



California DRIP Collaborative

2025 Workgroup: Land Use Planning for Drought Resilience

Drought Resilience Interagency & Partners (DRIP) Collaborative

Friday, September 12, 2025

1:00PM-2:30PM PT

Remote Participation (via Zoom)

Facilitated by Workgroup Point of Contact: Julie Ekstrom (Julia.Ekstrom@water.ca.gov)

California Department of Water Resources - Water Justice Office

Meeting Information

1. This meeting is being recorded.
2. This meeting must adhere to the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act rules. The workgroup quorum is required (6 out of the 12 on the workgroup). If we don't meet quorum, we will offer this time and this space for an informal discussion about land use planning.
3. DRIP Collaborative workgroup members must keep their cameras on during the meeting. You must notify the group if you turn off your camera and state why.
4. Members of the public and other DRIP Collaborative members are welcome to listen. A public comment session is included later in the meeting.
5. Please practice electronics courtesy and mute when not speaking.

Meeting Purpose and Agenda

Objectives: Advance recommendations on Land Repurposing and the Housing-Water Supply Nexus, gather member feedback, and identify refinements needed to prepare vote-ready recommendations for the Fall (October) DRIP Collaborative Meeting. Review anticipated timeline for the Integrated Water Planning complement process.

Meeting Agenda

- 1:00pm Welcome, Roll Call
- 1:05pm Recap of July Land Use Planning Discussions
- 1:15pm Land Repurposing (Land1)
- 1:35pm Housing-Water Nexus (Land2A, Land2B)
- 2:15pm Next Steps
- 2:20pm Public Comment
- 2:30pm Adjourn

Roll Call

WORKGROUP PARTICIPANTS

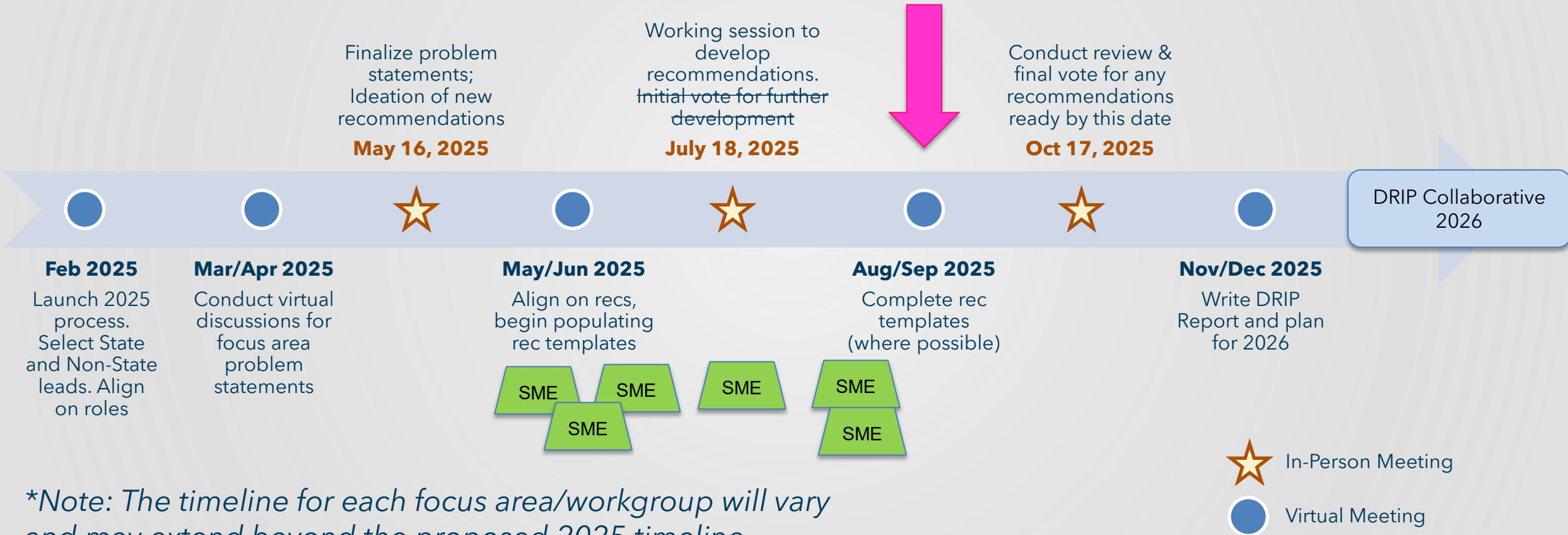
(Quorum = 6 DRIP members)

