

Small Community Water and Wastewater Section Newsletter

March 2015
Issue 1

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/SRF.shtml



Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/index.shtml

Get to Know Our Team!

In July 2014, the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) formed a new section dedicated to serve the drinking water and wastewater needs of small and disadvantaged communities throughout California. This new section is comprised of existing knowledgeable and dedicated staff.



1st Row from Left: Mike Downey, Lawrence Sanchez, Pete Stamas, Julé Rizzardo, Ibyang Rivera, Andrew Lawrence, Kyle Ochendusko, George Faggella 2nd Row from Left: Diana Conkle, Maria Pang, Lorri Silva, Bridget Chase, Joel Greathouse, Mehreen Siddiqui, Meghan Tosney



Technology News

- ◆ The CWSRF Application celebrates its one year anniversary of using the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) system to submit applications electronically!
- ◆ On January 1, 2015, the DWSRF Financial Assistance Application became available online using the FAAST system at <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/> **(Six applications were submitted in January using FAAST.)**
- ◆ Need help using the FAAST system? Call the Help Desk at 1-866-434-1083, email FAAST_ADMIN@waterboards.ca.gov or visit the State Water Board's web site at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/srf_forms.shtml for video tutorials.
- ◆ We are exploring feasibility of offering Technical Assistance requests, TMF Tune up, and other small community drinking water tools online using FAAST. **Let us know what you think!** (Email George Faggella at George.Faggella@waterboards.ca.gov)



What We're Doing to Streamline DWSRF Application Review!

- ◆ Instituting monthly DWSRF meetings to stage projects for environmental, financial and technical clearance
- ◆ Assigning each DWSRF project a single point of contact (Project Manager) to coordinate all technical, environmental and financial reviews
- ◆ Improving our data systems to efficiently collect application materials and track applications through the approval process



Technical Assistance Corner

- ◆ The State Water Board has contracts in place with Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), California Rural Water Association (CRWA), and Self Help Enterprises (SHE) to provide technical assistance related to drinking water and wastewater. Eligible activities may include, but are not limited to:
 - Prepare financial assistance applications
 - Compliance audits and troubleshooting to address permit violations or improve operations
 - Review proposed project alternatives to assist in identifying low-cost, sustainable approaches
 - Planning and budgets, including capital improvement planning
 - Community outreach, awareness, and education, especially with regard to rate setting and Proposition 218

Technical Assistance Contacts

Drinking Water: George Faggella at
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Wastewater: Meghan Tosney at
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Questions or Comments?

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What's Ahead in 2015!

- ◆ **March 26, 2015 CalTAP Fair (Free)**
Learn about the California Technical Assistance Providers (CalTAP) programs that are supported by the California State Water Resources Control Board. Information is available at <http://stage.events.rcac.org/images/rcac/pdfs/SRFCA-Brochure-Jan-June-15.pdf>
- ◆ **2015 California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) statewide Funding Fairs (Free)** - The 2015 schedule and registration information is available on the CFCC website at <http://cfcc.ca.gov/>
- ◆ **Proposition 1 Funding** — General information can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1.shtml

Did You Know

- ◆ American Community Survey (ACS) data found at <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/> is used to determine the median household income (MHI) for the CWSRF and DWSRF programs. The following are the 2015 MHI levels used by both programs for determining if a community is disadvantaged:
 - **California statewide MHI: \$61,094**
 - **Disadvantaged MHI: \$48,875**
 - **Severely Disadvantaged: MHI: \$36,656**
- ◆ Public water systems often need professional engineering services when pursuing a new or updated planning document, or constructing new or replacement facilities. DWSRF has a guidance document called "Engineering Firm Selection Process" to assist water systems in obtaining a qualified engineer. The document can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/documents/srf/dwsrf_policy/appendix_k.pdf