



Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program

This funding program is intended to provide financial assistance to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and others to comply with the SGMA Regulations. Funding is provided through Propositions 1 and 68.

DWR is conducting the first SGM Implementation Grant solicitation, providing a minimum of \$103 million in Proposition 68 funds for competitive grants, in two rounds of grant solicitations.

Proposal Release Date: October 30, 2020

Round 1 Proposal Solicitation Close Date: January 8, 2021

Funding Available in Round 1: \$26 million for critically overdrafted (COD) basins only

*Need to meet the guidelines listed in 2019 guide and in Section III of the current PSP

*Of the \$26 million, \$21 million will be for COD basins who adhere to the 2019 list of guidelines and the guidelines listed in Section III of the current Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP). The remaining \$5 million will be for projects that are located within and solely benefit an Underrepresented Community within a COD basin, address the needs of those communities, have a minimum of five letters of support from the community, and meet the requirements outlined within the Public Resources Code section 80146(a).

Minimum Grant Amount: \$2 million per basin

Maximum Grant Amount: \$5 million per basin

Local Cost Share: A minimum match of 25 percent (%) of the project cost as local cost share is required. The local cost share cannot have contributed to the cost share of another grant awarded project. Cost share can be waived or reduced based on project and if it provides benefit to an underrepresented community

Project expenses must be incurred as listed below:

Round 1 COD Basins: after January 31, 2020, the due date for the COD basin GSPs.

Eligible reimbursable costs are those that were incurred by the Grantees after the grant execution

Round 2

All Round 2 applicants must be within a medium or high priority basin(s) (including COD basins) with an adopted GSP that has been submitted to DWR for review and deemed complete by DWR (posted to the SGMA Portal by DWR) or an approved Alternative.

Schedule

Milestone or Activity	Tentative Schedule ²
Round 1 Schedule	
Final 2020 PSP posted to public	October 30, 2020
Round 1 Grant Solicitation Opens	Tentative date between November 9, 2020 and November 16, 2020
Application Workshop	December 2020
Round 1 Grant Solicitation Closes	January 8, 2021
Public Review of Draft Funding List	March 2021
Final Awards	May 2021
Round 2 Schedule	
Round 2 Grant Solicitation Opens	Spring 2022
Public Review of Draft Funding List	Summer 2022
Final Awards	Fall 2022

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants for the Round 1 Implementation Grant Solicitation are GSAs; member agencies of GSAs; an entity that represents a GSA(s) which can include public agencies, non-profit organizations, public utilities, Federally recognized Indian Tribes, State Indian Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission’s Tribal Consultation list, or mutual water companies; and agencies with an approved Alternative. Public utilities and mutual water companies must provide justification that the proposed project has a clear and definite public purpose and shall benefit the customers of the water system and not the investors (See Water Code § 79712(b)(1)). All applicants must comply with the eligibility criteria outlined in the 2019 Guidelines. Those entities representing a GSA(s) must have a letter of support from each GSA they represent. **All Round 1 applicants must be within a COD basin with an adopted GSP that has been submitted to DWR for review and deemed complete by DWR (posted to the SGMA Portal by DWR) or an approved Alternative. Basins that are adjudicated, in the process of becoming adjudicated, or considered probationary under SGMA by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) at or after the time of application submittal are not eligible to apply for or receive grant funding.** The project area and service area must be within the most current DWR Bulletin 118 basin or a non-adjudicated portion of a basin that is designated as COD by the latest SGMA Basin Prioritization at the time of application submittal.

Only one application will be accepted per basin. Applicants who apply on behalf of a GSA(s) are required to obtain and submit a letter of support from each GSA they represent.

Funding is available for projects that address drought and groundwater challenges to achieve regional sustainability for investments in groundwater recharge projects with surface water, stormwater, recycled water, and other conjunctive use projects; and/or projects that prevent or clean up contamination of groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water (Public Resources Code § 80146(a)). Support water supply reliability, water conservation, and water use efficiency; and support water banking, exchange, and reclamation.

