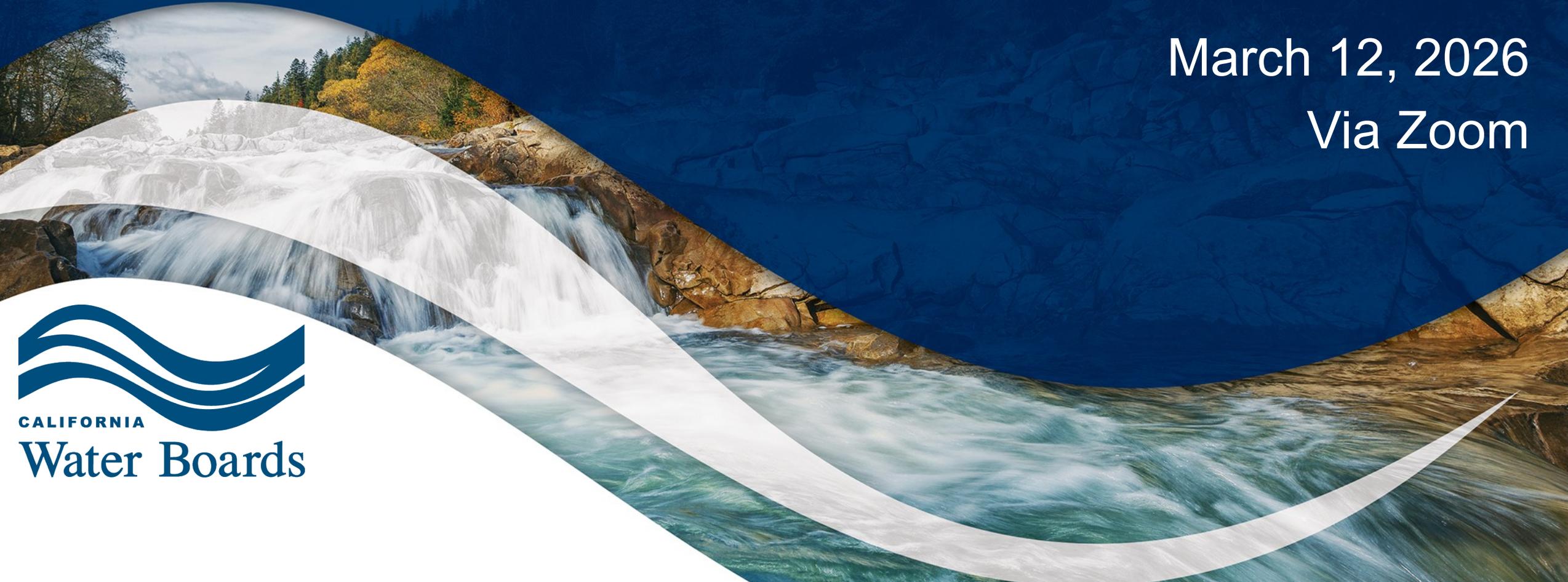


# SAFER Advisory Group Meeting #1

March 12, 2026

Via Zoom

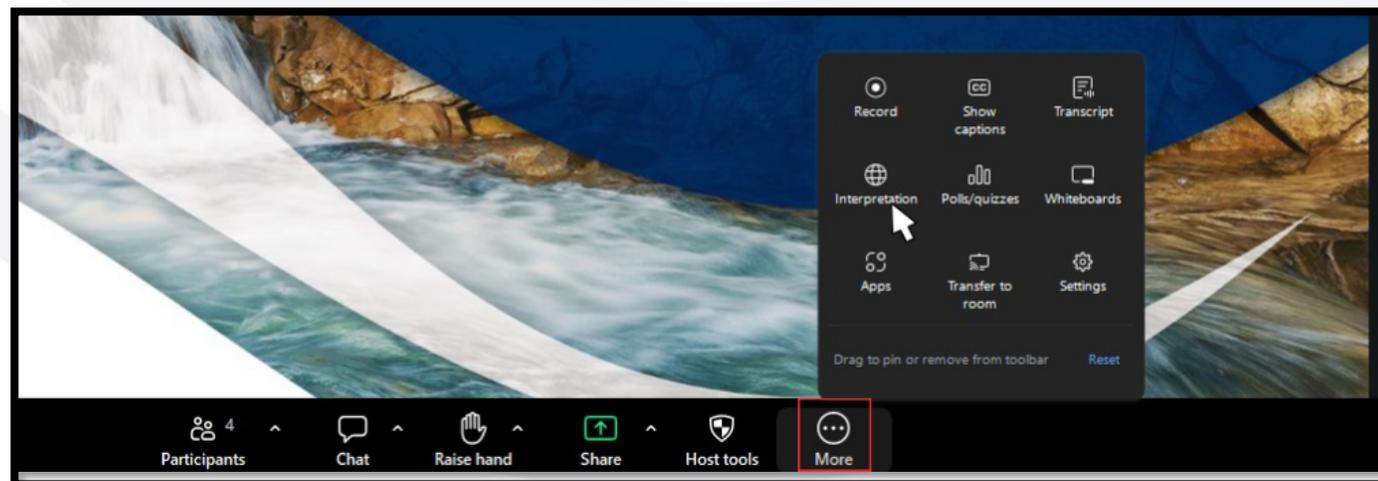


# Language Interpretation through Zoom

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Click the **three dots** and select the **Interpretation** icon in your meeting controls

- Navigate to Language Channels
- **Everyone must select a language: English or Spanish**
- If listening in Spanish, click **Mute Original Audio**



For technical assistance, email: [SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov)

# Ways to Participate

## Submit a comment:

- Email [safer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov) with subject “AGM Public Comment,” or
- Register and share your public comment during the Public Comment section:  
[https://bit.ly/2026\\_AGM1](https://bit.ly/2026_AGM1)

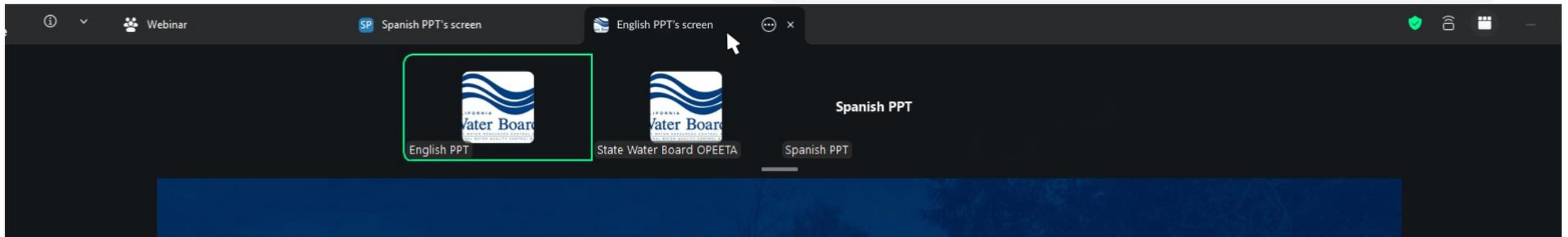
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# View Presentation Options

Click on one of the **Tab Options** at the top of your screen:

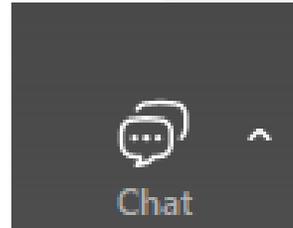
- Choose "**Spanish PPT' screen**" OR "**English PPT's screen**"



For technical assistance, email: [SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov)

# Zoom Interactions

Click on **Chat**.



- To send or read a message from participants or staff.
- To communicate with staff a technical issue.

Click on  
**Raise Hand**



- Raise your hand to ask to speak.

# Agenda

- I. Fund Expenditure Plan
- II. SAFER Program Updates and Announcements
- III. Advisory Group Member Announcements
- IV. Public Comment

# Meeting Guidelines

- Mute yourself when not speaking
- Join by video
- 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](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov)



## 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.

## SAFER Advisory Group

- Provide input on the development and implementation of the Fund Expenditure Plan and the Annual Needs Assessment.
- Feedback from Advisory Group members should align with the principle of California's Human Right to Water and the Water Boards' commitment to racial equity.

# Introductions

**Alma López**

Office of Public Engagement,  
Equity, and Tribal Affairs

# SAFER Advisory Group Introductions

- Your name
- Community you represent and/or come from
- Briefly describe a drinking water challenge your community currently faces.

