

## CUWA Seeks Small and Local Firms to Support Safe and Accessible Drinking Water through SAFER Program

WALNUT CREEK, Calif., August 30, 2023 — The California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) recently became a Technical Assistance (TA) Provider under the State Water Boards' Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) program, joining other Providers in helping small, disadvantaged communities secure safe and accessible water.

In this role, CUWA will assist communities develop and implement sustainable solutions for their drinking water needs, ranging from water quality concerns to long-term system management planning. CUWA plans to contract with small and local firms to help these communities solve their water needs and increase local capacity to manage challenges in the future. According to Anselmo Collins, CUWA Board Chair and co-chair of CUWA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, "Partnering with local and minority-owned businesses was always a priority in becoming a TA Provider. We hope to empower businesses that support these communities and that reflect their diversity." CUWA released a request for qualifications on August 17, 2023, for firms interested in collaborating with its member agencies to address assistance requests through a wide range of administrative, technical, operational, managerial, and/or community engagement activities. For more information, please visit <https://www.cuwa.org/ta-program-rfq>.

Since its establishment in 1990, CUWA has provided a unified voice for urban water solutions that keep the environment and communities thriving. Made up of 11 major urban water agencies who collectively deliver drinking water to two thirds of California's population, CUWA strives for a California where everyone can trust and rely on their water. In 2020, CUWA published a white paper in partnership with the Pacific Institute on "[Solutions for Underperforming Drink Water Systems in California](#)," outlining specific recommendations to common water quality challenges using partnership-based strategies. "Tackling water accessibility and affordability issues in California has been a strategic priority for CUWA for several years," said CUWA Executive Director, Wendy Broley. "As a TA Provider, CUWA agencies can leverage their collective experience to assist smaller, disadvantaged communities."

CUWA will serve as a Technical Assistance Provider through April 2027.

###

### About CUWA

Established in 1990, California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) is a nonprofit corporation of 11 major urban water agencies that are responsible for delivering drinking water to about two-thirds of California's population. As the collective voice for the largest urban water purveyors in California, CUWA provides technical perspective to promote common understanding and consensus solutions among the urban water community. CUWA agencies include Alameda County Water District, City of Fresno, Contra Costa Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, City of San Diego Public Utilities Department, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Diego County Water Authority, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Valley Water, and Zone 7 Water Agency. For more information, visit [www.cuwa.org](http://www.cuwa.org).

### Contact:

Wendy Broley, CUWA Executive Director

[WBroley@brwnald.com](mailto:WBroley@brwnald.com) | 925.210.2525