

May 2025 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.

Spring 2025 California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) Virtual Funding Fairs

The California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) invites you to attend the free Spring 2025 funding fairs on Zoom. The virtual fairs are scheduled for May 21 and 29. Funding fairs provide an opportunity for attendees to speak directly with program staff about specific projects and issues affecting their communities or Tribes. Online presentations followed by virtual booths will run from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. To register and for more information, visit: CFCC website (<https://www.cfcc.ca.gov/>)

DWR's Underrepresented Communities and Small Farmer Technical Assistance Program

The mission of the Program is to determine the needs, risks, and vulnerabilities with the implementation of the SGMA for underrepresented communities and small farms in medium and high priority basins, including critically overdrafted (COD) basins. The types of services provided include, but are not limited to: Groundwater level monitoring; Aquifer testing to determine long-term yield and supply; Identifying Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs); Analyze well interference; Identifying additional water supply; Analyze existing well condition using downhole video log; Rehabilitation of water storage tank; Long-term water supply and demand analysis; Analyze and help to facilitate water transfers. [More information is available on the webpage](#). **Local entities can request services by emailing SGM_TA@water.ca.gov.**

Upcoming conferences, webinars, new reports and data

California Water Plan water balances webinar, Thursday, May 8

Join DWR's [California Water Plan Team](#) for a [workshop webinar](#) that will share and discuss [water balance data](#) — data foundational to building the state's water resilience. Creating and enhancing water resilience requires an understanding of how and where water is used in the state, as well as the source of the supplies. This continues the annual release of water year information, in direct response to requests from many water managers. The webinar will take place on Thursday, May 8, 1:30–3:45 p.m. More information is available on DWR's [California Water Plan Water Use and Supply Balances Webinar](#) webpage. [Registration](#) is required.

May 15, 2025 – State Water Board Hosting Virtual Public Workshop for Stakeholders Who Plan to Pursue Surface Water Diversions

Staff of the State Water Board, Division of Water Rights, invite the public to attend a staff workshop on May 15, 2025, at 10:00 am. The Recharge Permitting team will conduct a virtual public workshop with the purpose of engaging stakeholders who plan to pursue diversions of surface water for recharge this upcoming winter. Follow [this link to join virtually via Microsoft Teams](#), May 15th 10 – 11 am.

DWR permit portal for Delta Conveyance Project

DWR has a [permit portal](#) to help with plans and projects for the [Delta Conveyance Project](#). The portal includes access to information and resources related to some of the more critical environmental [compliance and permitting processes](#). The new website has all relevant California Environmental Quality Act information, along with the [final environmental impact report](#). [Fact sheets](#) are available in English, Spanish and Chinese and cover topics such as soil testing, seismic resilience and project features. Several companion [videos](#) are also now available. **A Final EIR for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project was issued and approved in December of 2023.** Now that the environmental review is complete and the project has been approved, DWR will take the next steps to pursue numerous state and federal permits or authorizations, including those required by the State Water

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Resources Control Board, the Delta Stewardship Council, and compliance with state and federal Endangered Species acts. DWR will also continue to develop a Community Benefits Program. The Delta Construction Authority will provide a new cost estimate and a benefit-cost analysis in mid-2024.

- **SWRCB public hearings on the Delta Conveyance project evidentiary portion of the Public Hearing will continue on May 1** (starting at 1:00 p.m.), **2, 5, 14, 15, 21-23, 27 & 28 and June 10 & 11, 2025**, and additional dates as necessary.
 - Policy statements will be **heard in person and by Zoom Webinar on May 19, 2025, starting at 9:00 a.m.**, at Joe Serna Jr. CalEPA Building, Byron Sher Hearing Room, 1001 I Street, Second Floor, Sacramento, California.
 - The portion of the hearing for presentation of Protestants' cases-in-chief will begin on **August 12 and will continue on August 13, 14, 18 & 25, and September 2, 5, 9, 10, 11, 15, 29 & 30, and October 1, 6, 9 & 10, 2025**
 - This meeting notice is available on the State Water Resources Control Board's webpage at: https://waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/.
- These hearing will address the water rights change petition to add two new points of diversion and will be accepting public comment. The State Water Board will use the evidence presented during the hearing to determine whether to approve these petitions, and if so, what specific terms and conditions (if any) should be included in the amended State Water Project permits. [More info here](#).
- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has transmitted to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) an [Operations Plan for the Delta Conveyance Project](#) (Project) describing Project operations

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.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released the [Fall 2024 Semi-Annual Groundwater Conditions Update](#), which provides a look back at groundwater conditions following California's historic 2023 Water Year and an average 2024 Water Year. It also summarizes groundwater conditions over the first 10 years of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation (2014-2024).

