

SAFER Drinking Water Advisory Group Meeting

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Language Interpretation through Zoom / Interpretación de Idiomas en Zoom

- **Spanish Interpretation is being provided.**
- If attendees joining us today would like to listen to today's presentation in Spanish, please go to the Interpretation icon in your Meeting/Webinar controls

- You will then see the Language Channels
- Select Spanish
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- **Note:** In order to use the Language Interpretation feature, attendees must download the Zoom application on their desktop, smartphone, or tablet.
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- **Tendremos servicio de interpretación en español.**
- Si algún asistente desea escuchar esta presentación en español, busque en su pantalla este ícono de interpretación (Interpretation)

- Ahora verá los Canales de Idiomas
- Haga clic en español (Spanish)
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SAFER Drinking Water Advisory Group Meeting #5



September 11, 2020

Welcome and Meeting Logistics

Itzel Vasquez-Rodriguez
Office of Public Participation
(OPP)



Meeting Guidelines

- Mute yourself when not speaking
- Advisory Group members, please join by video (if possible)
- Take breaks as needed
- Use your participation packet
- Comment to safer@waterboards.ca.gov

Instrucciones de la Reunión

- Silenciarte cuando no estés hablando
- Miembros del Grupo Asesor, por favor únase por video (si es posible)
- Toma descansos cuando sea necesario
- Use su paquete de participación
- Envíe comentarios a safer@waterboards.ca.gov

Public Comment

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 - your name,
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 - Indicate if you'd like to read your comment yourself,
 - Subject: "AGM5 Public Comment"

- Public comments are 3 minutes each.
- Wait for your name to be called.

Introductions

When called on, unmute yourself and share your

- Name
- Where you are calling in from
- A few words, or a short sentence, describing what successful outreach for the SAFER Program would look like.

Having trouble? Send a message to safer@waterboards.ca.gov

SAFER Review and Updates

Jessica Bean
Office of Public Participation
(OPP)



Meeting Goals

- 1) Share SAFER updates:
 - a) SAFER updates & timeline
 - b) Funding updates
 - c) Administrators

- 2) Review and discuss:
 - a) Drinking water needs assessment

SAFER Updates

- SAFER 2021 Advisory Group member applications close Sept 30:
 - How to videos on SAFER Advisory Group webpage
- SAFER Advisory Group member FAQ on website

www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer

The screenshot shows the homepage of the SAFER program. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the California Water Boards logo and links for Board, Programs, Drinking Water, Water Quality, Water Rights, Notices, Water Boards, and Search. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of water splashing with the text "Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Drinking Water". Underneath the banner, there is a breadcrumb trail "Home | Safer" and a paragraph of introductory text: "The Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) program is a set of tools, funding sources, and regulatory authorities designed to meet the goals of safe, accessible, and affordable drinking water for all Californians. Please email SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov if you need help finding additional SAFER information and resources." Below this text are six featured content tiles arranged in a 2x3 grid. The first row contains: "SAFER Program Background" (image of hands being washed), "SAFER Workshops and Events" (image of a calendar), and "Drinking Water Funding" (image of a dollar bill). The second row contains: "SAFER Advisory Group" (image of a group of people), "Water System Compliance Data" (image of a bar chart), and "Resources and Links" (image of a library).

Drinking Water Systems with Violations Tool

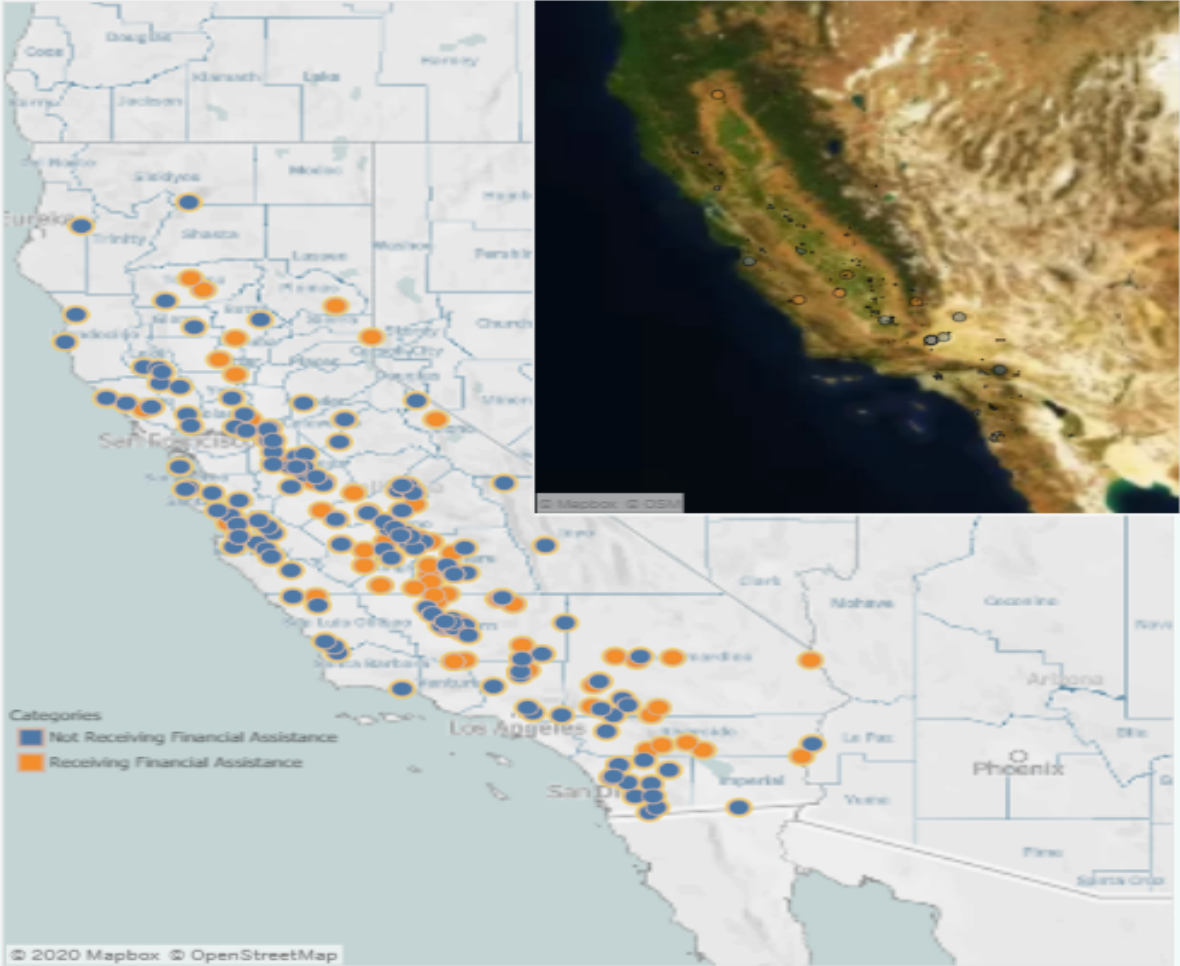
School?

