



## Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Recap: Grant Opportunities: DWR

### Round 2 – Sustainable Groundwater Management Grants Program

Grantor: California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Objective: Address funding gaps and provide solutions to water systems, especially those serving disadvantaged communities (DACs) to address short- and long-term water needs

Submittal dates: Anticipated that opportunity to apply will occur in October 2022

Eligible entities: Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

#### **Overview** (from the Water Quality Association)

The second solicitation, expected to open in October 2022, will provide over \$200 million from the General Fund and Proposition 68, and any funds not awarded in the first round, for planning and implementation projects to help comply with SGMA. The exact amount available is dependent upon legislative approval and is subject to change. Any remaining funds after the second round will be distributed through future funding solicitations.

Eligible project types for the SGM Grant Program SGMA Implementation – Planning and Projects must be consistent with the purpose of the Budget Act of 2021 and Proposition 68, which include:

- Activities and/or tasks that consist of the development of **groundwater recharge projects** with surface water, stormwater, recycled water, and other conjunctive use projects;
- Projects that prevent or clean up contamination of groundwater that serve as a source of drinking water (Public Resources Code § 80146(a));
- Projects and programs that support water supply reliability, water conservation, and **water use efficiency** and water banking, exchange, and reclamation;
- **Geophysical investigation(s) of groundwater basins to identify recharge potential**; early implementation of existing regional flood management plans that incorporate groundwater recharge; or projects that would complement efforts of a local GSP, that provide for **floodplain expansion to benefit groundwater recharge or habitat**; and
- **Revisions, updates, and/or modifications to a GSP**. The Project or Component must fill known data gaps and address comments received from DWR after its review of a submitted GSP, if received. If the applicant has not received comments from DWR on their GSP, the Project or Component must be consistent with SGMA regulations and GSP requirements.

Eligible projects include those activities associated with the planning and implementation of a project and must also be consistent with the goals within the GSP.



**Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan**  
**Recap: Grant Opportunities: DWR**

<b>Round 2 - Application Evaluation Criteria</b>		
<b>Section</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
General	1	Was a description of the proposed Project or Component provided? Did it explain why this Project or Component was chosen over all others identified in the Plan in terms of benefits provided, communities served, measurable objectives, minimum thresholds, plan implementation timeline, and feasibility? If ...[this] does not apply to your proposed project, please explain why it is not applicable. (E.g., "Measurable objective not applicable because project is planning only".)
General Implementation	2	Does the Project or Component provide a description of quantifiable benefits? Was an explanation of the benefits that are expected to be realized from the Project or Component provided, along with how those benefits will be evaluated and quantified?
General Planning	3	Does the Project Description describe a well-coordinated proposal including a GSP that encompasses the entire basin or describes why a portion of the basin is not covered in the proposal? Does it describe how well the multiple GSA(s) surrounding and within the basin are working together
General [outreach, input into decision-making]	4	Does the Project or Component fully describe their plan for outreaching and engaging interested parties (e.g., residents, local leaders, non-profit representing Underrepresented Communities, etc.) located within Underrepresented Communities? Does the outreach and engagement include interested parties during all phases of the Project or Component (e.g., planning, design, and implementation)? Can interested parties provide input and be involved in the decision-making processes?
General [maps]	5	Was there a regional and Project map(s) depicting the site location, current conditions, and benefitting areas
General [benefits to SDACs & under-represented communities]	6	Does the project benefit an Underrepresented Community/ies? Was there a map(s) depicting the Underrepresented Community that the project will benefit? Does the project benefit an SDAC? Was there a map(s) depicting the SDAC(s) that the project will benefit? Please provide the amount of funding that will benefit both the Underrepresented Community and SDAC
General [benefits to small water systems and domestic users]	7	Will the Project or Component positively impact issues associated with small water systems or private shallow domestic wells (e.g., groundwater contamination vulnerability, drawdown, etc.)? Was justification such as domestic well census results, water system maps, service area maps, etc. provided? Does the Project or Component help address the needs of the State Water Board's SAFER Program
General [Right to Water]	8	How does the proposed Project or Component address the Human Right to Water (AB 685 Section 106.3)? How will the Project or Component support the established policy of the State that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes?
Scope of Work	9	Did the proposal provide a description of the tasks/subtasks that will be completed as part of this grant Project?
Budget	10	Is a budget summary table provided? Is the budget reasonable for the project? Is the budget table tasks/subtasks provided in the scope of work coincide with the tasks/subtasks in the budget and schedule tables? Is local cost share included (minimum of 5%)? Local cost share may include costs expended on projects before grant agreement date.
Schedule		Is the tasks/subtask in the schedule table consistent with those listed in the budget table and within the description in the application? Is the schedule feasible?



Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan  
**Recap: Grant Opportunities: Water Boards**

**Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) – Overview**

Grantor: California Water Quality Control Board (Water Boards)

Objective: Address funding gaps and provide solutions to water systems, especially those serving disadvantaged communities (DACs) to address short- and long-term water needs

Submittal dates: Ongoing

Eligible entities: Public agencies, non-profit organizations, Tribal governments

**Background** (from the Water Quality Association)

Senate Bill (SB) 200 [2019] established a ten-year commitment by the State to providing vulnerable Californian communities access to safe and affordable drinking water. The California State Water Resources Control Board has approved the [2020-21 Fund Expenditure Plan](#) that prioritizes up to \$130 million for numerous projects.

- The Expenditure Plan is based on a drinking water needs assessment [assessing risk from contaminants and drought] that documents past and planned expenditures and prioritizes projects for funding
- The Expenditure Plan supports water systems at risk for failure due to contaminants and/or drought in implementing solutions that may include consolidation with larger water systems, operations and maintenance costs, building local technical and managerial capacity, providing interim replacement water, and hiring administrators to run the small systems. The plan also includes Point-of-Use and Point-of-Entry (POU/POE) water treatment solutions when appropriate.
- Through technical assistance grants to the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), offers low-interest loans and grants for domestic well replacement and repairs for different income thresholds. USDA Rural Development offers a similar program.

**Table ES-1. FY 2020-21 SADW Fund Target Expenditures**

Water System Category	Solution Type					
	Interim Water Supplies and Emergencies	Direct/Indirect O&M Support				Construction
		Technical Assistance	Administrator	Planning	Direct O&M Support	
<b>Systems Out of Compliance</b>	\$10,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$19,000,000
<b>Systems At-Risk</b>	\$4,000,000	\$18,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$20,000,000
<b>State Small Systems/ Domestic Wells</b>	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000,000
<b><i>SUBTOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>\$19,000,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$30,000,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$0</i></b>	<b><i>\$6,000,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$10,000,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$49,000,000</i></b>



## Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Recap: Grant Opportunities: Water Boards

### County-wide and Regional Funding Programs

The State Water Board has opened a **County-wide and Regional Funding Solicitation** for counties or eligible partner entities to receive funding to implement regional programs that address drought-related and/or contamination issues for **state small water systems (state smalls) and domestic wells** serving disadvantaged communities (DACs) and low-income households.

Counties or eligible partner entities that receive funding will be responsible for managing and implementing the program. The State will reimburse the counties or partner entities for eligible costs incurred related to the implementation and management of these programs.

Eligible project types include:

- Assessment
  - Community outreach
  - Domestic well testing
- Interim Solutions
  - Bottled Water
  - Tanks and hauled water
  - Kiosk filling stations
  - Point of Use/Point of Entry (POU/POE) installation and maintenance
- Long-Term Solutions
  - Well repairs and/or replacements
  - Limited-scale consolidation (such as laterals, above ground interties)
  - POU/POE installation and maintenance, in some cases

Additional information available at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/funding\\_solicitation.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/funding_solicitation.html)

# Household Water Well and Septic System Loan/Grant Program

*Low interest loans and grants available to construct, refurbish or replace individual water well and septic systems!*

## Program Requirements:

- Residence must be in a rural area, town or community in RCAC's 13 state service area with a population not exceeding 50,000.
- Applicants must own and occupy the home being improved or be purchasing the home.
- New home construction and community systems are not eligible.
- Household income may not exceed \$37,730 for California. Please call for other States income eligibility.

