



3/11/2026

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

Theme for Today: **Integrating CDRPs into Existing Planning Efforts**

- 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.



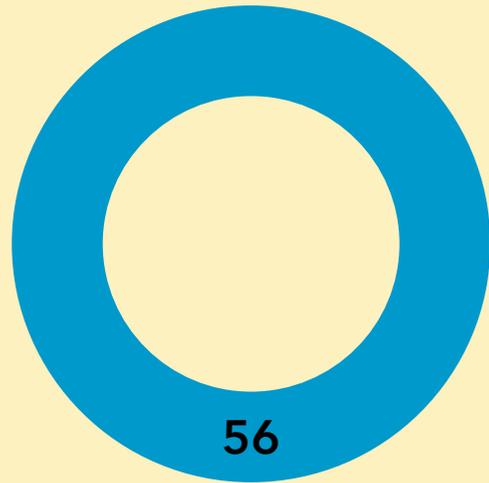
Essentials of the C3 Gathering

- ✓ 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.

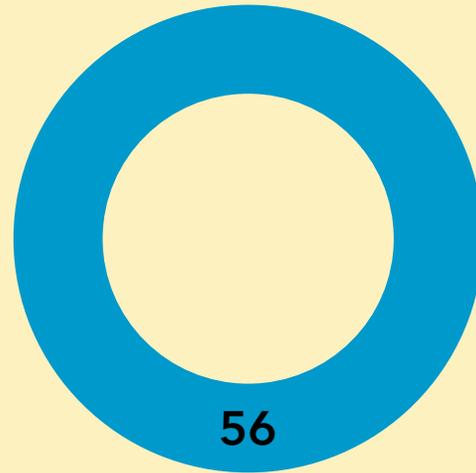


Statewide SB 552 Status

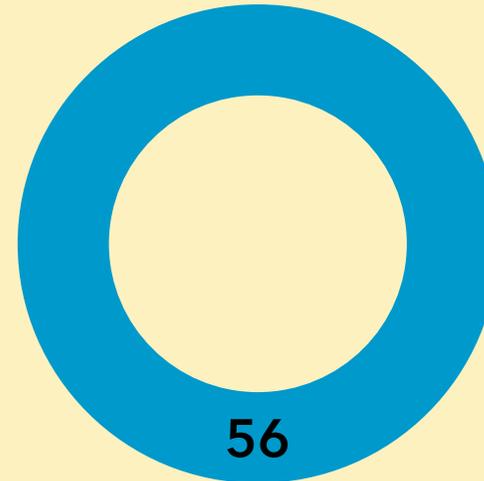
Task Force Formation



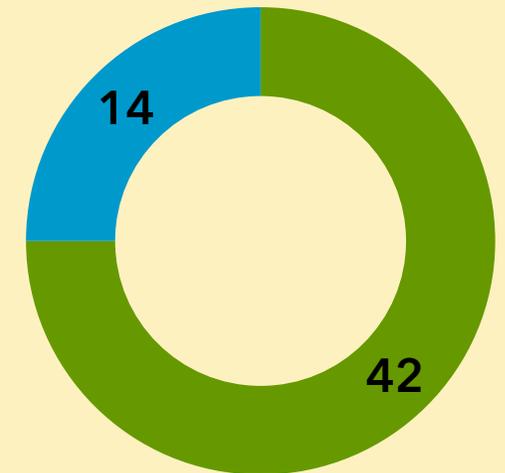
Risk Assessment



Response Actions and Mitigation Strategies



County Drought Resilience Plan Development



■ Not Started ■ In Progress ■ Completed

Congratulations to Orange County for completing the DRP!

Source: 3/5/2026 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.



