APPENDICES

Appendix A. 2026 Needs Assessment

Links:

Final Report

Executive Summary

Dashboards

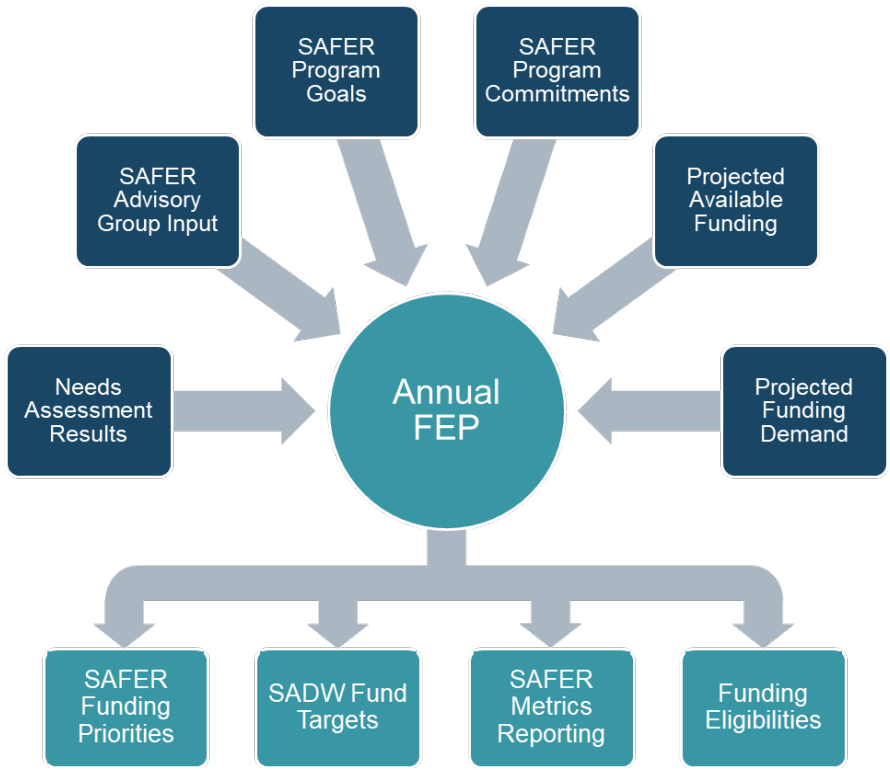
Appendix B. FEP Annual Development Process

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)).

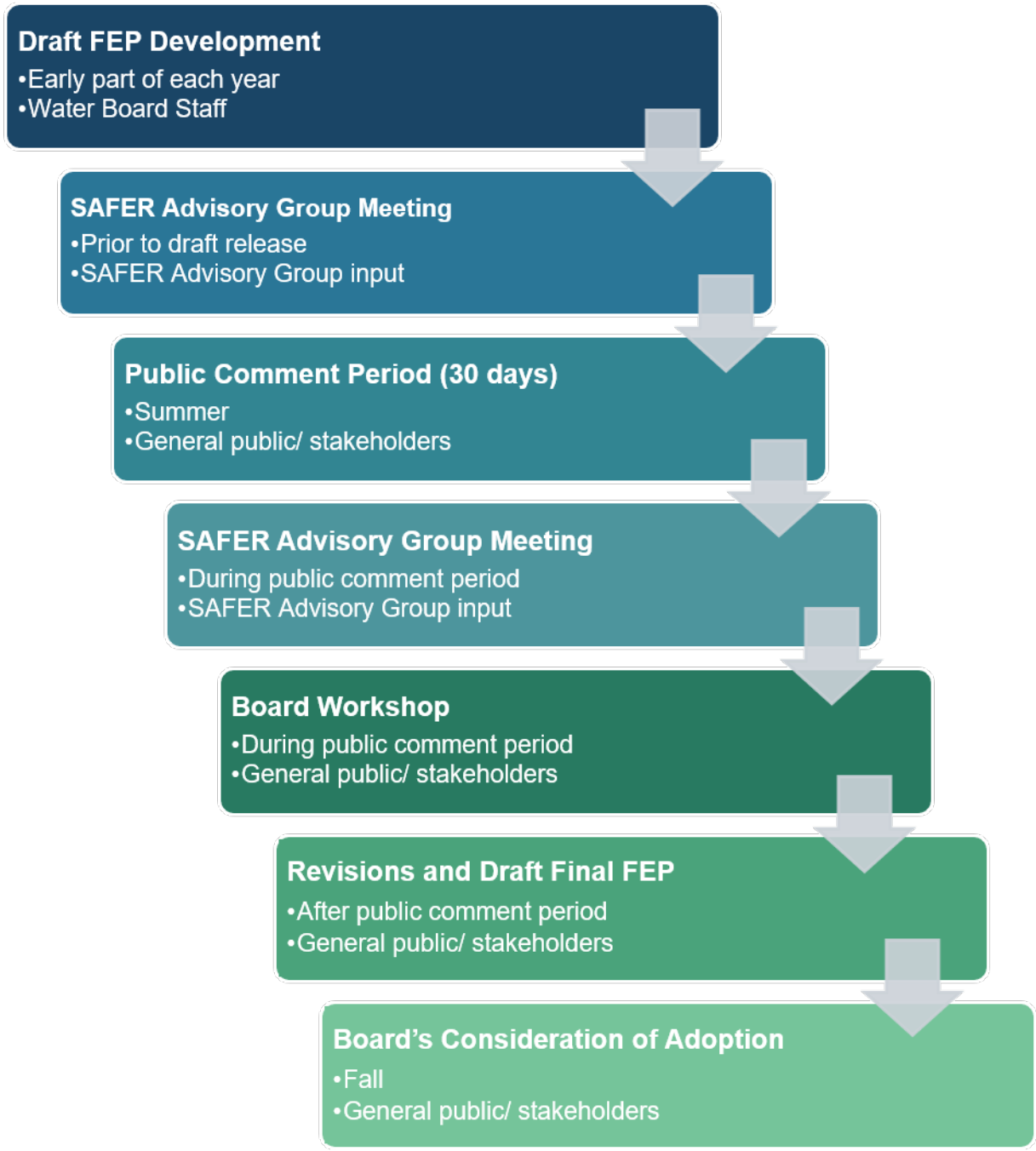
Figure B- 1. Annual FEP Inputs and Outputs



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 Policy[1] 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 communities[2], 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 List[3].

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 (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 2025-26 as well as cumulatively from a start date of January 1, 2019. Table C- 1 also establishes numeric goals for FY 2026-27. 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 2025-26 Performance in Metric Categories 1, 2, and 3 (7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026)

Category	FY 2024-25 Goal	FY 2025-26 Progress	No. of Connections Benefiting	No. of People Benefiting	Total Assistance Provided	FY 2025-26 Goal
Interim and Emergency Assistance	50 communities	57 communities/ schools (2,615 households)	7,859	33,657	$35 M	50 communities
Technical Assistance Projects	100	60 (6 full planning via TA)	9,490	33,087	$4.5M	100
Planning Projects	25	11 (11)	15,536 (15,536)	49,819 (49,819)	$7.4 M ($7.4 M)	25
Construction Projects[4]	45	53 (45)	1.38 M (179,354)	11.4 M (2 M)	$865.9 M ($588.2 M)	45

Table C- 2. Cumulative Performance in Metric Categories 1, 2, and 3 (1/1/2019 – 6/30/2026)

Category	Cumulative Progress	No. of Connections Benefiting	No. of People Benefiting	Total Assistance Provided
Interim and Emergency Assistance	458 communities/ schools (5,308 households)	31,975	204,194	$79.8 M
Technical Assistance Projects	676 (146 planning via TA)	202,199	1.04M	$178.4 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.

Category	Cumulative Progress	No. of Connections Benefiting	No. of People Benefiting	Total Assistance Provided
Planning Projects[5]	87 (82)	487,969 (171,103)	2 M (479,809)	$63.4 M ($52.9 M)
Construction Projects	313 (248)	5.66 M (637,835)	30.8 M (2.8 M)	$3.4 B ($1.6 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 – 6/30/2026)

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)	184	793,351
Number of systems on the Failing List (as of 6/30/2026)	425	607,334
Number of other systems that have returned to compliance that were added to the Failing List after July 1, 2019 (as of 6/30/2026)	218	2,542,806

For the 184 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 over four years.

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.

[5] 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.

Table C- 4. Consolidation Metrics (7/1/2020 – 6/30/2026)

Item	Cumulative Progress	FY 2025-26
Consolidation Outreach Letters	5,244	0
Consolidation/Partnership Events	27	0
Number of Consolidation Projects in Progress as of 6/30/2025	--	208
Mandatory Consolidation Projects Initiated	16	2
Mandatory Orders Issued	2	1
Executed Consolidation Funding Agreements	102	25
Number of Systems Impacted by Assistance[6]	219	59
Consolidations Completed	157 All[7] 146 Physical	29 All 29 Physical

Table C- 5. Administrator Metrics (7/1/2020 – 6/30/2026)

Item	Cumulative Progress	FY 2025-26 Progress
New Water Systems Designated	18	1
Orders Executed	16	1
Public Meetings Completed	21	2
Executed Funding Agreements/Work Plans	17	1
Executed O&M Funding Agreements for Systems with Administrators	15	2
Administrators Completed	1	0

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY

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

[6] Systems impacted by assistance means those systems involved in consolidation projects funded by the State Water Board.
[7] Thirty-seven consolidations were completed with State Water Board funding.

(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 – 11/30/2025)

Item	Cumulative Progress	FY 2025-26 Progress[8]
Total Number of Executed SADW Projects (i.e., projects reported to CARB)	143	23
Number of SADW Projects with Additional Storage Adaptation (i.e., larger storage tanks)	14	1
Number of SADW Projects with New Source Adaptation (i.e., new well drilled or consolidation)	32	5
Number of SADW Projects with Water Quality Improvement Adaptation (i.e., added treatment or upgrades to address contamination)	27	5
Number of Households benefiting from Solutions addressing drought-induced contamination and dry wells	1,755	934
Number of Communities Transitioned from Interim Water Deliveries to Long-term Solutions	8	2

[8] FY 2025-26 progress reported through the last CARB reporting period in November 2025.

Item	Cumulative Progress	FY 2025-26 Progress[8]
Estimated Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions associated with SADW-funded Projects[9] (MTCO2e)	-4,425	171

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 Methodology[10] 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 4,425 MTCO2e. The 2023 revision of the SADW Fund Quantification Methodology added 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.

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- 7 summarizes average costs per connection or person across different project solution

[9] Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO2E). For SADW-funded projects executed since July 1, 2019, 26 out of 143 have been able to have greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions quantified, mostly for hauled and bottled water projects. For FY 2025-26, 7 projects with ongoing implementation had quantifiable GHG reductions, with a total of 171 MTCO2e.

[10] SADW Fund Quantification Methodology https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/auction-proceeds/swrcb_sadw_finalqm_11-14-23.pdf

categories since July 1, 2020. Project costs listed in Appendix G for Failing systems were used for this analysis.

Table C-7. Performance in Metric Category 6 (7/1/2020 – 6/30/2026)

	Schools		Water Systems	
Solution Category	Number of Existing and Potential Projects	Average Cost per person	Number of Existing and Pending Projects	Average Cost per connection
Interim Assistance	1	$374	29	$5,700
Technical Assistance	25	$4,330	191	$3,595
Planning	4	$4,070	24	$7,245
Construction	25	$17,200	149	$69,500

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 Table C-8 and C-9. At this time, limited data is available but will continue to be expanded upon in future FEPs.

Table C- 8. Performance in Metric Category 7 – Planning/Construction Projects[11] (7/1/2023 – 6/30/2026)

Item	Key Performance Indicator	Median (days)	Total Number of Projects	Number of Projects that Met the KPI
Time to Assign Application (days)	21	19	115	60
Time to complete application review (days)	221	97	115	94
Time to develop and issue an agreement (days)	120	71	115	85

[11] Projects considered for this table include projects funded in FY 2023-24 through FY 2025-26.

