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# SAFER Advisory Group Meeting #4

December 5, 2024  
Via Zoom



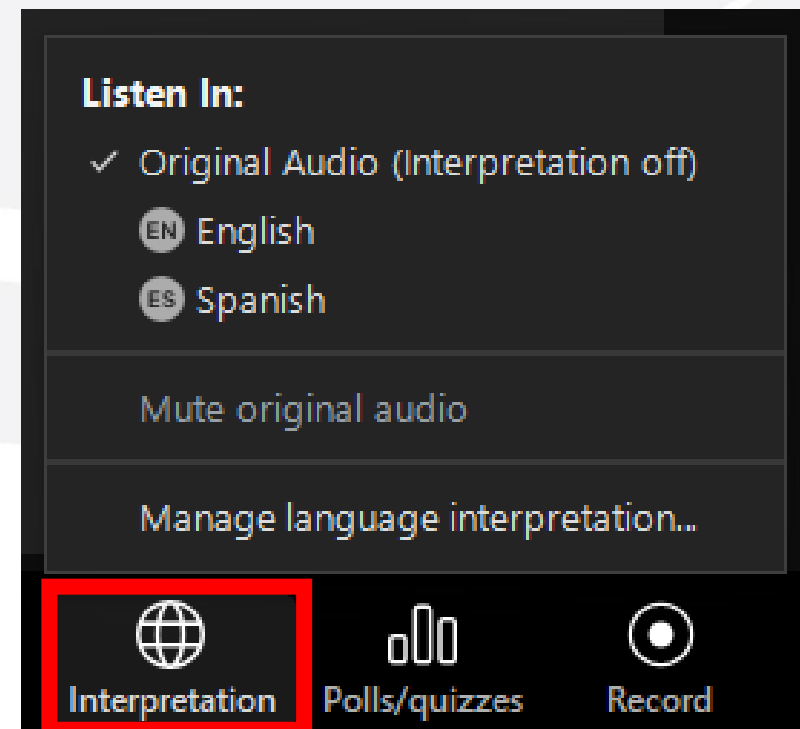
# Meeting Logistics



# Language Interpretation through Zoom

Click the **Interpretation** icon in your meeting controls

- Navigate to Language Channels
- You must select English or Spanish
- Mute Original Audio

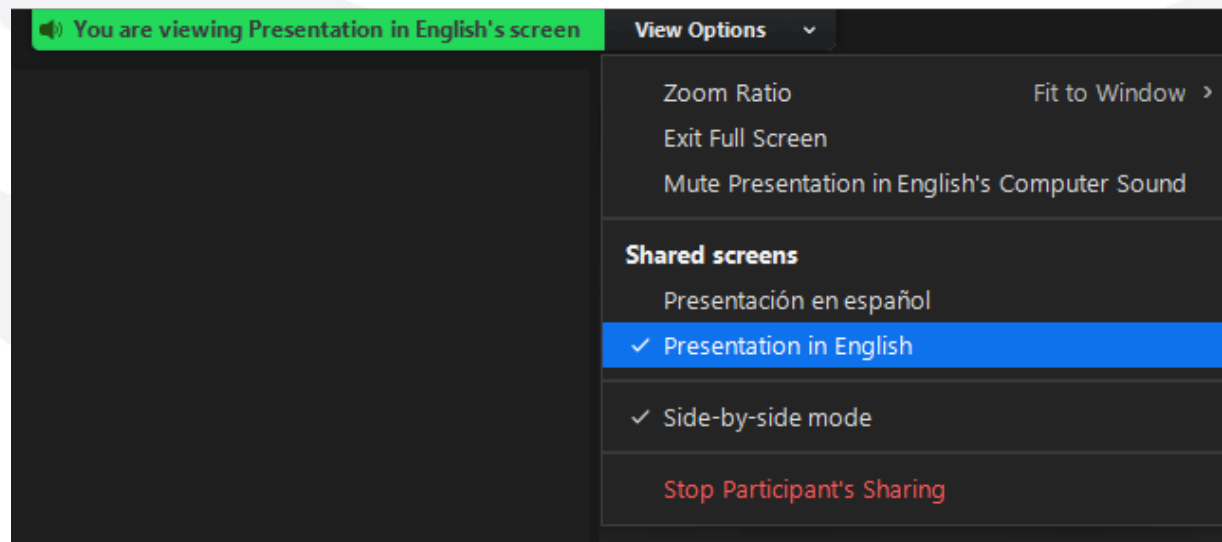


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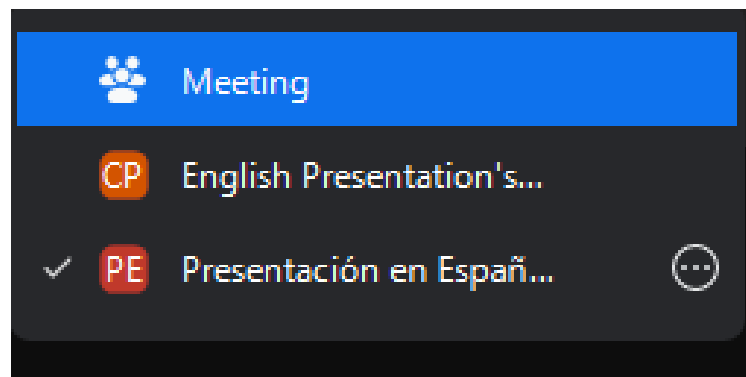
# View Options on Zoom

Click on **View Options** or **Meeting** and select:

- "Presentación en español"
- OR
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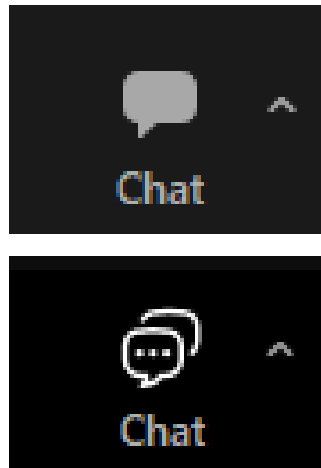
**View Options** and **Meeting** can be in the middle or on the top left corner of your screen.



