

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: CEO/Office of Emergency Services

BOARD AGENDA # B-5

Urgent  Routine

AGENDA DATE September 23, 2014

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Report on the Stanislaus County Water Shortage Monitoring, Resource and Response Strategy prepared by the Chief Executive Office - Office of Emergency Services

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Accept a report from the Office of Emergency Services regarding the Stanislaus County Water Shortage Monitoring, Resource and Response Strategy.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The financial impact of the drought and subsequent water shortage in Stanislaus County won't be fully understood for years to come. In the event of severe water shortage to an entire neighborhood, the County may deploy available resources as needed and the costs would be carefully monitored.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2014-491

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien  
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, Monteith, and Chairman De Martini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied

3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended

4) \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: Elizabeth A. King  
ELIZABETH A. KING, Assistant Clerk

File No.

**DISCUSSION:**

On January 17, 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. proclaimed a State of Emergency and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for water shortfalls caused by one of the driest years in recorded state history. Governor Brown gave direction to create a State Drought Task Force and ordered State Agencies to execute a state wide water conservation campaign.

Stanislaus County created a local Drought Task Force and held the first meeting on February 18, 2014. The task force has met six times since February to discuss drought impacts and mitigation efforts within Stanislaus County. Task Force members include Stanislaus County, the nine cities within the County, Oakdale, Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Public Health, Community Services Agency, Department of Environmental Resources, Agricultural Commissioner, County Counsel, and the Chief Executive Office. Additional members include the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service, University of California (UC) Cooperative Extension, State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Water Resources, California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), American Red Cross and United Way.

On July 29, 2014 the Board of Supervisors directed the County Office of Emergency Services to look at contingency plans for responding to a water shortage emergency particularly within the rural area. Responsive to that directive, Stanislaus County Office of Emergency staff has developed a strategy on water shortage monitoring, resources and response.

This strategy will assist government entities in working with citizens and local agencies to coordinate with government resources that may be available to assist with domestic/private wells, emergency food assistance, public water systems and community water systems. Key to the strategy is the identification of contracts through the State of California Department of General Services, with vendors for bottled and bulk water delivery. Many of the State contractors also handle showers, sinks, and laundry facilities. Stanislaus County may link with these vendors that have been vetted through the State procurement process.

The process for emergency response within Stanislaus County and the State of California is consistent with the Stanislaus County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). Pursuant to the Stanislaus County Multi-Agency Coordinating System policy (StanMAC), upon receiving initial information of an incident, the Office of Emergency Services will facilitate a Threat Assessment Group (TAG). The TAG will include the Director of Emergency Services (Chief Executive Officer), Assistant Director of Emergency Services, and the department providing the primary expert knowledge of the incident. Depending on the outcome of the threat assessment, a StanMAC may be formed for continued evaluation or action. The StanMAC may determine if a local proclamation of emergency is warranted and the need to activate a field or Emergency Operations Center (EOC) response. Once activated, the EOC will develop incident/emergency response objectives and operational priorities in accordance with the strategy on water shortage monitoring, resources and response.

**POLICY ISSUES:**

The strategy described in this staff report supports the Board's priorities of A Safe Community, A Healthy Community and Effective Partnerships by ensuring resources are identified to assist the community in the event of water shortage.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Dale Skiles, Assistant Director of Emergency Services, 552-3600



**WATER SHORTAGE  
MONITORING, RESOURCE  
AND RESPONSE  
STRATEGY**

**(Government Use Only)**

**September 2014**

**Stanislaus County**  
**Water Shortage Monitoring, Resource and Response Strategy**

---

**Table of Contents**

Background and Introduction.....	1
Current Status.....	2
Local, State and Federal Resources .....	3
Domestic / Private Wells.....	3
Drought Food Supply Distribution in Stanislaus County.....	4
Public Water Systems:.....	4
Community Water System: .....	4
State Contracts .....	5
Emergency Response .....	6
Threat Assessment Group (TAG).....	6
Stanislaus Multi-Agency Coordination System (StanMAC).....	7
Stanislaus County Multi-Agency Coordination Flow Chart .....	9
SEMS Organization Levels .....	10
Exhibits.....	11
Website Links.....	11

# **Stanislaus County**

## **Water Shortage Monitoring, Resource and Response Strategy**

---

### **Background and Introduction**

On January 17, 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. proclaimed a State of Emergency and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for water shortfalls caused by the driest year in recorded state history. This proclamation sets in motion the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) created through Senate Bill 1871 which was written by Senator Petris following the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire. This allows any requests that exceed resource or operational area capabilities to be forwarded to the Region and the State. The proclamation also provides the Governor with powers authorized by the Emergency Services Act and authorizes the OES Director to provide financial relief for emergency actions and restoration of public facilities and infrastructure. This is a prerequisite when requesting a federal declaration of a major disaster or emergency.

