

EUREKA! I'VE FOUND IT!

“Eureka! State Solutions for the SRFs” is the theme of the 2024 CIFA SRF Workshop. Eureka, California’s state motto, means “I have found it!” in Ancient Greek. That’s the goal of every CIFA SRF Workshop - to help the SRFs discover solutions to the most pressing water challenges in their state.

PROGRAM-AT-A-GLANCE

Saturday, November 16:	CIFA Social Hour (CIFA Members Only)
Sunday, November 17:	Workshop (SRF 101 and Collaborative Learning)
Monday, November 18:	Workshop Reception at the Museum of Latin American Art
Tuesday, November 19:	Workshop CIFA Members Meeting and Lunch (CIFA Members Only)
Wednesday, November 20:	State EPA SRF Workgroup (SRFs and EPA Only) State EPA SRF Workgroup (SRFs and EPA Only)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

6:00 – 7:00 pm **CIFA Social Hour (CIFA Members Only)**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

1:00 – 5:00 pm **SRF 101: The Nation’s Premier Program for Funding Water Infrastructure**
Learn everything you need to know about the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, from eligible projects to types of financial assistance to policies and processes for delivering state and federal funding to communities.

- Kim Colson, HDR
- Carrie Bohan, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

1:00 – 5:00 pm **Collaborative Learning: SRF Solutions**
Join other SRF staff and managers in a collaborative learning session to discuss strategies for addressing a myriad of issues facing the SRFs. This peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing session will engage members in developing real-world solutions to the biggest challenges facing the SRFs today.

6:00 – 7:00 pm **CIFA Welcome Reception**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

8:00 – 9:00 am **Engage Over Breakfast**

9:00 – 10:30 am **SRFs Year-in-Review from a National Perspective**

Hear about SRF successes and challenges from the perspective of the SRFs' federal partners.

- Dr. Jennifer McLain, Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. EPA
- Dr. Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, U.S. EPA

Spotlight on the Golden State

Hear about the water story for California.

- Joaquin Esquivel, California State Water Resources Control Board

10:30 – 10:45 am **Just Enough Time to Get to Your First Session**

10:45 am – Noon **Exchange to Excel**

Co-Funding 101

Learn how SRFs are partnering with other federal programs to maximize funding and savings for water infrastructure projects in large and small communities. Hear how the U.S. EPA is working with SRFs to co-fund congressional projects. Hear how California is co-funding projects with the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Grants for Water Recycling and Desalination (Title XVI). Learn how Montana is co-funding projects with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

Moderator: Shawn Crumlish, Virginia Resources Authority

Panelists

- Jamelya Pringle, U.S. EPA
- Sarah Connors, U.S. EPA
- Nate Keenan, Massachusetts Clean Water Trust
- Anna Miller, Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
- Mike Downey, California State Water Resources Control Board

Leveraging 101

Learn the fundamentals of leveraging. Gain an understanding of what it means to leverage and why SRFs decide to leverage. Build a foundation in the terminology of the municipal bond market. Get introduced to the details of different ways SRFs can structure their leveraging in their programs.

Panelists

- Kate Burum, Freese and Nichols
- Aaron Smith, Iowa Finance Authority

Think Big: Watershed Solutions to Improve Water Quality

Learn about watershed partnerships that use innovative financing strategies to reduce nonpoint source pollution in farmland, forests and cities, implement large-scale water quality restoration projects, and protect aquatic habitat with nature-based solutions. Hear how South Dakota used “incentive” interest rates to finance implementation of best management practices (BMPs) to improve water quality in the Big Sioux River Watershed. Hear how Maine is working with conservation groups to protect drinking water sources for communities across the state, including Portland, Saco and Biddeford. Learn how Iowa uses its [River Restoration Toolbox](#) to improve water quality and reduce flooding using nature-based solutions.

Moderator: Alison Souders, U.S. EPA

Panelists

- Don Waye, U.S. EPA
- Jeff Lerner, U.S. EPA
- Andy Bruels, South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Brandy Piers, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Lee Wagner, Iowa Finance Authority

Get the Other Side of the Story

Learn how SRFs are overcoming obstacles to replace privately-owned service lead and sewer lines that threaten public health and the environment. Learn how Wisconsin is allowing borrowers to create a “utility within a utility” to allocate revenue for replacement of privately-owned lead service lines. Hear how Illinois is using data from Census Tracts to award additional subsidy for lead service line replacement in low-income neighborhoods within water systems. Hear lessons learned from a decade of implementation of an Arkansas program to replace failing sewer service lines, from concept to construction to costs to communication.

Moderator: Felicia Freeman, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Panelists

- Becky Scott, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Nidhan Singh, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Les Price, Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority

Discussion: SRF Data System

Join SRFs and EPA in a discussion about recent, planned and needed updates to the SRF Data System. Limited to SRF and EPA staff.

