

Regional Water Management Group

LOCATION: Online (ZOOM)

MINUTES

Monday, January 23, 2023, 1:30 pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm, by Carl Janzen, vice-chairperson.

Those present included:

Al Solis – SEMCU	Jack Rice – MAWA
Angela Islas – Civic Well	Jacob Roberson – RWMG Coordinator
Bobby Macaulay – Madera County	Jasmine Rivera – SHE
Brandon Tomlinson – Chowchilla WD	Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla
Carl Janzen – Madera ID	Jeannie Habben – Madera County
Celeste Wheeler – Indian Lakes	Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez – Madera County
Clyde Wheeler – Indian Lakes	Keith Helmuth – City of Madera
Dina Nolan – Madera ID	Kim Witten – Madera County
Don Roberts – Gravelly Ford WD	Kristi Robinson – CMZ/Triangle T WD
Eddie Mendez – Madera County	Mary Stalter – North Fork Rancheria
Emily Garcia – Madera County	Mira Dick – USDA NRCS
Frank Lyles – Zanjero Group	Sam Cunningham – Madera County
Grace Person – Civic Well	Sarbjit Johal – SEMCU
Greg Young – Zanjero Group	Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County
Gretchen Heisdorf – Root Creek WD	

2. Review & Approval - Agenda & Minutes

- A motion to approve the January agenda after adding the December 2022 financial report under item #6 was made by Al S; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the November minutes was made by Gretchen H; Al S second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval – Resolution No. 2023-01

- Kristi R mentioned that the Governor's emergency proclamation will go away at some point in time and was wondering if the group could continue to meet online once the emergency proclamation ends and what would need to be done by the group to allow this. Jason R mentioned that he heard the emergency proclamation ended at the end of last year (December 31, 2022). Kristi added that she is aware of some organizations moving back to in-person meetings starting in March. Carl J would like this to be added to the agenda for February's meeting. Having the meetings on Zoom has really increased the participant numbers for our monthly meetings. Carl mentioned the group may be able to have the meetings on Zoom going forward and have a designated spot if someone wanted to show up in-person to the meeting.
 - Stephanie A added that from her understanding, other IRWM groups do not hold their meetings as public meetings. It's just water resource professionals that meet less formally. They do not post a public notice for upcoming meetings, and they don't have to follow Brown Act rules. This

may be possible for this group as well. It would be best to consult with an attorney on this. Carl asked Jacob R to reach out to Melanie A with Madera WD and see what she has to say about this.

- A motion to approve meeting resolution no. 2023-01 was made by Al S; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment

- Items of interest were mentioned by Jacob R (for more information, reach out to Jacob):
 - CAL FIRE Forest Health Grants is currently accepting applications. Applications are due on February 28th.
 - The California Air Grants Program is currently accepting applications through March 3rd.
 - \$120M in funding has been announced for the CAL FIRE FY 2022-23 Wildfire Prevention Grants Program. Applications need to be submitted no later than 3 pm on March 15th. Office hours for this funding opportunity are being held on Wednesday, January 25th, from 10 am – 11 am.
 - The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board released the Revised Groundwater Protection Targets Report on December 15th. Public comments are currently being accepted through 5 pm on February 3rd.
 - Up to \$8M is available for the 2023 Q1 Business and Workforce Development Grants Program through CAL FIRE's Wood Products and Bioenergy Team. They will be holding a virtual workshop on January 26th for those interested in applying.
 - DWR, along with coordination of other groups, release a draft guidebook to support the preparation of County Drought Resilience Plans which focus on state small water systems and domestic wells as required under SB 552.
 - CDFA's Community Resilience Centers Program is currently accepting applications through 5 pm on February 27th. An estimated \$38M is available in funding.
 - The University of California Cooperative Extension is holding Post-Fire Resilience Workshops on Wednesdays from 6 pm – 7:30 pm from February 1st – March 17th on Zoom, with field trips on March 16th and 17th. The cost for this 7-week workshop is \$25.

5. Review & Approval – Election of Officers

- Jacob R mentioned that during the November meeting, Carl J was nominated as the chairperson and Kristi R was nominated as the vice-chair. Jacob also added that others may be nominated today before the election of officers takes place.
 - Carl added that he had received a call from a group member concerned about Carl possibly being both the treasurer and chairperson of the group.

The group does not have a treasurer, just a 1) chairperson, 2) vice-chair, and 3) administrative assistant (or coordinator). Madera ID handles the accounting for this group, but they are not the group's treasurer. Madera ID just accepts monies and writes checks on behalf of the group to pay bills that are due. Madera ID is more of a bookkeeper for the Madera RWMG.

