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Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program

Groundwater Management Experts

- Water Resources Assessment
- Water Balance and Safe Yield
- Groundwater Modeling
- Groundwater Resource Development
- Contaminant Hydrogeology
- Source Water Assessment and Protection
- Water Re-use and Conjunctive Use
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery
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Groundwater Sustainability Plan Funding

In addition to the landmark Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA), California also passed another significant groundwater-related legislative action. In November 2014, Proposition 1 (Prop 1) or the Water Bond, which enacted Assembly Bill 1471 (AB 1471), the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014, was approved by the voters. Prop 1 is a \$7.5 billion general obligation bond to fund investments in water projects and programs as part of a statewide, comprehensive water plan. Of the overall funding approved within Prop 1, approximately 12 percent (%) or \$900 million is allocated to address the issue of groundwater sustainability and improvements in groundwater quality.

Of the overall funding for groundwater sustainability within Proposition 1, \$100 million is available for competitive grants for projects that develop and implement groundwater plans and projects in accordance with groundwater planning requirements established under the SGMA.

Applicant Eligibility

One grant application per groundwater basin

Applicant must be an approved GSA within the groundwater basin

Only one grant applicant per groundwater basin

If multiple GSAs are present within a groundwater basin, one GSA must be designated as the grant applicant

Where the grant applicant exists in multiple groundwater basins, the grant applicant can only submit one application incorporating all groundwater basins

The grant applicant GSA (for groundwater basins with multiple GSAs) will be responsible for entering into any agreements with the State of California (DWR) regarding grant award funding

Project Eligibility

Eligible projects include the planning, development, or preparation of a GSP that will comply with the SGMA

Projects must address a defined basin, or non-adjudicated portion of a defined basin, that has been previously categorized as a medium or high-priority basin under the SGMA

The groundwater basin must not be in a probationary status as defined by the SGMA

An Alternative Plan must not have been submitted for the management of the groundwater basin in place of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan

If filed, the Alternative Plan must be withdrawn prior to the closing of the initial grant application filing period to be eligible to receive grant funding

Grant Application and Funding Schedule



Grant Funding Availability

Out of the \$100 million available, DWR will make at least 10 percent (\$10 million) available for projects in severely disadvantaged communities (SDAC). No less than 50% of total project cost is required as a local cost share for proposals. For proposals with multiple projects, the local cost share depends on the total cost. The cost-sharing requirement may be reduced for disadvantaged community (DAC) or economically distressed area (EDA) beneficial projects.

Basin Category	Number of Basins	Total Funding Available	Grant Funding Available (per Basin) ²	Cost Sharing by Grant Applicant ³
Critically Overdrafted	21	\$15,000,000 to \$30,000,000	\$50,000 to \$1,500,000	50%
High and Medium Priority	106 ¹	\$46,300,000 to \$61,300,000	\$50,000 to \$1,000,000	50%

- Does not include high and medium priority basins that are also in critical overdraft
- Where grant applicant GSA exists in multiple basins, a single grant application must include all groundwater basins where grant applicant exists. Up to \$500,000 may be requested by the grant applicant for each additional basin
- Project expenses incurred after May 18, 2016 may be incorporated into the applicant cost share

Grant Funding Applicability

Grant Reimbursable Project Costs ¹	Project Cost Description
Can be applied for reasonable costs of:	Engineering Design Land and easements Legal fees Preparation of environmental documentation (CEQA) Environmental mitigation Project implementation (including administrative costs)
Can not be applied for	Preparation of other grant applications Operation and maintenance costs Establishing a reserve fund Purchase of water supplies Replacement of existing funding sources Regulatory fees resulting from negligence Purchase of land more than minimally necessary to support project Payment of principal or interest of pre-existing debts prior to the effective date of the grant award Expenses not directly related to project costs Travel

- Project costs incurred after July 1, 2017 must meet the conditions noted to be considered as a portion of the cost share and reimbursable costs