Eligible projects include those activities associated with the implementation of an adopted GSP or approved Alternative and must also be listed within an adopted GSP or approved Alternative.

Activities within the proposed project should also be consistent with the SGMA Guidance Documents located here: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-GroundwaterManagement/Best-Management-Practices-and-Guidance-Documents>

The Project or Component(s) must contain a minimum of three multiple benefits. One benefit must address a Proposition 68 preference. A second benefit must address the sustainability goal within the SGM Implementation Proposal Solicitation Package 11 adopted GSP or approved Alternative. A third “free” benefit should meet benefits of multiple planning documents (e.g., Stormwater Resources Plans (SWRP), Integrated Regional Water management (IRWM) Plans, Draft Water Resiliency Portfolio, etc.) Multiple benefits can include, but are not limited to:

- Addresses impacts of current and future droughts and other water shortages
- Addresses climate change planning (e.g., seawater intrusion, sea-level rise, etc.)
- Community involvement, engagement, and education
- Decreased flood risk by reducing runoff rate and/or volume into rivers, lakes, or streams
- Enhanced and/or created recreational and public use areas
- Environmental protection and improvement
- Habitat enhancement and/or creation
- Increased and enhanced the beneficial uses of local water supplies
- Increased use in recycled water to augment water demand
- Increased urban green space
- Increased sustainable yield
- Nonpoint source pollution control
- Reduced dependence on imported water
- Reduced energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, or provide a carbon sink
- Reduced sanitary sewer overflows
- Reduced heat island effect
- Reduced overdraft
- Reduced water demand
- Reestablish natural water drainage and treatment
- Surface water, or dry weather runoff capture and reuse, treatment, and/or infiltration
- Soil health improvements and/or building organic matter
- Stream or riparian enhancement and/or instream flow augmentation
- Upgrade and/or expansion of a wastewater treatment plant(s) to augment local water demand
- Water conservation
- Water supply reliability
- Wetland enhancement and/or creation

In Attachment 3 – Work Plan, the applicants must provide information to demonstrate eligibility and provide assurances that the work described in the proposed project is not

duplicative with any other previous grant funded project. Examples of eligible project activities, tasks, and/or components can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Groundwater recharge projects with surface water, stormwater, recycled water, and other conjunctive use projects
- Groundwater contaminant remediation or prevention projects for groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water
- Construction, rehabilitation, or expansion of conveyance facilities for groundwater recharge projects
- Wastewater treatment and water recycling facility upgrades for groundwater recharge project sources
- Stormwater and runoff capture projects that support groundwater recharge
- Groundwater recharge facility expansion
- Seawater barrier injection wells
- Groundwater recharge projects that address groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs)
- Projects and programs that support water supply reliability, water conservation, water use efficiency and water banking, exchange, and reclamation
- Planning, design, and environmental documentation only as a task of a Project or Component of an overall project (not a standalone task).

The work plan should also identify the anticipated deliverables for each task. Each task identified in the proposal must have a minimum of one deliverable. Deliverables should be actual work products that can be submitted to DWR (e.g., copies of GSP; studies, engineering, design, land and easement acquisition and associated legal fees; preparation of environmental documentation, environmental permits, environmental mitigations, monitoring, and project construction feasibility study; project design; environmental compliance documentation; inputs/outputs from groundwater-surface water model; data management system; well completion and summary report including any geophysical surveys, water quality analysis, sieve analysis, or other supporting tests completed in support of well design, drilling, completion, etc.). Include the percent (0 – 100%) completed of each task.

What to submit – consists of five sections (tabs)

- Applicant Information Tab
- Projects Tab
- Questions Tab
- Climate Risk in Investments Tab
- Attachments Tab (includes four attachments, including att. 3, Work Plan; att. 4, Budget; att. 5, Schedule; att. 6, Underrepresented Community Justification)

How to submit – Use DWR’s GRanTS electronic submittal tool