SAFER Drinking Water Advisory Group Meeting #4

December 7, 2023

8:30AM – 12:00PM

Coachella, CA

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

Ways to Participate

Watch ONLY: Visit **video.calepa.ca.gov**

Submit a comment:

Email **safer@waterboards.ca.gov** with subject "AGM Public Comment," and follow instructions in return email.

For technical or language interpretation assistance: safer@waterboards.ca.gov

Welcome

Cástulo Estrada
Board Vice President
Director Division 5

Coachella Valley Water District

Opening Remarks

Joaquin Esquivel
State Water Board Chair

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

Introductions

SAFER Program Overview: Accomplishments & Project Status Tool

Needs Assessment and SAFER Programmatic Updates

SAFER Program Updates

Public Comments

Special event: SAFER Projects in the Coachella Valley

Meeting Guidelines

- Take breaks as needed.

- Speak slowly.

- Be conscious of sensitive microphones.

- Raise your name tent for comments or questions.

- Keep your comments concise and to the point.

- For technical support: **safer@waterboards.ca.gov**

- Your name

- Your affiliation

SAFER Program Overview: 2023 Accomplishments and Project Status Tool

2023 SAFER Program Accomplishments

Jeff Wetzel
Division of Financial Assistance, DFA

Key Metrics Highlights and Trends

$620 M
Grants to small, disadvantaged communities

1.3 M
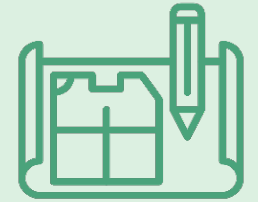People previously without access that now have safe drinking water

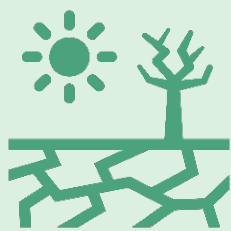**200**
Failing systems that have returned to compliance

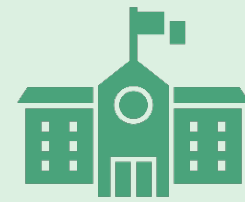**4,600**
Households assisted with interim solutions

385
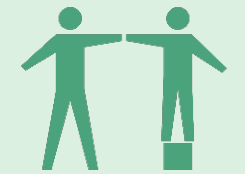Solutions accelerated via technical assistance

