

SAFER Drinking Water Program: Advisory Group Meeting #3

October 22, 2026
9:30 am- 4:30 pm

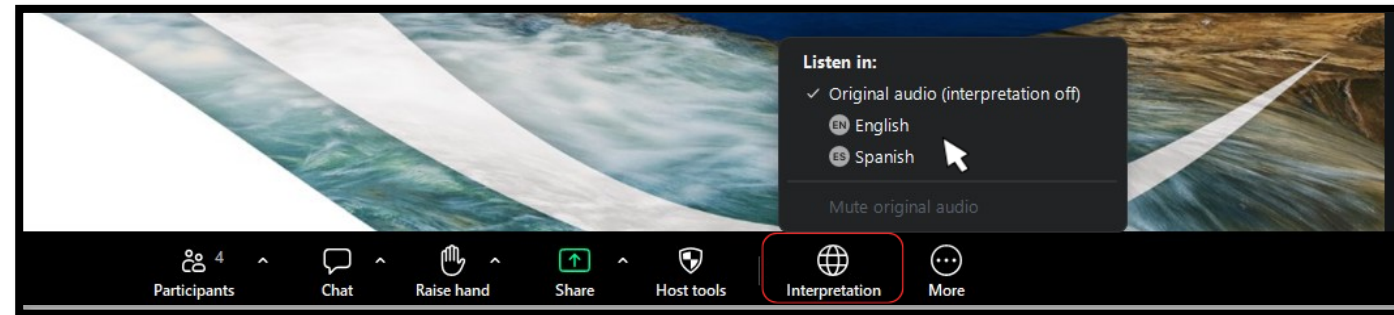
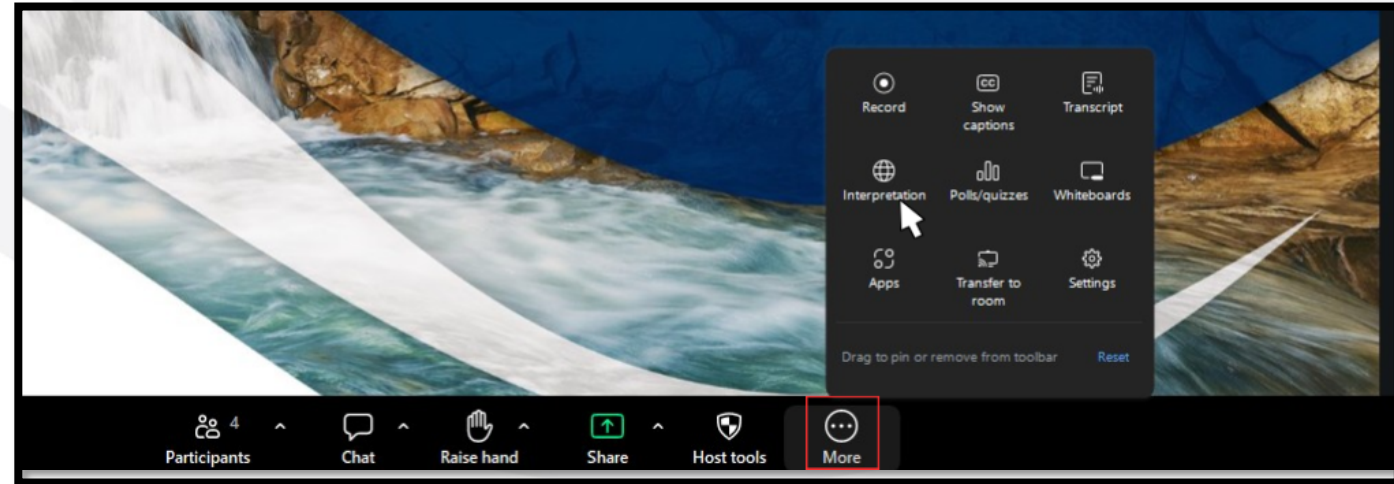


Language Interpretation through Zoom

Locate the **options bar** at the bottom of your screen.

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

Ways to Participate

Watch ONLY: Visit video.calepa.ca.gov

Submit a comment:

- Email 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_AGM3

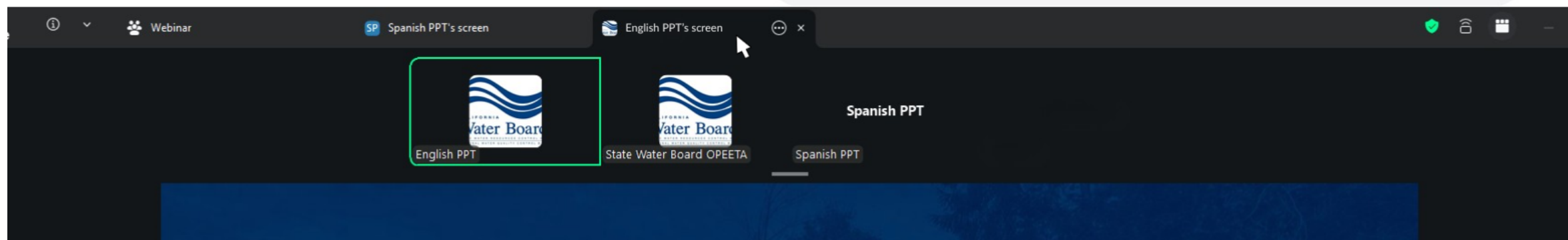
Technical assistance: safer@waterboards.ca.gov



View Presentation Options

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

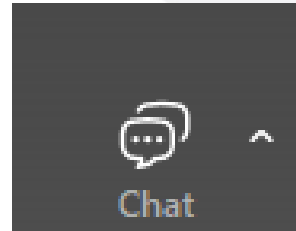
- Choose "**Spanish PPT' screen**" OR "**English PPT's screen**"



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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.

Meeting Guidelines

- Mute yourself when not speaking
- Join by video
- Take breaks as needed
- Raise your hand for comments or questions
- Speak slowly
- Keep your comments concise and to the point
- For technical support: 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.

Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. Drinking Water Needs Assessment Dashboard
- III. Draft Fund Expenditure Plan FY 2026-2027
- IV. Breakout Groups and Discussion
- V. SAFER Program Updates and Announcements
- VI. SAFER Advisory Group Member Announcements
- VII. Public Comment

Introductions

Amelia Nishimura
Office of Public Engagement,
Equity, and Tribal Affairs

SAFER Advisory Group Introductions

- Your name
- Community you represent and/or affiliation
- What is the most pressing drinking water need in the communities you work with or represent, what barriers exist, and what recommendations do you have?



Drinking Water Needs Assessment Dashboard

Dan Wang
Division of Drinking Water

Dashboard links

Access the dashboards from the [Needs Assessment webpage](#)

- [PWS Failing Dashboard](#): current and history since 2017
- [PWS Risk Assessment Dashboard](#)
- [PWS Affordability Dashboard](#)
- [SSWS/DW Risk Assessment Dashboard](#)

The screenshot shows the California Drinking Water Needs Assessment webpage. The URL is https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/needs.html. The page features a navigation bar with links like 'About Us', 'Newsroom', 'Water Stories', 'Contact Us', 'Subscribe', and 'Settings'. Below the navigation bar, the main heading is 'California Drinking Water Needs Assessment'. A paragraph explains the goals of the Human Right to Water 'HR2W', California's passage of Senate Bill 200, and the establishment of the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program. The page then displays four dashboard cards, each with a description, a map or chart, and a 'View Dashboard' button.

Public Water System Risk Assessment Dashboard

This dashboard highlights water systems that do not consistently meet, or are at risk of not meeting, drinking water standards.

State Small and Domestic Well Risk Assessment Dashboard

This dashboard identifies state small water systems and domestic wells located in areas at risk due to water quality issues, water shortages, or socioeconomic challenges.

Public Water System Failing Dashboard

This dashboard provides information on water systems that have not consistently met drinking water standards.

Public Water System Affordability Dashboard

This dashboard provides insights on drinking water affordability across California.

PWS Current Failing List Dashboard –Quarterly Update

AboutCriteriaDefinitionsGuide

Failing Dashboard

Data Change RequestHistorical Failing Dashboard

98% of Californians served by public water systems receive water that meets drinking water standards, as of June 30, 2026. This dashboard provides information on water systems that have not consistently met those standards.

Counts of Failing vs. Non-Failing Water Systems According to Size/Group

● Failing ● Not Failing

Size/School	Failing	Not Failing
NC School/Daycare	47	343
Small Water System	370	2,029
Medium Water System	8	310
Large Water System	-	92

Water Systems Currently Failing by Year Added to Failing List

Year	Number of Water Systems
2017	110
2018	46
2019	16
2020	8
2021	34
2022	28
2023	23
2024	52
2025	59
2026	49

Size/SchoolService Connections

Select "Size/School" or "Service Connections" to see Failing violations by those groups

Size/School	Water System Count	Population	Service Connections	Primary MCL	Secondary MCL	E. coli	Treatment Technique	Monitoring & Reporting	Source Capacity
NC School/Daycare	47	16,248	279	37	1	3	4	4	5
Small Water System	370	345,429	85,549	220	86	8	43	51	53
Medium Water System	8	245,657	67,001	6	1	-	2	-	-
Large Water System	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Failing	425	607,334	152,829	263	88	11	49	55	58

Failing Water System Information

PWSID	Name	Start Date	Violations	Size	Population	Service Connections	Days Failing	Federal Type	Regulating Agency
CA0110008	CITY OF PLEASANTON	09/09/2025	Primary MCL	Medium Water System	76,689	22,334	294	COMMUNITY	DISTRICT 04 - SAN FRANCISCO
CA0300011	SUTTER PINES MHP	03/07/2025	Source Capacity	Small Water System	40	20	480	COMMUNITY	DISTRICT 10 - STOCKTON
CA0300019	FIDDLTOWN COMMUNITY SERVICE	01/12/2026	Secondary MCL	Small Water System	100	66	169	COMMUNITY	DISTRICT 10 - STOCKTON
CA0300078	IONE BAND OF MIWOK INDIANS	01/27/2025	Source Capacity	Small Water System	40	12	519	COMMUNITY	DISTRICT 10 - STOCKTON
Total Failing					607,334	152,829			

Filter Dashboard

Snapshot Date

06/30/2026

Name

▼ Enter name(s) here...

PWSID

▼ Enter PWSID(s) here...

Failing Start Date

1/1/20176/25/2026

Violations

All

Size

All

Service Connections

All

Federal Type

All

Regulating Agency

All

County

All

Filter Dashboard

Snapshot Date

06/30/2026

06/30/2026

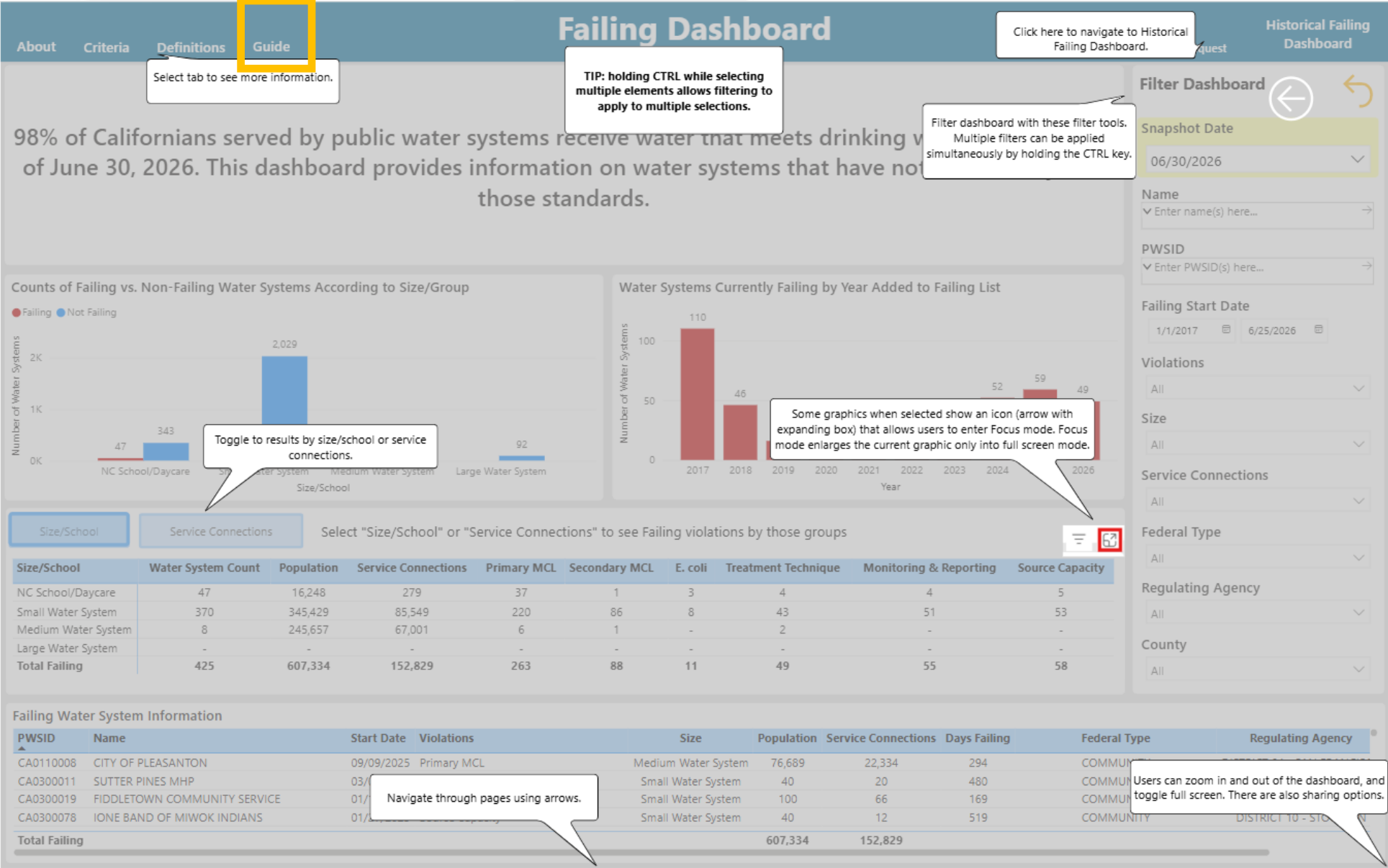
03/30/2026

12/31/2025

CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS

SAFER PROGRAM

PWS Current Failing List Dashboard Guide Button



AboutCriteriaDefinitionsGuide

Failing Dashboard

Data Change RequestHistorical Failing Dashboard

About

In 2016, the State Water Board made the Human Right to Water (HR2W) a priority across all programs, affirming that everyone has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water. To advance this goal, [Senate Bill 200 \(2019\)](#) created the SAFER program.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Identifies Failing & At-Risk water systems. Quantifies interim & long-term needs.

