



<b>Department of Water Resources Grant Programs Update</b>
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**Introduction**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) offers several grant and loan programs that support integrated watershed management activities addressing environmental stewardship, water supply reliability, flood risk, groundwater sustainability, drought, and more. In 2021 and 2022, the California Legislature authorized over a billion dollars in funding to DWR for drought relief. The drought funding provides support for reliable water supply and improved resiliency to drought. The Division of Regional Assistance will present on the various grant programs developed with this funding including the current funding status and impact of these programs across the state. The presentation will focus on the three largest grant programs (Small Community Drought Relief, Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief, and Urban Community Drought Relief).

The Division of Regional Assistance supports the stewardship of California’s water resources at the local level through technical and financial assistance, data collection and dissemination, resources evaluation, and coordination. This division includes 2 branches in Sacramento and 4 regional offices in Red Bluff, West Sacramento, Fresno, and Glendale.

**Background**

This presentation aligns with Goal One of the Commission’s Strategic Plan, which states that the Commission “will serve as a primary public forum for the discussion of improving water management policy to assist regions in achieving climate resiliency” and includes an objective to “convene panel discussions or presentations and invite public comment and discussion at Commission meetings.” By bringing a discussion of State drought funding to a public meeting, the Commission will help educate and inform the public about grant opportunities that are available and will provide public transparency and accountability for how State funds are being spent.

This presentation will also complement the Commission’s work to consider potential strategies to protect communities and fish and wildlife in the event of long-term drought.

**Meeting Overview**

At this meeting, the Commission will hear from Arthur Hinojosa, DWR’s Manager for the Division of Regional Assistance, who will offer introductory remarks and an overview of grant programs; Steve Doe, Supervising Engineer, who will discuss the Small Community Drought Grant Relief Program; and Ashley Gilreath, Program Manager I, who will discuss the Urban Communities Drought Relief Grant Program.

This is an informational item.

**Contact**

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