

MENDOCINO COUNTY DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN

26 FEBRUARY 2025
COUNTY DROUGHT TASK FORCE MEETING #2

AGENDA

1. September Meeting Recap
 1. SB-552 and DRP Development
 2. Risk Assessment
2. Response Actions
 1. Response Action Framework
 2. Short-term Actions
 3. Long-term Actions
3. Drought Stage Triggers
4. Implementation
5. Next Steps



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



SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP: SB-552 AND DRP DEVELOPMENT



SB 552 COUNTY REQUIREMENTS (CA WATER CODE § 10609.70):

1

Establish a Standing County Drought Task Force

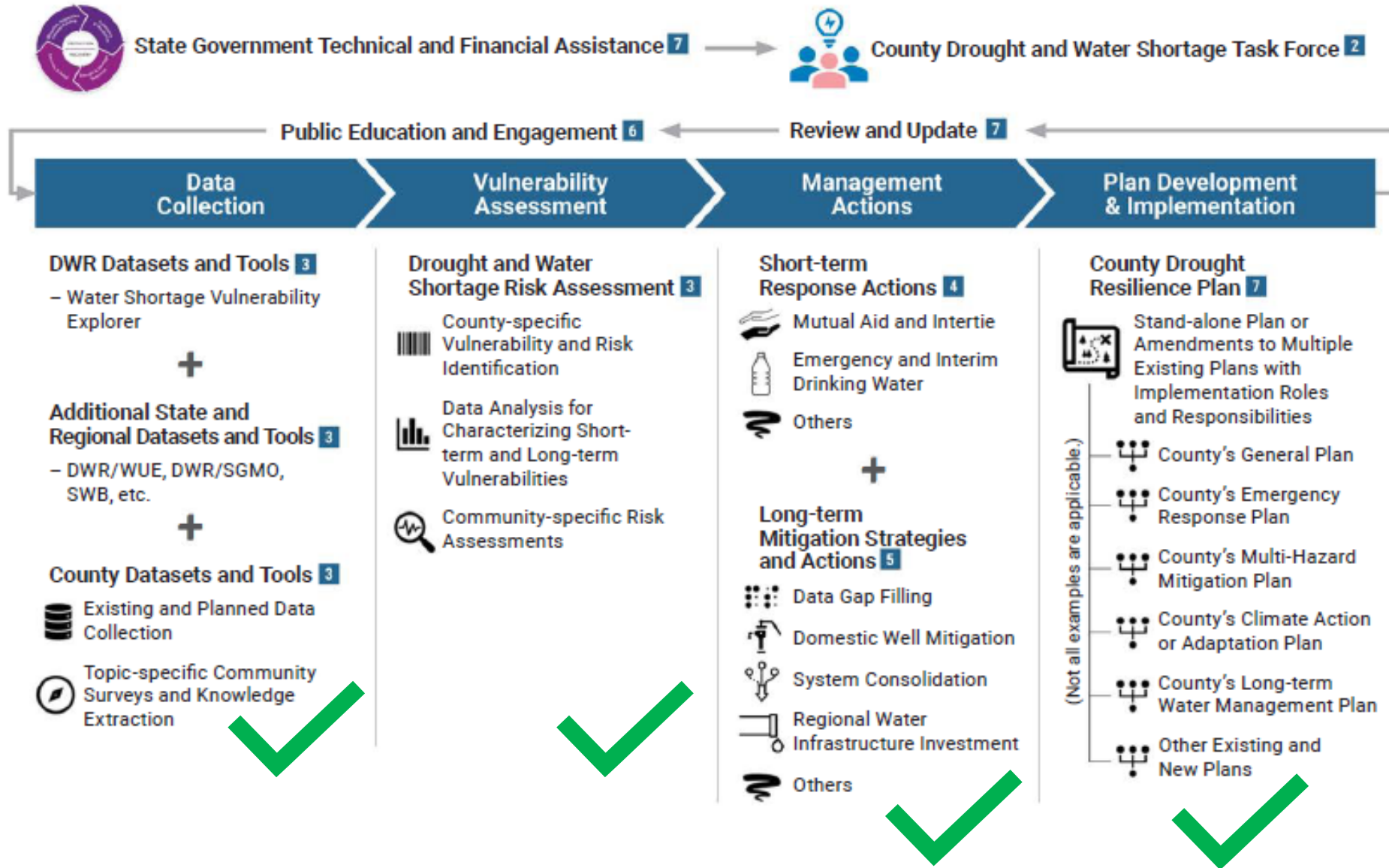
- To facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells
- Invite representatives from the state and other local governments (GSAs, Water Suppliers, Residents) to participate in the task force

2

Develop a Drought Resilience Plan

- 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.

DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN DEVELOPMENT



DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN TIMELINE

	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								We Are Here 					
Community Meeting													

 GGC Meeting

 UCCE Workshop

 BoS Meeting

* County Drought Task Force meetings planned for: September 25, 2024, February 26, 2025, March 26, 2025, and May 20, 2025