SAFER ADVISORY GROUP

Uses the Needs Assessment to advise the State Water Board on SAFER Priorities.

SAFER FUND EXPENDITURE PLAN

Needs Assessment & SAFER Advisory Group inform funding priorities for the Fund.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Staff & technical assistance providers engage with Failing & At-Risk communities.

ACHIEVE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

SAFER funding & technical assistance used to implement long-term solutions.

AboutCriteriaDefinitionsGuide

Failing Dashboard

Data Change RequestHistorical Failing Dashboard

Criteria

Criteria	What It Means	Year Started
Primary MCL Violation	A health-based contaminant exceeds an MCL, and there is an open enforcement action.	January 2017
Secondary MCL Violation	Taste, odor, color, etc. exceeds an MCL, and there is an open enforcement action.	January 2017
E. coli Violation	Detection of, or failure to test for, bacteria, and there is an open enforcement action.	April 2021
Treatment Technique Violations	A system fails to follow required treatment techniques and has: one violation and an open enforcement action; or three or more violations within 3 years.	January 2017: Partially April 2021: Expanded
Monitoring and Reporting Violations	A system has three or more occurrences of missed or late testing/reporting within the last 3 years, and at least one occurrence where an enforcement action has been open for 15 months or longer.	April 2021
Source Capacity & Water Outage Violations	The system is unable to deliver water or has insufficient water pressure, and there is an open enforcement action.	April 2024

CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS

SAFER PROGRAM

[About](#)
[Criteria](#)
[Definitions](#)
[Guide](#)

Failing Dashboard

[Data Change Request](#)
[Historical Failing Dashboard](#)

Definitions

Community Water System (CWS): a public water system that serves at least 15 service connections used by yearlong residents or regularly serves at least 25 yearlong residents of the area served by the system.

- Small Community Water System:** serving up to 3,300 connections, and up to 100,000 people (also referred to as Small Water System).
- Medium Community Water System:** serving 3,301 to 30,000 connections, and up to 100,000 people (also referred to as Medium Water System).
- Large Community Water Systems:** serving more than 30,000 connections or more than 100,000 people (also referred to as Large Water System).

Non-Community (NC) Water System: a public water system that is not a community water system.

- Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) Water System:** a public water system that is not a community water system and that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over six months per year.
- Transient Non-Community (TNC) Water System:** a non-community water system that does not regularly serve at least 25 of the same persons over six months per year.

SAFER Status: a categorization of community water systems and non-community water systems serving schools and daycares (NC Schools/Daycares), determined by the Needs Assessment's Failing system criteria and Risk Assessment. The following four SAFER Statuses are used by the State Water Board. The Failing status takes precedence over Risk Assessment results. Should a Failing system's conditions improve to the point where it no longer meets the Failing criteria, its SAFER Status will revert to its Risk Assessment result. Water systems that do not meet the definition of a community water system or non-community school/daycares are not assigned a SAFER Status (Not-Assessed).

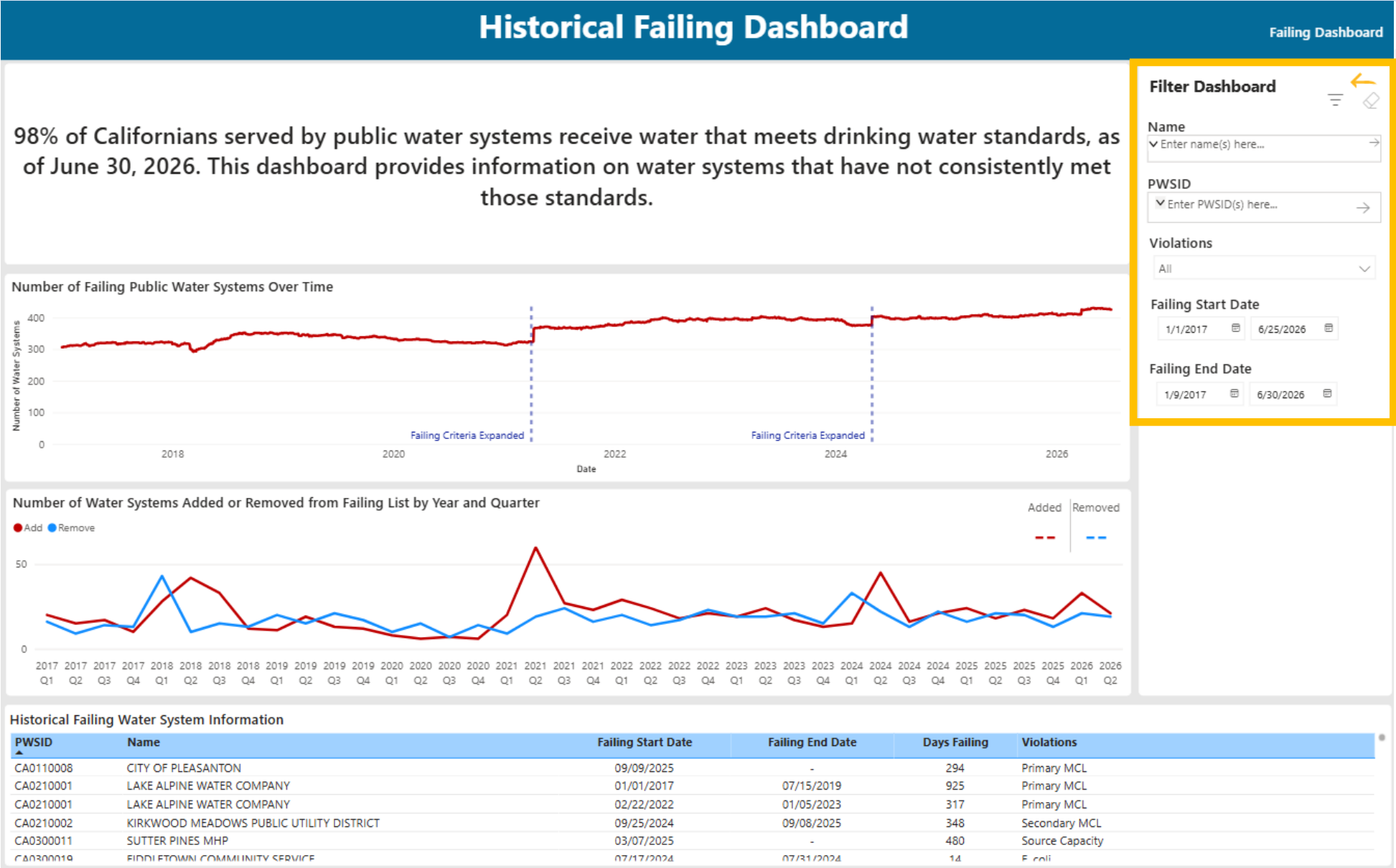
- Failing:** water systems that meet the current Failing criteria as defined by the State Water Board. [Failing criteria](#).
- At-Risk:** water systems at risk of Failing. The system's risk scores are among the highest within the Risk Assessment results.
- Other:** community water systems and non-community schools/daycares that are not Failing or At-Risk.
- Not-Assessed:** non-community water systems that are not serving schools or daycares.

Source: [California Health and Safety Code - 116275](#).

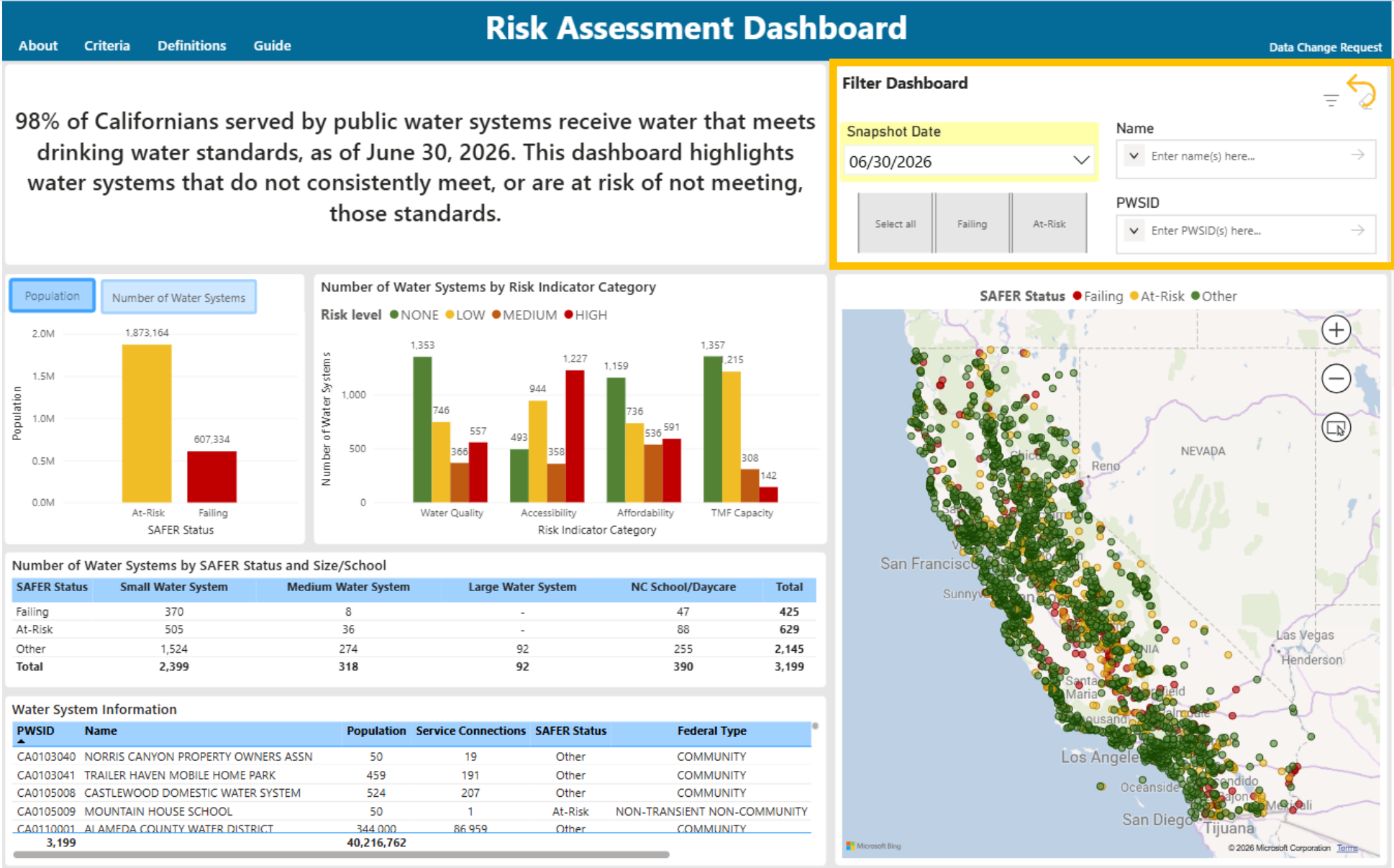
Water Systems Assessed

Water System Type	Failing List	Risk Assessment	Affordability Assessment
Community			
Small	Included	Included	Included
Medium	Included	Included	Included
Large	Included	Excluded	Included
Wholesaler	Included	Excluded	Included
Non-Community			
Non-Transient Non-Community	Included if they serve schools or daycares	Included if they serve K-12 schools	Included if they serve K-12 schools
Transient Non-Community	Included if they serve schools or daycares	Excluded	Excluded