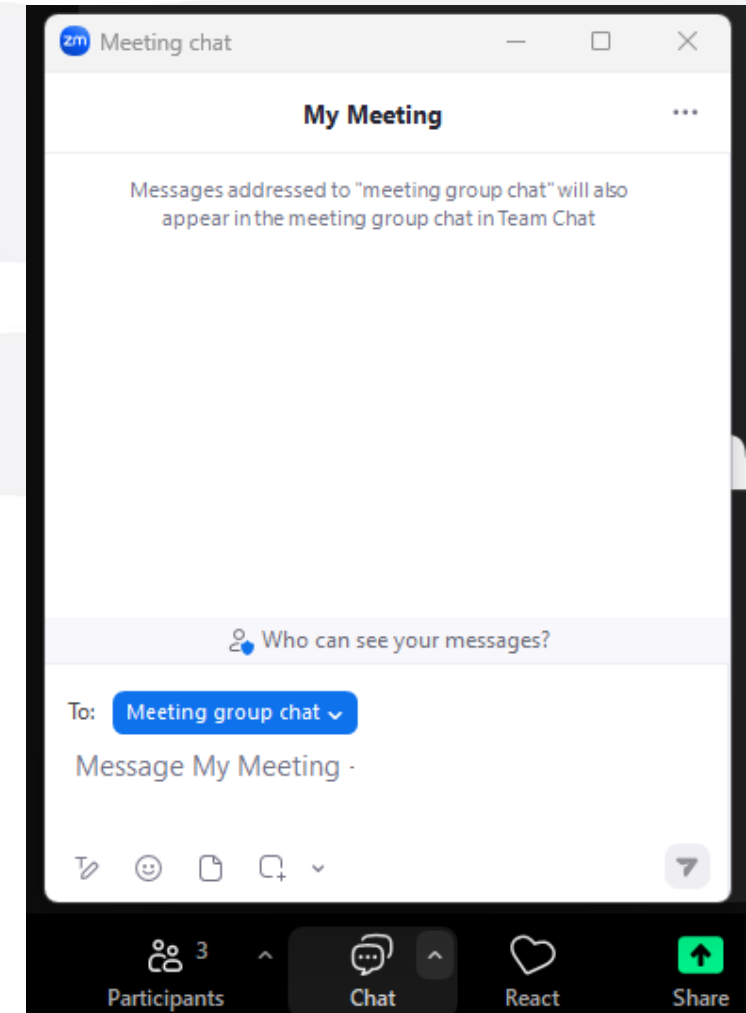
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# Zoom Chat

Click on **Chat**.

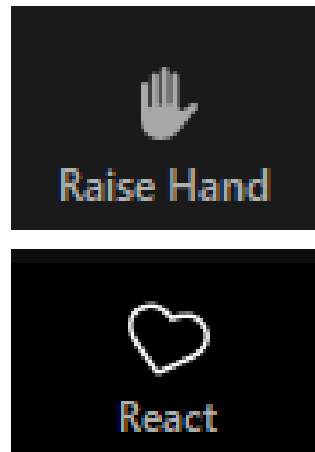


1. To send a message to participants or staff.
2. To read a message from participants or staff.
3. To communicate with staff a technical issue.



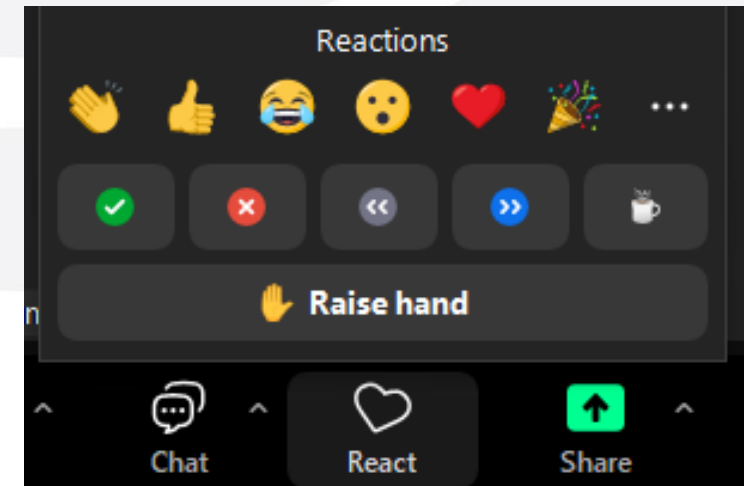
# Zoom Reactions

Click on **Raise Hand** or **React**.



2. Raise your hand to ask to speak.

3. Use the reactions buttons to show your approval or ask speakers to slow down.



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# SAFER Advisory Group Meeting #4

December 5, 2024

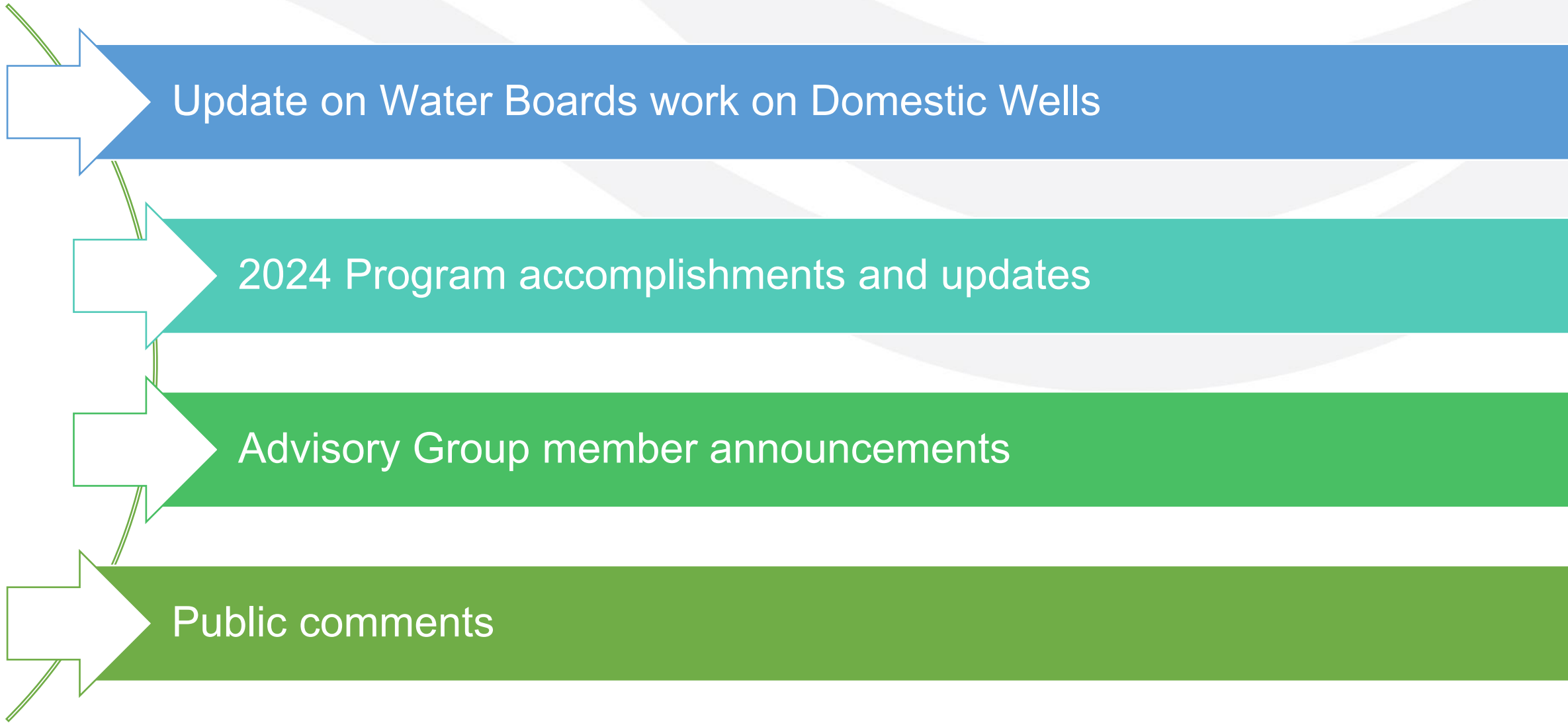




## Water Boards' Mission

*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.*

# Meeting Agenda



Update on Water Boards work on Domestic Wells

2024 Program accomplishments and updates

Advisory Group member announcements

Public comments

# Meeting Guidelines

- 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)**



# Introductions and Warmer

- Your name
- Your affiliation
- Your location
- Warmer: What's one of your favorite winter-time activities?



