



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

## AGENDA

### Transportation, Water & Infrastructure Committee

Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston, Chair  
Supervisor Candace Andersen, Vice Chair

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Wednesday, March 18, 2026

1:00 PM

**\*\*REVISED\*\***

**|| SPECIAL MEETING ||**

**District 2 Office: 309 Diablo Rd.  
Danville, CA 94526 |**

**District 5 Office: 190 E. 4th Street,  
Pittsburg, CA 94565**

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**|| SPECIAL MEETING ||**

**Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:  
<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/88310101044>**

**| Dial: 1-855-758-1310 US Toll Free |  
Webinar ID: 883 1010 1044**

The public may attend this meeting in person at either above location. The public may also attend this meeting remotely via Zoom or call-in.

*AGENDA ITEMS may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee.*

1. INTRODUCTIONS Call to order and roll call.
2. CONSIDER selecting a committee member to the offices of Chair and Vice Chair [26-1147](#) for 2026.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two (2) minutes).
4. REVIEW Meeting Record for November 24, 2025, of the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee. [26-1148](#)

**Attachments:** [4a. 11.24.25 TWIC Meeting Minutes - DRAFT](#)

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5. RECEIVE a presentation on the Regional Alternative Compliance (RAC) System Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and APPROVE the staff recommendation to join the RAC JPA. [26-1149](#)
- Attachments:** [5a. RAC JPA Draft Joint Powers Agreement 2.26.26](#)  
[5b. CCC RAC System Fact Sheet](#)  
[5c. RAC System Overview Presentation](#)
6. RECEIVE presentation on progress of drought resilience planning for state small water systems and domestic well communities as required under Senate Bill 552 and DIRECT staff as appropriate. [26-1150](#)
- Attachments:** [6a. SB 552 Drought Resilience Plan Update Presentation](#)  
[6b. Contra Costa County Drought Resilience Plan Public Draft](#)  
[6c. Contra Costa County Water Shortage Emergency Response Process Public Draft](#)
7. CONSIDER report on Local, State, Regional, and Federal Transportation Related Legislative and Planning Activities. [26-1151](#)
- Attachments:** [7a. 13A Presentation Board TEP Item 20260218 \(3\)](#)  
[7b. Feb 2026 report for TWIC](#)
8. CONSIDER referrals to the Committee for 2026, REVISE as necessary, and DIRECT staff to bring the list to the Board of Supervisors for approval. [26-1152](#)
- Attachments:** [8a. FINAL TWIC Referrals 2026 - To BOS](#)
9. REVIEW Status Report on 2025 Referrals to TWIC and DIRECT staff to forward the report to the Board of Supervisors with revisions as appropriate. [26-1153](#)
- Attachments:** [9a. TWIC 2025 Referral Report](#)
10. REVIEW and REVISE as appropriate, and ADOPT the 2026 Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee Calendar. [26-1154](#)
- Attachments:** [10a. 2026 TWIC Calendar - DRAFT](#)
11. RECEIVE Communication, News, Miscellaneous Items of Interest to the committee. [26-1155](#)
- Attachments:** [11a. Politico - Labor is driving the robotaxi conversation](#)  
[11b. Metropolitan Transportation Commission - Governor Signs Bill Authorizing Loan](#)  
[11c. Richmondside - Richmond area poised to receive nearly \\$40M](#)
12. **ADJOURN until the next Transportation, Water & Infrastructure Committee meeting to be held on Monday, April 27, 2026, at 1:00pm.**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

This meeting provides reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the meeting. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting.

Any public records subject to disclosure related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Committee, less than 96 hours prior to that meeting, are available for public inspection at:

30 Muir Rd. Martinez, CA 94553

**HOURS:**

Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at [www.co.contra-costa.ca.us](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us).

**HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT**

Persons who wish to address the Committee during public comment on matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee that are not on the agenda, or who wish to comment with respect to an item on the agenda, may comment in person, via Zoom, or via call-in. Those participating in person should offer comments when invited by the Committee Chair. Those participating via Zoom should indicate they wish to speak by using the “raise your hand” feature in the Zoom app. Those calling in should indicate they wish to speak by pushing \*9 on their phones.

Public comments generally will be limited to two (2) minutes per speaker. In the interest of facilitating the business of the Board Committee, the total amount of time that a member of the public may use in addressing the Board Committee on all agenda items is 10 minutes. Your patience is appreciated.

Public comments may also be submitted to Committee staff before the meeting by email or by voicemail. Comments submitted by email or voicemail will be included in the record of the meeting but will not be read or played aloud during the meeting.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Jamar Stamps  
(925) 655-2917  
[Jamar.Stamps@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:Jamar.Stamps@dcd.cccounty.us)



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 26-1147

**Agenda Date:** 3/18/2026

**Agenda #:** 2.

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### **TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Date:** March 18, 2026

**Subject:** CONSIDER selecting a committee member to the offices of Chair and Vice Chair for 2026

**Submitted For:** TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

**Department:** DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

**Referral No:** N/A

**Referral Name:** N/A

**Presenter:** Jamar Stamps || TWIC Staff - Transportation Principal Planner | DCD

**Contact:** Jamar Stamps | (925) 655- 2917

#### **Referral History:**

At the January 13, 2026 Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Supervisors (BOS), the Board decides that each of its standing committees should choose its 2026 officers (Chair and Vice Chair).

#### **Referral Update:**

TWIC is asked to elect its officers for 2026 calendar year.

#### **Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

CONSIDER selecting a committee member to the offices of Chair and Vice Chair for 2026.

#### **Fiscal Impact (if any):**

None.



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 26-1148

**Agenda Date:** 3/18/2026

**Agenda #:** 4.

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### **TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Date:** March 18, 2026

**Subject:** REVIEW Meeting Record for November 24, 2025, of the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee

**Submitted For:** TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

**Department:** DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

**Referral No:** N/A

**Referral Name:** N/A

**Presenter:** Jamar Stamps || TWIC Staff - Transportation Principal Planner | DCD

**Contact:** Jamar Stamps | (925) 655-2917

#### **Referral History:**

This record was prepared pursuant to the Better Government Ordinance 95-6, Article 25-205(d) of the Contra Costa County Ordinance Code.

#### **Referral Update:**

Any handouts or printed copies of testimony distributed at the meeting will be attached to this meeting record.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT.

#### **Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

REVIEW and APPROVE Meeting Record for November 24, 2025, of the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee with any necessary corrections.

#### **Fiscal Impact (if any):**

None.



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

## Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Transportation, Water & Infrastructure Committee

Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston, Chair  
Supervisor Candace Andersen, Vice Chair

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Monday, November 24, 2025

1:00 PM District 2 Office: 309 Diablo Rd. Danville, CA  
94526 |

District 5 Office: 1025 Escobar St. Martinez,  
CA 94553

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#### ZOOM LINK

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/89323084508>

| Dial: 888-278-0254 |

ACCESS CODE: 198675

The public may attend this meeting in person at either above location. The public may also attend this meeting remotely via Zoom or call-in.

*AGENDA ITEMS may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee.*

1. INTRODUCTIONS Call to order and roll call.

***Chair Andersen called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.***

**Staff Present:** Jamar Stamps

**Attendees:** Raquel De La Torre, John Kopchik, Ryan Hernandez, Mark Watts, Samantha Harris, Rochelle Johnson - CCC Public Works, Bielle Moore - PG&E, Cheryl Sudduth, Gabrielle Amini, Armando Carrasco, Cameron - Office of Supervisor Andersen

**Present:** District II Supervisor Candace Andersen and District V Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston

2. PUBLIC COMMENT on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two (2) minutes).

***NO PUBLIC COMMENT.***

3. REVIEW Meeting Record for October 27, 2025, of the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee.

**Attachments:** [TWIC Meeting Minutes DRAFT 1\\_10.27.25](#)

*The Committee ACCEPTED the meeting record as written.*

***NO PUBLIC COMMENT.***

4. RECEIVE the status report on the Letter of Understanding (LOU) for the maintenance of PG&E streetlights in Contra Costa County and MONITOR its implementation by PG&E.

**Attachments:** [PG&E Streetlight Commitment Feb 2025](#)  
[2023-12-31 TWIC PW Streetlight PGE Letter](#)  
[PGE LOU 2021FINAL\\_signed](#)

*The Committee ACCEPTED the report.*

*Rochelle Johnson, Contra Costa County Public Works, presented the annual report regarding the Letter of Understanding (LOU) between Contra Costa County Public Works and PG&E. Ms. Johnson explained that the 2024 report had been postponed due to staffing changes, communication challenges, and ongoing discussions with PG&E regarding potential updates to the LOU.*

*Ms. Johnson reported that PG&E has indicated its legal counsel will not support entering into additional LOUs and instead relies on a standardized service commitment used for municipalities. She noted that while most streetlight repairs are completed, some jurisdictions have experienced delays, unresolved outages, billing discrepancies, and coordination challenges related to maintenance activities.*

*The Committee Chair thanked Ms. Johnson for the presentation and suggested that PG&E representative Bielle Moore work with County staff to review the outstanding issues and identify potential areas of agreement and resolution.*

*The Committee Vice-Chair expressed support for this approach.*

*PG&E representative Bielle Moore stated she would work with County staff to review the concerns and coordinate follow-up discussions.*

***NO PUBLIC COMMENT.***

5. CONSIDER report on Local, State, Regional, and Federal Transportation Related Legislative and Planning Activities.

**Attachments:** [SB 63 Polling Summary \(MTC\)](#)  
[CCC Nov 2025 Report \(Watts\)](#)

*The Committee ACCEPTED the report.*

*TWIC Staff provided an update regarding local, state, regional, and federal transportation-related legislative and planning activities, including Senate Bill 63, the regional transit measure signed by Governor Newsom in October that authorizes a*

*potential ballot measure in 2026. Polling conducted by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments indicates the measure is currently testing above a simple majority but below the two-thirds threshold required for passage, with approximately 55 percent approval in Contra Costa County.*

*Mark Watts provided additional legislative updates regarding Senate Bill 63 and potential options for advancing a regional transit funding measure. Mr. Watts also discussed the Governor's veto of legislation that would have extended authority for regional transportation planning agencies to place certain measures on the ballot. Additional updates included cap-and-trade funding discussions, recent leadership changes in the State Senate, the departure of the State Undersecretary for Transit, and the appointment of a new member to the State Transportation Commission.*

*Mr. Watts also reported that Caltrans and its contractors have begun work on implementing open-road tolling on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.*

*The Committee Chair asked if there were any questions from the Committee.*

*The Committee Vice-Chair thanked Mr. Watts for the update and indicated she had no questions.*

***NO PUBLIC COMMENT.***

6. RECEIVE Communication, News, Miscellaneous Items of Interest to the Committee.

**Attachments:** [BART || October highest avg weekday ridership since pandemic](#)

***The Committee RECEIVED the report.***

*TWIC Staff highlighted BART's October monthly ridership snapshot report included in the agenda packet. Staff noted that ridership in Contra Costa County has increased across all stations compared to the previous year, with the largest increases occurring at the El Cerrito del Norte and Pittsburg/Bay Point stations.*

*The Committee Vice-Chair commented that increased ridership is encouraging and noted that Tri-Delta Transit has also experienced increased bus ridership.*

*The Committee Chair noted that while increased BART ridership is positive, funding for feeder bus programs that connect riders to BART stations is declining. The Committee Chair stated that regional partners, including the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, are continuing discussions regarding potential solutions to support those connections.*

***NO PUBLIC COMMENT.***

7. **ADJOURN** until the next Transportation, Water & Infrastructure Committee meeting to be held on Monday, December 22, 2025, at 1:00pm.

*The Committee Chair inquired whether any agenda items were anticipated for the December 22, 2025 meeting. TWIC Staff indicated that no items had been identified at that time and Staff would*

*continue to evaluate whether any urgent matters required a meeting before February.*

*Chair Andersen ADJOURNED the meeting at approximately 1:38 p.m., with the December meeting TBD.*

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

DRAFT



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

**File #:** 26-1149

**Agenda Date:** 3/18/2026

**Agenda #:** 5.

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### TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

**Meeting Date:** March 18, 2026

**Subject:** RECEIVE a presentation on the Contra Costa Regional Alternative Compliance (RAC) System - Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and APPROVE the staff recommendation to join the RAC JPA

**Submitted For:** Warren Lai || Director | PUBLIC WORKS

**Department:** PUBLIC WORKS || WATERSHED PROGRAM

**Referral No:** 5

**Referral Name:** Review projects, plans and legislative matters that may affect the health of the San Francisco Bay and Delta, including but not limited to conveyance, flood control, dredging, climate change, habitat conservation, governance, water storage, drought resilience planning, development of an ordinance regarding polystyrene foam food containers, monitor waste diversion initiatives, and water quality, supply and reliability, consistent with the Board of Supervisors adopted *Delta Water Platform*.

**Presenter:** Michele Mancuso || Sr. Watershed Management Planning Specialist | PW

**Contact:** Michele Mancuso | (925) 313-2236

#### **Referral History:**

Contra Costa County (County) is one of 79 permittees under the San Francisco Bay Region Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP). To comply with the MRP, municipalities implement programs to reduce pollutants, such as oil, trash, sediment, and mercury, carried by rainwater (stormwater) into local creeks and the Bay. The MRP includes a wide variety of requirements related to municipal operations, business inspections, trash controls, stormwater monitoring, pollutant controls, cost reporting, asset management, and development controls. The permit requires development projects to install low impact development (LID) systems, such as bioretention basins or pervious pavement, which slow, spread, and infiltrate runoff from buildings and pavement. LID is required when new construction or reconstruction exceeds 5,000 square feet. Municipalities must also construct LID systems beyond those required for development projects. For the unincorporated County, this includes treating runoff from an additional 5 acres of impervious surface. The County also has separate numeric requirements for legacy pollutants concentrated in older industrial areas along the Bay.

The County has been working with the City of San Pablo, the Contra Costa Clean Water Program, and other cities to develop the Regional Alternative Compliance (RAC) System, which develops an alternative pathway to meet the MRP's numeric requirements. The RAC System provides local governments and developers with another way to meet their stormwater treatment requirements. Instead of building every system onsite, they can buy "compliance units" - credits for stormwater treatment facilities constructed elsewhere within the County.

The RAC System offers a flexible, cost-effective compliance option, particularly for sites where installing LID is difficult due to space limitations, infrastructure conflicts, or site constraints, such as steep slopes or proximity to creeks. It also enables construction of larger, more strategically located regional treatment facilities, often at a lower cost. Municipalities may use the RAC System to meet their additional LID requirements when they are unable to build sufficient treatment systems within their own jurisdiction.

Stormwater treatment systems must be maintained in perpetuity. The RAC system supports long-term operations and maintenance costs through annual fees paid by the purchasers of compliance units. To collect these fees from private developments, participating Contra Costa municipalities are forming a Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The JPA will create a Community Facilities District (CFD) that collects fees from private projects that buy RAC compliance units. The RAC and CFD will operate only within the jurisdictions of JPA member agencies. As a result, only projects located within participating jurisdictions may buy or sell RAC compliance units, which will limit opportunities in communities that choose not to join.

The County has been a leader in developing the RAC System. Participation in the JPA and CFD will provide the County with additional options for development projects and greater flexibility in meeting MRP requirements. Staff recommend approval of the County's participation.

County and Clean Water staff will be making a presentation that provides more information regarding the history, development, purpose, and details of the RAC System. A RAC fact sheet and a draft of the Joint Powers Agreement are provided.

**Referral Update:**

N/A

**Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

RECEIVE a presentation on the RAC System and APPROVE the staff recommendation to join the RAC JPA.

**Fiscal Impact (if any):**

This project is funded by Stormwater Utility Assessment Funds and a grant received by the Clean Water Program.

**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT**  
**Between Participating Cities, Contra Costa County, and the Contra Costa Flood Control**  
**and Water Conservation District for**  
**Implementation of the Contra Costa County Regional Alternative Compliance System**

This Joint Powers Agreement (“Agreement”) dated July 1, 2026, is made and entered into pursuant to the provisions of Title 1, Division 7, Chapter 5, Article 1 (Section 6500 *et seq.*) of the California Government Code relating to the joint exercise of powers among **[INSERT FINAL LIST OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES]** (collectively, “Member Agencies” and each, individually, a “Member Agency”). The term “Member Agencies” shall also include a public agency added to this Agreement in accordance with Section 14.

**RECITALS**

A. The joint powers authority (“JPA”) formed pursuant to this Agreement to administer the Contra Costa County Regional Alternative Compliance (“RAC”) System is authorized to (i) establish a community facilities district pursuant to the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 (“Mello-Roos Act”) in order to finance on-going maintenance costs for “Off-Site GSI Projects” constructed pursuant to the RAC System, and (ii) take other actions in furtherance of the RAC System.

B. The RAC System is a program designed to offer a flexible, cost-effective, and scientifically defensible compliance option for the Municipal Regional Permit’s development provisions requiring post-construction stormwater treatment. The Municipal Regional Permit is a Municipal Regional Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) Permit issued by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, Permit No. CAS612008.

C. The RAC System allows the owners of regulated developments and certain public agencies (buyers) to purchase “compliance units” in green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) treatment facilities or “Off-Site GSI Projects” constructed elsewhere within the County.

D. The developers of the Off-Site GSI Projects, which may be public agencies or private entities, generate the “compliance units” that can be exchanged through the RAC System and purchased by the buyers (owners of the regulated developments and public agencies that cannot treat stormwater on their own sites). Private buyers will contribute to the cost of operating and maintaining the Off-Site GSI Projects by annexing their development sites into the proposed community facilities district formed by the JPA. Public agencies that are buyers will pay fees directly to the JPA as an alternative funding mechanism because such public agencies cannot be levied a special tax under the proposed community facilities district.

## **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and conditions hereinafter set forth, it is agreed by and among the Member Agencies as follows:

### **1. DEFINITIONS**

Capitalized terms used in the Agreement shall have the meanings specified below, unless the context requires otherwise.

1.1 “Act” means the Joint Exercise of Powers Act of the State of California (Government Code Section 6500 *et seq.*).

1.2 “Agreement” means this Joint Powers Agreement.

1.3 “Board” means the Board of Directors for the Joint Powers Authority.

1.4 “Effective Date” means the date on which this Agreement shall become effective and the JPA shall exist as a separate public agency, as further described in Section 5.

1.5 “JPA” means the Joint Powers Authority.

1.6 “Off-Site GSI Project” means a green stormwater infrastructure project eligible to exchange compliance credits under the RAC System.

1.7 “RAC System” means the Contra Costa County Regional Alternative Compliance System.

### **2. RESERVED**

### **3. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish an independent public agency in order to exercise powers common to each Member Agency and any other powers granted to the JPA under the Act. The JPA shall administer the RAC System.

### **4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JPA**

4.1 Separate Legal Entity. The JPA, as a joint powers authority, is a separate entity from the Member Agencies and is responsible for the administration of this Agreement.

4.2 Filing of Notices with Secretary of State and County Clerk. Within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, the JPA shall cause a notice of this Agreement to be prepared and filed with the office of the California Secretary of State and the State Controller containing the information required by California Government Code Section 6503.5.

4.3 Filing of Notices with County and LAFCO. Within seventy (70) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, the JPA shall cause a statement of the information concerning the JPA, required by California Government Code Section 53051, to be filed with the office of the California Secretary of State, the Contra Costa County Clerk, and the Contra Costa County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) stating the facts required to be stated pursuant to subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 53051.

## 5. TERM

The Agreement shall become effective upon the earlier date of July 1, 2026, provided that two Member Agencies have executed the Agreement by such date, or when all Member Agencies have executed the Agreement (“Effective Date”). The Agreement will remain effective until the JPA is dissolved through procedures outlined in Section 18 of this Agreement.

## 6. POWERS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE JPA

6.1 General Powers. The JPA shall have the power in its own name to exercise any and all common powers of its Member Agencies and such additional powers accorded to it by law reasonably related to the purposes of the JPA, including, but not limited to, the powers to:

- a. Acquire, lease, construct, own, manage, maintain, dispose of or operate (subject to the limitations herein) any buildings, works or improvements within the boundaries of the Member Agencies deemed necessary by the Board to implement the RAC System;
- b. Acquire, hold, manage, maintain, or dispose of any other property within the boundaries of the Member Agencies by any lawful means, including without limitation gift, purchase, lease, lease-purchase, license, eminent domain or sale to support the RAC System;
- c. Seek, receive, and administer funding from any available public, non-profit, foundation or private source, including grants or loans under any available Federal, State and local programs to support the RAC System;
- d. Make and enter into other contracts;
- e. Form and implement one or more community facilities districts pursuant to the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 (“Mello-Roos Act”);
- f. Incur all authorized debts, liabilities, and obligations, subject to the limitations herein to accomplish the stated purposes and objectives of the JPA;
- g. Receive gifts, contributions and donations of property, funds, services and other forms of financial or other assistance from any persons, firms, corporations or governmental entities;
- h. Sue and be sued in its own name;
- i. Seek the adoption or defeat of any Federal, State or local legislation or regulation necessary or desirable to accomplish the stated purposes and objectives of the JPA;

j. Adopt rules, regulations, policies, bylaws and procedures governing the operation of the JPA;

k. Invest money pursuant to California Government Code Section 6505.5 that is not required for the immediate necessities of the JPA, as the JPA determines is advisable, in the same manner and upon the same conditions as local agencies, pursuant to Section 53601 of the California Government Code as it now exists or may hereafter be amended;

l. Carry out and enforce all the provisions of this Agreement; and

m. Exercise all other powers not specifically mentioned herein, but common to Member Agencies, and authorized by California Government Code Section 6508 as it now exists or may hereafter be amended.

6.2 Specific Powers and Obligations. The JPA shall have the power in its own name to exercise the following specific powers and obligations to:

a. Conduct an audit of the records and accounts of the JPA annually by an independent certified public accountant and ensure that copies of such audit report shall be filed with the State Controller and the County Auditor, and shall be provided to the Member Agencies no later than fifteen (15) days after receipt of such audit reports by the JPA;

b. Use any statutory power available to it necessary or desirable to finance the exercise of any power of the JPA; and

c. Defend, hold harmless and indemnify, to the fullest extent permitted by law, each Member Agency from any liability, claims, suits or other actions.

## 7. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7.1 JPA Governing Board. The JPA shall be governed by a Board of Directors. Each director shall have a single vote on matters coming before the Board.

7.2 Board Members and Alternates. Within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, each Member Agency shall designate and appoint one its officers, officials, or employees to serve as its representative on the Board. Within thirty (30) days after a new Member Agency becomes a party to this Agreement, the Member Agency shall designate and appoint one of its officers, officials, or employees to serve as its representative on the Board. Each Member Agency may appoint an alternate representative who is authorized to serve on the Board only in the absence of the Member Agency's primary representative, with the same authority as the primary representative. All primary representatives and alternates shall serve until they are replaced by the appointing Member Agency, or until the withdrawal of the Member Agency from this Agreement, or until such time as they are no longer an officer, official, or employee of the Member Agency. Board members and their alternates shall serve without compensation, but they shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses they actually incur in connection with their service on the Board, provided such expense is authorized in advance by the Board.

7.3 Qualifications. Each Member Agency shall determine the officers, officials, or employees that will serve as the Member Agency's primary representative, and their alternate, on the Board of Directors.

7.4 Board Officers. The Board shall annually select one of its members to serve as Chair and another member to serve as Vice Chair.

a. If the Chair is unable to continue serving on the Board, then the Vice-Chair shall become Chair. The Board shall then select a new Vice Chair from among the remaining members of the Board.

b. If the Vice Chair is unable to continue serving on the Board, the Board shall select a new Vice Chair from among the remaining members of the Board.

c. The Chair shall preside over all meetings of the Board and perform such other duties as may be imposed by the Board in accordance with applicable law and this Agreement.

d. The Vice-Chair shall preside over all meetings of the Board in the Chair's absence and perform such other duties as may be imposed by the Board in accordance with applicable law and this Agreement when the Chair is absent.

7.5 Additional Officers and Consultants. The Board may appoint any additional officers deemed necessary or desirable. The Board may also retain such consultants or independent contractors as may be deemed necessary.

7.6 Bonding Requirements. The officers or persons designated to have charge of, handle, or have access to any funds or property of the JPA shall be so designated and empowered by the Board. Each such officer or person may be required to file an official bond with the JPA in an amount established by the Board.

7.7 Subcommittees. The Board may create permanent or ad hoc subcommittees to give advice to the Board on such matters as may be referred to such subcommittee by the Board.

7.8 Meetings. The Board shall hold publicly noticed meetings in accordance with a schedule established by the Board. The Board shall meet no less than once per year. Meetings shall be conducted and noticed in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

7.9 Voting. All voting powers of the JPA shall reside in the Board.

7.10 Quorum; Votes for Board Actions. A majority of the members of the Board, or their alternates, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except that less than a quorum of the Board may adjourn a meeting for lack of quorum. Except as provided in Section 14 or where a larger affirmative vote is required by law, any action of the Board shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors present at a meeting, provided that a quorum of the Board is present.

7.11 Approval of Annual Budget. The JPA’s fiscal year shall begin July 1 of each calendar year, and it shall end on June 30 of the next calendar year; provided, however, that the JPA’s first fiscal year shall begin the date this Agreement becomes effective, and it shall end on the June 30 occurring thereafter. In each fiscal year after the first fiscal year, prior to April 1 of each year, the Manager shall prepare and present a proposed budget for the following fiscal year to the Board for its review and consideration; and prior to July 1 of each year, the Board shall consider approving the final budget for the following fiscal year.

7.12 Minutes. The Secretary shall cause minutes of all meetings of the Board to be drafted. Upon approval by the Board, such minutes shall become a part of the official records of the JPA.

7.13 Conflicts of Interest.

a. California Political Reform Act. Board members shall be considered “public officials” within the meaning of the California Political Reform Act of 1974, as amended, and its regulations, for purposes of financial disclosure, conflict of interest and other requirements of such Act.

b. Levine Act. Board members are “officials” within the meaning of California Government Code Section 84308 (the “Levine Act”) and subject to the restrictions of such act on the acceptance, solicitation or direction of contributions.

## **8. POWERS AND DUTIES OF GOVERNING BOARD**

8.1 Powers and Duties. In addition to exercising the powers and obligations of the JPA set forth in Section 6, or as otherwise provided by law, the JPA Board of Directors shall have the following powers:

a. Perform the activities described in Section 8.2 with respect to the community facilities district described therein;

Perform activities necessary and convenient to assist Member Agencies comply with the Municipal Regional Permit and to implement the RAC System, including filing required documentation with the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board;

b. Review and recommend an annual budget to the Member Agencies, which shall include the proposed contribution from each Member Agency;

c. Make and enter into contracts or sub-contracts, and authorize by resolution officers or agents to execute such contracts;

d. Incur debt, liabilities and obligations on behalf of the JPA as authorized by law;

e. Invest JPA funds pursuant to an investment policy of the JPA adopted by the Board of Directors;

- f. Receive contributions, donations or grants of property, funds, services, or other forms of assistance from any source;
- g. Coordinate JPA activities with other Joint Powers Authorities or public agencies established for similar purposes in pursuing the common purposes set forth above;
- h. Appoint a Legal Advisor for the JPA;
- i. Appoint, suspend and or terminate the Manager or enter into and terminate agreements for Management Services;
- j. Appoint a Secretary;
- k. Adopt, and amend from time to time, bylaws, rules, and regulations for the conduct of meetings of the Board and of the affairs of the JPA consistent with this Agreement; and
- l. Adopt, and amend from time to time, a conflict of interest code.

8.2 Community Facilities District. The Board of Directors will consider forming a community facilities district (“CFD”) in accordance with the Mello-Roos Act. If a CFD is formed by the Board, the following will apply:

- a. The CFD will levy special taxes on development sites owned by private buyers to finance maintenance of Off-Site GSI Projects. Off-Site GSI Projects may be publicly-owned or privately-owned. The JPA is authorized and empowered to enter into agreements with owners of Off-Site GSI Projects to provide for CFD funding of maintenance.
- b. The CFD will initially be formed to include (i) original CFD boundaries that consist of a single property within the jurisdiction of one of the Member Agencies, and (ii) a future annexation area that includes the remaining territory of the initial Member Agencies.
- c. As additional public agencies join the CFD, the Board of Directors will consider adding such agencies’ territory to the CFD’s future annexation area.
- d. Private buyers may annex their properties into the CFD from the future annexation area. Member agencies will not need to approve annexations from the future annexation area into the CFD.
- e. The Board of Directors will be responsible for considering the levy of special taxes to fund maintenance of Off-Site GSI Projects and administering the CFD. The Board of Directors may engage necessary consultants to assist with the formation and administration of a CFD.
- f. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for preparing and approving all reports and notices required by the Mello-Roos Act. The Board of Directors may delegate to the Manager, or contract with another person or entity, the preparation of reports and notices

required by the Mello-Roos Act, provided that the Board of Directors retains discretion to approve the reports and notices prior to submission, circulation, or publication.

## **9. OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES**

9.1 Principal Office. The principal physical office of the JPA shall be established by Board resolution at one of the Member Agencies' offices or at another suitable location within a Member Agency's jurisdiction.

9.2 Assumption of Responsibilities by the JPA. As soon as practicable after the Effective Date of this Agreement, a notice of an organizational meeting of the Board shall be published. During the first meeting, the Board shall designate a Manager, or engage a contractor to perform Management Services, who shall have the authority described in Section 11 and as otherwise delegated by the Board.

9.3 Delegation of Authority; Transfer of Records, Accounts, Funds and Property. The JPA shall establish procedures by which it may receive the transfer of records, accounts, funds or property from Member Agencies or other entities.

## **10. NO EMPLOYEES**

10.1 The JPA shall not hire employees or retain consultants that could otherwise be classified as common law employees.

## **11. MANAGER OF THE JPA**

11.1 Powers and Duties. The Manager contracted by the Agency may be a staff person of one of the Member Agencies, a consultant, an independent contractor, or an employee of another entity who can perform the responsibilities and duties described in this section JPA, as determined by the Board in its sole discretion. The Manager shall have the following powers, responsibilities and duties:

- a. Plan, coordinate and supervise the operation of the JPA on a day-to-day basis to ensure that the policies and direction of the Board are implemented operationally and administratively;
- b. Make recommendations to the Board regarding the operations of the JPA and, if formed, the CFD;
- c. Supervise and manage JPA contractors;
- d. Establish administrative policies and procedures for the JPA consistent with and in order to implement directives from the Board;
- e. Prepare the annual budget for submission to the Board;
- f. Support compliance activities for the Member Agencies' compliance with the Municipal Regional Permit through the RAC System; and

- g. Such other powers and authority delegated by the Board.

## **12. TREASURER AND AUDITOR**

12.1 The Auditor of the JPA shall be the duly [elected / appointed] [Auditor / Auditor-Controller] of [insert Member Agency]. The Auditor shall draw warrants or check-warrants against funds of the JPA held by the Treasurer when the demands are approved by the Board of Directors or other person designated for that purpose and delegated that authority. The Board may transfer the responsibilities of Auditor to any person or entity authorized by Government Code Section 6505.5.

12.2

12.3 The Treasurer of the JPA shall be the duly [elected / appointed] [Treasurer / Treasurer-Tax Collector] of [insert Member Agency]. The Treasurer shall receive, have custody of, and disburse of all monies of the JPA. The Board may transfer the responsibilities of Treasurer to any person or entity authorized by Government Code Section 6505.5.

## **13. INSURANCE AND LIABILITY**

13.1 Insurance Coverage. The JPA shall be responsible for obtaining insurance coverage for its activities, as the Board deems appropriate.

13.2 Limitation on Liability. Except as expressly authorized by the Member Agencies, no Member Agency shall be responsible for the acts and omissions of another Member Agency's officers or employees nor shall a Member Agency incur any liabilities arising out of the services and activities of another Member Agency's officers or employees.

## **14. ADDITION OF MEMBER AGENCIES**

The addition of any other agency as a Member Agency to the JPA shall require the approval of three-quarters of the entire Board. Upon approval by the Board, the new Member Agency shall execute a copy of this Agreement and return it to the JPA to be appended to the official version of this Agreement. Recognizing the effort of the original Member Agencies to establish the JPA, the Board may require a financial contribution to become a member of the JPA.

## **15. MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION COSTS: COST ALLOCATION**

15.1 Records and Accounts. The JPA shall cause to be kept accurate and correct books of account, showing capital costs (if any), and maintenance and operation costs of the JPA. The aforementioned described books and records shall be open to inspection at all times during normal business hours by Member Agencies. The Treasurer shall cause all financial records of the JPA to be audited by an independent public accountant or certified public accountant at least once a fiscal year and a copy of the audit to be delivered promptly to each Member Agency.

15.2 Allocation of Operating Expenses. Unless changed by mutual agreement of the Member Agencies, the operating costs and expenses in the budget shall be shared equally by the Member Agencies. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any remaining operating costs and expenses

associated with the operation and maintenance of the Off-Site GSI Projects and the administration of the CFD, which are not fully paid for by special taxes collected by the CFD, shall be apportioned to the Member Agencies based upon the maximum special taxes levied in each Member Agency's jurisdiction.

**16. WITHDRAWAL OF A MEMBER AGENCY FROM THE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

A Member Agency may withdraw from this Agreement by filing written notice of intention to do so with the Manager and Chair no later than 5:00 p.m. of the December 31st immediately preceding the commencement of the following fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). The Member Agency's withdrawal shall be effective at 11:59 p.m. on June 30th of the fiscal year in which the notice of intention was received. Withdrawal shall not relieve the Member Agency from any financial commitments associated with projects or programs that the withdrawing Member Agency agreed to participate in prior to the effective date of the withdrawal. The withdrawal of any Member Agency shall not terminate this Agreement provided at least two (2) Member Agencies remain parties to the Agreement.

**17. DISPOSITION OF ASSETS UPON WITHDRAWAL OF A MEMBER AGENCY**

No Member Agency, by withdrawing, shall, except as may be agreed to by the Board, be entitled to payment or return of funds paid or property donated, if any, by the withdrawing Member Agency to the JPA or to any distribution of its assets.

**18. TERMINATION; DISSOLUTION AND DISPOSITION OF ASSETS**

This Agreement may be terminated and the JPA dissolved upon the consent of all Member Agencies then party to the JPA. Upon termination of this Agreement and dissolution of the JPA, JPA funds shall first be used to pay expenses, debts, liabilities and obligations of the JPA; and any remaining JPA funds shall be distributed to the Member Agencies in proportion to contributions made by the Member Agencies. The Board shall reasonably value any remaining property in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

**19. CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital assets of Member Agencies may be transferred to the JPA according to the disposition rules of the Member Agencies.

**20. CONTRIBUTIONS AND ADVANCES**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 6504, the Member Agencies may in their discretion make financial contributions, loans or advances to the JPA for the purposes of the JPA set forth in this Agreement. The repayment of such contribution, loans or advances will be on the written terms agreed to by the Member Agency making the contribution, loan or advance and the JPA.

**21. LIMITATIONS ON POWERS**

As required by Government Code Section 6509, the power of the JPA is subject to the restrictions upon the manner of exercising power possessed by the City of San Pablo.

**22. AMENDMENT**

Any amendment to this Agreement must be in writing and approved by the governing bodies of all Member Agencies, provided, however, that no such amendment shall be entered into if the amendment would conflict with the provisions of any bonds (as defined in Government Code section 6585(c)), indenture, trust agreement, contract or other agreement securing or relating to any outstanding bonds of the JPA issued pursuant to state or federal laws.

**23. NOTICE**

Any notice required to be given or delivered by any provision of this Agreement shall be personally delivered or deposited in the U.S. Mail, registered or certified, postage prepaid, addressed to the Member Agencies at their addresses as reflected in the records of the JPA, and shall be deemed to have been received by the Member Agencies to which the same is addressed upon the earlier of receipt or seventy-two (72) hours after mailing.

**24. SEVERABILITY**

If a provision of the Agreement is found to be illegal or unenforceable, the validity of the remaining portions or provisions shall not be affected.

**25. SUCCESSORS**

This Agreement shall be binding upon and accrue to the benefit of any successor of a Member Agency.

**26. ASSIGNMENT AND DELEGATION**

No Member Agency may assign any rights or delegate any duties under this Agreement without the written consent of all other Member Agencies.

**27. COUNTERPARTS**

This Agreement may be executed in one (1) or more counterparts.

**28. DISPUTE RESOLUTION.**

The Member Agencies and the JPA shall make reasonable efforts to settle all disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement. Should any dispute among the Member Agencies arise out of this Agreement and should the Member Agencies be unable to resolve the dispute, the Member Agencies shall, at the written request of any Member Agency, meet in mediation and attempt in good faith to reach a resolution with the assistance of a mutually acceptable mediator. In the event that mediation does not result in the settlement of a dispute within 120 days after the demand for mediation is made, any Member Agency and the JPA may pursue any remedies provided by law.

**29. INTEGRATION**

This Agreement represents the full and entire Agreement among the Members.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Joint Powers Agreement establishing the Joint Powers Authority set forth above.

**[PARTY]**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Party: \_\_\_\_\_

**[PARTY]**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

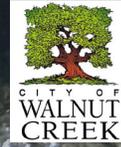
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Party: \_\_\_\_\_

# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY REGIONAL ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE SYSTEM PUBLIC FACT SHEET



## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Cities of San Pablo, and Walnut Creek, and unincorporated Contra Costa County have partnered with USEPA through a San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund grant to develop and pilot a Regional Alternative Compliance (RAC) System within Contra Costa County (the “Contra Costa County RAC System”). Entities in Contra Costa County must comply with the substantial post-construction stormwater treatment (i.e., Provision C.3) requirements of the San Francisco Bay Region Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP). Alternative Compliance Systems have been used in other areas of the United States to help municipalities, developers, and industry meet rigorous stormwater compliance requirements. The Water Board and legal reviewers were involved in developing the Contra Costa County RAC System.

## WHAT IS THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY REGIONAL ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE (RAC) SYSTEM?

The Contra Costa County RAC System is a program designed to provide a flexible, cost-effective, and scientifically defensible MRP C.3 compliance option to implement required post-construction stormwater treatment off-site.

## HOW DOES THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY RAC SYSTEM WORK?

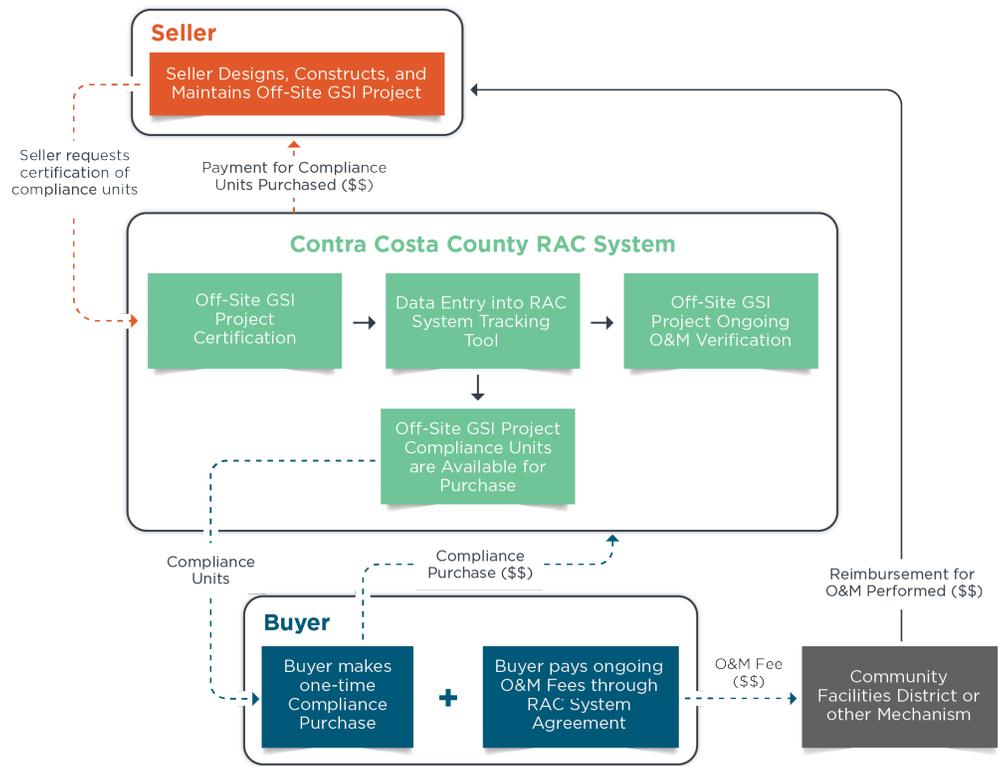
The Contra Costa County RAC System allows green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) treatment facilities or “Off-Site GSI Projects” to be constructed within the County to generate “compliance units” that can be exchanged through the System. Compliance units can be sold to an interested party (i.e., a developer or municipality) in need of off-site stormwater treatment for MRP compliance.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A “SELLER”?

A seller would design and construct the Off-Site GSI Projects that generate Contra Costa County RAC System compliance units. Off-Site GSI Projects require certification through the Contra Costa County RAC System before compliance units can be sold.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A “BUYER”?

A buyer would pay for Contra Costa County RAC System compliance units to satisfy their project’s stormwater compliance needs by completing a “compliance purchase”. Buyers would pay an additional annual fee to cover the ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) of the Off-Site GSI Projects that generate compliance units.



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY REGIONAL ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE SYSTEM PUBLIC FACT SHEET



## More Details on Off-Site GSI Projects:

Off-Site GSI Projects must be non-regulated, that is, not required as part of any development project or “Regulated Project” as defined by the MRP.

The compliance units generated by an Off-Site GSI Project are calculated based on the acres and land use that it treats.

Off-Site GSI Projects require ongoing verification, consistent with processes used for existing GSI facilities, and are eligible to receive annual operation and maintenance payments so they are properly maintained.

The Contra Costa County RAC System provides equivalency calculations, template agreements, and an online RAC System Tracking Tool to help interested parties determine their treatment requirements and complete transactions through the buying and selling of compliance units.

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF A RAC SYSTEM?

The Contra Costa County RAC System provides an opportunity for the strategic development, siting, and funding of larger regional stormwater treatment facilities (regional Off-Site GSI Projects) in areas with greater legacy pollutant concerns. Regional stormwater treatment facilities are sited and designed to treat large drainage areas ranging from tens to hundreds of acres. The Contra Costa County RAC System is also expected to achieve cost savings for participants as larger stormwater treatment facilities typically have reduced capital and O&M costs per treated acre.

## WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?



**Developers** - Some development and redevelopment sites may have constraints (size, steep grades, etc.) that make it difficult to build on-site stormwater treatment. When a project has difficulty building MRP-required stormwater treatment on-site, it can use the Contra Costa County RAC System to comply with the MRP.



**Municipalities** - Municipalities may purchase compliance units to comply with MRP Provision C.3.j impervious surface retrofit requirements. Additionally, municipalities with Regulated Projects such as large road reconstruction projects could use the Contra Costa County RAC System to comply with the MRP. Municipalities may also act as “sellers” through the Contra Costa County RAC System.



