



California County Café

– Specializing in Drought Resilience



Welcome and Setting Intention

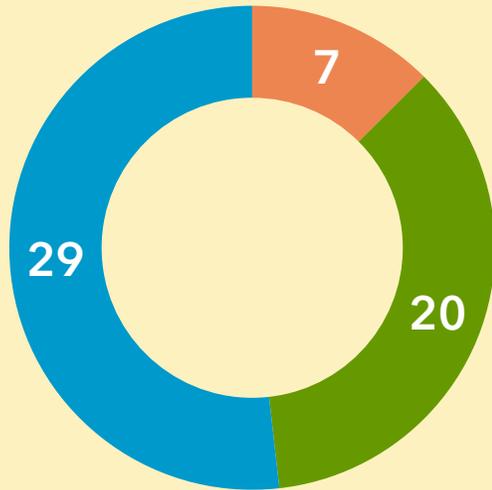
Julia Ekstrom - California Department of Water Resources

Catherine Freeman - California State Association of Counties

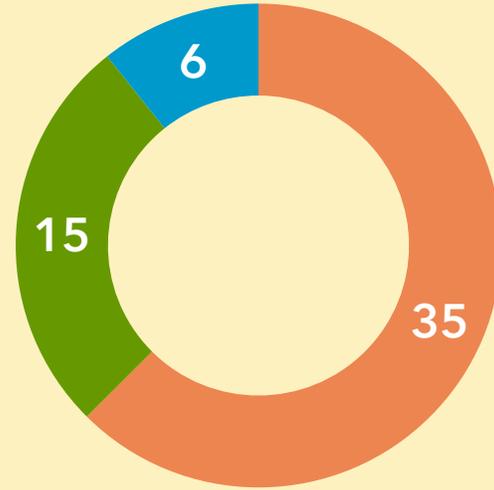


Statewide SB 552 Status

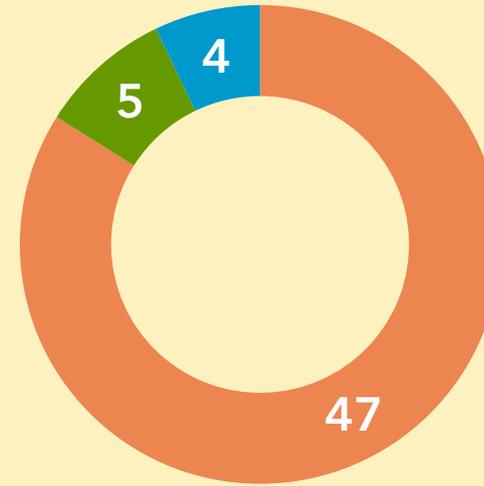
Task Force Formation



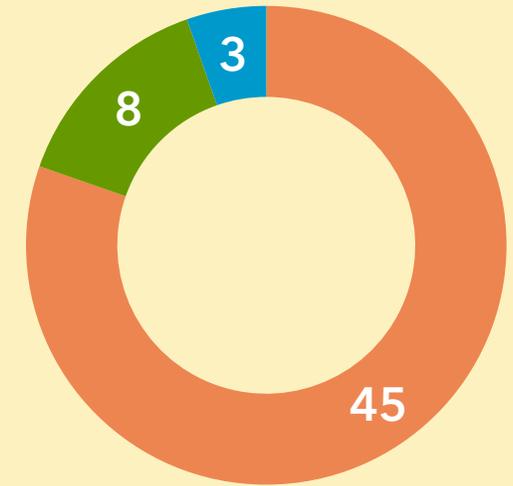
Risk Assessment



Response Actions and Mitigation Strategies



County Drought Resilience Plan Development



■ Not Started ■ In Progress ■ Completed

Source: 5/29/2024 data based on input from 56 counties enrolled in DWR's assistance program. Exclusions: The City and County of San Francisco are covered by other requirements, and one has not enrolled in DWR's assistance program.

On the Menu

- ✓ Welcome and Setting Intention
- ✓ The C3 Gathering Process
- ✓ Theme for Today: Drought and Water Shortage Task Force Formation and Operations
 - Sharing and Discussion
- ✓ Closing



Essentials of the C3 Gathering

- ✓ Join the conversation - share your experience and learn from other perspectives and experiences.
- ✓ Make a connection - use the chat to connect with other participants.
- ✓ County focused - While all are invited to join, this gathering will focus on supporting county staff.





The C3 Process

Yung-Hsin Sun - Sunzi Consulting



The C3 Process

- **Our format** – Information exchange among counties to share information and approach to SB 552 implementation.
- **Intended audience** – County staff.

Appreciate others listening in but focusing on staff who are responsible for developing the DRP and implementing.

We will be sending an email asking County staff to sign up for future gatherings consistent with the series intent to connect counties.

