



9/25/2024

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: **Short Term Response Actions – But mostly consolidation considerations and related options**

→ 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.

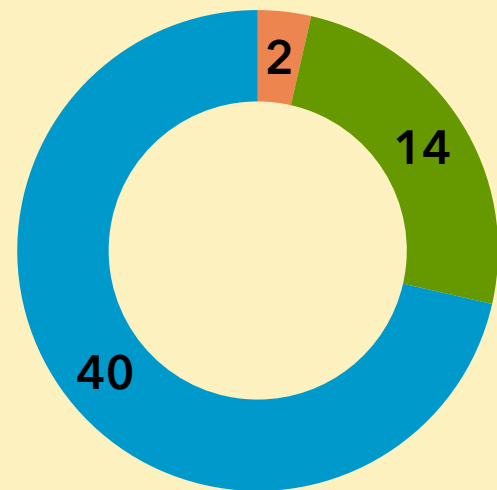
Appreciate others listening in but focusing on staff who are responsible for developing the DRP and implementing.

Essentials of the C3 Gathering

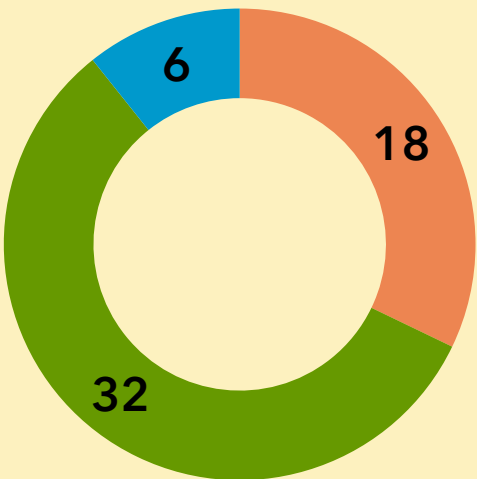
- ✓ Join the conversation – share your experience and learn from other perspectives and experiences.
- ✓ Make a connection – use the chat to connect with other participants.
- ✓ County focused – While all are invited to join, this gathering will focus on supporting county staff.

Statewide SB 552 Status

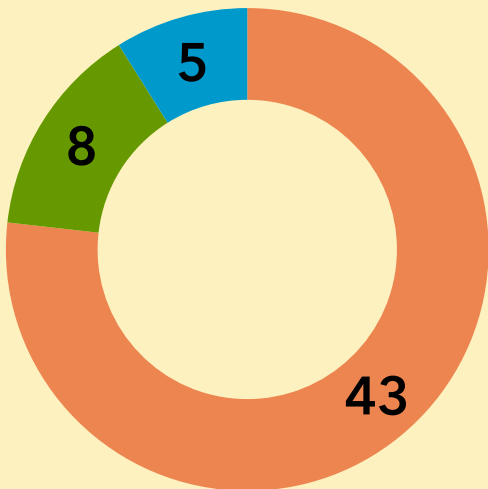
Task Force Formation



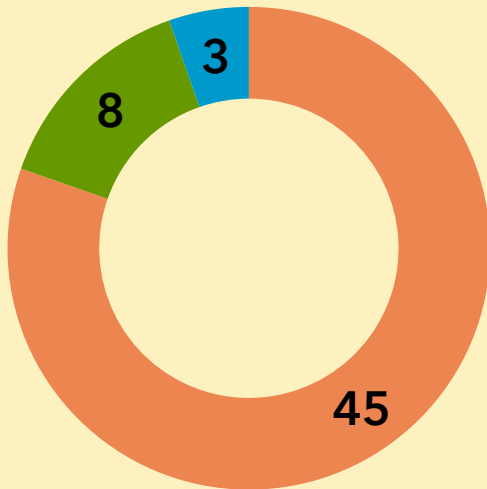
Risk Assessment



Response Actions and Mitigation Strategies



County Drought Resilience Plan Development



Not Started In Progress Completed

Source: 09/09/2024 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.



Short-term Response Actions

Orit Kalman - Facilitator

Short-term Response Actions and Long-Term Mitigation Actions

SB 552 requires that each county develop a drought and water shortage plan that includes proposed interim solutions for state small water systems and domestic wells, per CWC Section 10609.70:

*(b) A county shall develop a plan that includes potential drought and water shortage risk and **proposed interim** and long-term **solutions for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county's jurisdiction**. The plan may be a stand-alone document or may be included as an element in an existing county plan, such as a local hazard mitigation plan, emergency operations plan, climate action plan, or general plan. A county shall consult with its drought task force or alternative coordinating process as established by this section in developing its plan.*

A county shall consider, at a minimum, all of the following in its plan:

- (1) **Consolidations** for existing water systems and domestic wells.*
- (2) Domestic well drinking water **mitigation programs**.*
- (3) Provision of **emergency and interim drinking water solutions**.*
- (4) An analysis of the steps necessary to **implement** the plan.*
- (5) An analysis of local, state, and federal **funding sources** available to implement the plan.*

Short-term Response Actions

Short-term response actions recognize the vulnerability and the need to expeditiously mitigate impacts during the early stages and during ongoing drought conditions and water shortage events.

