

Senate Bill 552 –Water Shortage Planning for Small Water Suppliers and Counties

Summary of Legislation

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Julia Ekstrom, julia.ekstrom@water.ca.gov



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Recent History

- 2012-2016 Drought → AB 1668
- DWR hosted process focused on small water systems and rural communities (CDAG)
 - Risk Scoring and Tool
 - Develop recommendations on how to cover them with water shortage contingency plans
- Recommendations passed as SB 552

**Small Water Systems and Rural Communities
Drought and Water Shortage Contingency Planning
and Risk Assessment**

Part 1 – Recommendations for Drought and
Water Shortage Contingency Plans

**REPORT PURSUANT TO
SECTION 10609.42 OF THE CALIFORNIA WATER CODE
March 2021**



SB 552 Summary: New Requirements

Small Suppliers*

- Abridged Water Shortage Contingency Plan (or assessment/element for 15-999 connections)
- Supply conditions annual reporting
- Drought resiliency metric – infrastructure upgrades

Counties

- Standing Drought Task Force (or similar alternative)
- Water Shortage Plan (and assessment) for state smalls and domestic wells (or similar alternative)

State

- Drought Risk Tool (small suppliers, private supplied homes and state small systems 5-15 connections)
- Establish Standing Interagency Task Force (with local government and stakeholder membership)

*Includes water suppliers serving less than 3,000 connections and 3,000 Acre Feet. Includes non-transient, non-community water systems serving schools; **excludes** those covered under current Urban Water Management Plan



Small Water Suppliers

Requirements under SB 552

Water Shortage Contingency Planning

Serving 1,000 to 2,999 connections:

- **Develop an abridged Water Shortage Contingency Plan by July 1, 2023,** and update every five years thereafter
- **State develop template** by Dec 31, 2022

Serving 15 to 999 connections:

- **Add drought planning elements** to emergency notification or response plan and submit the plan to the state board.

Reporting requirements

All small suppliers (15-2,999 connections)

- **Report water supply condition** information to the State Board annually



Small Water Suppliers (1,000-2,999 connections)

Abridged Water Shortage Contingency Plan Elements

(1) Drought-planning contacts, including all of the following:

(A) At least one contact at the water system for water shortage planning and response and the development of the plan.

(B) Contacts for local public safety partners and potential vendors that can provide repairs or alternative water sources, including, but not limited to, local community-based organizations that work with the population in and around areas served by the water system, contractors for drilling wells, vended water suppliers, and emergency shower vendors.

(C) State and local agency contacts who should be informed when a drought or water shortage emergency is emerging or has occurred.

(D) Regional water planning groups or mutual aid networks, to the extent they exist.

(2) Triggering mechanisms and levels for action



Small Water Suppliers (1,000-2,999 connections)

Abridged Water Shortage Contingency Plan Elements

(1) Drought-planning contacts

(2) Triggering mechanisms and levels for action, including both of the following:

(A) Standard water shortage levels corresponding to progressive ranges based on the water supply conditions. Water shortage levels shall also apply to catastrophic interruption of water supplies, including, but not limited to, a regional power outage, an earthquake, a fire, and other potential emergency events.

required by subparagraph (A).

(B) Water shortage mitigation, response, customer communications, enforcement, and relief actions that align with the water shortage levels



Small Water Suppliers: All (5-2,999 connections) Drought Resiliency Measures

Implement drought resiliency measures, subject to funding availability:

- a) Detect production well groundwater levels - *Jan 1, 2023*
- b) Mutual aid organization membership - *Jan 1, 2023*
- c) Continuous operation during power failures - *Jan 1, 2024*
- d) Backup source of water supply or a water system intertie - *Jan 1, 2027*
- e) Meter each service connection and monitor water loss - *Jan 1, 2032*
- f) Meet fire flow requirements - *Jan 1, 2032*



Counties

Requirements under SB 552

New requirements:

- Establish a standing drought task force or similar alternative
 - **Purpose:** To facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county's jurisdiction
 - **Scope:** For coordinating and communicating with the state and other local governments, community-based organizations, local water suppliers, and local residents on a regular basis and during drought or water shortage emergencies.
 - Established by January 1, 2022
- Develop a drought and water shortage plan
 - Stand alone or integrated as part(s) of existing county plan (LHMP, General Plan, or other)



Counties

Requirements under SB 552

County Drought/Water Shortage Plan must include at least:

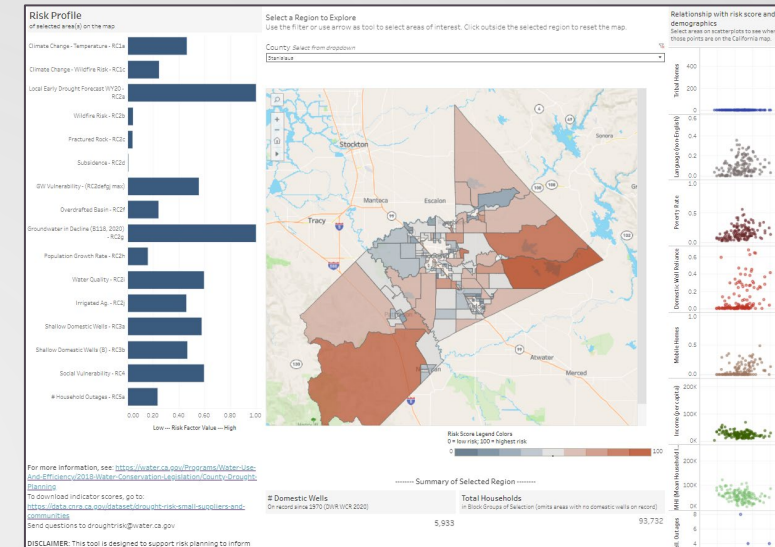
- Potential drought and water shortage risk
- Proposed interim and long-term solutions for state smalls and domestic wells in the county
- (1) Consolidations for existing water systems and domestic wells.
- (2) Domestic well drinking water mitigation programs.
- (3) Provision of emergency and interim drinking water solutions.
- (4) An analysis of the steps necessary to implement the plan.
- (5) An analysis of local, state, and federal funding sources available to implement the plan.



State

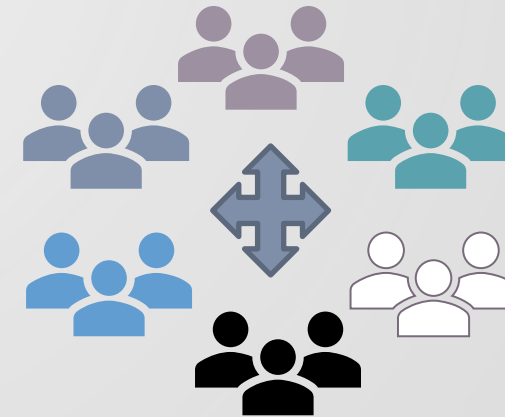
Planning/Data-Support Tool

- State to regularly update drought risk assessment and tool:
 - [DWR Drought Risk Explorer - Small Water Systems March 2021 \(ca.gov\)](#)
 - [DWR Drought Risk Explorer - Rural Communities \(March 2021\) \(ca.gov\)](#)



Standing Interagency Task Force

- Establish task force to consider all water user types, develop ways to improve coordination, with membership of local government, stakeholders



Questions & Comments?

Contact Information

Julia Ekstrom

California Department of Water Resources

jekstrom@water.ca.gov

