

# Water Boards

## CalEPA Tribal Advisory Committee Report

### September 2024-January 2025

#### For More Information:

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#### Announcements

#### New Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs

As of December 2024, the Water Boards Office of Public Participation (OPP) was restructured into a new office, named the Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs (OPEETA). This change reflects the expanded scope of our work and the need to ensure these efforts are elevated and clearly defined within our organization. All staff previously in the Office of Public Participation are now part of this new office under the leadership of Adriana Renteria.

#### Reason for the Change:

In 2021, the Board combined the Office of Public Affairs and the Office of Public Participation under the new Communications Office. While this structure made sense at the time, recent developments—such as new Executive Orders, legislative changes, and the Board’s racial equity and tribal efforts—expanded the Office of Public Participation’s role beyond what this configuration was originally intended to support. The restructure elevates the office’s importance and better aligns our operations with these developments.

#### Reasons for New Office Name:

- **Public engagement** reflects a broader, more inclusive approach than participation, focusing on meaningful, ongoing dialogue and collaboration with communities. It emphasizes the Board’s commitment to building lasting relationships and engaging the public in shaping decisions and outcomes.
- **Equity** highlights the Board’s focus on addressing systemic inequities and ensuring all voices, especially historically marginalized ones, are heard. It also reflects our commitment to workforce equity and creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all employees.
- **Tribal affairs** acknowledges the distinct political and sovereign status of California Native American tribes. Separating tribal affairs from public engagement recognizes that tribes are not stakeholders but sovereign governments, requiring dedicated efforts to honor their sovereignty and to build government-to-government partnerships.

These adjustments aim to respond to feedback from employees, communities, and California Native American tribes. The changes clarify roles, reinforce Board priorities, and strengthen our commitment to environmental justice, public engagement, workforce equity, and strengthening tribal relations.

## Welcome New Tribal Affairs Staff

Water Boards welcomes two new staff to the Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs.

**Nathan Blacksmith** is our new **Tribal Affairs Program Manager**. This is a new position that was established to help provide statewide coordination on tribal affairs efforts at the Water Boards. Nate will be helping us revise our tribal consultation policy and guidelines, revise and develop tribal trainings and resources, support tribal beneficial use designations, and support Tribal Coordinators.

**Vanessa Soto** is our new **Tribal Affairs Specialist**. This position will be working on supporting tribal drinking water projects, coordinating the Cultural Heritage Pavilion at Native American Day, and supporting the tribal affairs program.

### Nathan Blacksmith



Nathan Blacksmith, an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation in South Dakota, brings a wealth of experience in leadership, traditional healing practices, and community engagement. As a second-generation urban American Indian, Nathan's background is deeply informed by his family's participation in the Indian Relocation Act of 1956, which relocated them from the Lake Traverse Reservation to Oakland, California. This unique experience has given him an understanding of the complex relationships between Native communities and government entities.

Nathan holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with an emphasis in leadership and a Bachelor's degree in psychology. As Chief Traditional Health Officer at the Sacramento Native American Health Center, Nathan successfully led efforts to assess and incorporate traditional healing practices into clinical care. His work as Deputy Director for the Friendship House Association of American Indians further solidified his expertise in navigating both cultural and governmental frameworks, particularly in substance use disorder treatment.

Nathan's extensive experience in both healthcare and community leadership will be instrumental in fostering stronger, culturally respectful relationships between the state and California tribes. His commitment to traditional healing and cultural preservation, combined with his ability to bridge diverse systems, positions him as an advocate for effective and culturally informed policy development and collaboration. Nathan also continues to serve on the Board of Directors for the Bay Area Native American Health Center, where he remains dedicated to promoting the well-being of Native communities across the state.

## Vanessa Soto



Over the last 10 years, Vanessa Baiz Soto has worked toward the Human Right to Water and is deeply committed to equitable engagement and solutions with a proven track record of ensuring that all voices are represented in critical decision-making processes. Her educational background is in Comparative Ethnic Studies, equipping her with the tools to critically analyze institutional and social structures and their impacts on marginalized communities over time. Her training has laid the foundation for a clear understanding of the disproportionate burden these structures have on BIPOC communities, enabling her to integrate this knowledge into her work.