Discussion Leaders

- Mark Mylin, U.S. EPA
- Howard Rubin, U.S. EPA

Noon – 1:00 pm

Engage Over Lunch

1:00 – 1:30 pm

Take a Short Break

1:00 – 5:00 pm

Water Reuse 101 and Field Trip

Learn about water reuse, also known as water recycling or water reclamation, which is the process of intentionally capturing and treating wastewater, stormwater, saltwater or graywater to make it safe for a designated purpose such as drinking, industrial processes, surface or ground water replenishment, and watershed restoration. Join a tour of the Orange County's Groundwater Replenishment System, which is the world's largest water purification system for indirect potable reuse. (Limited capacity. Registration required; details coming soon. Transportation provided. Travel time is 45 minutes to and from the site.)

Panelist: Brenley McKenna, WaterReuse California

1:30 – 2:45 pm

Exchange to Excel

Still Phishing for Cybersecurity Solutions?

Learn how SRFs can help utilities integrate cybersecurity into their planning, design and operations. Hear from AWWA what measures utilities must take now – and in the future – to integrate information technology and operational technology to maximize protection from cyberattacks. Learn from Idaho how engineers are using Cyber Informed Engineering to integrate cybersecurity into the design and engineering of water and wastewater systems.

Moderator: Gary Bingenheimer, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Panelists

- Kevin Morley, American Water Works Association (AWWA)
- Andrew Ohrt, West Yost
- MaryAnna Peavey, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Jeff Smyth, East Orange County Water District

The Proof of Plan is in the Pipeline

Learn about proven strategies used by SRFs to expand their pipeline of projects and keep funds flowing efficiently and effectively. Hear how merging the SRFs under one agency provided the catalyst for California to transform their policies and procedures. Learn how eliminating unnecessary requirements, streamlining processes, and improving communication and customer service increased demand for SRF financing in Arkansas. Hear how Oregon's Clean Water SRFs expanded their reach and impact by revising rules, modernizing processes and enhancing technical assistance.

Moderator: Matt King, U.S. EPA

Panelists

- Mike Downey, California State Water Resources Control Board
- Debby Dickson, Arkansas Department of Agriculture
- Deb Mailander, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Chris Marko, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Clean Up on Aisle 5

Learn about new tools and innovative strategies to help your SRF build a pipeline of clean water projects to protect against the harmful impacts of emerging contaminants. Get briefed on an analysis of treatment technologies to remove pharmaceuticals and personal care products from municipal wastewater. Get a preview of EPA's new framework for identifying the most effective treatment technologies for mitigating various emerging contaminants, starting with 1,4-Dioxane. Learn how to find potential projects by cross-referencing data about chemical discharges on the Toxic Release Inventory with potential borrowers or projects on the SRF Intended Use Plan.

Moderator: Kelly Tucker, U.S. EPA

Panelists

- Smiti Nepal, U.S. EPA
- Naomi Senehi, 374Water
- Heather Strathearn, U.S. EPA

Turning Inventories into Action

Learn how states are helping communities complete lead service line inventories to build the project pipeline for lead service line replacement projects. Hear how Ohio is using set-asides to fund inventories for small communities using multiple technical assistance providers, including EPA's Get Out the Lead (GLO) initiative. Learn how North Dakota developed a technical assistance program to help communities complete their inventories and prepare for SRF loans to replace lead service lines. Hear about lessons learned by New Jersey from their extensive efforts with lead service line inventories that ultimately resulted in replacement projects.

Moderator: Keelan Baldwin, U.S. EPA

Panelists

- Tanushree Courlas, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- Shannon Fisher, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality
- Patricia (Trish) Ingelido, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Oh No, Not SH(I)P-O!

Learn how SRFs are alleviating the burden of federal requirements by streamlining compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Hear how Iowa and California are working with the U.S. EPA and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), to develop a statewide programmatic agreements to better coordinate on protection of historic properties. Learn about an evaluation tool developed by California to help borrowers prepare reports on cultural resources for treatment facilities.

Panelists

- Theresa Enright, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Wendy Pierce, California State Water Resources Control Board

2:45 – 3:30 pm

Engage Over Coffee and Cookies

3:30 – 4:45 pm

Exchange to Excel

Equivalency 101

Learn everything there is to know about equivalency, which is the process of applying federal requirements to SRF loans in the amount equivalent to federal funding. Hear how Delaware focuses equivalency on their largest borrower. Find out how Indiana selects loans for equivalency based on types of projects and capacity of borrowers. Learn how Texas uses discounted interest rates and technical assistance to incentivize equivalency projects.

Moderators:

- Nick Chamberlain, U.S. EPA
- Kelly Tucker, U.S. EPA

Panelists

- Marvin Cole-Chaney, Texas Water Development Board
- Camille Meiners, Indiana Finance Authority
- Greg Pope, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

The Inextricable Link Between Climate Resilience and Financial Resilience

Learn how climate resilience impacts financial resilience of water utilities, including insurability, credit worthiness and investment quality. Hear the latest findings from experts convened by EPA to foster a cross-disciplinary understanding of the impacts of climate change. Learn how tools and resources offered by EPA's initiative, Creating Resilient Water Utilities, can help water systems manage climate-related risks. Find out how financial and insurance industries use climate-related risk to assess the bond ratings and insurability of water utilities.

