Ways to Participate

Watch only: Visit video.calepa.ca.gov

Submit a comment:

Email <u>safer@waterboards.ca.gov</u> with subject "AGM Public Comment," and follow instructions in return email to join the meeting.

Technical or language interpretation assistance: <u>safer@waterboards.ca.gov</u>



CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS

SAFER Advisory Group Meeting #3

July 11, 2024 Via Zoom





Meeting Logistics



Language Interpretation through Zoom

- Click the **Interpretation** icon in your meeting controls
 - Navigate to Language Channels
 - You must select English or Spanish
 - Mute Original Audio



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For technical assistance, email: SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov

View Options on Zoom

Click on View Options or Meeting and select:

- "Presentación en español"
 OR
- "Presentation in English"

View Options and Meeting can be in the middle or on the top left corner of your screen.





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Zoom Chat

Click on Chat.



1. To send a message to participants or staff.

2. To read a message from participants or staff.

3. To communicate with staff a technical issue.



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ask to speak.

Click on **Raise Hand** or **React.**



React

3. Use the reactions buttons to show your approval or ask speakers to slow down.

2. Raise your hand to



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SAFER Advisory Group Meeting #3

July 11, 2024 Via Zoom







Water Boards' Mission

Preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.





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Meeting Guidelines

- Take breaks as needed
- Speak slowly
- Raise your hand for comments or questions
- Keep your comments concise and to the point
- For technical support: safer@waterboards.ca.gov



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Introductions and Warmer

- Your name
- Your affiliation
- Your location
- Warmer: How did you celebrate the 4th of July?



Theme #1 SAFER Program Goals



Introduction Joaquin Esquivel Board Chair



Drinking Water Situation in 2019

1.6 million people lacked safe water, many for a decade or more.

• Primarily low-income, communities of color that had been excluded, disinvested in, and had experienced the disproportionate pollution.

Creation of the SAFER program to help people in those communities and schools.

• \$130M/year fund.



SAFER Program Evolution

- 1. Beginning phase: Quantified and measured the drinking water needs; established relationships; activated new funding sources.
- 2. Intermediate phase: Identified sustainable solutions, leveraged consolidation and administrator authorities, expanded drought emergency assistance, expedited funding, improved processes.
- **3. Now:** Improving efficiency and focus, streamlining funding and iterating approaches to accelerate solutions in high-priority communities.

-	4	

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SAFER Program at 5 years - Accomplishments

- 98% of Californians are served by water systems that meet drinking water standards.
- 2 million total people again have clean drinking water thanks to regulatory and funding efforts.
- A net gain of 700,000 more people have safe water now than did in 2019.

- All 380 failing drinking water systems are working to long term solutions.
- \$831 M grants for Disadvantaged Communities (2 ¹/₂ times more than 2014-2019).
- 120 consolidations completed benefiting over 90,000 people.
 - Over 200 in process for failing water systems.

Remaining Challenges for the Next 5 years

- Too many small, unsustainable drinking water systems.
- **900,000 people** in 380 communities don't have safe water.
- Communities still working on getting long-term, reliable solutions.
- As one water systems comes off the failing list, another begins to fail.



SAFER Program Goals Chad Fischer Division of Drinking Water





SAFER Program Goals, looking ahead

GOAL 1 - People in communities that didn't have safe water now have it.

GOAL 2 - All communities without safe drinking water are on track to get lasting solutions in place as swiftly as feasible.

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GOAL 3 - California's most vulnerable communities are transitioning to be resilient and prevent cycles of failures.

Goal 1: People in communities that didn't have safe water now have it



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Focus on finding solutions for the water systems that were failing in July 2019.

Numeric Goal:

 90% of 2019 Failing systems will be back in compliance by 2030 (290 communities).

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• 67% are predicted by 2026 (228 communities).

Goal 2: All communities without safe drinking water are on track to get lasting solutions in place as swiftly as possible

All failing systems have sustainable solutions within 5 years on average. Reduction in average return to compliance time from 8+ to 5 years

Reduction in average return to compliance time from 8+ to 5 years.

