



1/28/2026

California County Café

– Specializing in Drought Resilience



Welcome and Setting Intention

Julia Ekstrom - California Department of Water Resources



On the Menu

Welcome and Setting Intention

- The C3 Process - Reminder
- Statewide SB 552 Status
- UCANR CDRP Assessment Project

Theme for Today: **Finalizing the County Drought Resilience Plans and Looking Ahead**

- Sharing and Discussion

Closing



The C3 Process

- **Desired outcome** - Network and exchange ideas and resources among counties.
 - Increase the understanding of SB 552 intent and requirements.
 - Learn about different implementation approaches, practices, and experience.
 - Compare identified resource needs and share funding opportunities.
 - Improve coordination with other agencies and interested parties.
- **Our format** - Information exchange among counties to share information and approach to SB 552 implementation. (Café gatherings and Office hours)
- **Intended audience** - County staff.

Appreciate others listening in but focusing on staff who are responsible for developing the DRP and implementing.



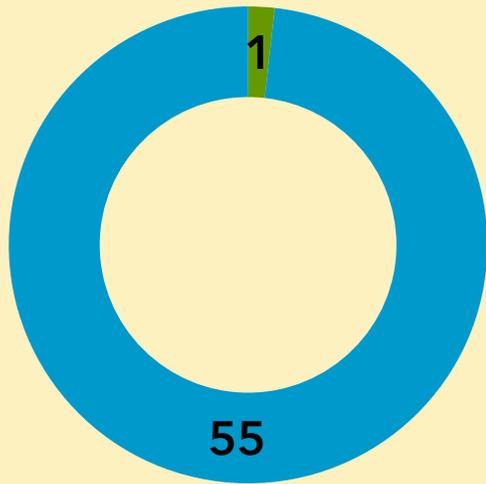
Essentials of the C3 Gathering

- ✓ Join the conversation – share your experience and learn from other perspectives and experiences.
- ✓ Make a connection – use the chat to connect with other participants.
- ✓ County focused – While all are invited to join, this gathering will focus on supporting county staff.

