



MENDOCINO COUNTY DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN

26 MARCH 2025
COUNTY DROUGHT TASK FORCE MEETING #3

AGENDA

1. Summary of Outreach Efforts
2. Public Review Period of Draft
DRP and Commenting
Process
3. DRP Adoption Process
4. Next Steps



<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=17090>



SUMMARY OF OUTREACH EFFORTS



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

SB 552 (CWC §10609.70) requires counties to:

- 1) Establish a County Drought Task Force (CDTF)
- 2) Develop a Drought Resilience Plan (DRP) to address drought impacts on state small water systems and domestic wells

While CWC §10609.70 does not set specific guidelines for public engagement, DWR encourages outreach to support DRP development.



DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN WEBPAGE

- Background, information, and news related to SB 552 and the DRP Development Process
- Additional Materials:
 - DRP Public Engagement Form
 - DRP Email Update Sign-up
 - DRP Commenting Forms
 - Draft DRP Document
 - DRP Factsheets (in English and Spanish)
 - Slides from previous CDTF meetings and public workshops
 - List of State and federal funding opportunities for drought-related projects

- Water Agency

- Drought & Water Conservation

Drought Funding

- Drought Resilience Plan

Drought Resilience Plan Public Engagement Form

Get DRP Email Updates

Groundwater

Mussel Prevention Program

Stormwater

Departments » Water Agency » Drought & Water Conservation »

Drought Resilience Plan

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About SB 552

In September 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 552 (Hertzberg), which requires state and local governments to share responsibility in planning and responding to water shortage events, particularly for state small water systems and rural communities supplied by domestic wells. Through SB 552, the California State Legislature identifies counties as the best-suited government entity to provide the needed leadership to improve water resilience for state small water systems and domestic wells.

Under SB 552, all counties in California are required to prepare a County Drought Resilience Plan (County DRP) to achieve meaningful and long-term improvements in water resilience for their residents. In addition to the development of a County DRP, SB 552 directs counties to establish a long-standing County Drought and Water Shortage Task Force (Task Force) to cultivate the continued practices of drought planning and improving long-term water resilience.

County Compliance

The County and its Water Agency (MCWA) have been effectively complying with SB 552 since 2021 and throughout the recent historic drought period by holding frequent Task Force meetings, currently held under the General Government Standing Committee (GGSC). In May 2024, the County was awarded a grant from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to facilitate the development of its County DRP, which began in June 2024 under the management and administration of the MCWA. MCWA hired a consultant that specializes in water resources planning, EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI), to lead the technical development of the County DRP. MCWA and EKI are closely collaborating with relevant County Departments, University of California Cooperative Extension-Mendocino County (UCCE), stakeholders, and decision-makers to develop a comprehensive plan that complies with the requirements of SB-552 through a transparent public process.

DRP Development

The DRP development workflow consists of four main steps: data collection, vulnerability/risk assessment, development of short-term response actions and long-term mitigation strategies, and plan implementation. These steps will be conducted with effective public education and engagement, in collaboration with water suppliers and managers throughout the County.

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/water-agency/drought-water-conservation/drought-resilience-plan>

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND OUTREACH

- **Flyers Distribution:**
 - Posted at community locations across the county for UCCE workshops
- **Community Events and Presentations:**
 - Redwood Empire Fair and at the Round valley Blackberry Festival
 - Presentation to Hopland Municipal Advisory Council
 - Presentation to GrassRoot Institute Vision Workgroup
- **Media Engagement:**
 - Radio interview on KZYX's The Ecology Hour about the county's DRP
 - Press Release to all local Newspapers and Radio
- **Social Media Outreach:**
 - Promotion of workshops and DRP resources on social media
- **Educational Material:**
 - Factsheets about DRP in English and Spanish (available on DRP webpage)
- **Funding Material:**
 - Coordination with County Grants Unit to compile a dynamic list of federal and State funding opportunities for projects related to drought resilience (available on Drought Funding webpage: <https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/drought-funding/>)

The image shows a screenshot of the Mendocino County News website and a flyer. The website header includes the Mendocino County News logo and navigation tabs for NEWS, CRIME, TRAFFIC, FIRE, CANNABIS, ENVIRONMENT, and GOVERNMENT. A news article headline reads: "MENDOCINO COUNTY LAUNCHES INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN WATER RESILIENCE". Below the headline is a flyer titled "CONDADO DE MENDOCINO PLAN DE RESILIENCIA ANTE LA SEQUÍA". The flyer contains the following text:

CONDADO DE MENDOCINO PLAN DE RESILIENCIA ANTE LA SEQUÍA

El Plan de Resiliencia ante la Sequía (DRP, por sus siglas en inglés) está destinado a facilitar la preparación ante la escasez de agua para sistemas de agua pequeños, comunidades rurales y pozos domésticos causado por sequías u otras emergencias.

