

Safe And Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Drinking Water Program

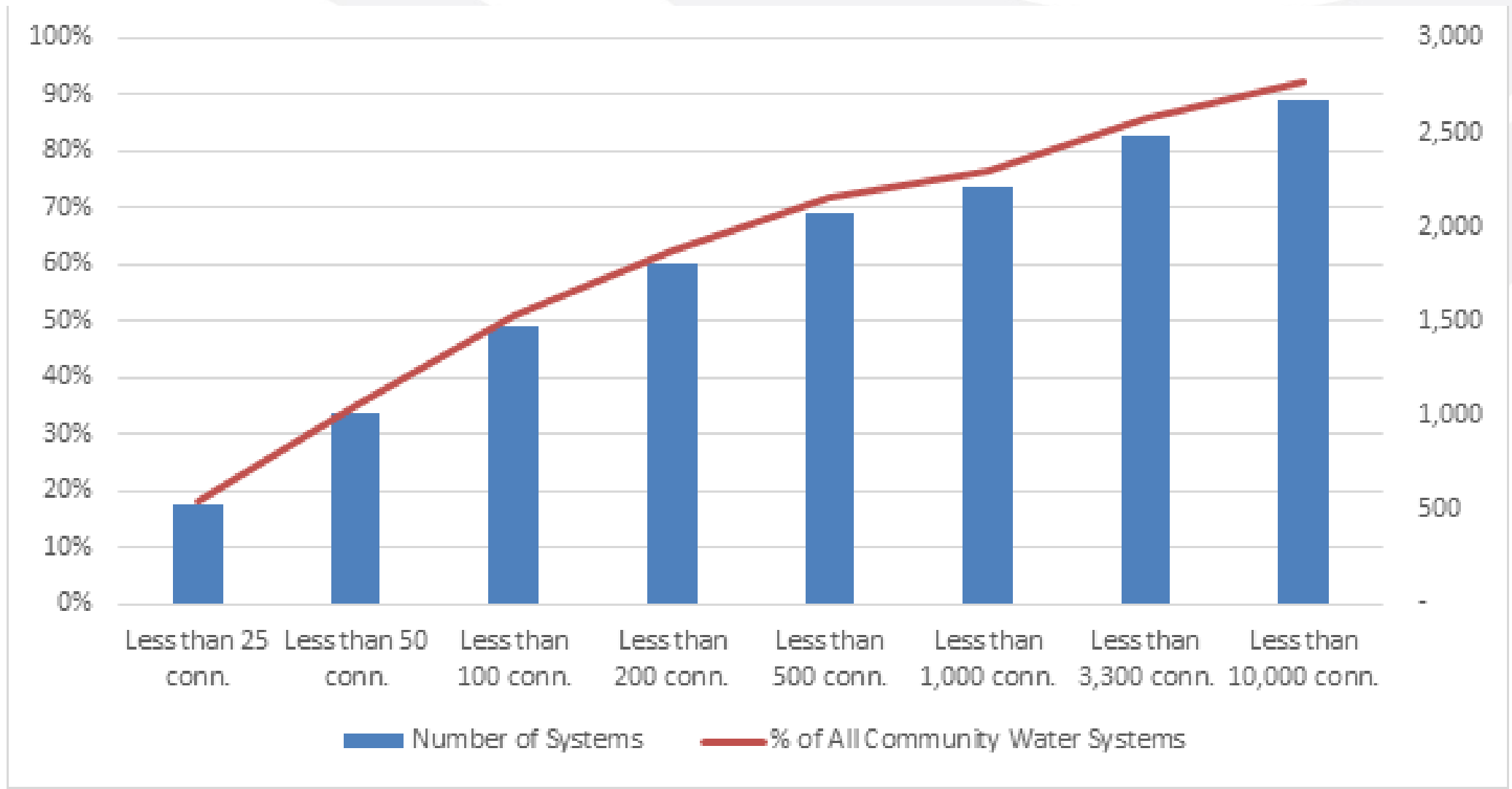
*Darrin Polhemus, P.E.
Deputy Director, Division of Drinking Water*

