

Foothill Mutual Water Company

Public Meeting



SAFER Program – August 12, 2026

Meeting Agreements



Please hold off on questions or comments until we reach the public comment section.



You may fill out a comment card during the presentation or raise your hand after.



Everyone will have a chance to speak during the public comment period.

Purpose of Today's Meeting

To describe the engineering alternatives considered

To explain what the mandatory consolidation process will look like



Water Board's Mission Statement

Preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Foothill Mutual Water Company: Background and Challenges

Daniel Ocasio

Water Resources Control Engineer

Division of Drinking Water, SAFER Engagement Unit



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Foothill MWC System Overview




Drinking Water
Well



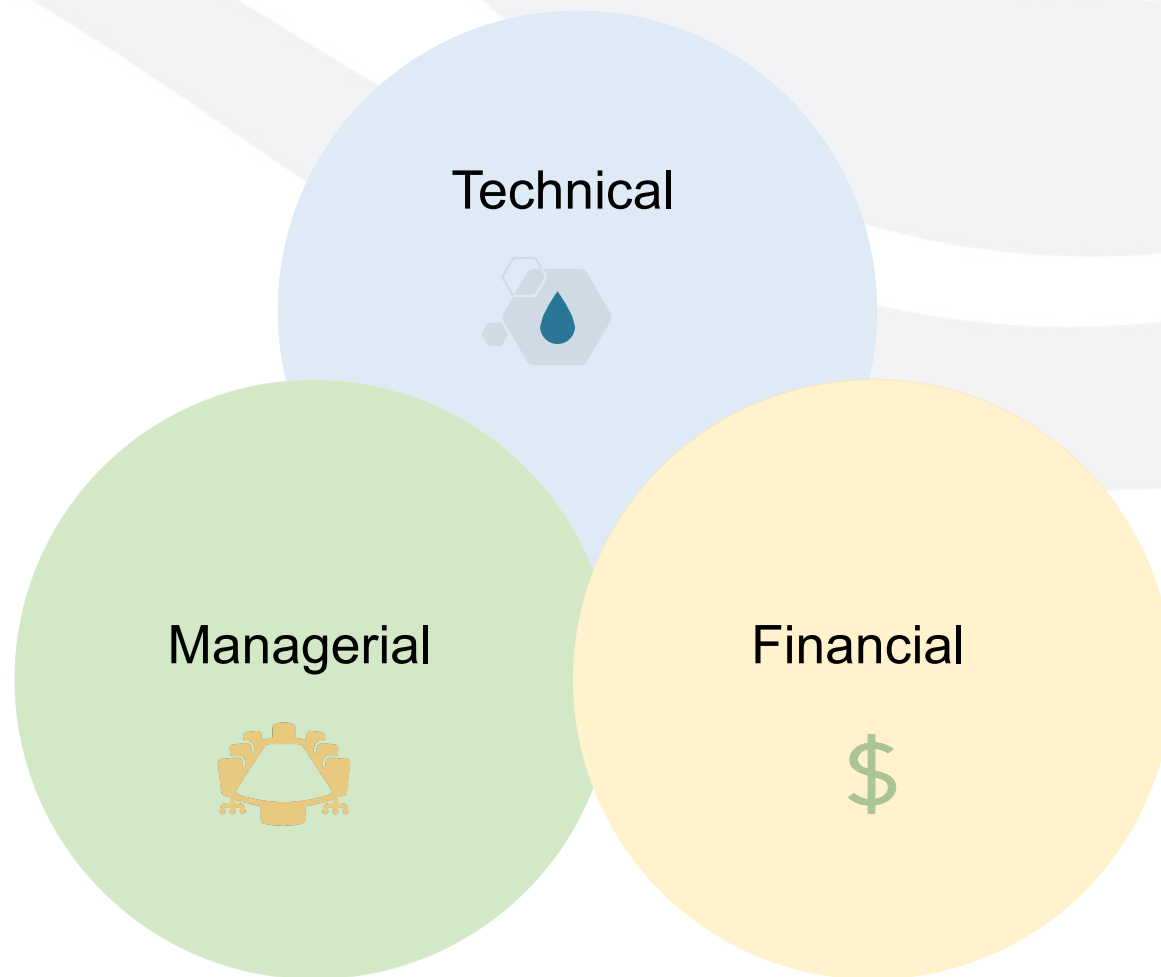

Chlorination




Residences

- One active well
- 8 service connections
- ~32 people served
- Unmetered service connections
- No fire protection