County Category

Search Water System Name Select Water System Name From List

CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS
State Water Resources Control Board

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



WATER SYSTEM: All. Classification: All
Data Updated on: 7/13/2020 11:20:12 PM

PWSID : All. County: All. Population: All (All). Service Connections: 1 to 45,521.
Median Household Income: \$14,000 to \$146,118, % State: 18.6% to 194.1%, All

Analyte Name(S): All. Number of Violations: 1 to 80 Year of Oldest Violation (since 2012): 2012 to 2020

Financial Assistance Status: **All**
Financial Assistance Project TYPE: **All**
Financial Assistance Total: \$0 to \$21,324,477

of Financial Assistance Projects: **0 to 3**
Project Description: **All**

Categories
■ Not Receiving Financial Assistance
■ Receiving Financial Assistance

© 2020 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Disclaimer: Data contained on this website represents the information available on community and non-transient non-community (specifically schools and day cares) public drinking water systems that are regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board or Local Primacy Agency (LPA). Please note that the State Water Board's regulatory authority does not include water systems that are defined as "state small water systems", "local state small water systems" or "private domestic wells".

SAFER Recap

SB 200 (Monning, 2019) -- Establishes the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund to address funding gaps and provide short- and long-term solutions to water systems.

Fund Expenditure Policy -- Guides how the Fund Expenditure Plan will be developed and implemented. The Policy defines key terms, discusses who is eligible for funding, and what types of projects are eligible.

Fund Expenditure Plan -- Adopted annually by the State Water Board, directs how money from the Fund can be spent. The Fund Expenditure Plan is based on a drinking water needs assessment that prioritizes projects for funding.

Upcoming SAFER 2020 Timeline

September 2020

- SAFER update to the Board
- **30th**: **2021** Advisory Group Member Applications due

Nov 2020

- 20th: Cost Estimate Webinar

October 2020

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Dec 2020

- TBD: SAFER Advisory Group Meeting
- 14th: Risk Assessment Webinar

Fund Expenditure Plan

Jasmine Oaxaca
Division of Financial Assistance
(DFA)



Milestones

July 2019

SB 200
passed

July 2020

FY 20-21
Fund Exp Plan
Adoption

Spring 2020

Develop
FY 21-22 Fund
Exp Plan

May 2020

Policy
Adoption

Spring 2020

Statewide
Needs
Assessment

Available Funds for SAFER Program (FY 2020-21)

\$117 million

Safe and Affordable
Drinking Water Fund

\$110 million

Proposition 1 Groundwater

\$529
million

\$85 million

Drinking Water State
Revolving Fund Grants

\$31 million

General Fund

Non-Capital & Capital

\$151 million

Drinking Water Bonds

\$35 million

Proposition 68 Groundwater

Status of Safe and Affordable DW Fund

- August Cap and Trade Auction generated over \$400 M
- FY 2020-21 “Baby Budget” (SB 115), if approved, allows quarterly transfer from the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund, as a loan to the SADW Fund, to make up any shortfall from GGRF
- First quarterly deposit into the SADW Fund should be in full, expected in October 2020, \$32.5 M for projects and staff costs

Fund Expenditure Plan Priorities

1. Addressing any emergency or urgent funding, where other emergency funds are not available, and a critical water shortage or outage could occur without support from the Fund;
2. Addressing community and school water systems out of compliance with primary health standards, focusing on small DACs;
3. Accelerating consolidations for systems out of compliance, At-Risk systems, as well as state smalls and domestic wells, focusing on small DACs;
4. Providing interim solutions and initiating planning efforts for long-term solutions for state smalls and domestic wells with source water above a primary MCL.

FY 2020-21 SADW Fund Target Expenditures

Water System Category	Solution Type						SUBTOTAL BY WATER SYSTEM CATEGORY
	Interim Supplies & Emergencies	Direct/Indirect O&M Support				Construction	
		TA	Administrator	Planning	Direct O&M		
Systems Out of Compliance	\$10 M	\$7 M	\$0	\$3 M	\$5 M	\$19 M	\$44 M
Systems At-Risk	\$4 M	\$18 M	\$0	\$3 M	\$5 M	\$20 M	\$50 M
State Smalls/ Domestic Wells	\$5 M	\$5 M	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10 M	\$20 M
SUBTOTAL BY SOLUTION TYPE	\$19 M	\$30 M	\$0	\$6 M	\$10 M	\$49 M	
Total							\$114 M
Other Program Needs	Pilot Projects	Staff Costs					
	\$3.2 M	\$12.8 M					
Grand Total							\$130 M

Performance Metrics (in Number of Communities)

Category	FY 2019-20 Accomplishments (as of June 2020)	FY 2020-21 Goal	FY 2020-21 Accomplishments (as of Aug 2020)
Interim Solutions	173	150	6
Planning	72	150	4
Long-term Solutions	67	100	7



Questions?

Division of Drinking Water Administrators Update

Michelle Frederick, P.E.
SAFER Section
Division of Drinking Water



How We Work Together



Identify Systems that Need Assistance

Needs Analysis Unit in partnership with Division of Water Quality

- 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 systems
 - State Small Water Systems
 - Domestic Wells



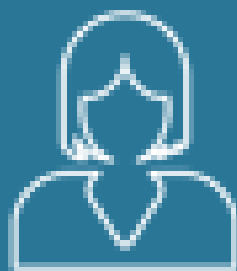
Deliver Solutions

Engagement Units in partnership with Division of Financial Assistance, with assistance from Office of Public Participation