- TA providers completing planning within 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years or less.
- Division of Drinking Water enforcement improved to include compliance deadlines and required corrective action plans.

Goal 3: California's most vulnerable communities are transitioning to be resilient and prevent cycles of failures



Consolidation goal: 55 additional community systems consolidated in 2026 and 130 in 2030.

- Reduction in the number of water systems falling back out of compliance.
- Reducing multiple interim/emergency assistance funding requests.

Progress on domestic wells – DRIP Collaboration

- Senate Bill 552 Establish an Interagency Task Force
- Drought Resilience Interagency & Partners Collaborative (ca.gov)

18 Non-State Members Tribal Representatives Technical Assistance Providers **Community-Based Organizations** The Public The Environment Agriculture Local Government Public Water Systems

Experts in Land Use / Water

8 State Agencies

California Natural Resources Agency, Nancy Vogel

Department of Water Resources, Karla Nemeth

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Josh Grover

California Environmental Protection Agency, Anna Naimark

State Water Board, Joaquin Esquivel

California Department of Food and Agriculture, Virginia Jameson (Tawny Mata)

California Office of Emergency Services, Tina Curry

Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Saharnaz Mirzazad (Sam Assefa)

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SAFER Program Goals Questions and Answers



- Raise your hand to ask questions
- Wait for your turn
- Turn on microphone
- Speak slowly
- Limit your questions to 3 minutes

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• Turn off microphone

Public comment or technical assistance? Please email: safer@waterboards.ca.gov





Theme #2 Draft Priorities for the Fund Expenditure Plan

Jeff Wetzel Division of Financial Assistance



SAFER Program Funding Sources



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FY 2024-25 SAFER Program Anticipated Funding



* For the projected \$668 million solely available for capital projects, it is important to note that \$451 million is for projects that address contaminants of emerging concern only and may have additional eligibility requirements.

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Funding Projections and Existing Programs

Active Multi-Year Programs (in millions)



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Cumulative SAFER Program Performance*



* In the construction category, when considering just the projects benefiting small DACs, the total amount of assistance is approximately \$683.5 M, for 150 water systems, benefiting 440,500 people.

SAFER Program Trends



Total Funding Provided (In Millions)



Interim Planning / Technical Assistance

Construction

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SAFER Program Trends





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FY 2024-25 SADW Fund Proposed Priorities



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Other Complementary Funding and Solution Types

Complementary funding for solution types affecting the FY 2024-25 SADW Funding Targets.

Solution Type	Description	
Interim Supplies	 \$92.5 M from the California Emergency Relief Fund: Continue existing hauled water and well repair/ replacement programs Primarily for domestic well owners with dry wells. \$14 M from separate budget augmentation: Support domestic wells impacted by flooding in the San Joaquin Valley. 	
Technical Assistance	 Portion of the 2021 General Fund Drinking Water Infrastructure: Supplement existing TA agreements. 	
Construction	 Funding from the 2021 General Fund Drinking Water Infrastructure: Committed or disencumbered No longer available to fund capital projects. Recent federal grants for emerging contaminants: May be used for eligible capital projects addressing emerging contaminants. 	
FY 2024-25 SADW Fund Proposed Targets



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Summary of Proposed FY 2024-25 Targets

- Focus on small Disadvantaged Communities and low-income households.
- Significant investments proposed to drinking water capital projects to address Failing systems and consolidations

Funding	Solution Type	Purpose
\$3 M	Planning	Planning needs to be completed outside of Technical Assistance
\$88 M	Construction	 New agreements Amendments for Failing systems and consolidations Eligible Expedited Drinking Water Grant Projects Final Budget Approval amendments
\$10 M	Interim Supplies	 \$5 M for Failing and At-risk systems \$5 M for state smalls and domestic wells
\$10 M	Technical Assistance	Potential Technical Assistance needs associated with existing agreements
\$1.5 M	Administrators	Potential system-specific administrator agreements/amendments