# Theme #1 Water Board Efforts to Support Domestic Wells and State Small Water Systems

Andrew Altevogt  
Division of Drinking Water

# Background

## **Domestic Wells:**

- Privately owned wells that supply water to individual homes, or less than 5 connections
- Regulated by local county ordinances, primary responsibility lies with well owners

## **State Small Water Systems:**

- Wells serving 5-14 connections
- Regulated by counties under state law
- Eligible for SB 200 funds to support consolidation and water quality improvements

State Water Board and Regional Water Boards do not have authority over counties, domestic wells, or state smalls. Authority and responsibility lies at the local level.

# SB 200: Domestic Wells & State Small Water Systems

- **Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Eligibility**
  - Emergency and interim water solutions
  - Consolidating domestic wells and state smalls to larger water systems
- **Aquifer Risk Mapping**
  - Creation of high-risk map identifying contaminated aquifers affecting these systems
  - Guides prioritization of funding to high-risk areas
- **County Data Submission requirements**
  - Counties must report domestic well water quality results

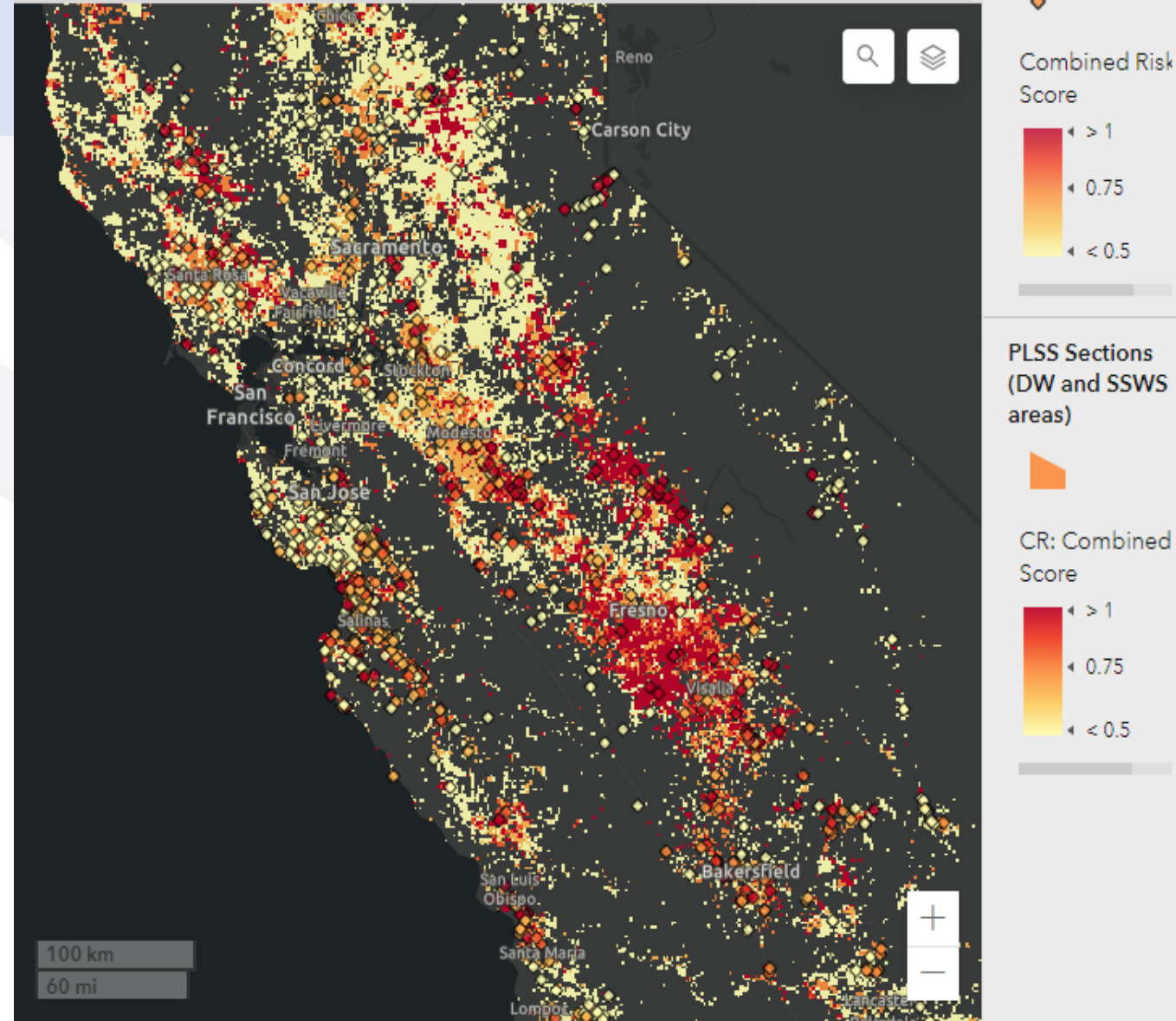


# Examples of Water Board Interventions and Funding for Domestic Wells

- **East Porterville** – Collaborative effort with DWR to connect domestic wells to existing system during the drought.
- **Okieville** – Created a new water system to support dry domestic wells with \$3.5M in Water Board funds and \$1.3M from USDA.
- **Monson** – Established a new system that led to eventual consolidation with Sultana Community Services District.
- **Regional Board Supplemental Environmental Project programs** – Established replacement drinking water program on the Central Coast.

# Data and Analysis

- Risk Analysis and Mapping:
  - County assistance data in socio-economic layer
  - Cost Estimates: ~\$5 billion
- Regional Board Ag program data - Geotracker
- Clearinghouse reporting – almost no data reported by counties



[Combined Risk Assessment](#)  
[Domestic Wells and State Small Water Systems](#)

## Completed Assistance Provided to Domestic Wells & State Smalls (2018 – 2024)

Project Type/Program	# of Completed Projects/Programs	Total Project/Program Cost (full cost, including PWS costs)	Total # of Domestic Wells
TA (Outreach and Planning through TA provider)	1	\$75,536	63
Planning (Outreach and Planning done by Water System)	1	\$5,000,000	438
Construction (Consolidation)	3	\$41,320,250	537
Interim Assistance (bottled/hauled) – Regional Programs	2,212	\$38,132,000	2,212
Long-Term (POE/POU and/or new well) – Regional Programs	905	\$34,300,000	893
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>Projects: 5 Regional Program: 7</b>	<b>\$118,827,786</b>	<b>Don't sum, double counting</b>