Governor Brown gave direction to create a State Drought Task Force and ordered State Agencies, led by the Department of Water Resources, to execute a statewide water conservation campaign to make all Californians aware of the drought and encourage personal actions to reduce water usage. He requested that citizens voluntarily reduce water consumption by 20%.

The Governor also called upon Local urban water suppliers and municipalities to implement their local water shortage contingency plans immediately in order to avoid or forestall outright restrictions that could become necessary late in the drought season.

On February 18, 2014, Stanislaus County hosted the first meeting of the Stanislaus County Drought Task Force. Members of the Task Force include Stanislaus County, the nine cities within the County, Oakdale, Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Public Health, Community Services Agency, Department of Environmental Resources, Ag Commissioner, County Counsel, Chief Executive Office and the Department of Aging and Veteran Services. Additional members include the USDA Farm Service, UC Cooperative Extension, State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Water Resources, Cal OES, American Red Cross and the United Way. The purpose, goals and priorities of the Drought Task Force are to monitor the current and potential impacts of the 2014 drought as well as record impact and responses related to water issues and report back to the State. The Drought Task Force has met six times since February 2014.

On July 29, 2014, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors directed the County Office of Emergency Services to look at contingency plans for responding to a rural neighborhood that has gone dry.

# **Stanislaus County**

## **Water Shortage Monitoring, Resource and Response Strategy**

---

### **Current Status**

The Stanislaus County Drought Task Force has served as a reporting mechanism of current status and information for the cities, county departments and water districts within the County. Information shared at the task force meetings is used to provide a situation update to the California Office of Emergency Services. The summary below is based on information reported at the Drought Task Force Meeting.

All nine cities within the County have initiated water conservation programs and are reporting reduced water usage of between 20 and 45%. Several cities are using technology to identify water usage issues, such as running toilets, and are encouraging drought tolerant landscaping. Toilet rebates and a pilot rebate program for removing turf and replacing it with drought-resistant landscaping have also been offered.

While some well water levels have reportedly dropped in some of the cities, water quality has not been affected. One city is reporting an increase in well water levels. Cities are using a variety of methods, including information in utility bills, to encourage residents to conserve water.

Water Districts throughout the County are also encouraging conservation of water. Billboards are being used to send the message to conserve water.

The Department of Environmental Resources (DER) has established a reporting system and is tracking when private domestic wells have run out of water.

The California State Operations Center (SOC) and the Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) were recently activated due to the fires throughout the State and the Inland Region. Operational Areas are being encouraged to take a proactive approach in forwarding drought issues to the Inland Region.

All State agencies, with a role in supporting drought mitigation and relief efforts are organized under the Incident Command System and will continue to provide emergency planning, response, and mitigation as long as needs exist.

# **Stanislaus County**

## **Water Shortage Monitoring, Resource and Response Strategy**

---

### **Local, State and Federal Resources**

Various resources have been made available to track, mitigate and respond to drought issues which may include water supply shortages and system failures. Through this document Stanislaus County is working to identify the resources that are available. This document will be updated as more pertinent information becomes available.

### **Domestic / Private Wells**

Stanislaus County is receiving reports of domestic wells that are going dry. These wells are privately owned and generally serve a single family. At this time Stanislaus County is tracking these reports. The Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources has a link to a form that collects well problem information from local citizens.

The Report a Well Problem Form can be found at: <http://www.stancounty.com/er/well-problem.shtm>

When faced with a potential water shortage or any other type of disaster, it is important that individuals maintain 72 hours of basic safety supplies, food and water. According to Ready.gov individuals should store at least one gallon of water per person for three days. A normally active person needs about three quarters of a gallon of fluid daily. For more information on personal preparedness information is available at <http://www.ready.gov/> and <http://www.redcross.org/>.

There are limited resources available to domestic well owners at this time. The Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources is investigating options on low interest loans for citizens.

There are a few federal government programs available to domestic well owners including:

Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development:

- 1) Section 502: Rural Housing Direct Loan Program
- 2) Section 504: Rural Development, Rural Repair and Rehabilitation Loan and Grant Program Website: [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/hsf\\_sfh.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/hsf_sfh.html);

Basic eligibility: <http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do>.

