



Meeting Notes

11020 White Rock Road, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA, 95670

Prepared for: El Dorado Water Agency (EDWA)

Project Title: SB552 County Drought and Water Shortage Resilience Plan for El Dorado County

Project No.: 192538

Purpose of Meeting: County Drought and Water Shortage Task Force **Date:** October 14, 2024

Meeting Location: El Dorado County Office and via MS Teams (hybrid) **Time:** 10:00 a.m.

Notes Prepared by: Melanie Holton, Brown and Caldwell (BC), and Hannah Romero (EDWA)

Attendees:

<u>In Person:</u>	<u>Remote, via MS Teams:</u>
Kyle Ericson, EDWA	Karen Bender, El Dorado County EMD (South Lake Tahoe)
Hannah Romero, EDWA	Zoe Kanavas, DWR – Special Initiatives (joined at 10:44am)
Kameisha Nichols, El Dorado County Environmental Management Department (EMD)	Sarah Ko, DWR – Division of Regional Assistance
Phil Jones, El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE)	Mark Seelos, South Tahoe Public Utilities District
Melanie Holton, BC	
Tess Sprague, BC	

Meeting Agenda

- Introductions, Roles and Responsibilities
- El Dorado County EMD Roles and Responsibilities
- Historical Background (Why We Are Here)
- Meeting Objectives
- County Drought and Water Shortage Resilience Plan (CDRP)
- Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
- Task Force Roundtable
- Next Steps
- Meeting Adjourned

Meeting Notes

1. Drinking water assistance programs for households

- a. Other counties have specific programs to help people, but El Dorado County does not have access to the same resources as other counties (e.g. Self-Help in Central Valley)
- b. State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has a site with a list of which counties are applicable to which programs (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/drought_assistance.html)
- c. The only program applicable within El Dorado County is the Rural Communities Assistance Corporation (RCAC), which provides statewide assistance.

2. SWRCB Mandates for Local Primacy Agency (LPA) Program

- a. Issue permits for new water systems/permit amendments.
- b. Annual workplan
 - i. Meet once a year with state - annual review.
 - ii. State provides suggestions on what they need to improve.
 - iii. Karen Bender and Krista Eissinger in S. Lake Tahoe prepare the workplan and associated data.
- c. Systems that fall under the California Retail Food Code (CalCode) requirements (e.g., restaurants) are now considered transient non-community (TNC) water systems, so more work now than in previous years.
- d. Data management duties include tracking change of ownership.

3. EMD water well program

- a. Domestic wells
 - i. The Local Agency Management Plan (LAMP) for onsite wastewater treatment systems and EDC ordinances determine if a well can be constructed or not, based on setbacks, min parcel size (5 acre), etc.
 - ii. Conduct inspections and ensure compliance.
- b. Water quality
 - i. Karen Bender comment: All of the EMD water systems do have water quality emergency notification plans. Not all have been uploaded to the EAR.

4. Data

- a. Mark Seelos comment: There is a GIS-based data viewer that was recently developed for groundwater wells within the South Tahoe basin.
 - i. southtahoe.gladata.com
 1. Co-funded by EDWA and STPUD Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA).
 2. Includes monitoring well data, well completion reports, and water quality data. This may be a good proxy for groundwater wells with no data.

5. Clarification: OCA – refers to other county areas

6. Task Force Roundtable

- a. Comments
 - i. Phil Jones
 1. Non-Community Non-Transient systems: there are three school districts in this category, and they rely on wells.