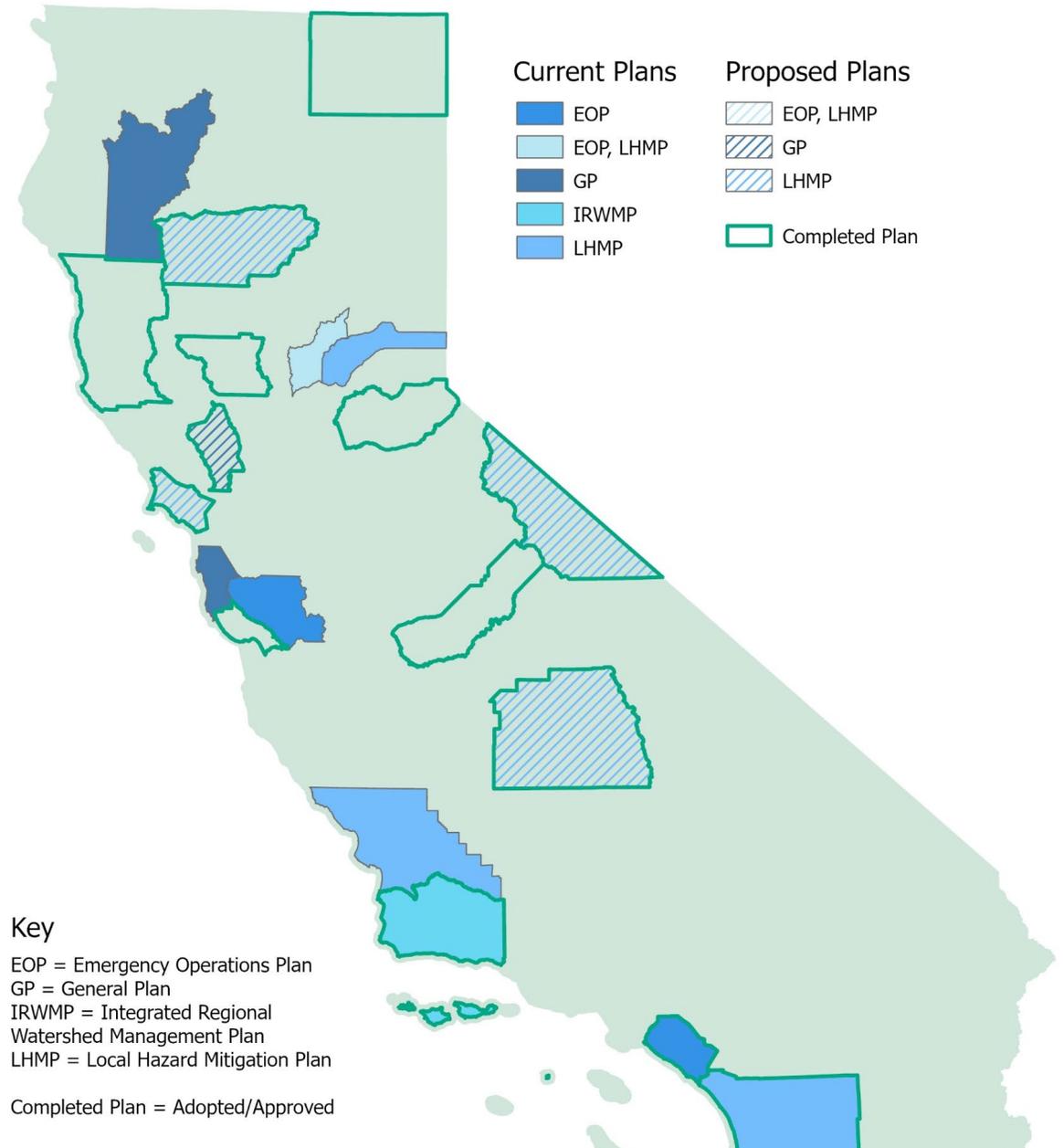
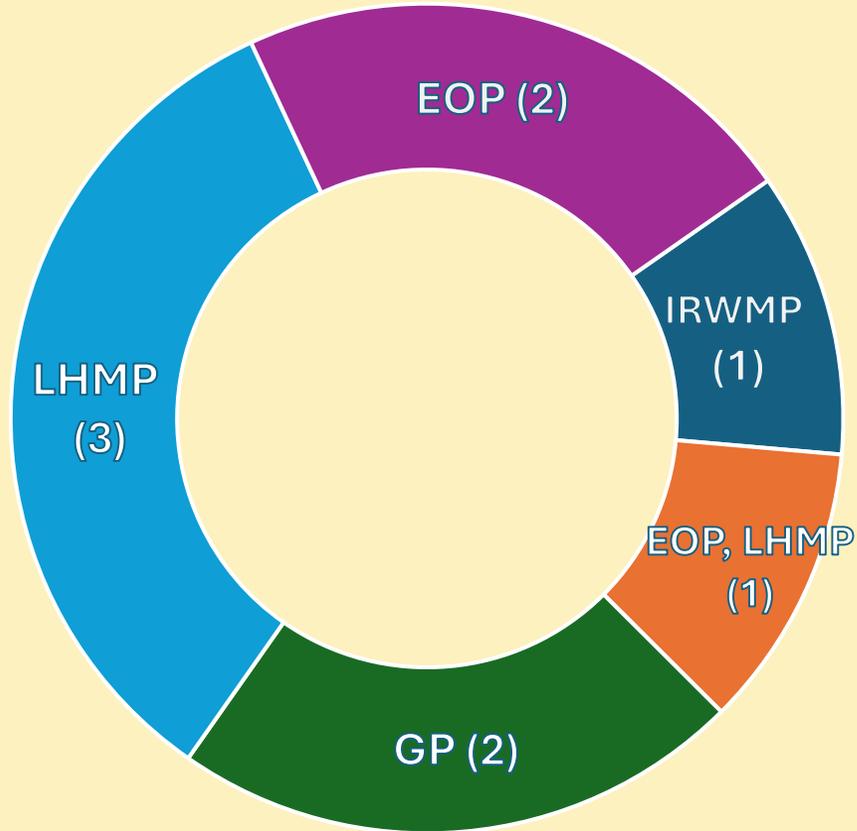
Integrating CDRPs into Existing Planning Efforts

Josh Porter and Brendan Clark, San Luis Obispo County
Katie Faulkner, San Mateo County



DRP Integration Status

Count of Plan Types





Poll Question - DRP Alignment

Which existing plan(s) does your county's DRP most closely align with (even if it is a standalone plan)?

- a. Local / Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan
- b. General Plan (including Safety Element and others)
- c. Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s), if applicable
- d. Emergency Operations / Response Plan
- e. Not sure
- f. Others (please share in the chat!)



Poll Question - DRP Integration

Which existing planning process(es) has your county integrated - or plans to integrate - the DRP into?

- a. Local / Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan updates
- b. General Plan updates
- c. SGMA / GSA planning, if applicable
- d. County emergency response planning
- e. Regional water planning (e.g., IRWM, DWR Watershed Hubs)
- f. No plans for integration
- g. Others (please share in the chat!)

INTEGRATING SB552 INTO EXISTING PLANNING EFFORTS



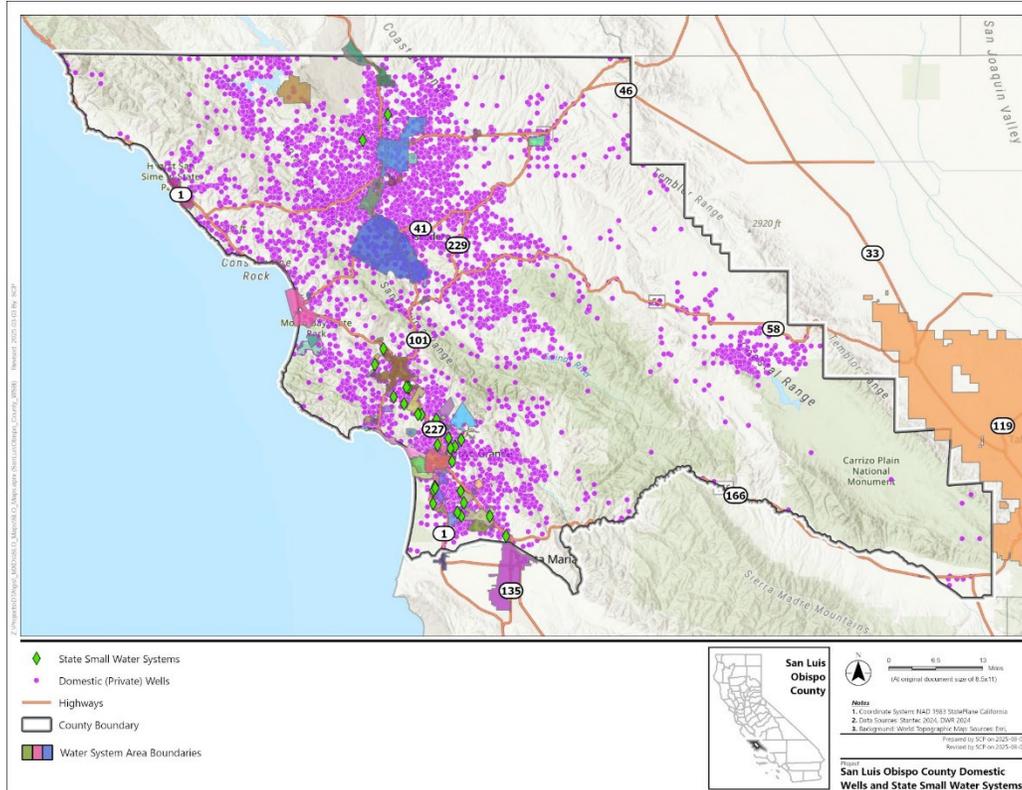
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Outline

