

Septic-to-Sewer (SB 1215) & Regionalization

State Water Resources Control Board

Dania Jimmerson, P.E., Senior Engineer
Wastewater Needs Assessment (WWNA)
Wastewater Consolidation (WWC)
Division Of Water Quality



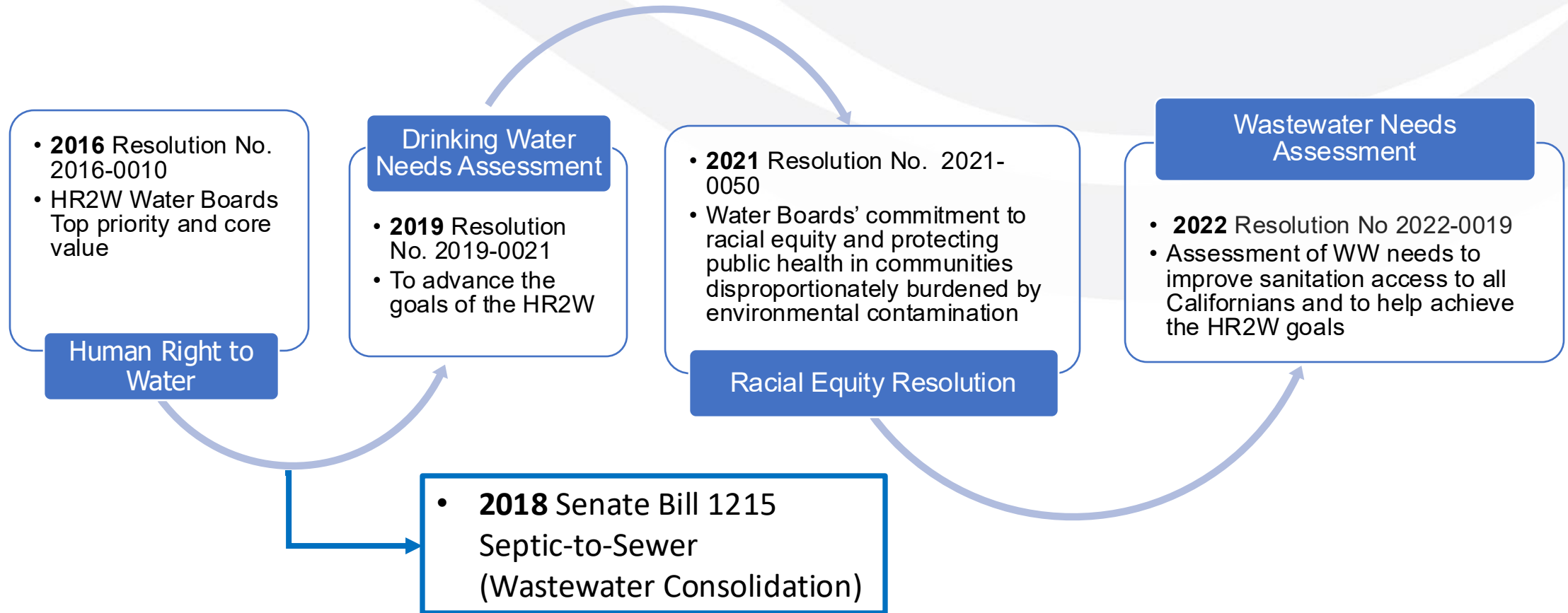
CVCWA 2025 Annual Conference

September 25th, 2025

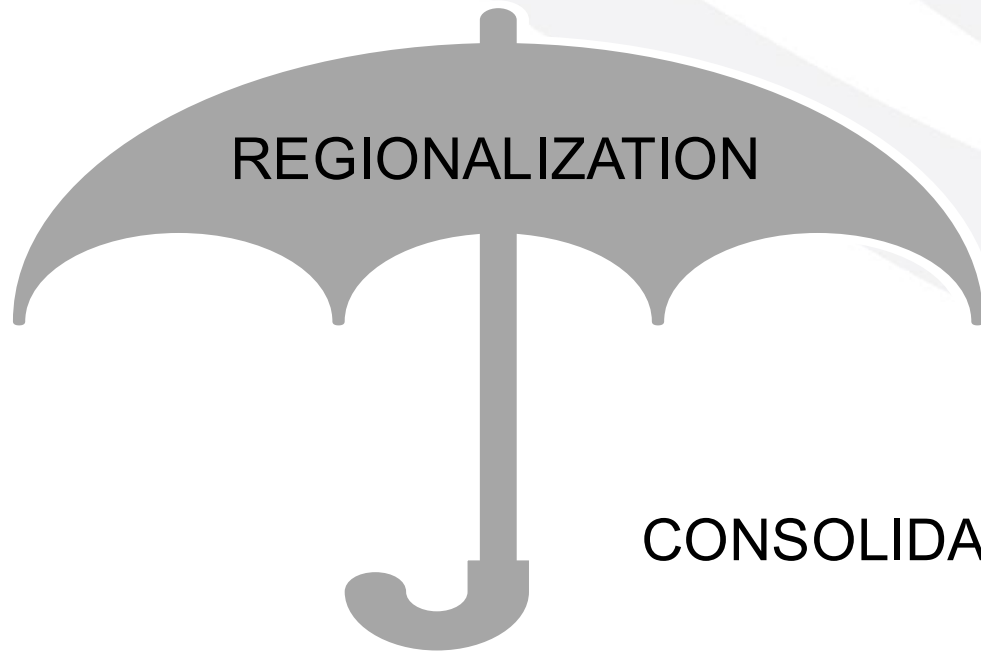
Presentation Outline

- State Water Board & Other Initiatives - Local and Regional Solutions
- Wastewater Consolidation (WWC) – Septic-to-Sewer
 - Background & General Process
 - Current Funding availability & Incentives
 - How is it relates to the Wastewater Needs Assessment (WWNA) efforts?
 - Example Success Septic-to-Sewer and Regionalization – Active Projects

State Water Board & Other Initiatives

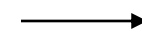


Need for Consistent Terminology for Wastewater Needs Discussions



Umbrella Term

CONSOLIDATION



Per SB1215

MORE SOLUTIONS/
MORE TERMS



Per WWNA and other
sources

Wastewater Consolidation Program

SB 1215 signed into law in 2018

Provides funding and regulatory framework for consolidating inadequate onsite sewage treatment systems with sewer systems

Authorizes Regional Water Boards to encourage or require sewer service to eligible communities

Receiving sewer system in partnership with disadvantaged communities are also eligible for funding

