

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 2017 Groundwater Sustainability Plans and Projects Proposal Solicitation Package

| # | Topic  | Question   | Answer  |
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| 1 | Eligibility Documentation - Applicant Requirements | If the applicant GSA is a JPA or formed through a MOU, who must submit eligibility documentation as identified in Attachment 2 of the PSP?   | If the applicant GSA is a JPA or formed through a MOU, only the applicant GSA must submit the applicable eligibility documentation and is subject to continuing eligibility requirements. If other entities (e.g., member agencies of the JPA or MOU) are to be named in the grant agreement as project proponent or sub-grantees, then they also must submit the required eligibility documentation and would also be subject to continuing eligibility requirements.  |
| 2 | Eligibility Documentation - Applicant Requirements | If multiple GSAs exist within a basin, do all of the GSAs need to submit eligibility documentation to demonstrate compliance?  | Only the applicant GSA to be named as the grantee or other GSAs, or member agencies of the GSA, to be named in the grant agreement as project proponents or sub-grantees named in the agreement must submit the applicable eligibility documentation and are subject to continuing eligibility requirements.  |
| 3 | Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) Compliance      | Who must meet eligibility criteria presented in the 2015 SGWP Guidelines regarding Groundwater Management Plans in compliance with Water Code Section 10753.7?   | Applicants proposing implementation projects that directly affect groundwater levels or quality must meet this eligibility criteria. Therefore, planning activities associated with Category 2 projects would not require GWMP Compliance. However, implementation projects identified under Category 1 that directly affect groundwater levels or quality must meet this eligibility criteria.   |
| 4 | CASGEM Compliance                                  | Who must provide eligibility documentation as identified in Attachment 2 of the PSP for CASGEM?  | As stated in the 2015 Program Guidelines, Water Code Section 10927 identifies potential CASGEM monitoring entities. If the applicant is the CASGEM monitoring entity for the basin, the applicant should provide eligibility documentation. For the portion of high and medium priority basins that do not have a CASGEM monitoring entity, the grant applicant will not be eligible to receive grant funding (Water Code Section 10933.7(a)). Consistent with Water Codes Section 10933.7(b), if the applicant area is demonstrated to be a DAC, as defined in Appendix B of the 2015 Program Guidelines, the project will be considered eligible for grant funding notwithstanding CASGEM compliance.   |
| 5 | Define "Project" in reference to Category 2        | Please clarify the meaning of "project" for Category 2.  | The use of the term "project" when describing Category 2 is used to collectively refer to the planning and development activities associated with completing a GSP. All activities identified in the work plan must demonstrate the need for the project and how it will lead to development of a complete GSP compliant with the GSP Regulations.  |
| 6 | Release of Retention                               | The PSP states that the, "Final product for Category 2 Projects shall be complete GSP(s) approved by DWR that complies with all GSP regulations ... " DWR has two years to review a submitted GSP. Will DWR withhold final retention of funds until the GSP is approved?                                       | DWR will not withhold final retention on a Category 2 project until the GSP is approved. However, DWR will keep the contract with the grantee open for at least 3 years following the submittal of the GSP. DWR may request that grant funds plus interest be returned to the State should the GSP submitted by the grantee be deemed inadequate by DWR.  |
| 7 | Cost Share - Waiver or Reduction                   | Are there various levels of cost-share reduction among the various types of disadvantaged communities (e.g. SDAC, DAC, EDA)? If so, what are those levels or how will the reduction be determined? What method will be applied for this grant solicitation to determine the waiver or reduction in cost share? | There are not various levels of cost-share reduction among the various types of disadvantaged communities (e.g., SDAC, DAC, EDA). Category 1 projects by definition must serve Severely Disadvantaged Communities and would receive a waiver. For Category 2 projects, the PSP identifies specific information that must be provided to receive a cost share waiver or reduction. Applicants should consult the Final PSP for final language. If requesting a waiver or cost share reduction, applicants should verify that their application consists of all the required supporting documentation as defined in the Final PSP. DWR will use the project service area as the basis for proportioning the projects into DAC/non-DAC, SDAC/non-SDAC, or EDA/non-EDA segments (where the "project service area" is equivalent to the GSP service area for Category 2 projects in this PSP). If 50% or more of the project service area is made up of DAC, SDAC, or EDA segments, the grant applicant may receive a complete waiver, given that all the required information identified in the PSP is provided. If less than 50% of the project service area is made up of DAC, SDAC, or EDA segments, the grant applicant may receive a 50% reduction in cost share, given that all the required information identified in the PSP is provided. |
| 8 | Probationary                                       | Please clarify what basins are determined to be probationary and if unmanaged areas are considered probationary under SGMA by State Water Resources Control Board?   | "Probationary" and "unmanaged areas" are defined differently by the State Water Resources Control Board. Please read the State Water Resources Control Board FAQ on State Intervention for further clarification at: <a href="http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/docs/intervention/intervention_fs.pdf">http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/docs/intervention/intervention_fs.pdf</a> .  |

As of August 3, 2017