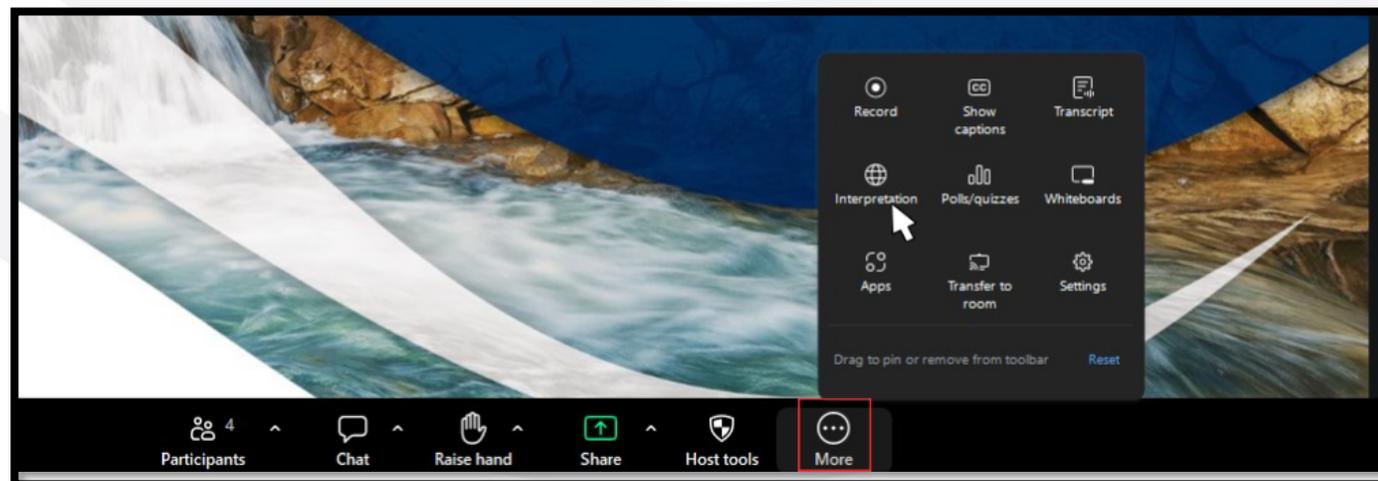


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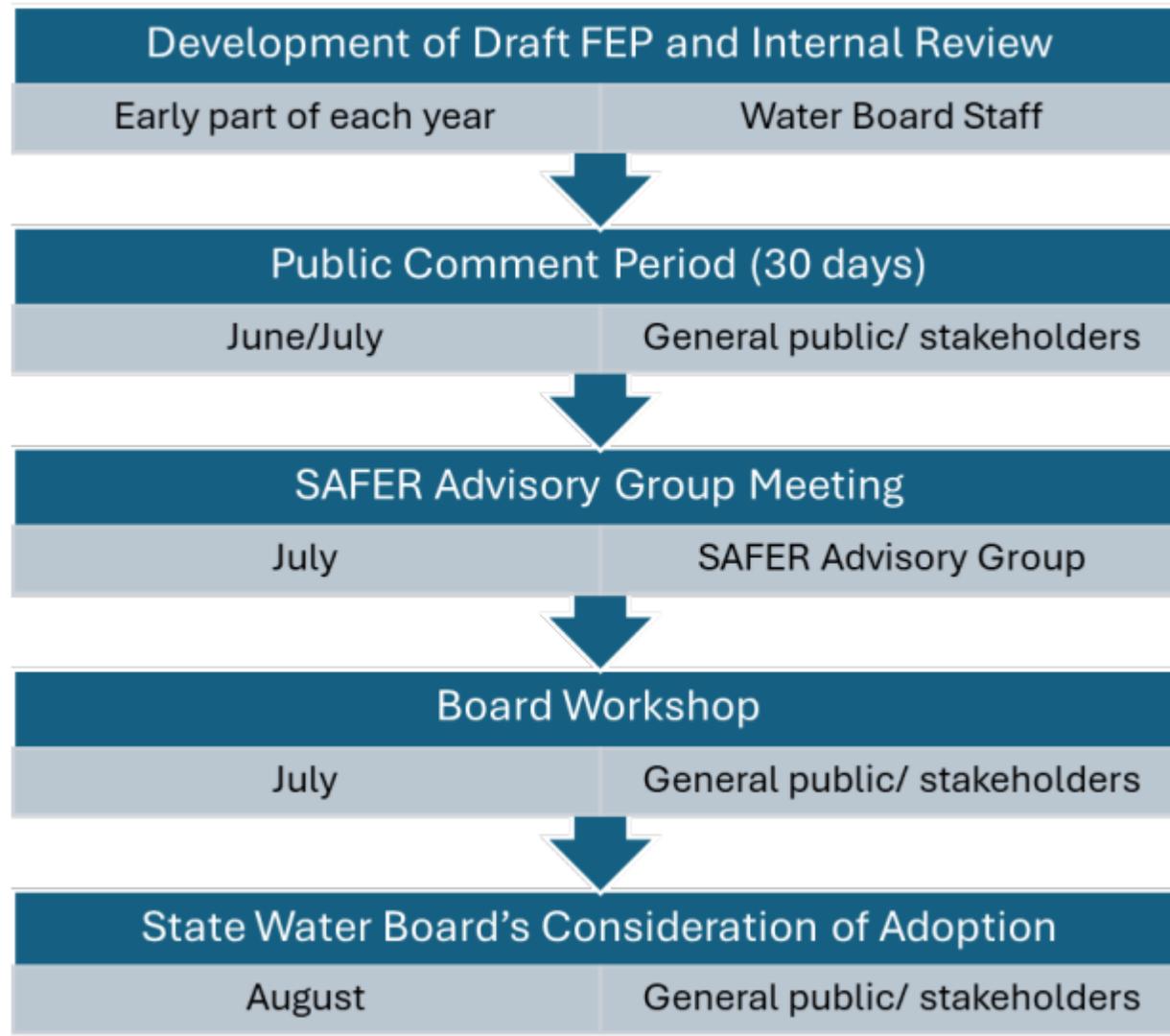
# Annual Fund Expenditure Plan

**Jeff Wetzel**

Division of Financial Assistance



# Fund Expenditure Plan Public Process



# **SAFER Goals, Priorities, and Progress**



# SAFER Program Key Goals



**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.



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

# FY 2025-26 SAFER Funding Priorities



Address community and school water systems that were failing in 2019.



Expedite planning through use of technical assistance for failing systems and communities served by failing domestic wells.



Accelerate technically and financially feasible long-term solutions, like consolidations, for failing systems and communities served by failing domestic wells.



Continue existing programs to support communities served by domestic wells and state small water systems where other assistance is not available.



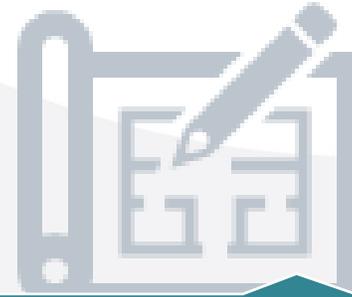
Ensure assistance is distributed consistent with the goals and direction provided in the State Water Board's Racial Equity Resolution and associated Racial Equity Action Plan.

# Q2 Update July – Dec 2025 Progress



Technical Assistance:  
**\$2.09 M**

FY Total: \$10.57 M



Planning:  
**\$2.4 M**

FY Total: \$4.18 M



Construction:  
**\$29.4 M**

FY Total: \$53.37 M



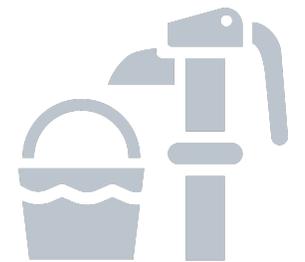
Bottled / Hauled  
Water:  
**135** new households