- Bobby M mentioned he would not mind serving as the chairperson or vice-chair since he is the new District 5 Supervisor in Madera County, replacing Tom W. Tom did a great job representing both the valley communities and mountain/foothill communities, and Bobby is looking to do the same if he serves as an officer for the group.
 - Stephanie A nominated Bobby as chairperson for the group. With Bobby being nominated as the chairperson, Carl J withdrew his nomination as the chairperson.
- A motion to approve the election of Robert (Bobby) Macaulay as the chairperson of the Madera RWMG was made by Jason R; Al S second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the election of Kristi Robinson as the vice-chairperson of the Madera RWMG was made by Jason R; Al S second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion & Action - Financial Report/Warrant Approvals

- December 2022 Financial Report
 - Carl J reported that for December, the group had no income. For the expenses, we spent \$2,250 on Jacob's position and \$1,500 on the website design by CalTech Web, for a total of \$3,750. This left us with \$22,359.40 at the end of December.
 - A motion to approve the December financial report was made by Carl J; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- January 2023 Financial Report
 - Carl J reported that for January, the group had an income of \$2,850 from Madera ID paying their membership dues and an income of \$9,740.30 from Prop 1 DAC Grant funds. Total income of \$12,590.30 for the month. For the expenses, \$450 was sent to Madera ID for their accounting fee, \$2,250 was spent on Jacob's position, \$9,265.30 was spent on CMZ's work for the Prop 1 DAC Grant, \$99 was spent on website maintenance and changes by CalTech Web, and \$500 was spent on grant administration for the Prop 1 DAC Grant. Total expenses for the month is \$12,564.30, leaving the group with \$22,385.40 at the end of January.
 - A motion to approve the January financial report was made by Carl J; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

7. Review & Approval – Zoom Account

- Jacob R mentioned that we are currently having our monthly meetings via Zoom through Madera County Department of Water and Natural Resource's account. They only have 1 account, which means that they are unable to schedule any other meetings with their account during Madera RWMG's timeslot (4th Monday of the month from 1:30 pm to roughly 3 pm).

- Jacob also mentioned that if the group would like to have their own Zoom account for future meetings, an account can be created using Jacob's personal email address with a generic password in case Jacob is unable to attend a meeting and someone else needs to host/manage the meeting, or we can create a Zoom account using a Gmail account created for the new website's contact form. The cost for one Zoom account is \$150/year if a full year is paid up front, or \$15/month (\$180/year) if paid monthly.
 - Bobby M asked how long a meeting can be and the number of attendees allowed with a paid Zoom account, and Jacob mentioned there is no time limit, and the number of attendees allowed per meeting is 100. Clyde W added that the paid Zoom account is worth the \$150/year cost.
- A motion to approve the purchase of a Zoom account for the Madera RWMG was made by Clyde W; Kristi R second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
 - Jacob will create a Zoom account using the group's Gmail account (maderawatergroup@gmail.com)

8. Review & Approval – IRWM and SWRP Project List

- Jacob R reported that he sent out updated projects lists for both the IRWMP and SWRP to the group members last week. The IRWMP project list was cut down by about half, and this was due to reaching out to organizations for project proposals for projects on the IRWMP project list that did not have a project proposal on file. For the projects removed, this was due to a project proposal form not being submitted by organizations after being asked for one. If projects were taken off the IRWMP project list, they were also taken off the SWRP project list if on that list. An internal list was created for projects that were removed and will be kept in case the projects removed wish to be added back later.
 - Celeste W asked about the Indian Lakes' projects that were on the IRWMP project list, and Jacob mentioned that the Indian Lakes Water System Improvements project is still on the list, but the meter project has been removed since that project received funding and is currently being implemented.
- Jacob also added that he did create another internal list during Fall of last year, and that list indicates projects that include groundwater recharge, floodwater management, and/or reduction in groundwater pumping.
- A motion to approve the IRWMP project list was made by Kristi R; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to approve the SWRP project list was made by Kristi R; Gretchen H second; all voted; motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion – Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

- San Joaquin Valley
 - Self-Help Enterprises – Projects 12 and 13
 - Nothing new to report.
 - Chowchilla Nitrate Control Program / Chowchilla Management Zone – Projects 12 and 13
 - Kristi R reported that they are testing for Nitrates in domestic wells along with 12 other constituents in Madera County through this funding. For the homes in the Chowchilla Subbasin that test over

10 mg/L in nitrates, they are providing them replacement water. To date, they have tested 32 wells and 12 of those wells are over the 10 mg/L in Nitrates. 17 homes are being provided replacement water due to their Nitrate issue. CMZ is continuing to connect with people through social media, direct email, schools, door-to-door outreach and canvassing, public outreach events, USPS mailers, and other activities in the Chowchilla Subbasin. If you know of anyone that would like to have their domestic well tested, please reach out to Kristi by emailing chowchilladrinkingwater@gmail.com, by calling (559) 373-7399, or by going to www.chowchillamanagementzone.com

10. Discussion – Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Funding

- Mountain Counties and San Joaquin Valley Counties
 - Indian Lakes and Parkwood
 - Eddie M reported that he does not have any new updates from the vendor yet for both Indian Lakes and Parkwood regarding miscellaneous items. They are still projected to receive the backordered items around March or April at the earliest. The remaining meters for Parkwood have been received. They also received the radio units for Parkwood. Parts for the Parkwood project are being stored at the Almond yard and parts for the Indian Lakes project are being stored at the Oakhurst yard.
 - Celeste W asked if this funding is for Round 1 or Round 2 of the Prop 1 funds, and Eddie mentioned this is for Round 1. Round 2 will be addressed later during this meeting as agenda item #16.
 - Bobby M asked what needs to be done once the remaining miscellaneous items are received, and will it be a quick process for the installation. Eddie answered that once they get an update on when the remaining miscellaneous items will be shipped, they'll have someone come in to prep the software side (internal billing). They'll also start to stage Indian Lakes and Parkwood to make sure that the contractor that will be installing the meters will have easy access to the sites. Notices will be sent out to residents prior to construction to let them know what is going to happen. Water will be turned off temporarily to allow for installation.
 - City of Madera
 - Keith H reported that they have 2 different projects. 1 is for water meter replacement. The meter project has been released for bidding. Those bids are due February 14th. The other project is finalizing the water meter locations. This project is moving towards being out for bid.
 - Parksdale
 - Eddie M reported that the Parksdale project has been sent to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance (well rehab). Outside of any reimbursement needing to be submitted for cleanup items, the project is essentially done. Some miscellaneous grant items still

need to be filled out, but this project is closed out as far as the County is concerned.