** A second community workshop was held February 21, 2025



SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP: RISK ASSESSMENT

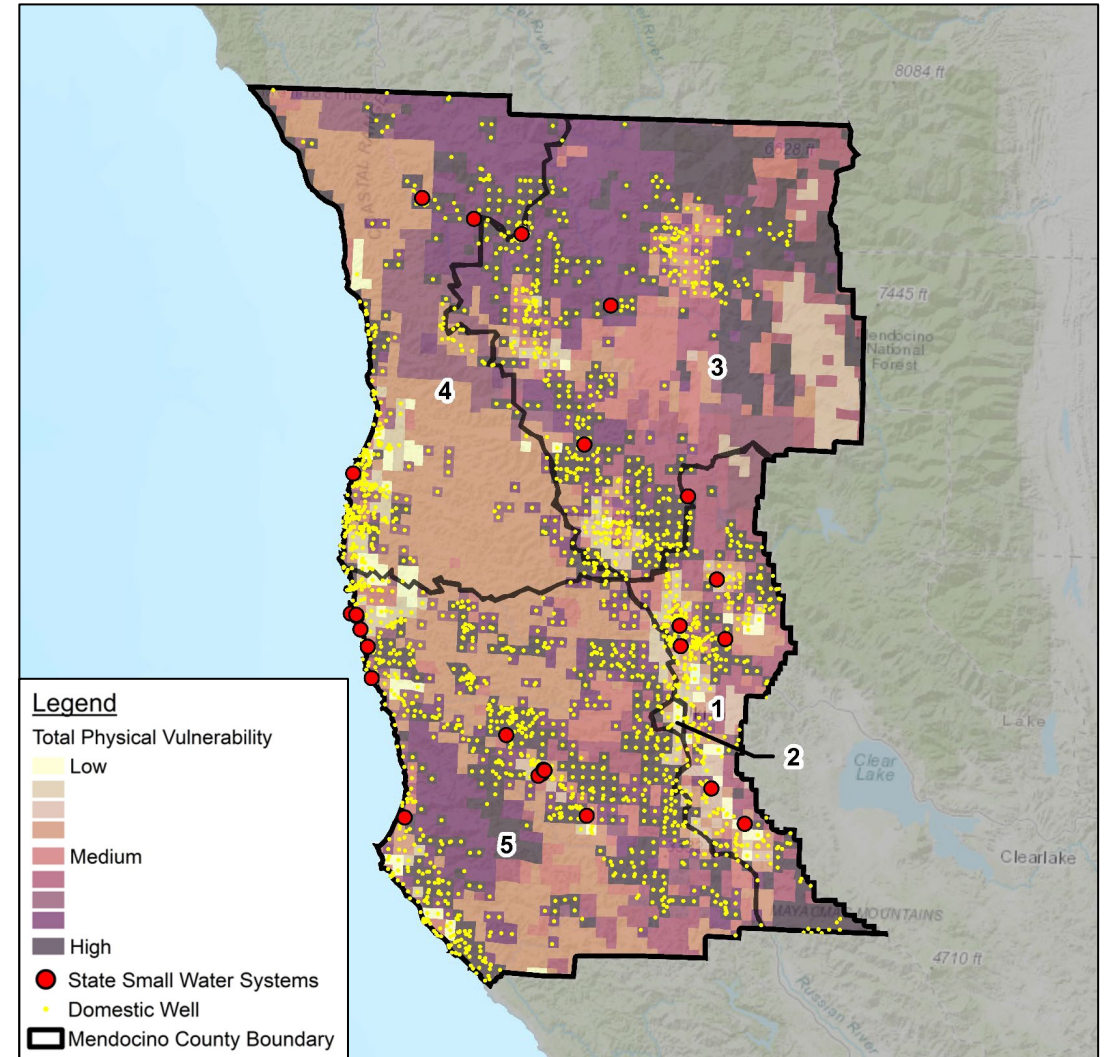


VULNERABILITY OF STATE SMALL WATER SYSTEMS AND DOMESTIC WELLS

- 25 out of 27* state small water systems show high physical and/or social vulnerability to drought.
 - At-risk Systems by BoS District
 - BoS District 1: 6
 - BoS District 3: 4
 - BoS District 4: 3
 - BoS District 5: 12
- This accounts for 93% of state small systems under the same definition.

