

Draft Concepts Public Workshop:

April 21, 2021 Executive Drought Proclamation, Action #11
Development of Groundwater Management and Drinking Water
Well Principles and Strategies



AGENDA

- I. Opening Remarks10 minutes
- II. MyDryWaterSupply Demonstration.....10 minutes
- III. Draft Concepts for Drinking Water Well Principles and Strategies.....15 minutes
- IV. Public Comments.....25 minutes
- V. Closing

Audio Options

1. To Use Your Computer's Audio:

When the webinar begins, you will be connected to audio using your computer's microphone and speakers (i.e., Voice Over Internet Protocol or VoIP). A headset is recommended.

--OR--

2. To Use your Telephone:

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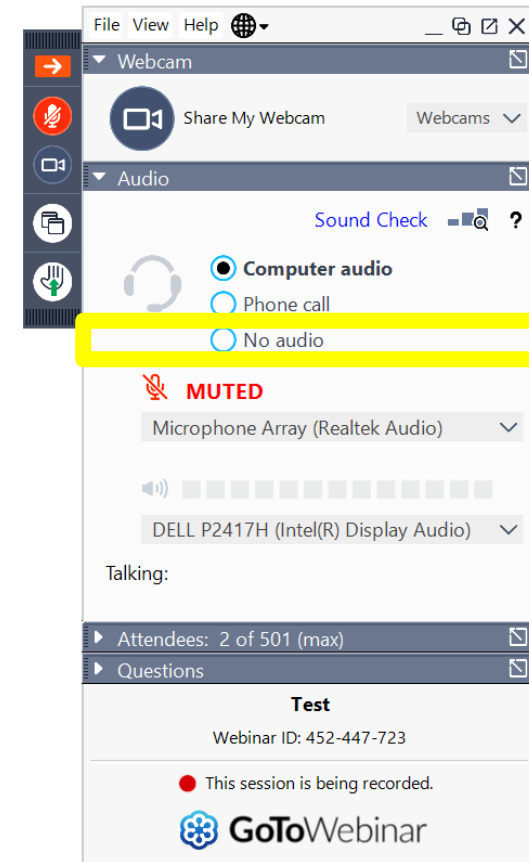
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Para interpretación en español:

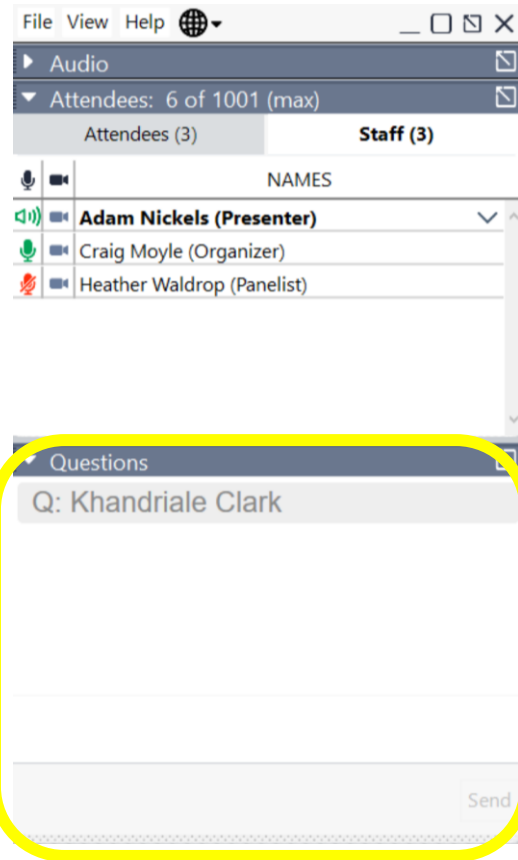
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- We will read your question out loud and respond.

Live Demonstration: Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System

- Well Owners and Agencies Can Report Water Supply Shortages
 - Available in English and Spanish
 - Available local & State Resources
- Statewide Summary Information
 - Map & Table
- Webpage:
<https://mydrywatersupply.water.ca.gov/>
- Data available on CNRA Open Data:
<http://data.cnra.ca.gov/> search "Household"

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the system's name and icons for Contact Us, Feedback, Help, and Sign In. The main content area features a large image of a hand holding a glass under a running faucet. Overlaid on this image is a text box asking 'Has your household water supply gone dry?' and providing instructions to report the shortage. Below this, there are two buttons: 'Submit Report' and 'Enviar Reporte'. At the bottom, a dark blue section titled 'Tracking Dry Wells in CA' displays statistics for the last 30 days, year-to-date, and total since reporting began.

Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System

Contact Us Feedback Help Sign In

Has your household water supply gone dry?
Report it here to inform state and local agencies on drought impacts

Report your household water shortage
This site is for Californians not served by a public water system who are experiencing problems with their water supply. Report your household water shortage in a few easy steps.

Submit Report Enviar Reporte

Tracking Dry Wells in CA
Updated July 20, 2021

Last 30 days 180 total ⬆️ 143% increase (previous 30days)	Year to date 298 total ⬆️ 251% increase (from last year)	Total since reporting began 3,083 total
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Executive Drought Proclamations

Action 11. To ensure the potential impacts of drought on communities are anticipated and proactively addressed, the Department of Water Resources, in coordination with the Water Board, shall develop groundwater management principles and strategies to monitor, analyze, and minimize impacts to drinking water wells.

State of Emergency Proclamation

WHEREAS climate change is intensifying the impacts of droughts on our communities, environment and economy, and California must therefore improve drought resiliency and prepare to respond to more frequent, prolonged, and intense dry periods; and

WHEREAS much of the West is experiencing severe to exceptional drought and California is in a second consecutive year of dry conditions, resulting in drought or near-drought throughout many portions of the State; and

WHEREAS these drought conditions can result in degraded water quality, fallowing of productive farmland, setbacks to vulnerable and rural communities through job losses and longer-lasting recoveries, significant impacts to tribal, commercial, and recreational salmon fisheries, constraints on access to traditional lifeways, loss of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, and ecosystem impacts; and

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS climate change is intensifying the impacts of droughts on our communities, environment, and economy, and California is in a second consecutive year of dry conditions, resulting in drought or near-drought throughout many portions of the State; and

WHEREAS recent warm temperatures and extremely dry soils have further depleted the expected runoff water from the Sierra-Cascade snowpack, resulting in a historic and unanticipated estimated reduction of 500,000 acre feet of water – or the equivalent of supplying water for up to one million households for one year – from reservoirs and stream systems, especially in the Klamath River, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and Tulare Lake Watersheds; and

Goals

GOAL 1:

Present clear principles and vision from the state on how to anticipate and address potential drought impacts to communities who rely on drinking water wells

GOAL 2:

Develop strategies for the state, local entities, and community leaders to deploy and use for decision-making for drought management

FINAL PRODUCT:

A shared policy document capturing both principles and strategies



Principles & Strategies

Principles:

- Sharing visionary statements
- Expressing what the State values
- Addressing broad policy topics



Strategies:

- Serves in a tactical manner
- Is actionable and applicable
- Provides a tool, model or approach