Table C- 9. Performance in Metric Category 7 – Technical Assistance Work Plans (7/1/2022 – 6/30/2026)

Item	Progress
Percentage of WPs submitted within 8 to 10 weeks of AR acceptance	65%[12]
Average total cost per TA planning WP	$264,570
Average time to execute WP[13] (weeks)	27
Percentage of WPs needing amendments for budget	55%[14]
Percentage of WPs needing amendments for time	94%[14]
Average number of times WP amended	1

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-10 summarizes key information around the amount of community engagement that has been done related to the SAFER Program since January 1, 2020.

Table C- 10. Performance in Metric Category 8 (1/1/2020 – 6/30/2026)

Item	Cumulative Progress	FY 2025-26 Progress
Public meetings or presentations led by State Water Board staff or TA Provider	449	160
SAFER Advisory Group Meetings	37	6
Emails sent via listservs	140	14
Number of program listserv subscribers	4,373	730
Social media posts	195	14
Press releases or media advisories	48	6

[12] Data is for the period from 7/1/2022 to 3/31/2026.
[13] Time to execute a WP is measured from the time the referred AR is accepted by a TA provider and the WP is executed.
[14] 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 2026 Needs Assessment for each project with funding committed in prior FY 2025-26 across the broader SAFER Program. Tables C-11 through C-13[15] summarize analyses done on the systems listed in Appendix G and the systems from the 2026 Needs Assessment that have either approved or executed funding across the broader SAFER Program.

Table C- 11. Performance in Metric Category 9 – Predominant Identity Characteristics

	White	Hispanic	African American	Asian American	Am. Indian/Alaskan Native	Not Categorized
Failing Systems (Appendix G)						
No. of Systems	220	179	--	5	2	--
Total Amount	$262M (34%)	$500.8M (65%)	--	$3.9M (1%)	$1.3M (0%)	--
Needs Assessment Systems						
No. of Systems	2,110	837	6	72	2	17
Total Amount	$1,320.8M (60%)	$833.8M (38%)	$.12M (0%)	$19.2M (1%)	$1.3M (0%)	$10.5M (1%)

[15] Demographic data for Tables C-11 through C-13 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

Table C- 12. 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 G)					
No. of Systems	148	168	79	11	--
Total Amount	$102.8M (13%)	$422.9M (55%)	$234.8M (31%)	$7.6M (1%)	--
Needs Assessment Systems					
No. of Systems	1,408	1,231	355	34	16
Total Amount	$826.8M (38%)	$947.3M (43%)	$388.7M (18%)	$12.4M (0.5%)	$10.5M (0.5%)

Table C- 13. Performance in Metric Category 9 – CalEnviroscreen Score (Percentile)

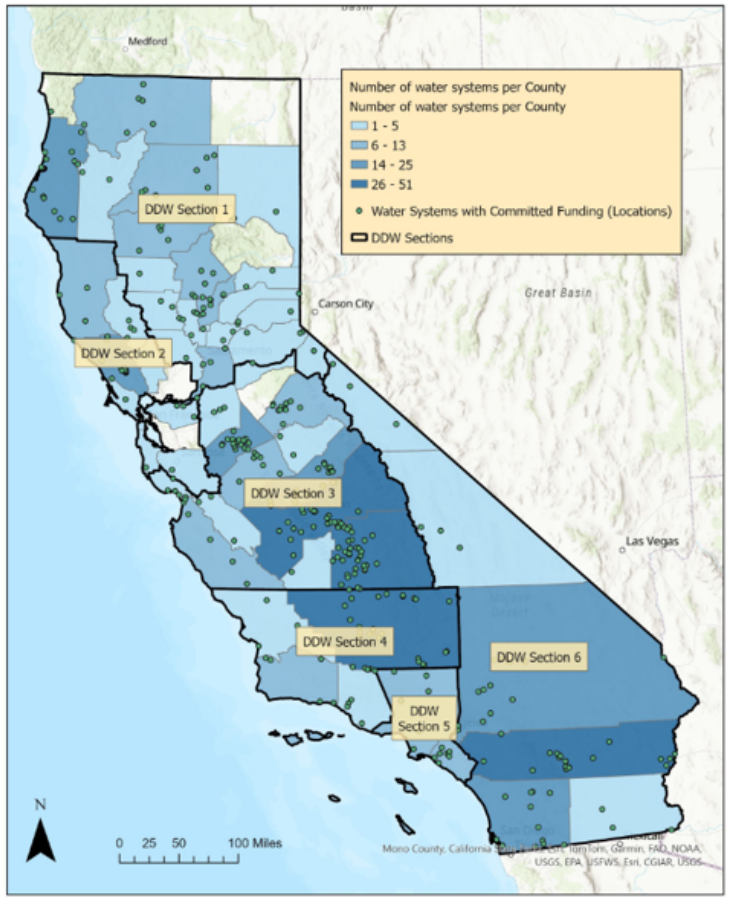
	0-25	25-50	50-75	>75	Not Available
Failing Systems (Appendix G)					
No. of Systems	58	110	110	128	--
Total Amount	$51,794,175 (7%)	$154,502,925 (20%)	$150,810,059 (20%)	$410,882,147 (53%)	--
Needs Assessment Systems					
No. of Systems	825	921	787	495	16
Total Amount	$697.8M (32%)	$470.2M (21.5%)	$408M (19%)	$599.2M (27%)	$10.5M (.5%)

Based on the information in the tables above, while there are more predominantly white Failing systems, much of the existing funding (65%) 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, 2026. 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 – 6/30/2026)



DDW Section	Number of PWSs	Number of Failing PWSs (as of June 30, 2026)	PWSs with Committed Funding	Failing PWSs with Committed Funding
1	660	72	96	27
2	508	63	45	18
3	691	107	95	45
4	658	143	147	74
5	245	15	18	4
6	438	80	76	22
Totals:	**3200**	**480**	**477**	**190**

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- 14. More information on tribal considerations with respect to funding is included in Section VI.E of this FEP.

Table C- 14. Performance in Metric Category 10 (7/1/2020 – 6/30/2026)

Item	Cumulative Progress	FY 2025-26 Progress
Meetings with tribal representatives[16]	169	48
Number of inquiries for funding received from tribes[17]	35	14
Number of drinking water funding requests received from tribes	13	1
Total amount of funding granted to tribes	$8,799,806	$1,987,214
Number of tribal water systems receiving State Water Board funding or technical assistance	18	6

[16] 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 sources[17], 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:

[17] 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 Faling 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.

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 information[18], and CalEnviroscreen 4.0[19]. 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.

[18] Census data source: data.census.gov
[19] CalEnviroScreen 4.0
https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40

For the geographic distribution of committed SAFER projects, 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 2877[20] 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.

[20] Health & Saf. Code, § 116766.

Appendix D. SAFER Program Committed Expenditures for FY 2025-26

Link: SAFER Program Committed Expenditures FY 2025-26

Appendix E. Other SAFER Program Updates

INTRODUCTION

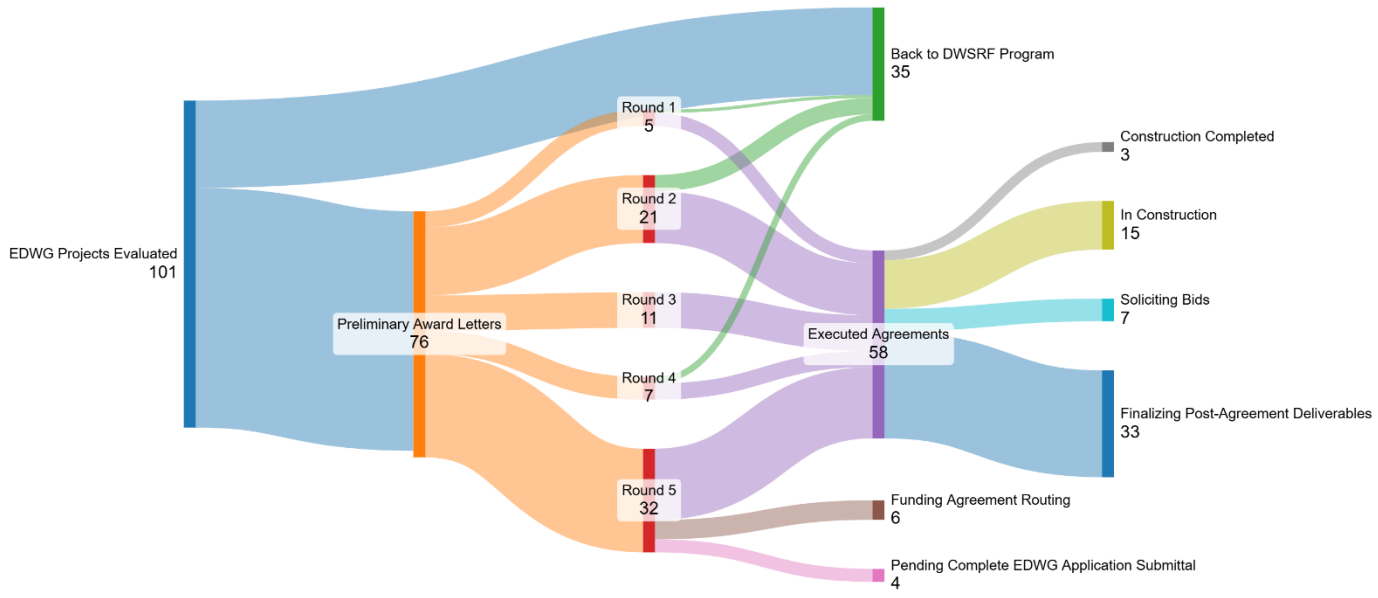
This appendix provides programmatic updates for the following:

- 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 five rounds of funding since the State Water Board's adoption of the Guidelines for the Expedited Drinking Water Grant (EDWG) Program on March 8, 2023, and amended on January 21, 2026. Figure E- 1 shows the status of the one hundred and three (103) projects that were evaluated for the program.

Figure E- 1. Status of EDWG Projects



The EDWG program has produced 58 executed agreements for approximately $451 million [includes Final Budget Approval (FBA) amendments] from the SADW Fund, the General Fund, Propositions 4 and 68, and Principal Forgiveness (PF) 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[21]	Percent Funded	Total Grant Amount
1	5	4	80%	$38,770,121
2	21	16	76%	$87,325,290
3	11	11	100%	$31,573,766
4	7	5	71%	$33,318,051
5[22]	32	22	69%	$260,497,679
TOTAL	**76**	**58**	**76%**	**$451,484,907**

TIMELINES

The EDWG program was developed to provide an expedited process by which applicants with qualifying eligible projects can receive state grant and principal forgiveness funding through a reduction of information submittal requirements and processing times.

For the 58 executed EDWG projects, the average and median timeframe from the issuance of a preliminary funding award notice letter and the receipt of a complete EDWG funding application is 50 days and 36 days, respectively. Additionally, the average and median timeframe from receiving a complete EDWG application and executing the funding agreement is 165 days and 157 days, respectively.

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 58 executed funding agreements, 25 projects have gone out to bid. Fifteen of those projects are currently under construction and 3 of the projects have completed

[21] 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.

[22] Projects in Round 5 of the EDWG program are still being processed and two additional projects were added to the round via a fundable list update in March 2026.

construction. The remaining 33 projects are workings towards submitting the necessary documents to receive bid solicitation approval from DFA.

PROGRAM UPDATES

The EDWG Program Guidelines were amended on January 21, 2026, to align with the SAFER Program's funding priorities, DWSRF Intended Use Plan (IUP), and DWSRF Policy. The EDWG application documents were also updated to rectify issues that were identified within the first five rounds of the program and to allow continuous invitation of water systems to the EDWG Program and pivoting from having scheduled rounds of funding.

Round 5 of the EDWG Program signified the removal of the previous $15 million cost limit, the inclusion of DWSRF PF funds, and alignment with the maximum funding grant/PF limits set forth the IUP, resulting in higher cost projects being included in the Program. Moving forward, community water systems owned by mutual water companies are now eligible under the EDWG Program.

For Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027, and moving forward, project managers can identify eligible projects for which DFA has already received partial or complete DWSRF construction applications, or that are receiving technical assistance or planning funding, that qualify under the EDWG Guidelines and send formal invitations to submit the EDWG application documents.

DIRECT OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

In August 2024, the State Water Board adopted guidelines for the Direct Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Funding Program[23], 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).

[23] See FY 2024-25 FEP, 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

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 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. Current Direct O&M Projects

Project Name	Criteria Fulfilled
Spindrift Marina	High Water Rates, High Affordability, DAC
Weott Community Services District	High Water Rates, High Affordability, SDAC
Benton Paiute	Tribe, Ineligible Fed Funding, Failing POUs, SDAC
Fresno El Porvenir	High Water Rates (Debt), SDAC, Failing
Rio Bravo-Greeley	Lack of Funds for Treatment Facility
Woodville PUD	Lack of Funds for Treatment Facility
Five Points	High Water Rates, High Affordability, SDAC
Shaver Springs	High Water Rates, High Affordability, DAC
Alderpoint	Lack of Funds for Energy Costs, SDAC

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

Since July 1, 2019, the State Water Board has funded 25 Direct O&M projects for a total of $7.7 million.

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 2025[24]. 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 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 process[25]. 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

[24] Administrator Policy Handbook
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/docs/2025/administrator-policy-handbook.pdf
[25] Administrator Request For Qualifications Guidelines
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/docs/rfq_admin-(002).pdf

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 16 designated water systems. There is currently two additional designated water system that is going through the process of having an administrator appointed. Two administrator assignments have been completed and there are 14 assignments that are ongoing. Table 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[26]
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	Active
Cazadero Water Company	Russian River Utility	Active
Valley Ford Association	Russian River Utility	Active
Six Acres Water Company	SRT Consultants	Active

[26] 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.

Designated Water System	Administrator	Status
Teviston Community Services District	Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	Active
Lake Morena Views	Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	Active
Allensworth CSD	Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	Completed
East Orosi CSD	Tulare County Resource Management Agency	Active

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)[27]. Updates to the POU/POE Pilot are provided below.

INNOVATIVE POU/POE TECHNOLOGY PILOT

The purpose of the older POU/POE Pilot is to prepare a 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)[28] 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

[27] More information on the Direct O&M Program is included in a prior section of this Appendix.
[28] 2023 Drinking Water Point-of-Use Point-of-Entry Report
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/docs/2023/2023-POU-POE-report.pdf

gaps for funding consideration. Three of the six pilot projects have been funded initially via a TA master agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., and include:

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

The three initial pilot projects will be completed in May 2028. Scopes of work for the remaining three pilot projects will be developed by the end of 2026, with work anticipated to begin in 2027, if approved. The remaining three projects are estimated to cost over $3 million and 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

Lastly, the State Water Board's DDW 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.

REGIONAL OPERATOR PILOT – PWS

In Section V.B.1. FY 2025-26 SADW Fund Target Summary (p.48), "$5 million is targeted to both continue implementation of the six recommended projects from the 2023 Drinking Water POU/POE Report and begin implementation of a regionalization pilot. The regionalization pilot will focus on understanding issues around technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity and piloting solutions that can be implemented at a broad scale and will be reported back on in future FEPs".

To implement these recommendations for a PWS Regional Operator Pilot, two sub-projects have been identified, 1) for PWSs more broadly, and 2) specific to schools.

PWS REGIONAL OPERATOR

For small PWSs across the state, it has been observed that these systems often struggle to maintain adequate TMF capacity to operate efficiently and effectively without economies of scale. While consolidation is a preferred long-term solution, when consolidation is not feasible, there may be other governance structures that would result in the delivery of safe drinking water to multiple communities within a geographic region.

The purpose of this sub-project is to gain insight into:

- The size, governance structure, and other characteristics of a PWS that enables them to operate efficiently and effectively.
- Potential governance structure alternatives that are effective in a geographic region with multiple small PWSs in which consolidation is not feasible.
- Implement a regional pilot(s) in a region where there is a willing partner(s).

SCHOOLS REGIONAL OPERATOR

The issue of numerous small PWSs across the state also extends to schools that operate their own water systems. For example, given that the State Water Board-led Bottled Water for Schools (BWFS) Program has over 60 schools enrolled due to water quality issues, it is a known challenge for many schools to maintain the TMF capacity needed to operate efficiently and effectively. This situation has been observed to be exacerbated for rural schools. When the source water quality is poor and/or there is an infrastructure failure, rural school water systems are at a great financial and personnel disadvantage.

School PWSs are unique from other PWSs in that they do not charge for water – therefore resources expended for the water system compete with the school's core function. The lack of economies of scale limits their access to technical and managerial expertise and lack of capital limits the ability to fund critical infrastructure improvements. Also, their water systems serve predominantly children, a population that is more vulnerable to health impacts from poor drinking water quality. Consolidation of the school's water system with a larger compliant water system is the best solution but the remote locations of rural schools often pose challenges for physical consolidation.

The purpose of this sub-project is to gain insight into:

- Planning: Potential governance structure alternatives that are effective in a geographic region with multiple school water systems that are located in proximity of each other.
- Pilot: Implement a regional pilot(s) in an area(s) with willing partners.

UPDATES

In 2026, DFA conducted outreach to various TA providers to garner interest in regional operator pilots for either the broader PWS study or for schools. As of September 2026, there is one executed TA work plan with P&P for a regional operator study in the Cazadero region.

REGIONAL OPERATOR PILOT – DW/SSWS

In the FY 2025-26 FEP, in Section II. SAFER Program Goals and Strategy (p. 22), a new POU/POE pilot effort is recommended to "provide funding or TA for at least one pilot for regionalization and one pilot for POU/POE implementation and maintenance".

In Section V.B.1. FY 2025-26 SADW Fund Target Summary (p.48), “$5 million is targeted to both continue implementation of the six recommended projects from the 2023 Drinking Water POU/POE Report and begin implementation of a regionalization pilot.

To implement these recommendations for a new POU/POE Pilot, which can be considered a regional pilot(s) that builds off of the existing POU/POE Pilot, two sub-projects have been identified, 1) an NGO-led POU/POE Pilot, and 2) a County-led POU/POE Pilot.

NGO-LED POU/POE PILOT

Based on the 2025 Drinking Water Needs Assessment, ~90,000 out of ~300,000 domestic wells (30%) and 665 out of ~1,200 SSWSs (55%) are considered high risk for water quality issues. While consolidation into a PWS is a preferred long-term solution, distance from a nearby PWS, especially in rural areas makes this infeasible for many served by DW/SSWSs. In these situations, a framework for decentralized treatment, i.e., POU/POE (depending on the contaminant), should be considered.

The purpose of this sub-project is to gain insight into:

- A framework for the long-term treatment of contaminated source water in domestic well and state small water systems, including technical and managerial support from a regional entity, taking into account the perspective and needs of households and communities where these solutions will be implemented.
- Implement a regional pilot(s) in an area(s) with willing partners.

This study will be led by an NGO partner.

COUNTY-LED POU/POE PILOT

The purpose and objectives of this sub-project are the same as indicated above, except for being led by a county.

UPDATES

In 2026, DFA conducted outreach to various TA providers and counties to garner interest in regional operator pilots as they relate to POU/POE for communities served by DW/SSWS. As of September 2026, there is committed funding (pending execution) to conduct a POU/POU study in the Central Coast region.

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 an 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 began the process of onboarding Community Partners in Spring 2025. These Community Partners are currently supporting outreach and engagement for the Southwest Tulare Regional Study project.
    - **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, February 2025, July 2025, and February 2026. Operators now have the ability to access their profile through the portal and view their certifications, certification expiration dates, track application statuses, submit examination applications for all disciplines and grade levels, submit renewal applications for all disciplines and grade levels, and review and resolve application deficiencies. The development of the ability to submit certification applications for drinking water distribution operator certifications and drinking water treatment operator certifications electronically has been initiated and is expected to launch in 2027.

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/2025/2025mhi-calculation.pdf

Public water system (PWS) MHI data can be found on the Public Water System Affordability Dashboard at the following location: Drinking Water Quality: Needs Assessment | California State Water Resources Control Board

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. MHI 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. FY 2026-27 Funding Solution List for Failing Systems

Link: FY 2026-27 Funding Solution List for Failing Systems

Appendix H. FY 2026-27 Funding Solution List for At-Risk Systems

Link: FY 2026-27 Funding Solution List for At-Risk Systems

Appendix I. Methodology for Severe and Serious Contaminants List

RANKING CONTAMINANTS BASED ON HEALTH RISK CONCERNS

Issue: What are the high-priority contaminants whose above-threshold detection might warrant interim bottled water use (to replace tap water), based on health risk concerns?

Summary: Four contaminants (plus the combined nitrate+nitrite) are considered to pose a "severe" risk and ten to pose a "serious" risk. Table I-1 presents these contaminants and the threshold levels above which interim bottled water provision may be warranted. Maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), action level, or response levels are referenced for the thresholds.

APPROACH

PARAMETERS

The health parameters assessed for each contaminant include the health-protective concentration (HPC), the health endpoint upon which the HPC is based, the health endpoint's vulnerable population, whether the contaminant bioaccumulates, primary standard concentrations, recent source occurrence/detection, and others.

ASSESSMENT

The parameters are analyzed by various criteria in a tiered process. Prioritized parameters include (1) MCL-to-HPC ratio ≥ 0.1 (to cover 10x MCL; the larger the ratio, the higher the health risk in the event of MCL exceedance), (2) short-mid-length exposure duration (up to 3-5 years above threshold concentration), and (3) developmental and reproductive health impacts.

DESELECTION

- Contaminants not exceeding their MCL or response levels in 2024-2025 are deselected.
- Copper, chlorine dioxide, chlorite, HAA5s are omitted as primarily not from source water.
- Selenium is not included; its gastrointestinal and hair-loss effects are less urgent.
- Gross alpha, HAA5s, 1,2,3-TCP, 1,4-dioxane, PFOA, and PFOS are not included; their main risks are of chronic nature arising from chronic exposure.
- NDMA is not included; a noncancer HPC has not been established by OEHHA.

THRESHOLD FOR PROVISION OF BOTTLED WATER

The threshold is set equal to the contaminant MCL, with the following exceptions:

- Aluminum – 6x MCL (equal to 10x HPC with the short-term uncertainty factor omitted)
- Anatoxin-a, saxitoxins, manganese – Response level
- Fluoride – Federal MCL
- Lead – Action level

RESULTS

The selected contaminants and key attributes are listed and ranked in Table I-1.

Table I-1. Contaminants for Prioritization of Bottled Water Provision

Risk	Contaminant	Threshold (µg/ℓ)	Exposure Duration	Health Endpoint (Noncancer)	Vulnerable Population
Severe	*E. coli*	Positive	< 4 days; single exposure	Diarrhea, kidney failure	Infants, children, immune system-impaired persons
Severe	Nitrate and nitrite, as N	10,000	< 4 days; single exposure	Loss in blood capacity to carry oxygen, death	Infants
Severe	Nitrate, as N	10,000	< 4 days; single exposure	Loss in blood capacity to carry oxygen, death	Infants
Severe	Nitrite, as N	1,000	< 4 days; single exposure	Loss in blood capacity to carry oxygen, death	Infants
Severe	Perchlorate	6	1-4 weeks; ≤ 7-9 years	Impact on thyroid hormones, pre- and postnatal growth	Fetuses, infants, children
Serious	Aluminum	6,000	> 1 month; ≤ 7-9 years	Developmental neurotoxicity	Infants, children
Serious	Anatoxin-a	8	< 4 days; single exposure	Neurotoxicity	Children
Serious	Arsenic	10	> 1 month; ≤ 7-9 years	Cerebrovascular effect	Children
Serious	Fluoride	4,000	> 1 month; ≤ 7-9 years	Teeth mottling	Children
Serious	Lead	15	> 1 month; ≤ 7-9 years	Neurobehavioral effects in children, high blood pressure	Fetuses, infants, children
Serious	Manganese	200	≤ 6 months	Neurotoxicity	Formula-fed infants
Serious	Saxitoxins	0.5	< 4 days; single exposure	Neurotoxicity	Children
Serious	Trihalomethanes, total	80	> 1 month; ≤ 7-9 years	Effect on pregnancy	Pregnant women, infants
Serious	Uranium, combined	20 pCi/L	> 1 month; ≤ 7-9 years	Kidney damage	Children

For questions about contaminants not listed in this table, please contact DDWRegUnit@waterboards.ca.gov

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.[29] 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-

[29] 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

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

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. Construction Support may not be applicable to all TA recipients.

