

Funding for Water Quality Projects Offered by the California State Water Resources Control Board

The purpose of this module is to provide information regarding funding resources for water quality projects through the State Water Resources Control Board. Please see the descriptions, website and video links below to learn more:

What are the State Revolving Funds?

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program provides low-cost financial resources for a variety of diverse water quality projects. The program is capable of financing projects from \$1 million to \$100 million.

The 51 CWSRF programs function like environmental infrastructure banks by providing low interest loans to eligible recipients for water infrastructure projects such as water and wastewater treatment facilities, nonpoint source projects, and estuary projects. As money is paid back into the state's revolving loan fund, the state makes new loans to other recipients for high priority, water quality improvement activities. Repayments of loan principal and interest earnings are recycled back into individual state CWSRF programs to finance new projects that allow the funds to "revolve" at the state level over time.

[Click here](#) for more information about CWSRF.

Types of State Revolving Funds (SRFs)

- [Clean Water State Revolving Funds \(CWSRF\)](#)
 - The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program offers low-cost financing for a wide variety of water quality projects. The program has significant financial assets and is capable of financing projects from < \$1 million to > \$100 million. The Program's vision is to maintain abundant clean water for human uses and environmental protection to sustain California's future.
- [Drinking Water State Revolving Funds \(DWSRF\)](#)
 - The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program assists public water systems in financing the cost of drinking water infrastructure projects needed to achieve or maintain compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements.
- [Small Community Funding](#)
 - Small Community Funding is available to help small disadvantaged communities (small DACs), providing drinking water service to less than 10,000 people or wastewater service to less than 20,000 people and having a median household income (MHI) of less than 80% the statewide MHI.

- Funding and program support includes technical assistance needs, interim water supplies, and implement eligible drinking water or wastewater capital improvement projects.

Results and Successes

As part of the CWSRF application process, applicants are required to submit to their Project Manager at the State Water Board the applicable documents and an [Environmental Package](#) along with the supporting documents (except the cultural resources report) through [FAAST](#) (Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool). The CWSRF Environmental Review Staff will work with applicants to assure each project has adequately complied with applicable federal and state environmental laws and regulations prior to the State Water Board financing approval.

[Click here](#) to learn more about CEQA and other permit requirements of SRS funded projects

Eligible Applicants

- Publicly-owned community water systems (e.g., counties, cities and districts)
- Privately-owned community water systems (e.g., for-profit water utilities, non-profit mutual water companies)
- Non-profit or publicly-owned non-community water systems (e.g., public school districts)
- Community water systems created by the project

Eligible Projects

Planning/design and construction of drinking water infrastructure projects including:

- treatment systems
- distribution systems
- interconnections
- consolidations
- pipeline extensions
- water sources
- water meters
- water storages

Funding Requirements

CWSRF requires that projects comply with several regulations and review processes depending on the scope of the project. This includes the [California Environmental Quality Act \(CEAQ\)](#), [American Iron and Steel \(AIS\)](#) compliance if iron and steel products are used, [Davis-Bacon Act](#) related to prevailing wages, [Disadvantaged Business Enterprise \(DBE\)](#) to ensure nondiscrimination of awards of contract and use of signage and logos.

[Click here](#) for more details about CWSRF funding requirements.

[How to apply](#) (video)

Plans policies and reports:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/pubs.html

State Water Resources Board Resources to Apply for SRF:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/SRF.html

<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/videos/faast.html> (video)

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/docs/2023/2023-24-cwsrf-iup.pdf

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/fundingreq.html