

MENDOCINO COUNTY DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN

**25 SEPTEMBER 2024
COUNTY DROUGHT TASK FORCE MEETING #1**

AGENDA

1. SB 552 Background
2. DRP Overview
3. Role of the County Drought Task Force
4. Stakeholder Engagement
5. Drought and Water Shortage Risk Assessment
6. Approach for Short-Term and Long-Term Responses
7. Future Meetings



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



SB 552 BACKGROUND



SB-552 BACKGROUND

- Signed by the Governor of California in September 2021
- Outlines requirements for small water suppliers, county governments, DWR, and the State Water Board to implement more proactive drought planning and be better prepared for future water shortage events or dry years
- In February 2024, the County received a \$125,000 grant from DWR to support SB 552 compliance, including convening of a Drought Task Force and development of a Drought Resilience Plan (DRP)



<https://www.kqed.org/science/1975549/russian-river-drought-sonoma-and-mendocino-residents-save-the-little-water-they-have>

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

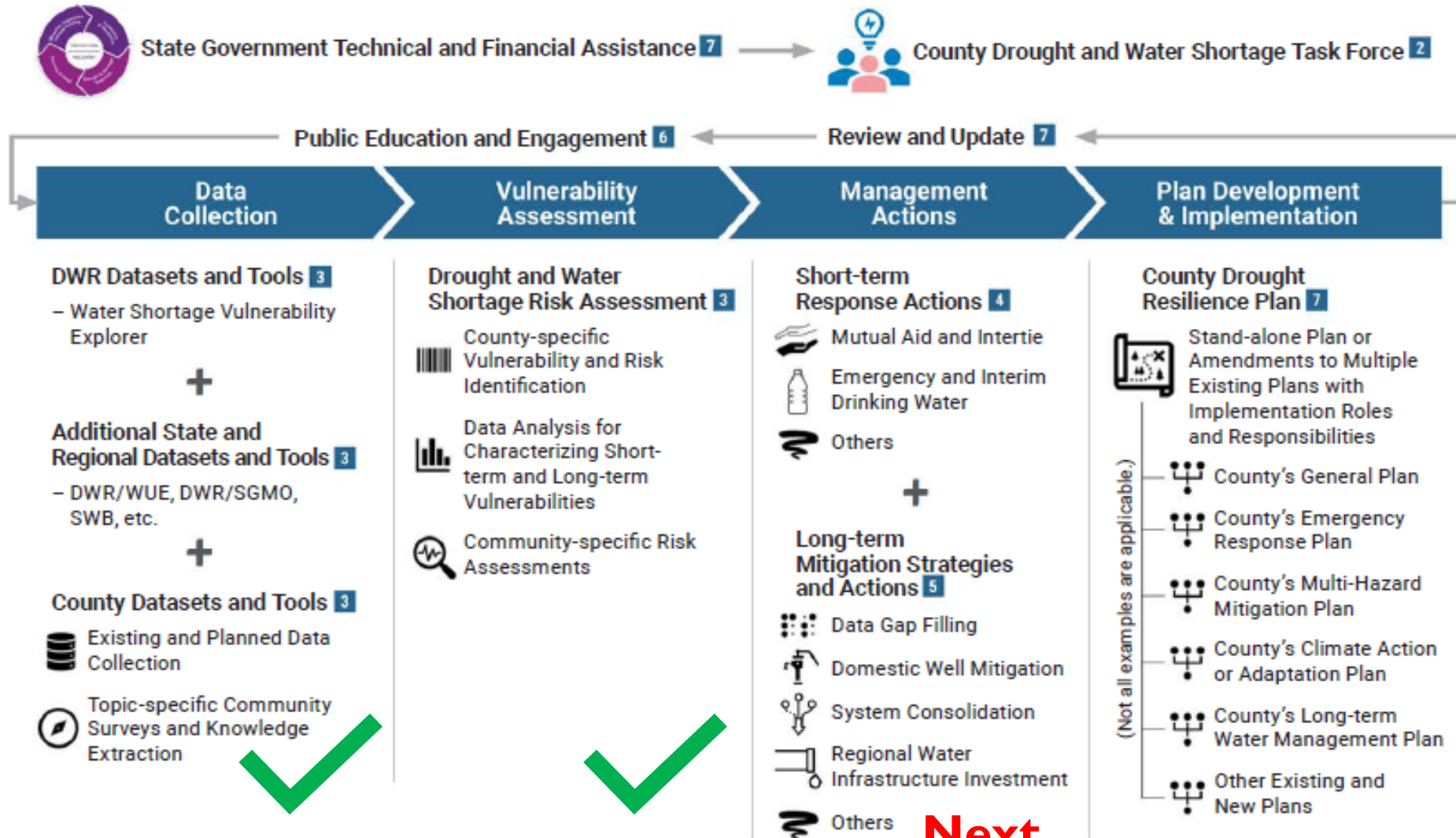
- Develop a plan that includes potential drought and water shortage risk and proposed interim and long-term solutions for state small water systems and domestic wells.