**Non-profits** - Non-profits or other environmental organizations may be interested in building GSI facilities that can be partially funded by selling compliance units through the Contra Costa County RAC System.



**Contractors** - Developers or contractors may be interested in building Off-Site GSI Projects to generate compliance units that can be sold through the Contra Costa County RAC System.

## NEXT STEPS

In 2023 and 2024, the first Contra Costa County RAC System exchange will be conducted as a pilot, and System administration processes will be further developed. The Contra Costa County RAC System is anticipated to be operational for additional exchanges by the end of 2024.

For more information, please visit the Contra Costa County RAC System Project Website:  
[www.sanpabloca.gov/2685/Regional-Alternative-Compliance](http://www.sanpabloca.gov/2685/Regional-Alternative-Compliance)

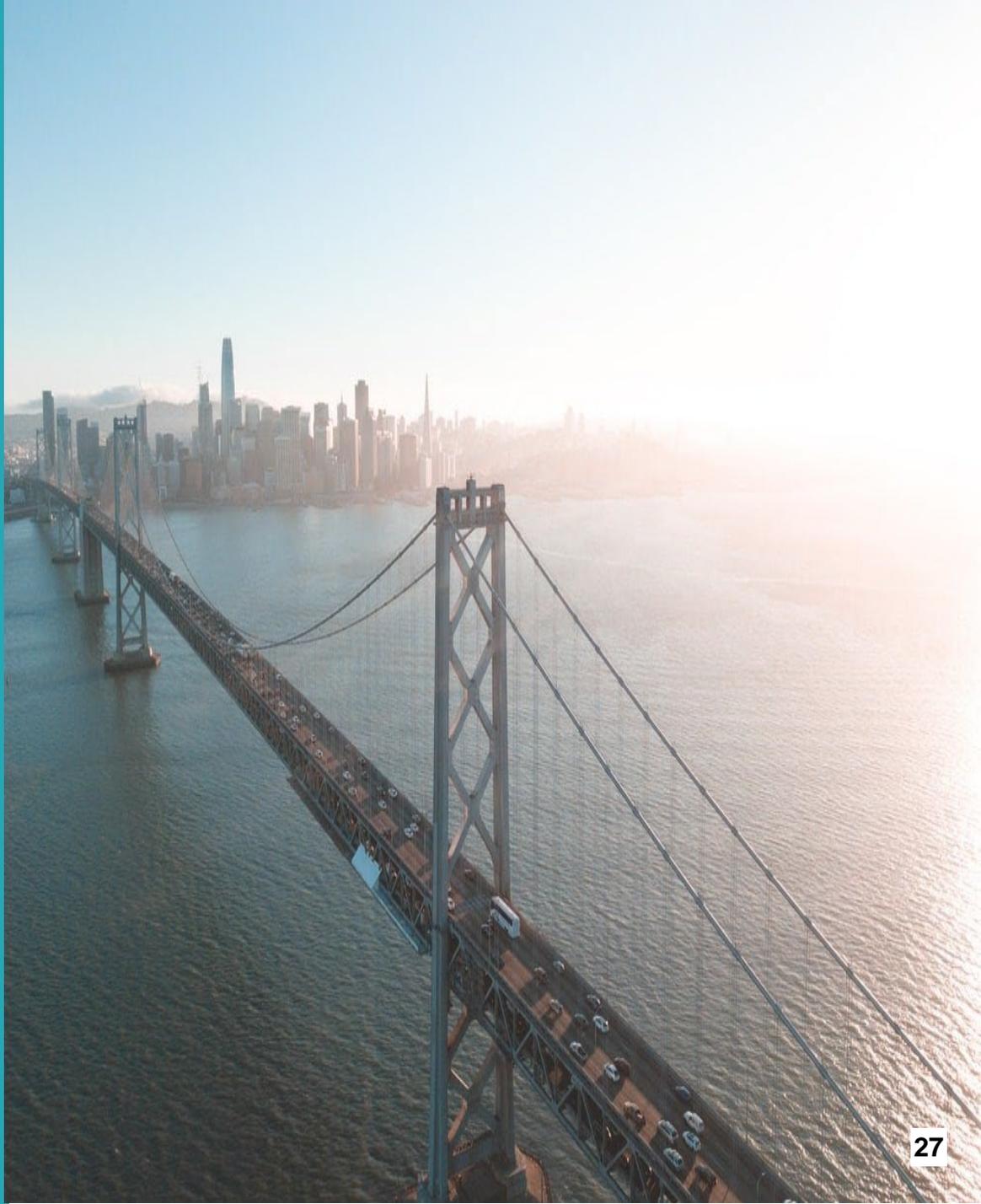
**Contra Costa Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee (TWIC)  
March 18, 2026**



# Contra Costa County Regional Alternative Compliance System Overview

Michele Mancuso, CCC Sr. Watershed Management Planner  
Rinta Perkins, CCCWP Interim Program Manager

# Introduction



# What Are the Challenges with the Existing System?

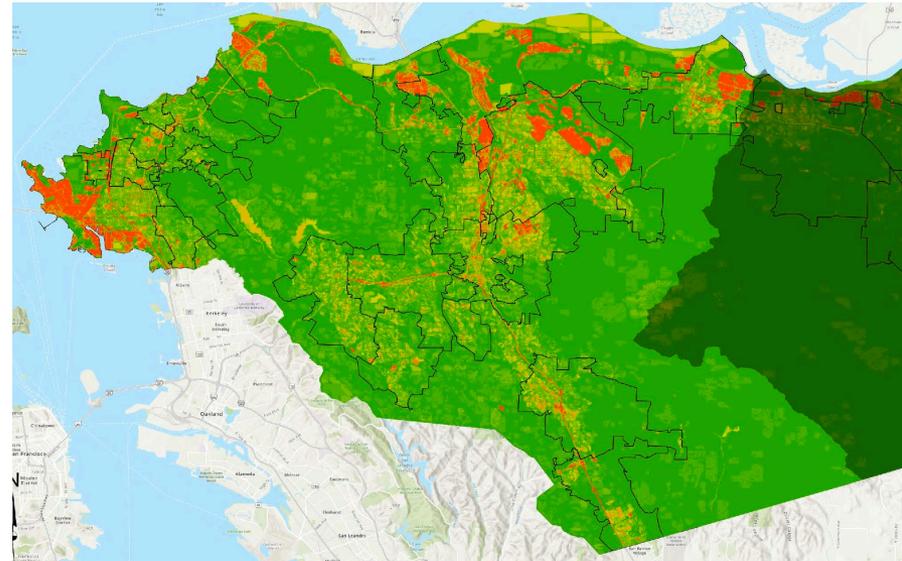
- The Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP) requires low impact development (LID)/green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) to be implemented:
  - On new development and redevelopment projects (C.3.b)
  - To retrofit a proportion of permittee impervious surfaces (C.3.j)
  - To address **PCBs/mercury** TMDLs in San Francisco Bay (C.11/C.12)



# What Are the Challenges with the Existing System?

## Challenges:

- Some development sites have physical or site use constraints to implement GSI
- Distributed GSI is costly and requires considerable effort to maintain
- PCBs/mercury pollution is concentrated in certain areas of Contra Costa County



Contra Costa County PCBs Load Distribution

# How can Regional Alternative Compliance (RAC) address these challenges?

- The RAC System allows an **off-site option** for new and redevelopment projects to meet MRP C.3 requirements
  - Other regulated stormwater dischargers may also participate (e.g., Caltrans)
- The RAC System allows for investment in regional GSI projects that:
  - Are less expensive to implement and maintain per acre treated
  - Can be located to target old industrial areas
  - Could provide multiple benefits

AND

- The RAC System establishes designated O&M funding to ensure long-term performance of facilities

# What is the Legal Basis for Alternative Compliance?

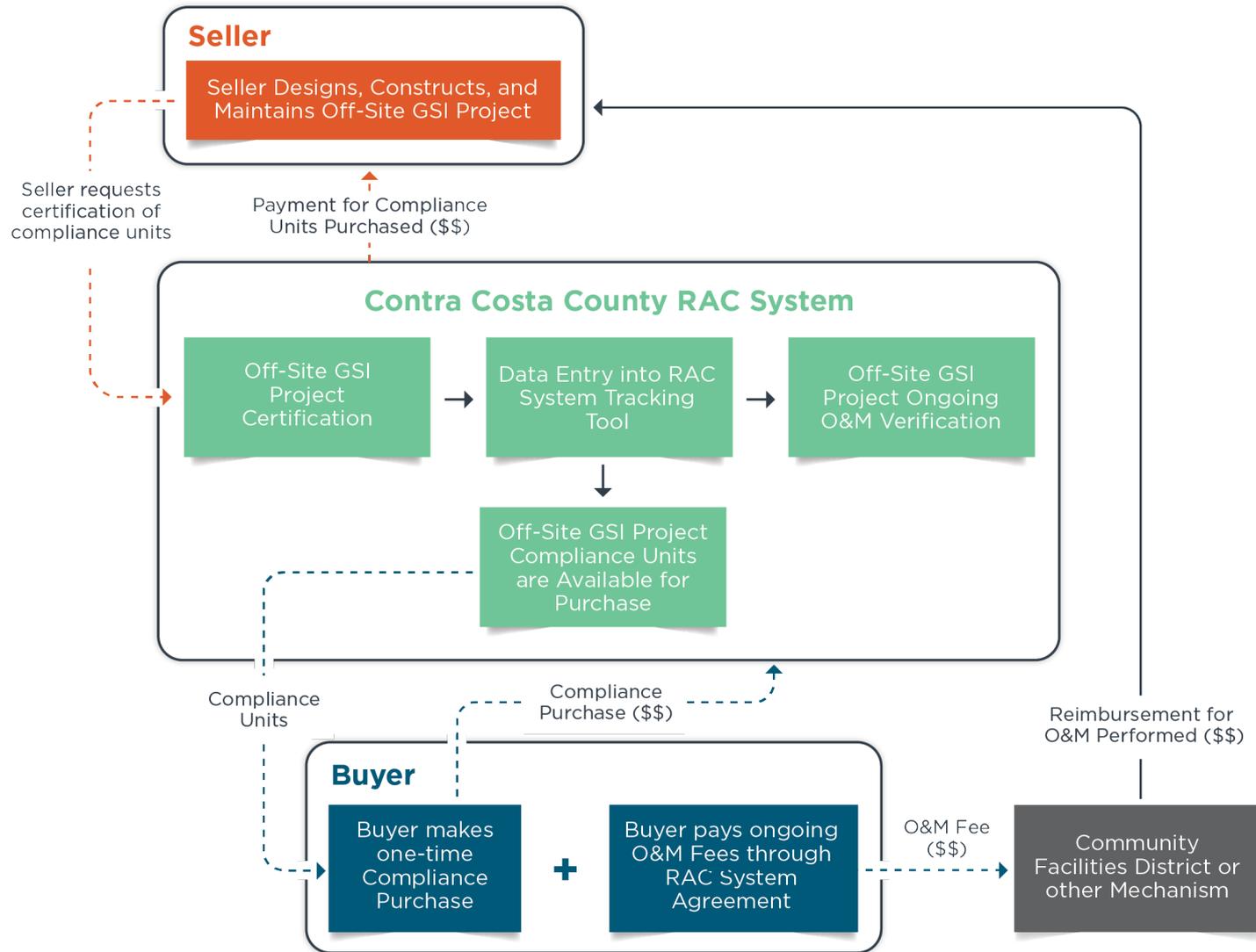
- Alternative compliance systems are legally enabled through existing rules, guidance, and plans
- Contra Costa County (CCC) RAC System was developed in input from:
  - CCC Permittees
  - Advisory Committee made from nine SF Bay Area Counties + Caltrans + Port of Oakland
  - Water Quality Control Board and EPA
  - Internal and external Legal Reviewers



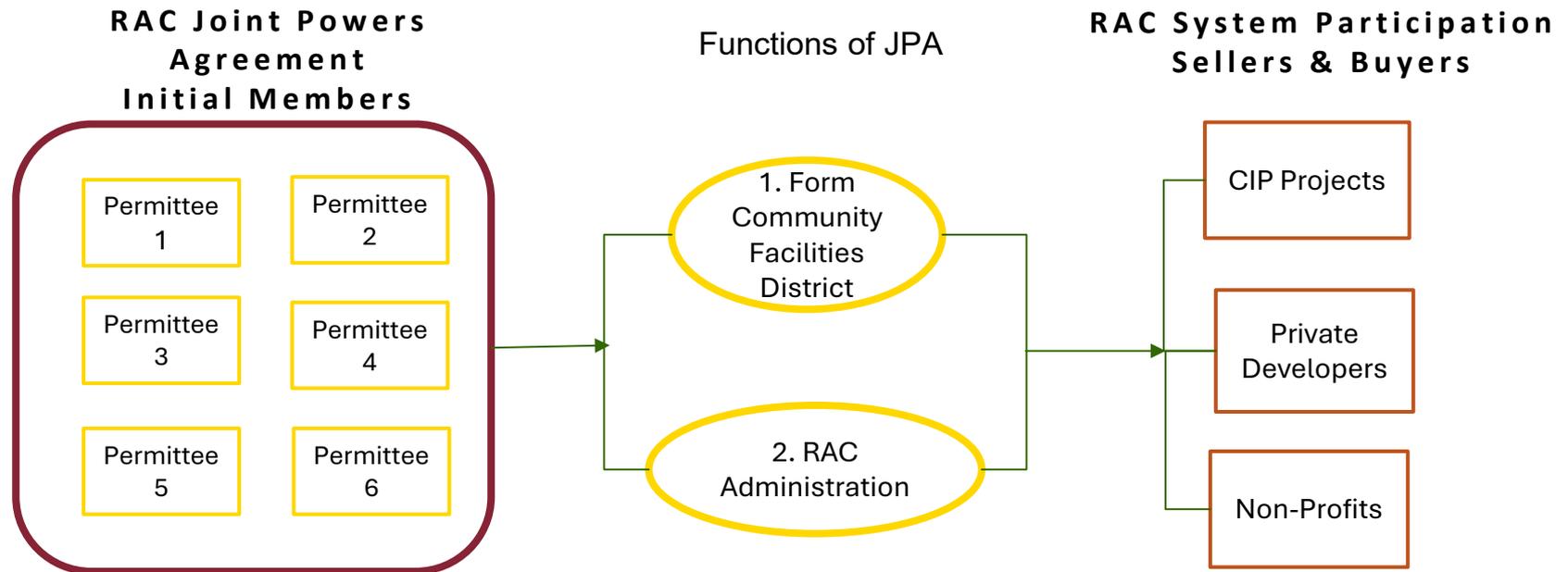
# RAC System Overview



# Contra Costa County RAC System



# RAC Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and Community Facilities District (CFD)



# RAC System Implementation Process



# RAC Joint Power Authority (JPA)

- **JPA Formation and Independence**
  - A legally separate entity formed with its own liabilities, independent from agency members.
- **Term Sheet and Membership**
  - Outlines JPA powers; how new members are admitted, and legislative body approval.
- **Operational Structure and Staffing**
  - Contract manager instead of hiring employees (avoid pension liabilities and increase flexibility).
- **Financial Responsibilities**
  - Limited to the JPA and shared administrative expenses among members.

# RAC Community Facilities District

JPA authorizes the CFD to levy special taxes to finance the acquisition, improvement, rehabilitation, and maintenance of stormwater infrastructure

CFD formed with initial taxable property only and multi-jurisdiction “future annexation area”

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graph TD; A[CFD formed with initial taxable property only and multi-jurisdiction “future annexation area”] --> B[CFD formation requires three meetings of JPA governing board]; B --> C[Properties annex into the CFD as they to opt to participate in RAC System];
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CFD formation requires three meetings of JPA governing board

Properties annex into the CFD as they to opt to participate in RAC System

# RAC Community Facilities District (Continued)

Annexation of Parcels into the CFD from Future Annexation Area

- Annexing property owner executes “unanimous approval” (voting in favor of special taxes etc.)
- JPA legislative body may confirm annexations by resolution

When new public agencies join the JPA, the JPA legislative body may add new members’ territory to the “future annexation area”

- Resolution of intention to add territory
- Public hearing and resolution determining addition of territory to future annexation area

# Next Steps for Implementation



# Implementation Steps and Timeline

|  | 2025 |      |     |     |     | 2026 |     |     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|--|------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
|  | Aug  | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan  | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Info Workshop #1 and 2                   | ■    | ■    |     |     |     |      |     |     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Permittee to decide on JPA               |      |      | ■   | ■   |     |      |     |     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Kick-off JPA Formation                   |      |      |     |     | ■   |      |     |     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Internal outreach by Permittees          |      |      |     |     | ■   | ■    | ■   |     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| JPA Agreement Review (1-2 months)        |      |      |     |     |     | ■    | ■   | ■   |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Adoption & Approval of JPA               |      |      |     |     |     |      |     | ■   | ■     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| JPA Formation                            |      |      |     |     |     |      |     |     |       | ■   |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| JPA Administration                       |      |      |     |     |     |      |     |     |       |     | ■    | ■    | ■   | ■    | ■   | ■   | ■   |
| Identify (initial) Projects to Exchange  |      |      |     |     |     | ■    | ■   | ■   | ■     | ■   | ■    | ■    | ■   | ■    | ■   | ■   | ■   |
| CFD Terms Review (*)                     |      |      |     |     |     |      |     |     |       |     | ■    | ■    |     |      |     |     |     |
| CFD Boundaries and Tax Formula Prepared  |      |      |     |     |     |      |     |     |       |     |      |      | ■   | ■    |     |     |     |
| CFD Resolution of Intention to JPA Board |      |      |     |     |     |      |     |     |       |     |      |      |     | ■    |     |     |     |
| CFD Resolution of Formation to JPA Board |      |      |     |     |     |      |     |     |       |     |      |      |     |      | ■   |     |     |
| Begin RAC Exchanges                      |      |      |     |     |     |      |     |     |       |     |      |      |     |      | ■   | ■   | ■   |

(\*) Important conditions to occur: 1) JPA must be formed to draw the map boundaries and 2) Having initial properties to be annexed into the CFD

# Next Steps

- Sixteen agencies are interested in joining RAC JPA
- City/Town/County attorney to review and comment on JPA term sheet
- Attend RAC JPA meetings
- Participate in RAC System technical and operational discussion
- Receive follow-up materials and templates (incl. resolution)
- Adoption of resolution and approval of JPA agreement by agency's governing body

# Contact

Rinta Perkins  
Interim Program Manager  
[Rinta.Perkins@pw.cccounty.us](mailto:Rinta.Perkins@pw.cccounty.us)  
(925) 313-2392



CONTRA COSTA  
CLEAN WATER  
PROGRAM



**Thank You!**



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

**File #:** 26-1150

**Agenda Date:** 3/18/2026

**Agenda #:** 6.

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### TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

**Meeting Date:** March 18, 2026

**Subject:** RECEIVE presentation on progress of drought resilience planning for state small water systems and domestic well communities as required under Senate Bill 552 and DIRECT staff as appropriate

**Submitted For:** TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

**Department:** DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

**Referral No:** 1, 5, 6

**Referral Name:** Review legislative matters on transportation, water, and infrastructure; Review projects, plans and legislative matters that may affect the health of the San Francisco Bay and Delta, including but not limited to conveyance, flood control, dredging, climate change, habitat conservation, governance, water storage, drought resilience planning, development of an ordinance regarding polystyrene foam food containers, monitor waste diversion initiatives, and water quality, supply and reliability, consistent with the Board of Supervisors adopted *Delta Water Platform*; Review and monitor the establishment of 1) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the three medium priority groundwater basins within Contra Costa County as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and 2) a standing county drought and water shortage task force (Task Force) and Drought and Water Shortage Risk Mitigation Plan (Drought Resilience Plan) as required by Senate Bill (SB) 552.

**Presenter:** Ryan Hernandez || Assistant Deputy Director - Water & Transportation | DCD

**Contact:** Ryan Hernandez | (925) 655-2919

#### **Referral History:**

Senate Bill (SB) 552 was signed by the Governor in September 2021. The law includes new responsibilities and requirements for local agencies, counties, and state agencies to address gaps in local and state water management for drought resiliency and water shortage preparedness.

Under SB 552, counties are required to establish a standing county drought and water shortage task force (Task Force) and develop a Drought and Water Shortage Risk Mitigation Plan (Drought Resilience Plan). The Drought Resilience Plan must include potential drought and water shortage risks, as well as proposed interim and long-term solutions. Mitigation strategies in the plan must consider consolidation for existing water systems and domestic wells, drinking water mitigation programs, provision of emergency and interim drinking water solutions, implementation steps, and implementation funding sources. There is no mandated timeline for the Drought Resilience Plan. County responsibilities under SB 552 are required to cover state small water systems (state smalls), which serve five to fourteen service connections, and domestic wells, which have no more than four service connections. Contra Costa County's Drought Resilience Plan also covers local small systems, which serve two to four connections.

TWIC received presentations on March 11, 2024, and October 14, 2024, as an internal working group of County staff from the departments of Conservation and Development, Agriculture, Health, Public Works, and the Office of Emergency Services began the drought resilience planning process as required under SB 552 and applied for direct technical

assistance under the County Drought Resilience Planning Assistance Program, administered by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Through this program, the County received \$125,000 in staff time from Stantec, DWR's technical assistance provider, to provide logistic support for the Task Force and support developing the Drought Resilience Plan.

**Referral Update:**

The Task Force is made up of County departments, groundwater sustainability agencies, water suppliers and irrigation districts, and state agencies. To develop the public draft Drought Resilience Plan, the Task Force provided feedback on the draft Drought Resilience Plan and met three times:

- September 2024: Kickoff Meeting;
- February 2025: Review Risk Assessment Results; and
- February 2026: Review Draft Drought Resilience Plan, focused on Short-Term Response Actions and Long-Term Mitigation Strategies and Actions.

The technical assistance services provided by Stantec conclude at the end of March 2026. For next steps, County staff will have focused coordination and communication with communities with state small water systems, local small systems, and domestic wells regarding the public draft of the Drought Resilience Plan. The Drought Resilience Plan is expected to be brought to the Board of Supervisors for adoption by the end of 2026. The Task Force will continue to meet at least annually, and more often during water shortage events, to evaluate water supply health related to state small water systems, local small systems, and domestic well communities.

**Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

RECEIVE presentation on progress of drought resilience planning for state small water systems and domestic well communities as required under Senate Bill 552 and DIRECT staff as appropriate

**Fiscal Impact (if any):**

No fiscal impact to receiving the technical assistance to develop the public draft of the Drought Resilience Plan. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) offered direct technical assistance - \$125,000 of Stantec staff time, DWR's technical service provider - to help counties in their efforts to comply with Senate Bill 552 requirements. The technical assistance services conclude at the end of March 2026. The Drought Resilience Plan identifies the short-term response actions and long-term mitigation strategies and actions that will need additional resources, such as staff time and funding, to implement.

Contra Costa County  
Transportation, Water, and  
Infrastructure Committee

# Drought Resilience Plan Presentation

March 18, 2026



# Agenda

1. Purpose and Scope
2. Drought and Water Shortage Task Force
3. Drought Resilience Plan Findings
4. Implementation
5. Conclusions and Next Steps



# Drought Resilience Plan Purpose

Meet requirements of Senate Bill 552 by:

1. Establish a standing county **drought and water shortage task force** to facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for *state small water systems* and *domestic wells* within the county's jurisdiction.
2. Develop a **County Drought Resilience Plan** that includes potential drought and water shortage risk and proposed interim and long-term solutions.

Primer of Senate Bill 552:  
Drought Planning for Small Water  
Suppliers and Rural Communities

Prepared by



And



May 2022

[Primer-of-SB-552-052522\\_final.pdf \(ca.gov\)](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/primer-of-sb-552-052522_final.pdf)



# Drought Resilience Plan Scope

## Systems Covered by the DRP Include:

- **State small water systems (SSWSs)\*:** A system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that serves at least 5, but not more than 14, service connections
- **Domestic wells\*:** A groundwater well used to supply water for the domestic needs of an individual residence or a water system that has no more than 4 service connections
- **Local small systems (LSSs):** As defined by County ordinance, serves 2 to 4 connections.

## The DRP covers water shortages due to:

1. Drought: A period of abnormally dry weather that results in water shortages
2. Non-Drought Hazards such as wildfires, earthquakes, floods, and extended power shutoffs, and water quality issues, amongst others

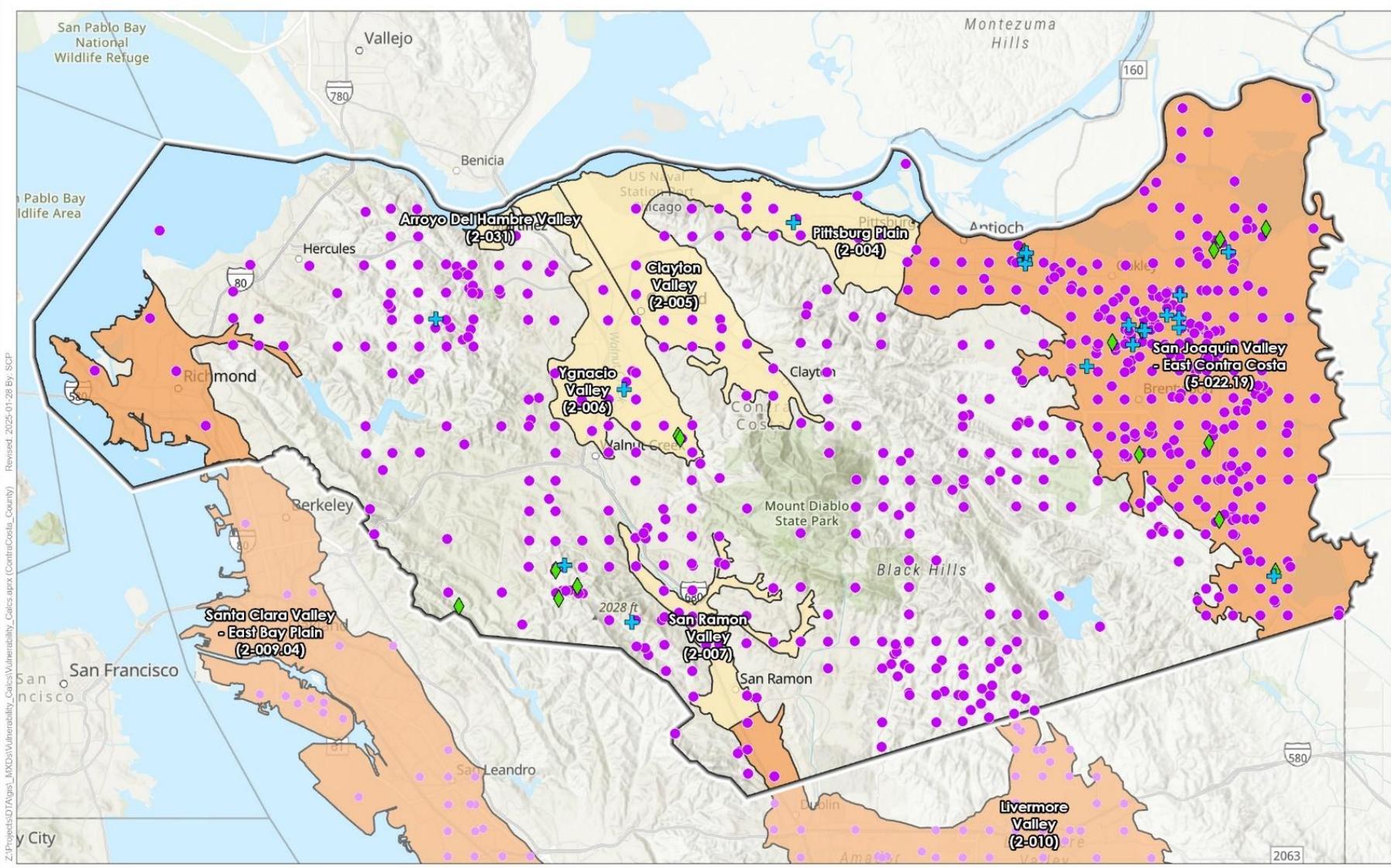
*\*See California Water Code §10609.51 for full definitions*



# Map of Systems Covered by DRP

Within the County:

- ~2,700 domestic wells
- 16 State Small Water Systems
- 20 Local Small Systems



|  |  |
|--|--|
| State Small Water Systems  | <b>Groundwater Basin - SGMA Priority</b> |
| Local Small Water Systems  | High and Medium                          |
| Domestic Wells   | Low and Very Low                         |
| Domestic Wells within SGMA Regulated Groundwater Basins located in Adjacent Counties |  |
| Groundwater Basin/Subbasin Boundary  |  |

**Contra Costa County**

N

0 3 6 Miles  
(At original document size of 8.5x11)

**Notes**

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California
2. Data Sources: Startec 2024, DWR 2024
3. Background: World Topographic Map; Sources: Esri

Prepared by SCP on 2024-09-09  
Revised by SCP on 2025-01-28



# Drought and Water Shortage Task Force



# Drought and Water Shortage Task Force

SB 552 mandates a standing Drought and Water Shortage Task Force (Task Force). Composition of the Task Force is guided by CWC Section 10609.70:

- (a)(1) A county shall establish a standing county drought and water shortage task force to **facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells** within the county's jurisdiction, and shall invite representatives from the state and other local governments, including groundwater sustainability agencies, and community-based organizations, local water suppliers, and local residents, to participate in the task force.
  
- (a)(2) In lieu of the task force required by paragraph (1), a county **may establish an alternative process** that facilitates drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county's jurisdiction. The alternative process shall **provide 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 and during drought or water shortage emergencies.



# Contra Costa County Task Force

## Task Force Members

|   |
|---|
| County Department of Conservation & Development |
| Division of Environmental Health                |
| Office of Emergency Services                    |
| Department of Agriculture                       |
| Public Works Department                         |
| State Agencies:                                 |
| • California Department of Water Resources      |
| • Delta Stewardship Council                     |
| • State Water Resources Control Board           |
| Local Water Suppliers and Irrigation Districts: |
| • Byron-Bethany Irrigation District             |
| • Contra Costa Water District                   |
| • Diablo Water District                         |
| • East Bay Municipal Utility District           |
| • East Contra Costa Irrigation District         |
| • Zone 7 Water Agency                           |
| Municipalities:                                 |
| • City of Antioch                               |
| • City of Brentwood                             |
| • Town of Discovery Bay                         |



Project Coordination Team\*

- Comprised of entities with a nexus to SSWSs, domestic wells, and LSSs
- Meets at least annually to review domestic well, LSS, and SSWS water supply conditions
- Authorized body that makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee

\*The Project Coordination Team developed the DRP and are the primary entities responsible for implementation



# Coordination and Communication

- **DRP [Website](#)** to distribute information to domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities
- **Notifications** via Supervisor newsletter, social media, DRP website, press releases (topic-dependent), and mailers, amongst others
- **Communication and Engagement Activities** such as Board of Supervisor and Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee updates, town hall meetings, workshops, and informational presentations
- **Community Feedback** via the DRP website to solicit input
- **Education Campaigns** in partnership with other county entities and water providers and suppliers



# Drought Resilience Plan Summary



# Drought Resilience Plan Legislative Directive

SB 552, 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.



# Major Drought Resilience Plan Contents

## 1. Risk Assessment

- Where in the County are domestic wells, SSWS, and LSS most vulnerable to water supply shortages and what drives that vulnerability?

## 2. Short-Term Response Actions

- What could the County do to provide emergency and interim drinking water supplies during a water shortage emergency?

## 3. Long-Term Mitigation Strategies and Actions

- What could the County do to reduce vulnerability to water supply shortages?

## 4. Drought Resilience Plan Implementation

- What activities will the County do to carry out the DRP findings?



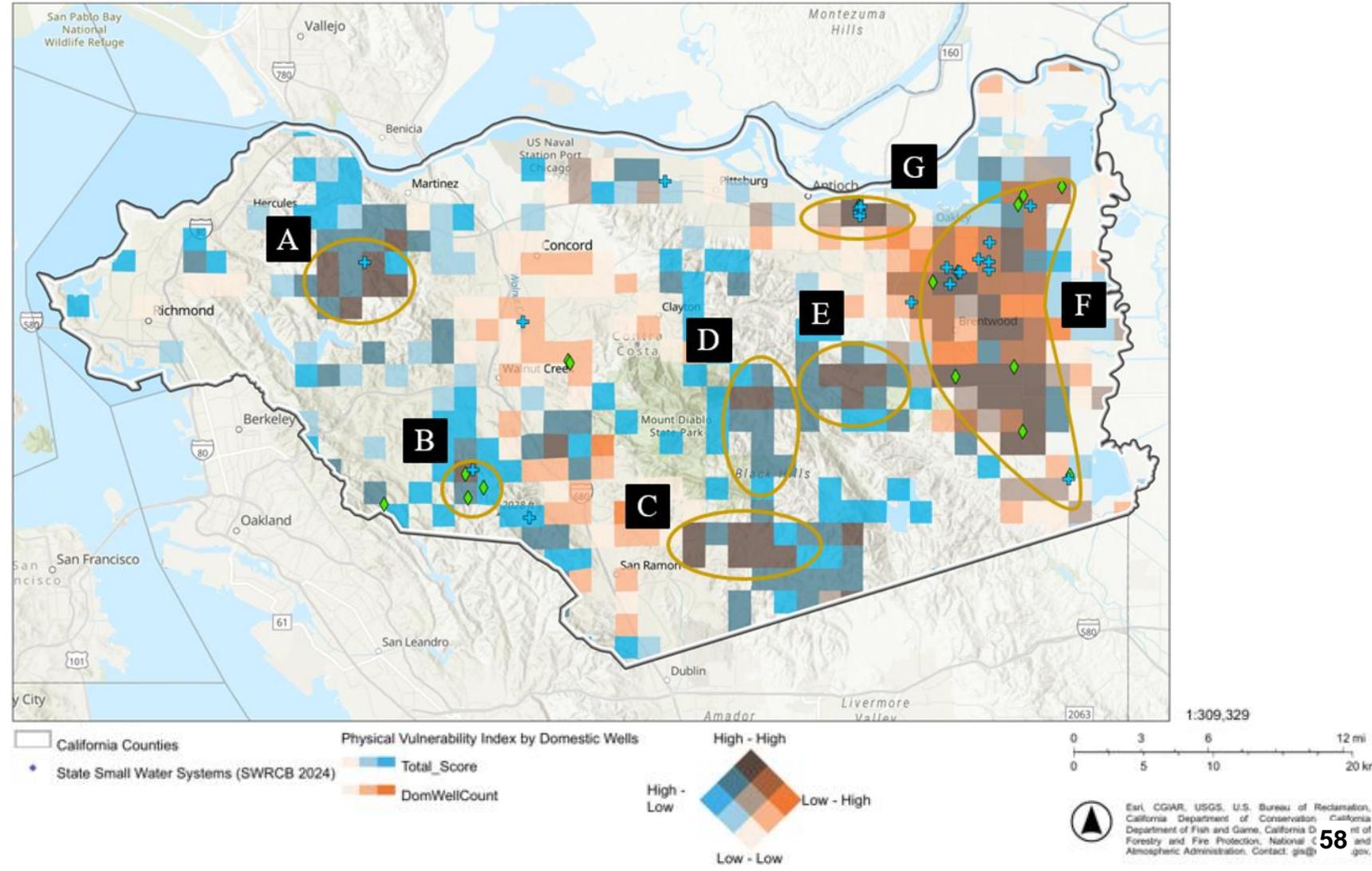
# Risk Assessment Findings

## Areas with heightened water shortage vulnerability for domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWs

- A) Northwest of Briones Hills
- B) Las Trampas Ridge East Side of Moraga
- C) South Side of Black Hills
- D) Mount Diablo Foothills on East Side
- E) Briones Valley
- F) East Contra Costa Basin in Brentwood and Byron Areas

### Vulnerability drivers include:

- Domestic well density
- Wildfire hazard
- Water quality risk





# Short-Term Response Actions (STRA) Summary

*Focusing on domestic well, SSWS, and LSS communities:*

1. Defined STRAs to provide emergency and interim drinking water supplies
  - Most need additional resources to be available
2. Identified potential pre-negotiated contracts or mutual aid agreements to help efficiently activate STRAs
3. Developed Drought and Water Shortage Emergency Response Process
  - Establishes water shortage stages tied to water supply conditions
  - Links County Staff and Task Force activities to each stage
  - Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Distribution Plan



# Long-Term Mitigation Strategies and Actions (LTMSA) Summary

## Domestic Well Drinking Water Mitigation Program

- Focus on outreach via County DRP website with resources on:
  - Vendor lists, County contacts, groundwater monitoring, and upgrading well infrastructure

## System Consolidation

- Identified opportunities for consolidation and would support community-initiated consolidation efforts

## Regional Water Infrastructure Investment

- Participate in related planning efforts and stay informed on regional water supply projects

## Addressing Data Gaps

- Improving dry well reporting and SWSS and LSS monitoring



# DRP Implementation and Next Steps



# Annual Implementation Activities

| Activity                                 | Description  | Timing                         |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| GSA Coordination                         | Ongoing coordination with East Contra Costa and East Bay Plain subbasins   | February/ March and As Needed  |
| Water Supply Monitoring and Coordination | Engage with GSAs, public water systems, and DWR to complete water supply condition assessment on domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities.                   | April                          |
| Large Water Purveyor Coordination        | County Staff to meet with EBMUD, CCWD, and ECC on DRP implementation and the water supply condition assessment.  | April                          |
| Internal Coordination                    | Annual meeting to inform the development of the water supply condition assessment. This meeting prepares the presentation for the annual Task Force meeting. | April                          |
| Task Force Meeting                       | County Staff to schedule and facilitate a minimum of one Task Force meeting annually. Present findings of water supply condition assessment.                 | May of each year.              |
| Drought Resilience Plan Website Update   | Update the County DRP website content and resource materials at least annually.  | May of each year and as needed |

East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD)  
 Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)  
 East Contra Costa



# Implementation Roadmap: Oversight, Responsibilities, Priorities and Needs

- Oversight: County DCD will oversee implementation, including Task Force coordination and updating the County DRP
  - County DRP updated at least every 5 years, or after an emergency event
- Responsibility: Each STRA and LTMSA has a County entity responsible for implementation, with support from other organizations
- STRAs and LTMSAs were assigned implementation priorities
- Most STRAs and LTMSAs have additional resource needs
  - Staff Time and budget/funding
  - May need Board of Supervisors support



# Next Steps

## DRP Completion Schedule:

- Stakeholder presentations: Spring 2026
- DRP Finalization: Early-Summer 2026

## Post-DRP Completion:

- Annual Task Force meeting
- DRP updated at least every 5 years



# Additional Questions and Discussion



# Contra Costa County Drought Resilience Plan

FOR DOMESTIC WELL, LOCAL SMALL, AND STATE SMALL WATER SYSTEM COMMUNITIES  
Public Draft - February 2026



Prepared for:  
**Contra Costa County**  
**Department of Conservation and Development**

Prepared by:  
**Stantec Consulting Services Inc.**



**CONTRA COSTA**  
CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT



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**Acknowledgements**

The Contra Costa County Drought Resilience Plan was developed with direct technical assistance from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) through the County Drought Resilience Planning Assistance Program (CDRPAP). The CDRPAP was developed as Senate Bill 552 was an unfunded mandate. Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) was contracted to provide direct technical assistance through CDRPAP.

This plan was developed by Contra Costa County staff in coordination with Stantec. Additional support was provided by the Contra Costa County Drought and Water Shortage Task Force and the California Department of Water Resources Water Justice Office.

**Photo Credit:**

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**Abbreviations and Acronyms**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| °F          | degrees Fahrenheit                                |
| AB          | Assembly Bill                                     |
| AGSP        | Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan       |
| Bay Area    | San Francisco Bay Area                            |
| CCWD        | Contra Costa Water District                       |
| CDAG        | County Drought Advisory Group                     |
| Central San | Central Contra Costa Sanitary District            |
| Charter     | Task Force Charter                                |
| County      | Contra Costa County                               |
| CVP         | Central Valley Project                            |
| CWC         | California Water Code                             |
| CWP         | County Watershed Program                          |
| DCD         | Department of Conservation and Development        |
| Delta       | Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta                      |
| DRP         | Drought Resilience Plan                           |
| DWD         | Diablo Water District                             |
| DWR         | California Department of Water Resources          |
| DWWM        | Domestic Water Well Mitigation                    |
| EBMUD       | East Bay Municipal Utility District               |
| EHD         | Environmental Health Division                     |
| EIDWD       | Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Distribution |
| FEMA        | Federal Emergency Management Agency               |
| GSA         | groundwater sustainability agency                 |
| GSP         | groundwater sustainability plan                   |
| Guidebook   | County Drought Resilience Guidebook               |
| GWMP        | Groundwater Management Plan                       |
| HSC         | California Health and Safety Code                 |
| HUC         | Hydrologic Unit Code                              |
| ISD         | Ironhouse Sanitary District                       |
| LSS         | local small water system                          |
| LTMSA       | long-term mitigation strategies and action        |
| NPDES       | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System   |
| OES         | Office of Emergency Services                      |
| OSWCR       | Online System of Well Completion Reports          |
| PCT         | project coordination team                         |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| PLSS                | Public Land Survey Section                                   |
| risk assessment     | drought and water shortage risk assessment                   |
| SB                  | Senate Bill  |
| SGMA                | Sustainable Groundwater Management Act                       |
| SSWS                | State small water system                                     |
| State               | State of California  |
| State Water Board   | State Water Resources Control Board                          |
| STRA                | short-term response action                                   |
| Task Force          | Contra Costa County Drought and Water Shortage Task Force    |
| WSCP                | Water Shortage Contingency Plan                              |
| WSVE                | Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer                        |
| WY                  | water year   |
| Zone 7 Water Agency | Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District |

## 1.0 Introduction

The Contra Costa County (County) Drought Resilience Plan (DRP) documents how the County, its Drought and Water Shortage Task Force (Task Force) members, and other entities with water supply and drought management responsibilities will address water supply vulnerabilities for three types of systems in the county: domestic wells, as defined in California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 116681(i) and California Water Code (CWC) Section 10609.51(d); state small water systems (SSWS), as defined in HSC Section 116275(n) and CWC Section 10609.51(l); and local small water systems (LSS) (see Section 1.2). The intent is to help small water suppliers and rural communities prepare for and respond to droughts and water shortages, regardless of the source of their water supply. The County DRP was prepared pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 552: Drought Planning for Small Water Suppliers, State Small Water Systems, and Domestic Well Communities (Hertzberg; see Section 1.2 for additional detail). This County DRP was developed by the County, with technical support provided by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Drought Resilience Planning Assistance Program.

