



2/25/2026

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

DWR Water Tank Program - Informational

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.



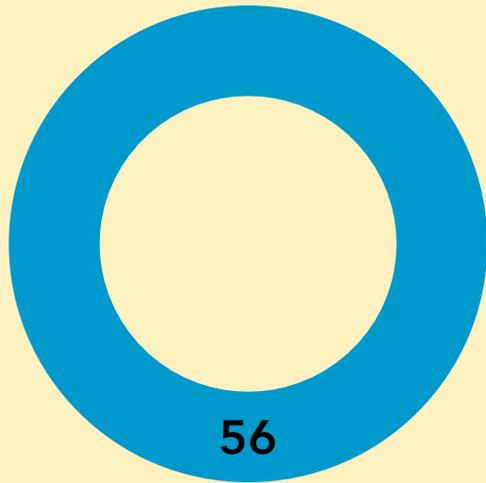
Essentials of the C3 Gathering

- ✓ 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.

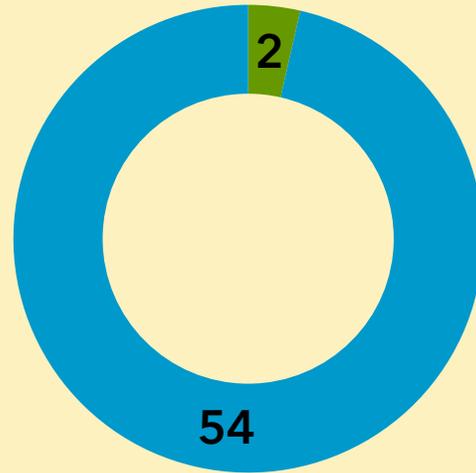


Statewide SB 552 Status

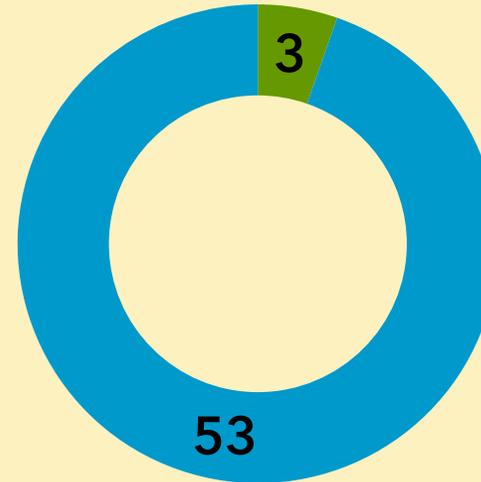
Task Force Formation



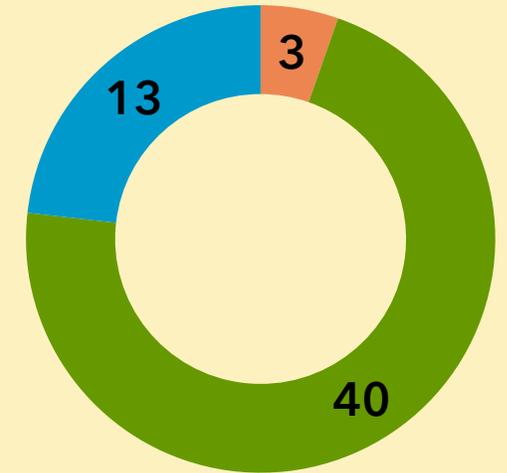
Risk Assessment



Response Actions and Mitigation Strategies



County Drought Resilience Plan Development



■ Not Started ■ In Progress ■ Completed

Source: 2/23/2026 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.

Poll Question

How tank-friendly is your drought planning?

- a. Water tanks are part of our long-term strategy
- b. We like the idea but implementation is tricky
- c. Too many coordination or funding challenges
- d. Water tanks? Tell me more!