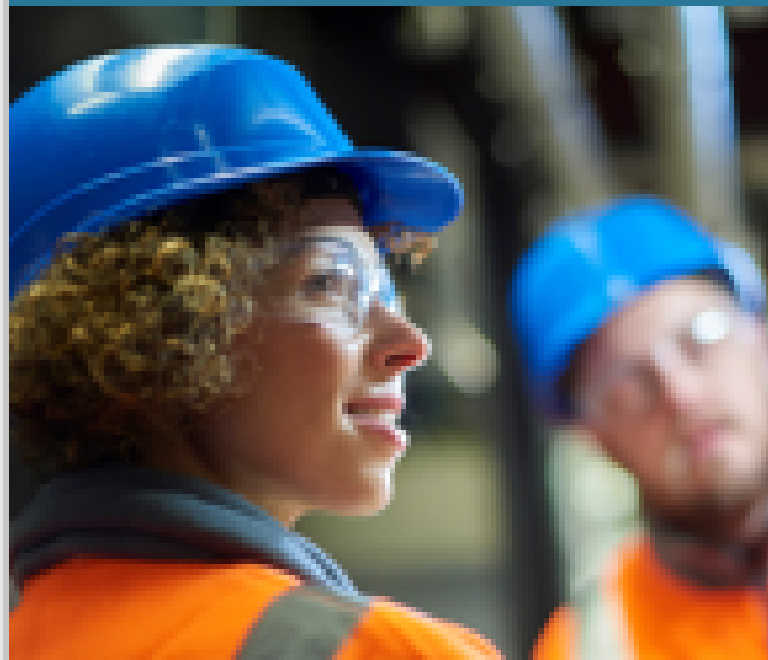
- Interim assistance for systems that are failing
- Administrators
- Consolidations
- Funding and financial assistance for long-term solutions
- Technical assistance

Engagement Unit Services Rendered





ADMINISTRATORS



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

Outreach for Administrators



COUNTIES & CITIES

- Sonoma County
- Tulare County
- City of California City
- City of Firebaugh



EXISTING TA PROVIDERS

- Self Help Enterprises
- California Rural Water Association



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Expected Fall 2020

- Administrator FAQ
- Administrator FAQ

Administrators (Initiated five as of August 2020)

administrator to keep the governing board or owner of the water system and the customers served informed about actions taken and status of the system. In addition, there is a process in the Administrator Policy Handbook that allows any ratepayer, renter, or property owner who receives water from a designated water system to submit a petition to the State Water Board for the reversal or modification of an administrator decision or replacement of an administrator. A complete description the administrator authority is contained in section 116686 of the Health and Safety Code and in the Administrator Policy Handbook the State Water Board Adopted in September 2019.

Administrator Policy Handbook

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
Cazadero Water Company	6/11/2020			
North Edwards Water District	6/24/2020			
NorCal Water Works	7/09/2020			
Valley Ford Water Association	7/29/2020			

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

The background features three thick, light gray wavy lines that curve across the top and middle of the slide, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Questions?