Moderator: Curt Baranowski, U.S. EPA

Panelists

- Paul Fuller, Allied Public Risk
- Helen Cregger, Moody's
- Nikolai Sklaroff, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Coming Together for Safe, Reliable, Affordable Water

Learn about strategies used by states to consolidate and regionalize water systems. Hear about the range of approaches used by California to consolidate water systems. Learn how a variety of drivers have significantly reduced the number of water systems in Kentucky, improving both safety and service. Hear how the Water Finance Exchange (WFX) is helping communities develop regional solutions in Texas and through their initiative No Community Left Behind.

Moderator: David Zimmer, New Jersey Infrastructure Bank

Panelists

- Kristin Abhold, California State Water Resources Board
- Sandy Williams, Kentucky Infrastructure Authority
- Rogelio Rodriguez, Water Finance Exchange
- Lia Clark, Water Finance Exchange

Never Forever: Cleaning Up PFAS in Drinking Water

Learn how states are implementing comprehensive plans to tackle PFAS in drinking water. Hear how Arizona and New Hampshire are using the WIIN Grants for Emerging Contaminants to help small and disadvantaged communities. Hear about Arizona's proactive strategies to mitigate PFAS contamination, from sampling to educating to decision-making. Hear how New Hampshire is using the federal and state funding to mitigate PFAS, including in private wells. Learn how Washington is implementing a comprehensive plan to remediate PFAS, from short-term mitigation to long-term capital improvement projects.

Moderator: Bizzy Berg, U.S. EPA

Panelists

- Sara Konrad, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Johnna McKenna, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
- Chris Pettit, Washington State Department of Health

Discussion: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Join SRFs in an exchange about the status and challenges of meeting reporting requirements and looming deadlines with the American Rescue Plan (ARPA).

Panelists

- Shadi Eskaf, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
- Anna Miller, Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
- MaryAnna Peavey, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Reception: Museum of Latin American Art

Join us for food and fun at the Museum of Latin American Art, the only museum in the United States dedicated to modern and contemporary Latin American and Latino art. Transportation provided. Buses begin leaving at 5:30 pm from the lobby.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8:00 – 9:00 am

Engage Over Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 am

SRF Celebration of Success

Hear the story of success for the SRFs from the perspective of a former SRF director who spent the last four years in the leadership of the U.S. EPA.

- Bruno Pigott, Deputy Principal Assistant Administrator for Water, U.S. EPA

10:00 – 10:15 am **Just Enough Time to Get to Your Last Session**

10:15 – 11:30 am **Exchange to Excel**

What's Up with WaterTA at EPA?

Learn everything you need to know about targeted technical assistance offered by EPA. Hear about new initiatives to provide technical assistance for communities facing challenges with emerging contaminants in drinking water and lead service line replacements. Learn about new WaterTA engineering services available to support SRF applications. Hear about how New Jersey and EPA are coordinating to provide targeted assistance for priority communities. Hear how a top-notch technical assistance provider, the Southwest Environmental Finance Center, developed a prioritized project roadmap to jumpstart planning for a water system in Arkansas. Hear about initiatives designed to help strengthen climate resiliency and cybersecurity at utilities.

Moderator: Danusha Chandy, U.S. EPA

Panelists

- Kara Goodwin, U.S. EPA
- Leah Cozzi, U.S. EPA
- Curt Baranowski, U.S. EPA
- Tim Burns, U.S. EPA
- David Zimmer, New Jersey Infrastructure Bank
- Heather Himmelberger, Southwest Environmental Financial Center

De-Risky Business: Planning for Changing Climate

Learn strategies to integrate climate resiliency into the planning and design of water infrastructure. Hear how New Jersey is incorporating resilience analysis into preliminary engineering reviews to ensure sustainable solutions for water systems and the communities they serve. Hear how CDM-Smith's science-based risk assessment can help communities confidentially plan for the uncertainty of a changing climate, especially for communities facing chronic challenges with flooding and drought.

Moderator: Denise Hamilton, U.S. EPA

Panelists

- Samantha Thomas, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Jeff Mosher, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
- Ghina M. Yamount, CDM Smith

Discussion: SRF Community Conversation

Join the SRF community in a robust conversation about the opportunity challenges facing the SRFs.

Discussion: SRF Community Conversation (Leveraged Programs)

Join the SRF community in a robust conversation about the opportunity challenges facing the SRFs, including unique challenges faced by leveraged programs.

11:30 am

Workshop Concludes

POST WORKSHOP PROGRAM

CIFA MEMBERS MEETING & LUNCH

Tuesday, November 19, Noon - 2:00 pm

CIFA will hold a meeting for members on Tuesday, from noon to 2:00 pm, immediately following the Workshop.

STATE EPA SRF WORKGROUP MEETING

Tuesday, November 19, 2:30 – 5:00 pm and Wednesday, November 20, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

The State EPA SRF Workgroup will be held after the Workshop on Tuesday, November 18, 2:30 – 5:00 pm and Wednesday, November 20, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Only staff of the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and U.S. EPA (EPA) and EPA's contractors are allowed to attend.