90
Drought resiliency projects funded

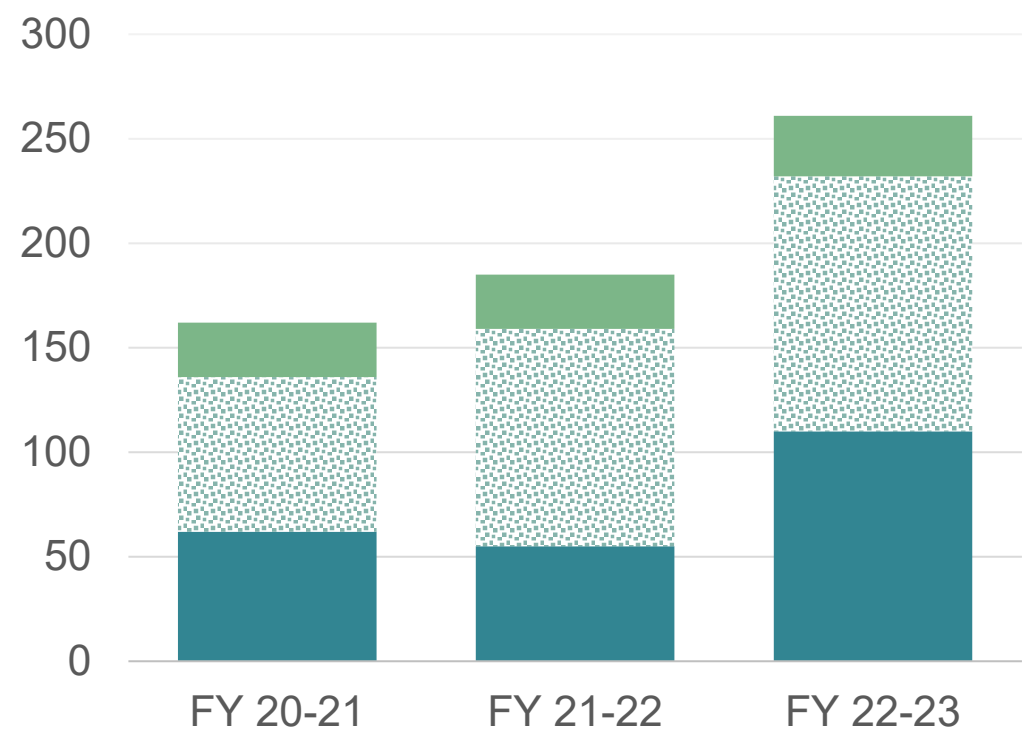**150**
Schools received assistance

65%
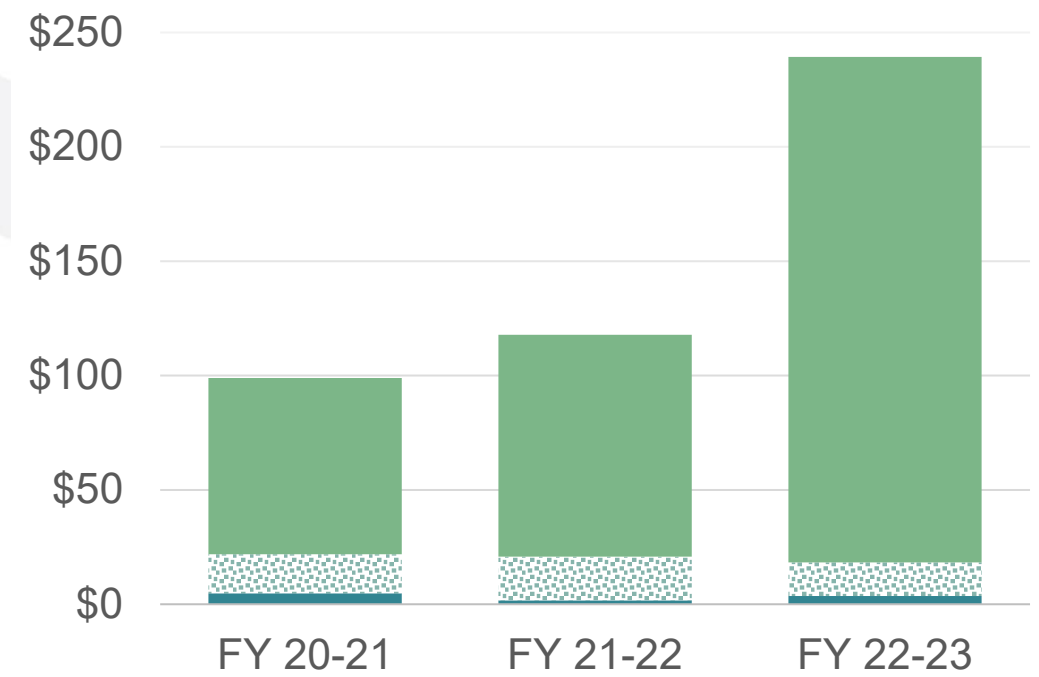Of committed funding to failing systems benefitted Hispanic-dominant communities*

* Funding approved or committed as of the end of FY 2022-23

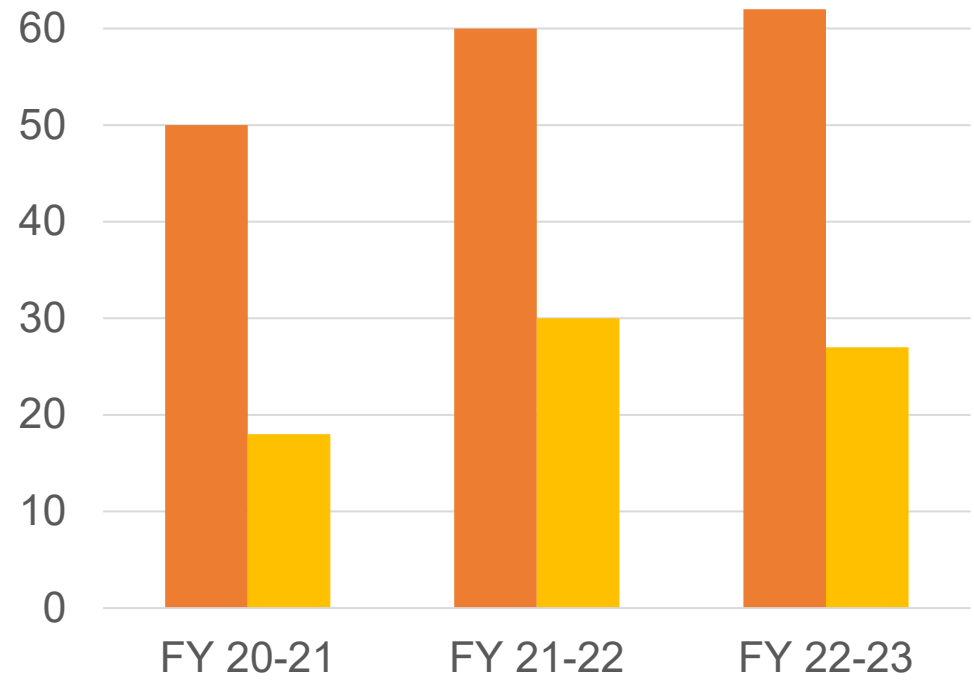# SAFER Program Funding by Solution Type

SAFER Program Funding by System Status

% of Systems Receiving Assistance

Total Funding Provided (in millions)