Drinking Water Needs Assessment

Kristyn Abhold
SAFER Section
Division of Drinking Water



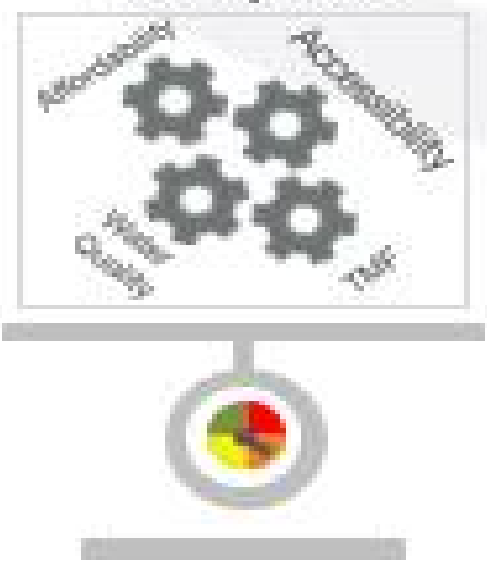
Needs Assessment Components

AFFORDABILITY ASSESSMENT




RISK ASSESSMENT

Water Systems

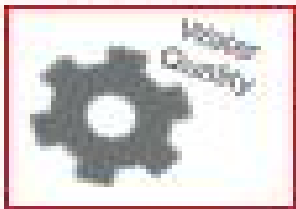


COST ASSESSMENT

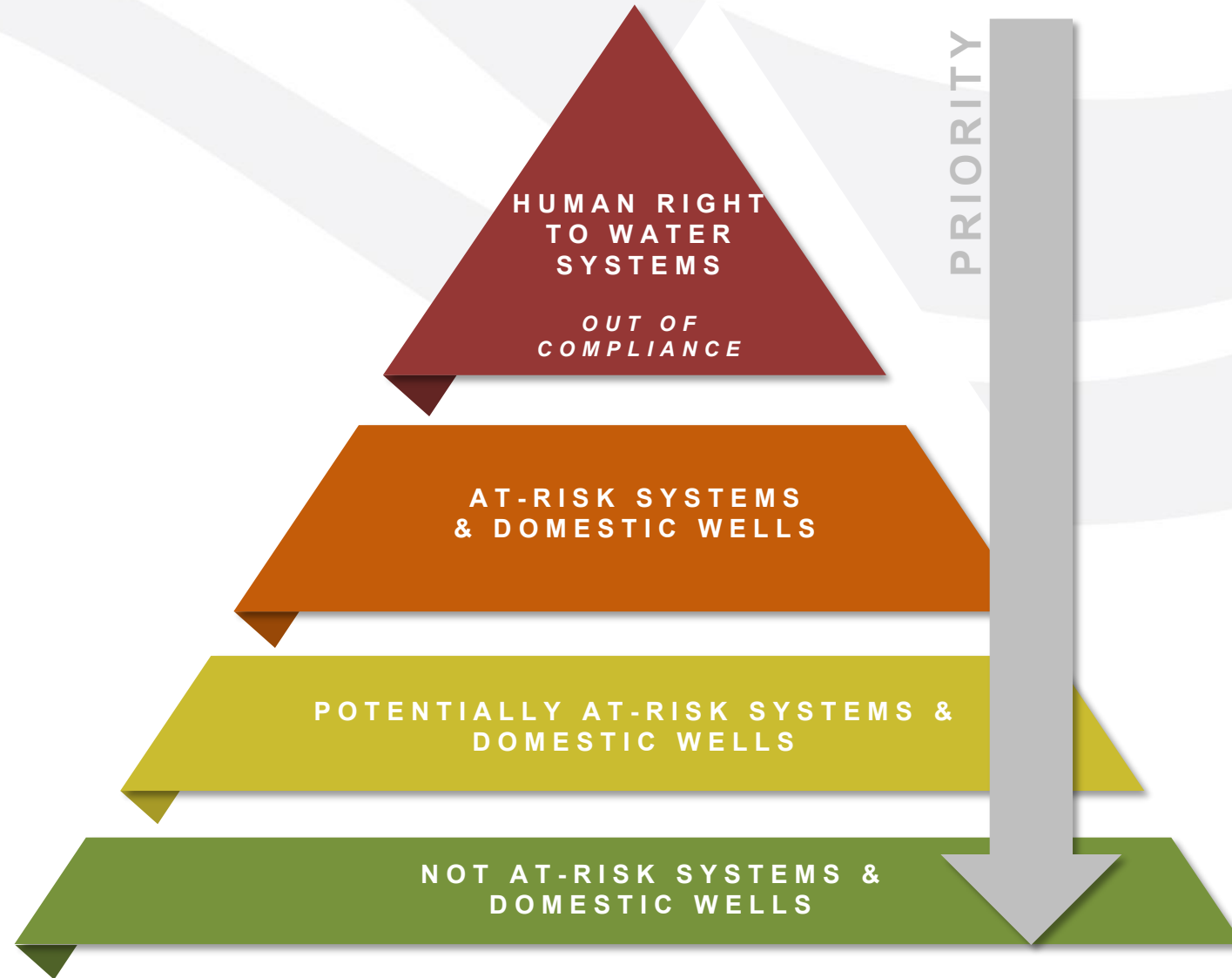
All At-Risk Public Water Systems



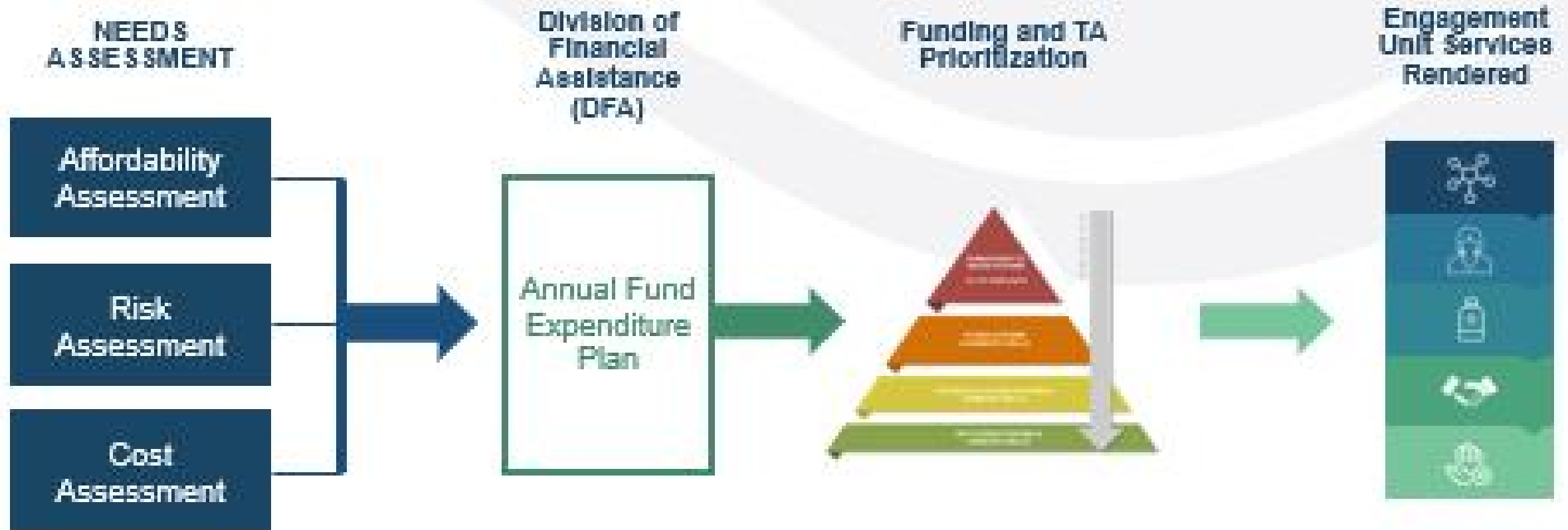
All HR2W Systems



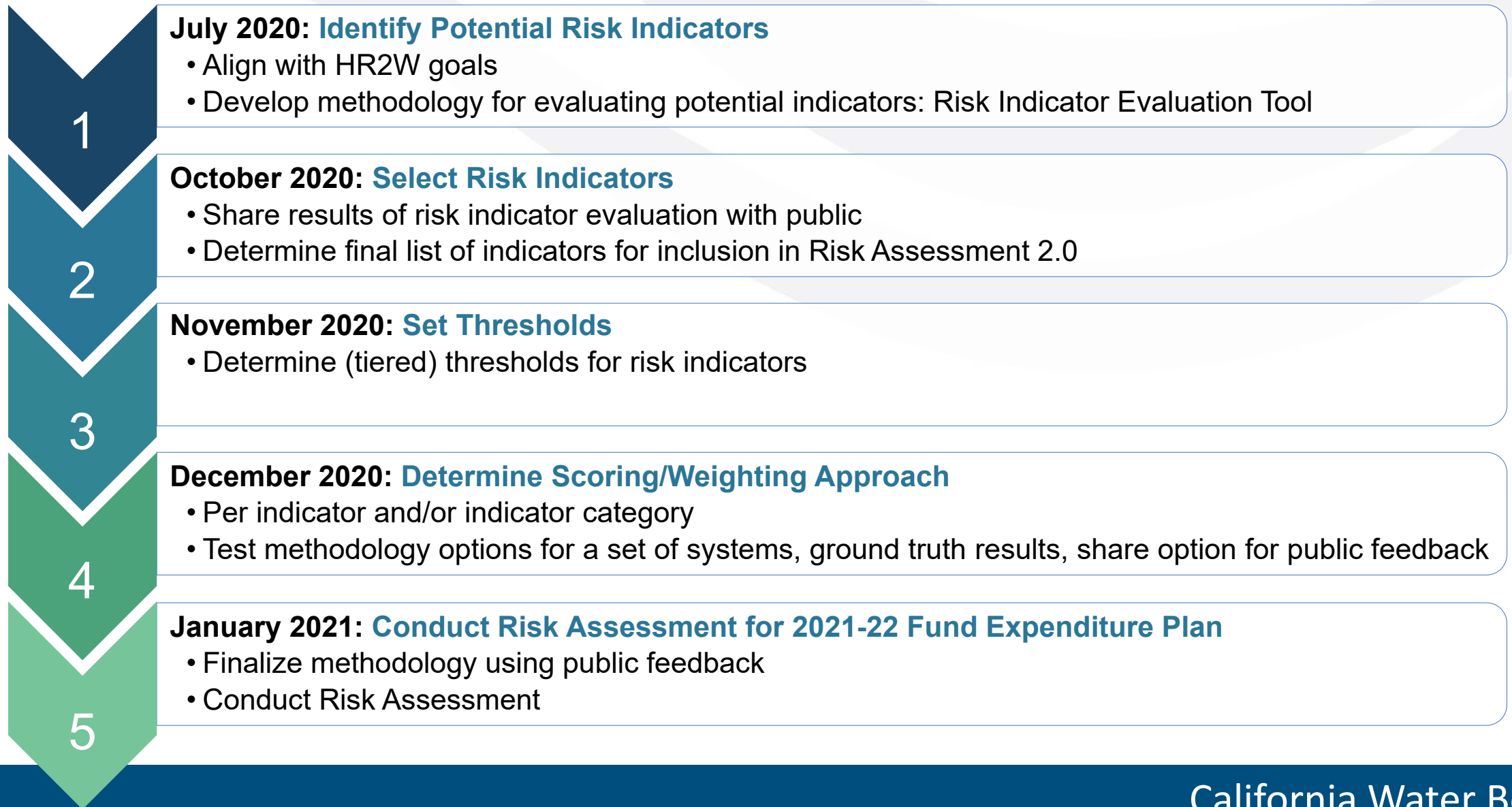
SAFER Program and the Risk Assessment



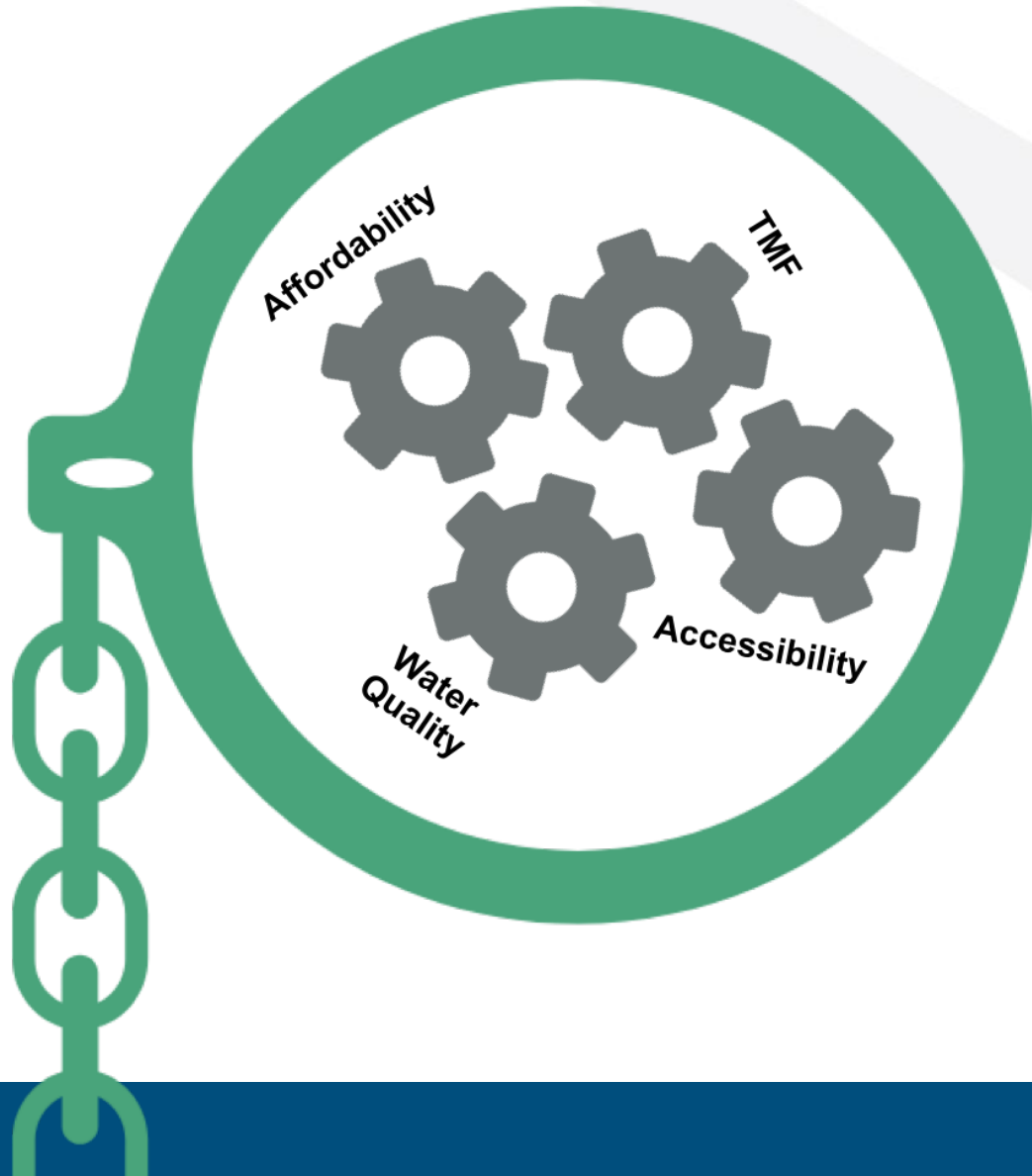
Needs Assessment Uses



Phases of Risk Assessment Development



Step 1: Risk Indicators – Through a Compliance Lens



RISK INDICATORS

A concerted effort was made to identify potential indicators based on their criticality as it relates to a system's ability to remain in compliance with safe drinking water standards.

Step 1: Identify Possible Risk Indicators

Solicited public and stakeholder recommendations through 2 webinar workshops:

- April 17, 2020 – nearly 200 active participants
- July 22, 2020 – nearly 70 active participants

Webinar Recordings and Detailed Draft White Paper:
<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/calendar.html>

118 Potential Risk Indicators Identified!

WATER QUALITY

ACCESSIBILITY

AFFORDABILITY

TECHNICAL,
MANAGERIAL, &
FINANCIAL CAPACITY

Water Quality

25 Potential Indicators – See [Table 3, Page 17](#) in White Paper

- Frequency of Bacteriological Violations (Total Coliform)
- Current Water Quality Greater than 50% for Acute Contaminants Max. Duration of Non-compliance
- Presence of Water Quality Trends Toward MCL
- Frequency of Water Quality Trends Toward MCL
- Current Water Quality Greater than 50% for Acute Contaminants