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 operations 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.

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[30] and Coachella Valley[31]		X				
NV5, Inc.	Statewide	X	X				
Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, Inc.	Statewide	X	X	X	X		
Rural Community Assistance Corporation	Statewide	X	X	X	X	X	Circuit Riders, Workshops and Trainings
SB Coleman, Inc.	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[34]	X	X	X	X	X	Revolving Bridge Loan[32]
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	All Counties	X	X	X	X	X	Community Partners, POU/POE Studies

[30] San Joaquin Valley includes: Fresno, Tulare, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Mariposa, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties.
[31] Coachella Valley is in Riverside County.
[32] 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
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.[33] The State Water Board developed a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to identify qualified TA providers,[34] 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 2025, DFA had 12 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

Drinking Water Technical Assistance Providers	
California Urban Water Agencies	Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Community Water Center	SB Coleman, Inc.
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 Engineering Group, Inc.	University of California at Davis, School of Law

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MASTER AGREEMENTS & WORK PLANS

From 2019 through June 2026, TA was provided to approximately 863 water systems, committing nearly $343 million to support this work. Table J- 3 summarizes the amount of

[33] Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/safer.html
[34] Drinking Water Technical Assistance Provider Request for Qualifications Guidelines
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/docs/2022/rfq-guidelines.pdf

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 – 2026)

Year	Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund	General Fund	Total[35]
2026	142,591,904	$0	**142,591,904**
2025	$7,490,715	$0	**$7,490,715**
2024	$1,336,900	$324,775	**$1,448,415**
2023	$56,368,394	$16,885,948	**$73,090,347**
2022	$51,766,654	$2,176,087	**$53,578,684**
2021	$8,058,045	$0	**$7,576,858**
2020	$67,171,151	$0	**$56,436,459**
2019	$0	$0	**$250,000**
TOTAL:	**$334,783,493**	**$19,386,810**	**$342,463,382**

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 referred 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 with providing TA. The master agreement is a muti-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 referred 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

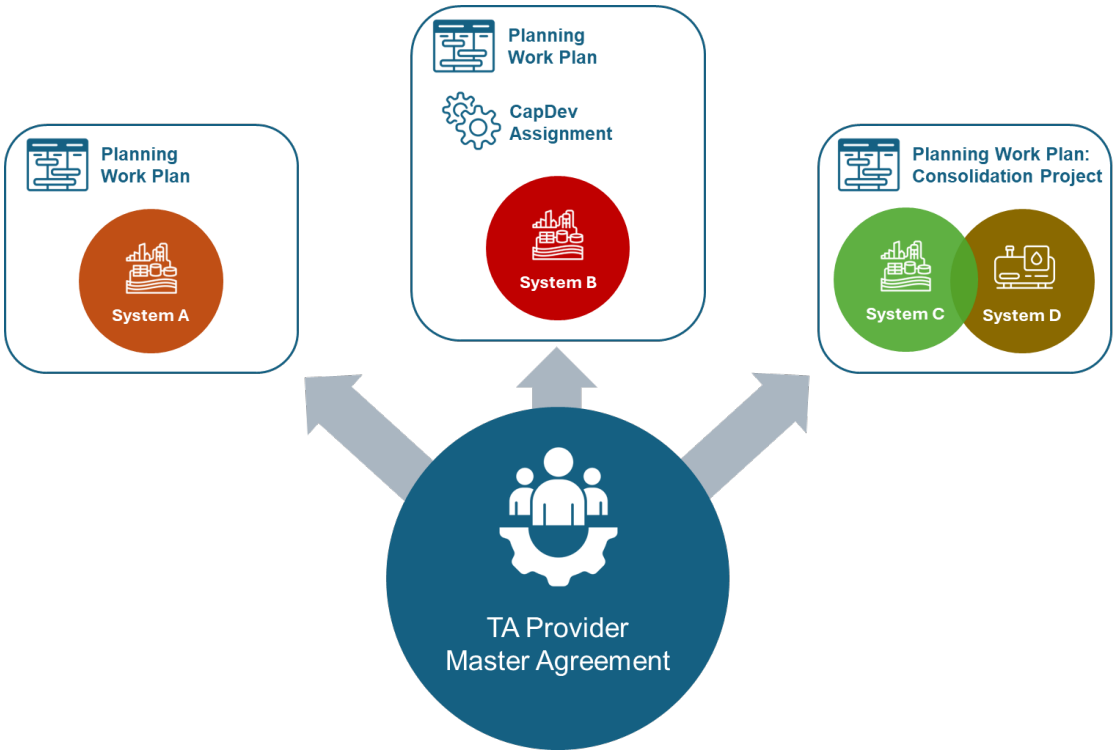
[35] For 2020 – 2024, this represents the approximate amount of Prop 1 funding disencumbered due to either funding swap or unused funding at the end of a funding agreement. A total amount of $ 24,998,396 Prop 1 funds were encumbered for technical assistance from 7/1/2016 to 12/31/2019. Approximately, a total of $11,707,191 was disencumbered and replaced with SAFER funding.

with enhancing the TMF capacity of a water system. CapDev tasks may include a rate study, income survey, preparing TMF documents, compliance plans, etc.

TA WORK PLANS

Technical Assistance work plans are documents that outline tasks, deliverables, budget and schedule for each project accepted by the TA provider under their master agreement. Projects are referred to providers based on Assistance 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.[36] State Water Board staff review ARs and work with TA providers to assess 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

[36] The water system and/or community must be a willing TA recipient.

additional TA, a new AR is referred subsequently. The TA provider will then confirm whether they accept the AR referral 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 includes scope, schedule, and budget for a referred 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 adminsitrative 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. Additionaly, 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 the 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

two different TA providers.

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

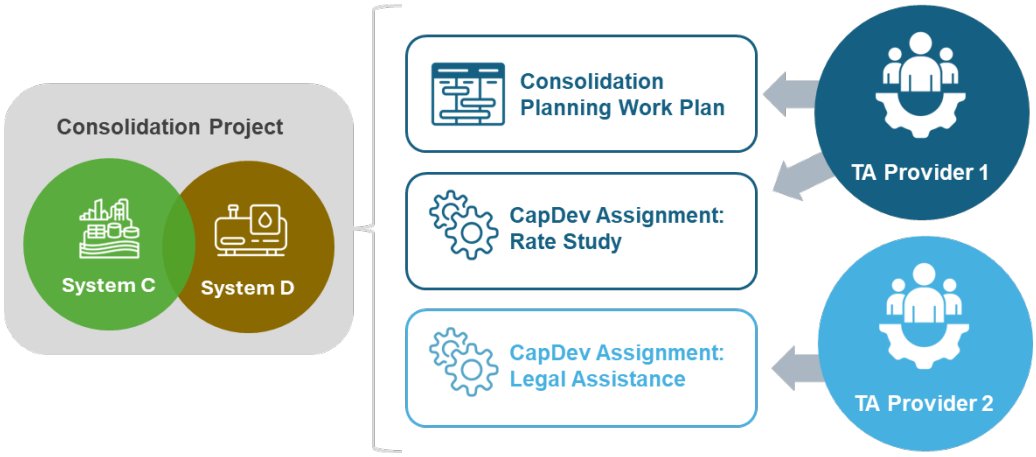


Table J- 4. Technical Assistance Master Agreement Summary as of 06/30/2026

Provider	Funding Source	Agreement Start Date	Agreement End Date	# Active Work Plans (WP)	% of All Active WPs	WPs Completed	% of WPs Completed	Agreement Amount	Estimated Amount Committed	Estimated Remaining Budget	# Active WP w/ Failing System[6]	# of Active WP with Domestic Wells
California Urban Water Agencies	SAFER	3/27/2022	4/30/2027	6	2%	2	25%	$8,000,000	$1,288,189	$6,156,498	1 (33%)	1
SB Coleman, Inc.	SAFER	11/22/2022	2/28/2027	12	4%	2	14%	$14,500,000	$3,776,432	$10,723,568	7 (59%)	0
Community Water Center	SAFER	3/9/2020	3/31/2028	7	2%	3	30%	$8,999,994	$7,218,013	$1,781,981	2 (29%)	7
GHD, Inc.	SAFER	11/10/2022	12/31/2028	26	8%	3	10%	$37,600,000	$12,478,502	$25,121,498	19 (70%)	2
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability	SAFER	2/14/2024	1/31/2029	6	2%	0	0%	$324,775	$281,082	$43,693	3 (50%)	3
NV5, Inc.	SAFER	11/1/2022	6/30/2029	12	4%	3	20%	$12,665,000	$3,241,210	$9,289,375	10 (83%)	0
Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, Inc.	SAFER	11/10/2022	12/31/2029	35	11%	19	35%	$36,318,470	$13,111,525	$22,206,945	31 (60%)	1
Rural Community Assistance Corporation	SAFER	3/9/2020	12/31/2028	44	14%	29	40%	$62,980,141	$38,623,458	$24,356,683	25 (57%)	3
Self-Help Enterprises	SAFER, General Infrastructure	3/23/2020	2/1/2029	92	30%	19	17%	$61,482,830	$44,770,317	$13,553,281	76 (58%)	8
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	SAFER	11/21/2022	12/31/2029	17	5%	0	0%	$25,000,000	$7,627,500	$16,843,829	3 (18%)	3
University Enterprises, Inc.[7]	SAFER	3/9/2020	1/31/2028	40	13%	31	44%	$32,490,715	$27,897,739	$4,592,976	31 (67%)	4
University of California, Regents of the	SAFER, General Infrastructure	8/22/2022	1/31/2029	14	5%	11	44%	$5,769,422	$3,205,278	$2,564,144	14 (64%)	1
Total				**311**		**122**		**$306,131,347.00**	**$163,519,244.66**	**$137,234,470.68**	**193**	**34 (10%)**

SUMMARY OF DRINKING WATER TA ACTIVITIES

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

PLANNING

The State Water Board has $164,071,975committed to total of 554 work plans, out of which 336 are currently still active, to assist communities with infrastructure planning and capacity development as of June 2026. These work plans assist approximately 842 public water systems, 2,255 domestic wells, 94 state small water systems, serving 203,993 households / connections and approximately 891,213 Californians.

In 2025, on average, 11 ARs were made each month, with an average of 7 eligible requests being referred to TA providers. Some requests are not referred 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 referrals 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, 4 new work plans and 6 work plan amendments are approved each month.

Since 2019, the State Water Board has on average started 71 new work plans each year, with a total of 500 work plans being assigned under the SAFER master agreements. Currently, 311 (62%) of these work plans are still active and 176 (57%) active work plans are supporting Failing drinking water systems. Approximately 177 (35%) work plans have been closed out either because the scope of the approved work plan was completed or the work plan was cancelled. Between 2019-2026, 80 construction funding agreements were executed with the support of TA, with 24 (30%) 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 336 active planning work plans assisting 541 public water systems, 1,710 domestic wells, 72 state small water systems and, serving 150,035 households / connections and approximately 709,005 Californians.

