

Disadvantaged Community Water Funding in SB-1xx & AB 2356

Thanks to passage of SB1xx and AB 2356, hundreds of millions of dollars are available from Propositions 84 and 1-E for water-related planning and infrastructure. Some of this is specifically earmarked for new programs to develop solutions for disadvantaged community water needs in the Tulare Lake Basin. However, the vast majority of funding is available for water project construction and planning generally, a portion of which is reserved for disadvantaged communities.

Special Focus on the Tulare Lake Basin: Two Pilot Programs to Address Safe Drinking and Wastewater Needs

SB-1xx (Perata), the bill that appropriated (released) Prop 84 and 1E funds to the state agencies, included funding for two new pilot projects that will be implemented in the Tulare Lake Basin. Both pilot projects will create a first step toward identifying sustainable, feasible solutions to the drinking water and wastewater crisis facing low-income communities in the Tulare Lake Basin.

- **The Tulare County Pilot Project:** \$2 million is provided to Tulare County to develop an integrated water quality and wastewater treatment plan to address the drinking water and wastewater needs of disadvantaged communities in the Tulare Lake Basin. This money will go towards assessment and feasibility studies to identify the most cost-effective and feasible options for providing safe drinking water and wastewater systems for disadvantaged communities in the County. In particular, the feasibility studies must evaluate consolidation, inter-ties between systems, connections to cross-valley and inter-valley pipelines and/or canals, among other options. The results must be reported to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2011 when new legislation would be appropriated to fund the solutions identified in the plan.
- **The Safe Drinking Water Pilot Project:** The Safe Drinking Water Pilot Project directs the State Water Board to develop a plan to address nitrate contamination of drinking water sources in the Tulare Lake Basin and the Salinas Valley. Specifically, the Water Boards must identify sources of pollution, examine their regulatory authority to control the pollution, identify means to treat and/or provide alternative drinking water supplies, and develop a funding plan, including analysis of discharger fees, to fund sustainable solutions.

Pilot Project	Implementing Agency	Funding Amount & Source	Goal	Deliverable
The Tulare County Pilot Project	Tulare County	\$2 million from the Department of Water Resources (DWR)	To develop an integrated water quality and wastewater treatment plan to address the needs of DACs in the Tulare Lake Basin.	Submit plan to the state legislature by January 1, 2011
The Safe Drinking Water Pilot Project	State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	\$2 million from the Department of Public Health (DPH)	To clean up groundwater used for drinking water that is contaminated by nitrate in the Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley.	Report with recommendations to legislature in 2 years

Funds for Water Planning and Construction

SB1xx & AB 2356 also appropriated millions of dollars for water planning and construction including:

- **Funding for Small Community Drinking Water Systems:** DPH will receive \$50 million for grants for small community drinking water system infrastructure improvements to meet safe drinking water standards, with priority to disadvantaged communities.
- **Funding for Small Community Wastewater Systems:** The SWRCB was given the authority through AB2356 to direct up to \$50 million into the small community wastewater systems program. These grant dollars can be used for wastewater system infrastructure to meet Clean Water Act standards. The entire program serves disadvantaged communities.
- **Funding for Groundwater Contamination Prevention and Cleanup:** DPH will receive \$50 million for grants for projects to prevent or reduce the contamination of groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water. DPH must give additional consideration to projects that serve disadvantaged communities.
- **Funding and New Requirements for Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs):** DWR will receive over \$200 million for IRWMP planning and implementation by Regional Water Management groups. The new law also sets minimum standards for IRWMPs; all plans must address water supply reliability, protection and improvement of water quality, protection of groundwater resources from contamination, and the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Funding Agency	Who is eligible to Apply	What types of projects are eligible	Amount of Funding Available	Where to go for more information
Department of Public Health	Small Community Drinking Water Systems	Infrastructure projects to provide, protect, or maintain safe drinking water supplies	\$50 Million and priority goes to disadvantaged communities	http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/DWPFunding.aspx
Department of Public Health	Local Agencies	Groundwater protection and clean-up of drinking water sources	\$50.4 Million, priority is given to disadvantaged communities	http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/DWPFunding.aspx
Department of Water Resources	"Regional Water Management Groups"	Projects included in an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, At least 10% of project implementation and planning funding must go to DACs	\$100 million for project implementation \$39 million for planning \$22 million for interregional projects \$20 million for program delivery costs	http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/irwm/integregio.cfm
State Water Resources Control Board	Small Community Wastewater Systems	Infrastructure needed to meet Clean Water Act requirements	Up to \$50 million created through AB2356	http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/small_community_wastewater_grant/index.shtml

The full text of SB-1xx is available at http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/sen/sb_0001-0050/sbx2_1_bill_20080930_chaptered.pdf