



WATER

Supporting the Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance Program

CivicWell has helped kick off the Underrepresented Communities Technical Assistance (URC TA) Program. The [URC TA Program](#) is a collaboration of the Water Foundation, CivicWell, Community Water Center, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Self-Help Enterprises, Community Alliance with Family Farmers, the Nature Conservancy, and the National Audubon Society to increase underrepresented community engagement and capacity in local Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) planning processes. In 2021, the program partners started working with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to create formal avenues to address communities' needs as the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) began their basin management planning efforts. Now in 2023, DWR has increased NGO partner funding from \$2.5 million to \$9 million in order to expand its Technical Assistance offerings.

Over the next two years, the partners will work on well mitigation, provide ecological data, and increase communities' and small farmers' participation in GSA management efforts.

Program Goals

The goal is to identify and address community needs, risks, and vulnerabilities related to the implementation of groundwater sustainability plans in the Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley. A central objective is to see communities' input and needs included in groundwater sustainability decisions.

Benefits

The URC TA program will increase equitable involvement, highlight groundwater as a critical piece of a resilient California water portfolio, and address the broader climate impacts on communities and their ecosystems.

CivicWell Role

CivicWell will coordinate the program partners, support updating and sharing tools and materials, and showcase community success stories to amplify community needs and lessons learned across SGMA basins.



The URC TA Program is an opportunity to help communities overcome the structural barriers around decision-making related to their groundwater basins, and the TA efforts will contribute to GSAs becoming more responsive to the community needs. Ultimately the goal is to see changes in access to safe drinking water.

JUSTINE MASSEY
Community Water Center