- County Overview
- DWR Planning Assistance
- SB552 Requirements
- Existing Plan Compliance
- Drought Task Force
- Drought Resilience Plan
- State Direct Technical Assistance via Stantec
- Publicly Available County SB552 Information
- Final Steps
- Continuing the Work

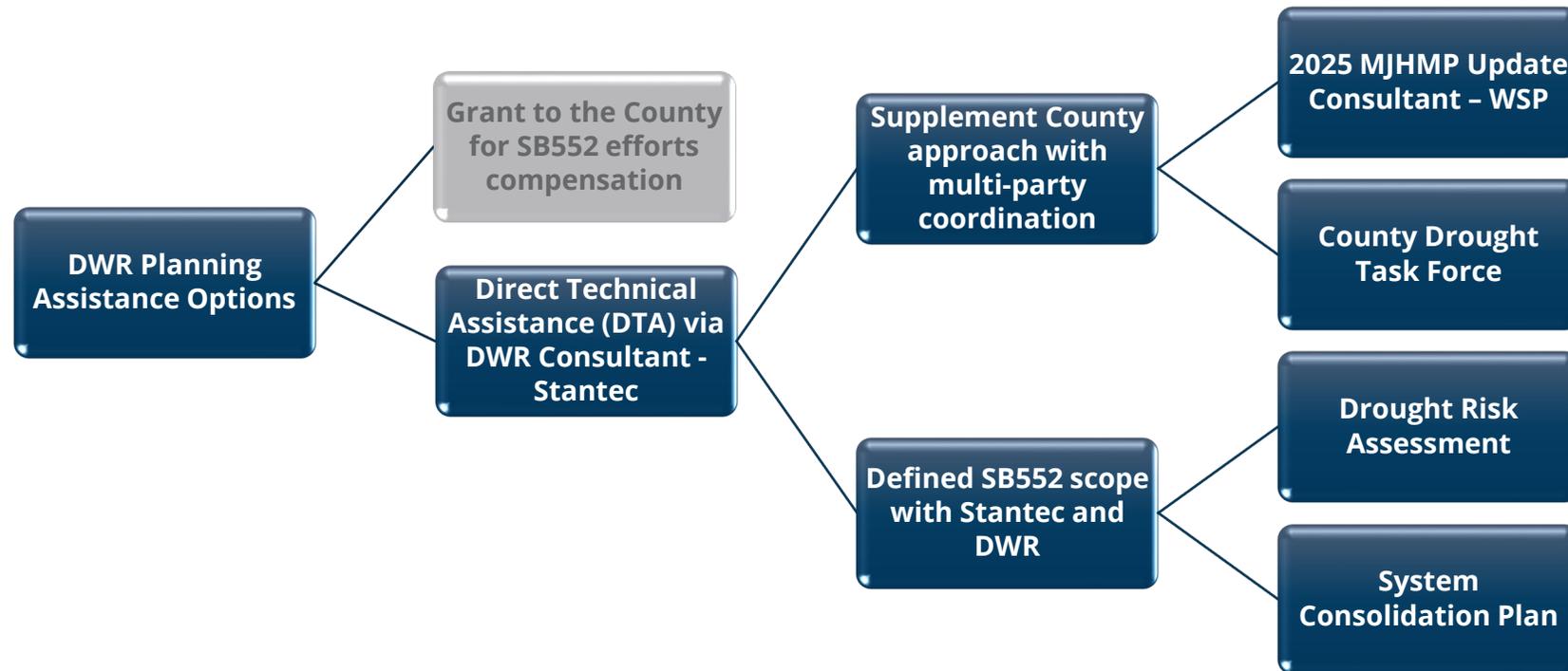


County Overview



- County split amongst coastal and interior regions
 - Seven incorporated cities, many unincorporated communities
 - Groundwater is primary water supply
- ~15,178 Domestic Wells, 27 State Small Water Systems, 83 Public Water Systems
 - Spread across fractured rock areas and prioritized/unprioritized groundwater basins

County Use of DWR Planning Assistance



SB552 Requirements

Small Water Systems

- Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Counties

- Standing Drought Task Force
 - Facilitation of drought planning/preparedness County-wide
 - Regular basis communication/coordination opportunities
- Drought & Water Shortage Plan
 - Vulnerability/Risk assessment
 - Consolidation options
 - Drinking water mitigation program
 - Provision of emergency & interim drinking water solutions
 - Plan implementation steps analysis
 - Analysis of available funding sources

State

- Drought Interagency Task Force (DRIP Collaborative)
- Vulnerability Tool & Data



Existing County Plan Compliance

Small Water Systems

- Water Shortage Contingency

Counties

- Standing Drought Task Force
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Drought Task Force & WRAC

Master Water Report & State DTA (Stantec)

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) & County Websites

State

- Drought Interagency Task Force (DRIP Collaborative)
- Vulnerability Tool & Data



County Drought Task Force

SB552 Requirement	County Fulfillment	Description
Task Force of participating state and local government representatives	County Drought Task Force (Working Group)	Staff from Multiple County Dept.
	Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)	Public Engagement
County drought planning/preparedness for SSWS and Domestic Wells	County Environmental Health Well Program	Private well owner resources
	SLOCountyWater.org	Online available resources
Coordination/communication opportunities on a regular basis and during drought or water shortage emergencies	ReadySLO.org	Online available engagement opportunities
	Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)	Monthly public meetings



