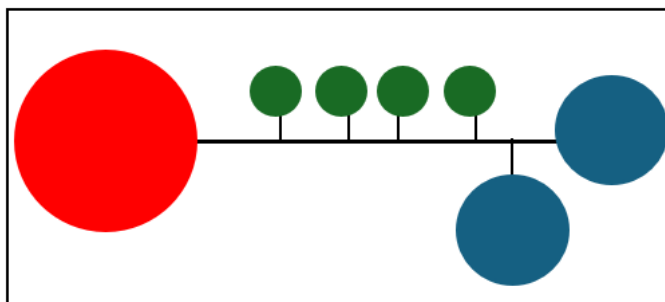
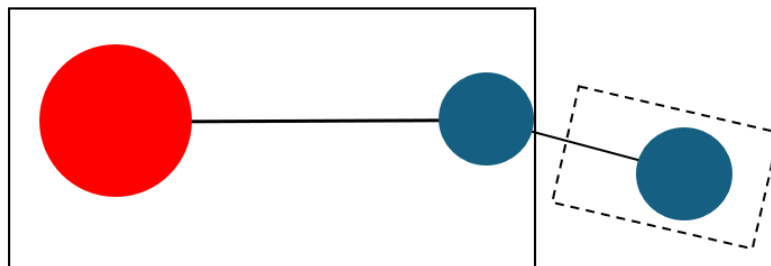


Figure K-1(a) shows a consolidation between a receiving system and a single subsumed system, Figure K-1(b) shows the consolidation of multiple private households with a receiving system, and Figure K-1(c) shows the consolidation of multiple subsumed systems and private households via the same pipeline alignment, laterals, and minor piping. All these examples are considered a primary consolidation or extension of service project, and do not require an additional cost per connection calculation for each community/private household involved since there is not significant infrastructure to incorporate additional communities/private households.

Appendix K. Cost per Connection Methodology

Figure K-2. Consolidation or extension of service projects with significant infrastructure to include additional communities

(a)



(b)

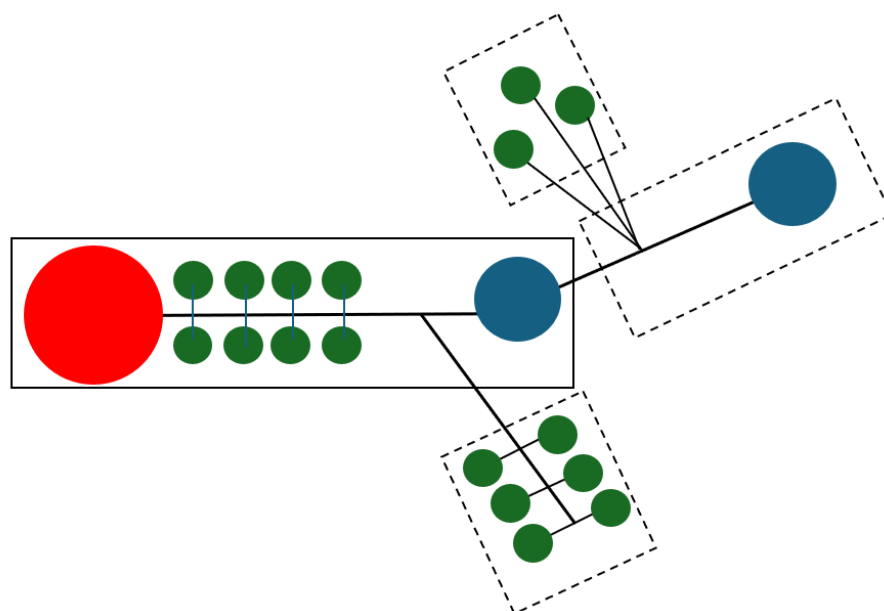


Figure K-2(a) shows a consolidation of a receiving system and two (2) subsumed systems; however, the second subsumed system (far right) requires a significant length of pipeline that branches off the main pipeline alignment and is not required for the primary consolidation, thus triggering the cost per connection calculation for the specific community. Figure K-2(b) includes the consolidation of private households and a subsumed system as part of the primary consolidation project but has additional pipelines branching off that incorporate two (2) sets of communities utilizing private systems and another subsumed system. As a result, an additional cost per connection calculation is required for these specific communities that are added to the primary consolidation project.

