

Ways to Participate

Watch only: Visit video.calepa.ca.gov

Submit a comment:

Email safer@waterboards.ca.gov with subject “AGM Public Comment,” and follow instructions in return email to join the meeting.

Technical or language interpretation assistance:
safer@waterboards.ca.gov

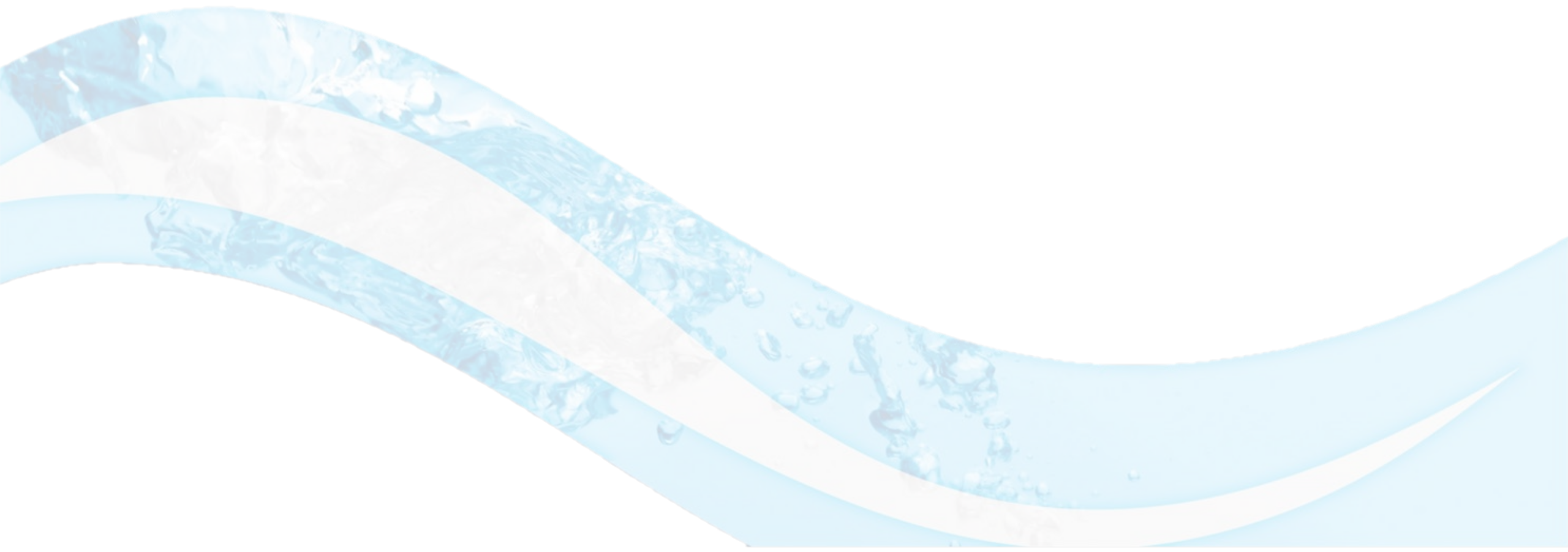


SAFER Advisory Group Meeting #2

May 2, 2024
Via Zoom



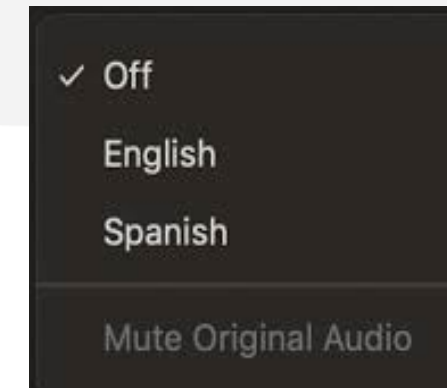
Meeting Logistics



Language Interpretation through Zoom

Click the Interpretation icon in your meeting controls

- Navigate to Language Channels
- You must select English or Spanish
- Mute Original Audio

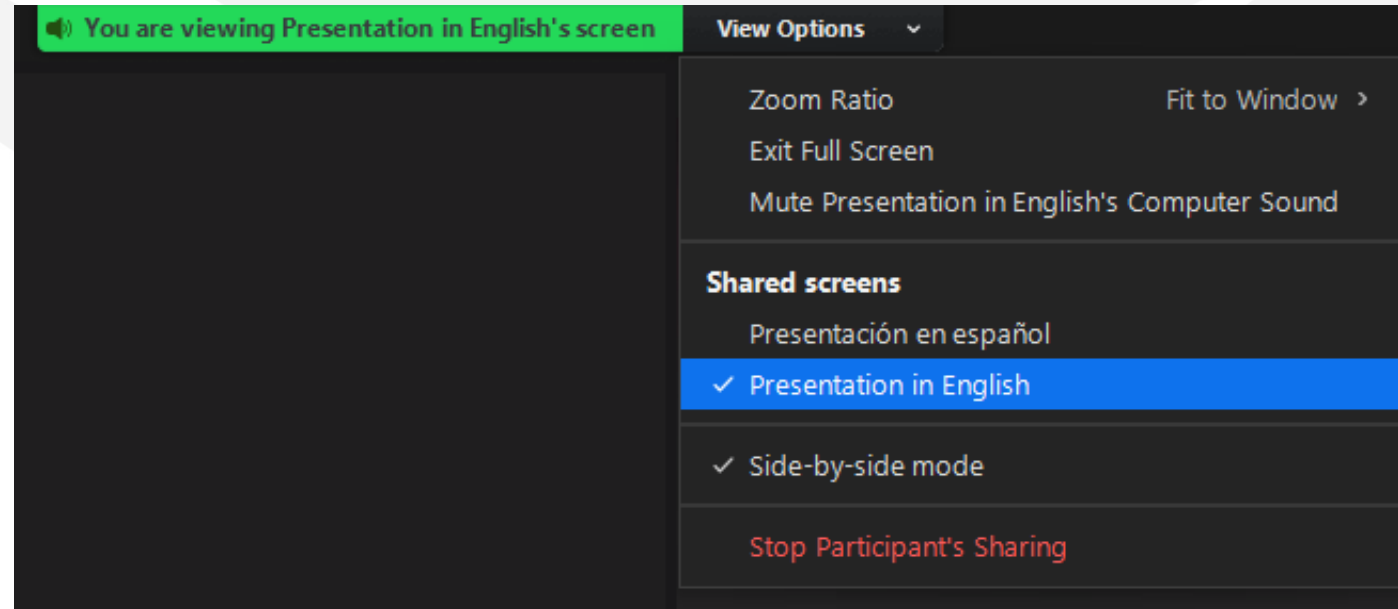


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View Options on Zoom

Click on View Options at the top of your screen and select:

- "Presentación en español"
- OR
- "Presentation in English"



For technical assistance, email: SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov

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Water Boards' Mission

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.

Meeting Agenda



2024 Needs Assessment Results



Draft Priorities for the Fund Expenditure Plan



SAFER Program Updates



SAFER Advisory Group Members Announcements



Public Comments

Meeting Guidelines

- Take breaks as needed
- Speak slowly
- Raise your hand for comments or questions
- Keep your comments concise and to the point
- For technical support:
safer@waterboards.ca.gov



Introductions and Warmer

- Your name
- Your affiliation
- Your location
- Warmer: What are your plans for the Memorial Day Weekend?



11

Theme #1 2024 Needs Assessment Results

Kristyn Abhold
Division of Drinking Water

Agenda

- 1 OVERVIEW OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT
- 2 FAILING LIST CRITERIA UPDATES
- 3 RISK ASSESSMENTS
- 4 COST ASSESSMENT & FUNDING GAP ANALYSIS
- 5 AFFORDABILITY ASSESSMENT



Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund

Up to \$130 million per year
through 2030.

The annual **Fund Expenditure Plan** prioritizes projects for funding, documents past and planned expenditures, and is “based on data and analysis drawn from the drinking water **Needs Assessment**” (Health and Safety Code §116769).



Needs Assessment and the SAFER Program



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Identifies Failing & At-Risk water systems.
Quantifies interim & long-term needs.



SAFER ADVISORY GROUP

Uses the Needs Assessment to advise State Water Board SAFER Priorities.



SAFER FUND EXPENDITURE PLAN

Needs Assessment & SAFER Advisory Group inform funding priorities for the Fund.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Staff & technical assistance providers engage with Failing & At-Risk communities.



ACHIEVE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

SAFER funding & technical assistance used to implement long-term solutions.

Needs Assessment Components



**Failing Water
System List**



**Risk
Assessment**



**Cost
Assessment**



**Affordability
Assessment**

2021 – 2023 Drinking Water Needs Assessment

The screenshot shows the California Water Boards website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with icons for Board, Programs, Drinking Water, Water Quality, Water Rights, Notices, Water Boards, and Search. Below this is a banner for "SAFER DRINKING WATER" with the subtitle "SAFE AND AFFORDABLE FUNDING FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE". The main content area is titled "California Drinking Water Needs Assessment" and features a section for "Needs Assessment Core Components" with four icons: Failing Water System List, Risk Assessment, Cost Assessment, and Affordability Assessment. Below this is a paragraph of text explaining the SAFER program and a link to the website. At the bottom, there is a "2023 Needs Assessment" button.

SAFER DRINKING WATER
SAFE AND AFFORDABLE FUNDING FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE

Home | Drinking Water | Certlic | Drinkingwater | Needs

California Drinking Water Needs Assessment

Needs Assessment Core Components:

- Failing Water System List
- Risk Assessment
- Cost Assessment
- Affordability Assessment

In 2019, to advance the goals of the Human Right to Water "HR2W", California passed Senate Bill 200, which enabled the State Water Board to establish the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program. Foremost among the tools created for SAFER is the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. The Fund provides up to \$130 million per year through 2030 to enable the State Water Board to develop and implement sustainable solutions for underperforming drinking water systems. The annual Fund Expenditure Plan prioritizes projects for funding, documents past and planned expenditures, and is "based on data and analysis drawn from the drinking water **Needs Assessment**."

For more information on SAFER, visit the [Safe and Affordable Fund for Equity and Resilience \(SAFER\) website](#).

2023 Needs Assessment

Subscribe directly to the SAFER Drinking Water Email List

News & Upcoming Events

- Public Webinar on Proposed Updates to the Cost Assessment Model – Physical Consolidation Analysis**
Date: Friday July 14, 2023
Time: 9:00 am to 11:00 am PDT
[Register Here](#)
Public Notice: English | Spanish

Dashboards

SAFER Dashboard

Risk Assessment for State Small Water Systems and Domestic Wells Dashboard

Domestic Wells: 81.6k in at-risk areas

Access reports online:

- 2021: bit.ly/SAFER-NA-Report-21
- 2022: bit.ly/SAFER-NA-Report-22
- 2023: bit.ly/SAFER-NA-Report-23

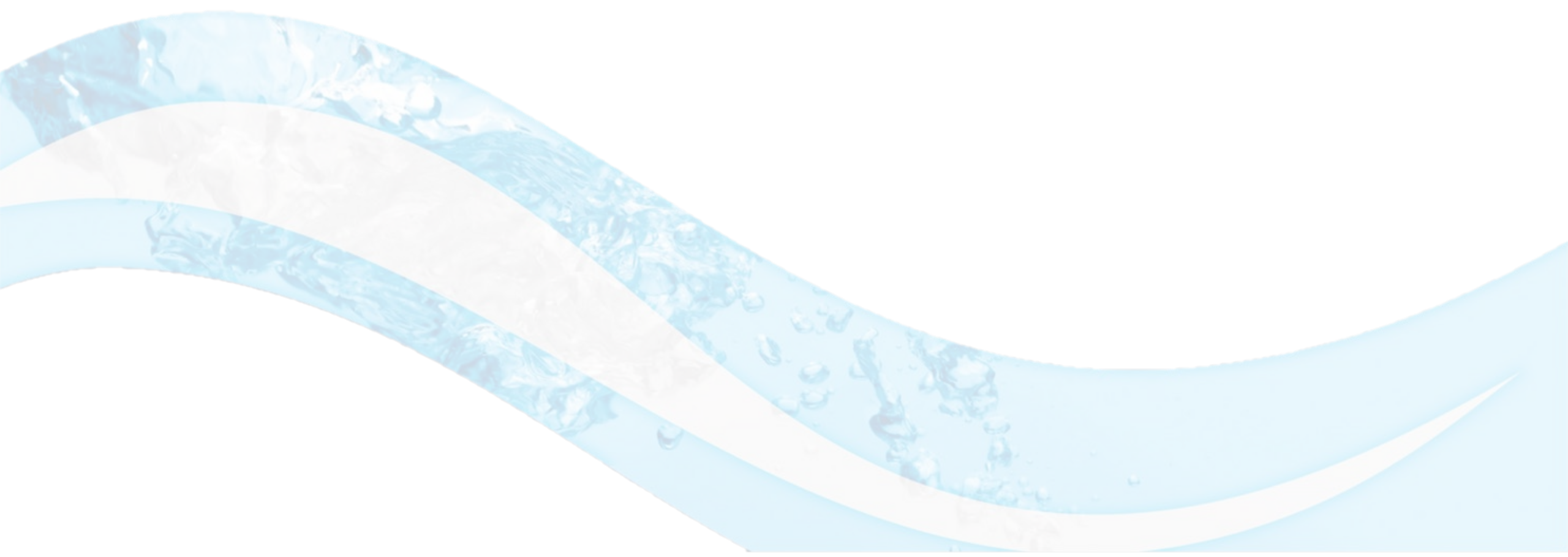
Needs Assessment webpage:

<https://bit.ly/SAFER-NA>

Needs Assessment Interested Parties Engagement

NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Failing List		1	1	1	2
Risk Assessment: Public Water Systems	1	3	1	2	3
Risk Assessment: State Small Water Systems & Domestic Wells	1	4	2	2	3
Cost Assessment	3	2	2	3	5
Affordability Assessment		2	1	5	3

Failing List



Failing List Purpose



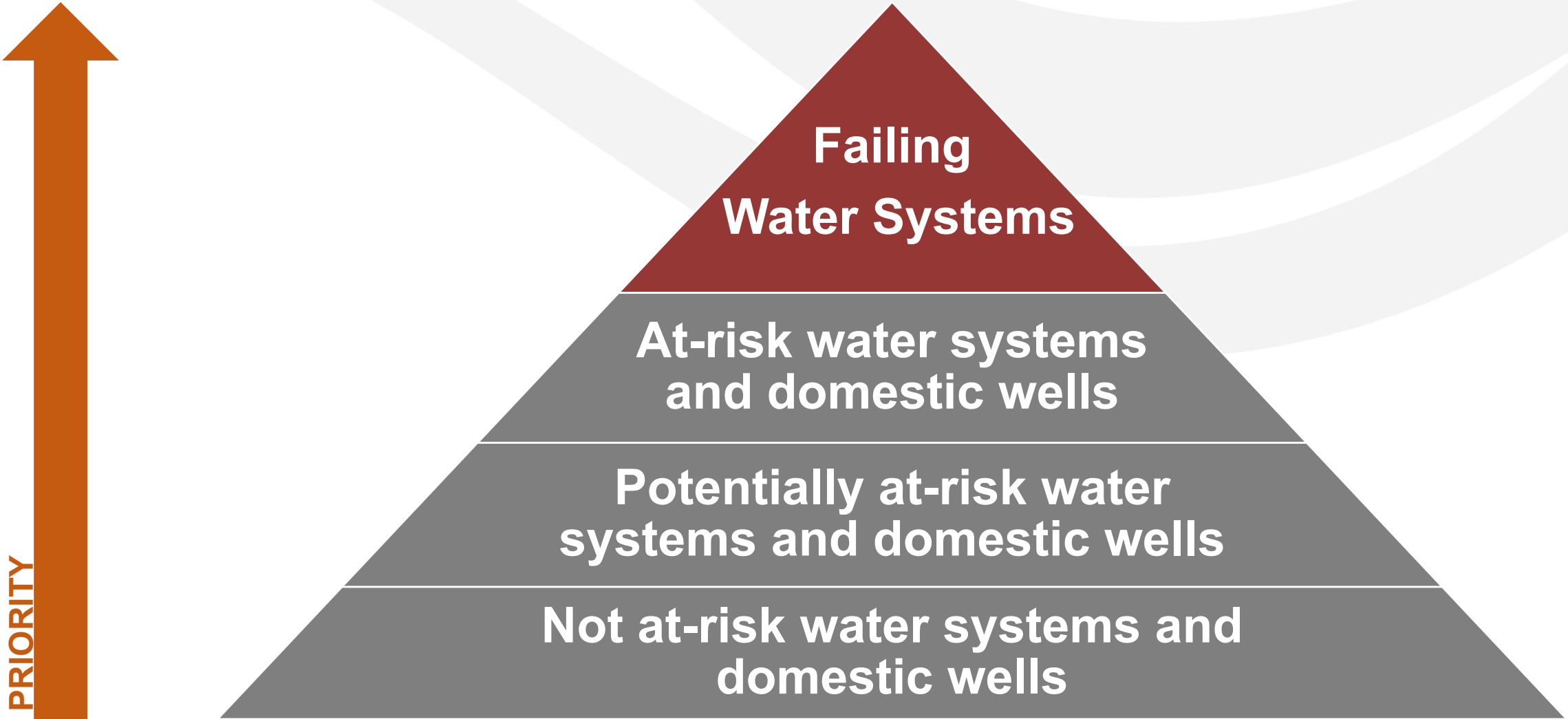
Failing Water
System List

Community Water Systems
& K-12 Schools

Identify and assess failing water systems:

- **Out of compliance**
- **Consistently out of compliance**

SAFER Program #1 Priority: Failing Water Systems





Failing Water Systems

State Water Board has been tracking failing water systems since **2017**.

There are currently **386** Failing systems.

Online dashboard: bit.ly/SAFER-Dashboard

Expanded Criteria for Failing Water Systems

Criteria	Before 2021	2024
Primary Maximum Level Contaminant (MCL) Violation with an open Enforcement Action	Yes	Yes
Secondary MCL Violation with an open Enforcement Action	Yes	Yes
<i>E. coli</i> Violation with an open Enforcement Action	No	Yes
Treatment Technique (TT) Violations	Partially	Yes
Monitoring and Reporting Violations (MCL and TT)	No	Expanded
NEW: Source Capacity & Water Outage Violations with an open Enforcement Action	No	Yes

Expanded Failing Criteria: Source Capacity & Water Outage Violations

Water systems with a violation and open enforcement action will be added to the Failing water system list.

Safe Drinking Water Information System Analyte Data Field Code	Violation Type Code	Description
C277	WW	Water system fails to have adequate source capacity.
C278	WW	Water system fails to have adequate source capacity due to curtailments.
C279	WW	Water system fails to have adequate pressure, leading to outage caused by drought.
C295	WW	Water system fails to have adequate pressure, leading to outage not related to drought.

Approximately 18 systems will be added to the Failing list with expanded criteria.



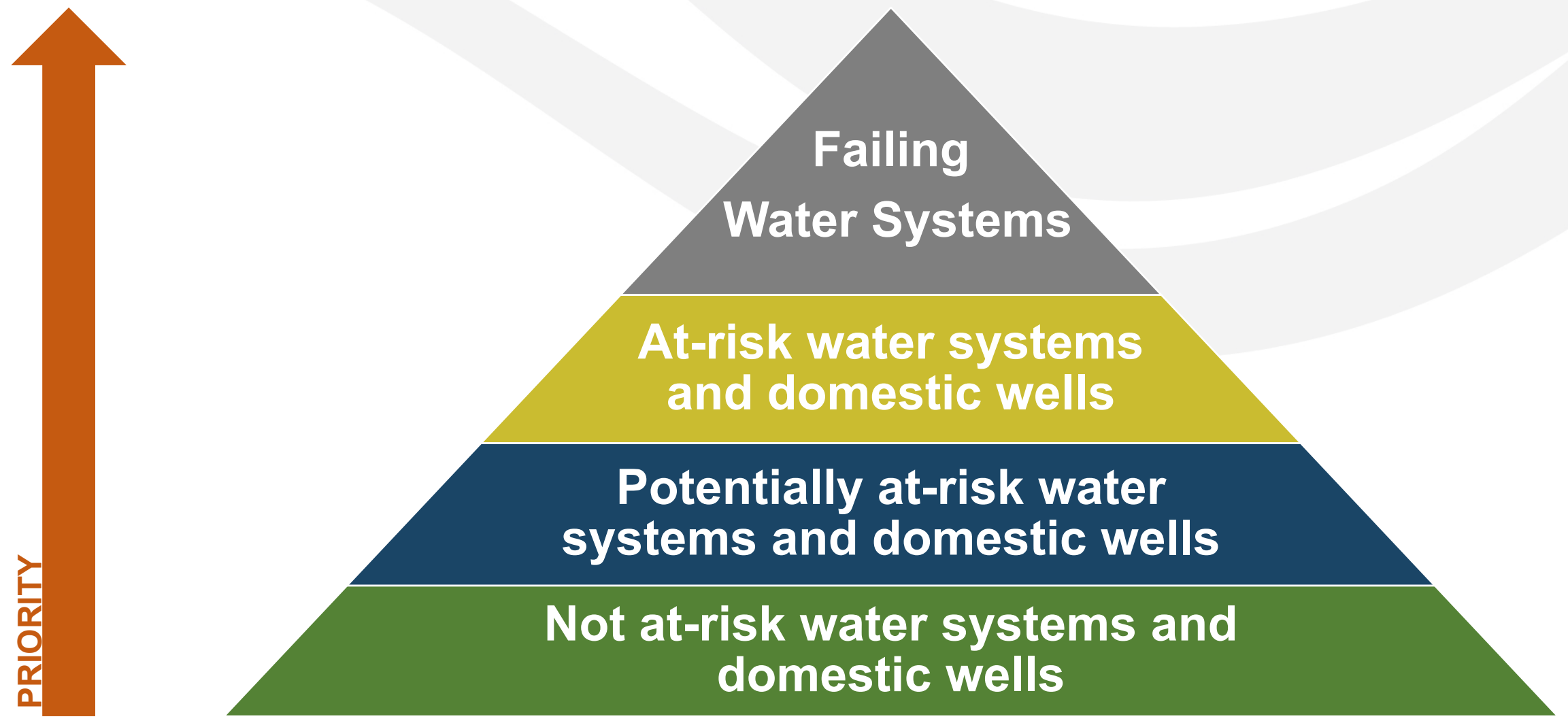
Risk Assessments **Public Water Systems,** **State Small Water Systems & Domestic Wells**

Risk Assessment Purpose



- Identify “**public water systems, community water systems, and state small water systems** that may be **at risk of failing** to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water.”
- Estimate “**number of households** that are served by domestic wells or state small water systems in **high-risk areas**.”