- City of Chowchilla
 - Jason R reported that they have about 60% of the plans completed for their stormwater project. The completed plans have been submitted to the State for review, and they are waiting to receive comments back before moving forward. They are hopeful that they can be completed with design here shortly and have the project out for bid this summer.

11. Discussion – Madera County Drought Plan (SB 552)

- Frank L with the Zanjero group presented on the Drought Plan being put together for Madera County. This is for Senate Bill 552 (SB 552). Please see Frank's slides attached to the end of these minutes.
 - Mary S commented that for those that live in the Valley, reach out to mountain community residents if you want to know how bad the drought is getting because they are the ones closest to the water source. The groundwater is replenished off the snowpack and our watersheds, and there are homes in the mountains that are having to drill wells as deep as 600 feet to get water. Over in Coarsegold, some wells are having to be drilled as deep as 1,000 feet for domestic wells. Mary feels that a water study needs to be done in the mountains since drilling wells up there have to take into consideration fractured water. It's alarming that homes in the mountains closest to the water sources (snowpack, creeks, rivers, lakes, etc.) are going dry. Many of these wells are not being recorded.
 - Frank mentioned that the hydrological standing for wells in the mountains and foothills are different than those in the valley because there are not proper aquifers in those communities. There is groundwater existing in the fractures in the rock, so the available groundwater is a lot less and the residents are experiencing a lot of challenges when it comes to their wells. The data availability for groundwater availability is a lot less as well for the mountain communities. One thing they are focused on tracking as a proxy is snowpack and runoff conditions in the major watersheds that come from the mountain regions. They're specifically looking at [CA Bulletin 120 \(B120\)](#) which is a bulletin released by DWR each year that includes an assessment of snowpack and forecasts runoff. They are using this to anticipate how the water year will be and hydrologic conditions. They have also identified difficulty with reporting when there are issues with wells in the mountain and foothill communities. There might be less reporting of well problems in the mountain areas. They're working on making sure there is proper outreach in those areas, so residents know how to report when they are experiencing issues with their wells. Once issues are reported, they can collect better data on what the well issues are.
 - Mary added that Tribal members for the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians are becoming more concerned with the water issue, both the supply and quality. A lot of mountain communities are DACs, and the drought is having significant impact on them. The drought not only impacts domestic wells for the mountain communities, but also wildfires and wildlife.

- Bobby M mentioned that there are resources available through SHE and other organizations when it comes to drinking water, and Bobby is happy to speak with Mary after the meeting to give her some resources for both mountain communities and Tribes. Mary is not required to do any data collection or well monitoring, but that information would be good to have to include in any future reporting that is done to the State for Madera County. From the County's perspective, consolidation of water systems is always something they're trying to figure out, but they do tend to get a lot of resistance. Bobby had a discussion with the Indian Lakes community this past Saturday about their water system and how there has been some talk about consolidating with a neighboring water system. It can be a difficult pitch to sell but the County is always trying to create more resiliency against drought.

12. Discussion – Prop 68 Funding

- Stephanie A reported that this grant is for domestic well inventory in the Madera and Chowchilla Subbasins along with the installation of several monitoring wells. They're wrapping this grant up and are working on the report to close out the grant. Pete L with Luhdorff & Scalmanini has done a few presentations to the Madera RWMG about the domestic well inventory and the locations for the monitoring wells. This project was attached to the Prop 1 fundings for the GSPs in the two subbasins which holds the retention. Pete will be providing a final presentation to this group during the February 27th meeting. Other than that, the groundwork has been completed. Just final reporting needs to be completed.

13. Discussion – SGMA Implementation Grant

- Gretchen H reported they submitted reporting back at the end of October. They have not been notified yet that the check has been received. Root Creek WD accountants have not notified Gretchen that anything has been received on their end. Signatures for the checks were completed well over a month ago. They are in the process of completing their 2nd progress report and payment request. There is no status update available right now regarding the various projects being completed under this grant except for the project that Root Creek WD is sponsoring. That project has been sent out for bid and bids are due at the end of this week. Gretchen will have more of an update for the group during the February meeting.

14. Discussion – California Wildfires / Forest Management / Watershed

- This item will be removed from the agenda and can be added back during the wildfire season if needed. This item was added to the agenda back at the end of 2020 during the Creek Fire and other large wildfires happening around the State.
- Jacob R added that all the rain we have received recently has exposed the other side of damage from wildfires. Roads have been damaged, rockslides have been happening, etc.

15. Discussion – Drought Working Group

- Jenny N reported that they just had their monthly meeting last Friday. Felix Castro with the National Weather Service provided a presentation on

atmospheric rivers, snow levels in the foothills, and answered questions on if the rains we have received have helped at all with the drought. State, nonprofit, and County representatives attended the meeting. The next Drought Working Group meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 17th, at 10 am on Zoom.