### 1.1 Document Organization

Organization of this document draws from the DWR's *County Drought Resilience Guidebook* (March 2023; Guidebook). The Guidebook is a resource for counties to develop a County DRP specifically for domestic wells and SSWSs. Consistent with the Guidebook, the County DRP is organized into six chapters, as follows:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction** provides an overview of the legislation relating to SB 552 and the development of the County DRP. Also included is background on County demographics, geography, and an overview of domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs within the County's jurisdiction.
- **Chapter 2: County Drought and Water Shortage Task Force** provides an overview of the Task Force, including its development, membership, roles, purpose, and meeting frequency.
- **Chapter 3: Drought and Water Shortage Risk Assessment** characterizes the vulnerability of domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs within the County to drought and water shortage. This chapter also presents the approach and data used to assess vulnerability. It highlights areas within the county that have a higher risk of drought and water shortage where domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs are present. Additionally, it identifies data gaps to help inform potential long-term strategies.
- **Chapter 4: Short-Term Response Actions** details the proposed short-term response actions (STRA) for emergency and interim drought solutions, including specific actions, local response triggers, and public engagement.
- **Chapter 5: Long-Term Mitigation Strategies and Actions** details the proposed long-term mitigation strategies and actions (LTMSA) for improving the water supply resilience of domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs.
- **Chapter 6: Implementation Considerations** presents a roadmap for implementing STRA and LTMSA consistent with the mission and authority of involved agencies. This includes identifying agencies and entities responsible for implementation, the status of implementation, funding needs and capacity, authorization for implementation, and the anticipated schedule. This

section also summarizes the level of multi-agency collaboration identified by agencies to support implementation.

- **Chapter 7: References** provides a list of references used in this plan.

## 1.2 Legislative Requirements

Signed into law September 2021 by Governor Gavin Newsom, SB 552 (Hertzberg)<sup>1</sup> obligated the State of California (State) and local governments to share the responsibility in preparing for and responding to conditions where water supply for a domestic well or SSWS is not available, known as a water shortage event. These water shortage events are primarily related to drought but could be also caused by events such as water quality issues, natural hazards, or infrastructure failures. The new law and requirements are expected to improve the ability of Californians to manage future droughts and help prevent catastrophic impacts on drinking water for communities vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The law outlines the new requirements for small water suppliers, county governments, DWR, and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to implement more proactive drought planning to be better prepared for future water shortage events or dry years.

SB 552 also implements legislation on Water Conservation and Drought Planning (SB 606 [Hertzberg] and Assembly Bill (AB) 1668 [Friedman], as amended; collectively referred to as “2018 Legislation”) passed by the State Legislature. The 2018 Legislation contains new laws that provide a framework for urban water use efficiency; directives for eliminating water waste; additional requirements for strengthening local drought resilience for urban areas, vulnerable small water suppliers, and rural communities; and recommendations for improving agricultural water use efficiency and drought planning.

Water users protected under SB 552 include:

- **Small Water Supplier:** A community water system serving 15 to 2,999 service connections, inclusive, and that provides less than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually (CWC Section 10609.51(k)).
- **Community Water System:** A public water system that serves at least 15 service connections used by yearlong residents or regularly serves at least 25 yearlong residents of the area served by the system, as defined in HSC Section 116275(i) and Section 10609.51(a).
- **State Small Water System:** A system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that serves at least 5, but not more than 14, service connections and does not

---

<sup>1</sup> In 2018, DWR convened a County Drought Advisory Group (CDAG) to assist in a vulnerability assessment and to develop recommended actions for improving drought planning for small water suppliers and rural communities. The CDAG consisted of representatives from counties and other local agencies, small water systems, tribes, academics, non-profit organizations, and other interested parties. The CDAG’s recommendations were provided to the Legislature in March 2021 and served as the basis for SB 552. DWR has also established a standing drought and water shortage interagency task force, in coordination with the State Water Board and other relevant state agencies, to facilitate proactive state planning and coordination for pre-drought planning, emergency response, and post-drought management, consistent with SB 552. The interagency task force, called the Drought Resilience Interagency and Partners Collaborative, serves as a public forum with State and non-State agency members to advance drought strategies and continue building resilience to the increasingly arid conditions California faces. More information is available at: <https://water.ca.gov/drip>.

regularly serve drinking water to more than an average of 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days out of the year, as defined in HSC Section 116275(n) and CWC Section 10609.51(l).

- **Domestic Well:** A groundwater well used to supply water for the domestic needs of an individual residence or a water system that is not a public water system and that has no more than four service connections, as defined in HSC Section 116681(i) and CWC Section 10609.51(d).
- **Nontransient Noncommunity Water System:** A public water system that is not a community water system and that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over six months per year, as defined in HSC Section 116275(k) and Section 10609.51(f).

Contra Costa County Ordinance Code §414-- 4.221 defines an LSS as a utility system that furnishes water for domestic purposes to from two through one hundred ninety-nine service connections. Because SSWS is defined to serve at least 5 connections, the County created the LSS classification, which serves drinking water to between 2 and 4 service connections. (Contra Costa Health 2024). These LSS are regulated consistently with SSWS.

For the water users protected under SB 552, the Contra Costa County DRP addresses water shortage vulnerabilities for domestic wells, SSWSs, and LSSs. The remaining systems are not applicable to the County's DRP under SB 552 and not included. See CWC Section 10609.60 and 10609.61 for a description of requirements to address water shortage vulnerabilities in the remaining systems.

### 1.2.1 County Agency Requirements

This plan fulfills County requirements for preparation of a plan that includes potential drought and water shortage risk and proposed interim and long-term solutions for domestic well, LSS, and SSWS systems within the County's jurisdiction (CWC Section 10609.70). While measures to protect small water suppliers and nontransient noncommunity water systems are not within the scope of this document, this plan considers integration opportunities consistent with the intent of SB 552. Applicable County requirements are:

- Establish a standing County Task Force (CWC Section 10609.70(a))
- Develop a plan that considers, at a minimum, each of the following (CWC Section 10609.70(b)):
  - 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) Analysis of necessary steps to implement the plan
  - 5) Analysis of local, state, and federal funding sources available to implement the plan

### 1.2.2 State Agency Involvement and Implementation

SB 552 defined a series of requirements for the State Water Board and DWR. These include:

**State Water Resources Control Board** (CWC Section 10609.70(c)):

*The state board shall work with counties, groundwater sustainability agencies, technical assistance providers, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, and the*

*public to address state small water system and domestic well community drought and emergency water shortage resiliency needs, including both of the following:*

- (1) Proactive communication to domestic well communities before a drought occurs, such as information on local bottled water and water tank providers.*
- (2) Funding for installation of basic drought and emergency water shortage resiliency infrastructure, such as well monitoring devices.*

**California Department of Water Resources (CWC Section 10609.80(a)):**

*The department shall take both of the following actions to support implementation of the recommendations of its County Drought Advisory Group:*

*(1) Maintain, in partnership with the state board and other relevant state agencies, the risk vulnerability tool<sup>2</sup> developed as part of the County Drought Advisory Group process and continue to refine existing data and gather new data for the tool, including, but not limited to, data on all of the following:*

- (A) Small water suppliers and nontransient noncommunity water systems serving a school.*
- (B) State small water systems and rural communities.*
- (C) Domestic wells and other self-supplied residents.*

*(2) Update the risk vulnerability tool for small water suppliers and rural communities periodically, by doing all of the following:*

- (A) Revise the indicators and construction of the scoring as more data becomes readily available.*
- (B) Make existing and new data publicly available on the California Open Data internet web portal.*
- (C) In consultation with other relevant state agencies, identify deficits in data quality and availability and develop recommendations to address these gaps.*

*(b) (1) The department, in collaboration with the state board and relevant state agencies, shall establish a standing interagency drought and water shortage task force to facilitate proactive state planning and coordination, both for predrought planning and post-drought emergency response, to develop strategies to enhance collaboration between various fields, and to consider all types of water users.*

*(2) The interagency drought and water shortage task force shall include representatives from local governments, community-based organizations, nonprofit technical assistance providers, the public, and experts in land use planning, water resiliency, and water infrastructure.*

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<sup>2</sup> [Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool](#)

### 1.3 Purpose of Contra Costa County Drought Resilience Plan

The County DRP documents how the County, Task Force members, and other entities with water supply and drought management responsibilities intend to address water supply vulnerabilities of water users protected under SB 552 in the County. It is also intended to help small water suppliers and rural communities prepare for and respond to droughts and water shortages. This document describes the water shortage vulnerabilities present in the County, the responses to identified vulnerabilities, and the policy, financial, and regulatory considerations necessary for the implementation of the County DRP. Implementation of the County DRP is led by the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development in close coordination with other departments, including the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, Contra Costa County Department of Public Works, Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures, and the Contra Costa County Department of Health's Division of Environmental Health.

The County DRP was developed by the County with technical support provided by DWR's Drought Resilience Planning Assistance Program and conforms to the legislative requirements of SB 552.

### 1.4 Contra Costa County Overview

Contra Costa County is in Northern California and is both one of the nine San Francisco Bay Area (Bay Area) counties and one of the five Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) counties. There are 19 cities in the county and 1.17 million residents (USCB 2020). The Delta, the largest freshwater tidal estuary of its kind on the west coast of the Americas, flows along the County's northern shoreline, approximately 90 miles, to the San Francisco Bay. Counties bordering Contra Costa are, clockwise, Solano, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Alameda, San Francisco, Marin, and Sonoma. Figure 1-1 shows the location of Contra Costa County and its neighboring counties.



**Figure 1-1. Map of Location of Contra Costa County and its Neighboring Counties**

#### 1.4.1 Demographics

Selected demographics of the county are summarized below per the 2020 Census and 2023 American Community Survey (USCB 2020) and the Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024).

- **Population:** The county has a population of 1.17 million people. Approximately 85 percent of this population live within city limits and 15 percent in unincorporated areas (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024).
- **Age:** The county has a median age of 40.9. Around 22 percent of the population are under 18 years old and 18 percent are 65 years and over (USCB 2020).
- **Ethnicity:** Overall, approximately 40 percent of Contra Costa County residents are non-Hispanic White, 9.5 percent are Black or African American, 27 percent are Hispanic or Latino, 20 percent are Asian, and 3.5 percent are Native American, Pacific Islander, or other races. The racial and ethnic makeup of communities also varies across the county, ranging from North Richmond, where 95 percent of residents are people of color, to Diablo, where 5 percent of residents are people of color (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024).
- **Household Income:** The median household income for a family of four in Contra Costa County is almost \$154,000. Median household incomes vary significantly across communities. The median household income for a family of four in North Richmond is under \$60,000, while median incomes for a family of four in Alamo and Diablo are over \$250,000 (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024).
- **Education:** The county has a higher-than-average percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher, with 46.2 percent compared to 37.5 percent for California overall (USCB 2020).
- **Poverty Level:** About 8.3 percent of the population for whom poverty status is determined in the county live below the poverty line, a number lower than the national average of 12.0 percent (USCB 2020). The largest demographic living in poverty are females ages 25 to 34, followed by females ages 35 to 44 and females ages 55 to 64. The most common racial or ethnic group living below the poverty line in the county is Hispanic, followed by White and Other (Data USA 2022). In addition, there are many impacted communities<sup>3</sup> that rely on groundwater as a sole source of supply.

## 1.4.2 Geography

Contra Costa County is located in the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay Area. The County's physical geography is dominated by the bayside alluvial plain, the Oakland Hills–Berkeley Hills, several inland valleys, and Mount Diablo. The Diablo Range, with Mount Diablo as its prominent peak, dominates the central landscape. The county's geography supports a mix of suburban cities, agricultural areas, and natural Federal, State, and regional parks.

### 1.4.2.1 Hydrology

This County DRP applies the U.S. Geological Survey's Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) system. This system was developed to classify and manage watersheds across the United States, with the hierarchy indicated

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<sup>3</sup> Impacted Community are defined as an area, typically low-income, that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. This is the term Contra Costa County uses in place of "disadvantaged communities," as named in Senate Bill (SB) 1000. SB 1000 defines disadvantaged communities per Health and Safety Code Section 39711, specifying CalEnviroScreen as the primary screening method for identifying these communities. In Contra Costa County's General Plan, census tracts with a cumulative CalEnviroScreen score of 72 or higher were identified as Impacted Communities (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024).

by the number of digits in the code. This system organizes watersheds into six levels of classification within six two-digit fields, each representing a different scale of hydrologic units. The fourth level of classification – referred to as HUC 8 – has been applied to this County DRP for planning purposes. There are four HUC-8 hydrologic subregions, as shown in Figure 1-2. Three of these HUC-8 subregions are tributaries to the San Francisco Bay Basin: the Suisun Bay, San Francisco Bay, and the San Pablo Bay. The San Joaquin Delta subregion is a tributary to the San Joaquin Basin (USGS 2024).

All creeks and rivers in the county drain to the San Francisco Bay or the Delta. Contra Costa County includes the headwaters of creeks that drain through other counties before reaching the San Francisco Bay. Marsh Creek, with a length of approximately 35 miles, is the longest creek entirely within the county that drains into the Delta. Walnut Creek is another major river that flows through the central part of the county, eventually draining into Suisun Bay.

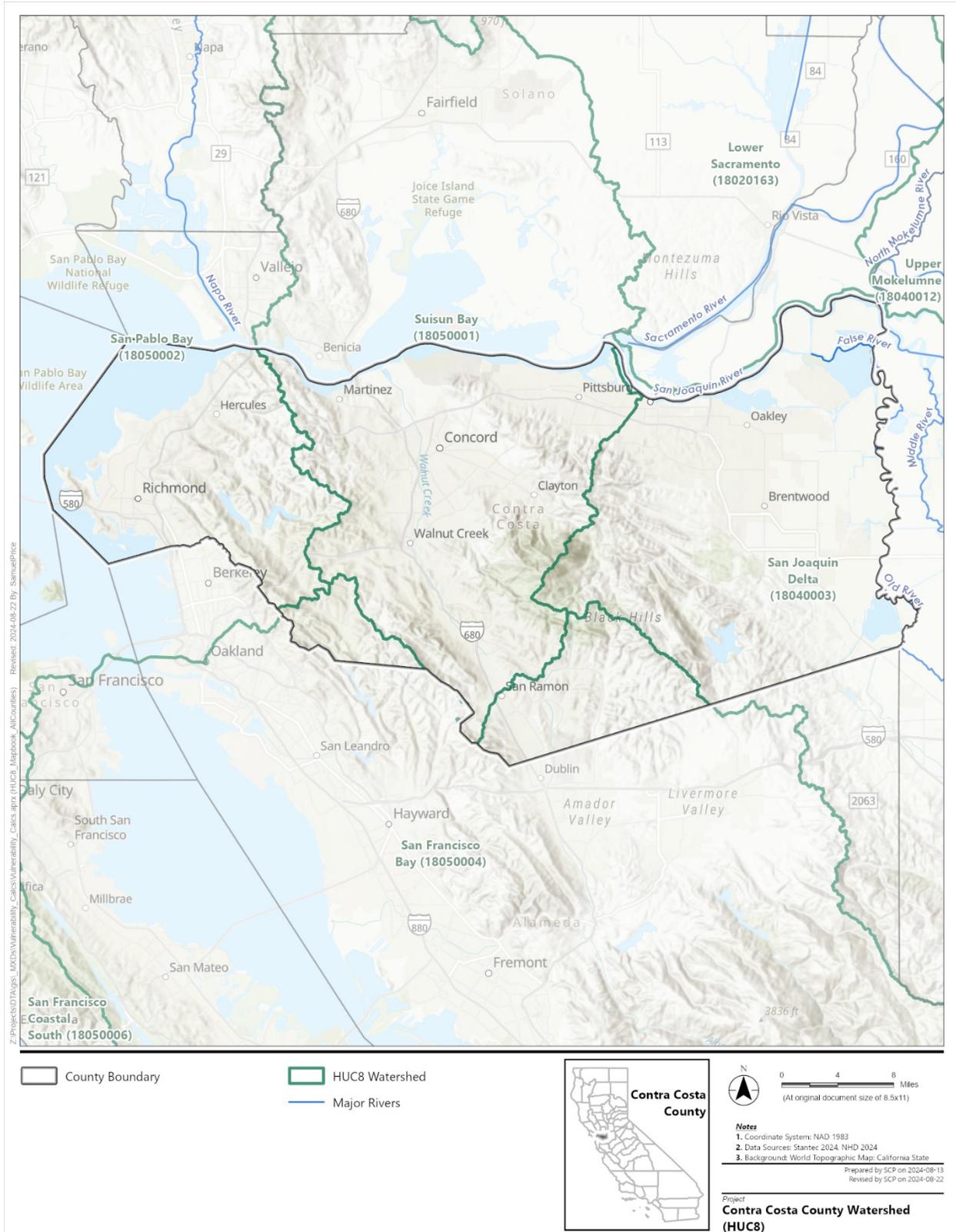


Figure 1-2. Hydrologic Subregions within Contra Costa County

### **1.4.2.2 Precipitation**

Precipitation within the County depends on various factors, including season, location, and topography. Generally, West County receives more precipitation than East County.

Most of the precipitation occurs between December and March, with almost no precipitation occurring during the summer. The monitoring station at Concord Buchanan Field (Station ID: USW00023254) reported an annual average precipitation of approximately 14.9 inches from January 1, 2001, to January 1, 2021 (USFG 2024). However, this precipitation can be highly variable year-to-year and vary spatially. For example, the annual precipitation in Ygnacio Valley Fire Station, on the south side of Concord, was 29.26 inches in water year (WY) 2023, 15.33 inches in WY 2022, 6.03 inches in WY 2021, 9.86 inches in WY 2020, and 21.27 inches in WY 2019 (CDEC 2024).

### **1.4.2.3 Topography**

The County is located at the northern end of the Diablo Range of Central California. It is bounded on the north by Carquinez Strait, through which flows 27 percent of California's surface water runoff (Helley and Graymer 1997). San Francisco Bay forms the western boundary, the San Joaquin Valley borders it on the east, and the Livermore Valley forms the southern boundary. Much of the County is foothills or mountainous with steep rugged topography, with the rest consisting of valleys (such as the San Ramon and Clayton valleys), coastal plains along the edges of San Francisco Bay, and wetlands near the Delta.

Mount Diablo, in the center of the county, is one of the highest peaks in the Bay Area, with an elevation of 3,849 feet (Helley and Graymer 1997). Mount Diablo extends to the Altamont Pass area and the remainder of the Diablo Range in Alameda County. Topography within the County is shown in Figure 1-3.

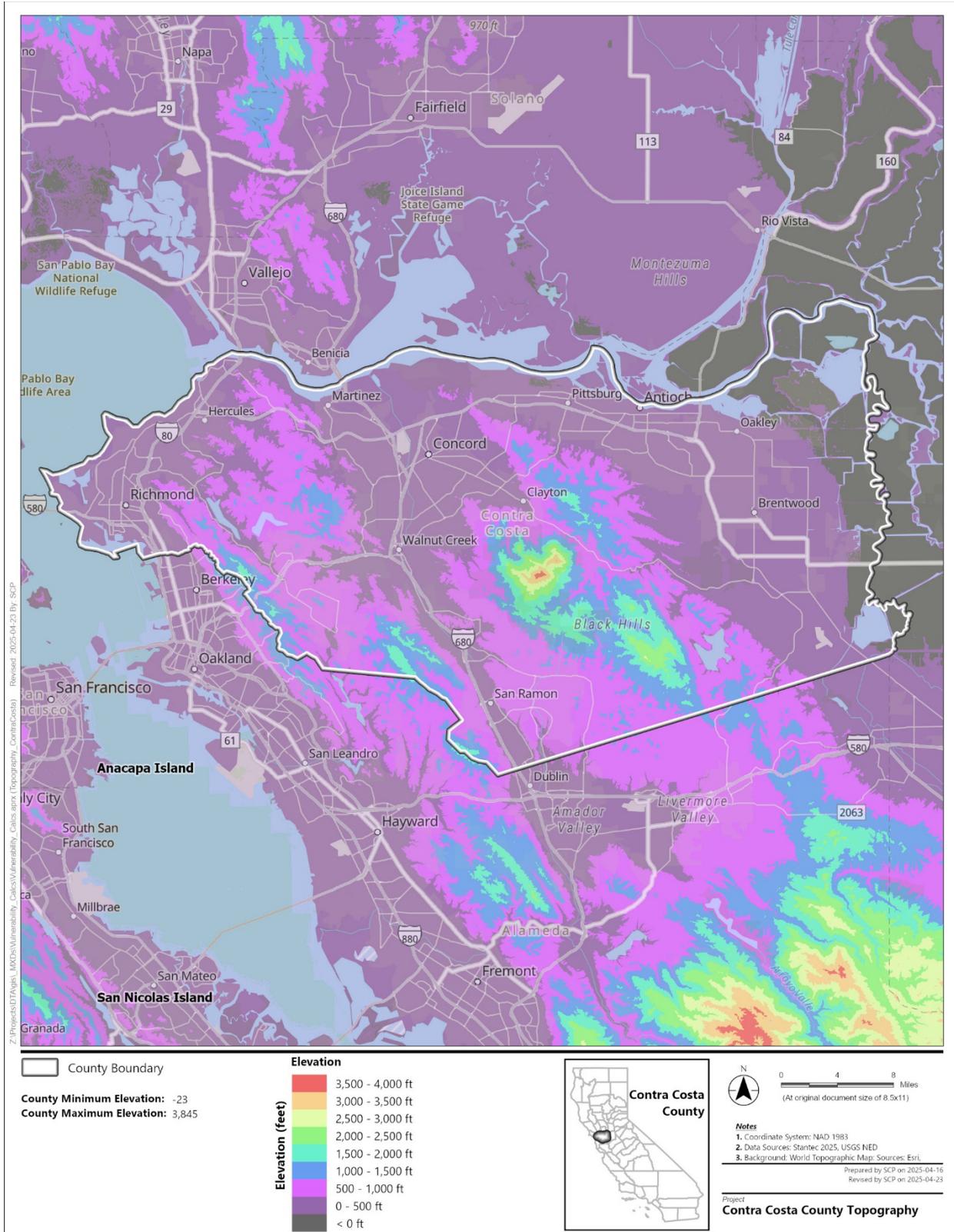
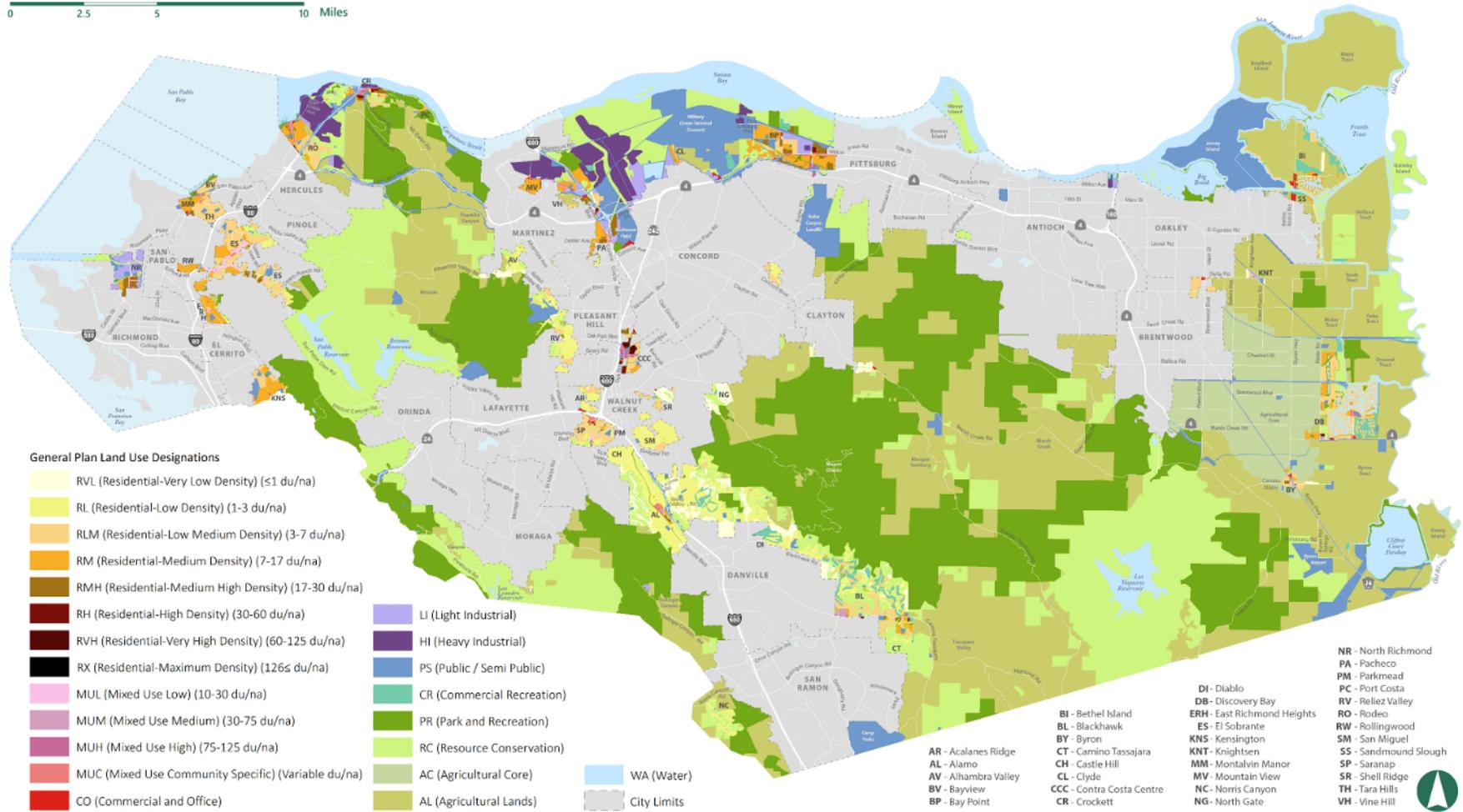


Figure 1-3. Topography of Contra Costa County

**1.4.2.4 Land Use**

Although located in the San Francisco Bay Area – one of America’s most populated metropolitan areas with around 4.6 million people – approximately 60 percent of the County is unincorporated and devoted to agriculture, parks, and other forms of open space. Communities in west and central County include a full range of urban and suburban uses. While agriculture and open space are the dominant land use in the eastern portion of the County, the region includes a handful of distinct, unincorporated residential communities supported by limited commercial, industrial, and public uses. County land use is shown in Figure 1-4, which shows designations for each parcel of land in the unincorporated county for a type of land use. Although a parcel’s designation usually reflects a planned continued land use type, the Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan supports changes to certain land consistent with a vision for the community’s future.



Source: Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan  
**Figure 1-4. Land Use Within Contra Costa County**

#### **1.4.2.5 Geology**

Contra Costa County is in a region of high seismicity. Several significant (i.e., stronger than magnitude 5.0) earthquakes have impacted the county, including the 1906 San Francisco earthquake (magnitude 7.8), 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake (magnitude 6.9), and 2014 South Napa earthquake (magnitude 6.0). There are five major active faults running through the county, including the Calaveras (North Central) Fault, Concord-Green Valley Fault, Greenville Fault, Hayward Fault, and Mount Diablo Fault. Movement on any of these faults or other fault lines in the region could cause earthquakes and fault rupture. The Hayward Fault is particularly concerning, as it runs beneath densely populated sections of Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. A significant earthquake on the Hayward Fault is predicted to result in catastrophic damage to buildings and infrastructure and substantial loss of life. Earthquakes have secondary effects as well, including liquefaction, which occurs when sandy or silty soil materials become saturated during ground shaking, losing strength and causing the ground to liquefy. This can rupture pipelines, buckle roads and railroad tracks, and damage or destroy building foundations. Areas along the Bay shoreline and in the Delta are most susceptible. Earthquakes can also cause tsunamis and seiche.

Other geologic hazards are landslides and erosion, which can occur gradually and continuously or very suddenly, often with disastrous results. In Contra Costa County, landslides are usually triggered by heavy rain, so the potential for landslides largely coincides with severe storms that saturate steep, loose soils. Earthquakes can also trigger landslides, with upland areas in Contra Costa County being highly susceptible (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024).

#### **1.4.3 Water Supply, Use, and Management**

County water supplies for domestic, commercial, municipal, industrial, agricultural, and environmental uses are described below.

##### **1.4.3.1 Water Supplies**

The County has a diverse set of water supplies, including surface water and groundwater wells, and implements water conservation measures to ensure the community has adequate water, even after a period of dry years (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024).

There are nine water providers in the county: the Byron Bethany Irrigation District, Castle Rock County Water District, Contra Costa County Service Area M-28, Contra Costa Water District (CCWD), Diablo Water District (DWD), Discovery Bay Community Services District, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), East Contra Costa Irrigation District, and the Golden State Water Company (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024).

EBMUD and CCWD are the County's primary water suppliers. As the County's population continues to grow, so will the demand for water. EBMUD and CCWD both consider their water supplies adequate to meet projected water needs through the year 2045 (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024). Other water providers purchase water from CCWD, source water from the Delta or other surface supplies using their own water rights, or pump groundwater (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024). Table 1-1 provides water supplier details at a glance for each of the County's water providers.

**Table 1-1. Overview of Water Providers in Contra Costa County**

| Water Provider   | Approximate Service Population | Retail/ Wholesale    | Types of Uses/ Customer Types                                  | Approximate Acreage (acres) | Supply Sources                               |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Byron-Bethany Irrigation District (BBID) <sup>1</sup>                | 16,000                         | Retail               | Agricultural, Industrial, Municipal                            | 10,000                      | Central Valley Project (CVP), Old River      |
| Castle Rock County Water District <sup>2</sup>                       | 54 customers                   | Retail               | Commercial, Landscape irrigation                               | 150                         | CCWD Sourced                                 |
| Contra Costa County Service Area M-28 (County CSA M-28) <sup>3</sup> | 275                            | Retail               | Residential  | 23                          | Groundwater                                  |
| Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) <sup>4</sup>                      | 500,000                        | Retail and Wholesale | Agricultural, Industrial, Landscape irrigation, Urban          | 140,000                     | Central Valley Project (CVP), Recycled Water |
| Diablo Water District (DWD) <sup>5</sup>                             | 45,000                         | Retail               | Commercial, Industrial, Landscape irrigation, Residential      | 13,250                      | CCWD Sourced Groundwater                     |
| Discovery Bay Community Services District <sup>6</sup>               | 17,000                         | Retail               | Commercial, Industrial, Landscape irrigation, Residential      | 4,000                       | Groundwater                                  |
| East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) <sup>7</sup>             | 1,400,000                      | Retail               | Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Irrigation, Residential | 212,480                     | Mokelumne River Watershed, Recycled Water    |
| East Contra Costa Irrigation District (ECCID) <sup>8</sup>           | 75,500                         | Retail               | Agricultural, Landscape Irrigation, Recreational               | 25,600                      | Old River                                    |
| Golden State Water Company <sup>9</sup>                              | 4,900                          | Retail               | Commercial, Residential  | 2,100                       | Groundwater and CCWD Sourced                 |

Sources:

<sup>1</sup> BBID 2025<sup>3</sup> Contra Costa LAFCO 2014<sup>5</sup> Contra Costa LAFCO 2007, DWD 2021a<sup>7</sup> EBMUD 2024a<sup>9</sup> Golden State Water Company 2021, Golden State Water Company 2024<sup>2</sup> Castle Rock County Water District 2024, Contra Costa LAFCO 2019<sup>4</sup> CCWD 2020a<sup>6</sup> Contra Costa LAFCO 2006, DWR 2024a, Town of Discovery Bay 2024<sup>8</sup> Contra Costa LAFCO 2007

### **1.4.3.2 Water Uses**

County water uses for municipal, agricultural, and industrial purposes are outlined below.

#### **Municipal**

Municipal purposes are the largest water use within the CCWD and EBMUD service areas, accounting for approximately 35 percent to 40 percent of the County's water demand, with domestic needs and landscaping being major users (EBMUD 2020a; CCWD 2020a). Approximately 72% of EBMUD's water demand are for municipal and irrigation purposes.

#### **Agriculture**

Agricultural areas use approximately 45 percent to 50 percent of the water in the County, consuming 120,000 feet annually (DWR 2021). An acre foot of water is a unit of volume equal to the volume of a sheet of water one acre in area and one foot in depth. Irrigated crops like corn, tomatoes, cherries, grapes, and alfalfa are crucial to the local economy (Contra Costa County 2022).

#### **Industrial**

Large industrial water use represents approximately 33 percent of total water use within CCWD (CCWD 2020a). EBMUD reports approximately 20 percent of water use within its service boundary is for commercial and industrial purposes (EBMUD 2020a). On average, industrial water use consumes 15 percent to 20 percent of water in the County.

### **1.4.3.3 Water Management Actions**

This section describes existing water management actions in the County. These actions aim to promote water conservation, protect water resources, improve water quality, and address challenges, such as drought.

#### **Clean Water Program**

The Contra Costa Clean Water Program aims to protect the creeks and rivers of County watersheds and San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta waters by promoting public awareness of stormwater pollution prevention and supporting innovative approaches to meet State and Federal stormwater regulations (CCCWP 2024).

#### **Watershed Program**

The County Watershed Program (CWP) administers the Municipal Regional Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for unincorporated county. CWP works with many County departments to meet the requirements. The NPDES program is mandated by the Federal *Clean Water Act* and administered in California by the State Water Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards on behalf of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (CWP 2024).

#### **Water Conservation Programs**

CCWD has implemented a comprehensive water conservation program for more than 30 years, with programs offered to customers in both CCWD's retail and wholesale service areas. CCWD's water conservation program fulfills CCWD's mission by reducing long-term water demand in an environmentally responsible and cost-effective manner. The program has evolved over time to sunset programs that are no longer necessary, and to add new programs as opportunities arise. The water use efficiency program has evolved to include lawn-to-garden rebates, smart irrigation timer rebates, commercial irrigation equipment rebates, landscape and irrigation webinars and education, garden

tours, and other features. The water use efficiency program is an integral part of CCWD’s long-term water supply, with goals that include meeting California water efficiency and Central Valley Project (CVP) Water Supply Contract requirements, providing valuable customer service, and reducing customer demands to delay the need for new sources of water supply (CCWD 2020a).

EBMUD is implementing a variety of strategies to help achieve sustained water savings across customer categories and throughout its service area. Some of these strategies utilize technology to help customers make informed decisions about water use, while others provide education and outreach, targeted to specific groups, to help effectuate behavior changes. EBMUD uses rebates and incentives to encourage customers to make water-saving changes to their properties. EBMUD also leads and participates in research studies to help develop and understand new water efficiency technologies. Lastly, EBMUD invests in supply-side water loss control measures to help conserve water and reduce losses in the distribution system (EBMUD 2020a).

The County’s 2045 General Plan supports countywide resource conservation and sustainability practices through policies:

*Policies:*

- *COS<sup>4</sup>-P2.10: Coordinate with Byron-Bethany Irrigation District and East Contra Costa Irrigation District to facilitate water conservation, efficient use of agricultural irrigation water, and implementation of emerging water reuse technologies and practices.*
- *COS-P7.1 Partner with water and wastewater service providers, GSAs, irrigation districts, and private well owners to increase participation in water conservation programs countywide.*

### **Groundwater Management**

The County fully or partially overlies eight alluvial groundwater basins. Early management of some of these basins was conducted via AB 3030, legislation passed in 1992 as the Groundwater Management Act (Water Code §10750 et seq. Part 2.75). A region that developed a Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) pursuant to AB 3030 was Diablo Water District Groundwater Management Plan (LSCE 2007). These GWMPs were superseded via passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2015, see sections 1.4.4 and 1.4.5 for more details on the groundwater management actions implemented within the County.

### **Recycled Water Initiatives**

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Central San) has been producing recycled water since the 1970s. Central San continues to collaborate with local water purveyors to identify cost-effective landscape irrigation and industrial recycled water projects. Recycling water results in less water diverted from the Delta. Recycled water is a valuable source, especially during drought years when water for landscape irrigation is less available because of water rationing (Central San 2024).

Launched in 2000, the Delta Diablo Recycled Water Program provides recycled water services for industrial and landscape customers within the DWD’s service area. The program focuses on water

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<sup>4</sup> Conservation, Open Space, and Working Lands Element

resources management and provides reliable, long-term, sustainable, and drought-tolerant supplies that protect the Delta System (Delta Diablo 2025).

Ironhouse Sanitary District (ISD) provides Oakley and Bethel Island residents free access to recycled water for irrigation of plants, trees and gardens since 2015. The district's Recycled Water Fill Station is located near ISD's Oakley headquarters and is intended to save potable water and help residents save money while keeping lawns, trees and plants greens (ISD 2025).

### **Water Shortage Contingency Plans**

CCWD's Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) is developed as a component of UWMP updates. The WSCP outlines actions CCWD would take for managing water during water supply shortage conditions. These actions were developed based on CCWD's previous experience with short-term demand management, including the recent droughts, and in consideration of long-term conservation goals. The WSCP includes six stages of water shortage levels linked to the availability of CCWD supplies. The total water shortage level for each stage ranges from less than 10 percent at Stage 1 to greater than 50 percent at Stage 6 (CCWD 2020a).

EBMUD has developed a WSCP that provides a framework to help address water shortages that may occur. EBMUD's WSCP considers a range of possible future scenarios that examine both supply and demand of water resources. Considering scenarios in long-term planning helps ensure a robust water supply portfolio, combined with a comprehensive Drought Management Program, enabling EBMUD to provide reliable water service in all year types.

### **Drought Management Activities**

The Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan includes county drought policies and actions (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024):

#### *Policy:*

- *PFS<sup>5</sup>-P4.4: Partner with water service providers to ensure continuity of service and provide financial relief to Impacted Communities if prices rise during drought conditions.*

#### *Actions:*

- *PFS-A4.1 Establish a standing drought and water shortage task force to facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for State small water systems and domestic wells within the County's jurisdiction.*
- *PFS-A4.2 Develop a plan to address potential drought and water shortage risk, including interim and long-term solutions for State small water systems and domestic wells.*

### **Delta Water Platform**

The Delta provides a portion of the water supply for 30 million people and over 6 million acres of agriculture. However, the Delta's health has declined in recent decades due to wetland loss, diversions of water for export to other regions, increased salinity from diversions and drought, pollution from

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<sup>5</sup> Public Facilities and Services Element

urban run-off and agricultural pesticide use, and invasive species, which threaten health, safety, and welfare. Without continued improvements to the ecosystem through conservation and restoration efforts and sustainable land use practices, the Delta is at risk of further decline. Understanding this need, the County adopted its Delta Water Platform in 2014 to guide decisions, actions, and advocacy in a way that supports the Delta’s health and sustainability (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024).

### Water Supply Planning Documents

Various water providers in Contra Costa County have developed comprehensive long-term water supply and drought management plans to ensure water reliability and sustainability. Table 1-2 provides an overview of the developed documents for each agency.

**Table 1-2. Long-term Water Supply or Drought Management Planning Documents for Each Water Providers in Contra Costa County**

| Water Provider   | Long-term Water Supply or Drought Management Planning Document   |
|--|--|
| Byron-Bethany Irrigation District (BBID)                       | 2020 Agricultural Water Management Plan <sup>1</sup> (BBID 2020)   |
| Castle Rock County Water District                              | none   |
| Contra Costa County County Service Area M-28 (County CSA M-28) | none   |
| Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)                             | Water Management Plan (CCWD 2017)<br>Urban Water Management Plan (CCWD 2020a)<br>Treated Water Master Plan (CCWD 2015)<br>2025 Future Water Supply Study (CCWD 2025)<br>East Contra Costa County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan <sup>2</sup> (ECCWMA 2019)  |
| Diablo Water District (DWD)                                    | Water Shortage Contingency Plan (DWD 2021b)<br>East Contra Costa County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan <sup>2</sup> (ECCWMA 2019) East Contra Costa Subbasin GSP (East Contra Costa GSP 2021)<br>2025 Future Water Supply Study (CCWD 2025)<br>Recycled Water Feasibility Study (DWD & ISD 2021)<br>Urban Water Management Plan (DWD 2021a) |
| Discovery Bay Community Services District                      | Urban Water Management Plan (Town of Discovery Bay 2020)<br>Water Master Plan (Town of Discovery Bay 2012)   |
| East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)                    | Urban Water Management Plan (EBMUD 2020a)<br>Water Shortage Contingency Plan (EBMUD 2020b)<br>Water Supply Management Program (WSMP) 2040 Plan (EBMUD 2012)<br>Recycled Water Strategic Plan Update (EBMUD 2024b)<br>Mokelumne/Amador/Calaveras Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update 2018 (EBMUD 2013)                                     |
| East Contra Costa Irrigation District (ECCID)                  | East Contra Costa County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan <sup>2</sup> (ECCWMA 2019)  |

| Water Provider             | Long-term Water Supply or Drought Management Planning Document |
|----------------------------|--|
| Golden State Water Company | Urban Water Management Plan (Golden State Water Company 2021)  |

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plans are due April 2026

<sup>2</sup> A collaborative effort of eight Bay Area water agencies centered on improving water supply reliability.

#### 1.4.4 Groundwater Detail

The county contains eight Bulletin 118 Subbasins (also referred to as groundwater basins). This includes the full coverage of Pittsburg Plain (DWR Basin Number 2-004), Clayton Valley (DWR Basin Number 2-005), Ygnacio Valley (DWR Basin Number 2-006), San Ramon Valley (DWR Basin Number 2-007), Arroyo Del Hambre Valley (DWR Basin Number 2-031), and East Contra Costa (part of the San Joaquin Valley, DWR Basin Number 5-022.19), and the partial coverage of the East Bay Plain (part of the Santa Clara Valley, DWR Basin Number 2-009.04) and Livermore Valley (DWR Basin Number 2-010). These basins were prioritized via DWR’s Basin Prioritization process, a technical evaluation that applies eight components as identified in CWC Section 10933(b) for California’s 515 groundwater basins. These classifications determine which provisions of the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring and SGMA. The East Contra Costa, East Bay Plain, and Livermore Valley were classified as medium-priority subbasins, and the Pittsburg Plain, Clayton Valley, Ygnacio Valley, San Ramon Valley, and Arroyo Del Hambre Valley were classified as very-low-priority subbasins. The remainder of the county lies in a fractured rock area (DWR 2024a).

