



# Proposition 4 Workshop

## Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program & Watershed Resilience Grant Program

*April 30, 2026*

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# Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Overview of Proposition 4
3. Watershed Resilience Grant Program
  - \*Break\*
4. Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program



# Housekeeping

- Please mute your microphone when not speaking
- This webinar is being recorded and will be posted to program webpages in May.



# Housekeeping

- Please submit any questions in the Q&A box
  - Questions will be addressed at the end of each agenda section.
  - Questions not answered during the session will be addressed in the Q&A box or as follow up to this Workshop.
  - We will address questions of broad interest during the session. Project specific questions can be emailed to: [Financialassistance@water.ca.gov](mailto:Financialassistance@water.ca.gov).



# Overview of Proposition 4 Program



# Proposition 4 Overview

- Proposition 4 - \$10B bond
- Competitive Grant Programs:
  - Watershed Resilience - \$152M in local assistance
  - Sustainable Groundwater Management - \$320M in local assistance
- Technical Assistance Programs:
  - Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance Program - \$20M
  - Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement - \$20.5M

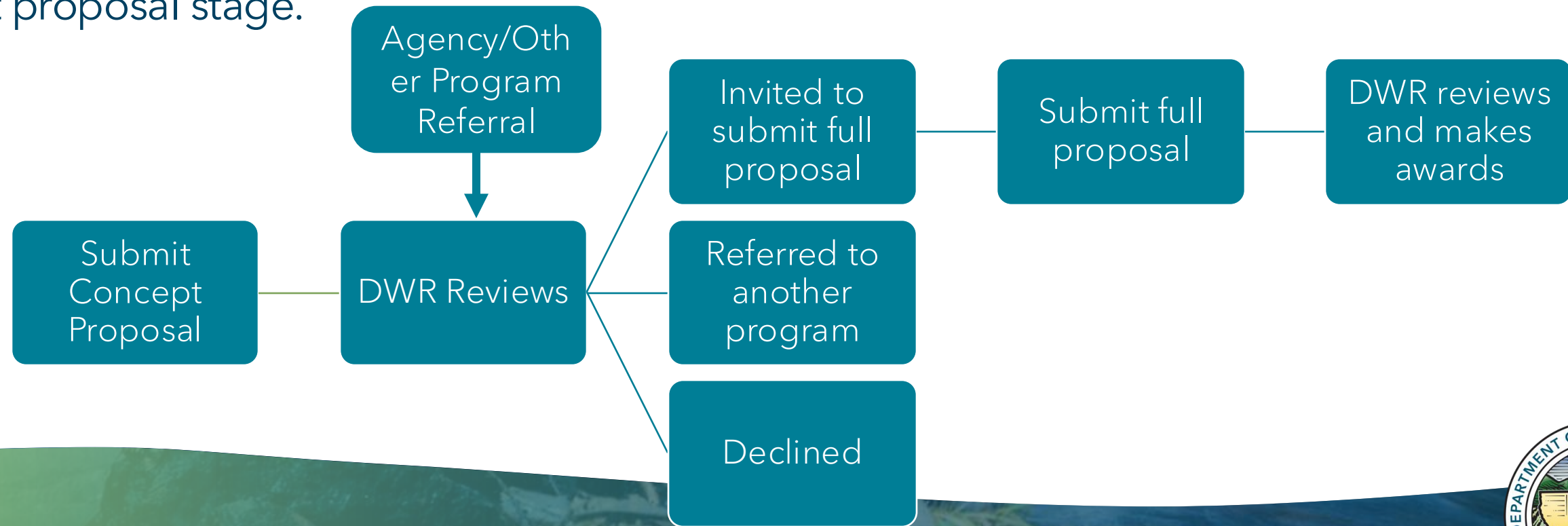


# Two-Step Application Process

- Both programs will use a two-step application process:

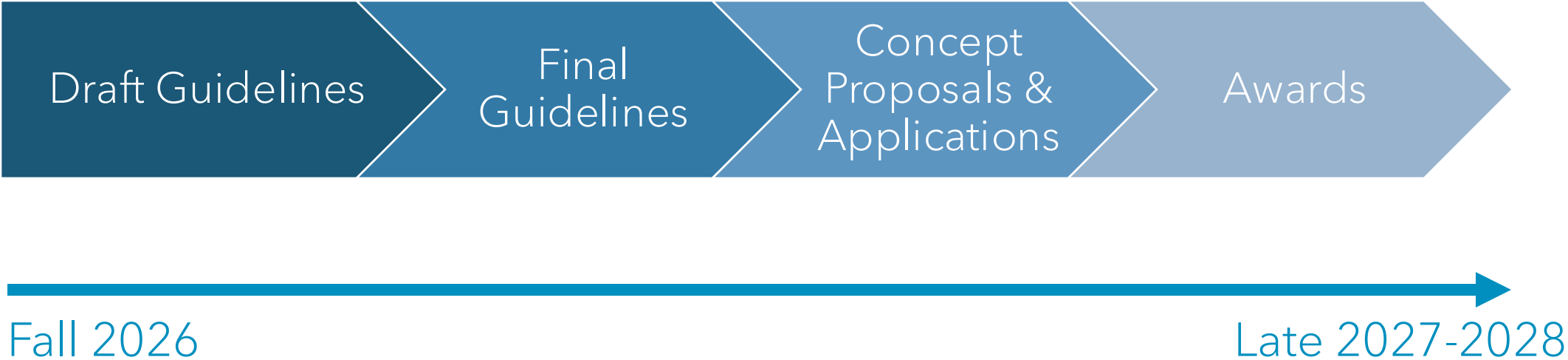
Step 1- submit concept proposal followed by Step 2- submit a full application.