*Michelle Frederick, P.E.
Supervising Engineer*

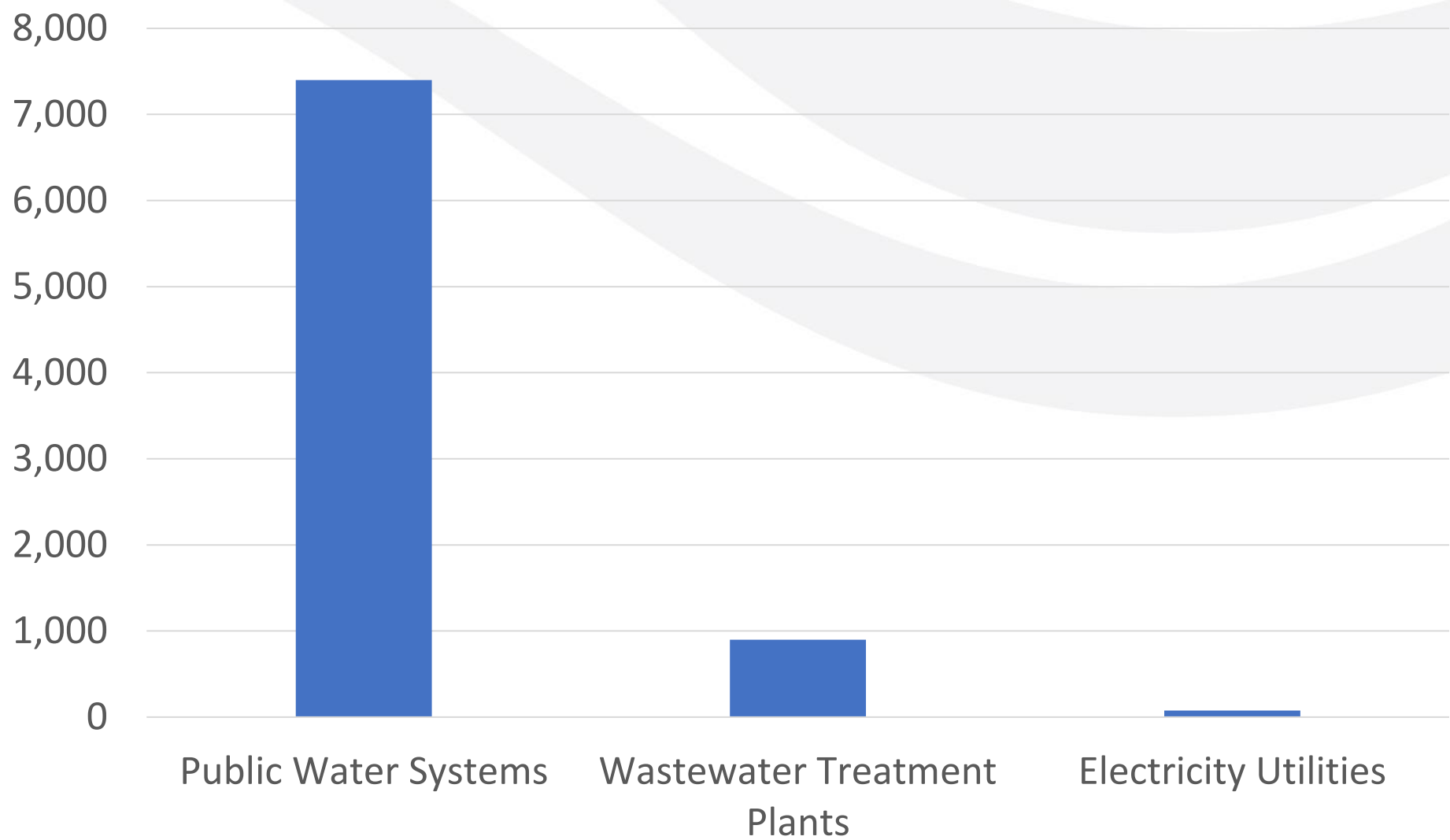
*North Coast RWQCB
October 15, 2020*



Distribution of Community Water Systems



Comparison with other CA Utilities



What Small Water Systems Can Look Like

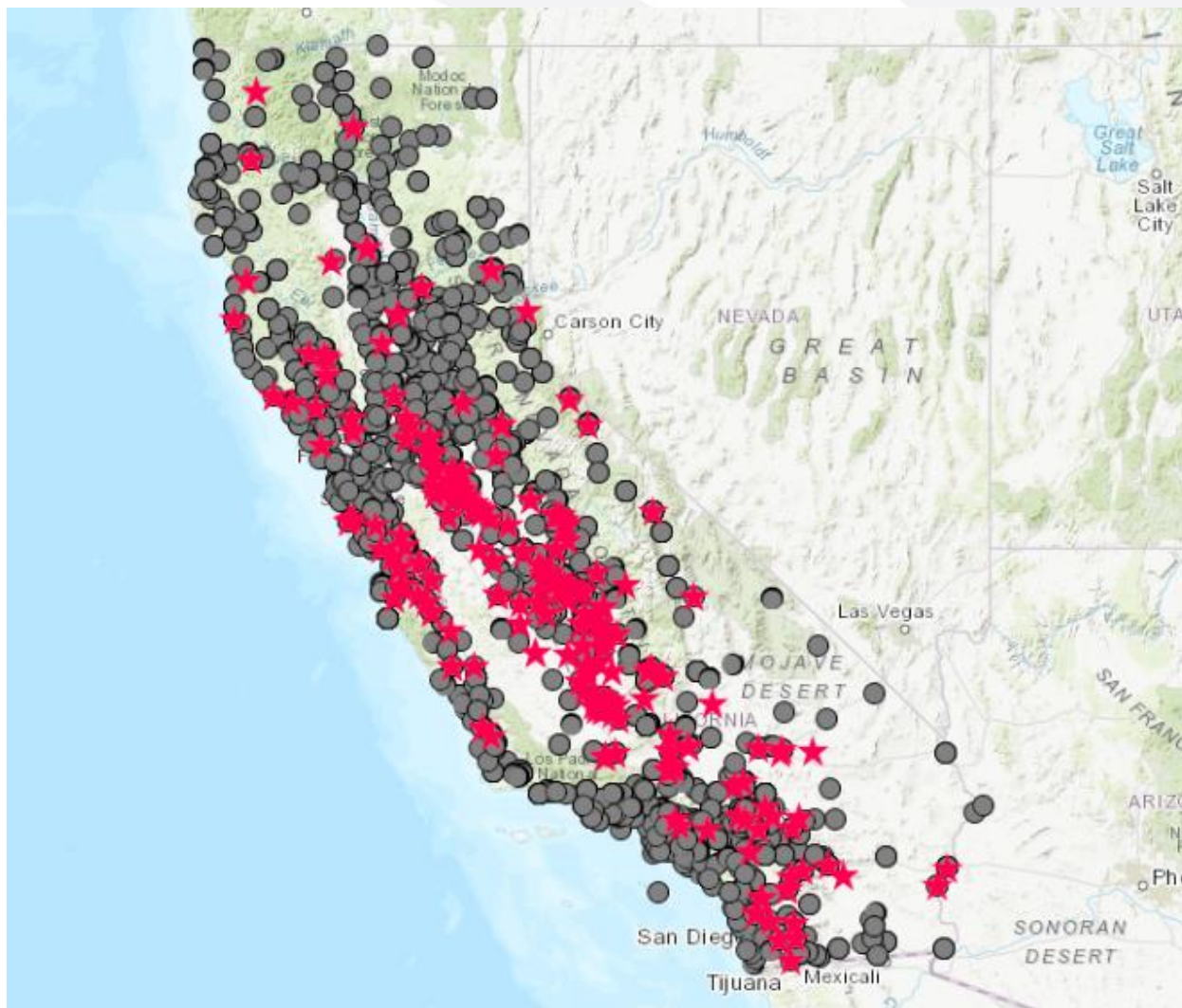


Human Right to Water (HR2W) - 2012

Now in the Water Code as Section 106.3, the state statutorily recognizes that “**every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.**” The human right to water extends to all Californians, including disadvantaged individuals and groups and communities in rural and urban areas.



HR2W Systems – Water Quality Violations



- 7,400 Public Water Systems
- Red Stars Represent Water Systems with Violations in Community Water Systems or Schools
- **90% of Violations Occur in Water Systems Serving Less than 500 connections**

7

SB 200

- Senate Bill 200 (2019) enabled the establishment of the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program.
 - SAFER Program: A set of tools, funding sources, and regulatory authorities to help struggling water systems sustainably and affordably provide safe drinking water.
- 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).

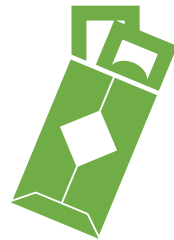
What is the SAFER Drinking Water Program?

SAFER = Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience



Division of
Drinking Water

systems



Division of
Financial Assistance

funding



Office of
Public Participation

communities



SAFER
Advisory Group

local expertise

SAFER DRINKING WATER PROGRAM GOALS