Water System Challenges



Technical Challenges

Water Quality

- Persistent exceedance of Nitrate Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
 - Multiple enforcement actions issued: 1999, 2002, 2004, 2015, 2019, 2023

Public Health Risks

- Acute: nitrate exposure through drinking water can cause:
 - Methemoglobinemia ("Blue Baby Syndrome")
- Nitrate exposure has also been studied for potential associations with:
 - Thyroid dysfunction
 - Developmental and reproductive complications
 - Cancers: colorectal, bladder, thyroid, and kidney



Technical Challenges

Other limitations and violations

- Aging infrastructure
- Storage capacity needed to meet maximum daily demand
- Unable to meet Senate Bill 552 requirements for:
 - Redundant water supply sources
 - Emergency power supply on water sources
 - All connections metered
- Various monitoring and notification violations



Managerial and Financial Challenges

Limited managerial capacity

- Small, volunteer board with informal governance structure

Ongoing compliance challenges

- Difficulty meeting State and Federal drinking water standards on a sustained basis

Financial limitations

- Rates insufficient to support compliant operations and needed improvements

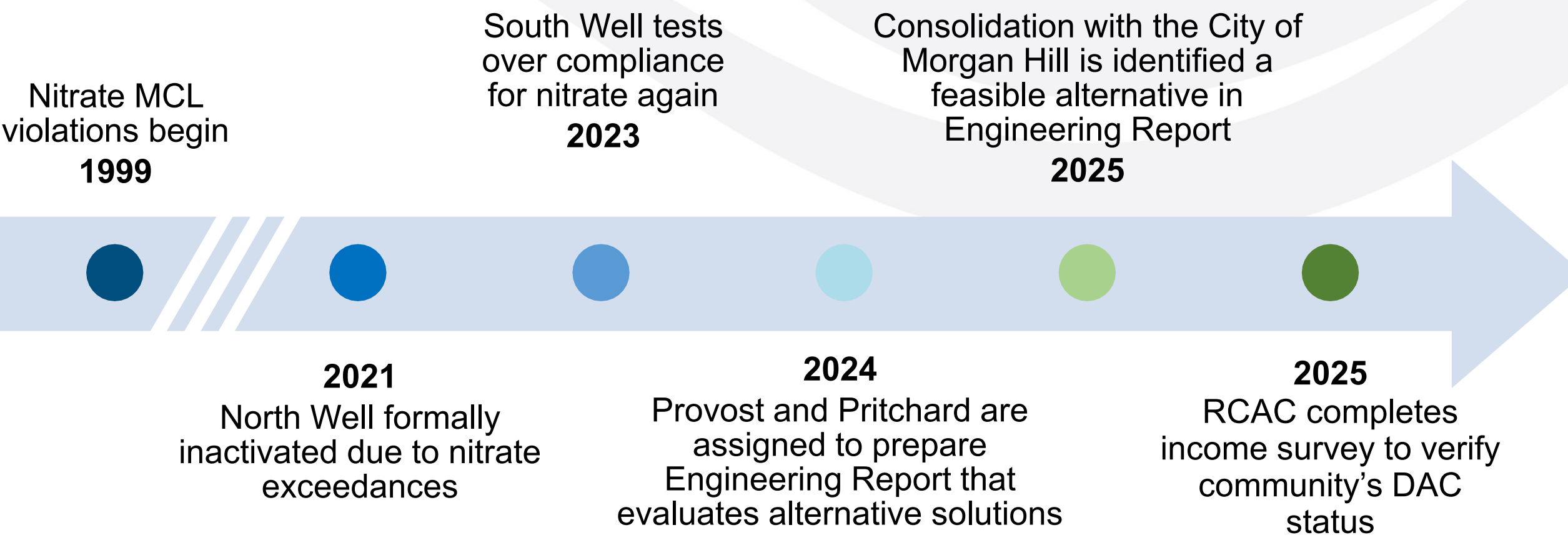
Lack of implementation capacity

- Unable to fund or carry out necessary water quality and infrastructure solutions

Long-term sustainability concerns

- Current infrastructure does not support reliable, compliant service

Timeline of Compliance Efforts and Engagement



Engineering Report: Alternatives Considered

Provost and Pritchard



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Engineering Report

The Engineering Report looked at several alternatives:

- Alternative 1A and 1B – New Well
- Alternative 2A and 2B – Connection with City of Morgan Hill
- Alternative 3 – Extension of Morgan Hill Grid
- Alternative 4 – Consolidation with Rancho Robles MWC
- Alternative 5 – Wellhead Treatment
- Alternative 6 – POU Unit Installation
- Alternative 7 – POE Unit Installation

Engineering Report – Selected Project



Combines elements of Alternatives 2 and Alternative 3.



