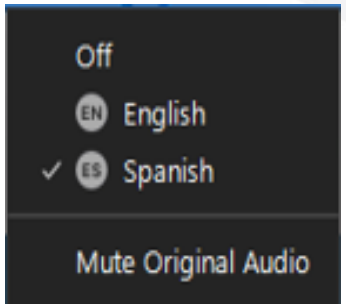
Language Interpretation through Zoom / Interpretación de Idiomas en Zoom

- **Spanish Interpretation is being provided.**
- To listen to today's presentation in Spanish, please go to the Interpretation icon in your Meeting/Webinar controls
  - Navigate to Language Channels
  - Select Spanish
  - Mute Original Audio to listen to the Interpreted Language only.
- **Note:** To access the Language Interpretation feature, you must download the Zoom application on your desktop, smartphone, or tablet**.**
- Technical or language interpretation assistance email: **SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov**



- **Tendremos servicio de interpretación en español.**
- Si algún asistente desea escuchar esta presentación en español, busque en su pantalla este ícono de interpretación (Interpretación)
  - Ahora verá los Canales de Idiomas
  - Haga clic en español (Spanish)
  - (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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Ways to Participate-

1. **Watch ONLY:** Visit https://video.calepa.ca.gov/

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SAFER Drinking Water Advisory Group Meeting #6

December 10, 2020
9:00 am

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

Welcome and Meeting Logistics

Water Boards' Mission Statement

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 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

Presentation Outline

- Announcing Newly Appointed Advisory Group Members
- 2020 Progress and Accomplishments
- 2021 Goals + Timeline
- Advisory Group Discussion and Breakout
- Funding Process Discussion
- Public Comment
- Next Steps

Meeting Goals

1) Review 2020 progress and accomplishments and 2021 SAFER Timeline.

2) Participate in breakout groups to hear Advisory Group members share stories of past drinking water projects and discuss lessons learned and best practices.

3) Review the State Water Board funding process and provide feedback on potential improvements.

Introductions and Warmer

- Your name
- Your location
- What you're most proud of for your work in 2020?