- Emerging Contaminants
- Proximity to Septic System for the Public Water System Source

Accessibility

36 Potential Indicators – See [Table 4, Page 20](#) in White Paper

- Adequate Water Storage Capacity
- Location In a High Priority Groundwater Basin
- Number of Water Sources
- Water Rights / Water Allocations
- Water Outages: Public Water System
- Backup Power Supply
- Distribution System Pressure
- Water Loss



Affordability

22 Potential Indicators – See [Table 5, Page 23](#) in White Paper

- Percent of Community Poverty Threshold
- Percent of Deep Poverty Income
- Poverty Prevalence Indicator
- Household Burden Indicator
- Average Water Rates divided by 20th percentile household income
- Hours at Minimum Wage to Pay Water Bill
- Households Delinquent in Paying Bills
- Extreme Water Bill
- Customers receiving Water Bill Payment Assistance

Technical, Managerial, and Financial Capacity

35 Potential Indicators – See Table 6, Page 26 in White Paper

- Operating Ratio with Depreciation
- Days Cash on Hand
- Debt to Equity Ratio
- Member of CalWARN or Alternative Mutual Aid Agreement
- Insurance Coverage (e.g. JPRIMA)
- Number of Staff Per Connection
- Full-Time Operator
- Asset Management Plan (AMP)
- Number of Service Connections
- Updated Rate Structure



Step 2: Process for Selecting Indicators for Risk Assessment



- ① Assess 118 potential risk indicators for Applicability and Data Fitness using Evaluation Tool.
- ② Use evaluation results to refine list of potential risk indicators and make recommendation.
- ③ Solicit public feedback on recommended list.
- ④ Determine final list of indicators for Risk Assessment based on public feedback.