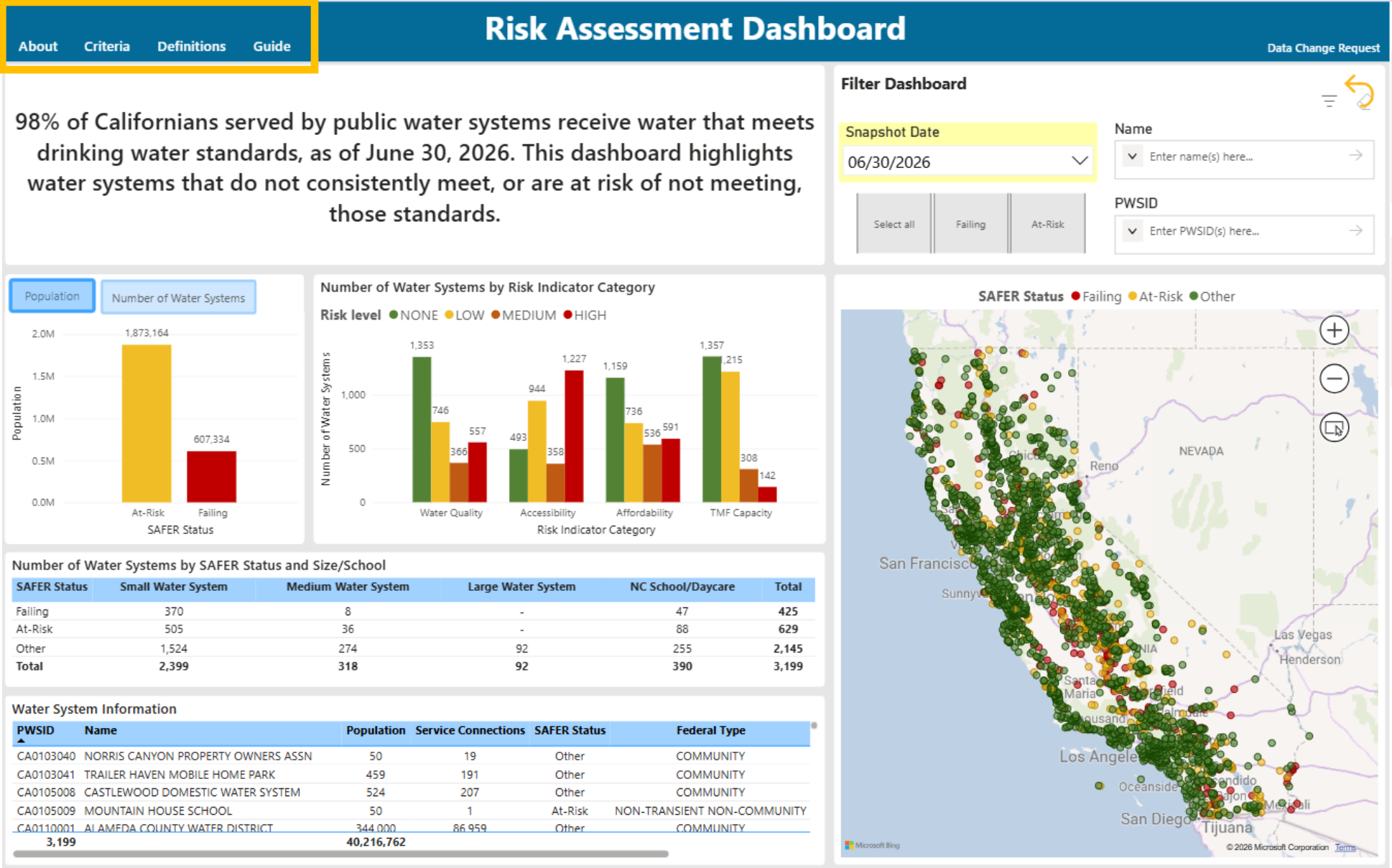
PWS Failing History Dashboard – Quarterly Update



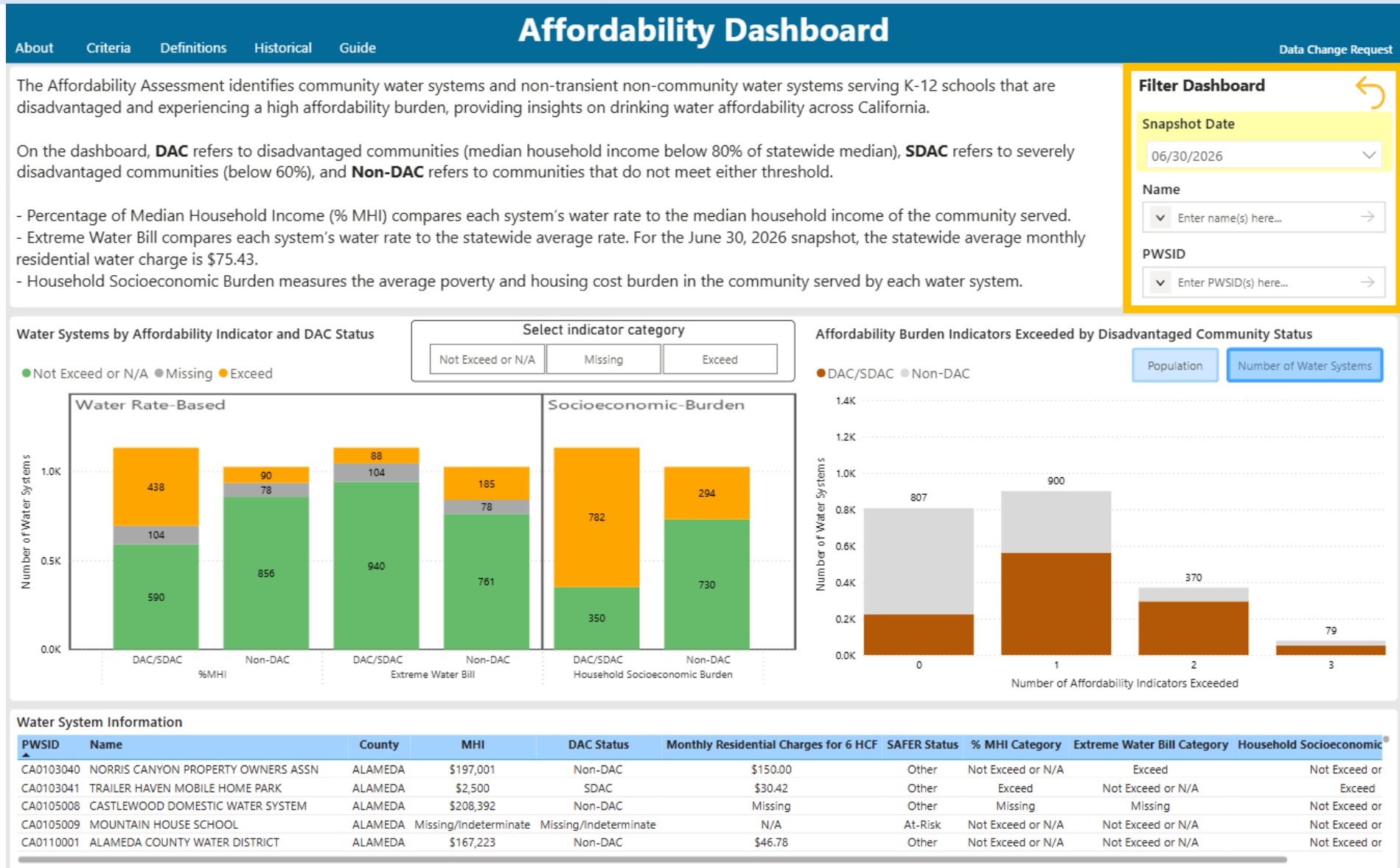
PWS Risk Assessment Dashboard – Quarterly Update



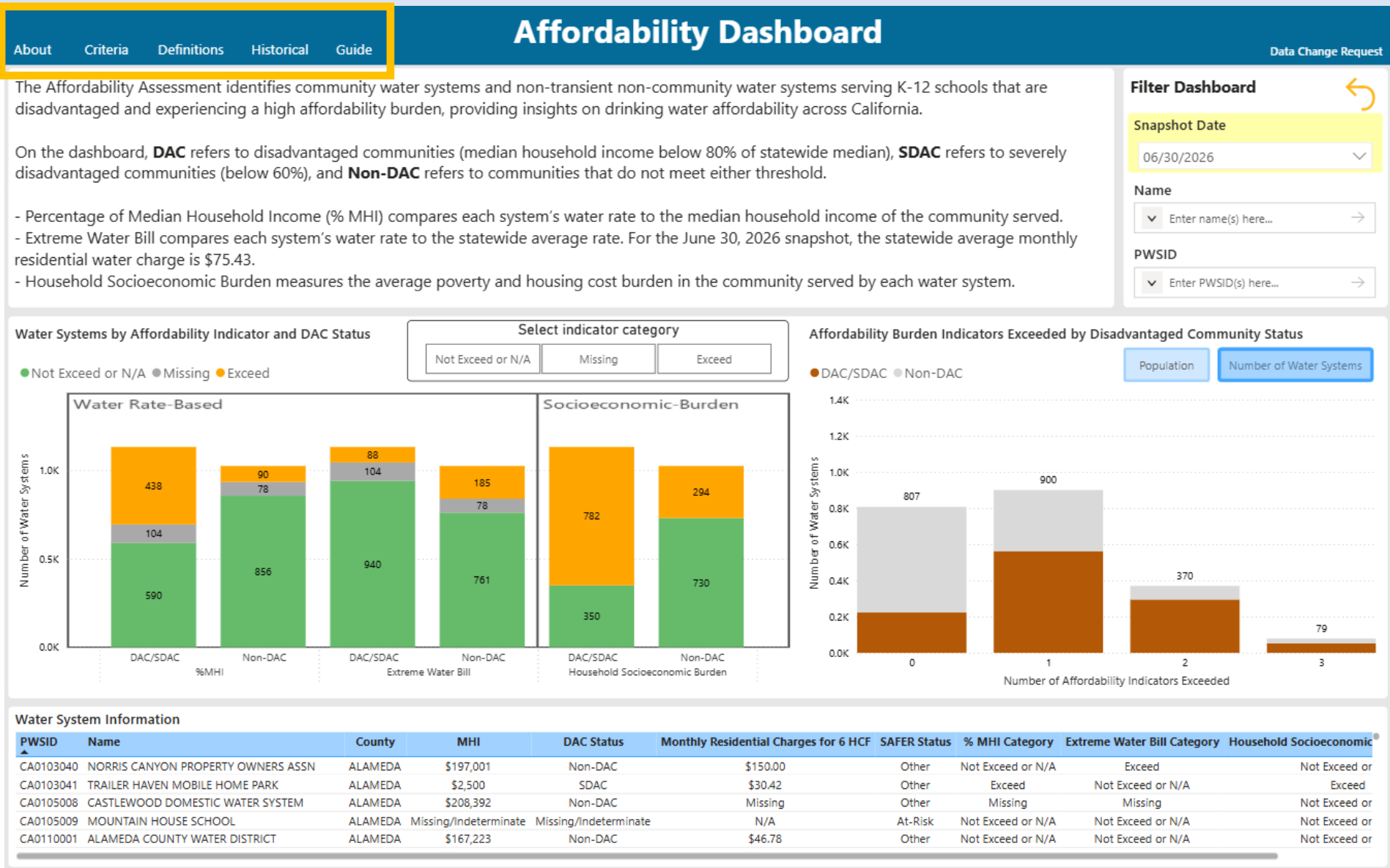
PWS Risk Assessment Dashboard Functional Buttons



PWS Affordability Dashboard – Biannual Update



PWS Affordability Dashboard Functional Buttons



SSWS/DW Risk Assessment Dashboard – Annual Update

Risk Assessment - State Small Water Systems and Domestic Wells

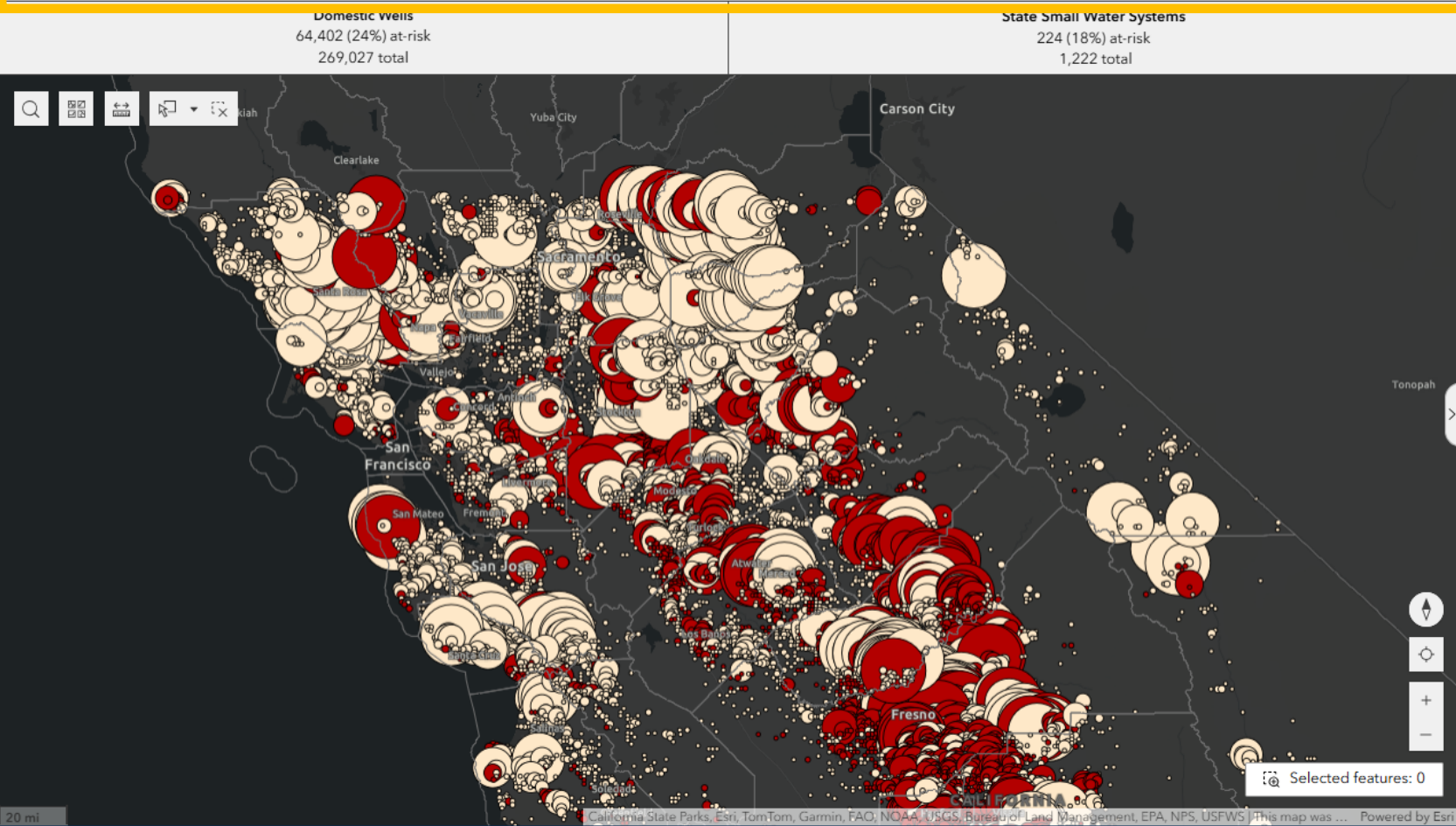


- Current Dashboard
- Year By Year Results
- Archived Dashboards

Use this dashboard to explore the 2026 results for state small water system and domestic well risk. State small water systems and domestic wells are not subject to all requirements of the California Safe Drinking Water Act. For further information on these, please contact the County's health officer or agency. The risk presented here should not be used to predict contamination or well failure at any given location.