- Guidelines will allow application referrals from other grant programs/agencies to be entered at concept proposal stage.



# Schedule

Both programs are expected to follow a similar schedule, which DWR will refine based on public input.



# Pop Up Poll #1

Recognizing the effort required to prepare applications, what is the ideal timeframe needed between the Sustainable Groundwater Management and Watershed Resilience deadlines?

- A.) None
- B.) 3 months
- C.) 6 months



# Eligible Applications & Cost Share

- Eligible Applicants and subrecipients are:
  - Public agency
  - Local agency
  - Nonprofit organization
  - Special district
  - Joint powers authority
  - Tribe
  - Public utility
  - Local publicly owned utility
  - Mutual water company
- No cost share required by the bond



# New Authorities in Proposition 4

- Programs will be able to offer a 25% advanced payment to initiate an awarded project.
- Indirect costs are an eligible expense.
- 40% must directly benefit disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations.
  - New definition for disadvantaged community
  - New term: “vulnerable population”



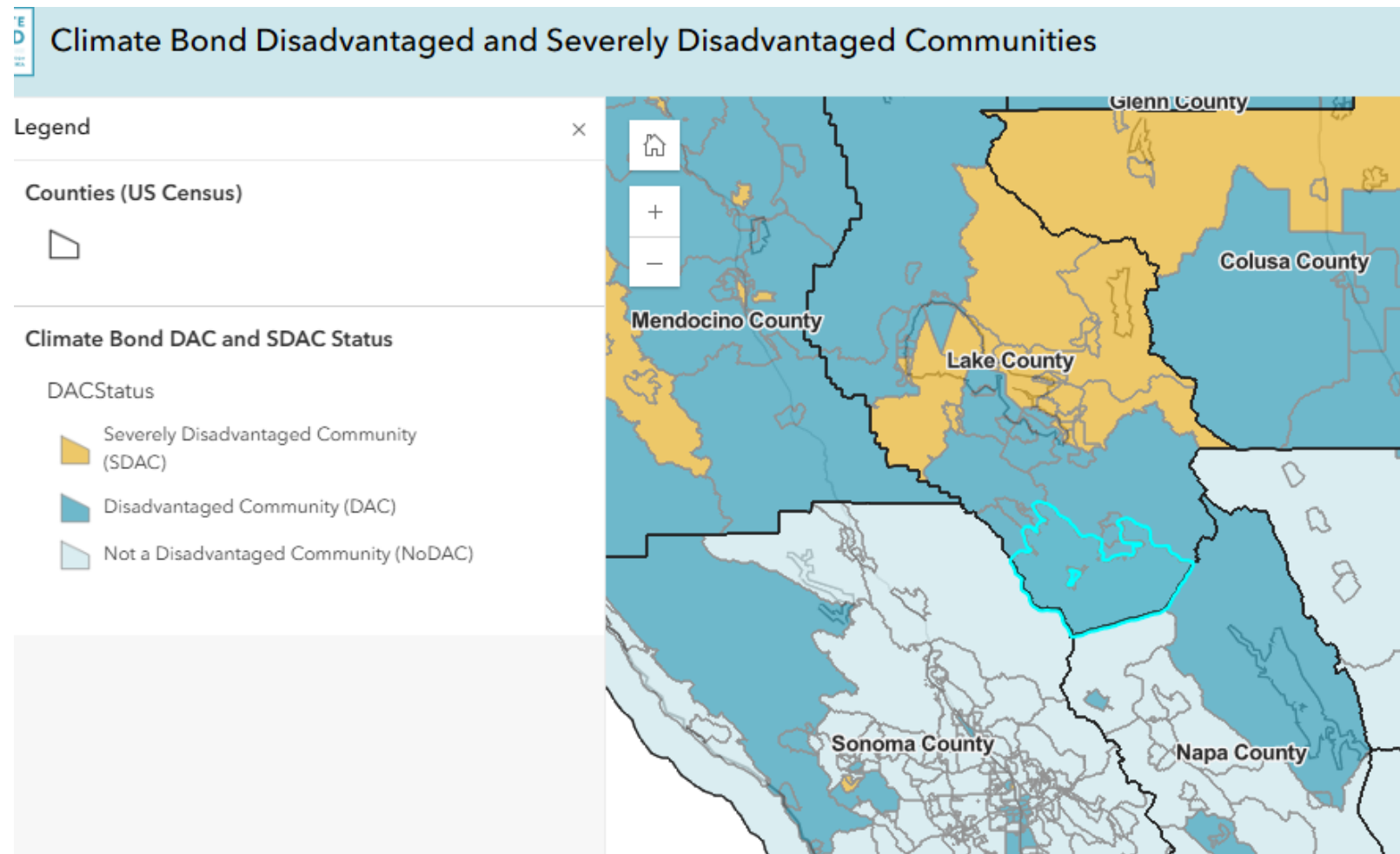
# Disadvantaged Community \*New Definition\*

**Disadvantaged Community:** a community with a median household income of less than 80 percent **of the area average** or less than 80 percent of statewide median household income.

- Guidelines will include guardrails to ensure consistent and appropriate approaches.
- CNRA has developed a map showing commonly used geographic units (e.g., county, city, census track, etc.).