IDENTIFY HIGH-RISK
SYSTEMS AND AREAS



CONSOLIDATION AND
REGIONAL SOLUTIONS



ACCELERATE PROJECT
TIMELINES



COMPREHENSIVE
SOLUTION ASSISTANCE



LOCAL CAPACITY
BUILDING



PROVIDE INTERIM
SOLUTIONS

SAFER Program

SAFER PROGRAM

Division of Financial Assistance

Fund Expenditure Plan & Executing Funding

Division of Drinking Water

Needs Assessment, Data Collection, & Engagement

Division of Water Quality

State Smalls & Domestic Well Sourcewater Quality

Office of Public Participation

Public Engagement & Meeting Facilitation

COLLABORATION PARTNERS PLUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Office of Env. Health Hazard Assessment

UCLA, Luskin Center

CA Public Utilities Commission

Department of Water Resources

UC Berkeley CEC-WESS

Sacramento State University

UNC Environmental Finance Center

Pacific Institute

Corona Environmental

CA Conference of Directors of Env. Health

SAFER Advisory Group and Outreach

Advisory Group

- Six meetings in 2020 (final on 12/10).
- 2021-23 application period closed (11 openings).

General Outreach

- SAFER Overview
 - (AGUA Coalition, Madera County GSA, WRA of Yolo County, Healthy Neighborhood Collaborative- Catholic Charities of SJV, Kings IVAN, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Westside Sacramento IRWM)
- CalEPA Tribal Advisory Committee (2)
- Q&A Sessions (3)

Staff Workshops

- Drinking water needs analysis (3)
- Groundwater aquifer mapping
- How to apply for the Advisory Group



SAFER Advisory Group
Grupo Asesor del Programa SAFER

Available Funds for SAFER Projects (FY 2020-21)

