

BACWA Annual Meeting

May 3, 2024

EPA Priorities and Updates

PETER KOZELKA, NPDES PERMITS OFFICE

WATER DIVISION

U.S. EPA REGION 9

Administration Priorities

Executive Order 14096 (April 2023) - *Revitalizing Nation's Commitment to EJ for All*

- establishes Office of EJ in both White House and EPA
- Improve lives of communities hit hardest by toxic pollutant and climate change.
- Requires federal agencies to notify communities of toxic releases from federal facility
- Publish Federal agency EJ scorecard

EO -14008 Justice40 Initiative (2021): ensure that federal agencies deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, clean water, and other investments to underserved communities

<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-environmental-justice-and-external-civil-rights>

Climate Adaptation at EPA

EPA is working on both **Climate Adaptation** and **Climate Mitigation**

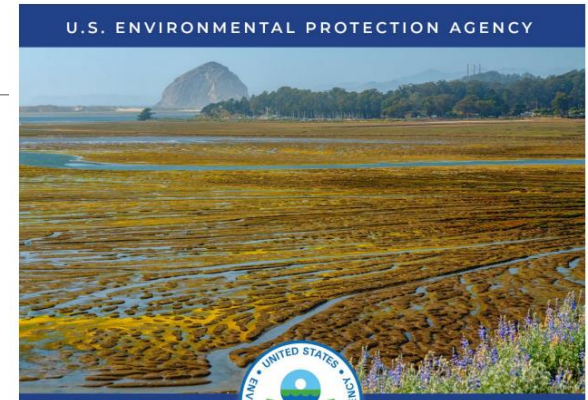
Each EPA Region has developed and is implementing a [Climate Adaptation Plan](#) to identify:

- How we are integrating consideration of climate impacts into our programs so we can still protect human health and the environment
- How we can assist our State partners to build and maintain their resilience to climate impacts.
- Some items in our plan include
 - Beneficial reuse of Dredged Material
 - Building Capacity to address Harmful Algal Blooms

Climate Mitigation, : We are providing financial and technical assistance through the many programs within the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) supporting @4 programs with \$41.5 billion.

- Much , but not all of the focus is on air programs.
- We encourage you to look at each of the grant programs as they are posted on grants.gov and see if your projects might be eligible and if there is an opportunity to partner with others.

Contact: Yeana Kwagh: Kwagh.yeana@epa.gov



REGION 9

Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plan

OCTOBER 2022

Link to the document is [here](#).

[Link to
The White House
Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook](#)

Climate Change Risk Assessment Technical Assistance for Water Sector Utilities

Call for Utilities

CRWU has opened a “Call for Utilities,” encouraging those interested in no-cost climate change risk assessment technical assistance to apply **by August 15th, 2024**, by emailing Aliza Furneaux (Furneaux.aliza@epa.gov).

Selected utilities will be notified in early September 2024. Scheduling of the technical assistance assessment will begin in late September or early October of 2024. EPA will assign selected utilities a start-date of either October 2024, or January, April or July 2025.

Through EPA's CRWU initiative, drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater (water sector) utility owners and operators will receive one-on-one, no-cost climate change risk assessment support using CRWU's tools and resources, including our [Resilient Strategies Guide](#), [Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool](#) and [Climate and Weather Data Maps](#).

Over the course of two to four months, water sector utilities will be guided through a risk assessment process to:

- Better understand their potential risk to climate change threats;
- Identify potential adaptive measures to become more resilient to those threats; and
- Identify potential funding sources for implementation of those potential adaptive measures.

To request this technical assistance support, please complete the form below.