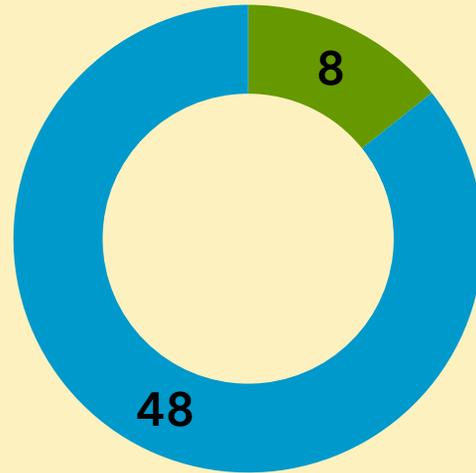


Statewide SB 552 Status

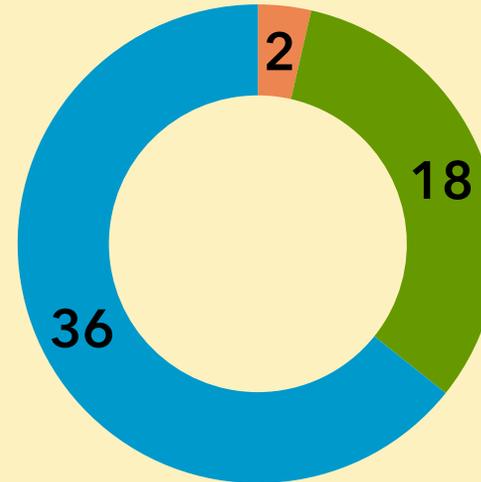
Task Force Formation



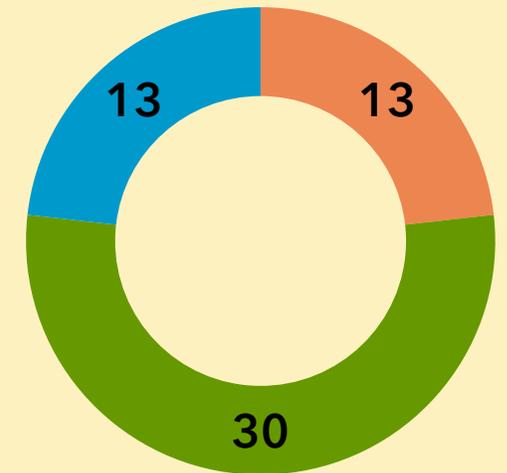
Risk Assessment



Response Actions and Mitigation Strategies



County Drought Resilience Plan Development

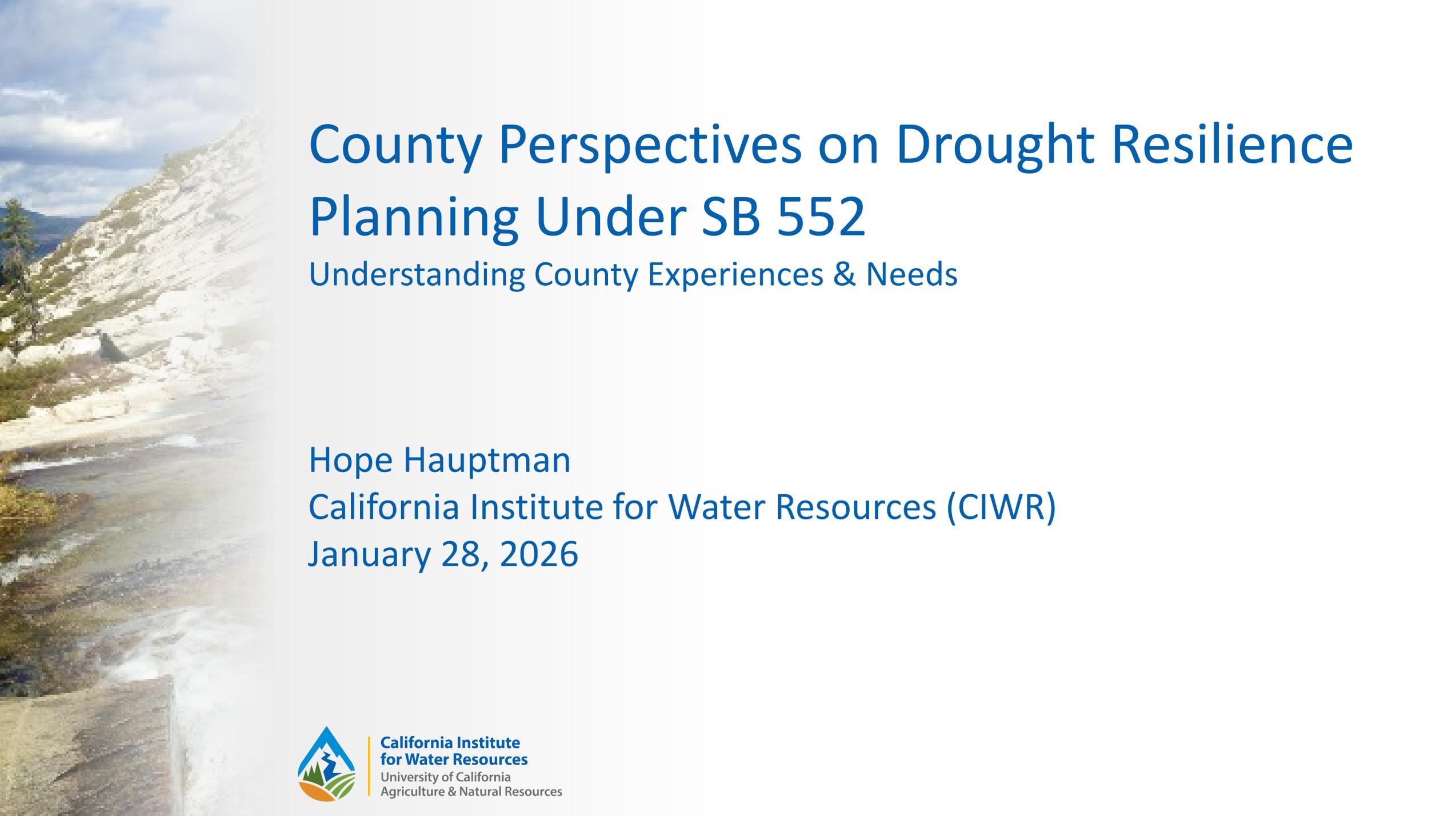


■ Not Started ■ In Progress ■ Completed

**Two more completed plans:
Marin and Mono Counties!**

Source: 1/26/2026 data based on input from 56 counties enrolled in DWR's assistance program. Exclusions: The City and County of San Francisco are covered by other requirements, and one has not enrolled in DWR's assistance program.





County Perspectives on Drought Resilience Planning Under SB 552

Understanding County Experiences & Needs

Hope Hauptman

California Institute for Water Resources (CIWR)

January 28, 2026



**California Institute
for Water Resources**

University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Who we are

California Institute for Water Resources (CIWR)

A hub for water research, extension, and education programs in California — bringing knowledge into practice through collaborations that address water resource challenges.

Examples of Current Projects

- Wastewater Needs Assessment
- SB1157 Benefits and Impacts
- Nitrogen Irrigation Initiative
- Climate Smart Agriculture

Who we work with

- Researchers and academics
- State and local agencies
- Communities and water providers

California Institute for Water Resources (CIWR) Team



Rachel Shellabarger,
Academic Coordinator,
Program Manager



Hope Zabronsky,
Academic Coordinator,
Program Manager



Divya Prakash,
Research Specialist,
Nitrogen and Irrigation



Erika Cassio Madrazo,
Project Scientist



Sam Sandoval Solis,
UC Davis Professor and
UCANR Cooperative
Extension Specialist,
Faculty Affiliate