\$80 million

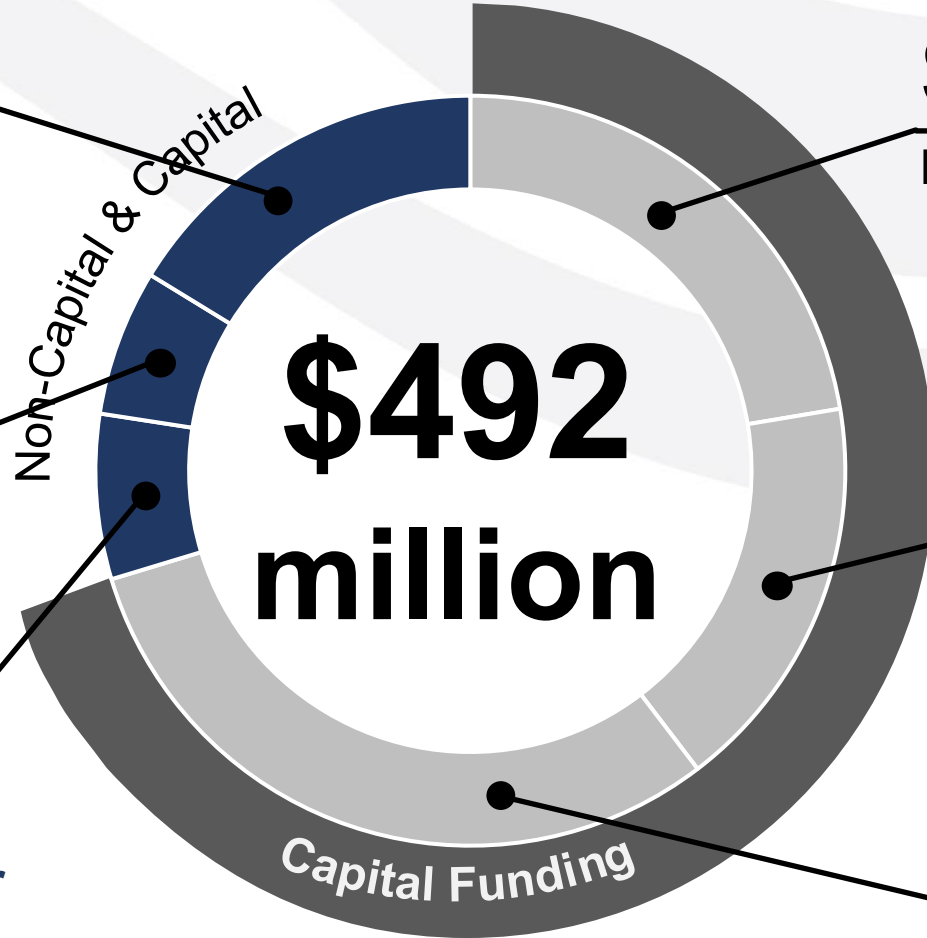
Safe and Affordable
Drinking Water Fund

\$31 million

General Fund

\$35 million

Proposition 68 Groundwater



\$110 million

Proposition 1 Groundwater

\$85 million

Drinking Water State
Revolving Fund Grants

\$151 million

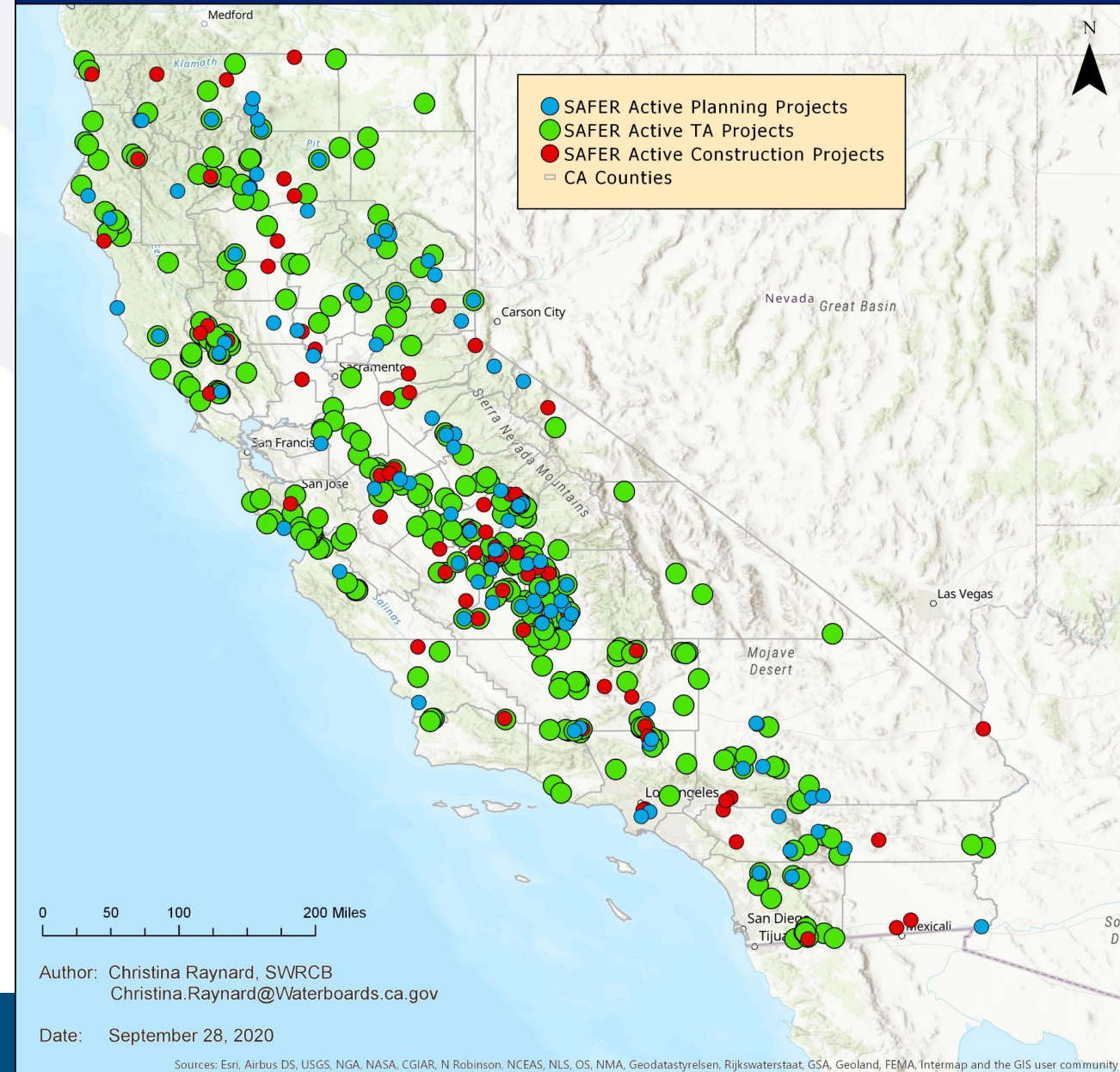
Drinking Water Bonds

Active Projects

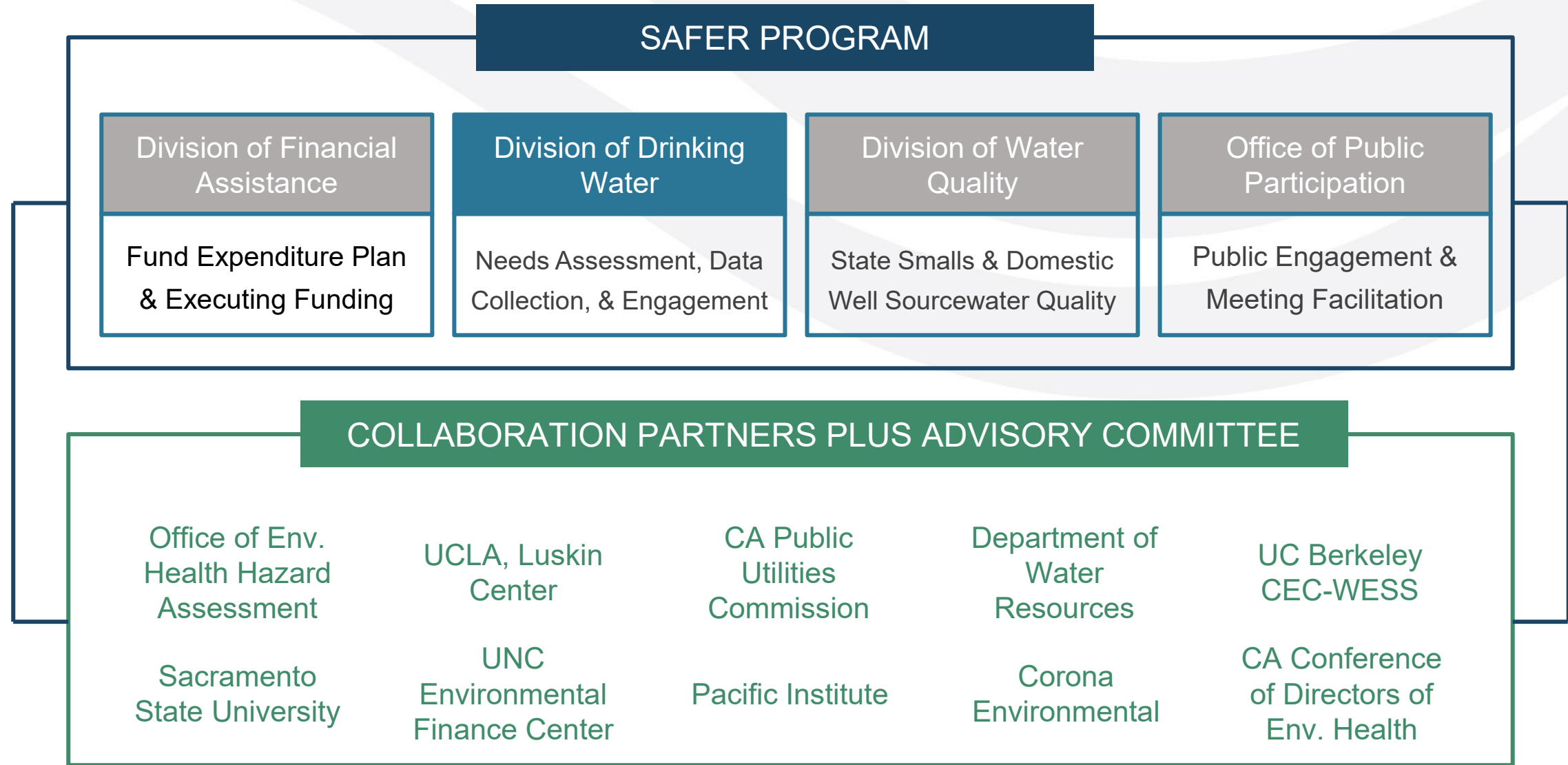
- 118 Active Planning Projects
- 142 Active Construction Projects
- 504 Active Technical Assistance Projects

SAFER Active Projects

Executed since July 1, 2014 for systems serving DACs and SDACs



SAFER Program



Three New Units to Supplement District Offices