16. Discussion – IRWM Round 2 Application Status

- Celeste W mentioned that Indian Lakes Estates Property Owners Association (POA) had their 1st meeting of the year this past Saturday. Since they have had some culvert issues and a water main break, they invited Bobby M to come to the meeting. Bobby brought Matthew T from Madera County to the meeting. Indian Lakes asked Matthew about the Round 2 application and he mentioned that the County will be pursuing this funding opportunity for Indian Lakes. Celeste is wondering how much the cost will be for this project and if the grant will be able to cover those costs. Eddie M said they are actively pursuing this funding opportunity for Indian Lakes. About 60% - 70% of the application is complete. Eddie has been holding off on some of the application items until he has a call with DWR. He has a question on some of the items and how he plans on submitting those items on the application to make sure it would be acceptable. Some things have been added to the application for Round 2 which were not on the application for Round 1 Prop 1 funding. Eddie is also trying to setup the project on the application that would make it easier for the County management and planning side leading into the potential funding source for construction which would be through the State Financial Assistance Division because they have their own specific requirements for funding. These requirements are not the same as what DWR requires for what the County does for the projects. Eddie is trying to be as sufficient as possible with the way the Scope of Work is being prepared to utilize the available money. If the planning study is done and they did not properly analyze consolidation as an alternative, the State Financial Assistance Division will not fund the project. If consolidation is a viable option, that is the only thing they will fund. Consolidation with surrounding communities may be a viable option which the State Financial Assistance Division wants on their application but DWR for Prop 1 does not require it. They are doing all of this to be sure no money is left on the table.
- Celeste also asked what the time frame looks like for all of this, and Eddie mentioned that planning does not take as long, but it will vary depending on what the applicable solutions are. Once they identify all the deficiencies, that will dictate how long the total project will take. Planning for all possible solutions may take some time in the long run, but it's better because they can avoid any complications that may come up. Celeste appreciates what the County is doing for Indian Lakes.
- Eddie plans to speak with DWR about the Round 2 application tomorrow. If DWR can answer all of Eddie's questions during the call, the plan is to submit the application on Wednesday this week. If there are any issues needing to be addressed after speaking with DWR, Eddie is looking to submit the application on the 30th. The deadline to apply is February 1st. After submitting, DWR does a preliminary review and allows up to 1 week for any issues to be addressed and resolved.
- Eddie also mentioned that DWR suggests having an alternative project submitted with the application because if something falls through with the main project, the

funding can be used for the alternative project. Eddie would like to use the MD-58 Sierra Highlands Water System Improvements project as the alternative project if OK'd by the group. This would also allow any unused funding on the Indian Lakes project to be used for the MD-58 project.

- A motion to approve the MD-58 project as an alternative for the Prop 1 Round 2 application was made by Kristi R; Gretchen H second; all voted; Motion passed unanimously.

17. Report – Sustainable Groundwater Management – SGMA

- Stephanie A reported that in the Chowchilla and Delta-Mendota Subbasins, letters were received from DWR about 6 months ago to revise GSPs. They are still waiting for DWR to approve those revised plans. They were supposed to do that by the end of 2022, but now it looks like it will be sometime in Spring. For the Madera Subbasin, they are working on GSP revisions. The 4 GSPs are working together with their technical experts. The revisions are due by the 3rd week in March.

18. New/Suggested Members for the Madera RWMG

- Jacob R mentioned that he reached out to Aliso GSA and New Stone GSA through email. Jacob can try reaching out to them by phone if the group would like. Jacob has reached out to Aliso GSA a few times but has not heard anything back. Aliso GSA does have a project on the IRWMP project list. Bobby M commented that it would be a good idea if Jacob can reach out to those 2 GSAs via phone call.
- Bobby asked if we have tried reaching out to the Picayune Tribe. They have a pretty big group. Jacob mentioned that he has not tried reaching out to them since he has been with the group. Bobby will connect Jacob with one of their representatives.

19. Future Agenda Items

- Jacob R mentioned that with the new officer elections, he will be updating the Member Packet. The website address/URL will also be updated. Some Bylaw updates will be made as well. These changes will be included on the agenda next month to be approved by the group.
- Jacob added that the call for projects will be added as an agenda item through April's meeting. The call for projects will open on March 3rd and close on April 12th.
- Jacob added that IRWMP Project Proposals will be added to the February agenda. Gravelly Ford WD has some projects to add/update on the IRWMP project list.

20. Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 27, 2023, at 1:30 pm on Zoom.