- Mutual Aid Agreements
- Intertie activation
- Permit Streamlining and Coordination
- Partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations
- Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Supplies
- Dedicated Water Filling Stations by Large Water Purveyors
- Treatment of Available Water from Alternate Sources that Are Not Typically Used
- Packaged or Bottled Water
- Water Hauling or Bulk Water Delivery

Consolidation is often a topic mixed with considerations of these short-term options.



The Survey Says:

Past responses to drought and water shortage emergencies

- Scream and run around with my hand in the air.
- Some have not had a drought emergency
- Some are new to their role and don't have knowledge of past experience
- ✓ Coordination:
 - Rely on County OES
 - Water Managers Group coordination
- ✓ Dry well reports:
 - Response and assistance
 - Connected well owners with resources to report dry wells
 - Identified opportunities to deepen/replace wells
- ✓ Conservation:
 - Demand cutback targets
 - Via drought declaration, numerous water use reduction measures
- ✓ Emergency water supply augmentation: hauling water

The Survey Says:

Coordination opportunities to prepare for short-term response

Partners:

- **County agencies, GSAs**
- **Emergency water supplies:** Developing agreements for water hauling/trucking from suppliers and different counties and planning for bottled water programs.
- Engaging with existing/newly formed **task force** and **water providers**
- Looking at MOUs with the **large water systems** to provide potable water filling stations for hauling

Related efforts:

- Looking for long-term consolidation opportunities while considering interim drinking water supplies.
- Exploring opportunities to help small water systems
- Developing outreach
- Looking for funding for emergency response
- Leveraging the preparation of the DRP for planning

The Survey Says: **Key challenges to identifying and securing short-term response actions**

Coordination: Building the right partnerships across entities; Multi-department coordination.

Domestic wells: Permitting a potential emergency supply well; Lack of state protocol for dry wells

Identifying emergency resources:

- Source water for the hauled water program
- Identifying equipment suppliers
- Not understanding what options are available.

Engagement:

- Getting Stakeholder buy in and public trust
- Identifying the landowners that actually want the short-term mitigations and how to get it to them efficiently
- Difficulties in engaging small systems

Resources and funding:

- Finding staff time
- Funding for mitigation to address identified hazards

Implementation considerations:

- Implementation pathways since County does not have water rights or water supply
- Rural areas without access to a secondary source or intertie
- Defining thresholds and formalizing triggers, specifying short term mitigation response levels

Short-term Response Actions

Regional Coordination – We will return to this topic at the next Café Gathering

Consolidation/Mutual Aids/etc.

Jeremy Shepard, Placer County Water Agency

Karen Bender, County of El Dorado

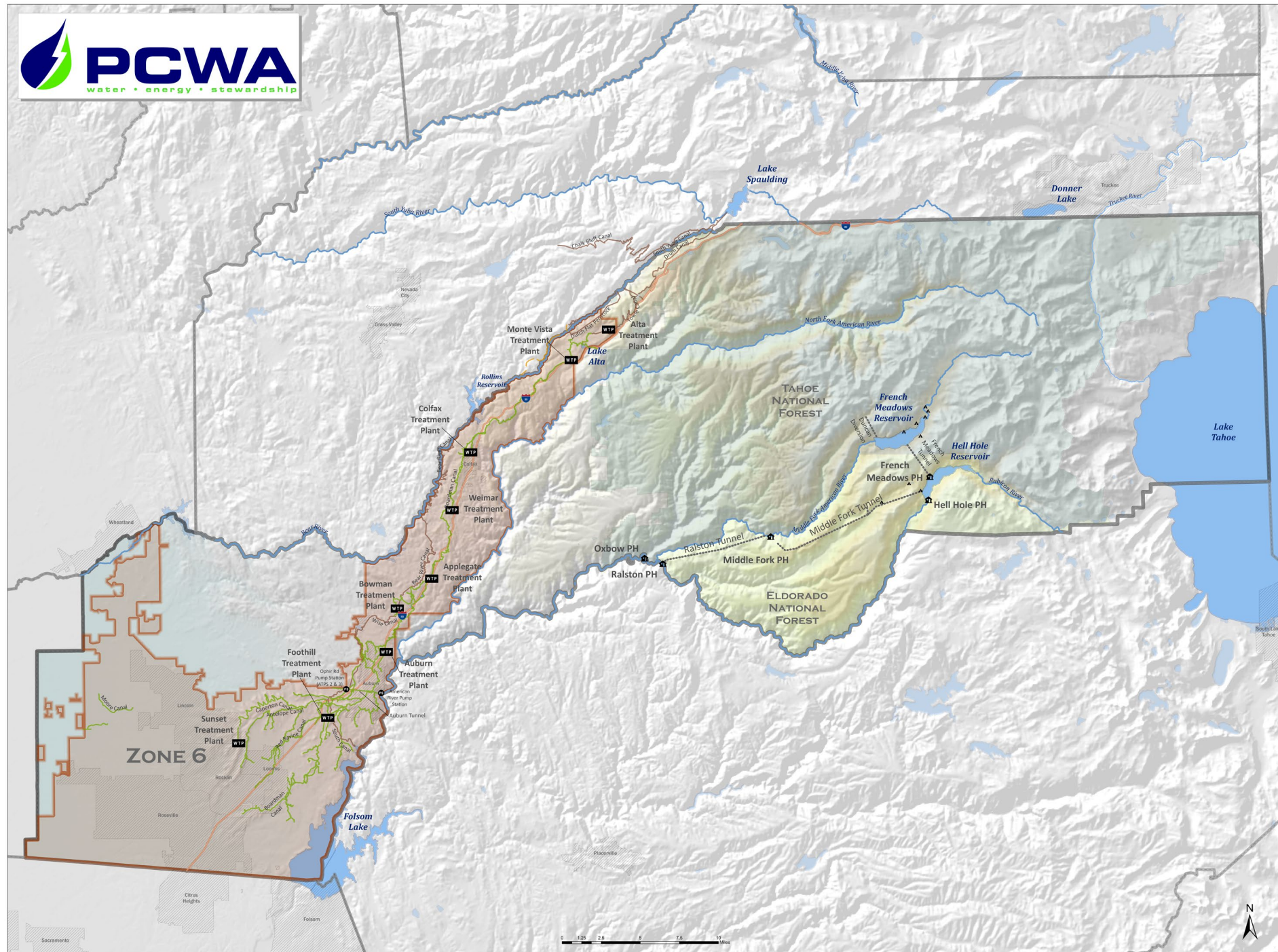
Adrian Combes, South Tahoe Public Utility District