County Drought Resilience Plan

SB552 Requirement	County Fulfillment	Description
Vulnerability/risk assessment	MJHMP Appendix H	Stantec Drought Risk Assessment
	MJHMP Section 5.3.9	MJHMP Drought Risk Assessment
	Master Water Report (2027)	MWR Risk Assessment
Consolidation opportunities	Stantec System Consolidation Plan (SCP)	Consolidation opportunities
Domestic well drinking water mitigation programs	EmergencySLO.org	County drought information
	County Environmental Health Well Program	Private well owner resources
	MJHMP Section 6.4.6	County drought capabilities
Emergency/interim drinking water solutions	EmergencySLO.org	Drought information countywide
Necessary implementation steps analysis for the DRP	County Public Works Projects Webpage	County SB552 compliance
	MJHMP Section 7	Drought mitigation strategy
Available funding sources to implement the DRIP	MJHMP Section 8.1.3	Short/long-term measures & funding sources



Stantec Direct Technical Assistance

SB552 Requirement	County Fulfillment	Description
Vulnerability/risk assessment	MJHMP Appendix H	Stantec Drought Risk Assessment
	MJHMP Section 5.3.9	MJHMP Drought Risk Assessment
	Master Water Report	MWR Drought Risk Assessment
Consolidation opportunities	Stantec System Consolidation Plan (SCP)	Consolidation opportunities
Domestic well drink water mitigation pro	County of San Luis Obispo Risk Assessment Final - November 6, 2025	Stantec Water System Consolidation Plan - FINAL County of San Luis Obispo October 31, 2025 Prepared for: California Department of Water Resources Prepared by: Stantec Consulting Services Inc. Project#File: 184031724
Emergency/interim water solutions		
Necessary impleme analysis for the DRP		
Available funding sour the DRIP		



Public Works Projects: SB552 Webpage

DEPARTMENTS JOBS NEWS ACCESSIBILITY TRANSLATE ENHANCED BY Google

Public Works
County of San Luis Obispo

[Home](#) » [Departments](#) » [Public Works](#) » [Current Public Works Projects](#) » [Senate Bill 552: Drought Planning for Small Water Supplies & Rural Communities](#)

John Diodati
Director

Related Forms & Documents

[California Legislative Information SB552 Webpage](#)

[DWR SB552 Main Webpage](#)

[DWR County Drought Resilience Planning Assistance Program Webpage](#)

[DWR County Drought Resilience Plan Guidebook](#)

[DWR Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer Tool](#)

[Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics Plan \(DESAL Plan\)](#)

[Master Water Report and Data Information System](#)

Follow @slocountypwd

Contact Public Works via [web form](#), [email](#), or call us at (805) 781-5252.

Senate Bill 552: Drought Planning for Small Water Supplies & Rural Communities

Senate Bill 552 (SB 552) was passed by the California Legislature in September 2021, placing more responsibilities on both local and State governments for preparing and acting in the event of a water shortage in rural communities. The bill calls for proactive drought preparedness for the most vulnerable communities by improving their management during future droughts, ultimately preventing catastrophic impacts on drinking water supplies.

County Compliance

As per SB 552, each county was presented with two main requirements to facilitate drought planning for water systems with fewer than 14 connections, including individual wells: the first was to establish and hold a standing drought task force, and the other was to develop a drought and water shortage resilience plan. Counties were able to establish alternative processes to meet these requirements.

The standing county drought task force was created similar to the DRIP Collaborative for the state, which provides opportunities for coordinating and communicating with the state and other local governments, community-based organizations, local water suppliers, and local residents on a regular basis. The County of San Luis Obispo met this requirement by including a standing agenda item to report on drought planning during public meetings of the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

Drought and water shortage resilience plans serve three purposes:

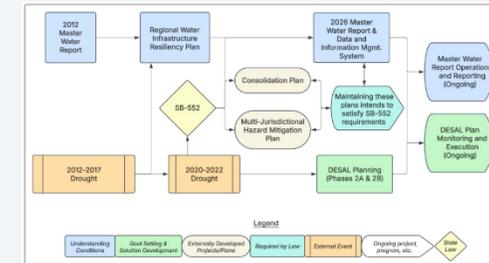
- present potential drought and water shortage risk for rural communities
- propose interim and long-term drinking water solutions to said risk, and
- identify available funding sources and necessary plan implementation steps

The County has completed the drought and water shortage resilience plan requirement by a combination of Drought sections of the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) and relevant County websites. The 2025 MJHMP Update was utilized to elaborate on necessary drought information within the MJHMP while the following County websites; County Environmental Health, SLO County Water, Public Works Projects, and County OES, provide additional information.

SB552 Requirement	County Fulfillment	Status

Standing Drought and Water Shortage Task Force	County Drought Task Force (Working Group)	Complete
	Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)	
	County Environmental Health Well Program	
	SLO County Water.org	
Drought and Water Shortage Plan	ReadySLO.org	Complete (Adopted by County BOS 1/27/2026)
	MJHMP Section 5.3.9: MJHMP Drought Risk Assessment	
	MJHMP Section 6.4.6: Drought Capabilities	
	MJHMP Section 7: Mitigation Strategy	
	MJHMP Section 8.1.3: Drought Resilience Planning	
	MJHMP Appendix H: Stantec Drought Risk Assessment	
	Master Water Report Drought Risk Assessment	
	Stantec System Consolidation Plan (SCP)	
	County Environmental Health Well Program	Complete
	County Public Works Projects Webpage	Complete
	EmergencySLO.org	Complete
		Complete

Furthermore, County SB552 efforts aligned with two other current major regional water planning efforts - the 2026 Master Water Report & Data and Information Management System and the DESAL Plan. Altogether, these efforts strive to maintain existing water sources, create new water sources, and allow for easy data transparency to the public.



Outreach:

If you have any comments or questions you would like to bring up in a public setting, please participate in a Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) meeting. These meetings are the first Wednesday afternoon of every month at the San Luis Obispo Library Community Room (995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo) and online through Zoom.

Project Contacts

For additional information, please contact Joshua Porter via email: jporter@co.slo.ca.us or phone: (805) 781-1953.