21. The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm.

Madera County *Drought and Water Shortage Risk Analysis and Response Plan*

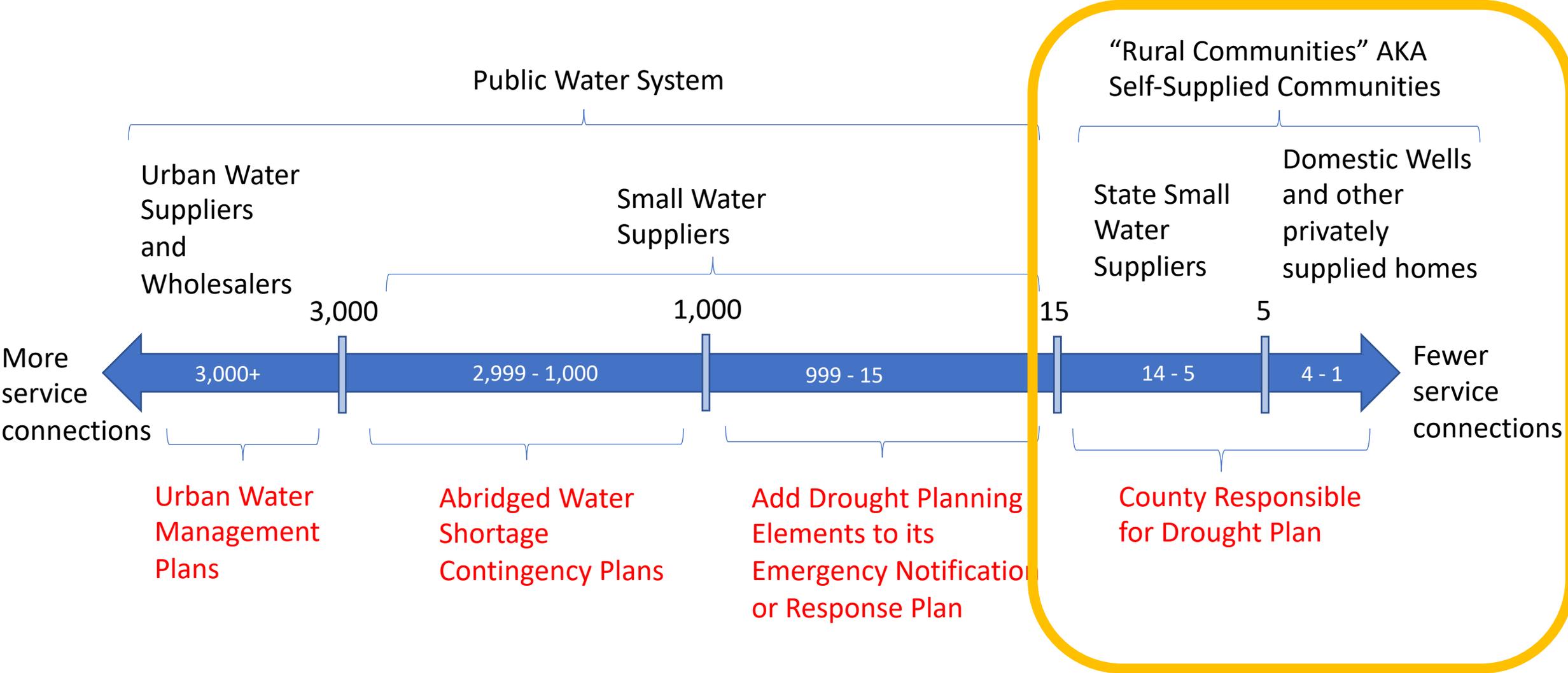
Pursuant to Senate Bill 552



Photo credit: Cristina Anne Costello, Unsplash



Drought Planning for CA Water Suppliers

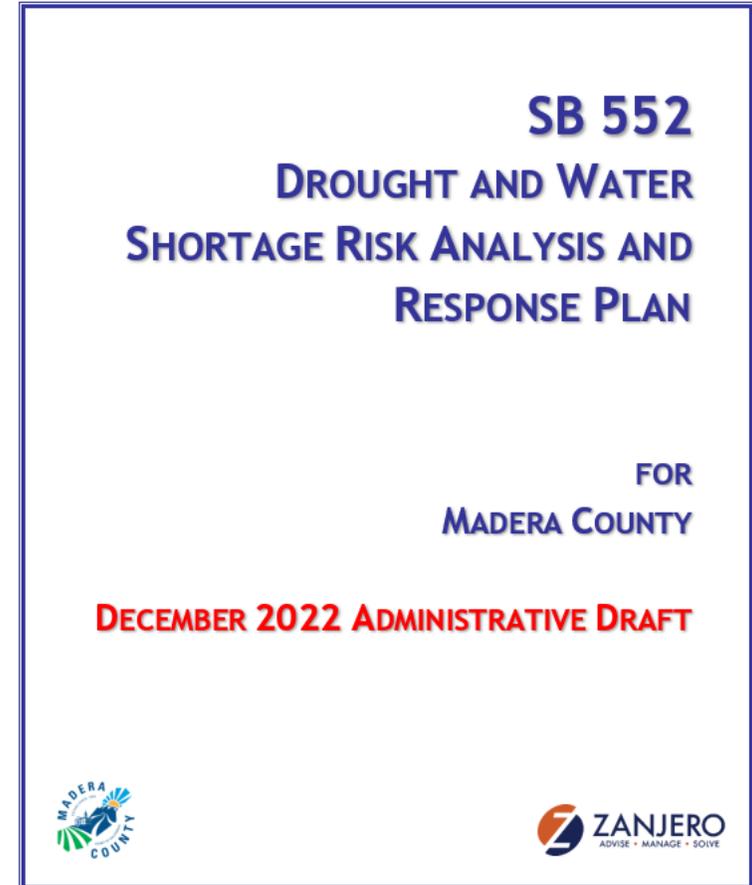


Senate Bill 552 requirements for counties

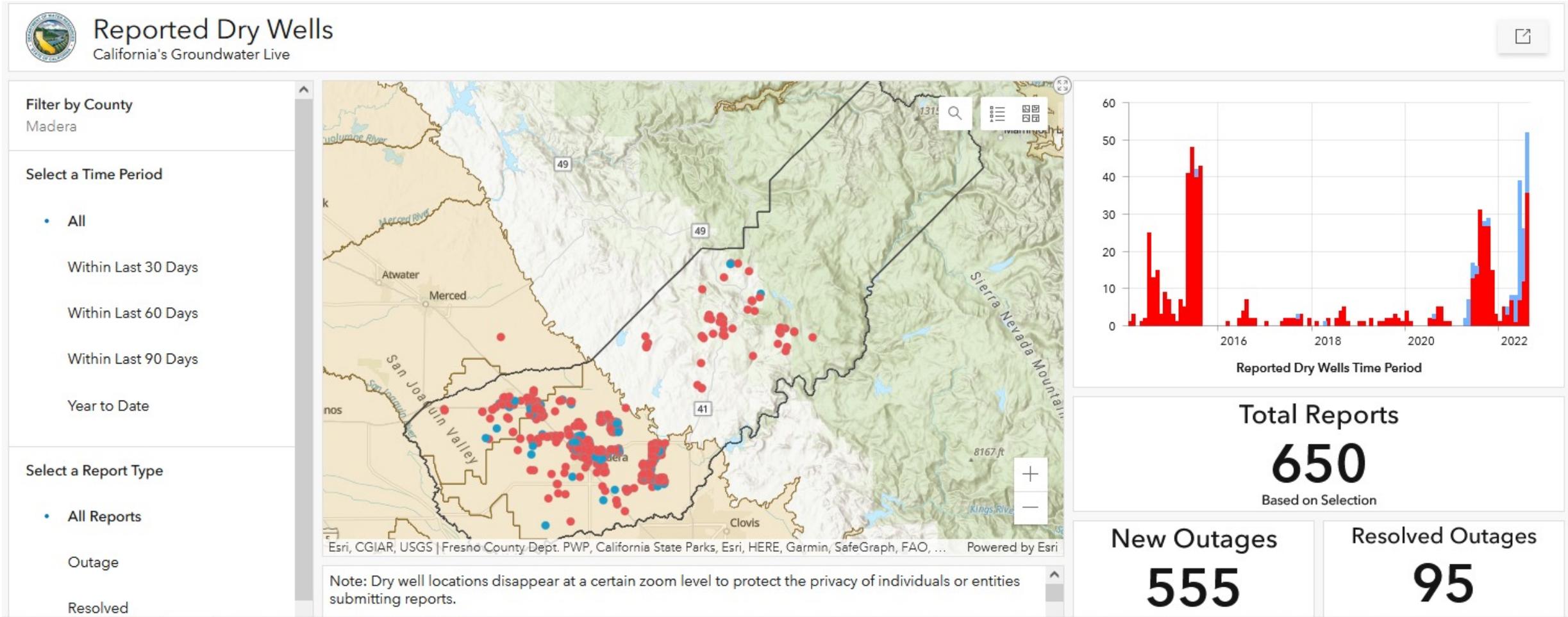
1. Establish County Task Force or alternative (the Drought Workgroup)
2. Assess Drought & Water Shortage Risk
3. Provide Emergency Drinking Water Solutions
4. Consider Consolidations for Existing Water Systems
5. Consider Domestic Well Mitigation Programs
6. Analyze Steps to Implement the Plan
7. Consider Local, State, and Federal Funding Sources to Implement Plan

Plan Outline

1. Introduction and background
2. Identification of Drought & Water Shortage Risk
3. Small System Consolidation Opportunities
4. Shortage Response Actions (Action Plan)
5. Conclusions and Recommendations



Groundwater Live dry well map



Accessed at: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/CalGWLIVE/#groundwater>

Risk Factors in the foothills

- Fractured Rock groundwater users
 - SGMA does not apply
 - Groundwater levels are less closely monitored
 - Geology is less well understood
 - But very high levels of domestic well reliance

