

February 2026 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

Grants

California Grants Portal

The California State Library, in partnership with the Department of Water Resources and other state grantmaking agencies, has launched the California Grants Portal – your one destination to find all state grant and loan opportunities provided on a first-come or competitive basis. Visit grants.ca.gov to find funding opportunities for you and your community.

Prop 4, Bond Grant Funds

Here is a link to sign up for DWR's Prop 4 [email notification list](#). There is a bill under consideration, AB 35, that if passed would significantly shorten program development timeline. There will be public scoping meetings to inform the program in 2026, which will be announced through the list serve linked above.

DWR's Underrepresented Communities and Small Farmer Technical Assistance Program

The mission of the Program is to determine the needs, risks, and vulnerabilities with the implementation of the SGMA for underrepresented communities and small farms in medium and high priority basins, including critically overdrafted (COD) basins. The types of services provided include, but are not limited to: Groundwater level monitoring; Aquifer testing to determine long-term yield and supply; Identifying Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs); Analyze well interference; Identifying additional water supply; Analyze existing well condition using downhole video log; Rehabilitation of water storage tank; Long-term water supply and demand analysis; Analyze and help to facilitate water transfers. [More information is available on the webpage](#). **Local entities can request services by emailing SGM_TA@water.ca.gov.**

Upcoming conferences, webinars, new reports and data

DWR Invites You to Celebrate Groundwater Awareness Week March 9-13, 2026

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) invites you to kick off National Groundwater Awareness Week 2026 by joining virtual events during the week focused on DWR's Basin Characterization Program Highlights, interactive conversations with groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs), connections with GSAs and DWR staff by region, and updates from DWR. DWR will also release its final *California's Groundwater: Bulletin 118 – Update 2025* (CaGW Update 2025) during Groundwater Awareness Week. Check out the summary of events and find registration links in the flyer linked here: [Groundwater Awareness Week 2026 Events Flyer.pdf](#)

Design of Proposition 4 Watershed Resilience Program: Survey for Public Input Open until March 6th

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) invites you to participate in a short survey to help inform development of the upcoming Proposition 4 Watershed Resilience Program. This new program will combine funding from the following two sections of Proposition 4 to make approximately \$152 million available for grants statewide:

- Section 91019 (Conservation), for projects that increase water conservation in agricultural and urban areas, and
- Section 91031 (Climate Resilience), for projects related to integrated regional water management to improve climate resilience on a watershed basis

Please complete this approximately 20-minute survey: <https://forms.office.com/g/ZXFXYYV98Q6>. The survey will remain open until **March 6, 2026, 11:59PM**. Survey responses will help DWR understand community needs, funding priorities, and address potential implementation challenges.

DWR Releases Final Subsidence BMP and Educational Resource Webpage

DWR has released a [final Best Management Practices document](#), that will serve as a guide for groundwater managers on the basics of subsidence, how to best manage it, and available technical assistance.

February 2026 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

DWR has also launched a [new webpage dedicated to providing educational resources and information about land subsidence](#) in California, particularly as it relates to groundwater use and sustainable groundwater management. The resources available on this page are designed to help the public better understand subsidence and associated potential impacts. The page will be updated with educational materials, data, best management practices, and project information as it is available.

California's Groundwater: Bulletin 118 – Update 2025

DWR released the [Draft California's Groundwater: Bulletin 118 – Update 2025 \(CalGW Update 2025\)](#). CalGW Update 2025 provides a comprehensive inventory and assessment of available information on the occurrence and nature of groundwater and informs decisions on the protection, use, monitoring and management of the resource. This five-year update builds on the CalGW Update 2020 by integrating data submitted to DWR by local agencies under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), including information reported in Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP), Alternatives to GSPs, annual reports, and other groundwater initiatives. CalGW Update 2025 is part of a comprehensive suite of resources designed to support groundwater understanding and management across the state, including the [Semi-Annual Updates](#), [CalGW Live](#), and the [Basin Characterization](#) program. The full document as well as a highlights document (in English and Spanish) and all appendices can be [downloaded here](#).

DWR presented an overview of the Draft CalGW Update 2025 at a public virtual webinar meeting on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, from noon to 1:00 p.m. The [recording can be viewed here](#) in English or Spanish.

Preliminary Sac Valley Aquifer Recharge Potential Maps Available

New: [Aquifer Recharge Potential maps](#) and a [process document](#) are now available to download from the [Basin Characterization CNRA Open Data Portal](#). Note– we'll be updating the ARP Process Document later in October.

DWR Releases Second and Third Paper on Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water

To help GSAs address the depletion of interconnected surface water (ISW) in their Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), the DWR released the second and third in a series of three draft papers that discuss the technical aspects of ISW and quantification of depletions of ISW caused by groundwater pumping. The first paper (Paper 1), [Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water: An Introduction](#), introduced concepts associated with ISW, including approaches for identifying ISW and defining depletion of ISW from groundwater pumping. The second paper (Paper 2), [Techniques for Estimating Interconnected Surface Water Depletion Caused by Groundwater Use](#), continues the foundational concepts presented in Paper 1 by discussing the data requirements, methods, and general implementation process to consider for ISW depletion analyses. The final paper (Paper 3), [Examples for Estimating Interconnected Surface Water Depletion Caused by Groundwater Use](#), continues and expands upon the topics presented in Paper 2 by providing detailed examples of using numerical models to evaluate depletion of ISW. A pre-recorded webinar that summarizes the contents of the three papers and describes the next steps in the development of the guidance document [can be viewed here](#).