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

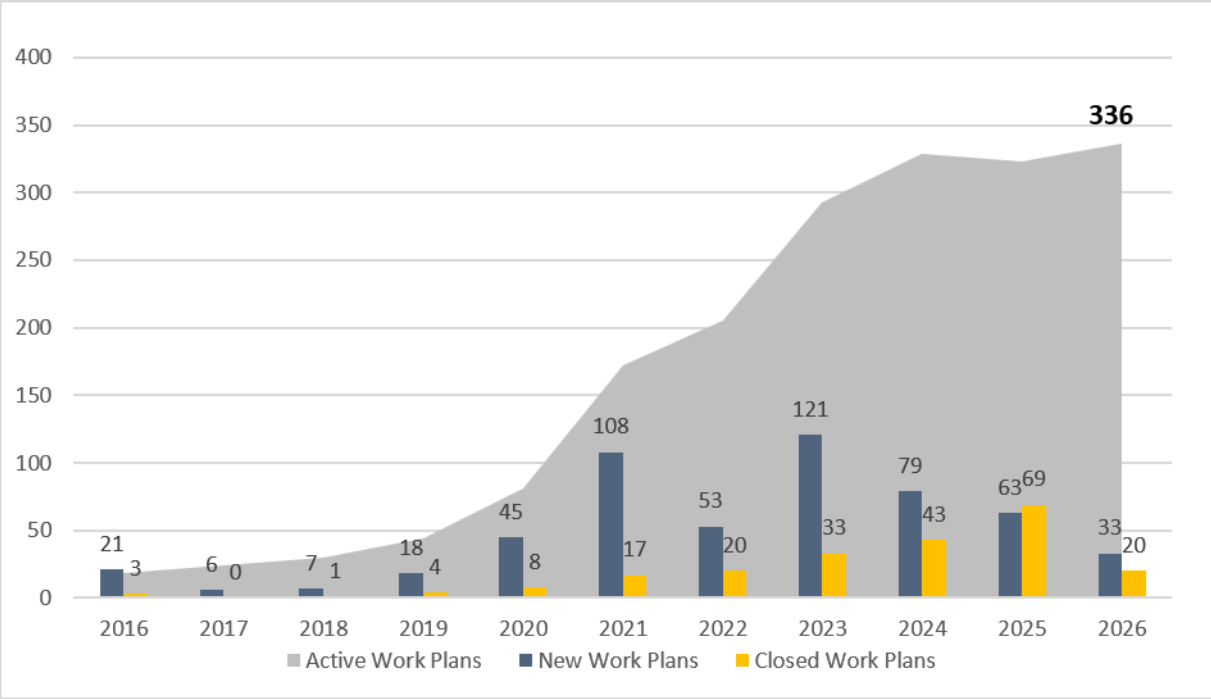
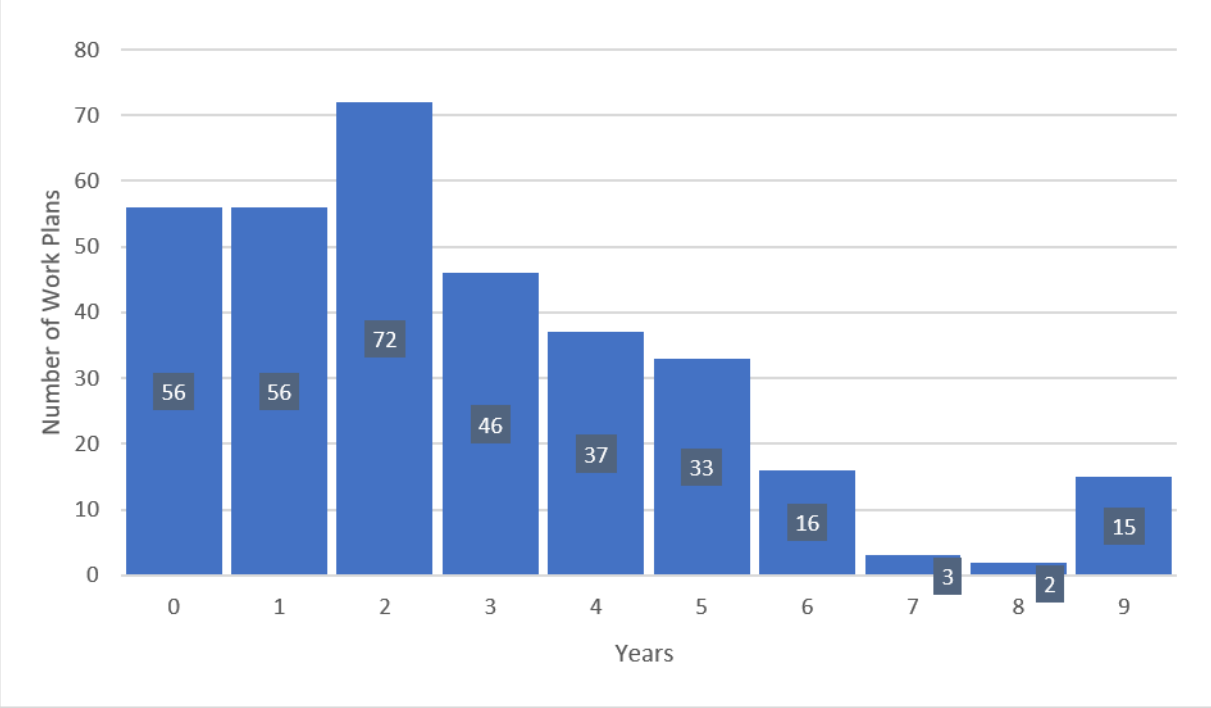
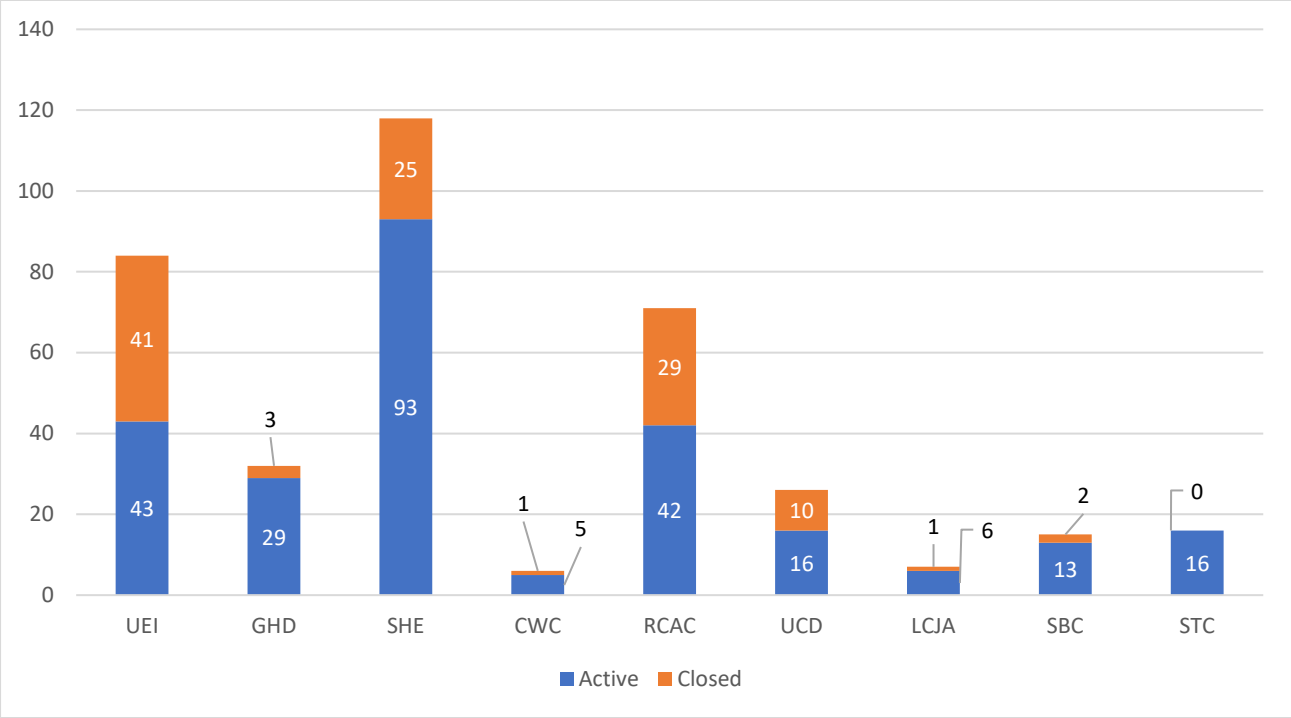


Figure J- 4. Age of Active Planning Work Plans





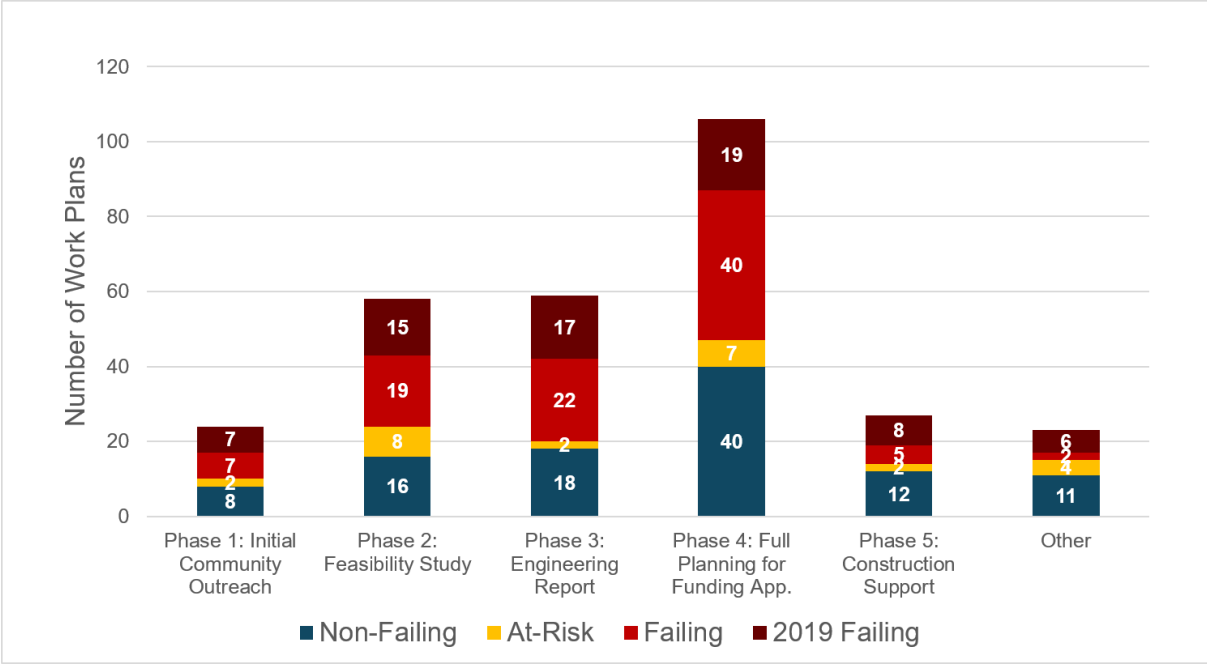
CURRENT ACTIVE TA PLANNING PROJECT PHASES