Legend: Failing (orange), At-Risk (yellow)
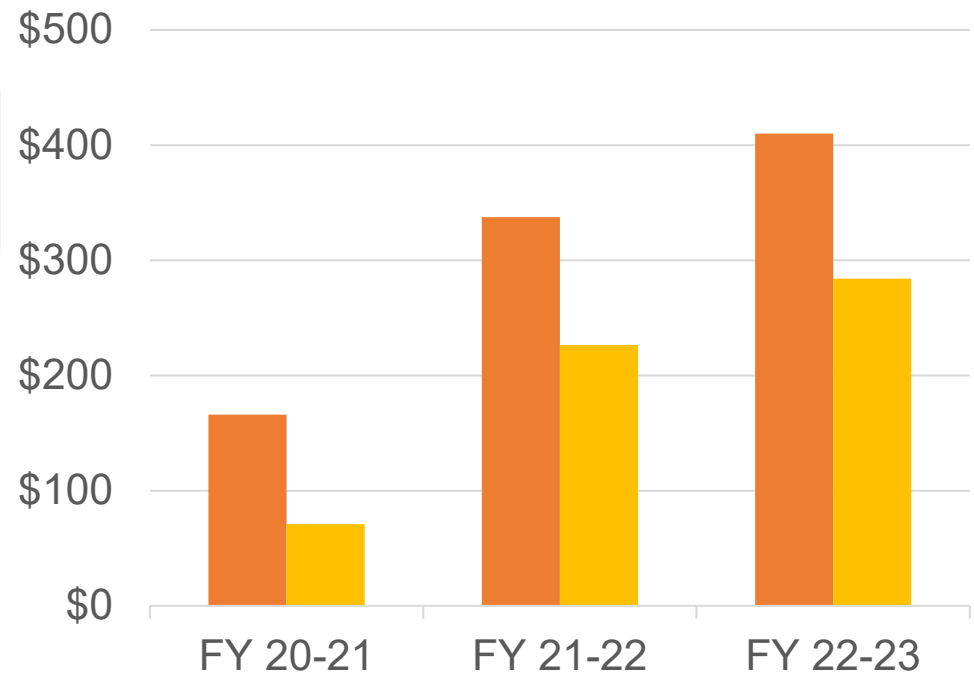
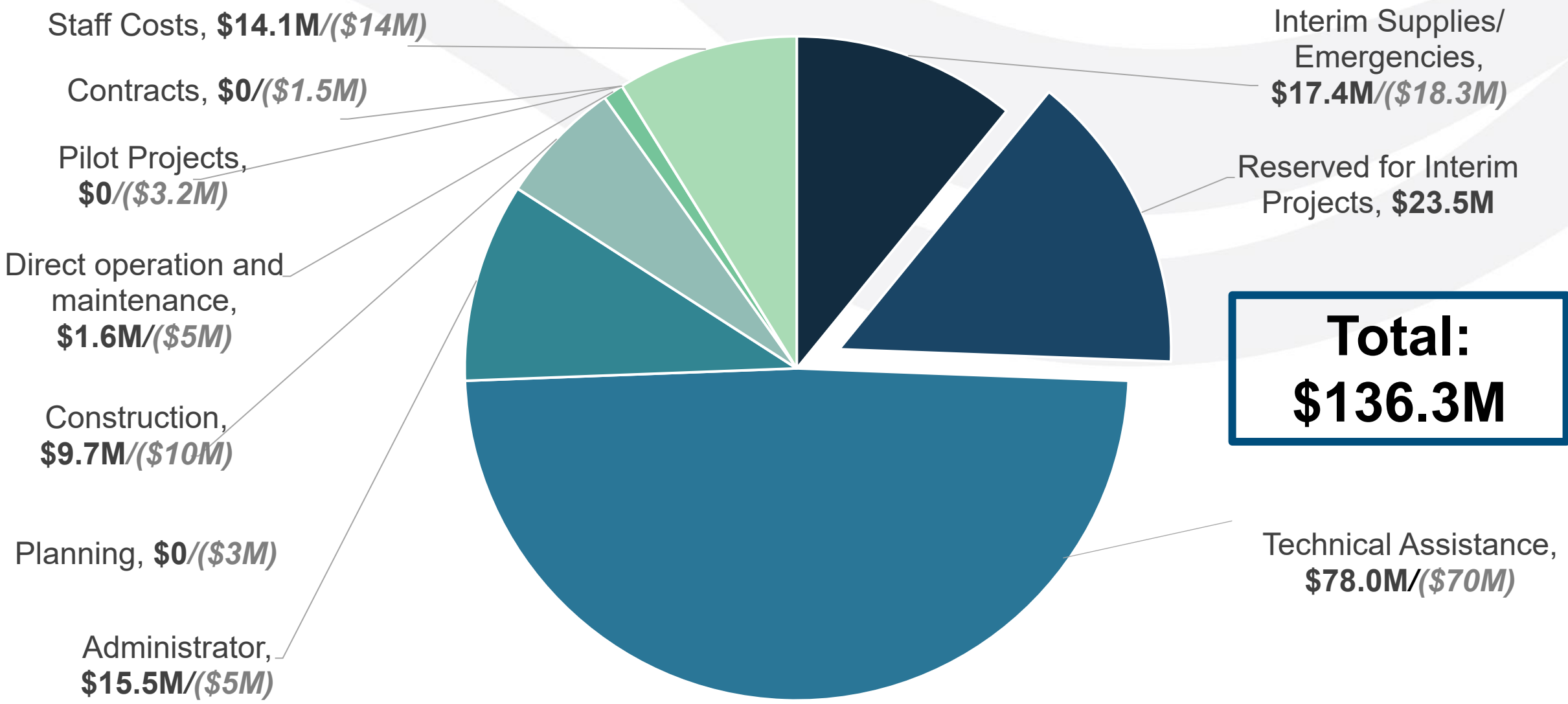# Summary of Post-Comment Period Revisions