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

COUNTY CAFÉ PRESENTATION

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024





CONSOLIDATION CONSIDERATIONS

- Connection Charges
- Connecting Infrastructure
- Existing Infrastructure
- Existing Debt
- Rate Comparison



Colfax to Applegate Regionalization Study Area

Legend: Infrastructure

- Boardman Canal
- Interstate 80
- New Pipeline Connection
- WTP Water Treatment Plant (6)
- WTP Future Colfax Water Treatment Plant (1)
- L Larger Public Water Systems (7)
- S Smaller Public Water Systems (12)
- Constructed Conveyance (31)



Legend: Water Systems

NO.	SYSTEM NAME	POPULATION	CONNECTIONS
1	Shady Glen Community Water System	200	120
2	Placer County Water Agency Colfax	2,987	917
3	North Eden Valley	52	21
4	Weimar Water Company (Investor-Owned Utility)	1,500	535
5	Midway Heights County Water District	1,080	406
6	Heather Glen Community Services District	250	100
7	Applegate Inn	-	1
8	Applegate Station	25	1
9	Live Oak Waldorf School	200	1
10	Sierra Reach Ministries	80	2
11	Applegate Motel Water System	35	3
12	Jesuit Retreat Center	-	1
13	Applegate Park	100	2
14	Placer County Water Agency Applegate	215	67
15	Meadow Vista County Water District	4,001	1,478
16	Christian Valley Park Community Services District	1,800	625
17	Clipper Gap Head Start	-	1
18	Lake Arthur Cabins	-	1
19	Oliver's Foothills Gas	-	1
TOTAL		12,525	4,283



Consolidation Projects

From 2013 to 2022

Type	Number
NTNC	2
TNC	9
CWS	3
State Small	1
Cal Code	1





Consolidation Challenges

Customers do not want to pay monthly water bills

Customers lack technical and operating skills to operate a small water system

Water quality issues


Connection costs from the large system to the main, and then to the building

Customer mindset to save the well for future generations

Lack of space to install treatment systems

Rural sections of the county are a challenge; easier in the city


Short term measures to consider



Water System Consolidation Considerations

1. Operations
 1. Supply/Demand
 2. Fire Flow
 3. Condition Assessments
 4. Communications/SCADA
 5. Backflow Program
 6. Levels of Service
2. Financial
 - a. Rate Structure
 - b. Debt
 - c. Grants/Loans
 - d. Existing Contracts
 - e. Software Systems





Water System Consolidation Considerations

3. Regulatory
 - a. Water Supply Permits
 - b. DDW or PUC enforcement orders
 - c. DDW sanitary surveys
4. Legal
 - a. Service Area
 - b. Pending/Ongoing Litigation
5. Public Outreach
 - a. Public Acceptance
 - b. What is best for the community
 - c. Ensuring everyone is properly informed



Short-term Response Actions Discussion

1. How are other counties planning for short term mitigations and what is their actual experience from last drought?
2. How can practical strategies enhance ways that rural communities are currently handling water shortages?
3. Are there any unexpected stakeholders that have been found to be valuable for identifying short-term mitigation?
4. What role did the county play in responding to droughts and water shortages?

Resources:

- General questions on developing short-term response actions – Reference the [DWR County Drought Resilience Plan Guidebook](#)
- For specific questions about your county – Reach out to DWR at CountyDRP@water.ca.gov



Polling: What should we discuss at our next gathering?

Please add in the chat **your most pressing topic** that you would like to be discussed next in the County Café Gathering.

Upcoming Counties Discussion Opportunities:

October 30th, 9-10am: Office Hours

November 20th, 9-10am : California County Café Gathering



Closing – Thank you!

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