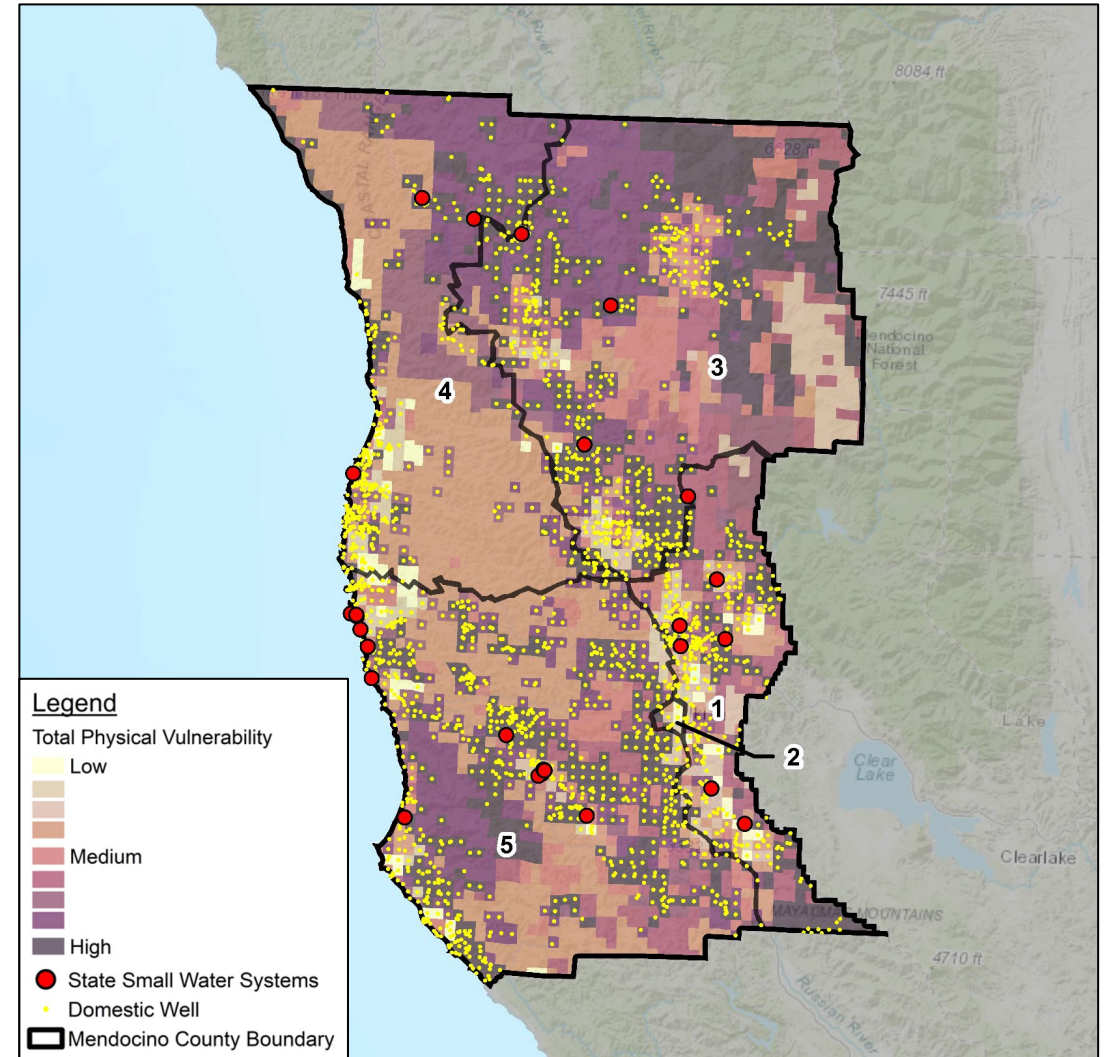
*Number of state small systems revised based on the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water's California Water System Boundaries dataset.

** A State Small Water System provides piped water to the public for human consumption for at least five, but not more than 14, service connections, and does not regularly serve drinking water to more than an average of 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days out of the year



VULNERABILITY OF STATE SMALL WATER SYSTEMS AND DOMESTIC WELLS

- All areas mapped should be considered, however highest risk areas (dark brown) include:
 - City of Fort Bragg
 - Census Designated Places: Calpella, Talmage, Brooktrails, Covelo, Boonville, Philo, Manchester, Laytonville, Redwood Valley, Potter Valley
 - Unincorporated Communities: Mendocino (town), Pine Grove, Caspar, Whitesboro, Navarro, Fish Rock, The Oaks, Yorkville
 - Tribes: Redwood Valley Rancheria, Pinoleville Rancheria, Coyote Valley Reservation, Yokayo Tribe of Indians
- Other Areas:
 - South and East of Willits
 - Southeast of Point Arena