## Current (ongoing) Assistance to Domestic Wells & State Smalls

Project Type/Program	# of Current Projects	Total Project/Program Cost (full cost, including PWS costs)	Total # of Domestic Wells	Total # of SWSs # Connections (# of SWSs)
TA (Outreach and Planning through TA provider)	45	\$21,025,712	2,479	820 (47 SWSs)
Planning (Outreach and Planning done by Water System)	1	\$931,500	200	-- (-- SWSs)
Construction (Consolidation)	5	\$37,877,805	194	67 (1 SWS)
Interim Assistance (bottled/hailed) – Regional Programs	2,000	\$19,800,000	2,000	8 (1 SWS)
Long-Term (POE/POU and/or new well) – Regional Programs	550	\$35,000,000	550	--(-- SWSs)
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$114.6 M</b>	<b>Don't sum, double counting</b>	<b>Don't sum, double counting</b>

# Current Regional Programs Available





**Total  
remaining:  
\$73.6 M**

**County-Wide Programs:** Outreach, Well Testing, Well Repair and Replacement, Bottled Water, Hauled Water and Tanks, POU/POEs, Kiosk filling Stations, Limited-scale Consolidation  
**Funding Approved: \$3.7 M**

**Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)**  
Statewide Bottled Water (schools) and Well Repair and Replacement  
**Funding Remaining: \$7.8 M**

**Community Water Center (CWC):** Bottled Water  
**Funding Remaining: \$2.5 M**

**Self-Help Enterprises (SHE):** Well Repair and Replacement, Bottled Water, Hauled Water and Tanks, Well Testing, POU/POEs  
**Funding Remaining: \$59.6 M**

-  SHE Service Area
-  CWC Service Area
-  RCAC Service Area (Statewide)
-  County-Wide Programs

0 62.5 125 250 Miles

California State Parks, Sequoia and Kings Canyon NP, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, Esri, USGS, Tijuana, Mexicali, Sonoran Desert

# Progress on domestic wells – DRIP Collaboration

- Senate Bill 552 – Establish an Interagency Task Force
- [Drought Resilience Interagency & Partners Collaborative \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov)

## 18 Non-State Members

Tribal Representatives

Technical Assistance Providers

Community-Based Organizations

The Public

The Environment

Agriculture

Local Government

Public Water Systems

Experts in Land Use / Water

## 8 State Agencies

**California Natural Resources Agency**, Nancy Vogel

**Department of Water Resources**, Karla Nemeth

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife**, Josh Grover

**California Environmental Protection Agency**, Anna Naimark

**State Water Board**, Joaquin Esquivel

**California Department of Food and Agriculture**, Virginia Jameson  
(Tawny Mata)

**California Office of Emergency Services**, Tina Curry

**Governor's Office of Planning and Research**, Saharnaz Mirzazad  
(Sam Assefa)

# Coordinated Response and Interagency Collaboration

- **Internal Coordination:** Coordinating to better respond to domestic well issues through existing State and Regional Water Board programs.
- **Interagency Coordination:** Ongoing collaboration with Department of Water Resources and other state agencies.
- **Advisory Group Input:** SAFER Advisory Group and DRIP Collaborative provide feedback on strategic response.

# 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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# Discussion Questions

- What specific needs or gaps in domestic well support aren't being addressed by the current efforts (ILRP, CV SALTS, SGMA, SAFER, DRIP)?
- What's working well about existing domestic well programs that could be supported or expanded?
- What specific roles or services could the Water Boards provide for domestic wells, given our limited authority and limited funding?
- What other agencies, nonprofits, local governments, or other partners should be involved in the conversation that we should consider collaborating with to expand support for domestic well users? What could be their role?
- How can we improve our outreach and education efforts to ensure domestic well owners understand existing available resources and regulatory requirements?

# BREAK



# SAFER Program Accomplishments

**Chad Fischer**

Division of Drinking Water

**Jeff Wetzel**

Division of Financial Assistance



# SAFER Goal 1: People in communities that didn't have safe water now have it



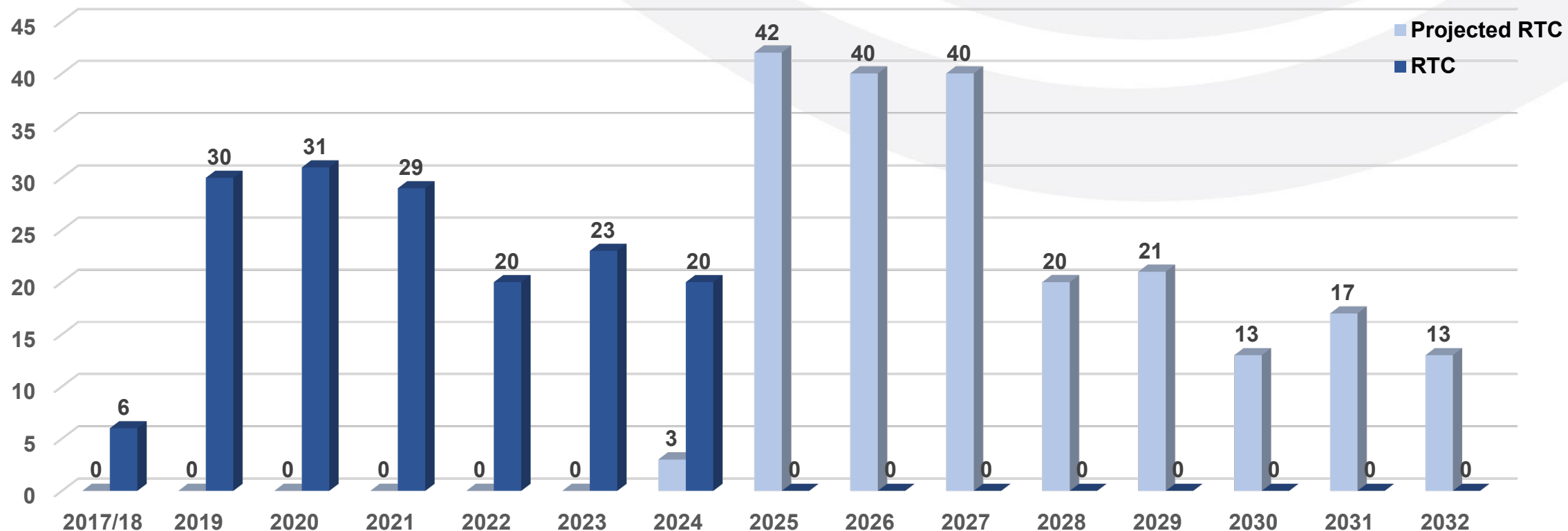
**Focus on finding solutions for the water systems  
that were failing in July 2019.**

## **Numeric Goal:**

- 90% of 2019 Failing systems will be back in compliance by 2030 (290 communities).
- 67% are predicted by 2026 (228 communities).