Step 2: Risk Indicator Evaluation Tool



Step 2: Next Steps

- **October 2, 2020** webinar workshop and white paper.
- Results of risk indicator evaluation shared – will solicit feedback on final set of risk indicators.

	STEP 1	STEP 2			
Risk Indicator	Applicability	Data Coverage	Data Availability	Data Accuracy/ Quality	Potential Inclusion in Version 2.0?
Water outages	Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Maybe
Lead and Copper	Good	Good	Good	Good	Yes
Bacteriological violations or E.coli	Good	Good	Good	Good	Yes
Waterborne illness: current or historical	Excellent	Good	Poor	Poor	Future
Extensive treatment required	Good	Good	Good	Good	Yes



Developing an Affordability Assessment Methodology

- Historically State Water Board and water sector has relied on **% Median Household Income (% MHI)** to measure community and household affordability.
- Recognition that % MHI has many limitations.
- Desire to explore alternative metrics and thresholds that account for:
 - Household Affordability
 - Community Affordability & Financial Capacity
 - Water System Financial Capacity

Discussion Topic: Risk Assessment

The Division of Drinking Water is identifying metrics that help determine if a water system is “at-risk” of failing to provide safe, accessible, and affordable drinking water.

- **What are the three most important things that make a water system “at-risk”?**

How do you “measure” Affordability?

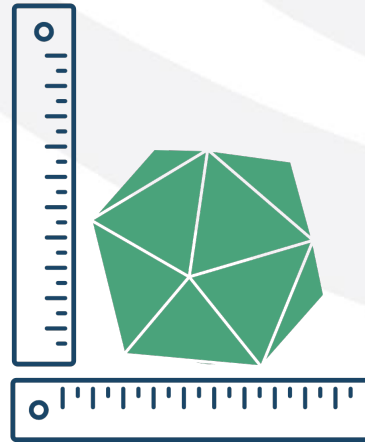


METRIC 1

% MHI



METRIC 2



METRIC 3



COMBINED
ASSESSMENT

Potential Affordability Metrics

Examples <i>(full list in white paper)</i>
Percent of Median Household Income (%MHI)
Percent of County Poverty Threshold (% CPT)
Percent of Deep Poverty Income (% DP)
Average Median Household Income
Percentage of Poverty (% Poverty)
Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Customer Base
Household Burden Indicator (HBI)
Poverty Prevalence Indicator (PPI)
Affordability Ratio (AR20)
WARi®
Hours at Minimum Wage to Pay Water Bill

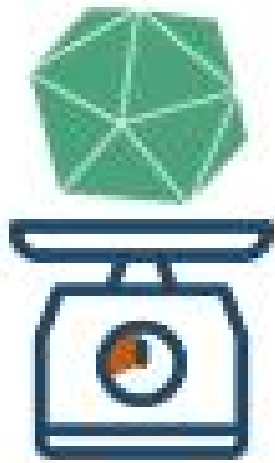
- **Risk Assessment** development process identified **22 possible affordability metrics**.*
- The State Water Board is evaluating these possible metrics and coordinating with CPUC and others to make final selection.

* White Paper:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/safer_drinking_water/docs/draft_white_paper_indicators_for_risk_assessment_07_15_2020_final.pdf

How do you determine an Affordability “threshold”?

When do drinking water rates become “unaffordable”?

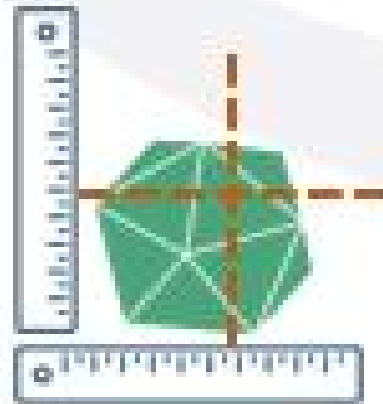


METRIC 1

1.5% MHI



METRIC 2



METRIC 3



COMBINED
ASSESSMENT

Affordability Assessment: Next Steps

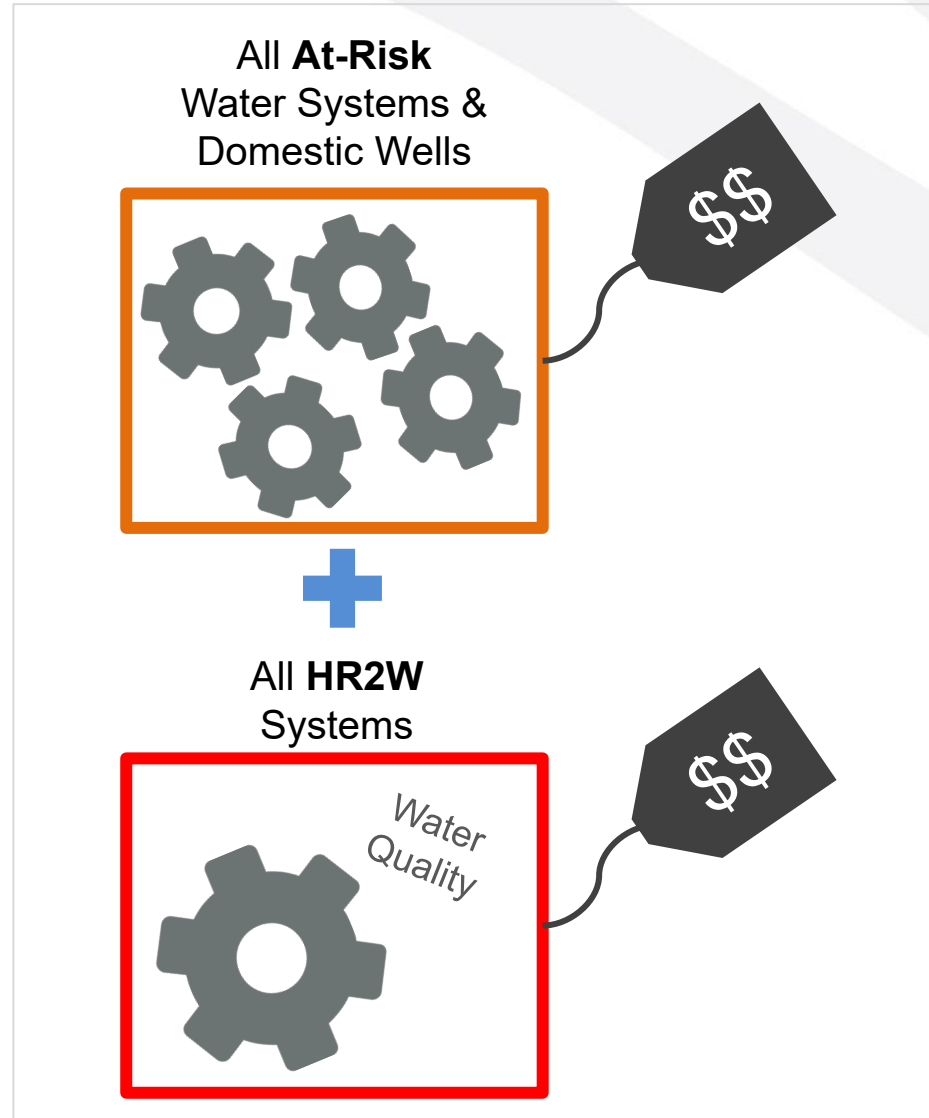
- Narrow down possible Affordability metrics and solicit public feedback on possible options. **October 2, 2020 Risk Assessment webinar.**
- Coordinate with CPUC, U.S. EPA, and stakeholders to conduct rigorous study to determine appropriate affordability measurements.

