

September 2022 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: IRWM Grant Funding Final Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package Announced

We are pleased to announce the release of the FINAL 2022 IRWM Grant [Program Guidelines](#) and [Proposal Solicitation Package](#) for the [Proposition 1 - Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant](#). **This solicitation will make approximately \$193 million in grant funding available for IRWM implementation projects.** For more information on the Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Program, visit Implementation Grant Program or e-mail us at: dwr_irwm@water.ca.gov. Application deadlines are August 19, 2022 and February 1, 2023.

NEW: Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program

DWR has released the DRAFT 2022 Guidelines/Proposal Solicitation Package (GL/PSP) for the [Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program](#) for public review. This solicitation will make **approximately \$285 million in grant funding available for drought response projects with the**. 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. **The final solicitation is expected to be released September and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.**

CA Wildlife Conservation Board: Pre-Application form now available

WCB uses a single continuous grant application process for all proposed projects. The process begins with a Pre-Application (Word). Applicants do not need to determine which WCB Grant Program or Funding Source to apply to; rather, WCB staff will determine that during application review. [General grant guidelines](#) and [more information about WCB grants](#) can be found here.

White House Press release

The White House on January 31st released a guide for state, local, tribal and territorial governments to funding under the new bipartisan infrastructure law. The [press release and guide](#) can be found here.

April 2022, the White House released a Rural Playbook to help state, local, Tribal and territorial governments in rural areas unlock the benefits from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (aka the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act). <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/BIL-Rural-Playbook-.pdf>

ICARP Grant Programs

Three new grant programs were authorized under the 2021 State Climate Budget to fund local, regional, and tribal **climate adaptation and resilience efforts** across the state. [More information including registration for listening session webinars can be found here.](#)

- The ICARP Adaptation Planning Grant Program will invest \$25 million over multiple funding rounds for local, regional, and tribal governments to support climate adaptation and resilience planning activities.
- The ICARP Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program will invest \$250 million over multiple funding rounds to scale regional climate resilience solutions.
- The ICARP Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Grant Program will support local and regional heat adaptation by investing \$100 million in extreme heat and urban heat island mitigation activities.

Other state & federal grant websites for resources that may be helpful are:

- California Financing Coordinating Committee -- <https://cfcc.ca.gov/>, and

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- 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

NEW: California's Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future

August 11, 2022 Governor Newsom announced a new strategic document to manage water in the face of a projected 10% reduction in supplies over the next 20 years. The strategy calls for investing in new sources of water supply, accelerating projects and modernizing how the state manages water through new technology to increase water supply and adapt to more extreme weather patterns caused by climate change. The [full strategy document](#) can be found here and a [press release here](#).

NEW: New Web-Based Mapping Tool Showing Nearly 3,000 Groundwater Sustainability Projects

The Department of Resources (DWR) is pleased to announce the development of a new web-based interactive mapping tool that will allow the public to explore thousands of groundwater projects initiated in California over the last decade. There are various filters to quickly identify projects in a basin, subbasin, legislative district, county, and many others. The tool focuses on project benefits and effectiveness in relationship to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Sustainability Indicators. **The Press Release with more information on the tool and other resources provided by DWR can be [found here](#). The [web tool can be viewed here](#).**

County Drought Plan Requirements for State Small Water Systems and Domestic Wells

DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board will host a series of webinars on their development of a guidebook for preparing county drought plans. The plans will focus on helping small water systems and rural communities. The [first two of the four webinars were held in June and August](#) and the [recording can be viewed here](#). The webinar included a review of the requirements in [Senate Bill 552](#) that cover drought planning. **Webinars on [Water shortage Contingency Plan Template Development for small water systems](#) and for [schools with water systems](#) will be held Friday September 30th from 1:00-2:30 and 2:45-4:00 pm respectively, registration required.**

FREE Leak Detection for Small Water Systems

Protecting California's water supply is more important than ever as we brace for another year of drought conditions. The California Rural Water Association (CRWA), in partnership with the Department of Water Resources, is offering FREE leak detection surveys for small water systems. **If you are a small (including Tribal) water system with 3,000 connections or less, sign up for a free leak detection survey today! Please contact Ruby Viramontes at: rviramontes@calruralwater.org to get started.**

Executive Order N-7-22

On March 28, 2022 Governor Newsom signed [Executive Order N-7-22](#), which **included new well permitting requirements (Action 9) as well as CEQA exemptions and permit streamlining for FloodMAR projects (Action 13)**. The materials including a fact sheets, recording and presentation materials from the April 13th and a self-certification form for the CEQA waiver are now posted on DWR's Drought Webpage, under the 'Drought Well Permitting Requirements' and the 'CEQA Suspension on Groundwater Recharge Projects' accordion dropdowns: <https://water.ca.gov/water-basics/drought>.

NEW: Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act Teleconferencing Authorization Extended Until July 1, 2023

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 189, Item \(20\)](#), which was approved by Governor Newsom on June 30, 2022, authorizes state entities to hold public meetings, subject to specified notice and accessibility requirements, through teleconferencing and making public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to the public, as specified. The bill would suspend certain requirements of existing law, including the requirements that each

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teleconference location be accessible to the public and that members of the public be able to address the state body at each teleconference location. The bill also sunsets these provisions as of July 1, 2023.

The connection between Flood-MAR and an executive order

The [connection between flood-managed aquifer recharge](#) (Flood-MAR) and Governor Newsom's [Executive Order N-7-22](#) will be discussed at the [next Lunch-MAR meeting on Wednesday, July 6](#). The executive order was issued in March and includes State agency actions for responding to the drought. The meeting will cover the potential implications for Flood-MAR projects. [To view the recording](#) email Francisco.Guzman@water.ca.gov

DWR's Climate Change Program Resources

DWR's Climate change program has lots of initiatives including resources for water managers. Check out their [webpage](#) and [factsheet](#) here.