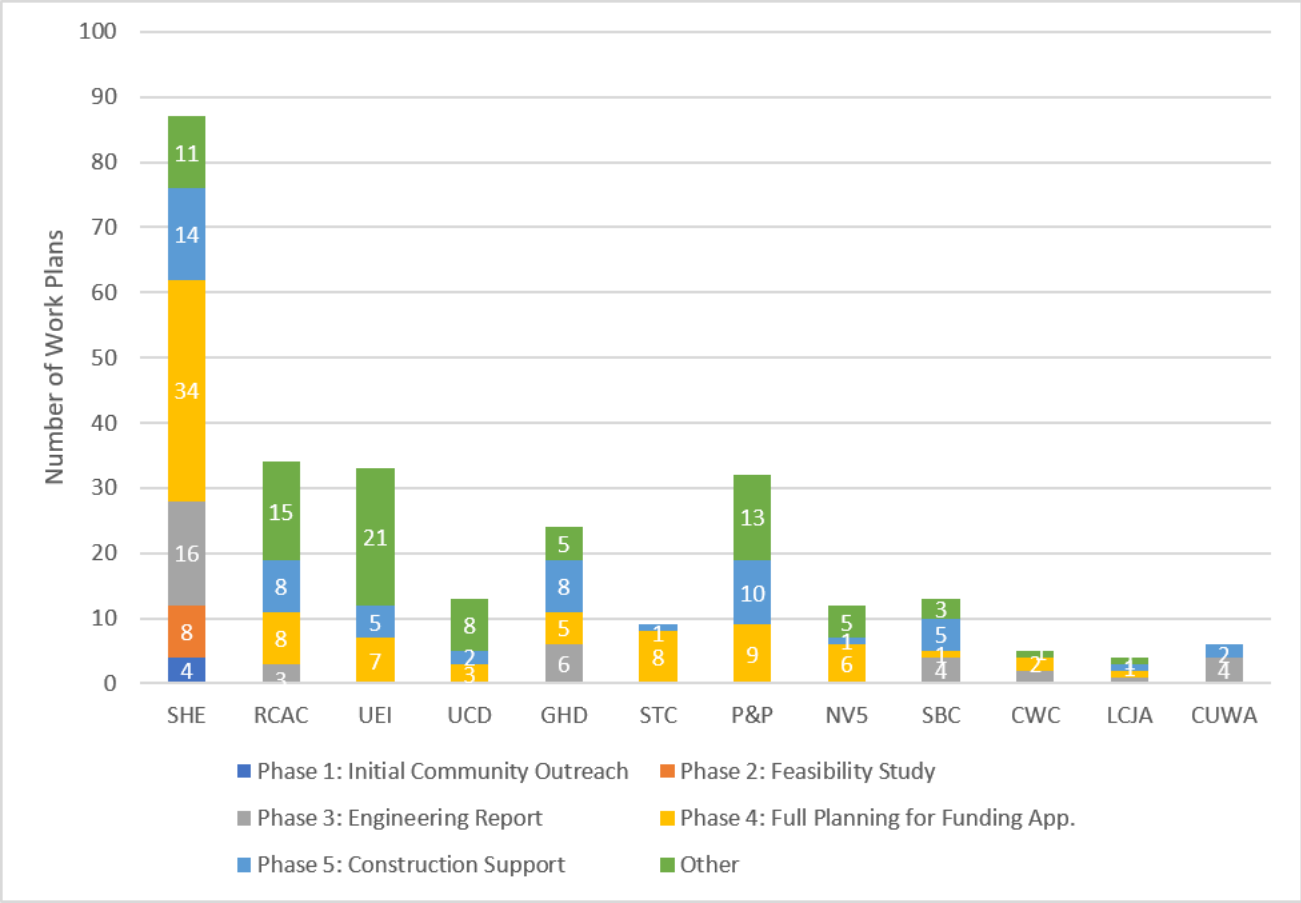
There are currently 315 total projects that are being supported by the 336 active planning work plans. These projects are included in one of the following five phase under TA. The TA planning project phases are distinct from the Project Phase Descriptions in Section III.E. of this FEP but are complimentary and assist projects progress through to completion.

- Phase 1: Initial Community Outreach - Assistance to conduct outreach to communities served by Domestic Well/State Small Water Systems and to conduct an assessment to identify drinking water issues they experience.
- Phase 2: Feasibility Study - Preliminary Assessment of the community's challenge and identify potential long-term solutions that are not readily apparent.
- Phase 3: Engineering Report - Report will identify, evaluate, and recommend alternatives. A comparison is conducted with respect to design criteria, environmental constraints, constructability, affordability, etc.
- Phase 4: Full Planning for Funding Application - Full planning is the preparation of all planning tasks required to submit a complete a construction funding application.
- Phase 5: Construction Support - Construction support can involve construction grant administration and/or construction management services to the funding recipient.

Projects classified as "Other" may not address a specific water system and/or water issue. The following figures represent the total projects and not the total number of active work plans.

Appendix J. Technical Assistance





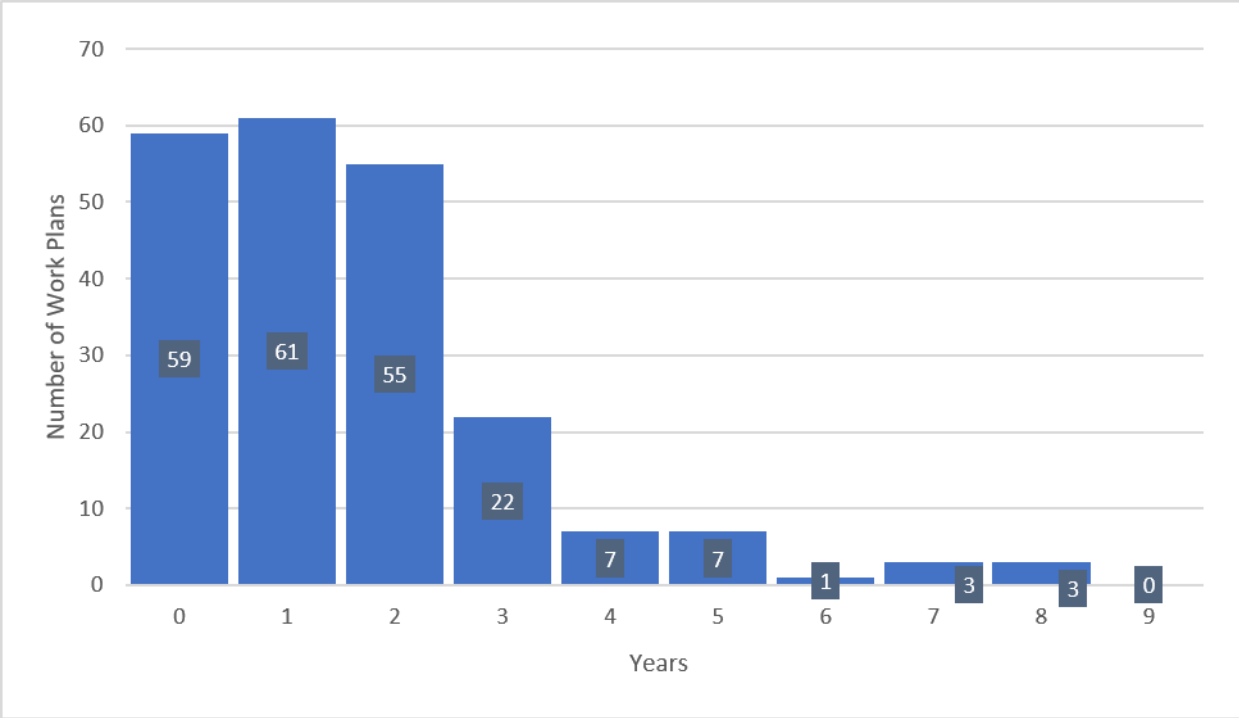
COMPLETED PLANNING WORK PLANS (2016 – 2026)

Under the current drinking water TA master agreements the State Water Board has with 12 drinking water TA providers 215 (37%) work plans have closed across all of the master agreements. Table J- 5 below summarizes closed work plans per TA provider.

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	6	3	0 (0%)	1 (11%)
Sanbell	11/22/2022	2/28/2027	11	5	0 (0%)	2 (13%)
Community Water Center	3/9/2020	3/31/2028	7	3	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
GHD, Inc.	11/10/2022	12/31/2028	26	3	2 (66%)	2 (66%)
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability	2/14/2024	1/31/2029	6	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
NV5, Inc.	11/1/2022	6/30/2029	12	3	0 (0%)	2(17%)
Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, Inc.	11/10/2022	12/31/2029	55	21	8 (47%)	19 (33%)
Rural Community Assistance Corporation	3/9/2020	12/31/2028	91	47	16 (34%)	29 (62%)
Self-Help Enterprises	3/23/2020	3/31/2026	121	27	15 (18%)	19 (70%)
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	11/21/2022	12/31/2029	17	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
University Enterprises, Inc.[13]	3/9/2020	1/31/2028	144	84	31 (37%)	58 (69%)
University of California, Regents of the	8/22/2022	1/31/2029	29	11	5 (45%)	11 (100%)
Total			**525**	**207**	**65(19%)**	**140(45%)**

Figure J- 5. Age of Closed Planning Work Plans (2016 - 2026)



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The State Water Board has $23,718,175committed to 194 ARs to enable TA providers to assist communities with CapDev across active TA agreements as of June 2026.

In 2025, on average, 2 CapDev ARs were submitted each month, with an average of 1 eligible CapDev requests being referred to TA providers each month. After a referral to a TA provider is made the TA provider may begin work immediately on the CapDev task. On average since 2021, 3 new CapDev referrals are made each month.

Since 2021, the State Water Board has on average started 39 new CapDev assignments each year, with a total of 194 being assigned under the SAFER program. Currently, 52 (27%) of these total assignments are still active and 19 (37%) of these active assignments are supporting Failing drinking water systems. Approximately 142 (73%) 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 RCAC's agreement, TA has provided 173 CapDev assignments to approximately 177 public water systems and 7 communities not served by public water systems. Under the SHE agreement, TA has provided 21 CapDev assignments to 21 public water systems. There are currently 52 active CapDev tasks managed by RCAC and SHE, 17 of which are for Failing systems, with an average task duration of 6 months, 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