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

Failing Water Systems Returning to Compliance (RTC)  
Actual vs. Projected

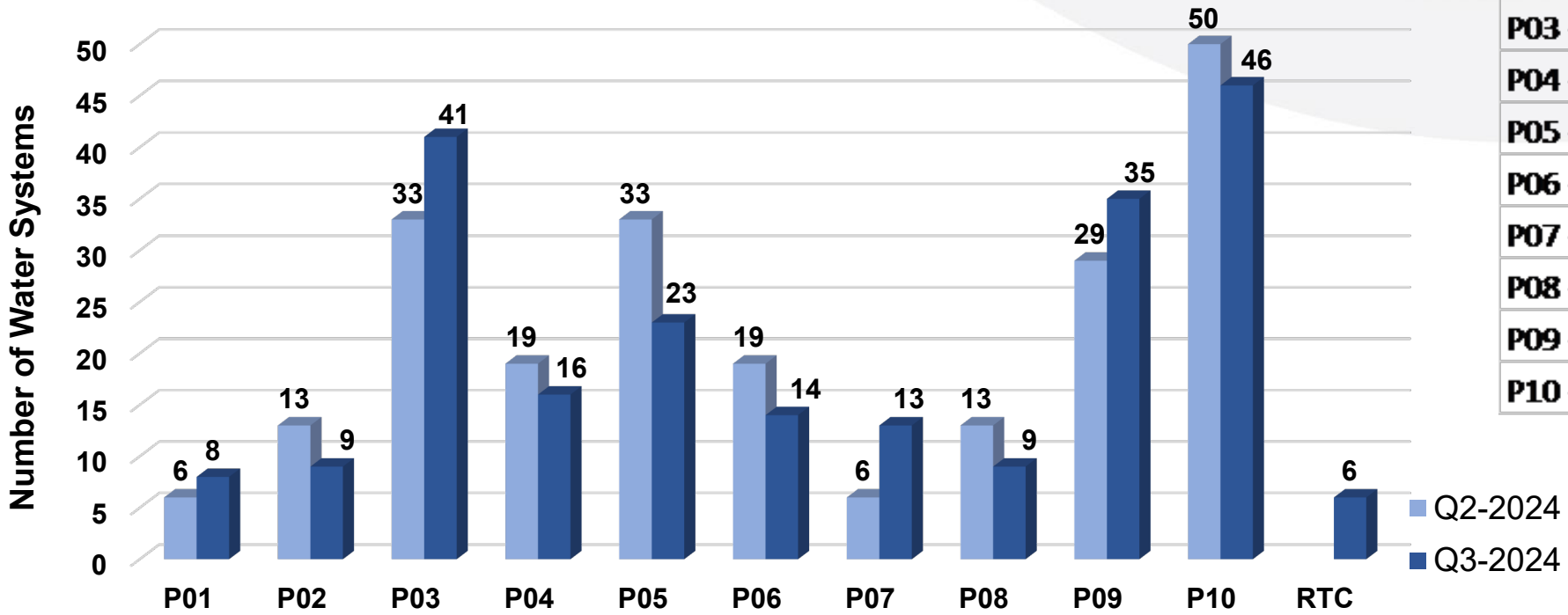


# SAFER Goal 1: Measuring Progress Through Milestone Tracking

- Project phases = Improved project management and increased understanding of project progress
- Project phases = Common language for all projects

Project Phases
P01 - Corrective Action Plan
P02 - Technical Assistance
P03 - Project Evaluation
P04 - Technical Studies
P05 - Legal and Environmental Documents
P06 - Project Design
P07 - Construction Funding Application
P08 - Secure Funding
P09 - Pre-Construction
P10 - Project Construction

### 2024 Failing Water Systems Current Phase



## Goal 2:

**All communities without safe drinking water are on track to get lasting solutions in place as swiftly as possible**

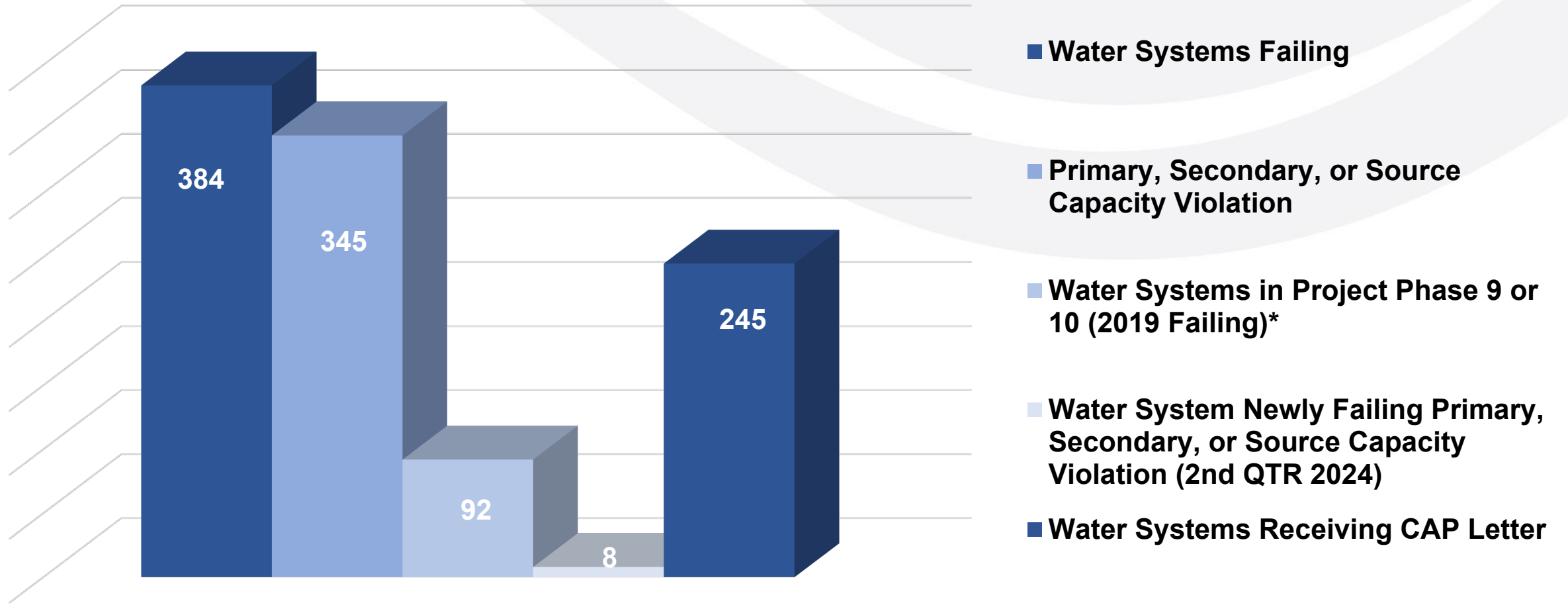


**All failing systems have sustainable solutions within 5 years on average.**

- Reduction in average return to compliance time from 8+ to 5 years.
- TA providers completing planning within 2 ½ years or less.
- Division of Drinking Water enforcement improved to include compliance deadlines and required corrective action plans.