# Disadvantaged/Severely Disadvantaged Community Map



Link:  
<https://tinyurl.com/4uudnppc>



# Vulnerable Population \*New Term/Definition\*

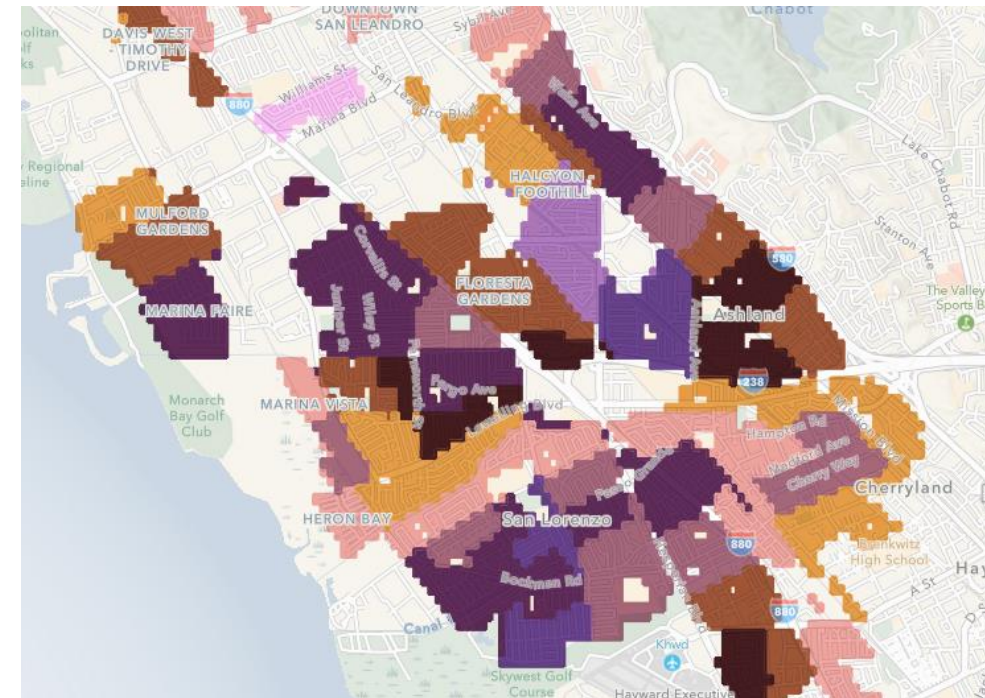
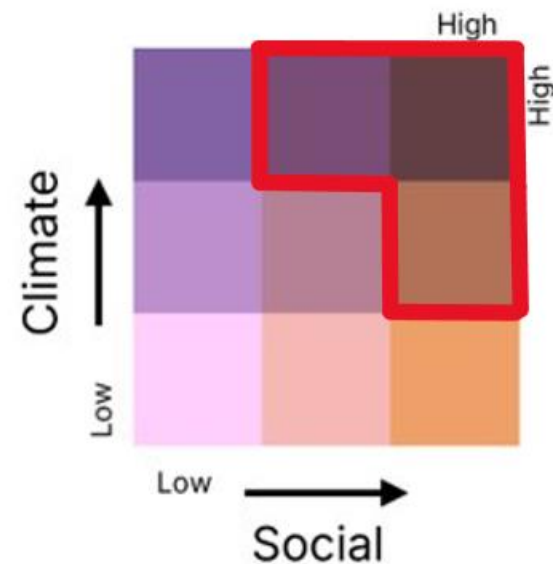
- **Vulnerable Population:** A subgroup of population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts. *(Note: tribes are considered vulnerable populations).*
- Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation have developed a map for applicants to use: <https://vcp.lci.ca.gov/>
- Guide to use the map: <https://tinyurl.com/547a5suv>



# Vulnerable Communities Platform

Combines climate risk and social vulnerability to identify priority areas for adaptation.

- To be counted towards the 40% set-aside, projects must rank high in one area and at least medium in the other.



Example: Sea Level Rise + Social Vulnerability



# Pop Up Poll #2

Following today's overview of Proposition 4, what additional support, resources, or information would be helpful?

