



## FACT SHEET

### Background

Within the State of California, Tribes and underrepresented communities (URCs) face many challenges accessing clean, affordable water supplies such as groundwater, especially during droughts. In 2021, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) launched the Underrepresented Communities, California Tribes, and Small Farmers Groundwater Technical Assistance (URCTA) Program. The program aims to help identify communities throughout California with water supply issues and provide technical assistance services to small farmers, small communities and underserved areas across the state.

DWR has contracted Dudek and partnered with The Water Foundation and nonprofits Community Water Center, Self-Help Enterprises, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon; the Community Alliance with Family Farmers, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, UC Davis Law School, and other partners.

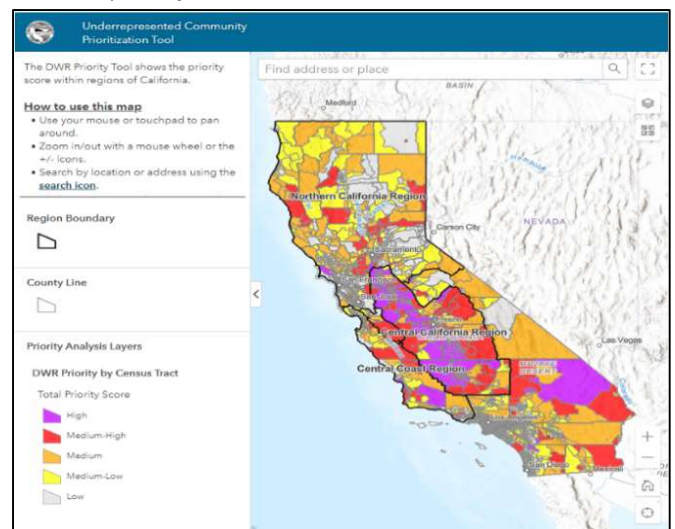
### Overview

The program’s mission is to support Underrepresented Communities, California Native American Tribes (Federally and Non-Federally Recognized) and Small Farmers within Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulated basins, including those that are medium, high and critically overdrafted priority. The URCTA Program identifies eligible communities throughout California with water supply challenges such as dry groundwater wells, water shortages, or poor water quality with the assessment of water-related needs, risks, and vulnerabilities and to provide focused

groundwater-related technical assistance to resolve them.

### URC Prioritization Tool

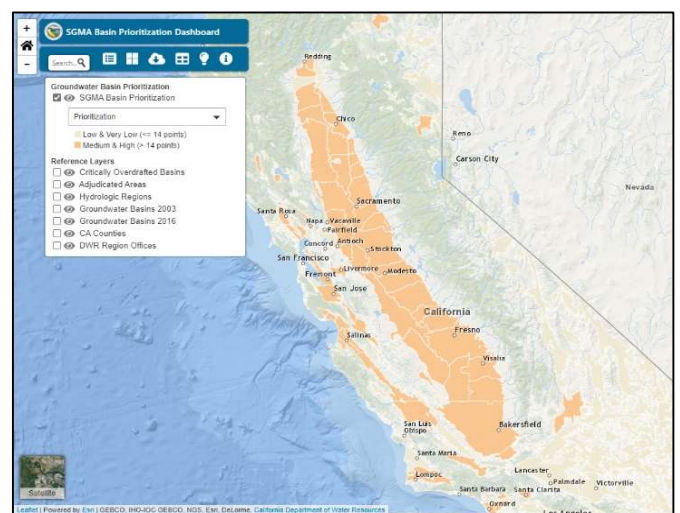
Using the online URC Prioritization Tool, DWR can assist with determining URCs from mapped areas that incorporate data including Median Household Income, threats to groundwater, access to drinking water, and water quality issues.



[Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance Program \(URC TA Program\)](#)

### SGMA Basin Prioritization Dashboard

Areas identified to be in a groundwater regulated basin will be identified using the SGMA Basin Prioritization Dashboard that





includes data on California's 515 Groundwater Basins defined in Bulletin 118. [SGMA Basin Prioritization Dashboard \(ca.gov\)](https://www.water.ca.gov/urctaprogram/sgma-basin-prioritization-dashboard)

### Technical Assistance Services

The URCTA Program can provide onsite engineering, geologic, hydrologic, and other technical services. These services can include Preliminary Engineering Design and Hydrogeologic Studies regarding groundwater wells, water and wastewater systems upgrades and consolidations, and water storage for fire suppressions. Specific examples of the types of services include:

- Analysis of existing well conditions, well interference, groundwater conditions, long-term water supply and demand, and groundwater impacts (for depletion, land subsidence, groundwater dependent ecosystem depletion, etc.).
- Analysis to identify water supplies, facilitate water transfers, and relevant applications needed.
- Assistance in monitoring groundwater levels, including instrumentation installation, soil moisture monitoring, groundwater quality testing, and training.
- Design of water systems including production, distribution, treatment, and storage, including determination of fire flow requirements.
- Facilitation on groundwater sustainability information and communication and expert witness testimony.

- Preparation of project plans and specifications for water wells, pumps and water storage tank solutions (well location, design, and construction oversight).
- Other technical assistance determined case-by-case.

### URCTA Program Eligibility

DWR can assist in determining eligibility for the URCTA Program within a groundwater basin that is regulated by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

### Where to Obtain Information

URCTA Program Page  
<https://water.ca.gov/urctaprogram>

For further information about the URCTA Program, interested parties can contact [URCTA@water.ca.gov](mailto:URCTA@water.ca.gov).



If you have any questions or concerns regarding Tribal Affairs, please contact [tribalpolicyadvisor@water.ca.gov](mailto:tribalpolicyadvisor@water.ca.gov).