# SAFER Goal 2: Beginning Return to Compliance Refresh

245 letters sent to failing water systems





## Goal 3:

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



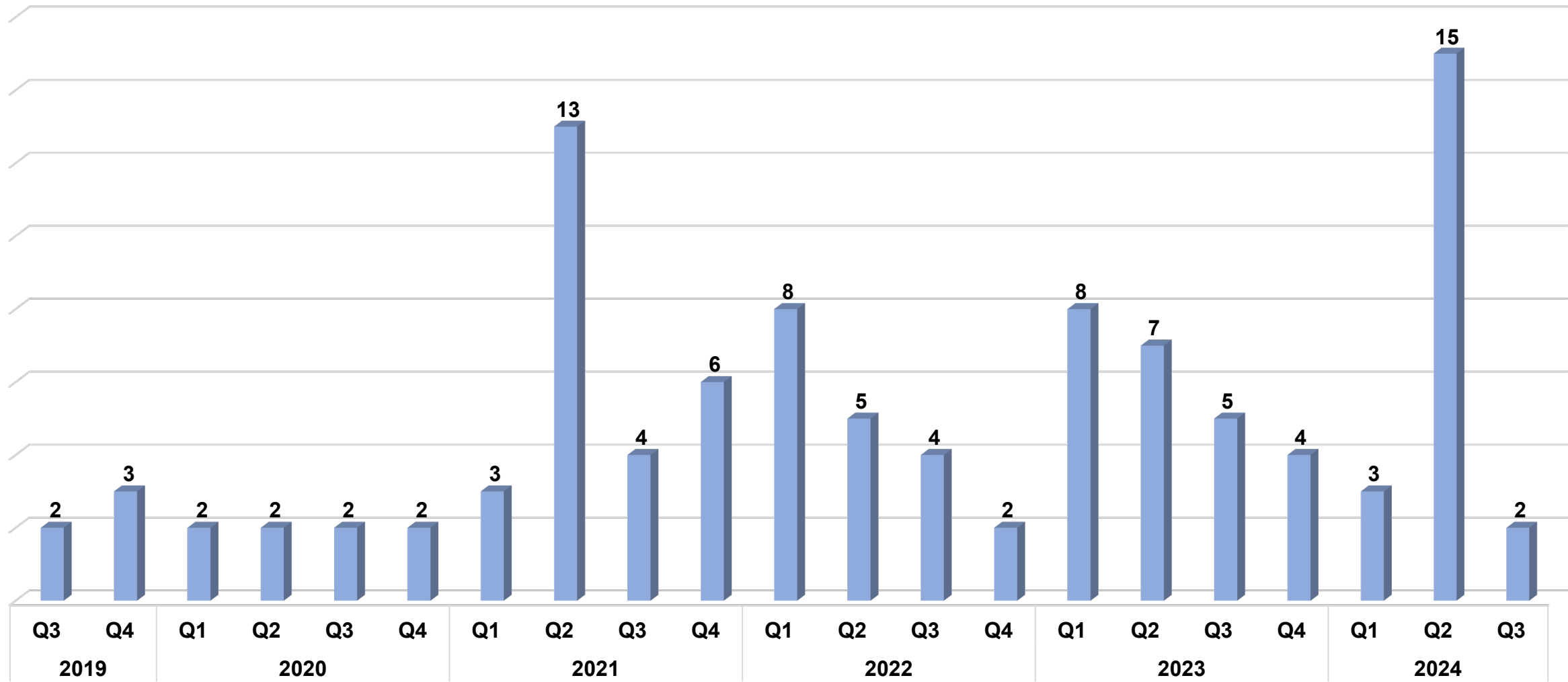
**Consolidation goal:**

**55 additional community systems consolidated in 2026 and 130 in 2030.**

- Reduction in the number of water systems falling back out of compliance.
- Reducing multiple interim/emergency assistance funding requests.

# SAFER Goal 3: Fewer Systems with Repeat Violations

Systems Returning to the Failing List since 2019 “Repeat Offenders”



# Questions and Answers



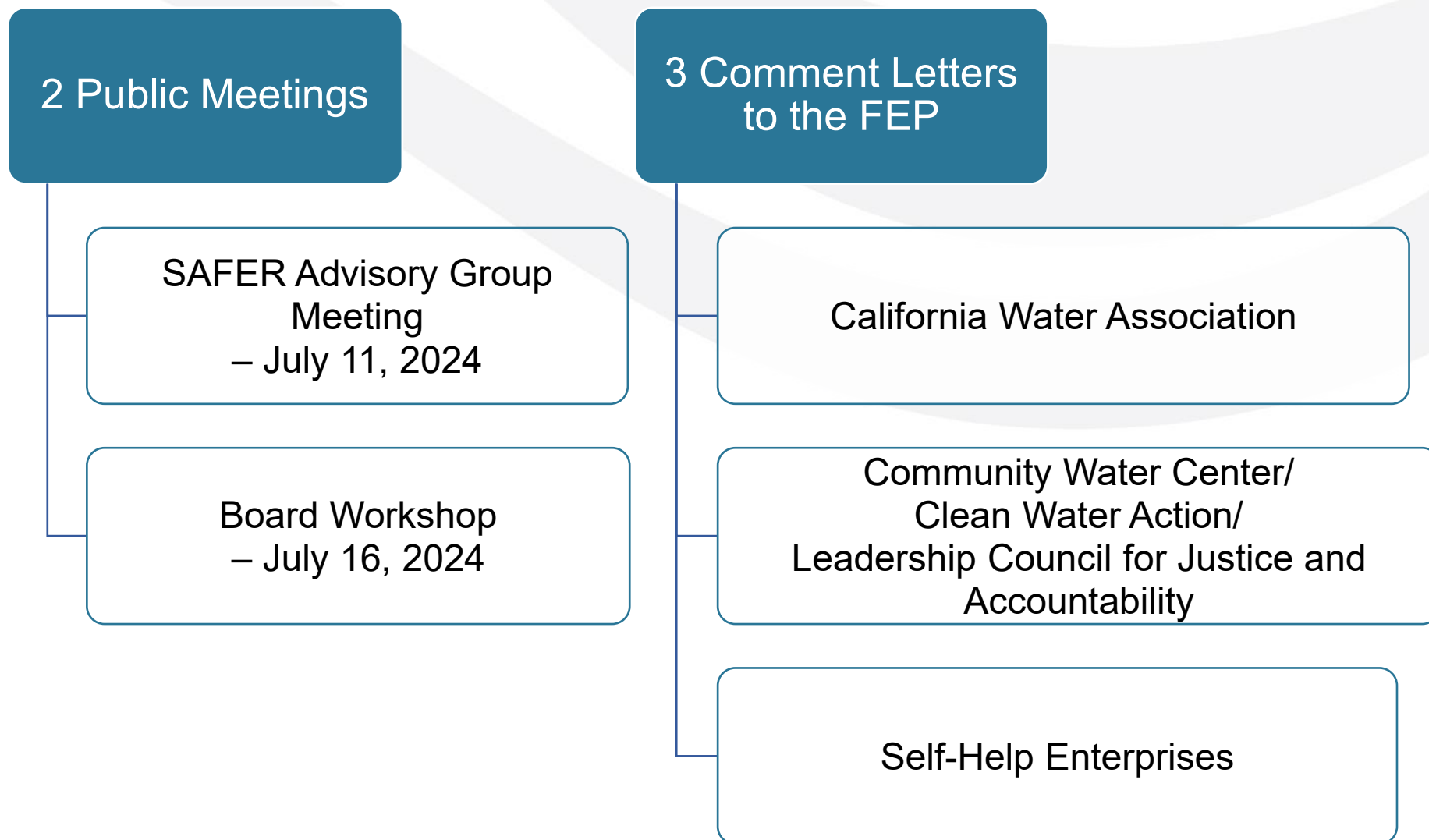
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# Fiscal Year 2024-25 FEP Updates



# Public Process and Comments



# Summary of Post-Comment Period Revisions

Section	Updates
General	Tables and associated text to extend reporting range to June 30, 2024.
FY 2024-25 SAFER Program Priorities (Executive Summary and Section IV.A)	Clarification proposed to one of the five SADW Fund expenditure priorities to include planning for consolidations of domestic well communities with contamination issues.
FY 2024-25 SADW Fund Target Allocations (Executive Summary and Section IV.B)	Shifted \$10 M previously included in the Construction solution type for State Smalls/Domestic Wells to the Technical Assistance solution type (for a total of \$20 M) in anticipation of greater need for planning assistance for domestic well communities this coming FY.

