

April 2021 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

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 IRWM Funding Webinar

Join us for a virtual workshop, co-hosted by the IRWM Roundtable of Regions and the CA Department of Water Resources. Learn about the Round 1 survey results and proposed concepts for the Round 2 grant solicitation process, which will begin this summer, making **over \$190 million (in remaining Prop 1 funds)** available for the implementation of IRWM projects. The webinar will be May 6th, 9:30 – 11:30 and you can [register here](#).

CalEPA: Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

These grants may be up to \$50,000. Applications are due **June 30, 2021**. Projects objectives may include:

- Disseminating information about environmental challenges and decision making processes
- Enhancing local capacity to respond, adapt and prepare for climate change impacts
- Ensuring safe drinking water
- Guarding against toxic exposures and increasing resource conversation locally
- Designing and implementing collaborative efforts to preserve the State's natural and cultural resources with an emphasis on traditional ecological knowledge and tribal sciences

CalFIRE: Fire Prevention Grants Now Open

Contingent upon appropriation from the California Climate Investments, or other fund source, up to \$165 million will be awarded. The program provides funding for projects and activities that address the risk of wildfire, reduce wildfire potential, and increase community resiliency. Funded activities include hazardous fuel reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education with an emphasis on improving public health and safety while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Applications must be submitted **no later than May 19th, 2021 by 3:00 PM PDT**. Overview of the grant program, application process and workshop details will be posted on the [Fire Prevention Grants](#) webpage.

UC Berkeley: Funding Opportunity for Government Innovators

[The People Lab](#) at UC Berkeley invites applications from government agencies and nonprofits across California to co-design and test innovative policy ideas that have the potential to meaningfully improve the lives of Californians. Grant awards will include 2 years of technical support from UC Berkeley's The People Lab and \$100,000 - \$150,000 for project implementation. Applications are due June 15th, and [more info can be found here](#).

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://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Flood-Management-Protection-Risk-Awareness-Program>

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

The SWRCB has recently updated its funding guidelines for administering the \$720 million dollars in prop 1 groundwater grant funding. More info on this grant program can be found here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/groundwater_sustainability.html

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DWR: Prop 68 Groundwater Implementation Grant DRAFT awards announced

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is pleased to release the draft award recommendation for the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program's Proposition 68 Implementation – Round 1 grant solicitation. The recommended awards will provide \$26 million in Proposition 68 grant funding to 6 Awardees. DWR received 15 applications requesting a total of approximately \$70 million in grant funds and approximately \$36.5 million in Local Cost Share.

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC): Free well assessments for private well owners

Assessments include inspection and vulnerability assessment, potential contamination source identification, well construction inspection, water quality screening for nitrate, a written report with recommendations. To register contact Jerry Tinoco at (661) 401-1857 • jtinoco@rcac.org or [register online](#).

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>

Upcoming conferences, webinars, new reports and data

Adaptation Planning Guide Workshop Series

Registration Open: 2021 Adaptation Planning Guide Workshop Series – A series of online in-depth webinar workshops on the [Adaptation Planning Guide](#) and other resources for practitioners. Workshop content will feature a mix of introductory and technical content, case studies, tools and data, breakouts, and more and **will be held March 17th, April 14 and May 12**. To register visit:

https://governorca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cOkwSQ_oQqvJ3vDsh5Clw

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 has formed a technical advisory committee for the update of California Well Standards

The TAC has 67 members from broad backgrounds. They will meet from March 2021 to March 2022. We anticipate the Public Review Draft will be released in September 2022, followed by the Final Well Standards in December 2022. Those interested listening into TAC meetings or providing suggestions may email:

Bulletin74@water.ca.gov. 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/>

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Flood-MAR (Managed Aquifer Recharge)

A kickoff meeting to establish a Flood-MAR network was held December 10th, 2020 and a second meeting was held March 5th, 2021. There is also an ongoing [Lunch-MAR monthly speaker series](#). If you are interested in attending or getting involved 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.cecnra.ca.gov/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=DWR_FLOODMAR&A=1

SGMA

New Outreach and Educational Materials Available

DWR's [SGMA Assistance and Engagement webpage](#) has added new communication and engagement toolkit items including:

- A new video – [Groundwater: California's Vital Resource](#)
- A Story Map for a non-technical audience – [Groundwater: Understanding and Managing this Vital Resource](#)
- [Guidance on Engaging and Communicating with Underrepresented Groundwater Users](#)
- [SGMA Communications: Media Relations and Social Media](#), including [DWR's Groundwater Media Contacts](#) a new video

DWR Releases Draft California's Groundwater – Update 2020, Seeks Public Comment

DWR has released the [draft California's Groundwater – Update 2020 \(Bulletin-118\)](#), containing information on the condition of the State's groundwater. DWR encourages community members and water managers to review the publication and provide input. **Comments can be submitted to CalGW@water.ca.gov and will be accepted through April 26, 2021.** An overview of the document will be presented at a [webinar on March 30th](#), [register here](#)

- Informational Video: [English](#), [Spanish](#)
- Fact Sheet: [English](#), [Spanish](#)
- FAQ: [English](#), [Spanish](#)
- [California's Groundwater Online](#)
- General Information Video: [Groundwater: California's Vital Resource](#)

NEW: SGMA Water Year Type Dataset Now Available

In the dataset, the water years are labeled as wet, above normal, below normal, dry, or critical based on the amount of precipitation during that water year and the previous one. The information is available for all California watersheds except those underlying the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Hydrologic Regions since that information is already available. [Data](#) and a [development report](#) are now available.

February 18th Webinar: Joint DWR-State Water Board General SGMA Webinar on Groundwater Sustainability Planning
The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board held a virtual General Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) A [video recording of the meeting](#) is available on YouTube and will be posted to the DWR website, along with additional materials, in the near future.

Dry Well Reporting Site

There is a website available to report private wells going dry at <https://mydrywatersupply.water.ca.gov/report/>
This information reported to this site is intended to inform state and local agencies on drought impacts on household water supplies. The Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System was first created as part of our emergency response efforts to previous droughts, and we are continuing to gather information relating to shortages of household water from private well or surface water sources.

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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.

C2VSim Fine Grid Update Published December 2020

C2VSimFG Version 1.0 is a historical simulation model designed to estimate regional groundwater flow throughout the Central Valley. C2VSimFG is an integrated hydrologic model application and uses demand estimates from land use and population to calculate spatially distributed groundwater pumping and recharge estimates. The updated tool includes calibration of aquifer properties and documentation. DWR will host informational webinars and a multi-day training event on C2VSimFG Version 1.0 in winter 2021. More information and downloads can be found here under the “modeling/modeling applications” tabs:

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Data-and-Tools>

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

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>

- [New Data](#) is available on AEM pilot studies.

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.