Discussion Topic: Affordability Assessment

The Division of Drinking Water (DDW) will be developing an alternative approach and threshold for measuring household/community affordability.

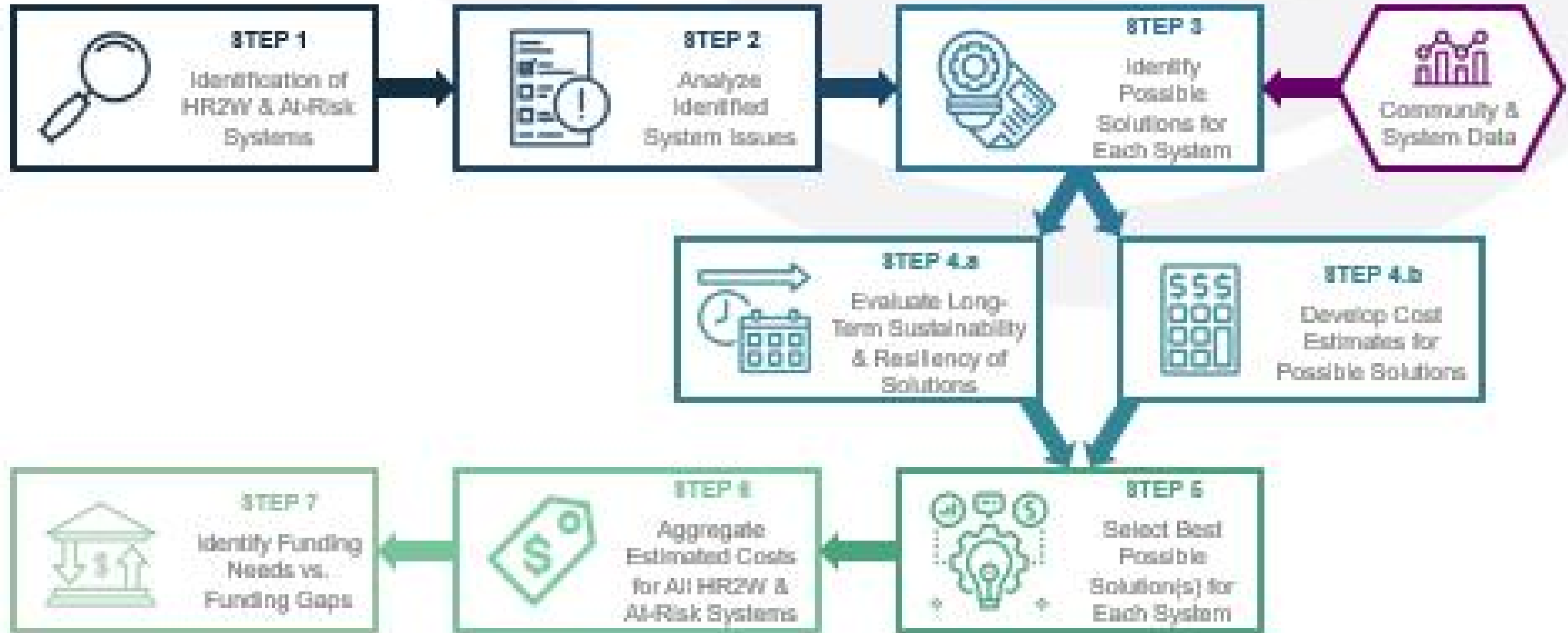
What does it mean for water to be affordable to customers of water system?

Cost Assessment



- SB 200 explicitly requires the annual Fund Expenditure Plan include:
 - “an estimate of the funding needed for the next fiscal year based on the amount available in the fund, **anticipated funding needs**, other existing funding sources, and other relevant data and information”
- The State Water Board is developing a model for estimating long-term cost solutions for HR2W and At-Risk systems.
- White Paper:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/docs/draft_whitepaper_it_solutions_cost_meth_pws_dom_wells_updated.pdf

Proposed Cost Assessment Model Process



Proposed Needs Assessment Timeline

October

- **Risk Assessment:** 10.02 webinar on selecting final risk indicators.
- **Water Rates Dashboard:** 10.30 webinar demonstration of the tool developed by UNC Env. Finance Center.

November: **Cost Assessment:** 11.20 webinar on in-depth model methodology.

December: **Risk Assessment:** 12.14 webinar on threshold, weighting, and scoring approach.

January: **Conduct Needs Assessment:**

- Conduct **Risk Assessment.**
- Conduct **Costs Assessment.**
- Conduct **Affordability Assessment.**

February

- **Needs Assessment** results delivered to DFA for Fund Expenditure Plan.
- **Cost Assessment:** 02.28 webinar highlighting draft results of potential costs.

March: **Needs Assessment** contract with UCLA concludes.

April: Draft Fund Expenditure Plan released for 30-day public comment.