SAFER Program Priority System



2024 Risk Indicators for Public Water Systems: No Change

WATER QUALITY

E. Coli Presence

Increasing Presence of Water Quality Trends Towards MCL

Treatment Technique Violations

Past Presence on the Failing List

Percentage of Sources Exceeding an MCL

Constituents of Emerging Concern

ACCESSIBILITY

Number of Sources

Absence of Interties

DWR – Drought & Water Shortage Risk Assessment Results

Critically Overdrafted Groundwater Basin

Bottled or Hauled Water Reliance

Source Capacity Violations

AFFORDABILITY

% Median Household Income

Extreme Water Bill

Household Socioeconomic Burden

Technical, Managerial, Financial or TMF CAPACITY

Operator Certification Violations

Monitoring and Reporting Violations

Significant Deficiencies

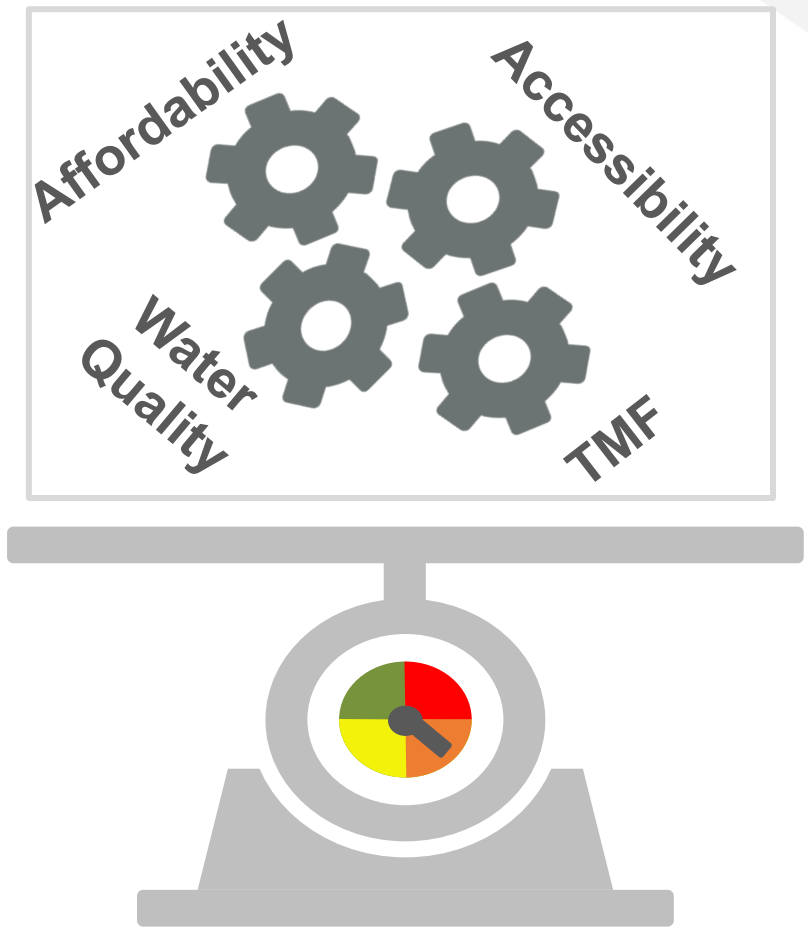
Income




Operating Ratio

Days Cash on Hand

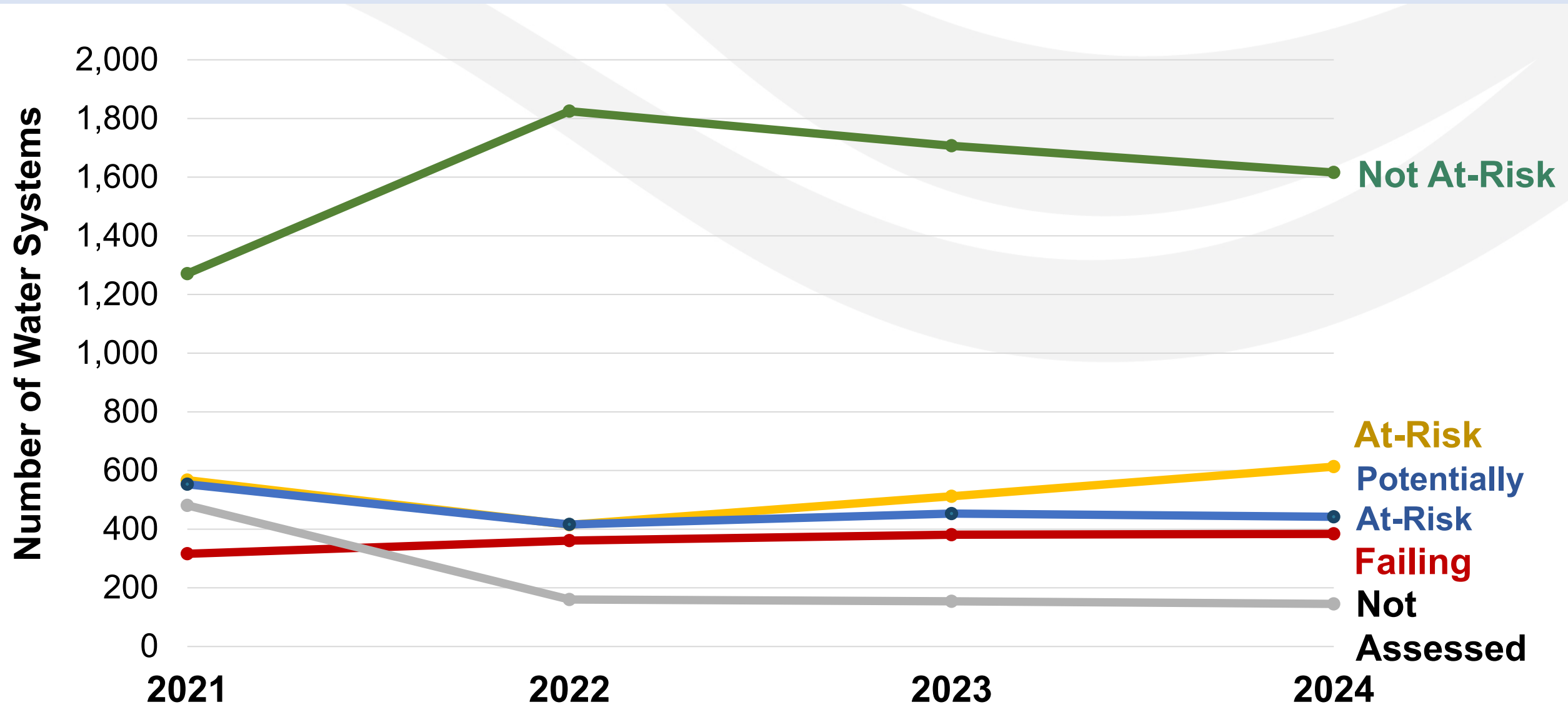
Public Water System Risk Assessment Methodology

Public Water System



-  **RISK INDICATORS**
Quantifiable measurements of key data
-  **RISK INDICATOR THRESHOLDS**
Values associated with a risk indicator
-  **WEIGHTS / SCORES**
Weight of each risk indicator

Public Water System Risk Assessment 2024 Results

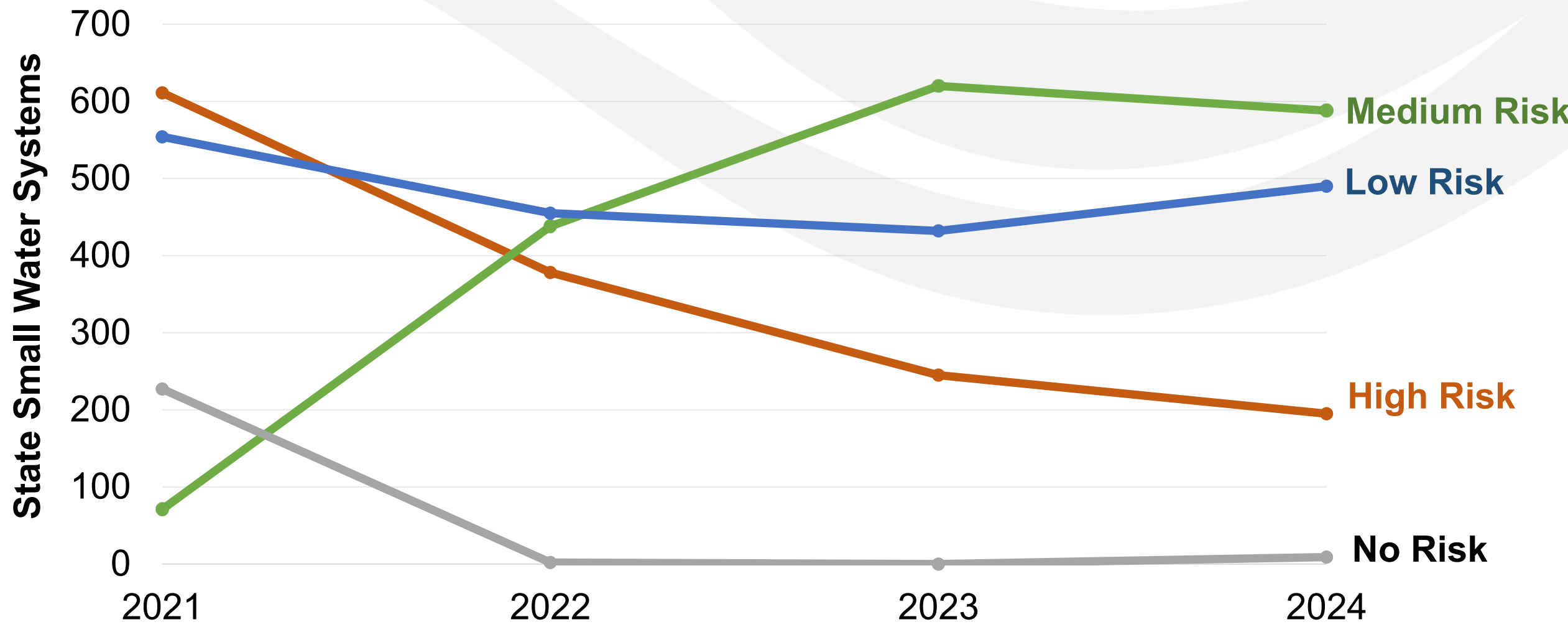


State Small Water Systems & Domestic Wells Risk Assessment

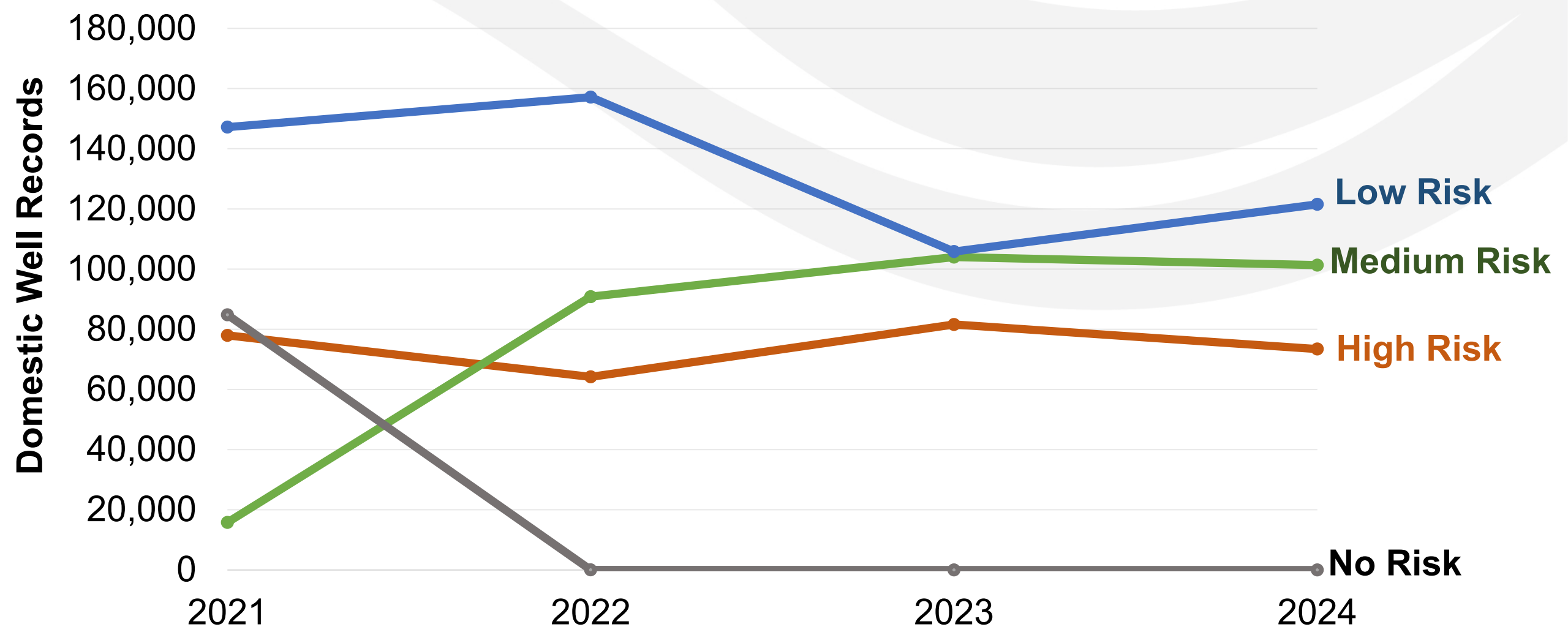
The State Water Board and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) developed the new **Socioeconomic Risk Layer**.