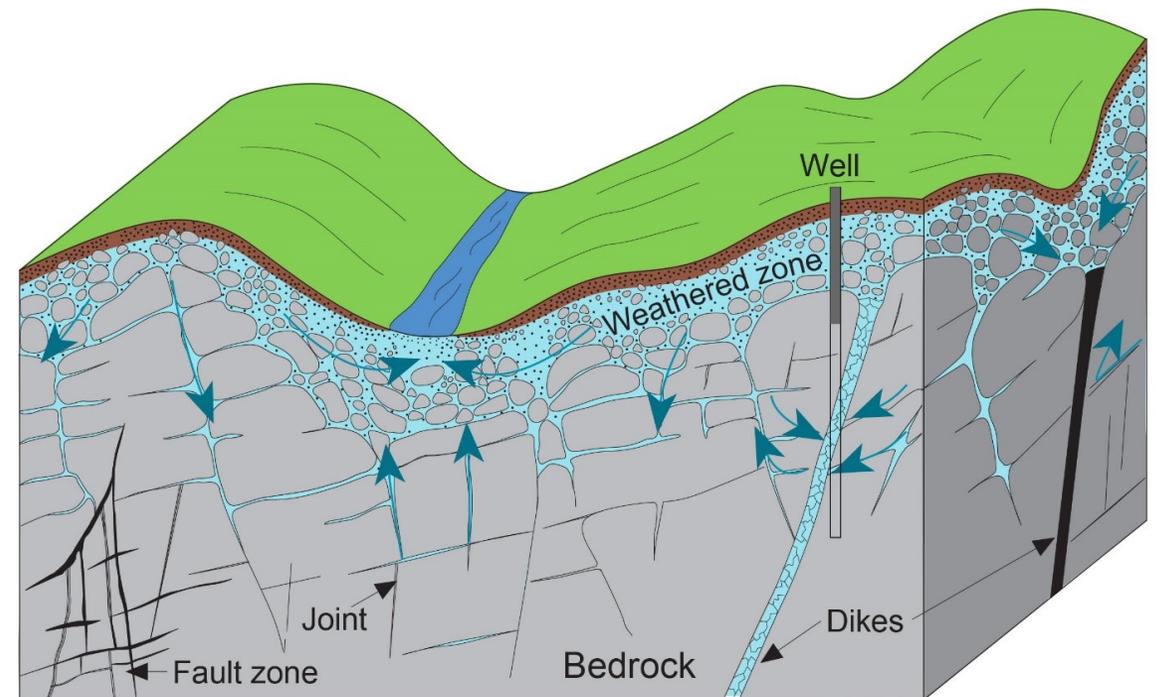


Image credit: USGS

Social vulnerability factors

Communities vary in their ability to deal with an outage. Factors may include:

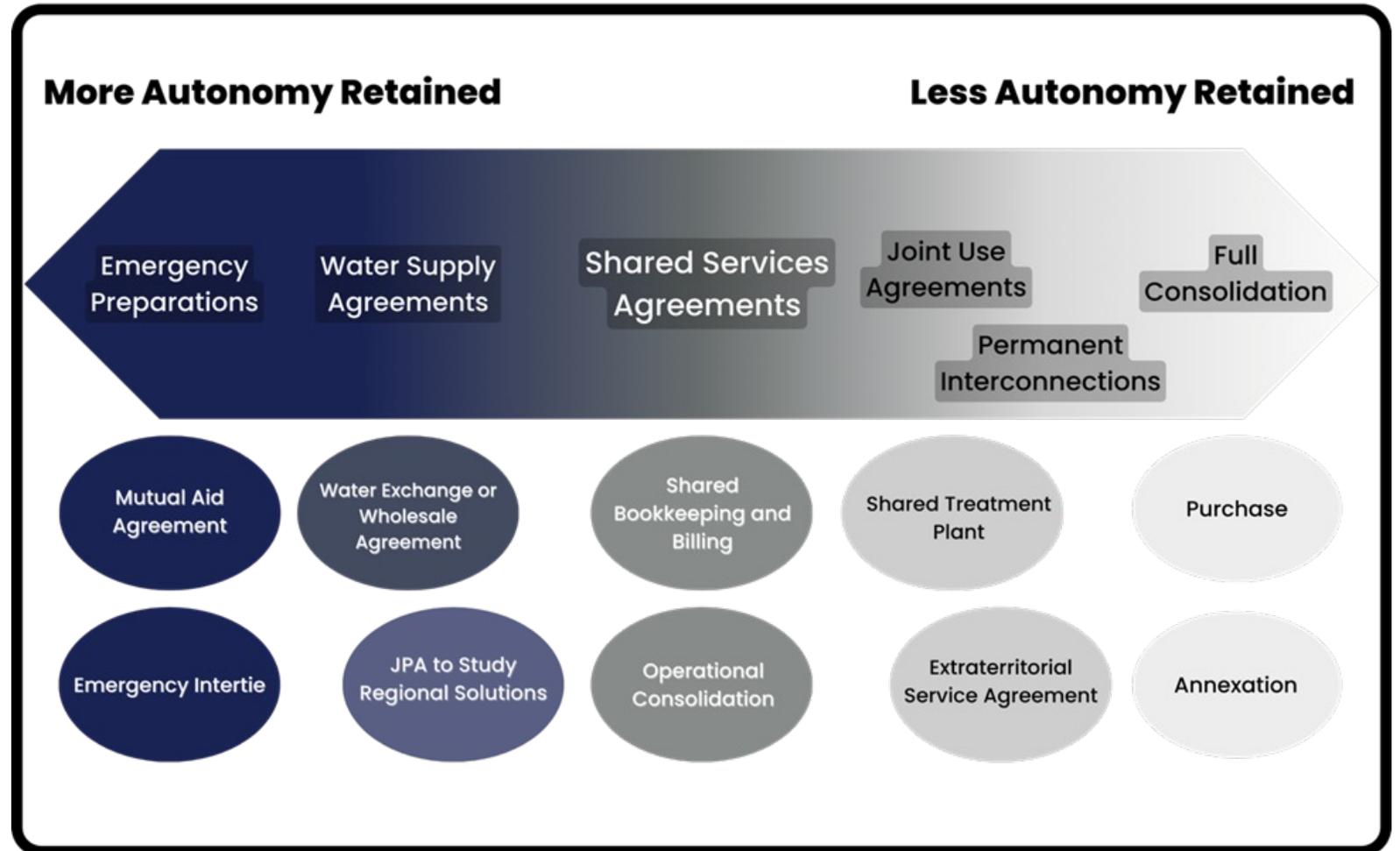
- Per capita income
- Number of renters vs property owners
- English fluency
- Age
- Education
- Employment rate



Image credit: LA Times

Small System Consolidations

We will NOT be issuing recommendations for *specific* systems to consolidate. Rather, we are identifying types of opportunities.