2. EDCOE plans and prepares for these water shortage events, such as arranging water deliveries and tanks.
3. There was a concern that every school building had to be metered, provide that data, have backup generators - a lot of these are small districts have very limited funding/resources.

b. Questions

1. Does SB552 require facility improvements –including, metering, back-up power supply, and groundwater level monitoring?
 - a. Water Code Section 10609.62 states these measures are “subject to funding availability.”
2. What kind of funding is available? How would they fund this?
 - a. Kameisha Nichols - thinks that SWRCB had discussed funding sources. Kameisha can look more into this.
 - b. Sarah Ko - not sure about for schools, but if there is funding that would be through the SWRCB. Sarah can look for a contact of someone we can talk to.
3. Karen: Does Water Code Section 10609.62 apply to state smalls? - it states "small water suppliers and non-transient non-community [NTNC] water systems that are schools." If it applies to all small systems, then an Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) grant administered through the County may be an option.
 - a. Please see additional notes at the end of these meeting minutes.

c. Responses

- i. From Zoe Kanavas in chat: Water Code Section 10609.62 states:

Small water suppliers and non-transient non-community water systems that are schools shall implement, subject to funding availability, all of the following drought resiliency measures:

(a) No later than January 1, 2023, implement monitoring systems sufficient to detect production well groundwater levels.

(b) Beginning no later than January 1, 2023, maintain membership in the California Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (CaWARN) or similar mutual aid organization.

(c) No later than January 1, 2024, to ensure continuous operations during power failures, provide adequate backup electrical supply.

(d) No later than January 1, 2027, have at least one backup source of water supply, or a water system intertie, that meets current water quality requirements and is sufficient to meet average daily demand.

(e) No later than January 1, 2032, meter each service connection and monitor for water loss due to leakages.

(f) No later than January 1, 2032, have source system capacity, treatment system capacity if necessary, and distribution system capacity to meet fire flow requirements.

- ii. Phil Jones: Prop 2 is on the ballot for a \$10B bond for school facilities so if approved, funding may be available.

d. Anecdotes

- i. Hannah Romero: Described real-world situation where domestic well owner contacted EDWA for guidance on assistance/funding for water access due to a well pump that is in need of repair and stuck in well.
 1. Shingle springs homeowner with a well that requires rehabilitation or replacement. Homeowner is a retired schoolteacher on fixed income. Asked about options, including connecting to EID service connection. Connection would be cost prohibitive without additional funding sources.
 2. Hannah provided RCAC info for grant/loans for domestic well rehab or replacement and referred the resident to EID to see if they offer capacity fee assistance.
 3. This is an example of a common non-drought (but localized potential shortage) issue in El Dorado County.
- ii. Kyle Ericson: From resident's standpoint there is a concern that if they report a water shortage issue, their property might be deemed uninhabitable or impact property value.
 1. Kameisha: EMD works with a lot of these issues.
 - a. Property owners are scared to report and do not want their home be deemed inhabitable. EMD works with the well owners, but the County Planning and Building Department is responsible for code enforcement.
 - b. Financial component – property owners do not have \$25K on-hand to pay for establishing a new water service connection.
 - c. Need to determine a way to resolve these issues – in terms of developing financial assistance mechanisms and working with the Planning and Building Department to allow homeowners the necessary time for mitigation. Paying for the improvement is typically a barrier and it is usually a rush request made during an emergency, but it may take time to resolve.
 1. Response: Consider a protocol to provide a short-term mitigation to address the emergency while also providing the financial means for a long-term solution. Can there be bulk water delivery in mean time? Can we get aid (loan or grant) for these property owners? Also, how can we provide assistance to residents without getting into the uninhabitable designation?
 - a. Kameisha: Bulk water trucking is a short-term option, but it needs to be approved as a potable source for temporary supply while the property owner is addressing issues with their primary water source. EMD works with small water systems in this way for short-term water quality issues, such as nitrate.
 2. Kameisha: it would be good to have the Planning and Building Department at the table to determine an approach to address the issue of property habitability. A lot of times they have insight into funding available to make the corrections.
 3. Kyle: are there temporary systems already in place to utilize from nonprofits? Or are there organizations to direct the property owner to purchase equipment (e.g., pumps and tanks)? Even with grant funding, still need a transition phase for immediate assistance until they meet their needs and resolve the issue.