DWR - Water Tank Program

Alena Misaghi

Alena.Misaghi@water.ca.gov

- **Program Purpose**

- DWR's Water Tank Program is funded under the Small Community Drought Relief Program and was designed to support drought impacted communities in California
- The Program is reaching out to counties to identify current or anticipated needs for domestic water tanks

- **Tank Details:**

2,500-gallon tanks for domestic use only



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES**

Participation and Agreement

How the Program Works?

- The applicant enters into a simple agreement with DWR
- DWR will provide the tanks at no cost, covering the delivering fees
- No funding is provided through this program

Who can apply?

- Public agencies, Public utilities, Special Districts, Colleges and Universities, Mutual Water Companies, Nonprofit organizations, Federally recognized Tribes, State Tribes



Delivery, Distribution and Timeline

Tank Delivery

- Once the agreement is executed:
 1. DWR requests the tanks from the vendor
 2. Tanks are delivered at no cost to the Grantee's desired location

Distribution

- DWR is no longer involved
- The Grantee determines how and whom tanks are distributed
- Distribution of tanks must comply with signed agreement

Important Dates

- Program Expires: June 30, 2026
- Last possible tank delivery date: May 1, 2026

Frequent Q&A's

- **Is the Program available to domestic wells and state small water systems?**
 - Yes, however only the entities listed previously are eligible to apply.
- **Is there a geographic limitation?**
 - No, this Program is available throughout California.
- **Could Counties acquire the storage tanks to be used later? or do they have to be installed as part of the Program?**
 - The County must demonstrate the tanks are to be used for drought mitigation and emergency use. If the County wants to acquire the storage tanks to be used for later, they need to have this referenced in their SB 552 plan and also demonstrate the ability to temporarily store tanks.
- **Is there a limit on the number of tanks requested?**
 - There is no maximum limit but there is a minimum requirement of 5 tanks.
- **Can individuals apply or does it need to be through an entity?**
 - Individuals cannot directly apply.
- **Will the State pay for hauling water?**
 - No. The Program is out of funding and no money will be exchanged as a part of this program. Recipients will be in charge of installing the tanks and purchasing hauled water.
- **Can the tanks be used for agricultural or fire mitigation purposes?**
 - The Tank Program is for domestic water use. Proof of usage is not required by the Program, however, grantees will be asked to provide a summary of where the tanks were installed.



Finalizing CDRPs and Looking Ahead

Sabrina Snyder, Yolo County

Amy Rutledge, Kern County



Poll Question - Coordination for Response

Who is your local "go-to partner" when experiencing drought or water shortages?

- a. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)
- b. Office of Emergency Services (OES)
- c. Office of Environmental Health (EH)
- d. Local Water and Utility Agencies
- e. Others, please share in the chat

How would you rate your current coordination with these partners?

- a. Very strong and well established
- b. Good, but could be improved
- c. Limited or inconsistent
- d. Challenging





Yolo County

Drought Resilience Plan

February 25, 2026

Yolo County

Demographics & Water Supply Portfolio

Demographics

Population: **221,165** (88% in Davis, West Sacramento, Woodland, Winters)

16% of residents live below the poverty line

57% of land area in agriculture

Water Supply Portfolio

Surface Water

~61% in normal years | ~40% in dry years

Sources: Sacramento River, Cache Creek, Putah Creek

Primary drinking water source for Davis, Woodland, W. Sacramento

Groundwater

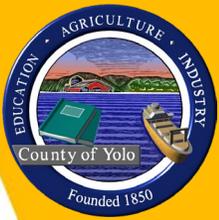
~39% in normal years | ~60% in dry years

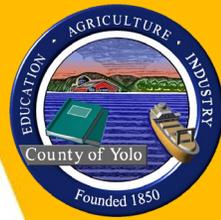
Critical drought buffer for Winters & rural communities