- Methodology
- User Guide
- Needs Assessment Home

- Map
- Tables
- Charts
- Summary Statistics



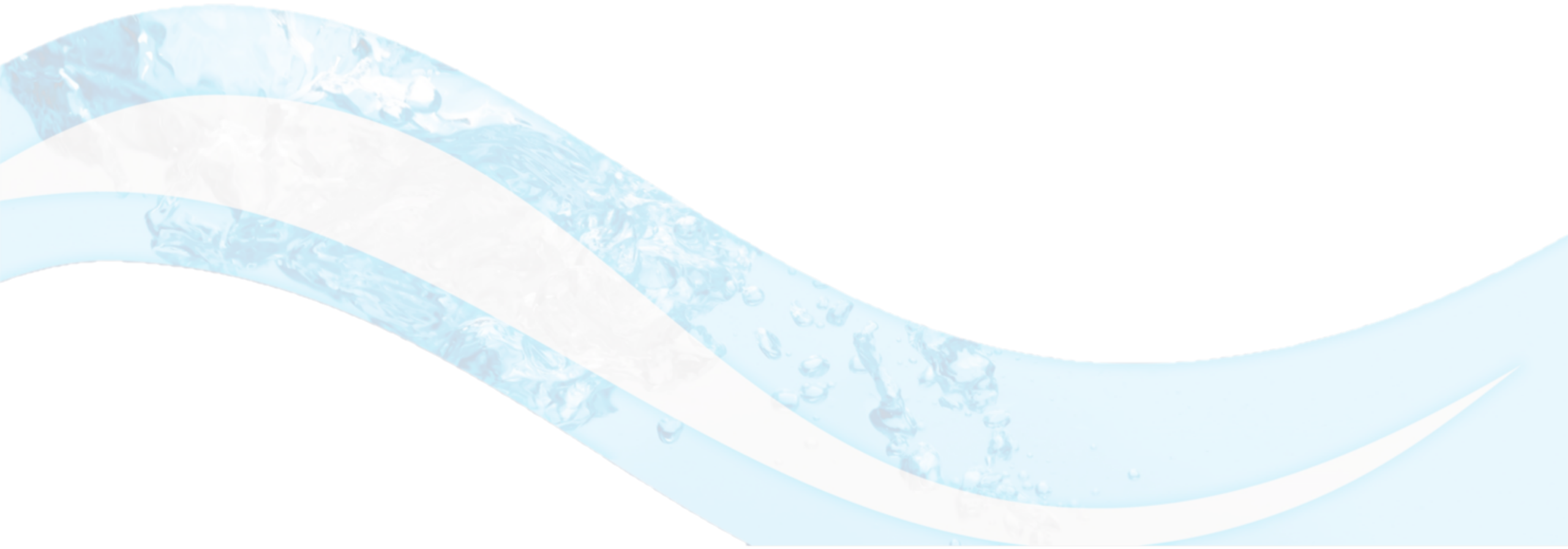
Discussion and Q & A



- Raise your hand for questions or comments
- Turn on microphone and state your name
- Speak slowly
- Be concise
- Turn off microphone

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

BREAK



Draft FY 2026 Fund Expenditure Plan for Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund

Jeff Wetzel

Division of Financial Assistance

Key Updates Compared to Prior FY 2025-26 FEP



General Updates

Updates to SAFER Program performance tables and figures to report back cumulatively from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2026 or for FY 2025-26. Omission of funding process descriptions in each of the funding eligibility sections as this information is included on the State Water Board website.



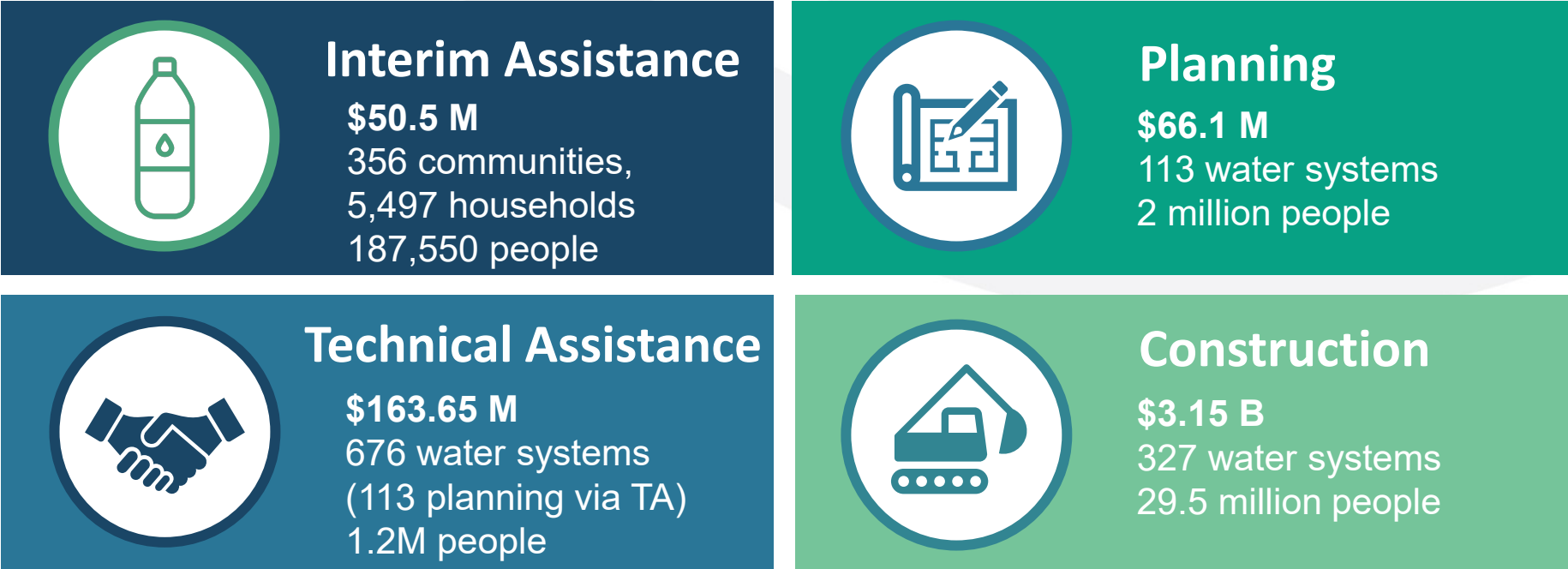
Revised Interim Water Supply Funding Eligibilities

Revised eligibilities for bottled water in the Public Water System (PWS) and Domestic Well/ State Small Water System (DW/SSWS) sections to broaden the criteria from Failing for acute MCL exceedance (for PWSs) to exceedance of contaminants with severe and/or serious health risks to vulnerable populations.

SAFER Program Goals & Performance



SAFER Program Highlights (1/1/2019 – 6/30/2026)



Racial Equity/Environmental Justice Highlights



66%

funding to Failing systems benefitting communities of color.



203

Entrenched Failing systems that have received State Water Board funding since 2019.

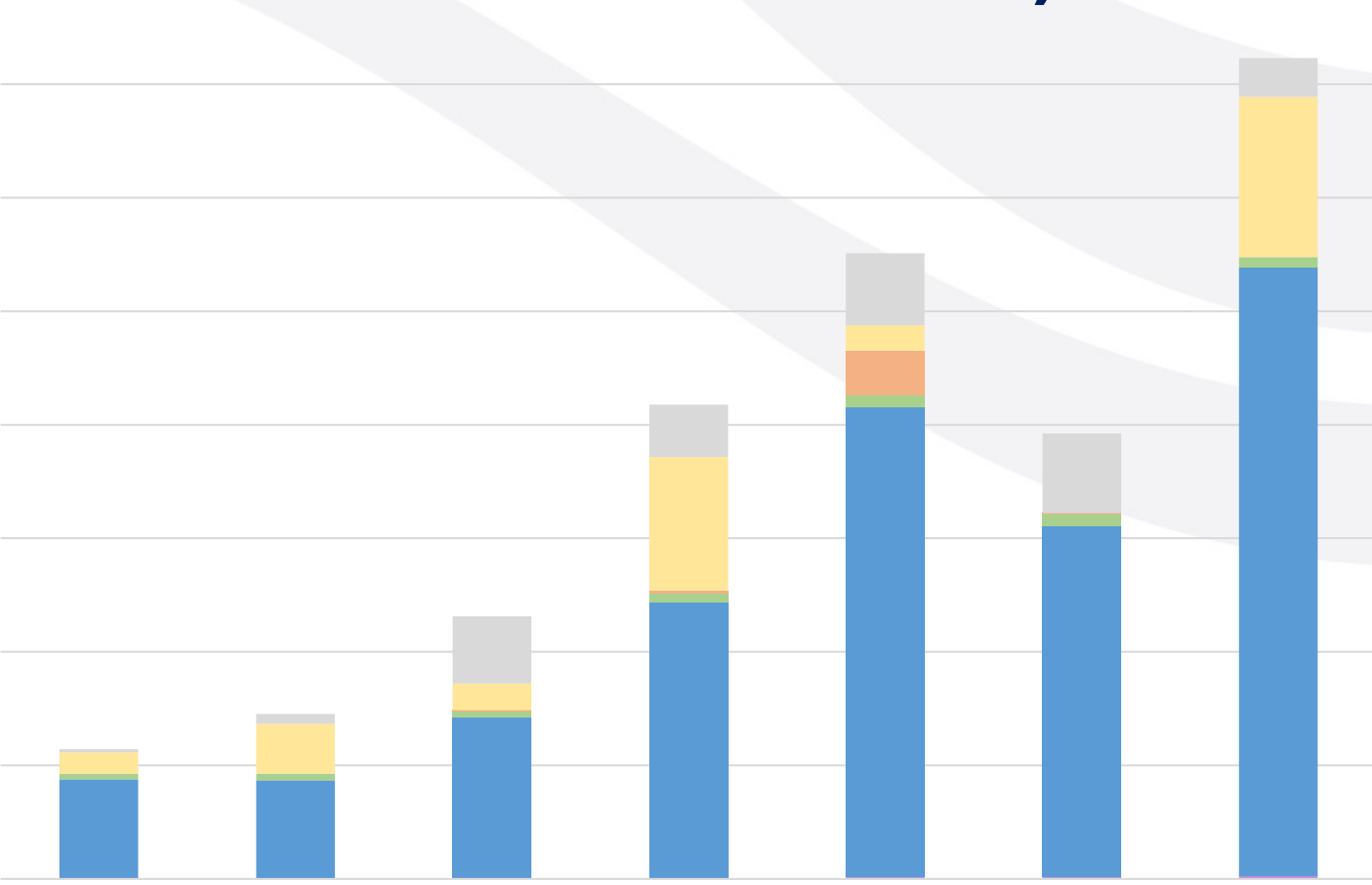


54%

funding to Failing systems in communities with the highest pollution burdens.