Final Steps

- Stantec Additional Scope of Work w/remaining DTA budget
- Consolidation Report primers
- Final Technical Memorandum
- Finalization of County SB552 Efforts to DWR



Domestic Well Consolidation Opportunities for Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and Public Water Systems

Thousands of residents in San Luis Obispo County rely on private domestic wells for drinking water, particularly in rural and unincorporated areas. These wells are more vulnerable during prolonged droughts because they depend entirely on local groundwater levels and water quality.

Under Senate Bill 552 (SB 552), the County evaluated long-term strategies to reduce drought-related water supply risks for domestic well users. One key step is identifying domestic well groupings, clusters of wells that share similar vulnerabilities.



Consolidation Opportunities in San Luis Obispo County for Small Public Water Systems and State Small Water Systems

Small Public Water Systems and State Small Water Systems are critical to providing drinking water in rural and semi-rural areas of San Luis Obispo County. However, these systems can face increased challenges during droughts due to:

- Limited technical and financial resources
- Water quality challenges
- Reduced water source capacity

Under Senate Bill 552 (SB 552), the County evaluated long-term strategies to reduce drought and water shortage risks for these systems. One key strategy is water system consolidation.

WHAT IS CONSOLIDATION?

Water system consolidation generally means:

- Physically connecting a smaller or at-risk water system to a larger public water system
- Or annexing into another system's service area

Goal: Improve water supply reliability, regulatory compliance, and drought resilience.

Important: Consolidation is a long-term strategy, not a temporary emergency measure like emergency interconnections or water hauling.

HOW WERE OPPORTUNITIES EVALUATED?

The County used State guidance and public data to screen systems based on:

- System size
- System compliance status
- Proximity to other public water systems
- Conceptual infrastructure costs
- Funding thresholds commonly used by State programs
- Drought and water quality risk indicators

Note: This analysis is for planning purposes only. It does not indicate that consolidation or annexation is required, feasible, or appropriate for any specific system.

Findings, Next Steps, and Resources

WHAT THE COUNTY FOUND

- 16 at-risk or failing public water systems (Table 1)
- 8 State Small Water Systems that met both distance and preliminary funding screening criteria (Table 2)
- All SWSs identified have elevated groundwater water quality risk
- Some systems identified are already exploring consolidation or annexation independently

Goal: Identify well groupings to see where additional coordination or planning may be helpful.

Important: This analysis was intended for high-level screening purposes only and does not replace site-specific engineering, legal, or financial evaluations.





Continuing the Work

MJHMP a good base
for SB552

- Plan is updated consistently
- Project implementation easily monitored
- Can appendix new/supporting resources as needed

Continue coordination
through County
Drought Task Force

- Multiple agencies all with water interests
- Guide MJHMP project implementation

Moving from
reactionary to
proactive actions

- “Lead a horse to water, but cannot make them drink”
- Individualism and independence



An aerial photograph of San Mateo County, California, showing the coastline, a large airport, and rolling hills. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent blue rectangle in the center.

San Mateo County Drought Resilience Plan

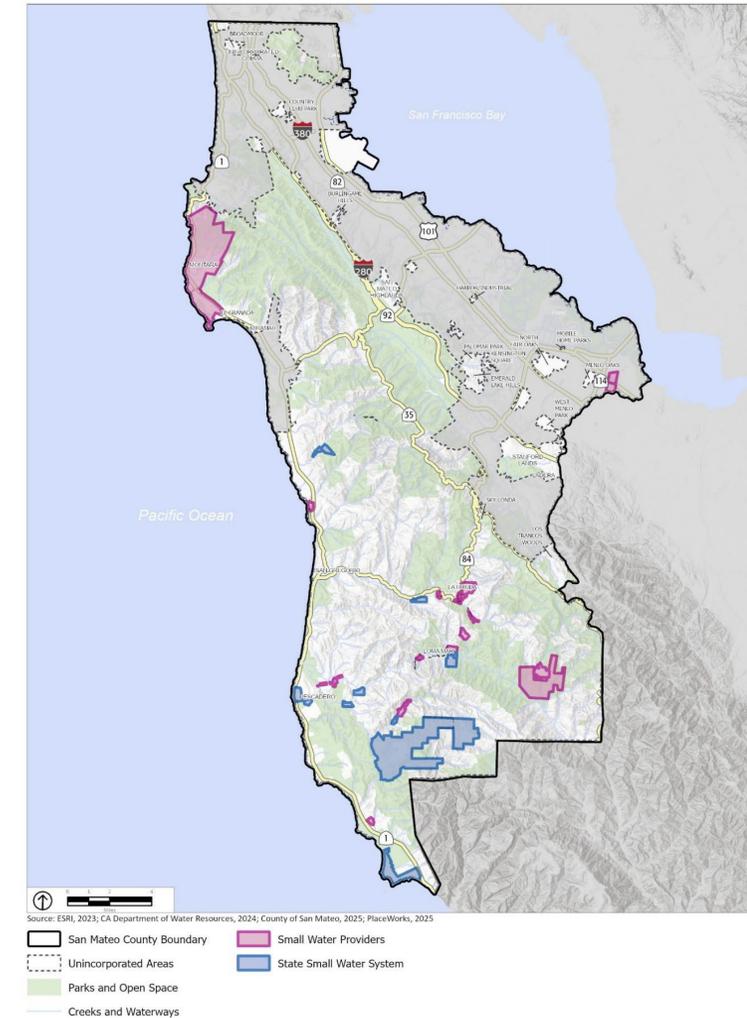
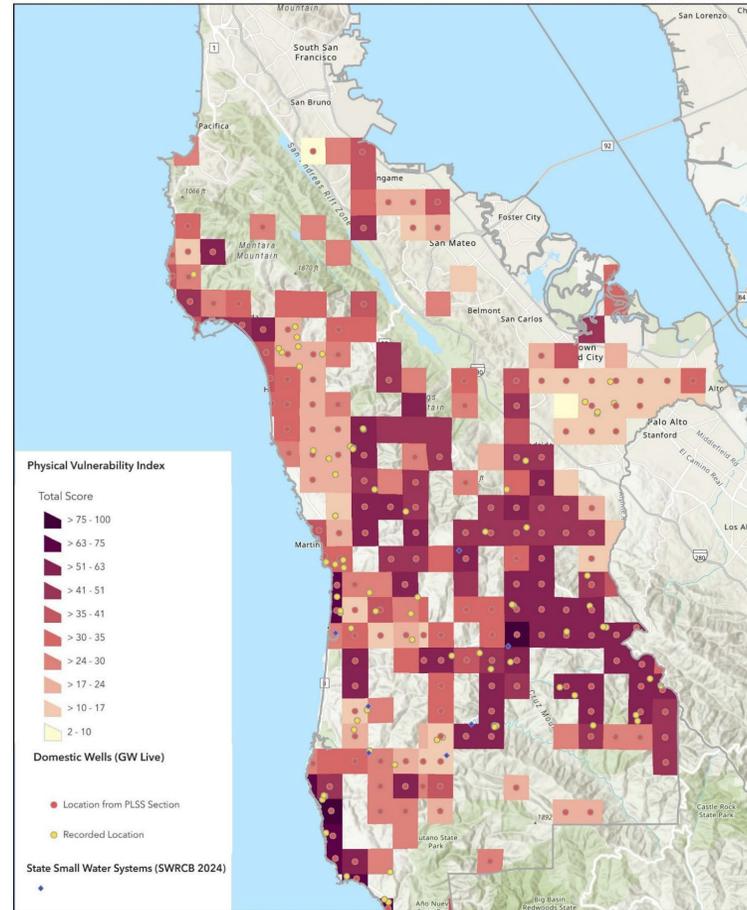
Katie Faulkner
March 11, 2026