DRP OVERVIEW



DROUGHT RESILIENCY PLAN DEVELOPMENT



From DWR's County Drought Resilience Plan Guidebook

**Next
Phase**

DROUGHT RESILIENCY 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		Final DRP
CDTF Meeting					●				●		●		★
Community Meeting					◆					◆			

● GGC Meeting

◆ UCCE Workshop

★ BoS Meeting

* County Drought Task Force meetings planned for: September 25, 2024 and January, March, and May 2025 (Dates TBD)

** A second community workshop is planned for February 2025



ROLE OF THE COUNTY DROUGHT TASK FORCE



TASK FORCE RESPONSIBILITIES & POTENTIAL ROLES

Requirements

Established before 1 Jan 2022.

Have regularly scheduled meetings during non-emergency periods, and more frequent meetings during drought and water shortage emergencies.

Provide level of function and participation included in SB-552 and demonstrate its continuation in perpetuity.

Facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness and collaborate in development of DRP.



Potential Roles

Share findings and recommendations with communities and provide briefings to the BOS.

Identify data gaps and necessary actions for improved drought and water shortage planning.

Facilitating proactive planning and coordination to reduce risk of water shortage (GSP implementation, SB-552 compliance, human right to water, etc.)

Share and pursue funding opportunities for improving water resiliency.

Encourage and implement long-term planning that anticipates budget and policy needs.

COUNTY DROUGHT TASK FORCE (CDTF)

- The CDTF has met frequently since 2021 and currently convenes during County General Government Standing Committee (GGSC) Meetings
- Invited Membership
 - “Core” members that are legally responsible for public water systems, state smalls, domestic wells, or can facilitate implementation of SB-552.
 - Mendocino County
 - Major Water Suppliers (Cities of Ukiah, Fort Bragg, and Willits, MCCSD, RRFCCID)
 - Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (UVBGSA)
 - Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD)
 - “Other” members include tribes, other public water systems, residents supplied by domestic wells or state smalls, and state water agencies
 - Charter will be revised at the conclusion of DRP development to better reflect roles and responsibilities defined under the DRP.



Mendocino County Drought Task Force Charter

Mendocino County (County) has developed this Charter to establish and maintain a County Drought Task Force in accordance with Senate Bill (SB) 552 and the Best Practices outlined in the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR's) County Drought Resilience Plan Guidebook¹, dated March 2023.

PURPOSE & GOALS

The purpose of the Drought Task Force is to facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells by identifying short-term and long-term solutions to improve County water supply reliability and protect ecosystem health. The Drought Task Force will lead and support coordination of government agencies, community organizations, residents, tribes, and private entities that are involved in water, wastewater, conservation and flood control services throughout the County.

BACKGROUND

The Drought Task Force is maintained under the County Board of Supervisors (Board) Public Health, Safety, and Resources (PHSR) Standing Committee. As such, the Drought Task Force is subject to the *Rules of Procedure of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino*, which outlines the working procedures for Board and committee meetings. Two County Supervisors are appointed as members of the PHSR Committee (referred to as "Board PHSR Appointees" herein) and oversee the Drought Task Force. The Board PHSR Appointees are required to report to the full Board after each PHSR committee meeting, including Drought Task Force meetings, and bring Drought Task Force recommendations and actions before the full Board for decision-making.

Membership

The Drought Task Force is comprised of core members that are representatives of organizations and agencies legally responsible for public water systems, state small water systems, and domestic wells and implementing the requirements of SB 552. Other members of the Drought Task Force include those who may have resources, capabilities, and ideas to contribute to drought and water shortage supply planning. Representatives from the following groups will be invited to participate in the Drought Task Force:

¹ https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR/Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Urban-Water-Use-Efficiency/SB-552/DWR_Final_Guidebook_20230313_ADA_508_v5.pdf



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



ENGAGEMENT OF CORE MEMBERS

- All members will receive e-mail invitations to attend GGSC/BoS meetings where the County Drought Task Force convenes.
 - Core members will be notified through County's automated notification system.
 - Members and interested parties will be notified through emails in advance of meetings.
- Core members are encouraged to participate during meetings, as well as reach out to County staff (fisettea@mendocinocounty.gov) to provide feedback on the DRP development process.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- Task Force members may also attend meetings jointly hosted by University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) – Mendocino and Mendocino County
- Purpose is to get community feedback on the DRP
- First workshop was held on September 5, 2024
- Next workshop will be held in February 2025

— JOIN THE —
**MENDOCINO COUNTY
DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN**
KICKOFF MEETING

The Drought Resilience Plan (DRP) is under development to support and facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness in our community

 September 5th, 2024  3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

 In-person: UCCE / Farm Advisor Building
890 N. Bush St. Ukiah, Ca

 Online: Zoom

 Refreshments

YOUR INPUT IS KEY!

We are looking for active involvement from the community to provide insights and feedback to the DRP.