# Summary of Post-Comment Period Revisions, cont.

Section	Updates
Progress of Post-2019 Failing Systems (new subsection III.E.3)	Added new subsection to discuss high-level progress of post-2019 Failing Systems.
Racial Equity and Environmental Justice Metrics (Section VIII.G)	Section updated based on feedback from equity consultant. Updated map of geographic distribution of committed funding included.



# **Fiscal Year 2024-25**

## **Goals, Funding Targets, and Priorities**



# FY 2024-25 SADW Fund Priorities



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



Expedite planning through use of technical assistance for failing systems.



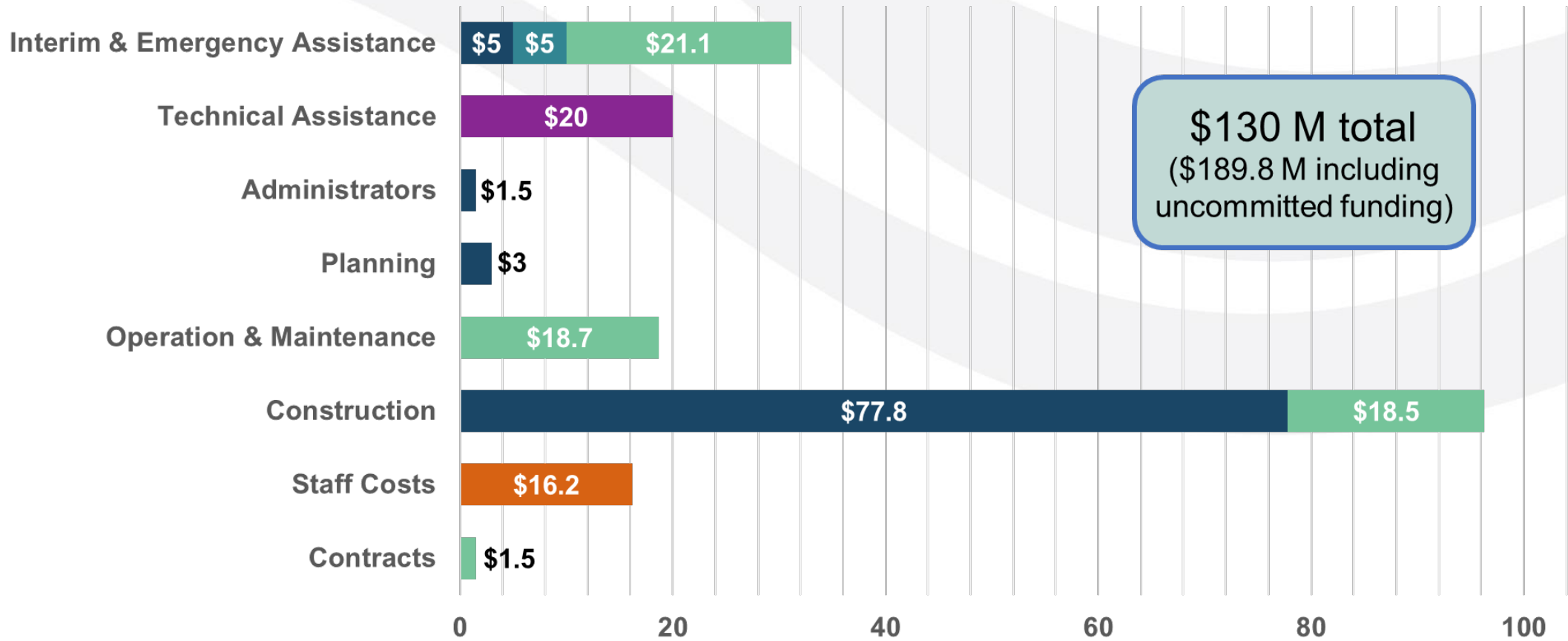
Accelerate consolidations for failing systems and support planning where those projects can benefit nearby domestic well communities with contamination issues.



Continue existing programs to support communities served by state small water systems and domestic wells.



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.



**\$130 M total**  
(\$189.8 M including uncommitted funding)

- Failing Systems and Consolidations
- State Smalls and Domestic Wells
- Uncommitted from prior FYs
- Failing systems, consolidations, state smalls, or domestic wells
- Other Program Needs

# Summary of FY 2024-25 Targets

- Focus on **small DACs** and **low-income households**.
- Significant investments proposed to drinking water capital projects to address **Failing systems** and **consolidations**

Funding	Solution Type	Purpose
\$3 M	<b>Planning</b>	➤ Planning needs to be completed outside of TA
\$78 M	<b>Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ New agreements</li> <li>➤ Amendments for Failing systems and consolidations</li> <li>➤ Eligible EDWG Projects</li> <li>➤ Final Budget Approval amendments</li> </ul>
\$10 M	<b>Interim Supplies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ \$5 M for Failing and At-risk systems</li> <li>➤ \$5 M for state smalls and domestic wells</li> </ul>
\$20 M	<b>Technical Assistance</b>	➤ Potential TA needs associated with existing agreements
\$1.5 M	<b>Administrators</b>	➤ Potential system-specific administrator agreements/amendments

# Other Program Updates

Item	General Update
<p><b>Direct O&amp;M Program</b> – recommending systems for next round of targeted funding</p>	<p>Group 1 efforts are not likely to continue given the refined goals and some of the reduction in other funding sources.</p> <p>Project proposals for Group 2 scenarios (case-by-case) will continue to be considered at any time.</p>
<p><b>Expedited Drinking Water Grant Program</b> – update on future rounds</p>	<p>Staff have identified 9 projects addressing failing systems that will be invited to the 4<sup>th</sup> Round of the EDWG Program. Those projects are anticipated to have executed funding agreements prior to the end of the FY 2024-25.</p>
<p><b>Advance Pay Guidelines</b> – status update</p>	<p>Staff have finalizing Advance Pay Guidelines which will be incorporated into the SADW Fund Policy as Appendix D (by end of 2024).</p>

