

## August 2020 DWR Updates

### Grants

#### NEW California Grants Portal

The California State Library, in partnership with the Department of Water Resources and other state grantmaking agencies, has launched the California Grants Portal – your one destination to find all state grant and loan opportunities provided on a first-come or competitive basis. Visit [grants.ca.gov](https://grants.ca.gov) to find funding opportunities for you and your community.

#### NEW DWR: Prop 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Grants for Critically Overdrafted Basins

Public comment is open for the draft Proposal Solicitation Package for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program. The public comment period will close at 5 p.m. on September 18, 2020. During the first round of funding, \$26 million will be available for critically overdrafted basins for projects that will assist with the implementation of groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs). A second round of funding will be available beginning in 2022 and will have approximately \$62 million available for projects for high- and medium-priority basins. Public Webinar will be held September 3, 2020 10 a.m. to Noon. The meeting will be recorded for later viewing. [Register here](#). Comments can be emailed to Kelley List at [SGWP@water.ca.gov](mailto:SGWP@water.ca.gov).

#### CA Department of Conservation: Watershed Coordinator Grant

The CA Department of Conservation has a 2020 Sustainable Groundwater Management Watershed Coordinator Grant Program. Application period open June 15<sup>th</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup>. Workshops will be held August 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 and August 11 at 1:00 pm. To register for the workshops email [wcp@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:wcp@conservation.ca.gov) or call (916) 324-0850. More information can be found here: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/watershed>

#### Wildlife Conservation Board: Stream Flow Enhancement Program

\$200 Million will be available for projects that result in enhanced stream flows (i.e., a change in the amount, timing, and/or quality of water flowing down a stream, or a portion of a stream, to benefit fish and wildlife). The Proposal Solicitation Notice is now posted with application templates. Applications must be submitted by 5pm on September 10, 2020. More information here: <https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Stream-Flow-Enhancement>

#### USBR: WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Opportunity

Reclamation provides 50/50 cost share funding to irrigation and water districts, tribes, states and other entities with water or power delivery authority. Projects conserve and use water more efficiently; increase the production of hydropower; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to water supply reliability in the western United States. Projects are selected through a competitive process and the focus is on projects that can be completed within two or three years. The application deadline is Thursday, Sept. 17. More information here: <https://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/newsrelease/detail.cfm?RecordID=71343>

#### DWR Prop 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning Grants

- Final funding list announced March 13<sup>th</sup>. The full list can be viewed here: <https://water.ca.gov/sgmgrants>.
- The final Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) are available here: <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater>
- An implementation round will have at least \$88 million. \$26 million will be available to Critically Over Drafted basins with a draft PSP expected in August of 2020 and grants to be awarded in early 2021. The Draft PSP for the remaining funds is expected in 2021 and grants to be awarded in early 2022.

#### Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grant, DWR

- DWR released the FINAL grant awards for North Coast, Tulare-Kern, Colorado River, Lahontan, San Francisco, Santa Ana, Central Coast, San Diego, San Joaquin River, Sacramento River, and Mountain Counties funding

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areas. DRAFT funding recommendations have been made for Los Angeles funding area. Details can be found here: <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs/Proposition-1/Implementation-Grants>

- Questions should be directed to Maria Lorenzo-Lee at [Maria.Lorenzo-Lee@water.ca.gov](mailto:Maria.Lorenzo-Lee@water.ca.gov) or (916) 657-4893

Other state & federal grant websites for resources that may be helpful are:

- California Financing Coordinating Committee -- <https://cfcc.ca.gov/>, and
- CalOES grants -- <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/grants-management>
- US EPA -- <https://www.epa.gov/grants/specific-epa-grant-programs>, and
- Economic Development Administration -- <https://eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>
- The rollout webinars of FEMA's new grant, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (risk reduction), started in July 2020 and can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/bric>

### **SGMA**

GSPs have been submitted by all Critically Over-drafted basins.

GSPs and public comments have been posed on the SGMA portal here: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/all>.

### Draft Report on Drought and Water Shortage Vulnerability Released

DWR recently released the draft *Small Water Suppliers and Rural Communities at Risk of Drought and Water Shortage Vulnerability and Recommendations and Guidance to Address the Planning Needs of these Communities* report. The report provides information for GSAs to consider and incorporate into future updates to GSPs and will help inform management decisions as these plans are implemented. More information can be found here including 2 recorded webinars: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Making-Conservation-a-California-Way-of-Life/County-Drought-Planning>

### SVSim Beta Model Released

DWR has released the beta version of the [Sacramento Valley Groundwater-Surface Water Simulation Model \(SVSim\)](#) that can be used during GSP development. Instructions for use are included in the [Roadmap to Running SVSim](#) document. A calibrated version of SVSim is expected in fall 2020.

### Brown Act Modifications to enable Virtual Meetings

Governor Newsom recently issued [Executive Order N-25-20](#) encouraging elected officials to conduct public meetings by teleconference or other electronic venue. The order also temporarily waives requirements in the Bagley-Keene Act and Brown Act as long as specific requirements are met. This order would apply to GSAs and others involved in the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

### 2019 Groundwater Level Change Reports & Maps Available

The [Groundwater Level Change Report](#) and accompanying Dot Maps for [spring 2019](#) and for [fall 2019](#) are available on the DWR website and present a summary of groundwater level data. The report and Dot Maps include a discussion of groundwater level trends with multi-year comparisons which can assist with the development of GSPs.