Creating Resilient Water Utilities (CRWU)

Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool - CREAT

<https://www.epa.gov/crwu/forms/climate-change-risk-assessment-technical-assistance-water-sector-utilities>

Wifia loans –

The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, or WIFIA, program is a government bank operated by US EPA headquarters

- Provides supplemental, flexible, low-cost credit assistance to public, private, and public-private partnership borrowers for all types of wastewater, drinking water, and stormwater capital projects
- Can be combined with State Revolving Fund assistance, municipal bonds, and federal and state grants to help communities deliver more critical water infrastructure projects for a lower cost with less impact on rate payers.
- email: wifia@epa.gov



Financing is available

- Each year, Congress appropriates funds to EPA to provide ~\$6 billion in WIFIA financing
 - This allows the WIFIA program to have money available on an ongoing basis **to** provide financing to a variety of credit-worthy borrowers
 - WIFIA can finance up to 49% of the anticipated project costs and is offering up to 80% of anticipated project costs for small communities



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

FY 2023 State Revolving Fund (SRF) Estimated BIL Allotments to California

Drinking Water SRF (DWSRF)	\$281 M
Clean Water SRF (CWSRF)	\$203 M
DWSRF – Lead Service Line Replacement	\$29 M
DWSRF – Emerging Contaminants	\$82 M
CWSRF – Emerging Contaminants	\$15 M
FY 2023 CA BIL SRF Total	~\$610 M



PFAS Strategic Roadmap 2021 – 2024

[Commitments 2021-2024](#)

[2nd annual Progress Report \(Dec 2023\)](#)

NPDES Permits

- [Addressing PFAS Discharges in NPDES Permits and Through the Pretreatment Program and Monitoring Programs](#) released December 2022.

Analytical Methods

- EPA's [Method 1633 and Method 1621](#) have been finalized. ELAP accreditation available as well.
- EPA published [PFAS Analytical Tools](#) that pulls data from a wide variety of sources to show detections, locations, and quantities of PFAS around the US.

Water quality criteria

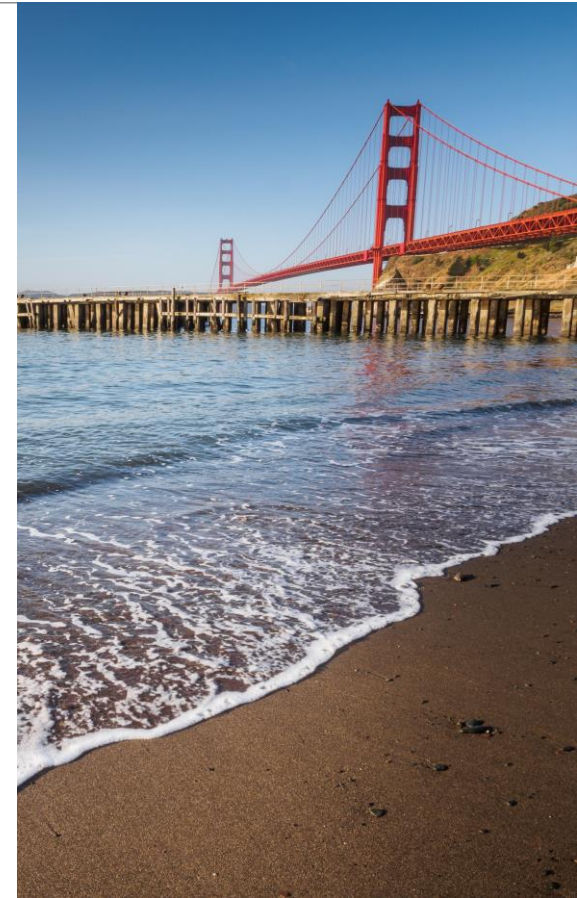
- Draft Human Health Criteria expected in **Fall 2024**.
- Aquatic Life Criteria for [PFOA](#) and [PFOS](#) released for public comment April 2022.

Drinking Water

- EPA [finalized MCLs](#) for PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS, and GenX in April 2024.
- 4.0ppt for PFOS/PFOA, 10ppt for PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and GenX. 1.0 Hazard index for mixtures.

San Francisco Bay Program

- FY 2024 is a transition year to the “SF Bay Program”
- The SF Bay Program
 - Is an EPA Geographic Program
 - anticipated annual funding of \$54 M
 - will become a new section in EPA’s Water Division (summer 2024)
- BIL-SFBWQIF, funding for underserved communities
 - will continue as a competitive grant program
 - next NOFO release anticipated August 2024
- Any questions, please contact Luisa Valiela,
valiela.luisa@epa.gov



Questions

kozelka.peter@epa.gov