

# Office of Sustainable Water Solutions Newsletter

May/June 2015  
Issue 2

## Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/dwsrf>



## Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/cwsrf>



The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) are committed to promoting sustainable practices in the water and wastewater services. Information about the USEPA's sustainability policy and the three levels of focus represented in USEPA's graphic above is available at: <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/index.cfm>

**BREAKING NEWS:** The *Small Community Water and Wastewater Section* under the Division of Financial Assistance is now the **Office of Sustainable Water Solutions** (the "Office"), as a result of the Governor signing Assembly Bill 92 on March 27, 2015. The Office will be focused on addressing drinking water and wastewater financial and technical assistance needs, particularly for small drinking water and wastewater systems and disadvantaged communities. The Office is currently developing a plan for utilizing technical assistance monies available under Proposition 1.

**More information about Proposition 1 funding for wastewater and drinking water projects can be found at:** [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/proposition1.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1.shtml)

**The full Text of Assembly Bill 92 can be found at:** [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab\\_0051-0100/ab\\_92\\_bill\\_20150327\\_chaptered.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab_0051-0100/ab_92_bill_20150327_chaptered.pdf)

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As the drought intensifies **PLEASE** be water wise! Every DROP counts!!!  
Drought information can be found at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/index.shtml) and <http://saveourwater.com/>

## PROJECT NEWS



**Wastewater— Planada Community Services District (CSD)** recently broke ground on a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Improvement Project. The project, which is jointly funded between the State Water Board (\$8.5 million) and USDA Rural Development (\$4.5 million), changes the WWTP disposal method from nearby Miles Creek to agricultural irrigation. This project will allow the District to comply with discharge requirements, improve water quality, and offset water that can be used for potable uses during this challenging drought. For this small, disadvantaged community, breaking ground is a big step as many challenges had to be overcome during the long planning process. It took many parties coming together and perseverance on the part of the Planada CSD Board and the community to reach this important milestone. More information and a video of the ceremonies, can be found at the following link: <http://abc30.com/news/turning-planadas-waste-into-farmers-water/677536/>



**Drinking Water— Semitropic School consolidation with Lost Hills Utility District (LHUD)- final project inspection took place in October 2014.**

### **Background Information**

Semitropic School is located approximately nine miles west of the City of Wasco on State Route 46 (SR46). The School provides education to grades K-8 for a large agricultural region and serves approximately 300 students and staff, including the District offices and the Transportation and Maintenance facility.

## PROJECT NEWS Cont.

### Semitropic School Consolidation Project (cont.)

#### Water System Description

The Semitropic School water system has a single well that provides potable water to Semitropic School and also has an approximately 8,000 gallon water storage tank that is chlorinated.

#### Problem Addressed by the Project

The water supply well had an arsenic level of 15-30 parts per billion (ppb) which exceeds the arsenic Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10ppb. The well also exceeded the MCL for iron and antimony.

#### Project Description

The project was the consolidation of Semitropic School into LHUD's public water system, with LHUD becoming the school's water service provider upon completion of the project. The project consisted of approximately 5,000 feet of water supply pipeline connecting the School to an existing 12-inch waterline near LHUD wells and treatment plant. Additionally, an 8-inch pipeline extension of approximately 650 feet and three fire hydrants were built to provide adequate fire protection to the school buildings to meet the Kern County Fire Code. To minimize the impacts to the LHUD water system, the School well continues to be used for landscape and playfield irrigation. A backflow preventer was also included in the project.

#### Project Benefits

- Provision of potable water that meets the drinking water standards
- Cost savings as the School no longer needs to operate and maintain a potable water system
- Fire protection



## Providing Assistance for 181 Small Communities

Currently, 135 small community water systems (population of 10,000 or less) and 46 small communities (population of 20,000 or less) with wastewater issues are receiving technical assistance via the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund's technical assistance contracts. The most frequent types of assistance for both water and wastewater are rate studies; preparation of funding applications; and Technical, Managerial, Financial (TMF) capacity assessments for water systems and similar capacity assessments/assistance for wastewater, and wastewater treatment plant operator training.



## Technical Assistance Contacts

**Meghan Tosney** has worked in the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance since 2007. One of her first assignments as a staff engineer was working on drafting the [Small Community Wastewater Strategy](#). In 2011, she took on her current role managing the Small Community Wastewater unit.

**Meghan.Tosney@waterboards.ca.gov (916) 341-5729**



**George Faggella** has worked for various State Agencies over a period of 25 years, primarily involved with environmental quality. He is new to the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance as he came over with the transition of the Department of Public Health's drinking water programs into the State Water Board. George manages the technical assistance contracts, as he has done for the past five years.

