



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 \(ca.gov\)](#)



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

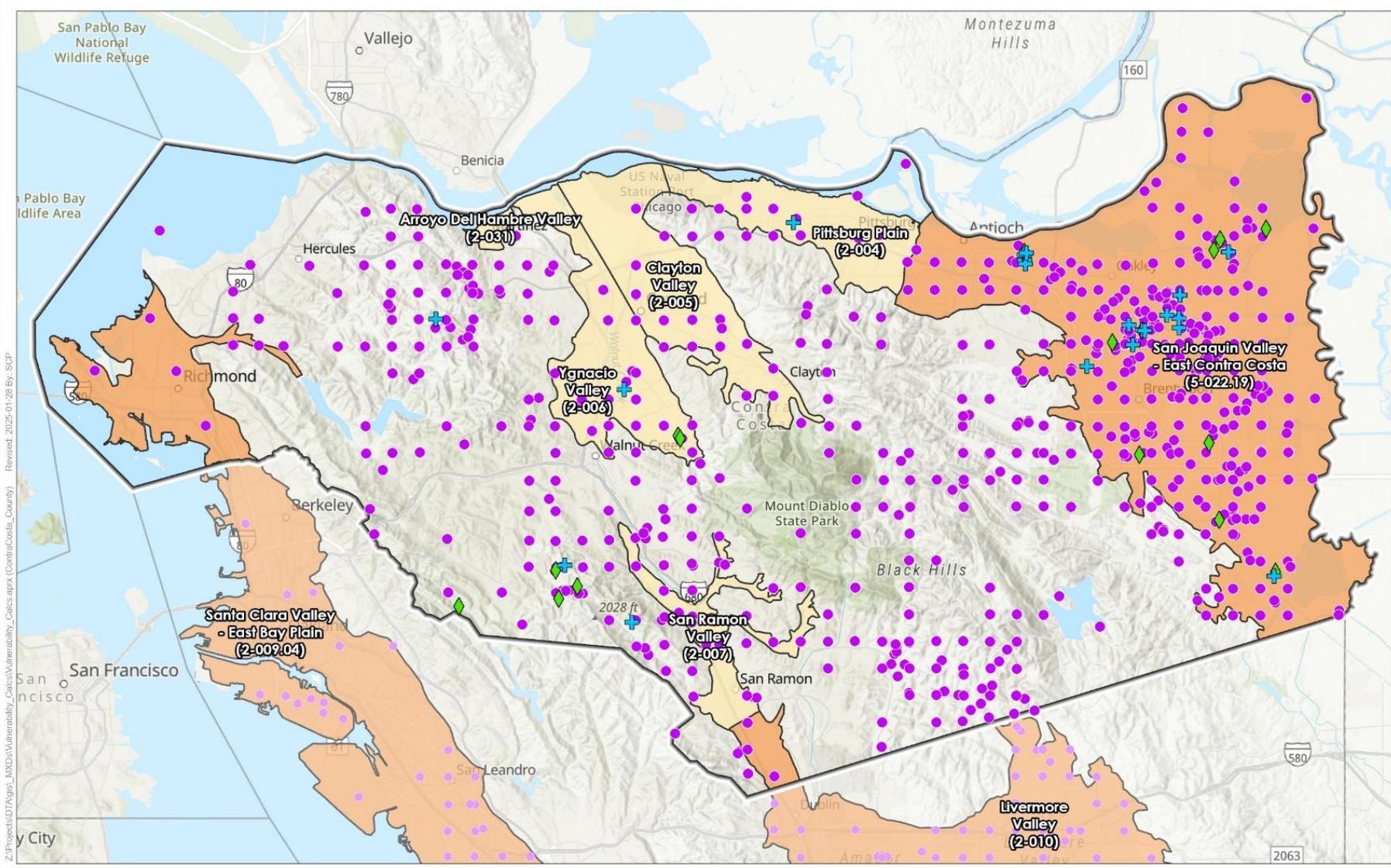
**See California Water Code §10609.51 for full definitions*



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		Groundwater Basin - SGMA Priority
	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

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

Project:
Contra Costa County Domestic Wells and State Small Water Systems



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?