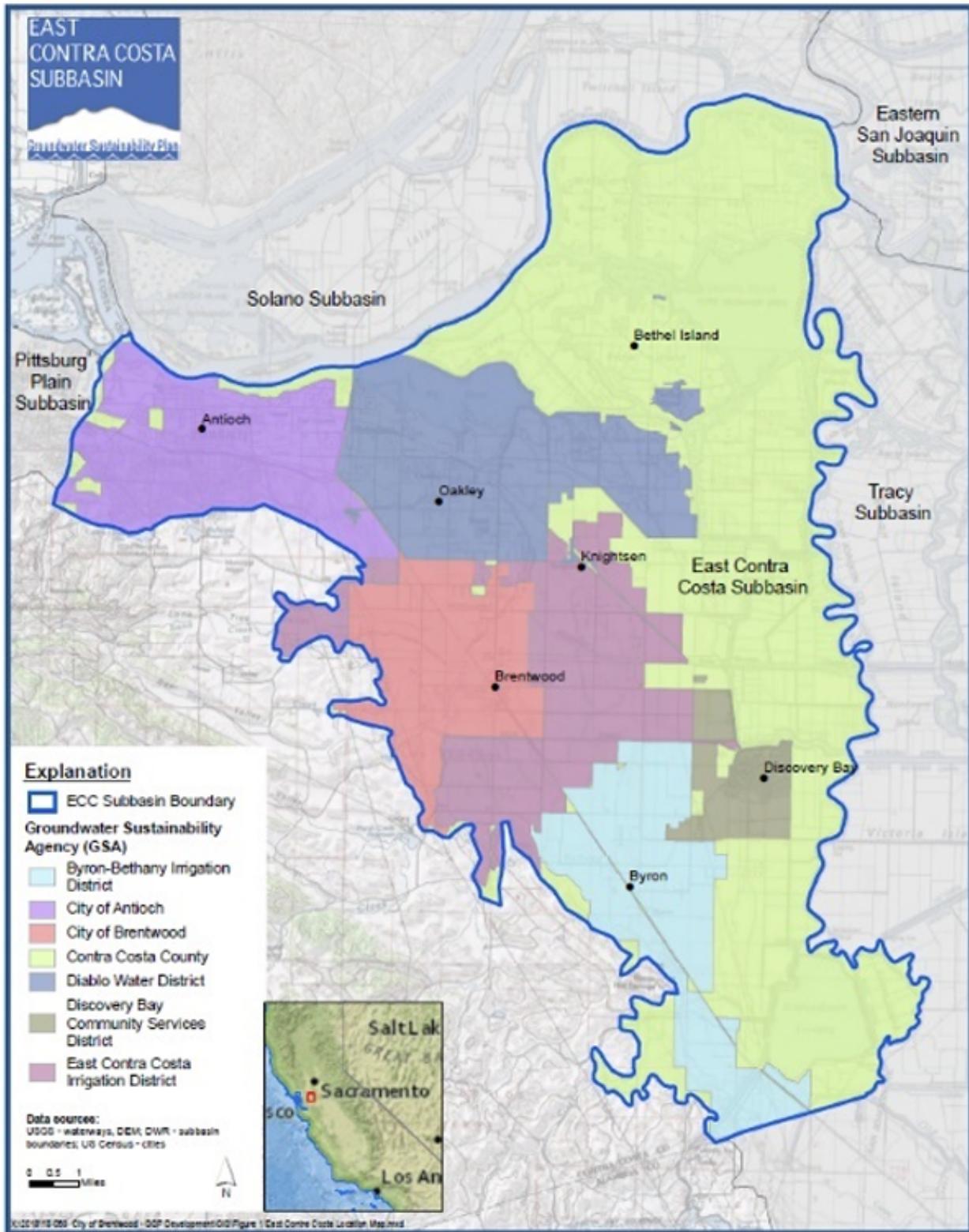
Passed in 2014, SGMA represents a statewide framework to protect groundwater resources over the long term. SGMA led local public agencies<sup>6</sup> to form groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) in high- and medium-priority basins and develop groundwater sustainability plans (GSP) to avoid undesirable results and mitigate overdraft within 20 years. Within the County, the East Contra Costa, East Bay Plain, and Livermore Valley were subject to SGMA. EBMUD and the City of Hayward manage the East Bay Plain Subbasin (East Bay Plain Basin) and prepared its GSP (East Bay Plain GSP), which was adopted in 2022 (East Bay Plain GSP 2022). Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Zone 7 Water Agency) serves as the GSA for the entire Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin (Livermore Valley Basin). Zone 7 Water Agency has been managing groundwater since the early 1960s and had an existing plan in place in advance of state requirements, and also submitted an alternative groundwater sustainability plan (AGSP). The AGSP was initially approved in 2019 (Zone 7 Water Agency 2024).

Seven GSAs and CCWD were involved with the development and implementation of the East Contra Costa Subbasin (East Contra Costa Basin) GSP. The East Contra Costa Basin boundary and GSA areas are shown in Figure 1-5. The East Contra Costa Basin shows no signs of overdraft and was assigned a medium-priority ranking. Although the East Contra Costa Basin has not been overdrafted, its ranking was based on the importance groundwater serves as a source of supply for varied uses, including domestic, agricultural, and environmental. Domestic users include individual residences, small water systems, and municipalities.

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<sup>6</sup> CWC Section 10721(n)

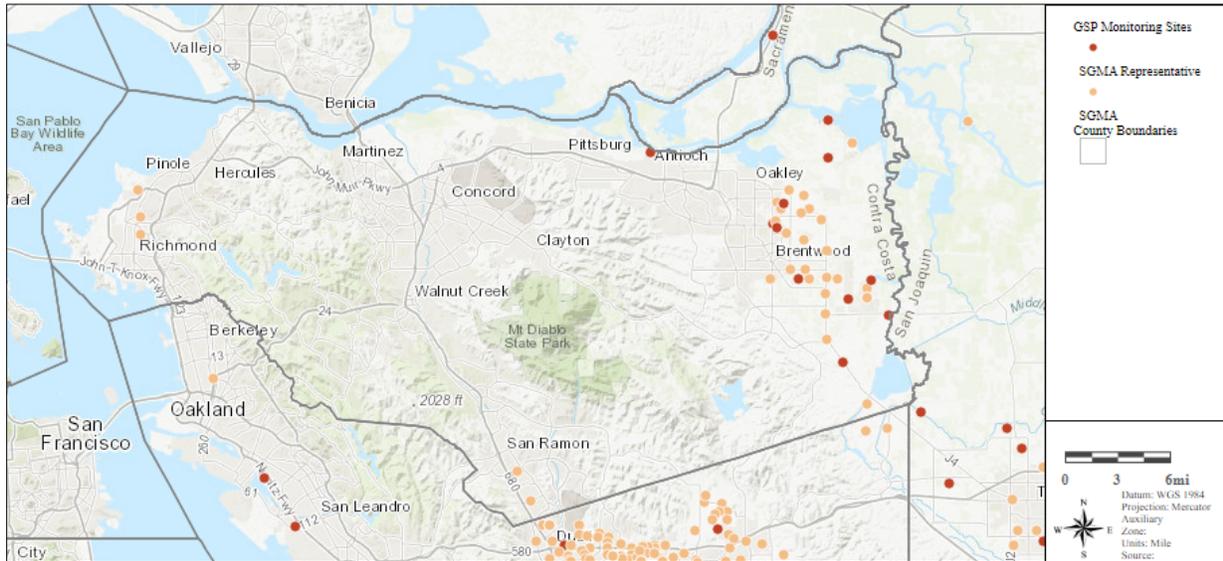
Groundwater conditions in the East Contra Costa Basin are favorable and reflect stability over the past 30 years or more. Using various analogies, the East Contra Costa Basin can be described as generally full through various water-year types, including drought. The favorable conditions are in part due to surface water availability, which represents the largest source of supply for municipal and agricultural uses in the East Contra Costa Basin. Using the best available data and a robust water budget model, the East Contra Costa Basin is projected to be sustainable under various future scenarios, including those incorporating climate change and sea level rise (East Contra Costa GSP 2021).



Source: East Contra Costa GSP 2021

**Figure 1-5. East Contra Costa Subbasin (East Contra Costa Basin) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies**

There are approximately 50 GSP monitoring wells within the county, with nearly all in the East Contra Costa Basin, as shown in Figure 1-6.



Source: [SGMA Data Viewer](#). Accessed October 2024.

**Figure 1-6. Groundwater Sustainability Agency Monitoring Wells in Contra Costa County**

### 1.4.5 Water Systems within Contra Costa County’s Jurisdiction

CWC Section 10609.70 requires the County DRP to include domestic wells and SSWs. The County has also included LSS within the County DRP. Table 1-3 summarizes how many domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWs are in the Bulletin 118 basins<sup>7</sup> and fractured rock areas. Figure 1-7 shows the location of domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWs within the County. In addition, the table and figure show domestic wells outside the County boundary but still within groundwater basins that are partially within the County.

<sup>7</sup> <https://water.ca.gov/programs/groundwater-management/bulletin-118>

**Table 1-3. Summary of Groundwater Basins, Domestic Wells, and State Small Water Systems in Contra Costa County**

| Bulletin 118 Basin ID | Groundwater Basin Name                 | Coverage | Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)                       | Participating Agencies  | SGMA Priority | Domestic Wells Drilled After 1977 <sup>1</sup> | Domestic Wells Drilled Before 1977 <sup>1</sup> | Domestic Wells in Basin but Outside County | State Small Water Systems | Local Small Water Systems |
|-----------------------|--|----------|---|---|---------------|--|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2-004                 | Pittsburg Plain                        | Full     | none  | none  | Very Low      | 15   | 2   | 0  | 0                         | 1                         |
| 2-005                 | Clayton Valley                         | Full     | none  | none  | Very Low      | 28   | 6   | 0  | 0                         | 0                         |
| 2-006                 | Ygnacio Valley                         | Full     | none  | none  | Very Low      | 37   | 10  | 0  | 2                         | 1                         |
| 2-007                 | San Ramon Valley                       | Full     | none  | none  | Very Low      | 21   | 4   | 0  | 0                         | 0                         |
| 2-009.04              | Santa Clara Valley - East Bay Plain    | Partial  | East Bay Plain GSP (East Bay Plain GSP 2022)                | East Bay Municipal Utility District<br>City of Hayward  | Medium        | 4  | 3   | 97   | 0                         | 0                         |
| 2-010                 | Livermore Valley                       | Partial  | Livermore Valley Alternative GSP (Zone 7 Water Agency 2024) | Zone 7 Water Agency   | Medium        | 1  | 3   | 560  | 0                         | 0                         |
| 2-031                 | Arroyo Del Hambre Valley               | Full     | none  | none  | Very Low      | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0                         | 0                         |
| 5-022.19              | San Joaquin Valley - East Contra Costa | Full     | East Contra Costa Subbasin GSP (East Contra Costa GSP 2021) | Byron-Bethany Irrigation District<br>City of Antioch<br>City of Brentwood<br>Contra Costa County<br>Diablo Water District<br>Discovery Bay Community Services District<br>East Contra Costa Irrigation District | Medium        | 1,518  | 41  | 0  | 10                        | 15                        |

| Bulletin 118 Basin ID | Groundwater Basin Name       | Coverage | Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) | Participating Agencies | SGMA Priority | Domestic Wells Drilled After 1977 <sup>1</sup> | Domestic Wells Drilled Before 1977 <sup>1</sup> | Domestic Wells in Basin but Outside County | State Small Water Systems | Local Small Water Systems |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|--|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| N/A                   | Fractured Rock Aquifer Wells | N/A      | N/A                                   | N/A                    | N/A           | 1,018  | 25  | N/A  | 4                         | 3                         |
| Total                 |                              |          |                                       |                        |               | 2,642  | 94  | 657  | 16                        | 20                        |

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Information presented in this table and Figure 1-7 are based on well completion reports. Geographic information on well completion reports may be inaccurate and/or place the well not at the actual well location. As a result, the number of domestic wells may be overestimated, and the placement of wells may not reflect actual locations.

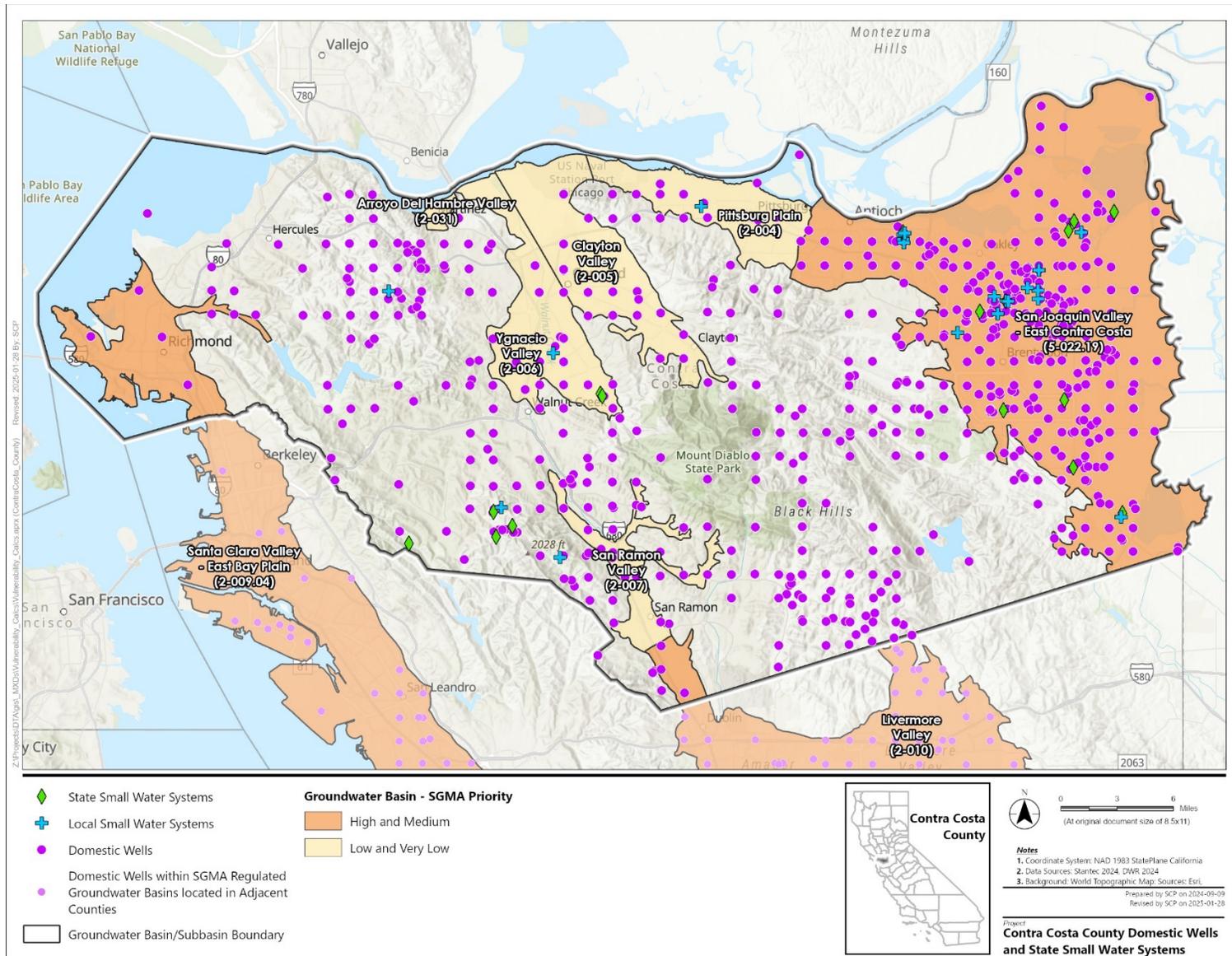


Figure 1-7. Locations of Domestic Wells, Local Small Water Systems, and State Small Water Systems in Contra Costa County

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## 2.0 County Drought and Water Shortage Task Force Charter

The County has developed the Task Force Charter (Charter) to establish and maintain a Task Force in accordance with SB 552 and the best practices outlined in the Guidebook.<sup>8</sup>

### 2.1 Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the Charter is to:

- Facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness and collaborate in development of County DRP.
- Provide level of function and participation included in SB 552 and demonstrate its continuation in perpetuity.
- Have regularly scheduled meetings during non-emergency periods, and more frequent meetings during drought and water shortage emergencies.

The Task Force seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Share findings and recommendations with communities and provide briefings to the County Board of Supervisors.
- Identify data gaps and necessary actions for improved drought and water shortage planning.
- Facilitating proactive planning and coordination to reduce risk of water shortage (GSP implementation, SB 552 compliance, human right to water, etc.)
- Share and pursue funding opportunities for improving water resiliency.
- Encourage and implement long-term planning that anticipates budget and policy needs.

### 2.2 Legislative Direction

In September 2021, SB 552 (Hertzberg) was enacted to address, among other things, water shortage risks faced by small water suppliers and domestic well users during drought and water shortage events. Under SB 552, counties are required to prepare a County DRP to achieve meaningful and long-term improvements in water resilience for domestic well and SSWS communities.

Passage of SB 552 mandates establishment of a standing Task Force to cultivate the continued practices of drought planning and improve long-term water resilience. Composition of the Task Force is guided by CWC Section 10609.70 (a)(1) and (2):

*(a)(1) A county shall establish a standing county drought and water shortage task force to facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county's jurisdiction, and shall invite representatives from the state and other local governments, including groundwater sustainability agencies, and community-based organizations, local water suppliers, and local residents, to participate in the task force.*

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<sup>8</sup> [County Drought Resilience EPlan Guidebook](#)

*(2) In lieu of the task force required by paragraph (1), a county may establish an alternative process that facilitates drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county's jurisdiction. The alternative process shall provide 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 and during drought or water shortage emergencies.*

The Task Force has been established pursuant to CWC Section 10609.70(a)(2). The composition, roles, and responsibilities defined in the Charter are intended to fulfill the County's obligations under SB 552.

## **2.3 Organizational Structure**

The Task Force is an agency-based body focused on water shortage vulnerabilities and water supply reliability of domestic well, LSS and SSWS communities. Figure 2-1 illustrates the decision-making framework of the Task Force in relation to the County Board of Supervisors and County staff.

### **2.3.1 County Board of Supervisors**

County Department of Conservation and Development (DCD), on behalf of the Task Force, will report to the County Board of Supervisors Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee, which will provide recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors regarding County DRP implementation actions and funding decisions that require Board approval.

### **2.3.2 Project Coordination Team**

The project coordination team (PCT) is comprised of County offices and departments responsible for preparing, revising, and implementing the County DRP. The PCT is led by the County DCD. Additional participating County departments include the County Environmental Health Division (EHD) and the Office of Emergency Services (OES).

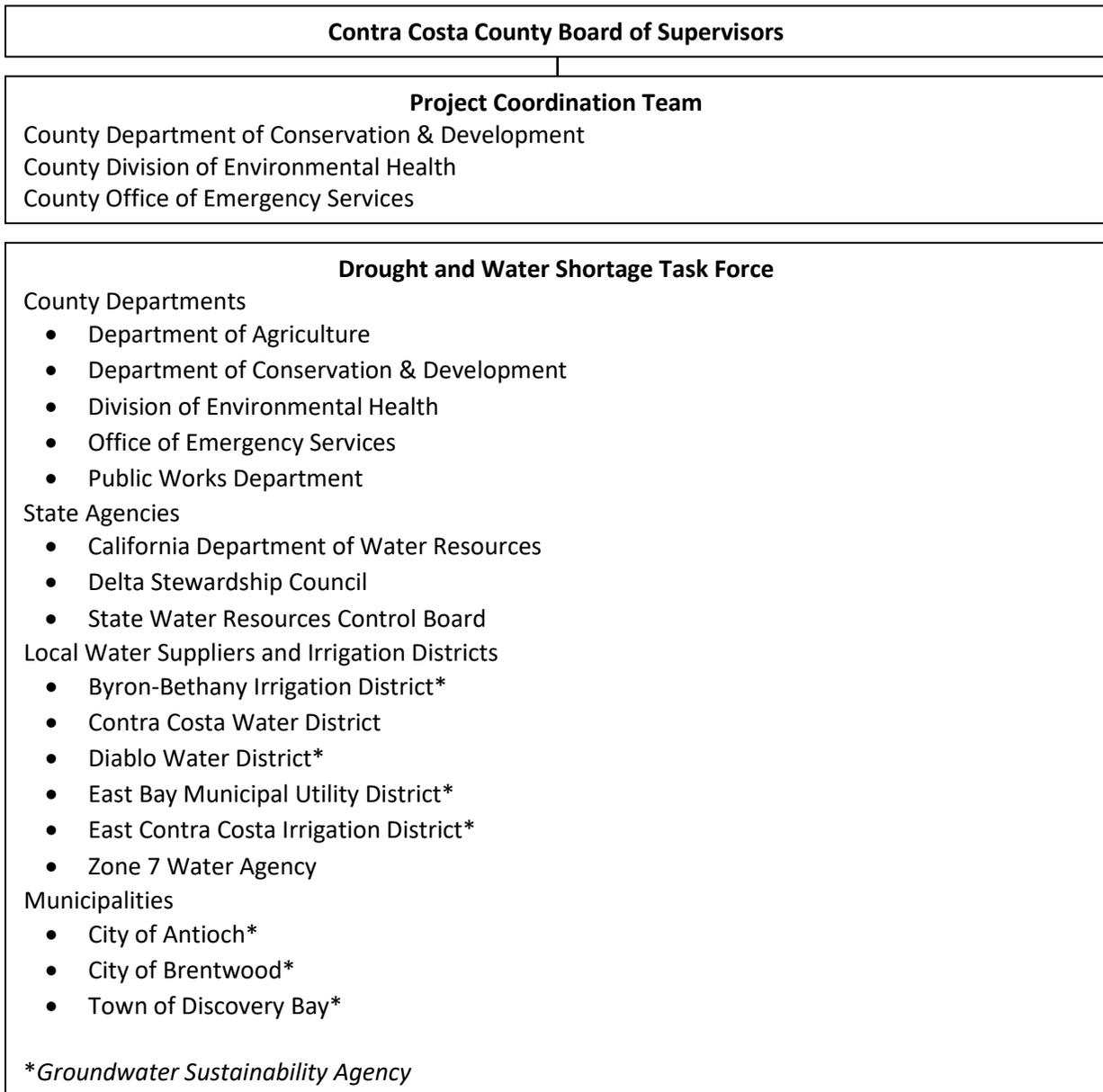
Unless otherwise agreed upon, County DCD leads engagement efforts with the Board of Supervisors. The PCT may be supported by additional entities as needed.

Responsibilities of the PCT include:

- Leading and managing preparation and revision of the County DRP.
- Convening, collaborating, and responding to informational needs of the Task Force in relation to the preparation, revision, adoption, and implementation of the County DRP.
- Supporting the Task Force in the conduct of annual and emergency meetings.
- Coordinating revision and adoption of the County DRP by the Board of Supervisors consistent with County policies and regulations.
- Leading and coordinating implementation of the County DRP by the County and other partner agencies.
- In collaboration with the Task Force, leading communication and engagement activities with domestic well, LSS, and SSWS users and owners.
- Evaluating and accepting non-County parties as PCT members where such parties serve as implementation partners of the County DRP.

**2.3.3 Drought and Water Shortage Task Force**

The Task Force, shown in Figure 2-1, is a standing body established pursuant to CWC Section 10609.70(a)(2) and formed administratively by the PCT. The Task Force is an advisory and consultative entity to the Board of Supervisors and the PCT. Invited member agency’s participation in the Task Force is not mandatory.



**Figure 2-1. Structure of Parties Involved in Contra Costa County Drought and Water Shortage Task Force**

**2.4 Communication and Engagement**

To facilitate communication and collaboration both on a regular basis and during droughts or water shortage emergencies, County DCD, with the support of County OES and County EHD, will implement a series of communication and engagement activities. These activities provide opportunities for broad

community awareness among County DRP interested parties and serve to support the County in fulfilling the requirements of CWC Section 10609.70(a)(2). The communities and engagement activities to be completed by County staff are:

- Website: The County DCD has established a page/section to support distribution and dissemination of information associated with the County DRP. The page includes general information that includes:
  - Background on SB 552 and related links such as:
    - DWR Direct Technical Assistance Program
    - DWR Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer Tool
  - Meeting materials and summaries, information materials, and draft documents.
  - Contact information of the County’s project manager (email)
- Notifications: County DRP updates will be posted on the County DCD webpage and through Supervisor newsletters, County social media, press releases (topic-dependent), and mailers as coordinated by the County Communications Officer.
- Communications and Engagement Activities List: The Task Force will provide periodic updates to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and its Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee to provide milestone updates and an opportunity for public engagement.

### 3.0 Drought and Water Shortage Risk Assessment

A drought and water shortage risk assessment (risk assessment) was prepared in development of the County DRP as directed in CWC Section 10609.70(b). This risk assessment evaluated how potential physical hazards intersect with the County’s domestic well, LSS, and SSWS assets and other community assets, such as private surface water intakes for domestic use. This intersection was used to characterize the vulnerability of domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs to water supply shortage. The outcomes from the risk assessment helped inform response plans with STRA to employ when a water supply shortage occurs and LTMSA that reduce the vulnerability to water shortages. This chapter presents the risk assessment results for Contra Costa County.

The risk assessment presented in this County DRP does not replace the regulatory requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The County DRP could make the County eligible for FEMA’s Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Hazard Mitigation Grant programs. However, if a jurisdiction is also seeking approval of the drought and/or water shortage risk assessment within the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, it should follow the requirements outlined in the FEMA *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* (FEMA 2023).

#### 3.1 Terminology

The County DRP adapted the following definitions from the FEMA *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* (FEMA 2023) within the context of drought and water shortage planning:

- **Community assets:** The people, structures, facilities, and systems that have value to the community. The minimum assets considered as part of the SB 552 plan include domestic wells, LSSs, SSWSs, and populations relying on those water supplies.
- **Hazard:** A source of harm or difficulty created by a meteorological, environmental, geological, hydrological, or other event condition. In the context of SB 552, hazards are the natural, human-made, and social processes that can lead to water shortages in the County.
- **Impact:** The consequences or effects of a hazard related to drought and water shortages on the community and its assets.
- **Risk:** The potential for damage, loss, or other impacts (e.g., water shortage) created by the interaction of natural hazards with community assets and their physical and social vulnerabilities.
- **Risk Assessment:** Product or process that collects information and assigns values to risks for the purpose of informing priorities, developing or comparing courses of action, and informing decision-making.
- **Vulnerability:** Characteristics of community assets or populations that make them susceptible to damage from a given hazard. It includes both physical vulnerability and social vulnerability.

#### 3.2 Risk Assessment Methodology

The nature and severity of hazards that can cause water shortages vary at regional and local scales due to differences in conditions, such as precipitation patterns, groundwater levels, topography, geology, infrastructure, and regulatory frameworks. Communities lacking access to reliable water sources are

most vulnerable to water shortage caused by such hazards. To address this, a risk assessment was completed that considered physical and social hazard indicators. The results and findings of the risk assessment were used by the County and Task Force to develop short-term actions and long-term strategies to address water shortages (see Sections 3.6 and 3.7).

The risk assessment was completed following the steps outlined below.

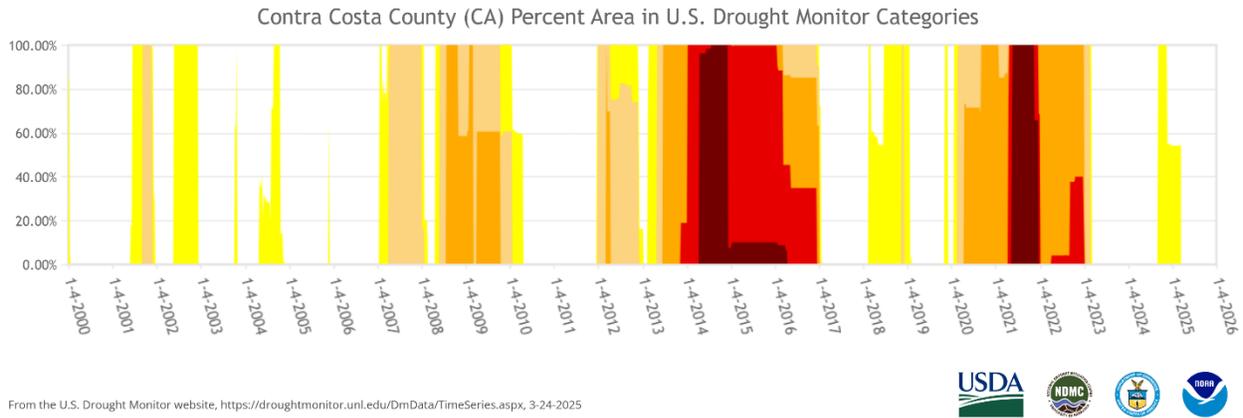
1. **Describe Major Hazards in the County:** Hazards that would impact water reliability were identified and are discussed in Section 3.3.
2. **Identify Well Locations:** Domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs were identified using the methods discussed in Section 3.4.
3. **Identify Physical and Social Vulnerabilities:** The DWR Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer (WSVE) Tool is designed to assist counties with exploring drought risks and vulnerabilities for domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs. There are two major categories of vulnerability assessment: physical vulnerability and social vulnerability. A set of indicators for physical and social vulnerabilities was developed through a stakeholder participation process per the requirements of AB 1668 to identify LSS and SSWS and rural communities in the State at risk of drought and water shortages. During this process, physical and social vulnerability indicators were formulated considering geology, land use, climate, infrastructure, population demographics, and other factors. The WSVE Tool was used to identify the priority indicators driving physical vulnerability as discussed in Section 3.5.
4. **Complete Risk Assessment using DWR Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer:** The WSVE Tool was used to (a) identify areas within the county where domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs are vulnerable to water supply shortages, and (b) characterize the hazards driving vulnerability. The risk assessment was reviewed and edited by the County and Task Force. Additional details on the WSVE Tool and how it was applied in the risk assessment are included below.

### 3.3 Hazards in Contra Costa County

This section summarizes the recent drought patterns, projected climate change, current water quality, and groundwater hazards in the County. Section 3.6 provides more detail on the vulnerabilities related to these hazards.

#### 3.3.1 Drought

Since 2000, the County has experienced what the U.S. Drought Monitor categorizes as “Exceptional Drought,” as shown in Figure 3-1. During this period the County experienced severe to exceptional drought 8 years of the last 25 years and abnormally dry to moderate drought 7 years of the last 25 years, and was drought free 10 years. As shown in Figure 3-1, the patterns highlight the County’s vulnerability to drought, where there is increasing frequency, severity, and duration of droughts. Future droughts may be different than observed droughts and could be longer in duration and/or more severe. While the County is currently not in a drought, there are examples of drought rapidly onsetting, as seen in 2013 to 2014.



Source: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DmData/TimeSeries.aspx>, Accessed: 03/2025

**Figure 3-1. Occurrence of Drought in Contra Costa County**

### 3.3.2 Climate Change

According to California’s Fourth Climate Change Assessment, completed in 2018, climate change has increased both average temperatures and the frequency and intensity of heat waves or extreme heat events. While global temperature increases are between 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) to 3.6°F, local observed increases that affect communities and ecosystems are far more variable and often of greater magnitude (CNRA 2018).

Annual average maximum temperatures in the San Francisco Bay Area remained within the relatively narrow range of 67.5°F to 71.9°F over the period of 1950 to 2005, with an overall average maximum temperature of 69.5°F. The estimated upward trend of 1.7°F in the San Francisco Bay Area over the period of 1950 to 2005 is consistent with the observed global mean temperature change attributable to anthropogenic influences over a similar timeframe (Bindoff et al. 2013). The assessment predicted that by mid-century (2040 to 2069), the projected mean annual maximum temperature for the San Francisco Bay Area, across multiple climate models, exceeds the maximum historical annual mean regardless of which emissions trajectory is chosen. Thus, even with significant efforts to mitigate climate change, the San Francisco Bay Area will likely see annual mean warming on the order of approximately 3.3°F by mid-century. Under the high-emissions scenario, this increment increases to 4.4°F warming by mid-century. The difference between emissions scenarios becomes more apparent by the end of century (2070 to 2100), when the multi-model average shows warming on the order of 4.2°F to 7.2°F for different scenarios (CNRA 2018).

Droughts in California are triggered by a lack of large winter storms, and water shortages are further exacerbated by high temperatures, which increase the evaporative losses from soils, rivers, canals, and reservoirs. In addition, California relies heavily on the Sierra Nevada snowpack as a natural, slowly released reservoir that supports the State’s major surface water systems; when snowpack levels are significantly below average, reservoir storage declines more rapidly, intensifying both the onset and severity of drought. Drought conditions, particularly when persisting for several years, can cause mental and physical stress in people, reduce the number of workable farm-labor days, and lead to deteriorated air and water quality (Greene 2018; Barreau et al. 2017).

Historical data show daily precipitation extremes have intensified in most areas of the country, including California. As the atmosphere continues to warm, extreme precipitation events could become more frequent, as storms can hold about three to four percent more water for each degree Fahrenheit of warming. Climate model simulations that consider such effects suggest this trend will continue. Simulations of future climate indicate only modest changes in annual precipitation accumulation, with some shifts in the seasonality of precipitation that may be relevant for water management: less precipitation during November through January and possibly more during February through May.

Anthropogenic climate change has contributed to the increase in areas burned in wildfires in the American West. Specifically, rising temperatures and increased periodic droughts increase the likelihood of wildfires. Wildfires can damage infrastructure and cause water quality issues, including those discussed in Section 3.3.3.

In 2020, the County released the Contra Costa County Vulnerability Assessment,<sup>9</sup> which analyzes how the changing climate can harm residents, buildings, ecosystems, natural resources, and more. Changes in precipitation patterns are expected to cause more frequent and intense droughts statewide, reducing water supplies for homes, businesses, industrial centers, and agriculture (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024).

### **3.3.3 Water Quality**

The county faces various water quality concerns regarding its surface and groundwater resources.

Details on water quality issues are summarized below.

#### **3.3.3.1 Surface Water**

CCWD diverts water under the federal CVP contract from the Delta through intakes at Rock Slough near Oakley, Mallard Slough in Bay Point, Old River near the town of Discovery Bay, and nearby Middle River (CCWD 2020a). As such, CCWD obtains its water supply almost exclusively from the Delta, which is subject to variations in water quality caused by salinity intrusion, Delta hydrodynamics, and discharges into the Delta and its tributary streams from both point and non-point sources. Water quality in the Delta is anticipated to continue to decline as impacts from climate change take effect, including increased and longer periods of drought, degradation from discharges to the Delta, changes to operations of the State Water Project and CVP, and potential implementation of tidally influenced habitat restoration projects in the Delta (CCWD 2020a).

The increase in chloride concentrations, which CCWD uses as one measure of water quality, directly impacts the use of the Los Vaqueros project by requiring additional blending releases from the reservoir to meet CCWD's water quality objectives. CCWD typically fills Los Vaqueros Reservoir with diversions from the Delta in the late winter and spring when Delta salinity is low, while meeting customer demands with Delta diversions. When salinity in the Delta increases, typically in the late summer and fall, CCWD uses water stored in Los Vaqueros Reservoir to blend with Delta diversions to reduce the salinity of the water delivered to its customers. Increased Delta salinity both reduces the availability of low salinity water to store in Los Vaqueros Reservoir and increases the need for releases of blending water, thus decreasing the amount of water in Los Vaqueros storage available for supply reliability during times of successive years of high salinity.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://cocogis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=869e23fd058d48dbb1e514ef15841831>

EBMUD conveys water through the Mokelumne Aqueducts from Pardee Reservoir, located upstream of Camanche Dam, across the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to local storage and treatment facilities in the East Bay (EBMUD 2020a); as such, EBMUD's primary water source is Sierra Nevada snowmelt. As EBMUD's primary water supply from the Mokelumne River comes from a mostly undeveloped watershed, it is minimally exposed to common sources of contaminants such as pesticides, agricultural or urban runoff, municipal sewage discharges, or industrial toxins. This results in limited treatment to meet or surpass health standards (EBMUD 2020a). Every day of the year, EBMUD's laboratory tests water samples to ensure water quality meets Federal and State standards, checking for trace organics like pesticides, metals, and microbes. These efforts ensure all customers receive high-quality drinking water that meets or surpasses all State and Federal regulatory requirements (EBMUD 2024c).

### **3.3.3.2 Groundwater**

Groundwater is not used by CCWD to meet any demands; however, there are a number of wells throughout CCWD's service owned by industrial, public municipal, and private customers.

Groundwater quality is satisfactory for the various beneficial uses in the East Contra Costa Basin. Some parts of the basin experience naturally elevated total dissolved solids and chloride that are near or exceed the recommended maximum contaminant level, indicating a higher baseline for these constituents. Elevated nitrate concentrations occur in shallow wells near Brentwood, with concentrations exceeding the maximum contaminant level, attributable to past agricultural practices. Arsenic is generally less than the maximum contaminant level, and boron concentrations are naturally elevated in most wells. Water hardness varies and, in some cases, adds financial burdens on users needing to use water softeners. For municipalities, total dissolved solids and hardness may lead to customer dissatisfaction and limit the ability to blend groundwater with treated surface water under conjunctive use. To meet customer water hardness expectations, municipalities may be required to install water treatment systems (East Contra Costa GSP 2021).

## **3.4 Identifying Well Locations**

### **Domestic Well Locations**

Domestic well data has been obtained from the well completion reports submitted to the Online System for Water Completion Reports (OSWCR) (DWR 2024b). The WSVE Tool filters OSWCR for wells post-1977 and domestic use. Well completion reports comply with CWC Section 13751, which requires anyone who constructs, alters, or destroys a water well, cathodic protection well, groundwater monitoring well, or geothermal heat exchange well file a report of completion with the DWR within 60 days of completing work.

### **Local Small Systems Locations**

The locations of LSSs, as defined in Section 1.2, were provided by County EHD. County EHD regulates LSS and has location information.

### **State Small Water Systems Locations**

The approximate locations of SSWSs were retrieved from State Water Board. The State Water Board hosts a public database with locations of SSWS that is available upon request (State Water Board 2024a).

### 3.5 Identifying Physical and Social Vulnerabilities

DWR collaborated with the County Drought Advisory Group (CDAG) in 2018 developed the water shortage vulnerability assessment for the WSVE Tool and recommended actions for improving drought planning for small water suppliers and rural communities. CDAG consisted of representatives from counties and other local agencies, small water systems, tribes, academics, non-profit organizations, and other interested parties.

The WSVE Tool is an online geospatial application that assesses water shortage vulnerability for rural communities using physical and social indicators. The WSVE Tool does not characterize any likelihood of a hazard occurring. There are both indicators of physical vulnerability (Table 3-1) and social vulnerability (Table 3-2). These indicators were selected by DWR and CDAG to reflect the hazards that could make a domestic well, LSS, or SSWS vulnerable to water supply shortage. The dataset represents a water shortage vulnerability analysis using Public Land Survey Section (PLSS) sections (DWR 2024c). The WSVE Tool uses publicly available data, with specific data sources described in the WSVE Tool documentation (DWR 2024c).

The WSVE Tool calculates both a total physical vulnerability score and a total social vulnerability score, each combining the associated individual indicators. The process used by the WSVE Tool to calculate those total scores is summarized below.

- The total physical vulnerability score was calculated at the PLSS<sup>10</sup> scale by normalizing the indicator value between 0 and 1, with 1 representing the highest possible vulnerability. Normalized scores were multiplied by a weighting factor from 1 to 5 that was assigned by DWR and CDAG to capture how some indicators contribute more to water shortage vulnerability than others.
- The total social vulnerability score was calculated at the Census Block Group<sup>11</sup> scale by normalizing the indicator value between 0 and 1 and summing the values together without additional weighting.

DWR periodically revises the WSVE Tool to incorporate improved data and/or updated methodology. Data for the risk assessment was accessed in December 2024 and used the 2024 methodology.<sup>12</sup> The detailed methodology describing the WSVE Tool indicators and corresponding values, data sources, and the weighting factors is available on the California Natural Resource Agency's Open Data Portal.

Each indicator is assigned a weight based on the level of importance as it relates to water shortage vulnerability as shown in Table 3-1. The indicators that are weighted the highest, with the weight of 5, are dry domestic well susceptibility in basins (RC3a), and domestic well density in fractured rock areas (RC3c), and reported household outages (RC5a). Wildfire hazard potential (RC2b), water quality aquifer risk (RC2i), basin salt (RC2e), chronic declining water levels (RC2g), surrounding land use (RC2j), and geology (RC2c) are assigned a weight of 3 and are considered as important indicators impacting overall physical vulnerability scores. The rest of the indicators are weighted as 1 or 2 and have the least influence in the overall assessment.

<sup>10</sup> A Public Land Survey Section is a geographic delineation of an area equivalent to one square mile.

<sup>11</sup> A Census Block Group is a geographic unit with a population between 600 and 3,000 people that are a smallest geographical unit that the U.S. Census Bureau publishes data collected from a fraction of households.

