

November 2020 DWR Updates

Grants

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 to find funding opportunities for you and your community.

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

The FINAL Proposal Solicitation Package for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program is now available. Round 1 with \$26 million available, is now open to Critically Over Drafted Basins, a second round with \$77 million will be open in 2022 to all high and medium priority basins. An application assistance workshop was held December 3, 2020 and a recording can be seen here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8235914249489037072>. **This solicitation will close on January 8, 2021.** The final PSP and application templates can be found here: <https://water.ca.gov/sgmgrants>

CDFW, DRAFT Prop 1 Restoration Grant Proposal Solicitation Notice

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has released a DRAFT 2021 Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs Proposal Solicitation Notice for public review and input with up to \$40 Million available. Comments may be submitted to WatershedGrants@Wildlife.ca.gov. The deadline for public comments is Friday, December 18, 2020, at 4:00 PM PDT. CDFW will also host a public meeting on December 14, 2020, to review the draft solicitation and gather comments from the public as well. Details to follow and will be posted on the Proposition 1 Grant Program web page. More information here:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants>

State Water Resource Control Board, Groundwater Grant Program: Amendment to Funding Guidelines

The SWRCB is updating its funding guidelines for administering the \$720 million dollars in prop 1 groundwater grant funding. The proposed amendments can be viewed here:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/groundwater_sustainability.html. **Written comments must be submitted by noon on Monday January 4th, 2021** to

commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov and the matter will be reviewed at the February 2nd Board meeting. More info on this grant program can be found here:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/groundwater_sustainability.html

California Financing Coordinating Committee: Funding fair recording posted

The October 22, 2020 CFCC funding fair filled up early so if you were unable to join in October, the recording is now available here: <https://www.cfcc.ca.gov/>. The next funding fair is tentatively scheduled for March of 2021.

DWR's Floodplain Management, Protection, and Risk Awareness (FMPRA) Grant Program

There is \$25M available to provide financial assistance for flood risk reduction activities related to stormwater, mudslide, and other flash flood related protections. The final grant guidelines are expected to be published in summer of 2021. <https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/floodplain-management-protection-and-risk-awareness-program-2/>

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/>

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- 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>

Upcoming conferences, webinars, new reports and data

Delta Tunnels Environmental Justice Community Survey Available Online

An [online survey](#) has been set up to gather perspectives from community members who may be disproportionately affected by the proposed Delta Conveyance Project. The Environmental Justice Community Survey is designed to engage those who live or work in the Delta region and are often not adequately represented in public processes. The list includes low-income residents, people of color, and tribal members.

SWRCB Releases 2012-2019 Public Water Supply Datasets

The State Water Resources Control Board’s Division of Drinking Water has released the latest round of electronic annual report datasets from public drinking water systems. The release covers reporting years 2012–2019, including more than 7 million records for reporting year 2019.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/ear.html

DWR is forming a technical advisory committee for the update of California Well Standards

Those interested in serving on the committee are asked to email Julie Haas at Julie.Haas@water.ca.gov. The committee will convene in March. California Well Standards was last updated in 1991. More information here:

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Wells/Well-Standards>

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation: New Data sharing webpage

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has released the new Reclamation Information Sharing Environment (RISE) website. It provides access to Reclamation’s water-related data. The site includes maps to help search for data in a particular area. There is also a catalog offering access to datasets and time-series data. <https://data.usbr.gov/>

Native American Day 9/25/20

The Governor issued a new policy encouraging State entities to seek opportunities to support California Tribes’ co-management of and access to natural lands that are within a California Tribe’s ancestral land and under the ownership or control of the State of California, and to work cooperatively with California Tribes that are interested in acquiring natural lands in excess of State needs: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/09/25/on-native-american-day-governor-newsom-takes-action-to-restore-land-promote-equity-for-california-native-communities/>

Building a Water-Resilient California

PPIC is hosting 3 one hour sessions on “building a water-resilient California” November 12, 17, and 19. Topics are Funding water systems while ensuring affordability and equity, Collaborative approaches to foster groundwater sustainability, and Priorities for a water-resilient California. Registration here:

https://www.ppic.org/event/building-a-water-resilient-california/?utm_source=ppic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=event

California Water Plan 2016 Water Balance Data Release

A webinar was held Wednesday September 30th 9:30 – 11:30 by the CA Water Plan team to discuss the release of 2016 water balance data. A recorded video is available here: <https://youtu.be/VO8dmT9Zw9A>

DRAFT Urban and Agricultural Water Management Plans Released, DWR

DWR has released draft versions of two water management guidebooks; one for urban water management plans and the other for agricultural water management plans. Both plans serve as long-term water supply and demand management strategies. The comment period for UWMP’s ended September 28th and a series of webinars will be held to go over comments (Nov 18 1-3:30 pm), [training on Reducing Delta Reliance section \(Dec 3rd 10-12:30\)](#),

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and on using the [Optional Planning Tool for Drought Risk Assessment \(Dec 4th, 1-3:30\)](#). The draft urban plan and links to register for the webinars can be found here (webinar registration links are at the bottom right of the page under “Events”): <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Urban-Water-Use-Efficiency>. Information on AWUE plans can be found here: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Agricultural-Water-Use-Efficiency>

Flood-MAR (Managed Aquifer Recharge)

A kickoff meeting to establish a Flood-MAR network will be held December 10th, 2020. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/flood-mar-network-design-workshop-tickets-126330920183>. There is also an ongoing Lunch-MAR monthly speaker series. If you are interested in attending please email 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.cnra.ca.gov/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=DWR_FLOODMAR&A=1

Governor Newsom Releases Final Water Resilience Portfolio

The Governor released the final version of the Water Resilience Portfolio on Tuesday, July 28th: <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.

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>. The public comment period is now open for the Madera Subbasin through December 23, 2020 and for the Castac Lake Valley Basin through January 27, 2021.

NEW Statewide Groundwater Level Change Report and Maps Available

The [Spring 2020 Groundwater Level Change Report](#) and accompanying maps are available on the DWR website and present a summary of groundwater level data. The report and maps include a discussion of groundwater level trends with multi-year comparisons which can assist with the development of GSPs.

REMINDER Submit Fall Groundwater Level Data to CASGEM

Monitoring Entities for the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program are asked to submit fall 2020 groundwater level measurements to the CASGEM Online System (OS). The data is due within 30 days of collection, and no later than December 31.

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.

C2VSim Fine Grid

Version 1.0 is under QA/QC and documentation is under review. This is expected to be released in early Fall of 2020. C2VSim is an integrated numerical model that simulates water movement through the linked land surface, groundwater and surface water flow systems in California's Central Valley using the IWFm modeling platform.

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

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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

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>

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-and-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 installation, geophysical logging, geologic logging, groundwater level monitoring training, borehole video logging, and other field activities.

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>