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UPPER FEATHER RIVER IRWM
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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 21, 2022

TO: Upper Feather River (UFR) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region

FROM: Plumas County Planning Department and Environmental Health Department in partnership with UFR River Regional Water Management Group (RWMG)

RE: UFR IRWM Region Water Shortage Preparedness and Contingency Planning Pilot Project – FACT SHEET

Dear UFR IRWM stakeholders,

In 2018, Sierra Institute entered into a Grant Agreement with DWR to implement the Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Project for the Mountain Counties Funding Area (MCFA) where each of the nine IRWM regions in the MCFA were eligible for approximately $45,000 in technical assistance funding.

The UFR RWMG selected Plumas County to lead a *Water Shortage Preparedness and Contingency Planning Pilot Project*, or a program to develop long-term water shortage preparedness and contingency planning strategies that are tailored to the water needs and system vulnerabilities of Disadvantaged Communities (DAC), Economically Distressed Areas (EDA), Tribal communities, and underrepresented communities.

The *Pilot Project* aims to reduce the challenges that burden small water systems within DACs, EDAs, Tribes, and rural communities in the UFR IRWM region by providing technical assistance, long-term planning strategies, outreach, and coordination to increase resiliency and access to safe and affordable drinking water. The intent of the *Pilot Project* is to create a process and template for implementation throughout the UFR IRWM Region.

The implementation of the *Pilot Project* began with the development of a water system inventory identifying all permitted State Small Water Systems (SSWS) and Local Small Water Systems (LSWS) within Plumas County.

Using this information, a needs assessment survey was developed and distributed to SSWS and LSWS providers to assess current technical, managerial, and financial status of the permitted small water systems. The survey results were then tabulated and system vulnerability characteristics were noted. An intranet GIS web map was created to display the permitted SSWS and LSWS with their system characteristics and needs that can be used to inform planning strategies and grant funding.

Additionally, the information was analyzed to identify consolidation candidates, trends, system vulnerabilities, and other notable information.

The culmination of the findings and information is presented in the attached *Fact Sheet: Analysis of State Small and Local Small Water Systems in the Mountain Counties Funding Area for the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant Program***.**

One of the overarching goals of the *Pilot Project* is to conduct a region-wide assessment to support the development of Water Shortage Contingency Planning (WSCP) across the UFR IRWM region. This would allow counties like Plumas, Lassen, Sierra, and Butte to combine their efforts when pursuing funding for infrastructure upgrades and in developing regional and multi-benefit projects and planning efforts. Additionally, *Pilot Project* data can be compared to study trends and patterns for identifying common vulnerabilities across water systems in similar geographic regions.

Plumas County is offering technical assistance to other counties in the UFR IRWM region to help assist in implementing a similar project to reduce the challenges that burden small water systems within DACs, EDAs, Tribes, and rural communities.

If interested, please contact:

- **Tracey Ferguson**, AICP, Plumas County Planning Director, 530-283-6214 or traceyferguson@countyofplumas.com
- **Rob Robinette**, Plumas County Environmental Health Interim Director, 530-283-6593 or robrobinette@countyofplumas.com
- **Uma Hinman**, Upper Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management Group Coordinator, 916-813-0818 or uhinman@comcast.net

Analysis of State Small and Local Small Water Systems
in the Mountain Counties Funding Area for the
Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant Program

FACT SHEET

FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Prepared in association with Sierra Institute for Community and Environment and the Upper Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management Group and funded through DWR Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant for the Mountain Counties Funding Area

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Plumas County (Plumas) recognizes and acknowledges the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for their funding award to plan, develop, and implement a needs assessment survey tool, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping, and this Fact Sheet through the Proposition 1 Mountain Counties Funding Area (MCFA) Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Award Technical Assistance Grant to the Upper Feather River (UFR) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region. The UFR Regional Water Management Group selected Plumas County to implement the Technical Assistance Grant for this Pilot Project on behalf of the region.

This grant award gave Plumas County the capacity to implement the community needs assessment survey, GIS mapping, and this Fact Sheet. These tools and resources will promote resiliency at a local level and can be used to lessen the burdens faced by State Small Water Systems (SSWS), Local Small Water Systems (LSWS), Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), and Tribal communities.

Plumas County acknowledges Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (Sierra Institute) and the Sierra Water Workgroup, the authors of The *Mountain Counties Funding Area Integrated Regional Water Management Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program: Community Well-Being & Water and Wastewater Needs Assessments for the Mountain Counties Funding Area*. Their construction of the community capacity and community well-being assessment tools capture the unique burdens faced by rural mountainous communities, which often are managed using other common methods. Their work is pivotal to addressing the community needs in the MCFA.

Plumas County recognizes the water system owners and water system operators who were integral to the pilot project and provided us their time, knowledge, and participation in the survey. The technical assistance tools would not be possible without their help.

Plumas County would also like to acknowledge the Plumas County GIS department staff for the delivery of the DACTI Inventory Data Map. The map will serve as an imperative tool that can provide insight into the needs and system vulnerabilities of communities in the MCFA and UFR IRWM.

ACRONYMS

AB1688	Assembly Bill 1688: Water Management Planning
CDAG	County Drought Advisory Group
CAA	Cleanup and Abatement Account
CDAG	County Drought Advisory Group
CSD	Community Service District
CWA	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act)
DAC	Disadvantaged Community
DACI	Disadvantaged Community Involvement
DACTI	Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement
DFA	Division of Financial Assistance
DWR	Department of Water Resources
DWSRF	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
EDA	Economically Distressed Area
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
IRWM	Integrated Regional Water Management
IVCSD	Indian Valley Community Service District
LSWS	Local Small Water System
LHMP	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
MCFA	Mountain Counties Funding Area
MHI	Median Household Income
PRC	Public Resources Code
RWMG	Regional Water Management Group
SB200	Senate Bill 200: The Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund legislation
SADW	Safe and Affordable Drinking Water
SAFER	Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Program
SCWW	Small Community Clean Water/Wastewater
SCDW	Small Community Drinking Water

SDAC	Severely Disadvantaged Community
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SGM	Sustainable Groundwater Management
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SRWS	State-Regulated Water System
SSWS	State Small Water System
UFR	Upper Feather River
WRCB	California State Water Resources Control Board
WSCP	Water Shortage Contingency Plan

DEFINITIONS

Disadvantaged Community (DAC): An area with an annual median household income that is less than 80% of the Statewide annual median household income (California Public Resource Code Section 75005(g)).

Economically Distressed Area (EDA): EDA is a municipality with a population of 20,000 persons or less, a rural county, or a reasonably isolated and divisible segment of a larger municipality with a population of 20,000 persons or less, with a median household income that is less than 85% of the Statewide Median Household Income (MHI), and with one or more of the following conditions:

1) Financial hardship

2) Unemployment rate at least 2% of higher than statewide average

3) Low population density

Federally Recognized Tribe: As identified in CFR Section 900.6 an Indian Tribe "means any Indian tribe, band, nation or other organized group or community, including pueblos, Rancherias, colonies and any Alaska Native Village, or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, which recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians."