<sup>12</sup> [Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool](#)

**Table 3-1. Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer Indicators Used in the Development of Physical Vulnerability Score**

| Indicator Name <sup>1</sup>                          | Indicator Description  | Weights |
|--|--|---------|
| <b>Climate Change</b>                                |  |         |
| Temperature Shift (RC1a)                             | Projected change in max temperatures by end of century.  | 1       |
| Saline Intrusion Projected (RC1b)                    | Spatial extent of projected 1-meter sea level rise by 2040 into coastal aquifers consistent with the 2018 State of California sea level rise guidance. | 1       |
| Wildfire Risk (RC1c)                                 | Projected area burned by 2035–2064.  | 1       |
| <b>Current Environmental Conditions and Events</b>   |  |         |
| 2024 Precipitation (RC2a)                            | If water year 2024 precipitation was less than 70 percent of normal.   | 2       |
| Multiple Dry Years (RC2aa)                           | Count of dry years within the last five years (2020–2024).   | 2       |
| Wildfire Hazard (RC2b)                               | U.S. Forest Service Wildfire Hazard Potential  | 3       |
| Geology (RC2c)                                       | Fractured rock basin within the PLSS.  | 3       |
| Water Quality Aquifer Risk (RC2i)                    | SAFER Needs Assessment 2024 water quality composite score.   | 3       |
| Subsidence (RC2d)                                    | Amount of subsidence as measured by remote sensing.  | 2       |
| Basin Salt (RC2e)                                    | Presence of saltwater intrusion into coastal aquifer.  | 3       |
| Overdrafted Basin (RC2f)                             | SGMA critically overdrafted groundwater basin.   | 2       |
| Chronic Declining Water Levels (RC2g)                | Amount of declining groundwater levels over the last 20 years (water years 2004–2024).   | 3       |
| Surrounding Land Use (RC2j)                          | Proportion of irrigated agriculture in PLSS.   | 3       |
| <b>Infrastructure Susceptibility</b>                 |  |         |
| Dry Domestic Well Susceptibility in Basins (RC3a)    | Dry well susceptibility.   | 5       |
| Domestic Well Density in Fractured Rock Areas (RC3c) | Density of Well Completion Reports.  | 5       |
| <b>Record of Shortage</b>                            |  |         |
| Reported Household Outage on Domestic Well (RC5a)    | Presence of one or more households with reported outages in PLSS.  | 5       |

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations are included next to Indicator Name (i.e., “RC1a”) for clarity to underlying methodology

Key:

PLSS = Public Land Survey Section

SAFER = Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Program

SGMA = Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

**Table 3-2. Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer Indicators Used in the Development of Social Vulnerability Score**

| <b>Indicator Name</b>             | <b>Indicator Description</b>  |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Socioeconomic Status</b>       |   |
| Poverty Level                     | Percent of persons below poverty level.   |
| Unemployment                      | Percent of persons aged 16 years of age or older that are unemployed.                                       |
| Per Capita Income                 | Per capita income.  |
| <b>Language and Education</b>     |   |
| Education Attainment              | Percent of persons without a high school diploma.   |
| English Language Proficiency      | Percent of persons who speak little to no English.  |
| <b>Demographics</b>               |   |
| Elderly Population                | Percent of persons 65 years of age or older.  |
| Non-Adult Population              | Percent of persons 17 years of age or younger.  |
| Minority Population               | Percent of persons in a minority population.  |
| Disability                        | Percent of persons 5 years of age or older with a disability.   |
| Single-Parent Households          | Percent of single-parent households.  |
| <b>Housing and Transportation</b> |   |
| Multi-Unit-Housed Population      | Percent of persons living in a multi-unit structure.  |
| Mobile Home-Housed Population     | Percent of persons living in a mobile home.   |
| Crowded Conditions                | Percent of persons living in conditions with more than one person per room.                                 |
| No Vehicle Access                 | Percent of households with no vehicle available.  |
| <b>Race and Ethnicity</b>         |   |
| Persons of Color                  | Percent of persons that identify with a race other than White or identify ethnically as Hispanic or Latino. |

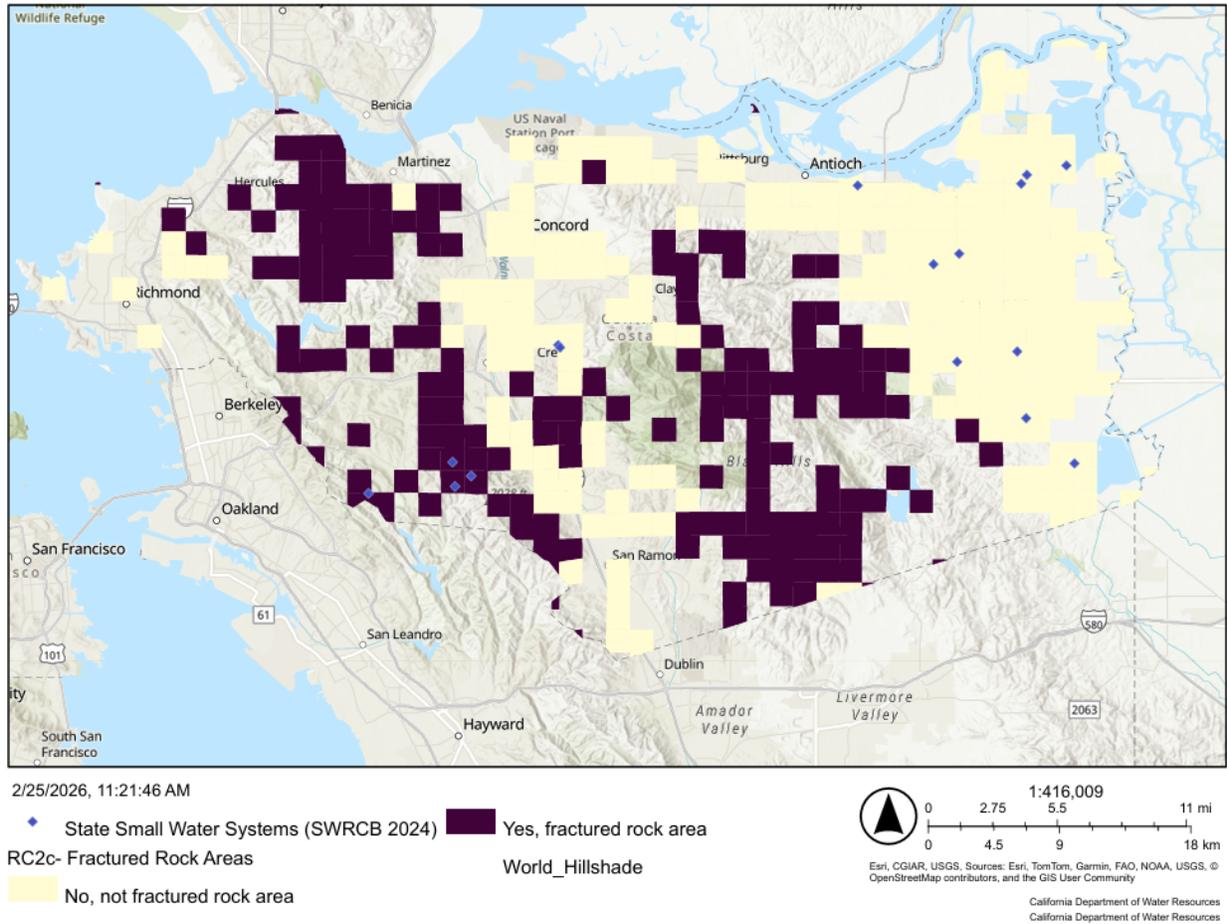
### 3.5.1 Physical Vulnerability Indicators

The risk assessment summarizes where water shortages associated with domestic wells and SWSs may be more likely to occur. This section describes factors driving water shortage risk in greater detail. Identifying and characterizing these drivers of physical vulnerability help the County and Task Force develop effective short-term actions, long-term strategies, and their associated implementation considerations for vulnerable communities.

Within the County, the physical indicators driving water shortage vulnerability are domestic well density in fractured rock areas, geology, water quality aquifer risk, and wildfire hazard. Details on these four indicators are included below, and information on all physical vulnerability indicators is summarized in Table 3-3.

An underlying driver of water shortage vulnerability in the County is the areas within a fractured rock basin. The geology indicator indicating the fractured rock basin where domestic wells and SWSs are

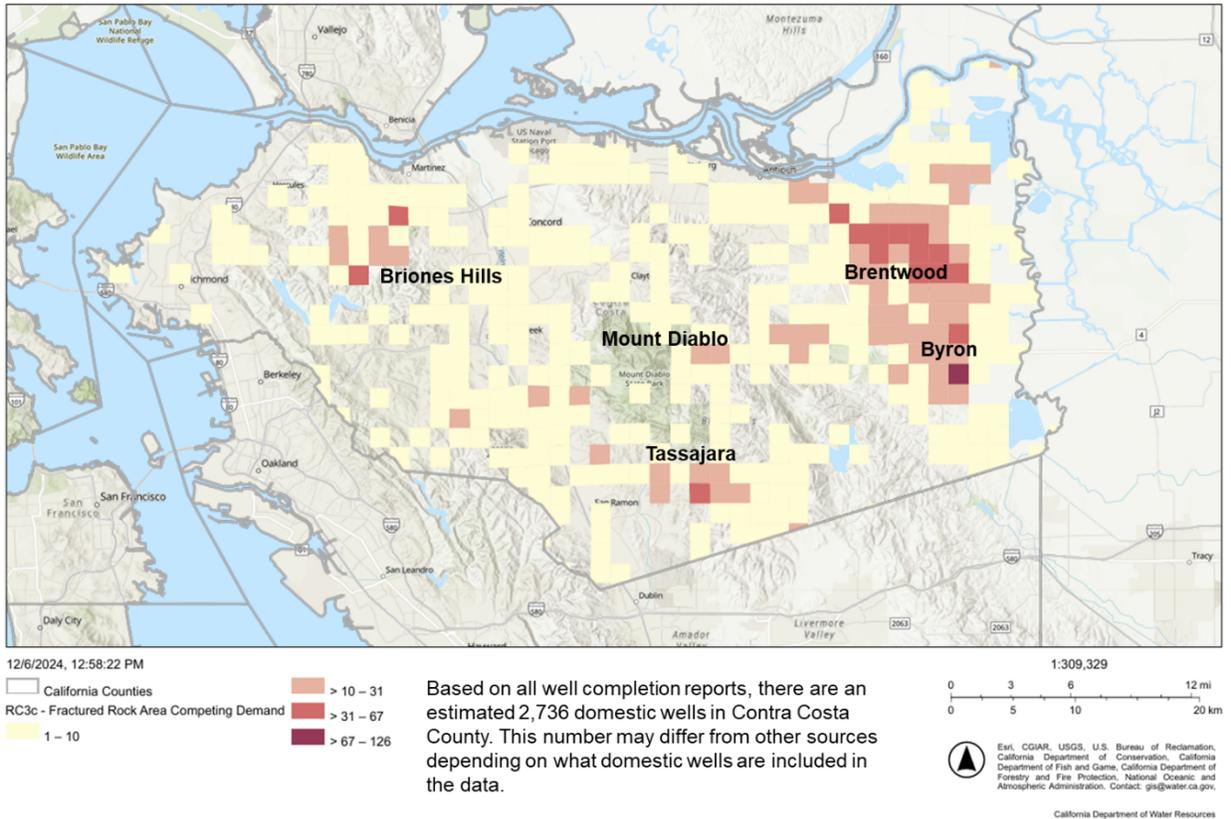
present is shown in Figure 3-2. Approximately 50 percent of the domestic wells and SSWs in the County are located in the fractured rock areas. Water availability in fractured rock areas is more difficult to track and manage.



Source: Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer Tool, [Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer Tool](#).

**Figure 3-2. Fractured Rock Areas in Contra Costa County**

Figure 3-3 shows the density of domestic wells within a PLSS, which was used as a proxy to estimate water shortage susceptibility in fractured rock areas. A higher density of domestic wells in PLSS within a fractured rock area intensifies the demand on the limited groundwater resources, leading to higher susceptibility to outages, especially during dry conditions. Figures 3-2 and 3-3 show that there is high domestic well densities in fractured rock areas that includes the east side of the Mount Diablo Foothills, the south side of the Black Hills, and the northwestern side of the Briones Hills. Within these areas, the competing demand from multiple domestic wells within a fractured rock area increases the potential for a water shortage during a drought or other conditions that stress the water supply. This figure also shows a high density of domestic wells in the eastern portion of the County within the San Joaquin Valley - East Contra Costa Basin (Bulletin 118 Basin ID 5-022.19). These wells are not in a fractured rock area, but may be vulnerable to other physical vulnerabilities as discussed in this section.

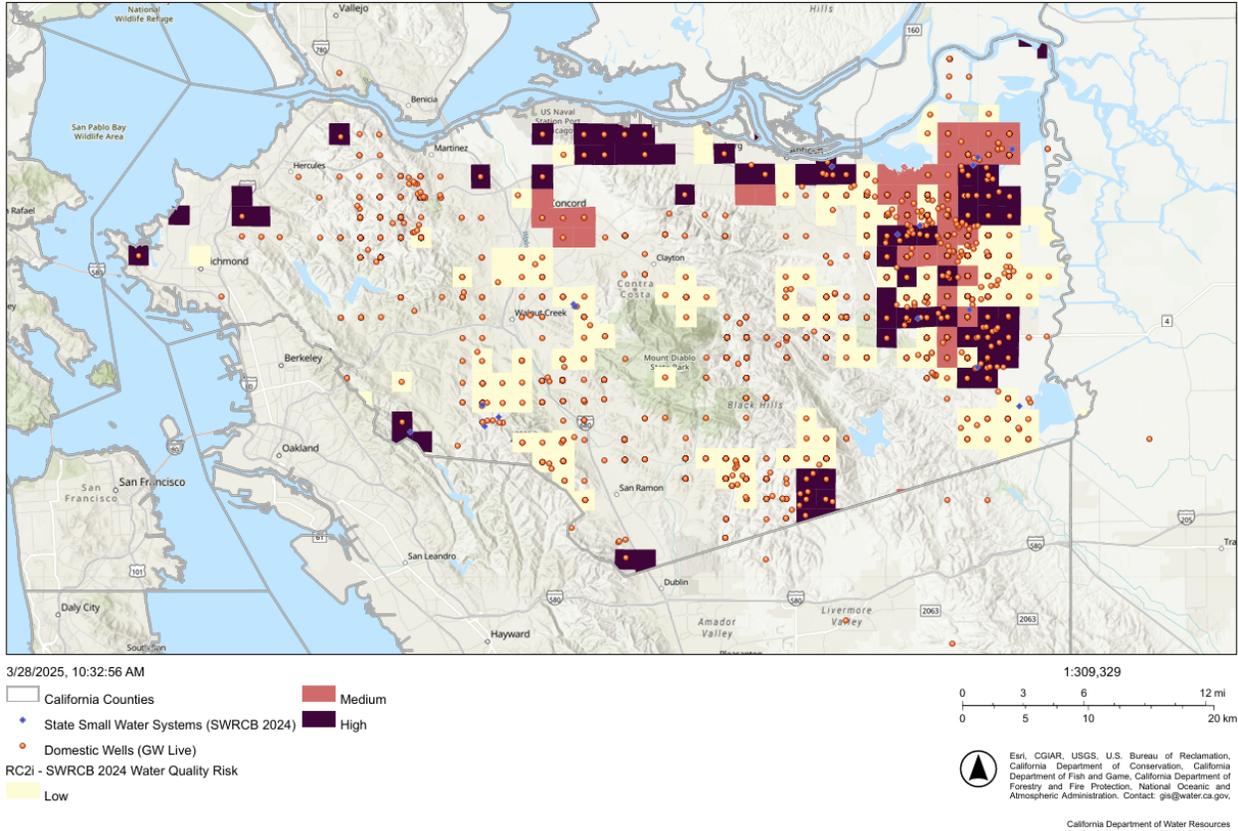


Source: Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer Tool, [Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer Tool](#).

**Figure 3-3. Domestic Well Density in Contra Costa County**

Figure 3-4 shows the potential groundwater water quality risk in the county based on the 2024 State Water Resources Control Board Aquifer Risk assessment.<sup>13</sup> The map shows areas where domestic wells and SSWs may be accessing groundwater that does not meet safe drinking water standards (maximum contaminant level). The Aquifer Risk Map methodology involves summarizing publicly available water quality data from previously sampled wells of a similar depth to domestic wells or SSWs, since these systems are largely unregulated by the State and there is no comprehensive database of water quality data available directly from these systems. Water quality data is summarized for each PLSS using the long-term average (20 years) and recent samplings (5 years) of reports submitted to the State Water Board. A risk score is assigned depending on how the historical averages compare to regulatory levels of a contaminant. A PLSS containing existing water quality data is assigned a risk score and then extrapolated to neighboring PLSSs where water quality data is not available (State Water Board 2024b). Note the information shown in this map does not reflect actual water quality conditions. Table 3-3 includes details on potential water quality risk criteria. The areas in darker color have a high risk of potential water quality, which are primarily within the East Contra Costa Basin and Delta areas of the county.

<sup>13</sup> [Drinking Water Quality: Needs Assessment | California State Water Resources Control Board](#)



Source: Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer Tool, [Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer Tool](#). Accessed March 2025.

**Figure 3-4. Water Quality Aquifer Risk Indicator in Contra Costa County**

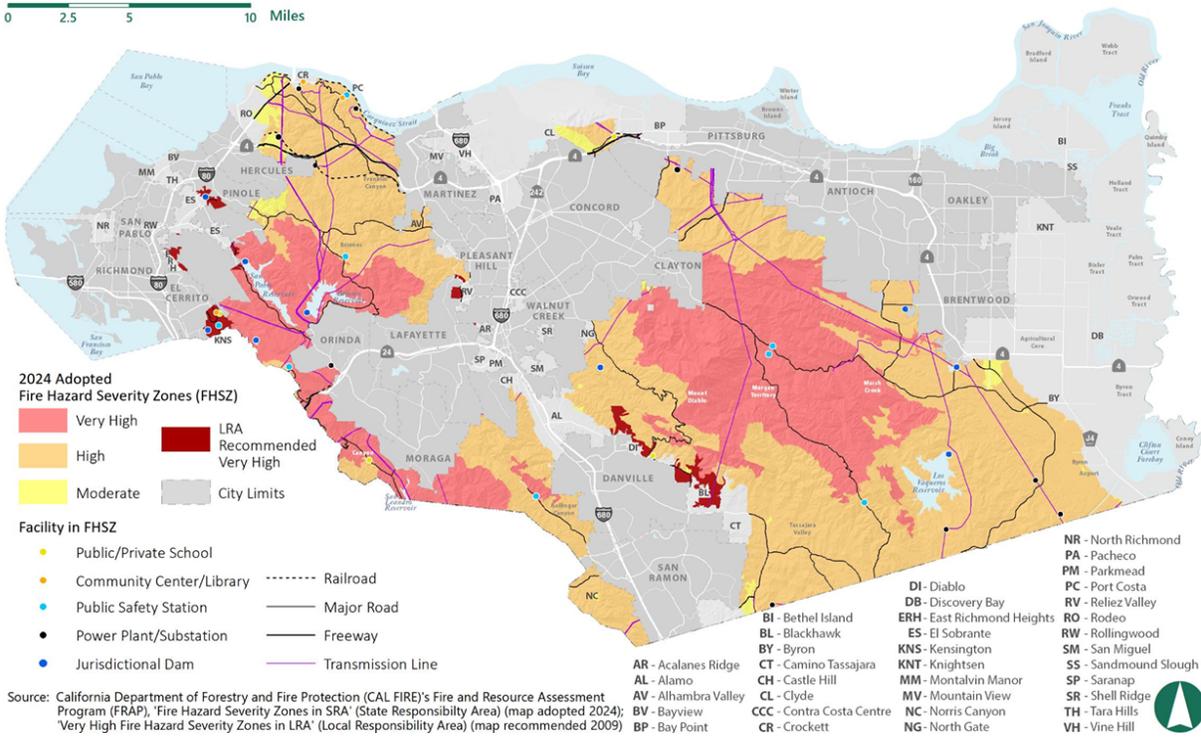
**Table 3-3. Details on Potential Water Quality Risk Criteria**

| Potential Water Risk | Criteria  |
|----------------------|---|
| High                 | Twenty-year average OR highest recent sample are above the comparison concentration for one or more contaminants.         |
| Medium               | Twenty-year average OR highest recent sample are within 80–100% of comparison concentration for one or more contaminants. |
| Low                  | Twenty-year average OR highest recent sample are below 80% of the comparison concentration for all sampled contaminants.  |

Another indicator driving water supply vulnerability in the County is exposure to wildfire hazards, as shown in Figure 3-5. Note that the data source of this figure, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), is different than what is used by the WSVE Tool to calculate physical vulnerability. However, the wildfire risk between the two is consistent. Wildfires can damage or destroy natural infrastructure, such as watersheds and natural waterways, as well as built infrastructure, such as pipelines and reservoirs. This increases the vulnerability of water shortages for communities either because of wildfire damage or the impacts on water supplies. Mountainous parts of the County, including Mount Diablo, Briones Hills, and San Pablo Ridge, have the highest wildfire hazard ratings, primarily concentrated in the forested areas. The areas with high or very high wildfire hazard ratings also overlap with the highest density of domestic wells within fractured rock basins. The overlap of

these indicators is the major driver of water shortage vulnerability to domestic wells and SWSs within the County.

FIGURE HS-10 FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES



9-30 | Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan – Health and Safety Element

Source: Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024

**Figure 3-5. Wildfire Hazard Potential Indicator in Contra Costa County**

Table 3-4 summarizes all physical vulnerability indicators, as listed in Table 3-1, within the County. The total physical vulnerability score is a combination of 16 datasets grouped into the following components:

- Climate change: Future risks from temperature rise, sea level rise, and wildfire risk.
- Current environmental conditions and events: Conditions such as precipitation levels, wildfire severity zones, subsidence, and water quality issues.
- Infrastructure Susceptibility: Dry well susceptibility and well density.
- Record of shortage: Past occurrences of water outages or failures in the system.

**Table 3-4. Summary of Observed Conditions for Physical Vulnerability Indicators in Contra Costa County based on the Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer Tool**

| Physical Vulnerability Indicator                   | Observed Conditions  |
|--|--|
| <b>Climate Change</b>                              |  |
| Temperature Shift (RC1a)                           | Projected change in the maximum temperature by end of century shows 2.0°C (western portion of the County, close to the water bodies) to 2.8°C (eastern portion) increase in average temperature throughout the County. Increased temperatures could increase water supply demands from users, evapotranspiration, and others, thereby increasing vulnerability to drought and/or water shortage impacts.   |
| Saline Intrusion Projected (RC1b)                  | Delta areas of the County and the regions near the San Francisco Bay (northern and north-western portions of the County) are tidally influenced. Potential influence from higher salinity water intrusion from the Delta and the San Francisco Bay impacts groundwater quality and makes the Delta and Bay areas highly vulnerable to saltwater intrusion. Current and future saltwater intrusion into groundwater increases vulnerability of domestic wells and SSWs.   |
| Wildfire Risk (RC1c)                               | This indicator evaluates how climate change may increase wildfire vulnerability. County projections developed as part of the Fourth California Climate Change Assessment (Westerling 2018) show less than 25 percent rise in small-area burn within the period of 2035–2064. The projected increase in burning, even in small areas, warrants inclusion in the vulnerability assessment due to inherent high risks involved. Increasing wildfire frequency and severity can increase vulnerability of water sources.   |
| <b>Current Environmental Conditions and Events</b> |  |
| 2024 Precipitation (RC2a)                          | Precipitation in water-year 2024 was above the historic average in all areas of the County. However, data from California Water Watch indicate the maximum precipitation for the 2024–2025 water year, as of December 2024, is below the historical average of similar time in all the previous major drought periods (DWR 2024d). The amount of precipitation received is a key indicator of drought. For those relying on local water supplies, especially domestic wells and SSWs, the amount of local precipitation can directly impact reliability and risk of shortages. |
| Multiple Dry Years (RC2aa)                         | Data show almost all the County has experienced two dry years in the last five years (2020–2024). A higher number of recent dry years may increase physical vulnerability of water supply conditions.  |
| Wildfire Hazard (RC2b)                             | Mountainous parts of the County are assigned as high to very high U.S. Forest Service wildfire hazard potential. As these zones show the current risk of wildfire, research shows a higher risk contributes to higher physical vulnerability for water sources.  |

| Physical Vulnerability Indicator      | Observed Conditions  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Geology (RC2c)                        | Fractured rock is present along mountainous regions, which include Briones Peak and Mount Diablo. Water availability in fractured rock areas is more difficult to monitor and, therefore, more uncertain for those relying on it as a source of water. Areas with fractured rock are considered due to high susceptibility to drought impacts.   |
| Water Quality Aquifer Risk (RC2i)     | This index shows groundwater likely accessed by domestic wells may contain concentrations of constituents above regulatory levels. It appears that some regulated constituents are present at elevated concentrations in the wells scattered throughout the County that could increase physical vulnerability for different communities. These areas of high risk where domestic wells and SSWs are present are primarily within the East Contra Costa Basin and Delta areas of the county.  |
| Subsidence (RC2d)                     | Minor subsidence in the County has been reported in the East Contra Costa, East Bay Plain, and Livermore Valley Basins. More severe subsidence creates higher vulnerable conditions for groundwater wells.   |
| Basin Salt (RC2e)                     | Delta areas and all portions of the County adjacent to the San Francisco Bay area are currently experiencing saltwater intrusion. This extends further inland in the north and northwestern portion of the county. The increased salinity not only affects the taste and potability of the water but also threatens agricultural activities that depend on the availability of fresh water. In times of drought or reduced rainfall, the situation exacerbates as the demand for water rises, amplifying the stress on these compromised aquifers. |
| Overdrafted Basin (RC2f)              | Overdrafted basins increase physical vulnerability to water shortage and drought. Groundwater basins in the county are not identified by DWR as being critically overdrafted.  |
| Chronic Declining Water Levels (RC2g) | The 20-year groundwater level trends show no chronic declining groundwater levels in the East Contra Costa Basin. Declining levels in groundwater increases vulnerability and puts wells at higher risk of shortage (DWR 2024e).   |
| Surrounding Land Use (RC2j)           | Contra Costa County is heavily farmed, mostly in the eastern parts of the County. Presence of agricultural activities could indicate competing demands on groundwater suppliers, as well as water quality concerns, both of which could create higher vulnerability for domestic wells and SSWs, especially during a drought or water shortage event.  |

| Physical Vulnerability Indicator                                   | Observed Conditions   |
|--|---|
| <b>Infrastructure Susceptibility</b>                               |   |
| Dry Domestic Well Susceptibility in Basins (RC3a) – Alluvial Basin | This factor analyzes locations where there are many susceptible wells to go dry, if the current groundwater trends in the county continue. Data show high likelihood of dry well susceptibility in the northwestern and western parts of the East Contra Costa Basin (a medium-priority groundwater basin) in the eastern portion of the County, as well as the eastern corner of the East Bay Plain Basin (a medium-priority groundwater basin) in the northwestern part of the County (DWR 2024f).  |
| Domestic Well Density in Fractured Rock Areas (RC3c)               | The higher density of domestic wells in a single square mile within a fractured rock area tends to create a higher susceptibility for outages and increase competing demands, especially in a dry period. County data show this trend in the fractured rock areas. The specific areas include east side of Mount Diablo Foothills, south side of Black Hills in southeastern Contra Costa County, and northwestern side of Briones Hills in northwestern Contra Costa County.   |
| <b>Record of Shortage</b>  |   |
| Reported Household Outage on Domestic Well (RC5a)                  | Areas that have already experienced outages are more likely to experience it during future dry years due to combinations of aquifer sensitivity/fluctuations and shallow wells. Due to the presence of a handful of reports in the County, this indicator is included in the assessment. There are six dry well reports throughout the County, primarily in alluvial groundwater basins. Evaluating the dry well data provides further insight into the nature of the reported well outages. The reported well outages occurred primarily during the spring and summer of 2014 and 2015, which were drought periods. This indicates the areas could be vulnerable to water supply shortages during future droughts (CNRA 2024). |

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations are included next to Indicator Name (i.e., “RC1a”) for clarity to underlying methodology

Key:

- °C = degrees Celsius
- County = Contra Costa County
- DWR = California Department of Water Resources
- SSWS = state small water system

### 3.6 Risk Assessment Results

This section summarizes the risk assessment results, including the County's total physical and social vulnerability scores, followed by discussion of the individual indicators driving physical vulnerability. This information was used to identify the regions of water supply shortage vulnerability described in Section 3.5.

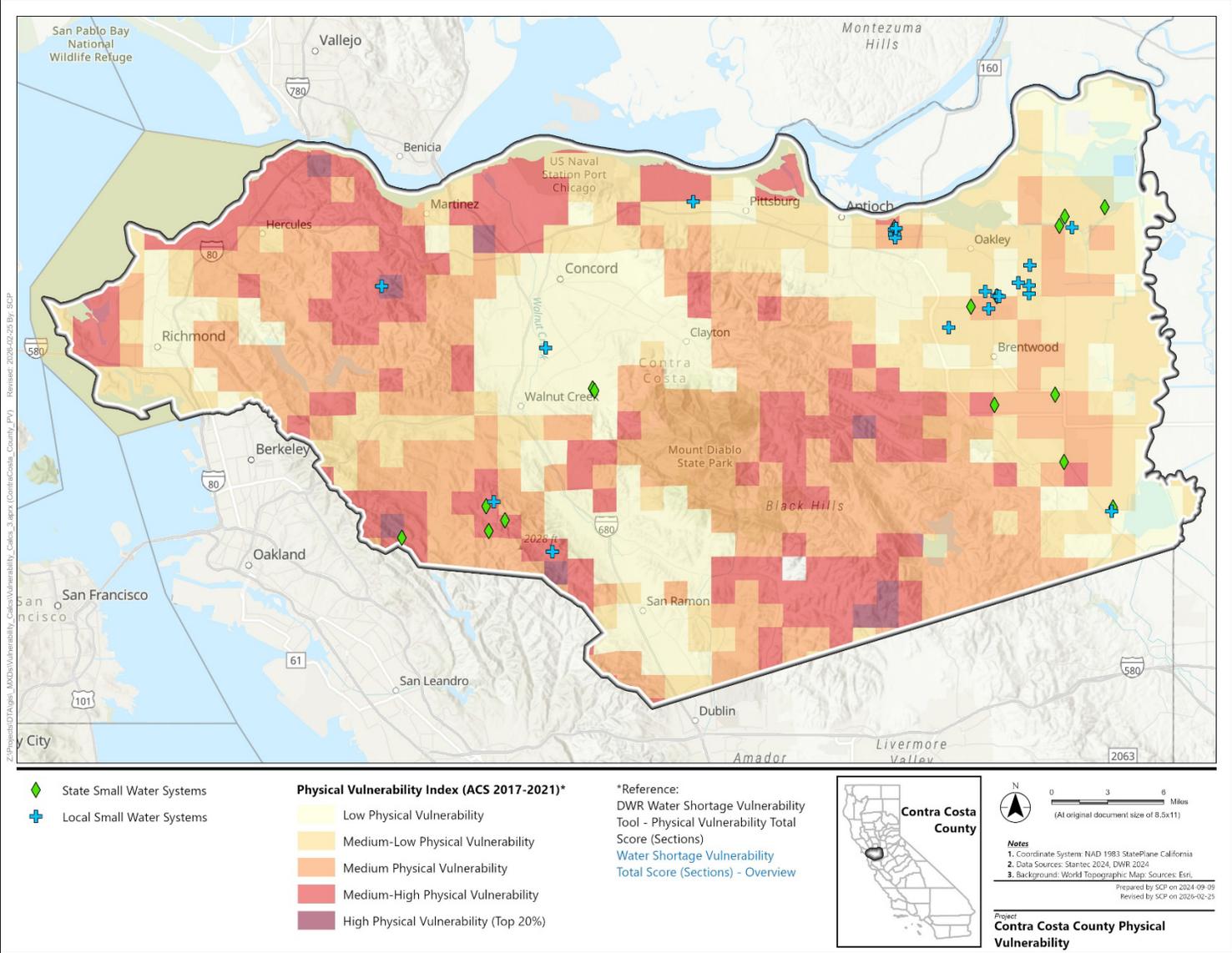
#### 3.6.1 Total Physical Vulnerability Score

Total physical vulnerability scores within the County are shown in Figure 3-6, with darker shaded PLSSs indicating higher physical vulnerability scores. Physical and social vulnerability were scored for the entire State, but the figures in this DRP show PLSSs only containing domestic well, LSS and SSWS communities. PLSSs with high physical vulnerability to water supply shortages are communities with groundwater from fractured rock basins in the central north-west, south-east, south-west, and central-east parts of the County. These communities are mostly in mountainous and foothill regions, including Mount Diablo, Briones Peak, and Las Trampas Peak, as well as the west side of Byron and Brentwood in the East Contra Costa Basin.

Figure 3-7 displays the intersection of physical vulnerability and location of domestic wells and SSWSs within the County. A quadratic coloring system was used. Dark brown shades, noted as High-High, indicates a higher presence of domestic wells per PLSS with high physical vulnerability. A blue area, noted as High-Low, has a higher physical vulnerability but minimal domestic wells, and an orange area, noted as Low-High, has a high presence of domestic wells but low physical vulnerability. The High-High regions indicated areas where short-term actions and long-term mitigation strategies should be prioritized within the County. The areas include Byron and Brentwood in the East Contra Costa Basin, Mount Diablo foothills, northwestern side of Briones Hills, and Tassajara area in the southern part of the County.

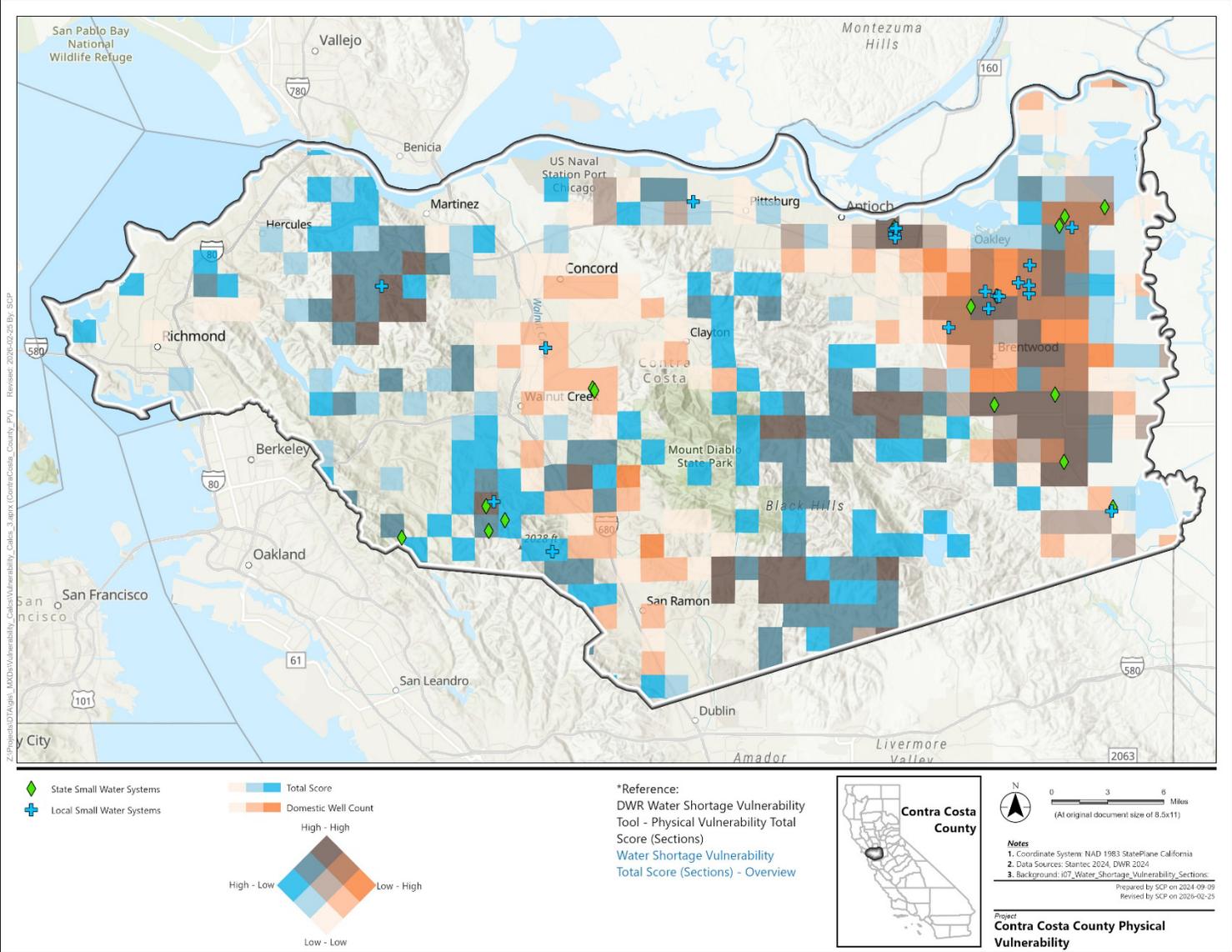
#### 3.6.2 Total Social Vulnerability Score

Social vulnerability is also an important factor in assessing the risk of water supply shortage and need for mitigation through short-term actions and long-term strategies, as certain communities and individuals may lack access to resources during a drought and water shortage event. Total social vulnerability scores are shown by Census Block Groups in Figure 3-8, with darker shaded areas indicating higher vulnerabilities. Comparing the social vulnerability scores in Figure 3-8 with the physical vulnerability scores in Figure 3-7 helps characterize how social vulnerability may overlap with the physical vulnerability of domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs. The areas with high physical vulnerability and domestic well presence on the County's central-south and northwest side have lower social vulnerability scores. The central-east part of the County, which also has high physical vulnerability and domestic well presence, has high social vulnerability.



Note: there are 16 State Small Water Systems in the Contra Costa County. This figure only shows PLSSs with domestic wells.

**Figure 3-6. Physical Vulnerability to Drought and Water Supply Shortage in Contra Costa County**



Note: there are 16 State Small Water Systems in the Contra Costa County. This figure only shows PLSSs with domestic wells.  
**Figure 3-7. Intersection of Physical Vulnerability and Density of Domestic Wells and State Small Water Systems in Contra Costa County**

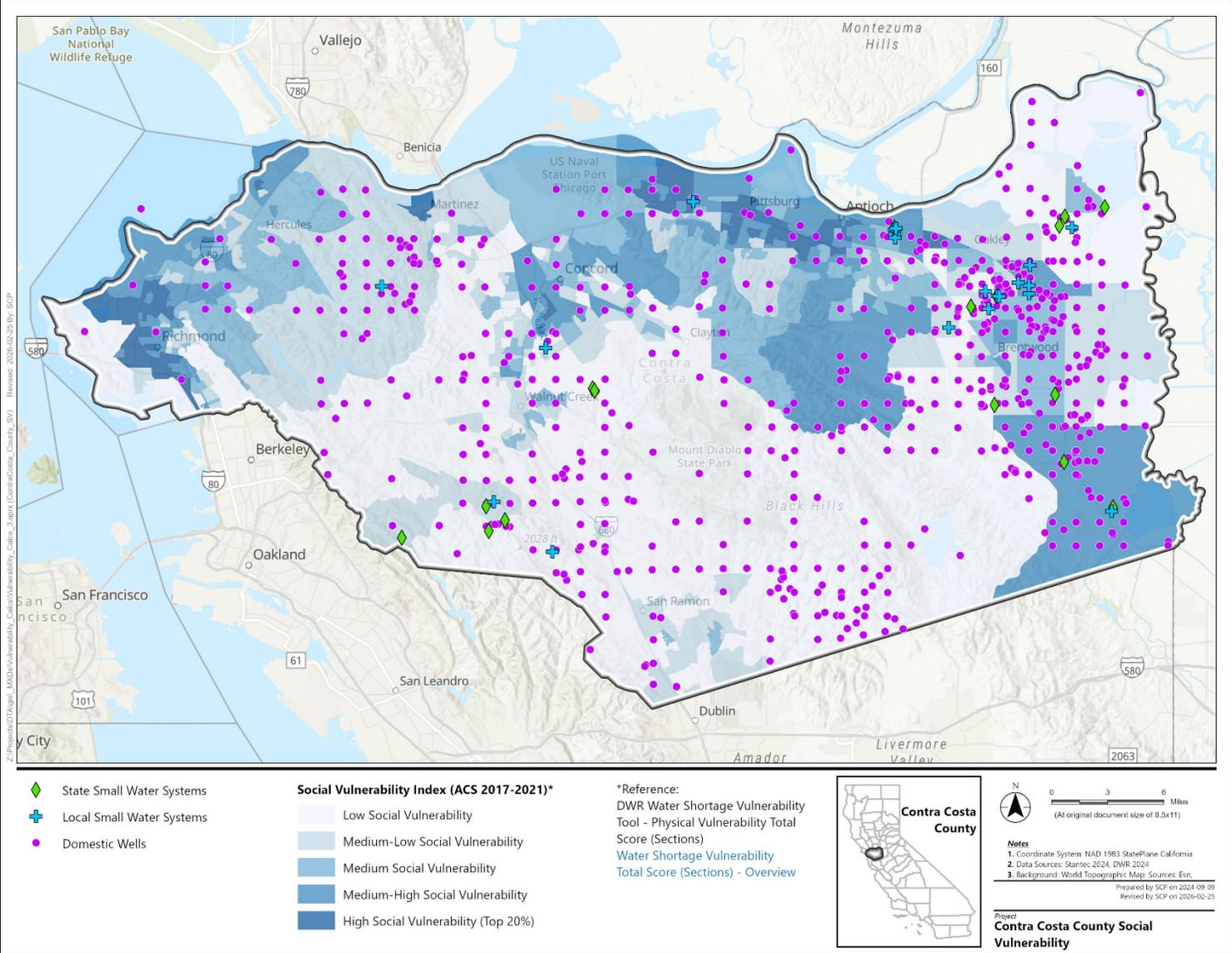


Figure 3-8. Social Vulnerability Score by Census Block Group in Contra Costa County

### 3.7 Risk Assessment Findings

The areas within the County with domestic wells, LSSs, and SWSs that are vulnerable to water supply shortages, the drivers of those physical vulnerabilities, and the corresponding total social vulnerability scores (Figures 3-4, 3-9 and Table 3-5). These areas and vulnerabilities were used by the County and Task Force to develop short-term actions and long-term strategies for addressing water shortage of domestic wells and SWSs across the County.

**Table 3-5. Summary of Risk Assessment Findings in Contra Costa County**

| Area with Water Shortage Vulnerability and Domestic Wells, LSSs, and SWS | Physical Vulnerability Indicators  | Social Vulnerability Score | Location in Figure |
|--|--|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Northwest of Briones Hills   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic well density in fractured rock area</li> </ul>   | Mix of Low and Medium      | A                  |
| Las Trampas Ridge East Side of Moraga                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic well density in fractured rock area</li> <li>Wildfire hazard</li> </ul>                            | Mix of Low and Medium      | B                  |
| South Side of Black Hills  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic well density in fractured rock area</li> <li>Wildfire hazard</li> </ul>                            | Low                        | C                  |
| Mount Diablo Foothills on East Side                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic well density in fractured rock area</li> <li>Wildfire hazard</li> </ul>                            | Mix of Low and Medium      | D                  |
| Briones Valley   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic well density in fractured rock area</li> <li>Wildfire hazard</li> </ul>                            | Medium                     | E                  |
| East Contra Costa Basin in Brentwood and Byron Areas                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic well density</li> <li>Percent land as irrigated agriculture</li> <li>Water quality risk</li> </ul> | Mix of Low and Medium      | F                  |
| City of Antioch  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dry domestic well susceptibility in basins</li> <li>Water quality risk</li> </ul>                           | Mix of Medium and High     | G                  |

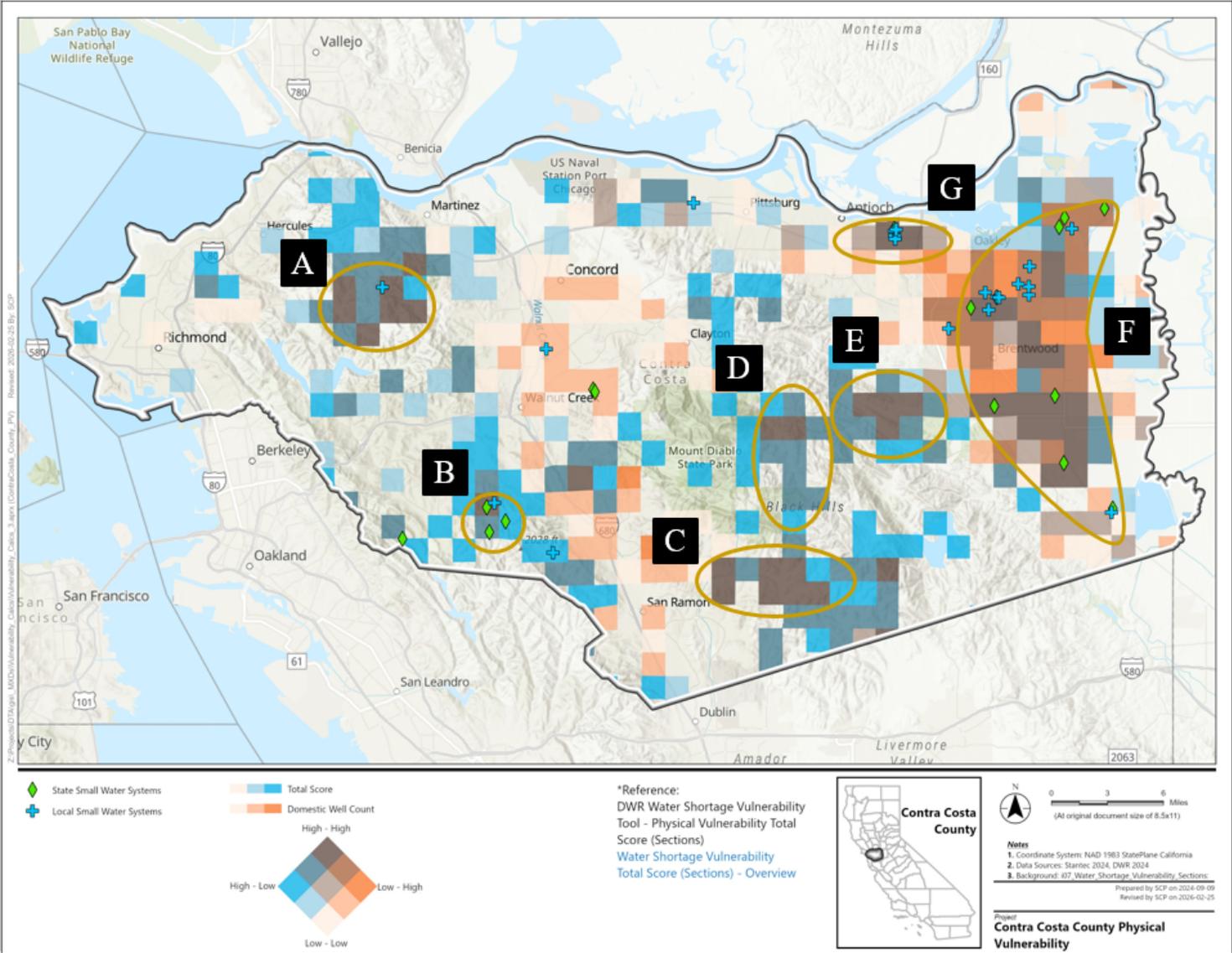


Figure 3-9. Summary of Risk Assessment Findings Showing Areas with Water Shortage Vulnerability and Domestic Wells in Contra Costa County

## 4.0 Short-Term Response Actions

The risk assessment presented in Chapter 3 provided insight into County areas supplied by domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWs that may be susceptible to water shortages, particularly due to extended droughts. Based on the outcomes of that assessment, the Task Force identified STRA to include in the County DRP to help address the effects of water shortage emergencies that could occur in the vulnerable regions of the County. The identified STRAs are not exhaustive and may be modified in the future. In the context of this County DRP, STRAs are defined as actions implemented in advance of, and during, water shortage emergencies caused by drought and water shortage events, often addressing immediate and basic public safety needs.

