

Frequently Asked Questions - SGWP "Counties with Stressed Basins" PSP and 2015 GL

#	Question	Answer
1	Can an individual County submit more than one application (multiple basins, projects, etc.)?	No, DWR's intent for this solicitation is one application per County (one or multiple GW basins can be addressed). DWR would like as many Counties as possible to have access to these funds. In addition, the maximum award is per County, not per Basin.
2	Is DWR planning to issue Proposal Solicitation Packages (PSPs) in the future for the Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program that are intended for agencies other than counties?	Yes, DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Grant Program will have future solicitations open to entities listed in section III.A of the SGWP Grant Program Guidelines. The Counties with Stressed Basins PSP was developed in response to the Governor's budget revision in May which specifically called for \$10 million dollars in immediate funding for "counties with stressed groundwater basins."
3	Can applicants use a partner agency's incurred costs as local cost share or is only the applicant's incurred costs eligible for local cost share?	The County can include, as local cost share, any eligible costs directly related to the proposed project (incurred after November 4, 2014). This can include costs incurred by their partners so long as it directly relates to the proposal.
4	Should I separate these two costs out: the applicant's costs into column (b) and the partner's costs into column (c) or should I just sum both costs into column (b)?	Both costs should be included in the total cost share in column b. Column c should be used primarily for other State funds (not eligible for local cost share) or cost in excess of the 50% local cost share requirement.
5	Attachment 2 specifically calls for one figure to show the groundwater basin and county lines. Am I limited to just this one figure or can I add additional figures that prove/show the reduction in groundwater storage with a hydrograph and a figure showing a large groundwater pumping depression.	The number of figures is not limited.
6	In past grants there has been a requirement to submit quarterly progress reports and a project completion report to DWR. This requirement is not included in the SGWP Guidelines or Counties with Stressed Basins PSP. Are quarterly progress reports going to be required in this solicitation?	Yes, the quarterly reporting requirement is not listed in the SGWP Guidelines or Counties with Stressed Basins PSP, it is listed as a requirement in the "Draft" SGWP Agreement Template (found at the following link: http://water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/sgwp/guidelinespsp.cfm) The SGWP Agreement Template lists the general grant requirements.
7	Are funds from the Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program available to for-profit water development companies?	The SGWP grant program does not fund private individuals or companies.
8	Can you confirm that the sample language on page 12 of the PSP for the Resolution is just a sample, and not the required format, and that the awarding body will accept our County's resolution as we prefer to format the document?	The resolution must both authorize submittal of a grant application and acceptance of the grant award. The resolution may be formatted in whatever way is appropriate for your County's standard resolution.

9	<p>We have a critically overdrafted basin in our County that underlies a Disadvantaged Community (DAC). However, the entire County is not a DAC. Are we eligible for a \$250,000 or \$500,000 award?</p>	<p>The County must be a DAC or an Economically Distressed Area (EDA) <i>and</i> must have a critically overdrafted groundwater basin in order to be eligible for a \$500,000 grant. For all other successful applicants, the maximum award amount is \$250,000. Please see Section II.B of the PSP for more information.</p>
10	<p>It is not clear if I need to prepare Attachment 8 – Economically Disadvantaged Areas. I am writing an application on behalf of a County that is designated as a county-wide DAC, but not a county-wide EDA. Since it is already recognized by DWR as a county-wide DAC I see no need to prepare Attachment 8 – Economically Distressed Areas. Am I correct?</p>	<p>If the County is already listed in Table 1 as a DAC or EDA there is no need to fill out either attachment 7 or 8.</p>
11	<p>The attachments for budget and schedule both have page limitations for the ‘descriptions’ of 2 and 1 pages, respectively. Do these page restrictions include the cost estimate spreadsheets and schedule chart, or do they just apply to the text describing the tables and charts?</p>	<p>The page limitation applies to the text only, not the budget or schedule tables.</p>
12	<p>The attachments for budget and schedule both have page limitations for the ‘descriptions’. Do these page restrictions include the cost estimate spreadsheets and schedule chart, or do they just apply to the text describing the tables and charts?</p>	<p>The page limitation applies to the text only, not the budget or schedule tables.</p>
13	<p>In reviewing your proposal requirements, I noticed that the grant application requires Authorizing Documentation from our governing body. We are in the process of preparing a Board Report and are slated to go to our Board of Supervisors on January 6, 2016. We were hoping that a letter from our director outlining our intentions to seek grant funding could be provided with our proposal and follow that up with a Board Resolution in January since that will likely still be in the grant review phase. Please let me know if that’s possible.</p>	<p>DWR cannot make a draft funding recommendation for any entity that has not submitted an authorizing final resolution. So long as you submit the resolution to DWR by mid-January you should be alright. Please do include a letter stating when you plan to be on the agenda, as well as a copy of the draft resolution if possible. The resolution needs to authorize the County to not only apply but accept the grant award if your application is successful. DWR plans to make draft funding recommendations in late January.</p>