Draft Action Plan has a staged approach:

Drought Stage	Tracking Measure			Response Actions
	GW decline	Dry Wells Reports	Current Year Hydrology	
0	<15 ft	<4	> 80% of avg SJR runoff	Baseline Actions
1	15-30 ft	5-10	50-80% of avg SJR runoff	Moderate Actions
2	>30 ft	>11	<50% of avg SJR runoff	Severe Actions

Stage 0 – Baseline Long-Term Resiliency Actions (on-going)

- Monitoring and tracking protocols
- Coordination w/ GSAs
- Constituent education, especially: resources available, reporting, tenant rights
- Formalize coordination with Self-Help, OES, etc with MOUs
- Well maintenance & education
- Consolidation consideration – encourage mutual aid agreements
- Consider updating permit and land use policies
- Update County website

Stage 1 – Moderate Drought Emergency Response Actions

- Initiate actions to access additional State/Federal funding
- Encourage voluntary demand reductions
- Direct outreach to stakeholders
- Implement drinking water solutions through partners: bottled water & tank delivery, well repair, etc
- Request County Board emergency declaration

Stage 1 – Moderate Drought Emergency Response Actions (cont.)

- Increase frequency of monitoring in identified high risk areas
- Consider extending well permit review timeline
- Trigger pre-established relationships with NGOs

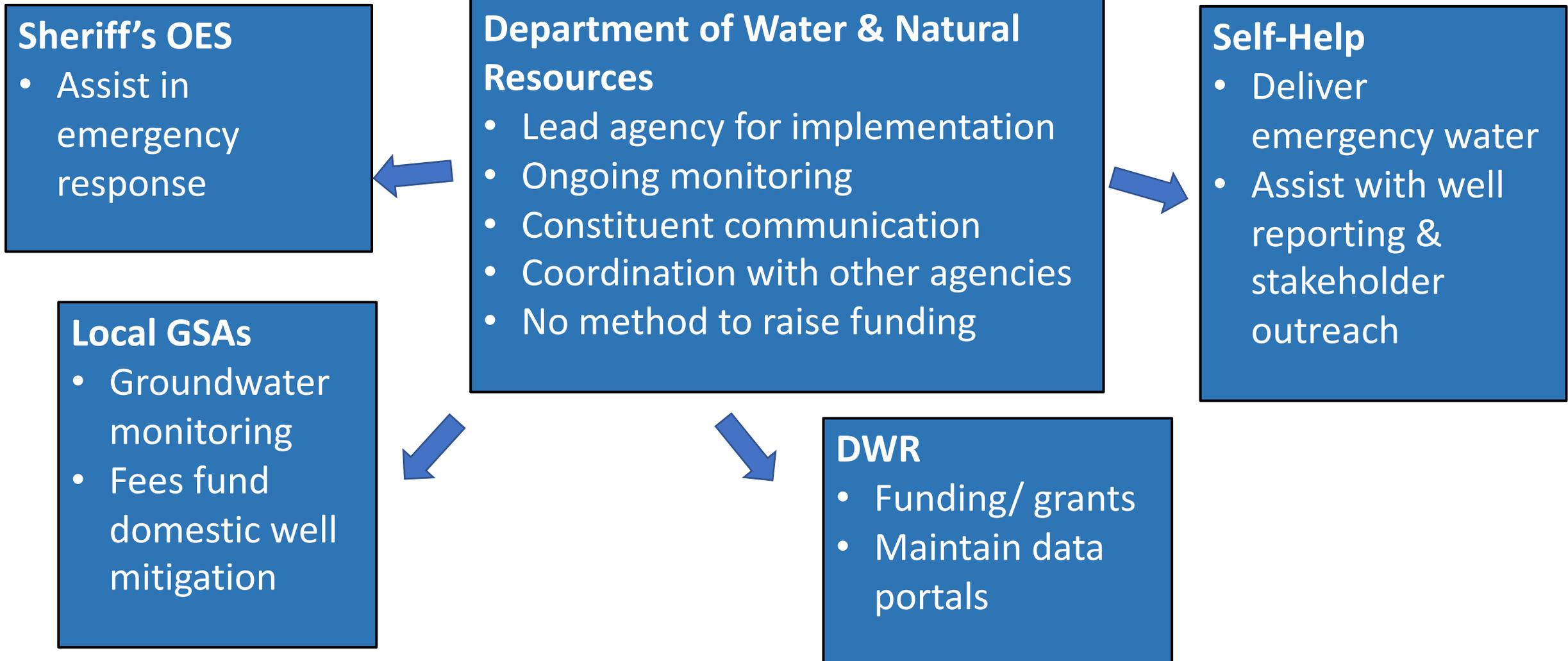
Stage 2 – Additional Severe Drought Response Actions

- Work with County Departments and Board of Supervisors to evaluate enforcement of renters' rights by requiring landlords or property managers to address health and safety concerns
- Seek state disaster declaration
- Consider temporary moratorium on new agricultural well permits (while allowing replacement domestic wells)
- Additional targeted outreach and education
- Implement mutual aid agreements as necessary

Stage 2 – Additional Severe Drought Response Actions (cont.)

- Increase frequency of monitoring in high-risk areas
- Implement water tank delivery programs
- Follow-up and assessment

Plan implementation: agency roles



Thank you!

Contact:

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