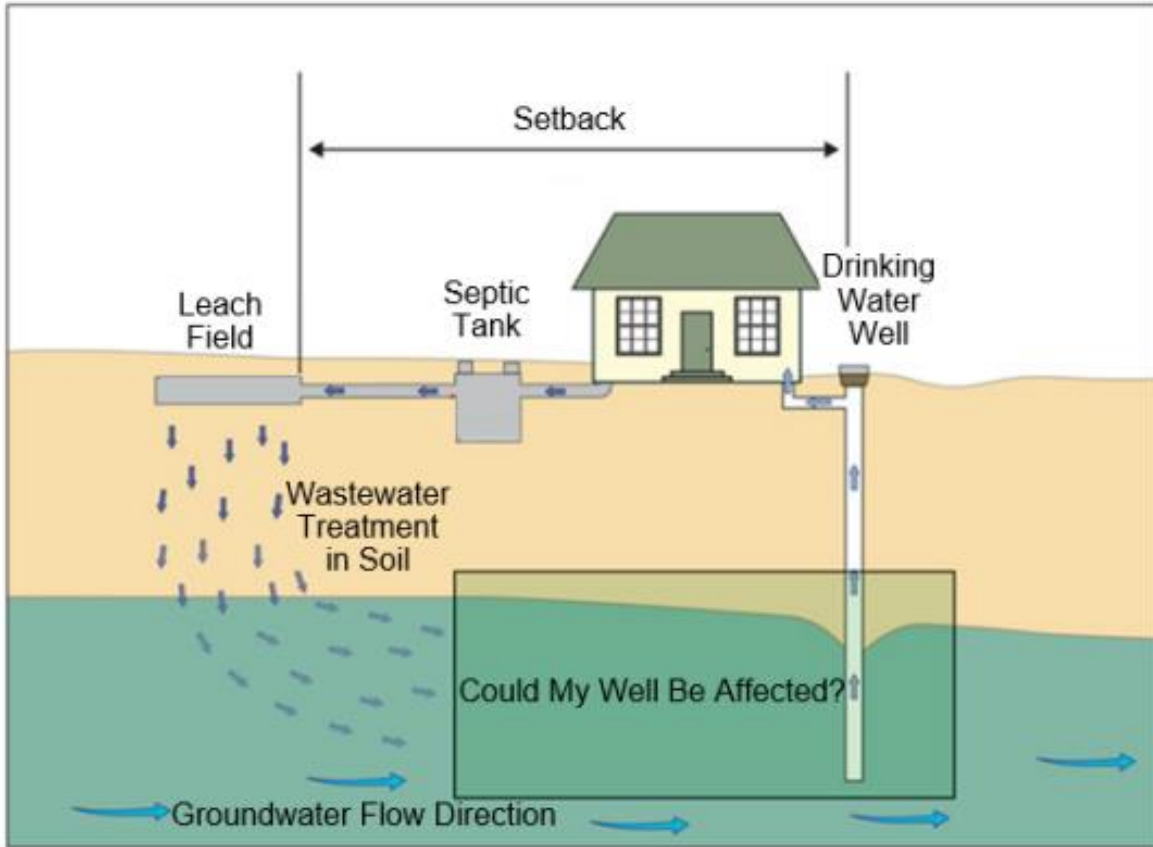


Figure adapted from the EPA Septic Systems and Drinking Water webpage (<https://www.epa.gov/septic/septic-systems-and-drinking-water>). Accessed June 2020.

Wastewater Consolidation Program

Senate Bill 1215



- Goals

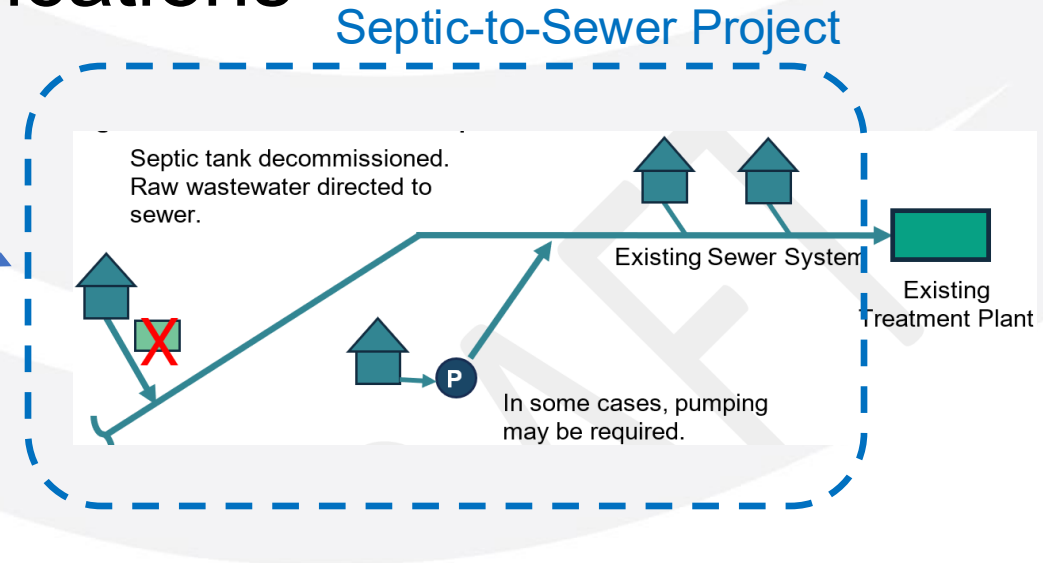
- Reduce nitrate drinking water impacts
- Incentivize sewer service connections

- SB 1215 Criteria

- **DACs or SDACs per MHI**
- Inadequate Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems
- Distance to nearest connection location ($\leq$ 3 miles)

DAC and SDAC Community Classifications

- Median Household Income - MHI
- Disadvantaged Communities - DACs
 - MHI < 80% statewide annual MHI
- Severely Disadvantaged Communities - SDACs
 - MHI < 60% statewide annual MHI



2023 American Community Survey

California Current MHI = \$96,334
80% of Statewide MHI = \$77,067
60% of Statewide MHI = \$57,800

Wastewater Consolidation Program

Senate Bill 1215



- Goals

- Reduce nitrate drinking water impacts
- Incentivize sewer service connections

- SB 1215 Criteria

- DACs or SDACs per MHI
- **Inadequate Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems**
- Distance to nearest connection location ($\leq$ 3 miles)

Inadequate Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems

SB 1215 Definition

- Reasonable Potential to Cause:

- Violation of Water Quality Objectives,
- Impair Present & Future BUs of Water,
- Pollution, Nuisance, or
- Contamination of waters of the state

Water Code Definition
(Wat. Code sec. 13288(f).)

- Examples:

- Septic Tanks, Cesspools, Leach Fields, Seepage Fields

Wastewater Consolidation Program

Senate Bill 1215



- Goals

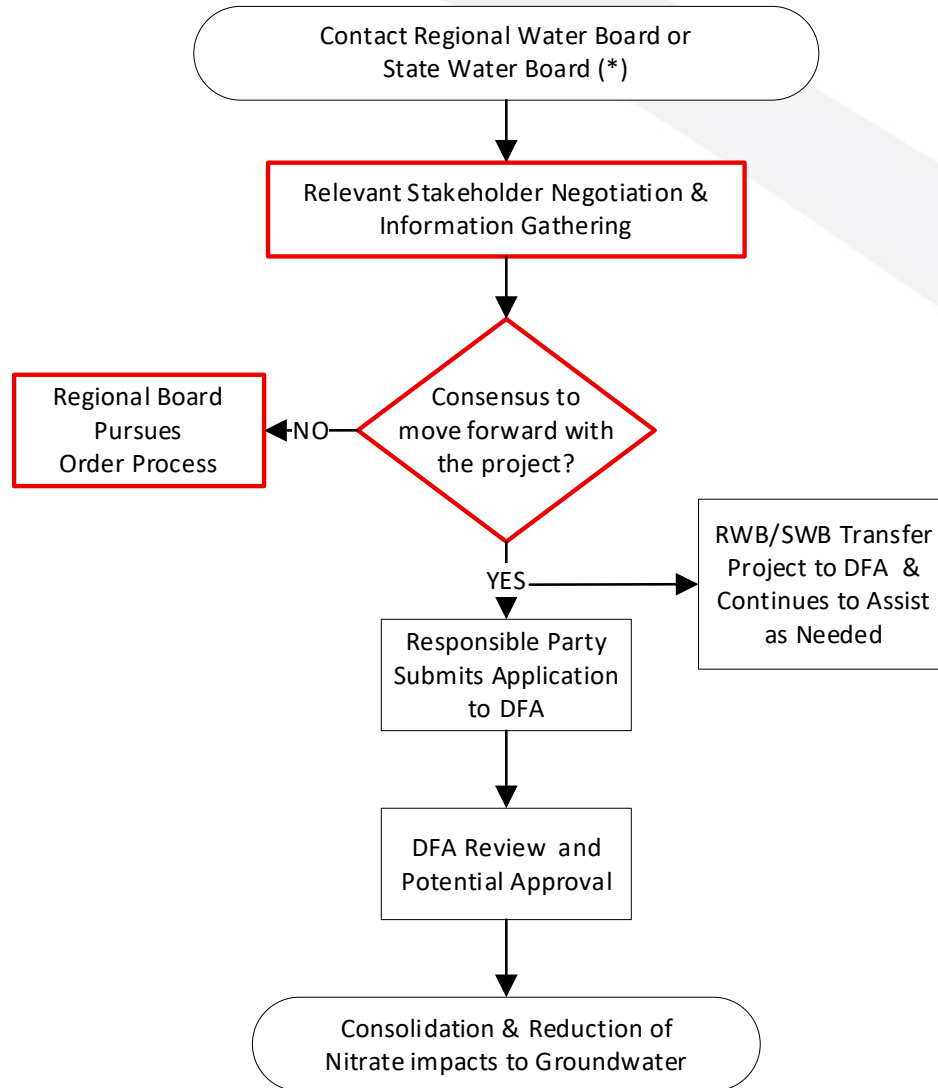
- Reduce nitrate drinking water impacts
- Incentivize sewer service connections

- SB 1215 Criteria

- DACs or SDACs per MHI
- Inadequate Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems
- **Distance to nearest connection location (≤ 3 miles) ¹**

¹ Receiving sewer system's service territory (SB 1215 language)

Wastewater Consolidation & Regionalization Process



Regional Water Boards Wastewater Consolidation

Staff Contacts

- Region 1 - **Kelsey Cody**
Kelsey.Cody@waterboards.ca.gov
- Region 3 - **Sarah Bragg-Flavan or Kathy Truong Krebs**
Sarah.Bragg-Flavan@waterboards.ca.gov
Kathy.Truong-Krebs@waterboards.ca.gov
- Region 4 - **Patrick Coldivar or Dr. James Kang**
Patrick.Coldivar@waterboards.ca.gov
Jim.Kang@waterboards.ca.gov
- Region 5 - **Scott Perrou or Jesse Milliken-Callan**
Scott.Perrou@waterboards.ca.gov
Jesse.Milliken-Callan@waterboards.ca.gov
- Region 6 - **Jose Valle de Leon**
Jose.Valledeleon@waterboards.ca.gov

*No WWC Staff in Regions 2, 7, 8, and 9.



https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/wastewater_consolidation/

DFA: Eligible Applicants, Criteria, & Incentives

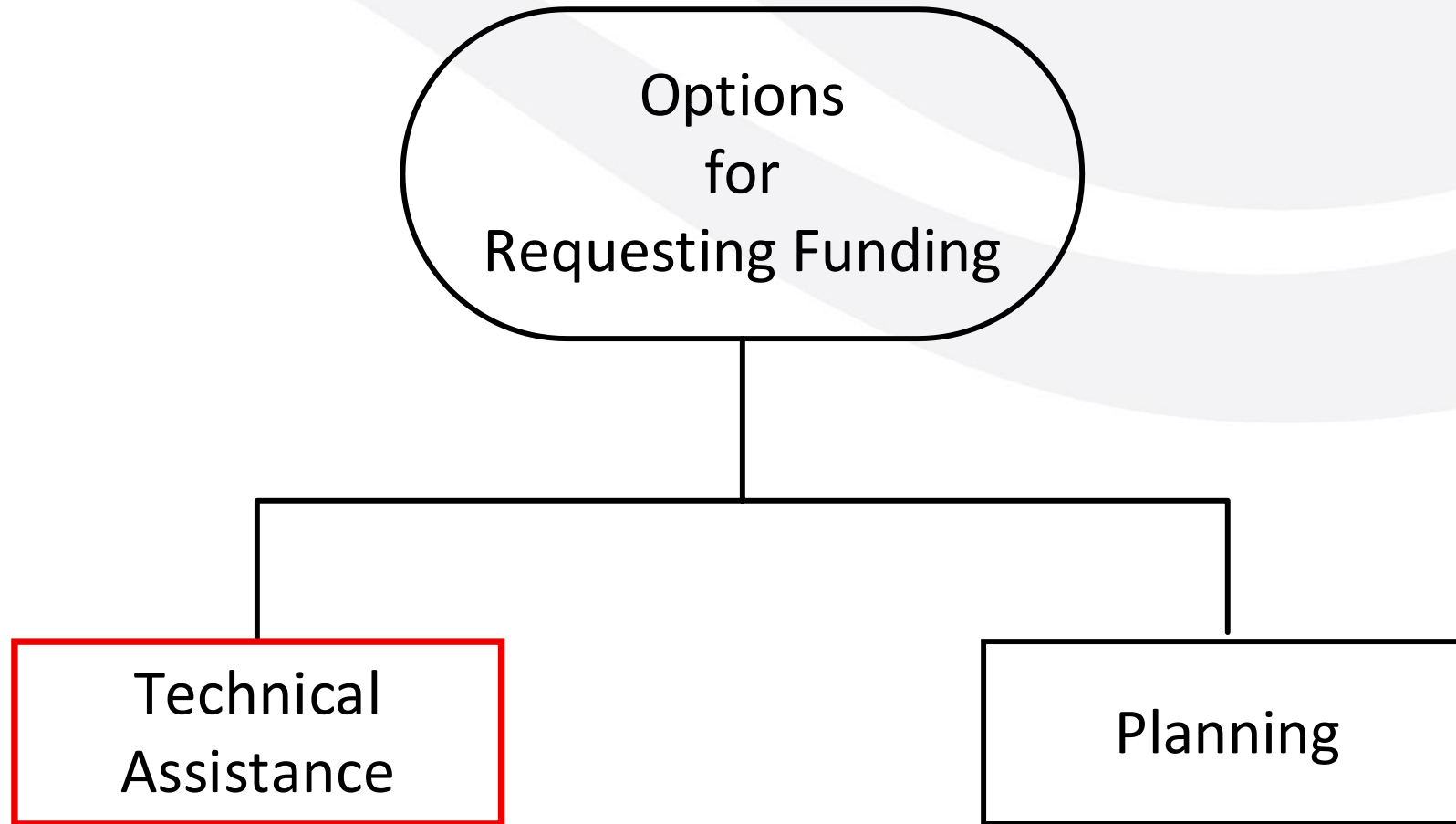
Small Community Wastewater Grant Funding

Eligible Applicants	DFA Eligibility Criteria	
	Septic-to-Sewer & Regionalization	Capital Improvements
Public Agencies	Small Communities < 20,000	Small Communities < 20,000
Tribal Organizations,	DAC/SDAC	DAC/SDAC
501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organizations		Addressing an Open Enforcement Order (e.g., NOV) for NPDES or WDR