### Draft Handbook for Water Budget Development

The handbook has been posted on the SGMA webpage and can be viewed at the following link under the "reports" tab: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Data-and-Tools>. A recent webinar discussing the handbook with a deeper dive on 4 topics can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1V4V-SG5jY&feature=youtu.be>

### DWR is developing eight Proposition 68-funded technical projects

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These projects include airborne electromagnetic surveys, improving groundwater elevation and quality monitoring networks, Statewide land use data collection, improved subsidence monitoring network, installing and maintaining stream gauges, maintaining and enhancing statewide well completion reports, managing and reporting sustainable groundwater information, and enhancing and maintaining DWR's modeling tools. Fact sheets on each project can be viewed under the "Prop 68" tab here: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Data-and-Tools>

### SGMA Data Viewer Updated with Subsidence Information

New subsidence information covering the period of June 2018 to September 2019 has been added to the [SGMA Data Viewer](#) under land subsidence. This information can help groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs), water managers and the public implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

DWR and SWRCB hosted joint workshops in early January. A video of the meeting is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-EYbyJ7-RU&feature=youtu.be> The workshops will focused on:

1. GSP evaluation and assessment process.
2. DWR and SWRCB interaction during GSP evaluation.
3. Annual reporting requirements and process.
4. DWR and SWRCB assistance programs that will support GSP implementation and future GSP updates.

2016 Statewide Crop Mapping data released by DWR January 3<sup>rd</sup>. This data can be accessed here: <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/statewide-crop-mapping>. The 2018 data set is expected to be released mid-2021 and will be the first ever multi-crop data set.

### Facilitation Support Services (FSS): Funding still available

- GSA's developing GSPs are eligible to receive funding for identification and engagement of interested parties, meeting facilitation, interest-based negotiation/consensus building, and public outreach facilitation
- More information can be found here: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-Engagement>
- New written translation services available in 10 languages for outreach materials (5,000 word maximum).

### Technical Support Services (TSS): Funding still available

- COD basins have priority, but this application is open to all high and medium priority basins including those with an approved alternative plan. More information and applications can be found here: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement>
- Funds can be used for monitoring well instillation, geophysical logging, geologic logging, groundwater level monitoring training, borehole video logging, and other field activities.

### Data and Tools

- Compilation of maps, modeling, climate change, reports: <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Data-and-Tools>
- Natural Communities Commonly Associated with Groundwater map viewer: <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/NCDatasetViewer/>

### Best Management Practices and Guidance Documents

- <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Best-Management-Practices-and-Guidance-Documents>

DWR has a SGMA listserv. If you are not on the list and would like to be added you can join here: [https://listserv.cnra.ca.gov/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=DWR\\_SGMP&A=1](https://listserv.cnra.ca.gov/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=DWR_SGMP&A=1)

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### Other

#### Governor Newsom Releases Final Water Resilience Portfolio

The Governor released the final version of the Water Resilience Portfolio on Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>: <https://waterresilience.ca.gov/>. Given the recent drastic downturn in the state's budget situation, the final version acknowledges that the pace of progress on the actions in the portfolio will depend upon the resources available. The portfolio is a comprehensive, aspirational document, but there are several priorities the state will focus on including:

1. Implementing the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act of 2019
2. Supporting local communities to successfully implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014
3. Achieving voluntary agreements to increase flows and improve conditions for native fish in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and its watersheds
4. Modernizing the Delta water conveyance system to protect long-term functionality of the State Water Project
5. Updating regulations to expand water recycling
6. Accelerating permitting of new smart water storage
7. Expanding seasonal floodplains for fish and flood benefits
8. Improving conditions at the Salton Sea
9. Removing dams from the Klamath River
10. Better leveraging of information and data to improve water management

#### Flood-MAR (Managed Aquifer Recharge)

A new survey on forming a Flood-MAR network is available: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FloodMAR\\_2020](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FloodMAR_2020). This survey is being conducted on behalf of DWR. There is also a new Lunch-MAR monthly speaker series. If you are interested in attending please email [Jennifer.Marr@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Marr@water.ca.gov) (916) 651-9229 to be added to the calendar invite. To join the Flood-MAR listserv follow this link:

[https://listserv.ceqa.ca.gov/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=DWR\\_FLOODMAR&A=1](https://listserv.ceqa.ca.gov/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=DWR_FLOODMAR&A=1)

The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) has released its draft Technical Assistance Guidelines for State Agencies. The guidelines include best practices in capacity building and technical assistance to assist State agencies in developing their own technical assistance programs. The public comment period will run through July 20. The draft document and how to comment can be found here: <https://sgc.ca.gov/news/2020/06-30.html>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has taken the wraps off a new tool called How's My Waterway. It can assemble a wide range of water quality data into user-friendly packages. Information is available on community, state, and national levels. Details are available in this news release: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-dynamic-new-water-data-transparency-tool>

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research has updated the General Plan Guidelines to include revised guidance on environmental justice. The revisions provide more specific guidance on identifying and engaging with disadvantaged communities. There is also additional clarity on when environmental justice requirements are triggered.

<https://opr.ca.gov/planning/general-plan/guidelines.html>

#### 2020 DACTI Lessons Learned Summit

The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) is hosting the 2020 Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement (DACTI) Lessons Learned Summit from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on October 8, 13 and 14. This virtual Summit is intended for IRWM practitioners, Community members, Tribal representatives, and State agencies. More information will be provided in the near future. Update sign ups here:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/lt5cddR/DCI>