Identify Systems that Need Assistance

Needs Analysis Unit in partnership with DWQ

- Human Right to Water (HR2W) – systems that have violations
- “At-Risk” and Potentially “At-Risk” Systems – those that are at-risk of failing
 - Community Water Systems, including tribal system
 - State Small Water Systems
 - Domestic Wells



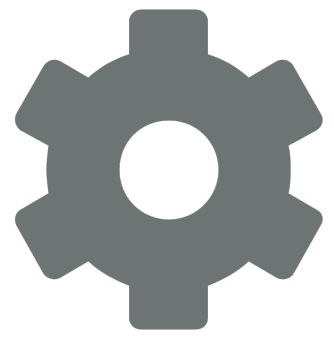
Deliver Solutions

Engagement Units (NorCal & SoCal)

- Interim assistance for systems that are failing
- Administrators
- Consolidations
- Funding / financial assistance for long-term solutions
- Technical assistance

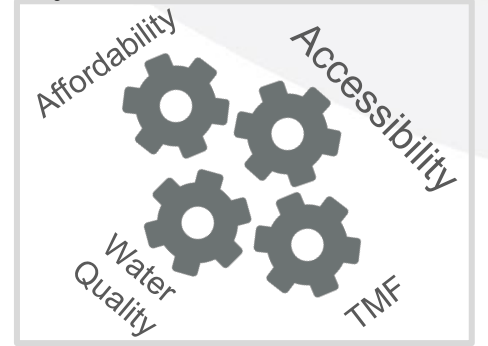
Needs Assessment for Public Water Systems