This section describes the STRAs included in the County DRP and the Drought and Water Shortage Emergency Response Process developed as part of the County DRP to assist with implementing STRAs.

### 4.1 Legislative Direction

SB 552 requires each County develop a drought and water shortage plan that includes proposed interim solutions for SSWs and domestic wells, per CWC Section 10609.70 (**bold face** added for emphasis as related to STRAs and this section of the County DRP):

*(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.*

### 4.2 Short-Term Response Actions Included in the Contra Costa County Drought Resilience Plan

STRAs included in the County DRP are summarized in Table 4-1 and described in this section. Most of these STRAs provide emergency and interim drinking water supplies via bulk water delivery or with packaged or bottled water. Other STRAs include mutual aid agreements required to (1) provide these emergency and interim drinking water supplies efficiently, and (2) expedite the well permitting approval process. A process for STRA implementation is presented in Section 4.5, while future efforts to address STRA implementation challenges and develop new STRAs are described in Section 6.2.2. Measures which

recommend water conveyance must be compliant with existing water rights requirements of major water purveyors.

**Table 4-1. List of Short-Term Response Actions Included in Contra Costa County Drought Resilience Plan**

| <b>ID</b> | <b>Short-Term Response Action Type</b>        | <b>Short-Term Response Action Name</b>                           | <b>Short-Term Response Action Description</b>   | <b>Responsible Entity</b> | <b>Supporting Entities</b>     |
|-----------|---|--|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| STRA 01   | Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Supplies | Dedicated Water Filling Stations                                 | County Staff to coordinate with major water purveyors to establish dedicated potable water filling stations for domestic well, LSS, and SSWS users during water shortage emergencies and that are compliant with existing water rights requirements of major water purveyors.   | OES                       | EHD, DCD, Water Districts      |
| STRA 02   | Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Supplies | Water Hauling, Bulk Water for Existing and Temporary Tanks       | County Staff to ensure policies and mutual aid agreements are in place for coordination with public water systems that allow for water hauling and bulk water delivery to domestic well, LSS, and SSWS users with existing or temporary bulk water supply storage tanks that are accessible. Measures must be compliant with existing water rights requirements of major water purveyors. | OES                       | EHD, DCD, Water Districts      |
| STRA 03   | Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Supplies | Packaged and Bottled Water Supplies                              | County Staff to identify and establish a program to acquire and distribute packaged or bottled water to domestic well, LSS, and SSWS users during a water shortage emergency. SWRCB may provide direct or financial assistance.   | OES                       | EHD, DCD, SWRCB                |
| STRA 04   | Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Supplies | Voluntary Water Conservation Program                             | County Staff to establish a communication and engagement program to support voluntary water conservation measures among domestic well, LSS, and SSWS users in the event of a water shortage event.  | DCD                       | EHD, OES, OCM, Water Districts |
| STRA 05   | Interties                                     | SSWS and LSS Intertie  | County Staff to establish policies/regulations that allow for installation of temporary interties between SSWS, LSS, and/or public water systems in the event of a water shortage. Measures must be compliant with existing water rights requirements of major water purveyors.   | EHD                       | DCD, Water Districts           |
| STRA 06   | Permit Streamlining and Coordination          | Expedited New or Replacement Well Approval During Water Shortage | County Staff to, within its jurisdiction, prepare and implement expedited permit authorization for construction of replacement wells in the event of a water shortage emergency.  | EHD                       |                                |

Key: CCWD = Contra Costa Water District, County = Contra Costa County, County DRP = Contra Costa County Drought and Water Shortage Resilience Plan, DCD = Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development, EBMUD = East Bay Municipal Utility District, EHD = Contra Costa County Environmental Health Division, LSS = Local Small Water Systems, OCM = Contra Costa County Office of Communications and Media, OES = Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services, STRA = Short-Term Response Action, SSWS = State Small Water Systems, SWRCB = State Water Resources Control Board

### **4.2.1 Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Supplies**

Emergency and interim drinking water supplies involve providing temporary water supplies until longer-term water supplies are secured or the water shortage emergency ends. Emergency and interim drinking water supplies are used during water shortage emergencies to meet basic health and safety needs. In emergency situations, the State Water Board may assist, either directly or by financial support, with providing bottled water and hauled water, using certified water haulers, to communities experiencing water shortages. Measures must be compliant with existing water rights requirements of major water purveyors.

#### **4.2.1.1 Dedicated Water Filling Stations (STRA 01)**

During a water shortage emergency, domestic well, LSS, or SSWS users could receive water from dedicated water filling stations. These water filling stations are at established locations that would provide potable water to the affected users. Domestic well, LSS, or SSWS users would need to provide their own water storage containers. Dedicated water filling stations are included as a STRA in the County DRP as STRA 01.

In the past, during earthquakes, commodity points of distribution were established for water filling. The same process could be leveraged for water filling during drought. County Staff would need to establish agreements with major water providers, such as the water districts, on the cost to the County as well ensure that measures are compliant with existing water rights requirements of major water purveyors. The County could consider establishing a pilot study with one of the water districts, and once established, it could be expanded to the other parts of the County.

County OES is the lead entity for this STRA, with support from County DCD, County EHD, and water districts. Mutual aid agreements are required for this STRA, which are described in Section 4.4. The facilities described above would be activated for emergency water supplies using the process described in Section 4.5.

#### **4.2.1.2 Water Hauling or Bulk Water Delivery (STRA 02)**

Water hauling or bulk water delivery involves using licensed water haulers or tankers to deliver emergency water supplies to those in need at either (1) a central distribution point for residents to bring a container to be filled, or (2) a public water system, hospital or other critical infrastructure to which the water hauler or tanker can be connected. Water hauling or bulk water delivery is included as a STRA in the County DRP as STRA 02 and must be in compliance with existing water rights requirements of major water purveyors.

Water hauling would be effective in remote areas of the County, as most private wells have their own storage tanks. During a past drought, EBMUD provided water via water hauling to impacted communities in the County; future efforts will require coordination to ensure compliance with existing water rights requirements prior to granted authorization by EBMUD. The County could, in the future, recommend or require private well users to have tanks of a certain storage volume available on their premises.

County OES is the lead entity for this STRA, with support from County EHD, County DCD, and water districts. Mutual aid agreements may be required for this STRA, which are described in Section 4.4. Locations, operating hours, and other information regarding water hauling and bulk water delivery would be communicated using the process described in Section 4.5.

#### **4.2.1.3 Packaged or Bottled Water (STRA 03)**

In areas where other emergency and interim drinking water supplies are unavailable, the County would provide packaged or bottled water (e.g., 1- to 5-gallon jugs and individual bottled water) to affected domestic well, LSS, and SSWS users. Packaged or bottled water delivery is included as a STRA in the County DRP as STRA 03. During past droughts, the State provided packaged and bottled water to the impacted communities in the County.

County OES is the lead entity for this STRA, with support from County EHD and County DCD. Packaged or bottled water would be distributed to affected domestic well, LSS, or SSWS users following the process described in Section 4.5.2. Locations, operating hours, and other information regarding packaged or bottled water would be communicated using the method described in Section 4.5.

#### **4.2.1.4 Voluntary Water Conservation Program (STRA 04)**

County Staff, in coordination with other entities, would support voluntary water conservation programs among domestic well, LSS, and SSWS users in the event of a water shortage.

CCWD and EBMUD have their own water conservation measures that could be leveraged as part of a voluntary water conservation program for domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs. County Staff, in coordination with CCWD, EBMUD, and other water districts, would establish a communication and engagement program to support voluntary water conservation measures among domestic well, LSS, and SSWS users in the event of a water shortage. This would include strategies on how to reduce water use and monitor water usage.

County DCD is the lead entity for this STRA, with support from County EHD, County OES, County Office of Communications and Media, and water districts. More discussion is provided in Section 1.4.3.3. A voluntary water conservation program is included in the DRP as STRA 04.

#### **4.2.2 Interties (STRA 05)**

An emergency intertie is an aboveground or shallow subsurface pipeline that temporarily connects two or more willing water systems in the event of a water supply emergency that risks the basic health and safety of residents. As the County is not a water purveyor, its role is to serve as facilitator and convenor to assist in the successful execution of such agreements. The use of interties for emergency water supply is included as STRA 05 in the County DRP.

Some SSWSs and LSSs are near waterlines of public water systems. During a water shortage emergency, an emergency intertie could be implemented to connect the SSWS and LSS to these public water systems subject to compliance with existing water rights requirements of major water purveyors. The feasibility of an intertie would depend on proximity to the public water system and the public water system's willingness and ability to provide emergency water supplies. This intertie feasibility has not been evaluated. County Staff would work with the involved SSWSs, LSSs, and public water providers to evaluate the feasibility of an emergency intertie.

County EHD is the lead entity for this STRA, with support from County DCD and water districts.

#### **4.2.3 Permit Streamlining and Coordination (STRA 06)**

As drought or water shortage conditions worsen and the production or quality of water at domestic wells, LSSs, or SSWSs declines, well owners may be able to install a new well or rehabilitate an existing one to ensure continued water supply reliability. Within the County's authority, streamlining the permitting process for activities such as new well construction or existing well rehabilitation for

domestic well, LSS, or SSWS users could provide relief during an ongoing water shortage. This streamlining could be achieved, in part, with enhanced coordination between the County entities involved in permitting. Permit streamlining and coordination are included in the County DRP as STRA 06. County EHD is the lead for this STRA.

County Staff have already implemented a streamlined well permitting process during water shortage emergencies and can usually approve new or rehabilitated well permits within a few days of submission under this process. Permit streamlining was achieved through improved coordination amongst County entities and/or redirecting staff time during water shortage conditions to review and approve these permits. This streamlining process does not relax permitting criteria related to water supply, such as proximity to other wells or water quality. Not appropriately considering water supply criteria could worsen a water supply shortage for other groundwater users or exacerbate an ongoing water shortage.

### **4.3 Pre-Negotiated Contracts and Mutual Aid Agreements**

Efficient implementation of STRAs requires coordination and cooperation with entities beyond the County government. This can include pre-negotiated contracts and mutual aid agreements. Conveyance of water supplied from major water purveyors must be compliant with existing water rights requirements.

The acquisition of materials to implement this County DRP may be subject to local and State policies and regulations that govern their purchase. In the event of an emergency, counties can acquire materials necessary for protecting public health, welfare, or safety through existing emergency procurement policies, which are faster than traditional procurement. The exercise of this authority requires the declaration of a local emergency and is time-limited, obligating counties to follow traditional procurement practices at the earliest practicable opportunity.

The County may seek to establish pre-negotiated contracts and related agreements for STRA 01, STRA 02, STRA 03, and other STRAs identified, to be exercised during a recognized water shortage event. This would allow the County to act quickly and maintain consistent resources during emergencies and interim water shortage events. Such pre-negotiated contracts may involve private companies or other local public agencies, such as public water systems, to secure needed resources. The establishment, renewal, and ongoing management of these pre-negotiated contracts will comply with traditional procurement practices as required by local and State policies, except when emergency procurement authorities are temporarily invoked during a declared emergency.

A mutual aid agreement is an arrangement established before an emergency through which another entity(ies) provides personnel, equipment, materials, and/or associated services during an emergency. A mutual aid agreement clearly describes how the involved entities will engage with the County and each other during a water shortage emergency, including their roles and responsibilities.

Mutual aid agreements recommended for efficient activation of STRAs are outlined in Table 4-2, including the entities that should have a mutual aid agreement, the nature of the mutual aid, and the status of any agreement as of December 2025.

**Table 4-2. Pre-Negotiated Contracts and Mutual Aid Agreements Recommended for Activation of Short-Term Response Actions Included in Contra Costa County Drought Resilience Plan (as of December 2025)**

| STRA  | Contract or Mutual Aid Agreement Need   | Lead       | Status  |
|---|---|------------|---------|
| STRA 01 / Dedicated Water Filling Stations      | County needs to develop mutual aid agreements with water providers to support dedicated water filling stations.   | County OES | Pending |
| STRA 02 / Water Hauling and Bulk Water Delivery | County needs to establish pre-negotiated contracts with water hauling providers for bulk water delivery and may need mutual aid agreements with water providers to source water from. | County OES | Pending |
| STRA 03 / Packaged and Bottled Water Supplies   | County needs to procure pre-negotiated contracts for packaged and bottled water vendors.  | County OES | Pending |

#### 4.4 Drought and Water Shortage Emergency Response Process

The Drought and Water Shortage Emergency Response Process describes (1) how County Staff would evaluate drought and water shortage conditions in the County and declare a water shortage, and (2) its Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Distribution (EIDWD) Plan to activate emergency and interim drinking water supplies and communicate with affected domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities.

##### 4.4.1 Drought or Water Shortage Triggers

Declaring a drought or water shortage is important because it communicates a potential or ongoing emergency, activates mutual aid agreements, and is the first step in accessing State and Federal resources that may assist the County in implementing STRAs.

This DRP outlines a process for classifying water shortage stages, as detailed in Appendix A. This process uses indicators of water supply and defined criteria to categorize the County into one of three water shortage stages: Information, Alert, and Response, as described below.

- In the **Water Shortage Information Stage**, there is no major drought or potential for water shortage. In this stage, County Staff completes its County DRP adaptive management planning described in Section 6.2.
- In the **Water Shortage Alert Stage**, drought or the potential for water shortage exists, but there is no active water shortage emergency. In this stage, County Staff increase communication and outreach activities and initiate coordination with other entities.
- If a water shortage emergency is imminent or actively occurring, the County is in the **Water Shortage Emergency Response Stage**. In this stage, County Staff, in coordination with the Task Force, County Administrator’s Office, and County Board of Supervisors, would consider declaring a water shortage emergency and activate the EIDWD Plan described in Section 4.5.2

If a State drought or water shortage emergency declaration includes areas within the County, the County would go into the Water Shortage Emergency Response Stage and activate the EIDWD Plan described in Section 4.5.2. In the event of a Federal disaster declaration, County Staff would evaluate if

the disaster could require emergency and interim drinking water supplies; if so, it would activate the EIDWD Plan. State and/or Federal disaster declarations may make additional resources available to provide emergency and interim drinking water supplies. County Staff would evaluate how these declarations may influence the implementation of the STRAs identified in this County DRP and the activation of the EIDWD Plan.

**4.4.2 Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Distribution Plan**

The EIDWD Plan outlines the process for County staff to follow when distributing emergency and interim drinking water supplies to affected domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities. Table 4-3 shows the process County Staff would follow in the event distribution of emergency or interim drinking water supplies is required due to a short-term water shortage. These activities are anticipated for events lasting up to four weeks. Unless otherwise noted, implementation of these activities is subject to declaration of an emergency consistent with the County DRP or by direction of the County Board of Supervisors.

Across all areas with water shortage vulnerabilities identified in Section 3.7, the same set of short-term response actions apply including dedicated water filling stations, water hauling or bulk water delivery, and packaged or bottled water distribution. For emergency and interim drinking-water supply, each area would receive dedicated water filling stations when supplies are available, along with bulk water delivery and packaged water distribution. In all areas, the conveyance of supplied water must comply with existing water-rights requirements. This information can assist in selecting which emergency and interim drinking water supplies to activate for distribution and in identifying the organizations that may need to be coordinated with for that distribution. It aligns the emergency and interim drinking-water STRAs described in Section 4.2 with the mutual-aid agreements summarized in Section 4.3. This information is not exhaustive and should be periodically reviewed and updated by County Staff. It may also help identify the types and locations of emergency water supplies needed in the event of a water-shortage emergency occurring outside the currently identified vulnerable domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities.

**Table 4-3. Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Distribution Plan Summary**

| <b>EIDWD Plan Component</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Lead Agency                 | County OES leads the EIDWD Plan in coordination with County DCD and County EHD.   |
| Activation                  | Activation of the EIDWD Plan is subject to recommendation by the Task Force to County OES and an Emergency Operations Center proclamation. Activation is informed by an assessment conducted by County DCD that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trigger or cause of water shortage emergency. See Section 4.5.1 for drought and water shortage triggers to be considered in the assessment</li> <li>• Affected geographic area and demographics of the affected population</li> <li>• Emergency and interim water supply type(s)</li> <li>• Estimated duration of need</li> </ul> County OES, following review of the assessment, may recommend activation administratively through the County Board of Supervisors or other applicable authorities. |

| EIDWD Plan Component   | Description   |
|------------------------|---|
| Notification           | <p>County EHD will serve as the lead agency managing notification to the affected community on how and where to get emergency water supplies, in coordination with County OES. The notification method may vary depending on the cause of the water shortage emergency (climate-influenced, wildfire, power interruption, etc.) Anticipated notification methods include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agency website (<a href="https://www.cchealth.org/about-contra-costa-health/divisions/environmental-health">https://www.cchealth.org/about-contra-costa-health/divisions/environmental-health</a>)</li> <li>• Email</li> <li>• U.S. Mail</li> <li>• Broadcast media (radio/television)</li> <li>• Door hangers, fliers, information kiosks</li> <li>• Public outreach meetings, and other existing meetings</li> <li>• Hotline (311, other)</li> <li>• Agency social media</li> </ul> <p>Conduct of notifications may include coordination/collaboration with other partner agencies and organizations, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighborhood Associations</li> <li>• Non-Profit Organizations</li> <li>• Schools, Churches, and Community Groups</li> </ul> <p>Depending on the demographics of the affected community, information, materials, and other notifications may be required for non-English speaking communities. County OES will determine whether bilingual services are needed in support of water distribution activities.</p> |
| Information Collection | <p>County OES will collect specific information to support applicable cost recovery and inform future emergency and interim drinking water distribution efforts. Such data collection would not include personal information and generally include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of people served by emergency supply, including age and household income</li> <li>• General geographic location of household</li> <li>• Occupancy status (homeowner or tenant)</li> <li>• Duration for which emergency supplies would maintain water needs</li> <li>• Distance traveled to receive emergency supplies and mode of transportation</li> <li>• Known condition of well; prior experiences with water supply shortages</li> <li>• Others as identified as needed</li> </ul>   |

Key:

County DCD = Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development  
 County EHD = Contra Costa County Environmental Health Division  
 County OES = Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services  
 EIDWD Plan = Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Distribution Plan

## 5.0 Long-Term Mitigation Strategies and Actions

Findings revealed through the risk assessment presented in Chapter 3 show localized and regional water supply concerns, including the density of domestic wells in fractured rock areas, geology, water quality aquifer risk, and wildfire hazard. While risks that impact the basic public health and safety of residents can be addressed through STRAs, LTMSAs mitigate and potentially prevent the conditions that lead to water shortage emergencies. This County DRP identifies 15 LTMSAs, organized into 4 categories: drinking water well mitigation programs, system consolidation, regional water infrastructure investment, and data gaps. These LTMSAs are not exhaustive and may be modified in the future.

In the context of this County DRP, LTMSAs serve to reduce drought and water shortage vulnerabilities for domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities. When implemented, LTMSAs can reduce the extent and cost of emergency response actions but cannot eliminate the need for emergency response actions.

### 5.1 Legislative Direction

SB 552 requires that each county develop a drought and water shortage plan that covers long-term solutions for SSWS and domestic wells, per CWC Section 10609.70 (**bold face** added for emphasis as related to long-term mitigation strategies and actions and this section of the County DRP):

*(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*

### 5.2 Long-Term Mitigation Strategies and Actions Included in the Contra Costa County Drought Resilience Plan

LTMSAs included in the County DRP are summarized in Table 5-1. LTMSAs related to drinking water well mitigation programs are described in Section 5.3. The system consolidation opportunity within the county is described in Section 5.4. The ability of regional water infrastructure investments to help address domestic well, LSS, and SSWS vulnerabilities is detailed in Section 5.5. LTMSAs that address data gaps are discussed in Section 5.6. Future efforts related to LTMSA implementation, priority, and

challenges are described in Section 6.2.2. The LTMSAs shown in this table may be updated or replaced as part of future County DRP updates.

**Table 5-1. List of Long-Term Mitigation Strategies and Actions Included in Contra Costa County Drought Resilience Plan**

| <b>ID</b> | <b>Long-Term Mitigation Strategy or Action Category and Type</b>                    | <b>Long-Term Mitigation Strategy or Action Name</b>           | <b>Long-Term Mitigation Strategy or Action Description</b>   | <b>Responsible Entity</b> | <b>Supporting Entities</b> |
|-----------|---|---|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| LTMSA 01  | Drinking Water Well Mitigation Programs: Communication and Outreach                 | Domestic Well, LSS, and SSWS Resource Website                 | County Staff to create, review, and maintain a website with relevant information (County DRP, contacts, permitting processes, data, etc.) for domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities. The County DRP website will be understandable, accessible, and easy to navigate to remove avoidable associated barriers. | DCD                       | N/A                        |
| LTMSA 02  | Drinking Water Well Mitigation Programs: Communication and Outreach                 | Maintain Network of Vendors and County Contacts               | County Staff has assembled a list of well drillers, laboratories, and County contacts that can be shared with domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities on the County DRP website. County Staff would regularly check, update, and expand this list.  | EHD                       | DCD                        |
| LTMSA 03  | Drinking Water Well Mitigation Programs: Communication and Outreach                 | Grant Application Assistance to Domestic Wells, LSS, and SSWS | County Staff would include information on potential grants available for domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities on the County DRP website.   | DCD                       | EHD, OES                   |
| LTMSA 04  | Drinking Water Well Mitigation Programs: Drought and Water Shortage Risk Assessment | SSWS Vulnerabilities Assessment                               | County would develop a revised Risk Assessment by including a more detailed evaluation of risks to SSWSs within the County, such as more thorough evaluation of individual SSWS vulnerabilities, including characterizing well depth, infrastructure age, and capacities.  | EHD                       | N/A                        |
| LTMSA 05  | Drinking Water Well Mitigation Programs: Drought and Water Shortage Risk Assessment | Aging Infrastructure Assessment                               | County Staff would evaluate LSSs and SSWSs to determine the potential effectiveness of a future program to rehabilitate or replace aging infrastructure.   | EHD                       | N/A                        |
| LTMSA 06  | Drinking Water Well Mitigation Programs: Water Shortage Prevention                  | Point-of-Use Water Treatment Installation Outreach            | County Staff would implement outreach to users of domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs regarding point-of-use water treatment options (e.g., undersink reverse osmosis, whole-house filter packs)   | EHD                       | N/A                        |

5.0 Long-Term Mitigation Strategies and Actions

| ID       | Long-Term Mitigation Strategy or Action Category and Type          | Long-Term Mitigation Strategy or Action Name             | Long-Term Mitigation Strategy or Action Description   | Responsible Entity | Supporting Entities                           |
|----------|--|--|---|--------------------|---|
| LTMSA 07 | Drinking Water Well Mitigation Programs: Water Shortage Prevention | Regional Groundwater Level Monitoring and Communication  | County Staff would communicate, via the County DRP website, regional groundwater levels based on information provided by GSAs and DWR.  | DCD                | EHD   |
| LTMSA 08 | Drinking Water Well Mitigation Programs: Water Shortage Prevention | Water Quality Outreach for Domestic Wells, LSS, and SSWS | County Staff would share water quality data collected by GSAs, via the County DRP website, for domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs within the GSA-managed basins.   | EHD                | DCD   |
| LTMSA 09 | Drinking Water Well Mitigation Programs: Water Shortage Prevention | Bulk Water Tank Installation                             | County would outreach to domestic well, LSS, and SSWS operators about the value of sizing and installing bulk water storage tanks at existing wells.  | EHD                | DCD   |
| LTMSA 10 | Drinking Water Well Mitigation Programs: Water Shortage Prevention | Assistance with Domestic Well Monitoring                 | County Staff to assist domestic well communities with monitoring groundwater conditions by listing resources on the County DRP website.   | EHD                | DCD   |
| LTMSA 11 | System Consolidation   | System Consolidation Planning                            | County Staff would support domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities and community water systems with more detailed system consolidation planning and outreach.  | EHD                | DCD, Water Districts, Community Water Systems |
| LTMSA 12 | Regional Water Infrastructure Investment                           | Regional Planning Integration                            | County Staff will participate in related regional planning efforts to provide the perspective of domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities.  | DCD                | OES, Water Districts                          |
| LTMSA 13 | Regional Water Infrastructure Investment                           | Regional Water Project Integration                       | County Staff to coordinate with community water systems and/or GSAs to evaluate if planned projects have opportunities to improve water supply resilience for domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs through enhancements of these planned projects. | DCD                | EHD, Water Districts                          |

| ID       | Long-Term Mitigation Strategy or Action Category and Type | Long-Term Mitigation Strategy or Action Name   | Long-Term Mitigation Strategy or Action Description  | Responsible Entity | Supporting Entities |
|----------|---|--|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| LTMSA 14 | Data Gaps   | Dry Well Reporting and Abandonment   | County Staff to coordinate with DWR to improve dry well reporting accuracy by monitoring submissions in the online portal, updating well permit applications to indicate replacement wells, and reviewing well completion reports to identify abandoned wells. | EHD                | N/A                 |
| LTMSA 15 | Data Gaps   | Create Local Small Water System Classification and Monitoring for Communities with 2-4 Connections | County Staff have established a LSS monitoring program that monitors the water quality of systems that serve two to four connections.  | EHD                | N/A                 |

Key:

- County = Contra Costa County
- County Staff = Contra Costa County Staff
- DCD = Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development
- DRP = Drought Resilience Plan
- DWR = California Department of Water Resources
- EHD = Contra Costa County Environmental Health Division
- GSA = Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- LSS = Local Small Water System
- LTMSA = Long-Term Mitigation Strategy and Action
- N/A = not applicable
- PWD = Contra Costa County Public Works Department
- SSWS = State Small Water System
- State Water Board = State Water Resources Control Board
- STRA = Short-Term Response Action

### 5.3 Drinking Water Well Mitigation Programs

This County DRP considered the utility of domestic well drinking water well mitigation (DWWM) Programs as directed under CWC Section 10609.70 (b)(2). The DWWM programs describe actions to help domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities with groundwater wells that are relatively shallower than those in the area or located in areas where wells are at a higher risk of running dry. This section first identifies the DWWM program(s) within the County, organized by Bulletin 118 groundwater basins and fractured rock areas. This section then details the LTMSA components included in the DWWM programs. The DWWM programs and LTMSA components described herein are not exhaustive and may be modified in the future.

When identifying and defining DWWM programs, the County DRP considered the following factors:

- Domestic well, LSS and SSWS vulnerability to water supply shortages (see Chapter 3)
- If a DWWM program had already been defined as part of a GSP
- The SGMA priority for Bulletin 118 basins
- The occurrence of potentially shallow wells that could be at enhanced risk of drying up
- History of dry well reports and/or new well permits for replacement or deepened wells

Table 5-2 details the identified DWWM programs within the County.

**Table 5-2. Drinking Water Well Mitigation Programs within Contra Costa County**

| Location                   | Vulnerable Domestic Wells and State Small Water Systems Included                                | Drinking Water Well Mitigation Program Description   |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| East Bay Plain Subbasin    | None  | The East Bay Plain Subbasin GSP does not include a DWWM program. Wells in this area were generally found not to be at risk of drying up or water quality impacts. <sup>1</sup>   |
| East Contra Costa Subbasin | Areas within East Contra Costa in Brentwood and Byron (vulnerable areas F and G in Section 3.7) | The East Contra Costa Subbasin GSP does not include a DWWM program. <sup>2</sup> Wells in this area were generally found not to be at risk of dry up or water quality impacts. The County DRP DWWM program for this location will focus on communication and outreach, as well as water shortage prevention. |
| Livermore Valley Basin     | None  | The Livermore Valley Alternative GSP does not include a DWWM program. Wells in this area were generally found not to be at risk of dry up since groundwater levels within the basin have reached a state of stability. <sup>3</sup>  |

| Location                             | Vulnerable Domestic Wells and State Small Water Systems Included  | Drinking Water Well Mitigation Program Description  |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Communities in Fractured Rock Basins | Domestic wells in Northwest of Briones Hills, Las Trampas Ridge East side of Moraga, South Side of Black Hills, Mount Diablo Foothills on East Side, Briones Valley, City of Antioch, and other isolated domestic wells (vulnerable areas A, B, C, D, and E in Section 3.7) | There has not been a systematic and/or concentrated history of well dry ups within fractured rock areas in the County. Due to the difficulty in monitoring groundwater conditions in these areas, the County DRP DWWM program for these locations will focus on communication and outreach, as well as water shortage prevention. |

Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> East Bay Plain Basin GSP includes that the East Bay Plain Subbasin is not experiencing a chronic lowering of groundwater levels and is currently in a sustainable condition
- <sup>2</sup> The East Contra Costa Subbasin GSP includes an evaluation of dry supply wells during droughts which concluded that less than 5% of the domestic wells in the East Contra Costa Subbasin have the potential to go dry (i.e., the well would experience less than 10 feet of saturated screen). This comparison is highly conservative given the inclusion of wells that are 50 years old and that newer wells are likely not completed solely in the Shallow Zone.
- <sup>3</sup> The basin has not seen consistently low groundwater levels recently, as the basin has been managed within its sustainable yield for at least 10 years (DWR 2019).

Key:

- County = Contra Costa County
- DRP = Drought Resilience Plan
- DWWM = Drinking Water Well Mitigation
- GSP = Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- LTMSA = Long-Term Mitigation Strategies and Actions

**5.3.1 Communication and Outreach (LTMSA 01, 02, 03)**

Effective communication and outreach are essential components of drought resilience efforts, enabling timely information sharing and community engagement to support water shortage mitigation. These strategies aim to provide accessible resources to domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities, enabling them to improve the reliability of their water supply.

**5.3.1.1 Domestic Well, LSS, and SSWS Resource Website (LTMSA 01)**

As part of this County DRP, the County will establish a website focused on domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities. County Staff will update and maintain this website, enhancing its content as part of other LTMSAs. This website could house a variety of relevant resources, such as the County DRP, contact information, links to monitoring and water quality data, and characterization of water supply. County DCD would maintain the website with input from County EHD and County OES. Technical content, such as sampling guidance, disinfection information, and well-safety information, would be reviewed by County EHD before being included on the website.

**5.3.1.2 Establish Network of Vendors and County Contacts (LTMSA 02)**

County Staff have a list of well drillers and laboratories that provide water sampling and testing services. This list is available to domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities and would include a disclaimer stating that it does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement from the County. County Staff would (1) continue to maintain this list with regular updates, (2) post this list on the County DRP website, and (3) remind domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities of this list during drought or other events that could cause water shortages. County EHD is the lead of this LTMSA, with support from County DCD.

### **5.3.1.3 Grant Application Assistance to Domestic Wells, LSS, and SSWS (LTMSA 03)**

State and Federal grants may be available to domestic well, LSS, and SSWS owners to support a variety of activities, including technical training, new infrastructure, and studies. While the exact availability and resources covered by these grants vary, County Staff would include links to major funding organizations on its website, such as DWR and the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, for domestic well, LSS, and SSWS owners to check and track. County DCD is the lead of this LTMSA, with support from County EHD and County OES.

### **5.3.2 Drought and Water Shortage Risk Assessment (LTMSA 04, 05)**

The drought and water shortage risk assessment documented in Chapter 3 is a key component of a DWWM program. It helps define areas and populations with domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs that are more vulnerable to water shortages. It also characterizes what conditions may be driving water shortage vulnerabilities. Both can help inform the components of a drinking water well mitigation program. The LTMSAs in this section improve upon this County DRP risk assessment.

#### **5.3.2.1 SSWS Vulnerabilities Assessment (LTMSA 04)**

The risk assessment completed and documented in Chapter 3 was used to help select the components of the DWWM program documented in this County DRP. However, this risk assessment could be enhanced by including a more detailed evaluation of risks to SSWSs within the County. A more thorough evaluation of individual SSWS vulnerabilities, including characterizing well depth, infrastructure age, and capacities, would identify areas where reliability could be improved in the future. County Staff would update the County DRP risk assessment with the findings from this SSWS vulnerabilities assessment as part of future County DRP updates. County EHD is the lead of this LTMSA.

#### **5.3.2.2 Aging Infrastructure Assessment (LTMSA 05)**

County Staff would investigate the LSSs and SSWSs to determine the value of a program that provides financial assistance to LSS and SSWS owners to rehabilitate or replace aging infrastructure. County EHD is the lead of this LTMSA.

### **5.3.3 Water Shortage Prevention (LTMSA 06, 07, 08, 09, 10)**

Water shortage prevention LTMSAs address water supply vulnerabilities by improving the understanding of groundwater conditions and enhancing the resilience of domestic well, LSS, and SSWS groundwater assets.

#### **5.3.3.1 Point-of-Use Water Treatment Installation (LTMSA 06)**

County Staff would implement outreach to end users of domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs in eastern County areas about the value of point-of-use water treatment options. These areas have potential for nitrate-related water-quality issues. The outreach would include information on available point-of-use water treatment options and a list of vendors that install such systems. County EHD is the lead of this LTMSA.

#### **5.3.3.2 Regional Groundwater Level Monitoring and Communication (LTMSA 07)**

County Staff would coordinate with GSAs in the County and DWR to communicate existing groundwater level monitoring results to domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities. This includes linking to updated GSA annual reporting on the County DRP website and characterizing results specifically for domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities. The GSAs typically complete groundwater monitoring in October and April and develop an annual report by April 1 of each year. County Staff would coordinate their website

updates to include these GSA updates. In addition, DWR provides an acoustic well-depth measurement program to support groundwater well monitoring. As part of this program, well users who participate are required to provide their measurement data to DWR. County Staff may incorporate information from this program, where appropriate and available, to enhance communication of groundwater conditions to domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities. County DCD is the lead of this LTMSA, with support from County EHD.

#### **5.3.3.3 *Water Quality Outreach for Domestic Wells, LSS, and SSWS (LTMSA 08)***

County Staff would share water quality data with domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities on the County DRP website and update brochures related to known water quality issues. Communication with these communities would focus on known water quality issues within their area and provide updates as new water quality data is collected. For domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs within the GSA-managed basins, County Staff would coordinate with the GSAs on their water quality data for presentation on the County DRP website. County EHD is the lead of this LTMSA, with support from County DCD.

#### **5.3.3.4 *Bulk Water Tank Installation (LTMSA 09)***

Bulk water tank installation at domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs would improve water supply reliability in areas vulnerable to drought and water shortages. In the near term, County Staff would provide outreach to these areas regarding the value of installing bulk water tanks and available resources for installation. In the future, the County may implement a policy that encourages the installation of bulk water storage tanks for domestic well, LSS, and SSWS owners. County EHD is the lead for this LTMSA, with support from County DCD.

#### **5.3.3.5 *Assistance with Domestic Well Monitoring (LTMSA 10)***

The vulnerable domestic wells within the County are in both Bulletin 118 groundwater basins and fractured rock areas. The GSAs monitor groundwater conditions within their basins but do not aid with sampling individual domestic wells. There is no existing groundwater monitoring program for domestic wells within fractured rock areas.

County Staff would assist domestic well communities with monitoring their wells by providing resources on the County DRP website, including a list of laboratories that perform well sampling and testing, as well as County contacts to assist with interpreting results. With additional resources, County Staff could (1) coordinate with the GSAs to provide annual testing of domestic wells at no cost to the communities within their managed groundwater basins, and (2) provide financial assistance to domestic well communities outside the GSA-managed basins for an annual groundwater test. Data collected through these annual tests could then assist with broader groundwater monitoring. County EHD is the lead for this LTMSA, with support from County DCD.

### **5.4 System Consolidation Planning**

System consolidation is the physical or managerial joining of two or more water systems. In the context of domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs, these systems can be consolidated with each other and/or a larger water system. System consolidation can improve water supply reliability by broadening water supply sources and/or the number of users. With more users in a singular system, operating and maintaining that system can be cost-effective compared to smaller or individual systems. This section identifies potential consolidation opportunities for domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs. The County DRP separates system consolidation opportunities into two categories: (1) existing (those that have already been identified and undergone at least an initial assessment), and (2) potential (those identified during

development of this County DRP), based on proximity to community water system service area boundaries.

#### 5.4.1 Existing Consolidation Opportunities

##### 5.4.1.1 Existing Efforts

- **Domestic Wells.** There are currently no known consolidation efforts—past or ongoing— involving domestic wells.
- **LSS or SSWS.** There are currently no known consolidation efforts—past or ongoing— involving LSSs or SSWSs.

While there have not been consolidation efforts within the County involving domestic wells, LSSs, or SSWSs, CCWD and DWD have been completing consolidation efforts with public water systems on Bethel Island (CCWD 2020b). One example being consolidation of County Service Area M-28 (Willow Mobile Home Park) into DWD. These consolidation efforts were completed with assistance from the Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant Program and the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Program. DWD received State Technical Assistance to conduct feasibility studies for the potential consolidation of Bethel Island, with Rural Community Assistance Corporation advancing the effort through a revised 2025 workplan, which is on hold as of February 2026 due to shifting funding priorities (DWD 2026). The lessons learned through this process, such as DWD and CCWD changing their service areas and the Central Valley Project service area for the Bethel Island water system consolidations, could be applied to future consolidation efforts involving domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs within the County.

#### 5.4.2 Potential System Consolidation Opportunities (LTMSA 11)

There are system consolidation opportunities for domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs that are within the existing service area boundaries of a community water system.<sup>14</sup> While a community water system is not required to provide water service to domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities, their proximity may increase the feasibility of system consolidation. There may be nearby water supply infrastructure from a community water system that could connect to domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs. Policy or institutional hurdles may be less onerous if domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs are in an existing service area. Any potential consolidation effort must be compliant with existing water rights requirements of major water purveyors.

**Domestic Wells, LSSs, and SSWSs in Community Water System Service Areas.** Table 5-3 presents community water systems that likely have domestic wells, LSSs, and/or SSWSs in their service areas. Due to the uncertainty of the domestic well location data, this table may not reflect all domestic wells, LSSs, or SSWSs within community water system service areas. The information in this table highlights where outreach and additional analysis by County Staff in collaboration with these community water systems may be most effective.

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<sup>14</sup> As defined in HSC Section 116275(i), a community water system means a public water system that serves at least 15 service connections used by yearlong residents or regularly serves at least 25 yearlong residents of the area served by the system.

**Table 5-3. Community Water Systems with Domestic Wells, Local Small Water Systems, and/or State Small Water Systems Likely Within their Service Area**

| <b>Community Water Systems with Domestic Wells Likely in Their Service Areas<sup>1,2</sup></b> | <b>Number of State Small Water Systems Likely in Their Service Areas<sup>2</sup></b> | <b>Number of Local Small Water Systems Likely in Their Service Areas<sup>2</sup></b> |
|--|--|--|
| Contra Costa Water District  | 6  | 5  |
| East Bay Municipal Utility District  | 4  | 0  |
| Town of Discovery Bay  | 1  | 0  |
| Diablo Water District  | 0  | 3  |
| City of Brentwood  | 0  | 2  |
| City of Antioch  | 0  | 1  |
| Knightsen Community Water System   | 0  | 1  |
| Contra Costa County County Service Area M-28 (County CSA M-28)                                 | 0  | 0  |
| Willow Park Marina   | 0  | 0  |

Table Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Number of domestic wells within a community water system's service area is not shown as it may be inaccurate due to the locations of some domestic wells not being known.

<sup>2</sup> Domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs within a community water system's service area are based on the established service area boundary and do not reflect the proximity to existing water delivery infrastructure. Additional analysis would be needed to determine the proximity of domestic wells, LSS, and SSWS to existing water delivery infrastructure.

**Groupings of Domestic Wells, LSSs, and SSWSs near Community Water Systems.** The proximity of domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs to the service areas of community water systems was also evaluated to identify opportunities for system consolidation. Concentrations of domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs and their proximity to a community water system are presented in Figure 5-1. Areas of system consolidation opportunity with a higher concentration of domestic wells (as shown in Figure 3-3), LSSs, and SSWSs within 1 mile of a community water system are highlighted in this figure. Table 5-4 summarizes the consolidation opportunities, including the number of domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs in each area, as well as the nearby community water systems. Note that some areas of system consolidation opportunity highlighted in Figure 5-1 may also overlap with domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs within a community water system's boundary as described above.

There may also be system consolidation opportunities outside the areas shown and described below. County Staff would stay informed of all potential opportunities as they arise.

**Evaluating Consolidation Opportunities in the County:** In this LTMSA, County Staff would support domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities and community water systems by assisting in pursuing funding and additional resources for exploration, development, and the implementation of a plan for physical consolidation.

With additional resources, County Staff would work with domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities and community water systems to further evaluate the opportunities for system consolidation and, if appropriate, develop plans for system consolidation. This evaluation would include outreach to the domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities and community water systems within these areas to better

understand the system consolidation opportunities, and may include evaluating interest in and willingness to consolidate, water supply availability and water quality constraints, water delivery infrastructure (distance to, components and capacities, etc.), potential for funding and financing for a system consolidation study and infrastructure, points of contact, and other considerations. County Staff could lead the outreach effort, or those entities engaged in it could lead it. County EHD is the lead of this LTMSA, with support from County DCD.