1. **Sierra Ryan**, Santa Cruz County - *Workgroup Co-Lead*
2. **Natalie Kuffel**, Land Use & Climate Innovation - *Workgroup Co-Lead*
3. **Brent Hastey**, Plumas Self Storage (Public Member)
4. **Anna Schiller**, Environmental Defense Fund
5. **Jason Colombini**, Jay Colombini Ranch, Inc.
6. **Katie Ruby**, California Urban Water Agencies
7. **Carolina Hernandez**, Los Angeles County Public Works
8. **Virginia Jameson**, California Department of Food & Agriculture
9. **Andrew Altevogt**, State Water Boards
10. **Suzanne Pecci**, Public Member
11. **Emily Rooney**, Agricultural Council of California
12. **Tami McVay**, Self Help Enterprise

RECAP FROM JULY 2025+

(10 MINUTES)

2025 Proposed DRIP Collaborative Timeline



**Note: The timeline for each focus area/workgroup will vary and may extend beyond the proposed 2025 timeline.*

Pathways: Level of Engagement

- **Inform:** Learn about and raise awareness of existing efforts.
- **Complement:** Enhance coordination by contributing to ongoing efforts and addressing specific gaps where DRIP can add value.
- **Lead:** Take initiative (coordinate new efforts, drive solutions, etc.) on issues lacking adequate attention.

INFORM EXAMPLE: Hear from experts about land use planning and water challenges.

COMPLEMENT EXAMPLE: Provide input into General Plan Guidance Update related to water and drought.

LEAD EXAMPLE: Examine disconnects in planning timelines for water and housing



Refresher & Pathways

July 17th DRIP Collaborative Meeting – Status

Land1. Land Repurposing

- Idea: Expanded support needed for land repurposing regional programs
- Members supported lead but still need DRIP's unique value-add clarified



Proposed Pathways:

Inform, Complement, Lead:

Discuss ideas today

Land2. Housing-Water Nexus

- Idea: Identify **planning** gaps and opportunities for housing and water to better align; **assess capacity** of water supply and wastewater by region and compare with housing growth
- Members agreed on Lead
- Post July 17th, co-leads - addition input on these ideas to advance



Lead



Refresher & Pathways

July 17th DRIP Collaborative Meeting – Status

Land3. Integrated Water Planning

- Previous discussions: Add water element to General Plan; better align water and land use planning; identify where alignment is needed for drought and water shortage planning
- Created this as a Complement activity for DRIP.



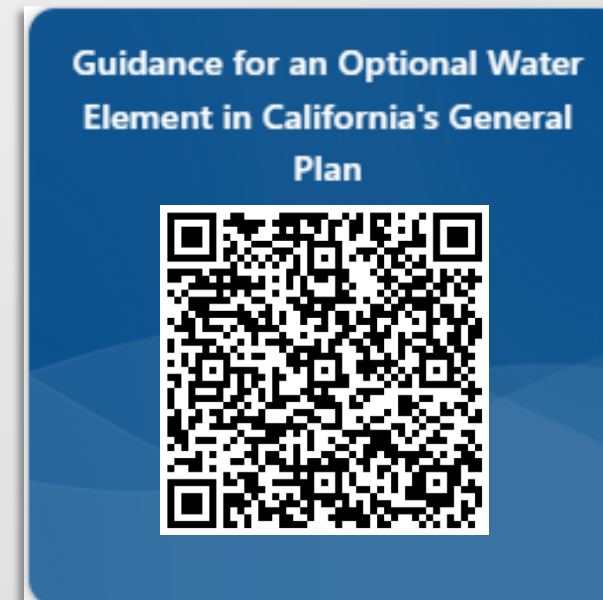
Agreed Pathway

Complement

- Support LCI's General Plan Guidance Update process; augment input on water and drought

Next Steps

- Survey initial input
- Expect a Save the Date to workgroup members for early October. You can opt in or opt out – not a quorum situation, but we do need your RSVP.



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Discussion Questions:

- Value-add DRIP ideas

LAND1. LAND REPURPOSING (20 MINUTES)

ANNA SCHILLER

Land1. Land Repurposing

Recommendation Lead: Anna Schiller



Problem: Droughts and longer-term water availability trends will result in hundreds of thousands of acres of idle barren farmland. Regional leaders need support to plan for these transitions, mitigate the worst impacts, and create new opportunities through land repurposing.

Way Forward: Expanded support for regionally -led land repurposing programs

- Inform, Complement or Lead?

Discussion Questions:

- Is this the angle?



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Land1. Land Repurposing

Recommendation Lead: Anna Schiller

Inform/Compliment/Lead?



Content of recommendation:

- Make the case for increased direct technical and funding support to seed development of regional capacity to plan for farmland transitions
- **Who?** State + others?



