

August 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 Survey for SGMA Grant Needs

The California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom have approved \$60 million in local assistance funding for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation for this Fiscal Year 21/22. Another \$300 million is currently being considered by the Legislature for a second FY 21/22 SGMA assistance appropriation. While this second appropriation is not guaranteed, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is releasing a survey now, to solicit feedback on what you believe to be the greatest funding need for your respective groundwater basin(s). [The survey can be found here](#) and will be used to inform the next rounds of Sustainable Groundwater management Grant Program guidelines. **Survey deadline is August 13th at 5:00 pm.**

SWRCB Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program Round 3

Round 3 will fund implementation projects that contribute to cleanup or prevention of contamination in an aquifer. In this round there is approximately \$70 million available for projects serving disadvantaged communities and another \$50 for general projects. Typical funded projects in the first 2 rounds included wellhead treatment, groundwater well destruction, source area cleanup, and seawater intrusion prevention. **Concept proposal solicitation opened July 6th, 2021 and closes September 7, 2021.** More information including an applicant guidance video [can be found here](#).

CalEPA: [Environmental Justice Small Grants Program](#)

These grants may be up to \$50,000. Applications deadline **has been extended to August 13, 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

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](#).

Office of Planning and Research- ICARP: California Resilience Challenge 2021 Funding RFP

In 2020, a coalition of businesses, utilities, and environmental organizations launched the California Resilience Challenge to help communities across California strengthen their resilience to the increasingly severe droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, and flooding affecting California as a result of climate change. A 2021 round of these grants are now open through **September 13, 2021**. The program is focused on helping **under-resourced communities** build resilience against the climate challenges that threaten them most. To learn more follow the links for the [request for proposal](#), a [press release](#) and a [webinar recording](#).

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USBR WaterSMART grants

Information about WaterSMART grant opportunities will be presented during a [webinar hosted by WaterNow Alliance](#) on **Wednesday August 18th**.

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/>

Upcoming conferences, webinars, new reports and data

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.

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/>

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

Dry Well Reporting Site

There is a website available to [report private wells going dry](https://mydrywatersupply.water.ca.gov/report/) 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 data reported on this site (excluding personal identifiable information) can be viewed on the [SGMA data viewer](#) or downloaded on the [CNRA Atlas](#). Individuals or local agencies can report water shortages and [a list of resources are included on the webpage](#). The reporting forms are available in both English and Spanish.

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](#).

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- [AEM webpage](#) contains information on the how the process works, safety, schedule, data submission by GSAs, TAC, pilot study data and more. Public webinar was held **June 8th 12:00 – 1:00**, a [recording can be viewed here](#) and [handouts can be downloaded here](#).
- [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.
- [InSAR subsidence data](#) is now available through October of 2020 and can be viewed on the [SGMA data viewer](#). The updated GIS services and data reports are also available [online](#).

DWR Releases First Assessments of GSPs

On June 3rd, DWR released its first assessments of groundwater sustainability plans, which includes the approval of GSPs for the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin and the 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin. In addition, DWR also notified GSAs in the Cuyama Valley Basin and Paso Robles Subbasin that their GSPs lack specific details and are not yet approved. These assessments and notification letters, along with other pertinent information, can be viewed [here on the DWR SGMA Portal](#). Alongside the assessments, DWR has also prepared:

- A [video message](#) summarizing the current groundwater landscape, including drought conditions, and recent efforts to advance the development of principles and strategies related to groundwater management and drinking water well impacts, as described in Governor Newsom's [Drought Executive Order](#) issued on April 21, 2021.
- A [GSP Evaluation fact sheet](#) summarizing SGMA's determination pathways for GSPs.
- A [press release](#) providing an overview of this initial release.
- A [Live Question and Answer Session on Thursday, June 24, 2021 from 11:30am to 1:00pm](#) to bring the SGMA community together to answer questions related to these first groundwater sustainability plan determinations. To participate in the Live Question and Answer Session, please see the [registration link](#).

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

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

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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.

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](#).

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).

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 \(5,000 word maximum\)](#).