Consolidation Incentives: \$10 million in zero percent (0%) interest rate financing

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/docs/2025/draft_2025-26_cwsrf-iup.pdf

Project Funding Options - Applications



Technical Assistance Providers

Technical Assistance Providers (Non-Profit Organizations)

LCJA

Leadership Counsel
for Justice and
Accountability

SHE

Self Help
Enterprises

CRWA

California Rural
Water association

CRLA

California Rural
Legal Assistance

CWA

Community
Water Center

Moonshot
Missions

RCAC

Rural Community
Assistance
Corporation

Funding Coverage – Overview of Applications

Tech. Assistance

- 100% Grant
- No Max grant
- Example items:
 - Community Outreach
 - Funding Application and Administration
 - Financial Analysis
 - Operation Solutions
 - Income Surveys
 - Legal Assistance

Planning

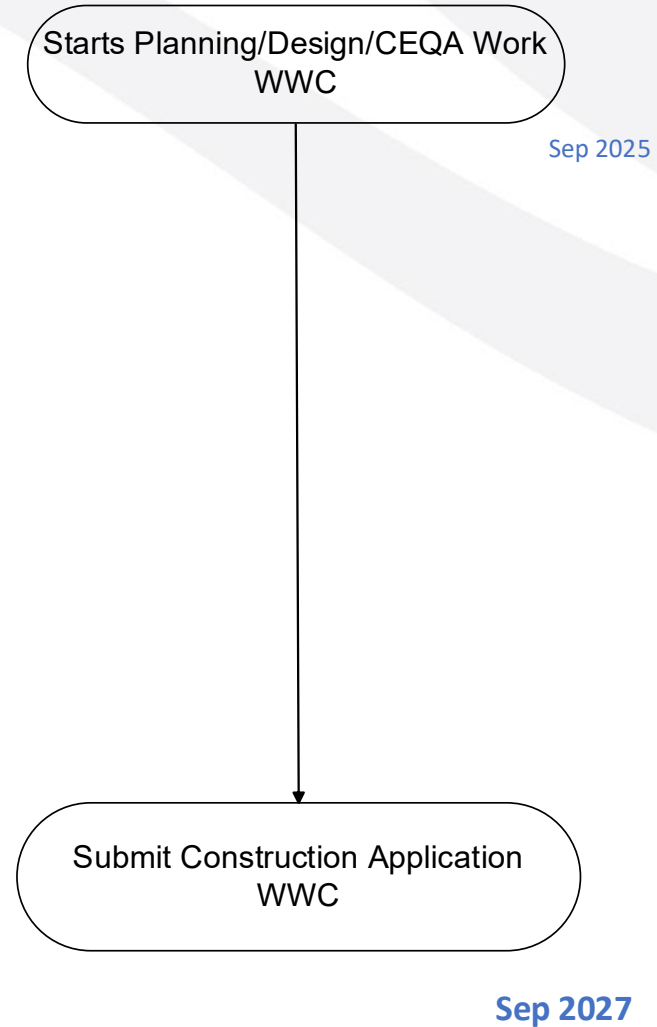
- 100% Grant
- No Max Grant
- Example items:
 - Engineering Reports
 - Environmental Docs
 - Rate Studies
 - Sewer Systems Eval.
 - Legal Costs
 - Design

Construction

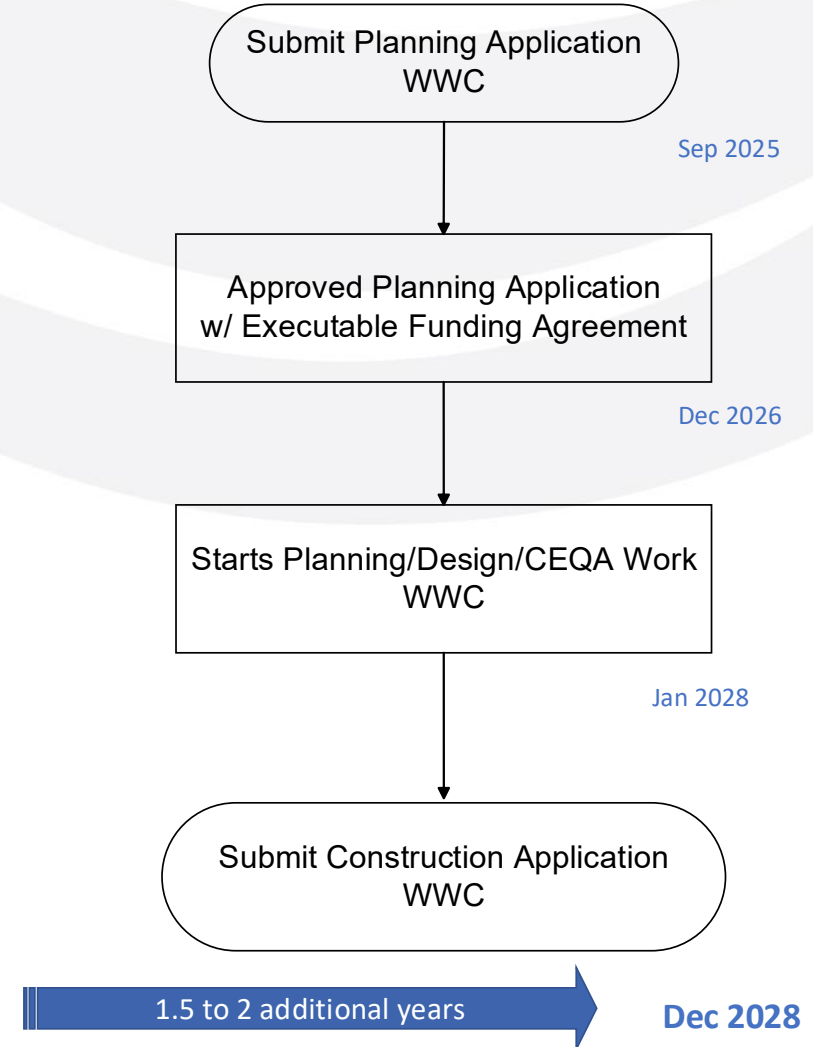
- Up to 100% Grant
- Max \$60k - \$175k per connection
- Max. allowable funding \$50M
- Example items:
 - Expand/Upgrade WWTP
 - New/Upgrade Collection
 - Private Laterals
 - Onsite Retrofits
 - Connection Fees
 - Decommission Septic
 - Allowances