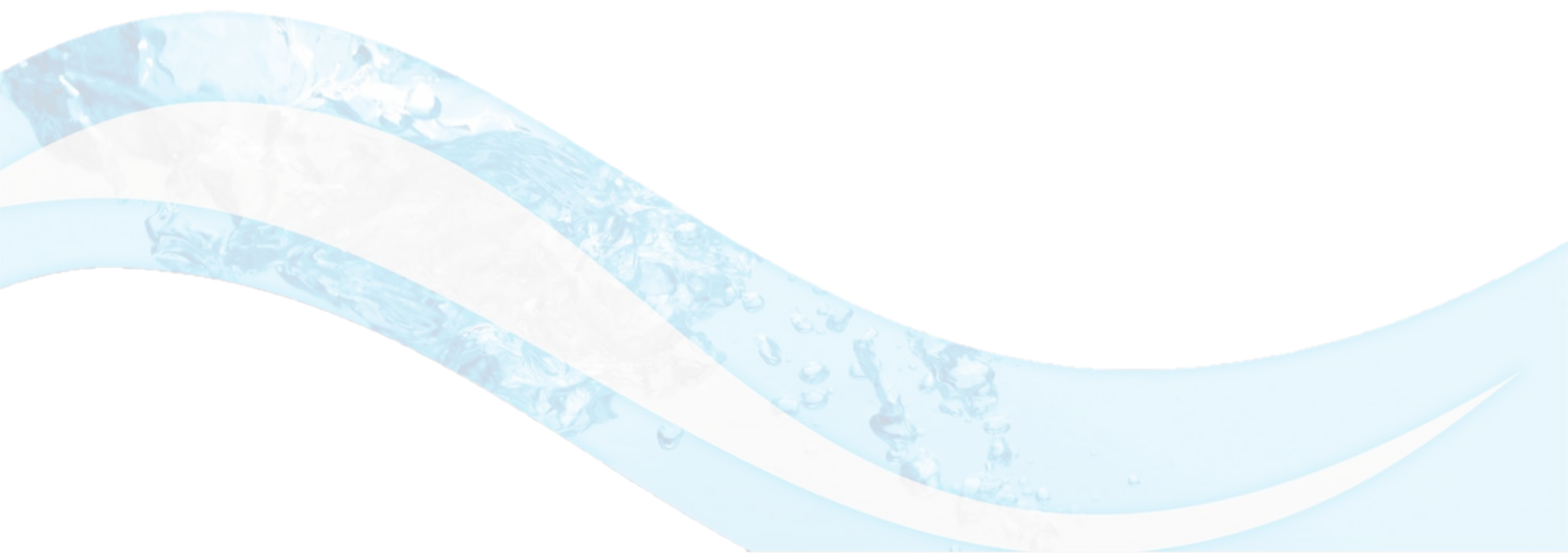
State Small Water System Risk Assessment



Domestic Wells Risk Assessment



Cost Assessment



Cost Assessment Purpose



Cost
Assessment

Failing & At-Risk Water
Systems & Domestic
Wells




To inform the prioritization of existing SAFER funding.



NOT intended to inform local decisions.


Cost Assessment Model



SYSTEMS INCLUDED

Failing & At-Risk public water systems; high-risk state small water systems & domestic wells.


● ○ ○ ○ ○



CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED

Water quality violations or risk; treatment violations; water-shortage risk; managerial failure; etc.

○ ● ○ ○ ○



MODEL SOLUTIONS

Model sustainable long-term and interim solutions to address identified challenges.


○ ○ ● ○ ○



CALCULATE COST ESTIMATES

Capital, operational, and/or managerial assistance cost estimates for each modeled solution.

○ ○ ○ ● ○



AGGREGATE ESTIMATES

Sum estimated costs per system and aggregate statewide.

○ ○ ○ ○ ●

State Water Board Public Workshops

- **08-04-2022:** Proposed Changes for the Cost Assessment
- **07-14-2023:** Physical Consolidation Analysis
- **10-05-2023:** Modeled Treatment Analysis
- **12-20-2023:** Other Essential Infrastructure, Administrative Needs, and Interim Solutions



Systems Included in the Cost Assessment

Failing



Public Water Systems

Violations of:

- Primary MCL
- Secondary MCL
- *E. coli*
- Treatment Technique
- Monitoring & Reporting

At-Risk

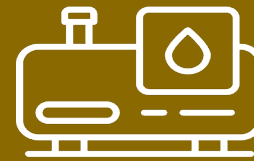


Public Water Systems

Risks:

- Water Quality
- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Technical, Managerial, Financial (TMF)

At-Risk



State Small Systems

Risks:

- Water Quality
- Drought

At-Risk



Domestic Wells

Risks:

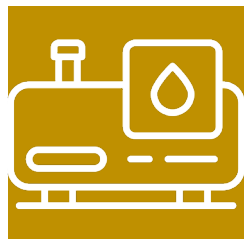
- Water Quality
- Drought

Public Water Systems Modeled Long-Term Solutions



	FAILING Primary or Secondary MCL	FAILING <i>E.Coli</i>	FAILING Treatment Technique	FAILING Monitoring & Reporting	AT-RISK Public Water Systems
Physical Consolidation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Centralized Treatment	✓	✓	✓		
Decentralized Treatment	✓		✓		
Other Essential Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Public Supply Well	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Technical Assistance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Administrator Assistance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

State Small Water Systems and Domestic Wells Modeled Long-Term Solutions



Physical Consolidation

Decentralized Treatment

Bottled Water

New Private Well

Technical Assistance

	HIGH RISK Water Quality Only	HIGH RISK Water Shortage Only	HIGH RISK Water Quality & Water Shortage
Physical Consolidation	✓	✓	✓
Decentralized Treatment	✓		✓
Bottled Water	✓		✓
New Private Well		✓	✓
Technical Assistance	✓		✓

Updating Cost Assumptions

Cost Assessment Model estimates long-term and interim **capital costs** and **operations & maintenance costs**.

✓ Research to review:

- 2021 Cost Assessment Model documentation.
- U.S. EPA “Work Breakdown Structure” Models.
- State Water Board funding projects.

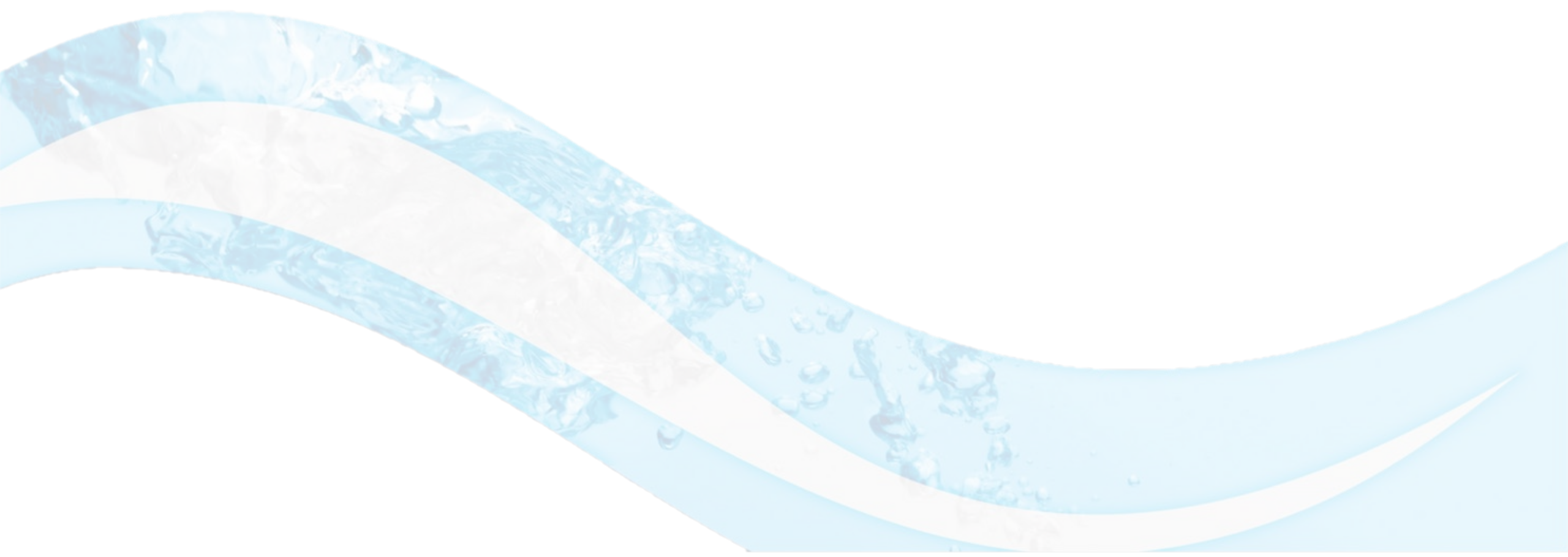
✓ Consultations with:

- Internal workgroup of Division of Drinking Water engineers and Division of Financial Assistance staff.
- External water systems to collect/confirm cost data.
- Vendors and consulting firms.

2024 Cost Assessment Results

Gathering data, information coming soon.

Funding Gap Analysis



Funding Gap Analysis – Steps

STEP 1

Determine Estimated Funding Needs and Funding Availability

Estimated Funding Needs



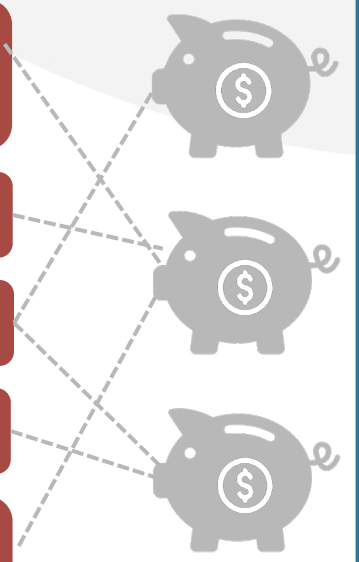
Estimated Funding Availability



STEP 2

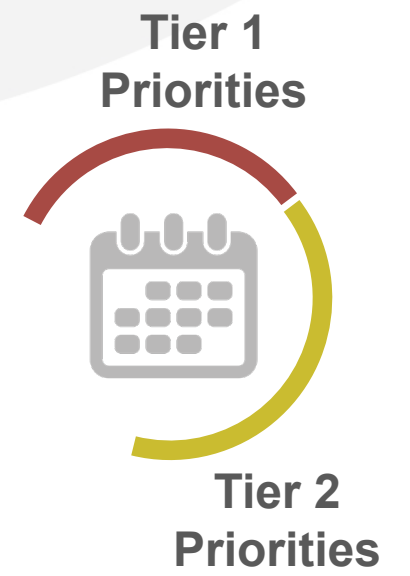
Match Estimated Funding Needs to Funding Programs

- Physical Consolidation
- Treatment
- O&M
- POE/POU
- Technical Assistance



STEP 3

Determine Funding Gaps & Estimate Time to Meet Funding Needs



2024 Funding Gap Analysis

Gathering data, information coming soon.

Affordability Assessment



Affordability Assessment Purpose



Identify **disadvantaged community water systems**, with customer charges that **exceed** the **“Affordability Threshold.”**

Affordability Threshold:

- Not defined by Legislation.
- State Water Board approach.

Affordability Definitions



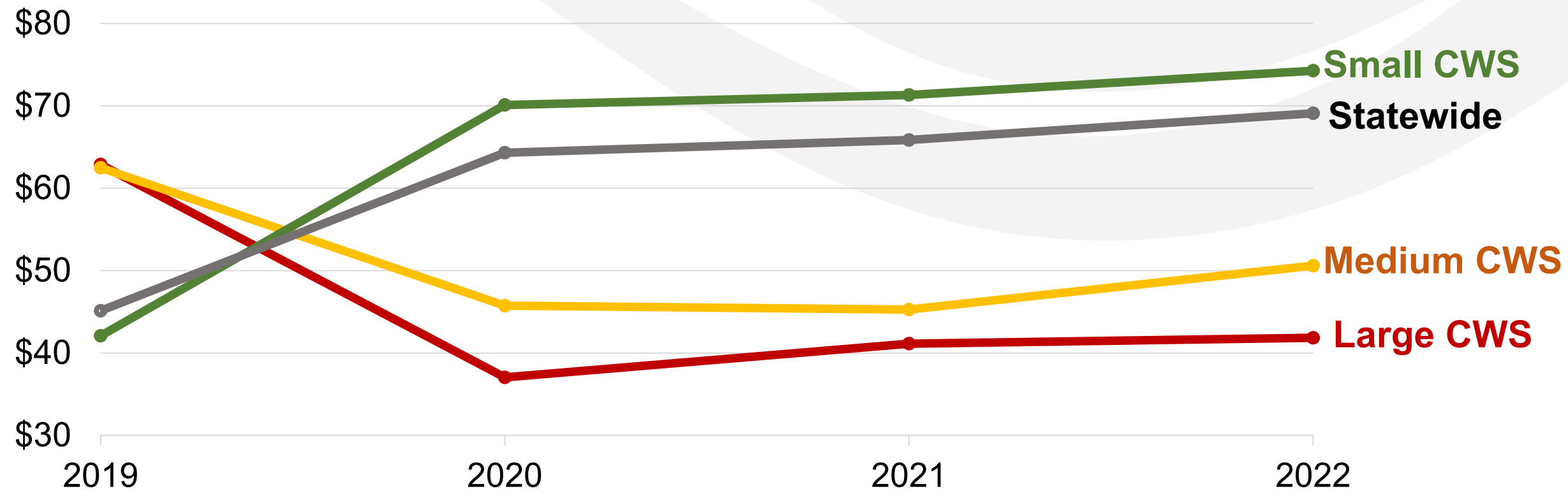
1) Households:
Financial capacity to pay for an **adequate supply of water.**

2) Community:
Financial capacity to **support a resilient water system.**

3) and 4) Water System:
Financial capacity **to provide safe drinking water** now and in the future with the needed operations and infrastructure.