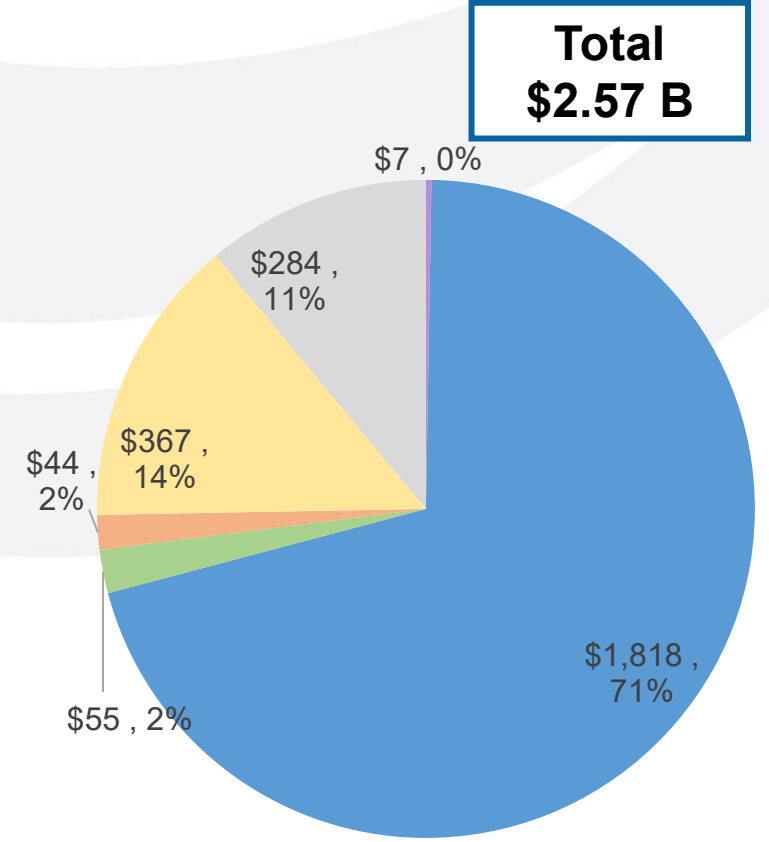
30 SAFER Program Funding Commitments (FY 19/20 – FY 25/26)

\$700,000,000
\$600,000,000
\$500,000,000
\$400,000,000
\$300,000,000
\$200,000,000
\$100,000,000
\$0

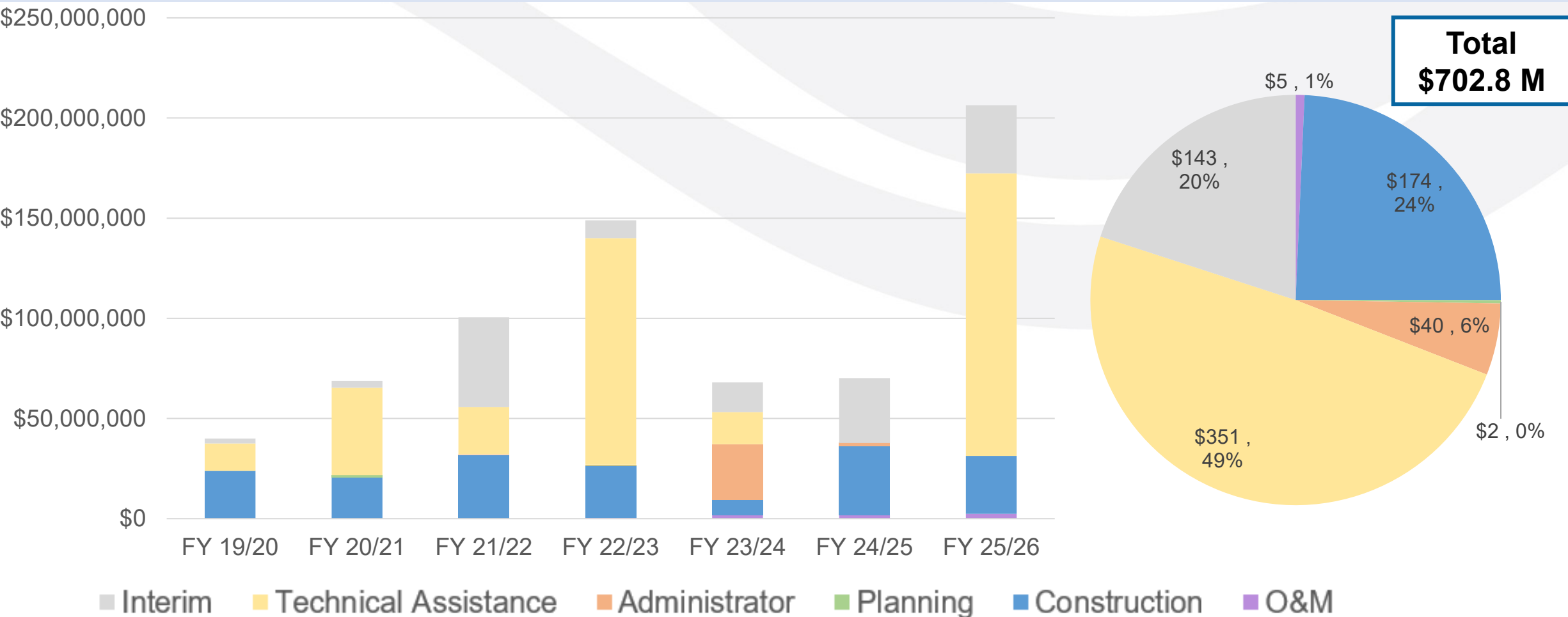


FY 19/20 FY 20/21 FY 21/22 FY 22/23 FY 23/24 FY 24/25 FY 25/26

Interim Technical Assistance Administrator Planning Construction O&M



SADW Fund Only Funding Commitments (FY 19/20 – FY 25/26)



Anticipated Available Funding, Demand, and Targets

Project Funding ONLY SAFER Funding Sources: Grant/PF Funding Availability

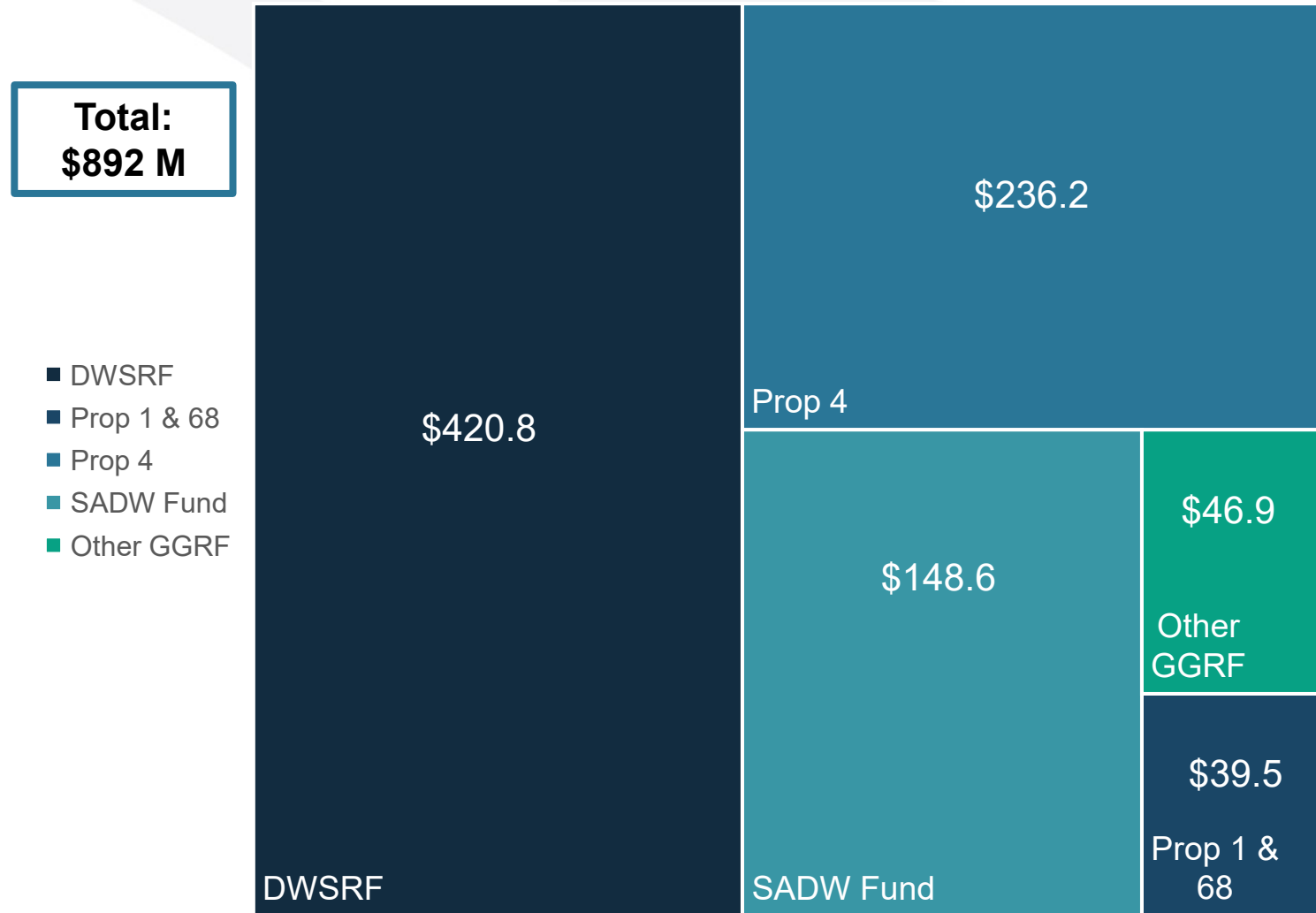
(as of September 2026)

	Roll-Over Funding from Previous FY	FY 2026-27 New Funding	Total: FY 2026-27 Beginning Balance	Projected FY 2027-28 New Funding	Projected FY 2028-29 New Funding	Projected 3-Yr. Total
DWSRF-Base/BIL Grants (PF)	\$268.9 M	\$151.9 M	\$420.8 M	\$20.3 M	\$20.3 M	\$461.4 M
Safe Affordable Drinking Water Fund (Grant)	\$108.6 M*	\$40 M	\$148.6 M	\$31 M	TBD	\$179.6 M - TBD
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (Grant)	\$46.9 M	\$0	\$46.9 M	\$0	\$0	\$46.9 M
Prop 1 DW (Grant)	\$16.8 M	\$5.2 M	\$22 M	\$0	\$0	\$22 M
Prop 68 DW (Grant)	\$17.5 M	\$0	\$17.5 M	\$0	\$0	\$17.5 M
Prop 4 DW (Grant)	\$57.4 M	\$178.8 M**	\$236.2 M	\$57.5 M	\$0	\$293.7 M
Subtotal:	\$516.1 M	\$375.9 M	\$892 M	\$108.8 M	\$20.3 M	\$1,021.1 - TBD
Prop 4 DW Tribal (Grant)	\$10.7 M	\$12.3 M	\$23 M	\$0	\$0	\$23 M
DWSRF-BIL Emerging Contaminant SDAC (PF)	\$28.9 M	\$19.1 M	\$48 M	\$0	\$0	\$48 M
Small/DAC Emerging Contaminant Grants (Grant)	\$106.6 M	\$77.6 M	\$184.2 M	\$74.1 M	\$0	\$258.3 M
TOTAL:	\$662.3 M	\$484.9 M	\$1,147.2 M	\$182.9 M	\$20.3 M	\$1,350.4 M - TBD

* Approximately \$33 million of SADW Fund is reserved for 71 SADW Fund authorized positions and personnel costs in FY 26/27 and FY 27/28. Additionally, \$1.5 millions has been reserved for an administrative contract.

** \$5.5 million Prop. 4 drinking water earmarks have been removed from the available FY 26/27 balance.

FY 2026-27 Available Funding (in millions)

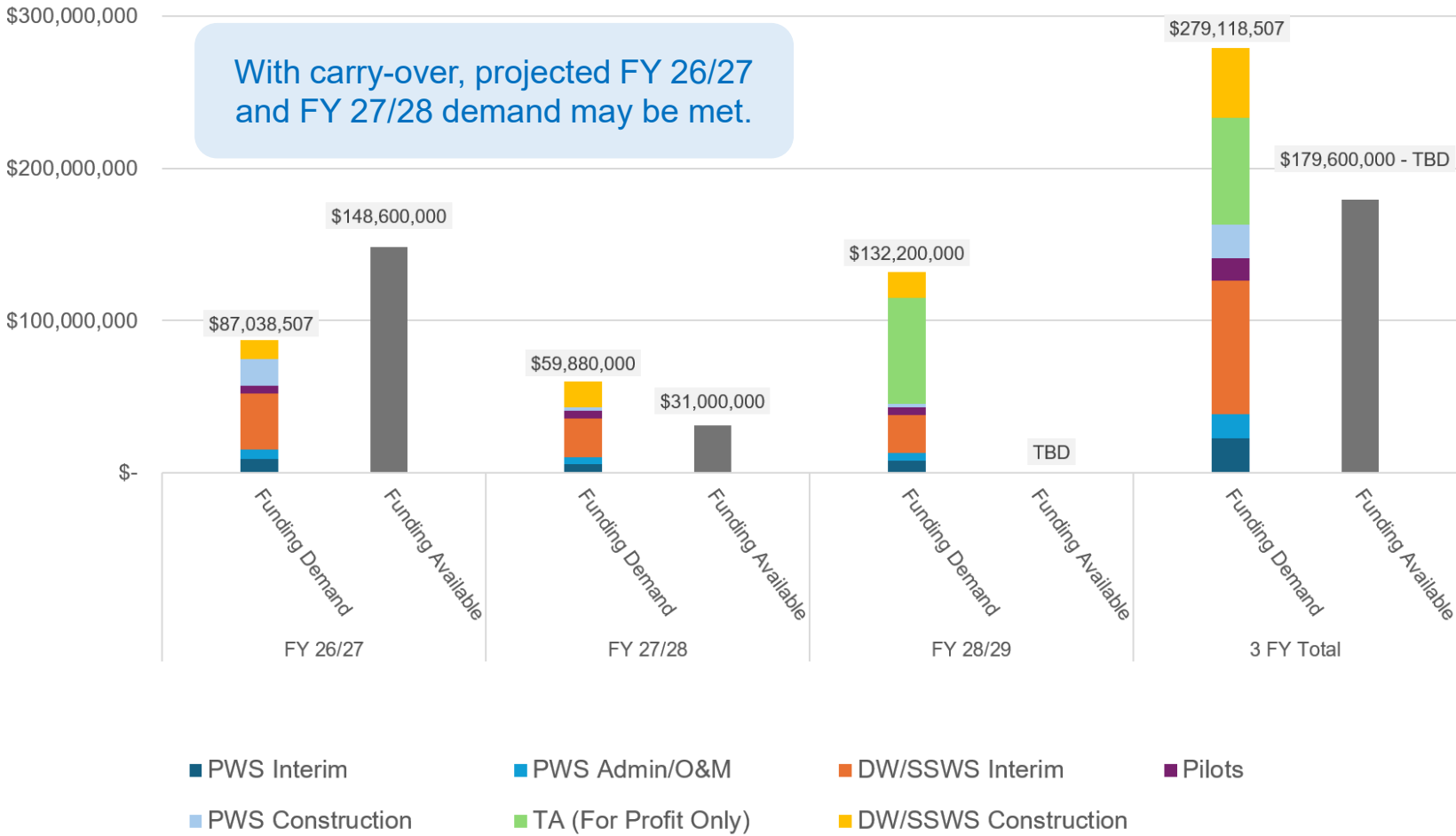


Total Projected 3-Yr SADWF-Eligible Only Demand

12% of projected 3 FY SAFER Program demand is only eligible for funding from the SADWF. This represents **6%** of the total projected PWS funding needs and **100%** of the total projected DW/SSWS Regional Program funding needs.