Discussion Questions:

- Group preference on pathway?
- How to advance? SMEs,
- Value-add

OR

Inform/Complement/Lead?



Content of recommendation:

- Create inventory of resources available for regional planners (funding, ongoing related planning processes, technical tools, guidance materials)
- Tracking progress and lessons learned from regions implementing MLRP
- **Next Steps to Advance:** identify expert advisors?



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LAND2. HOUSING-WATER SUPPLY NEXUS

Seeks to better align housing and water supply planning to reduce risks of water shortages in new developments, addressing disconnects in timelines and coordination between the two sectors.

HOUSING-WATER NEXUS

A. Planning alignment for water and housing development

B. Capacity study by region of water supplies and wastewater vs. housing demands

Land2A. Aligning Planning Timelines for Housing and Water

Recommendation Lead: Sierra Ryan and Natalie Kuffel/Lawrence Grodeska

- Any specific data or types of methods that could be highlighted?
- What considerations are essential for credibility and usefulness?



- **Problem:** As part of the larger disconnect between land use planning and water in California (and beyond), housing and water are **planned for on different timelines and processes.**
- **Way Forward:**
 - Analysis planning timelines
 - Conduct case studies to specify where communication and coordination aren't happening, as well as documenting where there is exemplary regional coordination.



Land2A. Aligning Planning Timelines for Housing and Water

Recommendation Lead: Sierra Ryan and Natalie Kuffel/Lawrence Grodeska



Content of recommendation

- Planning timelines analysis
- Anonymous Case Studies of places (in various geographies) where communication and coordination aren't happening and the ramifications.
- Elevating Case Studies of collaborative work that is happening and how that is moving the needle and could be replicated elsewhere.

Discussed in July, agree useful

Discussion Questions:

- Group feedback on these additions



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Land 2A. Planning Alignment for Water and Housing

Recommendation Lead: Sierra Ryan and Natalie Kuffel/Lawrence Grodeska



- **Development:** Researchers (university or research organization)
- **Steering Committee:** *to discuss*
- **Format** – What would be useful and useable? Should this be written for policy makers or local/regional planners?
- **Affordability and Equitable Access:** How to incorporate into assessment

Discussion Questions:

- What advice here could help make this research useful and useable for policy discussions?



Discussion Questions:

- What should the document include?
- Any specific data or types of methods or case studies that could be highlighted?
- What considerations are essential for credibility and usefulness and neutrality?

LAND2B. REGIONAL HOUSING GROWTH AND WATER (SUPPLY + WASTE) CAPACITY

(15-20 MINUTES)



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Land2B. Regional Housing Growth and Water Supply Capacity

Recommendation Leads: Sierra Ryan and Natalie Kuffel/Lawrence Grodeska



- **Problem:** California's growing housing demand places increasing pressure on limited water resources. To ensure water security during both normal and dry periods, it is critical to evaluate whether existing and future water supplies and wastewater infrastructure can support projected housing development.
- **Way Forward:** Conduct a study to assess actual and projected water supply and wastewater treatment capacity by region and compare these findings to regional housing allocations.



Land2B. Regional Housing Growth and Water Capacity

Recommendation Lead: Sierra Ryan and Natalie Kuffel/Lawrence Grodeska



Content of recommendation

Call for a study to assess actual and projected water supply and wastewater treatment capacity by region and compare these findings to regional housing allocations.

Methods and analysis public, include local outreach/connection

Useful to document best practices



Discussion Questions:

- What should the study include?
- How to ensure its output is relevant?
- Too prescriptive or need more detail?



Land 2B. Regional Housing Growth and Water Supply Capacity

Recommendation Leads: Sierra Ryan and Natalie Kuffel/Lawrence Grodeska



- **Development:** Researchers (university or research organization)
- **Advisory Group:** State agencies including State Water Board, CA Department of Water Resources
- **Format?**
- **Affordability and Equitable Access:** how to incorporate into assessment

Discussion Questions:

- What advice here could help make this research useful and useable for policy discussions?



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PUBLIC COMMENT

(10 MINUTES)

What's Next

September: Workgroup virtual meetings to learn more and continue advancing through recommendation ideas.



Recordings available, DRIP Collaborative Workgroups:

- **Aug 28th** - Infrastructure Workgroup
- **September 9th** - Ecosystem Impacts Workgroup Meeting & Communications Program Workgroup Meeting



October 17: DRIP Collaborative meeting (in-person), 10AM-5PM

California Natural Resources Agency Headquarters,
715 P Street, Sacramento





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Adjourn

Recording will be posted to <https://water.ca.gov/DRIP>

Thank you!