Listening Session Public Comments

**Who is
Involved**

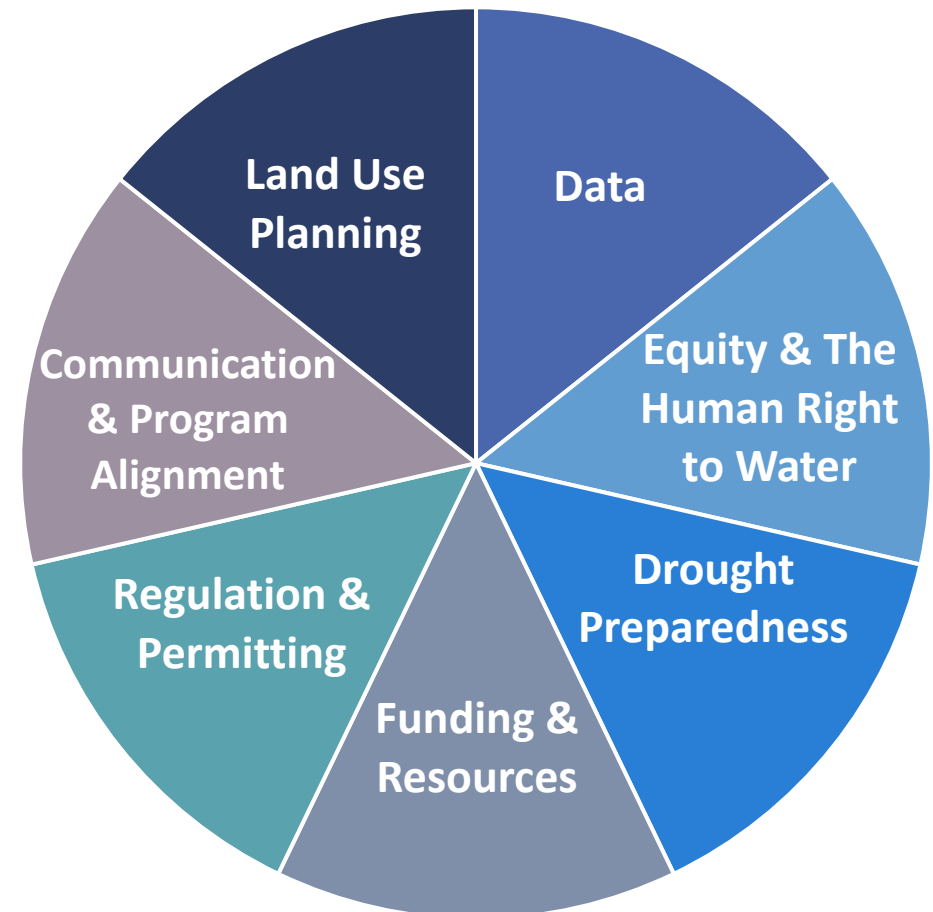
**Drought
Impacts**

**Identified
Barriers**

**Challenges &
Solutions**

Public Comment Themes

- In addition to poll responses, nearly 100 comments during the June listening sessions
- Many topics are cross-cutting and fit into more than one theme
- This presentation does not capture all comments received



Equity & The Human Right to Water

- Currently, some communities lack of safe, accessible water due to drought impacts & groundwater overdraft
- Recognize groundwater dependent communities that rely on drinking water is central to the Human Right to Water
- There are known 'hot spots' of dry wells and water shortages
 - The state and locals need to find ways to better resource/assist those in need
- Recognize there are multiple users of groundwater and there are those that are disproportionately impacted, in particular, those in the shallower portions of an aquifer

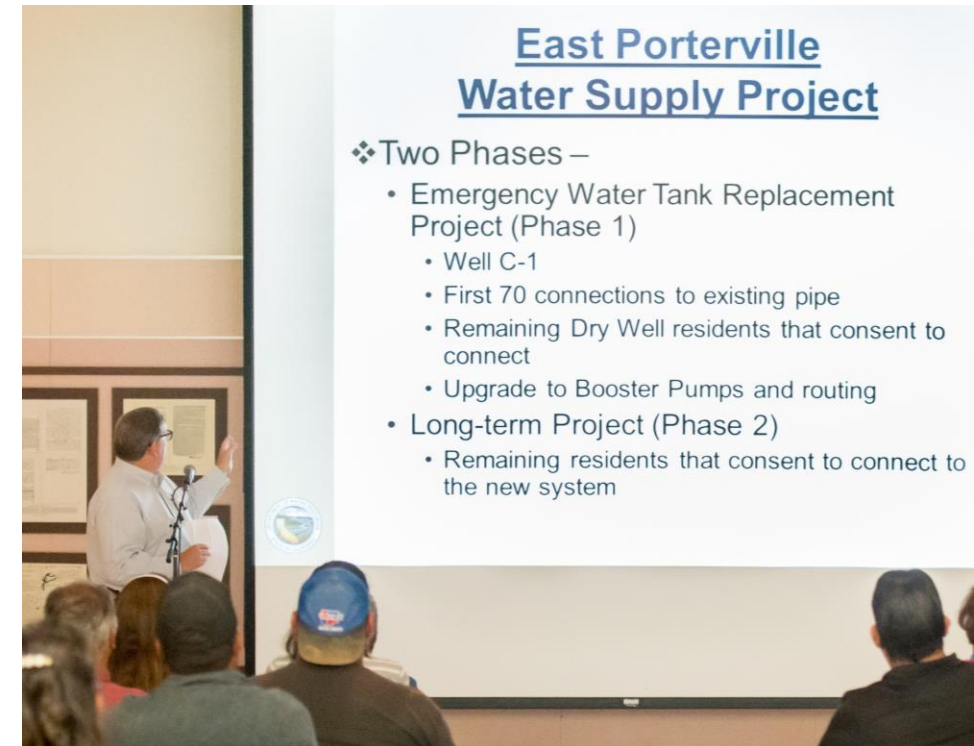


Drought Preparedness

- What help is available for those in crisis?
- How does DWR and the SWRCB work with other emergency providers (FEMA, State & Local Emergency Services)?