7. Look ahead and Final Comments

- a. Task Form members: See draft response and mitigation actions tables (slides 56-58):

- a. Ask yourself If you are the lead agency on a draft response or mitigation action? And is that a good fit?
- b. Kameisha
 - a. Asked what kind of data tracking and future information would be helpful?
 - i. EMD is getting ready to move to a new data system. EMD is trying to figure out how far to build this system out - it depends on the kind of information and tracking are included.
 - ii. What type of well information should they be collecting electronically?
 - 1. Kyle: EDWA is compiling recommended updates to the well data collected and will be providing that information to Kameisha.
 - 2. It would be best to provide insight and input within the next week or so. Kameisha has meetings over the next two weeks with her team who are determining how to put data into the system. They are driving towards Power BI as their data visualization tool.
- c. Phil
 - a. Thinking through this master plan with the county:
 - i. Question: How does the actual CDRP work? Does it develop a plan for school systems?
 - 1. Response: The CDRP should provide resources on what should be in place relative to water shortage. The CDRP is intended to provide information on what should be considered for drought and water shortage preparation. EDWA is also completing a disaster planning playbook that should be coming out this year. This will be referenced in the CDRP and includes information on how to get through the FEMA OES process.
 - b. Schools just went through the process of local area hazard mitigation planning.
 - i. They considered mitigation measures such as trucking water. Will the CDRP include a list of approved haulers?
 - 1. Response: The CDRP will have information such as a list of approved water haulers for quick reference to use in times of drought and water shortage.
 - c. Aside from local area hazard mitigation planning, local school districts are not sure what else they should do.
 - i. Hannah: they should have an "abridged water shortage contingency plan" (WSCP) - see template on DWR website. This is applicable to the schools considered NTNC water systems.
 - 1. Latrobe USD
 - 2. Silver Fork USD
 - 3. Pioneer USD
 - d. Hannah to send state abridged WSCP template to this group.
 - i. See below.

Additional information provided from EDWA regarding the WSCP template and resources:
(provided courtesy of Hannah Romero, EDWA)

An abridged Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) is required for small water suppliers serving 1,000 to 2,999 service connections and a NTNC water systems that are schools, in accordance with Water Code [§ 10609.60](#). There are templates available on DWR's for each of these system types, as shown below.

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/SB-552>

Water Shortage Contingency Plan Templates

Small Water Supplier 1,000 to 2,999 connections

- [Small Water Supplier Template \(Word\)](#)
- [Small Water Supplier Best Practices Template Example \(Word\)](#)

Nontransient Noncommunity (NTNC) Schools

- [Schools Water Supplier Template \(Word\)](#)
- [Schools Best Practices Template Example \(Word\)](#)

Also, we discussed the requirements in Water Code [§ 10609.62](#) for small water suppliers and NTNC water systems that are schools. Note that small water suppliers are defined as any community water systems serving 15 to 2,999 service connections and providing less than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually, so these requirements are not limited to schools. Though these requirements are subject to funding availability, I would like to point out that one of the items is to sign up for CalWARN, which does not charge for participation. Instructions for signing up are available on the CalWARN website, as shown below.

<https://www.calwarn.org/>

Join the CalWARN Mutual Aid & Assistance Program

1. Review this Web portal.
2. Review the [Articles of Agreement](#) that have been posted here.
3. Contact your [CalWARN Regional Representative](#) with any questions.
4. Fill out the [Signature Page](#) (appropriate signing authority) and [Contact List](#); before emailing both to CalWARN.
5. Scan and [click here to email](#) the *Signature Page* and *Contact Form* to the *CalWARN Steering Committee Chair*.

These sections of the Water Code are part of SB552, which was signed by the governor in September 2021.

Note: Meeting presentation provided as a separate attachment.

Action Items

8. EDWA and BC to talk to Karen Bender – gain insight into past history and prevalent issues across the county as well as solutions pursued.
 - BC to review link recommended by Mark Seelos (GIS-based data viewer that was recently developed for groundwater wells within the South Tahoe basin). Link: southtahoe.gladata.com
 - Kameisha Nichols to look into SWRCB potential funding sources
 - Sarah Ko to look into a contact person at SWRCB we could talk to regarding funding sources.
 - EDWA to provide recommended updates for the collection of well data to Kameisha.