Technical Assistance Providers

Process w/ Technical Assistance Provider

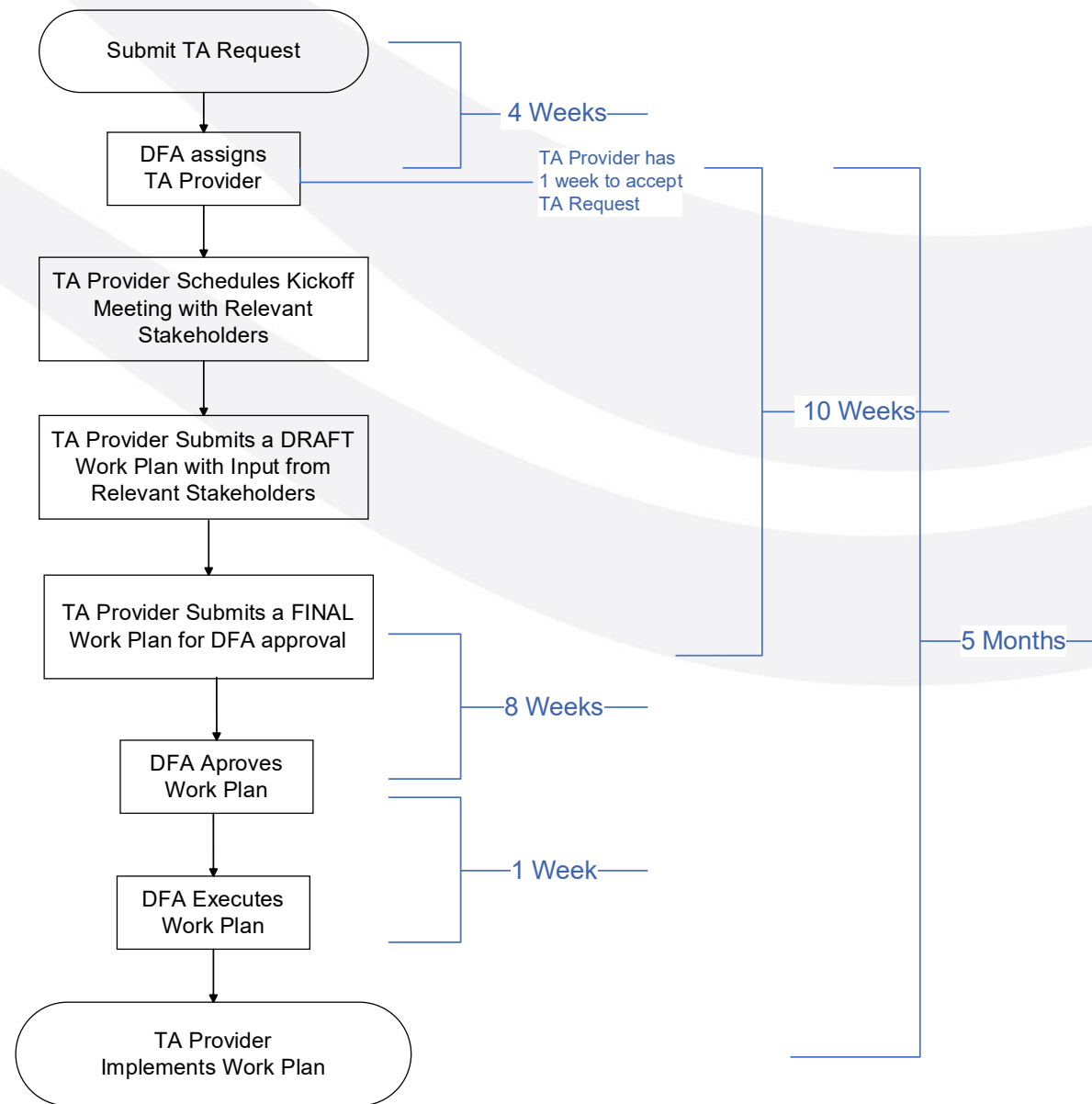


Process w/o Technical Assistance Provider



TA Providers

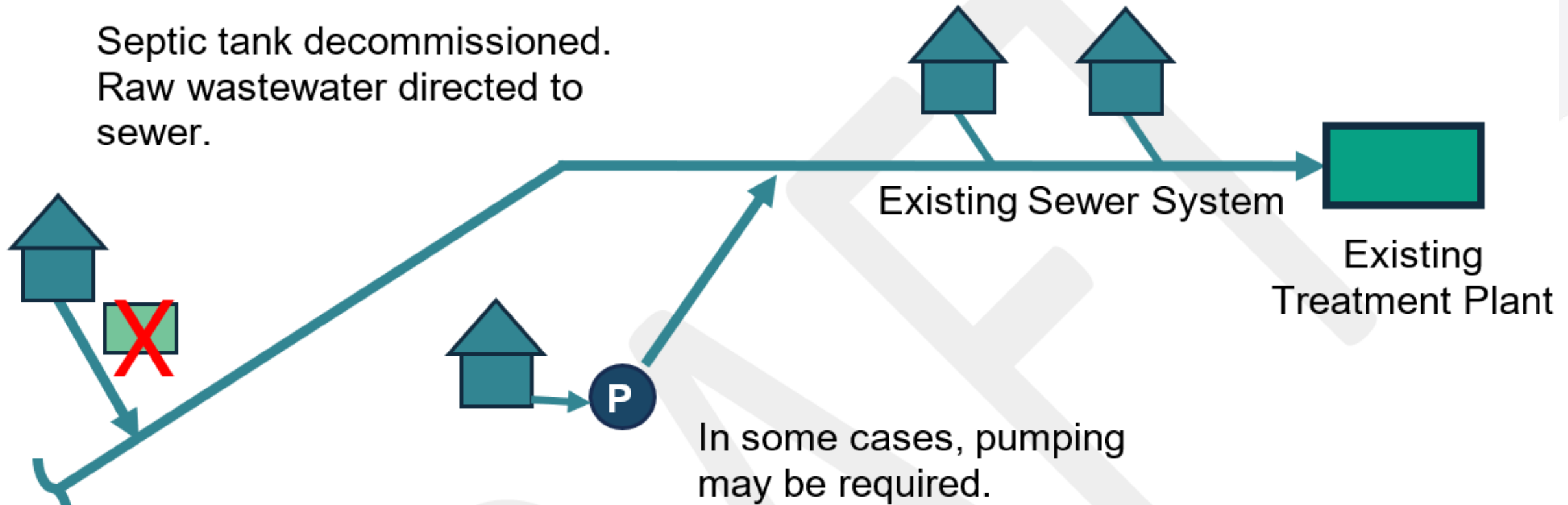
Where do I Start?



https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/docs/ta_request_form.pdf

Septic-to-Sewer (WWC) Example

Septic tank decommissioned.
Raw wastewater directed to
sewer.

