



SB 552 DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN



SENATE BILL 552

Purpose:

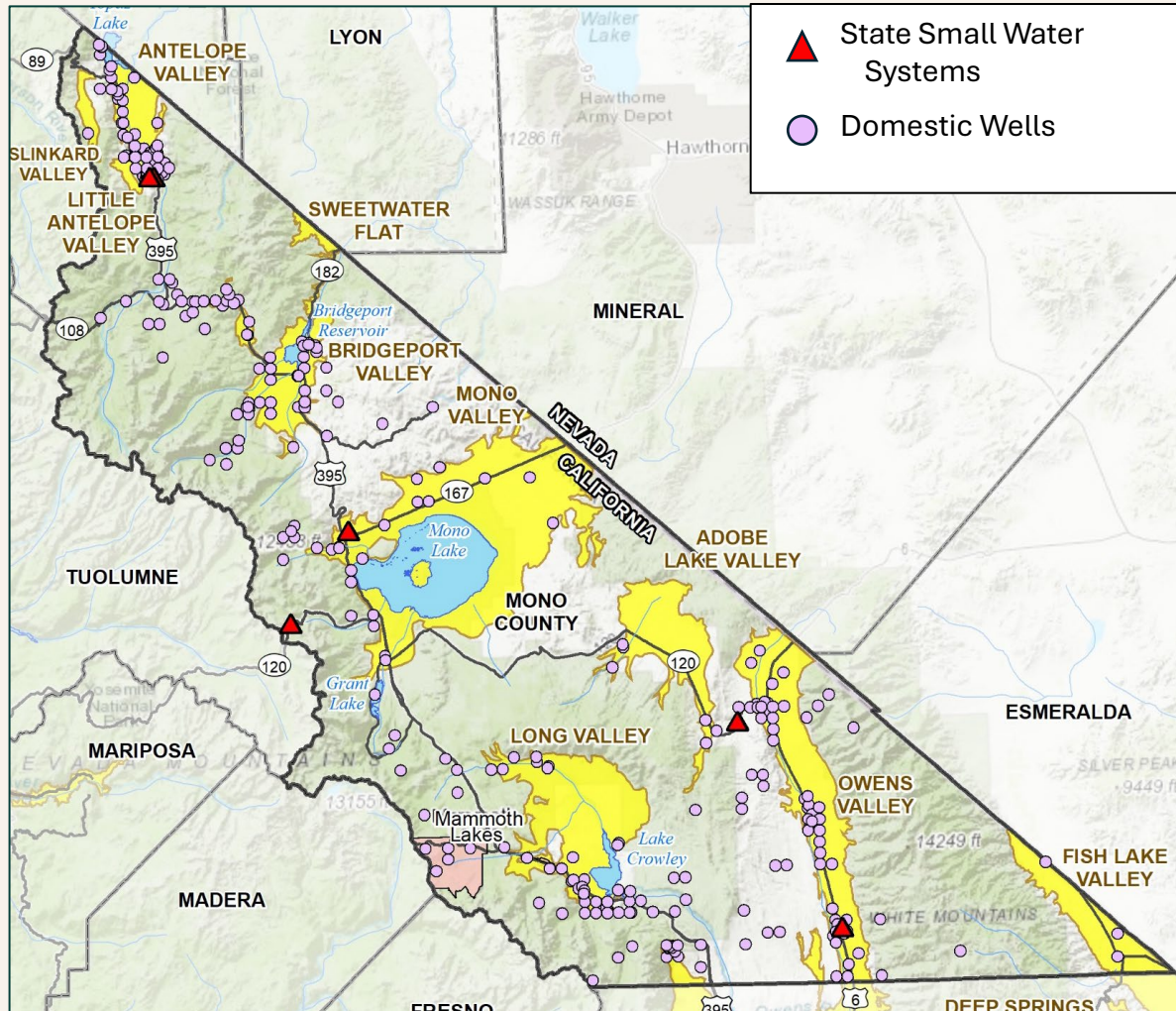
Ensure small water systems and domestic wells are better prepared for drought and water shortages.

County Requirements:

- **Establish a Drought & Water Shortage Task Force:** Ongoing group to plan for and respond to risks faced by small water systems (5–14 connections) and domestic wells.
- **Develop a County Drought Resilience Plan (DRP):** A living plan identifying risks, mitigation strategies, and implementation steps for vulnerable water users.