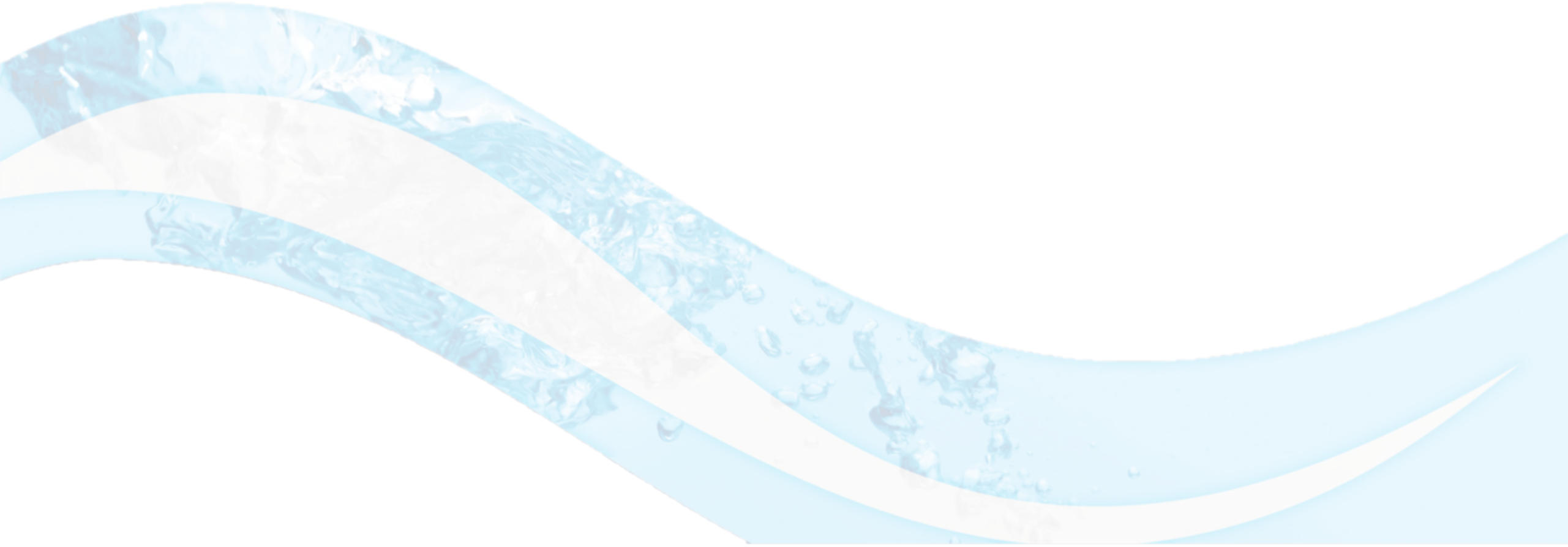
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# BREAK



# SAFER Advisory Group Appointments 2025-2027



# Welcome New SAFER Advisory Group Members

Name	Affiliation	Category	Region
Parry Klassen	Valley Water Collaborative	Local Agencies	Central Valley & Central Coast
Angela Islas	Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN)	NGO	Central Valley
Erick Orellana	Community Water Center	NGO	Central Valley & Central Coast
Michael Knight	City of Porterville	Public Water System	South Central Valley
Irene L Cacho	Resident- Le Grand	Resident	North Central Valley
Tequita Jefferson	Resident-Pixley	Resident	South Central Valley
Juan Cano	Self-Help Enterprises	Technical Assistance Provider	Central Valley
Kristin Dobbin	Resident	Public	California
Adam J Rausch	GHD Engineering	Technical Assistance Provider	North Central Valley
Norma I. Amezcua	Resident- Indio	Resident	Southern California/ Coachella Valley



# Thank You Exiting Advisory Group Members

Name	Affiliation	Category
Rob Burroughs	Small Water System Operator	Resident
Martha Curiel	Woodville, CA	Public
Castulo Estrada	Coachella Valley Water District	Local Agencies (Local)
Chelsea Hsin-Feng Tu	Monterey Water Keeper	NGO
Ileana Miranda	San Jerardo Cooperative	Public Water System
Tonya Moreno	Le Grand, CA	Resident
Michael S. Prado Sr	Sultana Community Services District	Public Water System
Sarah Rutherford	Kaweah Water Foundation	Local Agencies

# SAFER Advisory Group Member Announcements

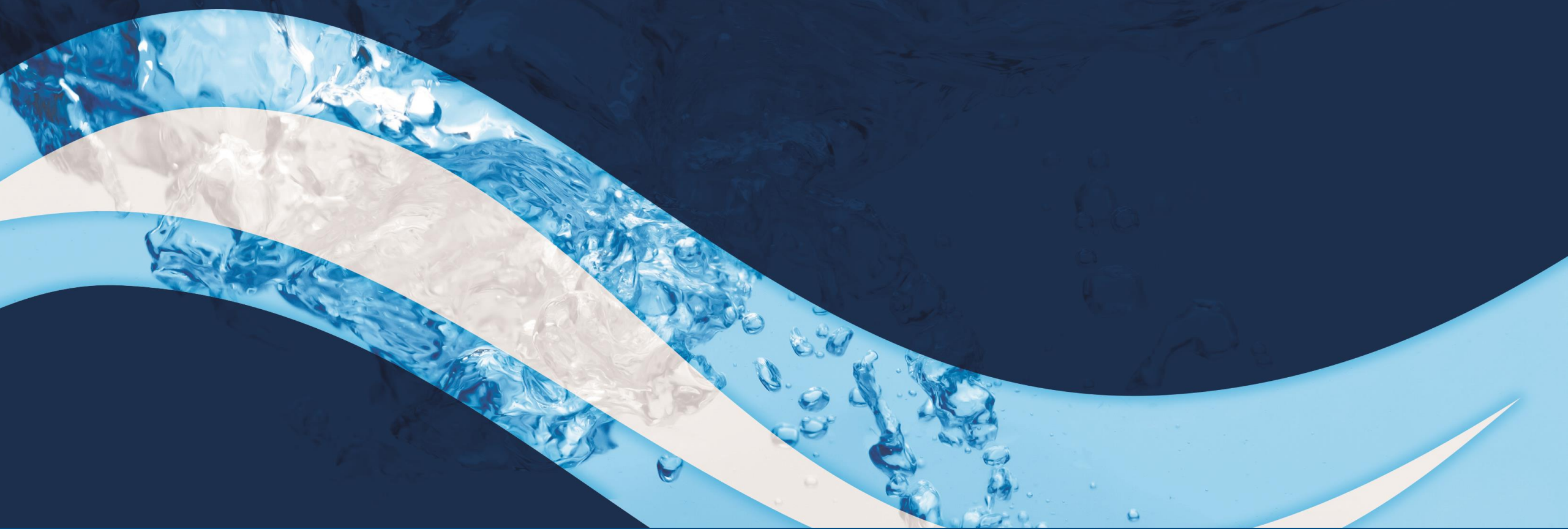


# SAFER Advisory Group Members Announcements

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



# Public Comments



# 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



# Follow-up from SAFER Advisory Group Meeting #3

- ✓ Discussion on domestic wells
- ✓ Considering development of a SAFER goal specific to domestic wells

**Adjourn**  
**Thank you!**

**[safer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:safer@waterboards.ca.gov)**  
**(916) 445-5615**