FY Total: 151



Domestic Wells  
Tested:  
**120**

FY Total: 157



New Wells Drilled:  
**51**

FY Total: 75



**662**  
Water  
Systems



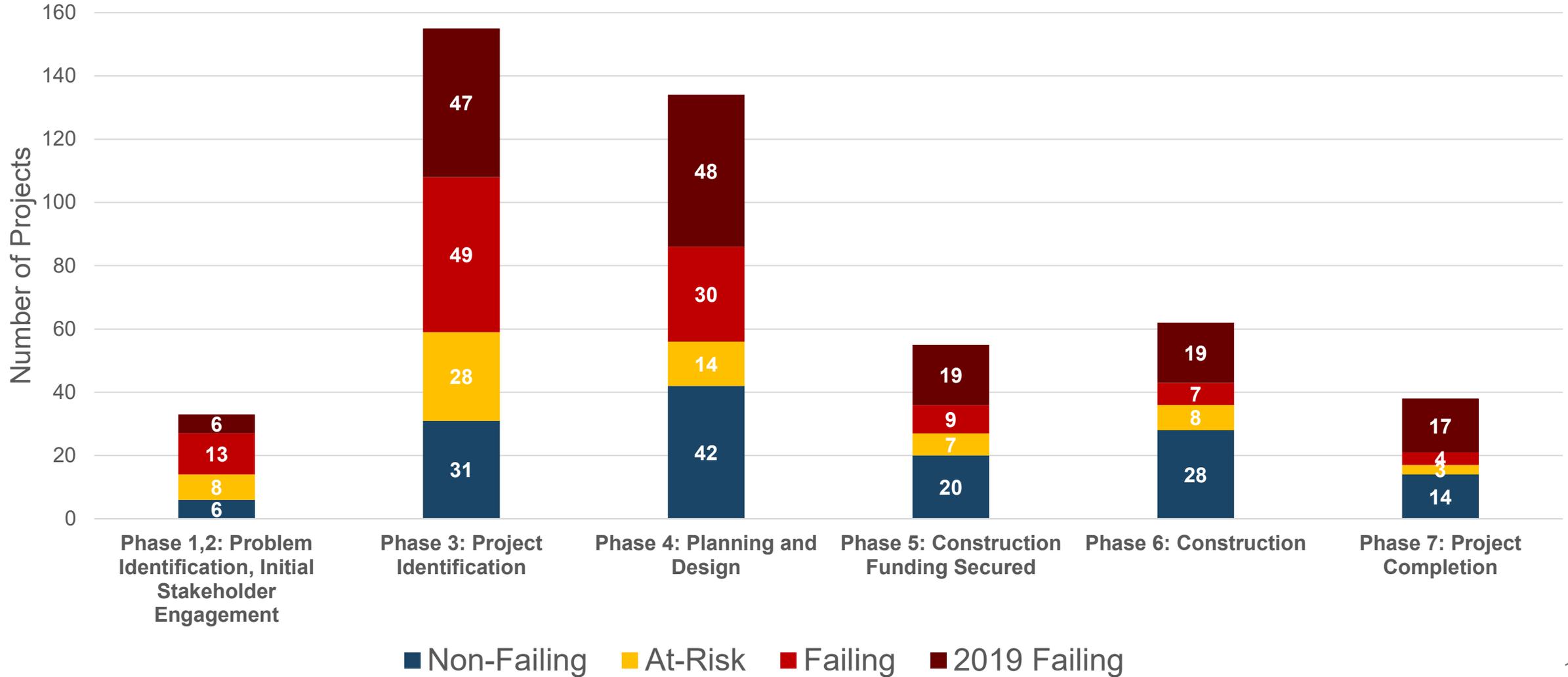
**126**  
Consolidation  
Projects



**244 (55%)**  
Failing  
Systems



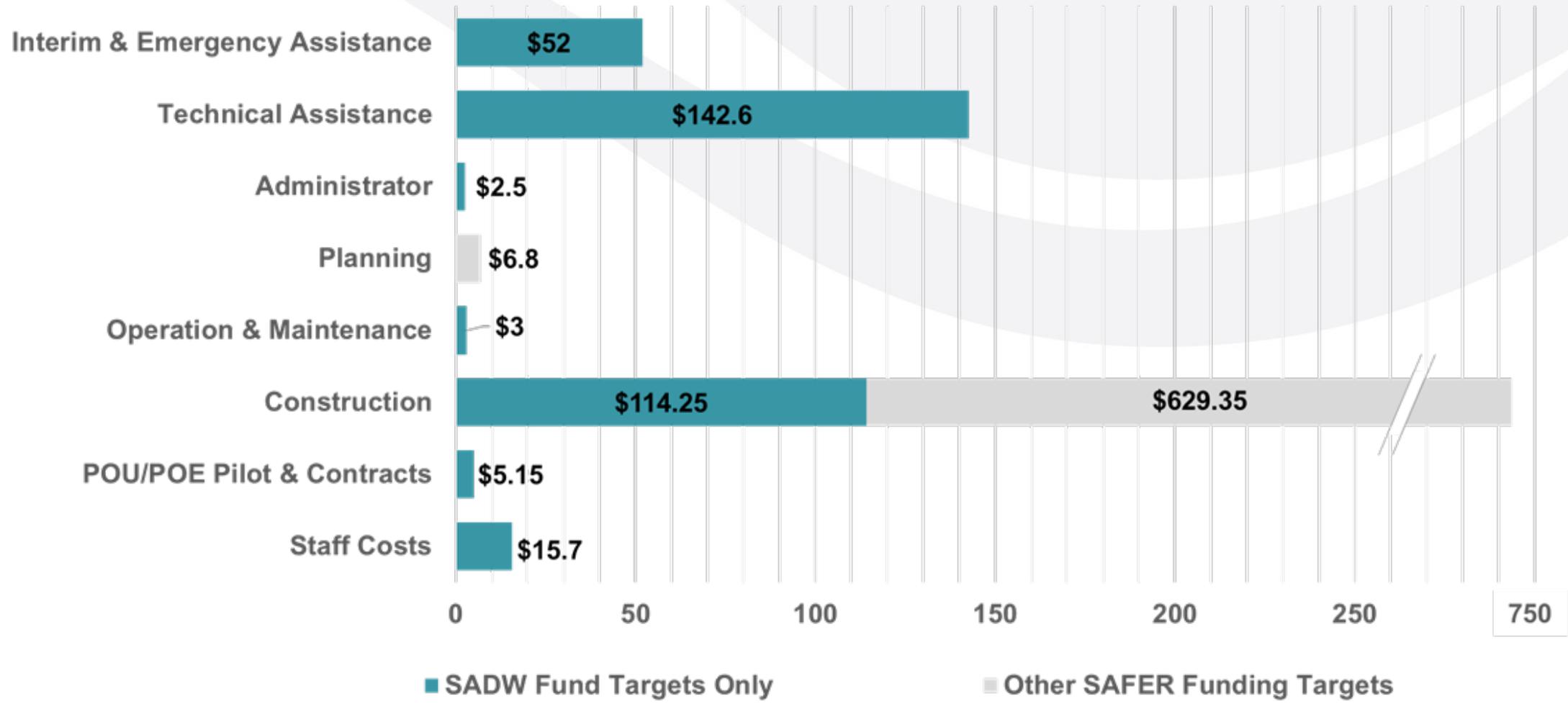
**4.5 M**  
Benefiting  
Population



# FY 2025-26 Funding Targets & Funding Amounts



# FY 2025-26 SAFER + SADW Funding Targets



**Total:  
\$997 M**

- DWSRF
- Prop 1 & 68
- Prop 4
- SADW Fund
- Other GGRF
- Small/DAC Emerging Contaminants



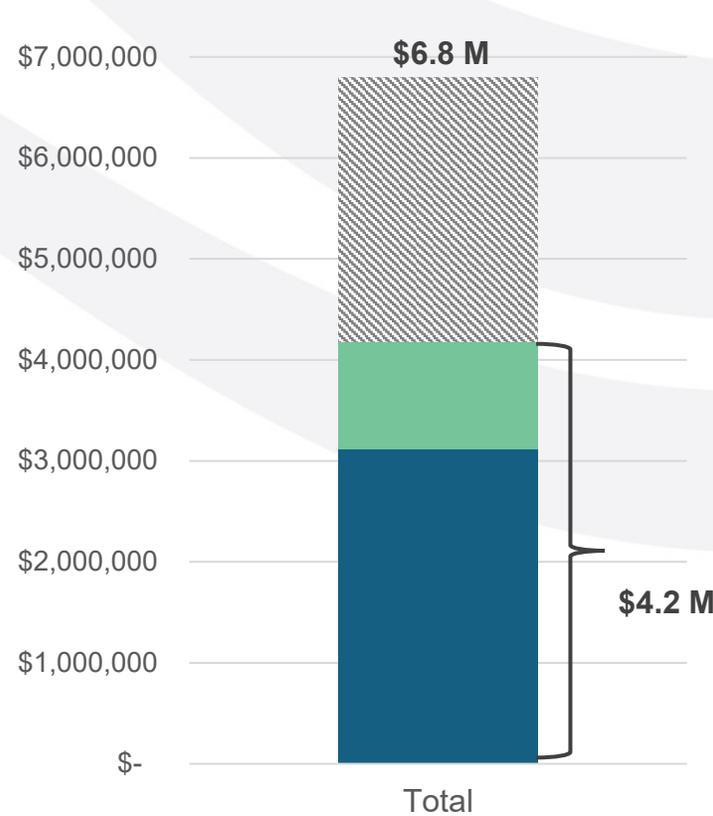
# FY 2025-26 Funding Updates

# SAFER Program

## Construction & Planning Assistance

FY Q1-Q2

### Drinking Water Planning Grants



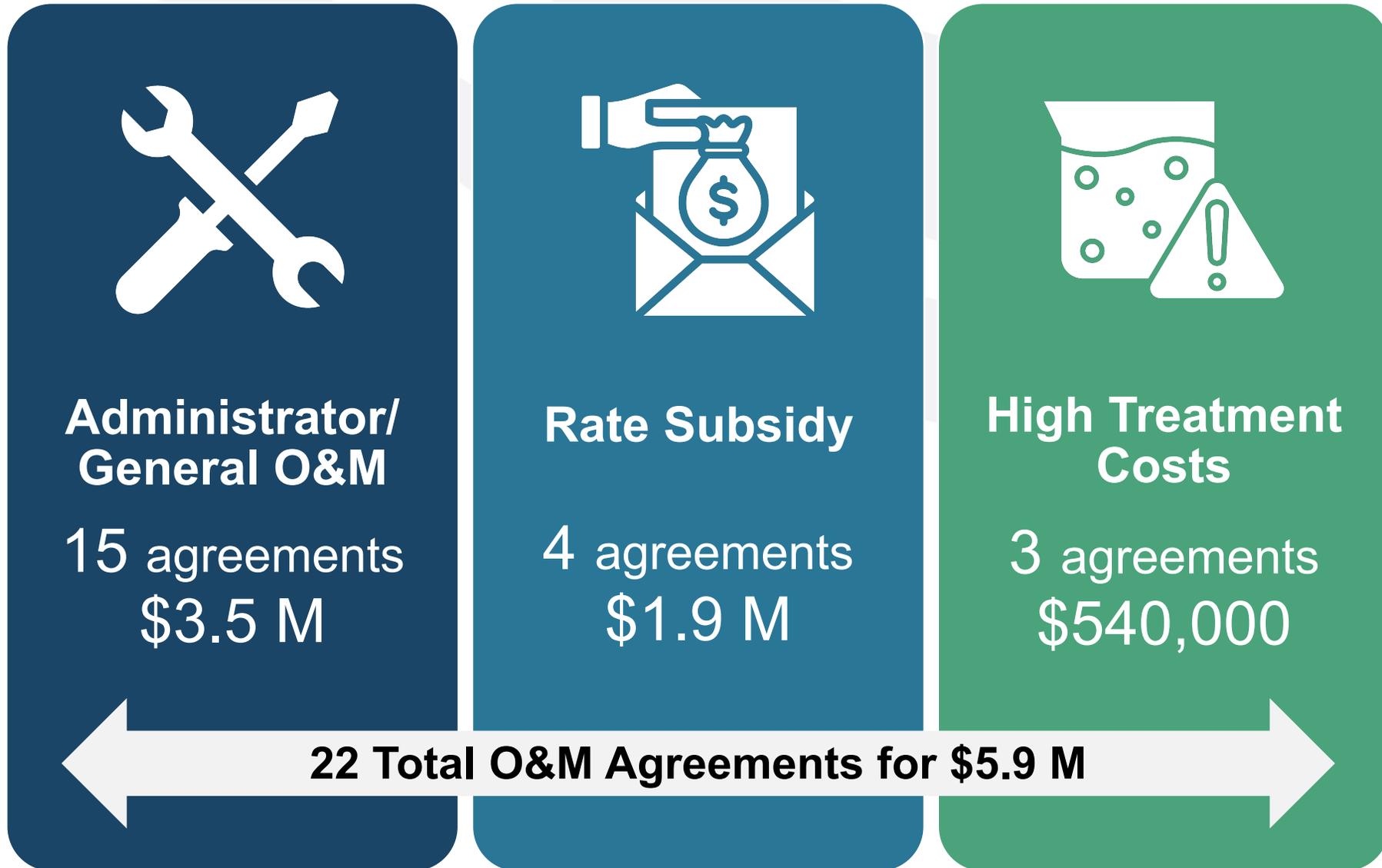
- ▨ FEP/IUP Target (Planning)
- Amendments
- Initial Agreements