2021 Advisory Group Members

CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS

SAFER PROGRAM

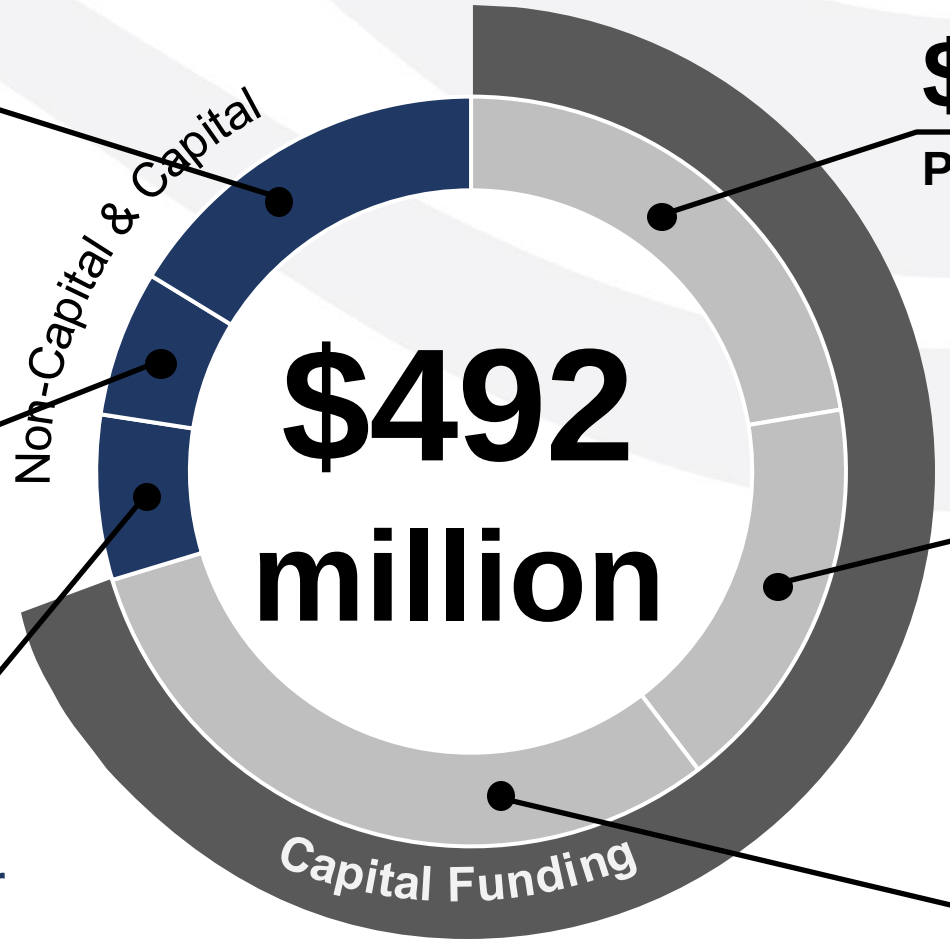
2021 Advisory Group Members

Division of Financial Assistance

CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS

SAFER PROGRAM

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

Fund Expenditure Plan Implementation

- Matching incoming projects with appropriate SAFER Program funds
- Evaluating funding process improvements at all stages of a project
- Discussing interim water supply priorities with EJ Groups
- Expanding the range of services offered by Technical Assistance providers

Division of Drinking Water

CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS

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Needs Assessment Development

1

October 2020: Select Risk Indicators and UNC Financial Capacity Dashboards
- Share results of risk indicator evaluation with public
- Share the Pilot Financial Capacity Dashboards **(seeking public feedback)**

2

November 2020: Cost Estimate Methodology (public comment period until December 20th)
- Share Sustainability & Resiliency of Solutions Framework & Cost Estimate Methodology