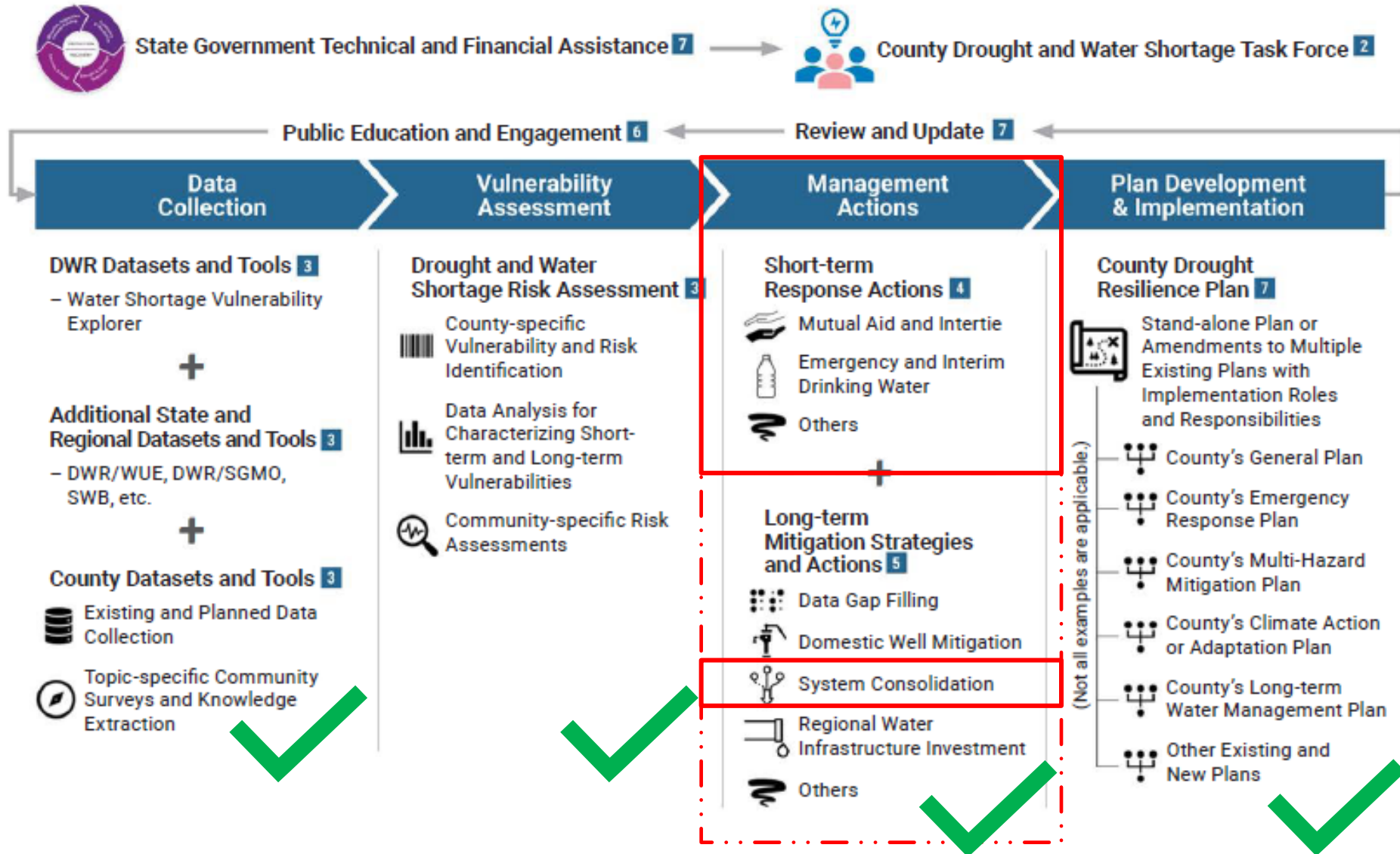




RESPONSE ACTIONS



DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN DEVELOPMENT



COUNTY'S OBJECTIVE AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER DRP

Objective:

Facilitate increased and structured drought preparedness for domestic wells and State Small Water Systems under its Jurisdiction

Responsibilities:

- Not a water supplier with no annual budget to undertake water supply reliability/resiliency projects.
- Will rely on coordination and collaboration with local entities for meaningful improvements in water resiliency.

Inform, Educate,
Outreach, and Engage

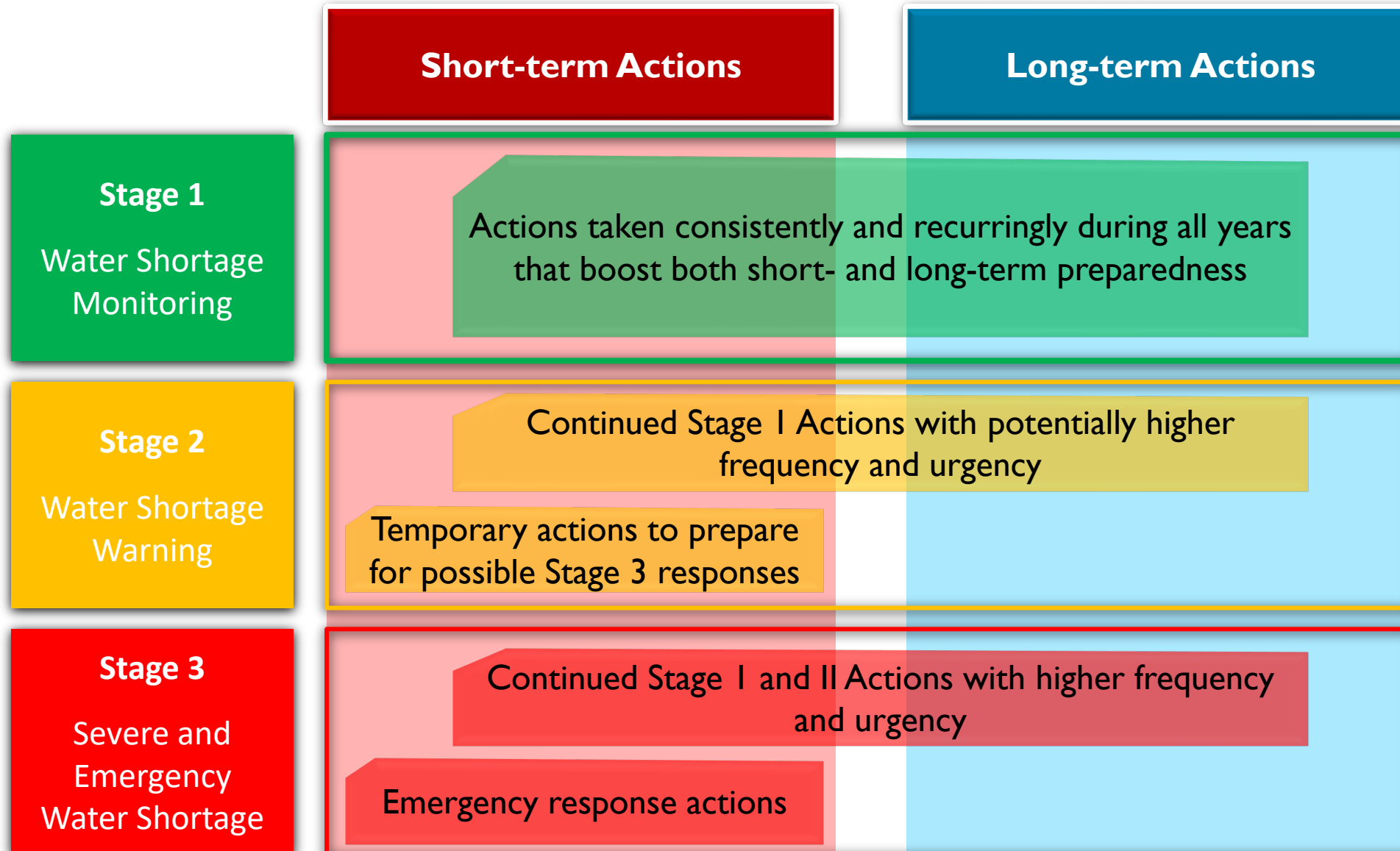
Track and Monitor Conditions, Implement Appropriate Ordinances
and Declarations