Providing a single point of connection from the City to individual meters as contemplated in Alternative 2.



The proposed City pipeline to be located in the developed Hill Road and Tennent Avenue ROWs.



The Project cost is reduced from Alternative 3 by eliminating the second point of connection via Trail Drive, and reducing the diameter which in Alternative 3 was based on that of master planned pipelines.



Key components of the project are that FMWC would be served by individual meters and cease to operate as a water system.

Selected Project Components



Connection to Morgan Hill by 6-inch PVC C-900 (DR-18) water main.



Installation of 6-inch PVC C-900 (DR-18) Water main in Foothill Avenue.



Abandonment of existing 3-inch and smaller piping in place.



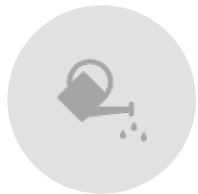
Installation of 1-inch Water Meter and Meter Boxes at Foothill Avenue ROW at each parcel.



Replace/Install customer side 1.5-inch water services from Foothill Ave meter to existing connection.



Impact Fees assessed by City.



Installation of Backflow Prevention Devices at residences retaining irrigation wells.

Why Consolidation?



Maintaining a very small water system is very costly and time consuming.

New well, wellhead treatment, POU/POE all had complications plus did not deal with the cost of maintaining the system being put on 8 homeowners.



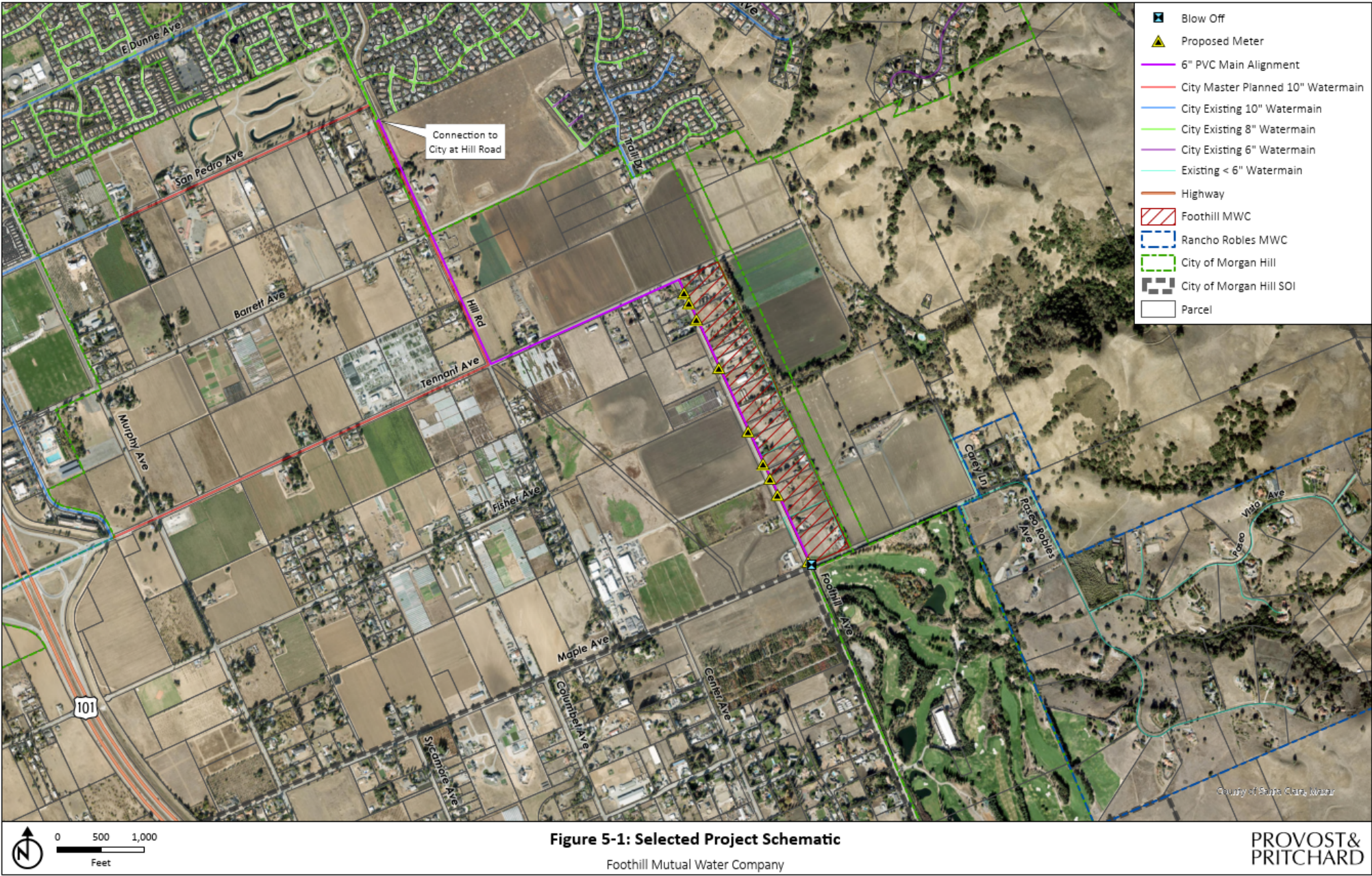
We also considered consolidation with another small water system in the area – Rancho Robles MWC