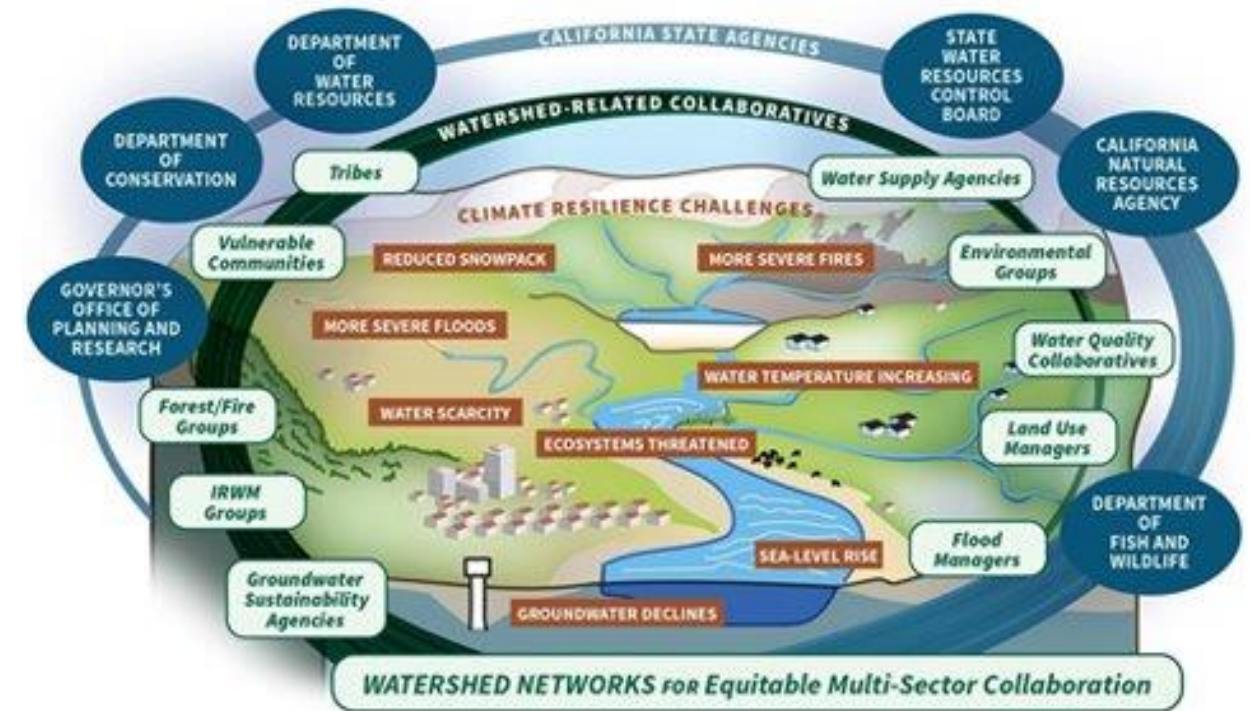


# Watershed Resilience Grant Program



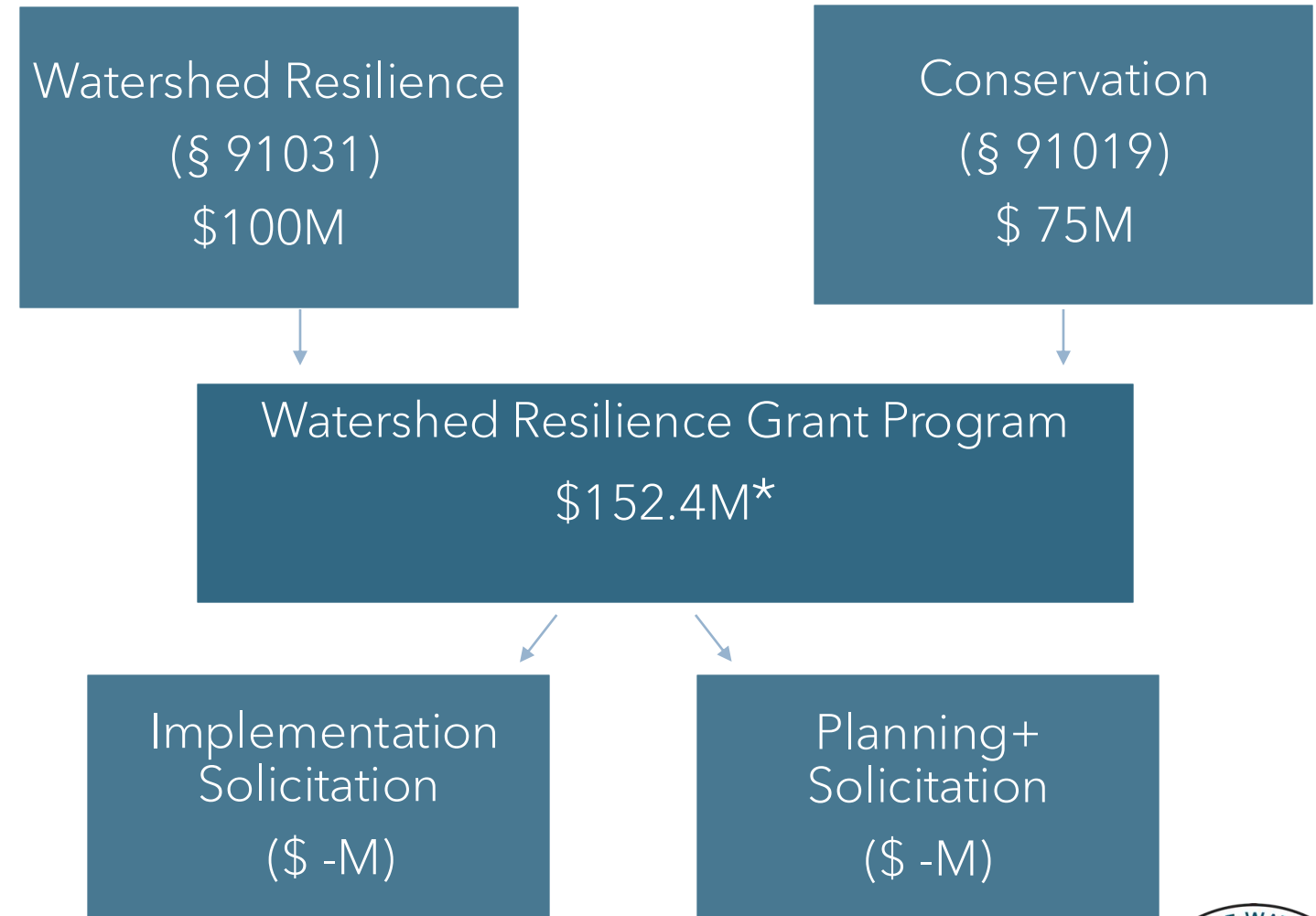
# Genesis of Watershed Resilience Grant Program

- Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program
- California Water Plan 2023
  - Climate Change
  - Equity
  - Watershed-Based Planning
- Watershed Resilience Pilot Projects
- SB-72
- California Water Plan 2028



# Available Funding

- The program includes two funding sources under Proposition 4.
- Funding will support two solicitations:
  - Early Action Implementation
  - Planning+
- Amount for each solicitation is to be determined.