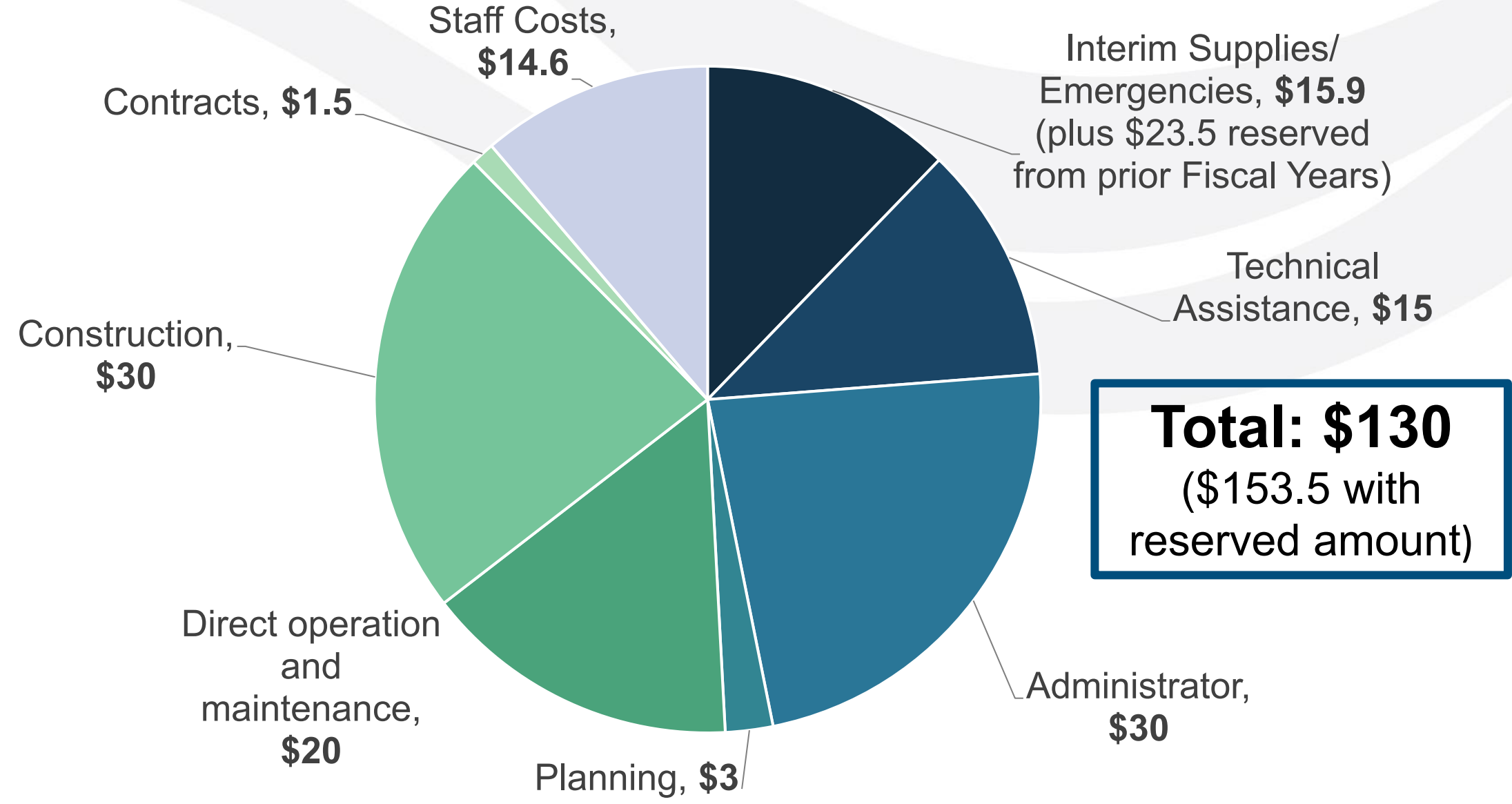| Section	Updates
General	• Extend reporting range to June 30, 2023, for tables and associated text.
Other Complementary Funding Sources, Section III.B.1	• Description of available funding sources for solution types that could impact targeted amounts for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund.
Direct Operation and Maintenance Support, Section IV.D.1 and Appendix L	• Add Technical, Managerial, Financial Assessments as conditions for receiving funding through streamlined statewide prioritization process. • Specify funding will lower rates to 2.5% of the community's median household income AND establish an operating reserve. • Rename Tiers 1 and 2 to Groups 1 and 2