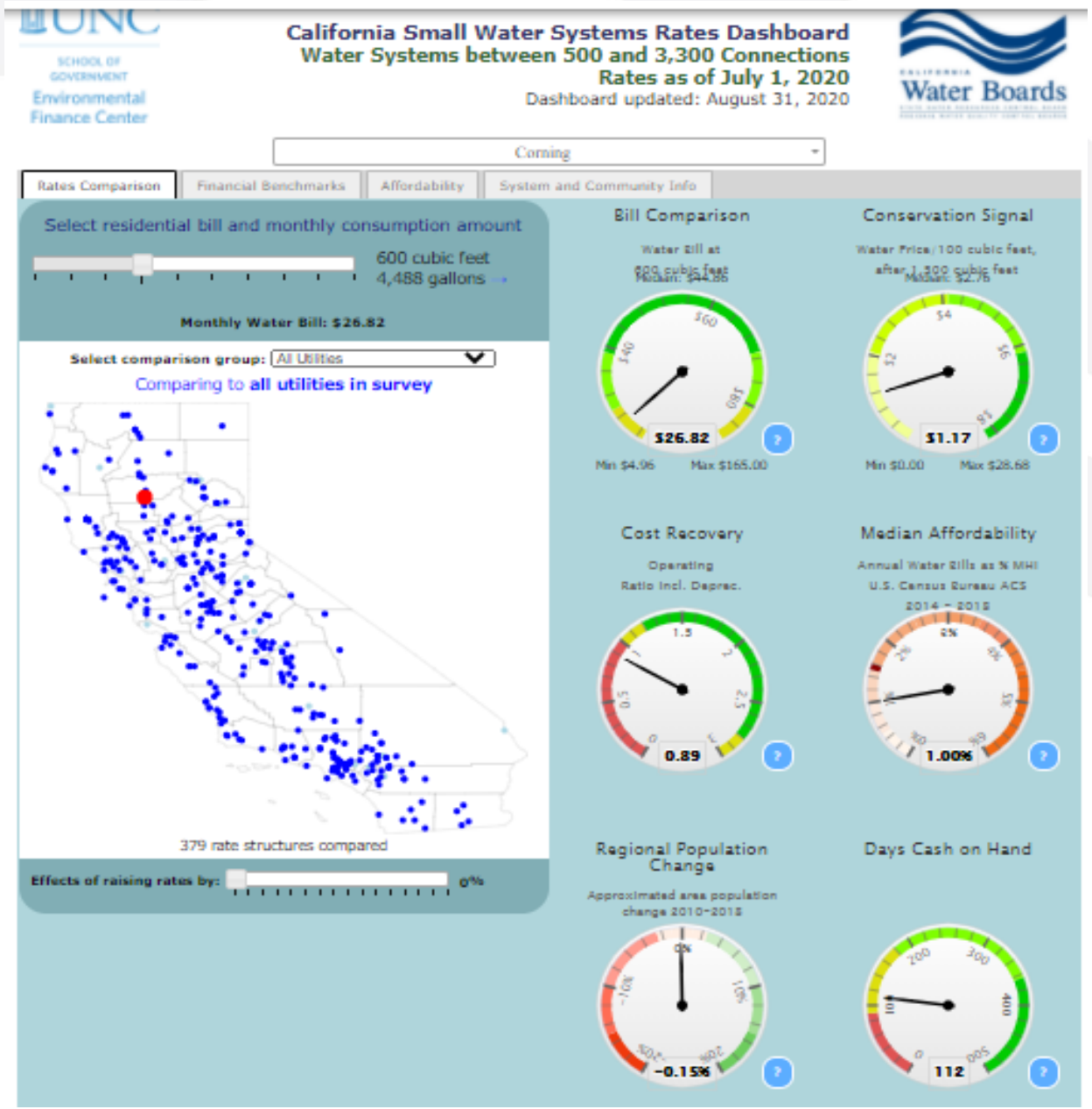
https://bit.ly/CostEstimateNov2020

3

December 2020: Determine Scoring/Weighting Approach (December 14th 9-11)
- Propose weighting and scoring approaches for At-Risk systems
- Discuss Expansion of HR2W criteria

4

January 2021: Begin Conducting Needs Assessment for 2021-22 Fund Expenditure Plan
- Finalize Needs Assessment methodologies using public feedback
- Conduct Risk Assessment, Cost Assessment, and Affordability Assessment



University of North Carolina's Environmental Finance Center

Purpose:

- The Dashboard allows small water systems to better understand their system's financial health and performance, especially in comparison to other systems statewide.

https://bit.ly/WaterRatesDashboard

Administrator RFQ & 10 Administrators Projects to Date

Administrator Policy Handbook | Administrator FAQ | RFQ for Administrators

https://bit.ly/AdminRFQ

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
Las Deltas Mutual Water System	11/02/2020			
East Orosi CSD	09/10/2020			
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			

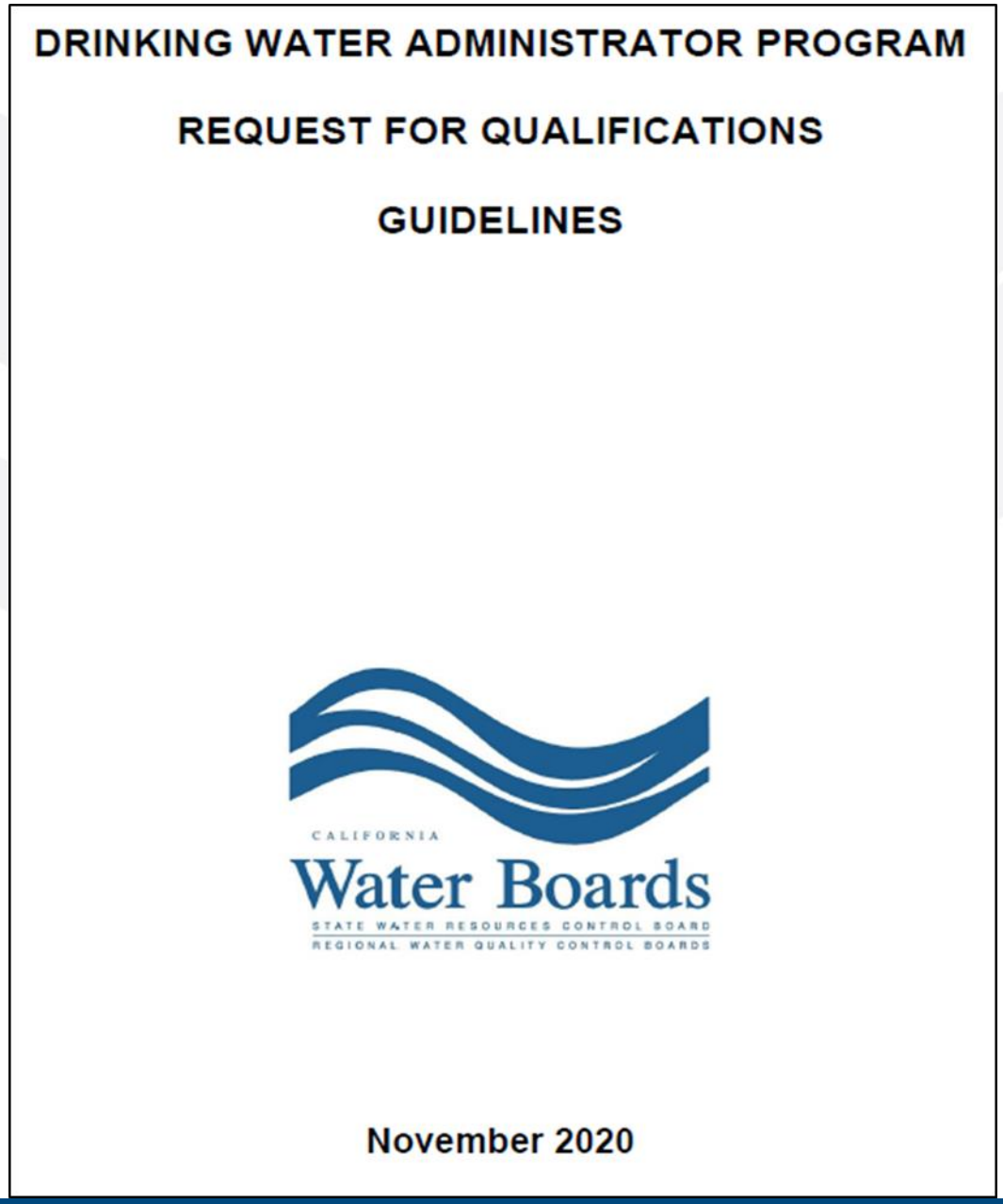
Administrator
Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