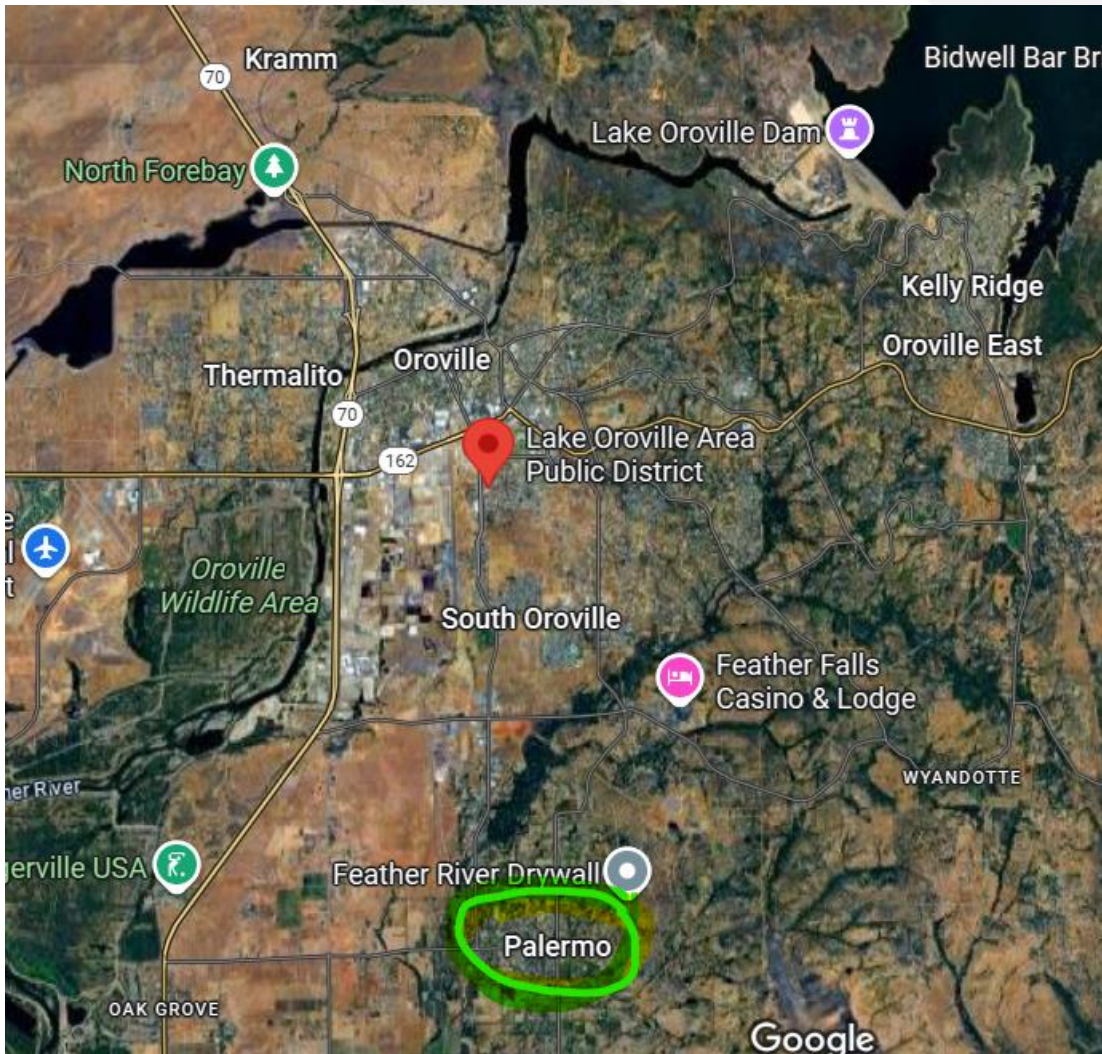


Palermo Community Connecting to LOAPUD

Butte County

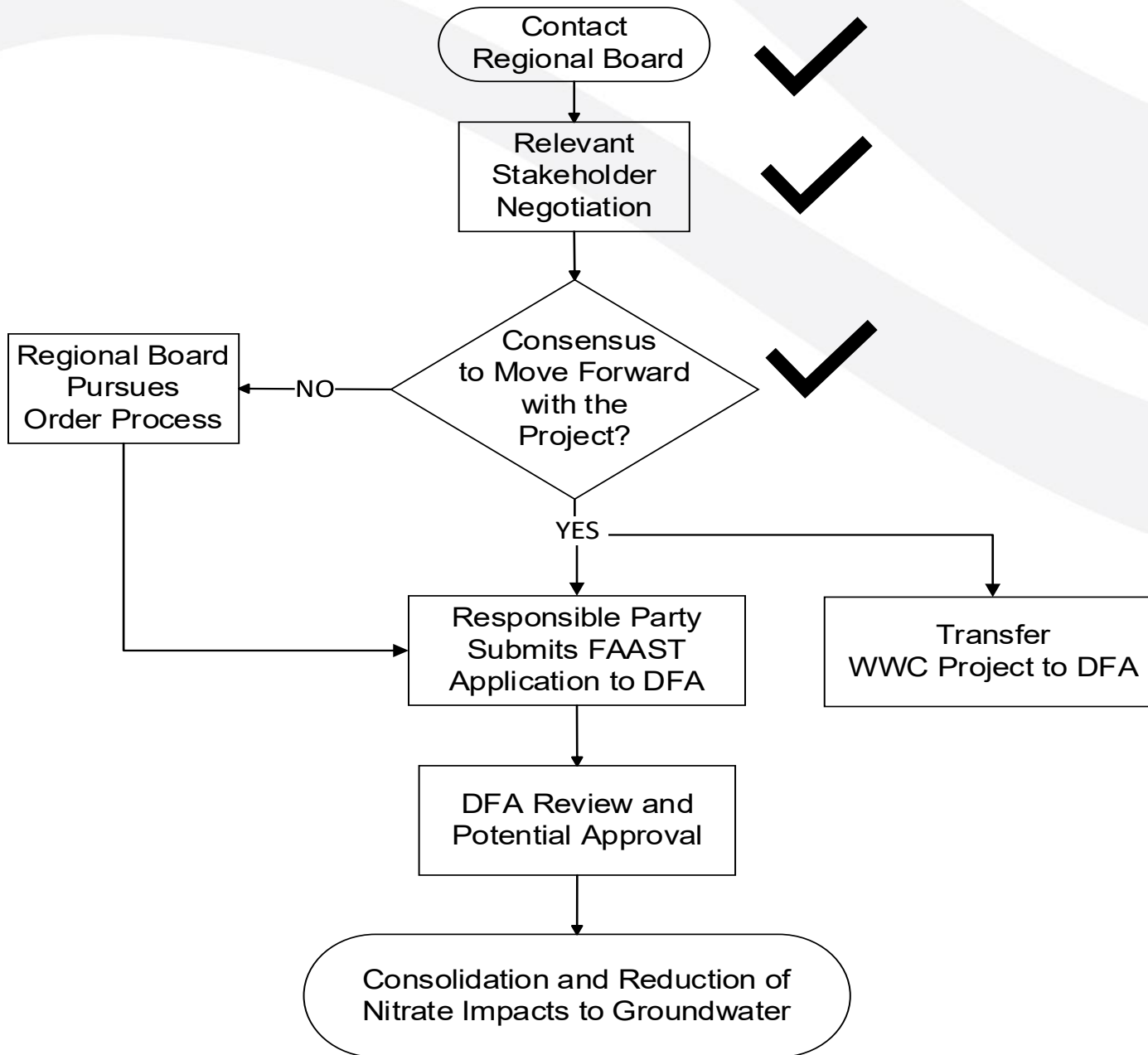
SB 1215 & Funding Criteria

- MHI $\approx$ \$42,227 (SDAC) ✓
- Population $\approx$ 5,395 ✓
- Septic Systems
Aged/Failing ✓
- Connections $\approx$ 640
- Elevated GW Nitrate Levels
- Shallow Water Table



Background & Current Status

1. Meetings w/ Butte County
 - 5/6/2021
 - 07/07/2021
 - 08/06/2021
2. Mtg w/ DFA – Funding - 6/30/2021
3. Mtg w/ DFA – CEQA - 7/8/2021
4. Meeting w/ LOAPUD – 7/23/2021
5. Meeting w/ SCOR - Today
6. **Request Planning Funding 2021**
7. **Next Steps**
 1. **Approve Funding Agreement**
 2. **Update Eng Rpt & CEQA**



