

May 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.

SWRCB Division of Financial Assistance (DFA): Funding for O&M costs for DAC's treating contaminated groundwater

DFA is working on a new program to fund the operations and maintenance (O&M) costs of specific disadvantaged community (DAC) drinking water systems over three to five years. There is up to approximately \$27.5 million in remaining Proposition 68 Groundwater funds that may be used for this purpose. For consistency with Proposition 68 requirements, the program will be focused on systems that are treating contaminated groundwater. If your organization would like to participate in this important effort to support DAC systems, the first step is to submit a Letter of Interest by **July 12, 2021**. The [Request for Letters of Interest](#) has more information.

California Financing Coordinating Committee: Virtual Funding Fair

May 20 and 27, 2021. The funding fair will provide the opportunity to learn more about available grant, loan and bond financing options for infrastructure projects from federal, state, and local agencies. [Register and learn more 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

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: Prop 68 Round 1 Groundwater Implementation Grant FINAL awards announced

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is pleased to release the final award recommendation for the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program's Proposition 68 Implementation – Round 1 grant solicitation. The 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. For additional information can be found on the SGM Grant Program [website](#).

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](#).

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US EPA making \$6.5 billion available for water infrastructure grants

The funding from the EPA's [Water Finance and Innovation Act](#) program will go to projects in five priority categories including economically stressed communities and aging infrastructure. Details are available in [this news release](#).

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

Gov. Gavin Newsome has expanded the emergency drought order to cover 41 counties (5/10/21)

[Drought proclamation for Mendocino and Sonoma Counties \(April 21, 2021\)](#)

[Drought proclamation for 39 additional Counties \(May 10, 2021\)](#)

Workshop on Groundwater Accounting Framework

Collaborative efforts are underway among the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board), the Consortium and EDF to develop a groundwater accounting platform. Use of the platform will be voluntary. A workshop will be held **June 23 from 11 - 12:30** to share ideas on how platform features and design can best accommodate local needs. You can [register for the workshop here](#).

Water Board: Drinking water needs assessments

For the first time, the State Water Resources Control Board has completed a comprehensive look at California water systems that are struggling to provide safe drinking water. [The needs assessment](#) identifies failing water systems and those at risk of failing. It also offers the most in-depth view of long-term drinking water safety the state has ever had. Details are available in this [news release](#).

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.

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](#).

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](#).

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](#) now available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Punjabi](#), and [Hmong](#)
- 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](#)
- "DWR's Assistance Role in Groundwater Management" video: [English and Spanish](#)

DWR Releases Draft California's Groundwater – Update 2020

DWR as 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. The final document is expected to be released summer of 2021.

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

California Groundwater Conditions Update Report and Maps Available

The [California Groundwater Conditions Update – Spring 2020](#) 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 Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).

CASGEM to Monitoring Network Module Transition Frequently Asked Questions Available

The [CASGEM to Monitoring Network Module Transition Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) document covers questions related to the Groundwater Monitoring Law, the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program, a GSP's required monitoring, the SGMA Portal's Monitoring Network Module (MNM), and a basin's or subbasin's transition from the CASGEM Online System to the SGMA Portal's Monitoring Network Module .

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

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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.

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 April 2021

DWR has released an update to the Fine-Grid California Central Valley Groundwater-Surface Water Simulation (C2VSimFG) Model, which can be used by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) developing water budgets for their GSPs. [C2VSimFG Version 1.01](#) utilizes the latest version of the Integrated Water Flow Model software and corrects minor errors in the model files. These updates do not significantly affect the overall model calibration; however, resulting changes to simulated groundwater levels may vary by basin.

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. A recent webinar discussing the handbook with a deeper dive on 4 topics [can be viewed here](#).

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](#).

- [AEM webpage](#) contains information on the how the process works, safety, schedule, data submission by GSAs, TAC, pilot study data and more.
- [New 2018 Statewide Crop Mapping data dataset](#) builds on the 2014 and 2016 statewide crop mapping datasets DWR previously released and includes multi-cropping information. The 2018 dataset includes agricultural land use and urban boundaries for all 58 counties in California.

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](#). 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](#).
- Funds can be used for monitoring well instillation, geophysical logging, geologic logging, groundwater level monitoring training, borehole video logging, and other field activities.