For more info contact: Laura Garza,
UCCE Water and Climate Change Advisor
legarza@ucanr.edu



Scan or Click
to register

CONDUCTED OUTREACH EFFORTS

■ Flyers Distribution:

- Posted at 78 community locations across the county

■ Community Events:

- Redwood Empire Fair and at the Round valley Blackberry Festival
- Presentation to Hopland Municipal Advisory Council on the Drought Resilience Plan (DRP)

■ Media Engagement:

- Radio interview on KZYY's The Ecology Hour about the county's DRP
- Press Release (E.g. Mendo Fever News)

■ Social Media Outreach:

- Promotion of workshop and DRP resources

■ Educational Material:

- Factsheets about DRP in English and Spanish



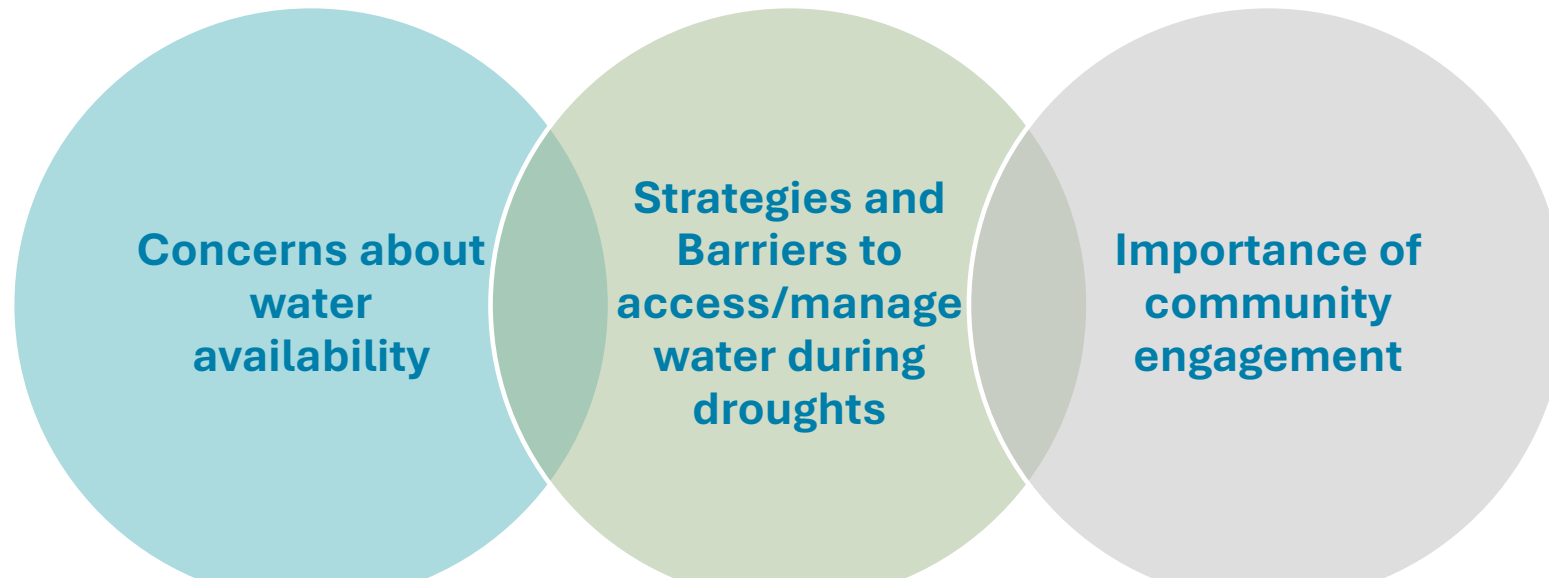
UCCE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1

- **Total attendance: 52 people**
 - In-person: 21 and Online: 31
- **Community groups represented:**
 - Domestic well owners, Community water systems, Cities, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, NGOs and Grassroots organizations, MCRCD, Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, News outlets, Business owners and Irrigation districts
- **Location of participants:**
 - Anderson Valley, Caspar, Gualala, Hopland, Fort Bragg, Mendocino, Potter Valley, Redwood Valley, Ukiah, and Willits



UCCE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1 - OUTCOMES

- **Active Participation:** Community members were highly engaged, asking questions and providing valuable suggestions.
- **Discussion Themes**



Key Takeaway

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

DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN WEBPAGE

- Background, information, and news related to SB 552 and the DRP Development Process
- Drought Resilience Plan Public Engagement Form:
 - Simple online form that members of the public can submit to engage and provide input for DRP development
- DRP Email Update Sign-up

The screenshot shows a webpage with a teal sidebar on the left containing a navigation menu. The main content area has a light green background with a faint map of California. The sidebar menu includes: Water Agency, Drought & Water Conservation (with sub-items: Drought Funding, Drought Resilience Plan, Drought Resilience Plan Public Engagement Form, and Get DRP Email Updates), Groundwater, Mussel Prevention Program, and Stormwater. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail 'Departments » Water Agency » Drought & Water Conservation »', the title 'Drought Resilience Plan', and utility links for font size, share, bookmark, feedback, and print. Below this is the 'About SB 552' section, which explains the law signed in September 2021 requiring state and local governments to share responsibility in planning for water shortage events. It also mentions that through SB 552, the California State Legislature identifies counties as the best-suited government entity to provide the needed leadership to improve water resilience. The next section, 'County Compliance', states that 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. It also mentions that 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. The final section, 'DRP Development', states that 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.