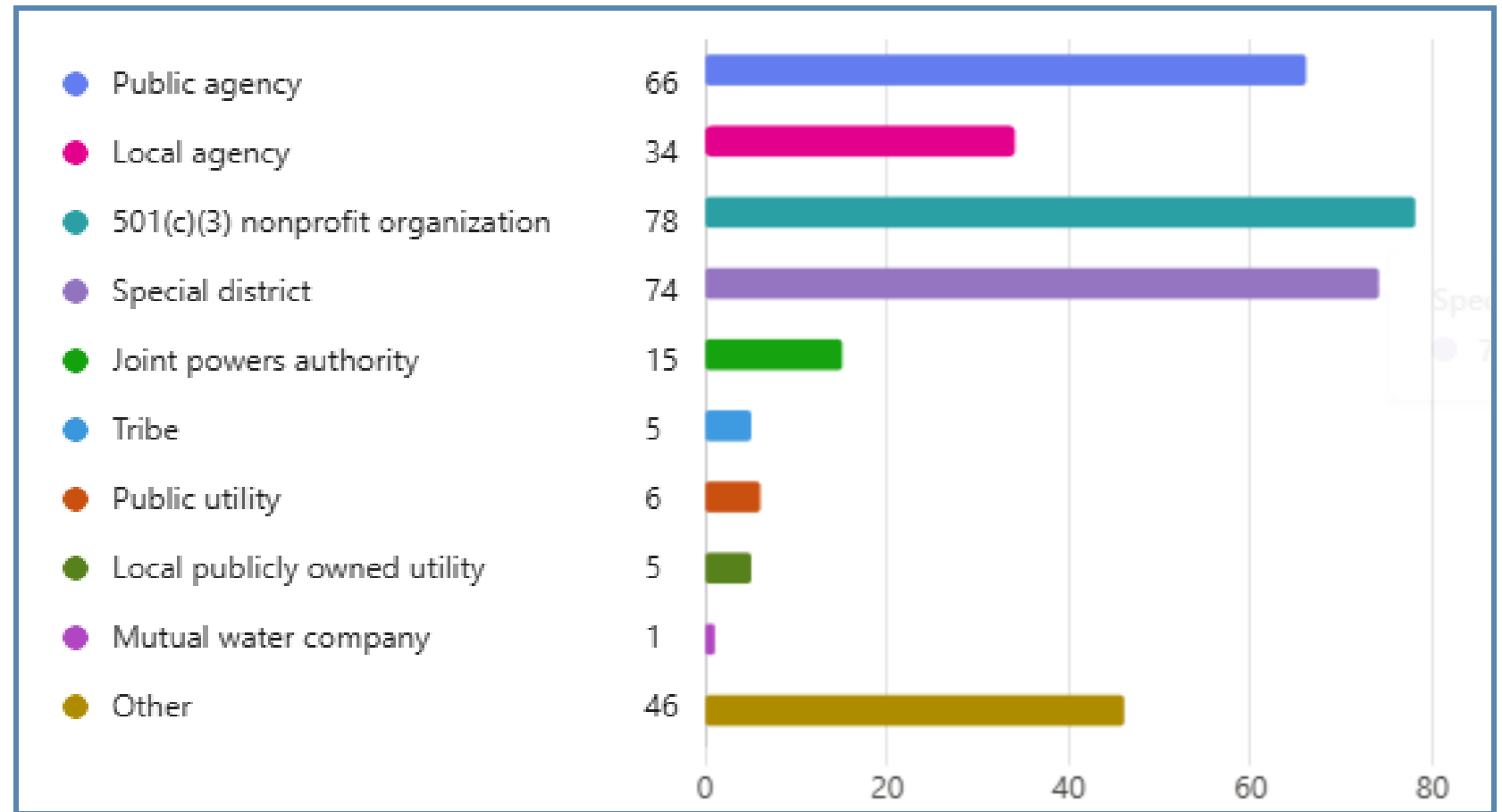


\*Amount available for local assistance



# Survey Results

- 332 responses
- Throughout this presentation, we will indicate where survey input has been used with a