SAWDF-Eligible Only Demand	FY 2026-27*	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	TOTAL
Public Water Systems	\$35,931,695	\$14,980,000	\$87,300,000	\$138,211,695
Interim Assistance*	\$8,947,820	\$5,730,000	\$7,800,000	\$22,477,820
Administrator	\$2,350,000	\$1,750,000	\$3,000,000	\$7,100,000
O&M	\$4,175,584	\$3,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$9,175,584
Pilots	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$7,500,000
TA Master Agreements (For-Profit Only)	\$0	\$0	\$70,000,000	\$70,000,000
Construction*	\$17,958,291	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$21,958,291
DW/SSWS Regional Programs*	\$51,106,812	\$44,900,000	\$44,900,000	\$140,906,812
Interim Assistance	\$36,606,812	\$25,400,000	\$25,400,000	\$87,406,812
Long-Term Solutions	\$12,000,000	\$17,000,000	\$17,000,000	\$51,000,000
Pilots	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$7,500,000
TOTAL:	\$87,038,507	\$59,880,000	\$132,200,000	\$279,118,507

* Approx. \$57 M of FY 25/26 SADWF carry-over has been committed to and/or executed as new agreements or amendments.



Assumptions:

- Includes all projected SADWF, eligible demand.
- Includes:
 - Confirmed FY 25/26 roll-over SADWF.
 - New FY 26/27 \$40 appropriation, less admin costs.
 - DOF projections for FY 27/28 planning = FY 26/27 proceeds.
 - No available SADWF proceed projections for FY 28/29 planning from DOF.

3 FY Outcome:

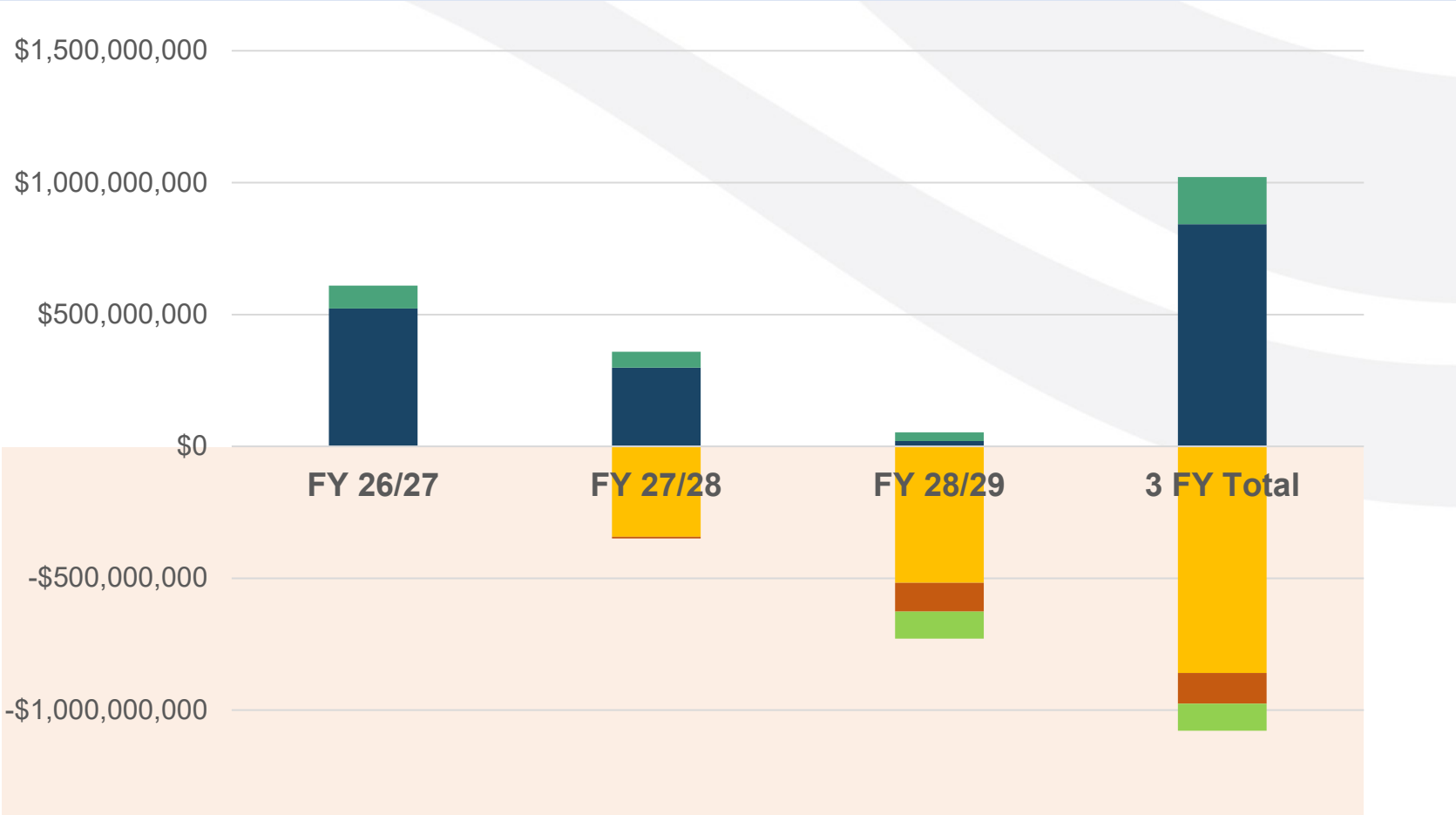
\$99.5 M Funding Gap for SADWF Eligible Demand.

Funding Gap materializes in FY 28/29.

FY 2026-27 FEP Targets (SADWF Only) \$ in Millions

Water System Category	Interim Water Supplies	Technical Assistance (includes Planning)	Administrator	Planning	Direct O&M Support	Construc- tion / Long- Term Solutions	Pilots	SUBTOTAL BY SYSTEM CATEGORY
PWS	\$5.4	\$0	\$2.4	\$0	\$2.8	\$2.9	\$2.5	\$15.9
DW/SSWS	\$11.1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2.5	\$13.6
Committed/ Pending for FY 2026-27	\$29.1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1.4	\$27.1	\$0	\$57.5
SUBTOTAL BY SOLUTION TYPE	\$45.5	\$0	\$2.4	\$0	\$4.2	\$30	\$5	
							PROJECT TOTAL	\$87.0
Other Program Needs for FY 2026-27	Contracts	Staff Costs	Future Project Demand					
	\$1.5	\$16.5	N/A					\$18.0
Reserved Carryover for FY 2027-28	\$0	\$16.5	\$61.6					\$78.1
							GRAND TOTAL	\$183.1

SAFER Program Projected Funding Gap by FY



Assumptions:

- Includes all projected available funding for SADWF, DWSRF, GGRF, Prop 1, Prop 68, and Prop 4.
- Tribal Prop 4 and EC funding/demand is excluded.
- Projected uncommitted SADWF carried over to next FY for eligible only demand.

3 FY Outcome:

TOTAL: \$1,075 M
3-Yr. SAFER
Funding Gap

Funding Eligibilities



NEW: Revised Interim Assistance Eligibility – PWS

Proposed Criteria – Public Water System (PWS)

A PWS or school may be eligible for interim water supplies for households within the PWS service area boundary or students and staff, respectively, if the PWS or school meets the following criteria:

- Serves a DAC
- Serves less than 1,000 people
- Exceeds the threshold for contaminants considered to have severe or serious health impacts **or** is experiencing a water outage

The PWS or school will continue to be eligible for interim water supplies until the water quality issue or water outage has been resolved. A PWS or school receiving interim water supplies must be able to show progress towards a long-term solution in order to continue receiving services. A PWS's or school's eligibility for continued interim services will be re-evaluated on an annual basis within the countywide and regional programs.

NEW: Revised Interim Assistance Eligibility – DW/SSWS

Proposed Criteria – DW/SSWS

Eligibility for interim water supplies for households served by DW/SSWSs will align with the criteria for PWSs. A household served by a DW/SSWS may be eligible for interim water supplies if the household meets the following criteria:

- Is considered a low-income household
- Well testing results exceed the threshold for contaminants considered to have severe or serious health impacts **or** is experiencing a water outage/has a dry well

A household's eligibility for continued interim services will be re-evaluated on an annual basis within the countywide and regional programs and will include an evaluation of progress towards a long-term solution.

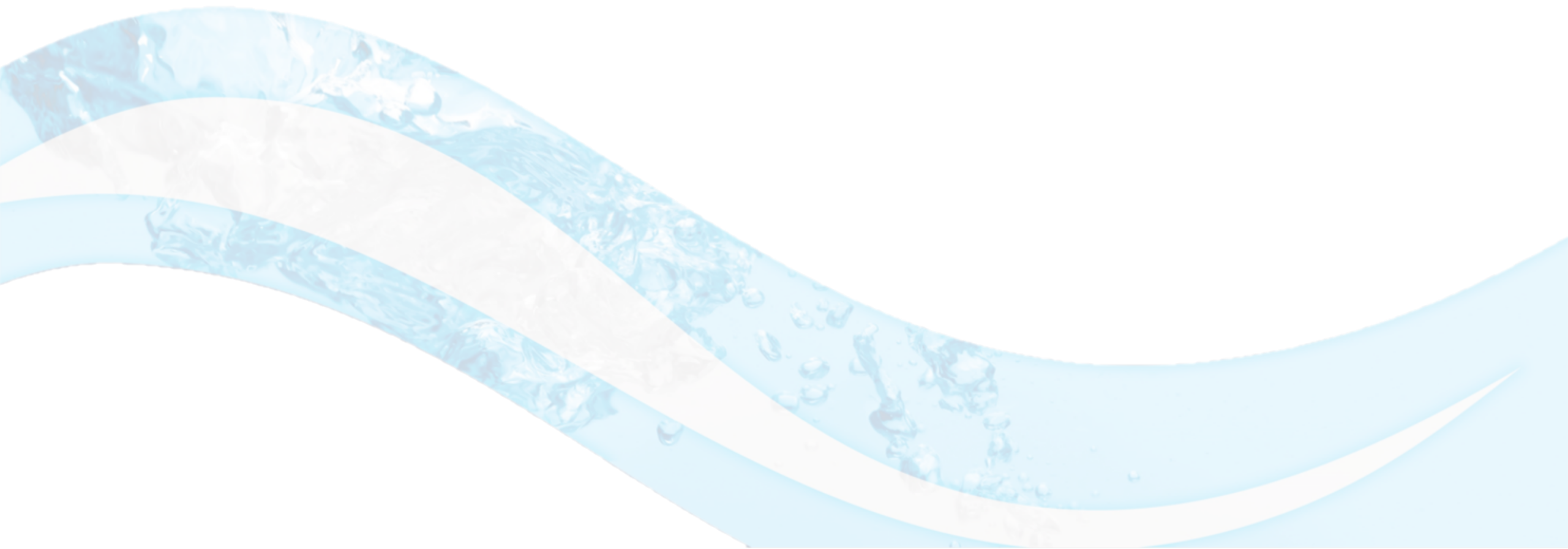
NEW: Contaminants with Severe & Serious Health Impacts