To determine the cost per connection for a specific community/private household for the types of projects identified in Figure K-2, the cost per connection formula (Equation K-1) will be used, and only the costs and connections associated with that specific

Appendix K. Cost per Connection Methodology

community/private household will be included. State Water Board staff will coordinate with the applicant and/or engineering consultant to itemize the project costs associated with each specific community/private household added to the project. For construction costs, this includes the infrastructure that will primarily benefit the specific community/private household (such as pipelines, storage tanks, treatment systems, etc.). For prior State Water Board costs, this includes agreements and workplans benefiting specific communities/private households.

If construction project costs (such as project-wide construction costs, allowance costs, etc.) and prior State Water Board project costs (such as planning, TA, etc.) cannot be clearly allocated to the primary consolidation/extension of service project or specific community/private household added to the project, then the remaining total of unallocated costs will be divided by the number of connections benefiting from the project, to determine the unallocated costs per connection. This value will then be multiplied by the connections associated with each specific community/private household added to the project (Equation K- 2) and added to the costs already allocated for the specific community/private household.

Equation K- 2. Unallocated Cost for a Specific Community

$$\left(\frac{\text{Total Unallocated Costs}}{\text{Number of Residential Connections Benefiting from Project}} \right) \times \text{Number of Connections for Specific Community}$$

Appendix L. List of Programs to Assist Households Supplied by Domestic Wells

Assistance Program	Description	Funding Program	Approved Funding Amount	Approximate # of Households	Location of Households
Self-Help Enterprises Regional Bottled Water Program	The Self-Help Enterprises Regional Bottled Water Program will provide bottled water to households served by public water systems and private household wells, located in the Self-Help Enterprises Service Area (Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Mariposa, San Joaquin and Stanislaus), that have urgent drinking water needs.	SB 200 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water	\$ 9,707,680	3,600	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Tulare Counties
Rural Community Assistance Corporation (SB108 Drinking Water Well Replacement Program)	The Program provides funding for the replacement of failed drinking water wells for disadvantaged households that are served by domestic wells or for water systems serving disadvantaged communities with fewer than 15 service connections.	SB-108-General Fund SB-108-General Fund General Fund-Drought Emergency Support CA Emergency Relief Fund	\$ 11,069,014	50+	Statewide except in Self-Help Enterprises Service Area (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Tulare)

Appendix L. List of Programs to Assist Households Supplied by Domestic Wells

Assistance Program	Description	Funding Program	Approved Funding Amount	Approximate # of Households	Location of Households
Self-Help Enterprises Tanks & Hauled Water Program	The Program provides funding for the purchase and deliver temporary water storage tanks and hauled potable drinking water to households that have lost their water supply because of their well becoming dry, Assistance will be provided to homes until a long-term solution is in place. The agreement includes expanding the operations and maintenance in addition to a feasibility study to assess potential water source areas in drought locations.	AB 74 Provision 2.6(h), SB 200 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water, Drought Funding (General Fund), General Fund Budget Act of 2022 Augmentation.	\$ 95,876,502	1490	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Tulare Counties

Appendix L. List of Programs to Assist Households Supplied by Domestic Wells

Assistance Program	Description	Funding Program	Approved Funding Amount	Approximate # of Households	Location of Households
Regional Private Domestic Water Well Abandonment, Repair, Replacement & Connection Program	The Program will develop and implement a Regional Private Domestic Water Well Abandonment, Repair, Replacement & Connection Program to assist disadvantaged households and state small water systems in Self-Help Enterprises' Service Area. The project will provide grant relief for domestic well abandonment, repair, or replacement, and to connect households to Public Water Systems where possible.	SB 200 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Drought Funding (General Fund), CERF – Emergency Drinking Water CERF – Drought	\$ 50,153,253	Approximately 678 Water Well repair/replacement, and 21 connections to public water systems	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Tulare Counties
USDA Rural Development Household Water Well System Grants	The Program provides funding to qualified nonprofits and tribes to create a revolving loan fund for eligible individuals who own and occupy a home in an eligible rural area. The fund may be used to construct, refurbish, or service individually owned household water well systems. Terms for the loans include one percent fixed interest rate, 20-year maximum term, and an \$11,000 maximum loan per household.	USDA- federal funds	Varies	varies	• Rural areas and towns with populations of 50,000 or less • Tribal lands in rural areas