Anticipated Outcome:

Network and exchange ideas and resources among counties

- Increase the understanding of SB 552 intent and requirements, as well as situational awareness regarding different effects of drought throughout the state.
- Learn about different implementation approaches and experience – what works, what to avoid, and challenges.
- Compare identified resource needs and share funding opportunities.
- Share practices to integrate SB 552 implementation with other resilience planning and implementation efforts, and improve coordination with other agencies and interested parties.

The C3 Process (cont'd)

- **Today** - Open house; inauguration gathering.
- **Future Gathering** - Per invitation to County staff who sign up.

***Frequency:** Every other month; i.e., the next one is on July 24, 2024.*

***Time:** 9 a.m. via Zoom with morning coffee/tea/beverage of your choice*

***Topic(s):** One major topic with or without a minor topic, per County staff's interests and priorities*

***Format:** Depends*





Sharing Topic: Drought and Water Shortage Task Force

Orit Kalman - Facilitator



Drought and Water Shortage Task Force Formation and Operations

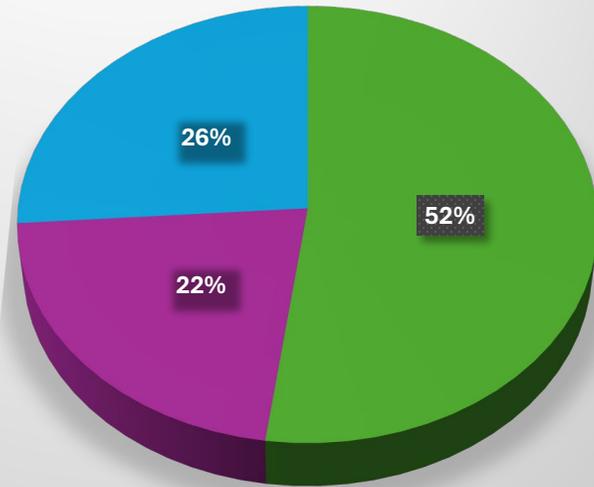
CWC Section 10609.70 enacted by SB 552 requires counties to *establish a standing Task Force or an alternative process that facilitates drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within each county's jurisdiction:*

- (a) (1) A county shall establish a standing county drought and water shortage task force to facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county's jurisdiction and shall **invite representatives from the state and other local governments, including groundwater sustainability agencies, and community-based organizations, local water suppliers, and local residents, to participate in the task force.**
- (b) (2) In lieu of the task force required by paragraph (1), *a county may establish an alternative process* that facilitates drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county's jurisdiction. The alternative process shall provide opportunities 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.

The Survey Says:

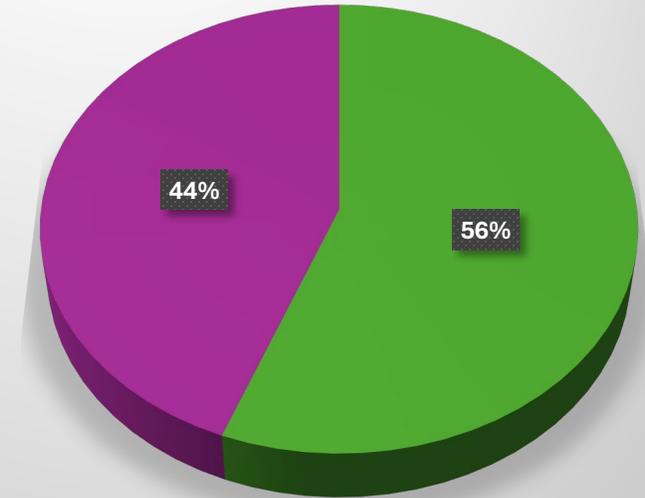
Current Status of Task Force Formation

Task Force Formation
(46 responses)



- We have a Task Force in place
- We are actively working on convening a Task Force
- We do not have a Task Force yet

How was the Task Force Established?
(34 responses)



- County leveraged an existing Task Force
- County established a new Task Force

DWR Tracking of County Task Force Formation

WHAT HELPED YOU IN CONVENING A TASK FORCE?

- Recognition of the need to address drought and water shortage.
- Ability to leverage existing infrastructure.
- State Technical Assistance and Support

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED IN CONVENING THIS TASK FORCE?

- Getting the right folks to the table and making the case for this planning effort
- Keeping momentum going
- Coordination and logistics issues
- Lack of time and resources

Task Force Formation Experiences

Sierra Ryan, Water Resources Manager, County of Santa Cruz Environmental Health

Kyle Ericson, Water Agency Resources Engineer, El Dorado Water Agency

Courtney Howard, Water Resources Division Manager, County of San Luis Obispo Public Works

Kamie Loeser, Director, Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation

1. Why/How did you decide (local needs and resources) what format to use for the Task Force requirement?
2. Charter development - What is the role of the Task Force and supporting governance structure to promote effective process?