There is a need for:

- Dry well reporting for known water supply shortages (currently voluntary)
- Well Protection Programs (such as well insurance)
- Assistance with management of abandoned wells to prevent potential pollution
- Broadly distributed comprehensive information on risks, funding, and resources for well owners and operators to make informed decisions



Funding & Resources

- Rethink the triggers for when to get funding support out for drought impacts
- Look at assisting with supply chain issues, related to available pumps, tanks, and drillers
- Appreciate and utilize abilities of the state and county agency staff
- Route funding through local governance
- Find ways to support private well owners who may need help with repairing or drilling new wells
 - Regardless of income status, make low-cost loans available to individuals for these purposes



Regulation & Permitting

- One size doesn't fit all
- Current water rights system favors some users over others
- Energy pricing encourages or incentivizes specific water management practices (time of day use)
- Well permitting is not coordinated with agencies doing water management planning



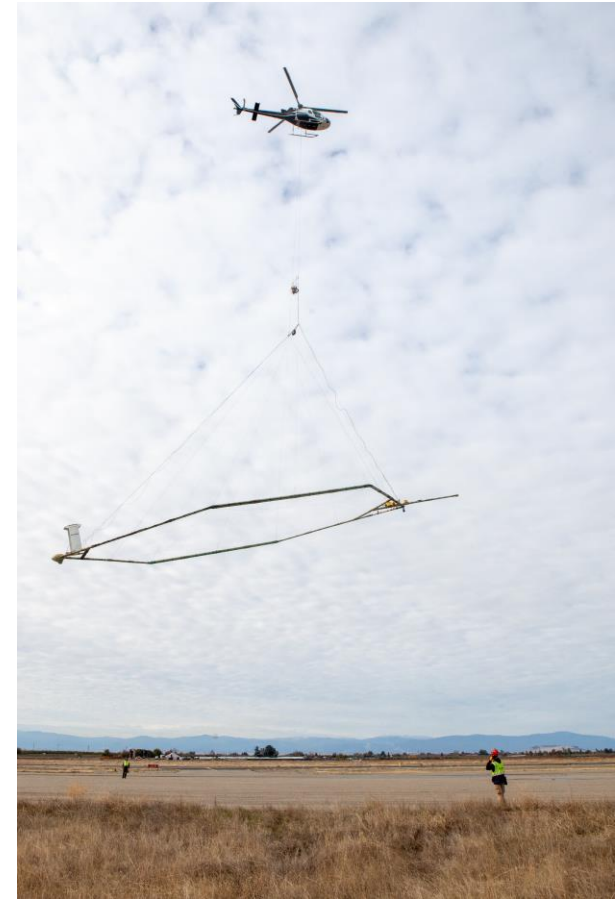
There is a need for:

- Enforcement of unsustainable pumping & impacts to shallow wells
- Daily limits or permitted use & metering groundwater users
- Streamlining well permitting to reduce time and costs
- Oversight of dry well data such as an active well inventory
- Better well standards for well construction & maintenance guidance
- Better oversight for contaminants in drinking water wells
- Identifying alternative groundwater sources
- Better enforce of Marijuana (legal-illegal) grow and groundwater use

Data

There is a need for:

- Better real-time groundwater supply levels/dry well and water quality data
- Transparency and accessibility of data to be made available for use
- Well drilling standards to be more accurate with well completion reports and associated data
- Good cloud-based technology to track changes in basin storage and groundwater conditions
- Developing an active well inventory statewide
- Clear linkages to the statewide MyDryWaterSupply for locals to submit and receive information and have access to available resources



Land Use Planning

Identified gaps in land use decision-making and nexus to groundwater management:

- Crop conversion, farming and land use practices are creating additional stresses on water systems and communities
- Concerns around continual permitting of new wells or new housing development where there are known hot spots of water supply and water quality
- Increasing the permitting of wells in areas that causes additional risks to other well owners
- Coordination with Counties and groundwater sustainability agencies/water systems on local dry well data



Communication & Program Alignment

There is a need to:

- Create accessible and user-friendly information about groundwater
- Create a comprehensive list of state programs, funding and resources that can provide support to drinking water wells
- Clarify the State agencies and Emergency agencies nexus (both local and State)
- Provide seamless program and assistance integration of efforts
- Remove barriers and create incentives for integration of local activities
- Communicate and utilize locals for drought related response and support