Erik Porse,
Director, Cooperative
Extension Specialist



Hope Hauptman,
Project Scientist



Daniel Swain,
Professional Researcher,
Climate Science and
Communications



Camilo Salcedo,
Project Scientist

CIWR Programs

Students and Fellows

CIWR student employees and fellows support projects and programs in water resources

Climate Smart Agriculture Team

Community Education Specialists, located in 10 counties across California

Nitrogen and Irrigation Initiative Team

Staff Research Associates located in Central Coast and Central Valley

<https://ciwr.ucanr.edu/>

Laura Elisa Garza Diaz



UCCE Area Water Resources Management Advisor for Mendocino and Lake Counties

Laura's work focuses on developing water and climate resilience strategies for water supply and water demand challenges.

Purpose

- **Capture county perspectives**
 - Document what's working, challenges, and what would help
- **Build a knowledge base**
 - Share lessons and successes across counties
- **Identify specific needs and support**
 - Your input will be included in a summary report intended to inform future guidance, technical assistance, and funding.

What to expect

Interviews

- 30-minute interview, scheduled by email (March-April)

Main Topics

- Background & Context Prior to SB552
- Plan Development Challenges and Updates to Existing Plans
- Community Engagement and Feedback
- Anticipated Implementation Barriers and Needs
- Additional Insights and Input

Timeline

- Aim to complete all interviews by the end of summer

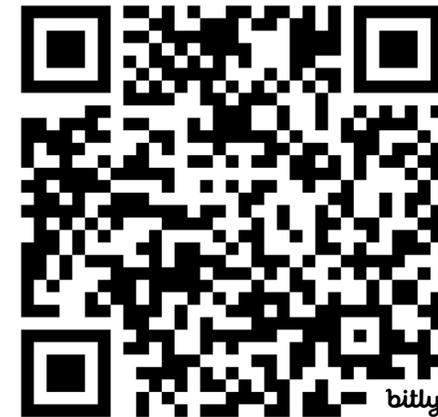
I'm happy to share a draft of the interview questions — we're still refining them and welcome your input. If you'd like to make suggestions, please reach out or scan QR code below to comment directly.

Hope Hauptman

hhauptman@ucanr.edu

<https://ciwr.ucanr.edu>

Thank You!