This **affects future rate impacts** on households.

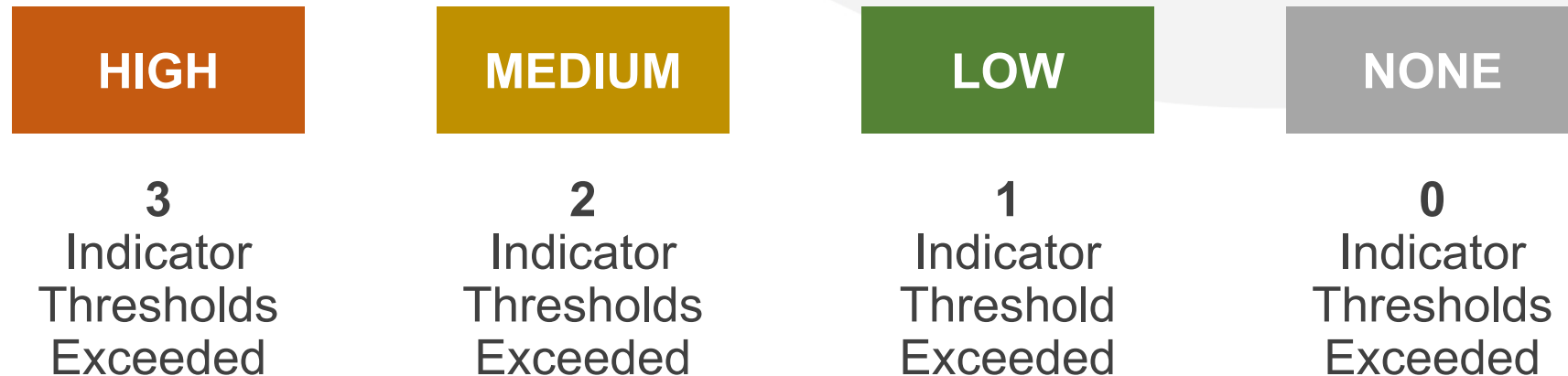
Average Monthly Residential Customer Charges for 600³ Feet



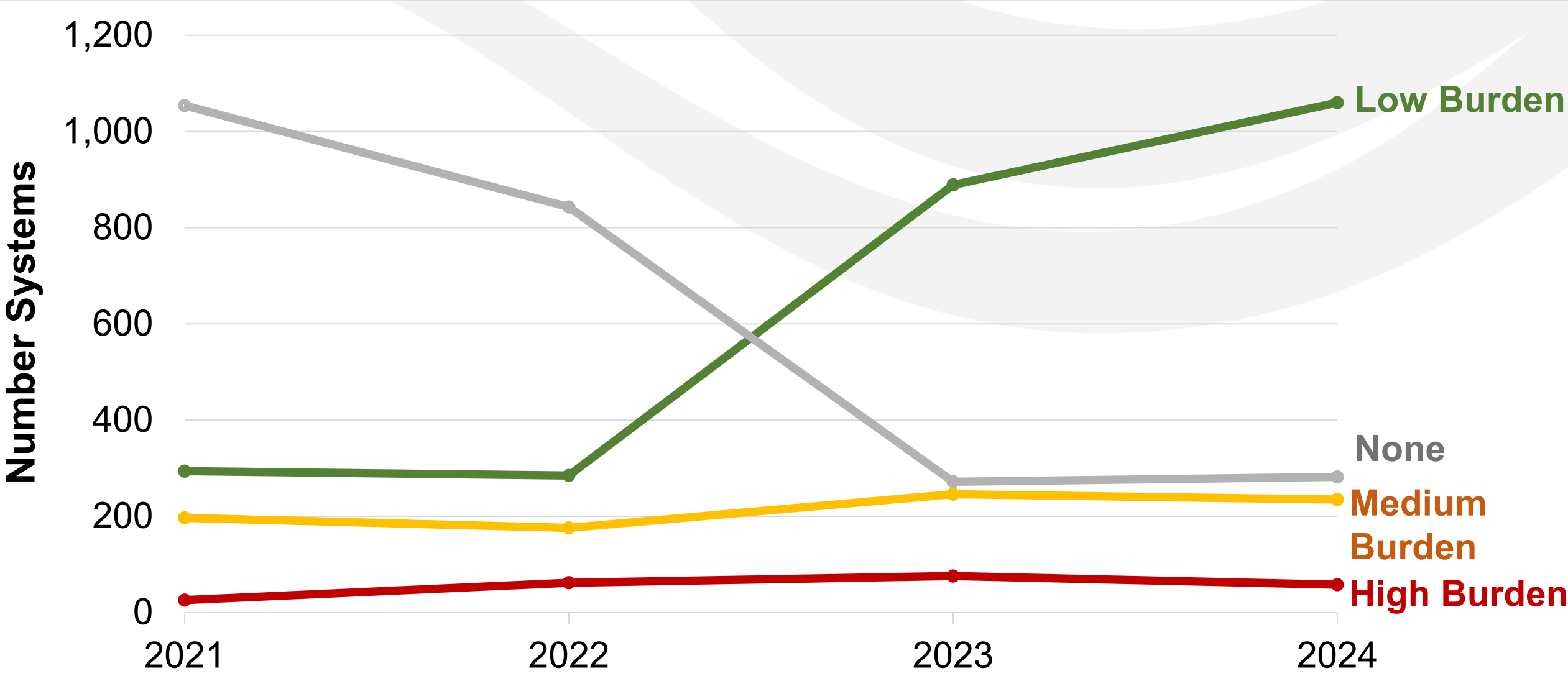
CWS: Community Water Systems

Affordability Assessment Methodology: No Change

Based on the total sum of thresholds met for all affordability indicators.



2024 Affordability Assessment Results: Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Only

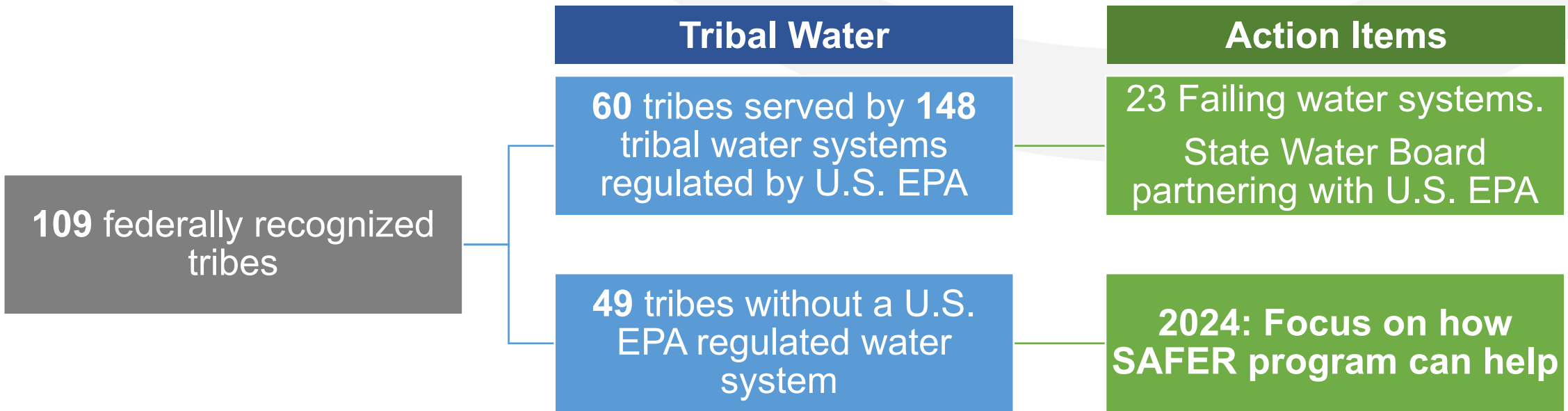


Tribal Needs Assessment

Elizabeth Herrera
Tribal Affairs Specialist
Office of Public Participation

Tribal Needs Assessment

Collaboration with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and Indian Health Service to better understand tribal drinking water needs.



Tribal Needs Assessment

**Results of SAFER Needs
Assessment criteria for tribal
water systems**

Outreach efforts

**Collaboration with
state and federal
partners**

Unique funding opportunities

- Funding Shortfall
- Ineligible Costs
- Emergency/Urgent Needs
- Operations and Maintenance
- Staffing Capacity

2024 Needs Assessment Results Questions and Answers



- Raise your hand to ask questions
- Wait for your turn
- Turn on microphone
- Speak slowly
- Limit your questions to 3 minutes
- Turn off microphone

Public comment or technical assistance? Please email: safer@waterboards.ca.gov

BREAK

Please return by: **TIME**

Theme #2 Draft Priorities for the Fund Expenditure Plan

Jeff Wetzel
Division of Financial Assistance



2023-24 Priorities



Emergency funding needs.



Water systems that are consistently out of compliance with primary drinking water standards.



Accelerate consolidations and regional-scale planning for consolidations.



Expedite planning through technical assistance.



Interim solutions and planning for long-term solutions for state smalls and domestic wells.

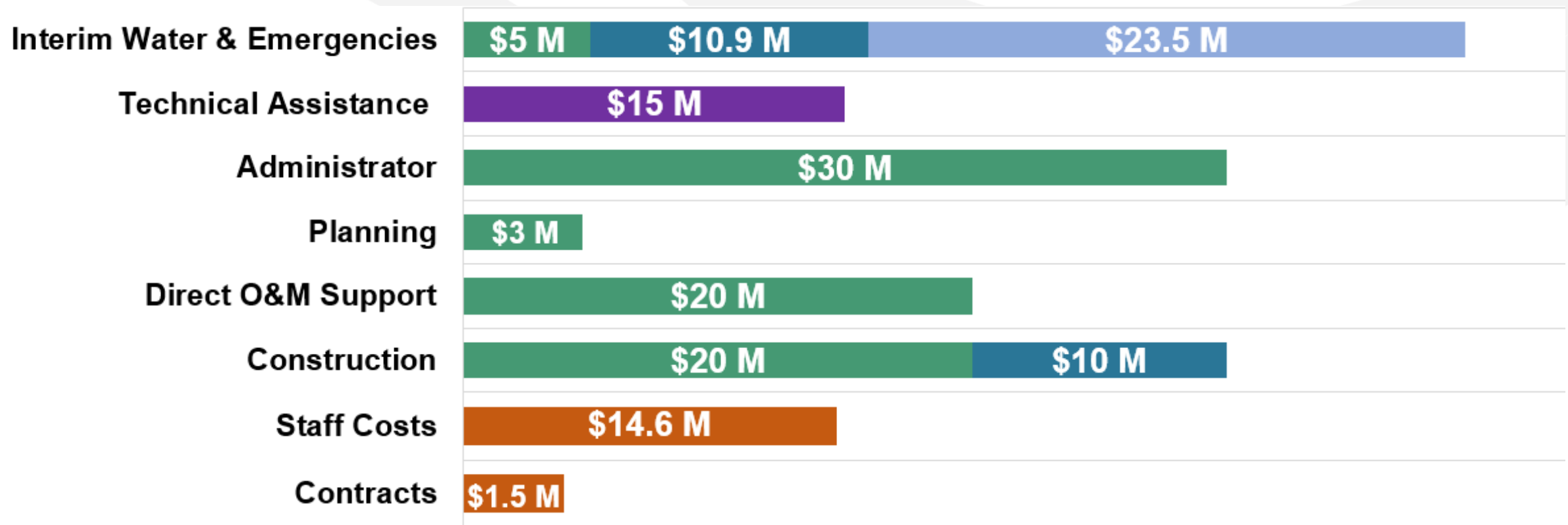


Provide direct operation and maintenance (O&M) support to water systems with the highest affordability burdens.