SWRCB is Soliciting for Administrators

Seeking to Develop a Pool Administrators with:

1. Water system managerial experience
2. Experience working with disadvantaged and/or culturally diverse communities
3. Other skills, as appropriate

More information at:
https://bit.ly/RFQ_Guidelines



Office of Public Participation

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Community Engagement 2020 Updates

- **Water solution community meetings (administrators & consolidations)**
- **SAFER outreach and communications materials**
- **Advisory Group application process**
- **Tribal outreach**

2021 Timeline and Key Milestones

2021 SAFER Timeline

January-March	April –June	July—September	October—December
• Feb 26: Cost estimate webinar • Mar: SAFER Advisory Group • **SAFER update to the Board**	• May: SAFER Advisory Group • Draft Fund Expenditure Plan released • Needs Assessment webinar	• July: SAFER Advisory Group • July: Board considers the adoption of Fund Expenditure Plan • Aug-Sept: Advisory Group member application period • Needs Assessment webinar	• Dec: Advisory Group members appointed • Nov: SAFER Advisory Group • Needs Assessment webinar

Q&A and Feedback

Safe Drinking Water Stories & Lessons Learned

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Breakout Room Instructions

Goal:

- Engage with Advisory Group member stories to gather lessons learned and best practices that can be applied to improve SAFER-funded drinking water projects.

Instructions:

- Individuals will be placed in breakout rooms with an Advisory Group Member that has agreed to share their safe drinking water story
- Advisory Group member will present their story in 15minutes
- Other Advisory Group members in the breakout room will engage in discussion and ask questions

Ask questions!

- What went well?
- What barriers did they face?
- Are there any tips/pointers they would give based on their experiences?

Breakout Room Instructions (50mins)

1. **Advisory Group member presents their story as a story-teller** (15mins)

2. **Story-teller will share their screen and share their presentation** (if applicable)

3. **Small group discussion examples**:
   - *What went well?*
   - *What barriers did they face?*
   - *Are there any tips/pointers they would give based on their experiences?*

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

- What did you learn?
- What were some of the successes and milestones in the projects?
- What are some things that can be done to improve projects?

BREAK

Streamlining Project Funding Process

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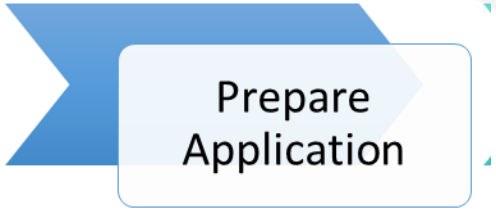
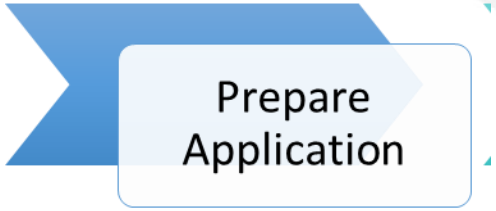
Prepare Application



Improvements Implemented

- Pre-application
- Environmental California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-Only Review
- Project specific credit review waivers
- Use of Technical Assistance (TA) for planning projects

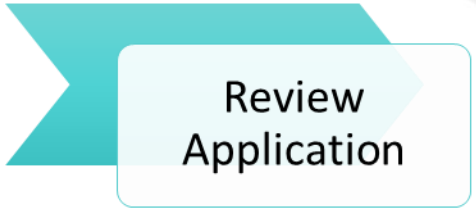
Prepare Application



Ideas

- Evaluate pre-application effectiveness
- Increased coordination amongst DFA staff on long-term solutions, TA, and interim solutions
- General waiver of credit review for 100% planning grants
- Identify regular issues with applications and review/update application and instructions

