

Part 0. Recommendation Declaration

To be submitted to the DRIP support team prior to commencing work on Part I.

Recommendation Proposer

DRIP Member name, member type (state/non-state) and any partners (DRIP members or external) in development of proposed recommendation.

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Recommendation Idea

Provide a brief (no more than 150 words) description of the idea for a recommendation.

Compile a suite of drought related case studies across sectors and geographies of California to highlight the complicated drought realities that diverse communities across the state are facing. Case studies may focus on drought-specific impacts to natural, built or social systems, including compounding or cascading impacts, or highlight existing approaches to addressing those vulnerabilities. This will help inform DRIP areas of focus and priority actions while capturing nuanced and diverse experiences across sectors and geographies of the state. This compilation will help guide drought narrative definitions developments and align with the proposed drought definition white paper by showcasing the range of unique and context-dependent complexities of drought related issues in California, with focus on projections for more frequent and extreme weather events and impacts.

Partners should include DRIP members and collaborators representing community perspectives.

Focus Area

Drought Relevant Data **Drought Narrative** Drought Preparedness for Domestic Wells

Intended Benefit to the Drought Risk Management Cycle (Please check all that apply)

- Mitigation, Preparation and Capacity
- Forecasting and Monitoring**
- Response**
- Recovery

Part I: Recommendation Overview

Recommendation Title

Provide a concise title for your recommendation in fewer than ten words.

Defining Drought: A Summary of Challenges and Solutions to Achieving Resilience to Water Scarcity in California

Description

In one or two paragraphs, please provide a brief overview of the recommendation and how it addresses the Focus Area problem statement. Supporting documentation to include an overview of existing trends, the reasons for urgent action, and people currently impacted.

Many efforts are underway to understand, communicate, and address drought in California. However, the terminology around drought can be confusing and may not fully capture or articulate the ways water shortage is experienced by different types of communities and the environment. Considering the variability of California's diverse climate and geographies, plus recognizing that different communities will experience the impacts of drought in unique ways, this recommendation aims to create a broader understanding of the challenges and successes of achieving drought resilience by compiling relevant literature resources and examples. This resource would discuss different aspects of resilience (e.g., water access, quality, and availability) and present them in context of case study narratives. Ultimately, the goal of this recommendation is to provide a more complete picture of how drought is experienced by different groups and identify paths to resilience.

Drought narrative case studies will be designed to demonstrate elements of drought resilience through specific examples and experiences across California user groups (environmental, industrial, residential, etc.) and geographies. Case studies may uplift nuanced perspectives, including tribal expertise, community-lived experience, water resource management practices, and impacts to habitat and species, presenting a diverse array of experiences and actions from those closest to the impacts of drought that can improve our collective understanding and inspire more resilient outcomes. Case studies should uplift written examples of the existing drought definitions discussed in the introductory pages of the summary and their associated use cases (e.g., triggers for response actions) in context to highlight potential shortcomings and opportunities to improve resilience. Beyond the written summary, case studies may also be uplifted individually on various alternative and/or multi-media platforms to communicate the diverse impacts of drought and action-oriented solutions.

The definitions and case studies will leverage information collected through the proposed Rapid Inventory of Drought Relevant Tools and Resources. The intent is to build upon and highlight existing references and resources, rather than duplicate a work product that already exists. Alternative platforms and formats may be supportive to featuring completed work, and used to inform decision-making, improve general understanding, and connect with diverse audiences. This may include creating videos or hosting case study summaries on websites such as the [ICARP Climate Adaptation Clearinghouse](#). Additional efforts through a communications campaign can further uplift these examples in locally relevant contexts and venues. Case studies should be written for a general audience and include examples from diverse audiences (e.g., practitioners, planners, decision-makers, scientists, tribal communities, private well-owners, and other residents).

Impacts

What are the expected outcomes or benefits of this recommendation, and how will it specifically enhance drought resiliency in California?

Developing a suite of case studies will help demonstrate the range of factors that influence water supply conditions (including quality and quantity), demands, and environmental needs, while highlighting diverse impacts of drought and water scarcity. These examples will improve general understanding and inform decision-making, promoting more proactive preparation and response. Case studies that illuminate the significance and urgency of drought impacts across different user groups (e.g., industrial, agricultural, residential, environmental, etc.), geographies (e.g., rural & urban), and various communities will help engage Californians in taking action. Additionally, case studies may highlight the role of State actions and programs, including successes, gaps, and opportunities. Examples of successful drought mitigation practices can be included to highlight model pathways for future resilience-building. Examples of drought-related challenges and specific extreme events will help prioritize potential issues areas of focus.

What are the anticipated impacts or consequences of not adopting this recommendation?

Lack of clear examples will contribute to further confusion or misunderstanding about the challenges and solutions available to addressing drought issues in California. Without documenting and sharing these stories, we would miss an opportunity to learn from the past as we prepare for future droughts and seek more equitable solutions.

[Implementing Parties and Partners](#)

Who would be the implementing agency or entity (potentially multiple)?

An academic institution could take the lead on preparing the written work product; however, members of the DRIP Collaborative should be consulted on the scope of this work and may collectively contribute to the compilation of these case studies through their respective networks. The Governor's Office of Planning and Research may support by providing case study templates, develop processes for collection and review, and provide a space on the ICARP Adaptation Clearinghouse to host completed products. Other partnerships with State and local agencies and non-government contributors will be critical to uplifting diverse examples across sectors, geographies and communities of the state.

