

SAFER Drinking Water Program

Adriana Renteria

*Director | Tribal Liaison
Office of Public Participation*

Presentation Overview



- Water Boards overview
- SAFER drinking water program
- Tribal drinking water workshops
- Questions



Office of the
Tribal Advisor

Office of Governor
GAVIN NEWSOM





Water Board's 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.

Why is the SAFER Program necessary?

Public water systems:

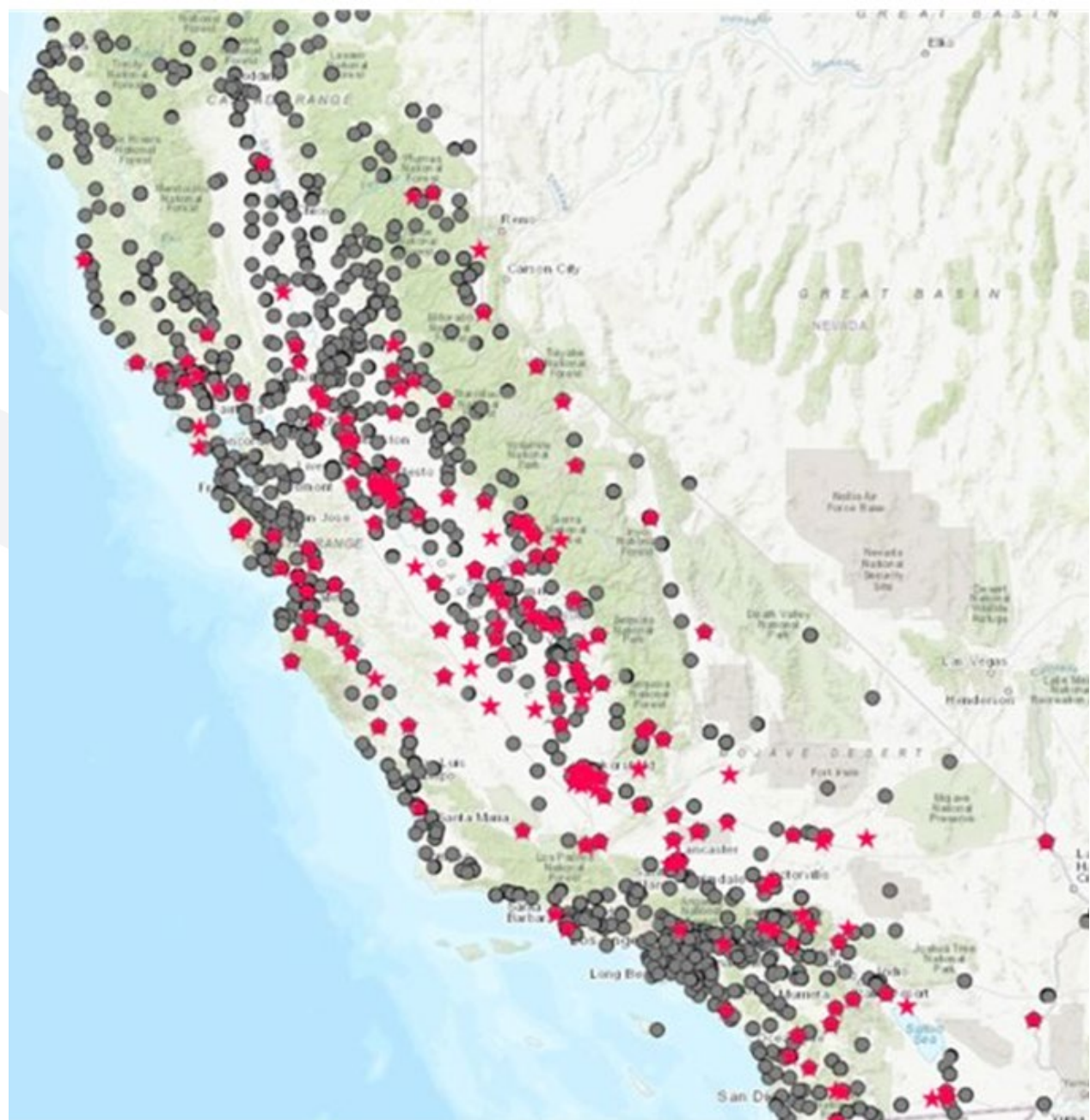
- ~7,000 water systems in California
- ~300 water systems do not meet drinking water health standards

Domestic wells and state smalls:

- ~350,000 domestic wells
- ~1,350 state smalls

Tribal water systems:

- 128 federally regulated tribal water systems
- 13 tribal water systems do not meet drinking water health standards



SAFER DRINKING WATER

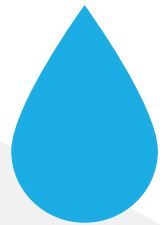
SAFE AND AFFORDABLE FUNDING FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE

The SAFER program supports permanent and sustainable drinking water solutions that ensure all Californians have access to safe, affordable, and reliable drinking water.