Santa Cruz County SB 552 Approach



Board of Supervisors



**Water
Advisory**

- Existing standing body that meets publicly bi-monthly
- 7 Members
 - 5 appointed by district
 - 1 small water system
 - 1 large public system
- Powers and duties changed in response to SB 552

**Drought Response
Working Group**



- Temporary subcommittee of the WAC
- Included representatives from GSAs, DACs, environmental, and at-large position
- Charged with developing the required Plan
- Dissolved upon Plan completion

Santa Cruz County Code

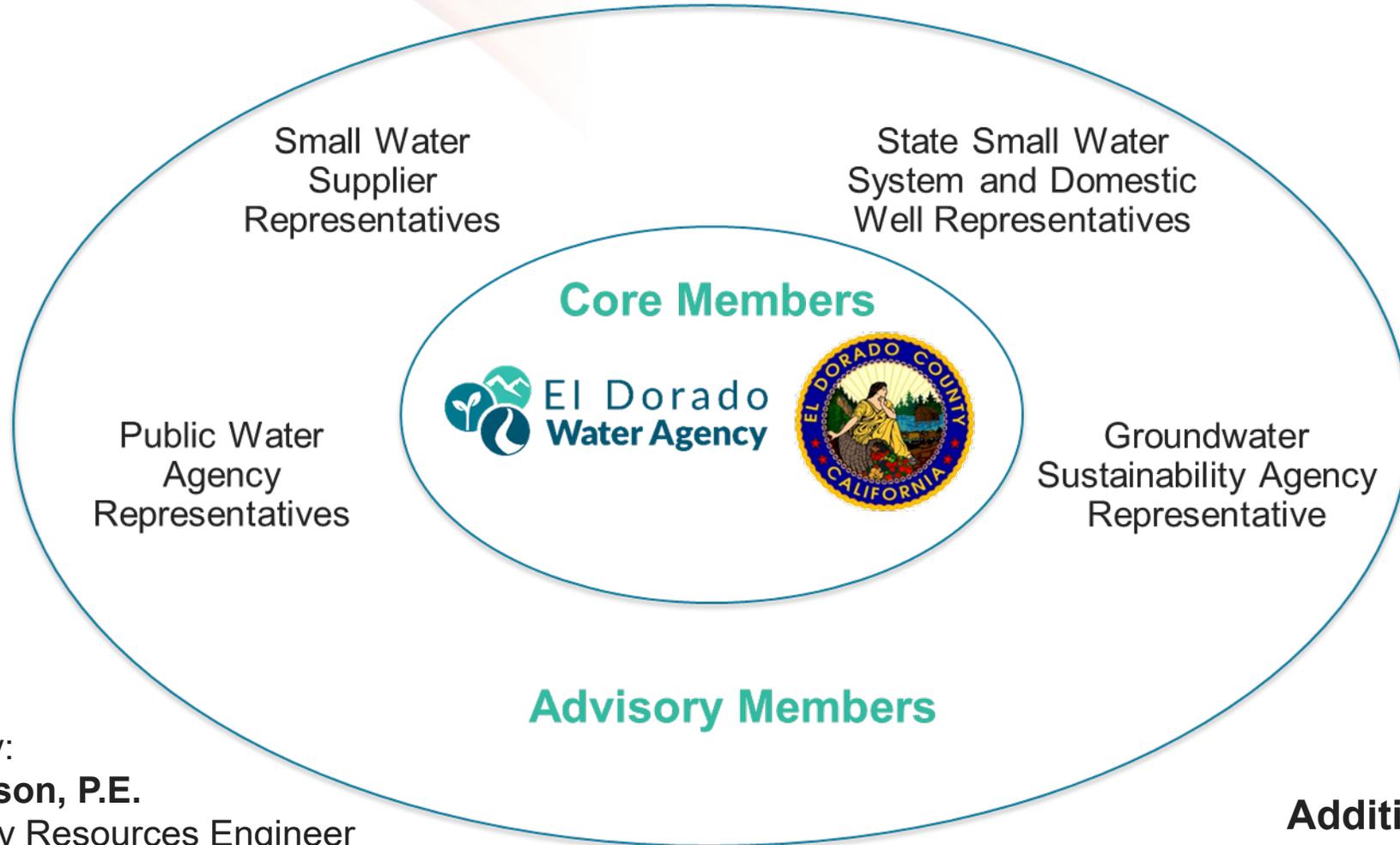
2.96.050 Powers and duties.