DWR Releases Second and Third Paper on Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water

To help GSAs address the depletion of interconnected surface water (ISW) in their Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), the DWR released the second and third in a series of three draft papers that discuss the technical aspects of ISW and quantification of depletions of ISW caused by groundwater pumping. The first paper (Paper 1), [Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water: An Introduction](#), introduced concepts associated with ISW, including approaches for identifying ISW and defining depletion of ISW from groundwater pumping. The second paper (Paper 2), [Techniques for Estimating Interconnected Surface Water Depletion Caused by Groundwater Use](#), continues the foundational concepts presented in Paper 1 by discussing the data requirements, methods, and general implementation process to consider for ISW depletion analyses. The final paper (Paper 3), [Examples for Estimating Interconnected Surface Water Depletion Caused by Groundwater Use](#), continues and expands upon the topics presented in Paper 2 by providing detailed examples of using numerical models to evaluate depletion of ISW. A pre-recorded webinar that summarizes the contents of the three papers and describes the next steps in the development of the guidance document [can be viewed here](#).

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SGMA Updates and Tools

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.

New: Public Viewing Access for the Projects and Management Actions Module on the SGMA Portal

DWR has updated the [SGMA Portal](#) to include public viewing access for the [Projects and Management Actions \(PMA\) Module](#). The public view of the PMA Module is a centralized place to view data about PMAs that are being implemented by GSAs as part of their GSPs.

DWR has developed additional resource documents which go over FAQs and provide step-by-step instructions about using the PMA Module and its key features:

- [PMA Module \(Public View\) - FAQ](#)
- [PMA Module \(Public View\) - Instructions Manual](#)
- [PMA Module Tutorial Video](#)

For questions or assistance, please contact SGMPS@water.ca.gov.

Basin Characterization Exchange

DWR's Basin Characterization Program has launched the [Basin Characterization Exchange \(BCX\)](#). The BCX is a public meeting and network space for the Basin Characterization community to exchange ideas, share lessons learned, define needed guidance, and highlight research topics. BCX meetings will also include regular updates from the Basin Characterization Program and provide participants with early opportunities to test tools and submit comments on guidance documents. The BCX is open to federal, state, and local agencies, consultants, community-based and non-governmental organizations, academia, and interested parties who participate in Basin Characterization efforts. [The recordings from the first 2 meetings can be seen here](#). **The next meeting will be held May 20th, 2025 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm and will focus on Data Analysis Tools. Visit the [webinar event page](#) to register for the meeting**, review the presentation abstract, and learn more about the speakers.

The Basin Characterization Exchange (BCX) welcomes peer input on the BCX draft [Aquifer Recharge Potential \(ARP\) Mapping Process document](#), which describes the datasets, methodologies, and considerations used in creating ARP maps. **Comments and feedback are preferred by Friday, May 30**, and can be submitted via email to Basin.Characterization@water.ca.gov.

Coming Soon: The CASGEM Online System is Moving to the SGMA Portal

The Department is pleased to announce that it will soon begin integrating the [California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring \(CASGEM\) Program's Online System](#) with the [SGMA Portal's](#) Monitoring Network Module (MNM). This integration will streamline groundwater elevation data management and reporting processes by consolidating data submission into one location – the SGMA Portal's MNM. Our goal is to provide a more unified and efficient user experience for local agencies, stakeholders, and the public. **No action is required at this time. Please stay tuned for further updates.** If you have questions, please reach out to your DWR region office CASGEM contact ([here](#)) or to the CASGEM Program in Headquarters at CASGEM@water.ca.gov.

[2023 Provisional Statewide Crop Mapping data](#) was released in December of 2024 and the final 2022 data set was released March of 2025. The data sets include multi-cropping information. The [provisional](#) datasets includes agricultural land use and urban boundaries for all 58 counties in California. The data can now be accessed at the following locations: [CA DWR Land Use Viewer](#) (viewing and downloading); [CNRA Webpage](#) (viewing and downloading); on the [SGMA Data Viewer](#) (viewing) and the [California State Geoportal](#) (viewing and downloading).

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InSAR subsidence data is now available through January 1 of 2025 and can now be viewed on the [SGMA data viewer](#). The updated GIS services and data reports are also available [online](#).

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 \(5,000 word maximum\)](#).
- DWR has **Verbal Interpretation service available to GSA's**. Real-time interpretive services are available to GSAs for virtual, hybrid, or in-person meetings in support of GSP implementation with the goal of engaging underrepresented communities within basins and encouraging equal access for non-fluent English speakers during the implementation of GSP's. If you are interested in learning more or receiving support from an interpretation team email sgmps@water.ca.gov.

Reminders: Drought related tools & guidance

'Be Well Prepared' Initiative and Website

May 17, 2023, DWR released the [Be Well Prepared initiative](#). DWR is providing tools and resources to help communities that are dependent on groundwater and experiencing climate-driven weather extremes, to prepare for potential impacts to household water supplies. The Be Well Prepared initiative focuses on domestic well owners and residents that use and maintain their well. [The website includes resources and information](#) that every well owner should know and understand about: groundwater conditions, well maintenance, water quality, assistance, and additional articles, videos and resources. A [new flyer](#) from DWR provides the four initial steps for well owners to take if they think their well has gone dry. This flyer is also available in [Spanish](#) and [Hmong](#).

SB552: DWR's Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool

As part of its technical assistance to support SB 552 implementation, DWR developed the [Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool](#) to provide the foundational data and information statewide to counties for their water shortage risk assessment.

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.