Appendix L. List of Programs to Assist Households Supplied by Domestic Wells

Assistance Program	Description	Funding Program	Approved Funding Amount	Approximate # of Households	Location of Households
USDA Rural Development Single Family Housing Repairs Loans And Grants	The Program, also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards. Maximum loan is \$40,000. Maximum grant is \$10,000. Loans and grants can be combined for up to \$50,000 in assistance.	USDA - federal funds	varies	varies	Generally, rural areas with a population less than 35,000 are eligible.
Shasta County Drinking Water Drought Assistance Program	The Program will provide interim and long-term drinking water solutions to disadvantaged households with drought related water supply challenges and associated contamination or water quality issues.	SB 200 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water	\$2,474,998	varies	Shasta County
Imperial County Regional Point of Entry Installation and Urgent Drinking Water Needs Program	The Program will provide a point of entry (POE) water treatment system to qualified rural households to treat surface water from local canals, provide 2 years of operation and maintenance for each POE, and provide interim drinking water solutions to households with contaminated water and/or drought related water supply challenges.	SB 200 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water	\$3,184,725	50	Imperial County

Appendix L. List of Programs to Assist Households Supplied by Domestic Wells

Assistance Program	Description	Funding Program	Approved Funding Amount	Approximate # of Households	Location of Households
Santa Cruz County Regional Program	The Program will provide interim drinking water solutions to disadvantaged households with contaminated water and/or drought related water supply challenges.	SB 200 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water	\$601,000	50	Santa Cruz County
Butte County Regional Program	The Program will provide interim and long-term drinking water solutions to disadvantaged households with drought related water supply challenges	Safe and Affordable Drinking Water	\$5,745,082	varies	Butte County

Appendix M. List of Programs to Assist Households and Schools whose Tap Water Contain Contaminants

Assistance Program	Description	Funding Program	Approved Funding Amount	Approximate # of Schools/ Households	Location of Schools/ Households
Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) Statewide Bottled Water for Schools Program	The Statewide Bottled Water for Schools Program is for the purchase and delivery of bottled drinking water for schools serving kindergarten or any of grades 1-12, and preschools and child day care facilities, located on public school property statewide, through the Work Completion Date or until a long-term solution, or other interim solution, is in place for each site, whichever occurs first. The funding provides a maximum of 1/4 gallon per person per school day for up to two years at any one school.	SB 200 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water	\$4,547,038	100 Schools	Statewide

Appendix M. List of Programs to Assist Households and Schools whose Tap Water Contains Contaminant

Assistance Program	Description	Funding Program	Approved Funding Amount	Approximate # of Schools/ Households	Location of Schools/ Households
Community Water Center Central Coast Multi-County Bottled Water Project (Region 3)	The Program will provide bottled drinking water to a minimum of 250 eligible disadvantaged Households served by a private well or small water system with a Contaminated Water Supply within the jurisdiction of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (implemented in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties). These households must also be located outside of any area already provided with bottled drinking water. Additionally, the grant will fund implementation of a 1,2,3 - Trichloropropane (123-TCP) point-of-entry (POE) Treatment Pilot in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. The funding will provide operation and maintenance of 123-TCP POE treatment systems previously installed in the project area through Community Water Center's 123-TCP Treatment Pilot Project for DAC Households in Northern Monterey County and installing, operating and maintaining additional treatment systems.	SB 200 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water	\$ 3,976,612	450 households	Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey Counties

Appendix M. List of Programs to Assist Households and Schools whose Tap Water Contains Contaminant

Assistance Program	Description	Funding Program	Approved Funding Amount	Approximate # of Schools/ Households	Location of Schools/ Households
Self-Help Enterprises Regional Bottled Water Program	The Self-Help Enterprises Regional Bottled Water Program will provide bottled water to households served by public water systems and private household wells, located in the Self-Help Enterprises Service Area (Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Mariposa, San Joaquin and Stanislaus), that have urgent drinking water needs.	SB 200 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water	\$ 9,707,680	3,600 households	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Tulare Counties
Self-Help Enterprises Household Solutions Program	The Household Private Wells Assistance Program will conduct outreach to potential households, located in the Self-Help Enterprises Service Area (Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Mariposa, San Joaquin and Stanislaus), served by private wells and will conduct well testing and provide interim solutions including point of entry and/or point of use (POE/POU) filtration device to those participating households that have water quality issues. This program has been recently expanded to be able to assist public water systems and state smalls in addition to households served by domestic wells.	SB 200 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water	\$7,698,375	1,600 households	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Tulare Counties