The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (A) Advise the Board of Supervisors on all matters relating to water policy.
- (B) Recommend policies to the Board of Supervisors to ensure that the production of water and the development of additional water supplies are consistent with the growth management program and the General Plan of Santa Cruz County.
- (C) Recommend to the Board of Supervisors any policies necessary to protect surface water, groundwater, and recreational resources of Santa Cruz County.
- (D) Facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within Santa Cruz County.
- (E) Provide opportunities 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.
- (F) Undertake other duties relating to water resources, as requested by the Board of Supervisors.

El Dorado County / El Dorado Water Agency Drought and Water Shortage Task Force Formation



Meeting Frequency:

- 2-3 times a year
- More frequently during program development, drought, or other water shortage events as needed

Presented by:
R. Kyle Ericson, P.E.
Water Agency Resources Engineer
El Dorado Water Agency

Additional Information:
www.edwateragency.org



Drought and Water Shortage Task Force Formation

- El Dorado Water Agency (EDWA) is a Special District that provides water resources planning for El Dorado County and has led and facilitated countywide and watershed-scale collaboration and long-range planning efforts. We are not a water purveyor.
- El Dorado County Dept of Environmental Health is the Local Primacy Agency and is also responsible for state small water systems and oversees the Domestic Well Program.
- El Dorado County BOS requested EDWA support on Task Force and County Drought Resilience Plan development and implementation.
- EDWA established the Task Force as a subgroup under the Countywide Plenary for Water, which is a countywide chartered forum for open and transparent dialogue on water resource-related matter.
- The Task Force includes members from the Countywide Plenary for Water membership that includes federal, Tribes, state, and county agencies, water purveyors, GSAs, business, watershed health, and other interested parties. Additional recruitments to include the County's Public Health Officer, Office of Education and representatives of small water systems for their direct participation.
- **Basically, we cast as broad of a net as possible get the needed level of engagement.**



El Dorado County Drought and Water Shortage Task Force Membership

Core Members

- El Dorado Water Agency
- County of El Dorado
 - Chief Administrative Office
 - Environmental Management Department
 - Office of Emergency Services
 - Public Health Officer

Advisory Members

- Cities and Other County Departments/Agencies
 - City of Placerville City of South Lake Tahoe
 - County of El Dorado, Environmental Management Department County of El Dorado, Planning and Building Department
 - El Dorado County Farm Bureau El Dorado County Office of Education

Advisory Members (cont'd)

- Water Purveyors
 - El Dorado Irrigation District
 - Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
 - Grizzly Flats Community Service District
 - South Tahoe Public Utility District
 - Tahoe City Public Utility District
 - Kyburz Mutual Water Company
 - Lukins Brothers Water Company, Inc.
 - Quintette Service Corporation
 - Tahoe Keys Water Company
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
 - Tahoe South Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (South Tahoe Public Utility District and El Dorado Water Agency)
- Non-Governmental Organizations
 - Citizens for Water



Efficiency of Leveraging Existing Structures

- County Staff Drought Task Force
 - Formed prior to SB 552 to coordinate with all water interests during droughts (readyslo.org)
 - Continues to meet quarterly during non-emergency conditions
 - On agenda every WRAC meeting
- Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)
 - Monthly public meetings with broad membership
 - Venue for vetting interrelated water issues & plans
 - Advises County Board of Supervisors



Working Together for an Integrated Approach

- County Staff DTF (Working Group)
 - OES (Local Hazard Mitigation Plan)
 - Planning (Land Use)
 - Public Works (Purveyor/Regional Water Planner)
 - Environmental Health (Wells/Small Systems)
 - Groundwater Sustainability (Stressed Groundwater Basins)
 - Ag Commissioner/Farm Advisor
 - County Counsel
- WRAC (Public Engagement)
 - Residents from all five Board Districts
 - All water purveyors invited
 - Resource Conservation Districts
 - Ag at-large
 - Environmental at-large
 - Development at-large
 - GSAs not otherwise represented



Butte County Drought Resilience Plan

1. Existing Task Force from 2004 Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan.
 - 12 members (Co. Dept. Directors or designee and other agencies)
 - Monitor hydrologic conditions, report findings to Water Commission and Board of Supervisors annually in non-drought and biannually, quarterly or monthly during drought.
2. Roles & Responsibilities:
 - Drought Task Force coordination subcommittee
 - Review of draft Plan
 - Recommendations for reporting, data gaps, and implementation actions
3. Kamie Loeser, Director – Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation



Discussion

Convening a Task Force – What considerations have informed your process?

Charter development – What do you see as the role of the Task Force, governance structure, culture of the Task Force, decision making?

Polling: What should we discuss at our next gathering?

- Risk assessment
- Equity and justice considerations
- Integration with SGMA implementation
- Consistency of county drought and climate policy
- Response and mitigation actions
- Communication and public engagement



Closing - Thank you!

Next steps - we will follow up with an email to counties for future gatherings, ppt, invitation to share in upcoming gathering.