Departments » Water Agency » Drought & Water Conservation »

Drought Resilience Plan

Font Size: + - + Share & Bookmark Feedback Print

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

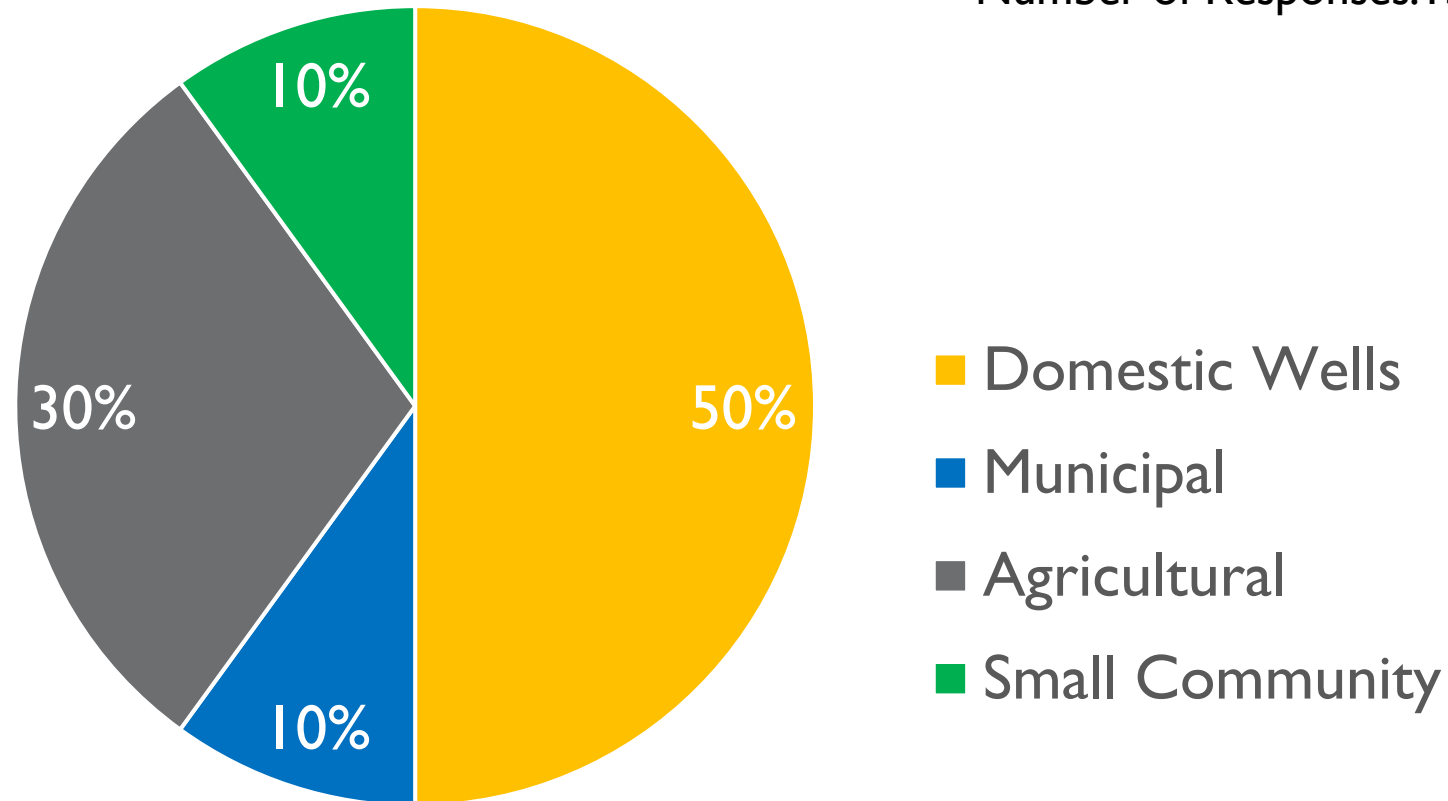
The DRP development workflow consists of four main steps: data collection, vulnerability/risk assessment, development of short-term response actions and long-term mitigation strategies, and plan implementation. These steps will be conducted with effective public education and engagement, in collaboration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