Facilitate and Provide Venue for Coordination,
Information Sharing, Communication, Collaboration,
and Partnerships

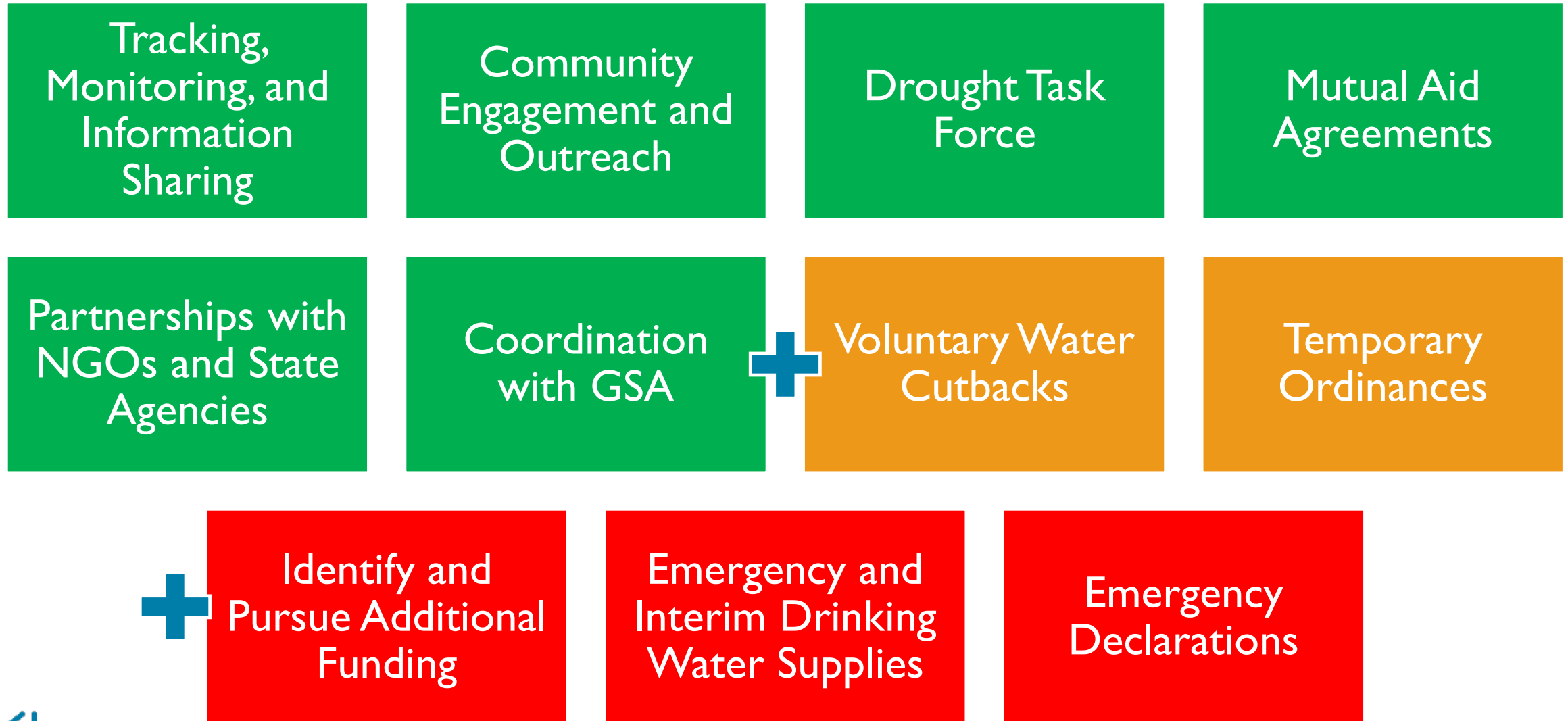
Pursue
Funding

Facilitate and Lead
Emergency Actions

RESPONSE ACTION FRAMEWORK



DROUGHT STAGES AND RESPONSE ACTIONS



RESPONSE STAGES, ACTIONS, AND AGENCY LEADS

Stage 1: Water Shortage Monitoring (Wet/Normal years)

- Convene CDTF meetings and increase as necessary: *CDTF, MCWA*
- Track drought response triggers: *MCWA*
- GSA Coordination: *MCWA, UVBGSA*
- Facilitate mutual aid agreements: *MCWA, CDTF members, stakeholders*
- Partnerships with NGOs: *MCWA*
- Community engagement and outreach: *CDTF; MCWA*

Stage 2: Water Shortage Warning (Below Normal/Dry Years)

- Continue Stage 1 actions
- Continue/enhance community engagement and outreach: *CDTF members*
- Promote voluntary water cutbacks: *CDTF members*
- Implement temporary ordinances: *BoS, EO*

Stage 3: Severe and Emergency Water Shortage (Critical Years)

- Continue Stage 1 and 2 actions
- Further enhance community engagement and outreach: *CDTF members, County and Local OES, EO, MCWA*
- County emergency declaration: *BoS, EO*
- State/federal emergency declaration: *EO, County OES*
- Identify and pursue drought funding: *EO/ Grants unit, MCWA*
- Emergency and interim water supplies (water hauling, bottled water): *County OES, CDTF members, MCWA*

LONG-TERM MITIGATION

- Since County is not a water supplier, it will accomplish meaningful long-term improvement through continued outreach and education and facilitating collaboration, coordination, and agreements between water systems and agencies, aligned with Stage I Drought actions.