El Grupo de Trabajo para la Sequía del Condado de Mendocino fue creado para facilitar las respuestas antes, durante y después de los desastres.

El Proyecto de Ley del Senado (SB) 552 fue firmado en 2021, exigiendo que los condados desarrollen un DRP para estar preparados ante la sequía

EL desarrollo del DRP tiene 4 pasos:

- 1. Recolección de Datos:** Identificar bases de datos y herramientas a nivel estatal y regional; realizar entrevistas y encuestas a la comunidad.
- 2. Evaluación de Vulnerabilidad y Riesgo:** Identificar las áreas del condado de Mendocino que son más susceptibles a la escasez de agua, incluyendo pozos domésticos, hogares con tomas de agua superficial privadas y pequeños sistemas estatales de agua.
- 3. Estrategias de Mitigación a Corto y Largo Plazo:** En coordinación con la comunidad y con gestores de agua, se establecerán estrategias que incluyan acciones de emergencia y medidas preventivas.
- 4. Implementación del plan:** El DRP del condado se va implementarse como un esfuerzo colectivo entre los múltiples departamentos del condado y otras agencias estatales y locales.

En mayo de 2024, el condado recibió un fondo económico para facilitar el desarrollo del DRP, que comenzó en junio de 2024.

COMMUNITY AND TASK FORCE MEETINGS

■ UCCE Public Workshops

- Held in September 2024 and February 2025
- Community groups participating:
Domestic well owners, Small Water Suppliers, Business owners, Irrigation districts, Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District, Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, CA Department of Water Resources, Cities, News outlets, NGOs and grassroots organizations, Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians and Cahto Tribe

■ CDTF Meetings

- Held in September 2024 and February 2025

■ Additional Outreach and Engagement

- Meeting with the Rural Community Assistance Corp (RCAC)
- Presentation at the March DWR California County Café Series meeting
- Meeting with Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians



Concerns about water availability

Strategies and Barriers to access/manage water during droughts

Importance of community engagement

Key Takeaways

The open discussions created a valuable space for listening to the community's concerns and ideas, helping to shape the DRP moving forward.



PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD OF DRAFT DRP AND COMMENTING PROCESS