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

PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM ENGAGEMENT FORM

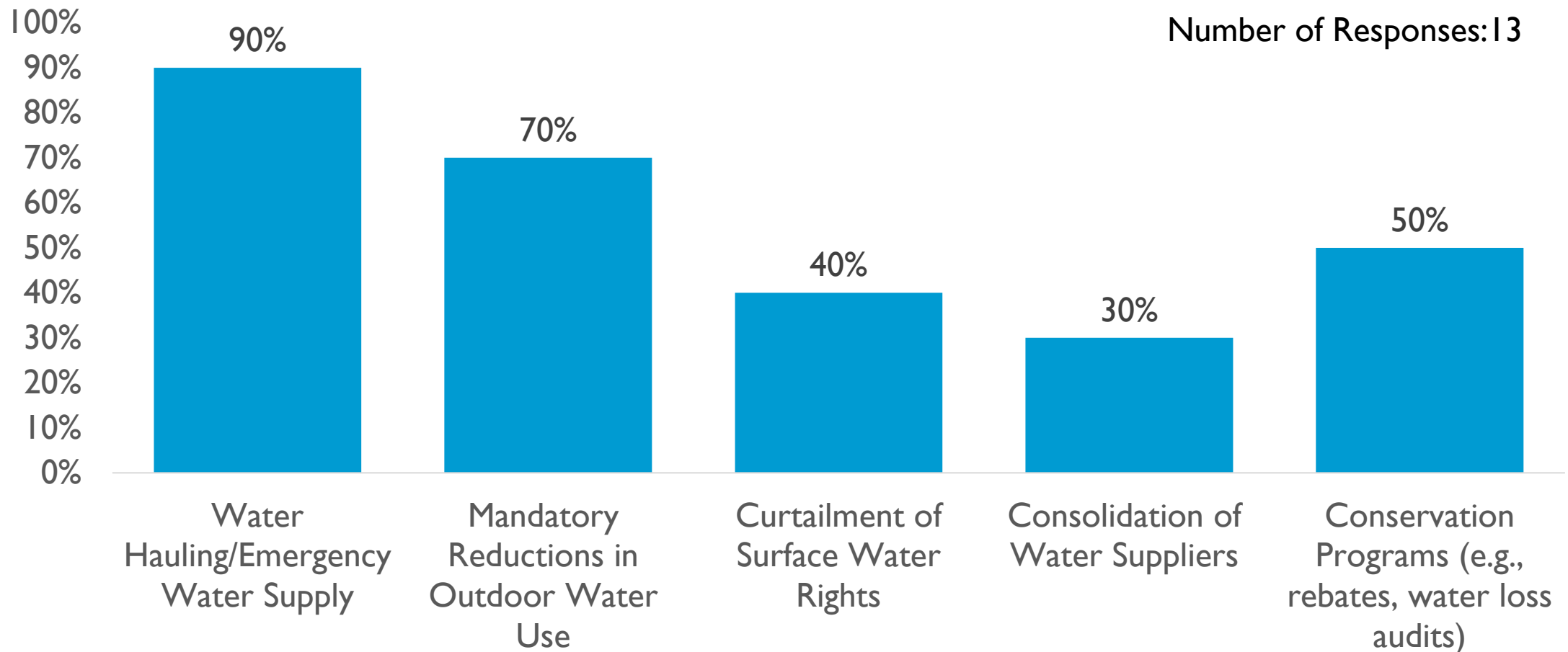
I. What is the Primary Use of Water?

Number of Responses: 13



PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM ENGAGEMENT FORM

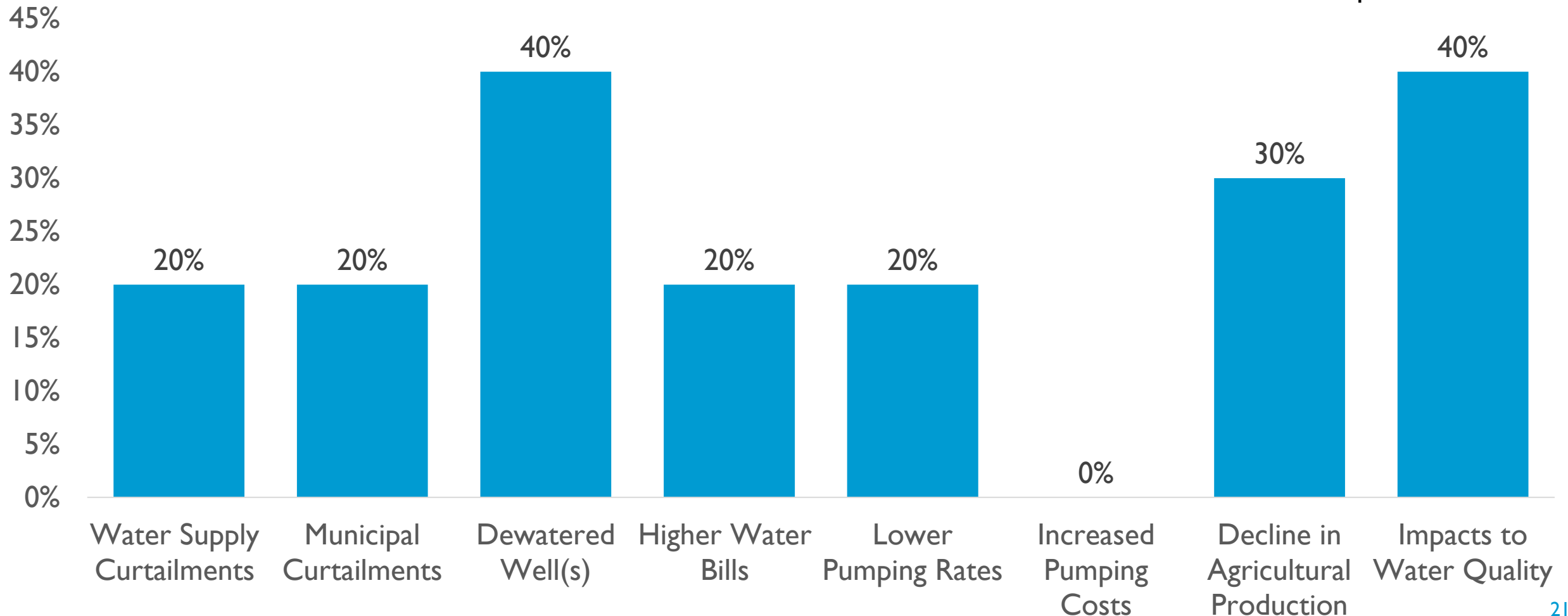
2. Which County-wide or local actions were you or your agency/organization aware of or directly engaged in during the last drought?



PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM ENGAGEMENT FORM

3. Did you experience any of the following impacts during previous droughts?

Number of Responses: 13



FUTURE DROUGHT TASK FORCE/PUBLIC MEETINGS

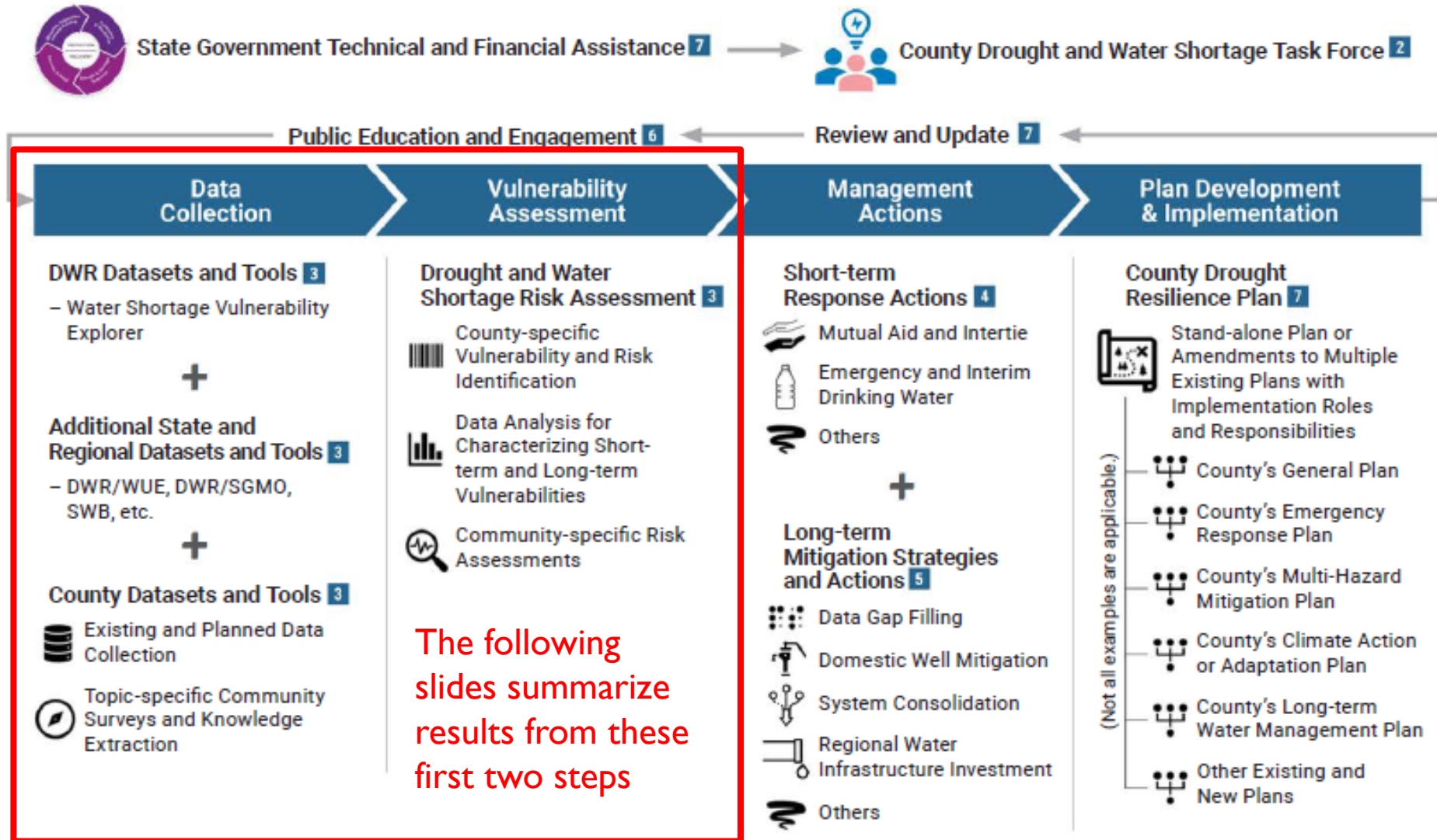
Meeting	Date	Planned Topic
GGSC Meeting	January 2025 (Date TBA)	Presentation and feedback on: - Proposed Short-Term Response Actions - Proposed Long-Term Mitigation Actions - Initial implementation roadmap
UCCE Workshop	February 2025 (Date TBA)	Presentation and feedback on: - Current progress, DRP components, and previous efforts - Public review and commenting process - Upcoming schedule
GGSC Meeting	March 2025 (Date TBA)	Public workshop on draft DRP: - Final implementation roadmap - Overview of draft DRP - Public commenting process - Adoption process
BoS Meeting	May 2025 (Date TBA)	Presentation on: - Summary of comments received and how they were addressed - Resolution to authorize County staff to upload final DRP to DWR portal