Local Small Water System (LSWS): A county regulated water supply system that does not meet the Title 22, California Code of Regulations, definition of a public water system or a state small water system but requires safe water for other purposes, such as food preparation, public assembly or lodging. Some examples include fairgrounds, rodeo grounds, small restaurants or lodging facilities. These systems serve less than twenty-five (25) individuals daily on a year-long basis or serve more than twenty-five (25) individuals daily for not more than sixty (60) days of the year. (Plumas County Code Sec. 6-9.04. – Definitions.)

Non-Federally Recognized Tribe: According to the U.S. Department of the Interior, a non-recognized tribe has no relationship with the United States. Congress, not the Department of the Interior, has the final word as to whether a tribe should be federally recognized and whether a non-recognized tribe may nevertheless receive certain federal benefits.

[The] Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (SB200): A bill establishing the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, which will provide $130 million on an annual basis to help local water systems provide safe drinking water.

Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC): United States Census geographies having less than 60% of the Statewide annual median household income.

State-Regulated Water System (SRWS): A community water system with two hundred (200) or more service connections that is regulated by the California Department of Health Services to ensure compliance with the California Safe Drinking Water Act. (Plumas County Code Sec. 6-9.04. – Definitions.)

State Small Water System (SSWS): A county regulated water supply system subject to Chapter 14, Article 3 of Title 22, California Code of Regulations. State Small Water Systems serve five (5) or more, but less than fifteen (15) service connections and have a population of less than twenty-five (25) year-round residents. State small water systems shall be organized as mutual benefit water corporations, or managed under similar approved management structures. (Plumas County Code Sec. 6-9.04. – Definitions.)

Tribal Communities: Tribal Communities refers to both Federally Recognized and Non-Federally recognized Tribes.

INTRODUCTION

The Plumas County Planning Department, GIS Department, and Environmental Health Department jointly developed a needs assessment survey tool to evaluate State Small Water Systems (SSWS) and Local Small Water Systems (LSWS) needs within Plumas County. Additionally, the GIS Department constructed an intranet web-based GIS map to visually depict the survey results and system details of permitted SSWS and LSWS. This survey approach and analysis methodology served as a pilot project that could be expanded to the entire Mountain Counties Funding Area (MCFA).

Water system surveys were sent to all 64 permitted water systems in Plumas County. A total of 44 surveys were returned (68% return rate). This Fact Sheet was developed using the water system survey responses and Environmental Health Department water system file data.

The Prop 1 DACI Program provided grant funding to support the involvement of disadvantaged communities (DACs), economically distressed areas (EDAs), Tribal communities, and underrepresented communities in IRWM planning efforts. Funded activities include needs assessments, technical assistance, site assessment, education, outreach and engagement, and project planning.

The pilot project is a deliverable of the Upper Feather River IRWM Region's Technical Assistance task of the *Mountain Counties Funding Area Integrated Regional Water Management Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program*, managed by the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment and the Sierra Water Group, the MCFA grantee of the DACI Award grant program. Small water systems serving DACs and vulnerable populations in the MCFA, including the UFR IRWM Region, face significant challenges trying to access safe and affordable drinking water, despite the Sierra Nevada providing up to 60% of the developed water in state[1]. The report recommends further focus on water shortage preparedness and contingency planning for DACs facing the inter-related threats of climate change, failing water sources, and extreme wildfire risk.

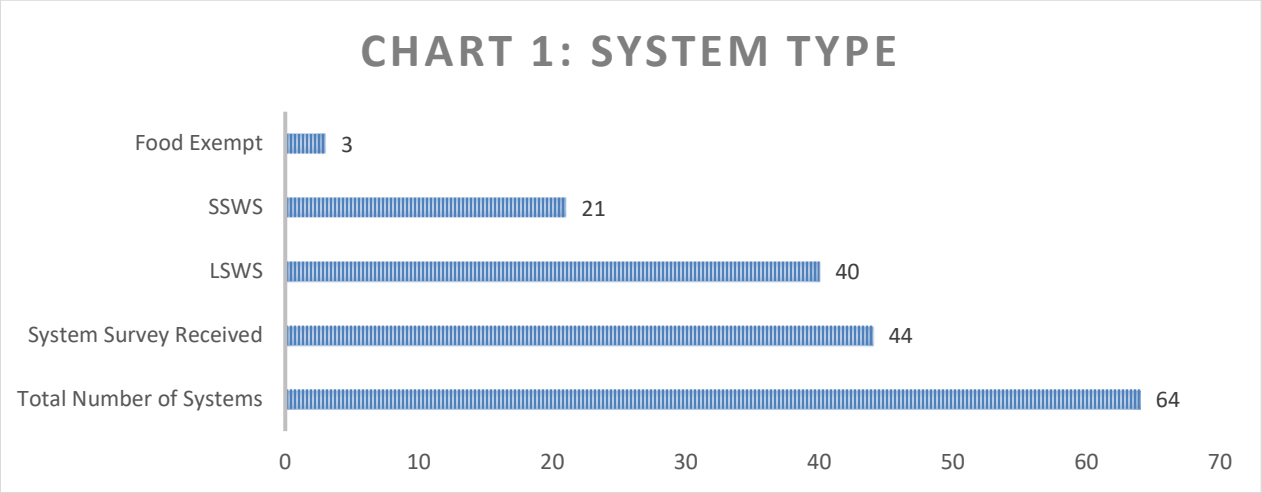
The results and recommendations helped inform the goals of this pilot project, which is to utilize the survey and analysis to assist small water system owners and operators with developing Water Shortage Contingency Plans (WSCP) that are tailored to their system needs and vulnerabilities. WSCPs provide step-by-step preparation plans to effectively respond to prolonged water shortages and various stages of drought. Further, the pilot efforts can also help identify projects for consolidation candidates and inform funding from The Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (SB200) and AB1688 County Drought Advisory Group (CDAG) funding.

[1] *Mountain Counties Funding Area Integrated Regional Water Management Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program: Community Well-Being & Water and Wastewater Needs Assessments for Upper Feather River IRWM (pg. 3)*

GENERAL SYSTEM DETAILS

System Types

A water system inventory was created using Plumas County Environmental Health Department's permitting records for SSWS and LSWS. Plumas County permits a total of 64 water systems, 21 of which are SSWS and 40 of which are LSWS (Chart 1). An additional 3 permits are issued as Food Code Exempt systems.