Ensure assistance is consistent with the State Water Board's Racial Equity Resolution.


Fiscal Year 2023-24 SADW Fund Targets



 Failing or At-Risk systems, or consolidations

 State smalls, Domestic wells

 Failing or At-Risk systems, consolidations, state smalls, domestic wells

 Uncommitted from prior fiscal years

 Other program needs

Fiscal Year 2023-24 SAFER Highlights

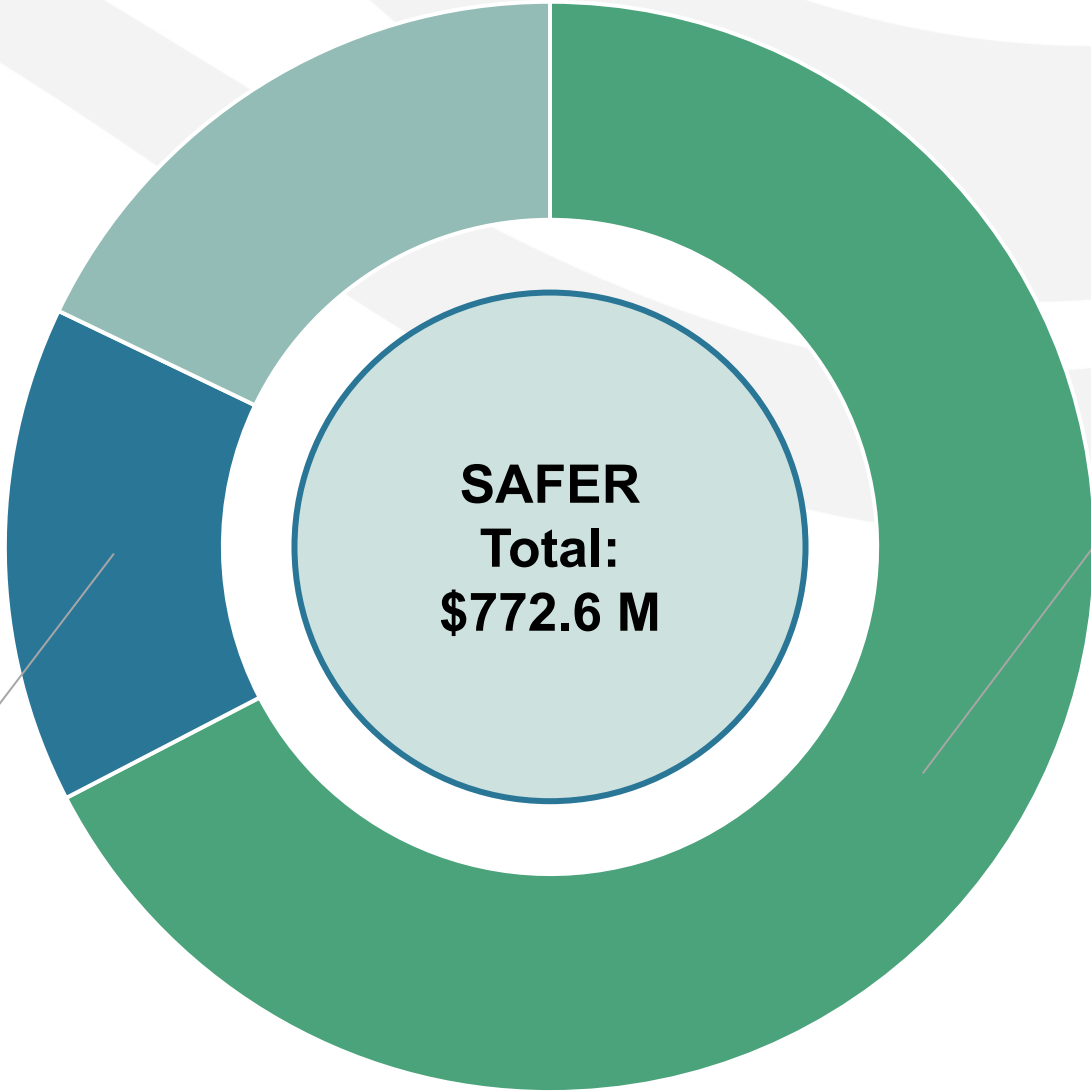
Category	Updates
Expedited Drinking Water Grant Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 9 agreements executed ➤ 3 agreements issued ➤ 15 projects pending
Drought Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ \$105M fully committed
Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 10 water systems with designated administrators
Direct Operations & Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Group 1: 30 systems notified ➤ Applications under review
Technical Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 47% of failing systems
Urgent Drinking Water Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Long-term solutions funding for 6 projects (\$1.8M)
Advanced Funding Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In progress