Agency: California Department of Housing and Community Development,

- 1) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Housing Rehabilitation Funds



## **Stanislaus County**

### **Water Shortage Monitoring, Resource and Response Strategy**

---

Whether the residence is in an incorporated city or an unincorporated area, they should contact their city or county housing department (respectively) and ask about the availability of “CDBG housing rehabilitation” funding.

#### 2) CalHome

Individuals must apply via a local jurisdiction or nonprofit, awardees announced September 2014. Existing awards from previous years may also be available through counties. *Local jurisdictions or nonprofits* may contact [Raymond.Victor@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:Raymond.Victor@hcd.ca.gov) for more information about any of these HCD programs.

### **Drought Food Supply Distribution in Stanislaus County**

The Salvation Army Modesto Citadel is handling the Drought Food Assistance Program for Stanislaus County. The contact is Betty Wycoff, Emergency Food Assistance Coordinator, at 209-577-3600.

### **Public Water Systems:**

The California Safe Drinking Water Act defines Public Water Systems as a system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Drinking Water Program delegates to Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Services (DER) all authority granted to it under the California Safe Drinking Water Act for regulation of water systems with less than 200 service connections. In addition, the California Safe Drinking Water Act directs DER to oversee non-public water systems with 5 or more service connections.

The State Water Resources Control Board Drinking Water Program is identifying drinking water systems that may be vulnerable to acute drinking water shortages due to drought. DER reports to SWRCB drought status for over 200 water systems currently under its jurisdiction. The SWRCB monitors and evaluates drinking water systems to determine which drinking water systems may soon be at-risk. Emergency drinking water grants are available and other funding is available from this program. More drought specific information is available on the Drinking Water Program website at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/DroughtPreparedness.aspx>

### **Community Water System:**

Per the California Safe Drinking Water Act a Community Water System means a public water system that serves at least 15 service connections used by yearlong residents or

## **Stanislaus County**

### **Water Shortage Monitoring, Resource and Response Strategy**

---

regularly serves at least 25 yearlong residents of the area served by the system. Small Community Water Systems with less than 200 service connections are monitored by local government. In a continued effort to closely monitor water systems potentially affected by drought, the Department of Environmental Resources (DER), in March 2014, issued a drought survey to its Small Community Water Systems within Stanislaus County. DER continues to monitor the systems closely.

The Small Community Water Systems report any water shortage issues directly to DER. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Drinking Water Program may have resources to assist Community Water Systems which may run out of water within the next 60 to 120 days or sooner. It is important that the Small Community Water System officials coordinate with DER and the State Water Resources Control Board immediately if there are concerns about running out of water within 120 days. Programs for Community Water Systems and additional information may be found on the Drinking Water Program website at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/DWP.aspx>

#### **State Contracts**

The State Department of General Services has worked with vendors to develop a state water contract for bottled and bulk water delivery. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services has also provided the Emergency Drinking Water Procurement and Distribution Planning Guidance. This information is being shared with Stanislaus County General Services Agency for their review. By reviewing this information Purchasing will be aware of practices already in place by the State of California and how we may partner with those programs during an emergency.

The state procurement division awarded the bulk water contract. There are currently sixteen (16) approved water haulers for the bulk water contract. The following link provides a list of all approved water haulers, a user guide, contact information, and a supplier list for *Operational Areas*.

The bulk water contract information can be found at:  
<https://www.bidsync.com/DPX?ac=agencycontview&contid=110023>.

The State Department of General Services issued a non-mandatory contract for bottled drinking water. The contract is available to *every public entity in the State*, including State, county, city, county-city, district, or other local government units. Ordering entities are responsible for initiating the purchase order and payment to the contractor. A variety of bottle sizes are currently available (between 16.9 oz. and 1 gallon). There is currently one vendor at this time (ABC Ventures LLC). Prices start at \$270.40 a pallet. An abbreviated User Guide is now available. Pricing depends on lead time and delivery quantity. Orders should be placed via email to [water@abcvllc.com](mailto:water@abcvllc.com). The local agency that needs the water will contract for the water as specified in SEMS.

## **Stanislaus County**

### **Water Shortage Monitoring, Resource and Response Strategy**

---

Many of the State's bulk water contractors also handle showers, sinks, laundry facilities, etc., as well as black and gray water trucks. The following companies are listed to serve Stanislaus and many can provide full-service sanitation:

- River Rats Septic & Plumbing/Quick Response
- Butch Cameron Trucking, Inc.
- Bow Valley Agri-Land Services
- Aero Pure Water

### **Emergency Response**

Responsibility for emergency response is based on statutory authority. The emergency response is coordinated under the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) within the State of California. SEMS provides a flexible, adaptable and expandable response organization to address all-hazards of varying magnitude and complexity.