COUNTY OF **SAN MATEO**

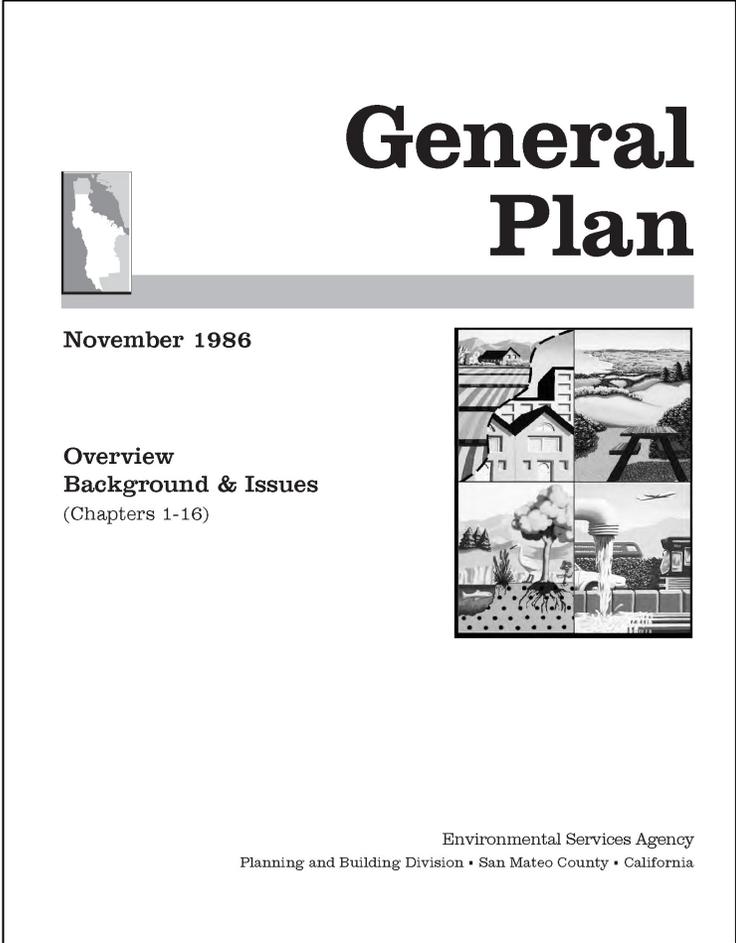


San Mateo County Profile

- Total population of 742,893
- DPR cover ~28,000 people
- 15 small water providers
- 10 State Small Water Systems
- Estimated 1,887 domestic wells



Safety Element Update



General Plan

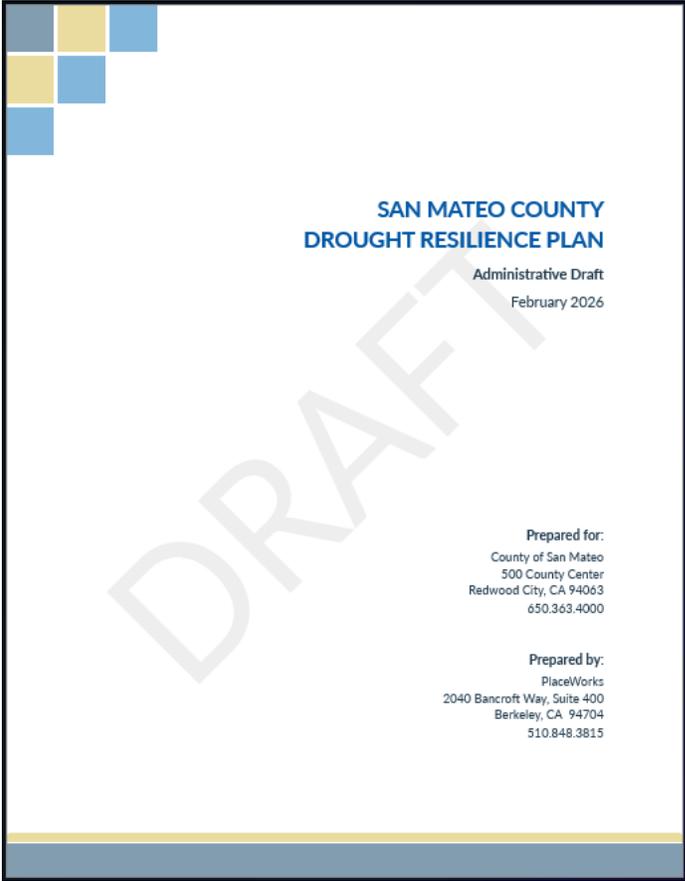
November 1986

Overview
Background & Issues
(Chapters 1-16)

Environmental Services Agency
Planning and Building Division • San Mateo County • California

The cover features a map of San Mateo County, a grid of six small images showing various landscape and infrastructure elements, and a horizontal line separating the title from the date.