**George.Faggella@waterboards.ca.gov (916) 449-5652**



## Funding Resources for Private Wells

The State Water Board can't fund wells for private homeowners; however, below are entities that have some funding for private wells.

### **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural**

**Development** - USDA Rural Development, has a variety of programs available to assist rural communities, homeowners, business and ag producers including drought assistance. Among these programs are emergency grant funds to assist communities with drought related water problems, and grants and low-interest loans to assist low-income homeowners repair or drill new domestic wells. Additional details on these programs and others can be found at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/CA-DroughtAssistance.pdf>

**Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)** - RCAC provides under its Household Water Well System Loan Program, low interest loans to low income rural residents to construct, refurbish or replace their household water well system. Applicants must own and occupy the home being improved or be purchasing the home. Information can be found at <http://www.rcac.org/pages/844>. The RCAC contact person is Cyndy Elliott at (209) 576-0430.

## Technical Assistance for Prop 1

**Proposition 1 allows the State Water Board to utilize up to \$72 million to fund technical assistance for disadvantaged communities. The Office of Sustainable Water Solutions will be managing this multidisciplinary technical assistance effort to help address the drinking water and wastewater needs of small disadvantaged communities.**

**Staff are developing a Technical Assistance Funding Plan with input from stakeholders. An initial stakeholder meeting was held on April 13, 2015, but more coordination will be ongoing. To get involved, contact Meghan Tosney at: Meghan.Tosney@waterboards.ca.gov.**



## APPLICATION Tips of the Month

### Confirming Submission of Application through Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST)

There are 3 ways for an applicant to confirm successful submission of their funding application:

1. The confirmation screen that appears immediately after the application is submitted;
2. The e-mail confirmation that is sent within 24 hours of submission; or
3. The applicant can log onto FAAST and click SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS/SURVEY on the MAIN MENU to verify the PIN appears as submitted.

⇒ **DWSRF and CWSRF Financial Assistance Applications** are submitted online using the FAAST system at <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov>

⇒ **Need FAAST system assistance?** Contact the FAAST Help Desk at 1-866-434-1083 or by email: [FAAST\\_ADMIN@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:FAAST_ADMIN@waterboards.ca.gov)



## Upcoming Events

- ◆ **2015 California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) statewide Funding Fairs (Free)** - The 2015 schedule and registration information is available on the CFCC website at <http://cfcc.ca.gov/>
- ◆ **May/June** — Drinking Water State Revolving Fund 2015/16 Draft Intended Use Plan available for public comment
- ◆ **Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)** has upcoming **free** training in May and June on financial management and rate setting for public water systems. The schedule and information is available at <http://www.rcac.org/assets/.online%20materials/2014/SRFCA-Brochure-Jan-June-15.pdf>

## Resource Corner

- ◆ Sign up at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml) to receive updates and periodic announcements by email, including this newsletter
- ◆ CWSRF and DWSRF assistance recipients are required to use iron and steel products that are produced in the United States. Information is available at [http://water.epa.gov/grants\\_funding/aisrequirement.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/aisrequirement.cfm)

## Questions or Comments?

### Email

[DrinkingWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DrinkingWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov)  
[CleanWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:CleanWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov)

### Phone

(916) 327-9978

### Mailing Address

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance  
Office of Sustainable Water Solutions  
1001 I Street, 16th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814



### ***Did You Know***

California Department of Public Health (**CDPH**) ***is no longer responsible for enforcing*** the **federal and state Safe Drinking Water Acts**. Those responsibilities were transferred July 1, 2014, to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) under the new **Division of Drinking Water (DDW)**. DDW responsibilities are to: (1) issue permits to drinking water systems, (2) inspect water systems, (3) monitor drinking water quality, and (4) set and enforce drinking water standards. DDW does not award infrastructure funding as that responsibility transferred July 1, 2014, to the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Financial Assistance (DFA). **Questions regarding water quality or regulation of water systems should be directed to DDW**. Information about DDW including contact information is available at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/programs/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/)

**Division of Financial Assistance (DFA)** administers the State Water Board's financial assistance programs that includes loan and grant funding for construction of municipal sewage and water recycling facilities, remediation for underground storage tank releases, public water system infrastructure (including the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund monies), etc. DFA interacts regularly with DDW to solicit their input regarding drinking water issues and projects; however, funding decisions are made by DFA. Information about DFA and its funding and technical assistance programs can be found at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/)

***Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be***

***-- John Wooden --***