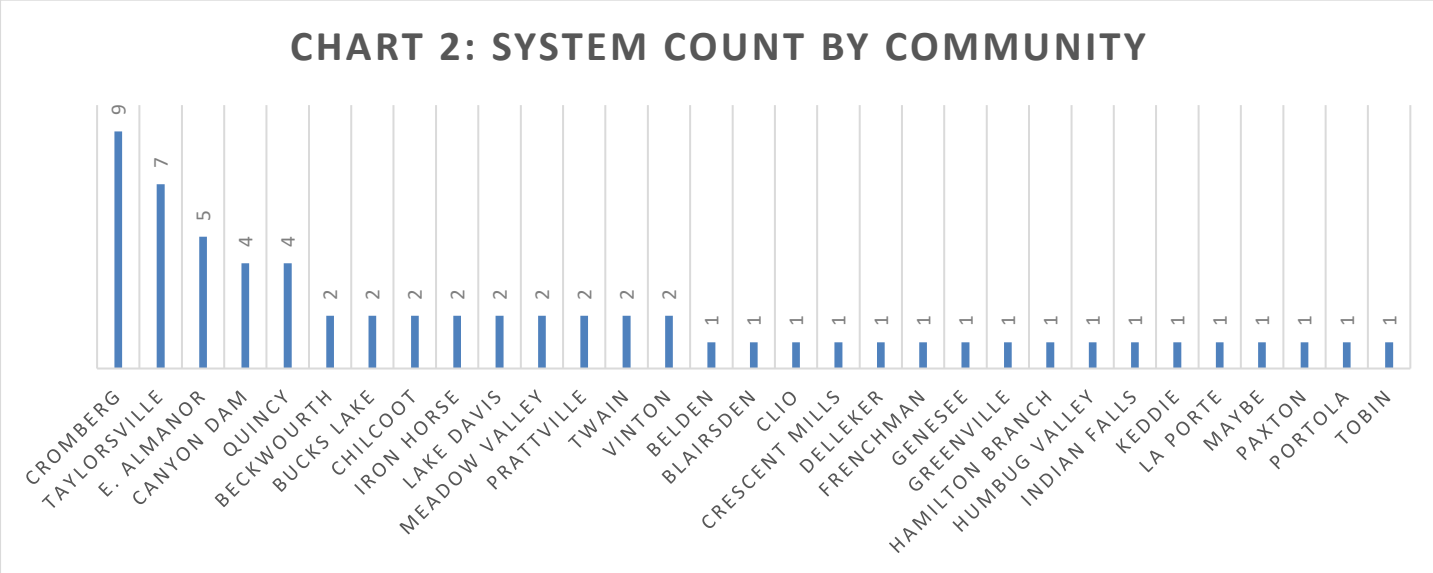


There are a handful of water systems operating throughout Plumas County that are likely SSWS or LSWS, but that are not currently permitted. Outreach and permitting with these systems are currently ongoing through Environmental Health staff work, although no outreach was conducted with these systems for the purpose of this pilot project.

System Locations

Plumas County encompasses 2,554 square miles of land with four main populated regions.

Each of the four population centers have community water systems (State-Regulated Water System), the smaller outlying communities are generally not connected to State-Regulated Water System and rely on smaller water system permitting categories. While 26 communities have 1 to 2 small water systems, only 5 communities have 2+ small water systems (Chart 2). Cromberg, Taylorsville, East Almanor, Canyon Dam, and Quincy have the most SSWS and LSWS.

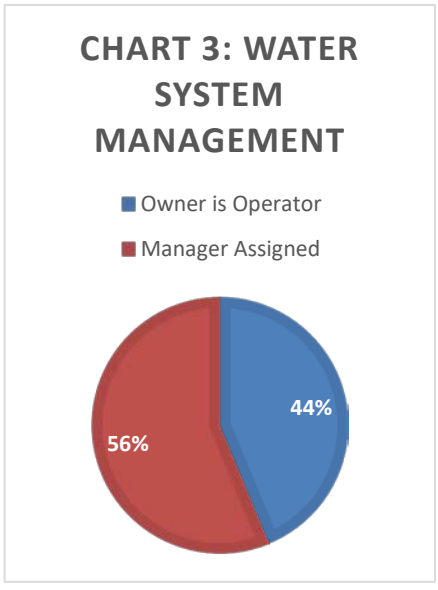


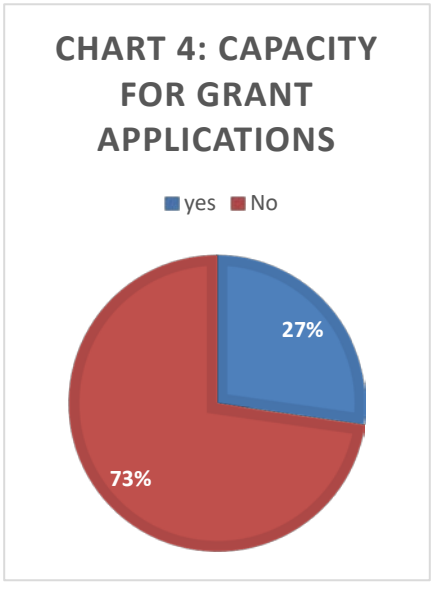
MANAGEMENT DETAILS

Charts 3 and 4 give a brief overview of the SSWS and LSWS management operations.

44% of systems are owner operated and 56% have assigned/designated water system managers.

Water system operators were asked if grant funding for system upgrades were available would they have administrative capacity to apply for grants, 73% of respondence indicated they do not have administrative capacity for grant applications.