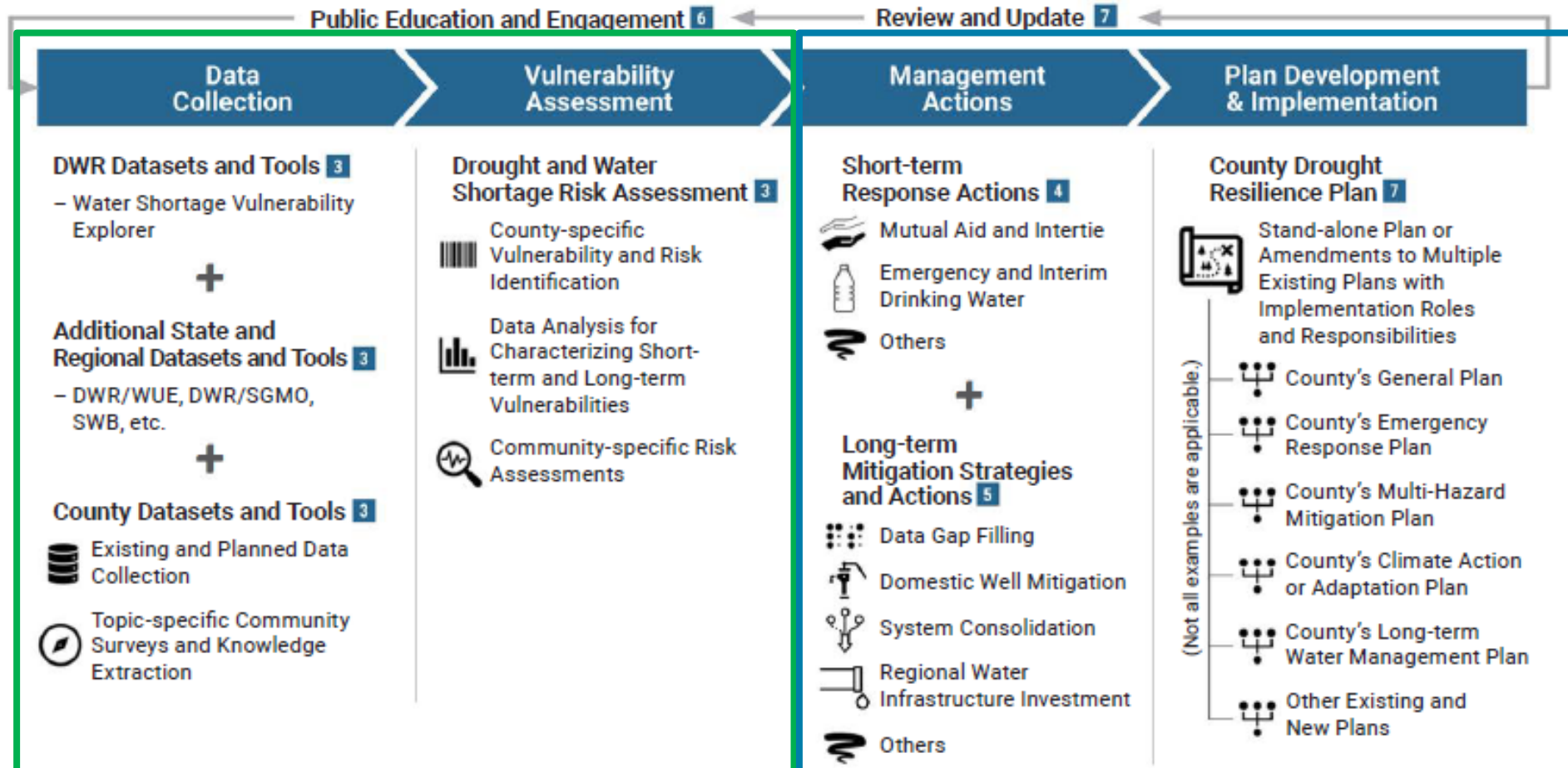
DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN DEVELOPMENT



State Government Technical and Financial Assistance **7**



County Drought and Water Shortage Task Force **2**



Presented and Discussed at September 2024 GGC Meeting and UCCE Public Workshop

Presented and Discussed at February 2025 GGC Meeting and UCCE Public Workshop

DRP DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

	2024							2025					
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
DRP Chapter				Risk Assessment					Short- & Long-term Strategies	Implementation Roadmap	Public Review		Final DRP
CDTF Meeting													
Community Meeting											 We Are Here		

GGC Meeting

UCCE Workshop

BoS Meeting

*The Final DRP will be presented for adoption at the Board of Supervisors meeting on May 20, 2025