The Stanislaus County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) complies with SEMS and is approved by the Board of Supervisors as the guidance for responding to disasters and emergencies within Stanislaus County. The EOP addresses the entire spectrum of contingencies ranging from relatively minor incidents to large-scale disasters. A drought emergency response will be consistent with the EOP and the processes Stanislaus County has established for responding to emergencies. This document provides more specific guidance for a water shortage incident but does not supersede the Emergency Operations Plan in any manner.

### **Threat Assessment Group (TAG)**

When initial information of an incident reaches a County Department such as the Sheriff, Ag Commissioner, Department of Environmental Resources (DER), or Public Health, the Office of Emergency Services will facilitate a Threat Assessment Group (TAG) to conduct a preliminary evaluation of the information from a threat perspective. The standing members of the TAG are the Director of Emergency Services (Chief Executive Officer), Assistant Director of Emergency Services and department providing primary expert knowledge of the incident.

Three possible outcomes of the threat assessment may generally occur:

- 1) Dismissal of the incident,
- 2) Agreement to continue gathering information or revisiting the issue at a later time and date, or

## **Stanislaus County**

### **Water Shortage Monitoring, Resource and Response Strategy**

---

3) Activation of the Stanislaus Multi-Agency Coordination Group (StanMAC) for further evaluation and action.

In January 2014, after Governor Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency due to the drought, the Chief Executive Officer/Director of Emergency Services and the Assistant Director of Emergency Services convened an informal TAG to assess the effects of the drought on Stanislaus County and to initiate the formation of the Stanislaus County Drought Task Force. It was agreed at this time to continue to gather information and possible resources to address the drought situation.

#### **Stanislaus Multi-Agency Coordination System (StanMAC)**

If and when the TAG determines that the StanMAC should be activated, all threat assessment responsibilities will be transferred to the MAC. The StanMAC will consist of standing members of the Chief Executive Officer or his designee and the Assistant Director of Emergency Services. Other departments that may be included are those with knowledge specific to the incident at hand. For a drought or water shortage those departments requested to participate in a StanMAC may include the Ag Commissioner, Department of Environmental Resources (DER), Public Health, County Counsel, Animal Services and Community Services Agency (CSA).

The StanMAC will determine whether the reported threat warrants the initiation of any field response activation and whether an activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is recommended. For the 2014 Drought incident, the StanMAC may consider:

- Role of local government in drought or water shortage response
- Agency having authority for incident response
- Is there a condition of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property
- Is a local proclamation of emergency warranted
  - Are out-of-county resources necessary for response to the incident?
  - Is the situation beyond response the capabilities of the Operational Area?
  - Has a water district or city within the Operational Area Proclaimed a state of local emergency.

If the decision is made to activate a field or EOC response the StanMAC will provide the Incident Commander or EOC Director with the following:

- Overarching objectives and policy direction
- Spending authority for incident
- Allocation of resources for response including staffing

## **Stanislaus County**

### **Water Shortage Monitoring, Resource and Response Strategy**

---

#### **Coordinated Response**

Once the StanMAC has determined the need for field or EOC activation to respond to and mitigate the water shortage incident, the EOC will develop incident / emergency response objectives and operational priorities. Objectives for a drought or water shortage incident may include:

- Identification and coordination of critical resources
- Provide potable water for human consumption
- Provide non-potable water to sustain safe and healthy living conditions
- Identify procurement process for drinking water, sanitation equipment and resources.
- Develop long term situational analysis and determine future needs if the situation continues past 72 hours, one week or a month.
- Deployment of Point of Distribution(s) in affected area(s) to include location, staffing and traffic plans.
- Track all incident and economic impacts.
- Investigate programs for recovery that may be available through State and Federal Resources.

Within the EOP, Stanislaus County departments and agencies have specified roles and responsibilities within the emergency response structure. The incident command structure is defined by the SEMS and based upon the Incident Command System. The functional positions include Management (Command), Operations, Planning/Intelligence, Logistics and Finance/Administration. County staff will be assigned positions within the incident command structure and fill positions based on department responsibilities, staff qualifications and need.