WATER SHORTAGE VULNERABILITY TOOL & RISK ASSESSMENT



State Smalls

6

Number of state small water systems in the filtered area

Source: State Water Resources Control Board

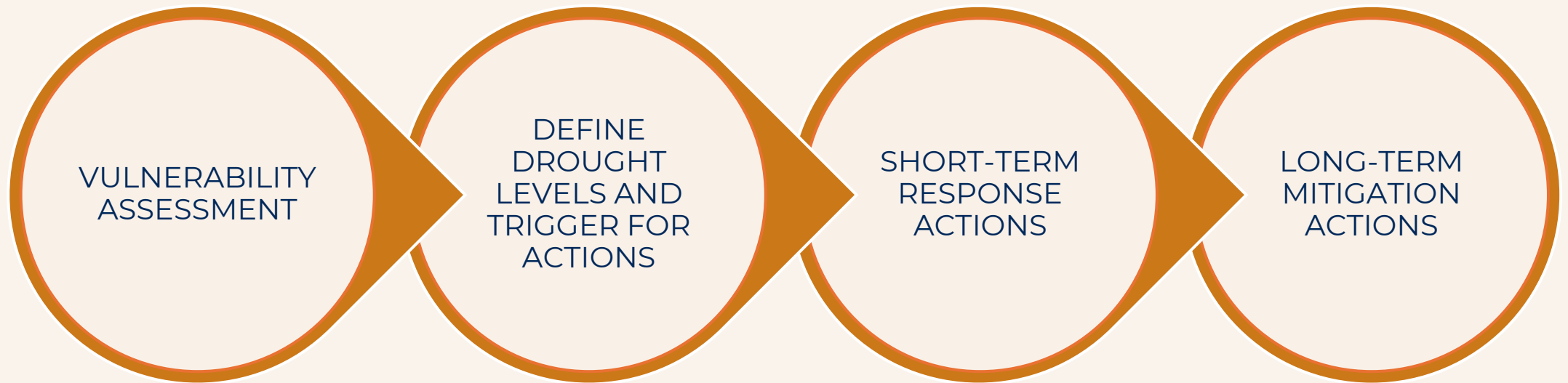
Domestic Wells

861

Number of domestic wells in the filtered area
Source: Online Well Completion Reports
(Groundwater Live)