Summary of Post-Comment Period Revisions, cont.

Section	Updates
PFAS and Other Emerging Contaminants, Section IV.G	• Comments received about possible effects of the hexavalent chromium maximum contaminant level but are not discussed in the text.
Metrics Highlights and Trends, Section VII.A	• Introducing a new section to highlight key cumulative metrics and trends from the last three fiscal years.
Metric Category 9, Section VII.G	• Demographic information previously labeled as "majority race/ethnicity" relabeled as "predominant identity characteristics".

Fiscal Year 2022-23 Committed Expenditures, by Solution Type
($ committed/*($ target)*)

Staff Costs, **$14.1M**/*($14M)*

Contracts, **$0**/*($1.5M)*

Pilot Projects, **$0**/*($3.2M)*

Direct operation and maintenance, **$1.6M**/*($5M)*

Construction, **$9.7M**/*($10M)*

Planning, **$0**/*($3M)*

Administrator, **$15.5M**/*($5M)*

Interim Supplies/ Emergencies, **$17.4M**/*($18.3M)*

Reserved for Interim Projects, **$23.5M**

Technical Assistance, **$78.0M**/*($70M)*

Total: $136.3M

Fiscal Year 2023-24 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Targets (in millions)

Staff Costs, **$14.6**

Contracts, **$1.5**

Construction, **$30**

Direct operation and maintenance, **$20**

Planning, **$3**

Administrator, **$30**

Technical Assistance, **$15**

Interim Supplies/ Emergencies, **$15.9** (plus $23.5 reserved from prior Fiscal Years)

Total: $130
($153.5 with reserved amount)

Direct Operation and Maintenance Funding

- **$20 million Fund Expenditure Plan (FEP) target for direct Operation and Maintenance (O&M) funding**

- Up to 30 new O&M funding agreements (each with a 3-year term)

- October 3, 2023 – Direct O&M Funding Guidelines established (FEP Appendix L)

- Fall 2023 – Eligible Group 1 water systems will be directly noticed of funding availability

DFA Process Improvement Updates

Process	Objective	Implemented
Standardized Scope of Work and Schedule	• Standardize the scope of work and provide project schedule templates	January 2023
Streamlined Financial Review	• Create a financial review framework for 100% non-repayable projects	January 2023
Emergency Grant Agreement Template/Process	• Streamline grant agreement template and process to expedite emergency drinking water funding	May 2023

DFA Process Improvement Updates, cont.

Process	Objective	Implemented
Expedited Funding Program	• Draft program guidelines to expedite drinking water funding for small communities	March 2023

Technical Assistance (TA) Expectations and Metrics	• Provide clear expectations for TA providers and staff managing TA agreements regarding timelines for:
	  • New requests assignments
	  • New workplans preparation and execution
	  • Other aspects of the program
		January 2023

SAFER Project Status Tool

Andrew Altevogt
Assistant Deputy Director
Division of Drinking Water

SAFER Project Status Tool
Guiding Questions

Project status tool

- What are the ways you can use this tool?

