

# DWR Regulatory Assistance: Temporary Water Rights for Groundwater Recharge

California is experiencing sustained drought conditions and the warming climate is resulting in increased temperatures that drastically impact our water supply, affecting communities, the environment, and our economy. As part of the Governor's recent "[California Water Supply Strategy, Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future](#)," the State is committed to increasing water supply resilience by accelerating specific actions, including advancing the pace and scale of groundwater recharge to mitigate the impacts of prolonged drought and support long-term sustainable groundwater management.

Groundwater basins have significant capacity to store water underground in California. The State is ready to respond to wet weather events by assisting groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) and other local public agencies with temporary water rights permit applications to capture water during peak flows for recharging groundwater basins. By expediting groundwater recharge projects, agencies can prepare now and be ready for the next heavy precipitation event. These early efforts will demonstrate the feasibility of capturing available high flows for groundwater recharge while minimizing flood risks.

## Regulatory Assistance Available:

To support GSAs in capturing available flows this winter, DWR will:

- Develop a simplified water availability analysis
- Jointly complete 180-day temporary water rights permits on behalf of GSA applicants
- Coordinate with State Water Resources Control Board to prioritize the issuance of conditional permit approvals prior to December 1, 2022
- Cover assistance and permit review costs and permit fees for this pilot program

## Eligibility:

- Must be a GSA or local public agency
- GSA or local public agency must be the applicant or co-applicant to the permit application
- Must have willing landowner(s) and infrastructure to divert flows
- GSA or local public agency will be required to support monitoring and reporting from any recharge events

*Please note that GSAs or local public agencies in areas with a [Fully Appropriated Streams Designation](#) in all seasons will not be eligible for this pilot program.*

## For More Information:

Please contact Ajay Goyal at [Ajay.goyal@water.ca.gov](mailto:Ajay.goyal@water.ca.gov) or Jennifer Marr at [Jennifer.marr@water.ca.gov](mailto:Jennifer.marr@water.ca.gov) if interested in discussing this available Regulatory Assistance for Temporary Water Rights Permits for Groundwater Recharge.

