



SAFER DRINKING WATER



SAFE AND AFFORDABLE FUNDING FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE

**Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience
Advisory Group
Meeting Materials Packet
May 28, 2026**

Please review this packet before the meeting.

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Annual Needs Assessment Dashboard

There is no change to the existing Failing Criteria this year, however, more water systems will be identified as failing when Cr6 and PFAS become effective in the near future. For the Risk Assessment, systems under an Administrator or Receivership will be automatically categorized as at-risk for lack of managerial capacity, effective March 2026. The methodology will also incorporate the updated Median Household Income (MHI) methodology, effective June 2026.

In addition to these methodology updates, the format and update frequency will change. Major components have been moved to dashboards, including the Failing List, Public Water Systems, Risk Assessment, and Affordability/Demographics. These changes will allow the information to be updated more frequently than the prior annual report. The dashboards are also more interactive than the report.

SAFER Program Updates and Announcements

Point of Use / Point of Entry Pilot Program

The purpose of the Point of Use / Point of Entry Pilot is to prepare an authoritative report on the current state and use of Point of Use / Point of Entry technologies as drinking water solutions, and to provide suggestions for future research and development. Some of the limitations to be considered include needs related to regulation of Point of Use / Point of Entry in PWSs, Point of Use / Point of Entry as a drinking water solution for private domestic wells, performance certification and testing, installation challenges, and ensuring reliable Operation & Maintenance of the devices once installed.

The State Water Board developed the 2023 Drinking Water Point-of-Use Point-of-Entry Report (Point of Use / Point of Entry Report)¹ in coordination with stakeholders (community groups, industry groups, and other stakeholders identified in the FY 2020-21 Fund Expenditure Plan). The Point of Use / Point of Entry Report includes numerous recommendations to improve implementation of Point of Use / Point of Entry as a drinking water solution. The Point of Use / Point of Entry Report includes six recommended research efforts, comprising a Point of Use / Point of Entry Pilot, to fill specific knowledge gaps for funding consideration. Three of the six projects have been funded initially via a Technica Assistance master agreement with Stantec, and include:

- (1) Educational Strategy and Materials
- (2) Performance Certification
- (3) Point of Use / Point of Entry Operator Education Cohort and Workforce Development

The three initial projects will be completed in April 2028. Scopes of work for the remaining three projects will be developed by the end of 2026, with work anticipated to begin in 2027. The remaining three projects include:

- (4) Solutions for Bacteriological Contamination in Domestic Wells
- (5) Integration of Smart Technology in Point of Use / Point of Entry Solutions
- (6) Key considerations in determining Point of Use / Point of Entry Solutions

Projects 4 through 6 are estimated to cost between \$1.5 and \$2 million, which is included in the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund targets for FY 2025-26.

Lastly, the State Water Board will collaborate to write a white paper that reports the findings of the overall Point of Use / Point of Entry Pilot. The white paper and other supporting communication materials will be added to the State Water Board's website to facilitate knowledge sharing across various stakeholder groups.