Water Use

Agriculture accounts for ~96% of total demand

Ag supply mix (avg. year): 57% surface water / 43% groundwater





County and YSGA Coordination

Integrated Drought & Groundwater Planning

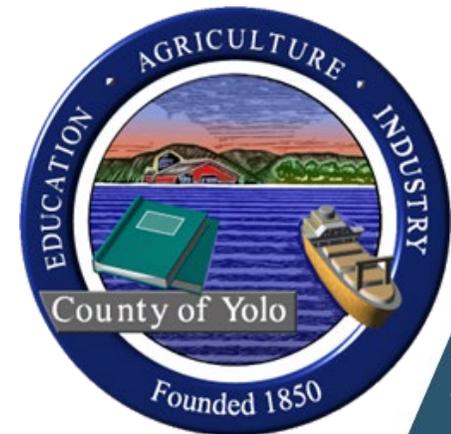
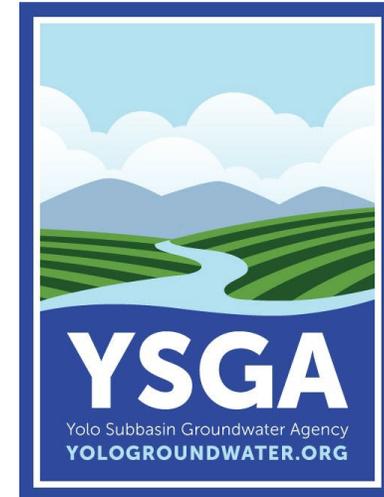
Coordinated development of the Drought Resiliency Plan with the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency

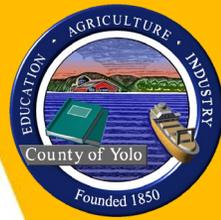
Ensured alignment with SGMA implementation and GSP measurable objectives

Shared data, modeling assumptions, and drought scenario analyses

Integrated groundwater sustainability criteria into County drought response actions

Focused on domestic well protections and disadvantaged communities





Strategic Next Steps

Advancing Long-Term Drought Mitigation

- Evaluate feasibility of a Countywide Water System Consolidation Master Plan
- Prioritize at-risk small systems and domestic well users
- Advance major mitigation measures identified in Draft Plan:
 - Regional interties & supply redundancy
 - Expanded groundwater recharge & storage
 - Supply diversification strategies
 - Infrastructure resilience upgrades
 - Identify and pursue state & federal funding opportunities



