



Fact Sheet

WaterTAP (Technical Access Portal) Advisory Group

Frequently Asked Questions

WaterTAP (Technical Access Program) is a new data system being developed to support the information and business needs of the Division of Drinking Water (DDW). It will be a one-stop enterprise data system with streamlined information access for internal staff and external stakeholders. The system will integrate data and document submission, workflow routing, and compliance decision support into an overarching architecture that will connect existing and future data systems under a single sign-in platform.

In accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's (hereinafter referred to as "Board") commitment to engaging impacted communities, stakeholders, California Native American Tribes, and the public in its decision-making processes and projects, the WaterTAP Advisory Group is intended to engage with experts and interested parties who are willing to lend their skills, guidance, and knowledge to help the Board achieve the goals of the WaterTAP project.

For additional information about the WaterTAP system and its Advisory Group, please visit waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/watertap/ or email DDW-Outreach@Waterboards.ca.gov.

How does WaterTAP relate to me and my organization?

Public water systems in California are required to report critical information to DDW, including but not limited to the operation of their water system, contact information, water quality, water quantity, treatment efficacy, compliance, and financial information. This information provides the foundation for data-driven decisions to ensure all Californians have safe, affordable, and accessible drinking water, and allows DDW to make data available to the public through a system like WaterTAP. If you use, collect, research, monitor, or report drinking water data in some capacity, you will likely be using WaterTAP in the future.

What is the WaterTAP Advisory Group?

The WaterTAP Advisory Group will consist of no more than 25 members that represent California public water systems (small, medium, and large), nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), drinking water quality laboratories, California Native American Tribe representatives, California public water system consultants, universities/research



organizations, and more. The WaterTAP Advisory Group is a consultative body that offers advice to Board staff on the WaterTAP project.

Advisory Group members are appointed by DDW's Deputy Director (or their designee). Members will serve permanent roles in the group until the conclusion of the Advisory Group, estimated for three years. Advisory Group meetings are expected to occur twice per year – though additional meetings may be necessary as determined by the group. Members will be listed on our public-facing WaterTAP webpage (referenced above).

Who can be a WaterTAP Advisory Group member?

We are looking to fill the WaterTAP Advisory Group with members of various interested parties that represent a balance of water system representatives and water data users, California Native American tribal representatives, and other related organizations while trying to cover as much California geographic diversity as possible. Interested members can fill out the Advisory Group application for consideration and be selected by DDW's Deputy Director (or their designee).

What would my role or responsibility be as a WaterTAP Advisory Group Member?

Advisory Group members are expected to attend all Advisory Group meetings. Members will provide timely feedback on WaterTAP-related items when requested. Feedback will generally be asked for during Group meetings, so Members should be prepared by reviewing any materials sent in advance of the meeting. Additionally, Board staff may request feedback on items outside of a normally scheduled Group meeting (e.g., to test software functionality).

Who is an effective WaterTAP Advisory Group Member?

An effective Advisory Group Member is someone who: (1) wants to share meaningful feedback with us throughout the development and implementation of WaterTAP, (2) is dedicated to the success of the WaterTAP project, (3) wants to share their experience with using water data, and existing water reporting systems, (4) has ideas about how to improve drinking water reporting and publication.

What if I don't have technical knowledge related to water or other Water Board programs?

The purpose of the Advisory Group is to bring together people with different experiences and expertise to advise the Division of Drinking Water on how to develop and implement the new WaterTAP system. Board staff provide all necessary information and background documents, answer any questions, and advise Members on any technical questions that arise.

What language(s) will the Advisory Group be hosted in?

WaterTAP Advisory Group meetings, documents, and other related materials will be hosted and provided in English.

What is the expected time commitment for Advisory Group members?

Members are expected to serve their term for the duration of the Advisory Group, which is expected to last three years. Meetings will generally be held twice per year, with additional meetings scheduled, when necessary, as determined by the Group. Meetings will always be held virtually and are expected to last two to four hours – depending on the complexity of the agenda.

Members should plan for at least a few hours of pre-meeting material review to ensure complete understanding of the agenda and speaking topics for each meeting.

Do Advisory Group Members need internet and video capability?

Yes. Since the Advisory Group will be held entirely virtually, members are required to have access to a computer or mobile device with access to reliable internet service. Meetings will be hosted on Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or an equivalent video meeting platform; video camera use is highly encouraged.

How do I apply to be a WaterTAP Advisory Group Member?

The application process is now open and **will close on May 29, 2026**. Prospective members will fill out a brief questionnaire, and submissions will be reviewed by Board staff. DDW's Deputy Director (or their designee) will determine final membership, and selected members will be notified via email.

(This Fact Sheet was last updated on April 28, 2026)