SYSTEM DETAILS

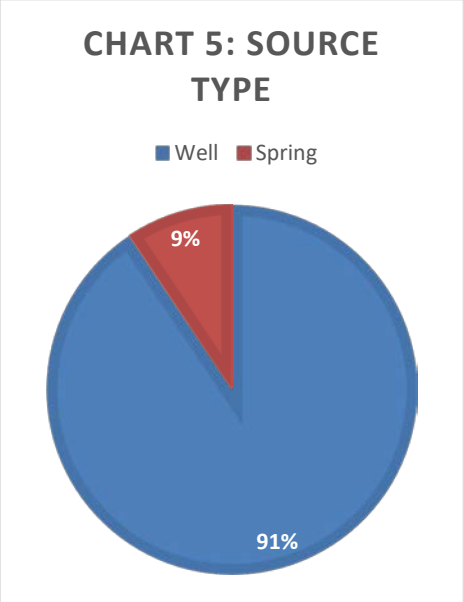
System Source Information

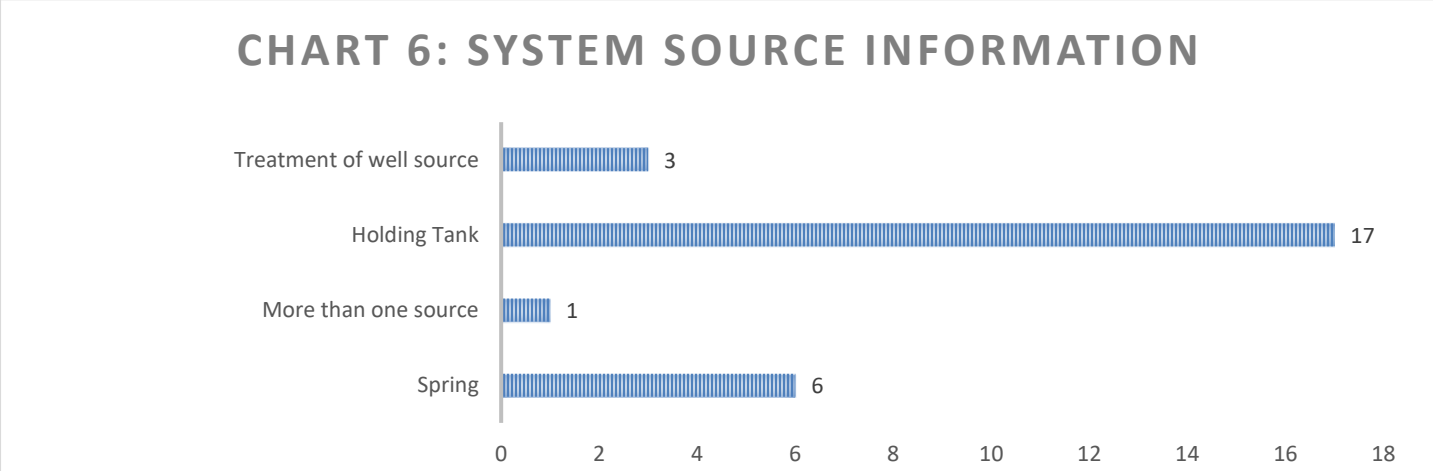
A majority of water systems are supplied by wells (91%) (Chart 5), only 6 water system rely on spring sources for water system supply (Chart 6).

Four systems have treatment of the water system.

Only one water system has more than one source of water supply to their water system.

Seventeen water systems have at least some capacity to store water within the system in holding tank(s).



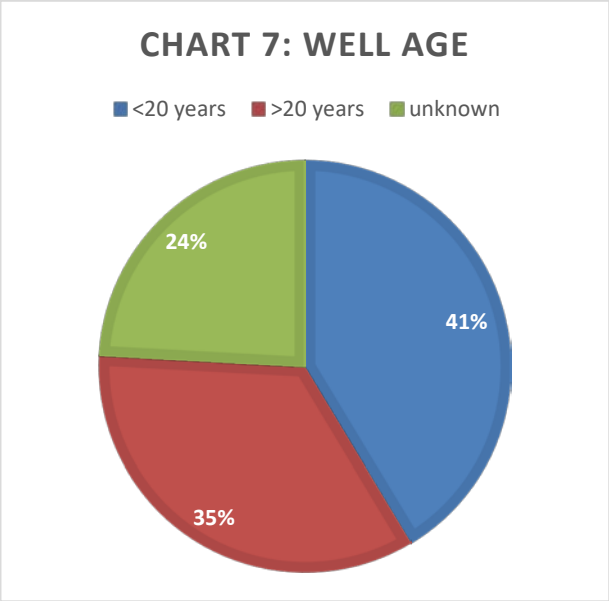


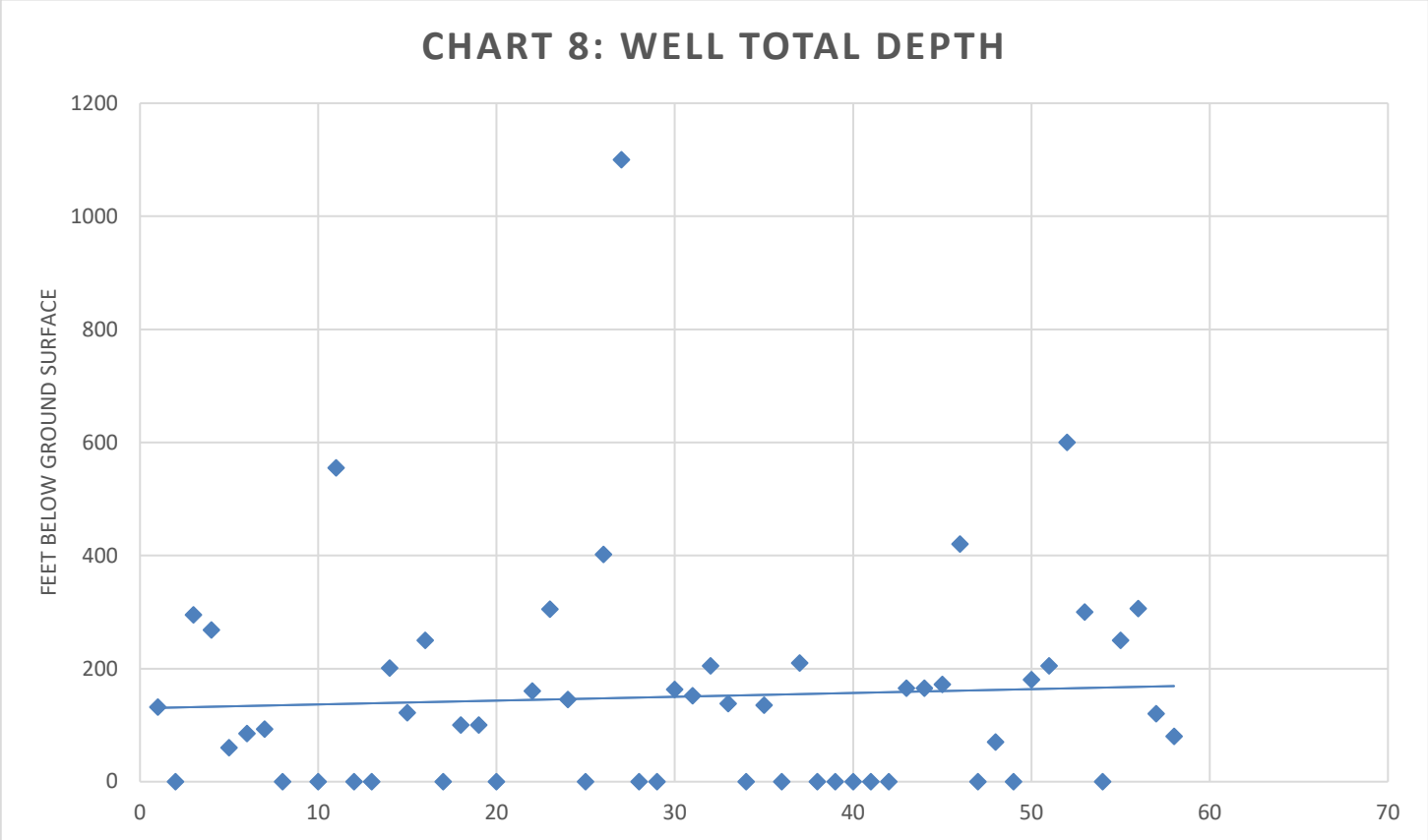
System Infrastructure Details

The primary infrastructure component that was reviewed was well age and depth.

41% of SSWS and LSWS wells were installed in the last 20 years (Chart 7).