Drought Task Force Engagement

Adaptive Management & Annual Review

Ongoing engagement through County Drought Task Force partners

Annual review of drought indicators, groundwater levels, and supply reliability

Update response triggers and mitigation priorities as conditions evolve

Coordinate closely with cities, CSDs, irrigation districts, and state agencies

Maintain transparent reporting and interagency communication



THRIVING RESIDENTS



SAFE COMMUNITIES



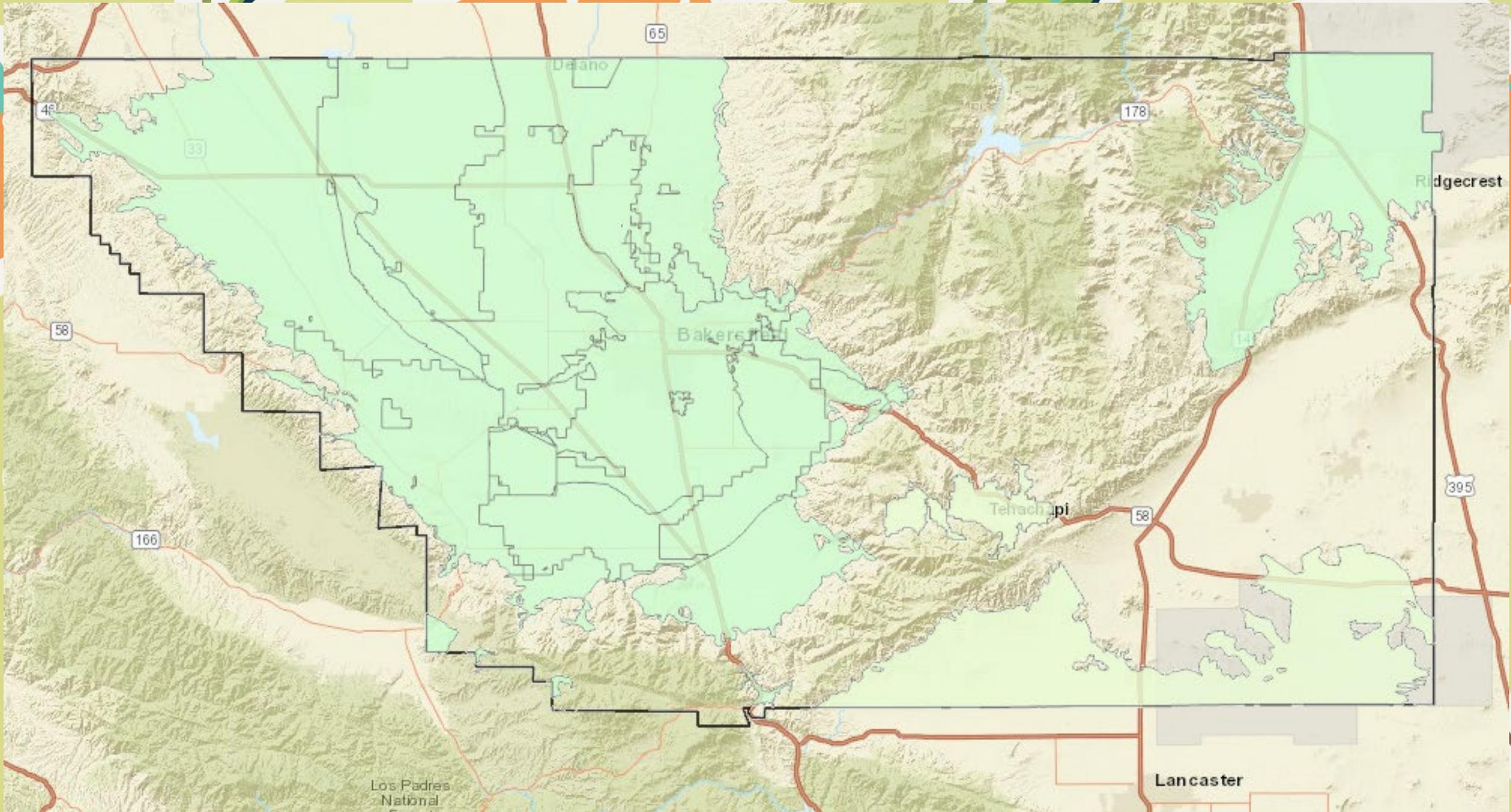
SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