Drought Resilience Plan



**SAN MATEO COUNTY
DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN**

Administrative Draft
February 2026

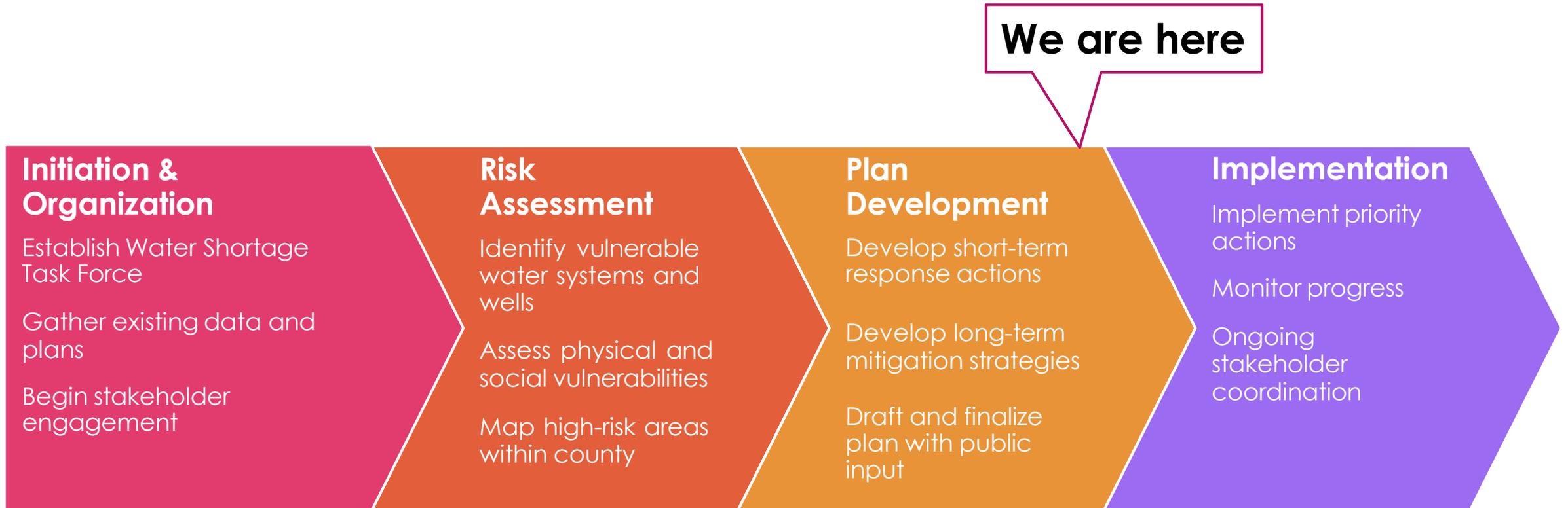
Prepared for:
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500 County Center
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Prepared by:
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2040 Bancroft Way, Suite 400
Berkeley, CA 94704
510.848.3815

The cover includes a decorative graphic of colored squares in the top left corner, a large 'DRAFT' watermark, and a horizontal line at the bottom.



Process



Task Force

County departments:

- Planning & Building
- Health
- Sustainability
- Emergency Management
- Public Works
- Resource Conservation District

Regional Partners:

- OneShoreline
- Resource Conservation District
- Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency
- Local water systems
- CBO

Implementation Roles & Responsibilities

Planning & Building

Planning and building regulations for water projects, General Plan coordination.

Emergency Management

Emergency response coordination, bottled water distribution.

Environmental Health

Water quality, small system oversight, well permitting.

Sustainability Department

Drought resilience planning, water conservation programs.

Public Works

Infrastructure projects, County Service Area operations.

Task Force

Ongoing guidance, progress review, stakeholder coordination.

Physical Vulnerabilities

Critical Infrastructure Gaps:

- 89% of systems (23 of 25) have NO emergency interties.
- 88% of systems (22 of 25) rely on a single water source.
- 36% of systems (9 of 25) face water quality issues.
- 25% of domestic wells (464 of 1,882) are shallow (<100 feet).

Environmental Risk Factors:

- 68% of systems in fractured rock geology areas.
- 56% of systems in high wildfire risk zones.
- 16% of systems at risk for saltwater intrusion.

Water Quality Challenges:

- Iron, manganese, lead, and tannin contamination.
- Bacterial contamination issues.



DRP & Other Planning Efforts

Local Hazard
Mitigation Plan

Safety
Element
Update

Environmental
Justice
Element



Implementation & Next Steps

- Finalize DRP
- Adoption as an appendix of Safety Element
- Annual Task Force Meetings



Short-term Actions

Goal: Provide immediate relief and emergency response through rapid deployment.

Tier 1 – Immediate Emergency Relief:

- ST-1: Bottled water distribution to affected systems and well owners
- ST-2: Emergency water hauling services vendor list
- ST-3: Mutual aid coordination and emergency interties
- ST-4: Expedited well permits for emergency replacement
- ST-5: Emergency communication and reporting website
- ST-6: Strategic bottled water stockpiling in South Coast

Tier 2 – Proactive Support Measures:

- ST-7: Public education and multilingual outreach
- ST-8: Emergency backup power support during PSPS events



Long-term Strategies

Goal: Build resilience and prevent future crises through strategic investments.

High-Priority Long-term Strategies:

- Vulnerable water system registry and communication channels
- Emergency intertie feasibility study for high-risk systems
- Coastside Water Systems Joint Powers Authority feasibility study
- Water system consolidation feasibility assessment
- Domestic well assistance and rehabilitation program
- Domestic well and water source countywide survey
- Renewable backup battery storage for systems



Questions?