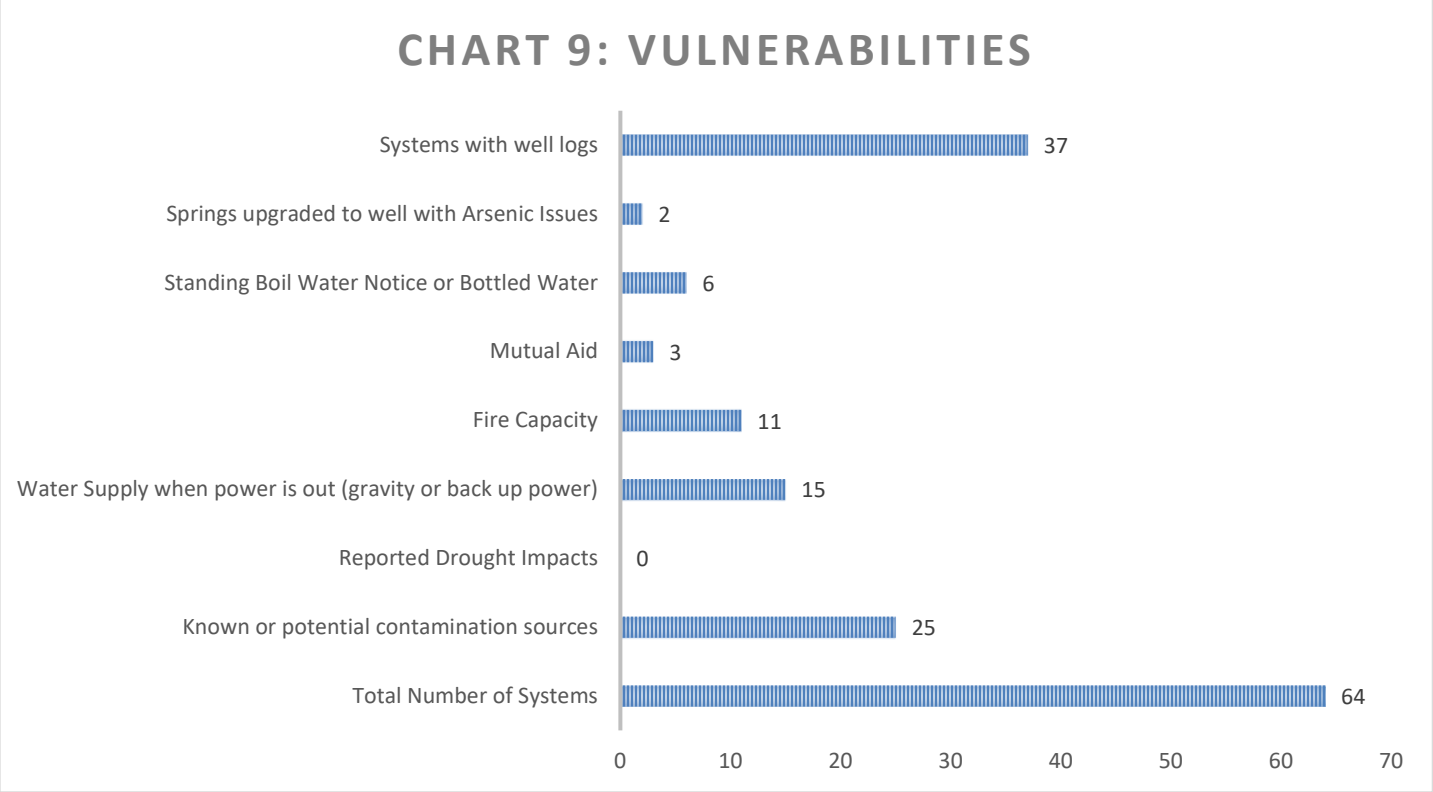
Average well depth is 281 feet below ground surface (Chart 8); however, well depth is highly variable throughout the County as a reflection of the complex geology throughout Plumas County region.





SYSTEM VULNERABILITIES

Several vulnerabilities were identified by survey data as well as historic Environmental Health Department inspection information (Chart 9).



Additional vulnerabilities identified include only 34% of SSWS and LSWS have water during a power outage, generally water systems that do have water supply during a power outage have back-up power generation of some kind, few water systems are gravity-fed and not power dependent. Only 25% of water systems self-identified as having any kind of fire capacity at their facility, and only 7% of systems identified having a mutual aid plan (none of which are formal agreements).

The number one known vulnerability is water systems that are either currently on standing boil water notice or have historically had a standing boil water notice. These systems tend to be in the Feather River Canyon along Highway 70 and Highway 89. At least two of these systems have lost their water rights from historic springs and attempted to drill a commercial well; however, the wells had water quality issues of their own. One system has installed a water treatment facility, and the other abandoned the well.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The assessment of system vulnerabilities can assist water system operators with identification and prioritization of projects for disaster preparedness planning, helping small systems become less vulnerable to risks such as water contamination, aging infrastructure, deepened wells, power outages, extreme drought conditions, dependence on one water source, increased wildfire risk, and other impacts touched upon in the survey. Information collected from the survey can be utilized to pursue grant funding for infrastructure improvement projects as well as identify capacity needs to implement projects and help agencies tailor their own water shortage contingency planning strategies at a local level. Water shortage contingency planning strategies are critical for small and vulnerable water systems to address failing water source issues and promote resiliency and sustainability, especially in the face of current drought conditions and wildfire events.

Further disaster preparedness goals and objectives are described in the *Plumas County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) (October 2020)*. The LHMP outlines the community's mitigation strategy and actions to reduce or eliminate the risk of hazards to people and property. The pilot project is included in the LHMP under *Action 17: Water Shortage Preparedness and Contingency Planning Pilot Project* to address climate change, drought, and water shortage hazards and meet Goals 1-7 (*see pages 8-9 for Mitigation Strategy Goals*). Additionally, actions to increase water availability, supply, and storage capacity in response to impacts such as current and future droughts and increased threat of catastrophic wildfire are outlined in *Action 18: Water Supply Infrastructure Improvements.* The UFR IRWM Plan includes Regional Water Management Group (RWMG)-nominated candidate projects that implement these goals and receive Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation grant award funding for support.

GIS PORTAL

The DACTI Inventory Data Map is an interactive GIS web map that displays all known SSWS and LSWS in Plumas County. The intranet map was constructed by the Plumas County GIS Department using Plumas County Environmental Health water system file data, the needs assessment survey results, DWR data, and other Public Water System references.

The goal of the map is to be an informative tool to identify the system characteristics, needs, and the parameter of vulnerabilities amongst SSWS and LSWS within Plumas County, which can be used to implement long-term capacity planning strategies as well as inform SB200 funding and AB1688 CDAG funding.

Data represented on the map includes service area boundaries, parcel boundaries[2], system source (well or spring), system infrastructure details, and other notable system details. More details/layers include system vulnerabilities, closest systems, source type and source count, holding tank details, treatment details, connections and service details, well permit, and well logs.

