

County-wide Drought Planning Framework

[For implementing directive #10 of Executive Order B-37-16]

DRAFT-June 20, 2017 – For Discussion Purposes Only

Purpose: To demonstrate preparation, planning and response to water shortages:

- a) Demonstrating all citizens' potable water needs are reflected within a drought plan (water shortage contingency) prepared either by a public water system, the County, or other appropriate entity;
- b) Assessing current drought vulnerability for all citizens;
- c) Taking proactive actions to reduce drought vulnerability when and where appropriate;
- d) Improving availability and readiness of appropriate responses for when drought impacts do occur;
- e) Communicating with citizens as well as state, regional and local entities regarding vulnerability, preparedness, current water supply conditions, triggering mechanisms and responses.
- f) Adaptively responding to conditions and refining assessment protocols, responses, and communications as warranted by continuously improving understanding of local potable water supply and demand conditions.

Primary Responsibilities:

1. County – each county should:

a. Demonstrate planning coverage – the county should demonstrate to the state and its citizenry that all citizens are covered by a drought contingency plan – whether that plan is prepared by the county or by another responsible party (e.g. water supplier).

(Frequency: initial report, then periodic review/update):

i. **Assess current drought planning** coverage for potable water users that are:

1. Served by a public water systems (publicly or privately owned)
 - a. Urban retail water suppliers (likely through UWMP compliance)
 - b. Rural community and small water systems (publicly or privately owned)
 - c. Tribal systems
2. Self-supplied

ii. **Describe how coverage** will be assured within two years for any area not currently covered.

1. Technical and financial assistance to rural community and small water systems
2. Develop and adopt county drought preparedness plan for non-covered areas

b. Assess current drought vulnerability – the county should make an initial assessment of drought vulnerability throughout the county, assigning risk factors that subsequently can be used for on-going analysis. This step may be facilitated by subdividing the county's geographic extent by various distinguishing factors, such as: area served by a rural communities or small water system, defined groundwater basins, demographics, and water source, then focusing future analysis on regions with higher risk.

(Frequency: initial risk determination, 5-year update)

i. Assessment procedures and timeframes

County-wide Drought Planning Framework

[For implementing directive #10 of Executive Order B-37-16]

DRAFT-June 20, 2017 – For Discussion Purposes Only

1. Initial risk assessment for entire county
 - a. Risk assessment method and data requirements
 - i. Identify primary risk factors
 - b. Identify priority areas for continued monitoring
 2. Assessment and prioritization refinement (every 5 years)
 - a. Identify any changes to priority areas
- ii. Initial data collection and management
 1. Identify data related to risk factors
 2. Establish data collection and management protocols for any data not already collected by the county or otherwise readily available (see EO agencies metadata role).
 3. Organize data for risk assessment
- c. On-going drought risk assessment**
(Frequency: annually, or more frequently as conditions may dictate)
 - i. Recurrent assessment
 1. Define method
 - a. Identify risk factors (if expanded from initial assessment)
 - b. Tracking protocols
 - c. Monitoring
 2. Perform assessment for priority regions
 - ii. Recurrent data collection and management
 1. Expand data related to risk factors (see initial data collection)
 2. Develop additional data collection and management protocols
- d. Prepare response strategies and implementation plans**
(Frequency: initial actions and plan, followed by periodic update)
 - i. Develop proactive strategies and actions to reduce drought-vulnerable citizenry
 1. Encourage and facilitate planning by rural communities or small water systems where currently inadequate, and provide/coordinate on proactive actions to minimize impacts from a future drought
 2. Develop actions to minimize impacts from a future drought for areas not served by a rural communities or small water system.
 3. Document implementation plan
 - ii. Develop monitoring and tracking protocols with thresholds established to trigger staged responses based upon severity of drought
 1. Align monitoring/tracking protocols with data collection and recurrent drought risk assessment efforts.
 - iii. Develop staged response strategies that correlate to severity of drought conditions, based upon results of on-going drought risk assessment for a particular boundary.
 - iv. Develop implementation plan
 1. Assure authority and financing to efficiently implement responses
 2. Identify staff roles and responsibilities
 3. Pre-establish relationships with State agencies and helpful NGOs.

County-wide Drought Planning Framework

[For implementing directive #10 of Executive Order B-37-16]

DRAFT-June 20, 2017 – For Discussion Purposes Only

- v. Refine proactive and active-drought response strategies based upon adaptive understanding of local potable water supply and demand conditions
 - e. **Establish and implement reporting, coordination and communication protocols**
(Frequency: initial actions and plan, followed by periodic update)
 - i. Sufficiency reporting to EO agencies *(see EO roles and responsibilities)*
 - 1. Submit report demonstrating sufficient drought planning coverage (or path to achieve complete coverage in a reasonable time frame), and required elements of drought preparedness
 - ii. Prepare and adopt a Drought Preparedness Plan
 - 1. Prepare plan documenting necessary elements *(see EO roles and responsibilities)* to demonstrate sufficiency
 - 2. Community outreach during preparation plan
 - 3. Demonstrate ability to implement proactive and active-drought response strategies
 - a. Through General Plan
 - b. Through Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - iii. Local coordination and communications
 - 1. Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
 - 2. Water suppliers
 - a. Urban retail water suppliers
 - b. Small community water systems
 - c. Tribal systems
 - 3. Self-supplied users
 - 4. State and federal entities providing technical and financial assistance
- 2. EO agencies (DWR and SWRCB) potential provisional technical assistance:**
- a. **Establish compliance requirements**
 - i. Define required Drought Preparedness Plan elements and submittal process
 - ii. Aid with refinements of appropriate authority for preparation, adoption and implementation (e.g. address implementing response strategies absent “emergency declaration” requirements)
 - b. **Provide technical and financial assistance**
 - i. Data
 - 1. Metadata conventions
 - 2. Data collection, management, and accessibility
 - ii. Vulnerability assessments
 - 1. Establish practical risk thresholds
 - 2. Establish guidance for risk assessment methods
 - iii. Proactive actions
 - iv. Response measures
 - c. **Establish communication pathways with counties**
 - i. Drought risk alerts
 - ii. Promote and facilitate assistance opportunities