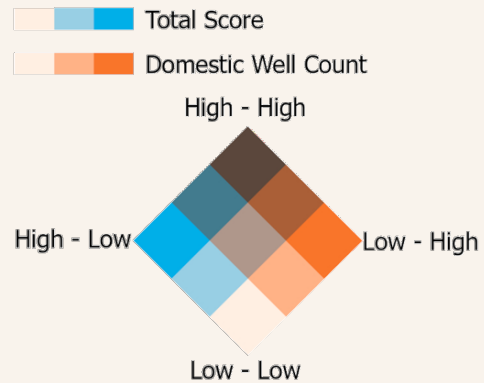


DRP REQUIREMENTS

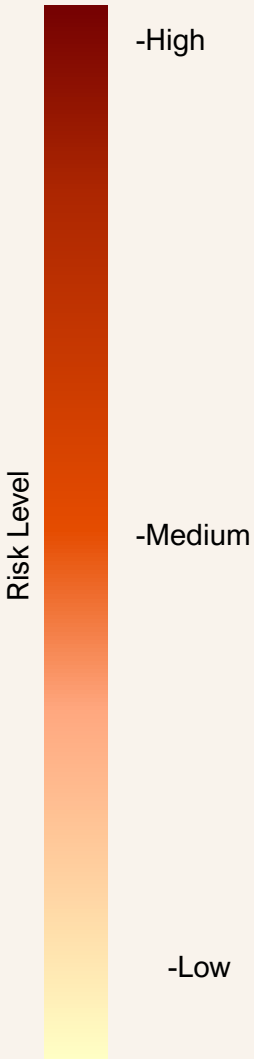




REGIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT



PLANNING AREAS	# DOMESTIC WELLS	DWR AVERAGE PHYSICAL VULN.	SOCIAL VULNERABILITY	GROUNDWATER SYSTEMS FAILURE	WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION	WILDFIRE RISK
Antelope Valley	247	31.7	Medium-Low	Medium-High	High	High
Benton Valley	44	36.2	Medium-High	Medium-High	Medium	Medium-High
Bridgeport Valley	72	31.9	Medium-Low	Medium-Low	Medium	High
Chalfant Valley	109	21.1	Medium-High	Low	Medium-Low	Medium-Low
Hammil Valley	55	26.9	Medium-High	Medium-Low	Medium	Medium-Low
June Lake	9	38.8	Low	Low	Low	Medium-Low
Long Valley	152	40.2	Medium	Low	Low	Medium-High
Mammoth Lakes	19	33.4	Medium-Low	Medium-Low	Medium-Low	Medium
Mono Lake Basin	33	21.5	Medium-Low	Low	Low	Medium-High





DROUGHT LEVEL TRIGGERS

	SUGGESTED TRIGGER CRITERIA				
STAGE	SWE (April 1 median)	Streamflow, % of average seasonal flow	Annual precipitation, % of average	USDM Designation	Conservation Efforts
Stage 1 Dry Conditions	50-70%	50-70%	3+ consecutive years of <70%	≥60% of the county in D1 for 6 consecutive months	Voluntary conservation initiated by water suppliers
Stage 2 Moderate Drought	30-50%	30-50%	4+ consecutive years of <70%	≥60% of the county in D2–D3 for 6 consecutive months	Mandatory conservation measures by multiple water suppliers
Stage 3 Severe or Extreme Drought	<30%	<30%	5+ consecutive years of <50%	≥60% of the county in D3–D4 for 6 + consecutive months	Water supply interruptions, delivery failures, or imminent risks to health and safety



DROUGHT RESPONSE ACTIONS

Stage 1: Dry Conditions

Early indicators of dry conditions or below-average water supply.

STAGE	SWE (April 1 median)	Streamflow, % of average seasonal flow	Annual precipitation, % of average
Stage 1 Dry Conditions	50-70%	50-70%	3+ consecutive years of <70%

STAGE 1 RESPONSE ACTIONS

Establish a monitoring framework to track drought activation triggers, monitor impacts, and determine drought stages.

Build a system based on publicly available data (streamflow, precipitation, well levels, etc.) that automates alerts when drought activation triggers are crossed.

Issue public advisories encouraging voluntary water conservation practices.

Notify SSWSs and domestic well owners of potential drought conditions; request voluntary reporting on supply vulnerabilities.

Engage irrigation-dependent users, such as ranchers and agricultural users, in planning for reduced water availability.

Convene the Drought Task Force through the LDTAC to assess drought status and recommend next steps.

Coordinate with GSAs.

Draft Mutual Aid Agreements with public utility districts and water districts for preparation for potential water shortage or systems failure.

Partner with NGOs and CBOs that serve rural communities with SSWS and domestic well owners.



DROUGHT RESPONSE ACTIONS

Stage 2: Moderate Drought

Conditions are likely to impact water deliveries, aquatic ecosystems, or community supplies.

STAGE	SWE (April 1 median)	Streamflow, % of average seasonal flow	Annual precipitation, % of average
Stage 2 Moderate Drought	30-50%	30-50%	4+ consecutive years of <70%

STAGE 2 RESPONSE ACTIONS

Expand and enforce stricter restrictions beyond voluntary outdoor use conservation practices (e.g., non-essential water use curtailment).

Increase frequency of monitoring of key indicators in high-risk areas.

Focus outreach on rural and vulnerable communities reliant on domestic wells and SSWS.

Expand multilingual public messaging on mandatory or recommended water use restrictions.

★ Increase coordination with local water suppliers/agencies to pursue additional funding for drought response actions.

Conduct water supply surveys or risk assessments of SSWS and domestic well users.

If necessary, begin planning for emergency water hauling or alternative water sources access, including an emergency water distribution plan.

Begin preliminary evaluation of import options (e.g., Crystal Geyser spring, potential trucking sources).

Identify temporary potable and non-potable supply options, such as temporary tanks and water tenders.

Prepare Board of Supervisors agenda materials for potential drought emergency declaration.

★ Seek state and federal emergency declarations and support.



DROUGHT RESPONSE ACTIONS

Stage 3: Severe or Extreme Drought

Critical water shortages or ecosystem stress; emergency response may be required.

STAGE	SWE (April 1 median)	Streamflow, % of average seasonal flow	Annual precipitation, % of average
Stage 3 Severe or Extreme Drought	<30%	<30%	5+ consecutive years of <50%

STAGE 3 RESPONSE ACTIONS

Declare a Local Drought Emergency.