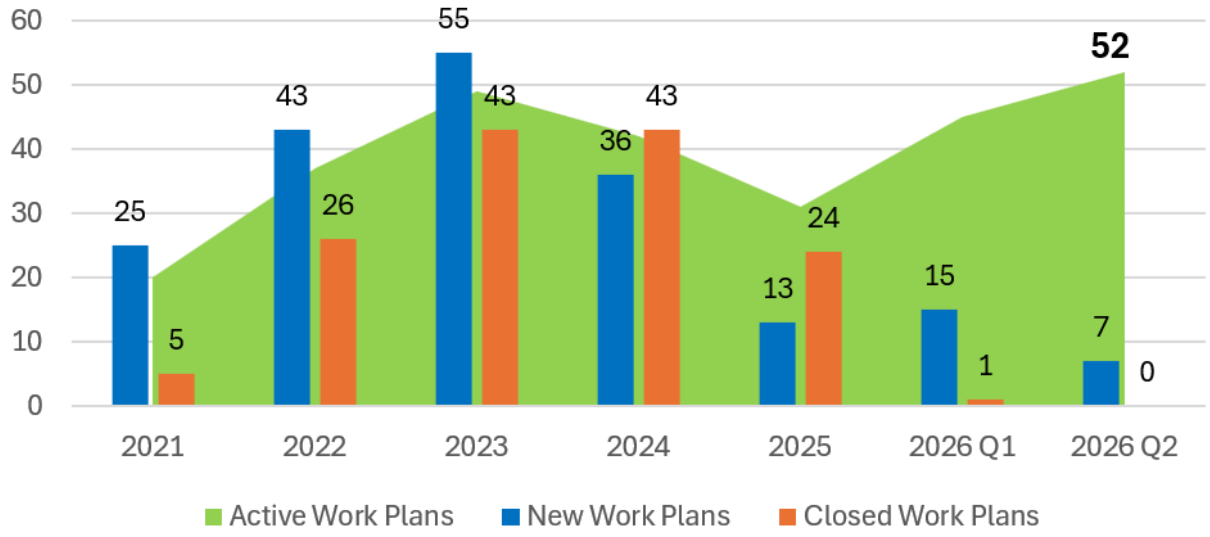


Figure J- 7. Age of Active Capacity Development Tasks

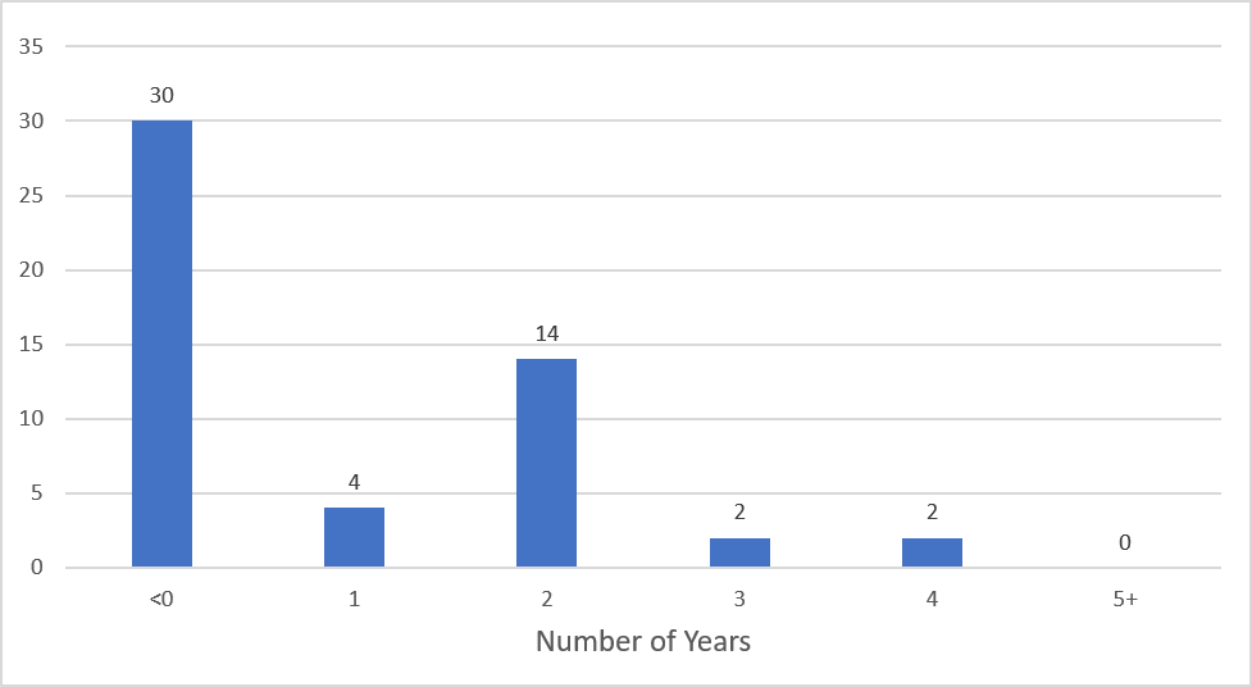


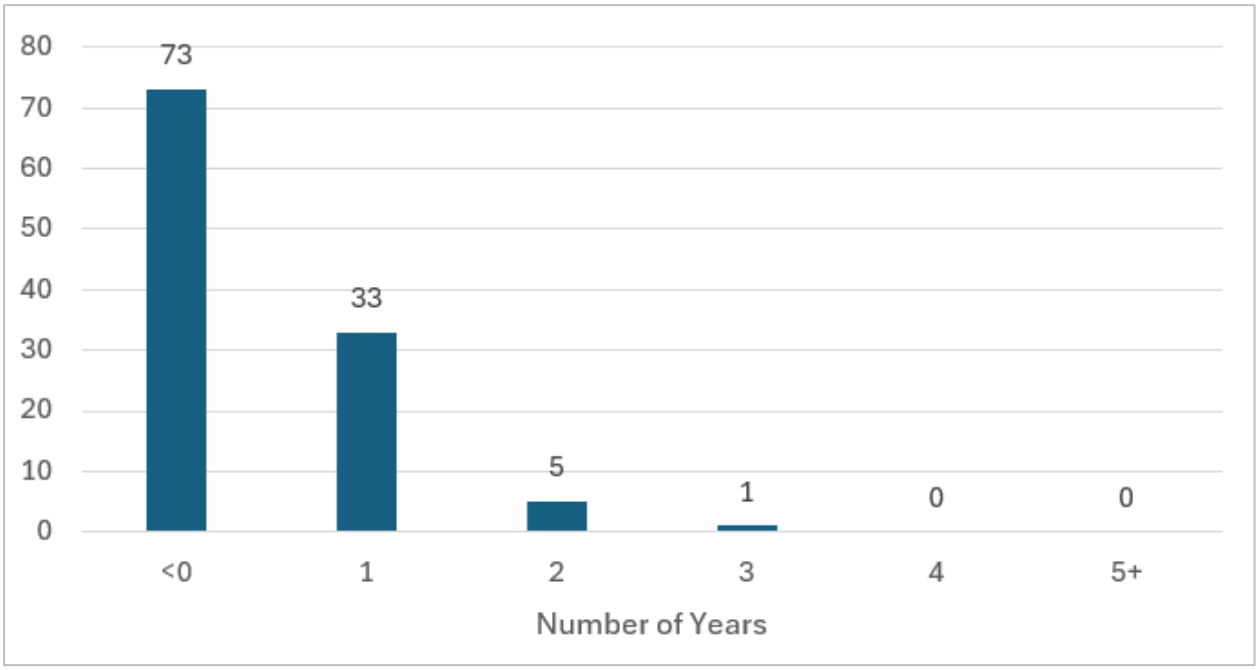
Table J- 6. Work Plan/Task Count per Services Rendered

	Initial Community Outreach	FS	ER	Full Planning	Construction Support	Other
Total Work Plans/Tasks	24	58	59	106	27	23
No. Work Plans Addressing Failing	14 (58%)	34 (59%)	39 (66%)	59 (56%)	13 (48%)	8 (35%)

COMPLETED CAPDEV WORK PLANS (2016 – 2026)

Since 2021, 142 CapDev assignments have been closed and 112 have been completed. On average the completed CapDev tasks were finished within 10 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 265 new full planning projects over the next three years as of June 2026. This assistance is estimated to be assigned to 212 Failing systems based on historical demand, current priorities, 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 $186 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 263 full planning projects.

The State Water Board estimates the assignment of approximately 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 also not 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 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	Total	Est. # of Systems Benefitting
Est. Funding Needed to Complete Existing TA Work Plans					
Failing Systems	$0	$5,600,000	$143,200,000	$148,800,000	212
At-Risk Systems	$0	$700,000	$17,900,000	$18,600,000	27
DW/SSWSs	$0	$140,000	$3,580,000	$3,720,000	5
Est. New TA Demand					
Failing Systems	$0	$350,000	$8,950,000	$9,300,000	13
DW/SSWSs	$0	$210,000	$5,370,000	$5,580,000	7 communities
TOTAL:	**$0**	**$7,000,000**	**$179,000,000**	**$186,000,000**	265

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

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

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 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.
- 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 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

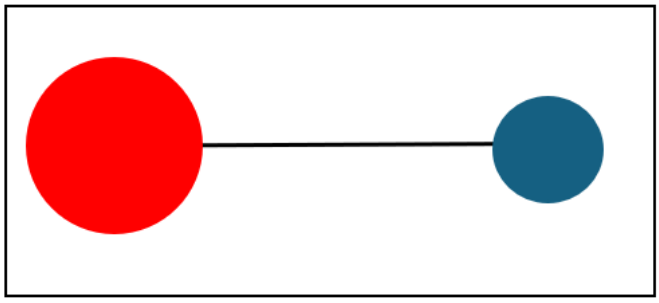
communities and/or private households, and significant infrastructure is needed to add the communities and/or private households, the project costs associated with adding the additional communities and/or private households must also adhere to the cost per connection limits specified in the IUP. Any 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.

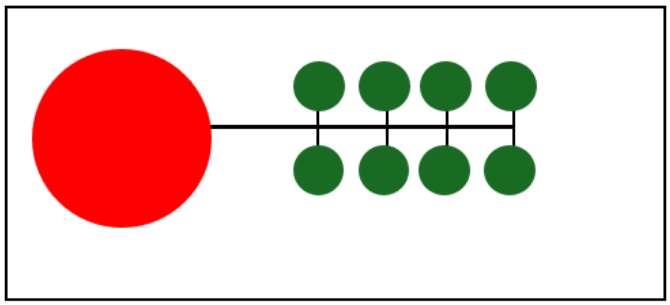
Figure K-1 shows examples of primary consolidation or extension of service projects that do not have significant infrastructure to include additional communities and/or private households. Conversely, Figure K-2 shows examples of primary consolidation or extension of service projects that have significant 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.

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

(a)



(b)



(c)

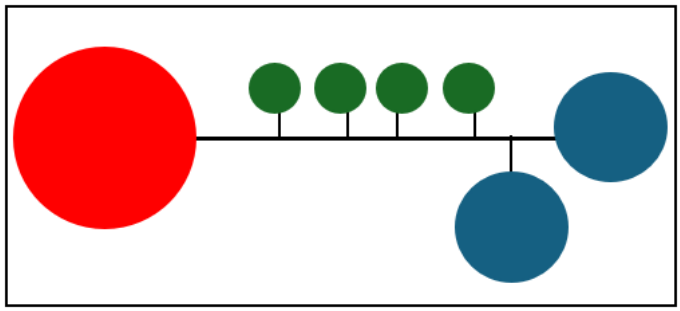
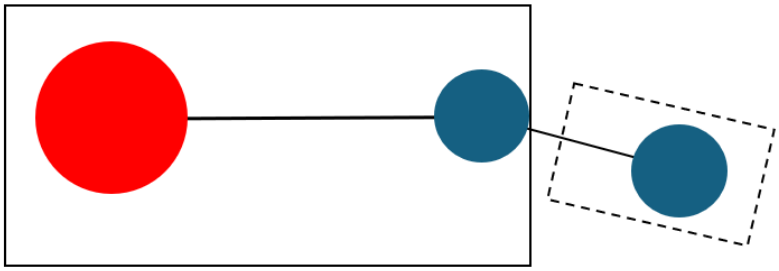


Figure K-1(a) shows a consolidation between a receiving system and a single subsumed system, Figure K-1(b) shows the consolidation of multiple private households with a receiving system, and Figure K-1(c) shows the consolidation of multiple subsumed systems and private households via the same pipeline 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.

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

(a)



(b)

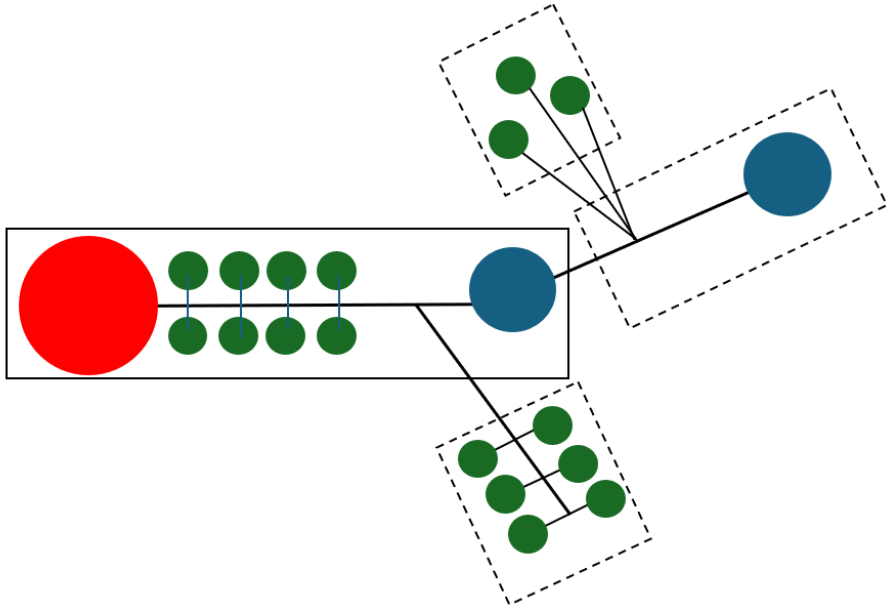


Figure K-2(a) shows a consolidation of a receiving system and two (2) subsumed systems; however, the second subsumed system (far right) requires a significant length of pipeline that branches off the main pipeline alignment and is not required for the primary consolidation, thus triggering the cost per 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 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

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

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	$ 10,901,476	2,845	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	100+	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.	$ 115,376,502	900	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 559 Water Well repair/replacement, and 16 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.
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
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

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
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	$5,001,742	100 Schools	Statewide
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	SB 200 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water	$ 7,049,745	550 households	Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey Counties

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

Assistance Program	Description	Funding Program	Approved Funding Amount	Approximate # of Schools/ Households	Location of Schools/ Households
	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.				
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	$ 10,901,476	2,845 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 Contaminants

Assistance Program	Description	Funding Program	Approved Funding Amount	Approximate # of Schools/ Households	Location of Schools/ Households
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
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

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

Assistance Program	Description	Funding Program	Approved Funding Amount	Approximate # of Schools/ Households	Location of Schools/ Households
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 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)	$4,528,882	900	Tule Groundwater Basin
Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District and Kaweah Water Foundation Expanding Co-Contaminant Well Sampling And Replacement Water Program	The Program will conduct outreach to prospective households within the Recipient's Service Area which includes the Management Zone encompassed by the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District and the Kaweah Water Foundation in the Kaweah Subbasin (Service Area) served by private wells or state small water systems. The Program will conduct well-testing to identify potential applicants who when qualified, would receive 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)	$5,146,812	1,000	Kaweah Groundwater Basin

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, 2026)

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES

Table N- 1 below shows completed new domestic wells drilled, pending new domestic well applications, and current households receiving bottled/hauled 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/hauled water per household is **$13,000** and the average cost for constructing a new domestic well is **$54,000**.