### Drinking Water Construction Grants



- ▨ FEP/IUP Target (Construction)
- ▨ Pending Construction
- ▨ Pending EDWG
- Amendments
- Initial Agreements

# Active Operation & Maintenance Assistance Since 2019



# Active Administrator Assistance (since 2019)



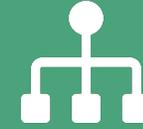
**15**  
Systems with  
Administrators



**\$15.6 M**  
Administrator  
Funding



**\$3.5 M**  
O&M  
Funding



**3**  
Master  
Administrator  
Agreements

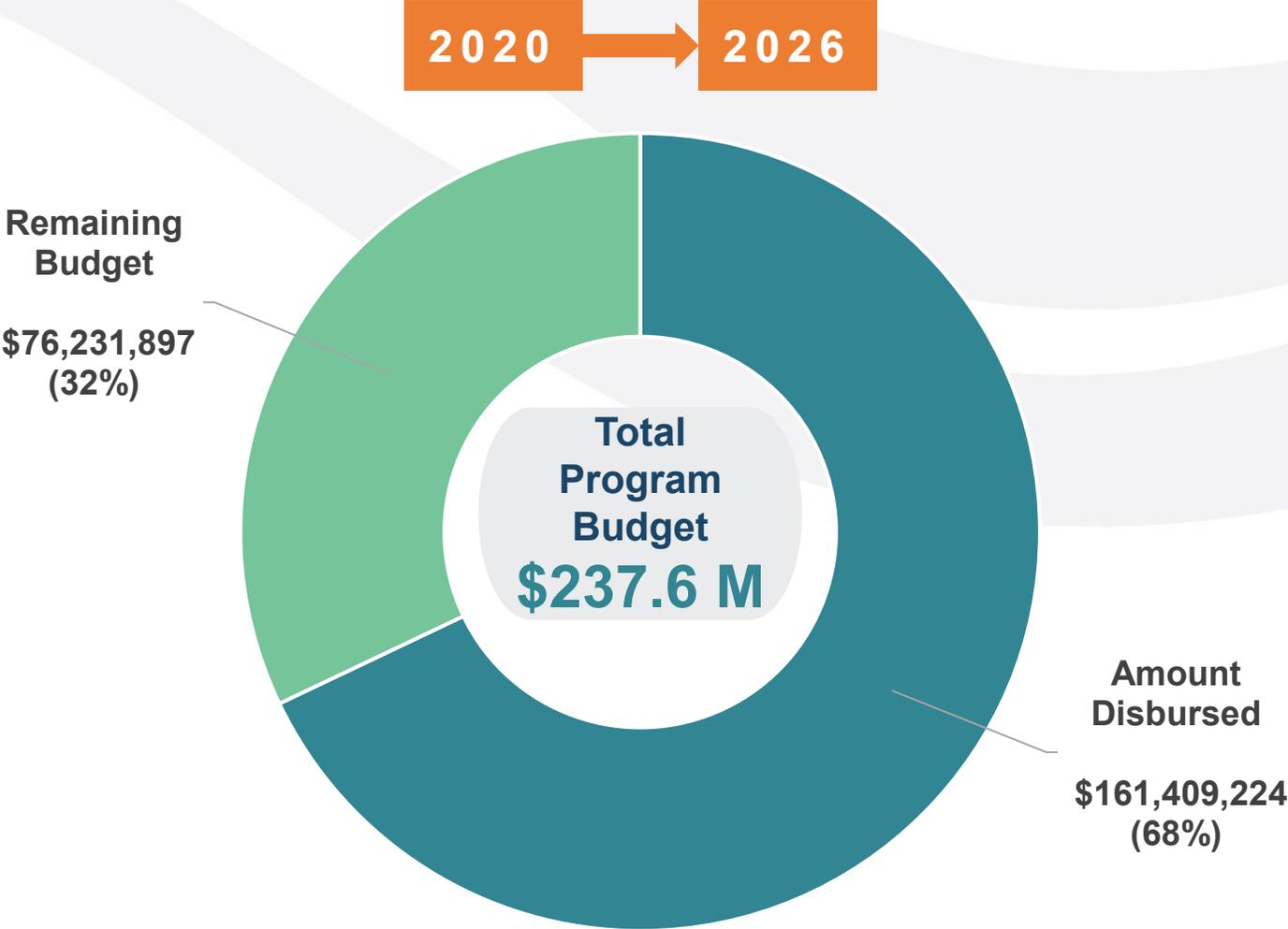


**3**  
Systems with  
Construction  
Agreements

System	Administrator	Start Date	Committed Administrator Funding	Associated O&M?	Receiving TA?	Receiving Interim Assistance?	Construction Agreement?
East Orosi CSD	Tulare RMA	9/10/2020	\$1,383,520	\$199,631	Yes	Yes	Yes
Teviston CSD	Stantec	10/5/2022	\$2,897,678	\$277,976	Yes	No	No
Keeler CSD	Provost & Pritchard	2/9/2023	\$1,221,173	\$293,325	Yes	Yes	No
Cazadero Water Company	Russian River Utility	3/13/2023	\$512,765	\$431,954	Yes	Yes	Pending
Lake Morena Views MWC	Stantec	4/4/2023	\$1,345,218	\$371,813	Yes	Yes	Pending
NorCal Water Works	Provost & Pritchard	7/31/2023	\$1,166,558	\$109,991	Yes	Yes	No
Sierra Vista Water Association	Provost & Pritchard	8/29/2023	\$1,166,558	\$109,815	Yes	No	No
South Kern MWC	Provost & Pritchard	2/2/2024	\$688,882	\$95,779	Yes	No	Pending
Old River MWC	Provost & Pritchard	2/2/2024	\$688,882	\$95,779	Yes	No	Pending
Allensworth CSD	Stantec	3/14/2024	\$1,899,668	\$246,028	Yes	No	Yes
Las Deltas Mutual Water System	Provost & Pritchard	6/26/2024	\$773,937	\$340,370	Yes	No	Pending
Six Acres MWC	SRT Consultants	10/1/2024	\$728,288	\$341,894	Yes	Yes	Pending
West Water Company	County of Sonoma	10/31/2024	\$184,670	\$70,346	Yes	No	No
Valley Ford Water Association	Russian River Utility	3/31/2025	\$394,761	\$203,653	No	No	Yes
Daggett CSD	Provost & Pritchard	11/13/2025	\$573,450	\$337,880	Yes	Yes	Pending

# Domestic Well Funding Update

# Domestic Well Regional Assistance Summary



# Funding Gaps in Local/Regional Programs



Regional Programs in San Joaquin Valley:  
**4, \$184.1 M**

Four agreements with Self-Help Enterprises provide services to households for:

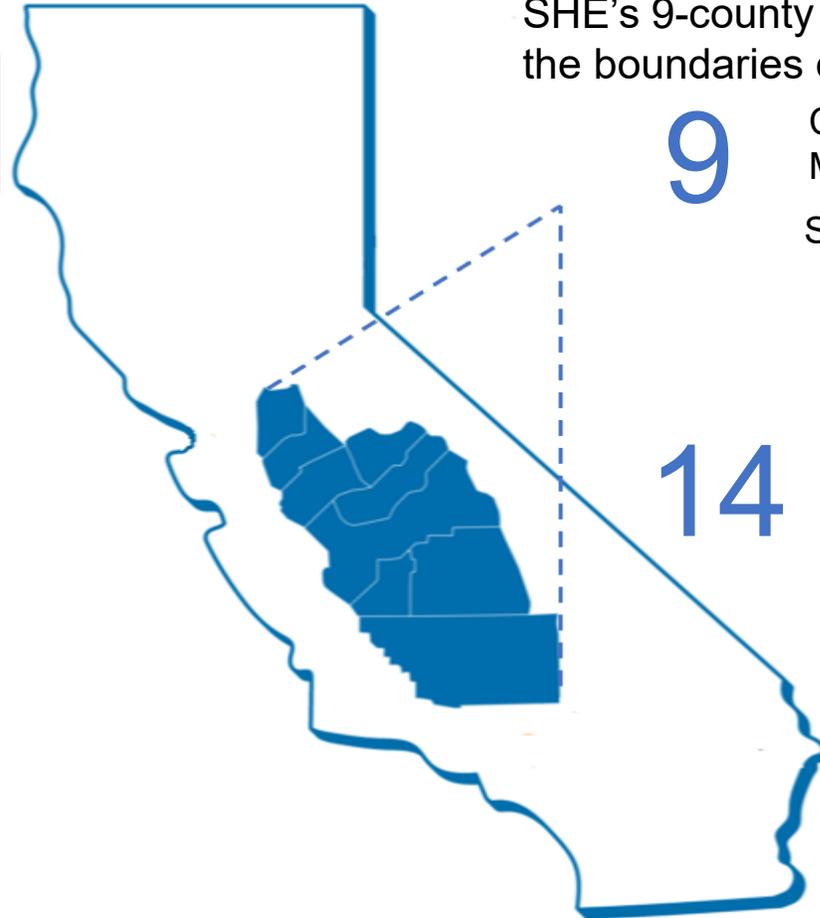
- Well Testing
- Bottled Water
- Hauled Water
- POU/POE
- Well repairs/replacements