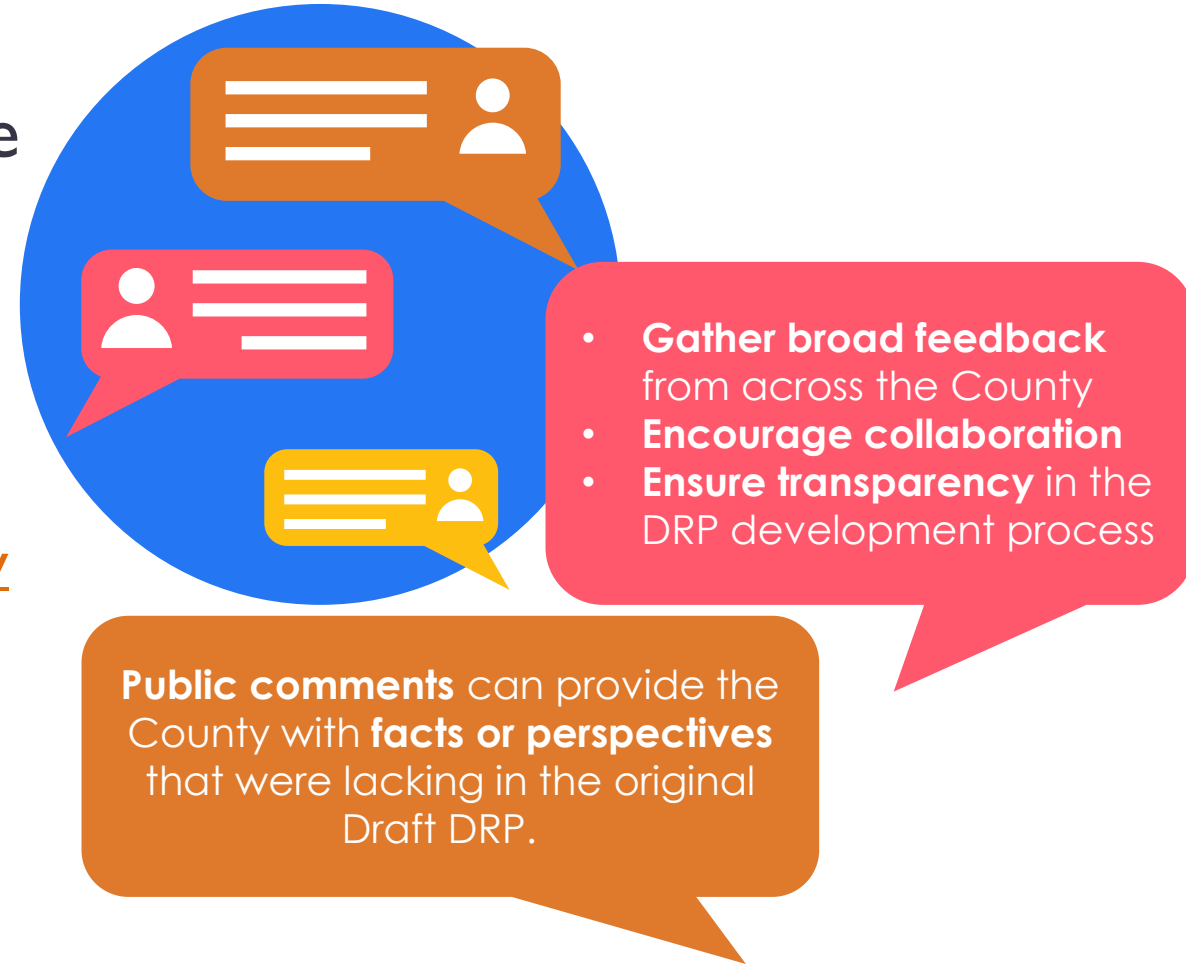
PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

- Although CWC §10609.70 does not require a public comment process, the County considers it a vital part of the DRP development process to gather valuable input from County stakeholders.
- The Draft DRP is available on the [County DRP webpage](#) for public review.

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/water-agency/drought-water-conservation/drought-resilience-plan>

- The public commenting period will be open for a 31-day period from:

March 26, 2025 - April 25, 2025



DRP DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

Mendocino County DRP

*Not explicitly included in CWC regulation but suggested by DWR

ES	Executive Summary	
Section 1	Introduction	*
Section 2	County Drought and Water Shortage Task Force	CWC §10609.70(a)(1)-(3)
Section 3	Drought and Water Shortage Risk Assessment Defining hazards and County assets, risk assessment methodology and results	CWC §10609.70(b)
Section 4	Existing Drought Response Actions Summary of past and existing actions within the County	*
Section 5	Short-Term Response Actions Drought stages, drought response triggers, and short-term response actions	CWC §10609.70(b)(3)
Section 6	Long-Term Mitigation Actions and Strategies Summary of long-term mitigation actions (e.g. funding, domestic well mitigation, and consolidation opportunities)	CWC §10609.70(b)(1)-(2)
Section 7	Implementation Considerations Discussion of agencies responsible for implementation, as well as funding and adaptive management	CWC §10609.70(b)(4)-(5)
Section 8	References	



DRP ADOPTION PROCESS AND NEXT STEPS



FUTURE MEETINGS

Meeting	Date	Planned Topic
BoS Meeting	May 20, 2025	Presentation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Summary of comments received and how they were addressed- Resolution to authorize County staff to upload final DRP to DWR portal

NEXT STEPS

- Review and address comments received through the public commenting process
- Finalize DRP

DRP ADOPTION PROCESS

1. Finalization of the DRP

- a) Review comments submitted through the public commenting process
- b) Incorporate applicable comments into the Final DRP
- c) Summarize comments received by the public, as well as the County's responses to these comments as an appendix to the Final DRP

2. Present Final DRP at BoS Meeting on May 20, 2025

- a) Present a summary of DRP and previous efforts at BOS meeting
- b) Address questions and comments on Final DRP
- c) Adopt the DRP adoption resolution recommended by MCWA
- d) Upload Final DRP to DWR's [County Drought Resilience Planning Assistance Program Portal](#) and submit to DWR.



END

