



Media Release

State Water Board Streamlines Process to Apply for Drinking Water Funds

Improvements include online application process; expanded project eligibility

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board’s Division of Financial Assistance recently streamlined access to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), making it easier for water systems to apply for project funds that will enhance and upgrade the drinking water supplies of millions of Californians.

Brought over with the transfer of the drinking water program on [July 1, 2014](#), the DWSRF program offers below-market-rate loans to water providers to upgrade their drinking water systems to meet state and federal safe drinking water standards. As of Jan.1, 2015, the Division of Financial Assistance can accept DWSRF applications online year round, making it easier for water suppliers to begin developing critical public health upgrades to drinking water systems.

In addition, the State Water Board’s [DWSRF Policy Handbook](#) makes more projects eligible for DWSRF funding. Newly expanded project types include defective water meter replacement, treatment to address secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) exceedance, and water infrastructure replacement or update, including transmission or distribution lines, groundwater wells, and other infrastructure. Water providers interested in DWSRF funds can now apply at any time as there is no pre-application or invitation process. The State Water Board funds DWSRF projects on a ready-to-proceed basis and will put projects that address critical public health issues in the highest priority, including imminent water supply outages and nitrate MCL violations.

“Helping communities get more healthy and reliable drinking water is a primary focus of the State Water Board,” said Felicia Marcus, Chair of the State Water Board. “One part of our commitment to safe drinking water is providing the tools and resources to help water systems throughout the state produce drinking water that meets state and federal standards. One invaluable instrument in the tool box to help achieve this goal is the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Thanks to revisions to the program, it’s now easier for water systems to apply



for funding and move forward with their projects. The funds are there and we're ready to help out."

The DWSRF is open to community and nonprofit non-community water systems, large and small, public agencies or private entities. Funds can be awarded for the planning and design phase; for just the construction portion; or both. The funding is provided in the form of 20-year loans, with extended term 30-year financing for some disadvantaged communities. Recent interest rates have ranged from 1.5 to 3 percent, dropping as low as 0% for some disadvantaged communities. Additional subsidy in the form of principal forgiveness or grants may also be available to water systems owned by a public agency or nonprofit water companies that serve disadvantaged communities.

What types of projects are eligible for DWSRF funding?

- Construction of new water sources, distribution pipelines, and treatment facilities.
- Construction of infrastructure that is needed to consolidate or intertie water systems.
- Replacement of aged drinking water infrastructure, such as wells, pipelines, tanks, and treatment systems.
- Installation or replacement of water supply meters.
- Construction of facilities needed to create a community water system, or extend service from an existing public water system to serve residents currently on individual wells or surface water sources.
- Planning/design funds needed to cover the costs of activities necessary to construct a project, including preliminary engineering, pilot-scale treatment studies, design and other planning activities.

Visit the DWSRF [webpage](#) for more information, or call (916) 327-9978, or email DrinkingWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov.

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