Vanessa has been with the State Water Board since 2020 working under the SAFER Drinking Water program to lead community outreach efforts for complex and high-profile projects. Her ability to facilitate discussions among diverse stakeholders has been pivotal in building trust and driving impactful outcomes within disadvantaged communities throughout California. Vanessa has also led the application, appointment, and onboarding processes for the SAFER Advisory Group since 2020.

Before her role at the State Water Board, Vanessa worked at Self-Help Enterprises, where she led emergency drinking water initiatives in the Central Valley. She worked to provide immediate solutions for households without access to water and implemented interim drinking water projects for schools facing water quality and access challenges through Point-of-Use (POU) and Point-of-Entry (POE) systems.

Vanessa's extensive experience in leading equitable community engagement initiatives, managing cross-agency collaborations, and overseeing program evaluation efforts within the framework of California's regulatory landscape will support the ongoing relationship building and meaningful collaboration with California tribes to facilitate sustainable drinking water solutions.

## Engagement & Key Priority Projects

### Updating the Water Boards Tribal Contact List

In the months of January and February, Water Boards staff will be reaching out to all California Native American tribes to confirm their contact information and the designated tribal consultation officials for their tribe. The goal of this project is to ensure we update and maintain a current list of tribal contact information so that all ten Water Boards can better engage and consult with tribes.

The phone call outreach that tribal affairs staff will conduct will be guided by the Water Boards Tribal Consultation Policy principles, supporting a respectful, trust building, inclusive and reciprocal exchange. Concluding phone outreach, a list of Water Boards tribal-related resources will be provided as a component of this outreach effort. By sharing these Water Boards tribal-related resources, we aim practice reciprocity and ensure the process demonstrates respect for tribal sovereignty and self-governance.

The Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs (OPEETA) aims to conduct this tribal outreach campaign on an annual basis to build authentic, respectful, and mutually beneficial relationships with California Native American tribes and tribal communities. Through this effort we hope to continue recognizing and honoring California Native American tribes' unique history, culture and demonstrating respect of their inherent right to sovereignty and self-governance.

### Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creeks Instream Flows

Instream flow requirements are legal or regulatory limits set to ensure a minimum amount of water stays in rivers or streams to support ecosystems, fish and wildlife habitats, water quality, and recreational activities. These requirements balance environmental protection with water use for human needs.

Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creeks support fish populations of Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead. Loss of habitat and low availability of water is putting these species at risk of extinction, and both are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. To protect these populations, Governor Newsom directed the State Water Board to study possible flows in Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creeks as part of the [California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future](#).

The State Water Board is in the process of establishing instream flow requirements for Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creeks based on recommendations from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). These requirements would inform a long-term instream flow-setting process to support native fish species (including Chinook salmon, Steelhead, and Pacific Lamprey) and year-round ecological stream function in these critical tributaries to the Sacramento River.

Insufficient instream flow in Mill, Deer and Antelope Creeks has been identified by CDFW as a key stressor impacting the viability of spring-run Chinook salmon and Steelhead. Low instream flow conditions in these creeks can impede or prevent migration during critical passage periods resulting in reduced ecological stream function and productivity.

State Water Board staff are reviewing the recommendations to understand the scientific basis for how they would protect beneficial uses. Staff held a public workshop on December 9, 2024, to discuss the scientific basis report and the comment period ended on January 15, 2025. Following the end of the comment period, staff will complete a draft scientific basis report considering the input from the workshop and comments. Tribes are still encouraged to consult on this project if they are interested.

For more information on the Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creek instream flows and a recording of the recent workshop, visit: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bay\\_delta/mill-deer-antelope-creeks.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bay_delta/mill-deer-antelope-creeks.html)  
For more information on the Salmon Strategy, visit: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Salmon-Strategy-for-a-Hotter-Drier-Future.pdf>

## **Scott and Shasta Emergency Regulations**

The Scott and Shasta are important tributaries to the Klamath River, the second largest river in California. These rivers are crucial sources of water for Siskiyou County and have immense economic, ecological, and cultural importance. Siskiyou County is home to 43,500 people. The Scott and Shasta watersheds provide water for agriculture, domestic users, the environment, fire protection, municipalities, Tribal Nations, and recreation.