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Finalizing CDRPs and Looking Ahead

Erin Bauer, Mono County DRP

Bonnie Robison, Marin County DRP





Mono County

Drought Task Force

Our existing Land Development Technical Advisory Committee (LDTAC) serves as the Mono County Drought Task Force.

- The LDTAC is an existing Brown Act compliant body which brings together staff from Environmental Health, Community Development, and Public Works.
- Because the LDTAC meets bi-monthly, members already have the habit of working together, and relying on one another's expertise.
- Because members of the public are always welcome, and can bring a wide variety of projects to the LDTAC for workshopping, the committee is a natural intermediary between individuals with wells or SWSS and local government.

Getting up to Speed

- Workshopping the Drought Resilience Plan educated the Drought Task Force on their new role and responsibilities.
- After attending the workshops, many members of the task force were assigned to present the Drought Resilience Plan to local advisory bodies.
- The combination of learning and teaching ensured that our Drought Task Force finished the DRP process ready to serve in their assigned role.

Lessons

- Utilize existing resources.
- Make a virtue from necessity
 - Mono's small size inherently facilitates interdepartmental collaboration.
 - Small, tight-knit communities facilitate direct communication: individuals can quickly reach public agencies, and activity of public agencies quickly reaches individuals.

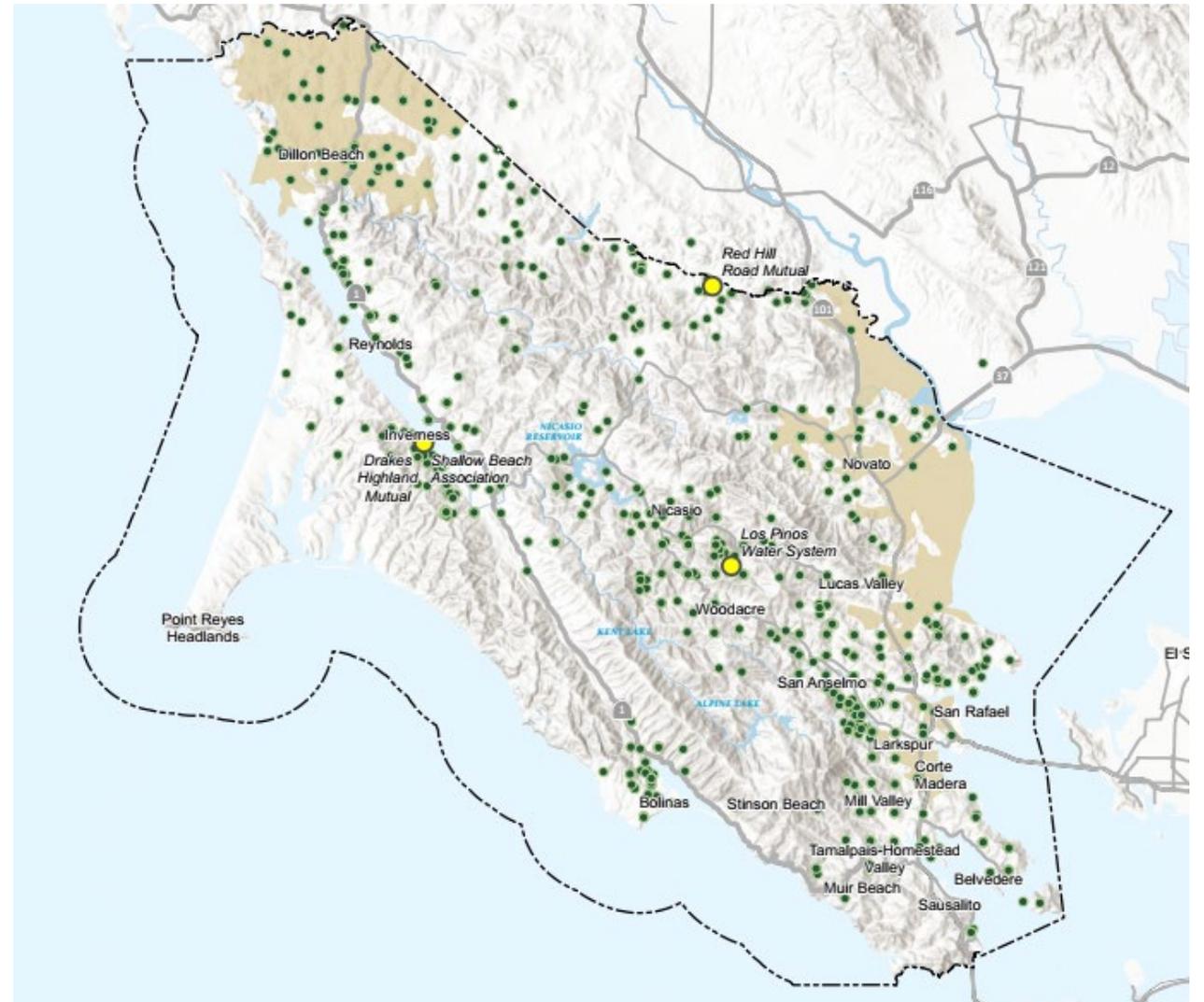


Marin County Drought Resilience Plan

January 28, 2026

Marin County

- County primarily surface-water dependent
 - >96% of population served by community or urban water suppliers
- Approximately 1,600 domestic wells and 4 state small water systems
- Majority of wells in fractured rock or along coast



Identifying Response Actions

Developed initial list of response actions and mitigation strategies

