

July 2020 DWR Updates

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 including 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.

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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 3rd. 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 installation, 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

Grants

Prop 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning Grants, DWR

- Final funding list announced March 13th. 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 late summer 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.

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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 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 or (916) 657-4893

Urban Stream Restoration Final Grant Awards, DWR

DWR has released the final awards list for the Urban Streams Restoration Program 2019 solicitation. Eleven projects throughout California were chosen to receive a total of more than \$7 million. The projects will enhance the environment by restoring portions of streams, creeks, and rivers. More info can be found here: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Regional-Water-Management/Riverine-Stewardship-Program/Riverine-Stewardship-Grants>

NEW Watershed Coordinator Grant

The CA Department of Conservation has a 2020 Sustainable Groundwater Management Watershed Coordinator Grant Program. Application period open June 15th – September 15th. More information can be found here: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/watershed>

NEW Prop 1: Stream Flow Enhancement Program through Wildlife Conservation Board

\$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>

NEW Prop 68 Groundwater Treatment and Remediation Grant Program, State Water Board

The State Water Resource Control Board has a streamline Solicitation for Severely Disadvantaged Communities for groundwater treatment and remediation grants. Application period ends July 17, 2020. Approximately \$16 million available. Please contact program staff to confirm SDAC eligibility prior to applying at gwquality.funding@waterboards.ca.gov. The program is aimed at funding O&M and improvements to existing infrastructure. More information can be found here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/propositions/prop68.html

Other

Flood-MAR (Managed Aquifer Recharge)

A new survey on forming a Flood-MAR network is available: 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 (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

The CA State Library is developing a searchable webpage that will have all State grants in one place (similar to the federal grants.gov). It will be going live July 15th of this year. Information on the webpage during development and the full version will be available here: <https://grants.ca.gov/>

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

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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>