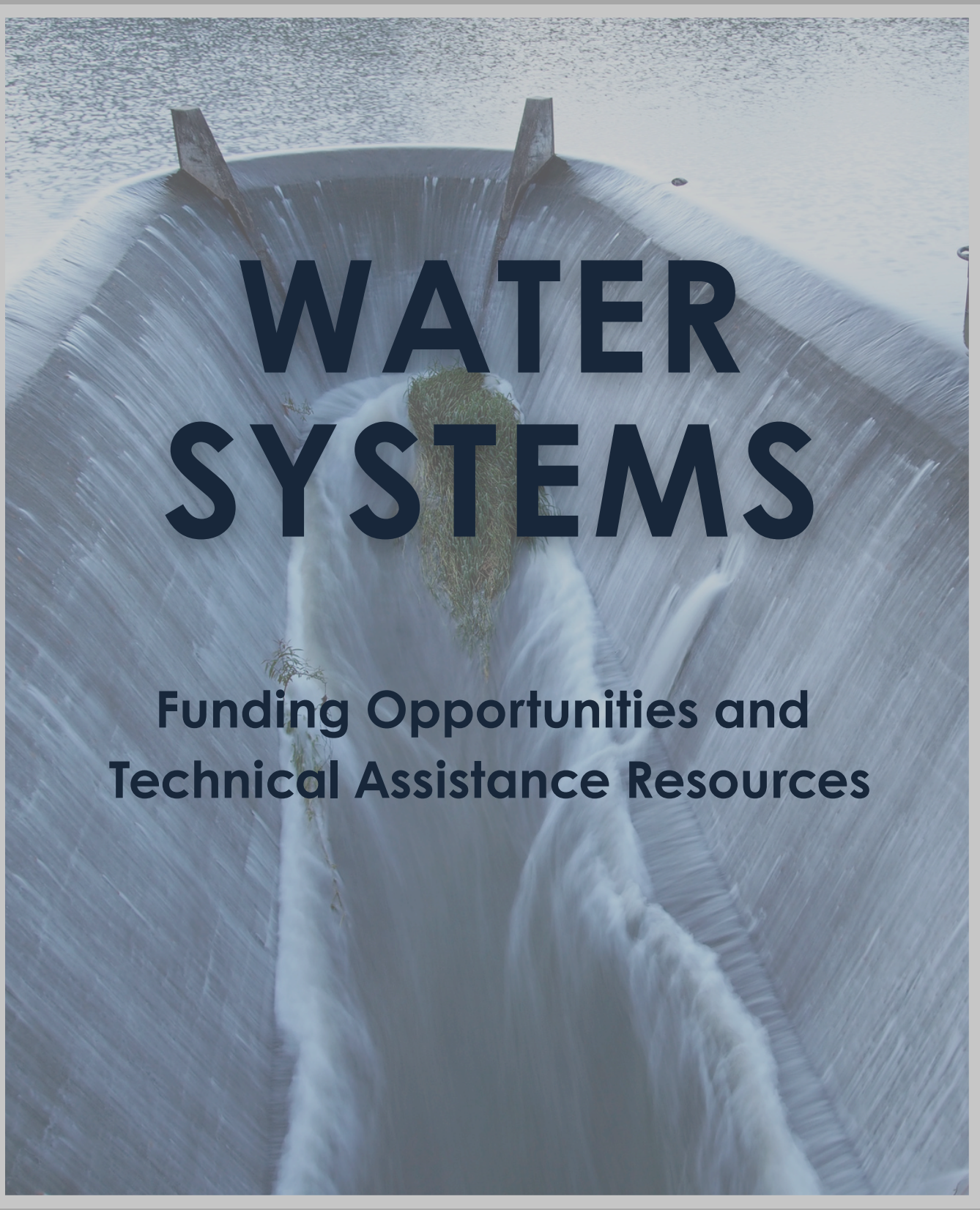


WATER SYSTEMS

Funding Opportunities and Technical Assistance Resources

Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Prepared by RSF Infrastructure Systems & NCR Team
2026