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graph TD; A[Developed initial list of response actions and mitigation strategies] --> B[Workshopped strategies with local organizations to understand benefits, challenges, and feasibilities]; B --> C[Refined and prioritized most relevant actions]; C --> D[Shared a focused list for public input (5 short-term and 5 long-term actions)];
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Workshopped strategies with local organizations to understand benefits, challenges, and feasibilities

Refined and prioritized most relevant actions

Shared a focused list for public input (5 short-term and 5 long-term actions)

Short-Term Response Actions



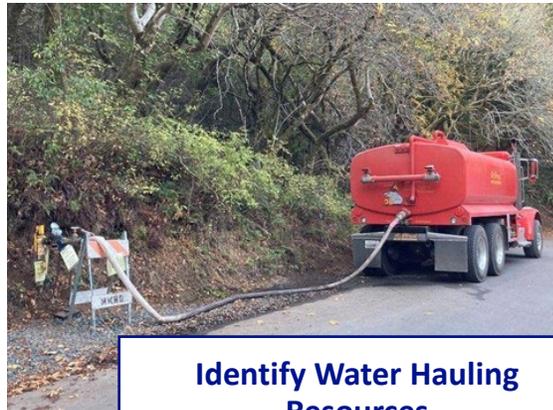
Enhance Public Communication and Education



Promote Water Conservation



Partner with Non-Governmental Organizations



Identify Water Hauling Resources



Coordinate Supply of Packaged or Bottled Water

Long-Term Mitigation Strategies



Expand Educational Outreach



Develop a Drinking Water Well Mitigation Program



Support On-Site Storage



Fill Data Gaps



Organize Well Reporting

Finalizing the Plan

- Identified four priority actions for first year of implementation
 - Actions that are foundational for later phases
 - Accounting for available resources
- Final stakeholder meeting to review approach
- Final public outreach meeting to present the plan
- Set up continued engagement
 - Option for stakeholders and public to stay involved or receive updates
 - Clear information on where to find future updates and progress

Prioritized Actions and Strategies

Fill Data Gaps

- Work with community to better define number of active domestic wells and population served

Community and Agency Partnerships

- Build on existing County programs
- Clarify mutual aid agreements between County departments, water suppliers, and community organizations

Expand Educational Outreach

- Develop website dedicated to drought resources
- Promote water conservation
- Provide materials on well management and maintenance