Lack of stable supply, similar issues with management of a small system



Consolidation with a larger public water system like Morgan Hill provides stability and lower costs to rate payers over all because the cost is shared by more homeowners.

Selected Project Schematic



Mandatory Consolidation Process

Daniel Ocasio

Water Resources Control Engineer

Division of Drinking Water, SAFER Engagement Unit



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Why the State is Now Taking this Action

- Ongoing nitrate non-compliance poses public health risk
- Prior compliance efforts have not resulted in sustained compliance
- The system lacks sufficient Technical, Managerial, and Financial capacity to resolve issues independently

Based on Foothill's compliance history and documented technical, managerial, and financial limitations, the State is initiating the mandatory consolidation process



Mandatory Consolidation Criteria

The state has the authority to order consolidation if the following criteria is met:

Subsuming water system is disadvantaged

- Foothill MWC median household income < 80% CA MHI

Documented history of water quality/quantity issue

- Persistent nitrate MCL exceedance

Functional water system nearby that can serve the subsuming system

- City of Morgan Hill

Statutory Findings

1. The potentially subsumed water system has consistently failed to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water.
2. Reasonable efforts to negotiate consolidation or extension of service were made.
3. Consolidation of the receiving water system and subsumed water system or extension of service is appropriate and technically and economically feasible.
4. There is no pending local agency formation commission process that is likely to resolve the problem in a reasonable amount of time.

Statutory Findings, cont.

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5. Concerns regarding water rights and water contracts of the subsumed and receiving water systems have been adequately addressed.

 6. Consolidation or extension of service is an effective and cost-effective means to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water.

 7. The capacity of the proposed interconnection needed to accomplish the consolidation is limited to serving the current customers of the subsumed water system.

Mandatory Consolidation Process



Ongoing Outreach

Domestic Well Owners

- Well owners within Foothill's service area will be invited to opt-in to the consolidation process
- Assembly Bill 664
 - Relevant to rental properties
 - Owners subject to AB 664 requirements must:
 - Test water annually
 - Share results with tenants and local health officials
 - Supply replacement water if it does not meet drinking water standard

Consolidation Funding

What costs can be covered?

- Technical Assistance
 - Outreach, project planning, grant management
- Planning and Construction
 - Engineering design, necessary system improvements, connection main
- Reimbursement of eligible project-related costs
- Legal Services

Public Comment Q&A



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Public Comment

- Speak your comment:
 - Please raise your hand.
- Written comments can be left in the back, or addressed by mail or email
(Deadline Wednesday, August 26, 2026):
 - Daniel Ocasio, State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water, 850 Marina Bay Pkwy, Richmond, CA 94804
 - Email: DDW-NorCalEngagement@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Phone number: (510) 620-3175

Thank you!

DDW-NorCalEngagement@waterboards.ca.gov



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