

Proposition 4 Summary

Prop 4 Section (Administering Agency)	Authorized Total
Stream Gages – 91017 (DWR and State Water Board)	\$15M
Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)/ Watershed Climate Resilience – 91031 and 91019 (DWR)	\$162.5M
Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP) – 91013 (Department of Conservation)	\$200M
Sustainable Groundwater – 91012 (DWR)	\$386.25M

Sustainable Groundwater

- **Program Summary:**

- Efforts that support SGMA implementation

- **Amount Available:**

- \$386.25M from Sustainable Groundwater (91012)

- **Potential Programs:**

- Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Implementation Grant Program
- Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement (FDRE) Assistance Program
- Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance (URCTA) Program

Sustainable Groundwater – Grants

- **Program Summary:**
 - Funding efforts that advance GSP implementation
- **Potential Program Priorities:**
 - \$25M for Tribal Projects
 - Addressing DWR Recommended Corrective Actions
 - Subsidence Best Management Practice (BMP) Implementation
 - Recharge Projects
 - Land*Flex* Type Projects
 - Conveyance and Other Implementation Projects

Sustainable Groundwater – FDRE

- **Program Summary:**

- FDRE = Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement
- Technical assistance to help streamline recharge projects pursuing grant funding
- Per Prop 4, technical assistance must benefit: disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities, or vulnerable populations

- **Potential Activities:**

- Provide flood diversion threshold guidance to comply with Water Code Section 1242.1
- Temporary permit support
- Project permitting support; coordination with permitting agencies
- Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO)-MAR (Managed Aquifer Recharge) Pilots

Sustainable Groundwater – URCTA

- **Program Summary:**

- Direct technical assistance to groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) upon request
- Help address the needs of the GSAs and build connections between GSA management and vulnerable communities.

- **Potential Activities:**

- Well Mitigation and Community Outreach
- Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) Support
- Small Farm Assistance and Engagement
- Local Financing Plan Support
- Tribal Support and Engagement

Proposition 4 – Challenges

- Office of Administrative Law (OAL) Exemption Missing in Prop 4
 - OAL Exemption is what allows Departments to prepare Guidelines instead of Regulations
- Anticipated Obtaining OAL Exemption from Legislature in Trailer Bill
 - Did Not Happen
- Trailer Bill Allowed for Emergency Regulations, not Guidelines
 - E-Regs shorter than Standard Regulations
 - ~12-18 month process
- DWR is also required to obtain E-Reg approval from CA Water Commission

Proposition 4 – Next Steps

- There was another attempt by the Legislature in January to grant the OAL Exemption – AB 35
- Regardless of E-Regs or Guidelines, will be opportunities for public input
- Starting in 2026 will begin conducting Public Scoping Meetings to inform program
- Will also have Public Comment Periods after draft document release
- Will likely begin grant solicitation in early 2027
- Technical assistance will start earlier
- An emphasis will be made for collaboration within a basin