Risk	Contaminant	Threshold (µg/ℓ)	Health Endpoint (Noncancer)	Vulnerable Population
Severe	E. coli	Positive	Diarrhea, kidney failure	Infants, children, immune system-impaired persons
Severe	Nitrate and nitrite, as N	10,000	Loss in blood capacity to carry oxygen, death	Infants
Severe	Nitrate, as N	10,000	Loss in blood capacity to carry oxygen, death	Infants
Severe	Nitrite, as N	1,000	Loss in blood capacity to carry oxygen, death	Infants
Severe	Perchlorate	6	Impact on thyroid hormones, pre- and postnatal growth	Fetuses, infants, children
Severe	Surface Water Treatment Technique	Turbidity and CT performance standards	Nausea, cramps, diarrhea, headaches	Infants, children, immunes system impaired persons
Serious	Aluminum	6,000	Developmental neurotoxicity	Infants, children
Serious	Arsenic	10	Cerebrovascular effect	Children
Serious	Fluoride	4,000	Teeth mottling	Children
Serious	Lead	15	Neurobehavioral effects in children, high blood pressure	Fetuses, infants, children
Serious	Manganese	200	Neurotoxicity	Formula-fed infants
Serious	Trihalomethanes, total	80	Effect on pregnancy	Pregnant women, infants
Serious	Uranium, combined	20 pCi/L	Kidney damage	Children

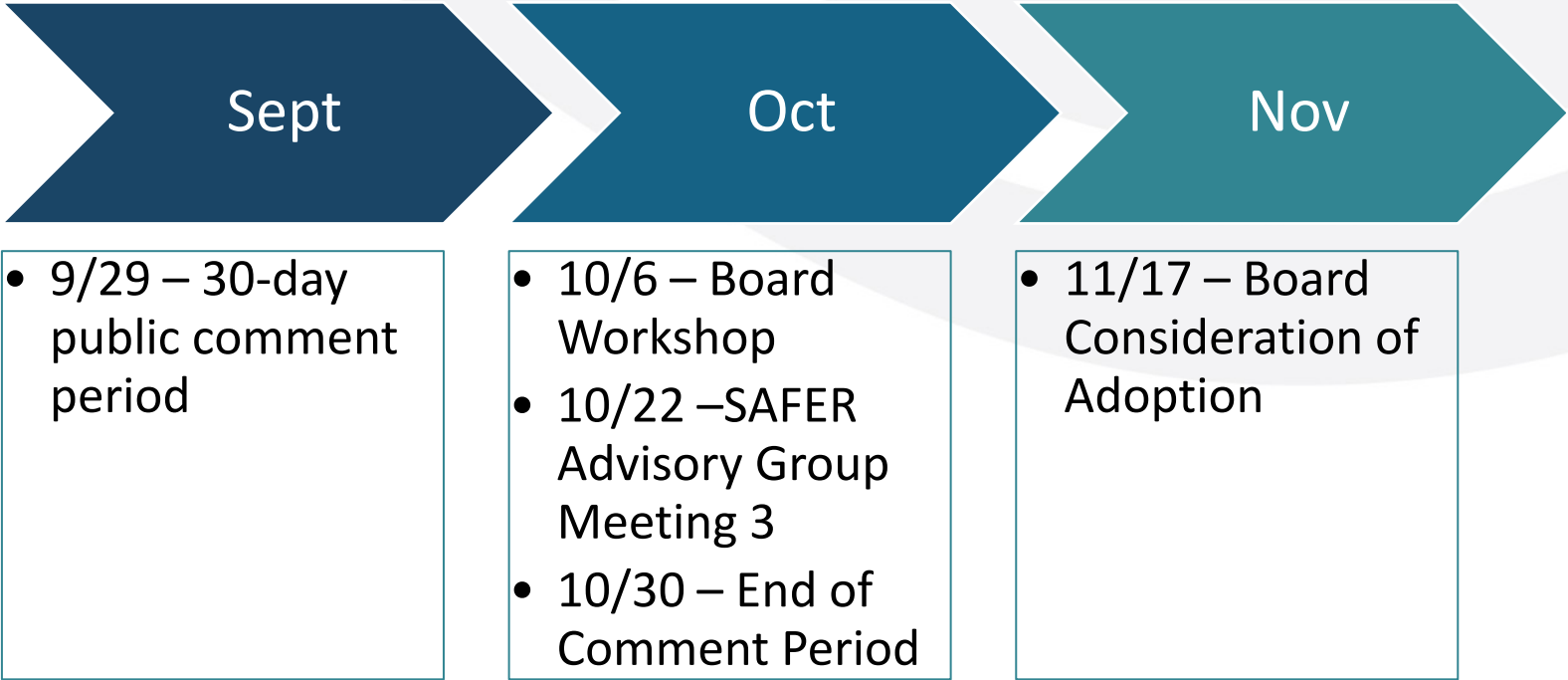
43 NEW: Revised Interim Assistance Eligibility – Impacts

	<u>Current Criteria</u> <u>(Failing for an</u> <u>acute MCL)</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>Criteria (Severe</u> <u>& Serious)</u>
Eligible Number of Schools	82	129
Eligible Number of Water Systems	80	207
Systems and schools currently receiving water that would continue to receive water	31	74
Systems and schools currently receiving water that will no longer be eligible	86	43
Average Annual Cost	\$4.2 million per year	Estimated \$11.4 million per year

Next Steps



FY 2026-27 FEP Timeline



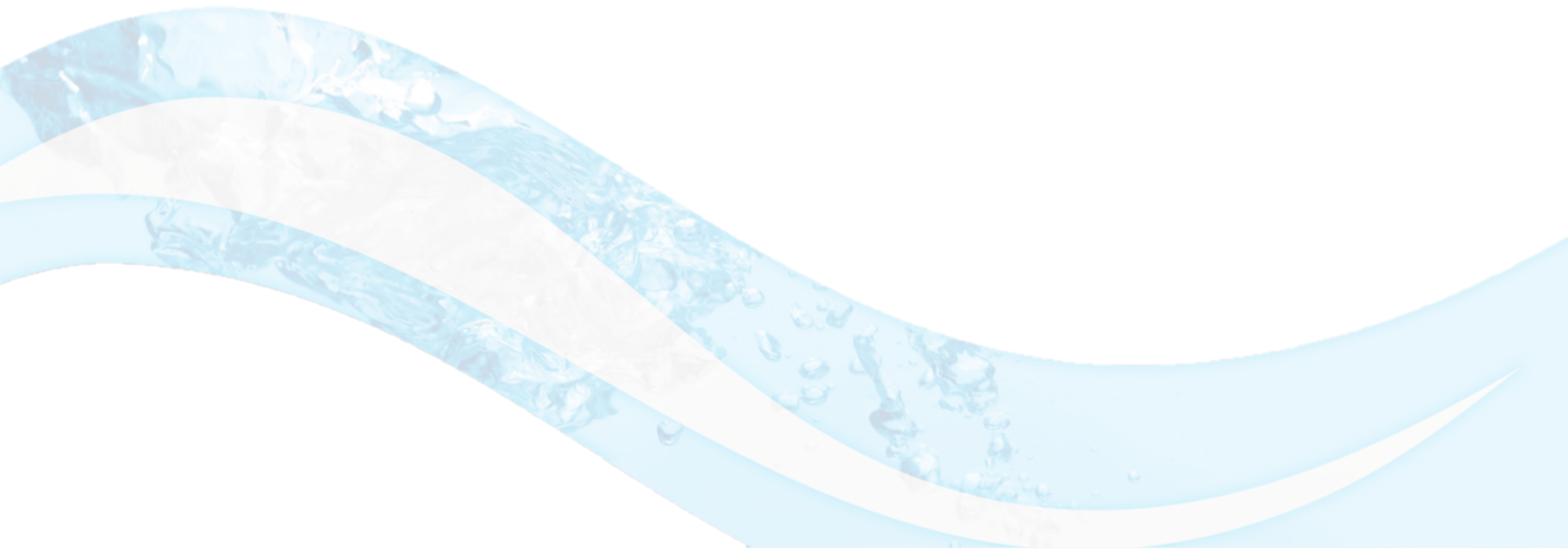
Discussion and Q & A



- Raise your hand for questions or comments
- Turn on microphone and state your name
- Speak slowly
- Be concise
- Turn off microphone

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

LUNCH



Draft Annual Fund Expenditure Plan FY 2026-2027 Group Discussion

Amelia Nishimura
Office of Public Engagement, Equity,
and Tribal Affairs

Group Discussion: Bottled Water Eligibility Criteria

- 1. Does the proposed eligibility criteria adequately identify the communities/ circumstances that need bottled water assistance?**
- 2. What situations may fall into a gray area under the proposed criteria? How should those situations be handled?**
- 3. Based on your discussion, please identify your highest priority recommendation.**



Group Discussion: Bottled Water Eligibility Criteria

Report Back:

What is your top recommendation (each group)?



Group Discussion 2: SADW Targets

Group Discussion

Given that available funding is limited and may vary from year to year, what should SAFER fund—and in what order of priority—to make the greatest progress toward safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water?

(SADW Fund targets include: Interim Supplies/Emergencies, Technical Assistance, Administrators, Planning, Operation and Maintenance, and Construction)

Group Discussion 2: SADW Targets

Group Discussion

1. If funding is not sufficient to support all eligible needs, which types of projects or activities should be prioritized within and across these targets?
2. Should SAFER prioritize immediate drinking water needs, preventing future problems, maintaining existing systems, or making long-term infrastructure improvements? What should guide those decisions?

Report back on:

1. Two prioritization recommendations
2. One key consideration SAFER should use when making funding decisions.

Group Discussion: SADW Targets

Report Back:

1. Two prioritization recommendations
2. One key consideration SAFER should use when making funding decisions



SAFER Program Updates and Announcements

Amelia Nishimura
Office of Public Engagement,
Equity, and Tribal Affairs

Community Partner Pilot Program: Developing the Lessons Learned Report

Johannus Reijnders
Office of Public Engagement,
Equity, and Tribal Affairs

Community Partner Program Goals



Enhance how SAFER gathers information and expertise from hard-to-reach or rural communities.



Facilitate community involvement to drinking water decisions.



Build local community outreach and engagement capacity.



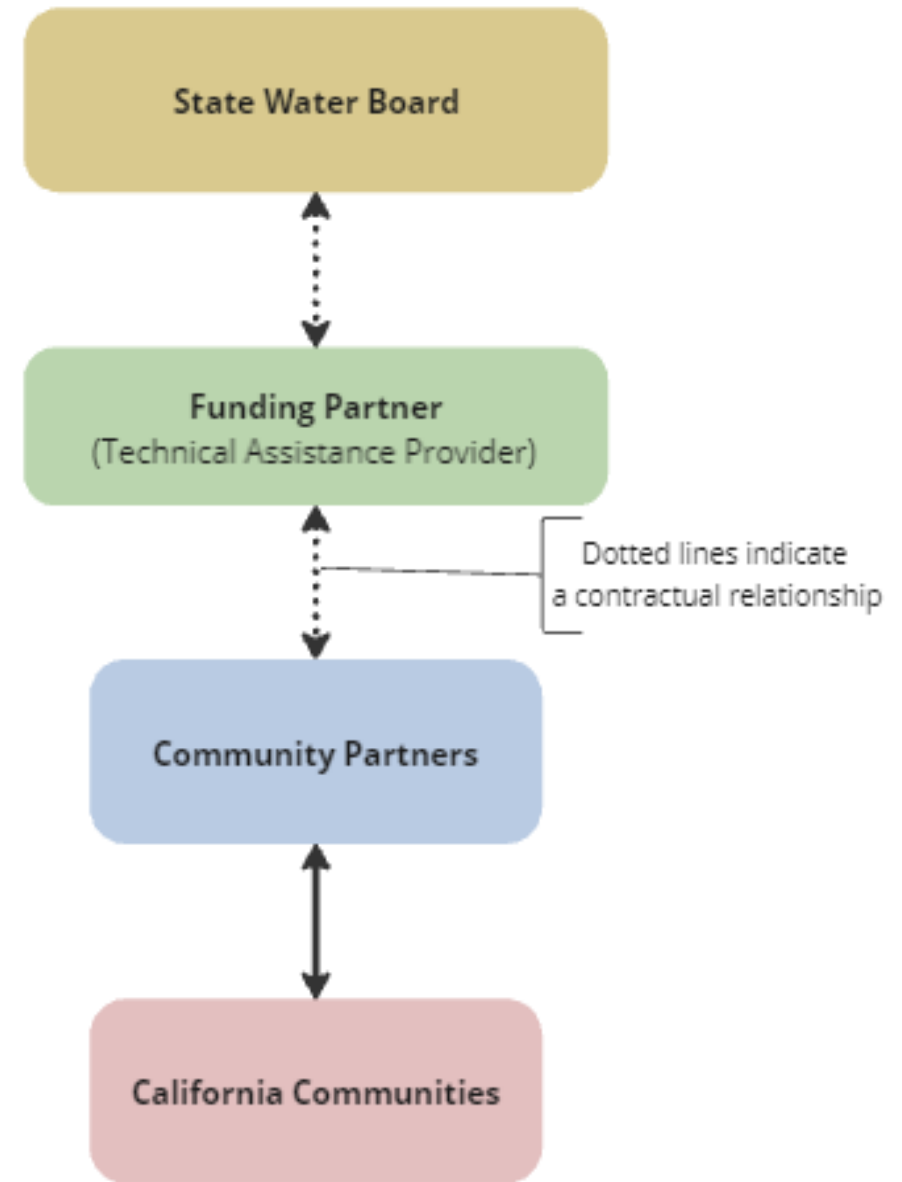
Identify and communicate potential risks, issues, or delays impacting drinking water solutions.



Catalyze collaborative solutions in drinking water challenges.