Fiscal Year 2023-24 SAFER Anticipated Funding

**Safe and Affordable
Drinking Water Fund**
\$138.1 M

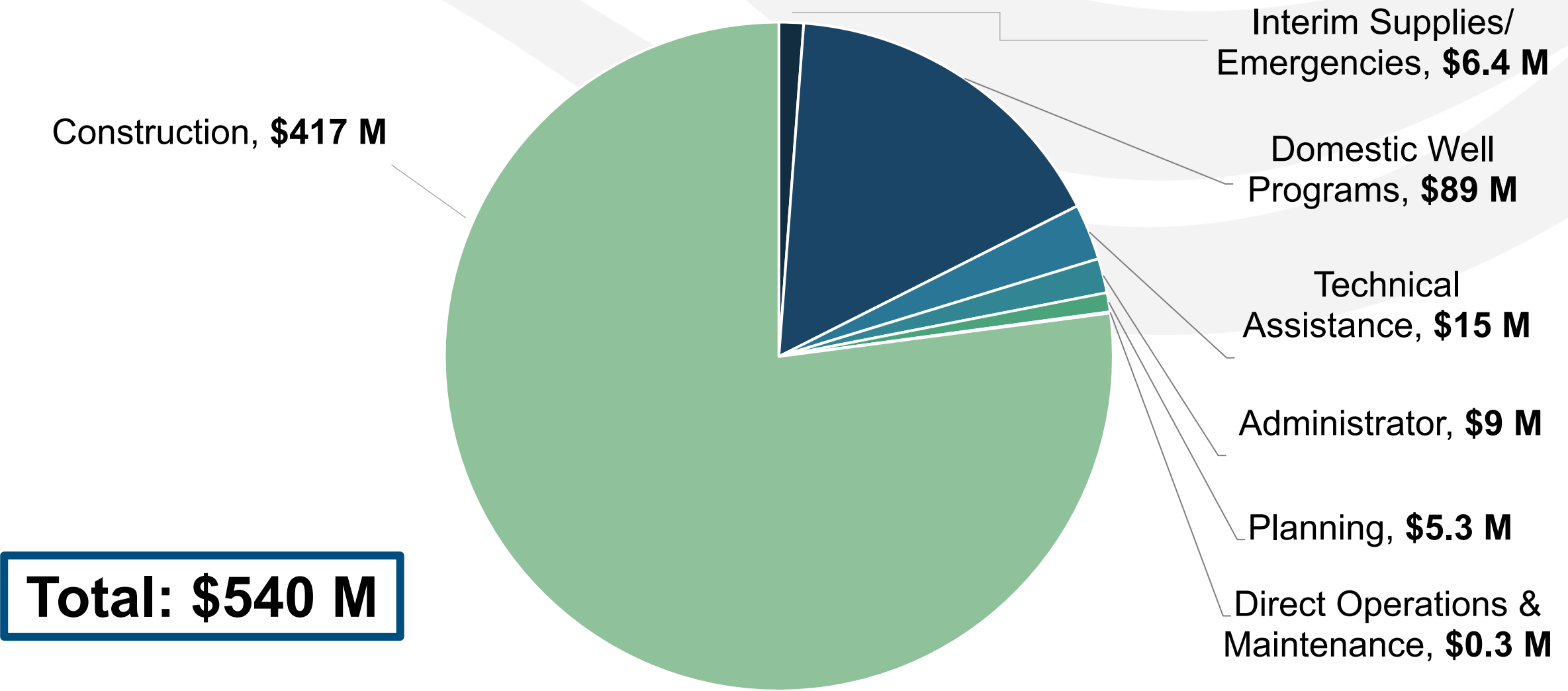
Capital Funding
\$520.6 M

**Other Capital +
Non-Capital Funding**
\$113.9 M



**SAFER
Total:
\$772.6 M**

Fiscal Year 2023-24 SAFER Fund Commitments



Total: \$540 M

SAFER Program Accomplishments since 2019



Interim supplies
\$37.1 M
292 Water Systems
117,000 People



Technical Assistance
\$74.1 M
501 Water Systems
515,000 People

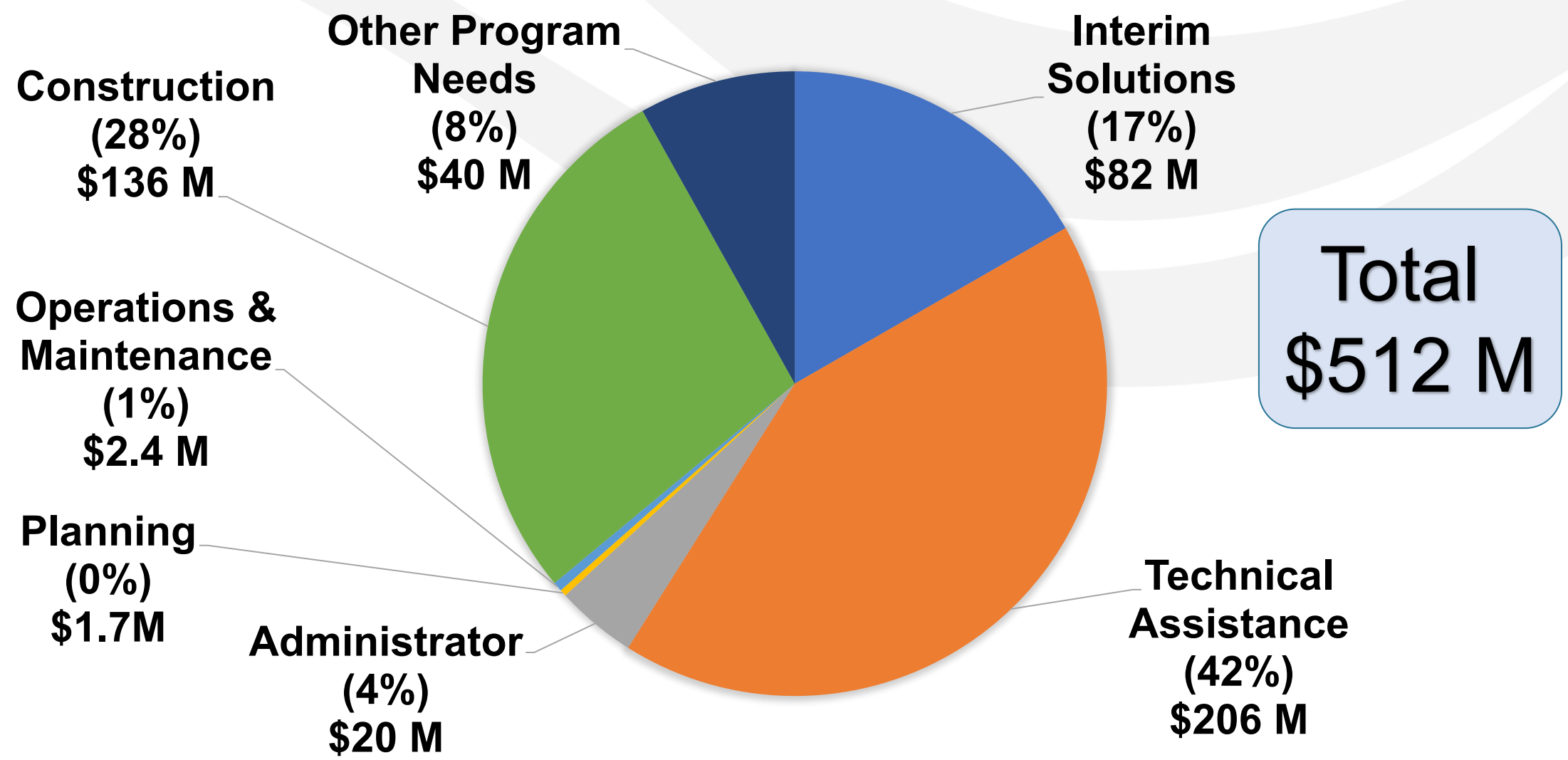


Planning
\$38 M
60 Water systems
422,000 People



Construction
\$673.2 M
148 Water Systems
440,000 People

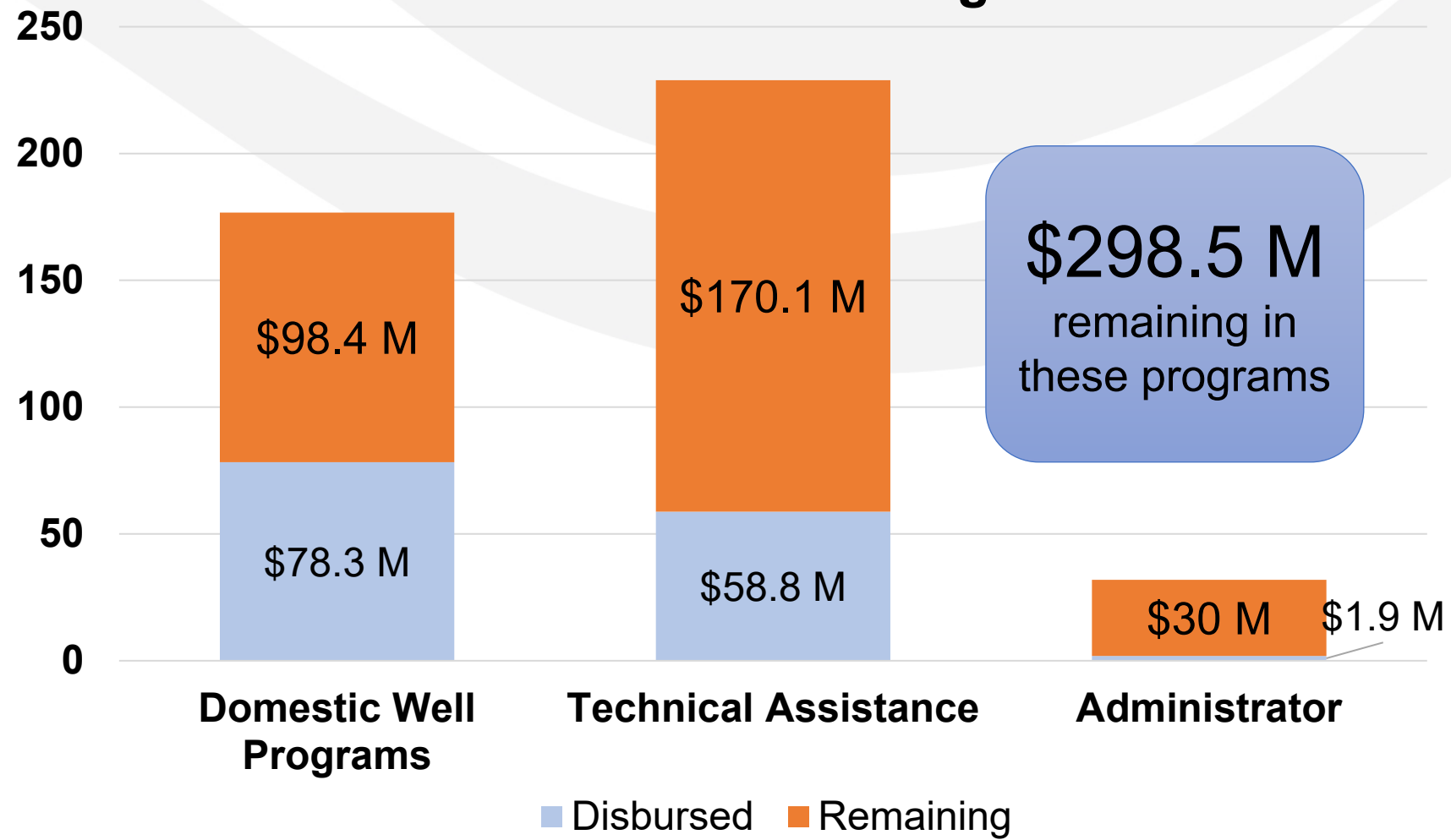
SADW Funding by Project Type (Fiscal Year 2019-20 to 2022-23)



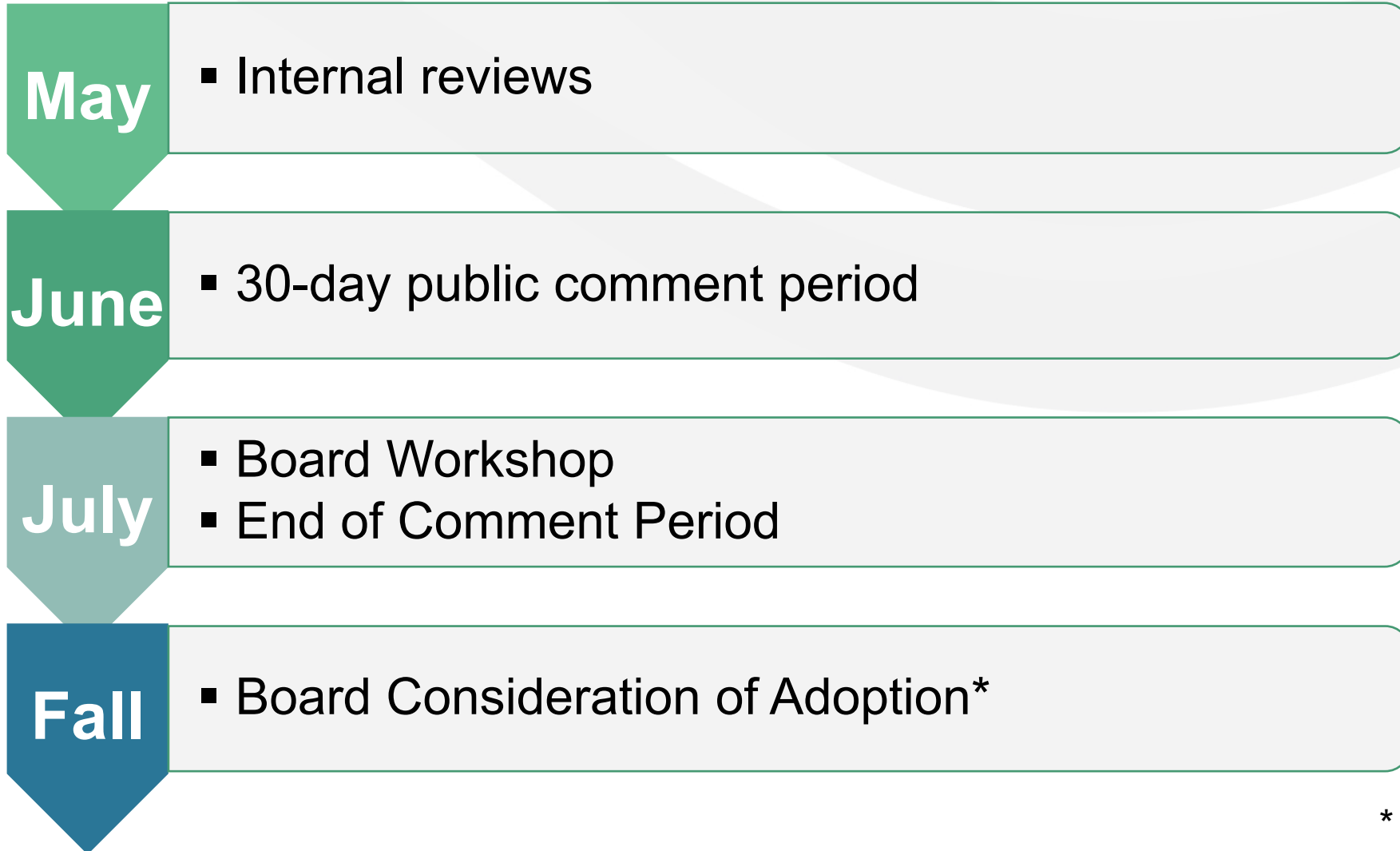
Funding Projections and Existing Programs

\$1.1 B
 Anticipated funding
 for drinking water
 projects over next
 three fiscal years

Active Multi-Year Programs



Fiscal Year 2024-25 Fund Expenditure Plan Timeline



* Subject to change

Draft Priorities for the Fund Expenditure Plan Questions and Answers



- Raise your hand to ask questions
- Wait for your turn
- Turn on microphone
- Speak slowly
- Limit your questions to 3 minutes
- Turn off microphone

Public comment or technical assistance? Please email: safer@waterboards.ca.gov

Overview of the Microsoft Form for the Discussion Questions

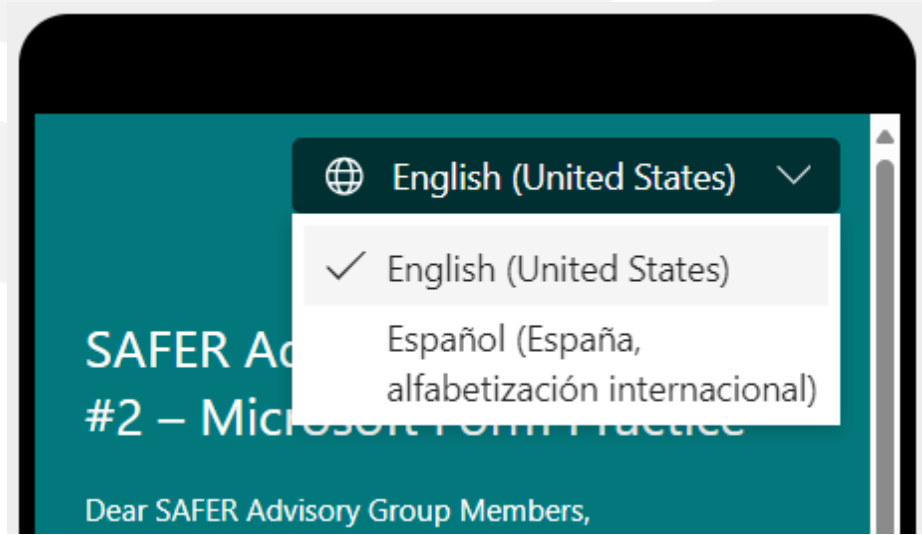
Office of Public Participation



Open the Microsoft Form

Instructions

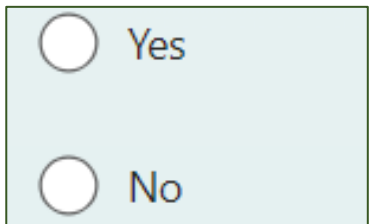
- 1. Open the form on your connected device
- 2. Select the language at the top right corner
- 3. Start the survey



Provide Feedback on Microsoft Form

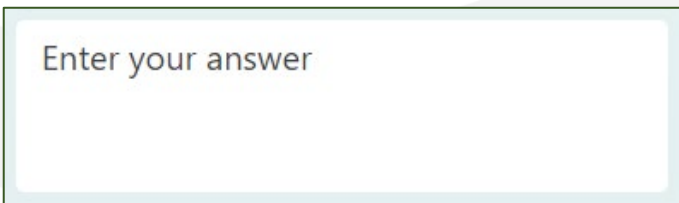
Provide your answers clicking or tapping on:

- One of the options proposed.



A screenshot of a Microsoft Form showing two radio button options: "Yes" and "No". The "Yes" option is selected.

- The comment box and type your answer.



A screenshot of a Microsoft Form showing a text input field with the placeholder text "Enter your answer".

- A block and drag it to the position you want or use the up and down arrows.



A screenshot of a Microsoft Form showing a list view with two items: "Winter" and "Spring". Each item has a drag handle (three dots) on the left and up/down arrows on the right.