Appendix N. Regional Programs and Local Mitigation Areas

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

Subbasin	GSA	Wells Drilled	Funding Provided	Pending Apps	Estimated Funding ($54k/well)	Current Hauled Water Households	Funding Amount	Current Bottled Water Households	Funding Amount
Kern County Subbasin	Arvin GSA	0	$0	1	$54,000	2	$56,814	57	$37,014
Delta Mendota Subbasin	Central Delta-Mendota GSA	1	$42,507	1	$54,000	0	$0	0	$0
Kings Subbasin	Central Kings GSA	19	$1,011,489	30	$1,620,000	52	$1,477,162	86	$55,846
Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin	Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District GSA	0	$0	1	$54,000	1	$28,407	1	$649
Chowchilla Subbasin	Chowchilla Water District GSA	7	$401,533	12	$648,000	6	$170,442	6	$3,896
Madera Subbasin	City of Madera GSA	0	$0	2	$108,000	2	$56,814	2	$1,299
Pleasant Valley Subbasin	County of Fresno GSA - Pleasant Valley	0	$0	1	$54,000	1	$28,407	1	$649
Chowchilla Subbasin	County of Madera GSA - Chowchilla	0	$0	1	$54,000	1	$28,407	0	$0
Madera Subbasin	County of Madera GSA - Madera	46	$2,494,321	147	$7,938,000	142	$4,033,790	142	$92,211
Delta Mendota Subbasin	County of Merced GSA - Delta-Mendota	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0
Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin	County of San Joaquin GSA	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	11	$7,143

Appendix N. Regional Programs and Local Mitigation Areas

Subbasin	GSA	Wells Drilled	Funding Provided	Pending Apps	Estimated Funding ($54k/well)	Current Hauled Water Households	Funding Amount	Current Bottled Water Households	Funding Amount
	- Eastern San Joaquin 2								
Tracy Subbasin	County of San Joaquin GSA - Tracy	0	$0	0	$0	1	$28,407	1	$649
Tule Subbasin	Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District GSA	2	$111,979	3	$162,000	2	$56,814	512	$332,477
Kaweah Subbasin	East Kaweah GSA	6	$299,484	22	$1,188,000	28	$795,395	192	$124,679
Tule Subbasin	Eastern Tule GSA	1	$57,500	6	$324,000	9	$255,663	11	$7,143
Kaweah Subbasin	Greater Kaweah GSA	11	$609,036	26	$1,404,000	20	$568,139	21	$13,637
Indian Wells Valley Subbasin	Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority GSA	0	$0	0	$0	10	$284,070	9	$5,844
Kern County Subbasin	Kern Non-Districted Land Authority GSA	1	$54,000	4	$216,000	5	$142,035	7	$4,546
Kern County Subbasin	Kern River GSA	0	$0	2	$108,000	3	$85,221	155	$100,652
Kern County Subbasin	Kern-Tulare Water District GSA (Kern)	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0
Kings Subbasin	Kings River East GSA	24	$1,313,681	45	$2,430,000	59	$1,676,011	224	$145,459
Tule Subbasin	Lower Tule River Irrigation District GSA	0	$0	0	$0	1	$28,407	393	$255,202

Appendix N. Regional Programs and Local Mitigation Areas

Subbasin	GSA	Wells Drilled	Funding Provided	Pending Apps	Estimated Funding ($54k/well)	Current Hauled Water Households	Funding Amount	Current Bottled Water Households	Funding Amount
Madera Subbasin	Madera Irrigation District GSA	14	$768,567	36	$1,944,000	28	$795,395	32	$20,780
Kings Subbasin	McMullin Area GSA	4	$216,407	5	$270,000	11	$312,477	10	$6,494
Merced Subbasin	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA	10	$484,493	19	$1,026,000	16	$454,512	25	$16,234
Merced Subbasin	Merced Subbasin GSA	3	$102,463	6	$324,000	4	$113,628	5	$3,247
Kaweah Subbasin	Mid-Kaweah GSA	2	$109,813	6	$324,000	8	$227,256	9	$5,844
Kings Subbasin	Mid-Kings River GSA	2	$111,500	4	$216,000	4	$113,628	7	$4,546
Kings Subbasin	North Fork Kings GSA	1	$54,000	9	$486,000	12	$340,884	17	$11,039
Kings Subbasin	North Kings GSA	23	$1,251,106	47	$2,538,000	56	$1,590,790	150	$97,406
Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin	North San Joaquin Water Conservation District GSA	1	$59,266	1	$54,000	0	$0	0	$0
Delta Mendota Subbasin	Northwestern Delta-Mendota GSA	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	17	$11,039
Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin	Oakdale Irrigation District GSA	0	$0	1	$54,000	1	$28,407	1	$649
Delta Mendota Subbasin	Patterson Irrigation District GSA	0	$0	1	$54,000	1	$28,407	1	$649
Tule Subbasin	Pixley Irrigation District GSA	3	$169,284	5	$270,000	7	$198,849	112	$72,729

Appendix N. Regional Programs and Local Mitigation Areas

Subbasin	GSA	Wells Drilled	Funding Provided	Pending Apps	Estimated Funding ($54k/well)	Current Hauled Water Households	Funding Amount	Current Bottled Water Households	Funding Amount
Tule Subbasin	Porterville Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	1	$0
Madera Subbasin	San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors GSA	1	$59,415	2	$108,000	1	$28,407	1	$649
Kern County Subbasin	Semitropic Water Storage District GSA	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0
Kern County Subbasin	Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District GSA	1	$57,389	4	$216,000	5	$142,035	5	$3,247
Kings Subbasin	South Fork Kings GSA	6	$332,718	11	$594,000	10	$284,070	10	$6,494
Kings Subbasin	South Kings GSA	0	$0	2	$108,000	2	$56,814	2	$1,299
Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin	South San Joaquin GSA	0	$0	2	$108,000	3	$85,221	3	$1,948
Kern County Subbasin	Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District - GSA	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0
Chowchilla Subbasin	Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin	2	$98,094	5	$270,000	4	$113,628	146	$94,808

Appendix N. Regional Programs and Local Mitigation Areas

Subbasin	GSA	Wells Drilled	Funding Provided	Pending Apps	Estimated Funding ($54k/well)	Current Hauled Water Households	Funding Amount	Current Bottled Water Households	Funding Amount
	Association GSA								
Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin	Stockton East Water District GSA	0	$0	1	$54,000	3	$85,221	11	$7,143
Tule Subbasin	Tea Pot Dome Water District	1	$51,003	1	$54,000	0	$0	0	$0
Tule Subbasin	Tri-County Water Authority GSA - Tule	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	115	$74,678
Tule Subbasin	Vandalia Water District	0	$0	0	$0	1	$28,407	1	$649
Turlock Subbasin	West Turlock Subbasin GSA	4	$165,857	8	$432,000	7	$198,849	169	$109,744
TOTAL		**196**	**$10,486,906**	**480**	**$25,920,000**	**529**	**$15,027,287**	**2681**	**$1,740,312**
Not Within Any GSA Boundaries		**9**		**79**		**137**		**359**	

Appendix N. Regional Programs and Local Mitigation Areas

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.

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 Wells with contaminants other than nitrate	Treatment Device Cost	Estimated Bottled Water Cost	Estimated Tank/Hauled Water Cost
Chowchilla Management Zone	14	1	1	0	$2,500	$2,202	$83,184
Delta-Mendota	12	1	0	1	$7,500	$1,214	$33,274
Kaweah Management Zone	116	26	24	20	$92,500	$15,115	$415,923
Kings Water Alliance Management Zone	281	39	39	12	$145,000	$33,389	$881,756
Madera	203	2	0	0	$17,500	$38,167	$1,064,762
Merced	38	5	3	5	$35,000	$7,752	$166,369
Modesto Management Zone	6	0	1	1	$2,500	$648	$16,637
Tule Management Zone	99	20	22	15	$97,500	$4,333	$116,458
Turlock Management Zone	9	3	0	3	$12,500	$910	$33,274
TOTAL	**778**	**97**	**90**	**57**	**$412,500**	**$103,733**	**$2,811,636**
Not within a Management Zone	*82*	*3*	*6*	*1*	*$12,500*	*$31,394*	*$1,147,946*

SHE's POU/POE program has installed 97 POUs related to nitrate only contamination for an estimated total of $242,500. SHE's POU/POE program has also tested a total of 778 wells at a cost of $154,800, which is complementary assistance to the management zones.

The State Water Board has three co-funding agreements with Management Zones. One with Valley Water Collaborative for $5,540,725, another with Tule Basin Water Foundation for $4,528,222 and another with Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District for $5,146,812. 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 replaced[37].

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 Administrator funding committed to those systems	Amount of TA * thru March committed to those systems	Amount of Planning/ Construction committed to those systems	Amount of Interim WB funding committed to those systems	Estimated construction $ for systems with nitrate with WB funding (Modeled Costs)	Failing systems with nitrate with no WB funding	Estimated construction $ for systems with nitrate with no WB funding (Modeled Costs)
EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN	3	2	$-	$451,974	$867,214	$1,319,188.00	$4,324,562	1	$13,152,042
KAWEAH MANAGEMENT ZONE	5	4	$-	$1,414,384	$-	$1,709,134.00	$16,911,540	2	$5,947,461
KERN (POSO)	2	0	$-	$-	$-	$-	$18,402,499	2	$4,653,815
KINGS WATER ALLIANCE MANAGEMENT ZONE	6	4	$994,544	$950,821	$5,873,821	$7,963,015.41	$21,116,369	1	$5,417,047
MODESTO MANAGEMENT ZONE	3	2	$-	$100,143	$-	$220,815.00	$18,805,953	1	$511,734
TULE MANAGEMENT ZONE	5	5	$-	$2,447,822	$760,000	$3,746,956.00	$38,798,359	0	$0

[37] 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 Administrator funding committed to those systems	Amount of TA * thru March committed to those systems	Amount of Planning/ Construction committed to those systems	Amount of Interim WB funding committed to those systems	Estimated construction $ for systems with nitrate with WB funding (Modeled Costs)	Failing systems with nitrate with no WB funding	Estimated construction $ for systems with nitrate with no WB funding (Modeled Costs)
TURLOCK MANAGEMENT ZONE	2	1	$-	$-	$15,361,000	$15,361,000	$44,938,775	0	$0
YOLO	1	0	$-	$-	$36,247	$36,247	$6,511,347	0	$5,577,879
TOTAL	**27**	**18**	**994544**	**$5,365,143.52**	**$22,898,282**	**$30,356,355.41**	**$169,809,404**	**7**	**$35,259,978**

Appendix N. Regional Programs and Local Mitigation Areas

Of the 18 Failing systems with Water Board funding there are 15 TA agreements, three O&M agreements, one administrator agreements, and five construction agreements. For the seven Failing systems without Water Board funding, two 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
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
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
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
CA5402047	GLEANINGS FOR THE HUNGRY	12	31	Kings Water Alliance Management Zone- Kings	SDAC