

Governor's Drinking Water Stakeholder Group



CO-CHAIRS

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Overview



- Stakeholder process focused on drinking water and nitrate contamination in the Tulare Lake Basin and the Salinas Valley.
- Governor's Office convened group to solicit specific, creative, viable solutions focused in two areas.
- First focal area was on covering the costs of operations and maintenance for small systems while maintaining affordable water rates.
- Second focal area was on state agency actions to make funding programs, regulations, and implementation more flexible and proactive in supporting creative solutions.
- Timeline was aggressive.

Purpose



- Develop a shared understanding of the O&M challenges and the challenges encountered by creative solutions accessing state agency programs.
- Identify promising solutions (which may focus on the Tulare and Salinas regions).
- Develop a plan with a high likelihood of closing these two gaps.
- Make a recommendation to the Governor's Office.

Representative Members



- Agriculture
- Environmental Justice
- Water Agencies
- Administration
- Academia
- Local Government

Group Structure



- Topical Working Groups
- Agency Support
- Regular Meetings

Reports



- 1) Agreements and Legislative Recommendations
- 2) New and Expanded Funding Sources
- 3) Data Collection and Management for Local and State Small Water Systems

Report 1

Agreements and Recommendations



- 1) It is important to comprehensively and uniformly identify drinking water needs of disadvantaged communities and small systems between 2-14 connections in unincorporated areas to improve data collection and management.
- 2) There is a need to incentivize and promote sustainable safe drinking water solutions within unincorporated disadvantaged communities.
- 3) It is essential to ensure that all disadvantaged communities in unincorporated areas have access to immediate, interim sources of safe drinking water.

Report 1

Agreements & Recommendations



- 4) Increase access to existing funding sources for disadvantaged communities in unincorporated areas for both long-term and interim safe drinking water solutions.
- 5) Reduce costs for disadvantaged communities in unincorporated areas to secure and sustain affordable drinking water solutions.
- 6) There is a need for continued engagement between a diverse stakeholder group and appropriate State agencies (CDPH, SWRCB, DWR, CalEPA) to develop programs to support sustainable solutions to the drinking water challenges in disadvantaged communities in unincorporated areas of California.

Report 2

New and Expanded Funding Sources



- **Transitional Funding Program**
 - supporting the transition of existing DACs (including those that have a public water system as well as those that currently lack a regulated water system) into self-sustaining systems that can achieve compliance with the applicable regulatory requirements and ensure affordable rates.
- **Consolidating Disadvantaged Communities Representation**

Report 3

Data Collection & Management for Local & State Small Water Systems



Monitoring and Reporting

- CDPH should consider expanding current regulations to require nitrate sampling of local small and state small water systems/wells
- Customer notifications should additionally include additional contact information and provide translation where needed for State and local systems

Report 3

Data Collection & Management for Local & State Small Water Systems



Data Management

- All county-level water quality data associated with water systems/wells would need to be reported to CDPH Water Quality Management database.
- Require that future WCRs be reported/uploaded electronically into searchable online database system, maintained by DWR with access to that data consistent with existing statute.

Accomplishments



- 1) Three final consensus reports.
- 2) Creation of Interim Solutions Emergency Funding program thanks to Prop 84 and Clean Up and Abatement Funds (more funds going to this in drought bill from CAA Fund).
- 3) AB115 and AB21 create more flexibility in statute for SRF funding.
- 4) CDPH amendments to IUP of SRF created Pre-planning / New Entity Fund and new prioritization criteria to promote development of shared solutions and consolidation of small systems into larger systems. First round of applications have been submitted.
- 5) CVRWQCB development of proposed new SEP program prioritizing DACs.

Moving Forward



- 1) Focus areas for the State Board from these reports:
 - (a) Continue to examine how to use existing funding programs openly and flexibly to address DAC drinking water needs effectively.
 - SRF (particularly new IUP programs)
 - Emergency Interim funding
 - CAA
 - SEP policies for the Regional Boards
- 2) Transitional Funding Program
- 3) Data recommendations

Questions