City of Chico Water Pollution Control Plant

Butte County

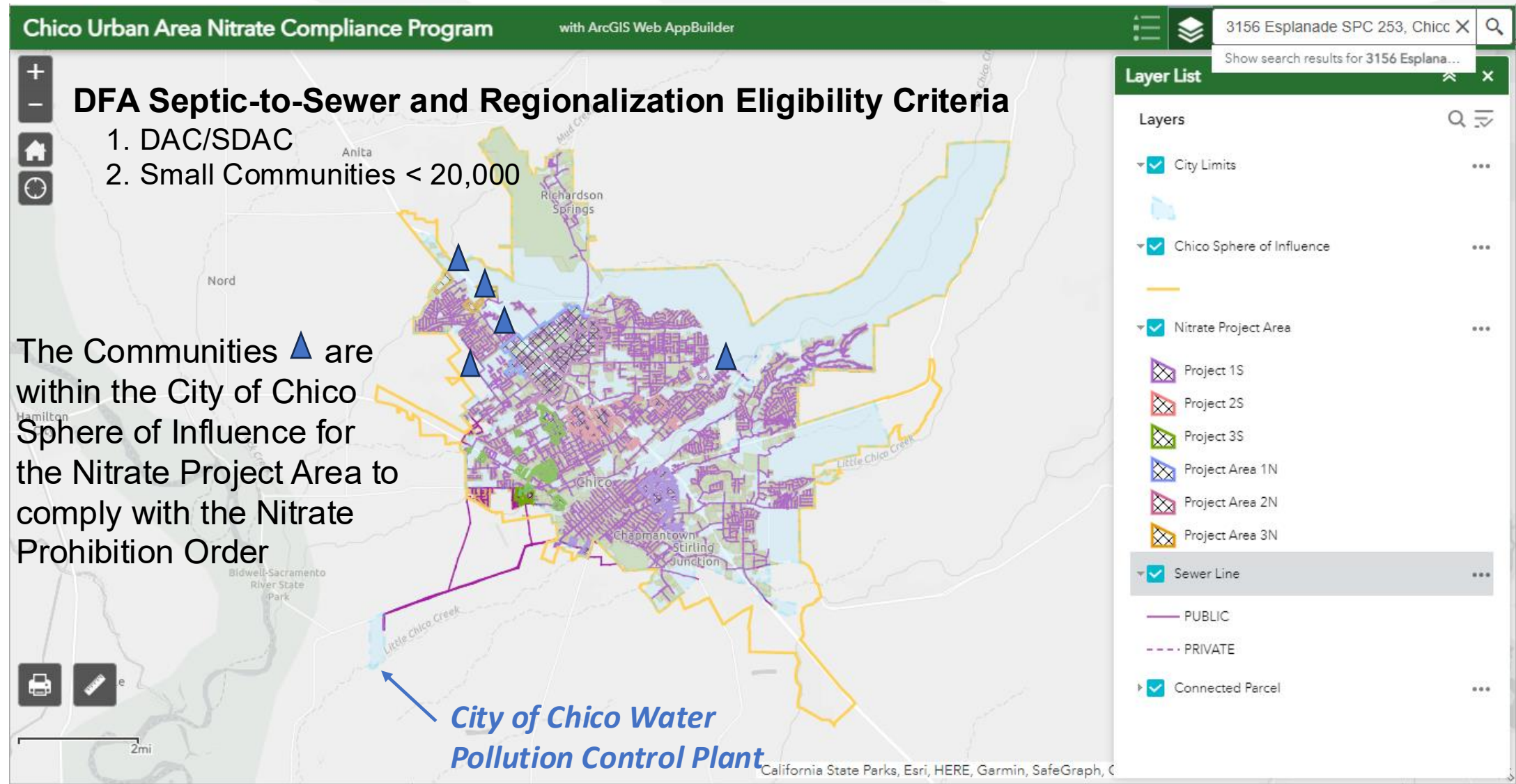
Regionalization & Septic-to-Sewer Project Communities

1. Chico MHP
2. Chico Creek MHP
3. Rancho Chico MHP
4. Mountain View Acres MHP
5. Edgewood Community



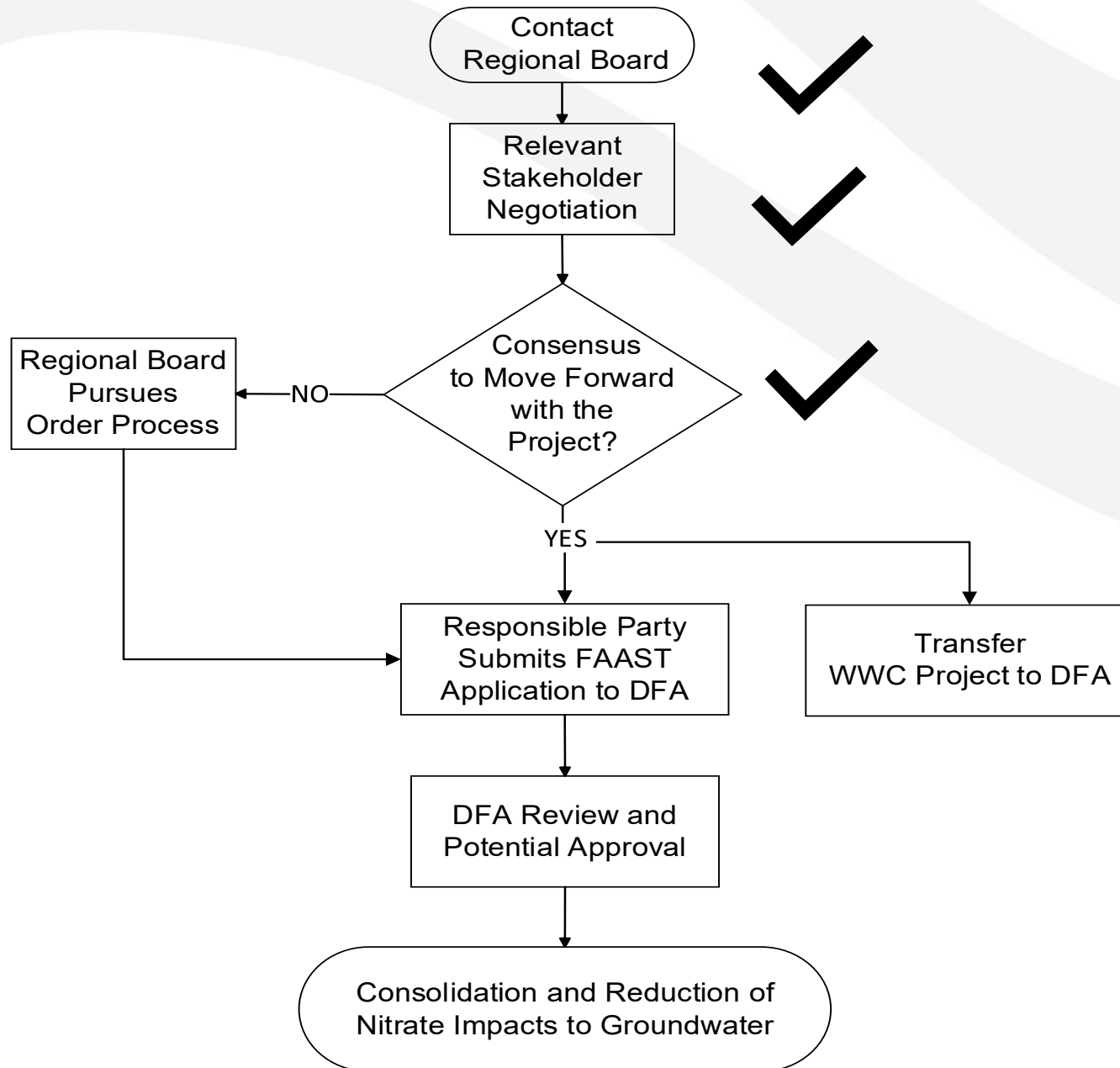
Nitrate Waste Discharge Prohibition Order No 90-126