Co-funding Agreements with Management Zones:  
**2, \$10.1 M**

Co-funding agreements with Management Zones allow for shared costs for services to households with non-nitrate contamination for:

- Bottled Water
- POU/POE



SHE's 9-county service area overlaps with the boundaries of:

**9**

CV-SALTS Management Zones (MZs)

SHE providing services within MZs to<sup>1</sup>:

**213** Wells tested

**28** POU's installed for Nitrate-only contamination<sup>2</sup>

**14**

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

SHE providing services within GSAs to<sup>1</sup>:

**360** Wells drilled (325 applications pending)

**759** Households with hauled water

**953** Households with bottled water

**13** Households enrolled in SHE's Well Program within a GSA with a dry well mitigation program (*since May 2025*)

# Advisory Group Engagement - 2026

SAFER Funding  
Priorities

FY 2026-27 SADW  
Fund Targets

Pilots

Tracking Program  
Success/Areas for  
Improvement

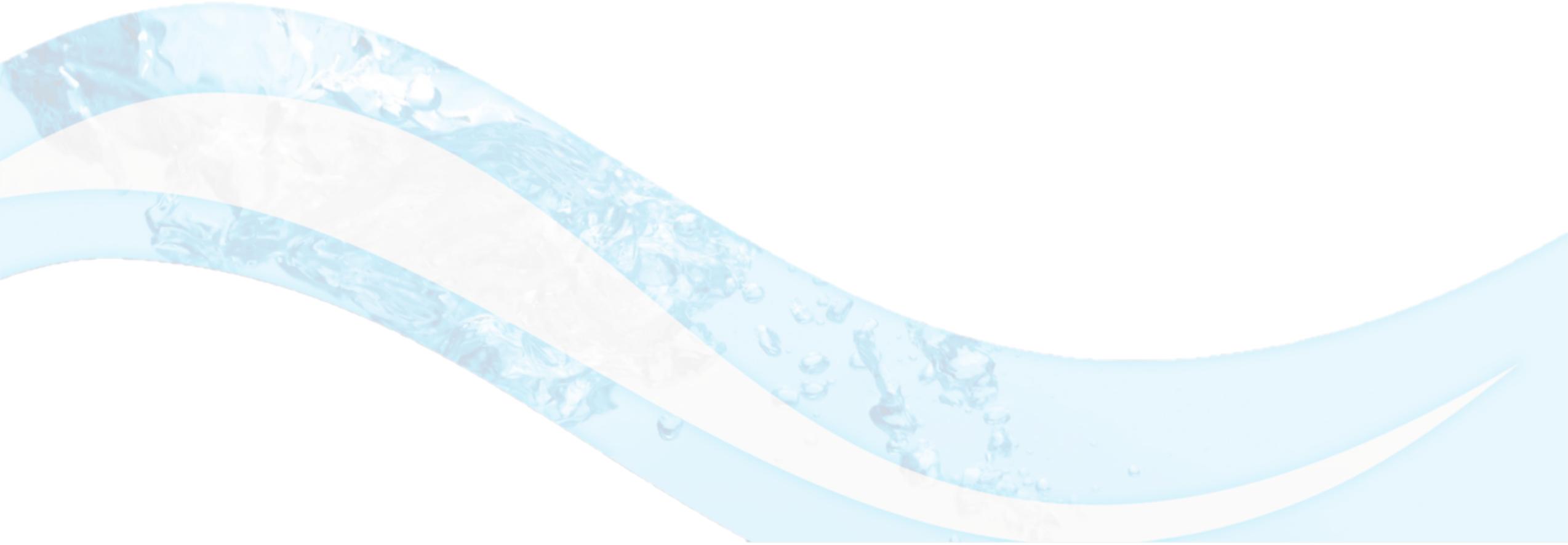
# Questions and Answers



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

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# BREAK

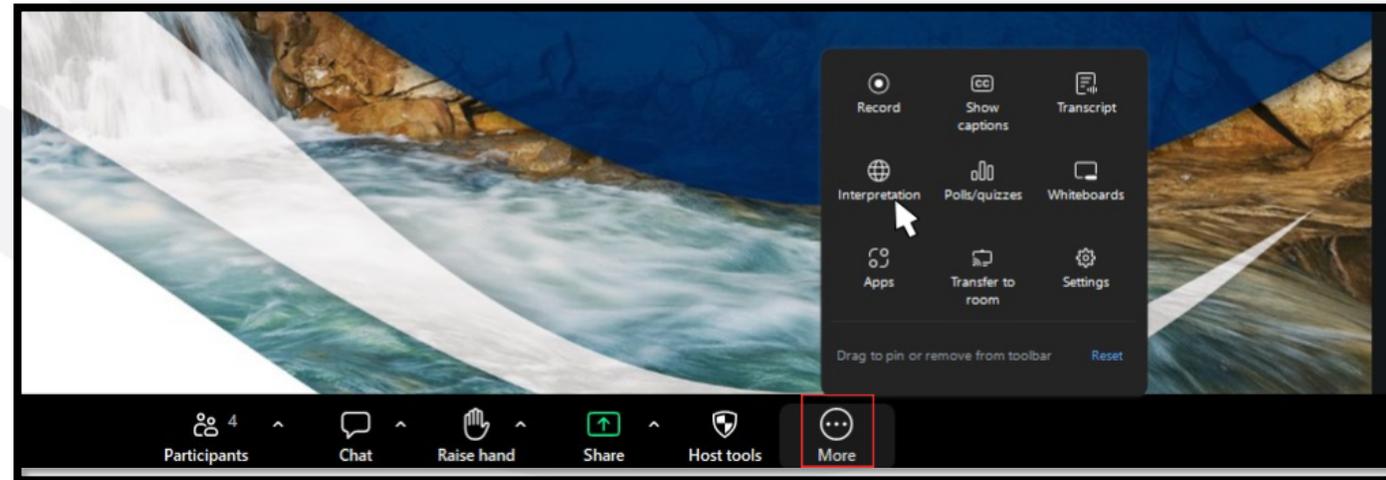


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# SAFER Program Updates and Announcements

**Alma López**

Office of Public Engagement, Equity,  
and Tribal Affairs

**Bryan Potter**

Division of Drinking Water



# SAFER Advisory Group Meeting: Q4 Action Items

- Riverview Elementary
- Senate Bill 131
- Assembly Bill 1207
- Senate Bill 840

# SAFER Goals

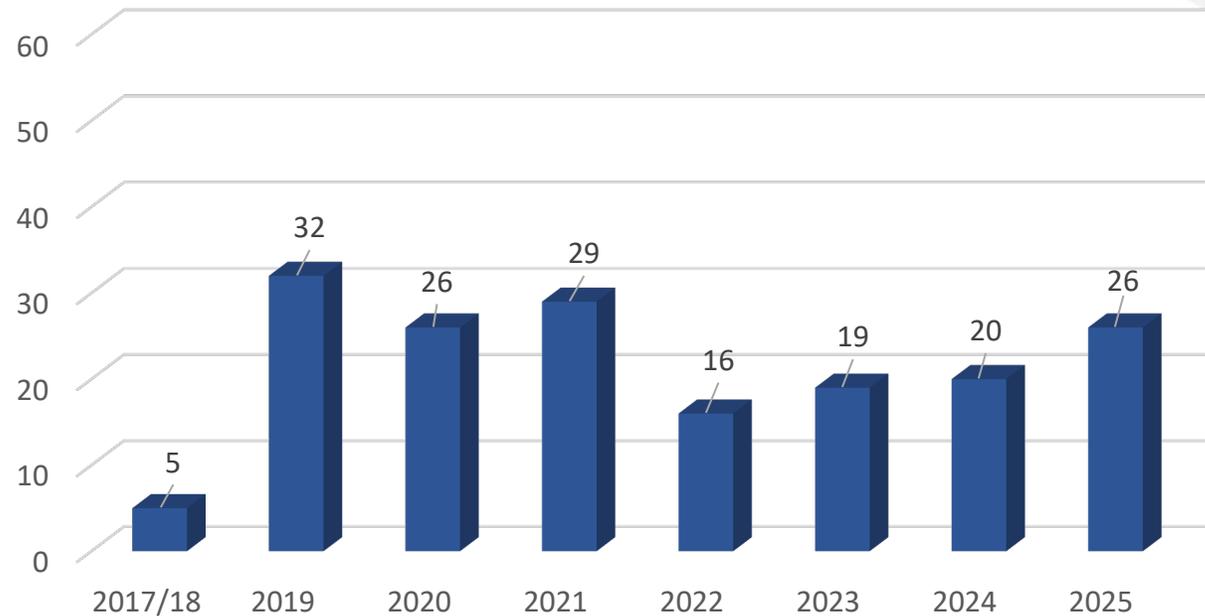
- Goal 1: People in Communities and Schools that didn't have access to safe drinking water now have it.
- Goal 2: All communities and schools without safe drinking water are on track to get lasting solutions in place as swiftly as feasible.
- Goal 3 : California's most vulnerable communities and schools are transitioning to be resilient and prevent cycles of failures.



