

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

ITEM 6

SUBJECT

PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO RECEIVE INPUT ON THE DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE EXPEDITED DRINKING WATER GRANT (EDWG) FUNDING PROGRAM (DRAFT GUIDELINES).

DISCUSSION

Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) staff are proposing to implement the Draft Guidelines to provide an expedited process by which public agency applicants with qualifying high priority drinking water projects can receive State grant funding. The EDWG funding program would be available to a subset of the projects that are currently funded consistent with Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) processes, and will utilize a variety of state funding sources for drinking water infrastructure projects, including but not limited to: Proposition 1, Proposition 68, the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, and the Budget Act of 2021.

EDWG application forms, reviews, procedures, and requirements will vary from the existing DWSRF funding program processes to support the reduction of processing times and information submittal requirements for projects eligible under the Draft Guidelines. By establishing this program, it is expected that critical drinking water infrastructure projects will be constructed on a shorter timeline, resulting in many small communities gaining access to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water much sooner than would occur without this program.

POLICY ISSUE

Discuss the proposed Draft Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

DISTRICT OFFICE IMPACT

Eligible projects are funded on a statewide basis. These projects require collaboration and engagement between DFA and the Division of Drinking Water District Offices.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None. The Board will receive public comments but will not take any action at the workshop. After considering and addressing public comments, staff plan to present the Draft Guidelines for consideration of adoption on March 7, 2023.