

DROUGHT RESPONSE WORKING GROUP FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS; AUGUST 16, 2022

	Category of recommendation	Recommendation we heard from Drought Response Working Group	Staff Time-Frame Recommendation	Resource Intensity
	<i>General, Data Collection, Outreach, Funding, Technical Assistance, Regulatory</i>	<i>Text of recommendation</i>	<i>Short, Medium, Long-term, Ongoing</i>	<i>1=low; 2=medium; 3=high</i>
<b>General Drought Response</b>				
1	General	Continue to work in collaboration with the State and/or elected officials when appropriate	Ongoing	1
2	General	Take advantage of existing resources provided by the State to leverage local efforts	Ongoing	1
3	Funding	Work with other County departments to identify how a grant writer position may be funded to assist with these efforts.		
4	Outreach	Create a private well email list, to use for updates as needed. Use existing email lists and postcards to solicit people to sign up.	Ongoing	2
5	Outreach	Work with regional water partners to hold another Connecting the Drops event	Short-term	2
6	Outreach	Website drought portal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of resources at the top</li> <li>• Once it's completed we can send out a mailer directing people to the website.</li> <li>• Direct to it from other County pages.</li> <li>• Recommend it is housed in the SCCEH website so we can update it.</li> <li>• Language accessible.</li> </ul>	Short-term	2
7	Funding/Outreach	Collaborate with outreach specialists, when funding is available.	Ongoing	2
8	General	County staff consider which department may benefit from becoming a member of Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC; they make information about new legislation available to rural communities)	Short-term	1
9	Regulatory	Request that staff work with the Water Advisory Commission to review the Well Ordinance and outline specific criteria for declaring a groundwater emergency	Short-term	2
10	Outreach	For each section of the Plan, in the outreach discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define goal,</li> <li>• identify multiple outreach strategies,</li> <li>• identify and leverage experts and community groups and relationships to effectively reach all potentially affected communities.</li> <li>• Leverage existing resources and events such as Board of Supervisors, agricultural groups, Connect the Drops, DWR and CERT rural community lists</li> <li>• Look to RCAC, SHE, CWC and LCJA as experts in outreach to disadvantaged communities</li> </ul>	Short-term (for Plan)	1
11	Data Collection	Maps to include in Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Quality and Water Quantity (baselayer of DACS, wells, water systems)</li> </ul>	Short-term (for Plan)	1

DROUGHT RESPONSE WORKING GROUP FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS; AUGUST 16, 2022

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water management (large water suppliers and GSAs; baselayer includes wells and small water systems).</li> <li>More maps in appendices.</li> </ul>		
<b>Private Wells</b>				
12	Data collection	Create a GIS layer of parcels served by wells. Use this to make a mailing list.	Short (if possible, have parcels served by wells done for Plan)	1
13	Data Collection	Improve well permit application forms to collect more information including GIS location of well	Short-term	1
14	General	Finalize Mitigation Strategy Table	Short-term	1
15	Technical Assistance	Get water hauler under contract	Short-term	1
16	Technical Assistance	Refer people to the dry well reporting tool created by the State rather than creating a County-specific reporting tool	Short-term	1
17	Outreach	Mailers to private well-served properties offering services	Medium-term (may be done to target priority areas first)	2
18	Outreach	Host outreach event/workshops that includes information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resources available/ training,</li> <li>Grant applications.</li> <li>Partner with RCAC, RCD, others.</li> <li>Possibly have County staff leave the room for some of the event.</li> </ul>	Medium-term	2
19	Outreach/Regulatory	Encourage and incentivize voluntary metering and data loggers for wells. There are benefits to metering but some will resist due to concerns about being taxed, loss of privacy, and costs. Primary means of encouragement will be through outreach and education.	Medium-term	
20	Data Collection	Improve well database GIS layer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively add new wells,</li> <li>Go back through historic well logs</li> <li>Include information from well completion reports (depth of seal and screening), e-logs where available.</li> </ul>	Long-term	3
21	Funding	Seek funding to support voluntary water conservation audits, leak detection, and rebates for households on private wells.	Medium-term	3
<b>Small Water Systems</b>				
22	Outreach	Outreach event or Forum that includes information on resources available, training, grant applications. Partner with RCAC, RCD, others. Multiple locations.	Medium-term	2
23	Funding	Fee collection – provide information/support for the development of County Service Areas as a mechanism to help build financial reserves	Medium-term	2
24	Outreach/Technical Assistance	Encourage and provide resources to water systems to complete reserve analyses, and to build a reserve over time.	Medium-term	2
25	Funding	Provide grant-writing and/or grant administration support for State Small Water Systems	Medium-term	2-3
26	Technical Assistance	When funding is available:	Ongoing	2

DROUGHT RESPONSE WORKING GROUP FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS; AUGUST 16, 2022

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cover costs of metering,</li> <li>POU treatments (especially for disadvantaged communities),</li> <li>Provide tools and assistance with leak detection</li> </ul>		
27	Technical Assistance	<p>Develop tools to support decision-making about consolidations, and to support consolidation process itself when that is the preferred option for all parties, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing options available</li> <li>Consolidation cost-benefit analysis tool</li> <li>Use meaningful phrasing of “consolidation”; it can be an opportunity in some cases</li> <li>Seek funding for engineering studies of systems to identify upgrades necessary to be annexed into a larger system.</li> </ul>	Long-term	3
28	Funding	Coordinate with State for financial support for consolidation. DAC’s in particular will have issue with the high cost of consolidating.	Long-term	2-3
29	Funding	Seek funding for voluntary water conservation audits and rebates for vulnerable systems	Medium-Term	3
<b>Emergency Response</b>				
30	Technical Assistance	Evaluate options to guarantee availability of hauled water in the county. Include investigating the feasibility of priority contracts with existing water haulers, and the purchase a water hauling truck (\$350,000)	Long-term	3
31	Technical Assistance	Get copies of successful FEMA claims for water systems and individuals (sensitive information redacted)	Short-term	1
32	Technical Assistance	Provide information to water systems about fire flow requirements to incorporate into their planning	Medium-Term	2
33	Data collection/Funding	Provide information about importance of appropriate tank sizing and assist parcels without tanks or with undersized tanks at risk from long term power shutoffs.	Medium-Term	3
34	Data Collection	Identify Social Vulnerabilities such as language constraints, population without vehicle, renters vs owners, population over 65.	Medium-Term	2
35	Outreach/Technical Assistance	Identify process and tip documents that the County should have on hand	Short-Term	1
36	Outreach/Technical Assistance	Educate community members on how to evaluate their insurance	Medium-term	2
37	Outreach	Include a topic at small water systems forum about lessons learned from the CZU Fire	Medium-term	2
38	General	Involve water systems and their operators in emergency response planning and give early site access when safe to do so	Ongoing	1