



Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program Round 1: Key Points and Definitions

Key Points

- On December 17, 2021, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced the release of the Final 2021 SGMA Implementation Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program. Over \$350 million in grants will be available for planning and implementation projects to help regional groundwater agencies comply with the SGMA.
- The SGM Grant Program is funded by Proposition 1, Proposition 68, and General Funds from the State Budget Act of 2021. To date, the SGM Grant Program has awarded \$139.5 million in three rounds of planning grants for development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), updates/revisions to approved Alternatives to a GSP, and implementation of related projects. In addition, the SGM Grant Program has awarded \$26 million to critically overdrafted basins for construction projects outlined in their adopted GSP or approved Alternative to a GSP.
- Round 1 of the SGM Grant Program is for applicants within eligible critically overdrafted (COD) basins and will provide over \$150 million by Spring 2022 to representatives of COD basins for planning and implementation projects to help comply with SGMA.
 - Eligible project examples include revision/update to an existing GSP, groundwater recharge projects, projects that prevent or clean up contamination of groundwater that serve as a source of drinking water, and projects that support water supply reliability.
 - Applicants must submit a complete application, which consists of a Spending Plan, Scoring Criteria, Self-certification Form, and Authorizing Resolution (all application components are to be completed using the templates provided by DWR). The solicitation will close on February 28, 2022 at 5 p.m.
- More information is available within the PSP and Guidelines, available online at water.ca.gov/sgmgrants.

Key Definitions

- Disadvantaged Community (DAC): a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80% of the Statewide annual median household income.
- Human Right to Water: California's Water Code (Section 106.3) declares that "every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes."
- Small Water System (SWS): a system to pipe drinking water that serves between five and fourteen service connections to an average of 25 individuals or fewer.
- Underrepresented Community (URC): DACs, Tribes, and more (described in Appendix E of the Guidelines) are collectively referred to as Underrepresented Communities.