On May 10, 2021, Governor Newsom declared a [drought emergency](#) for 41 counties, including Siskiyou County, where accelerated action is needed to protect public health, safety, as well as the environment. During winter 2023, California received above-average precipitation across many parts of the state. On March 24, 2023, Governor Newsom signed an [executive order](#) removing emergency drought provisions in select watersheds. In the winter of 2022 and 2023, the Scott River (Scott) and Shasta River (Shasta) watersheds did not receive the same degree of precipitation as other parts of the state. The Klamath River watershed was not included in this order and is still subject to the 2021 drought proclamation and emergency provisions. On May 23, 2023, the Karuk Tribe of California, Environmental Law Foundation, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, and Institute for Fisheries Resources submitted a petition for rulemaking to the State Water Board requesting a permanent regulation establishing minimum flows in the Scott. After an August 15, 2023, hearing on the petition, the State Water Board directed Division of Water Rights staff to

- *Move forward with an emergency regulation.*
- *Identify the scientific work needed to pursue long-term flows in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds and update the Board on that work.*

On December 19, 2023, the State Water Board adopted a new emergency regulation for the Scott and Shasta River Watersheds. The Office of Administrative Law approved the emergency regulation on February 1, 2024, and is in effect for one year, unless re-adopted or rescinded. The regulations establish a process for determining whether flows in the watershed are sufficient to support all water rights and authorize curtailments of diversions where flows are insufficient to protect fish and minimum health and safety needs. The emergency regulations provide for local cooperative solutions (LCSs), which allow water right holders to propose alternatives to curtailments. Local cooperative solutions may be watershed-wide, tributary-wide, related to an individual water right, or related to adjudicated groundwater. On March 12, State Water Board staff provided an overview of the on the local cooperative solutions in Etna, CA. On February 15th, Water Board staff hosted a webinar on the Scott Valley Integrated Hydrologic Model (SVIHM), a new model developed to support water management in the Scott Valley. On January 7, 2025, the State Water Board readopted emergency regulations affecting water rights in the Scott and Shasta River watersheds for 2025.

For more information, visit: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott\\_shasta\\_rivers/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/)



## Bay Delta Plan

In late 2022, the State Water Board began preparing a Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document to update the Bay-Delta Plan. The Bay-Delta Plan identifies beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta watershed, water quality objectives for the reasonable protection of those beneficial uses, and a program of implementation to achieve those objectives. The project team sent notification letters to over 100 tribes with the opportunity to consult on the Bay-Delta Plan update. Notification letters were sent under either AB 52 or the Native American Heritage Commission contact list. In March, State Water Board hosted a listening session for California tribes and a separate listening session for environmental justice representatives and members of the public. A second tribal listening session took place on May 4<sup>th</sup> and a second environmental justice focused workshop took place on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. On July 7<sup>th</sup>, the Board held an informational item to discuss the incorporation of tribal beneficial uses into the Bay Delta Plan. A panel of tribal representatives shared testimonies on the importance of incorporating tribal beneficial uses into the Bay Delta Plan. In late 2023, the Board released the Draft Staff Report and in December, the Board held a series of public hearings to receive comments on the Draft Staff Report. In April 2024, the Board held a series of workshops focused on the Voluntary Agreements proposal with the purpose of receive input and answer questions on the Voluntary Agreements proposal. A number of tribal leaders and representatives provided testimony, presentations, and spoke on panels at both the December 2023 hearings and the April 2024 workshops on the Voluntary Agreement proposal.

A Program of Implementation, which comprises the regulatory text and voluntary agreements, was released in October 2024, followed by a 90-day comment period. During this time, Water Board staff held public workshops and tribal-specific workshops. The October 2024 draft Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan include regulatory provisions based on the Board's September 2023 draft Staff Report and provisions based on voluntary agreements (VAs) proposed by public water agencies and state and federal agencies known as the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Proposal.

State Water Board staff will hold a series of virtual technical working meetings to receive further input on the draft updates, beginning January 16, 2025. Each working meeting will be focused on a different topic and will provide a forum for informal discussion. A fifth Board workshop on the draft updates will be held January 23, 2025 in person in Sacramento or online via Zoom. This workshop will receive general comments about the draft update and will also focus on the Potential Provision to Protect Base Delta Outflows During Drought Periods (Alternative 5a) and the Potential Provision to Protect VA Flows (Alternative 6a). The State Water Board may consider adoption of the Program of Implementation in mid-2025. Workshops and working meetings do not replace consultations; staff welcome input from tribes outside of these meetings. The State Water Board has sent out letters with an opportunity to consult on the Bay Delta, and we welcome requests for government-to-government consultations.

