Draft Safe Drinking Water Plan workshop
SWB Staff introduction

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Purpose of the Safe Drinking Water Plan & Purpose of the meeting

• Assessment of the overall quality of the state's drinking water.

• Identification of specific water quality problems.

• Analysis of the known and potential health risks that may be associated with drinking water contamination.

• Specific recommendations to improve drinking water quality.

• The Safe Drinking Water Plan does not address private domestic wells or water systems that do not meet the definition of a PWS.

• Opportunity for SWB staff to present an overview of the draft & invite the public to comment on the assessment, analysis and recommendations in the document.
History of the Safe Drinking Water Plan


• Senate Bill (SB) 1307 in 1996 to require periodic updates.

• No updates to the 1993 plan have been issued.

• Drinking Water Program transitioned from CDPH to the State Water Board in July 2014.

• Draft released in October 2014.
Current Elements of the draft Safe Drinking Water Plan

- Ch. 2 - Current regulation of drinking water.
- Ch. 3 - Quality of California’s drinking water.
- Ch. 4 - Water quality issues affecting PWS serving fewer than 10,000 service connections.
- Ch. 5 - Drinking water-related information systems.
- Ch. 6 - Methods and instruments for screening and detecting chemicals and microbial agents.
- Ch. 7 - Treatment technology and health risk reduction.
- Ch. 8 - Financial aspects.
- Ch. 9 - Drinking water security and emergency preparedness.
- Ch. 10 - Implementation plan.
Ch. 2 - Current regulation of drinking water

• Coordination between state & local agencies in the regulation of PWS has improved.
• Further collaboration is needed to:
  • address differences in regulatory requirements;
  • prevent the proliferation of unsustainable systems; and
  • address communities not adequately served by a public water system.
• Regulatory program funding is tenuous and doesn’t allow staff to focus on biggest problems.
Ch. 3 - Quality of California’s drinking water

- Over 98% of CA’s population are served by PWS that meets federal and state drinking water standards.

- Commitment to pursue solutions to ensure that California’s small PWS customers receive affordable, safe and reliable drinking water.

- PWS face significant challenges including new contaminants, new regulations, climate change and population growth.

- O&M of water systems has significant impact on quality of drinking water.
Ch. 4 - Water quality issues affecting PWS serving fewer than 10,000 service connections

• Major water quality issues addressed aside from arsenic and nitrates.

• Most issues are with PWS that serve less than 10,000 service connections.

• Small water systems (15-199) group has the largest percentage of non-complying systems.

• Small Water Systems Plan (2012).

• Solutions to compliance problems and operation of small water systems must include:
  • technical support;
  • financial support for infrastructure improvements;
  • sufficient support for O&M.
Ch. 5 - Drinking water-related information systems

• New technologies and programs to manage data.

• Need > funding and capability.

• Importance of sharing water quality data.

• Transparency of information for the public.
• Limited success in developing cheaper methods of analyzing for contaminants in drinking water.

• New contaminants of emerging concern are expensive to analyze and require low levels of detection.

• Continued reliance on indicator bacteria for pathogens analyses.

• Less expensive methods are not likely.
• All contaminants with MCLs have existing treatment methods/technology.

• Installing & maintaining needed treatments are challenges for small water systems.

• Capital costs vs. ongoing O&M.
Ch. 8 - Financial aspects

- Increasing costs of water.
- Disparity in metering across California.
- Customers of small water systems pay more for water, yet:
  - rates often aren’t enough for O&M, and capital investments;
  - rates are unaffordable especially in DACs.
- Funding for improvements is available but O&M is still a problem.
- The State is committed to finding ways to make water affordable for all.
Ch. 9 - Drinking water security and emergency preparedness

• PWS need updated emergency response plans.

• Public water systems personnel are now considered first responders.

• Training is needed.
Ch. 10 - Implementation Plan

Safe Drinking Water Implementation Plan

Affordable, Safe Drinking Water for Disadvantaged Communities

Capacity Development

Treatment and Analytical Methods

Program Action

Program Funding

Emergency Response and Preparedness

Shared Solutions

Drought

Information Systems
Ch. 10 - Implementation plan

Topic Area: Drought

• 8-1: Recommend legislation to require metering for all PWS.

• 3-3: Require source reliability studies.
Ch. 10 - Implementation plan
Topic Area: Affordable, Safe Drinking Water for Disadvantaged Communities

• 2-3 & 2-4: Improved coordination among State and local agencies.
• 2-7: Funding for infrastructure improvements to PWS.
• 4-3: A stable, long-term funding source for safe drinking water for small DACs.
• 4-4: Require responsible parties to cover the cost of mitigating contamination.
• 4-5: Funding is needed to help small water systems cover the cost of operating their treatment facilities, particularly those serving disadvantaged communities.
• 8-4: Investigate drinking water affordability for all low income households.
• 8-6: Annually assess alternatives for providing safe, affordable drinking water for small public water systems in DACs.
• 8-7: Continue emergency grant funds to disadvantaged communities that have serious water quality problems.
Ch. 10 - Implementation plan
Topic Area: Shared Solutions

• 3-1: Encourage large systems to provide assistance to small systems.

• 4-2: Promote consolidation of small water systems where ever feasible.

• 8-5: Recommend legislation to mandate consolidation.
Ch. 10 - Implementation plan
Topic Area: Capacity Development

• 4-1: Expand the goal of the Small Water System Plan.

• 8-3: Encourage assets management planning for infrastructure replacement.

• 2-1: Develop closer relationships with DHCD.

• 2-2: Identify the most efficient mechanism of working more closely with LAFCOs

• 3-2: Explore possible funding sources to facilitate operator education opportunities.
• 2-6: Recommend legislation to implement a funding strategy that will ensure that the program is adequately and consistently funded.
Ch. 10 - Implementation plan

Topic Area: Program Actions

• 2-5: Continue to encourage new and existing board members of public water systems to complete a course on their duties.

• 4-4: Require responsible parties to cover the cost of mitigating contamination.

• 8-2: Collaborate with the water utility industry, public interest groups and other organizations to develop strategies to educate consumers on the factors that affect the cost of operating a water system.
• 5-1: Funding is needed to maintain and expand the information management systems to implement the drinking water program efficiently and effectively and make such information available to the public.
Ch. 10 - Implementation plan
Topic Area: Treatment and Analytical Methods

• 6-1: Coordinate research needs, including methods for testing for microbes using emerging technologies.

• 6-2: Stay abreast of and provide technical input on the development of field testing methods for regulated chemicals.

• 7-1: Provide funding for research and demonstration grants to develop new treatment processes or improve the cost efficiency of existing treatment processes for small water systems, including POU/POE devices.
Ch. 10 - Implementation plan

Topic Area: Emergency Preparedness and Response

• 3-3: Require source reliability studies.

• 5-2: Explore the best method for notifying PWS during emergencies.

• 9-1: Require that all PWS update their ERP at least every five years.

• 9-2: Encourage ongoing training for water system staff on the Standardized Emergency Response System/Incident Command System.

• 9-3: Encourage all PWS to plan for the next major disaster and become a member of CALWARN for the mutual aid/assistance that it offers.
Timeline

- **November**: Workshops
- **December**: Deadline for comments (December 15)
- **June**: SWB Staff will revise the plan as needed based on input received
- **June**: Submission of the Safe Drinking Water Plan to the legislature
Resources

• Draft plan, notices, agendas, etc.:

  http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/safedrinkingwaterplan

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Thank you! ¡Gracias!