## Loan Terms:

- Maximum loan amount: \$15,000. (an additional grant may be available to cover costs exceeding \$15,000 or for repayment ability).
- Interest rate: 1%.
- Maturity may not exceed 20 years.
- Associated loan costs estimated not to exceed \$250, e.g., credit report, recording or loan fee are borrower expenses and can normally be included in the loan.

### Contact information:

**Deborah Almazan**, Loan Officer

**Email:** [dalmazan@rcac.org](mailto:dalmazan@rcac.org)

**Phone:** (725) 221-0474

**Fax:** (775) 501-6915

**Yeng Lao**, Loan Officer

**Email:** [ylao@rcac.org](mailto:ylao@rcac.org)

**Phone:** (916) 500-1260



This program is made possible due to funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Decentralized Water System Grant Program.

RCAC is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender



## Clean Drinking Water Well Replacement Grant Program\*

**Financial assistance available for individual households and  
small water systems dealing with drinking water  
emergencies!**

### Program Requirements:

- Eligible applicants are owners of individual households and small water systems (serving at least two, but fewer than 15 service connections and is not a Public Water System).
- New home and small water system construction is not eligible.
- Household income may not exceed \$62,938. For small water systems, income is based on the average household income of the stakeholders/owners.
- Up to \$45,000 available for individual wells and up to \$100,000 for small water systems.

### Grant Terms:

- Repayment required in full if property is sold, transferred or leased within first five years from project completion.

For information/application please visit [www.rcac.org](http://www.rcac.org) or contact:

Deborah Almazan, Loan Officer  
Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)  
Email: [dalmazan@rcac.org](mailto:dalmazan@rcac.org)  
Cell: (725) 221-0474  
Fax: (775) 501-6915



*\*This grant program is supported by a grant from the  
California State Water Resources Control Board.*



# QUESTIONS ABOUT FUNDING TO MITIGATE DROUGHT?

Opportunity for free advice for your utility on potential drought funding and mitigation projects

*One-stop shop of government funding agencies and experts*



Drought is gripping the nation, especially in California, and contributing to cascading disasters including wildfires, floods, and landslides. What can water and wastewater utilities do, especially small and disadvantaged utilities?

**Who is providing help?** U.S. EPA is coordinating with federal and state partners to offer a one-stop shop to help water and wastewater utilities with identifying possible drought mitigation strategies, as well as to help utilities understand the types of funding available to mitigate drought and who to contact if they want to get started.

**What types of drought projects could be eligible?** Aquifer storage and recovery, groundwater replenishment, green infrastructure, deeper wells, infiltration wells, water reuse, alternative water sources, floodplain and stream restoration, flood diversion and storage, water loss audits, leak detection projects, etc. Nature-based solutions are especially encouraged.

**If you answer yes to any of the following questions, EPA would like to hear from you:**

- Do you need help in developing a drought contingency plan? See [EPA's Drought Response and Recovery Guide](#).
- Do you have a shovel-ready or near shovel-ready project to address drought and need funding?
- Do you need help in identifying possible mitigation strategies to address drought and other associated hazards?



## How to get free assistance for your utility:

Email your utility name, city, state and phone number to:

**[DroughtQuestions@epa.gov](mailto:DroughtQuestions@epa.gov)**  
and we will contact you.

We encourage small and disadvantaged utilities to reach out.

## WHO SHOULD REQUEST HELP?

Drinking water, wastewater and storm water utility staff and management staff involved in finance and risk.

## Drought Funding Resources for Water and Wastewater Utilities

- [EPA's Federal Funding for Utilities – Water/Wastewater – in National Disasters \(Fed FUNDS\)](#)
- [EPA's Addressing and Mitigating Drought with Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#)
- [California's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program](#)
- [EPA's Integrating Water Reuse into the Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#)
- [California's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program](#)
- [California Small Community Drought Relief Program](#)
- [EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act](#)
- [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(post-disaster\) in California](#)
- [FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) \(pre-disaster\) in California](#)
- [USDA Rural Development Water Grants/Loans](#)
- [USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant \(ECWAG\) Program](#)
- [Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Grants](#)
- [HUD Community Development Block Grants](#)
- [California Water System Drought Assistance](#)

