

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
NOVEMBER 4, 2020**

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

INFORMATIONAL ITEM TO PRESENT THE SAFE AND AFFORDABLE FUNDING FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE (SAFER) AQUIFER RISK MAP REQUIRED BY SB-200 (STATUTES OF 2018).

DISCUSSION

The SAFER Drinking Water Program is providing a set of tools, funding sources, and regulatory authorities intended to help the approximately one million Californians who currently lack safe drinking water receive safe and affordable drinking water as soon as possible. State small water systems, which serve between five and fourteen connections, and domestic wells that serve between one and four connections are not regulated by the State of California, and there is no existing statewide database to monitor the quality of water served by those communities.

The intent of the aquifer risk map is to help prioritize areas where domestic wells and state small water systems are estimated to be accessing groundwater that is at risk of not meeting primary drinking water standards. The SAFER Fund Expenditure Plan identified the aquifer risk map as a tool to help prioritize areas for available SAFER funding. The draft final aquifer risk map uses a combination of available geographic data layers: water quality risk, domestic well density, and state small water system locations. The aquifer risk map will be used by the Division of Financial Assistance to help prioritize areas where domestic wells and state small water systems may be accessing groundwater that does not meet primary drinking water standards. Per SB-200, the aquifer risk map will be made available to the public on January 1, 2021 and updated annually starting thereafter.

Staff will update the Board and interested parties in this informational item of the recent developments in the development of the aquifer risk map. Topics include:

- Results of stakeholder engagement completed during 2019 and 2020.
- Prior work characterizing water quality risk of state small and domestic well systems.
- Summary of methods used to develop the map.
- A demonstration of the draft aquifer risk map.

POLICY ISSUE

None identified.

FISCAL IMPACT

None identified.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None identified.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

N/A