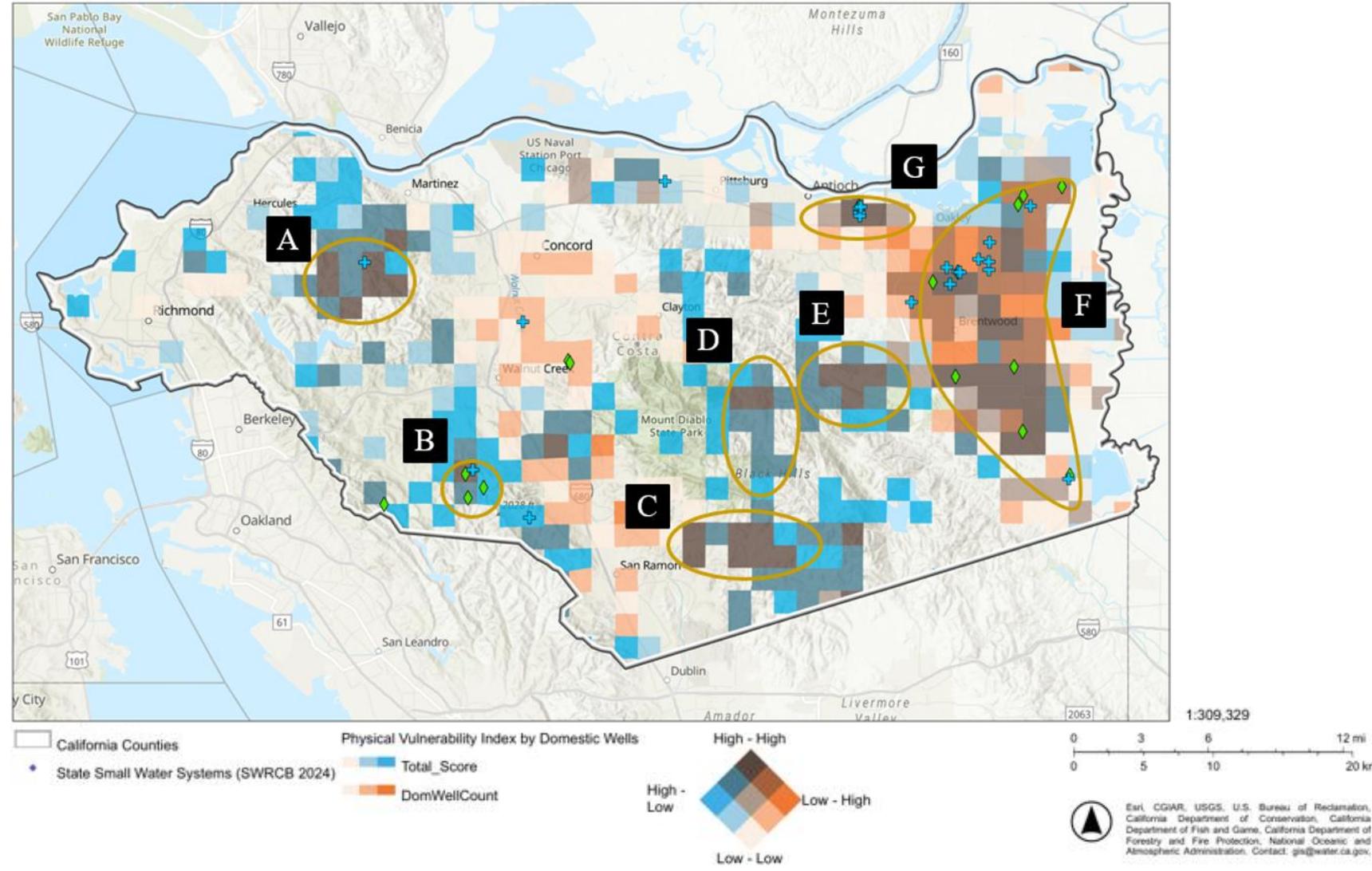
Risk Assessment Findings

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