AFFORDABILITY ASSESSMENT



RISK ASSESSMENT

Public Water System, State Small Water Systems, Individual Wells



COST ESTIMATE

All At-Risk Water Systems

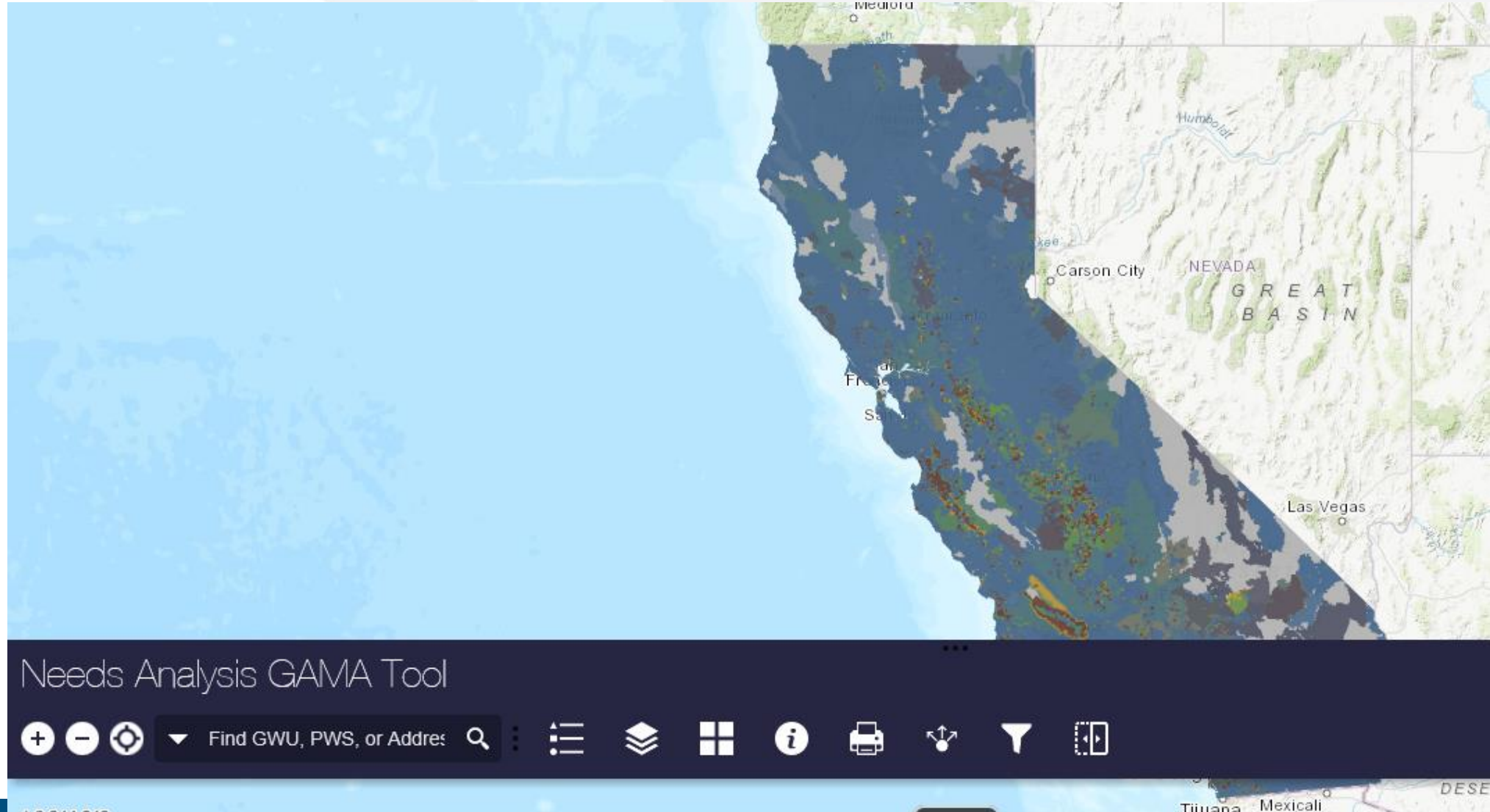


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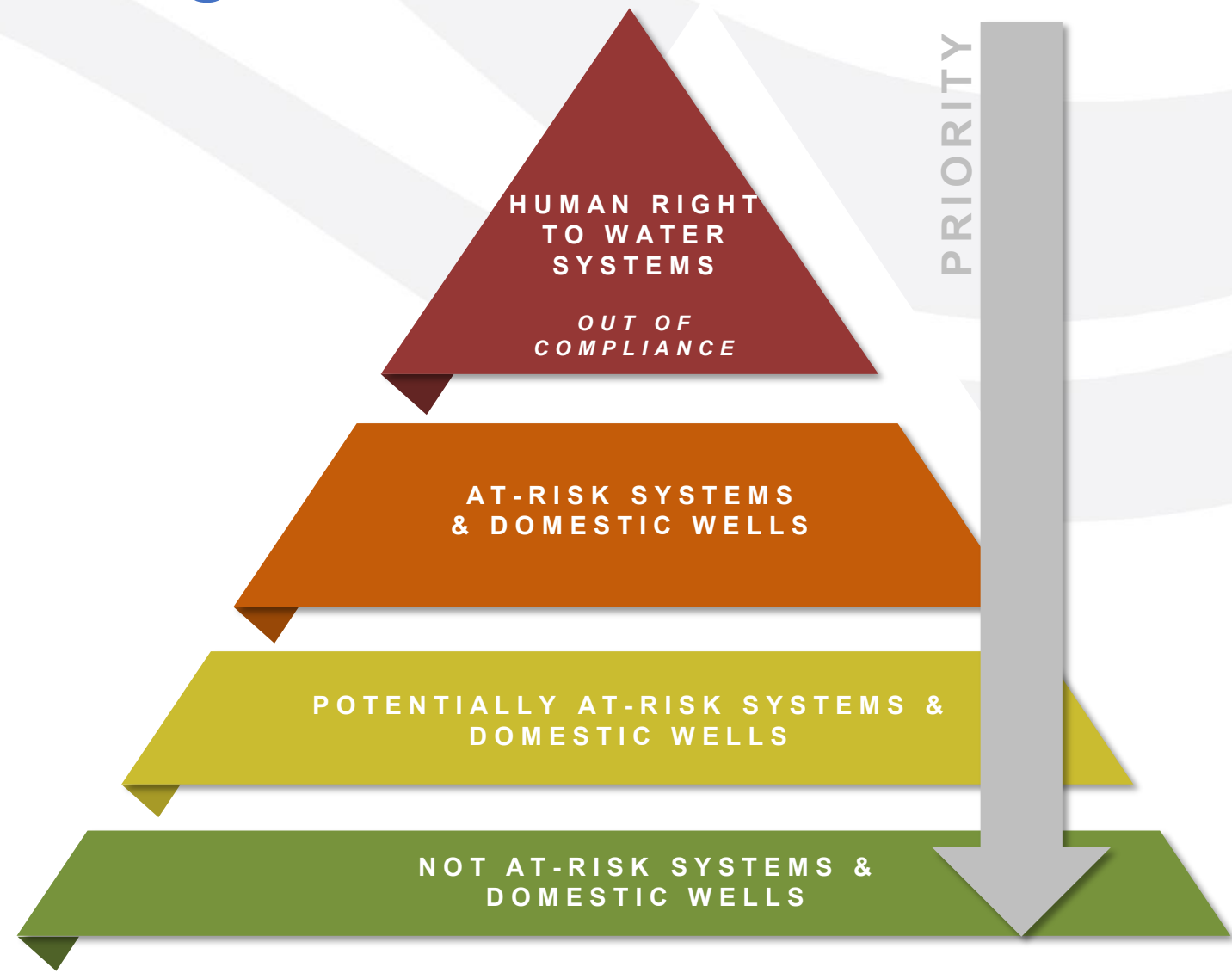
All HR2W Systems



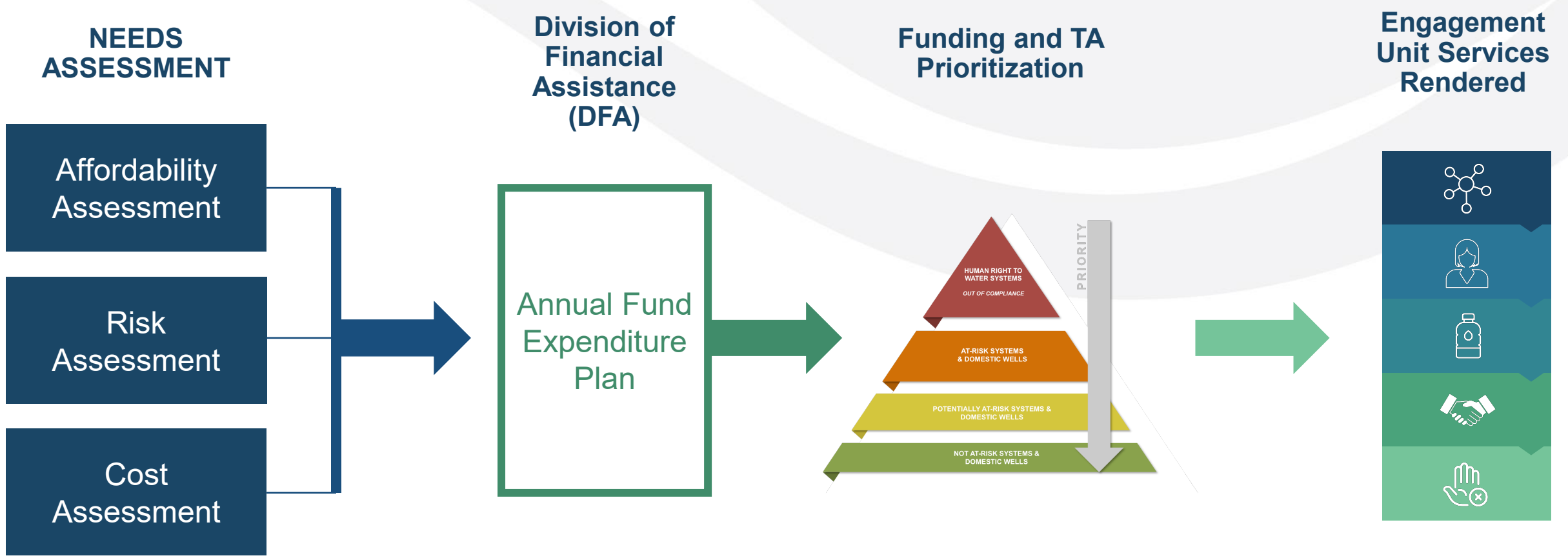
New GAMA Needs Analysis - Individual Well Tool



SAFER Program and the Risk Assessment



Needs Assessment Uses



Engagement Unit Services Rendered

**CONSOLIDATIONS
& WATER
PARTNERSHIPS**



INTERIM SOLUTIONS



**PREVENTION OF NEW
WATER SYSTEMS**



ADMINISTRATORS



**GENERAL
ASSISTANCE,
OUTREACH, &
TRAINING**





ADMINISTRATORS

NEW!