**Table 5-4. Areas with Opportunity for Domestic Wells, Local Small Water Systems, and State Small Water Systems Consolidation**

| <b>Area of System Consolidation Opportunity</b> | <b>Approximate Number of Domestic Wells</b> | <b>Number of State Small Water Systems</b> | <b>Number of Local Small Water Systems</b> | <b>Community Water Systems that Could be Involved in Consolidation with Domestic Wells, Local Small Water Systems, or State Small Water Systems</b> |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| A: Communities Northwest of Briones Hills       | 88  | 0  | 0  | East Bay Municipal Utility District   |
| B: Communities North of Briones Hills           | 77  | 0  | 0  | Contra Costa Water District<br>City of Martinez   |
| C: South Side of Black Hills                    | 48  | 0  | 0  | East Bay Municipal Utility District<br>Mount Diablo State Park  |
| D: Mount Diablo Foothills on East Side          | 58  | 0  | 0  | Contra Costa Water District   |
| E: South Side of Brentwood                      | 112   | 1  | 0  | City of Brentwood   |
| F: South and Southeast Side of Oakley           | 446   | 2  | 9  | City of Brentwood<br>Diablo Water District<br>Contra Costa Water District   |
| G: City of Antioch                              | 76  | 1  | 2  | Contra Costa Water District<br>City of Antioch  |
| H: East Contra Costa Subbasin in Byron Area     | 161   | 1  | 0  | Byron-Bethany Irrigation District<br>Contra Costa Water District<br>Town of Discovery Bay   |
| I: Communities in Bethel Island                 | 76  | 3  | 1  | Diablo Water District<br>Contra Costa Water District  |

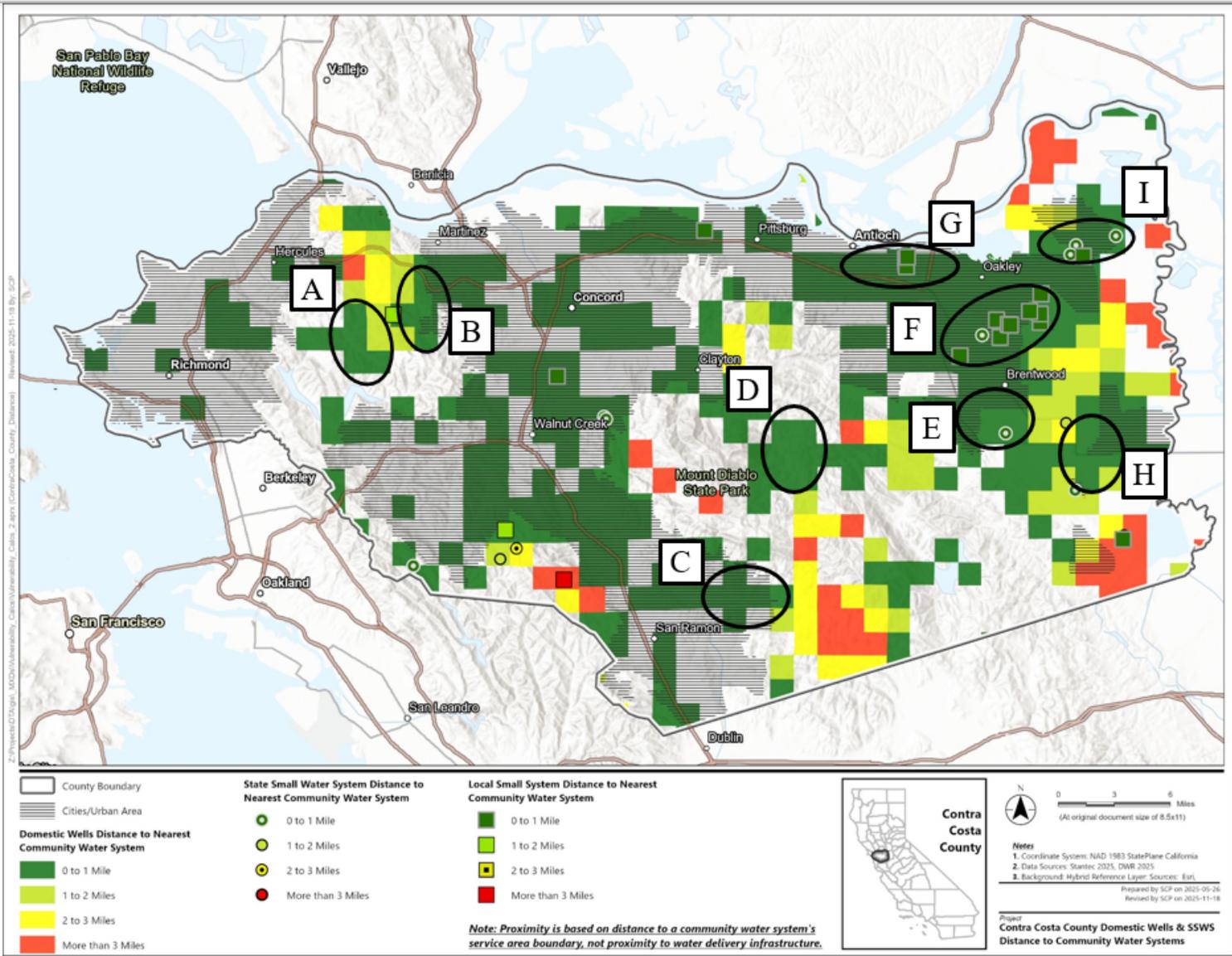


Figure 5-1. Areas with Opportunity for Domestic Wells, Local Small Water Systems, and State Small Water Systems Consolidation

## 5.5 Regional Water Infrastructure Investment

Regional water infrastructure projects can enhance the water supply reliability of many communities, including domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWs. The LTMSAs in this section describe how County Staff could integrate regional planning and regional water infrastructure to help enhance the water supply reliability of domestic well, LSS, and SSW communities. Additional information on the near-term integration into regional planning or water infrastructure is included in Section 6.3.

### 5.5.1 Regional Planning Integration (LTMSA 12)

Many regional and County planning efforts intersect with the County DRP. Coordination by County Staff within these other regional and County planning efforts will help ensure these plans consider domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWs. Table 5-5 details the relevant regional planning efforts, their current status, and their intersection with domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWs. For LTMSA 12, County Staff will participate during the planning effort and provide the perspective of domestic well, LSS, and SSW communities. Additional information on the timing and County roles/responsibilities for these efforts is presented in Section 6.3. County DCD is the lead of this LTMSA, with support from County OES and the water districts.

**Table 5-5. Summary of Relevant Regional Planning Efforts**

| Planning Effort   | Current Status | Intersection with Domestic Wells, Local Small Water Systems, and State Small Water Systems   |
|---|----------------|--|
| San Francisco Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Bay Area IRWMP 2019)  | Adopted 2024   | Evaluated water supply reliability within an area that includes domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWs.  |
| Urban Water Management Plan(s) (DWR 2020)   | Adopted 2021   | Well owners residing in Cities of Antioch, Brentwood, Martinez, Town of Discovery Bay, and Pittsburg’s service areas.<br>Well owners residing in Contra Costa Water District, Diablo Water District, Discovery Bay Community Services District, Dublin San Ramon Services District, EBMUD, and Golden State Water Company service areas. |
| Agricultural Water Management Plan(s) (BBID 2025)                                       | Adopted 2025   | Focused on the interplay between agricultural irrigation, water reliability, and the surrounding environment that includes domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWs.   |
| East Contra Costa County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (ECCWMA 2019)        | Updated 2019   | Focused on improving water supply reliability through infrastructure investments, facilitating the transfer of water during shortages, bolstering emergency preparedness, and improving climate change resiliency.   |
| East Bay Plain Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (East Bay Plain GSP 2022)       | Approved 2023  | The East Bay Plain Subbasin covered in this plan has domestic wells.   |
| East Contra Costa Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (East Contra Costa GSP 2021) | Approved 2023  | The East Contra Costa Subbasin covered in this plan has domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWs.  |
| Livermore Valley Basin AGSP (Zone 7 Water Agency 2024)                                  | Approved 2024  | The Livermore Valley Basin covered in this plan has domestic wells.  |

| Planning Effort   | Current Status  | Intersection with Domestic Wells, Local Small Water Systems, and State Small Water Systems   |
|---|-----------------|--|
| Delta Region Drinking Water Quality Management Plan (CALFED 2005)   | Developed 2005  | Focused on improving water quality in the Delta, which indirectly impacts domestic well, LSS and SSWS communities by addressing sources of contamination and promoting sustainable groundwater management. |
| San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary Water Quality Control Plan (State Water Board 2018)                  | Ongoing Updates | Focused on improving water quality in the Delta, which indirectly impacts domestic well, LSS and SSWS communities by setting standards for freshwater flows and water quality in the Delta.                |
| Contra Costa Water District – 2025 Future Water Supply Study (CCWD 2025)  | Updated 2025    | Evaluated water supply reliability within an area that includes domestic well, LSS and SSWS communities.   |
| East Bay Municipal Utility District – Water Supply Management Program 2040 Plan (EBMUD 2012)                                | Adopted 2012    | Evaluated water supply reliability within an area that includes domestic well, LSS and SSWS communities.   |
| Mokelumne/Amador/Calaveras Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update (EBMUD 2013)                                    | Adopted 2013    | Improves water supply reliability and ensures long-term balance of supply and demand in areas that include domestic well, LSS and SSWS communities.  |
| Contra Costa County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (Contra Costa County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan 2024 Update) | Adopted 2024    | Evaluates climate change impacts, such as reduced snowpack and more intense droughts, on vulnerable communities dependent on domestic well, LSS and SSWS communities.                                      |
| EBMUD Climate Action Plan (EBMUD 2021)  | Adopted 2023    | Evaluates climate change impacts, such as reduced snowpack and more intense droughts, on vulnerable communities dependent on domestic well, LSS and SSWS communities.                                      |
| EBMUD LHMP (EBMUD 2023)   | Adopted 2023    | Evaluates conditions, such as drought and wildfire, that would impact the water supply reliability of domestic well, LSS and SSWS communities.   |
| Contra Costa County General Plan (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024)   | Adopted 2024    | Covers areas with domestic well, LSS and SSWS communities.   |
| Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (Contra Costa County 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan)                    | Adopted 2024    | Evaluates conditions, such as drought and wildfire, that would impact the water supply reliability of domestic well, LSS and SSWS communities.   |

Key:

Delta = Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta  
 EBMUD = East Bay Municipal Utility District  
 LHMP = Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

**5.5.2 Regional Water Project Integration (LTMSA 13)**

The County DRP collected information on potential regional water infrastructure projects and assessed their potential to enhance domestic well, LSS, and SSWS water supply reliability, as well as County Staff’s role in developing and implementing such projects. This information is summarized in Table 5-6. These projects are not an exhaustive list. In LTMSA 13, County Staff will monitor the status of these projects

and, as appropriate, engage with the lead entities to evaluate the opportunity for enhancing the reliability of domestic well, LSS, and SSWS water supplies. County Staff will also continue to monitor regional planning efforts for other regional water infrastructure opportunities. County DCD is the lead of this LTMSA, with support from County EHD and the water districts.

**Table 5-6. Regional Water Projects with Applicability to Domestic Wells and/or State Small Water Systems**

| <b>Regional Water Infrastructure Opportunity</b>  | <b>Potential Applicability to Domestic Wells and State Small Water Systems<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>Involved Entities for Coordination</b>  |
|---|--|--|
| Bay Area Regional Desalination Project (Bay Area IRWMP 2019)  | Low-moderate: Indirectly offsets groundwater demand  | Various entities including CCWD, EBMUD   |
| Freeport Regional Water Project (EBMUD 2020a)   | Low: Imported water reduces reliance on groundwater  | EBMUD and USBR   |
| Recycled Water Projects (CCWD 2020a; City of Antioch 2021; City of Brentwood 2021; City of Martinez 2021; City of Pittsburg 2021; DWD 2021a; EBMUD 2020a) | Moderate: Indirectly offset groundwater demand   | Various entities including CCWD, Central San, Delta Diablo, and EBMUD; Cities of Antioch, Brentwood, Martinez, and Pittsburg |
| Advanced Treatment Demonstration Projects (CCWD 2020a; City of Antioch 2021; City of Martinez 2021; City of Pittsburg 2021; EBMUD 2020a)                  | Moderate: Indirectly offset groundwater demand   | Various entities including CCWD, EBMUD, Cities of Antioch, Martinez, and Pittsburg   |
| Delta Habitat Restoration Projects (DWR 2025a)  | High: Improve water quality in the Delta   | Various entities including DWR and USBR  |
| EBMUD-CCWD Untreated Water Intertie (CCWD 2020a)  | Low: Provides alternative water sources  | CCWD and EBMUD   |
| SFPUC Hayward-EBMUD Intertie Project (EBMUD 2020b)  | Low: Provides alternative water sources  | EBMUD and SFPUC  |
| BBID-CCWD intertie (State Water Board 2015)   | Low: Provides alternative water sources  | BBID, CCWD, State Water Board, USBR  |
| Regional Surface Water Projects (CCWD 2020a; EBMUD 2024a; BBID 2025)  | Moderate: Indirectly offset groundwater demand   | Various entities including BBID, CCWD, and EBMUD   |
| Groundwater Replenishment Projects (CCWD 2020a; DWD 2021a; East Bay Plain GSP 2022; East Contra Costa GSP 2021)   | High: Increases groundwater storage  | Various entities including DWD, East Bay Plain Subbasin GSAs, East Contra Costa Subbasin GSAs                                |

| Regional Water Infrastructure Opportunity   | Potential Applicability to Domestic Wells and State Small Water Systems <sup>1</sup> | Involved Entities for Coordination          |
|---|--|---|
| Conjunctive Use and Groundwater Banking/Exchange Program (EBMUD 2020a; EBMUD WSMP 2040 Plan 2012)                 | Low: Increases groundwater storage   | EBMUD                                       |
| Water Transfer Opportunities (Bay Area IRWMP 2019; DWD 2021a; EBMUD 2020a; East Contra Costa GSP 2021; BBID 2025) | Moderate: Provide alternative water sources  | Various entities including CCWD, DWD, EBMUD |
| Contra Costa Canal Replacement Project (CCWD 2020a)   | High: Supports efficient water transfer systems and minimizes water loss             | Various entities including CCWD             |
| Infrastructure Improvements Projects (CCWD 2020a; EBMUD 2020a; EBMUD 2020b)                                       | High: Support efficient recharge and water distribution systems, minimize water loss | Various entities including CCWD and EBMUD   |

Note:

<sup>1</sup> For opportunities from EBMUD WSMP 2040 Plan 2012, EBMUD 2020a and EBMUD 2020b, potential applicability is contingent on the domestic well, LSS, and SSWS water systems being within EBMUD’s service area. Additional requirements may need to be met for potential applicability. It does not apply to water systems outside of the service area.

Key:

- BBID = Byron-Bethany Irrigation District
- CCWD = Contra Costa Water District
- Central San = Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
- Delta = Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
- DWD = Diablo Water District
- DWR = California Department of Water Resources
- EBMUD: East Bay Municipal Utility District
- GSA = Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- GSP = Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- SFPUC = San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- State Water Board = State Water Resources Control Board
- USBR = United States Bureau of Reclamation
- UWMP = Urban Water Management Plan

## 5.6 Data Gaps

The County DRP utilized available data to support (1) evaluation of the vulnerability of domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs to water shortages, and (2) development and alignment of effective STRAs and LTMSAs. Access to new or more accurate/complete data would help improve this planning process in the future. This section details the LTMSAs identified by the County DRP that would provide new or improved data for use in future planning efforts.

### 5.6.1 Dry Well Reporting and Abandonment (LTMSA 14)

DWR established an online dry well reporting system for domestic well communities to report problems with their wells that impact their water supplies (CNRA 2024). County Staff will monitor, via the publicly accessible online portal, information submitted to this system to assist in identifying areas with current or past water shortages that can help inform the potential for future water shortages. However, not all domestic well, LSS, and SSWS owners with a dry or impacted well have submitted a dry well report.

Many times, they will drill a new, deeper well without reporting the previously dry well. To address this data gap, County Staff will update the well permit application so that the applicant must indicate if the new well is replacing a dry well.

County Staff will review dry well reporting data (from DWR's system and the well permit applications it receives) with well completion report data to identify wells to be removed from DWR's well completion report dataset<sup>15</sup> that have been abandoned due to replacement or retirement. The well completion report dataset was used to identify well locations for risk assessment in Chapter 3. County Staff will coordinate with DWR to update information in the well completion report. This coordinated review and update of well-related information will help develop a more comprehensive understanding of dry wells and water shortage issues in the County. County EHD is the lead of this LTMSA.

### **5.6.2 Local Small Water System Classification (LTMSA 15)**

Contra Costa County Ordinance Code §414-- 4.221 defines a small water system as a utility system that furnishes water for domestic purposes to from two through one hundred ninety-nine service connections. Because SSWS is defined to serve at least 5 connections, the County created the LSS classification, which serves drinking water to between 2 and 4 service connections. (Contra Costa Health 2024). These LSS are regulated consistently with SSWS. Systems with a single connection are not included due to the number of these systems in the County and the resources required to implement a program of this size. County staff will continue monitoring LSS water quality as part of this LTMSA. County EHD is the lead of this LTMSA.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Wells/Well-Completion-Reports>

## 6.0 Implementation Considerations

The STRAs and LTMSAs identified and described in Chapters 4 and 5 represent the range of in-progress and proposed activities. Implementation of these STRAs and LTMSAs often (1) falls under the authorities and jurisdictional responsibilities of separate County departments and other local and State public agencies, and (2) requires the involvement of other interested parties. To implement these STRAs and LTMSAs, and contribute to continued improvement of water supply reliability for domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities, this section describes the implementation steps designed to assist the County with:

- Ongoing water supply monitoring and interagency collaboration in support of implementation
- Outlining STRA and LTMSA implementation responsibility, status, and resource needs
- Identifying opportunities to align the County DRP with other County policy and County and regional planning documents
- Adaptive management
- Identifying funding opportunities

### 6.1 Legislative Direction

SB 552 requires the County to develop a drought and water shortage plan that analyzes the steps to implement the plan and funding sources available to support implementation, per CWC Section 10609.70 (**bold face** added for emphasis as related to plan implementation and this section of the County DRP):

*(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.***

### 6.2 Implementation Roadmap

The County DRP describes existing and proposed STRAs and LTMSAs that, when executed, help the County meet its objectives under CWC Section 10609.70 (b) (1), (b) (2), and (b) (3). Implementing these STRAs and LTMSAs will require resources and clear roles and responsibilities. The identified STRAs and

LTMSAs include existing or new activities to be implemented under existing authorities and funding of County departments and those activities dependent on additional funds from local, State, or Federal sources. This section presents the implementation roadmap for this County DRP, identification of ongoing monitoring and collaboration with County staff, and management oversight, prioritization, and resource identification needs.

### 6.2.1 Monitoring and Collaboration

Water supply monitoring and interagency collaboration support County DRP implementation by evaluating water supply reliability and maintaining ongoing coordination and collaboration among County departments, related organizations, and the Task Force. County Staff will conduct a range of activities as described in Table 6-1. These activities may be superseded by the activities described in Section 4.5 if a drought or water shortage emergency has occurred.

**Table 6-1. Contra Costa County Drought Resilience Plan Monitoring and Collaboration Activities**

| Activity                                 | Description  | Activity Lead                         | Timing   |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| GSA ECC Subbasin Coordination            | County Staff to meet with GSA manager/staff prior to the GSA's release of the basin/subbasin GSP Annual Report (Water Code Section 10728). May include additional coordination based on water supply conditions.   | DCD                                   | February/March   |
| Water Supply Monitoring and Coordination | County DCD to regularly engage with agencies/organizations that monitor physical risk factors and water supply conditions to evaluate water supplies associated with domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities (Section 4.5.1). Coordinating agencies to include ECC Subbasin GSAs, East Bay Plain Subbasin GSAs, DWR, and public water systems.  | DCD, in coordination with OES and EHD | April  |
| Large Water Purveyor Coordination        | County Staff to meet with EBMUD, CCWD, and ECC to discuss STRA, LTMSA, and the water supply condition assessment.  | DCD, in coordination with OES and DEH | As needed in consultation with Large Water Purveyors and ECC |
| Internal Coordination                    | Annual meeting to inform the development of the water supply condition assessment. This meeting prepares the presentation for the annual Task Force meeting.   | DCD, in coordination with OES and DEH | April  |
| Task Force Meeting                       | County Staff to schedule and facilitate a minimum of one Task Force meeting annually. The meeting will follow County DCD's update of its annual water supply condition assessment (Section 4.5.1). Results of this assessment shall support County Staff, in collaboration with the Task Force, to identify potential activation of water shortage response measures as described in this DRP. | DCD                                   | May of each year.  |

| Activity                                 | Description   | Activity Lead                         | Timing  |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Drought Resilience Plan Website Update   | County Staff to update the County DRP website content and resource materials as described in the water supply condition assessment. This includes any contact info, lists of resources (vendors, links to external websites, etc.), and other website content related to LTMSA. | DCD, in coordination with OES and DEH | May of each year after the Task Force meeting, and as water supply conditions merit |
| GSA East Bay Plain Subbasin Coordination | County Staff to engage, where applicable, with GSA advisory or technical groups/committees where those activities assist in informing or implementing actions that complement the County DRP.   | DCD                                   | As Needed   |

Key:

- CCWD = Contra Costa Water District
- County = Contra Costa County
- County DRP = Contra Costa County Drought and Water Shortage Resilience Plan
- DCD = Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development
- DWR = California Department of Water Resources
- EBMUD = East Bay Municipal Utility District
- ECC = East Contra Costa
- EHD = Contra Costa County Environmental Health Division
- GSA = Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- GSP = Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- OES = Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services
- SSWS = State Small Water Systems
- Task Force = Drought and Water Shortage Task Force

**6.2.2 Oversight, Responsibilities, Priorities, and Resource Needs**

Individual STRAs and LTMSAs identified in this County DRP have been assigned to individual County departments and agencies pursuant to each agency’s regulatory and policy authorities. County DCD, as lead agency of the County DRP, shall provide administrative oversight and/or collaboration for all implementation actions that fall outside of its regulatory and policy authorities.

Table 6-2 details the type, status, and lead of County DRP STRAs and LTMSAs. Activities described in this table are subject to modification based on climate conditions, engagement with the Task Force, and other relevant factors. While activities have been assigned a near-, mid-, and long-term priority status, the pace of an activity’s implementation schedule can be changed depending on various drivers, such as new regulations, climate conditions, and funding.

“Priority” is classified as:

- Near-term (in the next 2 years)
- Mid-term (within 2 to 5 years)
- Long-term (5 or more years in the future)

“Status” is classified as:

- Available (the resource or action is ready for use or implementation immediately)
- In-Progress (for those currently being implemented but may require a longer timeline)
- Proposed (for those that require additional resources)

The “Resource Requirement” columns specify if the STRA/LTMSA would require additional staff time, additional County budget for purposes other than staff time, and/or external funds beyond what the County currently has available. These external funds could include grants, financing, Federal funding, and State funding to support DRP implementation.

Beyond these implementation activities, County DCD will coordinate with the entities listed in Table 6-2 on mid-term and long-term priorities. The status of these mid- and long-term priorities, as well as the information in this table, will be reviewed at least annually in coordination with the Task Force meeting.

**Table 6-2. Contra Costa County Drought Resilience Plan Short-Term Response Action and Long-Term Mitigation Strategy and Action Implementation Summary**

| Action/Strategy ID and Name  | Lead Agency | Coordinating Agency            | Priority  | Status    | Resource Requirement  |                          |                |
|--|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
|  |             |                                |           |           | Additional Staff Time | Additional County Budget | External Funds |
| STRA 01 / Dedicated Water Filling Stations                                 | OES         | EHD, DCD, Water Districts      | Long-Term | Proposed  | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes            |
| STRA 02 / Water Hauling, Bulk Water for Existing and Temporary Tanks       | OES         | EHD, DCD, Water Districts      | Near-Term | Available | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes            |
| STRA 03 / Packaged and Bottled Water Supplies                              | OES         | EHD, DCD                       | Near-Term | Available | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes            |
| STRA 04 / Voluntary Water Conservation Program                             | DCD         | EHD, OES, OCM, Water Districts | Near-Term | Available | Yes                   | No                       | No             |
| STRA 05 / SSWS and LSS Intertie, Emergency                                 | EHD         | DCD, Water Districts           | Long-Term | Proposed  | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes            |
| STRA 06 / Expedited New or Replacement Well Approval During Water Shortage | EHD         |                                | Near-Term | Available | Yes                   | No                       | No             |
| LTMSA 01 / Domestic Wells, LSS, and SSWS Resource Website                  | DCD         |                                | Near-Term | Available | Yes                   | No                       | No             |
| LTMSA 02 / Maintain Network of Vendors and County Contacts                 | EHD         | DCD                            | Near-Term | Available | Yes                   | No                       | No             |
| LTMSA 03 / Grant Application Assistance to Domestic Wells, LSS, and SSWS   | DCD         | EHD, OES                       | Mid-Term  | Proposed  | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes            |
| LTMSA 04 / SSWS Vulnerabilities Assessment                                 | EHD         |                                | Mid-Term  | Proposed  | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes            |
| LTMSA 05 / Aging Infrastructure Assessment                                 | EHD         |                                | Mid-Term  | Proposed  | Yes                   | No                       | No             |
| LTMSA 06 / Point-of-Use Water Treatment Installation Outreach              | EHD         |                                | Long-Term | Proposed  | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes            |

| Action/Strategy ID and Name  | Lead Agency | Coordinating Agency                           | Priority  | Status      | Resource Requirement  |                          |                |
|--|-------------|---|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
|  |             |   |           |             | Additional Staff Time | Additional County Budget | External Funds |
| LTMSA 07 / Regional Groundwater Level Monitoring and Communication                             | DCD         | EHD   | Mid-Term  | In-Progress | Yes                   | No                       | No             |
| LTMSA 08 / Water Quality Outreach  | EHD         | DCD   | Mid-Term  | In-Progress | Yes                   | No                       | No             |
| LTMSA 09 / Bulk Water Tank Installation  | EHD         | DCD   | Mid-Term  | Proposed    | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes            |
| LTMSA 10 / Assistance with Domestic Well Monitoring  | EHD         | DCD   | Long-Term | Proposed    | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes            |
| LTMSA 11 / System Consolidation Planning   | EHD         | DCD, Water Districts, Community Water Systems | Long-Term | Proposed    | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes            |
| LTMSA 12 / Regional Planning Integration   | DCD         | OES, Water Districts                          | Near-Term | Available   | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes            |
| LTMSA 13 / Regional Water Project Integration  | DCD         | EHD, Water Districts                          | Near-Term | Available   | Yes                   | Yes                      | Yes            |
| LTMSA 14 / Dry Well Reporting and Abandonment  | EHD         |   | Near-Term | In-Progress | Yes                   | No                       | No             |
| LTMSA 15 / Create Local Small Water System Classification for Communities with 2-4 Connections | EHD         |   | Near-Term | Available   | Yes                   | No                       | No             |

## Key:

CCWD = Contra Costa Water District

DCD = Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development

EHD = Contra Costa County Environmental Health Division

LTMSA = Long-Term Mitigation Strategy and Action

OES = Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services

STRA = Short-Term Response Action

County = Contra Costa County

EBMUD = East Bay Municipal Utility District

LSS = Local Small Water Systems

OCM = Contra Costa County Office of Communications and Media

SSWS = State Small Water Systems

### 6.3 Policy Alignment and Integration

While this County DRP is a standalone document, the information and actions contained in this document provide mutual benefits towards realizing goals and objectives of other County and regional planning efforts associated with domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities. Table 6-3 describes recommended policy alignment and/or integration actions that promote delivery of STRAs and LTMSAs identified in this County DRP through coordinated efforts with other related County and regional planning efforts.

**Table 6-3. Contra Costa County Drought Resilience Plan Policy Alignment and Integration**

| Related Planning Effort  | Release Date  | County Lead | Integration Activity  |
|--|---------------|-------------|---|
| San Francisco Bay Area IRWMPs (Bay Area IRWMP 2019)  | October 2019  | DCD         | County Staff will track planned updates to the regional plan and provide input on domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs, as applicable.                       |
| UWMPs (DWR 2020)   | 2020          | DCD         | County Staff will track planned updates to the Urban Water Management Plans and provide input on domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs, as applicable.        |
| AWMPs (BBID 2025)  | 2025          | DCD         | County Staff will track planned updates to the Agricultural Water Management Plans and provide input on domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs, as applicable. |
| East Contra Costa County IRWMP (ECCWMA 2019)   | March 2019    | DCD         | County Staff will track planned updates to the regional plan and provide input on domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs, as applicable.                       |
| East Bay Plain Subbasin GSP (East Bay Plain GSP 2022)  | January 2022  | DCD         | County Staff will participate in annual reports and any plan updates and provide perspectives from domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities.            |
| East Contra Costa Subbasin GSP (East Contra Costa GSP 2021)  | October 2021  | DCD         | County Staff will participate in annual reports and any plan updates and provide perspectives from domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities.            |
| Livermore Valley Basin AGSP (Zone 7 Water Agency 2024)   | December 2021 | DCD         | County Staff will participate in annual reports and any plan updates and provide perspectives from domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities.            |
| Delta Region Drinking Water Quality Management Plan (CALFED 2005)  | June 2005     | DCD         | County Staff will participate in any plan updates and provide perspectives from domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities.                               |
| Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (State Water Board 2018) | December 2018 | DCD         | County Staff will participate in any plan updates and provide perspectives from domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities.                               |

| Related Planning Effort   | Release Date                             | County Lead | Integration Activity  |
|---|--|-------------|---|
| Contra Costa Water District – 2025 Future Water Supply Study (CCWD 2025)  | Target Release Date: Q1 Fiscal Year 2026 | DCD         | County Staff will participate in plan updates and provide perspectives from domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities  |
| East Bay Municipal Utility District – Water Supply Management Program 2040 Plan (EBMUD 2012)                                | April 2012                               | DCD         | County Staff will participate in plan updates and provide perspectives from domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities  |
| Mokelumne/Amador/Calaveras Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update (EBMUD 2013)                                    | March 2013                               | DCD         | County Staff will participate in plan updates and provide perspectives from domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities  |
| Contra Costa County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (Contra Costa County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan 2024 Update) | November 2024                            | DCD         | County Staff will participate in plan updates and provide perspectives from domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities  |
| EBMUD Climate Action Plan (EBMUD 2021)  | January 2021                             | DCD         | County Staff will participate in plan updates and provide perspectives from domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities.   |
| EBMUD LHMP (EBMUD 2023)   | 2023                                     | OES         | County Staff will participate in plan updates and provide perspectives from domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities.   |
| Contra Costa County General Plan (Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan 2024)   | November 2024                            | DCD         | In future updates, County Staff will consider where details could be included to benefit water supply resilience for domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs during plan updates and incorporate them to the extent feasible. |
| Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (Contra Costa County 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan)                    | November 2024                            | OES         | In future updates, County Staff will consider where details could be included to benefit water supply resilience for domestic wells, LSSs, and SSWSs and incorporate them to the extent feasible.                     |

Key:

- AWMP = Agricultural Water Management Plan
- AGSP = Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- County = Contra Costa County
- DCD = Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development
- EBMUD = East Bay Municipal Utility District
- GSA = Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- GSP = Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- IRWMP = Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
- LHMP = Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- OES = Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services
- UWMP = Urban Water Management Plan

#### 6.4 Adaptive Management

The County DRP will be reviewed and updated periodically or in response to new information or changing conditions to ensure findings, STRAs, and LTMSAs are appropriate and relevant. At a minimum, this County DRP will be reviewed and updated by County Staff every 5 years. The County DRP may also be revisited after major droughts, water shortage events, and changes in GSA status, as well as when new data, strategies, policies, or requests from the Task Force arise. County DCD is responsible for initiating and coordinating the County DRP update.

Updates to the County DRP will include: (1) reviewing the risk assessment findings in light of new and improved information that characterizes water supply vulnerability, (2) evaluating progress on STRA and LTMSA implementation, (3) updating any communications and outreach materials and information, (4) updating Task Force details, and (5) revising the County DRP content to incorporate any changes. During this update, County DCD will report on these updates to the Task Force to ensure transparent communication and coordination.

#### 6.5 Funding Opportunities and Assistance Programs

As described in Table 6-2, this County DRP includes a variety of proposed activities that require additional funds as approved by the County Board of Supervisors or through other State or Federal sources. Receipt of these additional funds could involve a variety of activities both for County Staff and domestic well, LSS, and SSWS owners/operators, including DRP administration, management, and updates; submitting funding applications and administering agreements; outreach and communications; coordination with other agencies and entities; Task Force engagement; managing assistance programs; development and construction of infrastructure and associated operations, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and eventual replacement; and other efforts. Those activities require funding—both short-term for projects with a finite schedule (e.g., design and construction of a new domestic well) and long-term for ongoing activities (e.g., use and upkeep of that new well). As SB 552 does not provide funding for implementation activities, this DRP analyzed local, State, and Federal funding sources available to implement the DRP.

A combination of funding sources could be used to support County DRP implementation—such as generated revenue (e.g., rates and assessments), grants, loans, agency staff time, services provided by others (e.g., in-kind work, technical or training assistance through a State or Federal agency)—with various agencies and entities involved in securing and administering each source. The availability of these internal and external funding sources will impact the success and timeliness of DRP implementation.

Although access to reliable funding is a hurdle faced by agencies and entities when implementing any program or project, domestic well, LSS, and SSWS owners/operators are the most acutely impacted due to limited staff and reserves, as well as the requirements of the implementing agencies. Agencies and entities may find (1) it is cost- and resource-prohibitive to implement short-term response actions and long-term mitigation strategies and actions by themselves, (2) solutions frequently require participation or involvement of other entities, and (3) it is challenging to prepare for, navigate, apply for, and administer the various local, State, and Federal funding mechanisms that could be available at any given time. These system owners/operators will need assistance and support from the County and other agencies and entities.

Using the STRAs and LTMSAs developed for the County (listed in Sections 4.3 and 5.2, respectively), this DRP investigated and analyzed potential funding sources for implementation, as shown in Table 6-4. The analysis presented in this table will be used as basis for developing future funding strategies and is not a complete/exhaustive list. Note that available funding sources are constantly changing, and funding needs, timing, eligibility, and potential opportunities should be periodically reassessed. Some of these programs are only accessible to public agencies, while others may be available to individuals or small water systems.

**Table 6-4. Funding Opportunities and Assistance Programs for Drought Resilience Plan Implementation**

| Resource  | Funding Agency          | Description   |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| General Fund  | County                  | The County General Fund includes revenues such as sales and property tax. Use of these funds is discretionary and subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors.  |
| Proposition 4: Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 | Multiple State agencies | Major categories with potential support for domestic well, LSS, and SWS communities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience</li> <li>• Wildfire and Forest Resilience</li> <li>• Coastal Resilience</li> </ul>  |
| Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program (DWR 2025b)  | DWR                     | Provides GSAs with assistance and engagement support for preparation and implementation of GSPs.  |
| Countywide and Regional Funding Program (State Water Board 2025a)   | State Water Board       | Direct funding to support SWSs, LSSs, and domestic wells serving disadvantaged communities and low-income households. Community outreach, domestic well testing, and interim and long-term solutions are eligible to receive funds.   |
| Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (State Water Board 2025b)   | State Water Board       | Fund provides low-cost loans for planning, design, and construction of drinking water improvements to water systems and can be used to support system consolidation.  |
| Technical Assistance Funding Program (State Water Board 2025c)  | State Water Board       | Provides technical assistance for small, disadvantaged communities to develop, fund, and implement eligible drinking water needs, including system consolidation support.   |
| Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program (State Water Board 2025d)                                    | State Water Board       | Offers low-cost financing for a wide variety of water quality projects. The program has significant financial assets and is capable of financing projects between \$1 million and \$100 million. The mission is to maintain abundant clean water for human uses and environmental protection to sustain California's future.                                      |
| Water and Environmental Program (WEP) (USDA 2025)   | USDA                    | Through the Rural Utilities Service Water and Environmental Programs, communities with populations of 10,000 or less can submit for funding support to construct water and wastewater facilities. Such programs could support annexation of SWS, LSS, and domestic well communities as part of a multi-benefit project led by a WEP eligible public water system. |

| Resource   | Funding Agency | Description   |
|--|----------------|---|
| Hazard Mitigation and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program (FEMA 2025) | FEMA           | This program provides funding to states, local governments, and Tribal Nations for long-term hazard mitigation projects that are implemented after a Presidential disaster declaration. |

Key:  
 County = Contra Costa County  
 DWR = California Department of Water Resources  
 FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency  
 GSA = Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
 GSP = Groundwater Sustainability Plan  
 LSS = Local Small Water System  
 SSWS = State Small Water Systems  
 State = State of California  
 State Water Board = State Water Resources Control Board  
 USDA = United States Department of Agriculture  
 WEP = Water and Environment Program

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# Contra Costa County Drought Resilience Plan

*FOR DOMESTIC WELL, LOCAL SMALL AND STATE SMALL WATER SYSTEM COMMUNITIES*



# Contra Costa County

## Water Shortage Emergency Response Process Public Draft

February 2026

## 1.0 Introduction

This Water Shortage Emergency Response Process (Water Shortage ERP) documents how Contra Costa County (County) will monitor water supply conditions to set an appropriate water shortage stage with corresponding short-term response actions to mitigate the impacts or potential impacts of a water shortage to domestic wells, local small water systems, and state small water systems (SSWS).

## 2.0 Water Shortage Stages—Indicators and Triggers

The Water Shortage ERP is organized into three water shortage stages: Information, Alert, and Response. The water shortage stage is informed using **Table 1**, which lists the indicators (water supply-related features) and their associated triggers (conditions related to a water supply status) to determine the current water shortage stage. These indicators and triggers can be used to support a water shortage stage recommendation and actions for the Task Force and the public, as well as an emergency declaration to secure State and Federal resources. The information in this table is not exhaustive and is intended to show how the indicators and triggers could be considered. The County may also develop other indicators and triggers (not shown). The County will evaluate its triggers in April and make a corresponding water shortage stage recommendation to the Task Force at its annual meeting held in May. The stage determination should be reassessed in the fall. However, if conditions change considerably during the winter or at any time, the County can reassess as necessary.

## 3.0 Responding to a Water Shortage Stage

The County has aligned specific activities to each water shortage stage, as shown in **Table 2**. New activities not listed in Table 2 may be identified and implemented based on actual shortage conditions. In addition, not all activities listed may be implemented during a shortage event. The County will consider the nature of the shortage when determining what activities are most appropriate.

In the “Information Stage,” the County will complete an annual review of the County DRP Implementation Plan, evaluate water supply system health, organize a meeting with the Task Force, update County resources (i.e., website, vendor lists, etc.), and continue proactive outreach to domestic well and SSWS users. In the “Alert Stage,” the County will focus on raising awareness of potential water shortage issues, providing the steps to follow if a water shortage occurs, encouraging temporary mitigation measures that may avoid a shortage, and coordinating with other organizations that may be involved in the event a shortage occurs (such as Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, public water systems, and other County departments). In the “Response Stage,” the County will activate its Short-Term Response Actions (STRA) and Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Distribution Plan, coordinate with other organizations, and update the Task Force.

## 4.0 Responsibility and Coordination

**Table 2** lists the responsible entity(ies) for STRA that could be implemented in each water shortage stage and indicates other entities that may be involved or with which coordination will be needed.