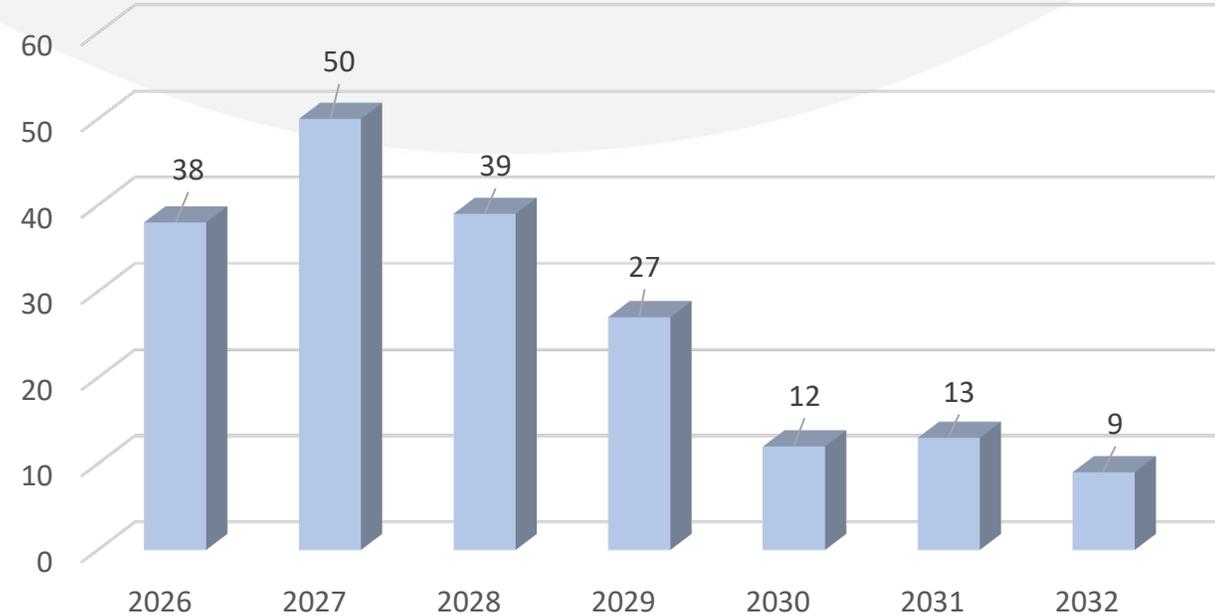
# SAFER Goal 1: People in Communities and Schools that didn't have access to safe drinking water now have it.

## 2019 Failing Systems: Completed and projected RTCs

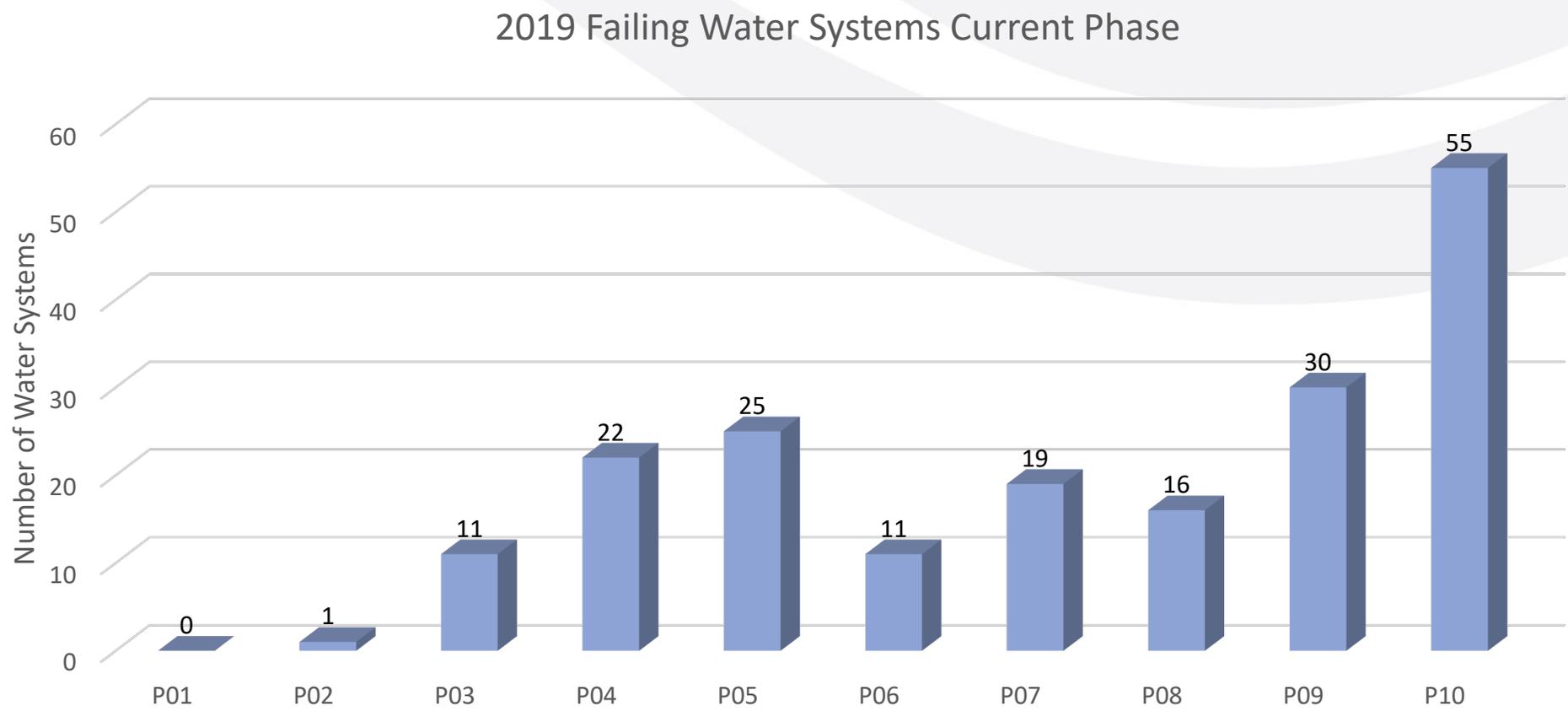
Failing Water Systems RTC's



Failing Water Systems Projected RTC



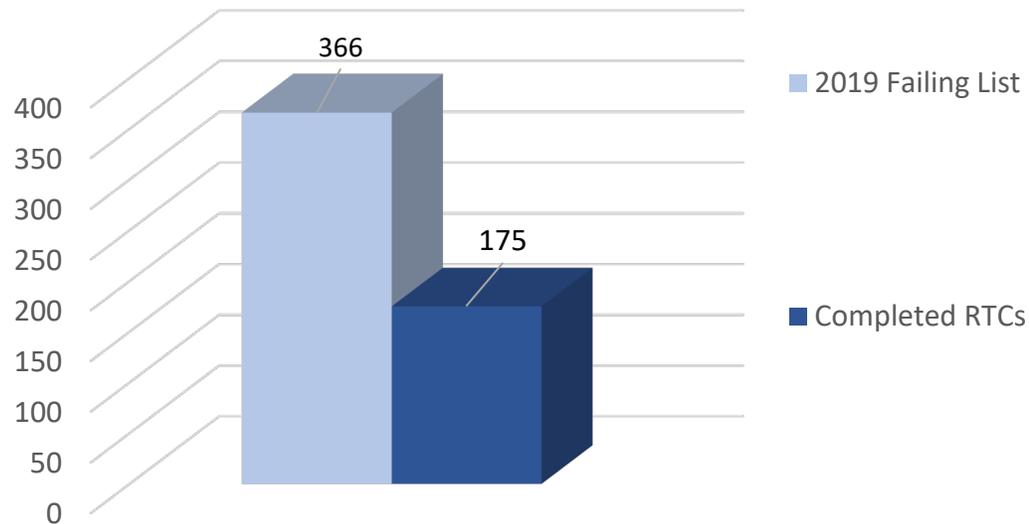
# 2019 Cohort Current Phase



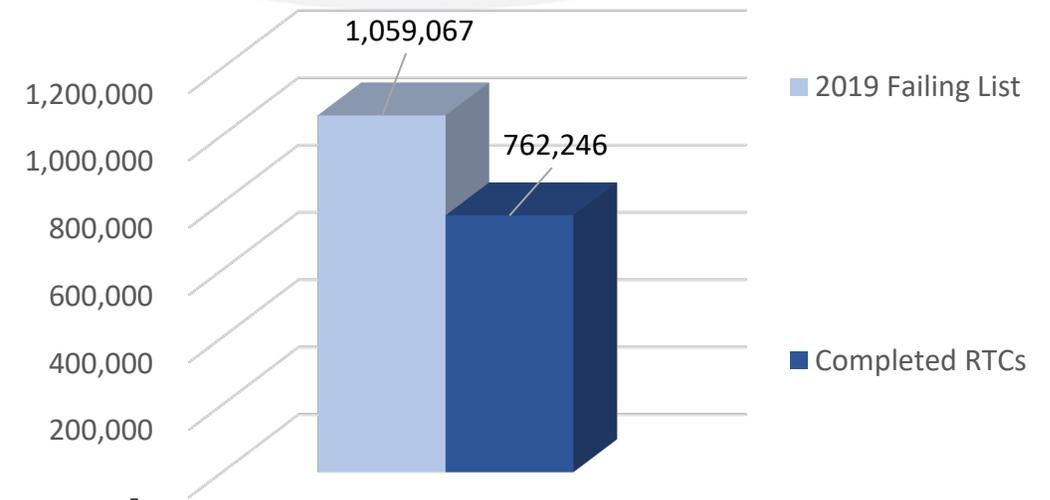
# SAFER Goal 1: People in Communities and Schools that didn't have access to safe drinking water now have it.