SAFER uses the following tools:



Annual drinking water needs assessment



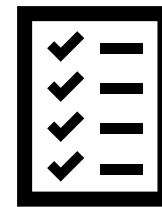
Comprehensive water system support



Community outreach and engagement



Funding sources



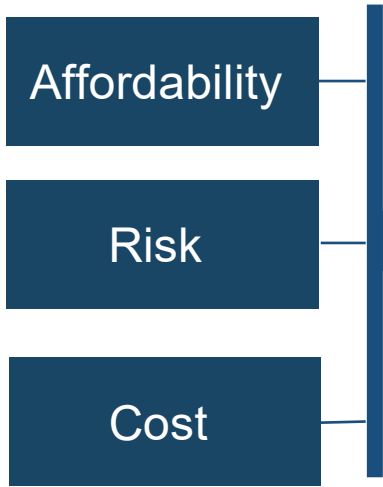
Regulatory authorities



SAFER Advisory Group

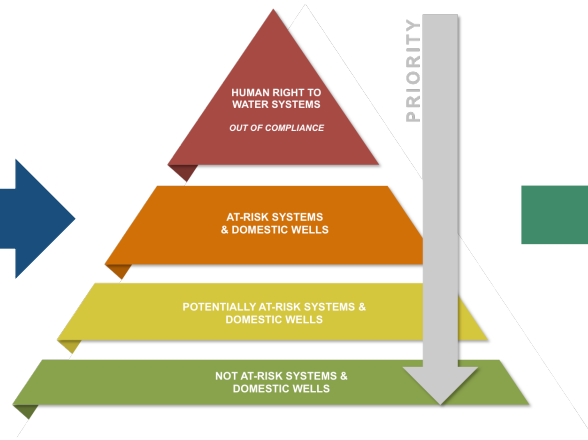
Process for Achieving Safe Drinking Water

NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Identify high-risk systems and areas

ANNUAL FUND EXPENDITURE PLAN



Prioritize funding

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION ASSISTANCE



Engage water system and community

LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION



Water system implements short and long term solutions



Current Fund Expenditure Plan Priorities



Address emergency or urgent funding needs, where other emergency funds are not available, and a critical water shortage or outage could occur.



Address community water systems and school water systems out of compliance with primary drinking water standards, with a focus on small disadvantaged communities (DACs).



Accelerate consolidations for systems out of compliance, at-risk systems, as well as state small water systems (state smalls) and domestic wells, with a focus on small DACs.



Provide interim solutions, initiate planning efforts for long-term solutions, and fund capital projects for state smalls and domestic wells with source water above a primary maximum contaminant level (MCL).

What can be funded through SAFER?

- Emergency drinking water response,
- Temporarily connecting to safe drinking water sources,
- Installing point-of-use or point-of-entry treatment systems,
- Providing water directly to communities (e.g., bottled water or hauled water),
- Assistance with planning and budgets,
- Review of proposed project alternatives,
- Compliance audits and troubleshooting to address permit violations or operations,
- Assistance with community outreach, awareness, and education,
- Training and developing technical and managerial staff.

Capital infrastructure improvements include:

- Drinking water infrastructure improvements and upgrades,
- Drilling wells into uncontaminated aquifers, and
- Consolidation and regionalization (e.g., linking smaller systems into larger ones).



JOIN US

TRIBAL DRINKING WATER WORKSHOPS

LEARN ABOUT STATE DRINKING WATER PROGRAMS FOR CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Central California

June 8, 9–11am

<http://bit.ly/SAFERCenCal>

Phone: 1.669.900.9128

Meeting ID: 939 4571 6911

Northern California

June 17, 9–11am

<http://bit.ly/SAFERNorcal>

Phone: 1.669.900.9128

Meeting ID: 924 7984 3220

Southern California

June 22, 2–4pm

<http://bit.ly/SAFERSoCal>

Phone: 1.669.900.9128

Meeting ID: 958 1007 1223

CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS

SAFER PROGRAM



SAFER DRINKING WATER

SAFE AND AFFORDABLE FUNDING FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE

www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer

Adriana.Renteria@waterboards.ca.gov

Tribal-Liaison@waterboards.ca.gov

Phone: 916-216-1126