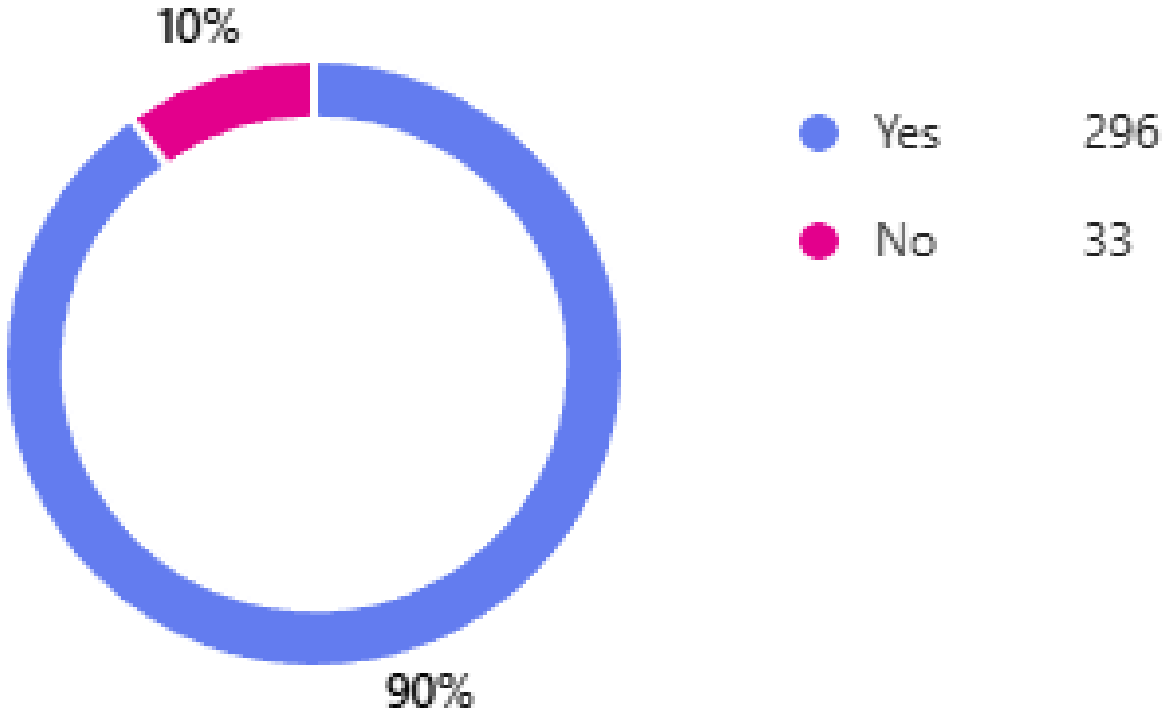


# Solicitations Format

- Two-Step Application Process
  - Step 1: concept proposal; Step 2: full application
  - Strongest concept proposals will be invited to submit full application
- 60-day Public Comment Period
- Inclusion of a pre-application workshop



### Respondent preference for a 2-step application process



# Implementation Solicitation

- Eligible Applications
    - Applicants must apply on behalf of a collaborative group that has vetted projects.
  - Eligible Projects
    - Conservation: Projects with a primary benefit of water savings.
    - Watershed Resilience: Projects related to integrated regional water management which improve climate resilience on a watershed basis.
  - No cost share requirement
- Program Priorities will include:
    - Bond Requirements:
      - Projects that leverage funds.
      - Projects that consult/use California Conservation Corps.
    - Climate Change
    - Equity




# Pop Up Poll #3

What is the anticipated timeline for completing a Watershed Resilience Implementation Project, from date of award to closeout?

- A. 5 years
- B. 6 years
- C. 7 years



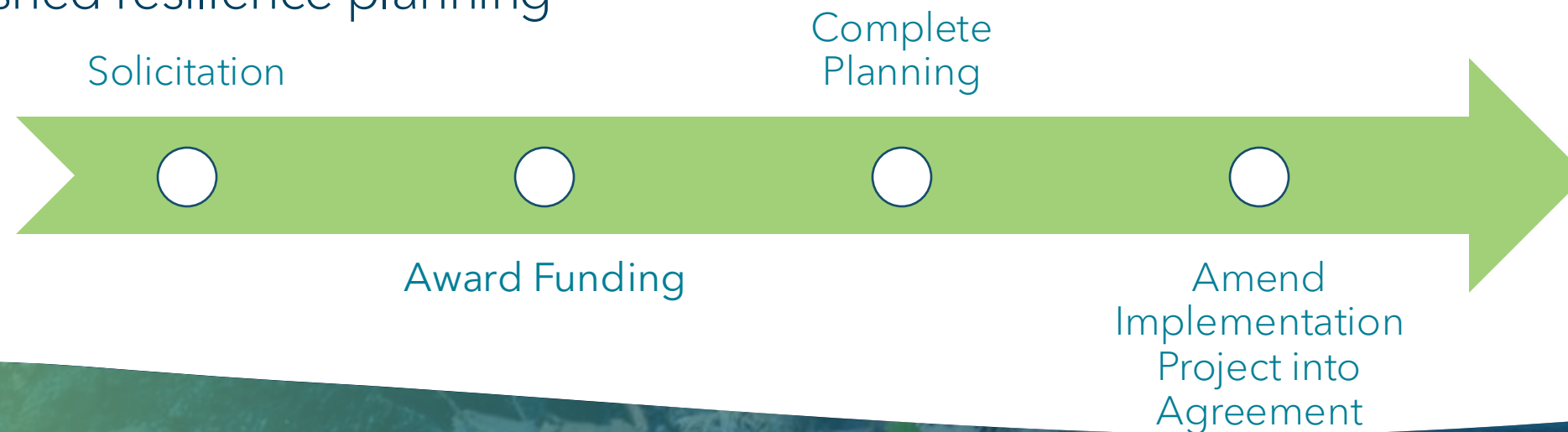
# Watershed Resilience – Planning + Solicitation

- Eligible Projects:
  - Watershed Resilience Plans with implementation of a high-priority project
  - Completing/expanding work in existing plans
- Application Award Size: approx. \$8 million
- No Cost Share 



# Watershed Resilience Planning + Solicitation Process

- Approx. \$3 million available for Watershed Resilience Plan development.
- Approx. \$5 million for immediate implementation of the highest priority project(s) identified in the plan.
  - Final award amount based on cost estimates, DWR approval, and bond language compliance
  - Funding will be awarded upfront, but the project must be selected based on completion of watershed resilience planning



# Pop Up Poll #4

DWR is still considering the allocation (of \$152.4 million) between the Early Action Implementation and Planning+ solicitations.

How you think the funding should be allocated:

- A. *Planning+* should have more funding.
- B. *Early Action Implementation* should have more funding.
- C. Allocate funding equally between *Planning+* and *Early Action Implementation* Solicitations.



# Next Steps

- Finalize schedule based on feedback from today
- Develop draft Guidelines for public release
- Expect at least two more workshops



# Contact Resources

- E-mail Address: [financialassistance@water.ca.gov](mailto:financialassistance@water.ca.gov)
- Watershed Resilience Program Webpage:
  - <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/watershed-resilience-program>





Thank You!  
Questions?