Tracking/ Monitoring

- Track and monitor drought conditions and drought stages

Outreach and Education

- Inform and educate through drought portal and organized outreach efforts

CDTF Meetings

- Hub for information sharing, coordination, and collaboration
- Support mutual agreements, emergency, managerial, and consolidation efforts.
- Help build partnerships with local entities, NGOs, and water suppliers.

Funding Opportunities

- Help identify funding from grants, and local, state, and federal programs

Drinking Well Mitigation

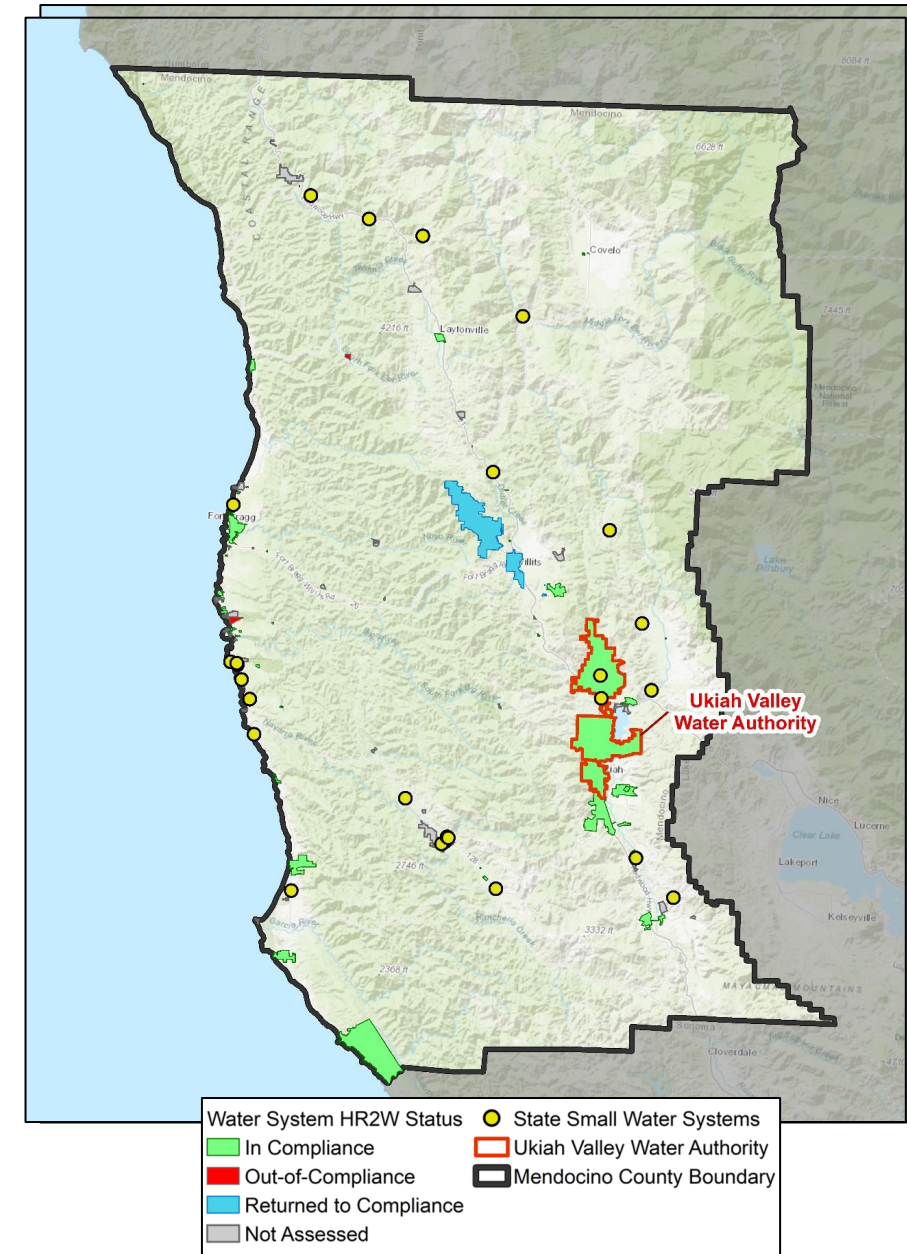
- Support UVBGSA well mitigation program as a member agency

LONG-TERM MITIGATION: CONSOLIDATION

- DWR suggests consolidation as a potential long-term action in its DRP Guidebook
 - There are ongoing efforts in the County for consolidation, i.e. UVWA
 - Consolidation can lead to enhanced water supply reliability and resiliency for State Small Water Systems
 - Needs two or more willing water systems
- Types of Consolidation
 - **Managerial:** Occurs when systems merge their technical, managerial, and financial components for managerial purposes (best suited for systems within one hour)
 - **Physical:** Occurs when systems merge, share, and/or expand their physical water system infrastructure (best suited for systems within 3 miles or less)
 - **Regionalization:** Consolidation on a larger scale; multiple water systems form a single system

CONSOLIDATION ANALYSIS

- County conducted an analysis of potential consolidation opportunities for state small water systems:
- Managerial consolidation is feasible countywide due to system proximity.
- Physical consolidation considered for systems within 3 miles, with preliminary candidates identified in the DRP.
 - *Preliminary list is for informational purposes only, based on public data; it does not impose any requirements or obligations.*
- Any consolidation will be pursued independently of DRP requirements and through local partnerships.