Funding Opportunities

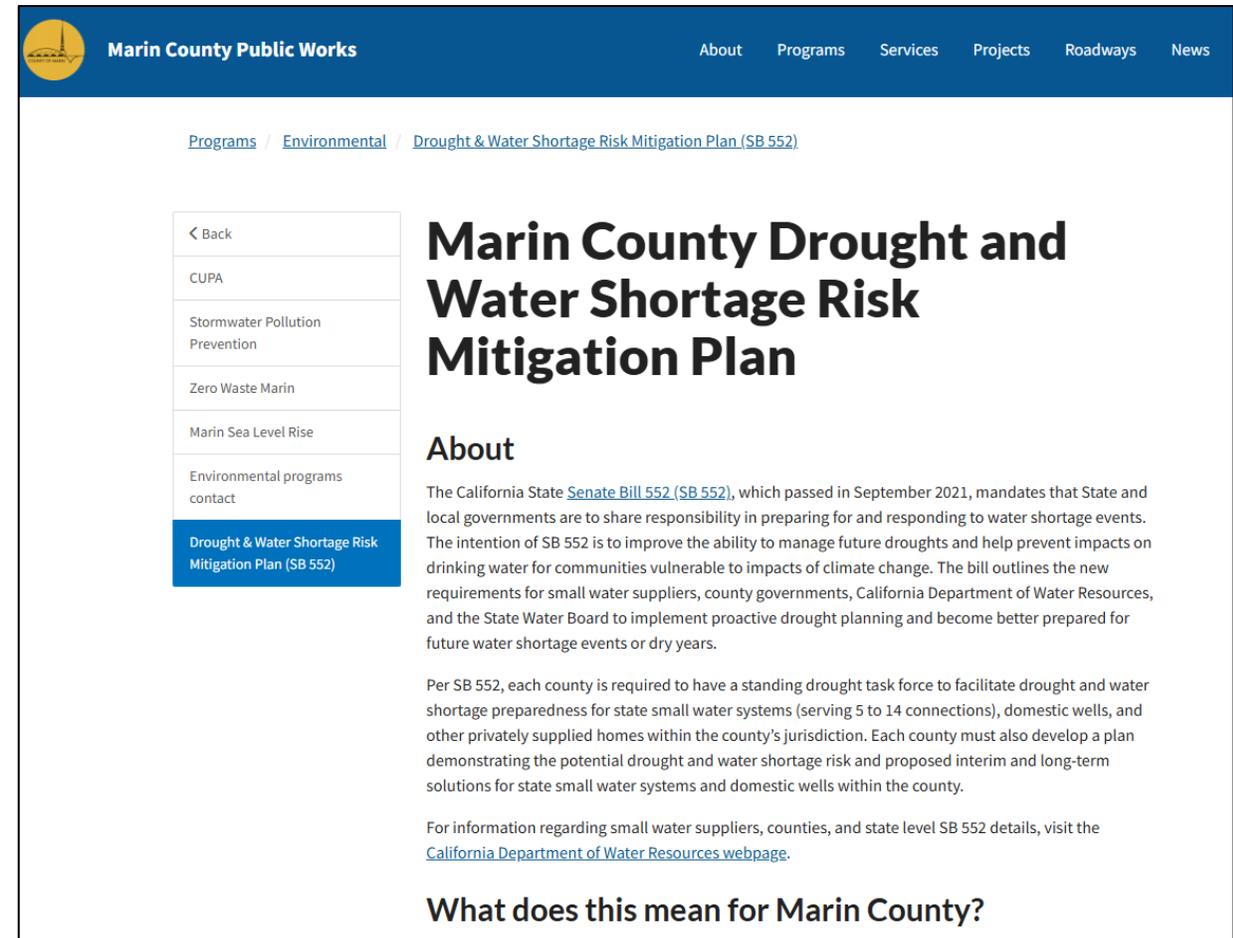
- Identify and monitor funding opportunities
- Advocate for resources

Drought Task Force

- Bolinas Community Public Utility District
- Muir Beach Community Services District
- Marin Municipal Water District (Marin Water)
- Community representative
- University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), Marin
- Marin County Department of Agriculture, Weights, and Measures
- Marin County Community Development Agency
- Marin County Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management

Implementation Considerations

- Drought Resilience Plan is a living document
 - County will monitor progress and refine strategies as needed
- Phased implementation guided by County staff and Drought Task Force
- Requires coordinated efforts from County, Drought Task Force, local water suppliers, and community organizations
- Implementation will depend on funding availability