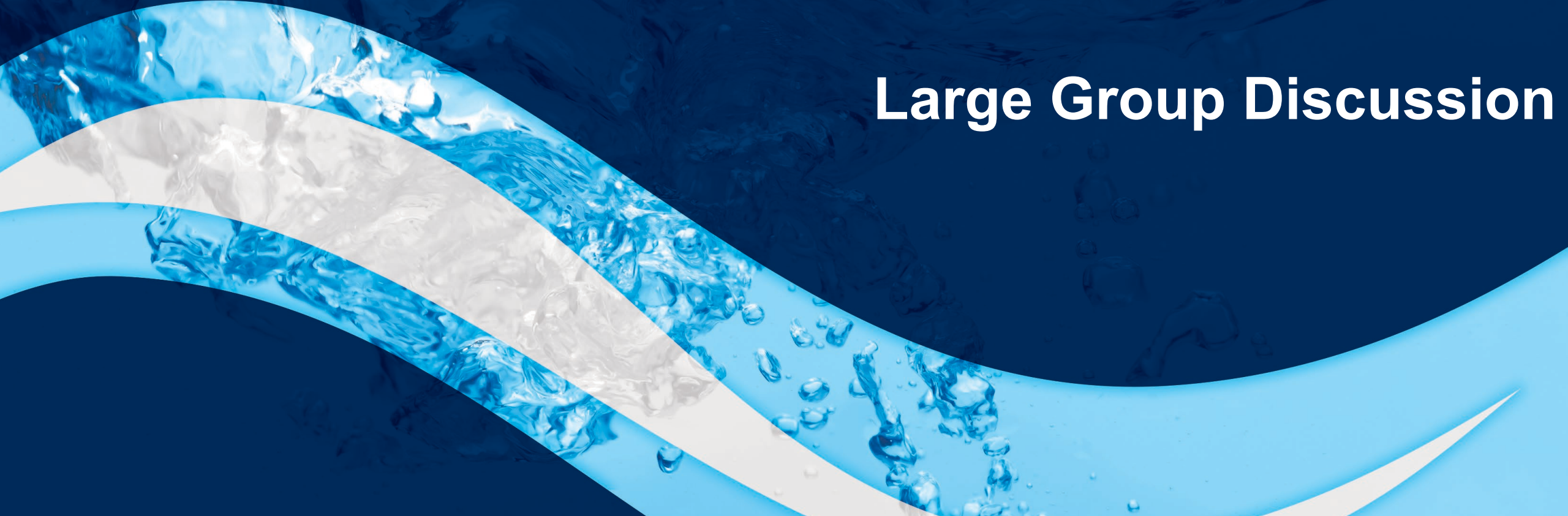
LUNCH

Please return by: **TIME**



Draft Priorities for the Fund Expenditure Plan

Large Group Discussion

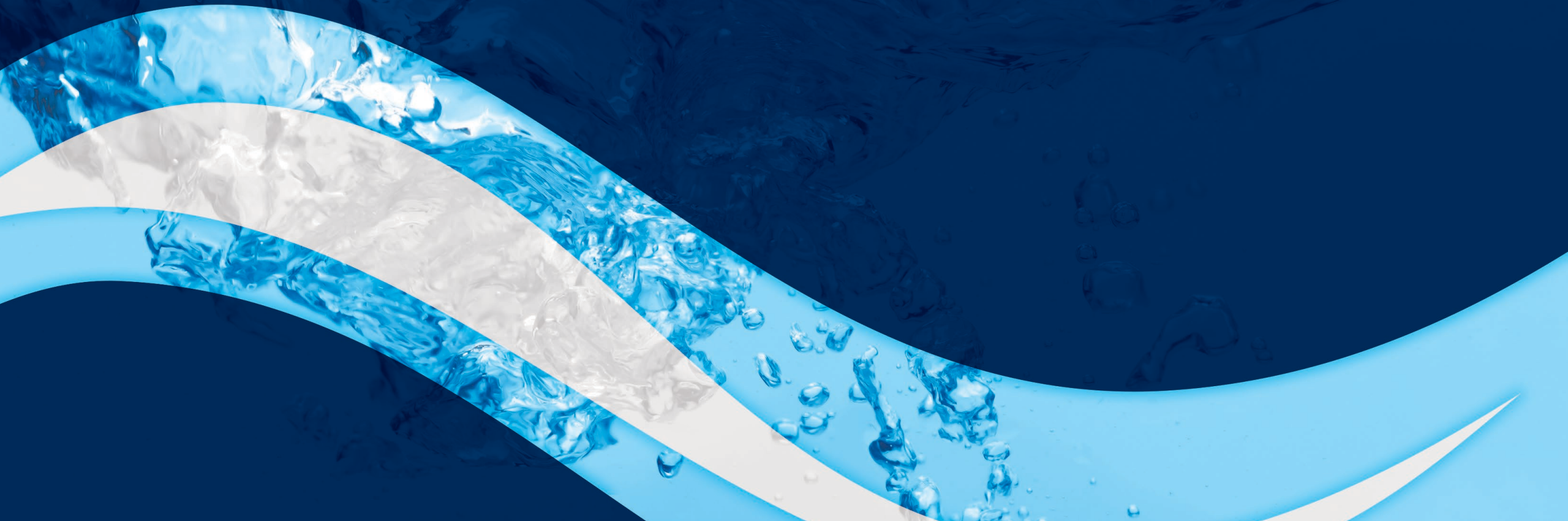


BREAK

Please return by: **TIME**



SAFER Program Updates



Hexavalent Chromium Board Adoption

The State Water Resources Control Board added a new standard of public health protection to California's drinking water by **adopting a maximum contaminant level of 10 parts per billion for hexavalent chromium** as a single constituent.

- ✓ Based on updated data, economic feasibility analysis.
- ✓ Considers the range of impacts on water systems.
- ✓ Must be finalized by the Office of Administrative Law before going into effect, which is expected by October 1, 2024.

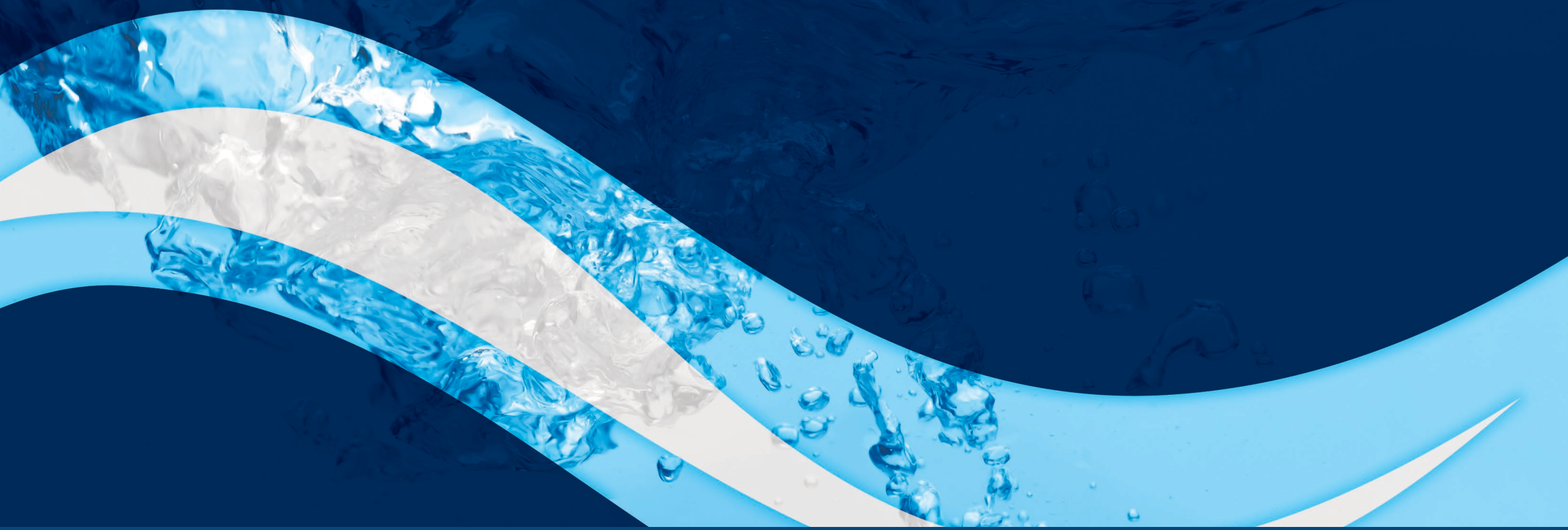


2024 SAFER Calendar

- **June:** Draft Fiscal Year 2024-25 Fund Expenditure Plan release for public comment
- **July 1:** SAFER Advisory Group Application Process start.
- **July 11:** SAFER Advisory Group meeting #3
- **Mid-July:** Draft Fiscal Year 2024-25 Fund Expenditure Plan Board Workshop
- **End of July:** Draft Fiscal Year 2024-25 Fund Expenditure Plan Public comment period ends
- **August 31:** SAFER Advisory Group Application Process deadline.
- **Fall:** Board considers adoption of Fiscal Year 2024-25 Fund Expenditure Plan
- **December 5:** SAFER Advisory Group meeting #4

*Dates subject to change

SAFER Advisory Group Members Announcements



SAFER Advisory Group Members Announcements

- Project/Event title
- Timeline/Event date
- Purpose/Objective
- Next steps
- Please limit 3 minutes per announcement



Public Comments



Public Comments Guidelines



In-person

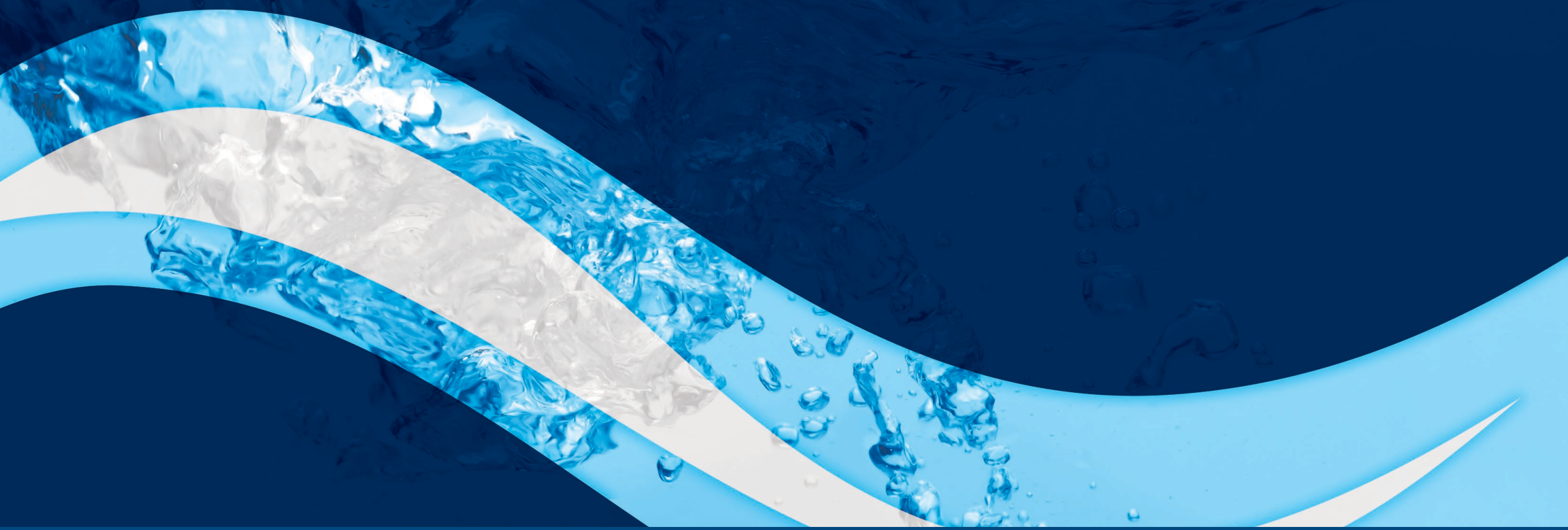
1. Raise your hand
2. Wait to be called on
3. Speak slowly
4. Limit comments to 3 minutes



Remote

1. Email comment to: safer@waterboards.ca.gov.
2. Follow instructions in the return email to join Zoom.
3. Wait to be called on. Speaking time is limited to 3 minutes
4. For technical or language assistance, email: safer@waterboards.ca.gov.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps



Follow-up from SAFER Advisory Group Meeting #1

- ✓ SAFER program **videos dubbed to Spanish.**
- ✓ 2024 Advisory Group Meeting **calendar provided.**
- ✓ **Form 700** does not need to be completed by SAFER Advisory Group Members.

Adjourn
Thank you!

safer@waterboards.ca.gov
916-445-5615