

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE,  
DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER, DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY AND  
OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT**

**ITEM 7**

**SUBJECT**

PERIODIC UPDATE TO THE CLEAN WATER AND DRINKING WATER CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

**DISCUSSION**

Small and/or disadvantaged communities face specific challenges related to their drinking water and wastewater systems. Communities may lack the capital and economies of scale necessary to repair, build and maintain adequate systems, are unable to pay fines and penalties associated with non-compliance, and have difficulty obtaining and maintaining qualified operators

This informational item reports the efforts of State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff in assisting small and/or disadvantaged communities in 2014 and 2015. The narrative below includes input from the Division of Financial Assistance, Division of Drinking Water, Division of Water Quality, and Office of Enforcement. In addition to this update, Division of Financial Assistance staff have prepared a Clean Water and Drinking Water Capacity Development Strategy ([Exhibit A](#)).

**A. DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The following accomplishments have been achieved while simultaneously transitioning the entire Drinking Water Program from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to the State Water Board:

- [Office of Sustainable Water Solutions](#) (OSWS) established March 27, 2015 by [Assembly Bill 92](#), to promote permanent and sustainable solutions for safe, clean, affordable, and reliable drinking water and wastewater for small disadvantaged communities.
- Began publishing a bi-monthly newsletter in English and Spanish focused on water and wastewater information relevant to small communities.
- Began implementing the Proposition 1 Technical Assistance funding program for small and disadvantaged communities.
- Attended more public meetings to improve communication with communities.
- Marketing efforts included the following:
  - Developed a [marketing plan](#).

- Continued yearly participation in nine [California Financing Coordinating Committee](#) (CFCC) funding fairs and eight industry conferences to advertise available infrastructure funding.
  - Created English and Spanish Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) brochures and distributed them at all marketing events.
  - Created DWSRF banner used at conferences mentioned above.
  - Reorganized the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and DWSRF websites to enhance appearance and improve functionality.
  - Began working with the Office of Public Affairs to promote the CWSRF and DWSRF programs and announce program updates on Twitter.
  - Contacted interested parties who have submitted environmental documents to the State Clearinghouse, but have not submitted a CWSRF application.
- Completed the online [Wastewater User Charge Survey Report F.Y. 2014-15](#).
  - Fully integrated the DWSRF into the Division of Financial Assistance.
  - [Adopted the DWSRF Policy](#).
  - Put a [streamlined DWSRF application process](#) in place, developed and executed a training program and wiki for the new process.
  - Started developing an on-line statewide map of funded drinking water projects.
  - Continued to encourage consolidation of water systems to improve economies of scale, including requiring the Engineering Report for construction applications include the feasibility of consolidating with one or more water systems.
  - Funding provided to small or small disadvantaged communities:
    - The table below summarizes State Board planning and construction funding from various sources as well as emergency funding through Cleanup and Abatement Fund (CAA) and Public Water System Drought Emergency Response Fund (PWSDER)

Funding Source	Number of Projects Funded	Amount
<a href="#">CWSRF</a>	10	\$20.2 M
<a href="#">DWSRF</a>	20	\$10.8 M
<a href="#">Prop 50</a> Chapter 4 Section 79530(a)(1)	2	\$2.8 M
<a href="#">Prop 84</a> Sections 75021 and 75022	27	\$24.2 M
<a href="#">CAA</a>	26	\$4.6 M
<a href="#">PWSDER</a>	51	\$8.7 M
Totals	136	\$71.3 M

- Technical Assistance
  - Small Community Wastewater program and DWSRF provided technical assistance through the following technical assistance providers: Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), California Rural Water Association (CRWA), and Self-Help Enterprises (SHE).

<b>Technical Assistance (TA) Providers</b>			
	RCAC	CRWA	SHE
Number of wastewater systems receiving TA	50		
Number of drinking water systems receiving TA	14	155	45
Free drinking water workshops	41 class room trainings 74 online trainings Staff from 1,111 water systems attended		

**B. OFFICE OF OPERATOR CERTIFICATION**

On July 1, 2014, the responsibility for California's operator certification program for operators of public water systems was transferred from the CDPH to the State Water Board under its' Office of Operator Certification in the Division of Financial Assistance. The Office of Operator Certification is responsible for wastewater and public water system operator certifications. The following exams were held:

- Two exams for drinking water distribution given with approximately 2,500 applicants for each exam;
- Two exams for drinking water treatment given with approximately 1,500 applicants for each exam; and
- Two exams for wastewater treatment were given with approximately 750 applicants for each exam.

**C. DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER**

- Revised the Lead & Copper Rule, as well as the Total Coliform Rule and Arsenic Rule.
- Developed a State Water Board strategy for consolidation of water systems (on going).
- Piloted new and affordable treatment technology (on going).
- Expanded the [Small Water Systems \(SWS\) Plan](#) and incorporated Human Right to Water initiatives and efforts where possible. The SWS is a collaborative effort to bring 183 small community water systems into compliance with primary drinking water standards thereby making the small system compliance rate equal to that of large systems.

- Collaborated with Division of Water Quality on Source Water Protection (on going).
- Continued collaboration with the Division of Financial Assistance on the SWS Plan.

#### **D. DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY**

- Adopted the [Small Domestic Order WQ2014-0153-DWQ](#).
- Adopted a [Recycled Water General Order](#) which makes permitting the use of recycled much easier.
- Worked with Regional Water Board staff and stakeholders to reduce the cost of complying with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. [Recommendations to address cost of compliance](#) were made to the State Water Board and the State Water Board requested DWQ staff develop an implementation plan.

#### **POLICY ISSUE**

None at this time; informational item.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None at this time; informational item.

#### **REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None at this time; informational item.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None at this time; informational item.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goals 1, 2 and 5 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to implement strategies to fully support the beneficial uses for all 2006-listed water bodies by 2030 (Goal 1), improve and protect groundwater quality in high-use basins by 2030 (Goal 2), and improve transparency and accountability by ensuring that Water Boards goals and actions are clear and accessible, by demonstrating and explaining results achieved with respect to the goals and resources available, by enhancing and improving accessibility of data and information, and by encouraging the creation of organizations or cooperative agreements that advance this goal (Goal 5).