For more information on the Bay-Delta Plan, including participation information about working meetings (see [announcement dated Jan 3](#)) and workshops, visit: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bay\\_delta/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bay_delta/)

### **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act**

In March 2023, the Department of Water Resources determined six subbasins have inadequate groundwater sustainability plans, meaning they are not sufficient to meet the sustainability objectives outlined in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in three key areas: groundwater levels, land subsidence, and water quality. The State Water Board is intervening to manage these basins and will determine their status through a series of probationary hearings. Through the intervention process, the Board will identify each plan's deficiencies and actions that groundwater sustainability agencies can take to address them. These subbasins include:

- Tulare Lake Subbasin in Kings County
- Tule Subbasin in Tulare County
- Kaweah Subbasin in Tulare and Kings Counties
- Kern Subbasin in Kern County
- Delta-Mendota Subbasin in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, Madera, and San Benito Counties
- Chowchilla Subbasin in Madera and Merced Counties

The following are updates in specific basins:

- Tulare Lake: Draft staff report was released in October 2023, followed by two public workshops in November 2023. The State Water Board designated the subbasin as probationary at the hearing on April 16, 2024, after which the reporting and fee requirements were announced. Implementation of groundwater pumping reporting requirements is currently on hold for Tulare Lake due to ongoing litigation.
- Tule: Draft staff report was released in March 2024, public workshops held April 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in Porterville. The State Water Board designated the subbasin as probationary at the hearing on September 17, 2024.
- Kaweah: The probationary hearing scheduled for the Kaweah subbasin on January 7, 2025, has been cancelled to allow staff to continue to complete a thorough review of amended groundwater sustainability plans.
- Kern: Public workshops were held August 26, 2024 (virtually) and August 29, 2024. The probationary hearing for the Kern subbasin will be held on February 20, 2025.

Prior to each hearing, staff issue a public notice, hold public workshops, and accept public comments. Tribes that are located within the boundaries of a groundwater basin whose plan has been deemed as inadequate will receive letters from the State Water Board with the opportunity to consult. More information and updates are available at: [waterboards.ca.gov/sgma](https://waterboards.ca.gov/sgma)

## **SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program San Francisco Region Realignment (2024-2026)**

In 2024, the three-year Realignment Process began in the [San Francisco Region](#), which is intended to complement other efforts such as regional monitoring plans, fish consumption advisory development, and the Region's [tribal beneficial use designation process](#). Five advisory workshops were held between Feb and Oct 2024 to kick-off the process and discuss data and information gaps that tribes and community-based organizations in the Region would like to see filled through the Realignment and other SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program efforts over the coming years. Based on the feedback that was received, a Realignment Monitoring Plan was developed and will be available on the Program Realignment Webpage in the coming weeks. Tribes within the San Francisco Region with questions about this effort or who would like to participate in future Advisory Workshops – please contact Anna Holder, Realignment Program Coordinator, at [anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov).

For more information, visit the [Program Realignment Webpage](#).

### **Tribally-centered Bioaccumulation Monitoring Training Series**

The [SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program](#), in partnership with [California Indian Environmental Alliance](#), completed the tribally-centered Bioaccumulation Monitoring Training Series in December 2024. The purpose of this training series is to support California Native American Tribes in developing programs in the areas of bioaccumulation monitoring, data analysis, and data use processes, and enable Tribes and other bioaccumulation monitoring groups to adopt those processes into their workflows and more easily partner with SWAMP and the [Safe to Eat Workgroup](#). A total of 6 courses were offered throughout the year. Over 75 tribal representatives, representing over 50 tribes throughout all nine [Water Board Regions](#) registered for or attended one or more trainings.

If you attended a training or reviewed resources after a training - please consider [completing this survey](#) to share your feedback with us so we can continue to improve future trainings and other tribally-centered resources!

For more information and to access slides and recordings of all past trainings, visit the [Training Series Webpage](#).



## Tribal Beneficial Uses

The Water Boards recognize our parallel relationship to the people we serve, and we value tribes' traditional ecological knowledge and historic experience with managing California's water resources since time immemorial. To recognize the unique ways that tribes and tribal communities utilize water, the State Water Board adopted definitions for Tribal Beneficial Uses of water in 2017. Tribal Beneficial Uses provide a water quality safety measure that considers the specific uses of water by individuals, households, or communities of California tribes. The nine Regional Water Boards are all at different stages of working with tribes to protect water quality for tribal tradition, culture, and subsistence fishing.