- Measure 1b&1c: 2019 Cohort: 90% of 2019 failing systems to RTC by 2030.
- We are on track – 92.6% of systems are projected to RTC by 2030

Water Systems Returning to Compliance by 2030 (2019 Failing)



Population Returning to Compliance by 2030 (2019 Failing)



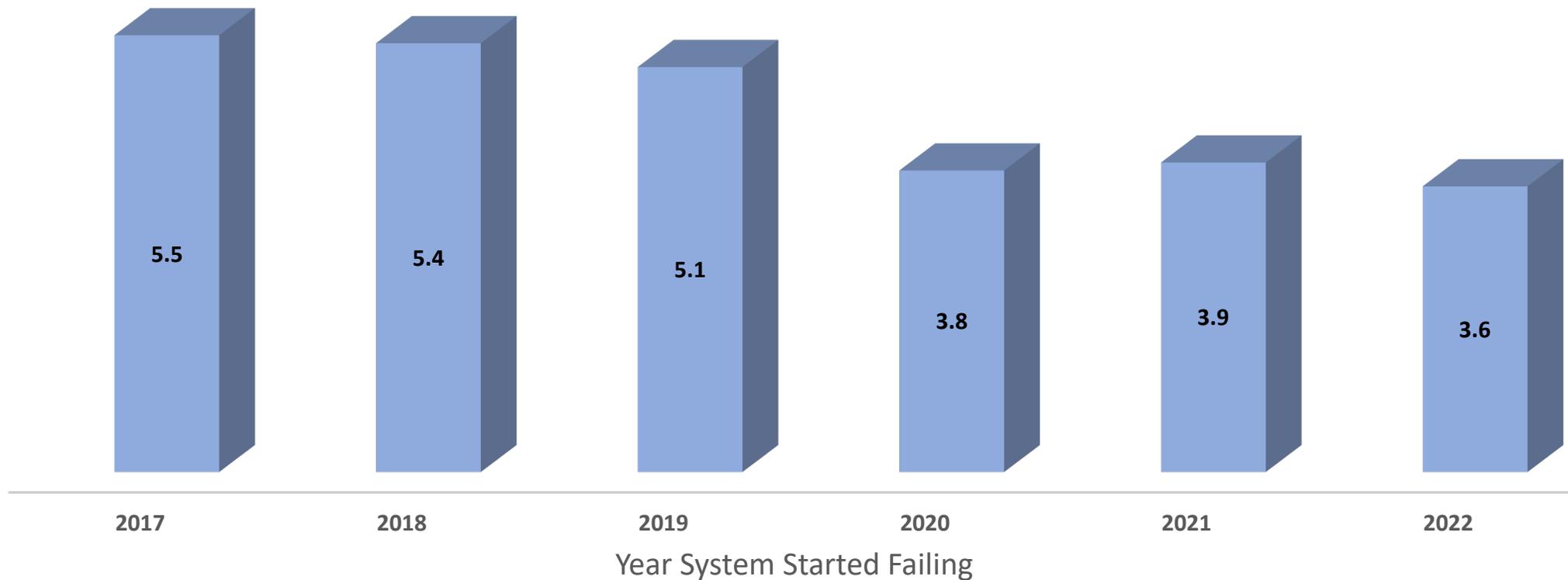
# SAFER Goal 2: All communities and schools without safe drinking water are on track to get lasting solutions in place as swiftly as feasible.

- Escalated Enforcement
  - Corrective Action Plan Technical Order 2025: 81 systems
    - 48 systems will receive escalated enforcement based on non-compliance on Technical Order and/or MCL violation
  - Escalating enforcement on all failing systems
    - Enforcement must include milestones (dates and deliverables)
    - Enforce on MCL violation and/or milestone compliance

## SAFER Goal 2: All communities and schools without safe drinking water are on track to get lasting solutions in place as swiftly as feasible.

- Reduce total time from violation to RTC to less than five years.

Average Years to RTC, for systems which Failed for 3+ years

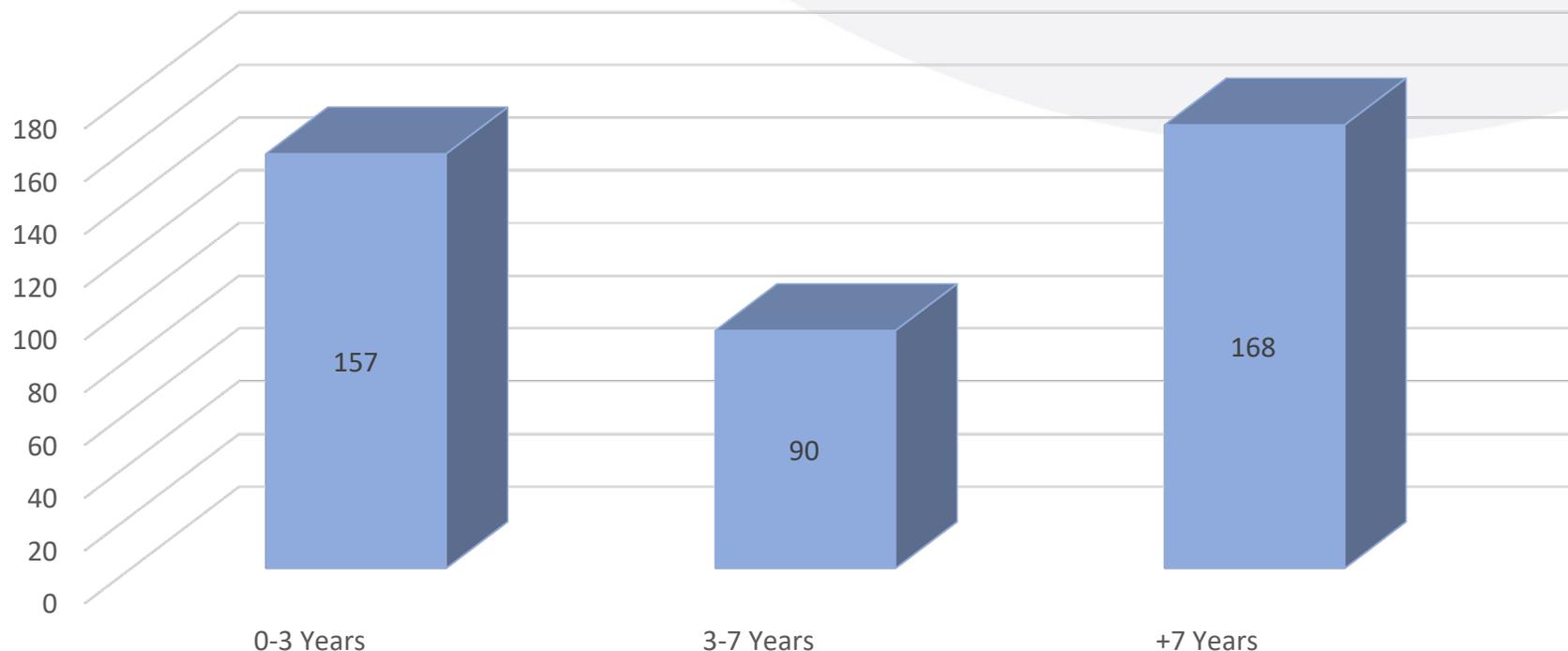


## SAFER Goal 2: All communities and schools without safe drinking water are on track to get lasting solutions in place as swiftly as feasible.

Reduce total time from violation to RTC to less than five years.

- Current failing systems – How long have they been failing?

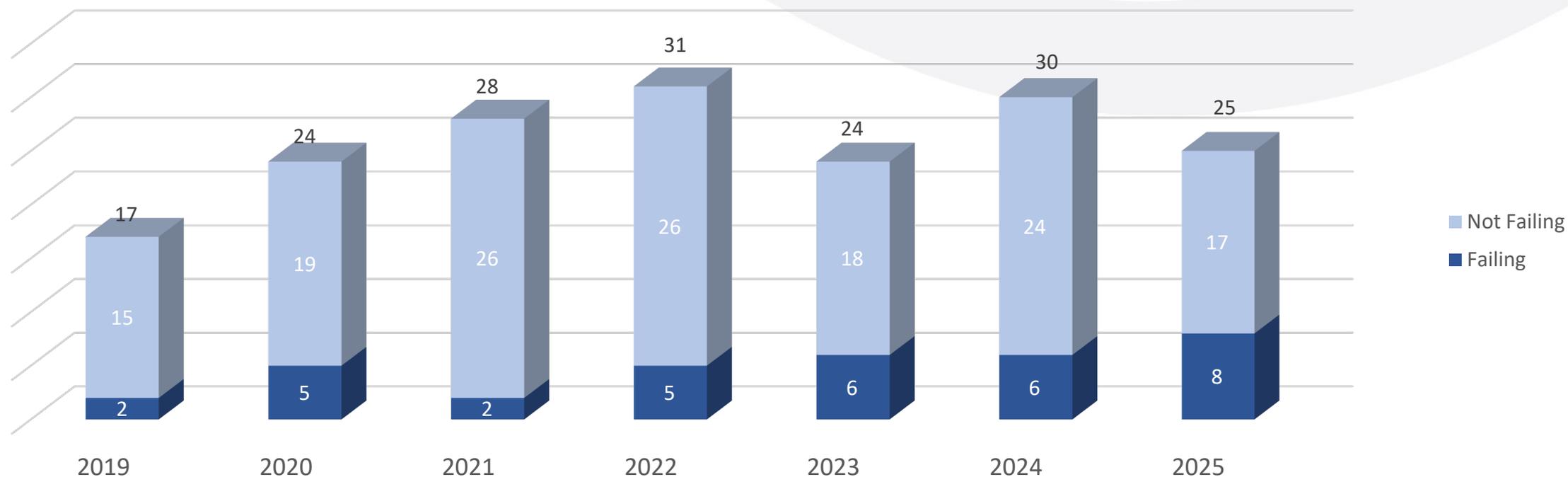
All Currently Failing Systems: Failing Duration



