

## November 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](https://grants.ca.gov) to find funding opportunities for you and your community.

#### **DWR: DRAFT SGMA Funding Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package**

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released the draft [Guidelines](#) and [Proposal Solicitation Package](#) (PSP) for the [Sustainable Groundwater Management \(SGM\) Grant Program's](#) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation Funding. Round 1 will provide over \$150 million by spring 2022 to regional groundwater agencies in critically overdrafted basins for planning and implementation projects to help comply with SGMA. Future solicitation in 2022-2023 will provide over \$204 million from various funding sources. The public comment period began on October 13 and ends on November 29, 2021. A public meeting will be held on November 16, 2021 at 2:00 PM. The meeting will be recorded and posted. [Register here to attend virtually.](#)

#### **DWR: \$200 Million Drought Funding to Support Small Communities**

DWR released [guidelines](#) for how small water systems may apply for funds as part of the Small Community Drought Relief Program. Eligible projects must be designed to benefit small communities (< 3,000 connections or 3,000 AFY) located in counties under Governor Newsom's drought emergency proclamations or which the SWRCB may determine that drought conditions necessitate urgent and immediate action. Small communities impacted by the drought are encouraged to apply as soon as possible as funds will be dispersed on a first come first serve basis and can submit applications or questions to [SmallCommunityDrought@water.ca.gov](mailto:SmallCommunityDrought@water.ca.gov). This grant will fund projects that provide immediate or interim drinking water supplies such as hauled or bottled water deliveries, deepening of wells, new or temporary water tank storage, new pipelines and connections to more reliable nearby systems, etc. No local cost share is required.

#### **DWR: Final PSP for \$200 Million Drought Funding for Urban and Multibenefit Projects**

We are pleased to announce the release of the [FINAL 2021 Guidelines/Proposal Solicitation Package](#) for the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program for public review. This solicitation will make approximately **\$190 million in grant funding** available for interim or immediate relief in response to conditions arising from drought across California. The drought relief goal is to address immediate impacts on human health and safety and on fish and wildlife resources, and to provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies. Applications will be received on a rolling basis, but those received by November 19<sup>th</sup> will be considered for the first batch of awards. Applications that are not awarded in the first phase and new applications submitted between November 20 and December 17, 2021 will be considered for the second phase of awards.

#### 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 being accepted on a rolling basis, [and more info can be found here.](#)**

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>

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- 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

### Updated Groundwater Conditions Report and Maps Available

The [California Groundwater Conditions Update – Spring 2021](#) report and accompanying [maps](#) are available on DWR's Data and Tools webpage. The report and maps include a discussion of groundwater level trends with multi-year comparisons to spring 2021 groundwater level data.

### Week of Webinars on Statewide Groundwater Management Efforts

DWR is hosting a week of webinars on statewide groundwater management efforts. **All presentations were recorded and will be posted on the SGMA webpage shortly.**

- 2022 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Submittal Workshop
- 2022 Alternative 5-year Update Submittal Workshop
- Resources for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation
- Accessing Groundwater Data and Tools

### 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/>

## SGMA

### **Draft Drinking Water Well Principles and Strategies Document Open for Public Comment**

The Draft Groundwater Management and Drinking Water Well Principles and Strategies are now available for public review and can be found at the [Drinking Water Wells Principles website](#). The State will host a 30-day public comment period and public webinar to review the draft principles and strategies and accept formal public comments. Public comments are due no later than **Thursday, October 7, 2021 by 5:00 PM PDT**. You can submit a public comment by the deadline or ask us questions anytime by sending an email to [sgmps@water.ca.gov](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov).

### **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 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

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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](#).

- [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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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](#)

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- 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 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).