<https://chico.ca.us/Departments/Public-Works/SewerStorm-Drain-Engineering/Chico-Urban-Area-Nitrate-Compliance-Plan/>



Background & Current Status

1. Referred by Community
3/16/2023
2. Meeting w/ City of Chico & Communities March 2023
3. Transferred to RCAC (TAP)
 - 2024
4. Planning Application
 - Eng Analysis, Rate, & CEQA Studies



WASTEWATER NEEDS ASSESSMENT

FOR THE HUMAN RIGHT TO SANITATION



Luskin Center
for Innovation



\$4 Million
by State
Water Board
Resolution



University of
Massachusetts
Amherst

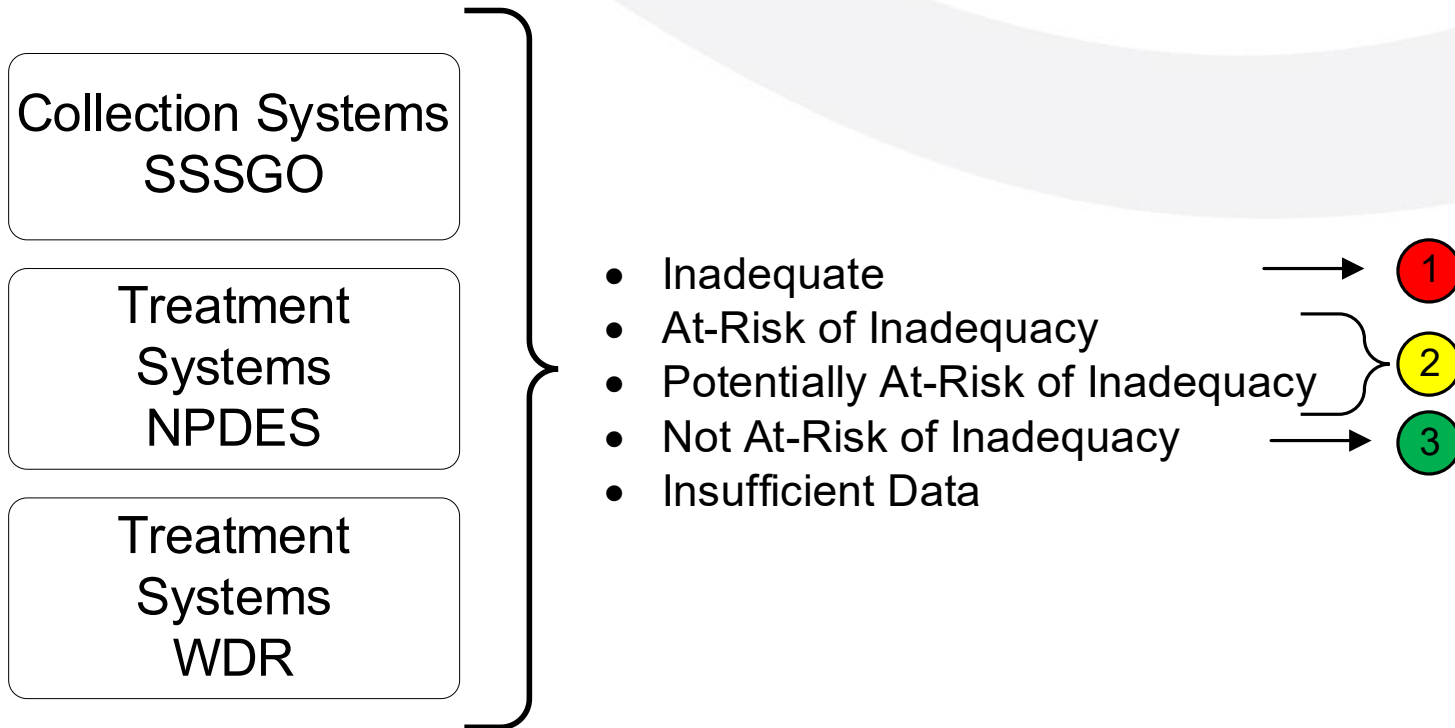


UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

California Institute for Water Resources

WWNA Long-Term Goal

Determine & Calculate # of inadequate and at-risk systems using a transparent, systematic & replicable approach



WWNA's Goals & Objectives

- Identifying sanitation and wastewater compliance problems
- Proposing potential solutions to improve these problems
- Identifying further actions to ensure ongoing improvements

Solutions & Cost Assessment Framework

➤ Establish a Method to Identify :

- Potential solutions – Inadequate Facilities
 - Opportunities to connect OSTs to sewer or community facilities
- 
- &
Associated
Costs

➤ Costs to include:

- Capital (construction, equipment, design, permitting, administration, etc.)
- Operations and Maintenance (labor, utilities, supplies) over 20 years
- Present value computation

Project Phases

➤ Phase 1 (2023-2025)

- Data Collection
- Risk/Solution

➤ Phase 2 (2025-2027)

- Public List
- Mapping Tools
- Needs/Cost Solutions

Final PHASE 1 Report **June 2025**

Advisory Group
Meetings

Jul 2024

Oct 2024

Oct 2024

Jan 2025

Apr 2025

SEP
2023 ✓

MAR
2025 ✓

JUN
2025 ✓

JUN
2025 ✓

JUN
2025 ✓

JUL
2027

PHASE 1

Phase 1A
Work Plan

Phase 1B
Baseline Survey

Phase 1C
Data Gathering

Phase 1D
Identify "Risk"
Definitions

Phase 1E
Solutions
Framework

PHASE 2

Phase 2A
Work Plan

Phase 2B
Publish List
WWT of Concern

Phase 2C
Inadequacy/Risk
Analysis

Phase 2D
Solutions for
WWT of Concern

Phase 2E
Affordability
Funding

Phase 2F
Future
Roadmap

Phase 2G
Final Report

SEP
2025

DEC
2025

MAR
2026

APR
2027

JUN
2027

JUN
2027

JUL
2027

Resources

2025-26 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Base Program and General Supplemental Intended Use Plan:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/docs/2025/draft_2025-26_cwsrf-iup.pdf

CWSRF Applications (Planning and Construction):

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/srf_forms.html

Technical Assistance:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/tech_asst_funding.html

Wastewater Needs Assessment

https://waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/waste_discharge_requirements/wastewater_needs_assessment.html

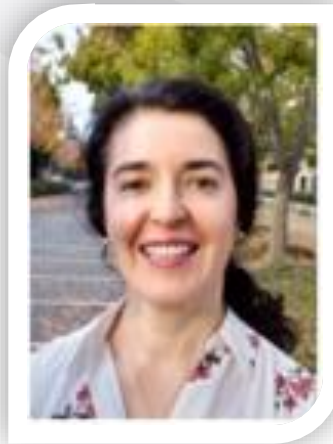
Thank you!

Questions?

Thank you!

Dania Jimmerson

SWB, DWQ, Senior Engineer, P.E., WWNA & WWC



Dania.Jimmerson @waterboards.ca.gov

Wastewater Needs Assessment

- https://waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/waste_discharge_requirements/wastewater_needs_assessment.html