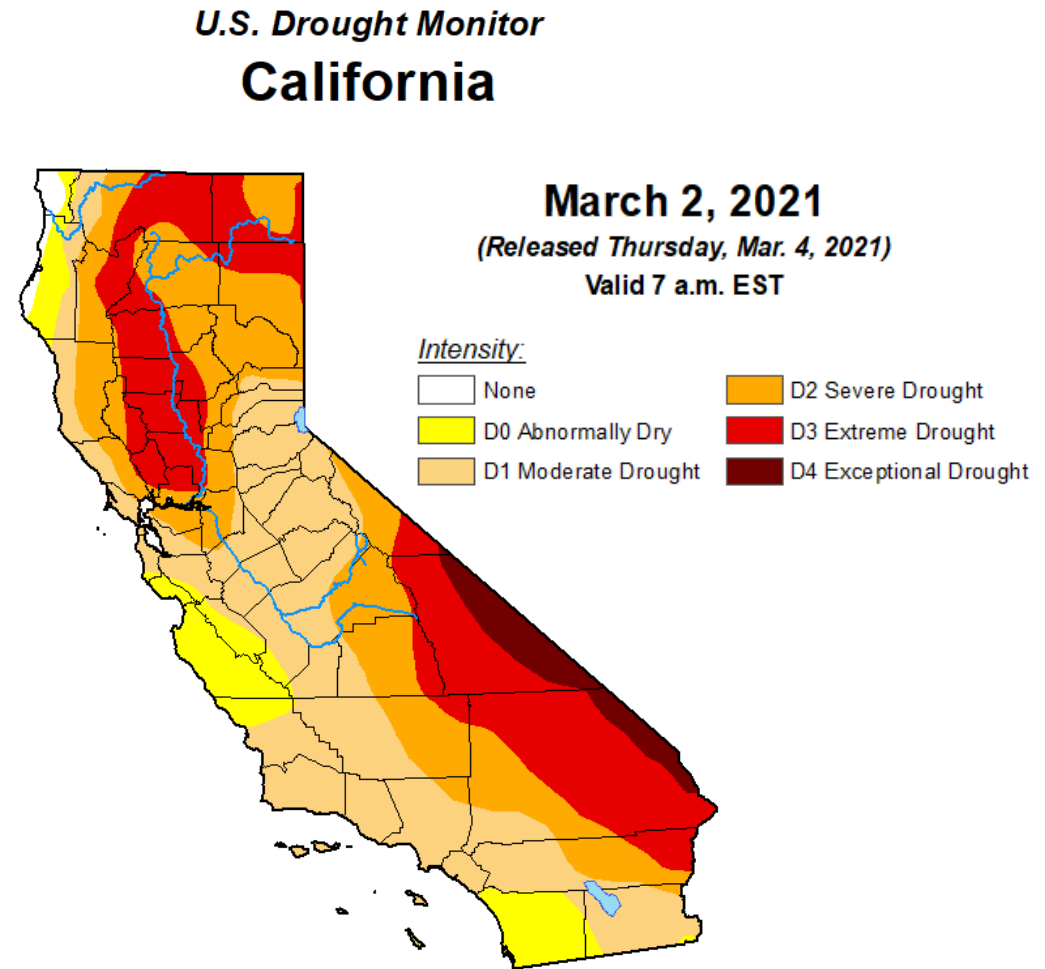


DROUGHT STAGE TRIGGERS



PREVIOUS DROUGHT DECLARATIONS

- Reviewed USDA, County, and State drought declarations from 2021 for guidance on triggers
 - March 5, 2021 – USDA: U.S. Drought Monitor (7 Code of Federal Regulations §759.5)
 - April 20, 2021 – County: Lower than average rainfall totals and reservoir levels of Lake Pillsbury and Lake Mendocino
 - April 21, 2021 – State: Two-year average rainfall totals and record-low storage levels at Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma



DEFINING DROUGHT STAGE TRIGGERS

- Defined drought triggers according to regional and County-wide conditions that are consistent with past declarations and by adding dry wells as an additional metric.
- County-wide: Using U.S. Drought Monitor weekly designations (D0-D4)
- Regional:
 - Inland: Comparing Lake Mendocino reported storage to its target storage curve
 - Coastal: Comparing total rainfall for Big-Navarro-Garcia Watershed to its long-term average



DROUGHT STAGE TRIGGERS

Drought Stage	COASTAL REGION		INLAND REGION		COUNTY
	Dry Well Reports	Current Year Hydrology	Dry Well Reports	Current Year Hydrology	U.S. Drought Monitor
1 – Water Shortage Monitoring	Less than 4 reports over any three-month period	Two-year precipitation total is 80% or more of average	Less than 4 reports over any three-month period	Lake Mendocino total storage is greater than 70% of total target water supply curve	None; OR D0 Abnormally Dry
2 – Water Shortage Warning	4 – 12 reports over any three-month period	Two-year precipitation total is 50 – 80% of average	4 – 6 reports over any three-month period	Lake Mendocino total storage is 45 - 70% of total target water supply curve	D1 Moderate Drought; OR D2 Drought-Severe for less than 8 consecutive weeks
3 – Severe and Emergency Water Shortage	12 or more reports over any three-month period	Two-year precipitation total is less than 50% average	6 or more reports over any three-month period	Lake Mendocino total storage is less than 45% of total target water supply curve	D2 Drought-Severe for 8 or more consecutive weeks; OR D3 Drought-Extreme; OR D4 Drought-Exceptional



IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS



IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

- The DRP will be implemented through a **collective effort** among MCWA, County departments, and local agencies, including CDTF members.
- The DRP is a **standalone document** that will be implemented in conjunction with other state, County, and local planning documents, such as:
 - State and County Hazard Mitigation Plans
 - County General Plan
 - City and County Emergency Operations Plans
 - City and water supplier planning documents
 - Ukiah Valley Basin GSP



IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

Adaptive Management

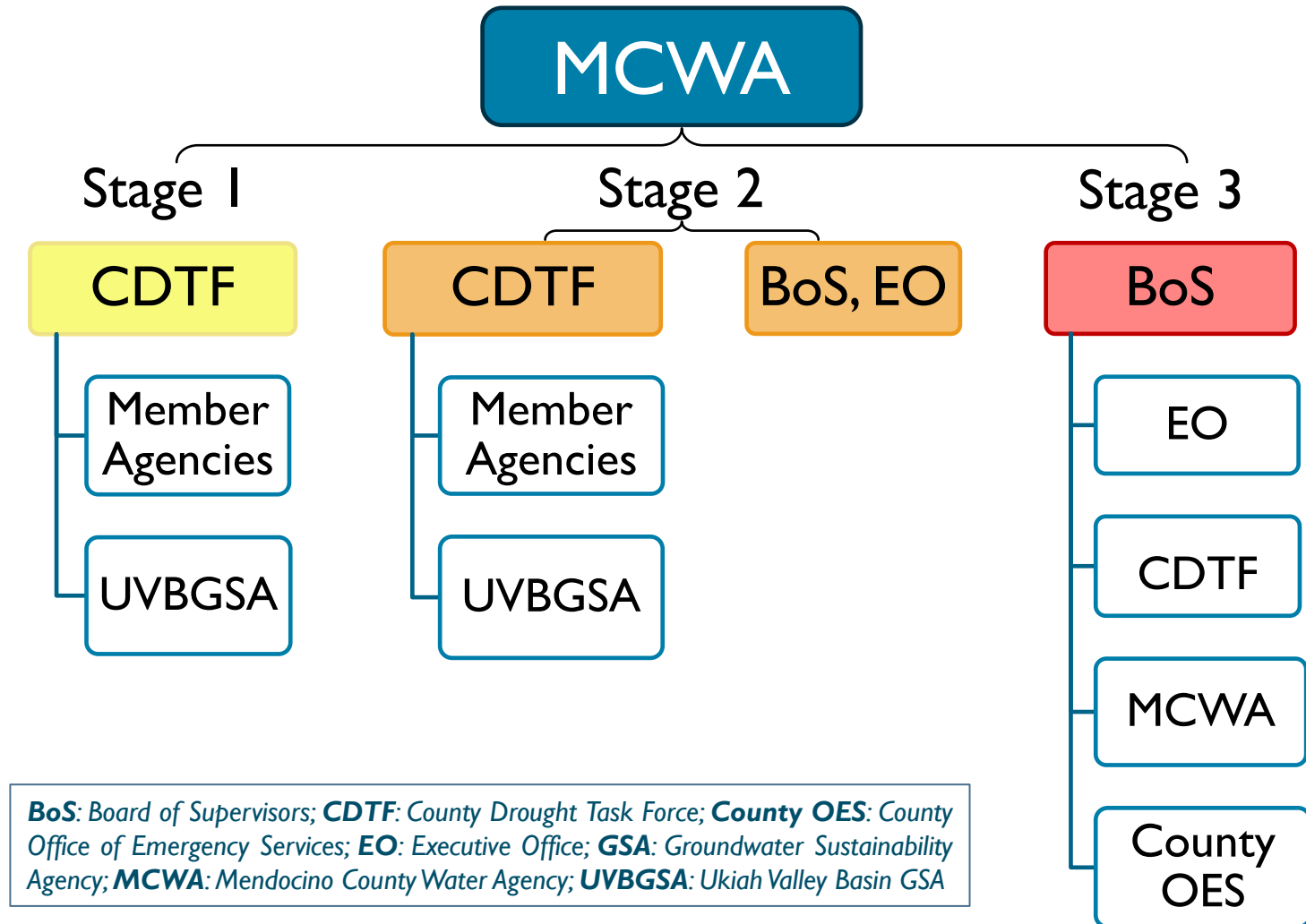
- County will assess and update the DRP as needed to reflect:
 - Changing conditions
 - Availability of new data
 - Adjustments to response actions based on drought events
 - CDTF discussions on agency roles and response actions/triggers
- Updates to the DRP and implementation of actions are contingent upon funding and resource availability.

Funding

- As part of the DRP effort, County's drought funding portal will be updated to reflect current opportunities.
- Led by Grants Unit and MCWA
- Federal Assistance Programs:
 - [USDA, Reclamation's WaterSmart Program](#)
- State Grants and Loans
 - [DWR, SWRCB](#): Includes funding for consolidation, emergencies, direct technical assistance, etc.
 - [California Financing Coordinating Committee](#): list of state, federal, nonprofit, and other funding programs

IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

- MCWA will oversee implementation of the DRP.
 - Implementation of actions and programs under DRP by MCWA and other County Departments will follow Board of Supervisor's directions.
- The lead agency/agencies responsible for implementing actions is dependent on the drought stage and specific response action.





NEXT STEPS



FUTURE DROUGHT TASK FORCE/PUBLIC MEETINGS

Meeting	Date	Planned Topic
GGC Meeting	February 26, 2025	Presentation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Proposed Short-Term and Long-Term Response Actions- Implementation roadmap
GGC Meeting	March 26, 2025	Public workshop on draft DRP: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Summary of outreach efforts- Overview of draft DRP- Public commenting process- Adoption process
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

- Finalize response actions and implementation roadmap based on additional feedback from this meeting and public workshop
- Finalize draft DRP
- Finalize commenting and adoption process to be discussed at March CDTF meeting



END