

# Drought Workshops for Counties FAQ

## Points of Contact

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## Eligibility – Drought Emergency Funding

- 1. Whom are the DWR and State Water Board regional programs intended to serve?**
  - a. These regional programs are intended to provide relief to domestic well users and small water systems experiencing water shortage or water quality impacts related to the drought. Additional funding resources are available through the State Water Board and DWR to address the needs of public agencies, water systems, tribes, etc. Please reach out with any project specific questions.
  
- 2. How are small water systems defined and to whom should they go for assistance?**
  - a. State small water systems are defined by having less than 15 service connections or 25 yearlong residents. Depending on the location of the county, funding will be provided by the State Water Board or [DWR's Small Community Drought Relief Program](#).
  
- 3. Which entities are eligible to apply for funding? Are cities or special districts (e.g., resource conservation districts) eligible to apply for funding?**
  - a. Public agencies, tribal governments, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations and community water systems that benefit a disadvantaged community are eligible as direct recipients of the funding. An eligible applicant may apply to implement a program to provide assistance to domestic well users and state small water systems. Cities and special districts can also apply for funding through DWR's Drought Relief Fund.
    - Larger systems (>3000 connections) can apply on behalf of smaller water systems.
    - Non-profits that work with multiple counties can submit a single [application](#).
    - Businesses, individual households and small systems are encouraged to apply through their county or through a non-profit organization.

- 4. What types of projects are eligible for funding and which projects will get priority?**
- a. Projects related to human drinking water/health and safety are eligible for funding. Projects related to water for agriculture or livestock are not eligible under this specific program. Projects benefitting disadvantaged communities will get funding priority through both the State Water Board and DWR programs. However, the programs are not competitive.
- 5. Is funding limited to counties that are under formal emergency drought declarations?**
- a. Funding from DWR was initially limited to counties under official drought emergencies, that restriction was lifted after the passage of Senate Bill 170 on September 23, 2021 State Water Board funding does not have this limitation and is available to any county experiencing issues with water shortages.
- 6. What is considered an eligible cost for reimbursement? Is there a cap/local cost match requirement or other limitations?**
- a. The programs do not require a match from a local entity. There is also no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by an eligible entity, or a minimum percentage of dry wells in a given area. Below is a list of generally eligible costs for reimbursement, please reach out to discuss any project specific questions.

Generally Eligible Costs:

- Personnel: administration, outreach, coordination with contractors and enrollees, etc.
- Operating Expenses/Implementation: direct project costs such as supplies and equipment needed to implement the project
- Professional contracted services: work completed by vendors, subcontractors, and/or consultants
- Travel: essential project-related travel
- Indirect Costs: non-project specific costs of doing business (indirect costs are not eligible under DWR's program.)

- 7. Will groundwater projects be considered?**
- a. While there is funding available for groundwater projects, including well replacements and repairs, state permitting requirements will still be in place and this funding will be directed towards those with immediate needs rather than long-term resilience projects.

The State Water Board has a statewide well repair program available through the [Rural Community Assistance Corporation \(RCAC\)](#) and are in the process of establishing a regional one in the Central Valley with Self Help Enterprises. Some recent water system well repair projects are being funded by DWR.

## Process

**8. In what order should households and water systems contact their local technical service provider and county OEM/OES?**

- a. Households and water systems within a county that has implemented a program should contact the program's point of contact directly. Households and water systems within a county that has no program implemented should contact the county's OEM/OES. Visit [the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance drought page](#) for information on where technical assistance programs have been implemented (see link to drought funding flyer and project mapping tool coming soon).

**9. What is the timeline for approval of proposals?**

- a. This will depend on the project, but generally proposals can be evaluated within a matter of weeks after receipt of the completed application.

**10. How is funding disbursed?**

- a. All funding is provided through a reimbursement process. An eligible entity must incur costs for reimbursement by the State. Once a project is approved an applicant can begin to incur eligible costs while a funding agreement is negotiated. Once the funding agreement is executed the State may begin to process and pay reimbursement requests.

**11. Can consolidation projects be listed on the same application?**

- a. This application is a good starting place, and you will be referred to the right office if your proposal is not a good fit for these programs.

**12. Where can I find a list of open solicitations and funding agencies?**

- a. This list can be found at <https://www.library.ca.gov/grants/>

**13. How much funding is available?**

- a. In the recent Budget Act, the State Water Board received \$10 million for drought response, and DWR received \$200 million for small community drought response.

**14. Where can we find examples of projects and associated budgets?**

- a. We may post this information on our website in the future, but for the time being please email Matt Pavelchik ([Matthew.Pavelchik@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Matthew.Pavelchik@waterboards.ca.gov)) for project and budget examples and templates.

## Program and partnership specifics

**15. What is the relationship between county/California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and state agency programs?**

- a. Local county office of emergency services/management are better positioned to provide immediate help to small systems and individual households experiencing drought impacts. These offices are working in coordination with the statewide CalOES and are receiving funding from state agencies.

**16. How are the State Water Board and DWR working to build resilience to protect against future/ongoing drought periods?**

- a. One major goal of our working with counties is to develop relationships and work toward long-term resiliency solutions. In the short term, the needs will likely be more toward services like providing bottled water or hauled water/tanks to deal with water shortage issues. Although these require the most immediate attention, we are also thinking about long-term solutions. We would like to begin working with communities at high risk of groundwater contamination on regional scale consolidation options or point of use/point of entry treatment options where consolidation is not feasible. DWR's Small Community, Urban and Multi-Benefit drought funding programs are targeted at improving drought resiliency statewide. The State Water Board's [SAFER program](#) is focused on both short- and long-term strategies to achieve safe and affordable drinking water for all Californians.