DWR Update

10/30/2026

Prop 4: **Small GSA** and URCTA Grant Guidelines (DRAFT)



- $3.5 million available for Small GSAs that pump less than 10,000 AFY
  - Funding Goal: Support GSAs in developing, updating or implementing GSPs, groundwater monitoring, and GSP project implementation.
  - Alternative basins are eligible to apply

- Eligible projects must include one or more of the following and be consistent with the goals of the GSP or alternative Plan.
  - Recharge/Conjunctive Use Projects
  - Subsidence BMP Implementation Actions
  - Addressing DWR Recommended Corrective Actions
  - Ag Land Adaptation Projects
  - Conveyance Projects
  - Other Implementation Projects

Prop 4: Small GSA and **URCTA** Grant Guidelines (DRAFT)



- $6.5 million available for Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance (URCTA)
- Activities covered under this program can include (but not limited to):
  - Well Mitigation Plan Development and Community Outreach
  - Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Threshold Support
  - Small Farm Assistance, Engagement, and Education
  - Local Financing Plan Support
  - Tribal Support and Engagement

- *Note: the final guidelines are expected end of October so there may be changes from what is presented here.*

Other Prop 4 Grants

Prop 4 Section (Administering Agency)	Authorized Total
Stream Gages – 91017 (DWR and State Water Board)	$15M
Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)/ Watershed Climate Resilience – 91031 and 91019 (DWR)	$162.5M
Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP) – 91013 (Department of Conservation)	$200M
Sustainable Groundwater – 91012 (DWR)	$386.25M

Sustainable Groundwater funding includes the following programs

- Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Implementation Grant Program, ~$320 million
- Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement (FDRE) Assistance Program, ~20 million
- Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance (URCTA) Program, 6.5 million (discussed above)
- Funding for administering the grants

Prop 4: Competitive SGM grant



- ~320 million available
  - Maximum award amount: $15 million
  - Alternative basins are eligible to apply
  - Reimbursement start date: after final award date
  - Max time to complete work: 5 years from award date

- Project activities can include any of the following:
  - Recharge/Conjunctive Use Projects
  - Subsidence BMP Implementation Actions
  - Addressing DWR Recommended Corrective Actions
  - Ag Land Adaptation Projects
  - Conveyance Projects
  - Other Implementation Projects

Significant changes to DWR competitive grants from previous grant rounds:

- Overhead is allowed, 4 different methods to calculate the percentage
- Advance pay is an option
- Concept proposals submitted and reviewed prior to full applications
- 40% of grant funds must provide "Direct and meaningful benefits" to DAC, SDAC or vulnerable communities, 10% to SDAC’s.

Non-Grant Updates

- Reminder that Fall Groundwater level data should be collected soon and submitted no later than December 31st, 2026
- DWR Releases Fall 2026 California's Groundwater Conditions Semi-Annual Update
- Save The Date: Fall 2026 GSA Forum, **November 18, 2026** from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Theme:"The Great Groundwater Balancing Act: Approaches to Managing Demands"

Non-Grant Updates

- Recharge Readiness webinars: will be held twice monthly on the second and fourth Thursday at 11am through February 2027
  - If you are looking for assistance with recharge related planning resources, mapping tools, forecasts, or permitting assistance please reach out to: **recharge@water.ca.gov**
- DWR has developed GSA Onboarding Resources including an Onboarding Checklist and a Handbook Template, to support GSAs as they welcome new board members and staff into their roles under SGMA

New Required MNM module

- DWR is enhancing the SGMA Portal and Monitoring Network Module (MNM) to collect additional Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) information. These updates will require basins to submit:
  - Qualitative and quantitative undesirable result definitions.
  - Basin-wide and site-specific minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones for land subsidence, groundwater storage reduction, and seawater intrusion.
  - Site-specific groundwater elevation-based minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones when groundwater levels are used as a proxy for other sustainability indicators.
- This module will be a required part of Periodic Evaluation submissions and will be available in November of 2026.
- Questions should be directed to: GSPSubmittal@water.ca.gov.