Submit drought emergency reporting to the State, as required.

Coordinate emergency support such as water hauling, identification of storage tanks, and distribution of bottled water to SSWS and vulnerable households.

Execute Mutual Aid Agreements.

Enforce mandatory water use restrictions within County managed systems and facilities that are consistent with mandatory restrictions in place at larger water suppliers.

Activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) if drought impacts require multi-agency coordination.

Request State or federal resources to assist with water supply augmentation or drought relief.

Partner with tribal governments and regional partners to coordinate cross-jurisdictional response.

Provide ongoing briefings to the Board of Supervisors, public, and stakeholders.

If necessary, facilitate emergency drinking water solutions as identified and prepared in the emergency water distribution plan.



AREA-SPECIFIC LONG-TERM DROUGHT MITIGATION ACTIONS

MITIGATION ACTIONS	PLANNING REGION (S)	LEAD AND PARTNER AGENCIES	POTENTIAL FUNDING
Conduct a domestic well sampling campaign for arsenic, uranium and other regulated contaminants, prioritizing areas and wells that may be more susceptible to water quality degradation during drought conditions.	Antelope Valley, Bridgeport Valley, June Lake, Tri-Valley	Environmental Health, Public Health, CDPH	SWRCB SAFER Program, SWRCB Small Community Drinking Water Funding Program
Create a domestic well inventory and encourage users to monitor and report water levels.	Antelope Valley	Environmental Health, DWR	DWR Monitoring Assistance
Explore the feasibility of installing monitoring wells.	Antelope Valley	Environmental Health, DWR, USGS	USGS Cooperative Matching Funds Program, USDA ECWAG
Expand fire-fighting capabilities to mitigate secondary effects of droughts, especially in Walker which lacks fire hydrants.	Antelope Valley	County OES, local fire protection districts, CSDs	CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grants
Promote best management practices for agricultural wells and near clusters of domestic wells.	Bridgeport Valley, Tri-Valley	Inyo-Mono Agricultural Commissioner; Environmental Health	NRCS EQIP, CDFA SWEEP, IRWM DACTI
Integrate wildfire hardening information into the well permitting process.	June Lake, Mono Basin	Environmental Health, CAL FIRE	CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grants
Coordinate with GSA to monitor geothermal-related water quality hazards through targeted sampling.	Long Valley	Environmental Health, Local GSA, California Geologic Energy Management Division	DWR SGM Grant Program, SWRCB SAFER Program
Draft a mutual aid agreement with Crystal Geysers spring in Benton in preparation for potential water shortage or systems failure.	Tri-Valley	County OES, Environmental Health, Crystal Geyser	SWRCB SAFER Program
Expand CASGEM monitoring.	Tri-Valley	Environmental Health, DWR, GSAs	SGM Grant Program, USGS Cooperative Matching Funds Program, USDA ECWAG
Support the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District's efforts to improve groundwater management through education and program implementation.*	Tri-Valley	County Counsel, Private landowners	HMGP