County users can also utilize mapping tools such as the query tool, the data summary tool, and the measure tool to measure distance and total area. The query tool can search a water system by system number and/or by system name, and the data summary tool can compare the spatial relationship between two map features, such as water systems or source points.

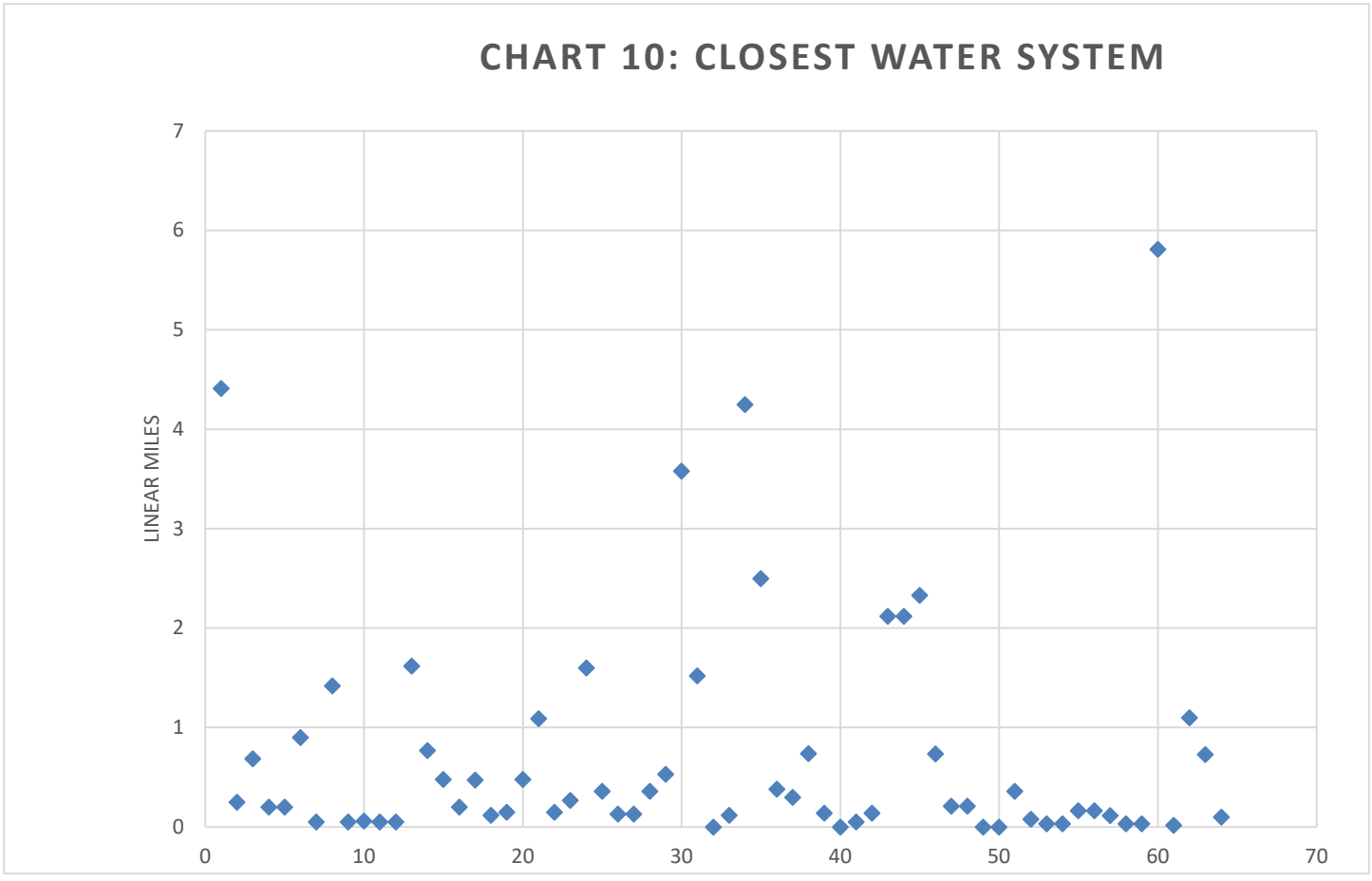
CONSOLIDATION OPPORTUNITIES

Generally speaking, when considering methods to decrease system vulnerabilities, consolidation opportunities is one of the first considerations (Chart 10); however, the consolidation process in rural areas experience the following primary barriers:

1) Financial, either the connection fee to the existing larger system is more expensive than managing their own water system, or the distance to connection is cost prohibitive.
    a. A case example of this is Spring Meadow Cabins located within the Indian Valley Community Service District (IVCSD) service area. The owner found that the cost to extend the IVCSD water main to the parcel and connect to it was more expensive than replacing the spring source with a new commercial water supply well. The Spring Meadows Cabin system installed a commercial well in 2020 rather than connecting to the IVCSD.
2) Distance to closest system is a factor for logistically connecting systems:
    a. An analysis of the closest water system to all SSWS and LSWS determined that the average *linear* distance to the next closest water system is ¾ of a mile; with the closest being 0 miles and the furthers being 5.8 miles. Any category of water system was used as 'next closest' water system, most Community Services Districts are significantly further away. The true distance to connect these SSWS and LSWS to neighboring or larger water systems would be much greater, as straight-line connections are generally not possible in many of these areas.
    b. When considering which communities have the most SSWS and LSWS see Chart 2. The systems in these communities: Cromberg, Taylorsville, East Shore Lake Almanor, Canyon Dam, and Quincy are where future consolidation efforts should be focused.

[2] Boundaries represent general location only and should not be used as the exact legal boundary location. Do not use for survey purposes.

3) Water system capacity to provide water to additional connections in the event of a merger was not included as part of this evaluation, as most small water systems do not know how much water they are using, or how much water capacity exists within their system.
4) Administrative consolidation and/or functional consolidation would make the most sense for the SSWS and LSWS reviewed. This is based on the analysis of distances between systems, as well as survey responses to the administrative capacity for grant writing question, and the number of known owner operator systems.
    a. A good example of administrative consolidation is the Feather River Canyon CSD, which manages three of the 5 SSWS and LSWS in the Feather River Canyon. While these systems are not physically connected or sharing water, they are sharing administrative resources and knowledge.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (WRCB) offer a variety of funding opportunities that could help fund SSWS and LSWS projects in the MCFA, including grants and loans for drought relief, water affordability, and clean drinking water.

Below are both active and forecasted grant funding opportunities (Table 1 and Table 2) at the time of this Fact Sheet that public agencies, Tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations can pursue to plan and/or construct system upgrades for SSWS and LSWS.