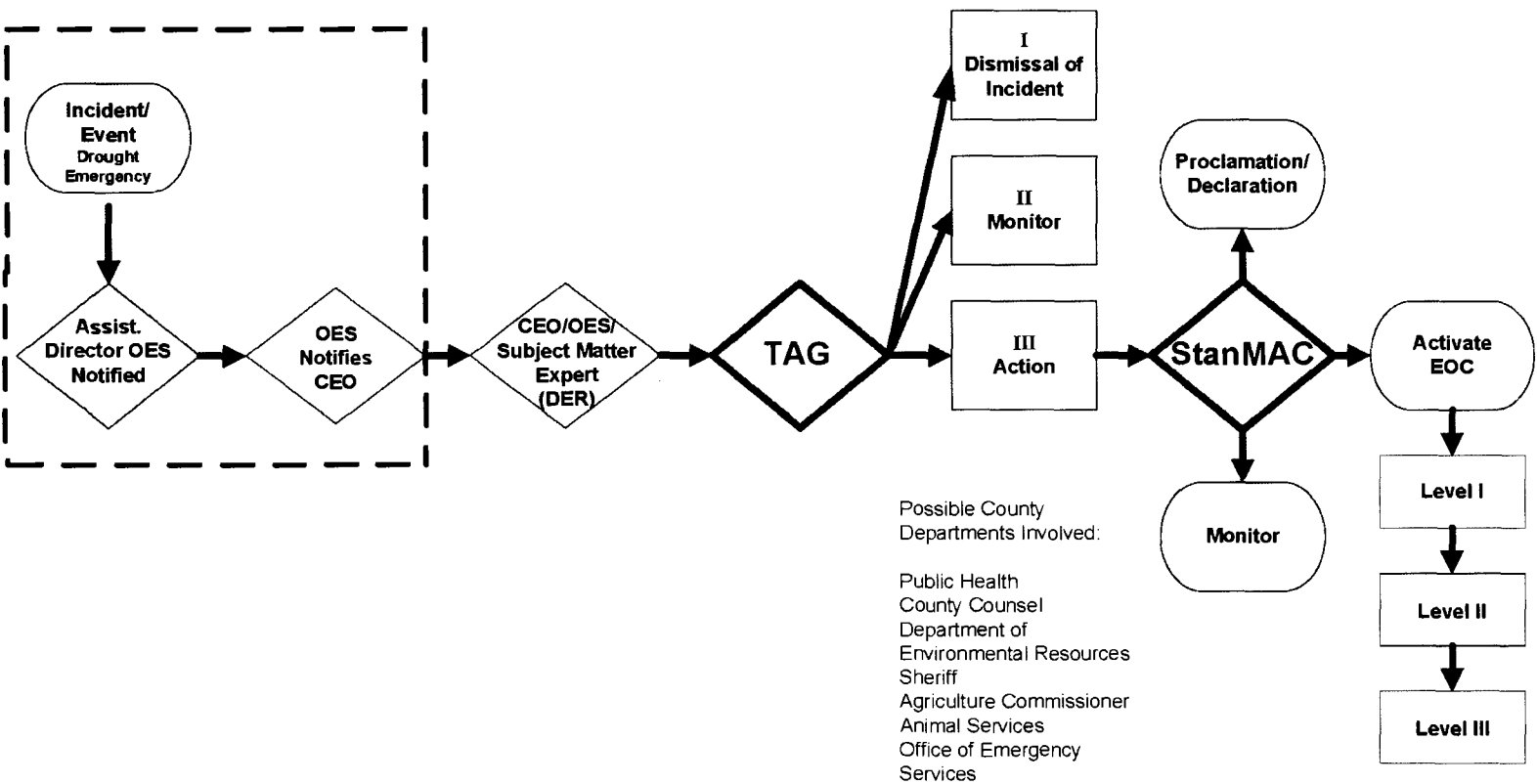
**Stanislaus County  
Water Shortage Monitoring, Resource and Response Strategy**