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



Community Groundwater Level Monitoring Program

Voluntary program to expand groundwater level monitoring in communities across California

What we offer

- Monitoring equipment and training
- Technical support and data submission guidance
- Well suitability assessments

Who receives the monitoring equipment

- Domestic well owners
- Small community water systems
- Non-transient non-community school water systems

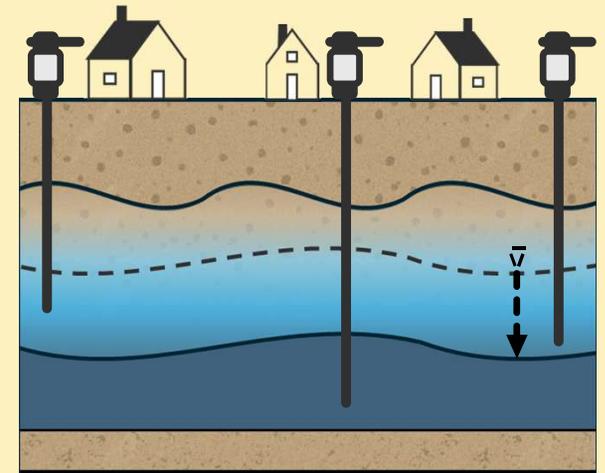
Why participate

- Supports SB 552 monitoring requirements for small water systems
- Builds local groundwater data to inform county drought task forces
- Strengthens DWR-county-community collaboration

Equipment Opportunity

If your county is expanding monitoring for domestic wells, schools, or small systems, please contact us **by March 20th** with anticipated equipment needs so purchases reflect local demand.

Contact: Zoe.Kanavas@water.ca.gov



<https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/dwr-community-groundwater-level-monitoring-program>



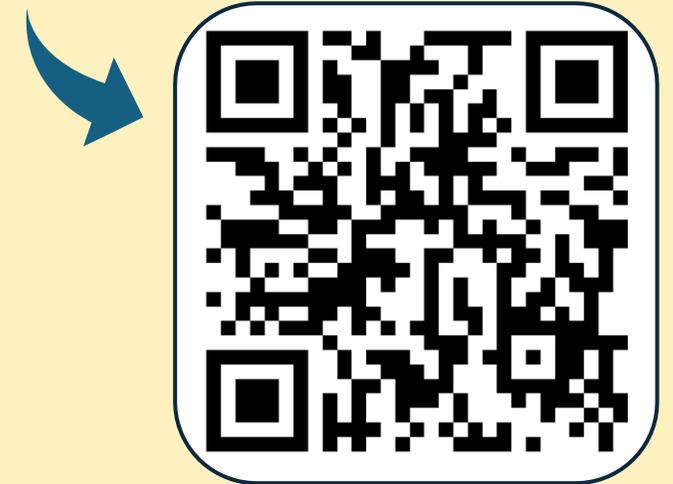
Upcoming County Discussion Opportunities

March 25th, 1-4:30pm: DRIP Collaborative - Roles & Responsibilities for Domestic Wells and SSWS Workshop

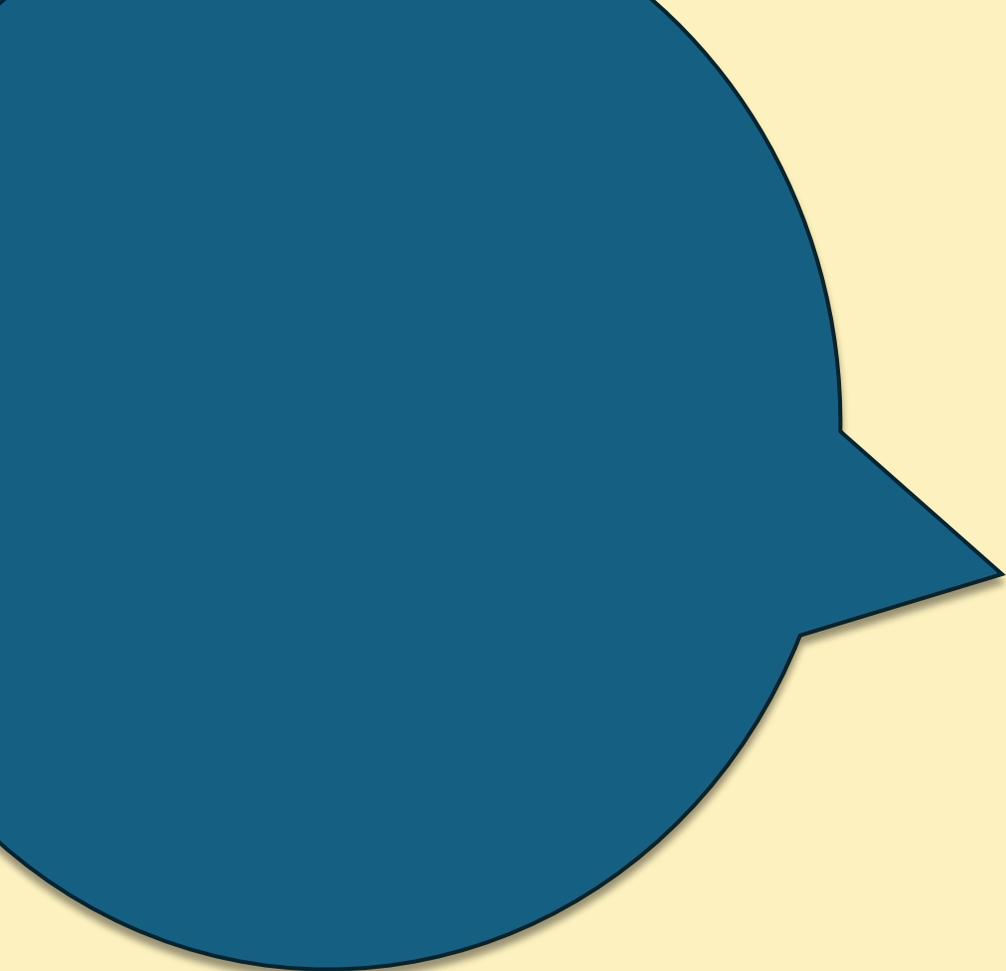
- ✓ Discuss how agencies and partners support domestic well and SSWS users during drought
- ✓ Share existing programs, roles, and coordination approaches
- ✓ Identify gaps and opportunities for improved collaboration

No April Gathering - we will reconvene in May!

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



<https://forms.office.com/g/XBG1Zm1LnA>



SB 552 Five Year Review Symposium

**Thursday, September 24, 2026
California Natural Resources Agency
Headquarters in downtown Sacramento**

Join us to celebrate key milestones related to SB 552 and think ahead as we move forward with implementation.



Closing - Thank you!

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