Administrator Authority:

- **Full-Scope Administrator:**
 - Person or entity who is appointed and/or authorized to exercise total and complete managerial control over a designated water system.
- **Applicability:**
 - A public water system or state small water system that serves a disadvantaged community and that the state board finds consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water.
- **Policy Handbook:**
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/agendas/2019/sept/091719_6_cs1_cleanversion.pdf



Administrators (Initiated nine to-date)



Administrator Policy Handbook | Administrator FAQ

Water Systems	Notified of opportunity to show adequate, affordable, safe drinking water	Public Meeting Date	Notified ratepayers the name of the possible Administrator, qualifications, and scope of work	Administrator Order Date
East Orosi CSD	9/10/2020			
Old River Mutual Water Company	09/09/2020			
South Kern Mutual Water Company	09/09/2020			
Sierra Vista Water Association	08/27/2020			
Valley Ford Water Association	07/29/2020			
NorCal Water Works	07/09/2020			
North Edwards Water District	06/24/2020	11/09/2020 11/09/2020 Spanish		
Cazadero Water Company	06/11/2020			

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/administrator.html

Mandatory Consolidation & Administrator



Board

Programs

Drinking Water

Water Quality

Water Rights

Notices

Water Boards

Search

Frequently Asked Questions on Mandatory Consolidation or Extension of Service for Public Water Systems

Water Systems	6-Month Consolidation Letter	Public Meeting Date	Public Hearing Date	Interim Solution Approved	Mandatory Consolidation Order	Mandatory Consolidation Petition	Resolved to Consolidate Voluntarily	Completion Date
West Water Company with Sonoma County CSA 41-Fitch	2/10/20		10/15/20 Slides Presentation					

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/compliance/index.html

Los Molinos Community Services District



Board Programs Drinking Water Water Quality Water Rights Notices Water Boards Search

School?

County

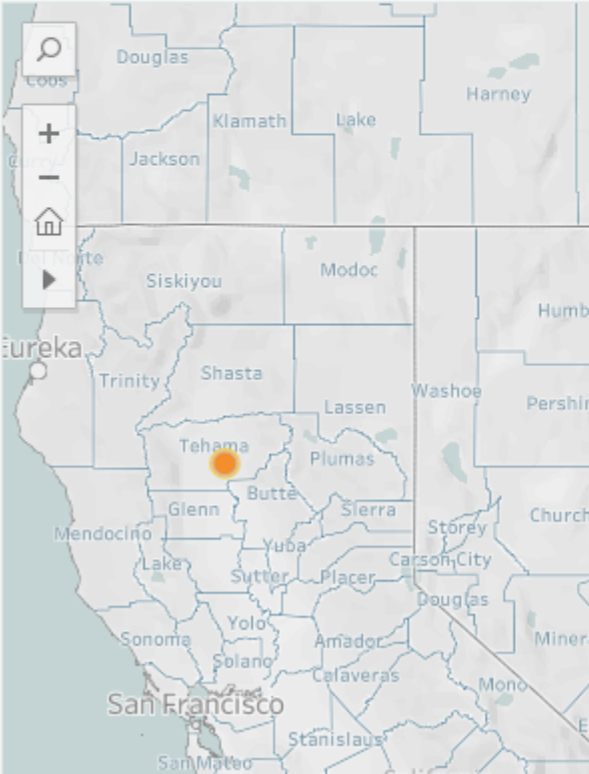
Category



Community, Schools, Daycares Public Water Systems in Human Right to Water List [\(Click on a dot to see the details\)](#)

Search Water System Name

Select Water System Name From List



WATER SYSTEM: LOS MOLINOS COMM. SERVICES DIST.. Classification: **COMMUNITY**
Data Updated on: **7/13/2020 11:20:12 PM**

PWSID : CA5210003. County: **TEHAMA**. Population: **1500** (Small- Between 500 and 3,300). Service Connections: **352**.

Median Household Income: \$43,790, % State: 58.2%, Between 40 and 60%

Analyte Name(S): ARSENIC. Number of Violations: **21** Year of Oldest Violation (since 2012): **2012**

Financial Assistance Status: **Receiving Financial Assistance**
Financial Assistance Project TYPE: **Long Term Solution**
Financial Assistance Total: \$2,087,875

of Financial Assistance Projects: **1**
Project Description: **Consolidation of Millstream MHP and New Orchard MHP**

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/dw_systems_violations_tool.html

Select by County - Sonoma



Board Programs Drinking Water Water Quality Water Rights Notices Water Boards Search

School?
Not School

County
SONOMA

Category
Financial Assistance Status



Community, Schools, Daycares Public Water Systems in Human Right to Water List (Click on a dot to see the details)

Search Water System Name

Select Water System Name From List
VALLEY FORD WATER ASSO...



WATER SYSTEM: VALLEY FORD WATER ASSOCIATION. Classification: COMMUNITY
Data Updated on: 7/13/2020 11:20:12 PM

PWSID : CA4900568. County: SONOMA. Population: 61 (Very Small- Less than 500).
Service Connections: 23.
Median Household Income: None, % State: None, NA

Analyte Name(S): NITRATE; GROUNDWATER RULE. Number of Violations: 24 Year of Oldest Violation (since 2012): 2012

Financial Assistance Status: Receiving Financial Assistance
Financial Assistance Project TYPE: Technical Assistance
Financial Assistance Total: \$41,497

of Financial Assistance Projects: 1
Project Description: Null

SAFER Events

October 2020

- 30th-UNC Pilot Financial Dashboard Presentation

December 2020

- 14th – Risk Assessment Webinar – Threshold & Scoring
- Administrator Public Meetings

November 2020

- 20th-Cost Assessment Webinar
- 30th-SAFER Advisory Group Member selection
- Release Administrator RFP
- Administrator Public Meetings

Early 2021

- POU/POE Pilot Workshop
- Administrator/Consolidation Public Meetings



Thank you