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Category	Update
SAFER Program Goals	Refined goals for the SAFER Program
Construction	Added information on Final Budget Approval amendments
Drought Infrastructure	Shortened section as SB 552-related requests will be considered after the refined SAFER Program goals
Metrics and Performance	 Tables added to track administrative efficiency Regional case studies added to racial equity and environmental justice section
Hexavalent Chromium	Added note on Board adoption of Maximum Contaminant Level Requirements to be considered for TA and/or planning funding

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FY 2023-24 Committed Expenditures, by <u>Solution Type</u> as of March 31, 2024



Other Program Updates

Category	Updates
Expedited Drinking Water Grant Program	 37 systems solicited 15 agreements issued 16 projects pending
Direct Operations & Maintenance	 30 Group 1 systems notified 6 Applications Submitted 14 systems not interested, non-responsive, not eligible 10 systems pre-application discussion ongoing



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Draft Priorities for the Fund Expenditure Plan Questions and Answers



- Raise your hand to ask questions
- Wait for your turn
- Turn on microphone
- Speak slowly
- Limit your questions to 3 minutes

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• Turn off microphone

Public comment or technical assistance? Please email: safer@waterboards.ca.gov

Draft Priorities for the Fund Expenditure Plan

Large Group Discussion









Summary of Technical Assistance Efforts

Zoe Wu

Division of Financial Assistance



Development and implementation of drinking water, wastewater, and storm water solutions for communities via Technical Assistance Providers funded by the State Water Board.

- Implemented by the Division of Financial Assistance (DFA), Office of Sustainable Water Solutions Branch.
- Currently 11 qualified Technical Assistance Providers with active grant agreements to provide drinking water Technical Assistance regionally or statewide.

Purpose of Technical Assistance

- To assist small communities with accessing funding resources.
- To support communities with capacity development to build technical, financial, and managerial capacity.



Drinking Water Technical Assistance Scope

- Funding applications
- Rate studies
- Income surveys
- Technical, Managerial, Financial (TMF) assessment
- Electronic Annual Report (eAR)
- Trainings and workshops
- Other activities supporting capacity development

- Administrative assistance
- Technical assistance
 - Engineering planning & design
 - Environmental studies
- Legal assistance
- Operational assistance
- Managerial assistance
- Community engagement
- May include capacity development tasks supporting the project

Technical Assistance Program Prior to SAFER

- Funding agreements under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund set-aside funding focused on capacity development.
- **Proposition 1** created a multidisciplinary Technical Assistance Program in 2016.
 - DFA conducted a solicitation for Technical Assistance proposals and entered into agreements with 9 providers.
 - Technical Assistance supported infrastructure projects.

Technical Assistance Program under SAFER

Increased

- TA investments from the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water (SADW) fund and additional program staff.
- Full planning assistance for Category A-C and consolidation projects in alignment with SAFER goals.

Expanded

✓ TA provider definition in 09/2021

 Implemented a Request for Qualification (RFQ) from Spring 2022 to Fall 2023 to assemble Qualified TA Providers Pool

✓ **Scope** to include the following:

- Managerial and operational assistance
- Circuit Riders assisting At-Risk water systems
- Bridge loans for funding projects*
- Emergency funding requests*
- * San Joaquin Valley Counties

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Applying for Technical Assistance

- Requests for Technical Assistance are accepted on a continuous basis, either online or via PDF form emailed to DFA
- Easy application process:
 - Basic system information
 - Description of the problem and request
 - Contact information