Appendix M. List of Programs to Assist Households and Schools whose Tap Water Contains Contaminant

Assistance Program	Description	Funding Program	Approved Funding Amount	Approximate # of Schools/ Households	Location of Schools/ Households
Drinking Water for Schools Round 2- RCAC	The Drinking Water for School Grant Program will provide assistance to eligible school districts through two nonprofit organizations that will act as Program Administrators. These Program Administrators will develop and implement projects for schools serving disadvantaged communities. The first priority will be to provide interim solutions such as Point of Use treatment to schools with impaired water quality. Projects may also be funded to improve access to drinking water if sufficient budget remains after meeting the water quality impairment needs.	SB 862 (Stats. 2018, ch. 449), then amended by AB 72 (Stats. 2019, ch. 1)	\$ 2,579,000	70 schools	Statewide
Drinking Water for Schools Round 2- Self Help Enterprises	The Drinking Water for School Grant Program will provide assistance to eligible school districts through two nonprofit organizations that will act as Program Administrators. These Program Administrators will develop and implement projects for schools serving disadvantaged communities. The first priority will be to provide interim solutions such as Point of Use treatment to schools with impaired water quality. Projects may also be funded to improve access to drinking water if sufficient budget remains	SB 862 (Stats. 2018, ch. 449), then amended by Assembly Bill (AB) 72 (Stats. 2019, ch. 1)	\$ 3,856,000	70 schools	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Tulare Counties

Appendix M. List of Programs to Assist Households and Schools whose Tap Water Contains Contaminant

Assistance Program	Description	Funding Program	Approved Funding Amount	Approximate # of Schools/ Households	Location of Schools/ Households
	after meeting the water quality impairment needs.				
Valley Water Collaborative Expanding Co-Contaminant Well Sampling And Replacement Water Program	The funding is for establishing and implementing the Expanded Constituent Well Sampling and Replacement Water Program (Program) in conjunction and coordination with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Nitrate Control Program, within the Management Zones encompassed by Valley Water Collaborative that are served by private wells or state small water systems. The Program provides domestic well testing and interim drinking water solutions including bottled water delivery, point of entry and/or point of use (POE/POU) filtration devices	Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (SADW Fund)	\$5,540,725	1,232	Modesto, and Turlock Groundwater Basins
Tule Basin Water Foundation Expanding Co-Contaminant Well Sampling And Replacement Water Program	The funding is for establishing and implementing the Expanded Constituent Well Sampling and Replacement Water Program (Program) in conjunction and coordination with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Nitrate Control Program, within the Management Zones encompassed by Valley Water	Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (SADW Fund)	\$4,528,882	900	Tule Groundwater Basin

Appendix M. List of Programs to Assist Households and Schools whose Tap Water Contains Contaminant

Assistance Program	Description	Funding Program	Approved Funding Amount	Approximate # of Schools/ Households	Location of Schools/ Households
	Collaborative that are served by private wells or state small water systems. The Program provides domestic well testing and interim drinking water solutions including bottled water delivery, point of entry and/or point of use (POE/POU) filtration devices				
SHE Domestic Well and Small Water System Flood Mitigation Program	The program will provide interim and long-term solutions served by domestic wells who have a failed or damaged water well due to flooding. Interim solutions consist of bottled drinking water, delivery of temporary water storage tanks, and hauled potable water. Long-term solutions consist of well repair, replacement, and installation of Point-of-Use and Point-of-Entry treatment systems, if needed. The Program will also provide connection to a public water system when possible.	General Fund – Control Section 11.86	\$14,000,000	Approximately 1114	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Tulare Counties

Appendix N. Regional Programs and Local Mitigation Areas

REGIONAL PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY SELF-HELP ENTERPRISES AND THEIR INTERSECTION WITH GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES AND MANAGEMENT ZONES (AS OF JUNE 30, 2025)

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES

Table N- 1 below shows completed new domestic wells drilled, pending new domestic well applications, and current households receiving bottled/hailed water by Self-Help Enterprises (SHE), through regional programs funded by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Water Board) and the corresponding groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) based on the household's location. The average annual costs for providing bottled water/hailed water per household is **\$13,000** and the average cost for constructing a new domestic well is **\$60,000**.