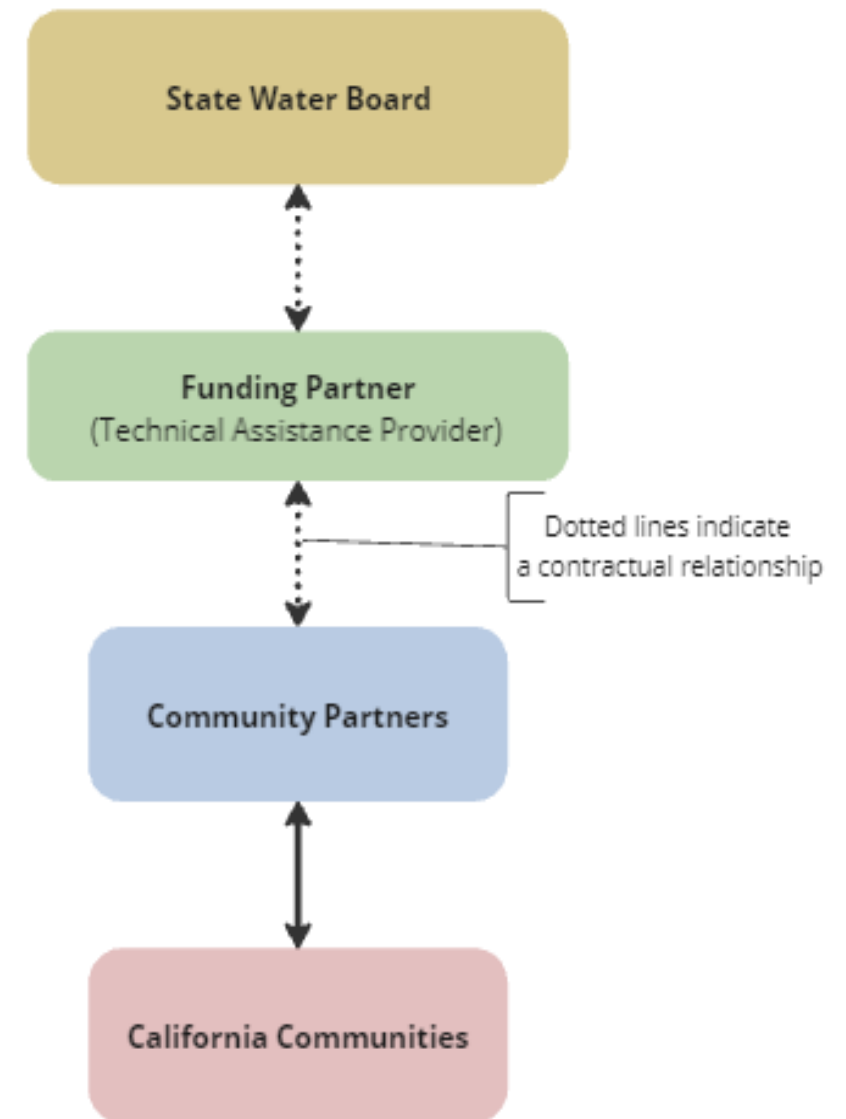
Who is a Funding Partner?

- TA Provider deemed qualified by State Water Board to serve additional role as Funding Partner
- Responsible for issuing and managing subcontract(s) with Community Partner(s) to fund outreach and engagement



Role of the Funding Partner

- Develops the Community Partner's scope of work and collects periodic updates to ensure fulfillment
- Coordinates onboarding and delivers State Water Board Community Partner training modules
- Manages Community Partner invoices and payments
- Liaises between State Water Board and Community Partners



Pilot Summary

- Pilot Funding Partner is Stantec Consulting Services
- Taking place in southwestern Tulare County communities with 2 Community Partners
- Pilot is producing a suite of resources and templates:
 - ☒ Recruitment materials (job description, interview guide)
 - ☒ Orientation guide, training modules and resource library
 - ☒ Scope of work template
 - ☐ Next Steps: Lessons Learned Report

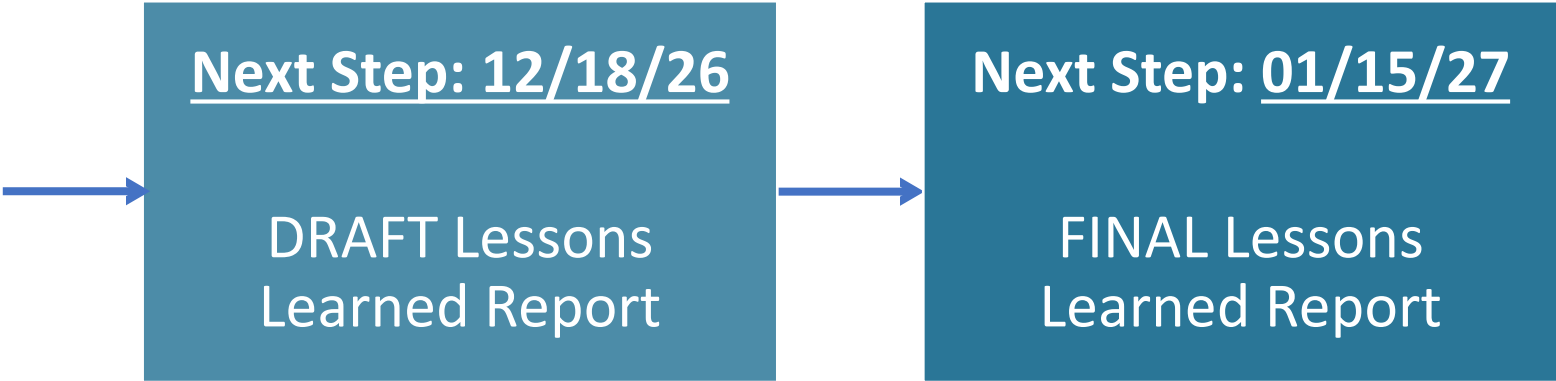
Where We Are Now



Next Steps: Lessons Learned Report

Purpose:

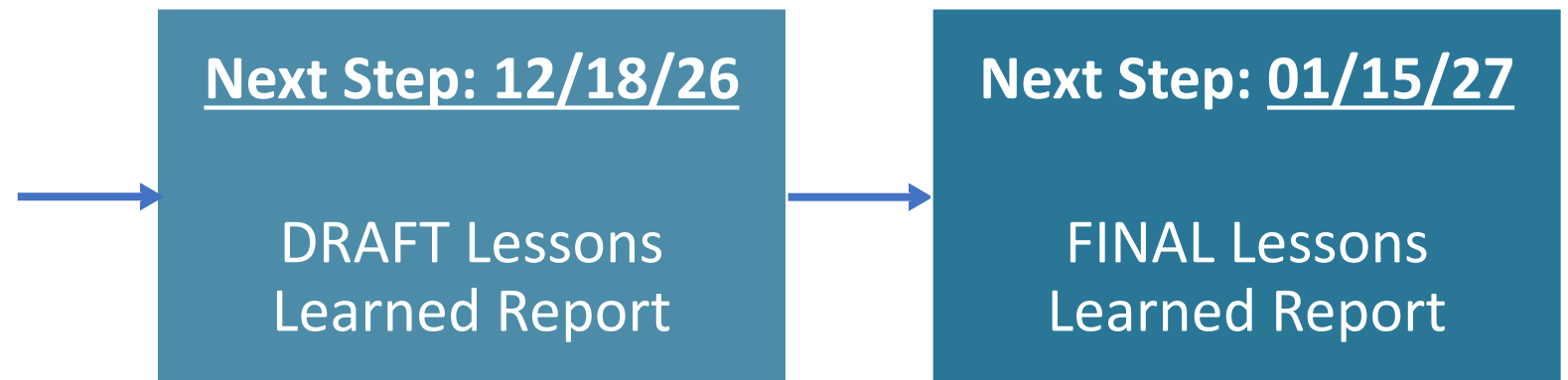
Demonstrate if and how the Community Partner model can be replicated to support future SAFER communities.



Questions?

What do you want to see in this report?

- *What points would you like the report to focus on?*
- *What questions do you most want answers to?*
- *What information is crucial to your evaluation?*



Discussion and Q & A



- Raise your hand for questions or comments
- Turn on microphone and state your name
- Speak slowly
- Be concise
- Turn off microphone

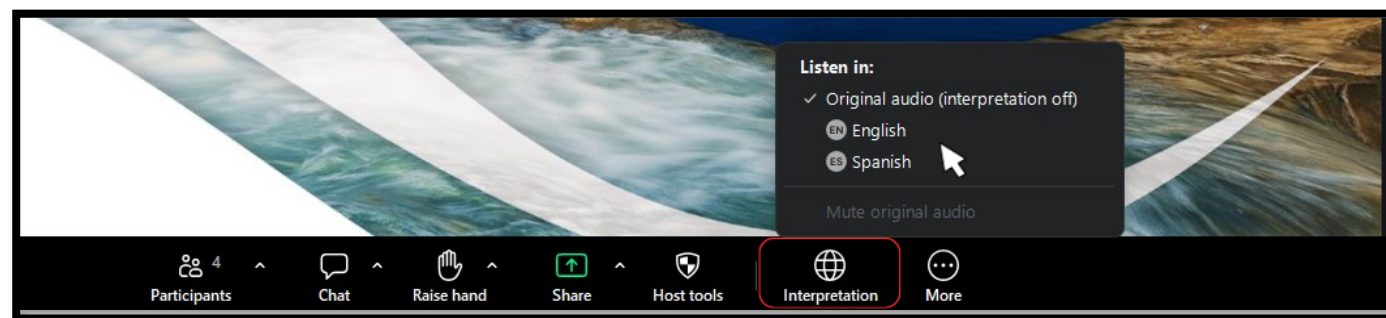
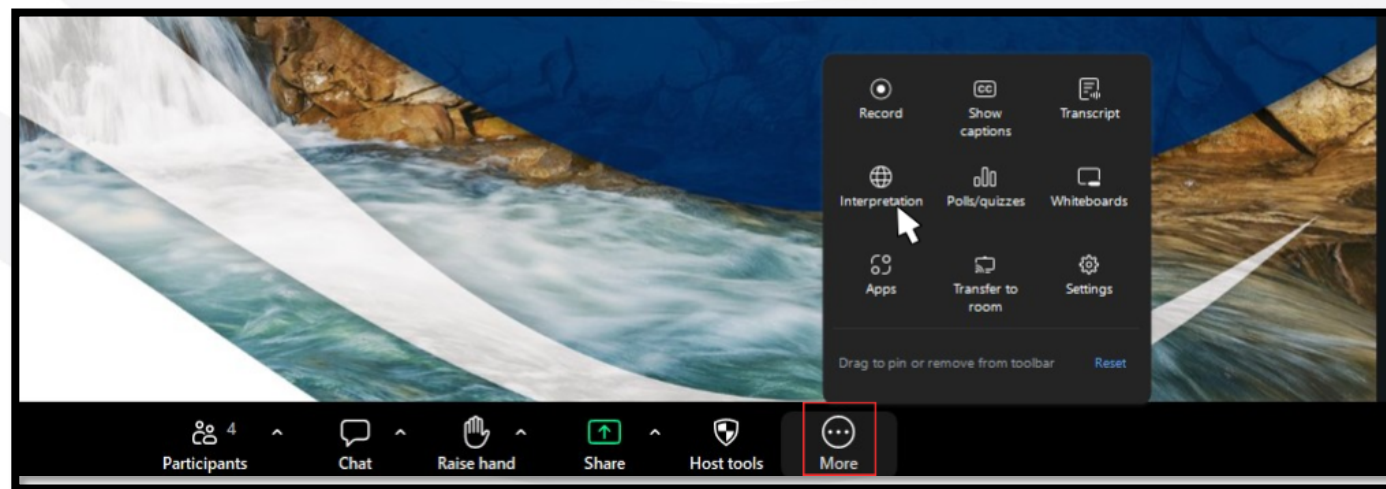
Public comment or technical assistance? Please email:
safer@waterboards.ca.gov

Language Interpretation through Zoom

Locate the **options bar** at the bottom of your screen.

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

SAFER Advisory Group Member Announcements

Amelia Nishimura

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

Amelia Nishimura
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.
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.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Amelia Nishimura

Office of Public Engagement, Equity,
and Tribal Affairs

Next Steps

- **Draft FY 2026-27 Fund Expenditure Plan**

- Public comments due **12pm Oct 30, 2026**
- Send comments to by:
 - Email at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Fax at (916) 341-5620
 - Subject Line **"Comment Letter- Draft FY 2026-27 FEP"**
 - Mail to:

Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board

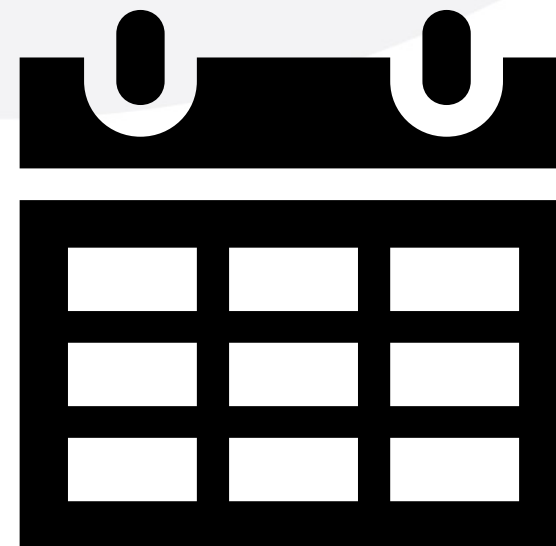
State Water Resources Control Board

PO Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 (mail)

1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 (hand delivery)

Next Meeting

- SAFER Advisory Group Meeting #4
 - Tentatively set for early December



Closing

Thank you!

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