COUNTY-WIDE LONG-TERM DROUGHT MITIGATION ACTIONS

MITIGATION ACTIONS	LEAD AND PARTNER AGENCIES	POTENTIAL FUNDING
Create educational materials or a series of workshops to help residents apply for state funding.	Environmental Health, County Administrative Office, Public Health	SWRCB SAFER Program; CDBG Program
Coordinate with local water systems to ensure backup power and access routes are part of emergency preparedness.	OES, Public Works, CSDs and small water systems	CDBG Program
Conduct fuel reduction projects near SSWSs and domestic well clusters, including managing tree mortality by removing hazardous trees and evaluating the feasibility of biomass plants.	OES, CAL FIRE, Public Works, USFS	CAL FIRE Forest Health/Fire Prevention
Explore aquifer recharge projects, including recycling runoff, finding ways to capture increased water that once fell as snow, and capturing snow in plowed/managed areas (e.g., parking lots) and relocating to refill aquifers.	Environmental Health, Public Works, DWR, GSAs	DWR Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge Program; FEMA HMGP
Evaluate feasibility of converting 25,000-gallon emergency fire water supplies (tanks) for potable use (treatment, code adjustments).	Environmental Health, Public Works	CDBG Program
Develop agreements for emergency interties, where such agreements are feasible and beneficial.	OES, Public Works, CSDs and small water systems	SWRCB SAFER Program
Consider stricter landscaping restrictions.	Planning Department, Environmental Health	CDBG Program
Promote greywater reuse and rainwater harvesting for landscaping irrigation; County could provide prescriptive designs for greywater use.	Environmental Health, Public Works	SWRCB SAFER Program
Explore potential benefits of physical and managerial systems consolidation planning.	Environmental Health, SWRCB	SAFER Program
Encourage retrofits of private homes and businesses for increased water conservation. Continue to educate about and promote the PACE programs in funding retrofits.*	Local water providers, CA Statewide Communities Development Authority	HMGP
Provide landowners with resources about irrigation efficiency and crops with reduced water requirements. Encourage landowners to use plants that require little or no irrigation in new or retrofitted landscapes.*	Inyo-Mono Ag Commissioner, Other County Depts, Local ranchers, local agricultural businesses	HMGP
Provide resources to local farmers about crop varieties that require little or no irrigation.*	Inyo and Mono Counties Agriculture Department	HMGP
Support the local water districts in planning, coordination, and applying for grants*	Public Works, Water Districts, Small Water Systems, CSDs, MWCs	HMGP



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation Approach

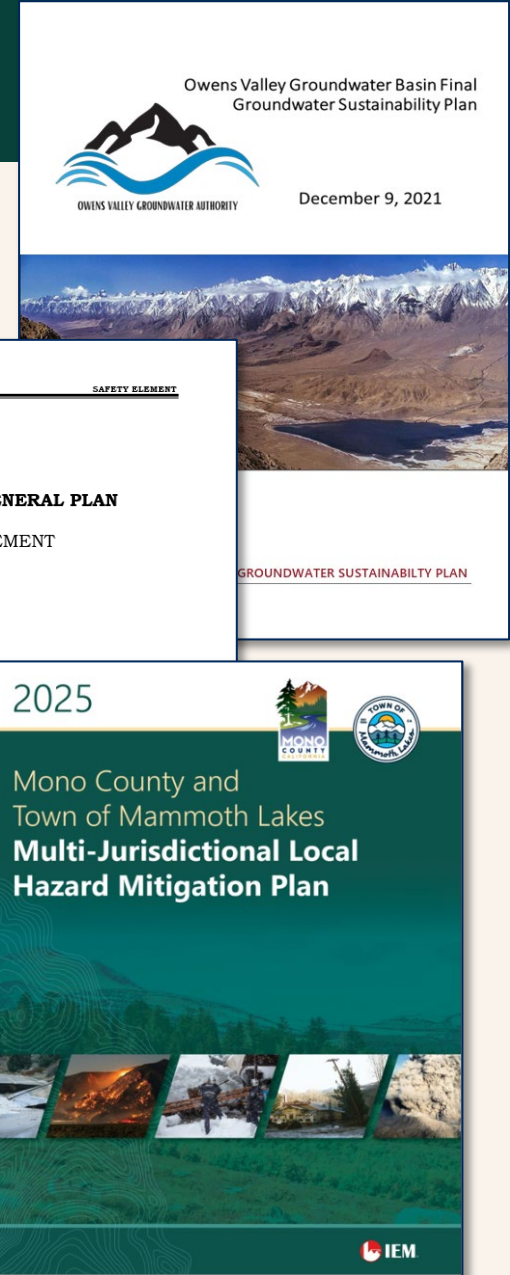
- Led by LDTAC with county, local, and state partners
- Executes short-term response + long-term mitigation actions
- Adaptive plan with ongoing updates

Integration with Existing Plans

- Aligns with General Plan, MJHMP, CWPP, GSPs, EOP, and Water District plans

Funding Opportunities

- Uses local resources and pursues state/federal funding
- State: DWR Drought Relief, SAFER, CDAA, IRWM, SGM, SRF programs
- Federal: FEMA HMGP, USDA, EQIP, USGS matching funds





HOW TO COMMENT ON THE PLAN

Purpose: to collect feedback from the County stakeholders and the public and ensure transparency in the development of the DRP.

Public Review: November 10th - December 10th

Public Review Draft DRP:

<https://tinyurl.com/mono-DRP>

Electronic Comment Form:

<https://tinyurl.com/mono-DRP-comment>