A summary list of the funding opportunities are as follows:

- Small Community Drought Relief Program
- The Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Program (SAFER)
- Emergency Drinking Water/Cleanup & Abatement Account Programs
- Small Community Drinking Water (SCDW) Funding Program
- Small Community Clean Water/Wastewater (SCWW) Funding
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Planning
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Construction
- Proposition 1 – Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Program
- Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program's Proposition 68 Implementation Round 2

Table 1: Active Grant Funding Opportunities

Grant Title (with web links)	Grantor	Application Deadline	Opportunity Type	Total Est. Available Funding	Period of Performance	Letter of Intent	Matched Funding
Small Community Drought Relief Program	Department of Water Resources	12/29/2023	Grant	$192,000,000 (est. amount per award is dependent)	3 years	No	No
The Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Program (SAFER)	State Water Resources Control Board	Ongoing	Grant	$130,000,000 per year (est. amount per award is dependent)	4 years	Yes	No
Emergency Drinking Water/Cleanup & Abatement Account Programs	State Water Resources Control Board	Ongoing	Grant	$9,700,000 (est. amount per award is dependent)	2 years	Yes	No
Small Community Drinking Water (SCDW) Funding Program	State Water Resources Control Board	Ongoing	Grant, Loan	$50,000,000 (est. amount per award is dependent)	3-5 years	No	No
Small Community Clean Water/Wastewater (SCWW) Funding	State Water Resources Control Board	Ongoing	Grant, Loan	$110,000,000 (est. amount per award is dependent)	3-5 years	No	No
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Planning	State Water Resources Control Board	Ongoing	Grant, Loan	$10,000,000 (est. $250,000 - $500,000 per award)	2 years	No	No
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Construction	State Water Resources Control Board	Ongoing	Grant, Loan	$280,000,000 (est. $2,000,000 - $10,000,000 per award)	4 years	No	No

Best available funding information as of January 2022.

Small Community Drought Relief Program

The DWR's Small Community Drought Relief Program provides authorized agencies with interim or immediate relief for near-term financial and technical support to help small communities respond to current and future drought events. Eligible applicants include nonprofits, public agencies, and Tribal government. Funding is granted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Projects must be in counties included in Governor Newson's State of Emergency Proclamations for 2021. Eligible projects must demonstrate at least one of the following:

- Address immediate impacts on human health and safety, including providing or improving availability of food, water, or shelter
- Address immediate impacts on fish and wildlife resources
- Provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies

Grant funding can go towards projects such as implementing reliable water supply resources, improving water system storage, replacing aging infrastructure, providing back-up power sources, temporary community water tanks, and hauled water.

The Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Program (SAFER)

Another potential funding opportunity is WRCB's SAFER program. The program was established by the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water (SADW) Fund through SB200 to provide safe and affordable drinking water to all Californians. Eligible reimbursement costs include operations and maintenance costs, cost of consolidating with larger systems, provision of replacement water, and funding for administrators to run the small systems. Projects must benefit a DAC or low-income households or communities.

Emergency Drinking Water/Cleanup & Abatement Account Program

WRCB's Emergency Drinking Water/Cleanup & Abatement Account Program is funded by the Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA), which provides grants for cleanup or abatement of a condition of pollution/waste on State waters when there are no possible agencies to perform the work and to address urgent drinking water needs due to drought, contamination, or other emergencies eligible for funding. Eligible applicants include public agencies, Tribal governments that are also a DAC, and nonprofit organizations serving a DAC or community water systems that serve a DAC.

Small Community Drinking Water (SCDW) Funding Program

Another project funding opportunity is the WRCB's Small Community Drinking Water (SCDW) Funding Program, administered by the Office of Sustainable Water Solutions. The program offers financial assistance to small DACs to implement drinking water infrastructure improvement projects, including planning/design and construction projects. Financial assistance is awarded through grants (see current Drinking Water Intended Use Plan for financing limits), low-interest loans, and principal forgiveness. Eligible applicants include publicly-owned community water systems, privately-owned community water systems, non-profit or publicly-owned non-community water systems, and community water systems created by the project.

Successful applicants will demonstrate that their project addresses human health risks to drinking water and/or achieves or maintains drinking water compliance with federal and state drinking water laws. Examples of eligible projects include water treatment systems, distribution systems, water sources, water meters, interconnections, consolidations, and pipeline extensions.

Small Community Clean Water/Wastewater (SCWW) Funding

WRCB's also offers the Small Community Clean Water/Wastewater (SCWW) Funding program administered by the Office of Sustainable Water Solutions. The program provides financial assistance to help small DACs implement water quality improvement projects (planning/design and/or construction) for public-owned facilities. Funding is awarded in the form of low-interest loans, grants (see current Drinking Water Intended Use Plan for financing limits), and principal forgiveness. Eligible applicants include cities, towns, districts, other public body, Tribal governments, authorized Native American Tribal organizations having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes, Section 208 of Clean Water Act (CWA) designated and approved management agencies, and more.

Examples of eligible projects include wastewater treatment, sewer collectors and interceptors, wastewater reclamation and distribution facilities, stormwater treatment, and more.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Planning

WRCB's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Planning program provides financial assistance to public water systems for planning/design projects working to maintain and achieve compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and provide clean drinking water. Funding is administered through the Division of Financial Assistance (DFA). Applications and funding are accepted on a continuous basis.

Eligible small community water systems serving a DAC, SDAC, and more can receive the maximum principle forgiveness/grant of $500,000. Eligible applicants include publicly-owned community water systems, privately-owned community water systems, non-profit or publicly-owned non-community water systems, and community water systems created by the project.

Examples of eligible planning/design projects include treatment systems, distribution systems, interconnections, consolidations, water sources, water meters, and more. Applicants that address the most serious human health risks, are critical to comply with SDWA, and assist public water systems the most per household will be prioritized for funding. WRCB recommends reading the DWSRF Policy before applying.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Construction

Similar to the program mentioned above, WRCB's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Construction program provides financial assistance to public water systems for construction projects working to maintain and achieve compliance with SDWA and provide clean drinking water. Applications and funding are accepted on a continuous basis.

Community water systems can receive principle forgiveness/grant from $2,000,000 up to 100% total eligible project cost based on factors such as project type, community served by the system, and residential water rates as a percentage of MHI. Eligible applicants include publicly-owned community water systems, privately-owned community water systems, non-profit or publicly-owned non-community water systems, and community water systems created by the project.

Examples of eligible construction projects include treatment facilities, distribution systems, interconnections, consolidations, water sources, water meters, and more. Contingency of change orders, value appraisal, and land purchase for right-of-way and easements, and more are also eligible. WRCB recommends reading the DWSRF Policy before applying.

Table 2: Forecasted Grant Opportunities

Program Name	Grantor	Anticipated Open Date	Opportunity Type	Total Est. Available Funding	Period of Performance	Letter of Intent	Matched Funding
Proposition 1 – Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Program	Department of Water Resources	Late 2021	Grant	$192,000,000 (Expected Number of Awards: 40-50)	4 years	No	50%
Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program's Proposition 68 Implementation Round 2	Department of Water Resources	Fall 2022	Grant	$77,000,000 (Estimated Amount Per Award: $500,000 - $5,000,000)	3 years	No	25%

Best available funding information as of January 2022.