- Which elements of the tool are the most useful?

- Are there ways we can improve this tool?

SAFER Project Status Tool

- Developed in response to discussions with Advisory Group members SAFER

- Brings together funding and engagement work

- Look up tool for any failing water system

- Updated on a quarterly basis

https://bit.ly/SAFER-EngagementUnit

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SAFER Project Status Tool
Large group discussion instructions

- Raise your name tent to ask questions
- Wait for your turn
- Speak slowly
- Limit your questions to 3 minutes

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

SAFER Project Status Tool
Guiding Questions

Project status tool

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Proposed Updates for the 2024 Drinking Water Needs Assessment

Andrew Altevogt
Assistant Deputy Director
Division of Drinking Water

SAFER PROGRAM

2024 Needs Assessment Guiding Questions

2024 Needs Assessment

- How do you want the cost assessment to be broken down? (ex. by connection, county, Disadvantaged Community, contaminant, etc.)

- What would be most helpful for the SAFER Advisory Group Members to inform the Fund Expenditure Plan?

- Suggestions for enhancements for 2025? Where should we be focusing our resources?

Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund

Up to $130 million per year through 2030.

The annual **Fund Expenditure Plan** prioritizes projects for funding, documents past and planned expenditures, and is "based on data and analysis drawn from the drinking water **Needs Assessment**" (Health and Safety Code §116769).

Needs Assessment Components

Failing Water System List

Risk Assessment

Cost Assessment

Affordability Assessment

https://bit.ly/SAFER-NA

2021 – 2023 Drinking Water Needs Assessment

- Access the **2021** report here: https://bit.ly/SAFER-NA-Report-21

- Access the **2022** report here: https://bit.ly/SAFER-NA-Report-22

- Access the **2023** report here: https://bit.ly/SAFER-NA-Report-23

- ✓ Learn more about the **Needs Assessment** here: https://bit.ly/SAFER-NA

Needs Assessment and 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 State Water Board 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.

Overview of Proposed Changes: Failing Criteria

Needs Assessment Components

Failing Water System List	Risk Assessment	Cost Assessment	Affordability Assessment
Community Water Systems & K-12 Schools	Small and Medium Community Water Systems; K-12 Schools; SSWS; & DWs	Failing & At-Risk Systems and Domestic Wells	DAC/SDAC Community Water Systems

https://bit.ly/SAFER-NA

Purpose of the Failing List

Failing Water System List

Community Water Systems & K-12 Schools

The State Water Board assesses water systems that fail to meet the goals of the Human Right to Water.

Failing water systems are systems that are **out of compliance** or **consistently out of compliance** with drinking water regulations.

SAFER Program Priority Systems: Failing Water Systems
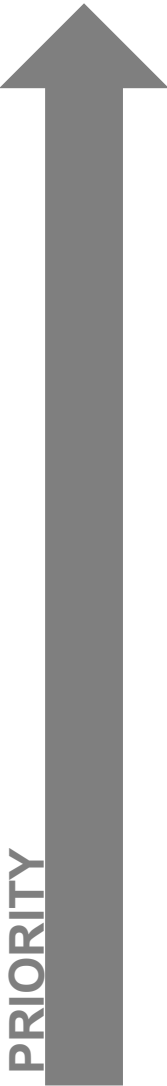
FAILING WATER SYSTEMS

Community water systems and K-12 public schools that meet the Failing criteria.

AT-RISK WATER SYSTEMS & DOMESTIC WELLS

Public water systems with up to 30,000 service connections and 100,000 population served, K-12 public schools, state small water systems and domestic wells that are at-risk of failing.

POTENTIALLY AT-RISK WATER SYSTEMS & DOMESTIC WELLS

Public water systems with up to 30,000 service connections and 100,000 population served, K-12 public schools, state small water systems and domestic wells that are potentially at-risk of failing.

NOT AT-RISK WATER SYSTEMS & DOMESTIC WELLS

Public water systems, K-12 public schools, state small water systems, and domestic wells that are not at-risk of failing.

PRIORITY

SAFER Status
■ Failing

Failing Water Systems

State Water Board has been tracking failing water systems since 2017.

There are currently **386** Failing systems.