REQUEST FOR	R TECHNICAL ASSISTANC	E
Instructions: If an item is not relevant or u		
Please e-mail the completed form to: DFA-		<u>ca.gov</u>
Date of Submittal:	Name of Requestor:	
A. Community, System, or School Name	e:	
Public Water System ID No. (if applicable):		
Number of Service Connections:	Service Area Population	
Type of Organization: Municipal entity		e: 🔲 nonprofit; 🛄 for profit)
District/Local education agency Other:		
Estimated Median Household Income (MHI	I): \$ (Sou	rce:
Estimated percentage of secondary homes Letters of Intent included (required for volu		a Map included (required)
B. Type of TA Need: Drinking Water	🗌 Wastewater 🛛 🗌 Sto	rm Water 🛛 🔲 Groundwater
D. Request: Briefly describe the assistant	ce being requested.	
D. Request: Briefly describe the assistant Is the regulatory agency (DDW, LPA, Regio		portive of this project?
	onal Water Board, etc.) sup	portive of this project?
Is the regulatory agency (DDW, LPA, Regio	onal Water Board, etc.) sup e order?	
Is the regulatory agency (DDW, LPA, Regional of contact person/agency: Is this request associated with a complianc	onal Water Board, etc.) sup e order? (attach	n a copy if available)
Is the regulatory agency (DDW, LPA, Regic Yes, name of contact person/agency: Is this request associated with a complianc Yes, Compliance Order No.:	onal Water Board, etc.) sup e order? (attach	n a copy if available)
Is the regulatory agency (DDW, LPA, Regional Yes, name of contact person/agency: Is this request associated with a complianc Yes, Compliance Order No.: E. Contact Information: Please provide a	onal Water Board, etc.) sup te order? (attach a contact for correspondence	n a copy if available)
Is the regulatory agency (DDW, LPA, Regio Yes, name of contact person/agency: Is this request associated with a complianc Yes, Compliance Order No.: E. Contact Information: Please provide a Name	onal Water Board, etc.) sup te order? (attach a contact for correspondence Title/Organization	No a copy if available) No e regarding this request.
Is the regulatory agency (DDW, LPA, Regio Yes, name of contact person/agency: Is this request associated with a complianc Yes, Compliance Order No.: E. Contact Information: Please provide a Name	onal Water Board, etc.) sup the order? (attach a contact for correspondence Title/Organization City/State E-mail Address	No a copy if available) No e regarding this request.

Current Drinking Water Technical Assistance Availability

Technical Assistance Provider by Entity Type	Executed Funding Amount	Estimated Amount Remaining for New Projects
Non-Profit Organizations (4 providers)	\$121 M	\$21 M
Universities (2 providers)	\$11 M	\$8 M
Engineering Consulting Firms (5 providers)	\$56 M	\$28 M
TOTAL	\$187 M	\$57 M

Technical Assistance Requests Received and Assigned



Quarter Submitted

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Technical Assistance Breakdown under SAFER



Number of projects including type of assistance

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Technical Assistance Metrics (7/1/2022 – 3/31/2024)

Item	Progress
% of Work Plans submitted within 8 to 10 weeks of Assistance Request acceptance	68% ¹
Average total cost per Technical Assistance planning Work Plan	\$73,586 ²
Average time to execute Work Plan ³	25 weeks ¹
% of Work Plans needing amendments for budget	89% ^{1,4}
% of Work Plans needing amendments for time	62% ^{1,4}
Average number of times Work Plan amended	2 times

¹ Data is for the period from 4/1/2023 to 3/31/2024.

²4 Technical Assistance Work Plans completed a construction application during the tracking period.

³ Time to execute a Work Plan is measured from the Request assignment to a provider to the Plan completion.

⁴ These items do not add up to 100% because many amendments include both budget and time increases.

Technical Assistance Timeline

Type of Technical Assistance	Average Time for Completion (Years)
Any work plan	1.4
Work plans for planning*	2.2
Capacity development	0.7

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* Data may be skewed to simpler projects that have already been completed.