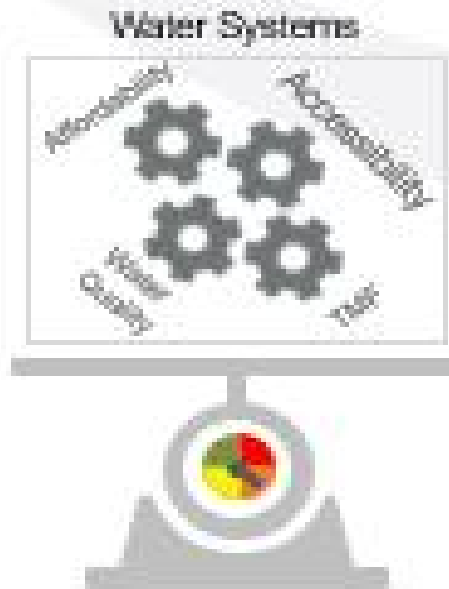
June: Fund Expenditure Plan considered by Board for adoption.

Needs Assessment Components

AFFORDABILITY ASSESSMENT



RISK ASSESSMENT



COST ASSESSMENT

All At-Risk Public Water Systems



+

All HQ2W Systems



Break



Breakout Groups

Advisory Group Discussion



Advisory Group Discussion and Breakout (75min)

1. Instructions (5mins)
2. Small Group Breakout (50min)
 1. Risk assessment
 2. Affordability assessment
 3. Financial ability of water systems
3. Report and Feedback (20 min)

Discussion Topic #1: Risk Assessment

(12mins)

The Division of Drinking Water (DDW) is identifying metrics that help determine if a water system is “at-risk” of failing to provide safe, accessible, and affordable drinking water.

- **What are the three most important things that make a water system “at-risk”?**

Discussion Topic #2: Affordability Assessment

(12mins)

The Division of Drinking Water (DDW) will be developing an alternative approach for measuring household/community affordability.

What does it mean for water to be affordable to customers of water system?

Discussion Topic #3: Water System Financial Ability (12mins)

The Division of Drinking Water (DDW) is identifying metrics that help determine if a water system is “at-risk” of failing to provide safe, accessible, and affordable drinking water. A water system's ability to finance necessary upgrades is an "at-risk" metric.

What does it mean for water systems to have the financial ability to operate reliably both now and into the future?

Resume Meeting: Report Back

Advisory Group Discussion



Report and Feedback (30mins)

- What were your group's top takeaways?
- Areas of consensus? Conflict?
- Feedback?
- What questions came up?

Public Comment

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-
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Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Itzel Vasquez-Rodriguez & Jessica Bean
Office of Public Participation
(OPP)



Upcoming SAFER 2020 Timeline

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Next Steps:

- 1) Evaluation: Copy the link on the agenda in the participant packet
- 2) Notes will be uploaded to SAFER website
- 3) 2021 Advisory Group Applications due Sept 30th!
- 4) Public SAFER Q&A Session TODAY 1-3PM

Closing



ADJOURN

**SAFER Advisory Group Meeting
September 11, 2020**

SAFER Questions and Answer Webinar

Office of Public Participation (OPP)



September 11, 2020

SAFER Question and Answer Webinar

Webcast: video.calepa.ca.gov/

Technical or language interpretation assistance
email: safer@waterboards.ca.gov

Question or Comment: Fill out the online form
at <https://bit.ly/SAFERQA>

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- (opcional) para escuchar solo en español, haga clic en Silenciar Audio Original (Mute Original Audio)

Observación: Para usar la función de Interpretación de idioma, los participantes tienen que descargar la aplicación de Zoom en su desktop (escritorio), teléfono inteligente, o tableta.

Para ayuda técnica o de interpretación de idioma, envíe un mensaje a: safer@waterboards.ca.gov

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SAFER Questions and Answer Webinar

Office of Public Participation (OPP)



September 11, 2020

Welcome and Meeting Logistics

Itzel Vasquez-Rodriguez
Office of Public Participation (OPP)



Meeting Guidelines/ Lineamientos de la Reunión

- For **technical assistance** and **language support assistance** during the session please email safer@waterboards.ca.gov
- Water Board staff and Advisory Group members, please mute yourself when not speaking.
- **Public Comment:** Fill out the online form at <https://bit.ly/SAFERQA>
- **If you cannot fill out an online form:** email your name, affiliation, last 3 digits of phone number, if you'd like to read your comment yourself, comment topic with the subject - "QA Public Comment" to safer@waterboards.ca.gov
- Para **ayuda técnica** o con el **servicio de intérprete**, envíe un mensaje a: safer@waterboards.ca.gov
- Ponga en mute (silencio) su micrófono si no le toca hablar.
- **Para comentarios del público**, llene la forma en línea en <https://bit.ly/SAFERQA>
- **Si no puede llenar la forma en línea:** envíe su nombre, los últimos 3 dígitos de su número de teléfono, su afiliación, indique si desea leer usted su comentario, y el tema sobre el que va a comentar a: safer@waterboards.ca.gov (en la línea del tema de su mensaje escriba: - "QA Public Comment")

Q & A Session Instructions

- To submit a comment as a member of the public, fill out the online form at <https://bit.ly/SAFERQA>
 - If you cannot fill out an online form, email the following to safer@waterboards.ca.gov
 - your name,
 - affiliation,
 - last 3 digits of your phone number,
 - Indicate if you'd like to read your comment yourself,
 - Subject: "QA Public Comment"
- Public comments are 3 minutes each.
 - Wait for your name to be called.

SAFER Overview

Kajol Gupta

Office of Public Participation (OPP)



SAFER Overview

SB 200 (Monning, 2019) -- Establishes the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund to address funding gaps and provide short- and long-term solutions to water systems.

Fund Expenditure Policy -- Guides how the Fund Expenditure Plan will be developed and implemented. The Policy defines key terms, discusses who is eligible for funding, and what types of projects are eligible.

Fund Expenditure Plan -- Adopted annually by the State Water Board, directs how money from the Fund can be spent. The Fund Expenditure Plan is based on a drinking water needs assessment that prioritizes projects for funding.

Upcoming SAFER 2020 Timeline

September 2020

- SAFER update to Board
- **30th**: **2021** Advisory Group Member Applications due

Nov 2020

- 20th: Cost Estimate Webinar

October 2020

- 2nd: Risk Assessment Webinar
- 6th: SAFER Update to the Board
- 30th: Finance Dashboard Launched

Dec 2020

- TBD: SAFER Advisory Group Meeting
- 14th: Risk Assessment Webinar

SAFER Experiences

SAFER Advisory Group Members



California Water Boards

SAFER Q&A Session

Jessica Bean
Office of Public Participation (OPP)



California Water Boards

Q & A Session Instructions

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Closing Remarks

Jessica Bean
Office of Public Participation (OPP)