Cal OES RSF Website

Funding Opportunities

Grants

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants - US Department of Agriculture: Helps eligible communities prepare, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Applicants must show that a major decline in quantity or quality of water occurred within two years of the date of the application. Grants are also awarded when a significant decline in quality and quantity of water is imminent. *This is an ongoing program and individual award amounts range from $150,000 to $1 million.*

The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program - US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA): A federal low-cost credit assistance program for long-term loans, administered by EPA for eligible water and wastewater infrastructure projects. *There is a $20 million minimum project size for large communities, and $5 million for small communities (25k or less)*, and projects must be creditworthy and have a dedicated source of revenue, and total federal assistance may not exceed 80% of a project's eligible costs. *This is an ongoing program, allowing for flexible applicant-to-funding source matching.*

Environmental Infrastructure Assistance - US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): USACE aids with municipal EI which typically consists of assistance with drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects. There are no general eligibility criteria. Most authorities specify a specific geographic area or type of project. *This is an ongoing program, so applications are regularly received. Award amount is dependent on applicant.*

Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program - US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development: Provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings. *This opportunity is ongoing with open window from October 1 – September 30. Specific amount of grant, loan, or combination is dependent on the applicant.*

Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects - US Department of Interior: Provides 50/50 cost share funding to irrigation and water districts, tribes, states and other entities with water or power delivery authority for small water efficiency improvements that have been identified through previous planning efforts. Projects eligible for funding include installation of flow measurement or automation in a specific part of a water delivery system, lining of a section of a canal to address seepage, or other similar projects that are limited in scope. *Application window closed June 2, 2026, but may reopen next year.*

FY 2025 EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs - US Economic Development Administration: These grant and loan programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities. *This is an ongoing opportunity with individual max award of $30 million.*

Rural Water & Waste Disposal Grant & Loan Program - US Department of Agriculture: Provides grants, loans, and a combination of those for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. *This is an ongoing program with application window of October 1 - September 30, an individual award amounts are dependent on the applicant.*

Loans

Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) Urgent Drinking Water Needs Projects - CA State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB): The CAA is supported by court judgments and administrative civil liabilities assessed by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Boards). Water code section 13442 authorizes the State Water Boards to utilize CAA funds to address an urgent drinking water need. This includes needs due to drought, contamination, or other eligible emergencies. *Funding for this ongoing program amount is dependent on applicant.*

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) - CA State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB): The CWSRF program offers low-cost financing for a wide variety of water quality projects. Public agencies having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial waste, or other wastes, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization have eligibility for this ongoing program. *Individual award amounts are dependent on applicant.*

Infrastructure State Revolving Fund (ISRF) - California Infrastructure & Economic Development Bank (IBank): Provides grants to California Tribes & Tribal Consortia to pursue improved voice & broadband communications. Grants are available for, but not limited to, market studies, feasibility studies, business plans, grant writing, consultant services, TTA specific tribal staff hours & administrative costs. *Due quarterly by January 1, April 1, July 1, & October 1 until funds are exhausted.*

Technical Assistance and Other Resources

Division of Financing Assistance (DFA) - CA State Water Resources Control Board: DFA is the lead in administering the State Water Resources Control Board's financial assistance programs. These programs include loans and grant funding for construction of drinking water treatment and distribution systems. *Any non-routine or controversial projects, or CAA approvals exceeding $500,000 per project, will require State Water Board approval.*

Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center (WIRFC) - US EPA: Provides financing information to help local decision makers make informed decisions for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure to protect human health and the environment.

EPA, FEMA, HUD, SBA - Federal Funding for Water & Wastewater Utilities in National Disasters (Fed FUNDS): Fed FUNDS presents information tailored to water and wastewater utilities on federal disaster and mitigation funding programs from EPA, FEMA, HUD and SBA. Search by type of utility (e.g. public, private non-profit) and see numerous *success stories* in your state.

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Power Resilience for the Water & Wastewater Sector: The US EPA has developed resources to help drinking water and wastewater utilities prepare for, respond to, and recover from power outages that could have significant impacts on a utility's operations and the community it serves.



Did you know?

The Cal OES Infrastructure Recovery Support Function Team provides funding research to support local infrastructure recovery & resilience. If you have experienced a natural disaster & have unmet infrastructure recovery needs, or would like to be connected to assistance programs, please fill out our *intake form.*