---

**Stanislaus County Multi-Agency Coordination Flow Chart**

**Stanislaus County Multi-Agency Coordination  
StanMAC**

TAG      **—————→**      StanMAC      **—————→**      EOC

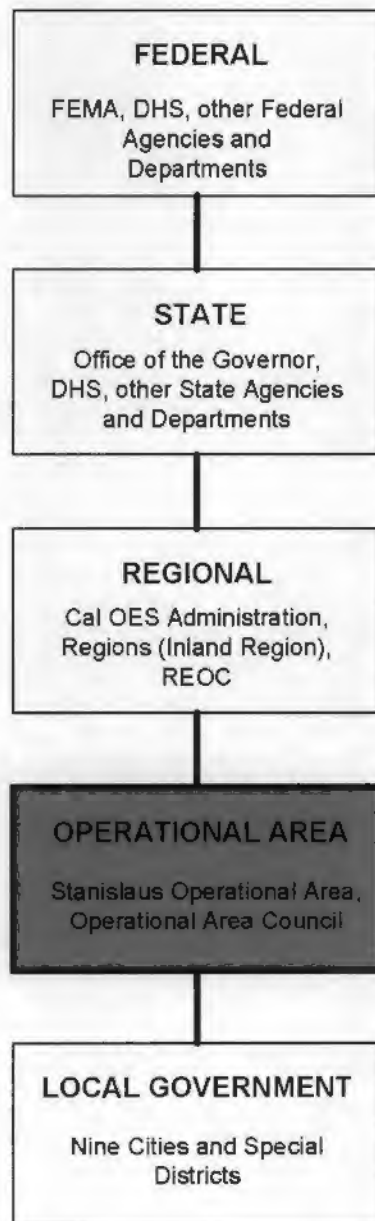


**Stanislaus County**  
**Water Shortage Monitoring, Resource and Response Strategy**

---

**SEMS Organization Levels**

**SEMS Organization Levels**



**Stanislaus County**  
**Water Shortage Monitoring, Resource and Response Strategy**

---

**Exhibits**

**Website Links**

Report a Well Problem Form: <http://www.stancounty.com/er/well-problem.shtm>

Section 504: Rural Development, Rural Repair and Rehabilitation Loan and Grant Program Website: [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/hsf\\_sfh.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/hsf_sfh.html)

Basic eligibility: <http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do>

CalHome Program Information: [Raymond.Victor@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:Raymond.Victor@hcd.ca.gov)

Community Water Systems Drinking Water Program Information:  
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/DWP.aspx>

Emergency Drinking Water Grants/Drought Specific Information:  
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/DroughtPreparedness.aspx>



# **WATER SHORTAGE**

## **MONITORING, RESOURCE & RESPONSE STRATEGY**

September 23, 2014



# WATER SHORTAGE STRATEGY

- **Purpose:**  
Develop a contingency plan
- **Goal:**
  - 1) Continue close monitoring
  - 2) Identify available resources
  - 3) Develop a response

# WATER SHORTAGE STRATEGY

- January 17, 2014  
California proclaimed a Drought State of Emergency
- February 18, 2014  
Stanislaus County Drought Task Force formed
- July 29, 2014  
OES started to develop a contingency plan