Learn more: https://bit.ly/HR2W-FailingWaterSystems

Current list here: https://bit.ly/SAFER-Dashboard

Expanded Criteria for Failing Water Systems

Criteria	Before 3.2021	4.2021 - Now	Expanded 2024
Primary MCL Violation with an open Enforcement Action	Yes	Yes	Yes
Secondary MCL Violation with an open Enforcement Action	Yes	Yes	Yes
E. coli **Violation with an open Enforcement Action**	No	Yes	Yes
Treatment Technique (TT) Violations (in lieu of an MCL): • One or more TT violations related to a primary contaminant, with an open enforcement action; and/or • Three or more TT violations related to a primary contaminant, within the last three years.	Partially	Expanded	Yes
Monitoring and Reporting Violations (related to an MCL and TTs): • Three Monitoring and Reporting violations (related to an MCL) within the last three years where at least one violation has been open for 15 months or greater.	No	Yes	Expanded
NEW: Source Capacity & Water Outage Violations with an open Enforcement Action	No	No	Yes

Overview of proposed Changes: Cost Assessment

Needs Assessment Components

Failing Water System List

Community Water Systems & K-12 Schools

Risk Assessment

Small and Medium Community Water Systems; K-12 Schools; SSWS; & DWs

Cost Assessment

Failing & At-Risk Systems and Domestic Wells

**Affordability Assessment**

DAC/SDAC Community Water Systems

https://bit.ly/SAFER-NA

Purpose of the Cost Assessment

Cost Assessment

Failing & At-Risk Water Systems & Domestic Wells

SB 200 directs the State Water Board to estimate "anticipated funding needs" related to the implementation of interim and/or emergency measures and longer-term solutions for Failing and At-Risk systems.

Results of the Cost Assessment are used to inform the prioritization of existing SAFER funding.

The Cost Assessment is NOT intended to inform local decisions.

2021 Cost Assessment Modeled Long-Term Solution Selection Process

STEP 1: All possible modeled solutions identified, and cost estimates developed.

STEP 2: Conduct Sustainability & Resiliency Assessment of all modeled solutions and compare top 2 solutions.

STEP 3: Select best model solution using cost and Step 2 score.

Treatment

POU/POE

Physical Consolidation
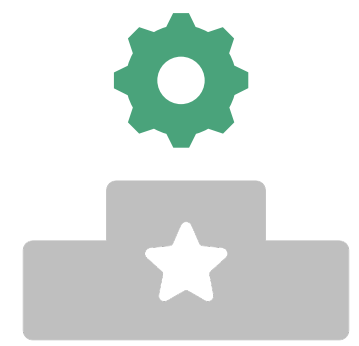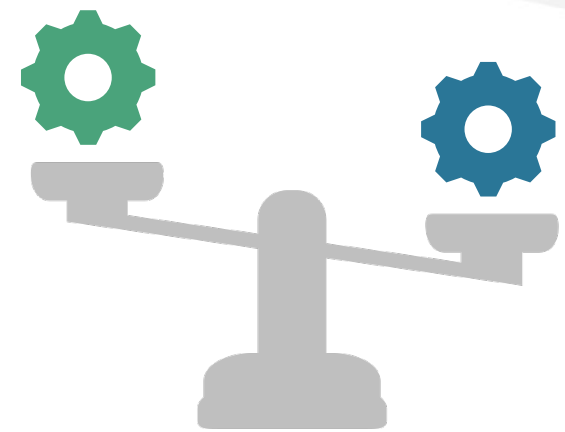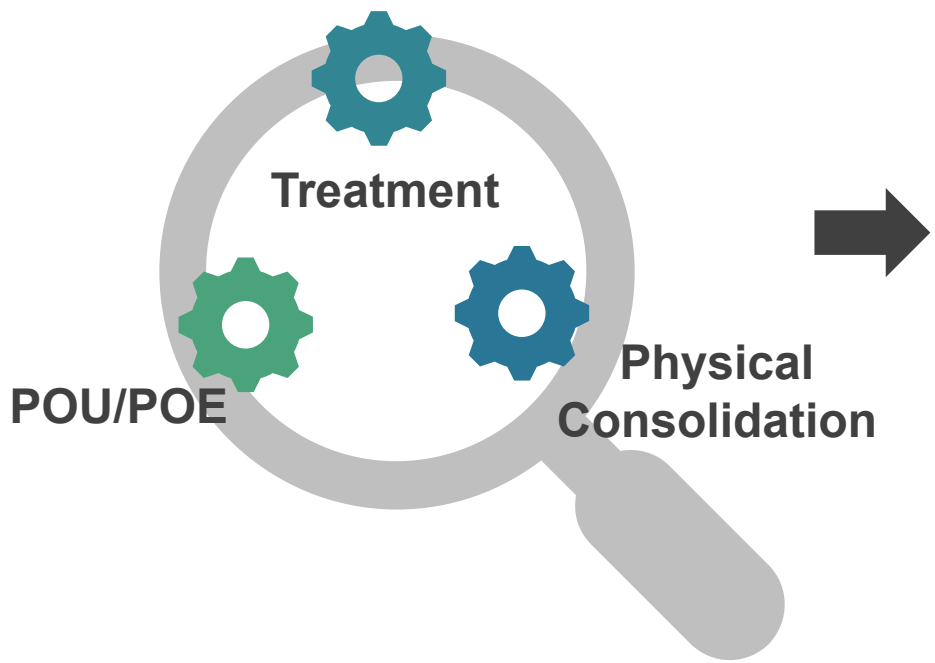
Proposed Cost Assessment Modeled Long-Term Solution Selection Process