Table N- 1. Households Provided Services via SHE Programs and Corresponding GSA

GSA	Wells Drilled	Funding (Wells + BW/HW)	Pending Apps	Estimated Funding (\$60k/well)	Current Hauled Water Households	Funding Amount	Current Bottled Water Households	Funding Amount
Indian Wells Valley Subbasin	1	\$85,440	0	\$0	10	\$284,070	1	\$1,138
Kaweah Subbasin	51	\$4,357,440	32	\$1,920,000	97	\$2,925,918	127	\$76,904
Kings Subbasin	144	\$12,303,360	109	\$6,540,000	291	\$8,266,428	375	\$298,206
Tule Subbasin	12	\$1,025,280	9	\$540,000	40	\$1,136,279	47	\$25,947
Kern County Subbasin	4	\$341,760	7	\$420,000	16	\$454,512	20	\$17,276
Madera Subbasin	127	\$10,850,880	125	\$7,500,000	223	\$6,334,754	275	\$214,975
Merced Subbasin	6	\$512,640	20	\$1,200,000	38	\$1,079,465	46	\$38,971
Delta Mendota Subbasin	0	\$0	4	\$240,000	5	\$142,035	7	\$4,922
Chowchilla Subbasin	5	\$427,200	7	\$420,000	13	\$369,291	18	\$17,108
Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin	2	\$170,880	3	\$180,000	9	\$255,663	16	\$13,794
Tracy Subbasin	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$28,407	1	\$201
Pleasant Valley Subbasin	1	\$85,440	1	\$60,000	1	\$28,407	1	\$167
Modesto Subbasin	2	\$170,880	3	\$180,000	6	\$170,442	6	\$5,558
Turlock Subbasin	5	\$427,200	5	\$300,000	9	\$255,663	13	\$11,685
Total	360	\$ 30,758,400	325	\$ 19,500,000	759	\$21,731,332	\$ 953	\$ 726,851
Not Within Any GSA Boundaries	25		60		138		144	

MANAGEMENT ZONES

DOMESTIC WELLS

Table N- 2 below shows information on total wells tested via SHE's regional program for Point-of-Use/Point-of-Entry (POU/POE) treatment, testing results with respect to nitrate, and associated costs for both treatment and bottled water and the corresponding Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) Management Zone (MZ) based on the household's location.

Appendix N. Regional Programs and Local Mitigation Areas

Table N- 2. Households Provided Services via SHE Programs and Corresponding MZ

Management Zone	No. of Domestic Wells Tested	No. of Domestic Wells w/ Nitrate only	No. of Domestic Wells w/ Nitrates and other contaminants	No. of Domestic Well with contaminants other than nitrate	Treatment Device Cost	Estimated Bottled Water Cost
Chowchilla Management Zone	3	1	0	0	\$ 1,739.00	\$ 100.44
Delta-Mendota	6	0	1	4	\$ 7,746.00	\$ 1,305.72
Kaweah Management Zone	35	5	10	2	\$ 54,801.42	\$ 6,629.04
Kings Water Alliance Management Zone	71	9	12	12	\$ 99,151.00	\$ 7,767.36
Madera	28	6	0	7	\$ 18,012.00	\$ 234.36
Merced	18	0	3	6	\$ 45,970.09	\$ 937.44
Modesto Management Zone	4	0	1	2	\$ 2,452.50	\$ -
Tule Management Zone	41	6	6	8	\$ 35,530.51	\$ 1,807.92
Turlock Management Zone	7	0	2	5	\$ 14,138.25	\$ 435.24
Total	213	27	35	46	\$ 279,540.77	\$ 19,217.52
Not within a Management Zone	45	0	0	9	\$ 10,467.19	\$ 1,004.40

SHE's POU/POE program has installed 28 POU's related to nitrate only contamination for an estimated total of \$55,080. SHE's POU/POE program has also tested a total of 258 wells at a cost of \$154,800, which is complementary assistance to the management zones.

The State Water Board has two co-funding agreements with Management Zones. One with Valley Water Collaborative for \$5,540,725 and another with Tule Basin Water Foundation for \$4,528,222. Those funding agreements help to support domestic well sampling for contaminants other than nitrate and also provide assistance for solutions not related to nitrate-only issues. Households that are found to not have nitrate contamination are referred to the SHE programs.

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

Table N- 3 below shows the public water systems (PWSs) that are failing for nitrate contamination in MZ Priority 1 and 2 basins and their modeled costs for a long term solution (based on the 2024 Needs Analysis). As more information becomes available (e.g., preliminary engineering reports are completed or construction funding applications are submitted), modeled costs will be replaced⁴³.