Which existing entities (e.g., departments or other agencies, private or nonprofit groups, community-based organizations) will the implementing agency or entity need to partner with for successful implementation of this recommendation?

This recommendation will be successful with broad input and support from State agencies, non-government partners, and community representatives.

Describe the coordination required by federal, state, local and tribal governments to successfully implement this recommendation.

Federal, state, local and tribal government perspectives should be included to demonstrate the breadth of water management stewardship relevant to drought issues across the state.

[Alignment with Other Initiatives](#)

How does the recommendation align with and/or leverage existing state efforts, concurrent public or private initiatives?

This recommendation should follow and build upon the Rapid Inventory of Drought Tools and Resources, and could potentially feed into a future Communication Campaign. Beyond DRIP, case studies can further elevate existing campaigns, such as, “Save Our Water”, or other statewide and locally relevant initiatives, delivering clear examples to inform diverse and broad audiences.

Implementation Time Frame

Approximately how quickly could the proposed recommendation be implemented? Factor time needed to develop, design, permit, construct (if applicable). Select one timeframe:

- Short term (1-2 yrs.)** Medium term (2-4 yrs.) Long term (4-5+ yrs.)

The recommended implementation timeline is short term, but should follow the Rapid Inventory of Drought Tools and Resources. It is assumed that much of the work to develop the data inventory will help inform the scope and breadth of these examples. Implementation may continue on an ongoing basis to support longer-term communications campaigns and compile new examples over time.

Part II: Implementation Considerations

Necessary Steps & Measuring Success

What are the key steps to adopt and implement action?

- Confirm roles and commitment of implementing parties (see matrix below)
- Review outcomes from the completion of a Rapid Inventory (DRIP Collaborative Recommendation) to inform scope and criteria for case studies
- Recruit academic partner to lead the development of the Summary
- Develop and broadcast “call for content” for case study idea – leverage partnerships to cast a wide net
- Compile, review, and select case studies to include in written work product
- Prepare written compilation and identify alternative methods/media to broadcast case studies

Partner	Role
DRIP Collaborative	Oversight & Contributions
State Agencies	Resource Host / Funder? / Outreach partner
Academic Institution	Implementation Team
Contributors	Case Study Submissions

To help monitor progress and success, what thresholds and reporting can be identified to reflect successful implementation?

- Establish criteria for case studies and report how submittals align with these criteria (e.g., representative of diverse geographics, sectors, types of impacted water sources, types of impacts)
- Track “impressions” of case studies presented through different channels

- Identify gaps/opportunities/recommendations identified through these examples for further discussion with DRIP Collaborative

Potential Challenges

What issues or challenges might arise during implementation (e.g. authority or need for additional authority, funding or revenue streams, public awareness and perception, technical, interagency coordination)? List these hurdles and offer a brief description of how to address/mitigate them.

- Capacity and funding resource constraints at State agencies could make implementation a challenge; however, this could be partially mitigated through partnership with a third party (i.e., academic institution)
- Reaching diverse audiences for input and outreach communications about the final product could be a challenge, however DRIP members should collaborate on an outreach plan and be encouraged to leverage existing networks/outreach channels to ensure broad audiences are reached.

Are there foreseeable potential negative consequences or unintended impacts associated with implementing this recommendation?

- Depending on funding source, this recommendation could inadvertently divert resources away from other critical efforts. Reducing the scope of the summary to be CA specific and leveraging existing resources/outreach networks may help to reduce this cost.
- Editing processes may unintentionally alter the meaning or intent of original submissions – it will be critical to provide submitters the opportunity to participate in the editing process and at a minimum, review and approve final content prior to publication.
- Potential for the scope of this effort to develop narrative case studies to unintentionally not be comprehensive enough to represent all stories of conditions and impacts across the state.

Funding

What are the potential (estimated) costs to implement the recommendation? Is there both an implementation cost and ongoing costs? Briefly describe any assumptions behind the estimate.

- Anticipated cost: ~ \$50,000 (estimate: graduate research assistant – 2 quarters, including fringe, tuition and administrative costs)

What potential existing and/or future funding sources or mechanisms are available (e.g., grants, general fund, bond funds, rate payers, philanthropic foundations, etc.)? Does the recommendation require funding from the state and potentially matching funds?

- Potential sources – one time funding: grant funds, general funds, philanthropic donations, academic funding, in-kind partnerships.

Equity and Outreach

How does this recommendation align with established agency equity policies and how might the recommendation address any specific equity or justice concerns, as defined by the DWR Racial Equity Vision, during its implementation?

- These case studies are intended to highlight diverse experiences and perspectives to promote more equitable drought preparation and response.

What sort of outreach is necessary for the successful implementation of the recommendation? Describe the target audience and the methods of outreach needed (e.g., communication, technical or financial assistance, partnering assistance).

- State Agency communications and information sharing platforms may be leveraged to elevate opportunities for input and final products relevant to this recommendation. For example, the OPR ICARP Adaptation Clearinghouse is a resource that includes a series of case studies and may be leveraged to store completed drought narrative case studies for general access and use. ICARP also maintains regular outreach and communications through email lists, social media, and other public communications efforts. These, and other State communication channels may be leveraged to reach diverse audiences across California.