The proposed new Cost Assessment Model would assess modeled solutions in priority order, using clear selection and viability criteria.

STEP 1: Determine if physical consolidation is viable.

STEP 2: If not, determine if <u>centralized</u> treatment is viable.
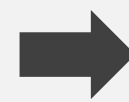
STEP 3: If not, select <u>decentralized</u> treatment.

Physical Consolidation

Treatment

POU/POE

Workshop 1:
Updates to the Modeled Physical Consolidation Process

The State Water Board hosted a webinar workshop on **July 14, 2023**, to provide an overview of the proposed updates to the physical consolidation analysis in the Cost Assessment Model.

- **White Paper**: https://bit.ly/20230714_Consolidation_WhitePaper

- **Webinar Presentation**: https://bit.ly/20230714_Consolidation_Workshop

- **Webinar Recording**: https://youtu.be/cfb_JMesbT8

Workshop 2:
Updates to Modeled Long-Term Treatment

The State Water Board hosted a webinar workshop on **October 5, 2023**, to provide an overview of the proposed updates to how long-term treatment is estimated Cost Assessment Model.

- **White Paper**: https://bit.ly/20231005_LongTermTreatment_WhitePaper

- **Webinar Presentation**: https://bit.ly/20231005_LongTermTreatment_Workshop

Workshop 3:
Other Essential Infrastructure, Admin Needs, & Interim Solutions

The State Water Board is hosting a webinar workshop on **December 12, 2023**, to provide an overview of the proposed updates to how the Cost Assessment Model estimates costs for:

- Interim Needs

- Other Essential Infrastructure

- Administrator Assistance

- Technical Assistance

- Additional Final Cost Adjustments

Zoom link: https://waterboards.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hpWxh-LxR127LkbmzeiVdA

2024 Drinking Water Needs Assessment
Large group discussion instructions

- Raise your name tent to ask questions

- Wait for your turn

- Speak slowly

- Limit your questions to 3 minutes

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

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2024 Needs Assessment Guiding Questions

2024 Needs Assessment

- How do you want the cost assessment to be broken down? (ex. by connection, county, Disadvantaged Community, contaminant, etc.)

- What would be most helpful for the SAFER Advisory Group Members to inform the Fund Expenditure Plan?

- Suggestions for enhancements for 2025? Where should we be focusing our resources?

SAFER Program Updates

Tentative SAFER Timeline

2023

- **December 12**: Public Webinar on Proposed Updates to the Cost Assessment Model: Other Essential Infrastructure, Administrative Needs, and Interim Solutions
- **December 13**: 2024 Needs Assessment Update workshop

2024*

- **January 24**: SAFER Advisory Group meeting #1 - Onboarding Session
- **Spring**: Release of the Needs Assessment
- **End of April/May**: SAFER Advisory Group meeting #2
- **Summer**: Draft FY 2024-25 Fund Expenditure Plan release for public comment
- **August 8**: SAFER Advisory Group meeting #3
- **Fall**: Board considers adoption of FY 2024-25 Fund Expenditure Plan
- **December 5**: SAFER Advisory Group meeting #4

*Dates subject to change

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Public Comments

Public Comments

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. Wait to be called on. Speaking time is limited to 3 minutes

3. For technical or language assistance, email: **safer@waterboards.ca.gov**.

CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS   **SAFER PROGRAM**

Morning Closing Remarks and Afternoon Instructions

Logistics for Afternoon

- **Bus Stop#1 - West Side Elementary School**
  - Brief program celebrating 100th consolidation

- **Drive-by Thermal Mutual project**

- **Bust Stop #2 – San Jose Community Center**
  - Walking tour of community using POE/POU
  - San Jose Community Center Community Celebration

Thank you!

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

LUNCH