# 15 Minute Break



# Sustainable Groundwater Management Program



# Bond Requirements for Sustainable Groundwater

- Minimum of \$25 million for Tribes
- Minimum of 40% of bond funds must go to projects directly benefitting disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations
- \$386.25 million\* Available, split into two components:
- \$193.125 million - Projects that support SGMA implementation, and:
  - Increase groundwater storage
  - Improve the management and operation of groundwater storage
  - Improve groundwater banking
- \$193.125 million - Projects that support conjunctive use and groundwater recharge and:
  - Provide improved regional watershed management
  - Address current and projected drought conditions and demonstrate adaptation to climate change for a region
  - Provide ecosystem benefits to fish and wildlife and improve stream flow for anadromous fish



\*Bond Section Totals include state operation and bond costs and do not reflect local assistance totals

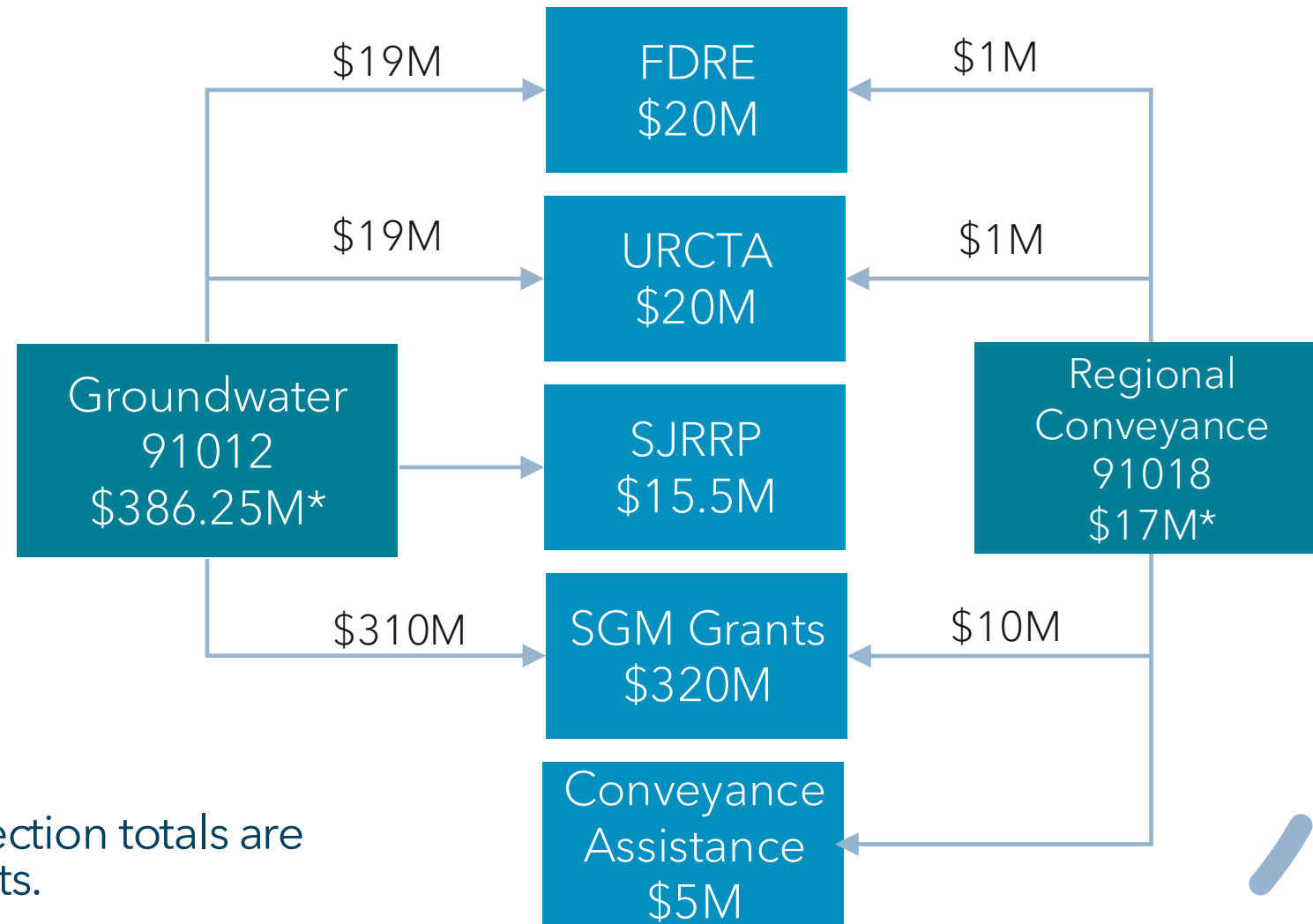
# Proposed Sustainable Groundwater Programs

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Grant Program
- Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement (FDRE) Assistance Program
- Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance (URCTA) Program
- San Joaquin River Restoration Program



# Available Funding\*

- Two bond sections will be split across five programs



\*Presented dollars are estimates. Bond Section totals are inclusive of state operation and bond costs.



# SGM Implementation Grants Program

- **Program Summary:**

- Funding efforts that advance GSP implementation.