Proposition 1 – Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Program

DWR's IRWM Grant Program is a state-wide, collaborative effort to bring together regional water stakeholders and implement water resource management projects, increase regional water self-reliance, and increase DACTI to meet resiliency and sustainability goals. The program provides grant awards through Proposition 1 funding in two rounds of solicitation; approximately $403 million will be made available for implementation projects. The Round 1 Implementation Grant award solicitation was approximately $211 million and the Round 2 Implementation Grant award solicitation is expected to be $192 million. 10% of authorized funding ($51 million) will be set aside for projects that directly benefit a DAC with a minimum 10% requirement for each Funding Area.

For the UFR IRWM, interested organizations must submit a project application and meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the IRWM Program Guidelines (2019). The RWMG will assess the project in a meeting and determine if it will be considered for inclusion into an adopted IRWM Plan. Inclusion in the IRWM Plan provides eligibility for funding as well as present opportunities to receive funding from other agencies. The Final Proposition 1 – Round 2 Implementation Grant Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) is anticipated to be released in late 2021.

Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program's Proposition 68 Implementation Round 2

DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program provides financing to groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) and other agencies under SGMA to invest in and promote healthy and sustainable groundwater basins, reduce hazards and risks to groundwater basins, and improve groundwater recharge and water quality. Funding is made available through Proposition 68, Chapter 11.6.

Eligible projects must be involved with and listed in an adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or approved Alternative Plan and must be considered a medium or high priority basin. $15 million will be made available for projects that primarily assist Underrepresented Communities.

CONCLUSIONS

The idea of developing water shortage preparedness and contingency planning, including consolidation opportunities and identification of well vulnerabilities to address the various stages of a drought or a prolonged water shortage is necessary, but beyond the current independent capacity of small water service providers to complete. Creating contingency planning for the smallest and most vulnerable systems is critical and this Pilot Project aims to accomplish a Plumas County system-wide level assessment with outcomes to support local planning and preparedness for other UFR region small water systems.

The objective of the small water systems Pilot Project for DAC communities and Tribes relying on groundwater wells or springs for sustainable water planning is to address water infrastructure related needs including water system upgrades or deferred maintenance issues, consolidation barriers and opportunities, study well vulnerability characteristics, water quality issues including contamination, and water shortages.

Work was coordinated by the Plumas County Planning and Environmental Health departments in consultation with Plumas County GIS. The pilot information and analysis and this Fact Sheet will be shared with stakeholders of the UFR IRWM Region through RWMG meetings and emails, Plumas County Board of Supervisors meetings, and the UFR IRWM website. Additionally, lessons learned from the pilot efforts will be shared and can be applied by other partners and stakeholders in the UFR Region.

The intent of the technical assistance resources and information is to assist UFR IRWM Region counties such as Butte, Lassen, and Sierra in an effort to expand and develop a system-wide assessment to inform WSCP. GIS data from one or more of these three counties could also be integrated into the Plumas DACTI Inventory Data Map to compare study patterns and trends, identify common vulnerabilities for systems in similar geographic regions, and combine efforts to pursue funding and develop regional and multi-benefit projects and planning efforts.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The final step is to distribute the pilot project information and analysis to the contributing SSWS and LSWS, Plumas County community members, and UFR IRWM stakeholders through various means of communication.

One of the primary tasks is to facilitate meetings with potential water system consolidation partners to discuss WSCP strategies using the results of the survey. This includes contacting DAC and Tribal community water system owners and SSWS and LSWS owners and operators for either virtual meetings, conference calls, or in-person meetings if permitted.

The following table outlines the Communications Plan for dissemination of the pilot project deliverables.

Description	Schedule	Audience	Method	Date
Final Pilot Project Cover Memo and Fact Sheet	March 2022	SSWS/LSWS and municipal service and small system water providers in Plumas County	Awareness email and interactive webinar invitation to Pilot Project list serve participants	3/21/22
Pilot Project Informational Presentation	March 2022	SSWS/LSWS and municipal service and small system water providers in Plumas County	Interactive webinar with Pilot Project participants	3/31/22
Pilot Project Cover Memo, Fact Sheet, and Informational Presentation	March 2022	UFR RWMG	Agenda item at RWMG meeting featherriver.org	3/11/22
		Plumas, Sierra, Butte, and Lassen County Board of Supervisors; Plumas County LAFCo	Awareness email	3/21/22
		Plumas, Sierra, Butte, and Lassen County Environmental Health Departments	Awareness email	3/21/22

As mentioned in the *UFR IRWM SB200 MCFA Integration Memo* (2019) to the State Water Resources Control Board and DWR, it is important to meet community members where they are in an effort to enhance the capacity to address water system needs and vulnerabilities. As well, a community meeting can link together the expertise of regional water providers in the communities and the knowledge and experience of the Plumas County Planning Department and Environmental Health Department.

Municipal water providers in the UFR region will be able to utilize the water shortage preparedness and contingency planning Plumas County pilot efforts to develop water shortage contingency plans for their own agencies and identify projects to address drought vulnerabilities with the intent of using the information to leverage state and federal funding as it becomes available to address the needs.

RESOURCES AND LINKS

Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Program
https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs/Proposition-1/DAC-Involvement-Program

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Construction
https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/drinking-water-state-revolving-fund-dwsrf-construction-2/

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Planning
https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/drinking-water-state-revolving-fund-dwsrf-planning-2/

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Policy
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/DWSRF_Policy.html

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Basics
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/dwsrf_basics.html

Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Programs
https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs

Plumas County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (October 2020)
https://www.plumascounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/37164/Plumas-County-2020-LHMP-Update_Complete?bidId=

Proposition 1 - Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Program
https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/proposition-1-round-2-integrated-regional-water-management-irwm-implementation-grant-program/

[The] Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program
https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/the-safe-and-affordable-funding-for-equity-and-resilience-program-safer/

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment - “Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Program”
https://sierrainstitute.us/program/dactip/

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment & Sierra Water Workgroup *Mountain Counties Funding Area Integrated Regional Water Management Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program: Community Well-Being & Water and Wastewater Needs Assessments for The Mountain Counties Funding Area*. https://sierrainstitute.us/new/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/MCFA-IRWMs-Report-Draft-Final-2021_7_21-1.pdf

Small Community Drought Relief Program
https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/small-community-drought-relief-program/

Small Community Drought Relief Program - Guidelines: https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Small-Community-Drought-Relief/Small-Community-Drought-Relief-Guidelines_2021.pdf

Small Community Drinking Water (SCDW) Funding Program Basics
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/scdw.html

Small Community Wastewater (SCWW) Funding https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/small-community-clean-water-wastewater-scww-funding/

Small Community Wastewater (SCWW) Funding Program Basics
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/scww.html

Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program
https://water.ca.gov/sgmgrants

Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program's Proposition 68 Implementation Round 2
https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/sustainable-groundwater-management-sgm-grant-programs-proposition-68-implementation-round-2/