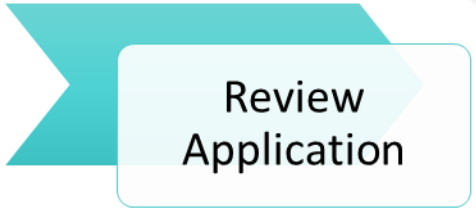
Review Application



Improvements Implemented

- Updated package checklists
- Use of digital master file for routing and review
- Modified median household income (MHI) determination methodology
- Modified Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP) to ease funding restrictions on planning projects and larger projects
- More regular check-in meetings to keep projects moving and work through hurdles

Review Application



Ideas

- Develop standardized scope language and budget categories
- Engage with TA providers to identify ways to improve the application process
- Update internal review documents and checklists

Prepare Financing Agreement

Improvements Implemented

- Evaluate projects in queue and determine appropriate funding sources ahead of estimated execution dates
- Use of electronic routing process
- Earlier management review of project scope and budget
- Using “phased” approaches for complex projects
- Combine multiple projects for same entity into a single agreement

Prepare Financing Agreement

Ideas

- Train new staff on scope writing
- Develop standardized scope language and budget categories

Post-Execution Project Management

Improvements Implemented

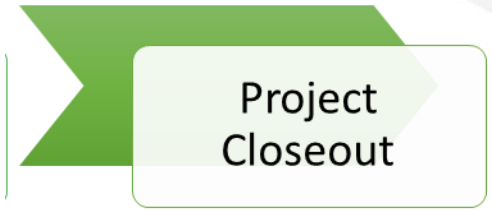
- Use of letter amendments when appropriate
- Electronic invoice submittal for recipients into FAAST along with hard copy mailed
- Uniform cover page which organizes invoices and supporting documentation

Post-Execution Project Management

Ideas

- Increased check-ins with TA and interim solution providers
- Waive requirement to update credit review for 100% grant funded projects that have a cost increase but no change in scope
- Evaluate FBA Process and procedures to expedite DFA approval
- Evaluate different methods for reimbursement of allowances for construction projects

Project Closeout



Improvements Implemented

- Use of a final inspection checklist
- Procedures to conduct virtual inspections

Public Comment

Ways to Participate-

1. **Watch ONLY:** Visit https://video.calepa.ca.gov/

2. **Email:** Submit a comment or question to: **SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov** with Subject: "AGM6 Public Comment"

3. Raise Hand: Raise your virtual hand to provide a verbal comment or ask questions.

- Wait to be called on.
- Telephone callers:
  - Press *9 to raise hand / lower hand
  - Press *6 to unmute yourself
- Public commenters:
  - 3 minutes each

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

2021 SAFER Timeline

January-March	April –June	July—September	October—December
• Feb 26: Cost estimate webinar • Mar: SAFER Advisory Group • **SAFER update to the Board**	• May: SAFER Advisory Group • Draft Fund Expenditure Plan released • Needs Assessment webinar	• July: SAFER Advisory Group • July: Board considers the adoption of Fund Expenditure Plan • Aug-Sept: Advisory Group member application period • Needs Assessment webinar	• Dec: Advisory Group members appointed • Nov: SAFER Advisory Group • Needs Assessment webinar

Adjourn

Thank you!

SAFER Question and Answer Webinar

Office of Public Participation
December 10, 2020

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

Welcome and Meeting Logistics

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

Ways to Participate-

1. **Watch ONLY:** Visit https://video.calepa.ca.gov/

2. **Email:** Submit a comment or question to: **SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov** with Subject: "QA4 Public Comment"

3. Raise Hand: Raise your virtual hand to provide a verbal comment or ask questions.

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SAFER Overview

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.

2021 SAFER Timeline

January-March

- Jan 5: SAFER update to Board
- Feb 2: SAFER update to the Board
- Feb 30: Finance dashboard launched
- Mar 2: SAFER update to the Board
- Mar 20: Cost estimate webinar
- Mar: SAFER Advisory Group

April –June

- May: SAFER Advisory Group
- Draft Fund Expenditure Plan released
- Needs Assessment webinar

July—September

- July: SAFER Advisory Group
- July: Board considers the adoption of Fund Expenditure Plan
- Aug-Sept: Advisory Group member application period
- Needs Assessment webinar

October—December

- Dec: Advisory Group members appointed
- SAFER Advisory Group
- Needs Assessment webinar

SAFER Q&A Session

Ways to Participate in the Q&A Session

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Closing Remarks

Adjourn

Thank you!