Table N- 3. Funding Information for PWSs Located within MZs

Management Zone	Total # of Failing systems with nitrate contamination	Failing systems with nitrate with Water Board funding	Amount of WB funding committed to those systems	Estimated construction \$ for systems with nitrate with WB funding (Modeled Costs)	Failing systems with nitrate with <u>no</u> WB funding	Estimated construction \$ for systems with nitrate with <u>no</u> WB funding (Modeled Costs)
EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN	4	2	\$549,147 (\$16,200 BW for 1 PWS via SHE)	\$4,324,562	2	\$13,152,042

⁴³ Division of Financial Assistance staff are currently working on demand projections for Failing list systems. As more accurate information becomes available, the table above will be updated.

Appendix N. Regional Programs and Local Mitigation Areas

Management Zone	Total # of Failing systems with nitrate contamination	Failing systems with nitrate with Water Board funding	Amount of WB funding committed to those systems	Estimated construction \$ for systems with nitrate with WB funding (Modeled Costs)	Failing systems with nitrate with <u>no</u> WB funding	Estimated construction \$ for systems with nitrate with <u>no</u> WB funding (Modeled Costs)
KAWEAH MANAGEMENT ZONE	6	4	\$9,982,968	\$16,911,540	1	\$5,947,461
KERN (POSO)	3	1	\$8,532,402	\$18,402,499	2	\$4,653,815
KINGS WATER ALLIANCE MANAGEMENT ZONE	5	3	\$11,215,127 (\$296,640 BW for 1 PWS via SHE)	\$21,116,369	2	\$5,417,047
MODESTO MANAGEMENT ZONE	4	1	\$408,478	\$18,805,953	3	\$511,734
TULE MANAGEMENT ZONE	9	9	\$30,055,954 (\$2,064,960 BW for 4 PWS)	\$38,798,359	0	0
TURLOCK MANAGEMENT ZONE	1	0	\$0	\$44,938,775	1	0
YOLO	2	1	\$7,600,000	\$6,511,347	1	\$5,577,879
TOTAL:	34	21	\$68,344,076	\$176,441,230	13	\$35,259,978

Of the 21 Failing systems with Water Board funding there are 15 TA agreements, one planning agreement, three O&M agreements, two administrator agreements, and 12 construction agreements. For the 13 Failing systems without Water Board funding, six are not serving a disadvantaged community or considered a small community water system. Those systems Failing for nitrate but without Water Board funding are listed in Table N- 4 below.

Table N- 4. List of PWSs within MZs without Water Board Funding

Water System ID	System Name	Connections	Population	Management Zone	DAC Status
CA1000554	FCSA #10A/MANSIONETTE ESTATES	29	81	Kings Water Alliance Management Zone- Kings	Non-DAC
CA1500409	BROCK MUTUAL WATER COMPANY	155	462	Kern (POSO)- Priority 2	Non-DAC
CA1500584	GOOSELAKE WATER COMPANY	32	90	Kern (POSO)- Priority 2	Non-DAC

Appendix N. Regional Programs and Local Mitigation Areas

Water System ID	System Name	Connections	Population	Management Zone	DAC Status
CA3901163	MUSD-NEW HAVEN SCHOOL	3	300	Eastern San Joaquin-Priority 2	DAC
CA3910014	SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY-RAYMUS VILLAGE	329	1086	Eastern San Joaquin-Priority 2	DAC
CA5000048	LAZY B MOBILEHOME PARK	49	125	Modesto Management Zone-Modesto	SDAC
CA5000090	RIVERVIEW MOBILE HOME ESTATES	173	540	Modesto Management Zone-Modesto	SDAC
CA5000295	SHILOH SCHOOL DISTRICT	7	105	Modesto Management Zone-Modesto	Non-DAC
CA5010019	TURLOCK, CITY OF	19716	72682	Turlock Management Zone - Turlock	DAC
CA5400553	DEL ORO TRAVER DISTRICT	199	657	Kings Water Alliance Management Zone- Kings	SDAC
CA5400711	SIERRA VIEW JR ACADEMY	5	115	Kaweah Management Zone-Kaweah	SDAC
CA5400850	PACKWOOD SCHOOL	2	105	Kaweah Management Zone-Kaweah	DAC
CA5700623	DAVIS JUSD - FAIRFIELD SCHOOL	2	46	Yolo- Priority 2	Non-DAC