- **Statewide SGMA Listening Sessions (Nov 2023 - March 2025)**

Key Findings Demonstrated a Need for:

- SGMA Compliance Support
- Filling Data Gaps
- Application Efficiency
- Inter-Agency Coordination



# SGM Implementation Grants Funding Priority Breakdown

- **Potential Program Priorities:**

- Recharge/Conjunctive Use Projects
- Subsidence BMP Implementation Actions
- Addressing DWR Recommended Corrective Actions
- Ag Land Adaptation Projects
- Conveyance Projects
- Other Implementation Projects



# Pop Up Poll #5

- Rank the proposed program priorities in order of importance to your work? Rate on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the most important.
  - Recharge/Conjunctive Use Projects
  - Subsidence BMP Implementation Actions
  - Addressing DWR Recommended Corrective Actions
  - Ag Land Adaptation Projects
  - Conveyance Projects



# Pop Up Poll #6

- Are there examples of other project types that would benefit the basin to advance sustainable groundwater management?



# Pop Up Poll #7

How ready are your projects to break ground?

- A. Ready to start construction/implementation upon award of funding (CEQA is complete)
- B. Project(s) have acquired most major permits and CEQA is nearly complete
- C. Early-stage planning
- D. Planning has not yet started



# Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement

- **Program Summary:**

- Technical assistance to help streamline recharge projects pursuing grant funding
- Per Prop 4, technical assistance must benefit: disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities, or vulnerable populations

- **Potential Activities:**

- Provide flood diversion threshold guidance to comply with 1242.1
- Temporary permit support
- Project permitting support; coordination with permitting agencies
- FIRO-MAR Pilots



# Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance Program

- **Program Summary:**

- Direct technical assistance to GSAs upon request
- Help address the needs of the GSAs and build connections between GSA management and vulnerable communities.

- **Potential Activities:**

- Well Mitigation Plan Development and Community Outreach
- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Threshold Support
- Small Farm Assistance, Engagement, and Education
- Local Financing Plan Support
- Tribal Support and Engagement



# Proposed Appropriations FY 26/27

- \$15.5 million to the East Rock Ramp project in the San Joaquin River Restoration Program.
- The project will allow salmon and other native fish passage through the structure.
- Helps support sustainable groundwater management by making San Joaquin River water more reliable.



# Legislative Direction

- In 2025, the legislature appropriated money for two specific purposes:
  - \$3.5 million for small groundwater sustainability agencies (defined as those that pump less than 10,000 acre-feet annually.)
  - \$6.5 million for the Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance Program



# Program Schedule

- Draft Guidelines by Fall 2026
- Potential accelerated schedule for Small GSAs





# Upcoming DWR Programs



# Dam Safety

- Approximately **\$228 million** is available for this cycle to support repairs, rehabilitation, and enhancements at state-jurisdictional dams.
- Public comment period will close at **5:00 p.m. on June 11, 2026**.
- [Website: https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Dam-Safety-and-Enhancements-Program](https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Dam-Safety-and-Enhancements-Program)
- Public Meetings & Workshops:
  - [Workshop #1 \(Program Overview\): Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 10:00 AM](#)
  - [Workshop #2 \(Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Community Tools\): Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 2:00 PM](#)



# Riverine Stewardship Draft Guidelines

- Comment period open until May 14th
- Link: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Regional-Water-Management/Riverine-Stewardship-Program>
- Other Upcoming Public Meetings (Zoom)
  - May 8 – Tribal-Only (2-3:30 pm)
  - May 11 – General Public (2-3:30 pm)



# Upcoming California Water Plan

- Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting May 4<sup>th</sup>
- Advisory Committee Meeting May 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>
- Website:  
<https://www.californiawaterplan.com/>



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**California Water Plan Advisory Committee Meeting**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is convening the first Advisory Committee meeting for the 2028 California Water Plan. The Advisory Committee is an appointed body, and all Committee meetings are open to the public.

This meeting will be held **in person** in Sacramento and will take place over two half-days: **May 13 and 14, 2026.**

To help us accommodate in-person participation, we are asking participants that plan to attend in-person to RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/ACmeeting1>

Additional meeting details will be shared soon.

Day One	Day Two
<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, May 13, 2026 <b>Time:</b> 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. <b>Location:</b> DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel; 2001 Point W Way, Sacramento, CA 95815	<b>Date:</b> Thursday, May 14, 2026 <b>Time:</b> 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. <b>Location:</b> DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel; 2001 Point W Way, Sacramento, CA 95815

If you have questions or would like to provide feedback, please contact: [cwpc@water.ca.gov](mailto:cwpc@water.ca.gov)

To learn more, visit [CaliforniaWaterPlan.com](https://www.californiawaterplan.com)



# Contact Resources

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Webpage:
  - <https://water.ca.gov/work-with-us/grants-and-loans/sustainable-groundwater>
- Watershed Resilience Program Webpage:
  - <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/watershed-resilience-program>
- E-mail Address: [financialassistance@water.ca.gov](mailto:financialassistance@water.ca.gov)
- Sign up for emails on meetings here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/2ru24r7b>

All Topics

Email \*

  
 DWR News Releases and Media Advisories  
 DWR California Water Plan eNews  
 DWR Water News  
 DWR Delta eNews  
 DWR Tribal Communication  
 DWR SB552 Drought Planning  
 DWR Flood News  
 DWR Urban Water Management Plan  
 DWR Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program  
 DWR Urban Funding and Grants  
 DWR Water Desalination Grant Program  
 DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management  
 DWR California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM)  
 DWR Water Grants  
 CVFPP E-Newsletter  
 DWR Urban Streams Restoration Program  
 Big Notch Project  
  
 By checking this box, you consent to our [data privacy policy](#). \*

Next





Thank You!  
Questions?



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- Please contact [financialassistance@water.ca.gov](mailto:financialassistance@water.ca.gov) with any questions.