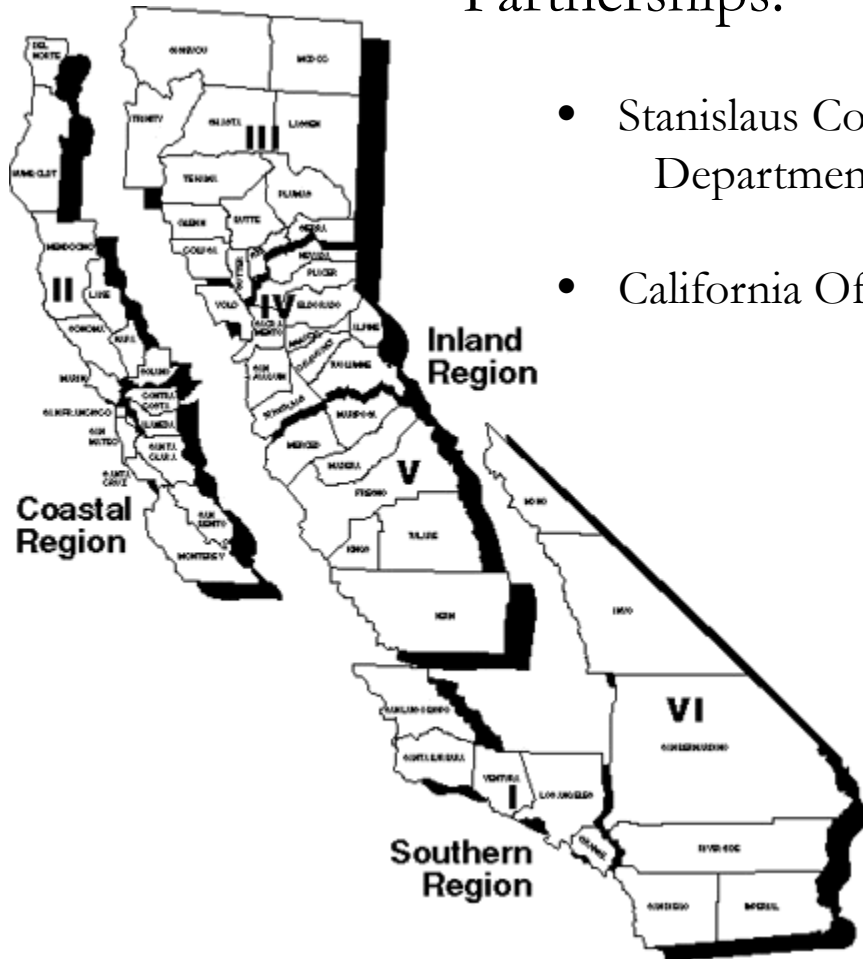
# WATER SHORTAGE STRATEGY

- A strategy was developed by;
  - 1) Reviewing the current situation status
  - 2) Performing a table-top exercise
  - 3) Identifying resources available to track, mitigate and respond to water supply shortages and system failures
  - 4) Outlining an emergency response coordinated under the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)

# WATER SHORTAGE STRATEGY

## Partnerships:

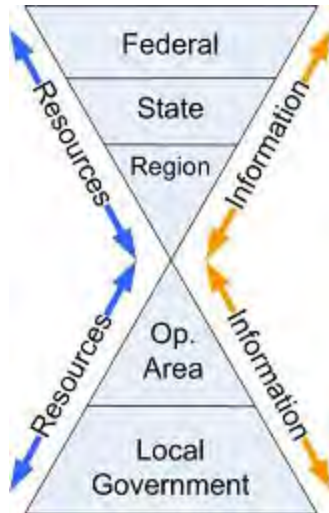
- Stanislaus County  
Department of Environmental Resources
- California Office of Emergency Services



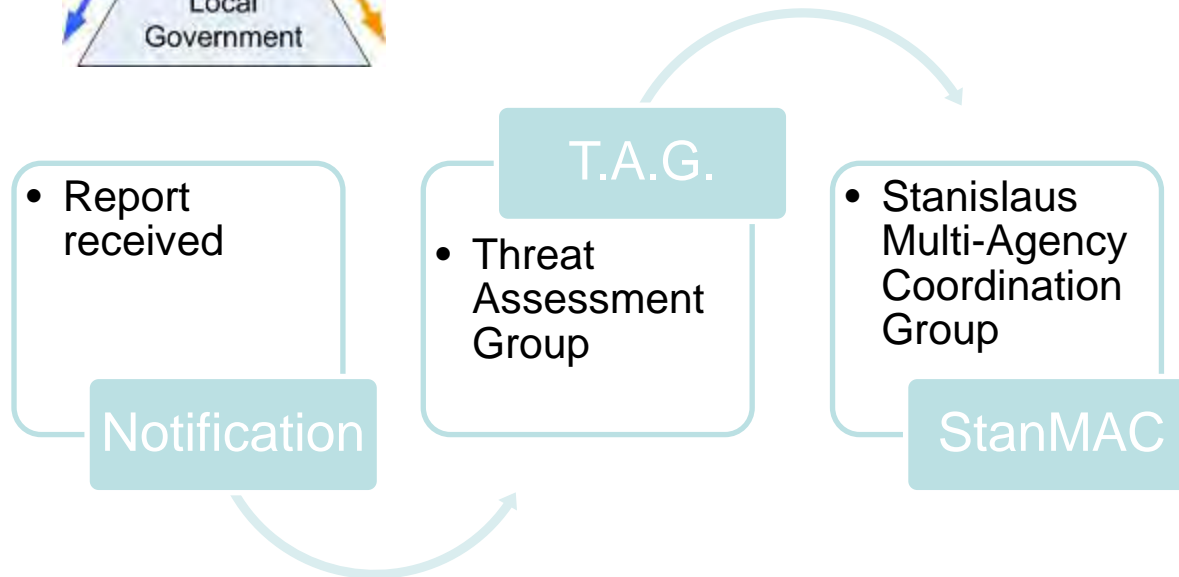
**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



