

December 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: 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 has closed, and the final solicitation is expected to open in December, 2021.

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. 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 19th 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.

CalOES: 2021 funding opportunity for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

This opportunity provides funding for communities to implement mitigation activities to reduce risk to life and property from natural hazards. In CA, natural hazards include wildfire, earthquake, drought, extreme weather, flooding, and other impacts of climate change. HMGP funding can also support the development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) and project scoping activities. The deadline for NOI submission is December 13th and [more information can be found here](#).

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

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\$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>
- 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

DWR Released California's Groundwater Update 2020 (formerly Bulletin 118) and California's Groundwater Live Online

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) today released the final [California's Groundwater – Update 2020 \(Bulletin-118\)](#), containing information on the condition of the State's groundwater, which is especially important with most of California facing ongoing drought conditions. DWR has also developed a companion web-based application called [California's Groundwater Live](#) (CalGW Live), leveraging the [California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Platform](#) (Open Data) to improve the access and timeliness of statewide groundwater information. The easy-to-use interface will make many of the data sets used in CalGW Update 2020 available in an interactive map format that will be updated regularly for viewing and downloading.

For more information, visit the updated [California's Groundwater website](#) Contact: CalGW@water.ca.gov

Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program, Department of Conservation

Two workshops to hear what stakeholders would like to see in our upcoming Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program. Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires coordinated management of landscapes to minimize economic, social, and environmental impacts from the transition of agricultural lands to less water-intensive land uses while providing benefits to local and regional communities. The Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program seeks to increase regional capacity to repurpose agricultural land to reduce reliance on groundwater while providing community health, economic wellbeing, water supply, habitat, renewable energy, and climate benefits. Registration for workshop on [December 2nd from 5 – 7pm](#) is here or comments can be sent to shanna.atherton@conservation.ca.gov.

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

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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](#).

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](#).

- [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](#). **Sonoma Valley Basins were surveyed in November, 2021 and North San Joaquin and Southern Sacramento basins planned for surveying in April 2022.**
- [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. Water year 2019 is planned to be released in 2022.
- [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](#). Future data will be released on a quarterly basis.

DWR Releases First and Second batches of GSP Assessments

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. **On November 18th, 2021 the next round of assessments were released** including the approval of GSPs for the North and South Yuba Subbasins in Yuba County and the Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Basin in Ventura County. In addition, DWR also notified groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin, Merced Subbasin, Chowchilla Subbasin, and Westside 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:

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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](#)

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