14	I'm looking at the Counties with Stressed Basins PSP and I keep seeing that DWR "may" reduce the required 50% cost share for applications with DAC/EDA benefits. Do you have any guidance how we should interpret that? My assumption has been from comments from others that the cost share would be waived if there were DAC/EDA benefits from the proposal. Should I be thinking about that differently?	If the County is considered a DAC/EDA per Table 1 of the PSP, and they ask for a waiver from local cost share we will allow this and they do not have to fill out Attachments 7 or 8. Please note this on the budget table. If the County is not shown as a DAC or EDA in Table 1 but they are requesting a partial waiver they will need to fill out either Attachment 7 or 8 and include appropriate maps, etc. DWR's "Water Management Tool" may be useful. The County should include a map of the basin with an overlay of the DAC area and then provide a discussion of the percent of the basin underlying a DAC. DWR would then apportion their waiver appropriately. In these cases, DWR will choose whether and how much to waive.
15	We are interested in finding out if there is any funding available from the State to assist with replacing damaged or dry groundwater monitor wells, or for constructing new monitoring wells to improve our network. Are there currently any such funding opportunities?	DWR oversees the Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Proposition 1 grant program. The intent of these funds is to help support efforts to prepare Groundwater Sustainability Plans. Generally speaking, activities related to preparation of the plans including data collection, modeling, etc. are eligible components of a proposal intended to fund preparation of a plan. To the extent that installation of monitoring wells is related to data collection or modeling to complete a plan, the activity is eligible (although not as a project simply intended to expand a monitoring network).
16	We will likely put in an application for GSP development. For local cost share, can we use the following: a county-wide groundwater study/water balance (this info will be incorporated into the GSP), my staff time on SGMA and other groundwater-related activities, back to November 4, 2014?	It is possible to use these costs incurred for local cost share, however, all "staff time on SGMA and other groundwater-related activities" and any consultant invoicing needs to have a direct tie to the proposed work and is not automatically assumed to be eligible for local cost share.
17	Attachment 7 requires information regarding DACs. Our Sub-basin has numerous DACs. Will we be required to provide information for each DAC, or is the Economically Distressed Area Mapping Tool sufficient for this Attachment?	Attachment 7 does not need to be filled out if your County is included as a DAC County in Table 1 (pages 6 and 7 of the PSP). If your County is already on the list of DAC Counties, no additional DAC status information is needed.
18	It appears that although a portion of the sub-basin is not CASGEM compliant, the County would still be eligible to apply for the grant due to our status as an Economically Distressed Area, is that correct?	That is correct. The County will need to become CASGEM compliant by the end of the year (per the Governor's Executive Order B-29-15 April 2015), but the County is eligible for funding due to DAC status.
19	Attachment 8 requires information regarding EDAs. In the Economically Distressed Area Mapping Tool, our County meets the criteria. Will we need to drill down to the sub-basin level for the application? What additional information will be required beyond what the Mapping Tool provides?	Attachment 8 is optional and the entire County is already designated as a DAC therefore it is not necessary for the County to complete Attachment 8.