The screenshot shows the Marin County Public Works website. The header includes the Marin County logo and navigation links for About, Programs, Services, Projects, Roadways, and News. The breadcrumb trail reads: Programs / Environmental / Drought & Water Shortage Risk Mitigation Plan (SB 552). A left sidebar contains a menu with items: < Back, CUPA, Stormwater Pollution Prevention, Zero Waste Marin, Marin Sea Level Rise, Environmental programs contact, and Drought & Water Shortage Risk Mitigation Plan (SB 552) (highlighted in blue). The main content area features the title "Marin County Drought and Water Shortage Risk Mitigation Plan" and an "About" section. The "About" text states that California State Senate Bill 552 (SB 552), passed in September 2021, mandates that State and local governments share responsibility in preparing for and responding to water shortage events. It aims to improve the ability to manage future droughts and prevent impacts on drinking water for communities vulnerable to climate change. The bill outlines new requirements for small water suppliers, county governments, California Department of Water Resources, and the State Water Board to implement proactive drought planning. A paragraph below explains that per SB 552, each county is required to have a standing drought task force to facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems (serving 5 to 14 connections), domestic wells, and other privately supplied homes within the county's jurisdiction. Each county must also develop a plan demonstrating the potential drought and water shortage risk and proposed interim and long-term solutions for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county. A final paragraph provides information on where to find more details, directing users to the California Department of Water Resources webpage. At the bottom of the page, the question "What does this mean for Marin County?" is posed.



Photo Sharing Opportunity

DWR invites members of counties, water managers, state small water systems, or domestic wells to share a photograph to be featured in [the cover of DWR's Accomplishment Report on County Assistance Program for SB 552 Implementation](#). This summary report is scheduled for publication in summer 2026.

The title of the photograph and the name of photographer will be noted for credit attribution.

To submit a photograph, please consider:

- ✓ Digital photos that are not AI-altered/generated.
- ✓ Format: jpg with a minimum resolution of 2400x3000 pixels with vibrant colors suitable for a cover
- ✓ Orientation: portrait
- ✓ Desired Image: The [rural landscape with communities and domestic well systems](#) that are vulnerable to drought and water shortages.
 - Visible buildings that depend on the water supply
 - Groundwater wells and supporting infrastructure for alternative sources
 - On-site remedies for water shortage vulnerabilities

Submit to: CountyDRP@water.ca.gov



Upcoming County Discussion Opportunities

February 24th, 9-10am: CA County Café Gathering

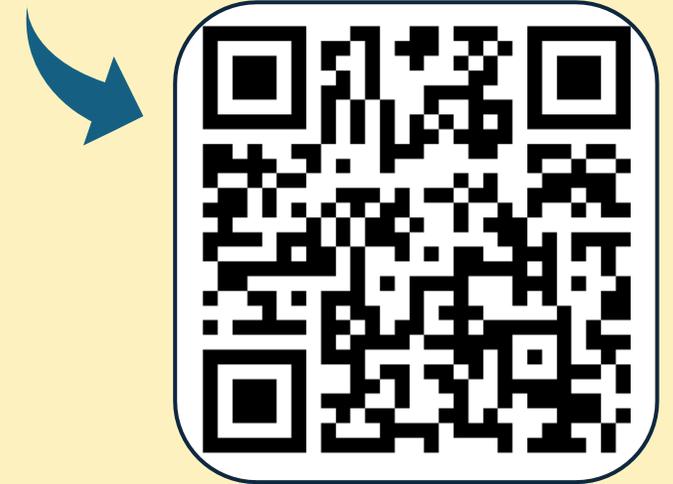
→ Finalizing CDRPs and Looking Ahead

Poll Question for March Meeting

How would you like to engage in March?

- Gathering focused on county implementation efforts
- Office hours for targeted questions and troubleshooting
- No preference / open to anything helpful
- I'm unlikely to attend in March due to workload

Follow-up questions?
Feedback to share?
Please fill out this survey!



<https://forms.office.com/g/SeHdSAt4mg>



Closing - Thank you!

Next steps - we will follow up with an email to counties for future gatherings, ppt, invitation to share in upcoming gathering.