The DRAFT ISW guidance document is *tentatively* scheduled for first quarter 2026 for public release.

SGMA Updates and Tools

Update Your GSA and GSP Manager Point of Contact Information in DWR's SGMA Portal

If your GSA and/or GSP Plan Manager Point of Contact (POC) is not current, or you are not sure, please visit the SGMA Portal to ensure that your contact information is up-to-date. When logged in, the Portal allows edits to be made to previously submitted contact information. If you have SGMA Portal questions, please email them to GSPSubmittal@water.ca.gov.

February 2026 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

The CASGEM Online System is Moving to the SGMA Portal July of 2026

The Department is beginning to integrate the [California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring \(CASGEM\) Program's Online System](#) with the [SGMA Portal's](#) Monitoring Network Module (MNM). This integration will streamline groundwater elevation data management and reporting processes by consolidating data submission into one location – the SGMA Portal's MNM. Our goal is to provide a more unified and efficient user experience for local agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

No action is required at this time. With the updated schedule, CASGEM Monitoring Entities and Online System users do not need to take any steps between now and July 2026. CASGEM Monitoring Entities and Online System users should submit their Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 data through the CASGEM Online System as normal.

If you have questions, please reach out to your DWR region office CASGEM contact ([here](#)) or to the CASGEM Program in Headquarters at CASGEM@water.ca.gov.

DWR releases provisional WY 2024 statewide land use data

DWR has officially released [provisional statewide land use data from Water Year \(WY\) 2024](#) for public access and use. The released data follows up on land use mapping conducted in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 where more than 15 million acres of land were classified (including agriculture multi-cropping instances and urban categories) using tools such as remote sensing and geographic information systems. The data can now be accessed at the following locations: [CA DWR Land Use Viewer](#) (viewing and downloading); [CNRA Webpage](#) (viewing and downloading); on the [SGMA Data Viewer](#) (viewing) and the [California State Geoportal](#) (viewing and downloading).

Facilitation Support Service and Translation Services Available to GSA's at No Cost

GSA's developing GSPs are eligible to receive funding for identification and engagement of interested parties, meeting facilitation, interest-based negotiation/consensus building, and public outreach facilitation. [FAQ about FSS is available here](#). More information [can be found here](#). [Written translation services available in 8 languages for outreach materials \(5,000 word maximum\)](#). DWR has [Verbal Interpretation service available to GSA's](#). Real-time interpretive services are available to GSAs for virtual, hybrid, or in-person meetings in support of GSP implementation with the goal of engaging underrepresented communities within basins and encouraging equal access for non-fluent English speakers during the implementation of GSP's. If you are interested in learning more or receiving support from an interpretation team email sgmps@water.ca.gov.

Reminders: Drought related tools & guidance

'Be Well Prepared' Initiative and Website

May 17, 2023, DWR released the [Be Well Prepared initiative](#). DWR is providing tools and resources to help communities that are dependent on groundwater and experiencing climate-driven weather extremes, to prepare for potential impacts to household water supplies. The Be Well Prepared initiative focuses on domestic well owners and residents that use and maintain their well. [The website includes resources and information](#) that every well owner should know and understand about: groundwater conditions, well maintenance, water quality, assistance, and additional articles, videos and resources. A [new flyer](#) from DWR provides the four initial steps for well owners to take if they think their well has gone dry. This flyer is also available in [Spanish](#) and [Hmong](#).

SB552: DWR's Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool

As part of its technical assistance to support SB 552 implementation, DWR developed the [Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool](#) to provide the foundational data and information statewide to counties for their water shortage risk assessment.

Dry Well Susceptibility Map

The DWR, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, has developed an interactive mapping tool, called the Dry Well Susceptibility Tool. This tool identifies areas within groundwater basins that may be

February 2026 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

prone to water supply shortages in drinking water wells. State and local agencies and well owners can use this tool to anticipate where wells may go dry based on historical conditions to inform drought preparedness decision-making. To use this tool, navigate to [California's Groundwater Live website](#) and click the [Dry Domestic Well Susceptibility tab](#). A fact sheet on this tool, as well as DWR's Dry Well Reporting System, [is available here](#).

Dry Well Reporting Site

There is a website available to [report private wells going dry](#). Information reported to this site is intended to inform state and local agencies on drought impacts on household water supplies. The data reported on this site (excluding personal identifiable information) can be viewed on the [SGMA data viewer](#) or downloaded on the [CNRA Atlas](#). Individuals or local agencies can report water shortages and [a list of resources are included on the webpage](#). The reporting forms are available in both English and Spanish. Local agencies can now sign up to receive notifications of any dry wells reported in their area. To sign up please email sgmps@water.ca.gov.

California's Groundwater Live: Up-to-date data on groundwater conditions, well installations and subsidence

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the final [California's Groundwater – Update 2020 \(Bulletin-118\)](#), containing information on the condition of the State's groundwater, DWR has also developed a companion web-based application called [California's Groundwater Live](#) (CalGW Live), leveraging the [California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Platform](#) (Open Data) to improve the access and timeliness of statewide groundwater information. The easy-to-use interface will make many of the data sets used in CalGW Update 2020 available in an interactive map format that will be updated regularly for viewing and downloading. For more information, visit the updated [California's Groundwater website](#) Contact: CalGW@water.ca.gov.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released the [Fall 2024 Semi-Annual Groundwater Conditions Update](#), which provides a look back at groundwater conditions following California's historic 2023 Water Year and an average 2024 Water Year. It also summarizes groundwater conditions over the first 10 years of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation (2014-2024).