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

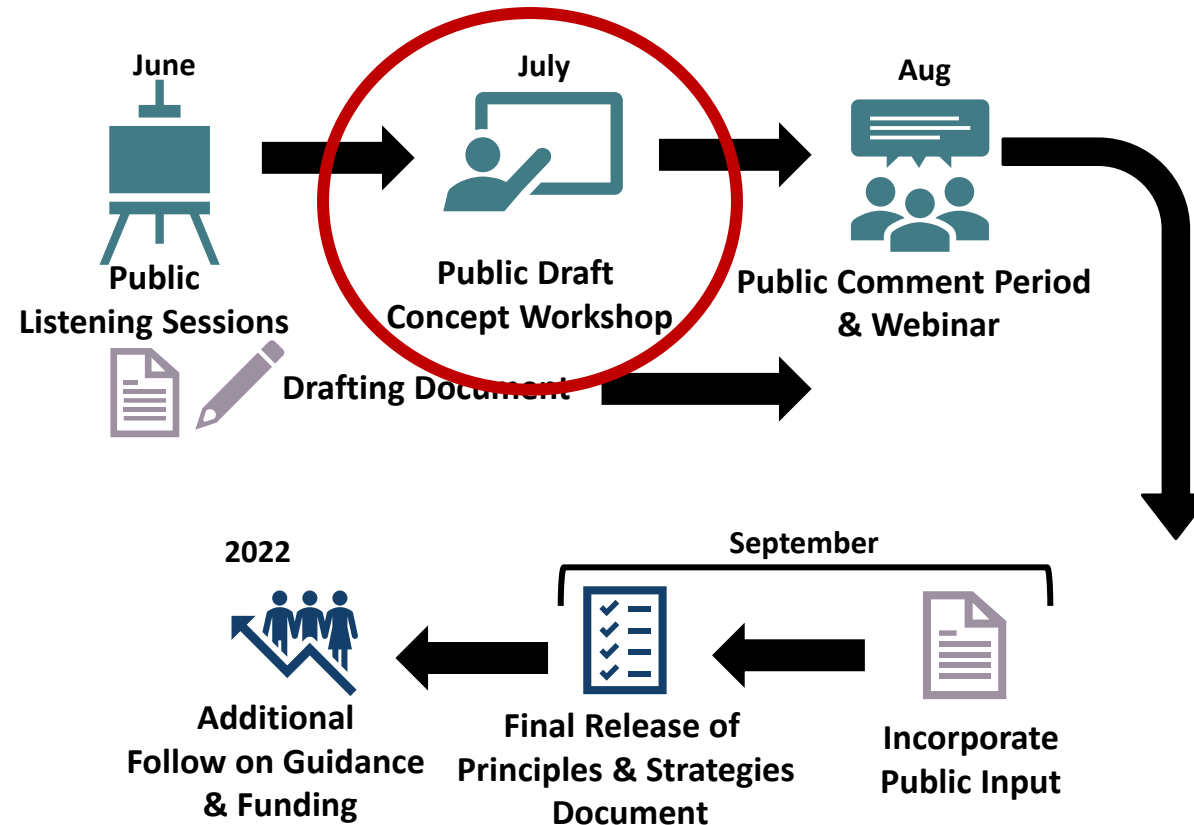
Outcomes:

1. Create a public process that is:

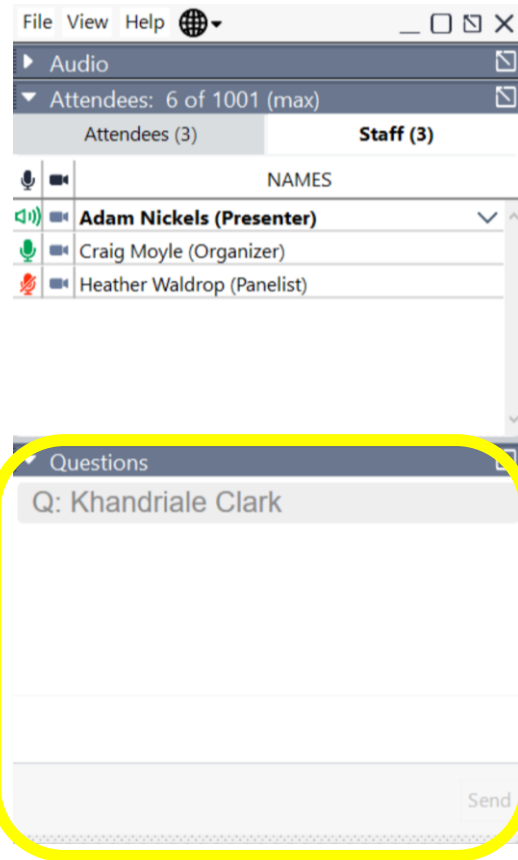
- Robust
- Inclusive
- Transparent
- Accessible

2. Final product is:

- Foundational
- Vetted
- Applicable
- Realistic



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NEXT STEPS & CLOSING

How to continue to provide feedback:

- Please send your input via the [voluntary survey](#)
- Email us your comments at: sgmps@water.ca.gov
- Once principles and strategies are released draft, there will be a formal public comment period
- For more information visit our website:
- <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Drinking-Water-Principles>