DROUGHT AND WATER SHORTAGE RISK ASSESSMENT



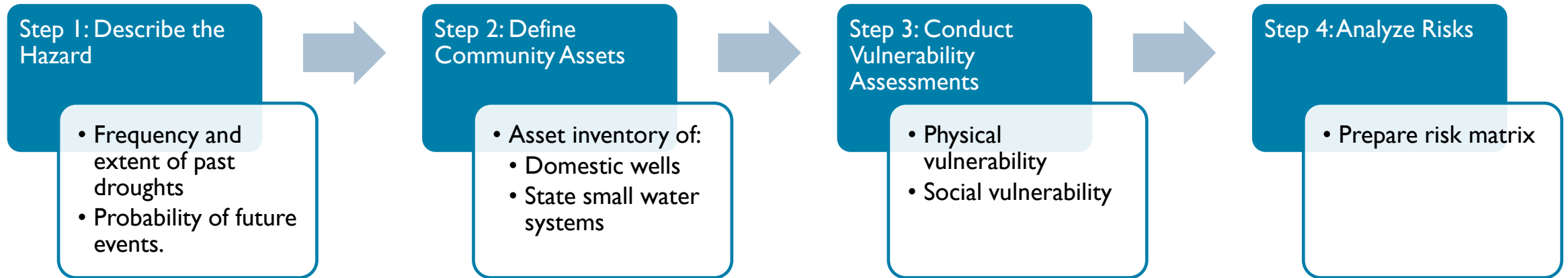
DROUGHT RESILIENCY PLAN DEVELOPMENT



The following slides summarize results from these first two steps

From DWR's County Drought Resilience Plan Guidebook

RISK ASSESSMENT APPROACH



- Relevant physical vulnerabilities associated with drought include Household Water Outage, Dry Well Susceptibility, Groundwater Level Decline, Wildfire, and Groundwater Quality,
- Social vulnerabilities include Household Income, Employment Status, Language, etc.
- DWR's statewide physical and social vulnerability scoring was spatially overlaid with domestic well and state small water system locations to identify at-risk populations