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

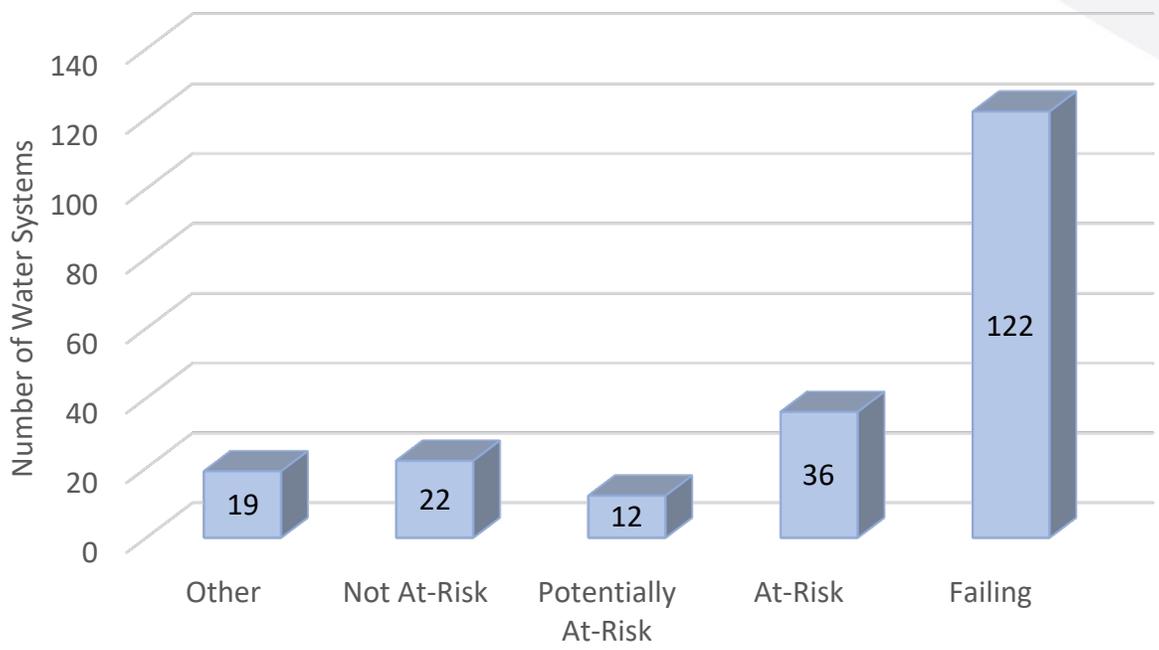
Goal: 20+ consolidations per year

Consolidations since 7/1/2019, by Year and SAFER Status  
Total = 180 systems impacting 362K people

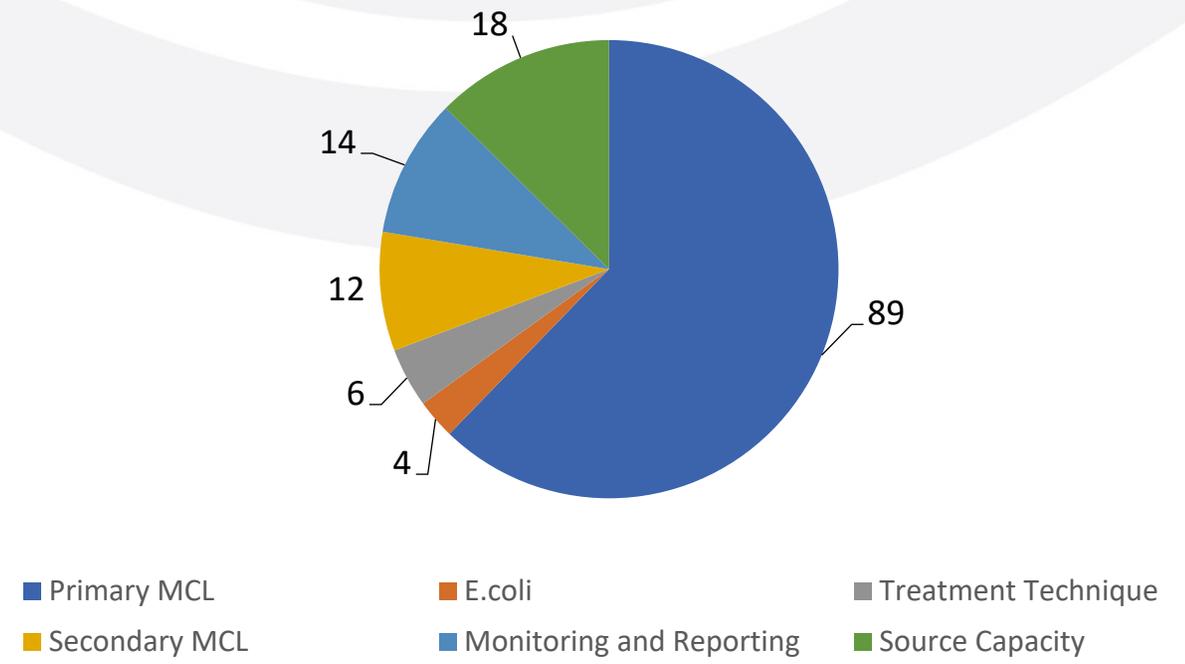


# SAFER Goal 3: California's most vulnerable communities and schools are transitioning to be resilient and prevent cycles of failures.

Total of 211 subsuming systems in ongoing consolidations by SAFER Status



Violation Types of Failing Systems Consolidating  
\*Some Failing Systems meet multiple Violation Criteria Types



\*Total number of failing criteria types for 122 systems = 143  
Many Failing systems have more than one Violation Criteria Type

# Questions and Answers



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

Public comment or technical assistance? Please email:  
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# Remarks by Eric Oppenheimer

**Executive Director  
State Water Resources Control Board**

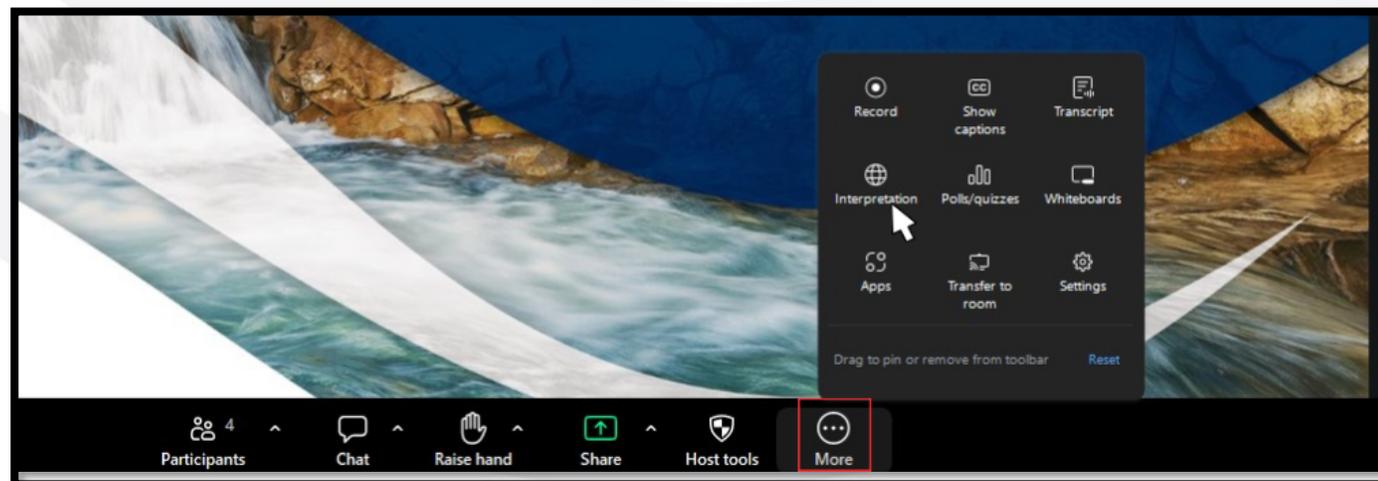


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# SAFER Advisory Group Member Announcements

**Alma López**

Office of Public Engagement, Equity,  
and Tribal Affairs

# SAFER Advisory Group Members Announcements

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



# Public Comments

**Alma López**  
Office of Public Engagement, Equity,  
and Tribal Affairs



# Public Comments Guidelines



## In-person

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



## Remote

1. Email comment to: [safer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov).
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](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov).

# Closing Remarks and Next Steps

**Alma López**

Office of Public Engagement, Equity,  
and Tribal Affairs



# Closing

**Thank you!**

**¡Gracias!**

**safer@waterboards.ca.gov**

**(916) 445-5615**