Types of Systems/Communities with Active Technical Assistance as of June 2024



- Failing systems
- At-Risk systems
- Potentially At-Risk systems
- Not At-Risk systems
- State smalls/domestic well communities

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Failing and At-Risk Systems with Active Technical Assistance as of June 1, 2024



Failing systems with active TAFailing systems without active TA

At-Risk systems with active TAAt-Risk systems without active TA

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Failing Systems Receiving Technical Assistance

Failing systems receiving TA
TA amount funding for failing systems by County:
\$0 \$3,650,289



At-Risk Systems Receiving Technical Assistance





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Technical Assistance Providers Overview

- Rural Community Assistance Corporation, RCAC Jerry Tinoco
- Self-Help Enterprises Eva Dominguez
- Office of Water Program at CSU Sacramento (UEI) Randy Marx
- GHD Adam Rausch

Overview

- Introduce yourself
- Overall overview of your organization
- Role of your organization as a Technical Assistance provider
- Key projects



Summary of Technical Assistance Efforts Questions and Answers



- Raise your hand to ask questions
- Wait for your turn
- Turn on microphone
- Speak slowly
- Limit your questions to 3 minutes

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• Turn off microphone

Public comment or technical assistance? Please email: safer@waterboards.ca.gov





SAFER Program Updates



SAFER Advisory Group Application





2024 SAFER Advisory Group Application

Application opens: July 2, 2024.Application deadline: August 31, 2024.

3 different ways to apply:

- 1. Submit the online application (preferred): bit.ly/SAFER-AG-App-2024
- 2. Email your PDF application to: safer@waterboards.ca.gov
- 3. Print and mail an application to: State Water Resources Control Board Attention: Office of Public Participation SAFER Advisory Group Applications 1001 I Street, MS 13-A, Sacramento, CA 95814

Who can apply to the SAFER Advisory Group?

- ✓ Any member of the public
- ✓ Residents served by public water systems, domestic well users
- ✓ Public water systems
- ✓ Technical Assistance providers
- ✓ Local agencies
- ✓ Non-governmental organizations
- ✓ California Tribes



Who can reapply to the SAFER Advisory Group?

Current SAFER Advisory Group members with expiring terms who have served:

- 1 term in any category.
- 2 terms in the following categories:
 - Tribal Representative
 - Resident
 - Member of the Public

Current SAFER Advisory Group members who have served 2 terms in the following categories are NOT ELIGIBLE to reapply for a 3rd term:

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- Local agencies
- Non-governmental organizations
- Public water systems
- Technical assistance providers

SAFER Advisory Group Application Resources

Contact: Vanessa Soto, Engagement Coordinator Email: <u>safer@waterboards.ca.gov</u>

SAFER Advisory Group information: https://bit.ly/SAFER_AdvisoryGroup



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2024 SAFER Calendar

- July 2: SAFER Advisory Group Application Process start.
- July 11: SAFER Advisory Group meeting #3
- July 16: Draft Fiscal Year 2024-25 Fund Expenditure Plan Board Workshop
- July 16: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP) Workshop
- July 24: Draft Fiscal Year 2024-25 Fund Expenditure Plan Public comment period ends

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- August 20: Board considers adoption of Fiscal Year 2024-25 Fund Expenditure Plan
- August 31: SAFER Advisory Group Application Process deadline.
- December 5: SAFER Advisory Group meeting #4

*Dates subject to change

SAFER Advisory Group Members Announcements



SAFER Advisory Group Members Announcements

- Project/Event title
- Timeline/Event date
- Purpose/Objective
- Next steps
- Please limit 3 minutes per announcement



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Public Comments



Public Comments Guidelines



- 1. Raise your hand
- 2. Wait to be called on
- 3. Speak slowly
- 4. Limit comments to 3 minutes



- Email comment to: <u>safer@waterboards.ca.gov</u>.
- 2. Follow instructions in the return email to join Zoom.
- 3. Wait to be called on. Speaking time is limited to 3 minutes
- 4. For technical or language assistance, email:

safer@waterboards.ca.gov.

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Closing Remarks and Next Steps



Follow-up from SAFER Advisory Group Meeting #2

- ✓ Creation of SAFER goals and metrics
- Presentation of Technical Assistance Providers



Adjourn

Thank you!

safer@waterboards.ca.gov 916-445-5615

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