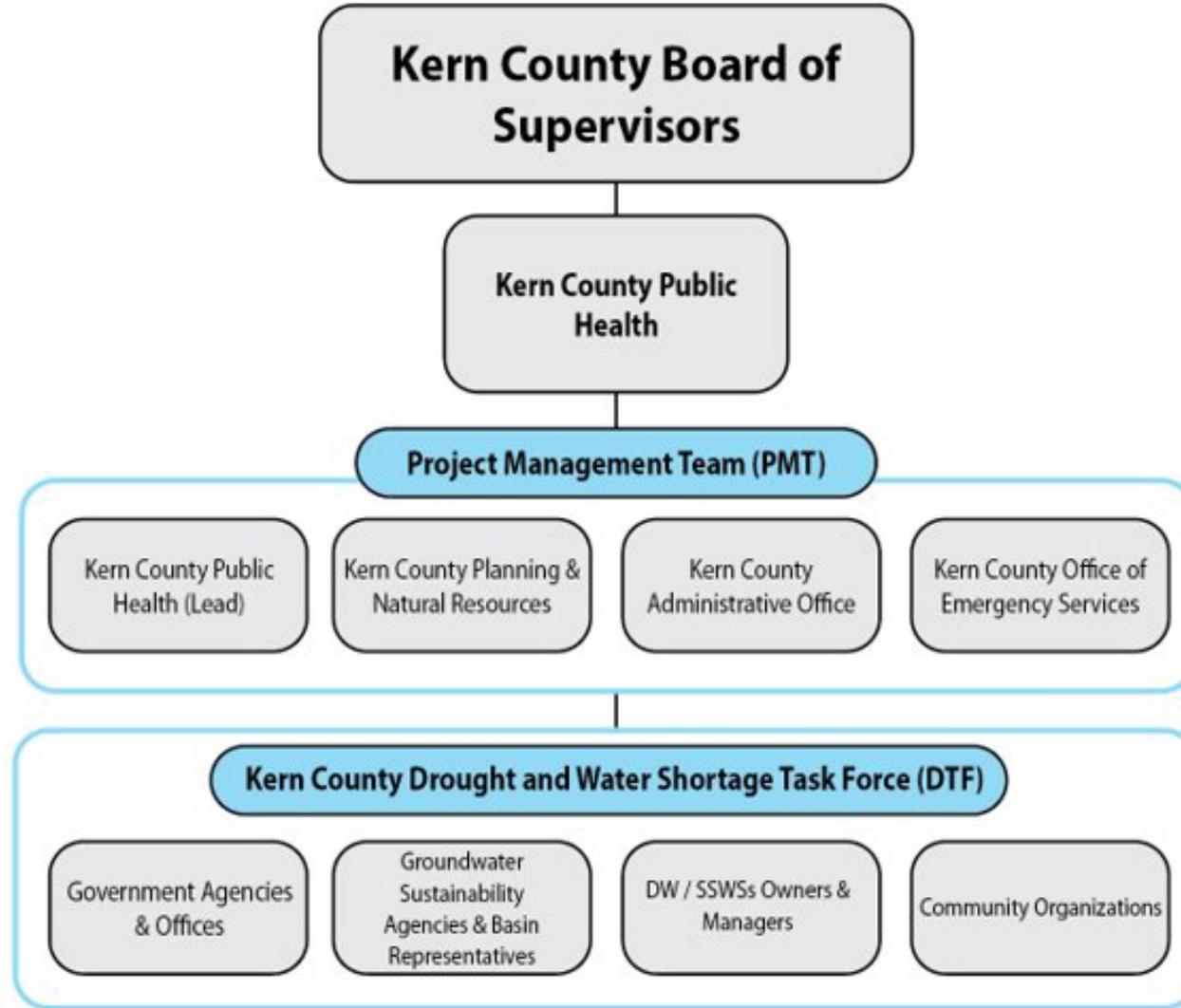


Kern County Drought Task Force

Amy Rutledge REHS
Assistant Director
Kern County Public Health







DRP COMPOSITION

- Standalone document
 - 1 countywide emergency & interim drinking water distribution plan
 - 1 drought & water shortage emergency response process – 3 stages based on managerial & climatic supply conditions
- 3 STRA
 - based on existing programs available through CBOs or in KCPH scope
 - Near-term (0-2 yrs) designation
- 12 LTMSA
 - address partnerships available through GSAs, such as data reconciliation & monitoring support as well as collaborations with DDW, CBOs and local government offices
 - 2 tier designations, mid-term (2-5 yrs) and long-term (5+yrs)



NEXT STEPS

- Presentation to BOS for formal recognition of the plan
- Membership application process & engagement
- Standing annual meeting every May during normal conditions
- Meetings as needed during drought conditions
- AdHoc committees as needed to address
 - Any identified data gaps
 - Funding opportunities
 - STRA/LTMSA
- Education outreach to domestic well owners and SSWS users



LESSONS LEARNED

- Data validation of anecdotal knowledge
 - Reinforced what we thought to be
 - Highlighted areas of dense well concentrations not previously realized
- Stakeholder engagement
 - Highlighted the need to have better continuing engagement opportunities with individual domestic well owners
 - Opportunities for better communication/engagement with SSWS
- Stronger collaboration/partnerships
 - GSAs
 - CBOs



QUESTIONS?

Amy Rutledge, REHS
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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

March 11th, 9-9:50am: CA County Café Gathering

→ Finalizing CDRPs and Looking Ahead: [register here](#)

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



<https://forms.office.com/g/g1AaPMBdgX>



Closing - Thank you!

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