### Statewide Tribal Beneficial Uses Updates:

| Region / Division              | Current Status  |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Region 1—<br>North Coast       | In 2003, the State Water Board approved the North Coast Regional Water Board's definitions that protect Native American Culture and Subsistence Fishing. These definitions were developed in partnership with tribes within the North Coast and predate the tribal beneficial use definitions adopted by the State Water Board in 2017. The 2023 Triennial Review Draft Staff Report reaffirms the priority status of tribal beneficial uses and is scheduled for a North Coast Regional Water Board Hearing in April 2024. The North Coast Region is currently collaborating with tribes to provide input and guidance on whether existing North Coast Regional Water Board or State Water Board definitions would better serve their needs. |
| Region 2—<br>San Francisco Bay | The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board's 2021 Triennial Review identified tribal and subsistence beneficial uses designations as a priority project for the next three years. Five tribes submitted letters of support during the Triennial Review and five tribes have consulted with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board. Currently working to engage with tribes and adopt tribal beneficial use definitions into the basin plan. A draft tribal cultural use basin plan amendment is expected by the end of the calendar year 2024.  |
| Region 3—<br>Central Coast     | The Central Coast Regional Water Board adopted <a href="#">Racial Equity Resolution No. R3-2023-0002</a> which directs staff to prioritize the process to adopt Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB), and Subsistence Fishing (SUB) beneficial uses into the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Basin. The Central Coast Regional Water Board will consider adopting a Basin Plan amendment to include TBU definitions at the <a href="#">June 2024 meeting</a> .   |
| Region 4—<br>Los Angeles       | The Los Angeles Regional Water Board's adoption of tribal beneficial use definitions into the Region's basin plan was approved by the State Water Board and Office of Administrative Law on October 18, 2022, and April 3,  |

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|                             | 2023, respectively. The Los Angeles Region is currently consulting with tribes and expanding tribal engagement throughout the region.   |
| Region 5—<br>Central Valley | The Central Valley Regional Water Boards’s adoption of Tribal Tradition and Culture, Tribal Subsistence Fishing, and Subsistence Fishing beneficial use definitions into the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin Plan and Tulare Lake Basin Plan was approved by State Water Board on September 7, 2022. Staff submitted the tribal beneficial uses definitions Administrative Record to the Office of Administrative Law on October 30, 2023, and upon approval will be submitted to U.S. EPA for review and approval. The Central Valley Region is continuing to consult with individual tribes who submitted, or are planning to submit, tribal beneficial use designation requests and will continue to host semi-annual, tribal-only project update meetings.   |
| Region 6—<br>Lahontan       | The Lahontan Water Board incorporated tribal beneficial use definitions into the Region’s Basin Plan in 2021. Designating tribal beneficial uses was assigned a high priority for the 2022 Triennial Review. A Basin Plan Amendment to designate tribal beneficial uses in the Mono Lake Basin (Mono Basin BPA) is being developed in coordination with the Mono Lake Kutzadika’a and other local tribes. Staff held a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting on February 9, 2023, to receive input on the scope of the environmental analysis for the Mono Basin BPA. In December 2023, Lahontan Regional Water Board staff held two tribal listening session (hosted by the Bishop Paiute Tribe) to discuss progress and challenges in developing tribal beneficial uses. The first listening session was with the members of the Mono Lake Kutzadika’a Tribe and focused on progress and challenges in developing the Mono Lake Basin tribal beneficial use designations. The second listening session included members of the Mono Lake Kutzadika’a, the Bishop Paiute Tribe, Big Pine Paiute Tribe, and the Lone Pine Paiute Tribe and included discussion on the Mono Lake Basin tribal beneficial use designations as well as future tribal beneficial use designations outside of the Mono Lake Basin. The Lahontan Water Board held a public hearing to receive comments on the Mono Basin BPA in April 2024, and will consider adoption of the Mono Basin BPA at a subsequent Board Meeting. |
| Region 7—<br>Colorado River | The Colorado River Regional Water Board is in the public process for the Tribal Beneficial Uses, Statewide Mercury Provisions, and Administrative Updates Basin Plan Amendment. Staff held a workshop during the April 9, 2024 board meeting. A 30-day comment period ran from March 25, 2024 to April 26, 2024. No comments were received during the comment period or workshop. An adoption hearing for the basin plan amendment is scheduled for June 11, 2024.  |
| Region 8—<br>Santa Ana      | The Santa Ana Regional Water Board’s 2024 Triennial Review is currently in progress. The Santa Ana Region plans to adopt TBU definitions into the   |