Webpage for CA Water Plan Update 2023 Published by DWR

DWR has unveiled the new webpage for [California Water Plan Update 2023](#). The California Water Plan is updated every five years. It is the State's strategic plan for managing and developing California's water resources. Update 2023 will emphasize climate change adaptation, regional and watershed resilience, and water equity. Video recordings of the meetings [are available here](#).

DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board have released [principles and strategies for groundwater management and drinking water wells](#). The document provides a framework for the development of drought-resistant communities. Approximately 82 percent of Californians rely on groundwater for some portion of their drinking water or other household uses. A [Spanish version](#) of the draft is available.

California's Groundwater Live: Up-to-date data on groundwater conditions, well installations and subsidence

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the final [California's Groundwater – Update 2020 \(Bulletin-118\)](#), containing information on the condition of the State's groundwater, 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.

OpenET makes tracking water use data easier with satellite data

A space-based tool is ready to help track water in the western U.S. Using data from satellites, [Open Evapotranspiration](#) (OpenET) gives farmers and other water users information on how much of their water loss ends up as evapotranspiration. The OpenET data are available for 17 western states, including the Colorado River basin area.

Delta Conveyance

[DRAFT EIR Now Available for public review and comment through October 27, 2022.](#) Members of the public and other interested parties can submit comments on the Draft EIR in the following ways: Email: deltaconveyancecomments@water.ca.gov, Online: www.deltaconveyanceproject.com, U.S. Mail: CA Department of Water Resources, Attn: Delta Conveyance Office, P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236-0001 or during Virtual Public Hearing: Provide verbal public comment at a virtual public hearing. Public hearings will be held on the following dates. [More information can be found here](#).

- Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, September 22, 2022, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
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The key aspects of the [Delta Conveyance Project](#) are illustrated in a [new story map](#) published by DWR. In addition to covering the elements of the conveyance project, the story map provides a tour of the State Water Project and its vital role in delivering to 27 million Californians, 750,000 acres of farmland, and businesses throughout California. There are also links to resources that provide expanded information on various topics. 3 new videos are available as well.

- Episode 1: [What is Delta Conveyance?](#)
- Episode 2: [Why is California's Major Water Supply at Risk?](#)
- Episode 3: [How Will the Delta Conveyance Project Protect our Water Supplies?](#)

SGMA & Drought

NEW: Save the Date: Fall 2022 GSA Forum

DWR is hosting a virtual Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Forum for GSA members and representatives on November 9, 2022, from 9:00 AM to noon. The Forum will be a platform for GSAs to come together to engage, exchange ideas, and establish professional networks. The Fall 2022 GSA Forum will include a panel discussion with up to five representatives from different GSAs, focused on how the GSAs have approached funding SGMA implementation. A diverse group of GSAs will be represented to showcase various geographic locations, governance structures, and funding approaches. Each panelist will provide a brief presentation, followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

Update Your GSA and GSP Manager Point of Contact Information in DWR's SGMA Portal

If your GSA and/or GSP Plan Manager Point of Contact (POC) is not current, or you are not sure, please visit the SGMA Portal to ensure that your contact information is up-to-date. When logged in, the Portal allows edits to be made to previously submitted contact information. If you have SGMA Portal questions, please email them to: GSPSubmittal@water.ca.gov.

Public Comment Period Opens for Re-Submitted Groundwater Sustainability Plans with 'Incomplete' Determinations

The revised GSPs in response to the Incomplete determination have been re-submitted to the Department and are [now posted on the DWR SGMA Portal](#). **These plans are open to public comment for 60 days after the posted date.** Plans for the Cuyama, Paso Robles Area, Delta Mendota, and Westside basins have a comment end date of 9/19/22. Eastern San Joaquin, Merced, Chowchilla, Kings, Kaweah, Tulare Lake, Tule and Kern County subbasins have a comment deadline of 9/30/22.

Dry Well Susceptibility Map

The DWR, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, has developed an interactive mapping tool, called the Dry Well Susceptibility Tool. This tool identifies areas within groundwater basins that may be prone to water supply shortages in drinking water wells. State and local agencies and well owners can use this tool to anticipate where wells may go dry based on historical conditions to inform drought preparedness decision-making. To use this tool, navigate to [California's Groundwater Live website](#) and click the [Dry Domestic Well Susceptibility tab](#). A fact sheet on this tool, as well as DWR's Dry Well Reporting System, [is available here](#).

Dry Well Reporting Site

There is a website available to [report private wells going dry](#). 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. Local agencies can now sign up to receive notifications of any dry wells reported in their area. To sign up please email sgmps@water.ca.gov.

DWR is developing eight Proposition 68-funded technical projects

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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](#). **NEW:** Draft Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) resistivity data for the Southern San Joaquin Valley have been published on the [California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Portal](#). The dataset can also be viewed online on the [AEM Data Viewer](#). DWR's AEM surveys will continue this Fall in the Monterey Bay Area. Visit the AEM Survey Schedule webpage for more information on the tentative data publication dates.
- **2019 Statewide Crop Mapping data was released in July of 2022** and includes multi-cropping information. The 2019 dataset includes agricultural land use and urban boundaries for all 58 counties in California.
- **InSAR subsidence data is now available through July 1 of 2022** and can now 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.

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](#)

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](#). [Written translation services available in 8 languages for outreach materials \(5,000 word maximum\)](#).