**Table 1. Indicators and Trigger Considerations for Determining Active Water Shortage Stages for Domestic Wells, Local Small Water Systems, and SSWS in Contra Costa County**

| Indicator Name                                  | Indicator Description   | Trigger Consideration When Going into the Alert Stage   | Trigger Consideration When Going into the Response Stage  |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>US Drought Monitor</b>                       | The US Drought Monitor is a map updated every Thursday that classifies drought conditions across the United States into none, Abnormally Dry, Moderate, Severe, Extreme, and Exceptional. The County can use this resource to understand the prevalence and severity of drought within the county and surrounding areas when determining if it should be in the Alert Stage.  | If drought conditions in the county are classified as Severe, the County may consider entering the Alert Stage. While this is not indicative of a potential water shortage event, it can provide advance notice to begin coordination and outreach.   | An Extreme or Exceptional drought classification may not solely indicate that a water shortage emergency is occurring or imminent. The County should heighten its monitoring of other indicators if Extreme or Exceptional drought exists in the county.  |
| <b>Public Water System Water Shortage Stage</b> | A Public Water System is required to maintain a Water Shortage Contingency Plan (or have one within an Urban Water Management Plan) that specifies stages of water shortage tied to projected water supply shortfalls. Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) and East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) are the two largest public water systems within the county. While they do not use groundwater as a supply source, their water shortage stage can serve as a proxy for overall water supply conditions in the county. In addition to these two main water suppliers, other water providers including Contra Costa County County Service Area M-28, Diablo Water District, Discovery Bay Community Services District, Dublin San Ramon Services District, Golden State Water Company, and the Cities of Antioch, Brentwood, Martinez, Pittsburg, as well as the Town of Discovery Bay also maintain Water Shortage Contingency Plans. | CCWD and EBMUD implementing mandatory watering restrictions indicates that drought conditions are severe enough that use reductions by their customers are required. For CCWD, this occurs at its Shortage Level 3; for EBMUD, at its Drought Stage 1. Similarly, other water providers within the county also have defined shortage or drought stages that trigger mandatory restrictions. For example, Diablo Water District, Discovery Bay Community Services District, Dublin San Ramon Services District, Golden State Water Company, and the Cities of Antioch, Brentwood, Martinez, Pittsburg, as well as the Town of Discovery Bay, each maintain Water Shortage Contingency Plans that specify when mandatory conservation measures must be implemented. The County may consider entering the Alert Stage when these water providers are in their respective stages. | CCWD and EBMUD curtailing outdoor water use indicates a potential water shortage emergency. For CCWD, this occurs at its Shortage Level 6; for EBMUD, at its Drought Stage 4. Similarly, other water providers within the county such as Diablo Water District, Discovery Bay Community Services District, Dublin San Ramon Services District, Golden State Water Company, and the Cities of Antioch, Brentwood, Martinez, Pittsburg, as well as the Town of Discovery Bay also have defined stages in their Water Shortage Contingency Plans that trigger significant outdoor water use restrictions. While this does not necessarily indicate water shortages for domestic wells, LSS, or SSWS, the County should consider entering the Response Stage. |
| <b>Water Quality</b>                            | Areas with known water quality issues are likely monitored. The presence of potential water quality issues that may render water supplies unusable can be used to establish a water shortage stage. Note that other hazards, such as droughts or wildfires, can exacerbate poor water quality conditions and should also be considered in combination with this indicator.  | Water quality observations that are noted as being of concern (for unregulated chemicals or those without an established water quality level) or the measured water quality is outside of established standards (maximum contaminant levels, primary or secondary standards, etc.). However, a boil-water notice or other intervention limiting use is not in place.  | Observed water quality is outside public health standards (maximum contaminant levels, primary or secondary standards, etc.) and/or a boil-water notice or an intervention limiting use is in place. This trigger also applies when GSAs detect or report declining or changing groundwater quality conditions that could pose a risk to beneficial users.  |
| <b>Applications for New Well Permits</b>        | An increase in new well permit applications (both domestic and others) to replace existing wells that are not providing a sufficient water supply can indicate a potential water shortage. This indicator can help as users experiencing a water shortage may not always submit a dry well report.  | If the county is in drought (US Drought Monitor, public water systems, etc.) and new well permit applications rise, the County should consider entering the Alert Stage while assessing if applications are due to water shortages for domestic wells, LSS, or SSWS.  | If the County determines that an increase in new well permits is due to water shortages at domestic wells, LSS, or SSWS, it may indicate water shortages at other domestic wells, LSS, or SSWS. This may require going into the Response Stage.   |
| <b>Dry Well Reports</b>                         | California has a dry well reporting system that well owners or operators can use to report a dry well. The County can use this to identify where a water shortage is occurring. Historically, users in the county have not always submitted a dry well report. This can be used in combination with new well permit applications.   | Any dry well reports submitted within the county should trigger an evaluation of the cause of the water shortage. If the cause is due to an isolated issue (i.e., very shallow well, aging infrastructure, etc.) that was exacerbated by drought, the County could go into the Alert Stage and monitor for other dry well reports.  | If, after evaluating the dry well reports, it is found that the features of the dry well (i.e., depth, age, etc.) are consistent with other wells in the area, that may indicate the potential for widespread water shortages. This may require going into the Response Stage.  |
| <b>GSA Monitoring</b>                           | Monitoring of groundwater levels, quality, and trends within SGMA-designated basins by GSAs, including the East Contra Costa Subbasin, East Bay Plain Subbasin, and Livermore Valley Basin. The County can use these monitoring programs to inform a water shortage stage.  | If monitoring or analysis by a GSA indicates a multi-year decline in groundwater levels, but groundwater levels are still above an established threshold (such as a Minimum Threshold for the East Bay Plain Subbasin and Livermore Valley Basin or a Measurable Objective for the East Contra Costa Subbasin as defined in their GSPs), the County could consider going into the Alert Stage.  | If monitoring or analysis by a GSA indicates a decline in groundwater levels below an established threshold (such as a Minimum Threshold for the East Bay Plain Subbasin and Livermore Valley Basin or a Measurable Objective for the East Contra Costa Subbasin as defined in their GSPs) that could cause water supply issues, the County could consider going into the Response Stage.   |

| Indicator Name             | Indicator Description  | Trigger Consideration When Going into the Alert Stage   | Trigger Consideration When Going into the Response Stage   |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Non-Drought Hazards</b> | Other hazards could result in a water shortage, including wildfires, earthquakes, floods, and power outages (either planned or unplanned), and the County should monitor conditions following a hazard event. Water supply impacts of some of these hazards can be worsened by drought conditions, and such events can also influence other indicators, such as water quality. | Hazards that temporarily interrupt domestic well, LSS, or SSWS supplies for up to two days could trigger the Alert Stage. | Hazards that interrupt domestic well, LSS, or SSWS supplies for an extended period (3 or more days), including public safety power shutoffs, could trigger the Response Stage. |

Key:  
GSA = Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
GSP = groundwater sustainability plan  
LSS = local small water system  
SSWS = state small water system

**Table 2. Short-Term Response Actions Aligned to Water Shortage Stage with Responsible Organization(s) for Contra Costa County**

| Water Shortage Stage | Description   | Activities  | Responsible Organization(s)   | Comment  |
|----------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Information          | No major drought or potential for water shortage                    | Annual County DRP Implementation Check-In   | County DCD  | County DCD will review the status of the DRP Implementation Plan, determine if any modifications are required, and assign responsibilities for making DRP modifications.   |
|                      |   | Bi-Annual Water Supply Assessment   | County DCD (Lead)<br>County OES<br>County EHD                       | County DCD, in partnership with others, will evaluate the health of the water supply system in April to support a water shortage stage recommendation for the Task Force.  |
|                      |   | Annual Task Force meeting   | County DCD (Lead)<br>Task Force                                     | Annual Task Force meetings will be held in May after the water supply health is evaluated in April.  |
|                      |   | Annual County DRP website update  | County DCD  | The County DRP website will be updated in May of each year, after the Task Force meeting, and as water supply conditions merit.  |
| Alert                | Drought or other hazard occurring that could cause a water shortage | As-Needed Task Force meetings   | County DCD  | County DCD will schedule additional Task Force meetings based on hazard conditions.  |
|                      |   | Outreach to domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities on water shortage-related information, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to monitor well health</li> <li>Resources for when a well runs dry</li> <li>County contact information</li> <li>Information on water shortage conditions within the county</li> </ul> | County DCD (Lead)<br>County OES<br>County EHD<br>County OCM<br>GSAs | County DCD will outreach to domestic well, LSS, and SSWS communities within the county with information on water shortages. This outreach could be through website updates, social media posts, email distribution, and other communication methods. Direct communication with domestic well, LSS, and SSWS operators will be led by County EHD. |
|                      |   | As-needed coordination meetings with relevant organizations such as other County departments, local water providers, and other agencies   | County DCD (Lead)<br>County OES<br>Other entities                   | County DCD will initiate coordination, but other organizations may be required to lead or participate, depending on conditions.  |
| Response             | Water shortage is occurring or is imminent                          | Regular Task Force meetings   | County DCD  | County DCD will schedule regular Task Force meetings.  |
|                      |   | Activate Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Distribution Plan as listed in this County DRP for area(s) experiencing shortage  | County OES (Lead)<br>Other entities                                 | County OES will activate the Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Distribution Plan, but other organizations will implement specific activities.   |
|                      |   | Standing coordination meetings with relevant organizations  | County DCD (Lead)<br>County OES<br>Other entities                   | County DCD will organize regular coordination meetings and will delegate to other organizations as required.   |

Key = County = Contra Costa County; DCD = Department of Conservation and Development; DRP = Drought Resilience Plan; EHD = Environmental Health Division; GSA = Groundwater Sustainability Agency; LSS = Local Small Water System; OCM = Office of Communications and Media; OES = Office of Emergency Services; SSWS = State Small Water Systems; Task Force = Drought and Water Shortage Task Force



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 26-1151

**Agenda Date:** 3/18/2026

**Agenda #:** 7.

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### **TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Date:** March 18, 2026

**Subject:** CONSIDER report on Local, State, Regional, and Federal Transportation Related Legislative and Planning Activities

**Submitted For:** TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

**Department:** DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

**Referral No:** 1

**Referral Name:** Review legislative matters on transportation, water, and infrastructure

**Presenter:** Jamar Stamps || TWIC Staff - Transportation Principal Planner | DCD; Mark Watts || Senior Adviser & Advocate | Dodd & Chabaan Strategies, LLC

**Contact:** Jamar Stamps | (925) 655-2917

#### **Referral History:**

The transportation, water, and infrastructure legislation and planning report is a standing item on the Committee's agenda.

#### **Referral Update:**

In developing transportation-related issues and proposals to be brought forward for consideration by TWIC, staff receives input from the Board of Supervisors (BOS), references the County's adopted Legislative Platforms, coordinates with our legislative advocates, partner agencies and organizations, and consults with the Committee.

This report includes four sections; 1: **Local**, 2: **Regional**, 3: **State**, and 4: **Federal**.

1. **Local:** Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) Board Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP) Development Update & Kick-Off (February 18, 2026)
2. **Regional:** No Report.
3. **State:** Report from Mr. Mark Watts, the County's legislative advisor and advocate, is attached for February.
4. **Federal:** No report.

#### **Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

CONSIDER report on Local, State, Regional, and Federal Transportation Related Legislative and Planning Issues and take ACTION as appropriate.

#### **Fiscal Impact (if any):**

None.

# TEP Development Update

Authority Board Meeting  
February 18, 2026

# Objective: Create a TEP supported by the public



LIVING  
PRINCIPLE

Community-  
first  
approach



LIVING  
PRINCIPLE

Keep it  
simple



LIVING  
PRINCIPLE

Apply a  
countywide  
lens



LIVING  
PRINCIPLE

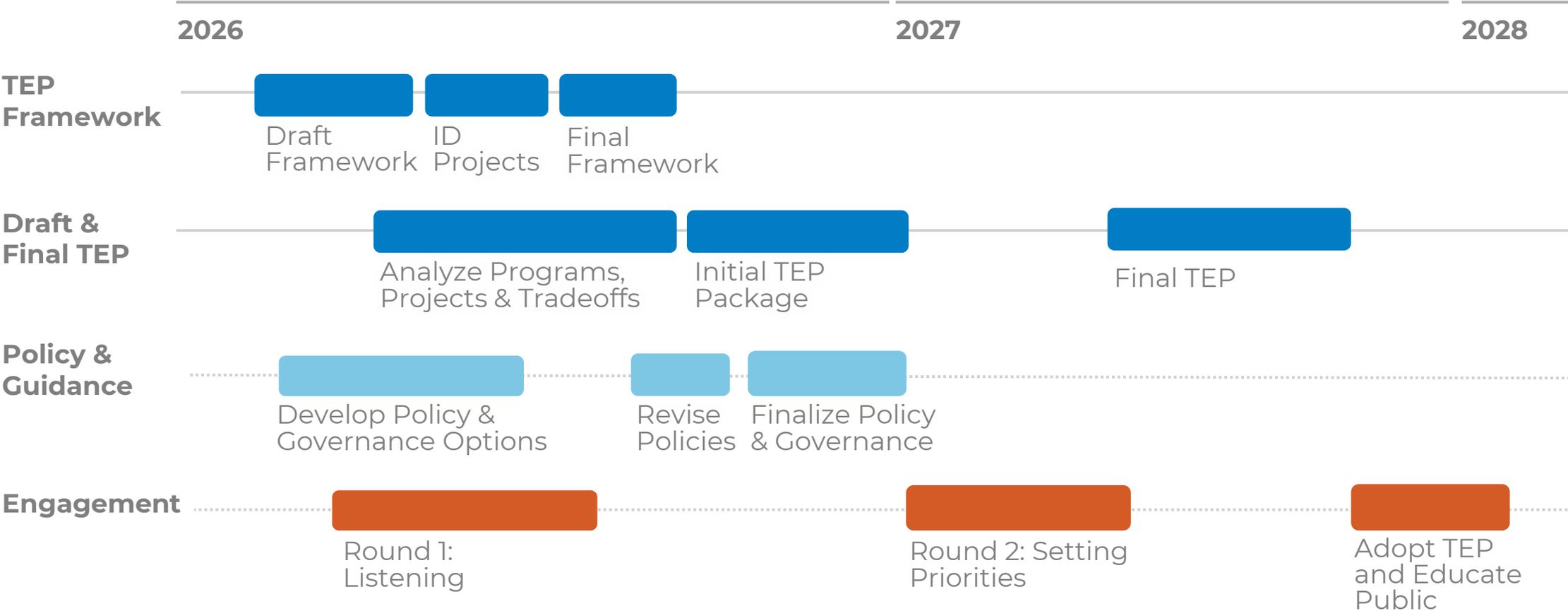
Establish  
accountability  
measures



LIVING  
PRINCIPLE

Focus on  
outcomes

# TEP Process Timeline



# On the Horizon

## TEP Development

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- **Looking back:**  
spending and benefits of Measure J
- **Looking forward:**  
metrics & methods to evaluate projects and programs
- Review and refine Major Projects and Programs

## Policy & Guidance

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- **Looking back:**  
Measure J governance structure
- **Looking forward:**  
Define policy & governance options for the TEP

## Engagement

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- Socialize TEP principles and process with cities and stakeholders
- Conduct poll and public survey to understand voter priorities
- Materials to support Board member engagement with cities, stakeholders, and public

# *Dodd & Chabaan Strategies, LLC*

*Government and legislative Affairs*

February 13, 2026

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Jamar Stamps

From: Mark Watts  
Senior Adviser & Advocate

Subject: **February Report, Budget & Administrative Updates**

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I am pleased to provide the following report on recent legislative advocacy and other legislative and administrative updates. I supplemented the core information about the January 10 State Budget with a more comprehensive overview of the state budget information for transportation entities.

### ***Legislature***

February 20, 2026, is the legislative deadline for the introduction of legislative bills for the coming 2026 Session Year. Staff and consultant have worked closely with the delegation and a measure to increase allocations of state fuel tax revenues to smaller cities is near ready for introduction.

### ***State Budget, Additional transportation information***

The Governor did release his 2026-27 State Budget proposal on Friday January 9, 2026. In spite of the ongoing reports by the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) of a continuing underlying, structural budget deficit his State of the State address provided a preview that the new budget reflected an increase of more than \$40 billion in available revenues; this will lead to a state General Fund budget in excess of \$248 billion.

### ***Overview***

Governor Newsom released his proposed 2026-27 budget on January 9, 2026, featuring these highlights:

- ⇒ Proposes a \$348.9 billion balanced budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year, supported by stronger-than-anticipated cash receipts and an estimated improved economic outlook. That compares to a \$321.1 billion budget that was previously approved in 2025-26.

# Dodd & Chabaan Strategies, LLC

## Government and legislative Affairs

- ⇒ Reflects more than \$42 billion in additional General Fund revenue over the three-year budget window (2024-25 through 2026-27) compared to last year's enacted budget
- ⇒ The Budget is balanced in the 2026-27 fiscal year, with a discretionary reserve of \$4.5 billion (and total reserves of \$23 billion) with a projected deficit of roughly \$22 billion in the 2027-28 fiscal year and shortfalls in the two years following.

### Transportation Element

- ⇒ The overall transportation budget is proposed at \$18.6 billion, including GF, Special Fund and Bonds, which a reduction from \$19.8 billion approved in the 2025-26 and 2024-25 budgets.
- ⇒ Funding for the State Transportation Agency budget decreases from \$764 million in 2025-26 to \$455 million in 2026-27.
  - Cap and Invest/GGRF – Reserves \$125 million for free transit passes for expenditures in SB840 (2025)
  - Transportation One Time Allocations - The Budget maintains the entirety of the one-time transportation investments included in the **2025 Budget Act, totaling \$14.6 billion.**
  - Bay Area Transit Loan—Pursuant to Control Section 91.00 of the 2025 Budget Act, the 2026-27 proposed budget calls for statutory changes to authorize the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to provide short-term loans to transit agencies facing cash flow challenges, preserving essential services for Bay Area riders.

### Deeper Dive into the Transportation Elements and their impacts

- *Zero Emission Transit Capital Program:* Based on initial review of the budget, it appears that the budget leaves out \$230 million in Zero Emission Transit Capital Funds that were expected next year. It is unclear whether the Administration plans to shift this commitment to a future fiscal year.
- *State Transit Assistance:* Funding for the base amount of STA in 2026-27 is projected to be \$858 million. This is a little over \$30 million less than the current year, likely due to lower fuel prices. In addition, Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) is forecast to total only \$142 million. The LCTOP is funded by cap & invest auction revenue and is statutorily pegged at \$200 million, unless auction revenue falls short.



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 26-1152

**Agenda Date:** 3/18/2026

**Agenda #:** 8.

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### **TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Date:** March 18, 2026

**Subject:** CONSIDER referrals to the Committee for 2026, REVISE as necessary, and DIRECT staff to bring the list to the Board of Supervisors for approval

**Submitted For:** TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

**Department:** DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT || TRANSPORTATION PLANNING SECTION

**Referral No:** N/A

**Referral Name:** N/A

**Presenter:** Jamar Stamps || TWIC Staff - Transportation Principal Planner | DCD

**Contact:** Jamar Stamps | (925) 655-2917

#### **Referral History:**

This is an annual administrative item of the Committee.

#### **Referral Update:**

Draft 2026 referrals are attached to this report. Staff recommends TWIC discuss and revise as necessary and direct staff to bring the final 2026 referrals list to the full Board of Supervisors for approval.

At the October 2025 TWIC meeting, the Committee approved staff's recommended modifications to referrals #5 and #6 to address compliance with Senate Bill (SB) 552, which requires counties to establish a drought and water shortage task force (Task Force) and develop a Drought and Water Shortage Risk Mitigation Plan (Drought Resilience Plan). This followed an SB 552 update was presented to TWIC in October 2024.

#### **Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

DISCUSS recommendations on referrals to the Committee for 2026, REVISE as necessary, and DIRECT staff to bring the list to the full Board of Supervisors for approval.

#### **Fiscal Impact (if any):**

None.

## 2026 DRAFT Referrals to the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee

(Submitted to TWIC for consideration at their February Meeting.)

1. Review legislative matters on transportation, water, and infrastructure.
2. Review applications for transportation, water, and infrastructure grants to be prepared by the Public Works and Conservation and Development Departments.
3. Monitor the Contra Costa Transportation Authority including efforts to implement Measure J.
4. Monitor EBMUD and Contra Costa Water District projects and activities.
5. Review projects, plans and legislative matters that may affect the health of the San Francisco Bay and Delta, including but not limited to conveyance, flood control, dredging, climate change, habitat conservation, governance, water storage, drought resilience planning, development of an ordinance regarding polystyrene foam food containers, monitor waste diversion initiatives, and water quality, supply and reliability, consistent with the Board of Supervisors adopted *Delta Water Platform*.
6. Review and monitor the establishment of 1) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the three medium priority groundwater basins within Contra Costa County as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and 2) a standing county drought and water shortage task force (Task Force) and Drought and Water Shortage Risk Mitigation Plan (Drought Resilience Plan) as required by Senate Bill (SB) 552.
7. Review issues associated with County flood control facilities.
8. Monitor creek and watershed issues and seek funding for improvement projects related to these issues.
9. Monitor the implementation of the Integrated Pest Management policy.
10. Monitor the status of county park maintenance issues including, but not limited to, transfer of some County park maintenance responsibilities to other agencies and implementation of Measure WW grants and expenditure plan.
11. Monitor and report on the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan.
12. Monitor the implementation of the County Complete Streets, Active Transportation, and Vision Zero Policies.
13. Monitor and report on the Underground Utilities Program.
14. Monitor implementation of the Letter of Understanding with PG&E for the maintenance of PG&E streetlights in Contra Costa.
15. Freight transportation issues, including but not limited to potential increases in rail traffic such as that proposed by the Port of Oakland and other possible service increases, safety of freight trains, rail corridors, and trucks that transport hazardous materials, the planned truck route for North Richmond; freight issues related to the Northern Waterfront (and coordinate with the Northern Waterfront Ad Hoc Committee as needed), and the deepening of the San Francisco-to-Stockton Ship Channel.
16. Monitor the Iron Horse Corridor Management Program.
17. Monitor and report on the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's Integrated Transit Plan.
18. Review transportation plans and services for specific populations and locations, including but not limited to Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan for the Bay Area, CCTA East County Ferry Feasibility Study, Olympic Corridor Trail Connector Study Implementation, and the Contra Costa County Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan.
19. Monitor issues of interest in the provision and enhancement of general transportation services, including but not limited to public transportation, taxicab/transportation network companies, and navigation apps.
20. Monitor the statewide infrastructure bond programs.
21. Monitor efforts at the State to revise school siting guidelines and statutes.
22. Monitor issues related to docked and dockless bike share programs.
23. Monitor efforts related to water conservation including but not limited to turf conversion, graywater, and other related landscaping issues.
24. Monitor the County's conversion to solar/distributed energy systems.
25. Monitor issues with County Airports as they relate to surrounding land use, transportation, and related infrastructure.
26. Monitor development of a historic preservation ordinance.



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 26-1153

**Agenda Date:** 3/18/2026

**Agenda #:** 9.

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### **TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Date:** March 18, 2026

**Subject:** REVIEW Status Report on 2025 Referrals to TWIC and DIRECT staff to forward the report to the Board of Supervisors with revisions as appropriate

**Submitted For:** TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

**Department:** DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

**Referral No:** N/A

**Referral Name:** N/A

**Presenter:** Jamar Stamps || TWIC Staff - Transportation Principal Planner | DCD

**Contact:** Jamar Stamps | (925) 655-2917

#### **Referral History:**

This is an annual item of the Committee.

#### **Referral Update:**

See attached Status Report on Referrals to the Committee.

#### **Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

REVIEW Status Report and DIRECT staff to forward the report to the Board of Supervisors with revisions as appropriate.

#### **Fiscal Impact (if any):**

None.

## Status Report: Referrals to the Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee - 2025

*(Approved at the April 18<sup>th</sup> TWIC Meeting)*

| Referral   | Status  |
|--|---|
| 1. Review legislative matters on transportation, water, and infrastructure.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accepted the Annual Road Report for Calendar Year 2024 dated March 2025, directed staff to submit report to Board of Supervisors. <b>April</b></li> <li>• Accepted the proposed updated Delta Water Platform (updated to better address the current conditions of the Delta ecosystem, communities, and economy; impacts associated with climate change) and recommended adoption by the Board of Supervisors. <b>April</b></li> <li>• Reviewed and received public comment on the recommended list of the 2025/2026 Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account (RMRA) Senate Bill (SB1) funded road projects. <b>June</b></li> </ul> |
| 2. Review applications for transportation, water, and infrastructure grants to be prepared by the Public Works and Conservation and Development Departments.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accepted the proposed California Strategic Growth Council (SGC)/ Housing &amp; Community Development (HCD) Affordable Housing &amp; Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program candidate project (Orbisonia Village, Bay Point) and recommended approval by the Board of Supervisors. <b>April</b></li> </ul>  |
| 3. Monitor the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) including efforts to implement Measure J.  |   |
| 4. Monitor EBMUD and Contra Costa Water District projects and activities.  |   |
| 5. Review projects, plans and legislative matters that may affect the health of the San Francisco Bay and Delta, including but not limited to conveyance, flood control, dredging, climate change, habitat conservation, governance, water storage, development of an ordinance regarding polystyrene foam food containers, monitor waste diversion initiatives, and water quality, supply and reliability, consistent with the Board of Supervisors adopted Delta Water Platform. |   |

| Referral   | Status   |
|--|--|
| 6. Review and monitor the establishment of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the three medium priority groundwater basins within Contra Costa County as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. |  |
| 7. Review issues associated with County flood control facilities.  |  |
| 8. Monitor creek and watershed issues and seek funding for improvement projects related to these issues.   |  |
| 9. Monitor the implementation of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy.  |  |
| 10. Monitor the status of county park maintenance issues including, but not limited to, transfer of some County park maintenance responsibilities to other agencies and implementation of Measure WW grants and expenditure plan.                          |  |
| 11. Monitor and report on the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Received 2024 Annual Report from the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy. <b>June</b></li> </ul>   |
| 12. Monitor the implementation of the County Complete Streets, Active Transportation, and Vision Zero Policies.  |  |
| 13. Monitor and report on the Underground Utilities Program.   |  |
| 14. Monitor implementation of the Letter of Understanding (LOU) with PG&E for the maintenance of PG&E streetlights in Contra Costa.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Received the status report on the street light service coordination effort between PG&amp;E and the County Public Works Department, Towns and Cities for street light maintenance. <b>November</b></li> </ul> |

| Referral   | Status  |
|--|---|
| 15. Freight transportation issues, including but not limited to potential increases in rail traffic such as that proposed by the Port of Oakland and other possible service increases, safety of freight trains, rail corridors, and trucks that transport hazardous materials, the planned truck route for North Richmond; and the deepening of the San Francisco-to-Stockton Ship Channel. |   |
| 16. Monitor the Iron Horse Corridor Management Program.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved the New and Emerging Mobility Modes in the Corridor Element, as recommended by the Public Works Director and the Iron Horse Corridor Management Program Committee, central County area. <b>April</b></li> </ul> |
| 17. Monitor and report on the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's Integrated Transit Plan.   |   |
| 18. Review transportation plans and services for specific populations and locations, including but not limited to Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan for the Bay Area, CCTA East County Ferry Feasibility Study, Olympic Corridor Trail Connector Study Implementation, and the Contra Costa County Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan.                                    |   |
| 19. Monitor issues of interest in the provision and enhancement of general transportation services, including but not limited to public transportation, taxicab/ transportation network companies, and navigation apps.  |   |
| 20. Monitor the statewide infrastructure bond programs.  |   |
| 21. Monitor efforts at the State to revise school siting guidelines and statutes.  |   |
| 22. Monitor issues related to docked and dockless bike share programs.   |   |

| Referral   | Status   |
|--|--|
| 23. Monitor efforts related to water conservation including but not limited to turf conversion, graywater, and other related landscaping issues. |  |
| 24. Monitor the County's conversion to solar/distributed energy systems.   |  |
| 25. Monitor issues with County Airports as they relate to surrounding land use, transportation, and related infrastructure.                      |  |
| 26. Monitor development of a historic preservation ordinance   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on the County's current regulation of historical resources from the Department of Conservation and Development and directed staff to return to a future meeting to provide analysis of options related to historic preservation for the County. <b>February</b></li> </ul> |
| 27. Review and monitor Transportation Element development of the General Plan Update   |  |



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 26-1154

**Agenda Date:** 3/18/2026

**Agenda #:** 10.

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### **TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Date:** March 18, 2026

**Subject:** ADOPT the 2026 Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee Calendar

**Submitted For:** TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

**Department:** DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

**Referral No:** N/A

**Referral Name:** N/A

**Presenter:** Jamar Stamps || TWIC Staff - Transportation Principal Planner | DCD

**Contact:** Jamar Stamps | (925) 655-2917

#### **Referral History:**

This is an annual administrative task of the Committee.

#### **Referral Update:**

The Committee should review and revise as appropriate and adopt the 2026 draft calendar.

#### **Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

REVIEW and REVISE as appropriate, and ADOPT the 2026 Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee Calendar.

#### **Fiscal Impact (if any):**

None.



# TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Supervisor Candace Andersen, District II  
 Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston, District V

## 2026 Meeting Schedule

| DATE                               | Location*   | TIME   |
|------------------------------------|---|--------|
| February 23                        | <b>CANCELED</b>   |        |
| March 18<br><b>SPECIAL MEETING</b> | Hybrid Meeting   ZOOM<br>Physical Location TBD –<br><i>see agenda for details</i> | 1:00PM |
| March 23*                          | <b>RESCHEDULED</b> for 3/18/26 @ 1:00PM   |        |
| April 27                           | Hybrid Meeting   ZOOM<br>Physical Location TBD<br><i>see agenda for details</i>   | 1:00PM |
| May 25<br><b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>      | <b>RESCHEDULED</b> for 5/28/26 @ 9:00AM   |        |
| May 28<br><b>SPECIAL MEETING</b>   | Hybrid Meeting   ZOOM<br>Physical Location TBD – <i>see agenda for details</i>    | 9:00AM |
| June 22                            | Hybrid Meeting   ZOOM<br>Physical Location TBD – <i>see agenda for details</i>    | 1:00PM |
| July 27                            | Hybrid Meeting   ZOOM<br>Physical Location TBD – <i>see agenda for details</i>    | 1:00PM |
| August 24                          | Hybrid Meeting   ZOOM<br>Physical Location TBD – <i>see agenda for details</i>    | 1:00PM |
| September 28                       | Hybrid Meeting   ZOOM<br>Physical Location TBD – <i>see agenda for details</i>    | 1:00PM |
| October 26                         | Hybrid Meeting   ZOOM<br>Physical Location TBD – <i>see agenda for details</i>    | 1:00PM |
| November 23                        | Hybrid Meeting   ZOOM<br>Physical Location TBD – <i>see agenda for details</i>    | 1:00PM |
| December 28                        | Hybrid Meeting   ZOOM<br>Physical Location TBD – <i>see agenda for details</i>    | 1:00PM |

The Agenda Packets will be published 96 hours prior to the meeting dates.

**For Additional Information Contact:**

Jamar Stamps, TWIC Staff  
**Direct Line: 925-655-2917 || Main Transportation Line: 925-655-7209**  
 Jamar.Stamps@dcd.cccounty.us



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 26-1155

**Agenda Date:** 3/18/2026

**Agenda #:** 11.

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### **TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Date:** March 18, 2026

**Subject:** RECEIVE Communication, News, Miscellaneous Items of Interest to the Committee

**Submitted For:** TRANSPORTATION, WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

**Department:** DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

**Referral No:** N/A

**Referral Name:** N/A

**Presenter:** Jamar Stamps || TWIC Staff - Transportation Principal Planner | DCD

**Contact:** Jamar Stamps | (925) 655-2917

#### **Referral History:**

This is a standing item on the TWIC Agenda.

#### **Referral Update:**

- January 10, 2024: Politico || *California Pro*
- February 19, 2026: Metropolitan Transportation Commission || *Governor Signs Bill Authorizing Loan for Bay Area Transit Agencies*
- March 3, 2026: Richmondside || *Richmond are poised to receive nearly \$40M to improve air quality, public health - Residents at a community meeting in North Richmond weighed in on what they'd like to see the money spent on, including more parks, safer streets and cleaner air.*

#### **Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

RECEIVE information and DIRECT staff as appropriate.

#### **Fiscal Impact (if any):**

None.

# POLITICO CALIFORNIA PRO

BY RACHEL BLUTH

*With help from Jeremy B. White, Paul Demko, Rebecca Kern, Olivia Olander and Nick Niedzwiadek*

## QUICK FIX

**WORKING ON AUTOPILOT:** Until now, California state officials have been in the driver's seat on regulating robotaxis — giving the industry room to experiment with the emerging technology on city streets and leaving local governments little room to object.

But a new bill pushed by the Teamsters Union in conjunction with local leaders would take exclusive control from the state, empowering cities and counties to impose conditions or outright reject autonomous vehicles by requiring local ordinances to be in place before cars can hit the streets, [POLITICO's Jeremy B. White was first to report](#).

That could constrain an industry that's been eager to roll out new vehicles and has so far enjoyed the support of Gov. Gavin Newsom, a tech-centric Democrat who rejected an effort last year to bypass state regulators by putting new limits on self-driving trucks.

The bill would harness a politically formidable alliance between labor and local governments in an intense debate over whether robotaxis belong on city streets. In San Francisco last year, concerns about vehicles snarling traffic and impeding first responders — echoed by Los Angeles officials — were overridden by state regulators, who approved them anyway.

As POLITICO's Tanya Snyder and Taylor Miller Thomas also report, opposition to robotaxis came out in force in the summer of 2023 as California weighed petitions by Cruise and Waymo to operate 24-hour, fee-based autonomous taxi services in San Francisco.

Transit agencies, city planners, community groups and police and firefighters united against expanded authorities for self-driving vehicles. They cited the vehicles' erratic driving and unpredictable responses to emergency scenes. An activist safety group drew headlines when they sabotaged autonomous operations by putting traffic cones on robotaxi roofs, paralyzing the vehicles.

For a deep dive on the politics and policy at play in regulating robotaxis, [read more in this POLITICO Pro Analysis](#).

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Home / News & Media / Top Stories / Governor Signs Bill Authorizing Loan for Bay Area Transit Agencies

## News & Media

Thursday, February 19, 2026

# Governor Signs Bill Authorizing Loan for Bay Area Transit Agencies



Gov. Gavin Newsom today signed into law state Assembly Bill 117, authorizing a \$590 million loan for Bay Area transit agencies that will avert major service cuts at AC Transit, BART, Caltrain and San Francisco Muni during the 2026-27 fiscal year that begins July 1.

The Office of Governor Newsom, the California Department of Finance and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) [last month reached an agreement on a loan for Bay Area](#)

transit agencies. Negotiated in close coordination with the affected transit agencies — which together face a projected deficit of more than \$800 million in the next fiscal year — the new agreement will sustain operations used by hundreds of thousands of daily transit riders across the region.

“California is following through in our support for Bay Area transit and the riders who rely on it every day,” said Gov. Newsom. “This agreement between my Administration and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission provides essential short-term financing to support Bay Area transit operations while the region works together on long-term funding solutions. Public transit is essential to our economy and to communities across California, and through continued partnership with regional and local agencies, we are delivering a more stable and reliable system – now and for the future.”

A regional funding measure authorized by the Legislature last year via state Senate Bill 63, authored by senators Scott Wiener of San Francisco and Jesse Arreguín of Berkeley, may appear on the November 2026 ballot in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. If the measure qualifies for the ballot and is approved by voters, it would establish a temporary 14-year sales tax to support transit operations. But these funds would not begin flowing until around July 1, 2027. The state loan provides a fiscal bridge until the sales tax dollars potentially could be available.

“Today is a huge win for Bay Area transit and for both transit riders and drivers,” said Sen. Wiener. “For the past year, we’ve worked hard to craft a bridge loan to ensure BART, Muni, Caltrain and AC Transit are not forced to enact massive service cuts — potentially going into a death spiral — as we build toward a regional revenue measure to stabilize and strengthen these systems for the long run. I’m proud of our work with regional stakeholders and the Governor to make this loan a reality. Public transportation is part of the Bay Area’s lifeblood,

and we must do everything in our power to strengthen it and protect it from service cuts. So many Bay Area residents rely on transit to get to work, school, or family, and service cuts would also explode traffic congestion. We must not let this happen, and we won't let it happen."

The new law allows the loan to be funded no later than July 1, 2026, using money awarded but not yet allocated for Bay Area projects by the California Transportation Commission through the state Transit Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP).

Because many transit capital projects have long construction timelines and the TIRCP is continuously replenished, the loan is structured to uphold the state's commitments to awarded projects while minimizing risk to project schedules.

"MTC greatly appreciates the time and energy the Department of Finance and the Governor's office put into this loan negotiation," said Commission Chair Sue Noack, who also serves as mayor of Pleasant Hill. "It was critical to reach agreement on funding that would avert major service cuts this year while also protecting the Bay Area's priority capital projects and this agreement does just that."

Consistent with state Senate Bill 105 enacted last fall, the loan agreement includes a clearly defined repayment structure, a guaranteed revenue source to secure the loan and an agreed-upon interest rate:

- 12-year repayment term, with interest-only payments during the first two years.

- Repayment secured by the "revenue-based" portion of State Transit Assistance (STA) that goes directly to the transit agencies.

- Variable interest rate tied to the state's Surplus Money Investment Fund, ensuring the state is fully repaid at the

same rate it would have earned had the funds remained in state accounts.

BART General Manager Bob Powers noted that his agency, "is currently developing detailed budget plans for two funding scenarios to close our projected \$376 million operating deficit for Fiscal Year 2027 through either new revenue and efficiencies or through service reductions, station closures, fare increases, layoffs, and across-the-board internal cuts. A state loan gives us reassurance money will be available to continue to deliver the best service possible for the Bay Area. We are thankful to Governor Newsom and the Department of Finance for finding a path to fund transit operations during such an unprecedented scenario brought on by the pandemic and remote work. We also thank the Bay Area Legislative Caucus for their supportive efforts and look forward to working with the Legislature on early action to include the loan within the state budget."

"This bridge loan will help us maintain Muni service for one crucial year for everyone who depends on transit to get where they need to go," said Julie Kirschbaum, Director of Transportation at the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, which operates Muni. "We thank the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for its leadership and the Governor and the Department of Finance for their collaboration. We are deeply appreciative of the tireless efforts of Mayor Daniel Lurie, State Senator Scott Wiener, State Senator Jesse Arreguín, the Bay Area Legislative Caucus, the Board of Supervisors and the transit advocates who kept this loan alive last year. With this key agreement completed, securing the additional funding we need to address our ongoing deficit is the critical priority."

"San Francisco's recovery is essential to the success of our region and our state," noted Mayor Daniel Lurie. "Our city cannot continue its comeback without a safe, reliable transit

system. This agreement is a major step forward towards securing the bridge loan needed to sustain our comeback and ensure transit systems can continue serving the families, seniors, students, and workers who rely on them every day. We're already delivering greater accountability and efficiency for Muni, and ridership is continuing to climb toward pre-pandemic levels. I'm grateful to our partners at MTC and Governor Newsom for finalizing the agreement and prioritizing our city and our region's recovery."

Caltrain General Manager Michelle Bouchard made a similar point, "We are so grateful to the Governor, our delegation members, and our state and regional partners for stepping in and supporting public transit in the Bay Area at this critical time. This loan will allow us to preserve the service that made Caltrain the fastest growing transit agency in the U.S."

"For 65 years, AC Transit's north star has been delivering safe, reliable, and affordable bus service to the East Bay," said Salvador Llamas, AC Transit General Manager and CEO. "That legacy was put at risk by unprecedented pandemic-related budget shortfalls. This state loan safeguards existing service levels and brings immediate relief to the more than 3 million riders each month who were at risk of losing some of the service they rely upon for the essentials of life. We thank Governor Newsom and our local and state partners for making this possible, and while long-term funding challenges remain, today we celebrate a critical win for our riders and communities."

Senate Bill 63 co-author Jesse Arreguín also sounded a note of thanks, "I am grateful to the Governor and my legislative colleagues for supporting Bay Area transit with this loan. This agreement is a huge win to keep our transit agencies running and ensure that the Bay Area can continue as a major economic engine, while not compromising critical transit projects. At a time when we are at risk of significant service cuts that would

grind the region to a halt, this additional funding will provide a vital lifeline to the Bay Area’s major transit agencies and provide fiscal stability as we move forward on a broader regional self-help measure this year.”

**Related:** [Public Transit](#) [Gavin Newsom](#) [Transit Funding](#) [Scott Wiener](#)

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# RICHMONDSIDE

It's TEXTbook: Get WCCUSD news faster | Deadly lookalikes: Mushroom poisoning hits immigrant communities | Richmond man's time in jail inspired him to change. Now he feeds the hungry

CITY

## Richmond area poised to receive nearly \$40M to improve air quality, public health

Residents at a community meeting in North Richmond weighed in on what they'd like to see the money spent on, including more parks, safer streets and cleaner air.



By Karina Ioffe

March 3, 2026, 6:00 a.m.



An overhead view of the Chevron Long Wharf in Richmond on Oct. 24, 2024. Credit: Richard H. Grant

Richmond and other west Contra Costa County communities stand to receive one of the largest infusions of cash for environmental projects in local history this year, thanks to new grants from the Bay Area Air District and several other sources aimed at reducing air pollution and improving public health.

The biggest chunk of cash — nearly \$36 million — will come from a Bay Area Air District program that [reinvests penalties paid by local polluters](#) for air quality violations in communities that have been most impacted. This specific amount is from fines and settlements collected by the air district from Chevron Richmond and will be used to fund projects in Richmond, North Richmond, San Pablo, and nearby unincorporated areas, according to a [statement](#) from Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, who represents west county.

Then there's \$1 million from the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors meant specifically for projects in west Contra Costa and another \$1.35 million from the federal government for a [flooding protection project in North Richmond](#).

These funds are in addition to the \$55 million per year the city of Richmond is receiving, on average, over the next 10 years from its 2024 settlement with Chevron.

“We haven't had this large amount of money at one time ever,” Gioia said. “This is a unique opportunity to make meaningful investments and improve health and economic opportunities and reduce disparities in west county.”

The air district funds will support community-led projects that reduce air pollution, improve public health and strengthen community resilience in areas that have been most impacted by air quality violations, especially those near the Chevron refinery. The grants are open to nonprofits, local governments, schools, Native American tribes, and unions that serve these impacted areas. The deadline to [apply for a grant](#) is May 29.

## **Residents say they want more parks and safer streets, in addition to cleaner air**

Some local groups have begun gathering community feedback to help shape grant proposals. Urban Tilth, a Richmond nonprofit that runs school and community gardens and a small urban farms where it teaches residents to grow produce; The [Watershed Project](#), a local environmental organization; and Gioia's office began holding joint community meetings last month to hear from residents of North Richmond about the types of projects they want to see in their neighborhood.

They got an earful.

At a community meeting in February at Verde Elementary School, Susana Miramontes, a 20-year resident of the area, said her biggest concern was air quality. The Richmond-San Pablo area — home to 150,000 people — had “more asthma emergency room visits, higher rates of cardiovascular disease” and “lower life expectancy than in other areas of Contra Costa County,” according to a [2020 report](#) by the air quality district.

“If Richmond is not keyed into these grant opportunities, we will miss this chance at a moment when there is a lot of money available to reinvest in the community. We need to be prepared and put our best foot forward.”

— Doria Robinson, Richmond City Council member and Urban Tilth director

Although the air district grants focus on projects that will reduce pollution and improve public health, many of the residents’ concerns were rooted in everyday quality of life issues: A need for more parks where children could play safely, better lighted streets, bicycle lanes so children can ride to school safely, and stop signs to discourage speeding.

Ronald Green, who has lived in North Richmond since 2017, said that illegal dumping is the most serious problem facing his community. He spoke about a recent effort by the Contra Costa Sheriff’s

Office that placed temporary security cameras in the area, which resulted in a drop in illegal dumping.

“For two weeks, no one dumped a thing,” Green said. “There were no stolen vehicles abandoned, bags of trash or leftovers from construction sites.” But as soon as the cameras were removed, he said, the dumping resumed.

Regina Cuevas, another longtime resident of North Richmond, said she’d love to see a park with a great playground, similar to what was recently installed in [Iron Triangle’s Pogo Park](#).

“The only park we have here is Shields-Reid and there are a lot of drunks,” Cuevas said. “It’s not safe for kids to go there.”

At the meetings, North Richmond residents were asked to rank more than 100 potential projects, from an electric bike-share program to a grocery co-op in North Richmond, to “hope gardens” on street medians and an overpass over Richmond Parkway that would connect Wildcat Creek Trail with the Bay Trail. But after hearing from residents, even more ideas will be added to the list. The organizers of the February meeting will hold a final community vote March 21 to help prioritize projects.

“If Richmond is not keyed into these grant opportunities, we will miss this chance at a moment when there is a lot of money available to reinvest in the community,” said Doria Robinson, executive director of Urban Tilth and a Richmond City Council member. “We need to be prepared and put our best foot forward.”

## **Smaller grants target broader issues in west county; levees would combat coastal flooding**

The \$1 million from the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors is less restrictive than the air district money and is available for projects addressing health, housing, education, economic and environmental needs. Grants will be up to \$50,000 each, and groups had to apply by Feb. 27. The funding is part of a larger \$5 million grant program approved by the board in June 2025.

The \$1.35 million federal grant will go West County Wastewater to build a [“living levee,” a sloped wall made of repurposed earth](#) and native plants to protect against coastal flooding caused by extreme weather events and sea level rise, a growing problem for the area and something that’s of concern in neighborhoods with [toxic contamination](#) from decades of industrial use. The levees will be placed at various locations in North Richmond, including Point Pinole Regional Park, San Pablo Creek, West Contra Costa Landfill and Castro Cove.

The funding spree couldn’t come at a better time. Last spring, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [suspended \\$19 million](#) in anticipated funding earmarked for the [North Richmond Community Resilience Initiative](#), a series of projects to build climate-resilient infrastructure, train locals for green jobs and environmental remediation. With the funding freeze, years of planning ground to a halt. Now, local organizations are hopeful that their many plans — that now exist in Google documents and Excel spreadsheets — will finally come to fruition.

## Related stories



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