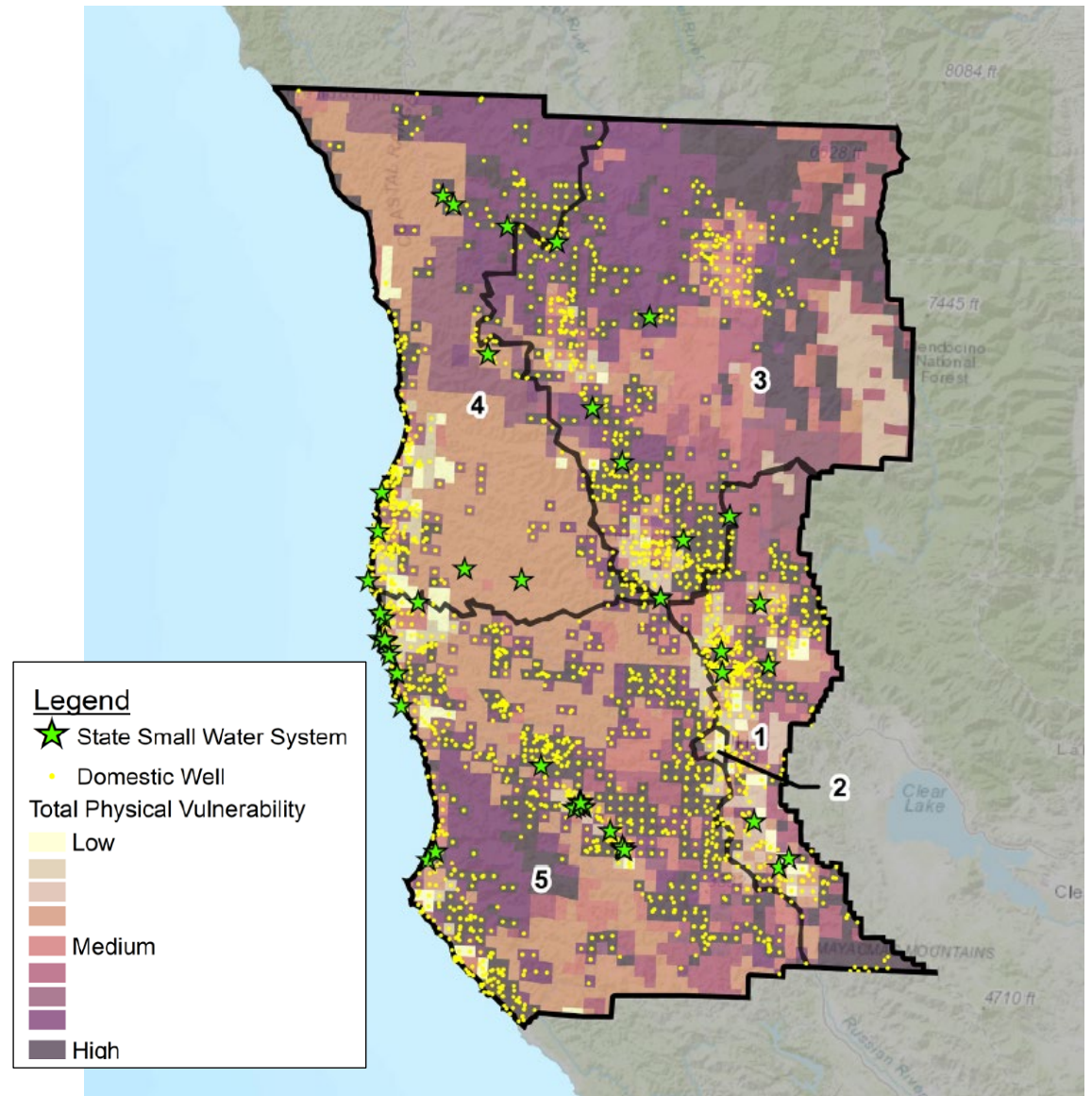
RISK MATRIX

- Risk Categories are qualitatively described following the DWR method using state-wide percentiles.
- Domestic wells and State Smalls are largely at-risk (medium or high risk) due prominently to wildlife vulnerability, shallow depth of aquifers outside Ukiah Basin, and local groundwater quality concerns.

Asset	Count	Selected Physical Vulnerability Criteria					Total Physical Vulnerability	Total Social Vulnerability
		Household Water Outage	Dry Well Susceptibility	Groundwater Level Decline	Groundwater Quality	Wildfire		
Board of Supervisors District #1								
Domestic Wells	1,202	Low	High	Low	Medium	High	Medium	High
State Small Water Systems	8	Medium	High	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	High
Board of Supervisors District #2								
Domestic Wells	11	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	High	High
State Small Water Systems	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Board of Supervisors District #3								
Domestic Wells	1,440	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	High	High	High
State Small Water Systems	7	Medium	Low	Low	Low	High	High	High
Board of Supervisors District #4								
Domestic Wells	1,943	High	High	Low	High	High	High	High
State Small Water Systems	9	High	High	Low	Medium	High	Medium	High
Board of Supervisors District #5								
Domestic Wells	3,376	High	High	Low	Low	High	High	High
State Small Water Systems	24	High	Medium	Low	Medium	High	Medium	High

AT-RISK STATE SMALL WATER SYSTEMS

- 42 state small water systems (based on an inclusive definition due data uncertainty) show high physical and/or social vulnerability to drought.
- At-risk Systems by BoS District
 - BoS District 1: 7
 - BoS District 3: 7
 - BoS District 4: 6
 - BoS District 5: 22
- This accounts for 88% of state small systems under the same definition.
- The percentage remains relatively the same even with more limiting definition of state small water systems.





NEXT STEPS: DEVELOPMENT SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM RESPONSES



APPROACH TO DEVELOPING ACTIONS AND STRATEGIES

1. Identify relevant jurisdictions in high-risk areas; determine the driving risk factors
2. Establish tracking metrics for primary risk factors for proactive preparedness and categorization of strategies and actions
3. Inventory existing or planned mitigation actions in place by relevant County agencies
 - Accomplished through agency outreach and/or review of existing planning documents, as applicable
4. Identify portions of the County that do not have sufficient planning in place

APPROACH TO DEVELOPING ACTIONS AND STRATEGIES

1. Work with local agencies/County departments to develop actions or strategies that appropriately address the assessed risk
2. Define strategies and their implementation plan:
 - Identify responsible parties to cooperate and coordinate with in planning and implementation
 - Identify funding mechanisms and pathways
 - Education and outreach to domestic well owners in partnership with UCCE
 - Identify actions within County's toolbox to assist partners in their response to drought
 - Emergency proclamation
 - Advocacy and overall leadership
 - Well permit review revisions
 - Increased analysis of monitoring and measurement of public data