# WATER SHORTAGE STRATEGY



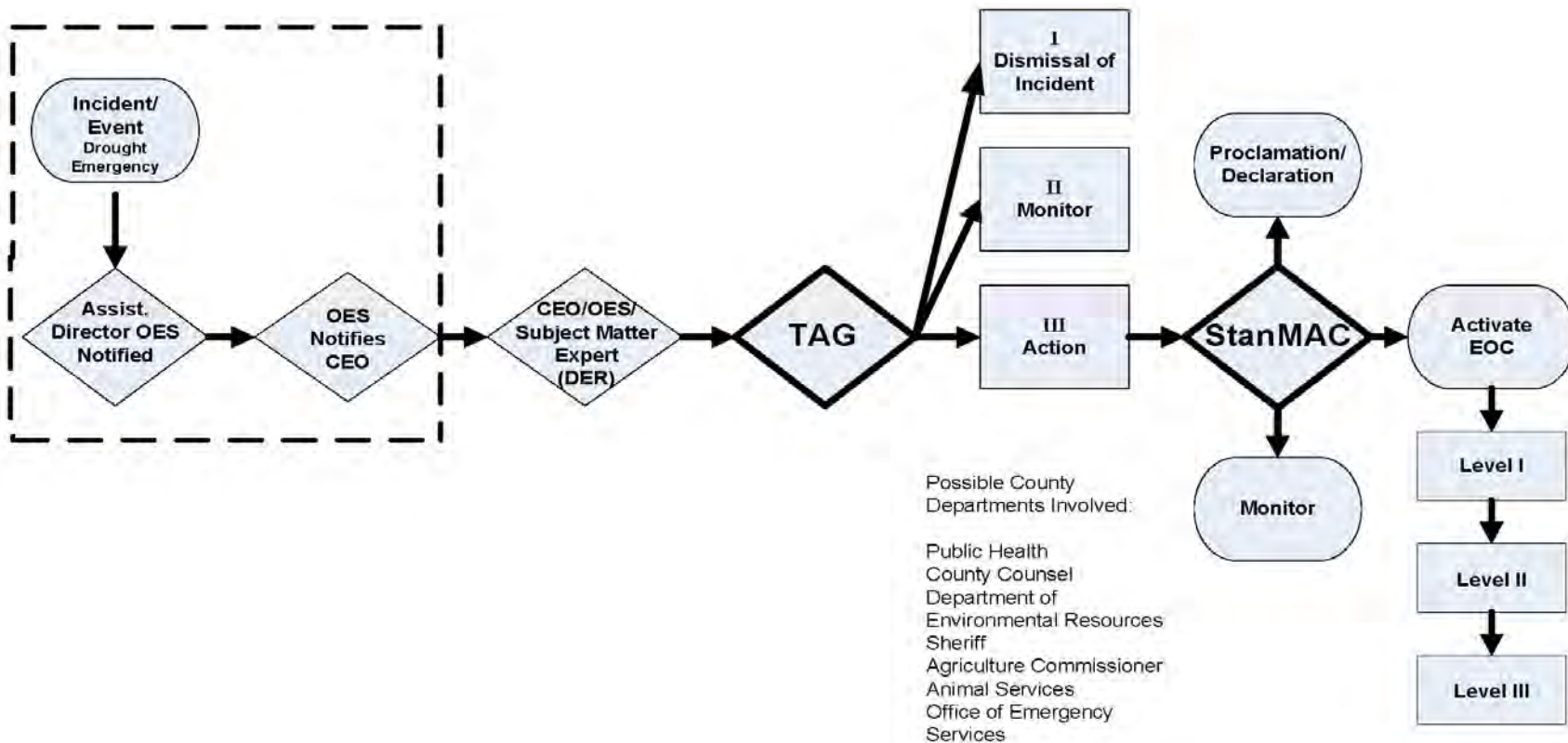
Standardized Emergency Management (SEMS)



# Stanislaus County Multi-Agency Coordination StanMAC

TAG → StanMAC → EOC

**Stanislaus County**



# WATER SHORTAGE STRATEGY

- **Emergency Response**

- Threat Assessment Group (TAG)

- Possible outcomes:

- Dismissal of Incident
      - Continue to gather information and revisit at a later time
      - Activation of the Stanislaus Multi-Agency Coordination Group (StanMAC)





# WATER SHORTAGE STRATEGY

- **Emergency Response**

Stanislaus Multi-Agency Coordination System

Considerations:

- Role of local government
- Agency(s) having authority and responsibility
- Condition of disaster
  - Is it of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property?
- Local emergency proclamation
- Activate a field response and the emergency operations center (EOC)



# WATER SHORTAGE STRATEGY

- **Emergency Response**

- Field Response Levels

- I. Identification and coordination of critical resources
- II. Provide potable water for human consumption
- III. Provide resources to sustain safe and healthy living conditions

# WATER SHORTAGE STRATEGY

- **Emergency Response**

- Development of an Incident Action Plan (IAP)

- Developing an extended action plan
    - Establishing a methodology to track incident and economic impacts
    - Identifying local procurement processes
    - Outlining a point-of-distribution program
    - Continuing to research federal and state programs and resources



# **WATER SHORTAGE**

## **MONITORING, RESOURCE & RESPONSE STRATEGY**

September 23, 2014