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|  | Region's basin plan and engage with tribes as part of the basin plan amendment process.   |
| Region 9—<br>San Diego                               | The San Diego Regional Water Board's 2021 Triennial Review prioritized designating waters with tribal beneficial uses as a priority project. In 2021, State Water Board approved adoption of tribal beneficial uses definitions for San Diego Regional Water Board Basin Plan. A Tribal Beneficial Uses Work Group consisting of tribal representatives and Regional Board staff have met monthly in 2023 to work on designating San Diego region surface waters with CUL and T-SUB uses. |
| Division of<br>Water<br>Rights—<br>Bay Delta<br>Plan | Incorporation of tribal beneficial uses were included as part of the Draft Staff Report in support of proposed updates to the Bay-Delta Plan for the Sacramento/Delta. Tribal panel presentations provided input and feedback directly to the Board on the first day of public hearing, November 17, 2023. The comment period closed on January 19, 2024. The updates to the Bay Delta Plan include incorporation of CUL.   |

Tribal Beneficial Uses resources:

- [Regional tribal coordinator contact information](#)
- [Tribal Beneficial Uses webpage](#)

## Available Funding Programs

| Funding Program  | What's funded  | Link                 |
|--|--|----------------------|
| <b>SAFER Drinking Water Program</b>  | Emergency drinking water (e.g., bottled water or hauled water),<br>Temporary connection to safe drinking water sources,<br>Point-of-use or point-of-entry treatment systems,<br>Technical assistance with planning, budgets, and review of proposed project alternatives,<br>Compliance audits and troubleshooting to address permit violations or operations,<br>Assistance with community outreach, awareness, and education,<br>Training and developing technical and managerial staff,<br>Operations and maintenance costs,<br>Drinking water infrastructure improvements and upgrades,<br>Drilling wells into uncontaminated aquifers, and<br>Consolidation and regionalization (e.g., linking smaller systems into larger ones). | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| <b>Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)</b>                              | Provides low-cost financing for a variety of water quality projects.<br>Capable of financing projects from <\$1 million to >\$100 million.   | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| <b>Domestic Wells and State Small Water Systems</b>                          | Support state small water systems, domestic wells, and other self-supplied communities.  | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| <b>Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)</b>                           | Finances the cost of drinking water infrastructure projects needed to achieve or maintain compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements for public water systems.  | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| <b>Drought Response Funding</b>  | Drought-related urgent drinking water needs.<br>Long-term resilience planning and implementation.  | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| <b>Office of Sustainable Water Solutions Small Community Funding Program</b> | For small, disadvantaged communities and small severely disadvantaged communities.<br>Provides low-interest loans and other financing mechanisms, such as grants or principal forgiveness for the planning,  | <a href="#">Link</a> |

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|   | design and construction of drinking water infrastructure projects, including: treatment systems, distribution systems, interconnections, consolidations, pipeline extensions, water sources, and water meters.  |                      |
| <b>Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Funding</b> | Available for technical and financial assistance to drinking water systems to address PFAS in their water drinking water supply   | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| <b>Stormwater</b>   | Stormwater and dry weather runoff projects that best advance the Water Board's policy goals of improving water quality and realizing multiple benefits from the use of storm water and dry weather runoff as a resource.  | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| <b>Technical Assistance</b>                               | For small, disadvantaged, communities (DACs)<br>Develop, fund, and implement eligible drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, or groundwater needs.<br>Coordination and development of capital improvement projects, facilitation of operation and maintenance, engineering and environmental analysis, legal assistance, leak detection/water audits, compliance audits, financial analysis, technical managerial and financial (TMF) assessments, and board or operator training. | <a href="#">Link</a> |
| <b>Wastewater</b>   | Strategies to assist small and/or disadvantaged communities with wastewater needs.  | <a href="#">Link</a> |